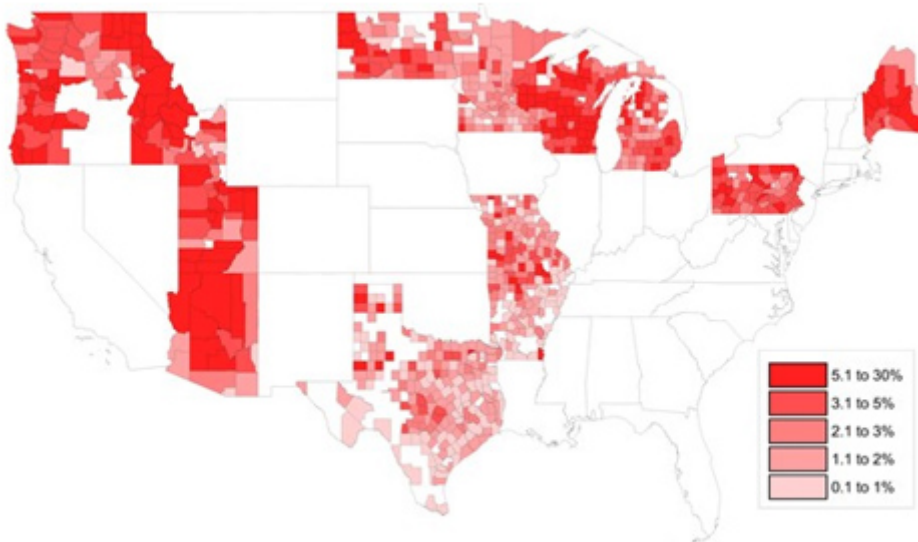


Do you practice in an Anti-Vaccine "Hot Spot"?



Courtesy of Olive et al / Baylor College of Medicine

“More than a quarter of kindergarteners in Camas County, Idaho, lack at least some vaccinations because their parents have opted for nonmedical exemptions, researchers said Tuesday. Idaho has eight of the top 10 counties in the country with nonmedical vaccine exemptions, the reports finds. The other two are in Wisconsin and Utah. These counties are among the pockets of vaccine resistance that Dr. Peter Hotez and colleagues found when looking at rates of vaccine refusals around the country. They found an increase in nonmedical vaccine exemptions in 12 out of 18 states that allow them.

‘What we are seeing is pockets of intense anti-vaccine activity,’ said Hotez, a pediatrician and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine. ‘A social movement of public health vaccine opposition has been growing in the United States in recent years; subsequently, measles outbreaks have also increased,’ Hotez and colleagues wrote.

Since 2009, the number of ‘philosophical-belief’ vaccine nonmedical exemptions has risen in 12 of the 18 states that currently allow this policy: Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah.” They found pockets in some big cities, too, including Seattle, Spokane, Pittsburgh, Houston and Kansas City.”

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Parents who are hesitant to vaccinate their children may express interest in delaying routine immunizations or seek exemptions from state vaccine mandates. In the social media age, what strategies work best to counter misinformation on vaccine safety? Find the tools to help improve vaccination rates in your community with this helpful new compendium of full-text print articles with the latest tips and best practices.

Table of Contents

- Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules: United States, 2018
- Physician Response to Parental Requests to Spread Out the Recommended Vaccine Schedule
- Study Looks at Impact of Different PCV13 Schedules for Preterm Infants
- What's the Best Pneumococcal Vaccination Schedule for Preterm Infants?
- Schedules for Pneumococcal Vaccination of Preterm Infants: An RCT
- Pneumococcal Vaccines in Preterm Infants: Are More Doses Better? Implications for Other Vaccines
- More Evidence Supporting Pertussis Immunization of Pregnant Moms
- Tdap Vaccination During Pregnancy Prevents Infant Pertussis
- Effectiveness of Vaccination During Pregnancy to Prevent Infant Pertussis
- Study Looks at HPV Prevalence Since Introduction of Vaccine
- Prevalence of HPV After Introduction of the Vaccination Program in the United States
- What's the Best Way to Improve HPV Vaccination Rates in Your Practice? A Randomized Trial Provides an Answer
- Announcements Versus Conversations to Improve HPV Vaccination Coverage
- Rotavirus Vaccine and Intussusception: A Gut Check
- Rotavirus Vaccine and Intussusception Hospitalizations
- Intussusception Rates Before and After the Introduction of Rotavirus Vaccine
- The Ethics of Good Intentions
- Should Pediatric Practices Have Policies to Not Care for Children With Vaccine-Hesitant Parents?
- How to Address Vaccine Hesitancy: New AAP Report Says Dismissal a Last Resort
- Facing the Dilemma of Dismissing Vaccine Refusers
- Countering Vaccine Hesitancy
- Eliminate Nonmedical Immunization Exemptions for School Entry, Says AAP
- Medical Versus Nonmedical Immunization Exemptions for Child Care and School Attendance

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