



Let's talk  
vaccines

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# Smallpox in the Pacific Northwest

Captain Vancouver remarked in his journal in 1792 on the “*present apparent depopulation of the coastline*” – most notable among the Coast Salish peoples who lived on the shores of Puget Sound.

*I frequently met with human bone during my rambles [and] encountered an Uninhabited Village nearly a half Mile long constructed with a good deal of regularity and ornament with a prodigious number of carved logs...which once gave lodging to many hundred”*

*Thomas Manby, Crewman*

*“Each of the deserted villages was nearly if not quite equal to contain all the scattered inhabitants we saw.”*

*George Vancouver, Captain*



# Meningococcal A Conjugate Vaccine

PsA-TT (MenAfriVac)



2009:

> 88,000 cases

> 5000 deaths

2013, Jan 1-May 15:

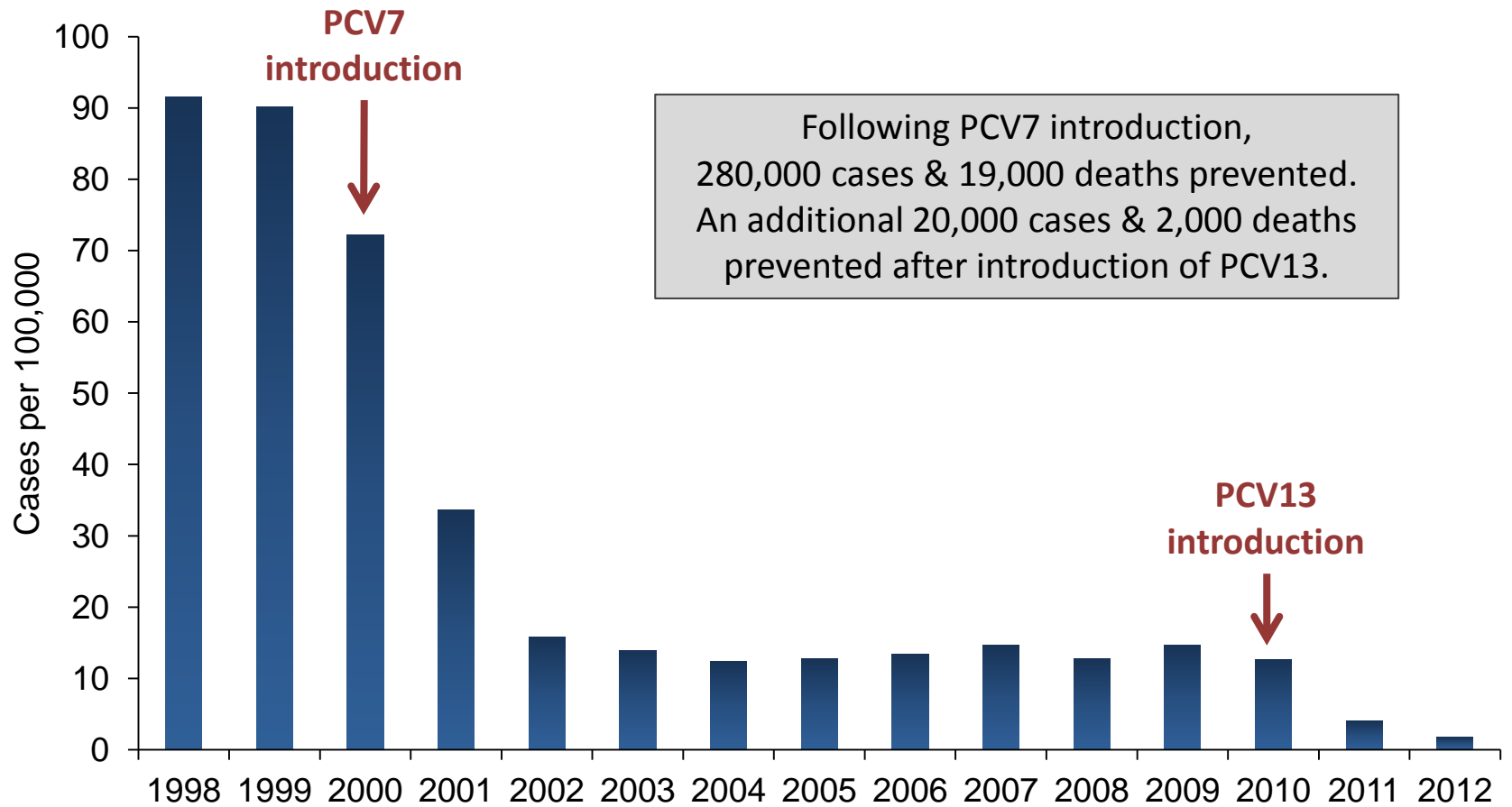
9,250 cases

857 deaths





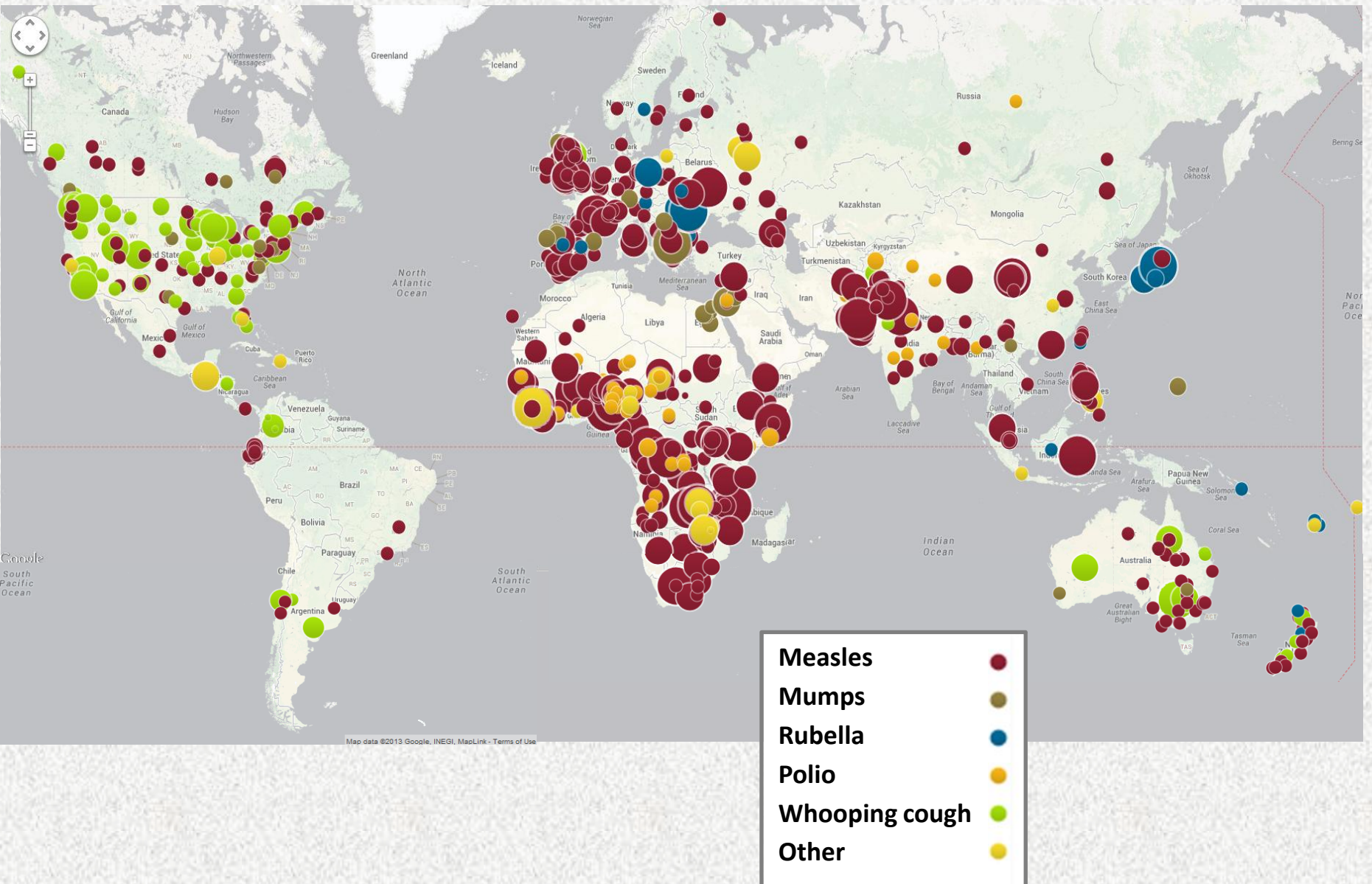
# Summary Impact of PCV7 and PCV13 Introduction 1998-2012



