



Vaccination Rates, Public Policy, & the Need for State-Level Vaccine Advocacy

Sept. 18, 2024

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Advocacy Director, SAFE Communities Coalition

Founder, Louisiana Families for Vaccines





CME Accreditation Statement



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Wayne Franklin, MD	CME Reviewer	No	N/A
Joe Hageman, MD	CME Reviewer	Yes	Royalties- Owlet Inc
Alexandra Arca	Staff	No	N/A



Jennifer Herricks, PhD

- PhD in Microbiology & Molecular Genetics from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Completed a postdoctoral fellowship in global health policy with a focus on infectious diseases at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.
- Founder of Louisiana Families for Vaccines.
- Current Director of Advocacy SAFE Communities Coalition.





Learning Objectives

As a result of attending this webinar, participants will be able to:

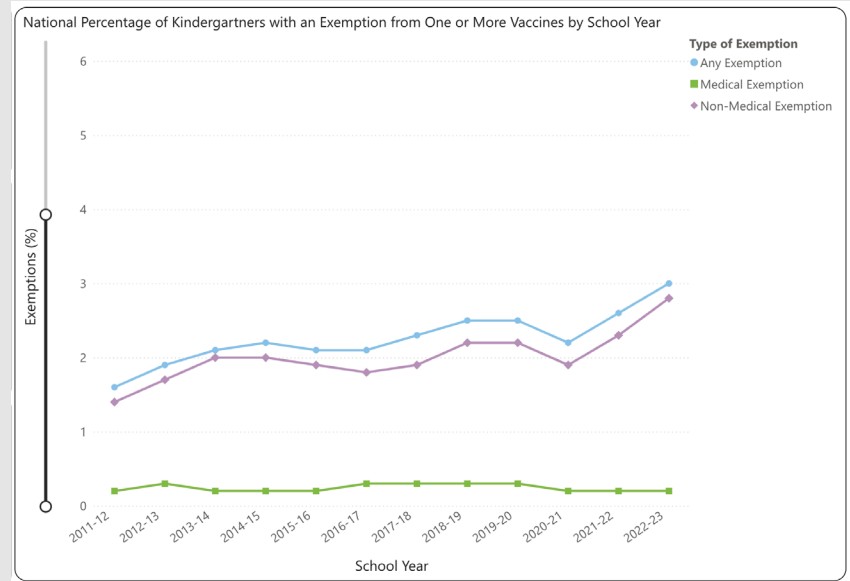
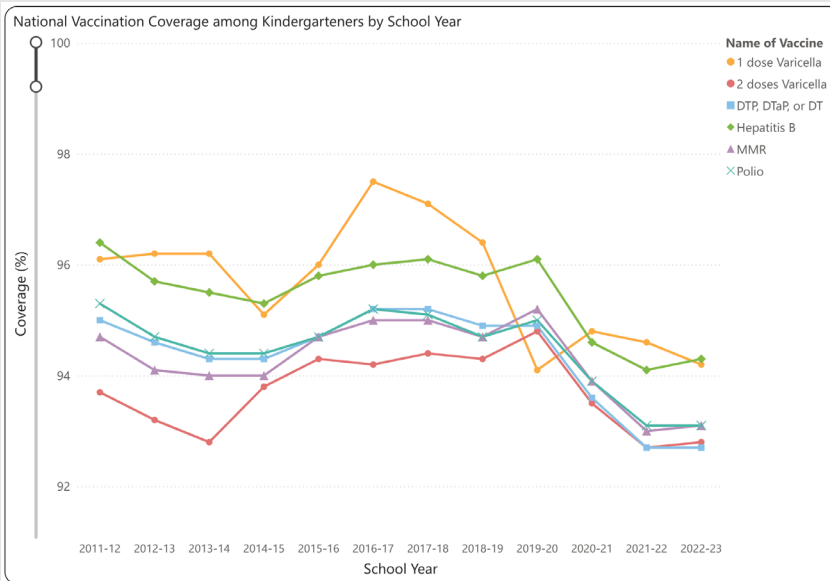
- 01** Describe the modern anti-vaccine movement & explain the movement's impact on public policy.
- 02** Evaluate state and national policies and political trends that contribute to a decrease in public health infrastructure and overall trust in public health and medical expertise.
- 03** Recognize the impact of state-level policies on overall vaccination rates and individual patients' ability and/or willingness to vaccinate.
- 04** Apply strategies at the local and state levels to engage in direct advocacy for policies that promote trust in public health and increase access to routine childhood vaccines.

SAFE is the Nation's First Pro-Vaccine Advocacy Organization.





