



# CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

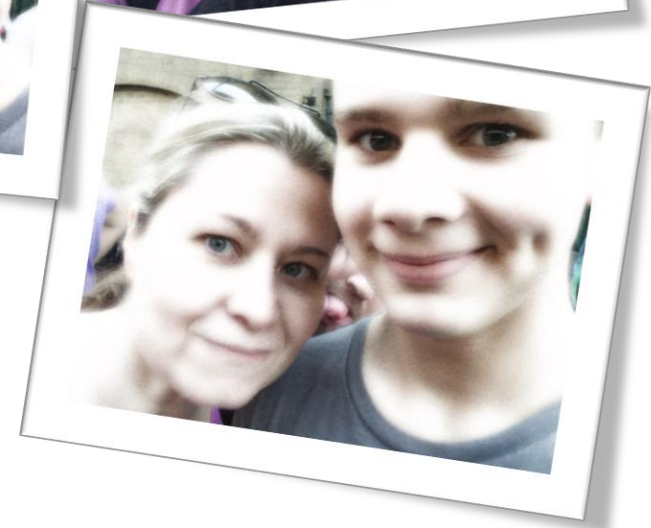
Why Preventing Epidemics Is a No Brainer

Linda Minickiello

May-June 2017

# WHY VACCINATIONS

- First, my family
- Second, it's currently a hot topic
- Prior knowledge
  - history of vaccines
  - American Academy of Pediatrics recommended
  - Controversial



# MY THESIS

- Parents should follow the American Academy of Pediatrics vaccination schedule because vaccines reduce drastically once prevalent and devastating disease, reduce the risk for those who cannot be given the vaccine, are cost effective, and do not impact brain development or function.





# MY SOURCES

- Evaluation
  - *Opposing Viewpoints*
  - websites



# RESEARCH SHOWS

- vaccines reduce drastically once prevalent and devastating disease
- vaccines reduce the risk for those who cannot be given the vaccine
- vaccines are cost effective
- vaccines do not impact brain development or function



Between 1940 and 1955, over 35,000 cases of polio were reported each year. With the introduction of Salk polio vaccine in 1955, the number of cases declined to under 2,500 in 1957. By 1965, only 61 cases of paralytic polio were reported. The United States has been polio free since 1979.



Children who have undergone chemotherapy for cancer have immune systems that are rebuilding, and it may be months more before their bodies are healthy enough for immunizations. Until then, those children are dependent upon "herd immunity."



Savings in direct medical costs due to the eradication of smallpox exceed \$300 million per year.



A study of 1,266,327 children provided confirmation that there is no relationship between vaccination and autism. There is no relationship between autism and the MMR vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella) or with the products of thimerosal and mercury which are found in vaccines.

# HERD IMMUNITY

Seven percent of the children in Rhett Krawitt's school are not vaccinated.

Rhett's father has had just about enough. "It's very emotional for me," he said. "If you choose not to immunize your own child and your own child dies because they get measles, OK, that's your responsibility, that's your choice. But if your child gets sick and gets my child sick and my child dies, then ... your action has harmed my child."

"When your immune system isn't working as well, it allows many different infections to be worse. It's not just Rhett. There are hundreds of other kids in the Bay Area that are going through cancer therapy, and it's not fair to them. They can't get immunized; they have to rely on their friends and colleagues and community to help protect them."

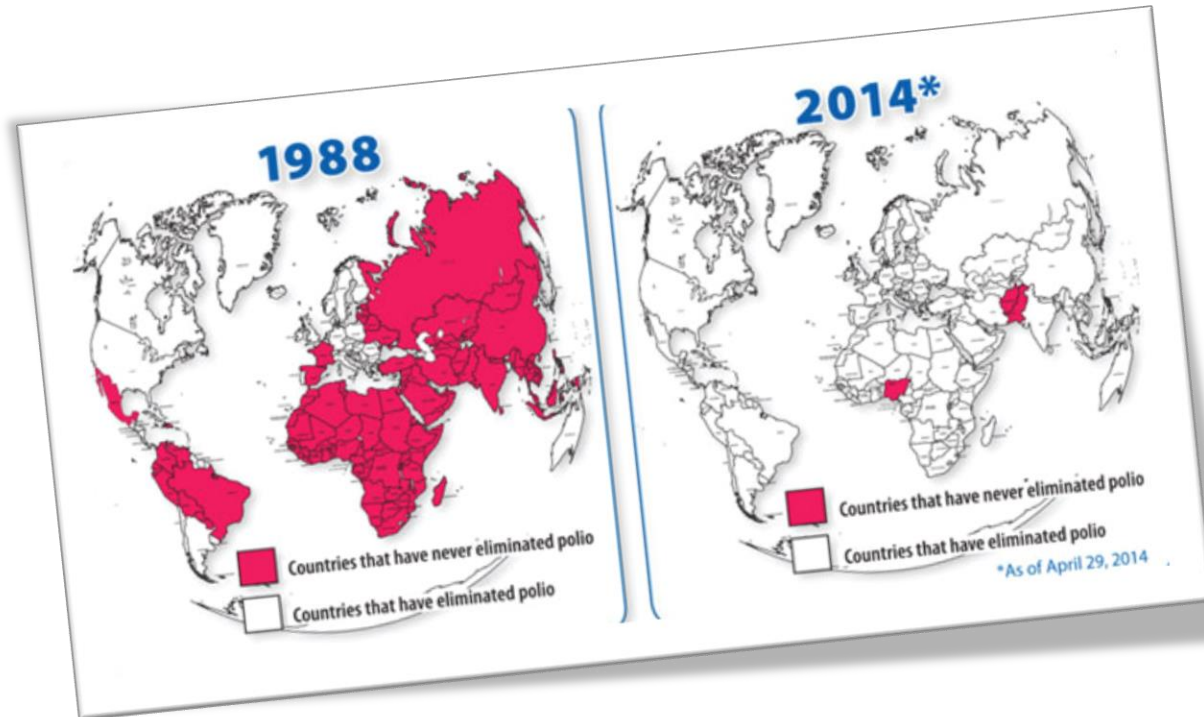


Rhett Krawitt, 6, outside his school in Tiburon, California.



# NOW WHAT?

- My personal final opinion?
- What else do I want to know?



# CHALLENGES

- PROBLEM: finding unbiased information
- SOLUTION: narrowed my searches
- PROBLEM: setting my own personal beliefs aside
- SOLUTION: prepared to be open to new information





# THE GOOD AND THE BAD

- Pros
  - followed a personal interest
  - current event status
  - lots of information
- Cons
  - lots of information
  - lots of biased information
  - sometimes too technical in nature
  - narrowing down what was best



# A NEW DIRECTION

- the other side of the fence
- the global response





THANK YOU