

# The Latest Anti- Vaccine Claims

Karen Ernst, MA  
ED, Voices for Vaccines

I have no conflicts to declare.

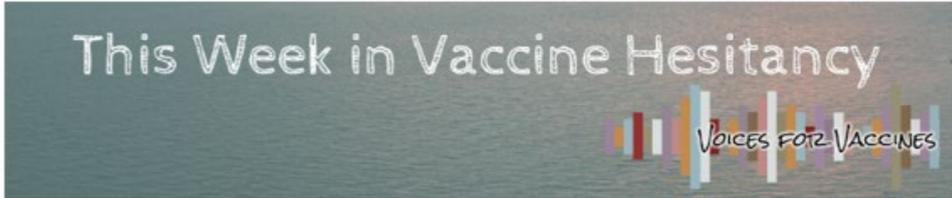
# What this presentation will do

- Brief background on Voices for Vaccines and our This Week in Vaccine Hesitancy newsletter
- Newsletter methods & myth origins
- Vaccine misinformation trends:
  - Vaccine injury (autism)
  - Reassigning blame for outbreaks
  - Refuting misinformation

# This Week in Vaccine Hesitancy

- Voices for Vaccines believes in parent-to parent and person-to-person communication to assuage vaccine fears
- Our Friday newsletter is aimed at both providers and parents who need to combat currently circulating myths

[View this email in your browser](#)



November 2, 2018

[f](#) Share [t](#) Tweet [in](#) Share [✉](#) Forward

Were you forwarded this email? Subscribe [here](#).  
Find back issues of our newsletters [here](#).

**Vaccines Cause SIDS**

Because of a **series of billboards across the country**, the idea that the deaths of infants and toddlers following immunization proves a causal link has made its way into the mainstream. Often, anti-vaccine writers point to vaccine package inserts as proof of their claims.

**The facts:**  
Package inserts are difficult for the average consumer to read. As is **the case for SIDS**, these inserts will list any ill health effect that happens after vaccination during the clinical trial--whether or not the vaccine did or could have caused that event.

And as is the case for all vaccines, continuous monitoring and study after licensing shows whether or not the events listed in the inserts will hold. **Much research has been done** on the SIDS hypothesis, and no correlation exists between those deaths and vaccination.

# Where do you find this stuff?



- Newsletters
- Known anti-vaccine websites
- Podcasts
- Facebook
- Emailed suggestions

# Vaccine Misinformation Trends: Visual Storytelling

- “Vaccine injury” stories have become more visual
- Parents who lose children are often sought out by anti-vaccine leaders to connect deaths to vaccines and to share their stories.



# Vaccine Misinformation Trends: Legal Fights



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. ✓

@RobertKennedyJr

Follow

We win milestone lawsuit against HHS for violating it's statutory duty to study and safeguard [#vaccine](#) safety for 32 years



**Government not requiring vaccine safety studies**

A shocking revelation from the U.S. department of Health and Human Services.

[times-herald.com](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/31/us/politics/vaccine-safety-studies.html)

