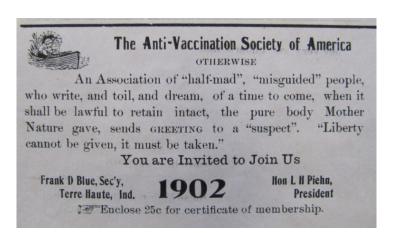
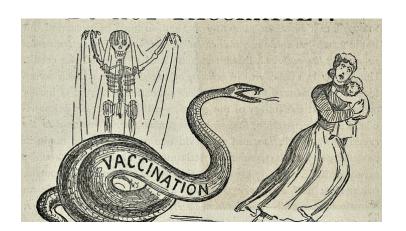
Combatting vaccine hesitancy and disinformation – lessons from the case of the HPV vaccine in Ireland

A presentation to NVAC –

Dr. David Robert Grimes (@drg1985)

14th February 2020







Anti-vaccine activism is not a new problem



World Health Organization

• "How one addresses the antivaccine movement has been a problem since the time of Jenner. The best way in the long term is to refute wrong allegations at the earliest opportunity by providing scientifically valid data. This is easier said than done, because the adversary in this game plays according to rules that are not generally those of science."

• -Andre, Francis E., et al. "Vaccination greatly reduces disease, disability, death and inequity worldwide." *Bulletin of the World health organization* 86 (2008): 140-146.





FDA, Big Pharma, Monsanto, USDA, CDC, AMA, EPA... are systematically poisoning us.



It's called POPULATION CONTROL!



At the time of vaccination the HSE does not provide the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) to parents, which says to contact your Healthcare Provider if you experience any of the following **known side effects**:

BREATHING DIFFICULTIES, SEIZURES, UNUSUAL TIREDNESS, WEAKNESS, CONFUSION, CHEST PAINS, SWOLLEN GLANDS, JOINT PAIN, LEG PAIN, FAINTING EPISODES, MUSCLE WEAKNESS, VOMITING

resulted in up to 145,000 child deaths in past 20 years

According to data compiled from the government's Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), as many as 145,000 children or more have died in the past 20 years as a result of this multiple vaccine dose approach, and few parents are aware of this shocking fact.



Weaponization of the internet

- Since early days of internet, anti-vaccine propaganda flourished
- Extreme claims about vaccines dominate social media
- These claims are invariably false or misleading
- Despite being easily debunked, they thrive and spread
- Their propagation drives vaccine hesitancy
- But why are they effective, if they're mendacious?

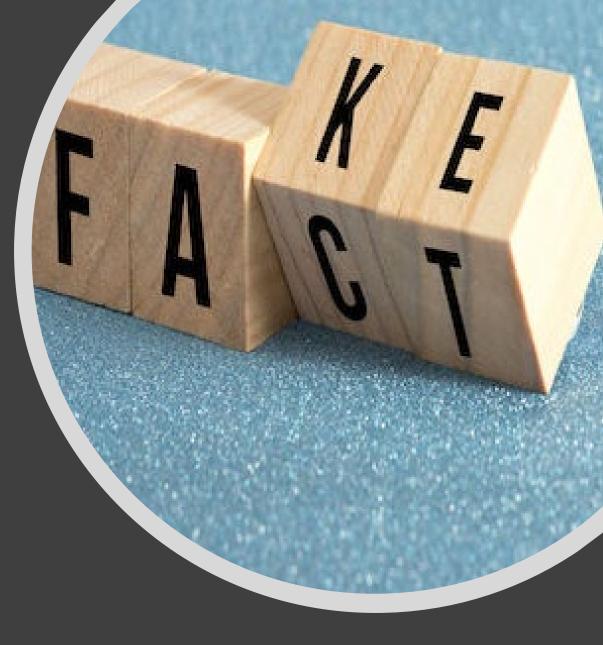
Availability Heuristic and misleading vividness



- The availability heuristic is a mental shortcut where we ascribe more weigh to information easily recalled
- "If it can be recalled easily, must be important"
- This skews us towards either more recent information *OR* more plentiful examples
- In tandem, we are also slaves to the anecdotal fallacy, where vividness of anecdote captures our attention and biases our sense of danger

Illusory Truth effect

- Illusory truth is our tendency to believe information to be correct due to repeated exposure
- Research indicates simple repetition of falsehood can in some instances even sway us to accept a fiction despite knowing better
- "Big lie" principle and Napoleon's mantra!
- This is often a subconscious process acceptance through repetition



W. J. Brady et al, 'Emotion shapes the diffusion of moralized content in social networks', Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 114, 2017



C. Paul, M. Matthews, 'The Russian "firehose of falsehood" propaganda model', Rand Corporation (2016)

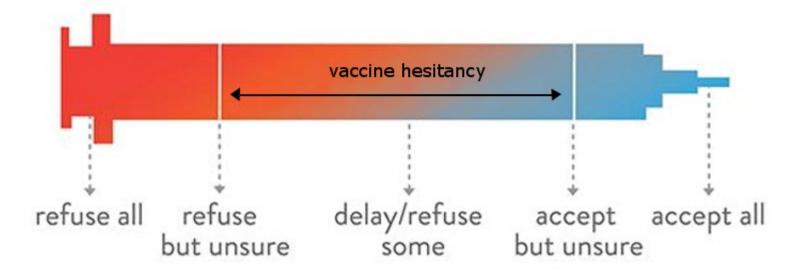




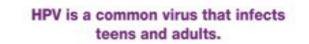
We are only starting to appreciate how toxic falsehoods can be online in particular, and how resilient to correction. This is seen everywhere from politics to medicine – and perhaps vaccination is the most stark example of the perils of disinformation

S. Vosoughi, D. Roy, S. Aral, 'The spread of true and false news online', Science, 2018

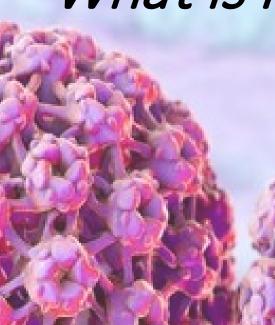
Continuum of Vaccine Acceptance



Vaccine hesitancy is a spectrum

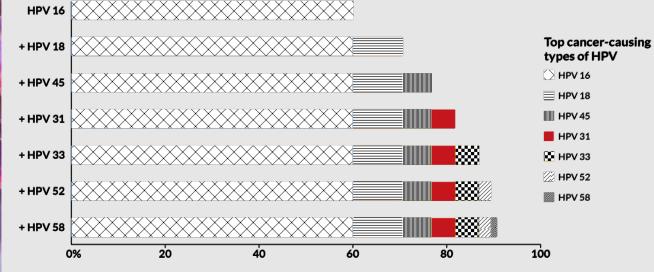


of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.



