

## Vaccine Article

As more and more families are refusing to vaccinate their children, more and more cases of deadly, vaccine-preventable diseases are occurring across the country. The correlation is clear and undeniable. Diseases that once terrified our parents and grandparents but were nearly wiped out one generation ago thanks to the widespread use of vaccines are once again on the rise. There is only one plausible explanation for this trend--the more individuals that lack immunity to a disease, the more likely the disease is to occur and spread among the population. More and more people lack immunity because fewer and fewer children are being vaccinated.

Uneducated and unrealistic people are to blame for the present-day decline in the rate of properly vaccinated individuals. These naysayers use anecdotal arguments rather than scientifically proven facts as the basis for their anti-vaccine beliefs. Such pseudoscientific arguments include: vaccines and vaccine preservatives cause autism, vaccines cause the very diseases they are designed to prevent, diseases like polio no longer exist, they had the diseases and they are fine, vaccines overwhelm the undeveloped immune systems of young children, and the Bible teaches that we should not vaccinate. Myriads of studies have shown that none of these arguments have any scientific basis.

Instead of using scientifically proven facts as the basis for their opinions, "anti-vaxxers", as they are called, choose to use anecdotal evidence and medieval thought processes as their rationale for choosing not to vaccinate.

The two most well-known pied-pipers of the anti vaccine movement are Jenny McCarthy, Playboy's six-time cover model (latest in 2012 at the age of 39), and Andrew Wakefield, the disgraced English medical doctor and researcher. Dr. Wakefield was stripped of his license to practice medicine in Britain due to his fraudulently conducted and published research in which he concluded that the childhood developmental disorder, autism, was linked to the administration of the MMR vaccine.

It would seem only logical that parents, when it comes to protecting their children from deadly diseases, would place their trust in medical doctors that use scientific evidence as their basis for supporting vaccines instead of placing their trust in doctors that have lost their license to practice medicine and in playmates. But then, there are still those that believe the Earth is flat and that Neil Armstrong never set foot on the moon. Go figure.

One of the many duties that parents have (or should have) is to protect their children from danger. Parents who refuse to vaccinate their children are not doing them or others around them any favors. Instead, they are placing them in extreme danger by failing to protect them from easily preventable, deadly diseases.

Hippocrates, "The Father of Modern Medicine," once said, "There are in fact two things, science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance."