

Disclosure Statement

- I have no affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a pharmaceutical, medical device or communications organization.

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Integrating Values and Science in Vaccination Policy: Results of a Deliberative Public Engagement on Childhood Vaccination in Ontario

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Public Engagement on Childhood Vaccination

- Why?
- How?
- To what ends?

Why?

- Although there is broad scientific agreement on efficacy and safety of vaccines, there is significant polarization and disagreement in public discourse
- Childhood illness and policies on vaccination affect the population as a whole

Why? (cont.)

- Some policy decisions on vaccination may go beyond public health mandates (e.g., balancing individual autonomy and societal protection from illness)

How? Public Deliberation

- Form of dialogue in which:
 - Participants engage with each other respectfully.
 - Participants provide warrants (e.g. reasons or narratives) for opinions they express, or positions they advocate.
 - Participants are willing to revise their opinions (though they are not required to) in light of new information or the perspectives provided by others.
 - Participants work towards civic-minded solutions.

To what ends?

- To develop public input for policy relating to childhood vaccination that is:
 - Informed
 - Considered
 - Civic minded
- NOT:
 - Measurement of public opinion
 - Change public opinion on vaccines

Methods

- Recruitment for diversity
- Information provision
- Facilitate deliberative conversation among participants
- Report conclusions (deliberative outputs)