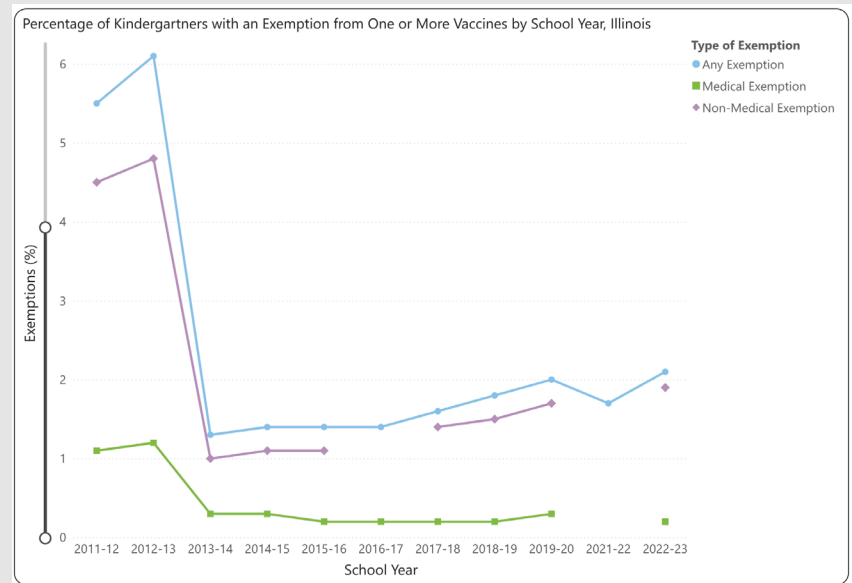
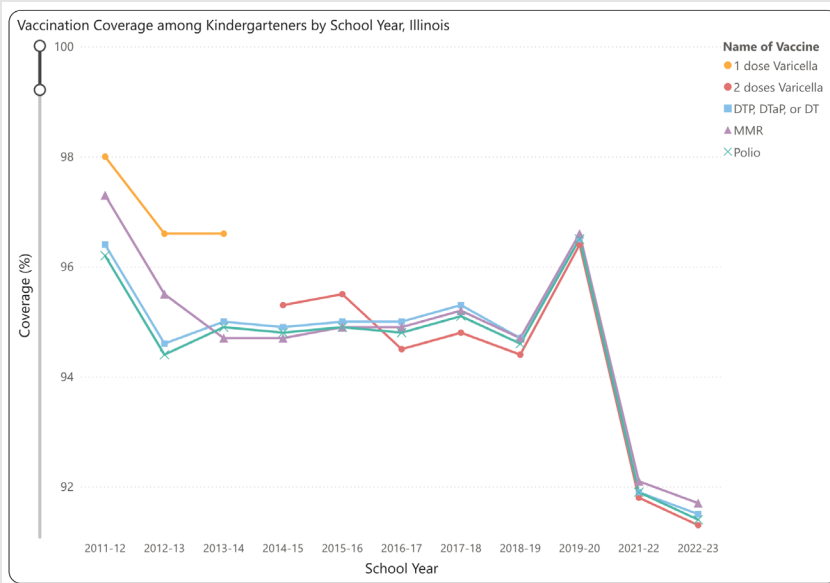
School Vaccination Rates and Exemptions in the US



