

Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All

Paul A. Offit

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"The very best antidote to vaccine-related misinformation: the writings of vaccinologist Paul Offit. No one is better at reducing anti-vaccine claims to intellectual rubble." —*New Scientist*

DEADLY CHOICES

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PAUL A. OFFIT, M.D.

WITH A NEW FOREWORD

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#207312 in Books Paul A Offit 2015-03-10 2015-03-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .88 x 5.50l, .62 #File Name: 0465057969304 pagesDeadly Choices How the Anti Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All | File size: 34.Mb

Paul A. Offit : Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All:

6 of 11 people found the following review helpful. informative and eye-openingBy MACThis information is vitally important in the face of increasing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. The misinformation of the anti-vaccine movement has been given a voice long enough, it's time for parents to learn the truth, become inspired to fight for our

nation's children, and begin speaking out for the prevention of diseases in our communities. This book will lay to rest many fears instilled by the anti-vaccine movement, and inspire parents towards protecting the most vulnerable. 19 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Doc Watch A must read for anyone in healthcare.. or anyone with kids. Offit is very informed, writes lucidly, and knows his subject 10 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Easy read, interesting and depressing By Mickey M This book is not technical and is a narrative of past and present forms of the antivax movement. An engaging read but covers too many topics and people with minimal detail to keep the average reader from straying. Worth reading as an introductory for the topic, for the layman or even just a curiosity but will leave the knowledgeable wanting.

In 2014, California suffered the largest and deadliest outbreak of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in more than fifty years. This tragedy was avoidable. An effective vaccine has been available since the 1940s. In recent years other diseases, like measles and mumps, have also made a comeback. The reason for these epidemics can be traced to a group whose vocal proponents insist, despite evidence to the contrary, that vaccines are poison. As a consequence, parents and caretakers are rejecting vaccines for themselves and their families. In *Deadly Choices*, infectious-disease expert Paul Offit takes a look behind the curtain of the anti-vaccine movement. What he finds is a reminder of the power of scientific knowledge, and the harm we risk if we ignore it.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In the second book this season (after journalist Seth Mnookin's *The Panic Virus*) to attack vaccine paranoia, Offit who drew antivaccinist fire for *Autism's False Prophets* presents a smart, hard-hitting exposé of vaccine pseudoscience. Offit brings outstanding credentials to the subject: he's a vaccinologist at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia and an expert in infectious diseases, and he tackles claims that childhood inoculations cause brain damage, autism, diabetes, and cancer, finding a farrago of misinformation, faulty research, and sly deceptions fed to distraught parents by media hype, ax-grinding activists, and personal-injury lawyers. He embellishes his account with a sprightly history of paranoid medical populism 19th-century critics of the cowpox-derived smallpox vaccine insisted it could turn people into cows and a blistering attack on celebrity antivaccine ideologues Jenny McCarthy, Jim Carrey, and Bill Maher and the medical writers who pander to parental anxieties. Offit dwells less than Mnookin on the sociology of the controversy and more on the science. The result is a thorough dismantling of antivaccine notions and a sober warning about the resurgence of deadly childhood infections stemming from declining vaccination rates. Worried parents, especially, will find this a lucid, compelling riposte to antivaccine fear-mongering. Photos. (Feb.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred * Infectious disease expert Offit, long an outspoken and prolific (*Vaccinated*, 2007) champion of universal immunization via vaccines, ratchets up the urgency of his crusade by taking on the loudest and highest-profile spokespersons for the anti-vaccine movement. He spares no one, not Jim Carrey, not Jenny McCarthy, television's Dr. Oz, or even Dr. Bob Sears, as he tosses salvo after salvo of scientific evidence across the bow of their anti-vaccine ships. Their anti-vaccine arguments, he says, consist of nothing more than anecdotal drama combined with conspiracy theories that pander to parents' most emotional fears. What they should be doing, he says, is encouraging parents to trust the huge bank of scientific data proving the safety of vaccines and their efficacy in eliminating many deadly infectious diseases. Armed with his own arsenal of anecdotal horror stories that focus on worst case histories of the unvaccinated, mostly children, in addition to pages of scientific study citations supporting his premise, Offit pulls no punches. His tone is edgier than usual this time, his arguments more virulent. It is clear that he wants his message and the facts, not rumors or infectious diseases, to go viral. --Donna Chavez Perri Klass, Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics, New York University; author of *Treatment Kind and Fair* *Deadly Choices* carries a very important message for parents, journalists, physicians, and everyone who cares about children and health. It is a passionate, but also compassionate, call for civil discourse and rational conversation on a subject which matters so much to each of us individually and to us all as a society. It is a fascinating account of society and science, politics, publicity, and public health. David Oshinsky, Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin; author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Polio: An American Story* A medical crisis has come to America. Diseases of our grandparents' generation are making a deadly comeback as more and more parents choose not to vaccinate their children. How did this happen? Who is responsible? And what can be done to reverse this unconscionable assault upon our nation's public health? For the answers, provided in clear, common sense, page-turning fashion, I recommend *Deadly Choices* by Dr. Paul Offit a timely and courageous call to arms by the nation's foremost expert on pediatric infectious disease.