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**Report on Vaccinations**

In 1960, there were over 1.5 million cases of measles and more than 400 deaths. In 1998, there were only eighty-nine cases and no deaths. (Shelov Par. 24). This is an example of how vaccines are able to lower the number of outbreaks and deaths. However, there are still people who are hesitant and afraid of vaccinations (Fisher Par. 2).

Some anti-vaccine parents have come to believe that the government and the pharmaceutical companies have been hiding information to meet their own “ sinister objectives “ (Jolley 1). Apparently pharmaceutical companies not studying the diseases to make sure they are safe, they are only in the business to make money. Parents are also hesitant because of possible autism, immune-system overload, and potentially serious adverse reactions. The reason these parents do not believe in immunizing is the exposure to inaccurate information from unreliable sources and it may be that they are not getting enough information on how important and effective they can be (Luthy 28-29).

There were over 41,000 cases of pertussis in the United States and 30% of 41,000 were caused by intentionally not vaccinating. Doctors believe that 36% of the 41,000 cases could have been prevented with a single-dose of a pertussis vaccination (Children 316). The two of several reasons why we still have pertussis after post-vaccinations is because of inadequate vaccinations of the public and the lowering effects of herd immunity.

A possible reason parents don’t want it done is because they are scared about the effects the drug can do to their child. There are some children who are more sensitive to drugs than others. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation has been funding research to make it easier to identify patients who could have a sensitive reaction to the vaccines. It is a simple fix, by lowering the dose of the drug. The patient does not have to worry about a serious adverse reaction (Children 316). Along with pertussis, the influenza (flu) virus is another virus that has the potential of causing death or harm.

The incidence of the flu in children under the age of five is more likely than the elderly contracting it. Children under the age of two are even more likely to get the flu and have the risks of complications like: pneumonia, bacterial infection, and sepsis. Not only are children susceptible to the flu, but their family members are as well. Scientists try to study and plan the most serious cases of influenza from going around. They are doing this for protection against death and complications.

Karlen Luthy, a professor at Brigham Young University, began to research into the depth on why some parents are so worried about vaccinations:

The belief reported was that autism might be caused by ‘‘heavy metals’’ contained within the immunization. These heavy metals, according to this group of parents, are found in the preservatives of each immunization and include ‘‘mercury’’ and ‘‘thimerosal.’’ As one mother of three children ex- pressed, the ‘‘safety of preservatives in vaccines [is] related to learning disabilities.’’ Another parent of an 8-month-old infant stated, ‘‘I’m concerned with the heavy metals contained in them [the immunization] and also the effect on brain development.’’ (Luthy 28-29).

Heavy metals can be concerning, but there can be a solution to every problem. For example: children do not have to have multiple vaccinations done at once, the number of vaccinations can be lowered and be given at another time. Every child deserves a fighting chance in this world. It’s not exactly fair to cheat your child out of living a life free of illness.

Having children be safe and comfortable is a priority in this country. The question of immunizing is part of it. Society begins to wonder if inoculations are the right thing.

Researchers have found that children vaccinated with Hepatitis A could prevent them from getting the disease when they are older (Celebi 623). It is such a vital mark in a child’s life. The Department of Public Health and Safety need come up with more ways to share information about vaccinations. With finding new ways of distributing information and more research studies, our society could potentially persuade more people to get themselves and their children vaccinated.

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