Via CDC SchoolVaxView



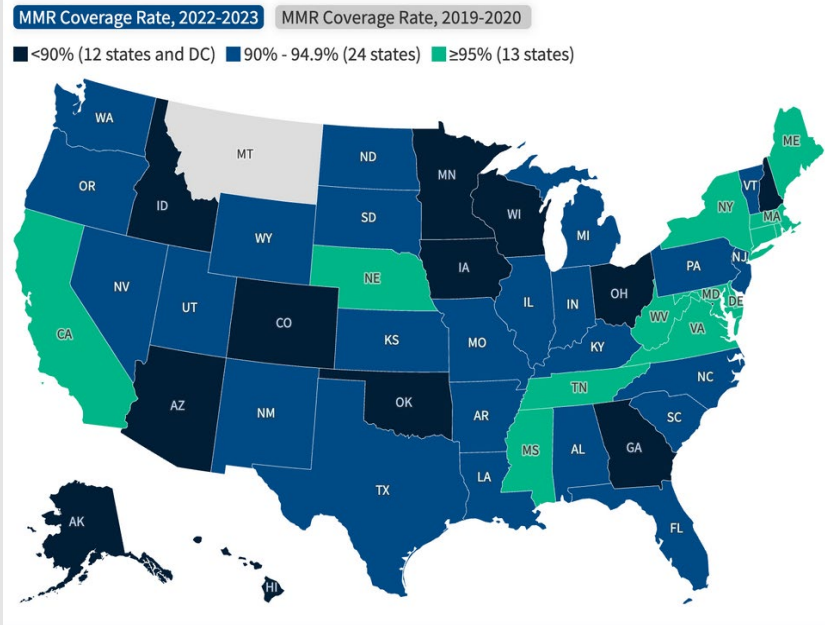
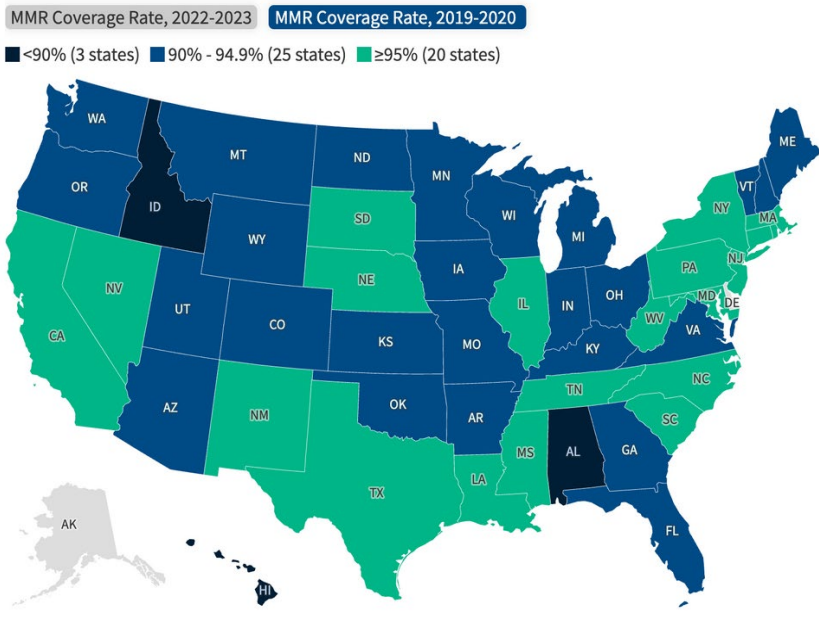
School Vaccination Rates and Exemptions in Illinois



Via CDC SchoolVaxView



Nearly Three-Quarters of States Had MMR Vaccination Coverage Rates For Kindergarteners Below the Healthy People Target of 95% During the 2022-2023 School Year



Note: MMR = measles, mumps, and rubella. The Healthy People 2030 Target for MMR is 95%. MT did not report for the 2022-2023 school year.

Source: [Vaccination Coverage and Exemptions among Kindergartners, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(U.S.\)](#) • [Get the data](#) • [Download PNG](#)

Anti-vaccine organizations are well-funded and working in every state.



INFORMED CONSENT ACTION NETWORK

- \$13.4 million in 2022

CHILDREN'S HEALTH DEFENSE

- \$22.5 million in 2022

STAND FOR HEALTH FREEDOM

- \$400k in 2022

NATIONAL VACCINE INFORMATION CENTER

- \$2 million in 2022

AMERICA'S FRONTLINE DOCTORS

- \$13 million in 2022

FRONT LINE COVID 19 CRITICAL CARE ALLIANCE

- \$8 million in 2022

HEALTH FREEDOM DEFENSE FUND

- \$1.2 million in 2022

TOTAL: OVER \$60 MILLION IN 2022



Informed Consent Action Network



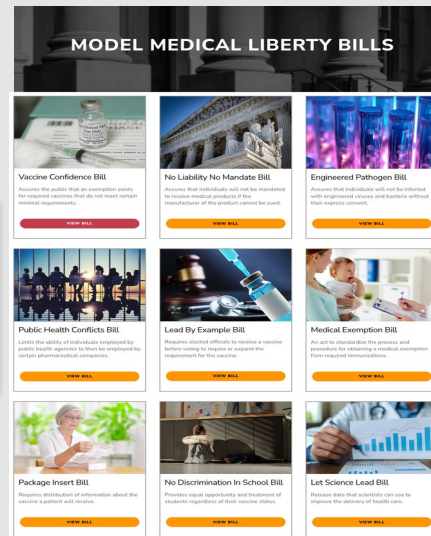
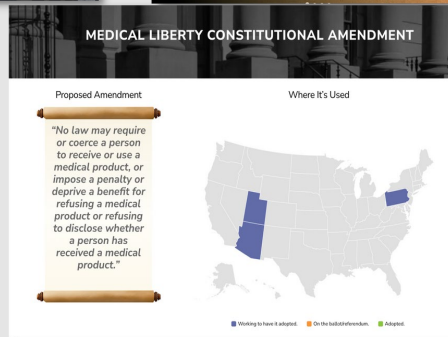
DEL BIGTREE, CEO