Percent of cervical cancers worldwide caused by HPV type

HPV VACCINE



Source: Graphic: Sciencenews.org, Data: New England Journal of Medicine (Journa et al 2015)

What is HPV?

HOW CAN HPV CAUSE CANCER? Person gets an infection from human papilloma virus (HPV) that they can't clear In high-risk infection the HPV infection usually virus can damage DNA causes no problems at all and often doesn't have any symptoms This can cause cells to divide and grow out of control This can lead to cancer CANCER TOGETHER WE WILL BEAT CANCER RESEARCH cruk.org/HPV

Thankfully, we've had a vaccine against the most odious strains of HPV for just over a decade now! One that is seriously effective...

Estimated annual number of cancers caused by HPV in Ireland

NHS

Irish Cancer

Just a tiny fraction of the professional health bodies

who endorse the HPV vaccine

Society

CANCER

RESEARCH

(2010-2014 data). These numbers are on the rise

Most of these cancers could potentially be prevented by HPV vaccination

Source: Irish Cancer Society 2018

World Health

Organization

----- <21 years --- 21-30 years

----- >30 years

2009

P = 0.99

P(0.001

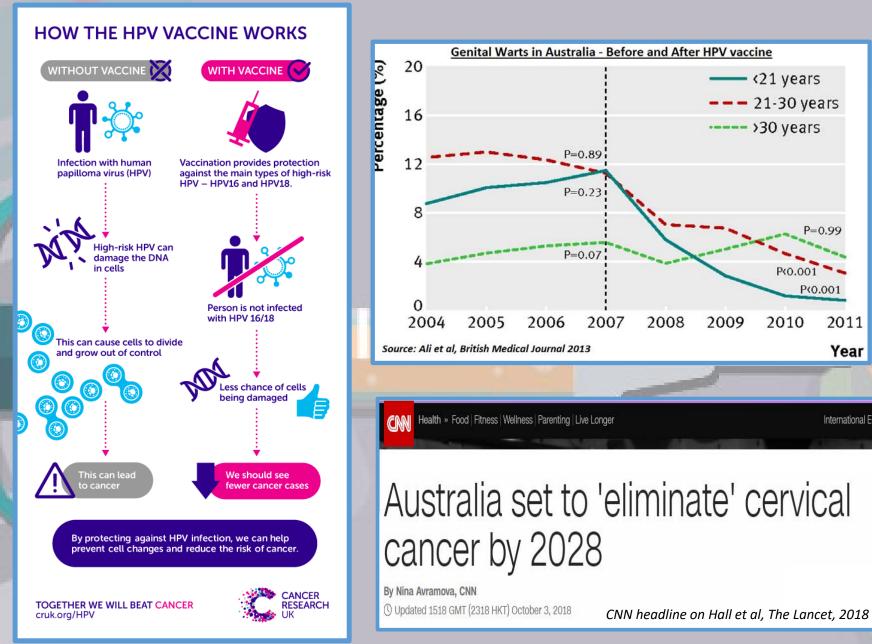
2011

Year

International

P(0.001

2010

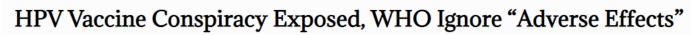


...but if you went online, you might encounter shocking stories like these.....



Follow





Illinois Teen Dies of ADEM Three Weeks After HPV Vaccination

Sacrificial Virgins - The Dangers of the HPV Vaccination | Full Documentary 2017 The Truth Archive • 2.4K views • 10 months ago Is the next Thalidomide-style scandal about to break? The Human Papilloma Vaccine (HPV) is a

GAR DASIL®

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

Helping destroy the

ONE INJECTION AT A TIME

Lives of Little Girls

Jim Corr 🚺 🥹 @Jimcorrsavs

RISKS

HPV Vaccine Injured Protest Tomorrow (Monday) at 12:30–14:30 Kildare Street, Dublin 2 County Dublin #HPV #Gardasil #regret #hpvvaccine 11:14 AM - 8 Jul 2018

THE HPV VACCINE IS ASSOCIATED WITH SERIOUS HEALTH Human apilloma



Dangers of Vaccines: Part 1: VERY dangerous HPV vaccine Truth Finder • 2.7K views • 1 year ago

You won't believe how dangerous the HPV vaccine is. Shocking. (Dangers of Vaccines: Part 1)

Hear Why He Calls The HPV Vaccine a Crime Against Kids! iHealthTube.com Ø 32K views • 4 years ago

The HPV vaccine continues to be a hotly debated issue. Robert Scott Bell, popular radio host and homeopathic practitioner, ...



AND NOW BOYS TOO

Court ruling confirms Gardasil vaccine kills people... scientific evidence beyond any doubt. bit.ly/2qTiCoO #HPV #Gardasil #health

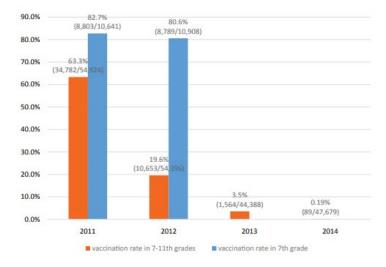
treatment in widespread use but ...



Court ruling confirms Gardasil vaccine kills people ... scient ... Read more about the insane denial of reality in the vaccinepushing medical industry at http://NaturalNews.com. NaturalNews videos would not be possible without

6:30 PM - 23 Apr 2018

The Truth is Out: Gardasil Vaccine Coverup Exposed By Kelly Brogan, MD



Japan's silence on HPV vaccinations will lead to 11,000 cancer deaths, study says

🖨 PRINT 🛃 SHARE

ARTICLE HISTORY | FEB 11, 2020

A decision by the government to stop recommending adolescent girls receive an HPV vaccination will likely result in almost 11,000 deaths from cervical cancer if it is not reversed, according to **e** a study in a prestigious medical journal.



