

# VACCINE FEARS OVERTURNED BY FACTS

*for Parents & Families*



Wednesday, March 29  
11:30 AM-12:30 PM



IMMUNIZE  
KANSAS  
COALITION

**BACK TO THE VAX**  
A GUIDE TO INOCULATING YOURSELF  
AGAINST ANTI-VAX PROPAGANDA

[www.immunizekansascoalition.org/vfof](http://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/vfof)

# Susan Wood

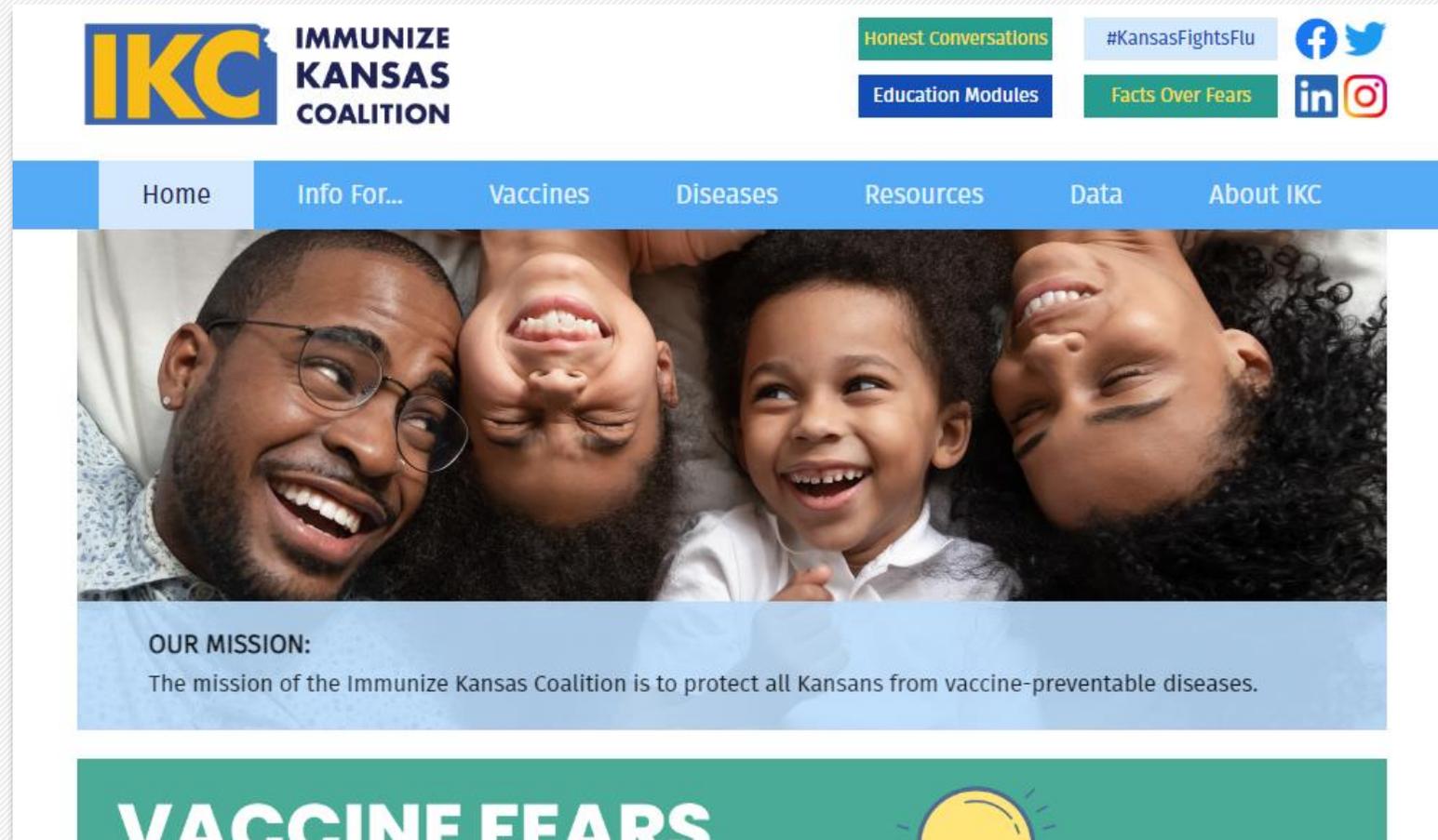


**Susan Wood, RN, BSN**

**IKC Education & Awareness Team Chair**

# Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC)