- On the scene in state legislatures since 2016
- Online program The High Wire had 174,000 subscribers at its peak
- RFK Jr presidential campaign Comms Director
- Excels at fundraising (\$13.4 million in 2022)

AARON SIRI, ATTORNEY

- Giving “expert” testimony across US
- 501(C)4 FORMED IN 2023
- Confirmed source of “model bills”
- Talking points developed
- Deceptive “medical liberty” pledge
- Proposed Constitutional Amendment
- Litigation
- Responsible for MS adding a religious exemption
- “Free the Five” Campaign
- Co-opting constitutionality
- Revisionist version of Jacobson vs Massachusetts

Images via icandecide.org and icanlegislate.org



Children's Health Defense



- 501(c)3 founded by RFK Jr in 2007
- Fundraised \$22.5 million in 2022
- Large and organized source of disinformation
- Works closely with ICAN, NVIC, Stand for Health Freedom
- Traveling the country
- 19 established state chapters to impact policies

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
Vaxxed III – Authorized to Kill

Coming Soon to a Theater Near You

Children's Health Defense

THE DEFENDER CHD.TV LEGAL JUSTICE SCIENCE ABOUT US

Sign up for the Defender® Newsletter

About Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Esteemed author and Founder of Waterkeeper Alliance, Mr. Kennedy Jr. serves as the Founder of Children's Health Defense and is currently on leave as CHD's Chairman and Chief Legal Counsel.

MEET OUR FOUNDER

Freedom Illinois
July 23 · 📍

THE THREE HEADED EAGLE ALLIANCE INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

Pints & Politics

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 • 6-8PM

Please RSVP at threeheadedeaglealliance.org for our events.
Door fee is \$15 which may be applied to a yearly membership. Members admitted free to monthly programs.

Eaglebrook Country Club
2288 Fargo Blvd, Geneva

Three Headed Eagle Alliance, P.O. Box 901, Geneva, IL 60134
threeheadedeaglealliance@gmail.com

GUEST SPEAKER >>>

Mary Holland

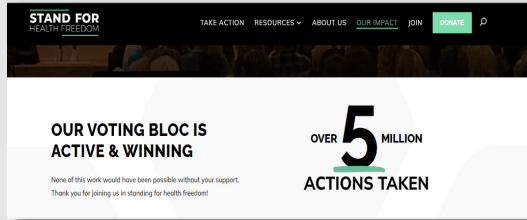
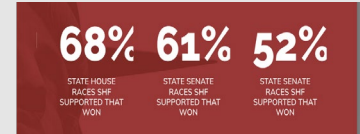
As CEO of Children's Health Defense, Mary Holland has been involved in the vaccine choice and health freedom movement for more than two decades.

Like CHD, Holland seeks to end the epidemic of chronic childhood diseases, hold those responsible accountable, and create safeguards so that these epidemics never happen again. Through its education, advocacy, litigation and research, CHD challenges federal and state governments, pharmaceutical companies, corporations and corrupt regulatory agencies to end the practices that are harming children's health. In the age of COVID, CHD's mission is to protect children.



Stand for Health Freedom

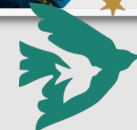
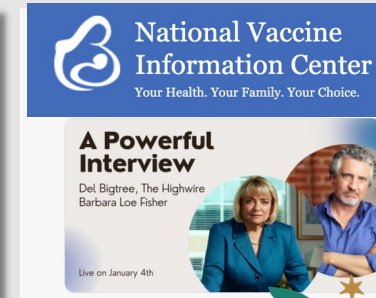
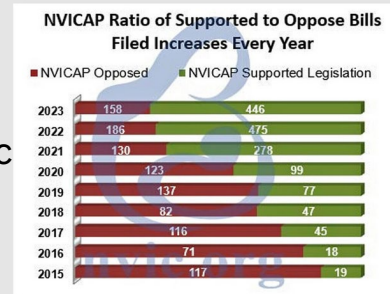
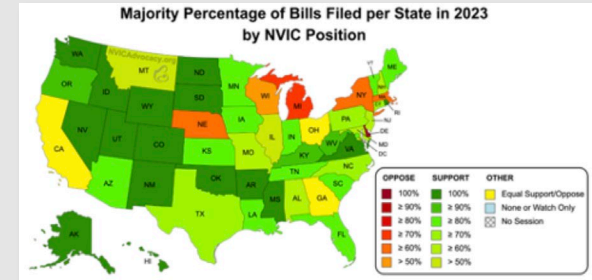
- 501(c)(4) founded in 2019
- \$400k in 2022
- Heavily focused on elections
- Also focused on on federal policy & state policy
 - Opposes school-based health



