

Fact:
Vaccination Saves Lives



According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), measles caused 164,000 deaths globally in 2008. That's 450 people dying every day from this vaccine-preventable disease. In 1980, before an effective vaccine was widely available, measles caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths.

Whooping cough (pertussis) killed 195,000 children worldwide in 2008. The WHO estimates that global vaccination prevented 687,000 more.

The number of cases of polio—a viral disease that leaves children crippled or unable to breathe—has decreased by over 99% since 1998 due to global vaccination. The virus only occurs in a few places in the world now, and is on the verge of being completely eradicated.

Meningococcal meningitis can cause severe brain damage and is fatal in 50% of cases. In 2011, after a program of mass vaccination, several African countries reported the lowest number of infections ever.

Smallpox was completely eradicated in 1979. Rinderpest was eradicated in 2010. We can combat these killers with vaccination.

Source: <http://www.who.int/immunization/topics/en/>



This brochure has been privately produced by concerned citizens. Thanks to Dr Rachael Dunlop for much of the statistical and medical information contained herein.

<http://www.mamamia.com.au/news/vaccination-myths-busted-by-science-cheat-sheet-on-immunisation/>

If you want to find out more about vaccination, please ask your doctor. Registered medical professionals are the best source of medical information. You should not take as fact anything you read on the Internet, are told by paid speakers, or for that matter anything written on a brochure handed to you at a folk festival. Do your own research, but please make sure the sources you are using are reliable.

Five Myths about Vaccination



What you should know about what you're being told

Vaccination myths

Myth 1: Vaccines cause autism

The link between childhood vaccination and autism has never been demonstrated. The lead author of a paper published in the journal *The Lancet* in 1998, Andrew Wakefield, claimed that his research suggested a link between the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine and a gastrointestinal disorder in autistic children. This paper has since been demonstrated to be fraudulent. *The Lancet* has withdrawn the paper from publication and Wakefield was struck from the medical register. His co-authors have withdrawn their support for the paper. Wakefield continues to defend his conclusions in the USA, despite the fact that he no longer has any scientific or medical credibility whatsoever, and is no longer licensed to practice medicine.



Andrew Wakefield, or to give him his proper medical title, Andrew Wakefield.

The paper caused vaccination rates to plummet. It was reported in the Associated Press that immunisation rates in Britain dropped from 92% to 73%, and in some parts of London was as low as 50%.

Myth 2: Vaccines contain mercury or other toxic ingredients

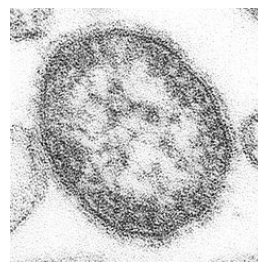
Thimerosal is a preservative that was used in vaccines prior to 2000. It was claimed that the mercury in this substance caused autism. However, after vaccines were no longer manufactured with thimerosal, autism rates continued to rise. Furthermore, the mercury in thimerosal is in the form of a compound called ethylmercury, which is excreted from the body very quickly. A related compound—methylmercury, which was never a part of vaccines—can bioaccumulate and be toxic.

Other toxic ingredients that are often claimed to be in vaccines are anti-freeze, formaldehyde, aluminum phosphate, and tissue from aborted human fetuses. In every case this claim is either completely untrue, or vastly misrepresents the facts. For example, while there are trace amounts of formaldehyde in vaccines, the amount is far smaller than is produced naturally in the body.

Myth 3: Vaccines cause the diseases they are meant to treat

Most modern vaccines are inactive—this means that they contain only a small portion of a virus, in order to make your immune system react. Some people confuse a slight temperature or a snuffle with "getting the disease" but this is just your immune system responding, and this is a good thing. Using an inactive vaccine causes your immune system to produce antibodies without actually suffering the full effects of the disease itself. This way, if you should encounter the real disease, the antibodies are already in your system.

No-one claims that vaccines are 100% safe in any and all circumstances. There is always a small chance of a bad reaction. The risks associated with the disease far outweigh the risks associated with the vaccines.



Measles

Myth 4: Vaccines are not tested

All vaccines available in Australia undergo a rigorous regime of tests for safety and efficacy during development. These tests can take 10 to 15 years and cost millions of dollars. When this claim is made, the claimant is usually referring to the placebo controlled, randomised trial. This would involve taking two groups of children, vaccinating half of them, then infecting them with the disease to see which ones develop symptoms. Such a trial would be deeply unethical, and in the end unnecessary. There is a mountain of evidence for the efficacy of vaccination, including the complete eradication of smallpox and rinderpest through vaccination.

Myth 5: Vaccines are part of a Big Pharma conspiracy to keep us all sick

The idea here is that if no-one got ill, the big pharmaceutical companies would have no-one to sell their drugs to, so they deliberately make us sick in order to continue making money. This one is so ridiculous that it barely needs to be addressed.

For a start, the eradication of smallpox puts the lie to this claim. If so-called "big pharma" were really trying to keep us sick, why would they let diseases be eradicated? Pharmaceutical companies are profit-driven, just like any other companies, but to accuse them of widespread fraud and deception would be to imply that hundreds of thousands of people worldwide are engaged in deliberate and premeditated fraud for personal gain, and not a single one of them has come clean or leaked the story to the media. Instead, ordinary people with no journalistic or medical training make this claim with no real evidence.

Neither the author of this brochure nor the person who handed it to you is receiving a cent from Big Pharma.