Mission: Protect all Kansans from vaccine-preventable diseases



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Immunize Kansas Coalition website. At the top left is the IKC logo, which consists of the letters 'IKC' in a stylized font with 'IMMUNIZE KANSAS COALITION' written below it. To the right of the logo are several navigation buttons: 'Honest Conversations' (green), 'Education Modules' (blue), '#KansasFightsFlu' (light blue), 'Facts Over Fears' (green), and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Below these is a blue navigation bar with the following menu items: 'Home', 'Info For...', 'Vaccines', 'Diseases', 'Resources', 'Data', and 'About IKC'. The main content area features a large photograph of a diverse family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) laughing joyfully. Below the photo is a light blue banner with the text 'OUR MISSION: The mission of the Immunize Kansas Coalition is to protect all Kansans from vaccine-preventable diseases.' At the bottom of the page is a green banner with the text 'VACCINE FEARS' and a small yellow sun icon.

# Members

- ◆ Physicians ◆ Nurses ◆ Provider Associations ◆ Pharmacists ◆ Managed Care
- ◆ Parents ◆ Epidemiologists ◆ Educators ◆ School Nurses ◆ Universities
- ◆ Health Departments ◆ Grandparents ◆ Cancer Organizations ◆ Researchers
- ◆ Extension Professionals ◆ Hospitals ◆ Child Advocacy Groups ◆ Early Childhood



More than 45 member organizations, over 100 engaged individuals, and 200+ people on the distribution list



**Heather Simpson**

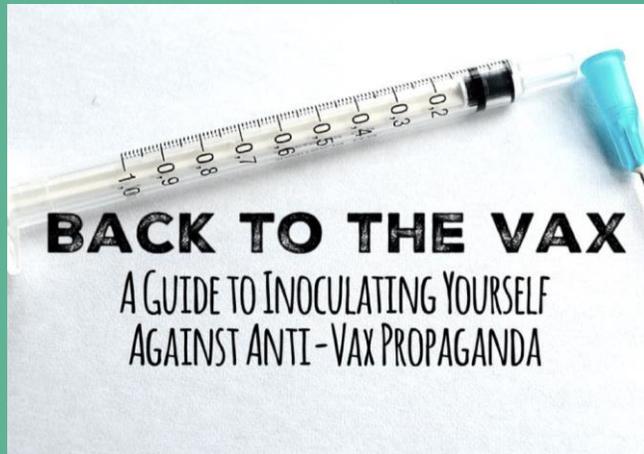


**Lydia Greene**



***Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts***  
Digital and printed booklet by  
Back to the Vax & Immunize Kansas Coalition

[www.immunizekansascoalition.org/vfof](http://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/vfof)



[www.backtothevax.com](http://www.backtothevax.com)



# Who I Was as an Anti-Vaxxer



Was trying to think of the least scary thing I could be for Halloween...so I became the measles 🙌

**1,082,535 cases of measles in 2014.**

**This is an epidemic which needs to be addressed...**

**Oh wait.. did I say measles?**

**I meant autism.**

**Polio was not eradicated by vaccines.**

**It was eradicated because it was renamed to something else.**



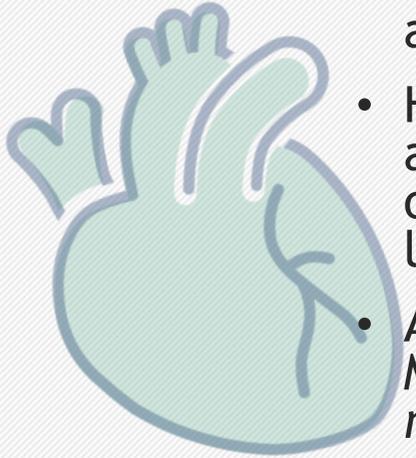
**I'm not vaccine hesitant. I'm quite certain I don't want them**

# What Not to Do: My Story

- The evil smart sock that saved my daughter
- Worshiping the FDA against all logic
- “No, she really does have strep”
- It’s ok to admit there are some side effects