National Vaccine Information Center



- 301(c)(3) founded by Barbara Loe Fisher in 1982 in response to the DPT vaccine
- \$2 million in 2022
- Annual State of Vaccine Legislation
- Advocacy Portal featured on CHD TV
- Del Bigtree features Barbara Loe Fisher
- Policy lens:
 - Pro-parental rights
 - Pro-health freedom
 - Opposed to pharmacists vaccinating
 - Opposed to IIS
 - Opposed to school-based health clinic
 - Overlap with Moms for Liberty



SAFE
COMMUNITIES
COALITION

Other Anti-Vaccine Organizations



AMERICA'S FRONTLINE DOCTORS (FREE SPEECH FOUNDATION)

- 501(c)3
- \$13 million in 2022
- Affiliated with Tea Party Patriots
- Some statehouse committee appearances
- Mostly focused on national policy
- FL Surgeon General



Florida surgeon general calls for halt on mRNA covid vaccines, citing debunked claim

By Dan Diamond, Lauren Weber and Josh Dawsey
January 9, 2024 at 6:37 p.m. EST

FRONT LINE COVID 19 CRITICAL CARE ALLIANCE INC

- Ivermectin is a miracle cure
- 501(c)3
- \$8 million in 2022
- “Expert witnesses” in state and federal hearings

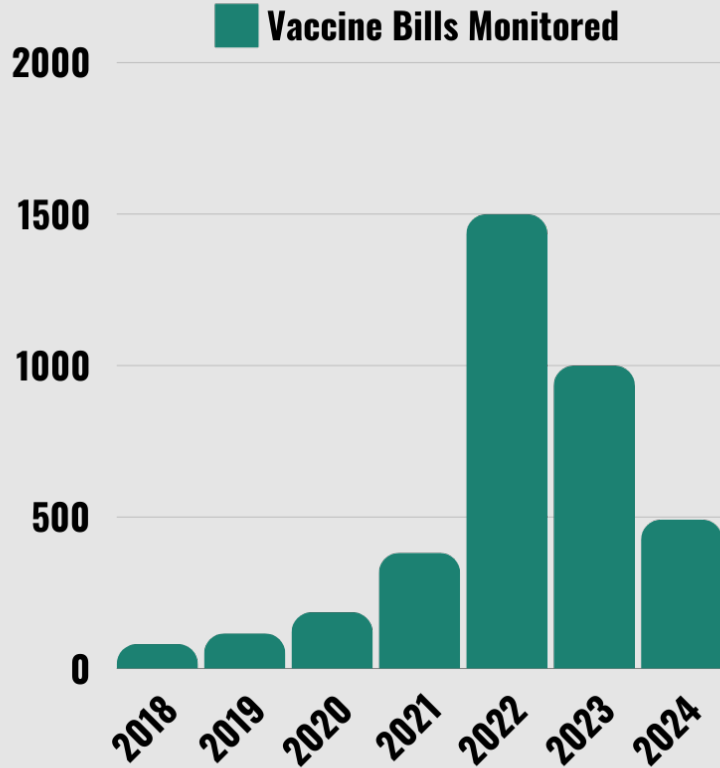


HEALTH FREEDOM DEFENSE FUND

- 501(c)3
- \$1.2 million in 2022
- Legal challenges around COVID mandates & challenges



Post-Pandemic Increase in Vaccine Legislation Nationwide



B Foreign Policy
at BROOKINGS

FROM ANTI-VAXXER MOMS TO MILITIA MEN
*INFLUENCE OPERATIONS, NARRATIVE
WEAPONIZATION, AND THE FRACTURING OF
AMERICAN IDENTITY*

POLITICO

Anti-vaxxers are now a modern political force

The once-fringe movement is now seeing an influx in cash after the Covid pandemic.

The New York Times Magazine

**The Anti-Vaccine
Movement's New Frontier**

A wave of parents has been radicalized by Covid-era
misinformation to reject ordinary childhood immunizations —
with potentially lethal consequences.



2024 US Legislative Trends

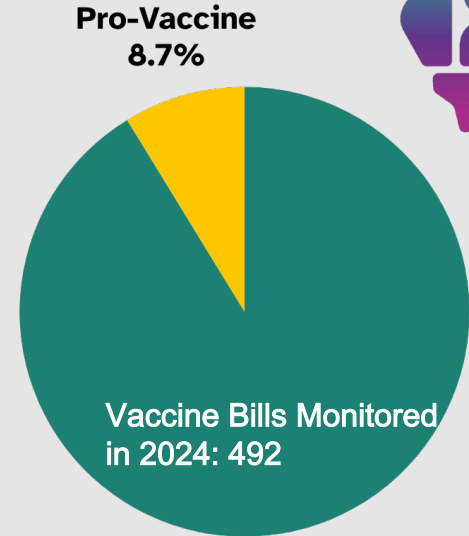


PRO-VACCINE

- Adult registries
- Strengthening school immunization requirements
- Expanding vaccine access
 - Funding for immunization programs
 - Supporting school-based health clinics
 - Pharmacists administering vaccines