Source: CDC, unpublished (used with permission from M. Moore)

# Vaccine-Preventable Disease Outbreaks

[www.cfr.org/vaccinemap](http://www.cfr.org/vaccinemap)





# A Rising Tide of Immunization Hesitancy

**2000**

- 19% of parents do not think vaccines are proven safe

**2004**

- 92% of pediatricians report parental vaccine refusal

**2008**

- ~20% of parents now delay or refuse some vaccines

**2010**

- >30% of parents now delay or refuse some vaccines

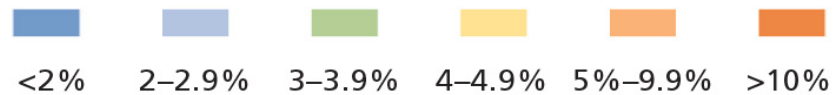
Sources: Gellin BG, et al. *Pediatrics* 2000;106(5):1097-1102; Freed GL, et al. *Am J Prev Med* 2004;26(1):11-14; Salmon DA, et al. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 2005;159(5):470-476; Gust DA, et al. *Pediatrics* 2008;122(4):718-725; Freed GL, et al. *Pediatrics* 2010;125(3):654-659; Smith P, et al. Poster, 2010 PAS Meeting, Vancouver BC



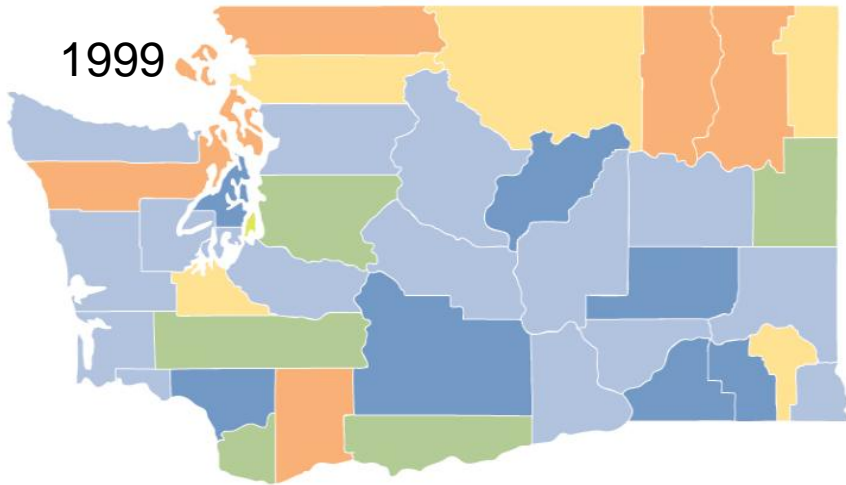
Source: B Gellin, 2014



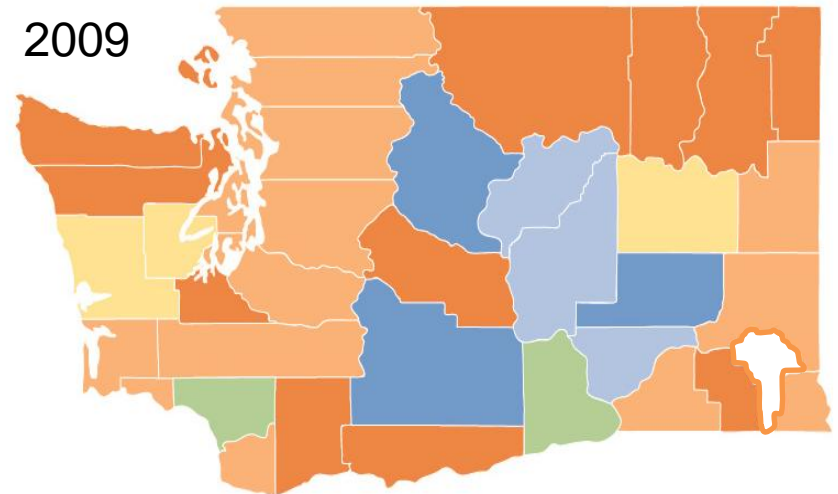
# Immunization Exemptions, WA State 1999-2009



