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# Efficacy of Elder Support and Education on Measles Vaccination Rates in Amish Communities

Amber R. Porter, Mariateresa Alfaro, Lan H. Marietta, Kristen W. Schriver, Michelle M. Douglas, Bonnie D. Lozy, and Emily Burgos

## Abstract

### Background & Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outbreaks on the rise</th>
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<tr>
<td>Decline in vaccination rate due to fear of adverse effects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affecting unvaccinated communities lacking herd immunity</td>
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<td>Majority of outbreaks have occurred in Amish communities</td>
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<td>Propose to increase vaccination rates among the Amish</td>
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<td>Provide education and access to vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study the effect of elder support on vaccination rate</td>
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<td>Only 11% of the Amish population are vaccinated.</td>
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<td>Increase of vaccinations after outbreak in 2014</td>
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<td>Church elders are influential in health-care decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypothesized that elder support will lead to higher vaccination rates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Method

- **Participants**
  - Will be recruited from two clinical sites. One is in Montgomery, Indiana and the other is inArthur, Illinois.
  - Both sites have 27 active districts/churches and over 3,000 possible unvaccinated classes.
  - Publicity will be executed via an advertisement in the community newspaper.
  - To determine sample size: 10% for each unvaccinated population in Indiana (n=365) and Illinois (n=367) leading to a total of n = 732.
  - The experimental group in Indiana will be recruited via nonrandom, convenience sampling with the assistance of networking through the Elders and their influence on the Amish community (EI).
  - The control group in Illinois will be recruited through nonrandom, convenience sampling of unvaccinated classes.
  - Will be recruited from two clinical sites. One is in Montgomery, Indiana and the other is in Arthur, Illinois.
  - Both sites have 27 active districts/churches and over 3,000 possible unvaccinated classes.
  - Publicity will be executed via an advertisement in the community newspaper.

### Expected Results

- The measles vaccination rate will increase in the Amish communities due to exposure to education and vaccination availability.
- Expected that the community in Indiana with Elder support will have a higher vaccination rate than the community in Illinois.
- This research proposal aims to increase measles immunity to prevent future outbreaks in specific communities that lack herd immunity.

## Analysis

### Descriptive and Inferential Statistics

### Chi Square Testing for Variable Associations

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