ANTI-VACCINE

- **Limiting vaccine access**
 - Parental rights
 - School-based health centers
- **Misinformation**
 - Limitations on vaccinated blood
 - Vaccine safety & effectiveness
 - mRNA & new technology
- **Civil Rights**
 - Health freedom & loosening requirements
 - Conflating public health & discrimination
- **Distrust**
 - World Health Organization/CDC
 - Government/Public Health Authorities
 - Immunization Information Systems



Anti-Vaccine
91.3%

Limiting Vaccinated Blood

- Proposed bill in IL would have required blood banks to:
 - Test or have blood tested for evidence of any COVID-19 vaccine or any other messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine components, including evidence of lipid nanoparticles and spike protein from a vaccine.
 - *Such a test does NOT exist.*
 - Require donors to disclose whether they have received a COVID-19 vaccine or any other mRNA vaccine during their lifetime.
 - Label blood from donors who have had a COVID-19 or other mRNA vaccine.
 - Receive acknowledgement from recipient or authorized representative that they can refuse blood from a vaccinated donor.
- IL was one of 11 states where a version of this bill was introduced.

COVID-19

‘Tainted’ Blood: Covid Skeptics Request Blood Transfusions From Unvaccinated Donors

KFF Health News



**ILLINOIS: TRANSFUSION
TRANSPARENCY**

Click to support donor mRNA
vaccine disclosure bill

**STAND FOR
HEALTH FREEDOM**



Limiting Public Health Authority & Creating Distrust



Limiting State and Local Public Health Authority

- Prohibit vaccine mandates & other measures to prevent the spread of disease.
- Limitations on vaccine registries & changing opt-out registries to opt-in

Creating Distrust in National and International Experts

- Preventing states from using WHO (and sometimes CDC) recommendations to justify state policy
- Opposing WHO pandemic agreement
 - Many governments and WHO leadership felt it was necessary to develop a new agreement to address some of the weaknesses in capacity and lack of international cooperation that occurred during the global response to COVID-19
 - Calls to action for resolutions to reject the agreement for local and state officials
 - 49 US Senators opposed
 - 22 State Attorneys opposed



Policies Impacting Childhood Vaccines



Parental Rights

- Preventing or administratively burdening foster parents and group homes from vaccinating
- Preventing teenagers from electing to vaccinate
- Opting out of data collection, impacting registries



How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Pits Parental Rights Against Public Health
KFF Health News

Schools

- Increasing exemptions for schools
 - Private, public, charter, and homeschool
 - Both religious and personal exemptions
- Removing any requirement to show vaccination records to schools
- Removing/prohibiting certain vaccine requirements for school attendance
- Notifying parents of exemption information

Childcare

- Many states are experiencing childcare shortages, vaccine requirements are falsely being identified as a barrier to recruiting childcare providers.

SIUXLAND Proud.com

IOWA NEWS

Iowa Senate Republicans want school districts to share vaccine exemption requirements

Des Moines Register

Should Iowa kids need their parents' permission to get HPV vaccine? Iowa bill says yes



Conflating Public Health & Discrimination



- Preventing employers from “discriminating” against employees based on vaccination status
 - Hiring, firing, workload transfer, vulnerable patient population exposure, etc.
- Individuals and/or businesses may not refuse to provide services based on an individual’s vaccination status.
- Preventing “discrimination” in schools

States that introduced this legislation in 2024:

AZ, FL, GA, IN, KS, LA, MO, NJ, NY, OH, OK, RI, SC, SD, TN, WA, WI, WV, WY

States that have PASSED this legislation:

AR, FL, ID, IN, LA, MI, MS, NH, OH, SC, TX, UT, WV

Where it has been vetoed:

AZ, KS, WA, WI



A New Weapon in the Anti-Vaccine Arsenal: Claiming the Unvaccinated as a Protected Class



New Vaccine Technology



Bans

- Banning mRNA products, with criminal penalties
- Preventing State Veterinarian from administering mRNA vaccines in an emergency

Fear Mongering

- Meat from animals that have not received an mRNA vaccine can be labeled “mRNA free.”
- Any food that has received a vaccine must be labeled as a drug, aka “lettuce bills.”

TENNESSEE POLITICS

WKRN.COM

**Tennessee ‘vaccine lettuce’
bill heads to Gov. Bill Lee’s
desk**



WKYT

**Lawmakers discuss bill to outlaw COVID-19
vaccine mandates**



Anti-vaccine challenges in our statehouses impact vaccine policy & vaccination rates.

