

## Simpson, Diane M

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**From:** Simpson, Diane M.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 12:49 PM  
**To:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Safety Question

They got put together late yesterday. I am off to a meeting but will be back in the office by 3PM and definitely free at 4PM. Why don't you stop by then and I'll show (and explain) what I got together.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 12:44 PM  
**To:** Simpson, Diane M.  
**Subject:** FW: Vaccine Safety Question

Diane?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Waggoner, Kimberly J.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 12:06 PM  
**To:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Safety Question

Diane Simpson has them. You may want to ask her to see copies.

Kimberly Waggoner  
(404)639-8712

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 11:47 AM  
**To:** Waggoner, Kimberly J.  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Safety Question

Do you have the the graphs of the other vaccines? I'm surprised because pertussis-containing vaccine coverage should be as stable as MMR.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Waggoner, Kimberly J.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 10:39 AM  
**To:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP); Katz-Cummings, Sandy (AHRQ)  
**Cc:** Katz, Sharon C.  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Safety Question

He is using the CA data as an argument but the problem is that they used the CA autism curve and put it against some of the other vaccines (like DTaP) and the curves are similar.

A contact in Denmark is fairly certain that they have never used thimerosal. We have to check on that. I am going to send an inquiry to a contact that VPDED gave me for Europe. I will keep you in the loop.

Kimberly Waggoner  
(404)639-8712

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 10:15 AM  
**To:** Waggoner, Kimberly J.; Katz-Cummings, Sandy (AHRQ)  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Safety Question

I doubt there are any country that never used thimerosal in their vaccines. Walt is probably better off

using the argument that I use below with this inquiry.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 13, 2001 6:30 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** autism and US infant immuniz schedule

Dear

Per our discussion, I'm sending you the following:

1) slide from L Dales et al paper in JAMA 2001 Jun 13;285(22):2852-2853 showing the "increase" in autism in California occurring throughout the 1970's and 1980's.

<< File: California slide.ppt >>

2) Yet, the recommendations for routine infant hep B and Hib vaccinations in the US did not occur until 1991 (added to the longstanding recommendations for routine DTP since the 1940's and OPV since the 1960's). Since recommendations take a couple of years in the US to be widely adapted, the true increase in exposure to thimerosal in US infants was even later.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00033405.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00041736.htm>

While I don't have the UK immunization schedule and data, I believe UK do not routinely administer hep B and routine Hib was adapted later than the US (~ mid 1990's).

The other routine childhood immunizations added to the US schedule also occurred relatively recently:

Varicella (chickenpox) (7/12/96)  
<ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/mmwr/rr/rr4511.pdf>

Pneumococcal conjugate in 2000  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4909.pdf>

Shift from oral to injectable polio vaccine in 2000  
<ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/mmwr/rr/rr4905.pdf>

Thus these data do not support and in fact argue strongly against the allegation that the thimerosal in vaccines (or variation on this theme, increase in number of vaccine antigens) is responsible for the increase in autism. Research into better understanding autism and its possible increase is needed, but following red herrings do not help anyone.

Bob

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Waggoner, Kimberly J.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 13, 2001 3:53 PM  
**To:** Katz-Cummings, Sandy (AHRQ)  
**Cc:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Safety Question  
**Importance:** High

Walt is looking for data from other developed countries on the incidence of autism and their use of Thimerosal in vaccines. He wants to see if countries that have never used Thimerosal in vaccines still have an increase in the number of autism cases. Before I go off and do too much of a data search and ask some of our foreign counterparts in Europe and Japan if they can do a little footwork for me, do we have any data pertaining to other countries on this?

Kimberly Waggoner  
(404)639-8712