World Impact - Japan

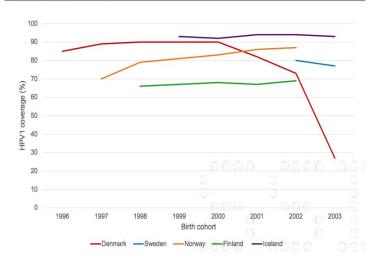
- Disinformation about the vaccine led to confidence crisis in 2013
- Unsubstantiated claims of harm perpetuated in media
- Politicians stopped recommending the vaccine
- Net result: Fall in uptake from ~70% to <1% in a year or so

World Impact – Denmark

- In 2014, an ostensible documentary on HPV vaccine damage was aired on Danish television
- The effects were immediate and dire
- Vaccination rates plummeted in a year from 79% to 17%

A Companion to the Explosive Documentary THE VACCINATED GORDAN VOICES FROM DENMARK'S HPV INOCULATION SCANDAL MICHAEL BECH NIELSEN and SIGNE WALGREN DAUGBJERG







The Irish situation

- In 2015, The panic came to Ireland
- Within a year or so, uptake had fallen from 87% to 50%
- But unlike other countries effected, something different occurred

Irish Vaccination Awareness

GARDASIL[®] RISK INFORMATION At the time of vaccination the HSE does not provide the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) to parents, which says to contact your Healthcare Provider if you experience any of the following known side effects:

BREATHING DIFFICULTIES. SEIZURES, UNUSUAL TIREDNESS, WEAKNESS, CONFUSION, CHEST PAINS. SWOLLEN GLANDS. JOINT PAIN, LEG PAIN. FAINTING EPISODES, MUSCLE WEAKNESS, VOMITING, FEELING UNWELL, BLEEDING, BRUISING EASIER, STOMACH ACHE, BOWEL PROBLEMS HIVES, RASH, CHILLS, SKIN INFECTION AT INJECTION SITE. GET INFORMATION BEFORE YOU GET THE VACCINE Some girls in Ireland have missed months and in some cases years of school due to

severe health problems which started not long after getting the vaccine. Irish support group for those suffering since getting the HPV vaccine Web: www.regret.ie Email: Support@regret.ie

THE IRISH TIMES

Court told of 'horrendous adverse effects' of HPV vaccine O Mon, Nov 2, 2015, 19.02

Fiona Kirby claims her daughter needs permanent care after receiving Gardasil



Reframing the narrative

- The Irish response was different
- A vaccine alliance was formed of medical professionals, scientists, parents, and government ministers
- Factual, reliable information was produced and disseminated
- Multiple respected organisations joined, and by 2017 Ireland was seeing beginning of recovery – unlike other countries
- But the most effective component was a personal story; a vital one..

THE LANCET

CORRESPONDENCE | VOLUME 391, ISSUE 10135, P2103, MAY 26, 2018

Rapid response to HPV vaccination crisis in Ireland

Brenda Corcoran 🖾 🛛 Anna Clarke 🛛 Tom Barrett

Published: May 26, 2018 • DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30854-7

Irishhealth

New alliance aims to boost vaccine uptake

Will provide evidence-based information

We know it's effective. So why is there opposition to the HPV vaccine? *David Robert Grimes*





Mon 11 Jan 2016 16.44 GM1

Don't be swayed by rumours

Get the facts from the HSE at hpv.ie



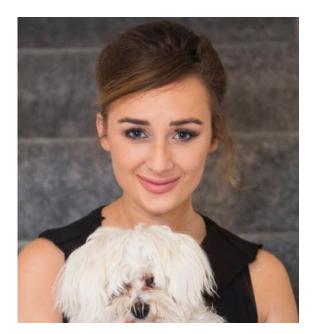


WHO Campaign



In memory of Laura Brennan





At 24, I was diagnosed with cervical cancer stage 2B. I was quite optimistic, as there was something that could be done. With chemo and radiation, there was a good chance it could be cured. Two months later it was back — and things are different this time. There is no treatment that will cure my cancer; there is only treatment that will prolong my life. If anything good comes out of this, I would hope parents get their daughters vaccinated. The vaccine saves lives — it could have saved mine.



Results and conclusion

Changing minds is vital, but hearts matter every bit as much; we are not intellectual automatons, but emotional creatures who feel first and think later. All the facts, arguments and logic in the world are for nothing if we cannot connect on an emotional level. Laura's story saved more lives than a library of journal articles in isolation ever could. (From "The Irrational Ape", David Robert Grimes 2019)

- Laura's story melded scientific fact with personal account she was "the reality of an unvaccinated girl".
- This resonated it reframed the narrative from phantom side-effects to the very real tragedy vaccination would prevent.
- Crucial lesson all the facts in the world are irrelevant if we can't show people WHY it matters
- Personal stories are central to doing this to showing, with human reference, why vaccination matters
- This is a vital component of combatting mendacious fictions about vaccination and reminding the public why it matters so much, and consequences of becoming complacent.

TAMIKA FELDER, CERVIVOR

THE POWER OF PATIENT STORYTELLING



AT THE AGE OF 25 I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CERVICAL CANCER.

2001

MAKING MY SURVIVORSHIP COUNT IS HOW I LIVE MY LIFE BEYOND CANCER.

Tamika Felder





Cervinor informed. empowered. alive.







No more fear. No more shame. No more confusion. No more whispering. No more suffering. No more women dying. **CERVIVOR** IS HERE! We understand. We've been through it. We are going through it. We are your support. We are a sisterhood. We are your educators and your **advocates**. We are voices that roar instead of whisper. We are a movement to **end cervical cancer**. We are here for you.

0...





Cervinor informed. empowered. alive.

