Ontario Vaccine Deliberation

Waterloo, Ontario

4 days (2 weekends) in
October 2017

25 participants

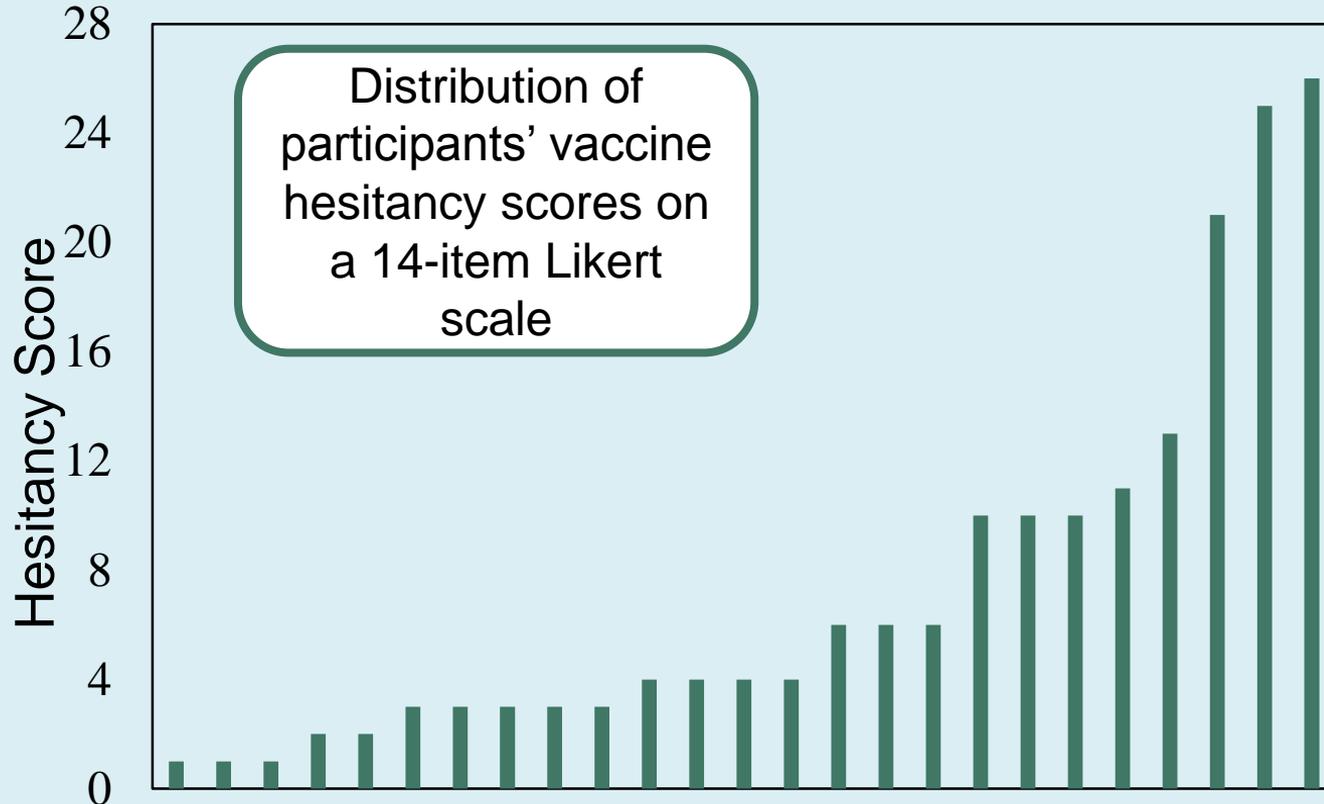
5 deliberative sessions

20 policy recommendations



	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Men	11	44%
Women	14	56%
Age		
20-29	3	12%
30-39	1	4%
40-49	6	24%
50-59	6	24%
60-69	4	16%
70-79	5	20%
Children		
No Children	7	28%
Aged 0-10	3	12%
Aged 11+	15	60%

Demographics



Information Provision

- Booklet: <https://osf.io/t54e2/>
- Expert speakers:
 - Public Health Perspectives on Childhood Vaccination
 - Parental Concerns about Childhood Vaccines
 - Naturopathic perspectives on Childhood Vaccines
 - Pharmacovigilance and Vaccine Safety
 - The Eradication of Smallpox

Deliberative Questions

1. How should vaccine policy respect parents' responsibilities to their children while reducing risk to other people?
2. Should certain childhood vaccinations be required in Ontario?
3. How should information about vaccination and vaccination policy be communicated?
4. What are appropriate responses when an adverse event related to a vaccination is reported?

Deliberative Questions

Questions posed by the participants:

1. What exactly do we mean when we say vaccination should be mandatory?
2. What restrictions on unvaccinated children are justified?
3. How should we provide parents with all of the relevant vaccine information?

Deliberative Outputs

20
Recommendations
&
3 Main Themes

1

Mandatory Vaccination and Exemptions

2

Communication

3

AEFI Reporting and Compensation

Recommendations

MANDATORY VACCINATION

1. Childhood vaccinations must be mandatory for all children in Ontario, with some exceptions.

For	Against	Abstain
25	0	0

2. By mandatory, we mean children who are not vaccinated and without valid exemptions shall be excluded from school and organized activities.

For	Against	Abstain
17	4	4

Recommendations

MANDATORY VACCINATION

5. Acceptable grounds for exemptions from childhood vaccination include conscience or personal beliefs.

For	Against	Abstain
5	16	4

6. Conscience and personal beliefs are NOT grounds for exemptions from childhood vaccination

For	Against	Abstain
16	5	4

7. Exemptions from childhood vaccination are granted on religious grounds

For	Against	Abstain
6	11	8

Recommendations

AEFI COMPENSATION AND REPORTING

16. Serious *life-altering* adverse events from vaccination leading to diminished capacity should be compensated.

For	Against	Abstain
23	1	1

17. A fund should be established with contributions from both the pharmaceutical industry and the government to compensate individuals who experience an adverse event following immunization (AEFI).

For	Against	Abstain
25	0	0

20. There should be a national strategy for reporting and data collection relating to vaccination uptake, exemptions, and AEFIs. The provinces and territories should be incentivized to share all relevant data.

For	Against	Abstain
24	0	0

Persistent Disagreements

- Exemptions for religious beliefs
- Exemptions for conscience or personal beliefs
- Consequences for those that do not vaccinate their children

Conclusions

- Meaningful public engagement on childhood vaccination is possible
- It requires careful attention to the purpose of the engagement, and willingness to consider multiple perspectives

The participants at
the Ontario
Vaccine
Deliberation

Thank You

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Policy Panel:

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