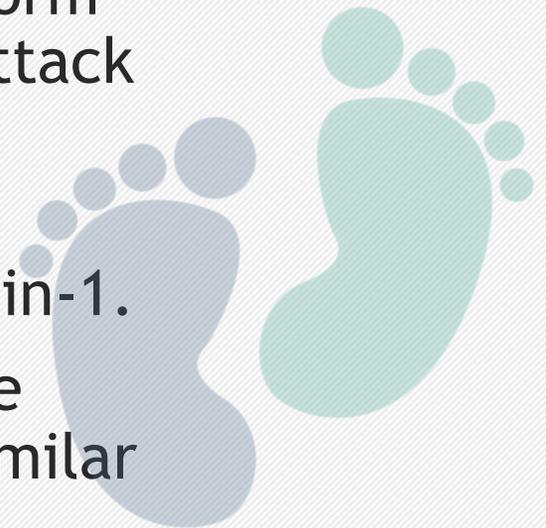
# Myth #1: The COVID vaccine causes “Sudden Adult Death Syndrome”



- The phrase “Sudden Adult Death Syndrome” was coined by anti-vaxxers to try and place the blame of these sudden deaths on vaccines.
- However, “SADS” does not even stand for “Sudden Adult Death Syndrome.” It actually stands for Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome, which is caused by one of several genetic conditions that can disturb the heart’s rhythm and can lead to sudden death in seemingly perfectly healthy young people.
- According to Dr. Michael J. Ackerman, the professor at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Chair of the SADS Foundation Board of Directors stated, *“There’s not a single signal of increased LQTS events and CPVT events (both are two of the main genetic conditions that can cause SADS) among diagnosed and treated patients who’ve been vaccinated (against COVID-19.)”*
- If John Doe was going to die of SADS in June 2022, he was going to die of SADS with or without the COVID-19 vaccine.

# Myth #2: The COVID Vaccine Causes Infertility & Miscarriage

- The reason this rumor ever even came about was that the COVID vaccine contains a spike protein called Syncytin-1, which is vital for the formation of the human placenta.
- The conspiracies say that if the vaccine causes the body to form an immune response to Syncytin-1, then the body will also attack the placenta.
- Researchers found that the vaccine doesn't even have the Syncytin-1. It just has a spike protein that resembles Syncytin-1.
- Furthermore, they found that, genetically, the COVID vaccine spike protein is so dissimilar to Syncytin-1, that its only as similar as any other protein in the human body is to it!



# What Can Parents Do?

- Avoid anti-vax Facebook pages and groups, and mute Facebook friends that post scary sounding vaccine disinformation.
- Read books by pro-vaccine doctors. Dr. Paul Offit is a good place to start.
- If you are terrified, ask to start slow. Many pediatricians allow one vaccine at a time. Once you start seeing how fine your baby is, you'll likely start vaccinating with multiple doses per visit.
- Ask your doctor to break down any specific questions you might have. For instance, "*Can you explain why vaccines do not cause autism?*" This can ease your fears greatly.

**VACCINES  
FEARS  
OVERTURNED  
BY FACTS**

---

Mothers vs. Tropes

Lydia Greene

# 15 YEARS AGO, I STOPPED VACCINATING MY DAUGHTER.

Due to a miscommunication with public health I turned to an online community for answers.



They helped me before, so when they gave me answers about my daughter's reaction, I was scared, and I believed them.



At first, I was just hesitant, but then I went fully anti-vaccine for all of my family.



Fear and anxiety is the biggest motivator when it comes to avoiding vaccinations.

# I WENT ON TO HAVE 2 MORE CHILDREN, AND I DIDN'T VACCINATE THEM EITHER.

- I questioned my choice over the years, but always fell back to inaction.
- I was stuck in an echo chamber.
- I realized I was trapped in a triple filter bubble. (Geshke 2018)
  1. My individual bias
  2. My social groups
  3. My technological algorithms



●  
**MountainMama**  
**GC**  
Registered   
Joined Jun 23, 2008  
3,541 Posts

and had trouble nursing for a couple days. She just wasn't herself in that time. She recovered but it scared me. At 4 months she only had prevnar and Men-C. She didn't have any reaction to those but I was too nervous to continue.

We travel, my daughter loves it. We have done some all-inclusives, but I would like to take her to some more adventurous places. We also hike and camp. So I am thinking of a few vaccines. I am on the fence on MMR, but I also want her to get it before puberty if I do get it for her. I am thinking of getting her IPV, and Td, and Hep A.

The other travel vaccines will be as needed prior to travel as some don't last very long.

Does this make sense? Also, how do you know how many boosters are needed when starting so late?