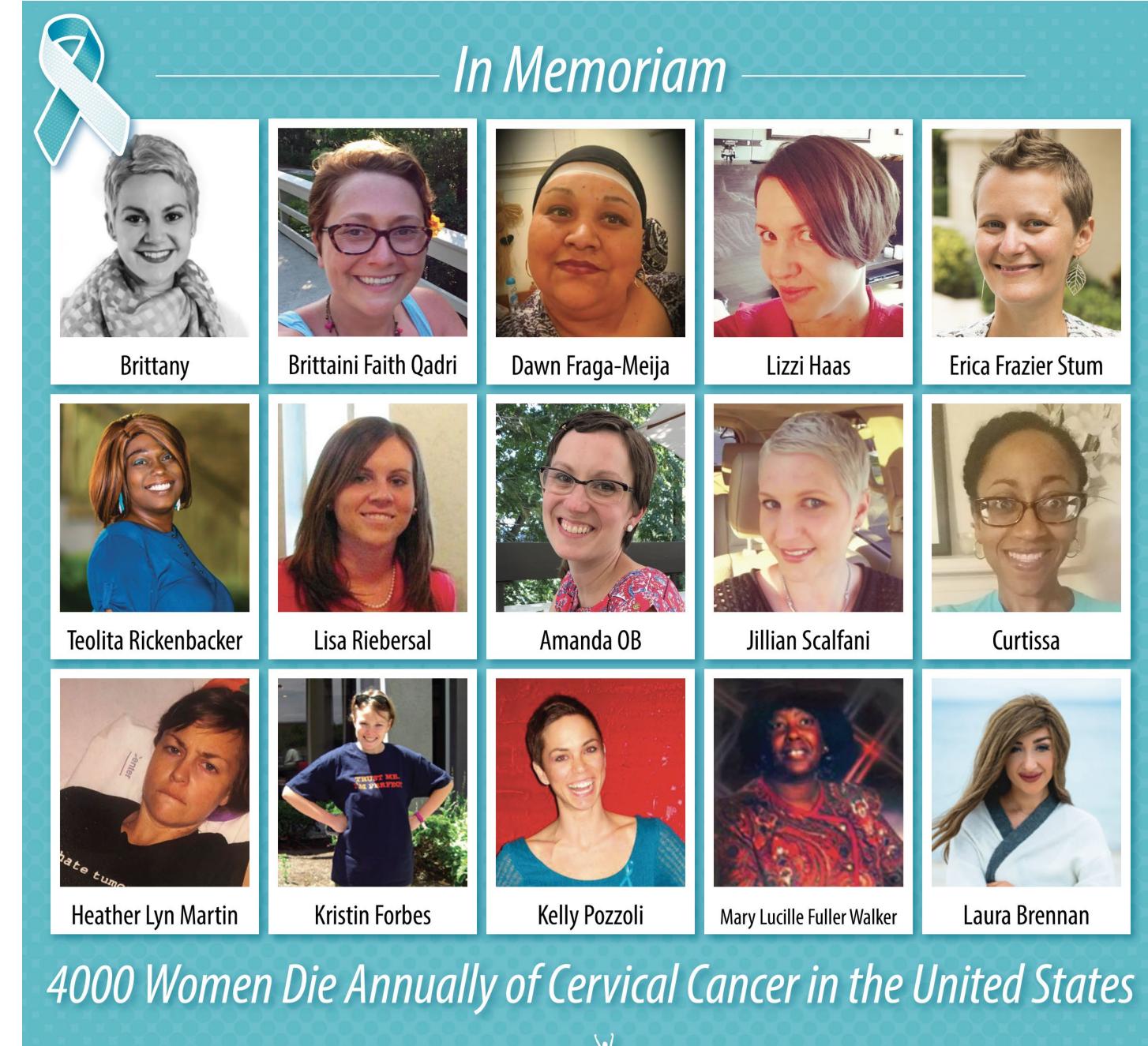




A message i received:

Thank you so much for inviting me. I have been very worried about that shot for a couple of years now. After hearing your stories I am definitely getting it for Rilee. You three are so brave. You are always in my prayers.







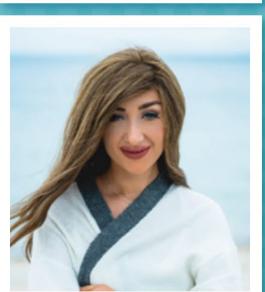




Erica Frazier Stum



Curtissa



Laura Brennan

cervivor informed. empowered. alive.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

tamika@Cervivor.org

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy with Storytelling

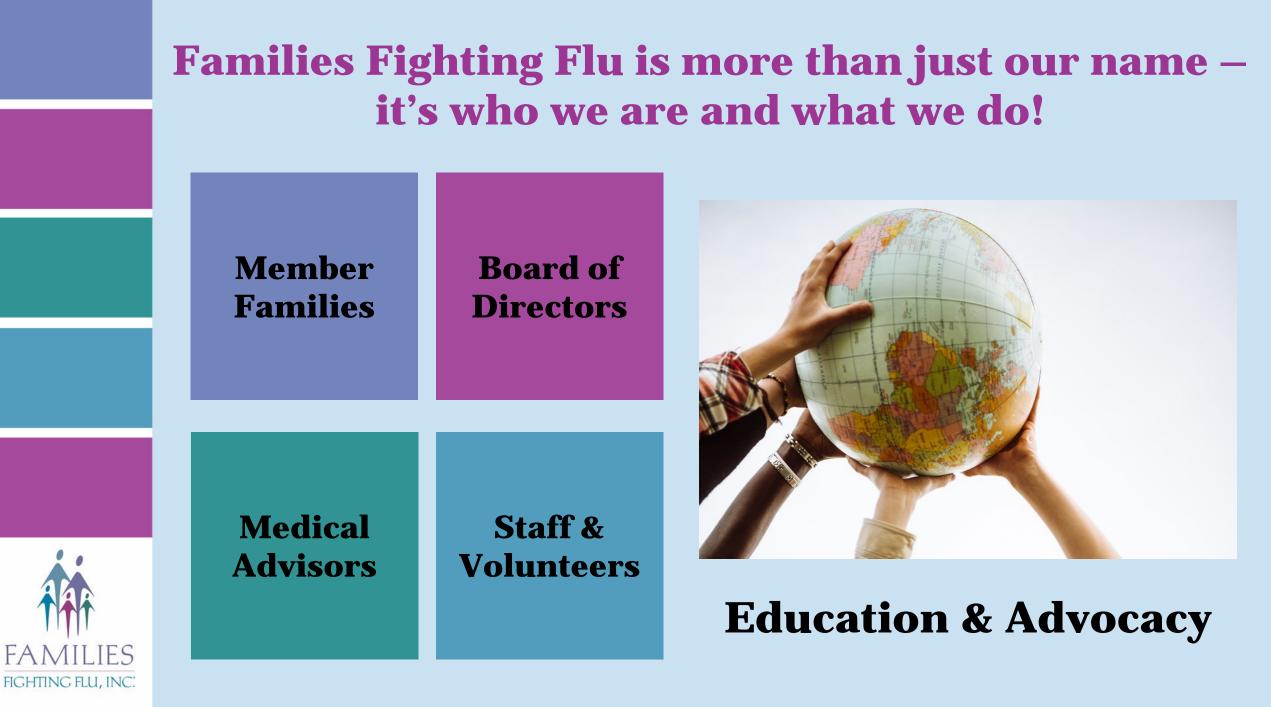
Families Fighting Flu

Serese Marotta Chief Operating Officer & Parent Advocate

February 14, 2020











FIGHTING FLU, INC.