Prevalence of anti-vaccine themes in witness testimony for 5 bills during the 2021 TX Legislative Session

Theme	No. of Statements
Vaccine Safety & Effectiveness	76
Medical Freedom	65
Discrimination	42
Informed Consent	30
Science	30
Total Witness Statements	128

Matthews KRW, Lakshmanan R, Kalakuntla N, Tallapragada N. Personal rights over public Health: Anti-vaccine rhetoric in the Texas Legislature. Vaccine X. 2024 Feb 28;18:100468. doi: 10.1016/j.jvaxc.2024.100468. PMID: 38450107; PMCID: PMC10915400.



Aaron Siri @AaronSiriSG

In response to many inquiries about the 9th Circuit decision:

(1) If Covid-19 vaccines are not considered “vaccines” because they do not prevent transmission, then **neither are pertussis, tetanus, inactivated polio, etc., vaccines because they also do not prevent transmission.** We have used the fact that most vaccines do not prevent transmission in vaccine cases we have won, including in Mississippi, and it’s great the 9th Circuit finally gets it with regard to Covid-19 vaccines.

(2) Irrespective of whether the Covid-19 vaccines prevent infection, as long as these products are intended as a countermeasure to Covid-19, then PREP Act immunity would apply irrespective of how labeled.

3:21 PM · 6/10/24 From Earth · 216K Views

N.C.S.W.I.C.

Novel Coronavirus South Western Intergovernmental Committee
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Thursday, May 25th & Friday, May 26th
8:30am to 5:00pm (Thursday & Friday)

Children's Health Defense ARIZONA CHAPTER

12/6/21

Health and Welfare

19,000 Deaths reported from Covid vaccines, more than from all other vaccines combined in 30 years.

19,000 Deaths Reported from Covid Vaccines



Legislative Forecast

- Pushes for more of the same that failed to pass
- Expanding on policies that did pass
- Renewed focus on school-based health clinics



Children's Health Defense
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

AUGUST 17, 2023
School-Based Health Centers Must Come with Guardrails

ACT NOW: Stop the anti-parent School-based Health Centers

Tell your legislators that School-based Health Centers (SBHCs) must establish guardrails to protect children and parents.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
School Based Health and Wellness Centers

STAND FOR
HEALTH FREEDOM

**SBHCs AND THE ANTI-PARENT AGENDA
(At-A-GLANCE)**

AUGUST 2023

Reminder: School-based Health Centers: Safety Exchanged for Convenience

As another image of a parental consent form from a Louisiana SBHC goes viral, this is a reminder to READ everything before you sign it!



HEALTH FREEDOM LOUISIANA
AUG 10, 2024

ACT NOW
Stop the anti-parent agenda in School-based Health Centers

STAND FOR
HEALTH FREEDOM



Legislative activity that makes a difference.

- Align with the state's culture and norms
- Attune to unique legislative landscapes
- Host Days of Advocacy and other events
- Strengthen constituent relationships with lawmakers
- Build community engagement through actions
- Offer advocate trainings and learning opportunities
- Engage diverse, non-traditional partners and show up for them
- Leverage policy experience and legislative analysis with partners & allies
- Provide district- and lawmaker-specific resources
- Recognize lawmaker champions
- Engage the media



Beyond the Statehouse



National Politics

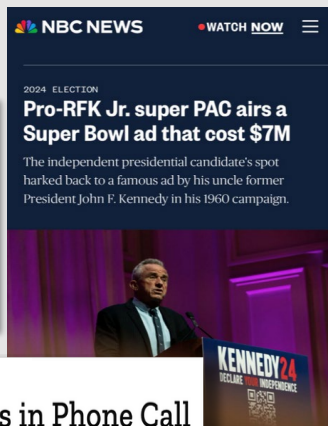
Trump vows to cut federal funds for schools with vaccine mandates

It's become a standard line in Donald Trump's stump speech: He intends to deny federal funds to any school, at any level, "that has a vaccine mandate."



TIME

Trump Makes Anti-Vax Comments in Phone Call With RFK Jr.