**MY  
INDIVIDUAL  
BIAS**

- I have a chronic autoimmune disease.
- I felt I was pressured into a C-Section without the evidence-based information.
- I have had some negative experiences in healthcare and I have PTSD from them.
- I lacked support as a mother both in my personal life, and by healthcare. I had poor breastfeeding support.

## MY SOCIAL GROUPS

It all started with forums. Mothering.com was the first online community I was on. It was a natural and attachment parenting forum.

Then other social media platforms gained popularity. Every facet of parenting had a niche group: breastfeeding, sleep training, cloth diapering, intactivism, vaccinations, etc. Groups on Facebook became extremely popular with new mothers.

In my real life I had feelers in the form of questions. I would ask prospective mom friends questions like, *“Do you use any natural remedies?”* to see if we could further discuss being anti-vaccine.

# TECHNOLOGICAL ALGORITHMS

Does it seem like everyone agrees with you?

Its because the algorithms know what you interact with.

They then will bring you more content you interact with.

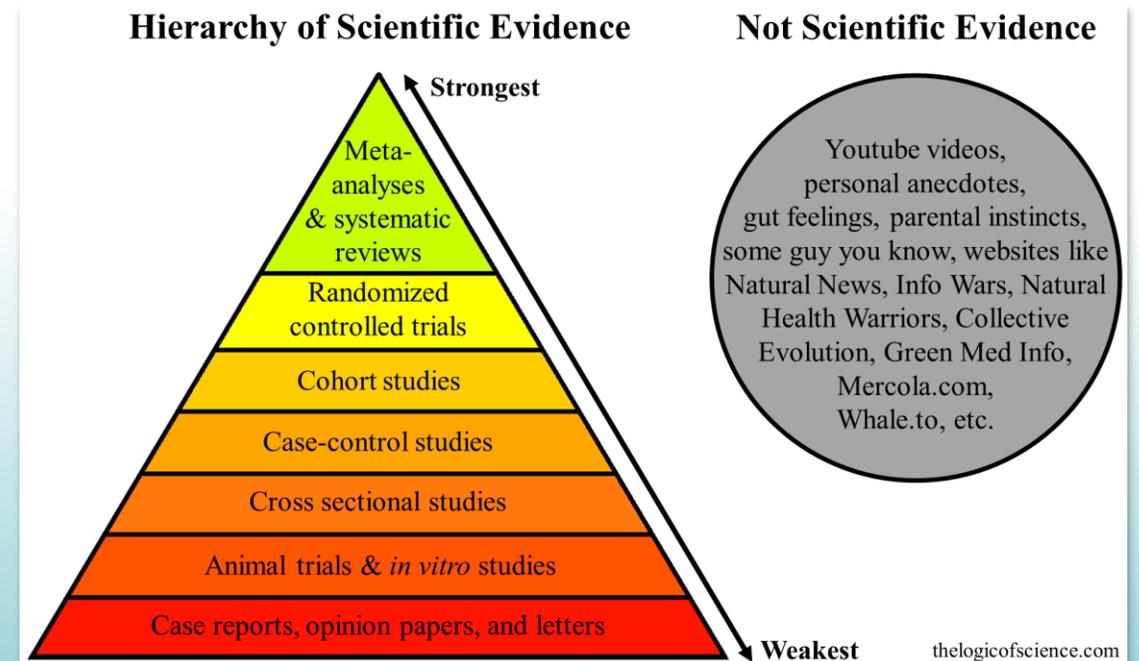
It's a cycle.

It can seem like the whole world thinks vaccines are bad when in reality it's just a few spread out people who can congregate in large groups online.

Some people refer to this as "The Loud Minority".

# HOW I GOT OUT OF MY FILTER BUBBLE

- COVID drove me to seek answers about vaccination, as I was unsure of what the state of healthcare would be.
- I was looking into a trope I whole heartedly believed. It was about the blood-brain barrier and the age it fully forms. I thought it was age 2 or 3. When I actually looked for scientific data, the only data I could find was that babies are born with a mature BBB.
- Realizing I was wrong enabled me to look at other beliefs I could be wrong about.
- I spent weeks and weeks looking into the tropes I believed and forced myself to look outside my echo chamber for information.
- I started using this as a tool to evaluate information.



# FEAR PUSHED ME IN. FACTS PUSHED ME OUT.

---

Heather and I both realized that it was the indisputable facts that allowed us to vaccinate with confidence.

---

There is ZERO evidence that the BBB forms at age 2 or 3. How did I get to believe it?