A Patient's Perspective

#1: WHY should I care about flu (or another VPD)?

#2: WHAT are the real risks to me and my family?

#3: HOW can I help protect myself & my family?



Communication 101: FFF Strategy

We need to reach people "where they are"







Identify target audiences/demographics and where they are getting their health information!

Social Media As a Critical Channel



Here's some of our communication DO's...

- Use **multiple channels** to connect with people social, digital, and traditional media
- Reach target audiences **"where they are"**, e.g., social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn allow **engagement and dialogue**; address misconceptions for **"silent observers"**
- **Be consistent** in your messaging and branding; become a **trusted resource**
- Provide **timely information** and **creative content**
- Rely on evidence-based information
- Know your audience, identify with them (e.g., parents) and speak their language
- Keep conversations **respectful and compassionate**; use language that is **simple and transparent**
- Share <u>relatable</u> personal stories healthcare decisions are an emotional issue for most people!



Your goal is to educate your audiences so they can make informed healthcare decisions for themselves and/or their families.

EDUCATION LEADS TO EMPOWERMENT!

Why Storytelling is Important

Narrative communication is the concept of using stories to convey the importance of a health condition in order to promote behavior change.

Social Cognitive Theory

• People learn by watching others and repeat that behavior

Social Norms Theory

• Peers can influence individual decision-making around behavior



Health Belief Model

• A person's willingness to change a behavior is based on perceived susceptibility, severity, benefits, and barriers



"There is nothing more we can do for our daughter, but we feel it is our responsibility to raise awareness about the RISKS of FLU"

ALISSA KANOWITZ,

Mother of 4-year-old Amanda, lost to influenza on March 1, 2004

READ AMANDA'S STORY



Stories are 22x more memorable than statistics!

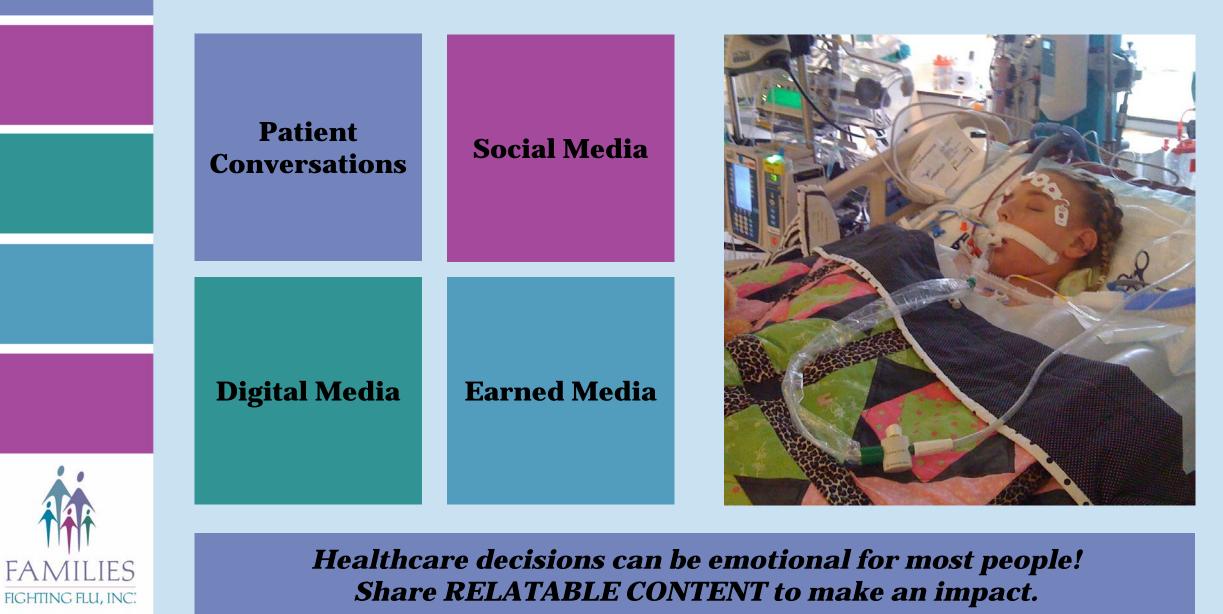
And some of our communication DON'Ts...

- Don't be **judgmental** or defensive about questions or concerns regarding disease and/or vaccination remember not everyone knows what you do
- Avoid audience fatigue
- Don't provide too much or too little information; **context** is important
- Don't use overly **technical language**; not everyone understands science and data
- Don't assume an **authoritative position** (i.e., "I know better than you"); people don't like being told what to do
- Don't use scare tactics, **fear mongering**
- Don't operate in a vacuum; rely on other reputable organizations & resources and align your messaging

If you want your message to be received, presentation is everything!



Emotional stories move people...







Our goal is to save lives. These stories can change vaccination behavior!