Courts

Vaccine critics misrepresent US appeals court ruling over Covid-19 shots

Published on June 11, 2024 at 15:47 | Updated on June 17, 2024 at 09:48 | 5 min read |

By Bill MCCARTHY, AFP USA

Local Authorities (School Boards)

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

She repeats misinformation on vaccines, autism — and she's running for a Sacramento school board

BY ARIANE LANGE

UPDATED OCTOBER 28, 2022 12:02 PM |

HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA
A SERVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

EDUCATION NEWS

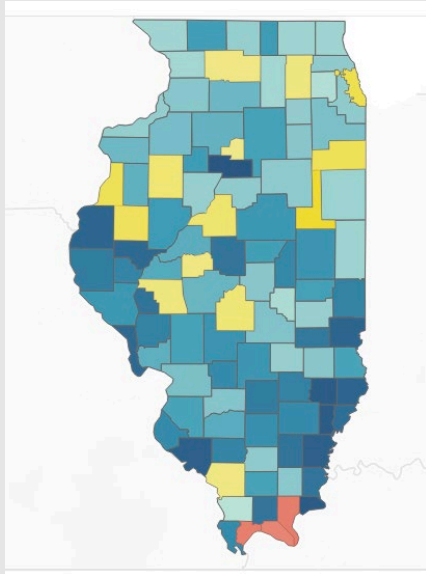
Cy-Fair ISD trustees vote to omit textbook chapters about topics such as climate change and vaccines



Know your local data & share it with lawmakers.



Illinois Students 2022-2023 MMR Vaccination Rates




Community Immunity Thresholds

96.0%+

91.0% - 96.0%

< 91.0%


✕
Data Overview
Exemptions
PDF Download
Feedback
Filters

Illinois School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard

How protected are school-aged children?

Data through: **October 2023**
Source: [Illinois School Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#)
Video: [Dashboard Tutorial](#)

During the '22-'23 school year **4,761 (95.7%)** out of 4,976 schools reported on **Measles**
To change school year and Vaccine go to the 'Filters' button

Program Information										
County	Rural/Urban	ZIP Code	Funding Type	School Code	Affiliation	Facility-County	Grade Served	Enrollment PreK-12	Census Tract SVI	Protection (%) ⌵
Kane	Collar	60511	Non Public	Secondary (9-12) (Y)	Other Religious ..	Crossroads Academy-Kane	9-12	<10		0.0%
City of Chicago	Chicago	60649	Non Public	Unit (PreK-12) (Z)	Islamic/M..	Muhammad University-Cook	P-12	75		8.0%
Kane	Collar	60120	Non Public	Elementary (PreK - 8) (X)	Roman Catholic	St Mary School-Kane	P-8	118		28.0%
City of Chicago	Chicago	60619	Charter	Elementary School (2)	N/A	Betty Shabazz Internl Charter S..	K-8	313		39.0%
City of Chicago	Chicago	60621	Charter	Elementary School (2)	N/A	Barbara A Sizemore Campu..	K-8	261		39.9%
Suburba..	Suburban-C..	60439	Non Public	Elementary (PreK - 8) (X)	Roman Catholic	Blessed Family Montessori Scho..	2,5	<10		50.0%
City of Chicago	Chicago	60645	Non Public	Elementary (PreK - 8) (X)	Jewish	Yeshiva Ohr Boruch-Cook	P-8	102		52.0%
Dupage	Collar	60563	Non Public	Elementary (PreK - 8) (X)	Independen	Arrow t Regular (. Academy-Dupage	P-8	23		52.2%
Macon	Urban	62526	Charter	Elementary School (2)	N/A	Robertson Charter School..	K-8	287		52.3%
Vermilion	Rural	61846	Non Public	Secondary (9-12) (Y)	Roman Catholic	Notre Dame De La Salette-Vermilion	8-12	101		54.5%

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/immunization/coverage-dashboards.html>



Key Takeaway: We can protect vaccination policy and keep our kids safe from VPDs.

While there is a concerning amount of anti-vaccine legislation, it's important to remember:

- We have a pro-vaccine majority in every state.
- Public sentiment is everything.
- Pro-vaccine organizations are working at local, state, and national levels to protect existing public health and immunization policy.
- *Pro-vaccine voices are more important than ever.*



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Q&A: How an anti-vaccine bill motivated a South Dakotan's award-winning response

BY: BETH TUPPER - MAY 20, 2024 - 6:00 AM



Dr. Allison "Allie" Alvine is the director of South Dakota Families for Vaccines. (Courtesy of Kruse PhotoGraphics)



Thank you!

Jennifer Herricks, Ph.D.

Jennifer@safecommunitiescoalition.org

Learn more about our work
safecommunitiescoalition.org

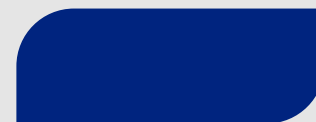
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@SAFECommCo



Stay informed



SAFE Families for Vaccines Chapters





Upcoming Events

IDPH VFC Summit – *Registration still open!*

Oakton College: Thursday, October 10

Immunizations Webinar - Meningitis

Wednesday, October 16 at 12pm CT

ICAAP Annual Education Conference

November 14 and 15 at NIU Naperville Campus

Register at illinoisAAP.org/upcoming-events or scan the QR code:

