

Setting the Stage for Good Communication: Parental Concerns About Vaccines

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&

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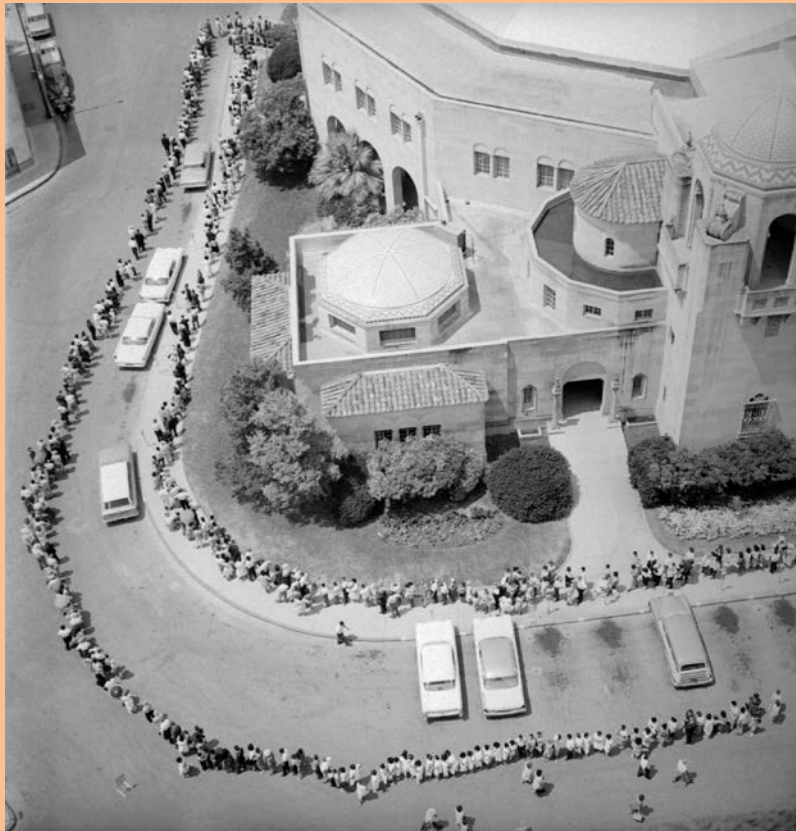
A Long History



- Concerns about vaccines have been around since they first were developed. Ben Franklin in the 18th century was a fervent anti-vaccine proponent until his 4-yr old son died of smallpox, after which he said:

“...I long regretted bitterly, and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation...”

So what happened??!!!?



CDC: Stafford Smith 1962

Fear of disease displaced by fear of vaccines



Dr. Jonas Salk

“I took away the fear.”

2009 Pediatrician Focus Groups by AAP-CA (CDC-funded)—Perceived Parental Concerns

- Autism
- Thimerosal (mercury)
- Aluminum
- Pain from shots, “minor” reactions
- Number of shots
- Newness of vaccines/not properly tested (HPV)
- Belief that risk of disease is near-zero

2012 Parent Focus Groups (First 5 OC-funded)

- Call themselves “vaccine-educated”
- Not “anti-vaccine” —parents themselves seek out vaccinations



- Many do not name autism as concern (although may be implicit); may be “insulted” if MD thinks they believe in this link.

More...

- Mama Bear/Papa Bear —NOT concerned about public health/responsibility is only to protect their own child.
- Compare their child's "rosy cheek" unvaccinated health (I never have to see a doctor) with those they perceive as "often sick" that have been vaccinated.



2012 groups (cont)

- Concern over “developing immune system”--# of shots/antigens, desire for “green” shots (no formaldehyde,etc)
- Belief that getting a disease “naturally” is better, creates stronger immunity
- Belief they understand science better than scientists, since they are “unbiased”, not influenced by \$\$



Ongoing across time

- Still core problem that they have not seen and do not fear vaccine-preventable diseases
- Subset of chiropractors, alternative providers highly influential
- Selected shots concern them--MMR ,varicella HPV, Hep B at birth
- Loving parents—some fearful, some “know-it-all”, but by and large all concerned most with their child’s welfare.

Their Solution?