Vaccines Save Lives: **Challenging Vaccine Hesitancy**

Health Director, SELF Magazine

Zahra Barnes



8 Midwives and Doulas Explain Their Roles in Ending Black Maternal Mortality

These birth workers are on th<mark>e front lines.</mark>

SELF

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HEALTH





SELF

SELF Magazine founded in 1979

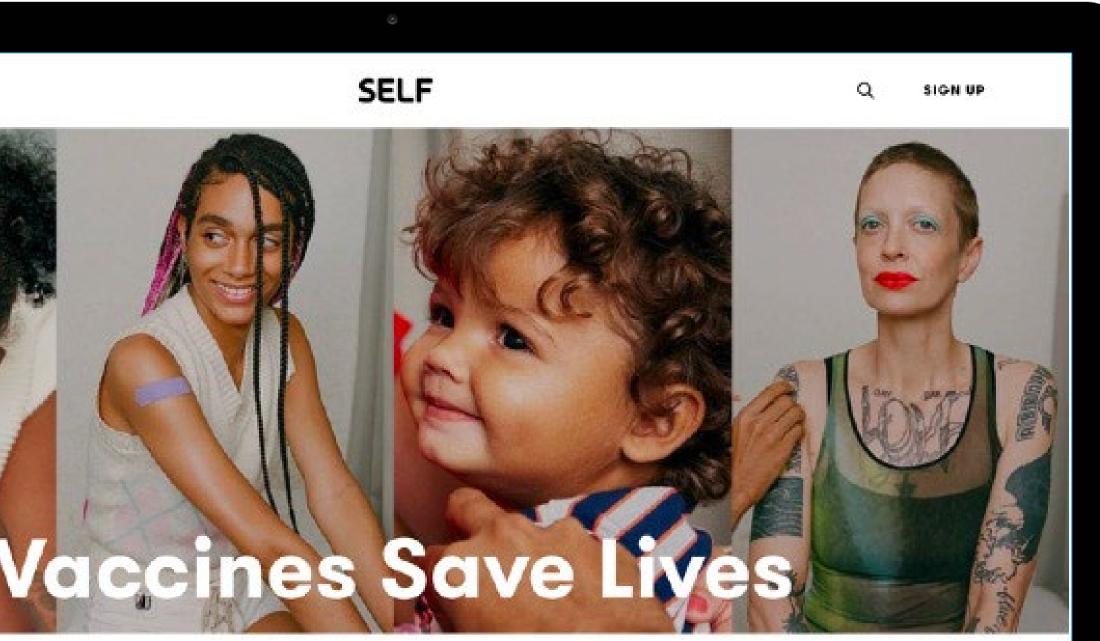
Our mission is to help people feel better. Core values: Empathy • Accuracy Inclusivity Bodily autonomy



Ξ

Our mission with this project is to use narrative storytelling, evidence-based reporting, and creative imagery to show just how necessary and important vaccines are-for your health, your family's health, and the health of your whole community.







We know that:

- worldwide every year.
- global health in 2019.

Sources: WHO, CDC SELF



• Vaccination prevents between 2 and 3 million deaths

Vaccine hesitancy is one of the top ten threats to

Certain vaccine-preventable diseases are on the rise.

We also know that:

- anti-vaccine.
- There's lots of misinformation available on the internet and elsewhere.

Sources: Gowda et al. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2013;9(8):1755-1762; Pluviano et al. PLoS ONE. 2017;12(7): e0181640.

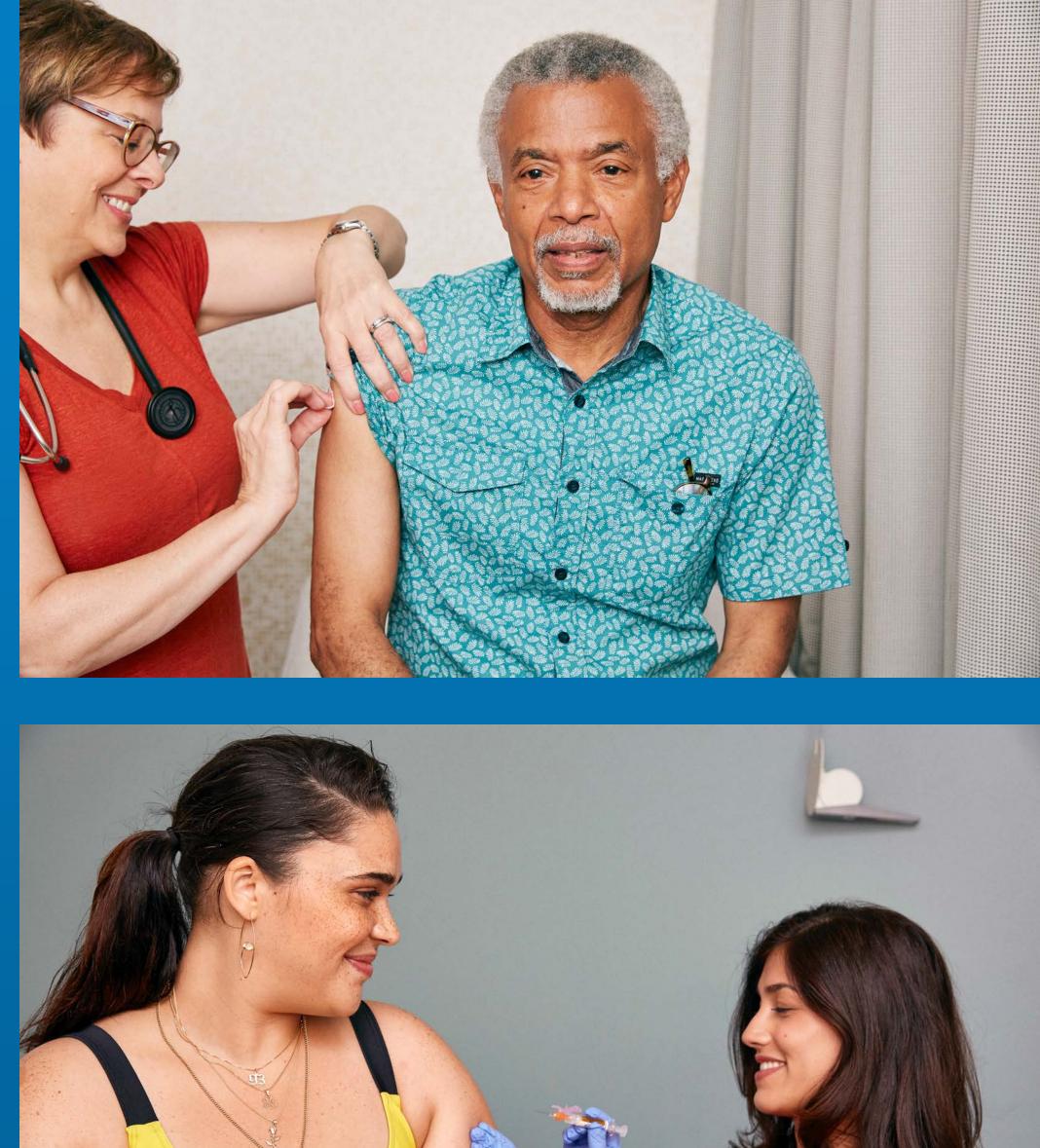


People who are vaccine hesitant aren't completely

Even debunking vaccine misinformation doesn't work.

