Reviewer's report

Title: Support for Immunization Registries Among Parents of Vaccinated and Unvaccinated School-Aged Children: A Case Control Study

Version: 2 Date: 13 April 2006

Reviewer: Sarah J Clark

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting topic and a well-written manuscript.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

- The authors should consider carefully the extent to which their study conclusions are supported by their data. Given low level of parent awareness, possibly inaccurate knowledge of current participation, and general support for registries (even among parents of exempt children), do parents really have a strong impact on registry participation rates? Or could it be that this study actually supports a policy of opt-out from registries, in that parents are generally supportive, particularly if the option for non-participation exists? This policy angle might be quite helpful to states who are struggling with the question of whether opt-out will satisfy parental concerns.

- The authors should carefully consider their conclusion increased provider-to-parent education about vaccine risks and benefits will work to improve registry participation rate. It is not clear from these data that parent attitudes about vaccine risks and benefits are linked to opt-out (or failure to opt-in) of registries. Rather, it may be the case that providers decisions about their own practice needs and potential benefits related to registries have a stronger effect on participation.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- Please add Ns to all tables. Clarify the statistical tests shown on Table 2.

- The authors might consider commenting on the accuracy of parental responses regarding enrollment of children in the registry. Does this translate to refusal to opt-in/active opt-out of a state registry? Why or why not?

- The authors might consider focusing data presentation and discussion on the difference in parental responses between the opt-out states and the opt-in state. These represent different paradigms for immunization registry, likely based on perceived concerns about parent willingness to participate. Are those concerns evident in the data?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
- A clearer description of the selection of study states might be helpful.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.