9:36 AM - 31 Aug 2018

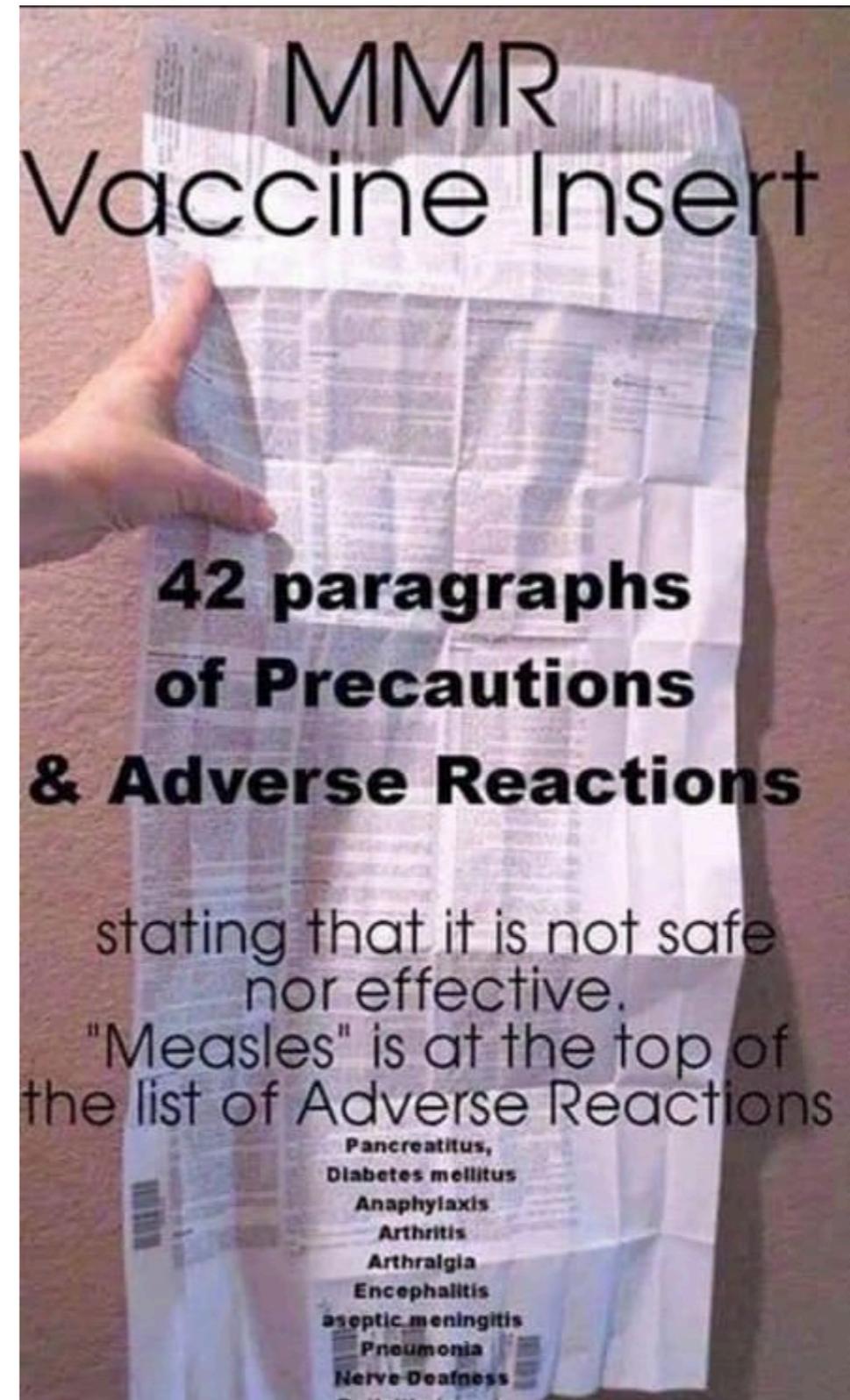
309 Retweets 484 Likes



- Using lawsuits and FOIA requests to spread misinformation
- Raising money, mobilizing troops
- In MN: Working to repeal the vaccine injury compensation laws

# What are folks afraid of?

- Vaccine side effects
  - Whatever is listed on the package insert
- SIDS
- But most importantly, autism



# Still Autism

- 90% of claims of “vaccine injury” online are about autism
- Many are finding new ways to exonerate Andrew Wakefield
- e.g. 1970s clinical trial and gastrointestinal issues following MMR



# What to say

- Autism is genetic
- Vaccination is not a risk factor for a child developing autism. Having an autistic sibling is.
- The parts of an autistic person's brain that are different from a neurotypical person's brain are those parts developed before birth
- Further reading: [Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism](#) by Dr. Peter Hotez

# SIDS: the Other “Vaccine Injury”

- Parents who lose a baby without explanation are vulnerable to anti-vaccine misinformation
- Proximity of death to vaccination is persuasive



# Reassigning blame for outbreaks



- Claims that measles outbreaks are spread by vaccinated children because of:
  - Shedding
  - Ineffective vaccine
- Claims that the vaccine is more deadly than measles itself
- Claims that power plants cause outbreaks

# What to say about shedding

- Vaccine shedding, while theoretically possible, has never been seen.
- The vaccine contains an attenuated virus that cannot cause disease in a healthy person, and therefore cannot cause disease in a bystander
- 95+% of children are vaccinated. If the MMR vaccine caused outbreaks, we would see constant outbreaks everywhere, not imported outbreaks centered in areas of high vaccine refusal

# What to say about VE

- Measles has changed little in hundreds of years
- The MMR prevents all genotypes of measles
- No vaccine is 100% effective
  - No seat belt is 100% effective

Measles virus

H protein

F protein

N protein

**1** serotype based on antibody binding to the H protein

**19** genotypes based on differences in the N gene

Genotype does not affect where antibodies bind to the virus.

The measles vaccine protects against all genotypes.

<http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/genetic-analysis.html>  
<http://www.who.int/biologicals/vaccines/measles/en/>

facebook.com/VaccineNation

VN  
Vaccine  
Nation

# Reliable sources for addressing misinformation

- [vaxopedia.org](http://vaxopedia.org)
- Vaccine Education Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- CDC's "Vaccine Concerns" page

# Sign up for the TWIVH newsletter

[www.VoicesForVaccines.org/join-us](http://www.VoicesForVaccines.org/join-us)