---

What if we are able to explain these tropes to parents BEFORE they take on this belief system?

---

The booklet “Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts” is born.

---

We looked at the tropes that scared us and explore how we were misled about them.

---

I will share my 2 favourites, but there are more in the booklet!

**MYTH:  
VACCINES  
CAUSE  
AUTISM**

This is the trope that will not die.

There is a sibling study with 600K children, and a completely unvaccinated group of a few thousand children. (HVIID 2019)

They compared autism rates of vaccinated children with their unvaccinated siblings and there was no difference in autism rates.

This evidence supports my experience.

My first son has level 2 ASD. He wasn't vaccinated until he was almost 5. He "regressed" at age 2.5-3 years old. He had a different developmental arc from his baby brother. His baby brother was vaccinated at the age of 2. He did not regress and is not autistic. This is what that study showed.

# MYTH: CORRELATION IS CAUSATION

Anti-vaxxers like to use Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) as evidence that vaccines cause all kinds of health issues and side effects. The data is unverified, and causation is not linked.



Correlation is not causation. Babies get vaccinated multiple times during infancy and so sometimes SIDS can coincide with vaccinations.



If you give 1 million people a simple glass of water, a few will get cancer, have a miscarriage, get diabetes, and even die. It wasn't the water.



Here's another example. Every time ice cream sales rise so does the occurrence of sunburn. Does ice cream cause sunburn? No. What is the actual connection? Hot sunny weather increases ice cream sales and sunburn.



Every negative symptom has a rate of occurrence in a population. VAERS data is analyzed, and they look for signals above baseline.

## WHAT HELPED ME VACCINATE WITH CONFIDENCE?

Vaxopedia. Dismantles each trope.

Reading other former antivax stories.

Having a nurse work with me. “You do what you want each visit, I will keep track of what is left.”

Seeing with my own eyes, my kids were ok. I went from slow to accelerated just by seeing my kids were fine.



# WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

## Vet your sources

- It is hard sometimes to understand what a good source of information is. Our book offers tips on spotting pseudoscience. Learn how to use the hierarchy of evidence if you research.

## Ask the right people

- Build rapport with your health care worker. It can be your pediatrician or local public health office. They witness thousands of vaccinations. Be available to discuss. Discuss one thing at a time. Do not overwhelm them with 20 questions and then be surprised if they can't answer off the top of their head.
- If 9 out of 10 people recommend something its ok to see what the 1 person says, but then see what the 9 have to say to counter it. Consensus exists for a reason.

## Work through you and your child's anxiety

- There are many resources and tools to help explain vaccinations to your child and ease their anxiety.
- Remember you are the adult. Children don't always know what is good for them, but its our job to guide them, hence bedtimes and healthy food options.

Q & A

# Join IKC Parents & Families

Connect with like-minded individuals who believe vaccines are safe, effective and important in protecting all of us from preventable diseases.



Fill out the IKC Parents & Families Interest Survey:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/IKC\\_Parents](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IKC_Parents)

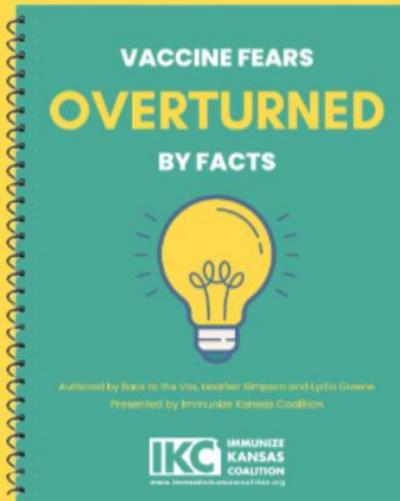


Join the IKC Parents & Families Facebook group:  
[https://fb.me/g/p\\_UEgDCRtAGPw6r5zt/MzBpyBKB](https://fb.me/g/p_UEgDCRtAGPw6r5zt/MzBpyBKB)

*Stay tuned for more parents & family groups happening soon!*

Learn more about ***Vaccine Fears  
Overturned by Facts*** on IKC's website:

[www.immunizekansascoalition.org/vfof](http://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/vfof)



- Download the digital booklet
- View the one-page key facts summary
- Find printing instructions for coil bound booklets
- ***Coming soon!*** Spanish booklet



**IMMUNIZE  
KANSAS  
COALITION**

Thanks for joining!

Visit [immunizekansascoalition.org](https://immunizekansascoalition.org) for more vaccine resources and information.