Our mission with Vaccine Saves Lives was to use storytelling, reporting, and creative imagery to show just how necessary and important vaccines are-for your health, your family's health, and the health of your whole community.







Rigorously Reported Service

SELF



Here's How to Make Sure You're Up to Date on All Your Vaccines

Don't just assume you're all set.

Here Are All the Vaccines You Actually Need as an Adult

Vaccines aren't just for kids.

What Is Herd Immunity, And Why Does It Matter?

Here's how vaccines keep whole communities safe.

10 Common Questions You Might Have About Vaccinating Your Kids

Pediatricians are here with the answers.

Compelling Personal Essays





My Child Can't Get Vaccinated. Here's What Life Is Like for Us.

One mom shares her story with SELF.

My Mother Died of Cervical Cancer. Now I'm an HPV Vaccine Advocate.

I often think of my mother when counseling patients.

I Used to Be An Anti-Vaxxer. Here's What Changed My Mind.

A "crunchy" mother of six shares her story.

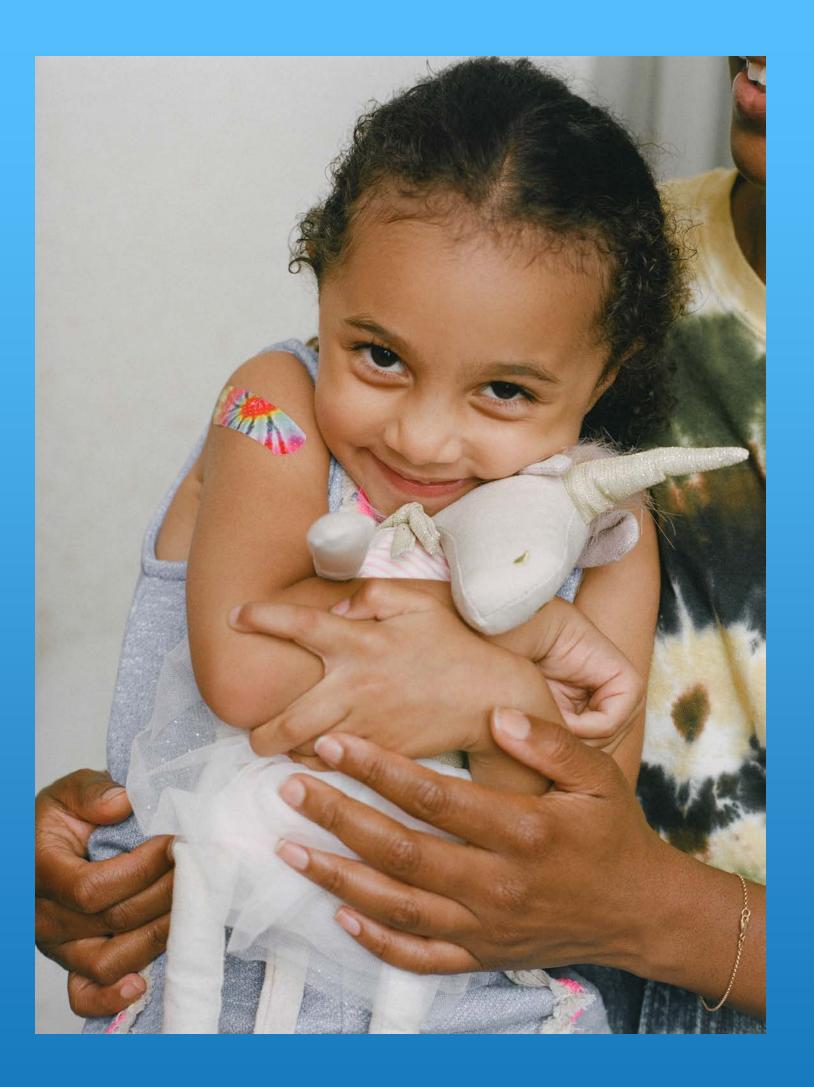
My 4-Month-Old Contracted Measles at Disneyland. Here's What I Want All Parents to Know.

"I still worry about what could happen."