* Refuse/delay/alternative schedule (Sears or personal choice).



3 Tiers of Conviction

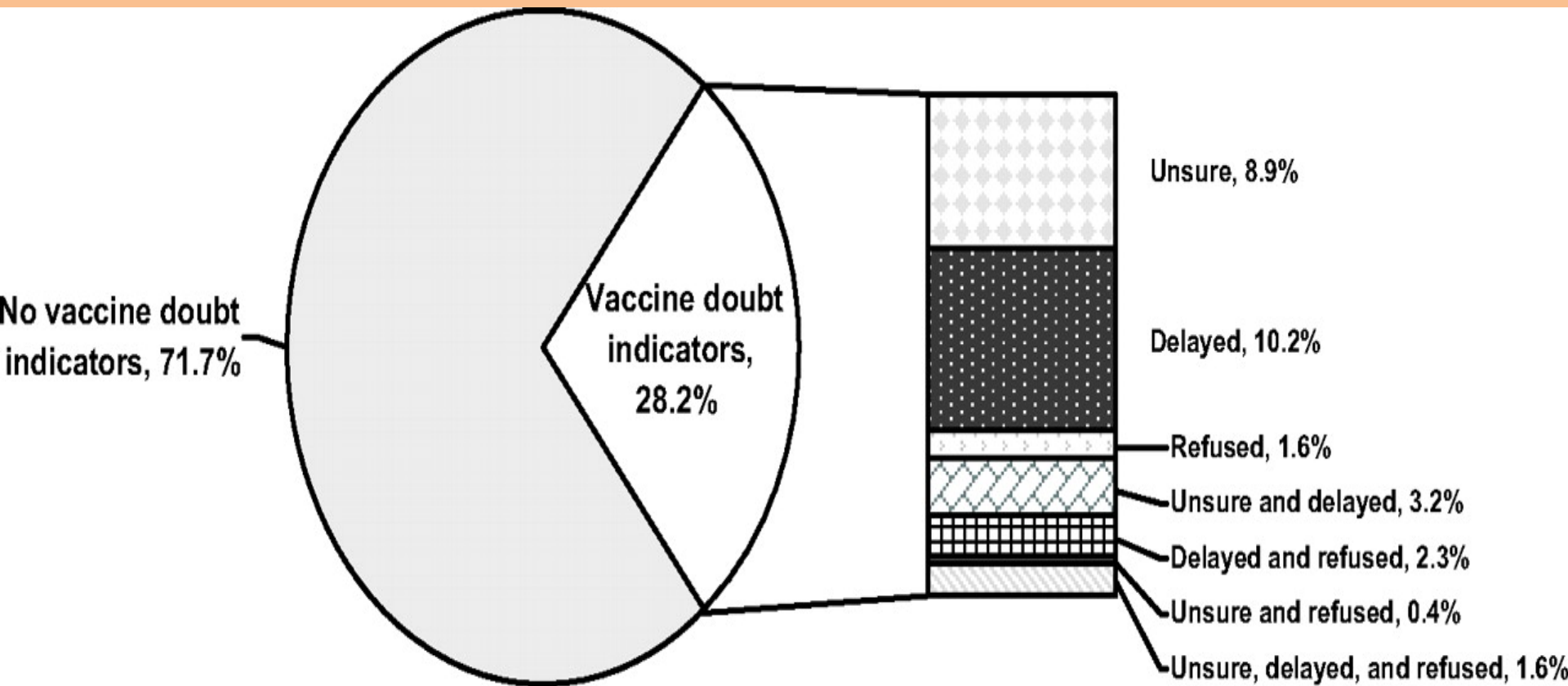
- Due diligence—“I should assess potential vaccines just as I would assess a day care provider.”
- Specific concerns from media/internet/alternate provider
- Personal/family/friend experience with adverse reaction or perceived harm, e.g., parent of child with ASD; story of the cat that died.

Even as reasons for delay/refusal change somewhat over time, as do “solutions”, the evidence remains solid that health care provider is the most important factor in a hesitant parent deciding to vaccinate!