1999



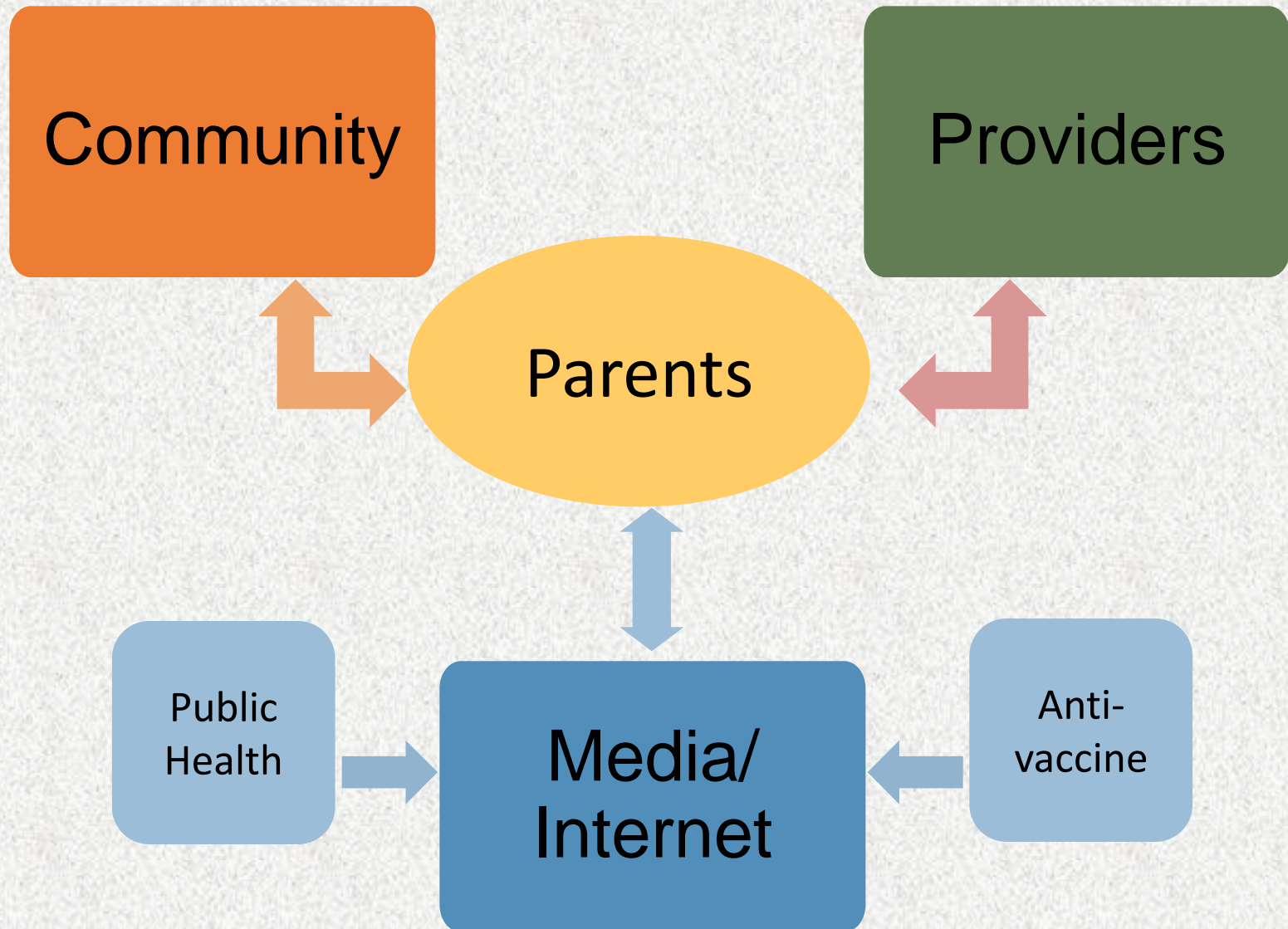
2009



**Building Vaccine Hesitancy  
Solutions for WA State & Beyond**

Vax Northwest is a group of community agencies collaborating to address immunization hesitancy in WA State by designing, implementing, & evaluating two innovative interventions for clinicians & communities.

Parents want to do what is best for their child...  
but face a conundrum: *What to believe?*





# Provider Intervention Study



- Based on application of social marketing principles; 3 years of needs assessment & pilot studies in WA State
- Modeled on a client-centered approach to communication with vaccine-hesitant parents & motivational interviewing techniques:
  - *Ask; Acknowledge; Advise*
- Randomized controlled trial in 56 clinics
- Assess:
  - Physician confidence – self-efficacy
  - Parent attitudes – vaccine hesitancy

# Community Intervention Study



- Activate & directly engage parents who immunize
- Reinforce the value of a healthy local community using local data & expertise
- Train volunteer advocates in child & schools
- Develop tool kits, messages, other resources
- Use social media, earned media to support parents' engagement
- Assess:
  - Immunization attitudes
  - Policy changes
  - Exemption rates



# Some of the Many Lessons We Have Learned

## ● Interventions

- Clinicians, parents are willing to participate in provider intervention – vaccine hesitancy high-priority issue
- Some communities concerned project could prove divisive

## ● Assessment

- Logistically complex: change in days unimmunized is “gold standard” outcome, but very challenging – relied on intermediate outcomes
- Need relatively large numbers of participants & high baseline rate of vaccine hesitancy to demonstrate statistically significant effects

## ● Assumptions

- Emerging evidence challenges the utility of some immunization communication strategies:
  - Responding to misinformation
  - “Marketing” vaccine safety
  - Heightening concerns about growing numbers of vaccine-hesitant
- Initial assumptions about effective parent-provider communication were simplistic
  - Were based on experience & expert opinion

# Parent-Provider Immunization Communication

New research suggests how an immunization discussion is initiated affects the outcome:

- **Participatory**

- *“Did you want to get some vaccines for him today?”*
- *“So what are we going to do about vaccines today?”*
- *“How do you feel about vaccination?”*

- **Presumptive**

- *“It’s time for some vaccines...we’re going to be doing two live vaccines today: the MMR and the chicken pox.”*

- **Effect on parent satisfaction**

- *Preliminary analysis suggests presumptive approach increases vaccine uptake on that visit but decreases parent satisfaction!*



Centuries of scientific observation  
and prophets wise have shown us:  
what we know defines what we know not,  
and that is where our future lies.

