

Vaccine Article II

As more and more families refuse to vaccinate their children, more and more cases of deadly, vaccine-preventable diseases are being reported. Diseases that once terrified our grandparents are once again on the rise. There is only one scientific 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.

Rather than using scientific research as the basis for their beliefs, vaccine naysayers choose to use anecdotal arguments for their anti-vaccine stance. In addition, these "anti-vaxxers" choose to follow the lead of their two oft quoted spokespersons. One, the "face" of the anti-vaccine movement, is Jenny McCarthy, *Playboy* magazine's six-time cover model. The other, Andrew Wakefield, is the disgraced English medical doctor who was stripped of his license to practice medicine due to his fraudulently conducted research which erroneously linked the MMR vaccine to childhood autism. Together, these two pied-pipers lead an ever-increasing population of followers down Ignorance Lane.

Parents who choose to not vaccinate are not doing their children any favors. Instead, they are placing their loved ones and those around them in grave danger. It seems only logical that parents would choose to trust doctors who use science as the basis for their beliefs rather than playmates and shamed researchers when it comes to protecting their children. But then, there are still those that believe the Earth is flat and that Neil Armstrong never set foot on the moon. Go figure.

Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, once said, "There are in fact two things, science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance."