

Thoughts about Shots

Findings from interviews and sharing circles with Cowichan Tribes members



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Medicine



Vaccine
Evaluation
Center



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Disclosure Statement

- We have no affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a pharmaceutical, medical device or communications organization
- Dr. Bettinger is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the BC Immunization Committee

REASON FOR WORK

- About 2 to 5 out of 10 Cowichan infants and children not immunized
- Increase in diseases that can be prevented by vaccines/shots
- COVID made the situation worse



HOW WE DID THE WORK

- February 2020: sharing circles with community members
- Phone or video interviews April 2020-March 2021:
 - RA spoke with people who work in the community
 - Elders spoke with community members
- Spoke with 25 community members and people who work in the community
- Feb 2022 FB event with community members



WHAT WE LEARNT



2 TO 5 OF 10 COWICHAN
INFANTS AND CHILDREN ARE
NOT VACCINATED

culturally appropriate

Importance of Family Member Opinions (especially matriarch)

"But we trust, our relatives more than we trust anybody on the outside, which is, you know, obviously because of all the, like, the issues with colonization. The majority of our community would trust a rumor from an Elder more than the truth from a doctor, if that makes sense."

WHAT WE LEARNT



importance
OF FAMILY MEMBER
OPINIONS

2 TO 5 OF 10 COWICHAN
INFANTS AND CHILDREN ARE
NOT VACCINATED

Culturally appropriate

Long term
RELATIONSHIPS CAN
START TO BUILD TRUST

Long-term Relationships

"There are certain families who only want to deal with certain nurses based on she was—you know, my mum's nurse or, you know, I know her because she immunized me as a kid. And I saw her all the way through. I trust that nurse, and I want to deal with that nurse."

WHAT WE LEARNT



importance
OF FAMILY MEMBER
OPINIONS

Vaccine
INFORMATION THEY
CAN UNDERSTAND

Culturally appropriate

Long term
RELATIONSHIPS CAN
START TO BUILD TRUST

Vaccine information

- Parents want vaccine information they can understand
- Variety of formats
 - Online, video, posters, handouts
- **Should be culturally appropriate**



WHAT WE LEARNT



importance
OF FAMILY MEMBER
OPINIONS

Legacy
OF COLONIALISM
AFFECTS TRUST

Vaccine
INFORMATION THEY
CAN UNDERSTAND

Long term
RELATIONSHIPS CAN
START TO BUILD TRUST

Culturally appropriate

2 TO 5 OF 10 COWICHAN
INFANTS AND CHILDREN ARE
NOT VACCINATED

Legacy of Colonialism Affects Trust

- Experience of other family members with health care system affect whether parents want to vaccinate their children
- High level of mistrust in existing health system and center

WHAT'S MISSING?

LACK OF TRUST because...

- residential schools and experience with shots
- we share with our children
- its a rapidly changing technology it takes time to be familiar



THESE DISEASES WERE not around when traditional medicine was developed

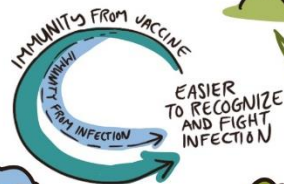


Cost and availability of numbing patch

immunizations are monitored for safety by public health

Talk to your nurse

- ABOUT QUESTIONS
- CONCERNS ABOUT ADVERSE REACTIONS



Traditional MEDICINE

From the heart
 Generation to Generation
 Different for each family

- THERE ARE WORKSHOPS TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE
- SKILLS IN FOOD PREPARATION



WHAT WE LEARNT

WHAT'S MISSING?



2 to 5 of 10 Cowichan infants and children are not vaccinated

Culturally appropriate

Importance of family member opinions

Legacy of colonialism affects trust

Vaccine information they can understand

Long term relationships can start to build trust

LOCK OF TRUST because...

- residential schools and experience with shits
- we share with our children
- its a rapidly changing technology it takes time to be familiar

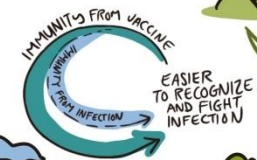


THESE DISEASES WERE not around when traditional medicine was developed



immunizations are monitored for safety by public health

talk to your nurse - ABOUT QUESTIONS - CONCERNS ABOUT ADVERSE REACTIONS



* traditional diet *
* interest in this *

Traditional MEDICINE

From the heart
Generation to Generation
Different for each family
→ THERE ARE WORKSHOPS TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE
→ SKILLS IN FOOD PREPARATION



Huy steep q'u (Thank You)

**To everyone who spoke with us about their thoughts
about shots!**