Understanding parents' fears

Pediatrics 2008;122:718



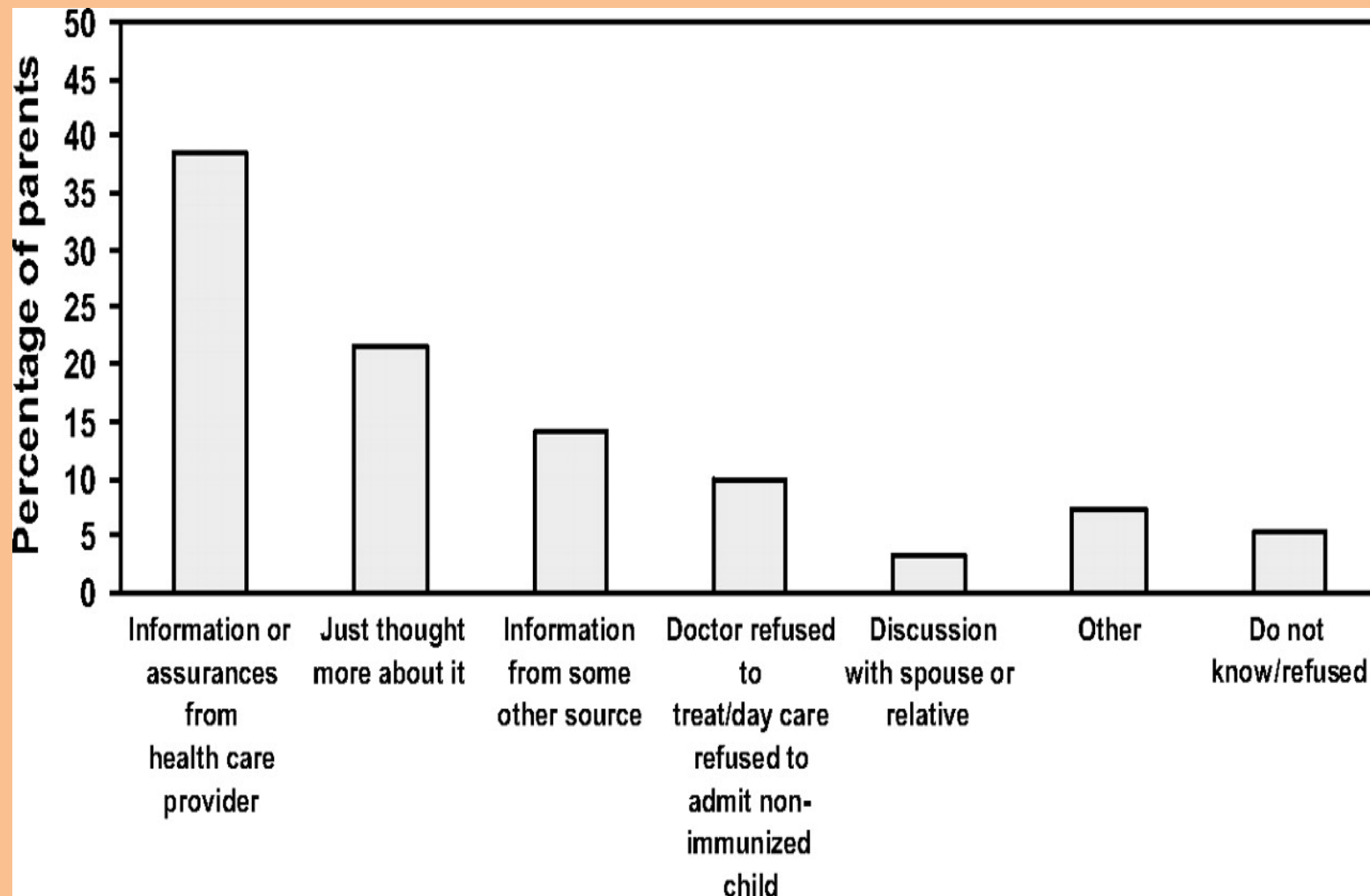
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No doubt indicators	71.7%
Unsure, delayed or both (Fencesitters)	22.4%
Refused	5.9%

Main reasons parents who planned to delay or not to get a vaccine for their child changed their minds

Gust et al Pediatrics 2008;122:718



Questions