*Carolyn Breese Hall*

## **What we know not...**

- How and when attitudes toward immunization are formed
- The relative weights of specific factors other than science-based information in vaccine decisions
- How & when to influence attitudes & beliefs
- Effectiveness of tailored messages
- The importance of peer-to-peer communication in vaccine decision-making or the utility of peer-to-peer community interventions



# Myth of Science Illiteracy As a Root Cause

## (Deficit Model)

- When the relation between science and society breaks down, science illiteracy is blamed
  - Vaccine hesitancy
  - Fluoridated water supplies
  - Global warming
  - Radiated food
  - Nuclear waste disposal
  - Genetically modified foods
- Science literacy accounts for only a small fraction of the variance of how lay publics form opinions about controversial areas of science
- All who raise questions about vaccines and immunization policies are not “*unable to understand concepts of risk (innumerate)*” or “*of low cognitive complexity*”

# Knowledge, Attitudes & Beliefs

- Ideology, partisanship, political context, religious identity, values, trade-offs among benefits, risks & costs are far stronger influences than is science
  - Example: Acceptance of evidence of climate change by well-informed college graduates:

*More likely to accept if political party A*

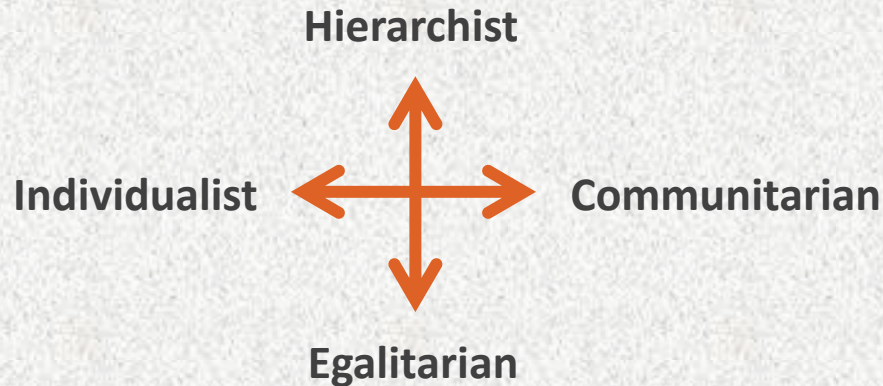
*More likely to reject if political party B*

- Conflicts arise principally from differing values, perceptions, beliefs & fears – termed *cultural differences*

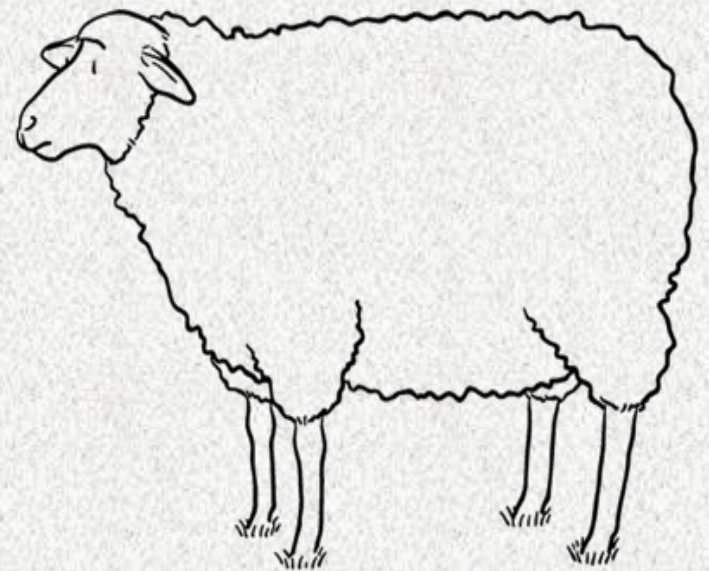
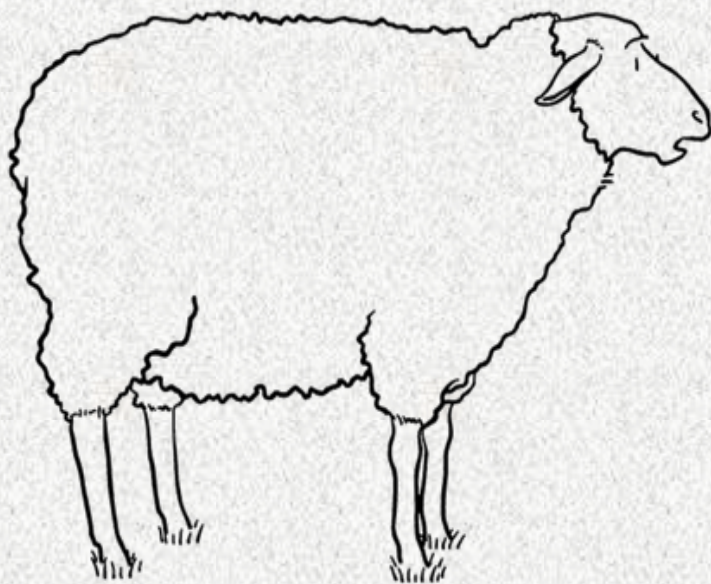