Created a database of positive vaccine imagery

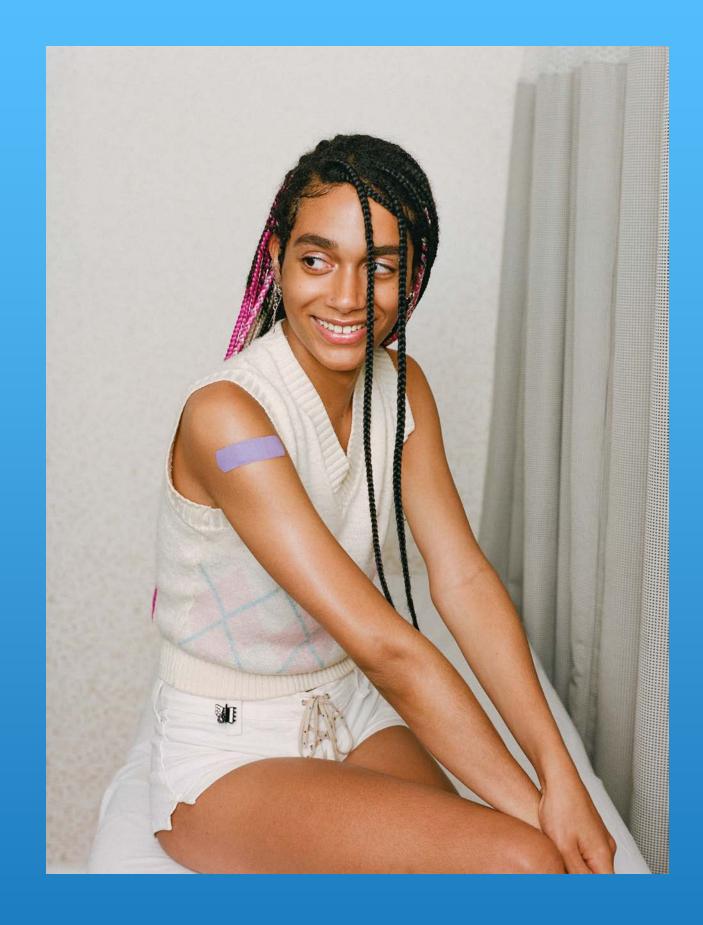
SELF







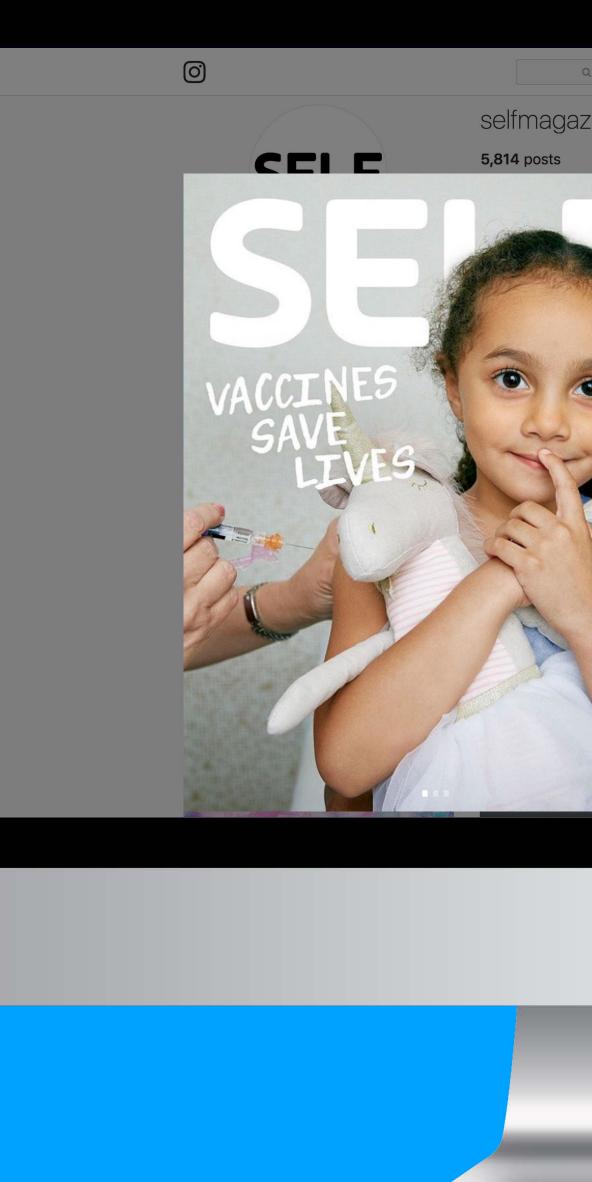




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Worked closely with social media partners to ensure staff safety





758k followers 1,282 following SELF selfmagazine • Following Self selfmagazine • We're proud to announce the launch of our latest editorial project, #VaccinesSaveLives. Vaccination prevents 2 to 3 million deaths globally every year, according to the World Health Organization (@WHO). But vaccination rates are dropping in some pockets of the world, including the United States, thanks in part to the growing trend of vaccine hesitancy, which the WHO listed as one of the top ten threats to global health in 2019. Because of vaccines, we're able to protect against serious and sometimes fatal illnesses, from the sometimes fatal illnesses, from the	SELF selfmagazine • Following SELF selfmagazine • Following SELF selfmagazine • We're proud to announce the launch of our latest editorial project, #VaccinesSaveLives. Vaccination prevents 2 to 3 million deaths globally every year, according to the World Health Organization (@WHO). But vaccination rates are dropping in some pockets of the world, including the United States, world, including the United States, thanks in part to the growing trend of vaccine hesitancy, which the WHO listed as one of the top ten threats to global health in 2019. Because of vaccines, we're able to protect against serious and the top	VICION 1,282 following 758k followers 1,282 following SELF selfmagazine • Following SELF selfmagazine • Following SELF selfmagazine • Ve're proud to announce the launch of our latest editorial project, #VaccinesSaveLives. Vaccination prevents 2 to 3 million deaths globally every year, according to the World Health Organization (@WHO). But vaccination rates are dropping in some pockets of the world, including the United States, thanks in part to the growing trend of vaccine hesitancy, which the WHO listed as one of the top ten threats to global health in 2019. Because of vaccines, we're able to protect against serious and sometimes fatal illnesses, from the flu, chickenpox, and whooping cough, to measles, polio, and HPV, which can cause several forms of cancer. When enough people in a community get vaccinated, we're even able to create become and the set of the top
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SELF

Notified health experts, media, and organizations





I may just retweet this every day. Come for the inclusive, non-threatening representation of vaccination. Stay for the kid with the unicorn.

seur SELF 🥝 @SELFmagazine · Aug 26, 2019

Typically, vaccine-related stock photography is pretty awful: It's often inaccurate (think oversized syringes and vaccines being administered incorrectly), fear-mongering (hello, screaming babies!), or some mix of both. So we decided to create our own. self.com/story/vaccine-...

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Rachel Penczykowski @RachelPenczy

Saving this for when I teach Disease Ecology @WUSTLBio again in the spring!

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Typically, vaccine-related stock photography is pretty awful: It's often inaccurate (think oversized syringes and vaccines being administered incorrectly), fear-mongering (hello, screaming babies!), or some mix of both. So we decided to create our own. self.com/story/vaccine-...

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Senator Brad Hoylman 🤣 @bradhoylman

Thank you for using your platform to promote science and public health.

The rise of vaccination is one of the greatest medical achievements in human history, saving millions of lives. When you get vaccinated, you protect yourself and your neighbors.

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Leana Wen, M.D. 🤣 @DrLeanaWen

Well done @SELFmagazine for your work to promote science and health! Vaccines prevent illness & save lives.

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SELF partnered with @AmerAcadPeds to create a series of medically accurate vaccine photos that convey the life-saving importance of vaccines. They're available to download by anyone to use for free, with proper attribution. Check them out here. flickr.com/photos/selfmag... Show this thread

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@Adweek

. @SELFmagazine has launched an in-depth coverage package called "Vaccines Save Lives."



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