# Cultural Cognition

- Even when expert consensus emerges on a complex issue, members of the public can't verify it for themselves.
- So what we choose to believe derives from our cultural world view:



- We rely on such short-cuts to deal with complexity



GREGORY

*“Sure, I follow the herd—not out of brainless obedience, mind you, but out of a deep and abiding respect for the concept of community.”*



# Implications of Cultural Cognition

- Relying on disseminating sound information to dispel disagreement is futile, because in deciding if the evidence is sound, individuals rely on their cultural evaluations
- The key is to frame...information in terms that make agreement “compatible with, rather than antagonistic to the commitments of individuals with diverse cultural persuasions”

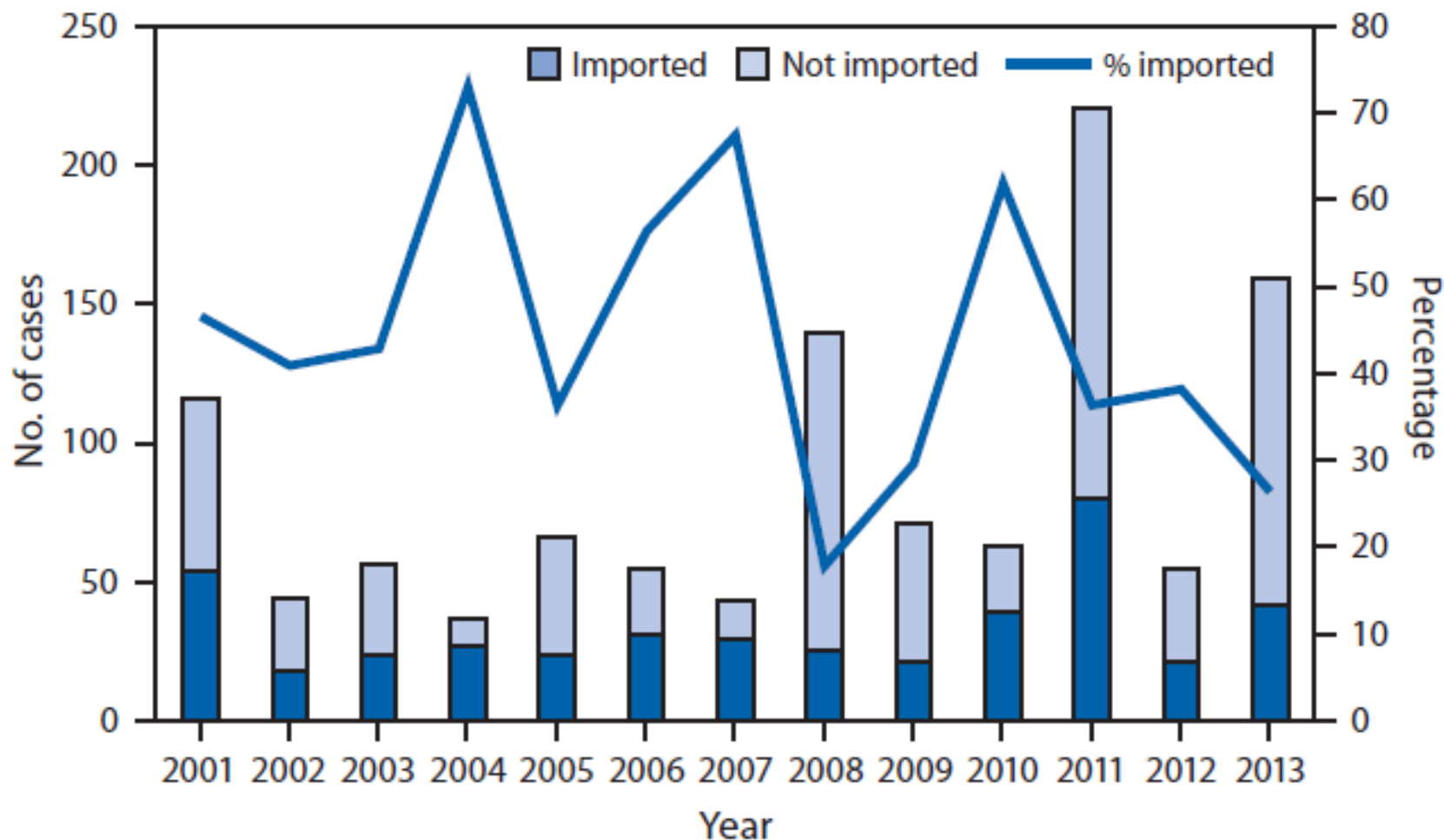


# Managing Values Conflict in a Democratic Society



- Addressing vaccine hesitancy requires more than insightful message framing & expert social marketing
- What should be the balance between:
  - the state's duty to protect the public health
  - an individual's right of free choice
  - at what point does the risk to the public health trump free choice?
- What disease risk balanced by what assurance of vaccine safety justifies an enforced mandate? What degree of coercion is warranted?
- What degree of societal consensus is required?
  - who should decide: public health, judges, legislators?

# Trend in Cases of Imported Measles as a Proportion of All Measles Cases, U.S. 2001-2013



Source: *MMWR* 2013,52(36):752-753



# Conclusions

- Scope of vaccine hesitancy is unprecedented and widening
- Response to hesitancy emerging from the current immunization policy process appears inadequate
- Fear and compulsion have limited potential to sustain the immunization consensus needed
- We badly need evidence on how best to shape public knowledge, attitudes & beliefs to support immunization & public health
- Must shift from reactive to proactive long-term strategy
- Time to consider redesigning the policy-making process to involve additional expertise (communication, behavioral economics, anthropology...) and involve new stakeholders (business, information technology, education...)

# DO NOT FORGET THE FUNDAMENTALS!

Preliminary results from an ongoing analysis of national data suggest that the parents of most US measles-susceptible children have vaccine beliefs similar to those of parents of immunized children and that their children are susceptible primarily due to missed opportunities...



# Newer Strategies for Vaccine Development

- Reverse vaccinology
- Adjuvants, including cytokines, TLR agonists
- Viral recombinants
- Defective particles replication
- Replicating vectors recombined with genes from pathogens
- DNA plasmids
- Gene delivery by invasive bacteria
- Transcriptomics and proteomics
- Induction of innate immunity
- Dendritic cell targeting
- Therapeutic vaccines



# Major Uncontrolled Infectious Diseases

Campylobacter

Chlamydia

Clostridium difficile

Cytomegalovirus\*\*

Dengue\*

Ebola

EBV

E. coli 0157

Helicobacter pylori

Hepatitis C

Herpes simplex\*\*

HIV\*\*

Hookworm

Influenza, Pandemic\*\*

Malaria\*

Norwalk\*\*

Parainfluenza\*\*

Parvovirus B19

RSV\*\*

Schistosomiasis

Shigella

Strep, GpB\*\*

Strep, GpA

Tuberculosis

Urinary tract infection

West Nile Virus

\*Vaccine likely licensed by 2018

\*\*Vaccine studies in humans underway

**1954**

**World's First  
Pocket Radio**



**1987**

**World's First  
Conjugate Vaccine**



**2013**

**Google  
Glass**



**2047**

**?????**



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