

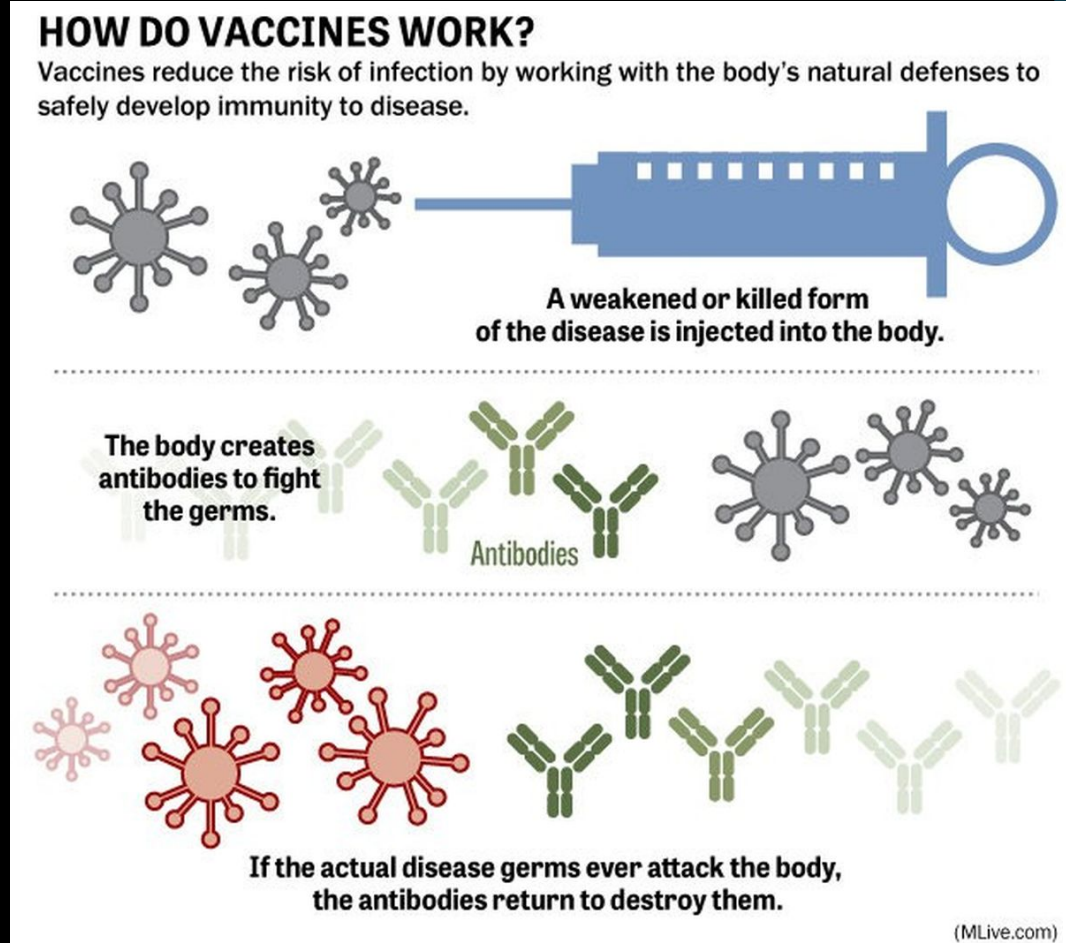
Mandatory Vaccinations for School-Age Children in North Carolina

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Public Health – the health of a population as a whole and how institutions, especially **government institutions**, can improve that health.

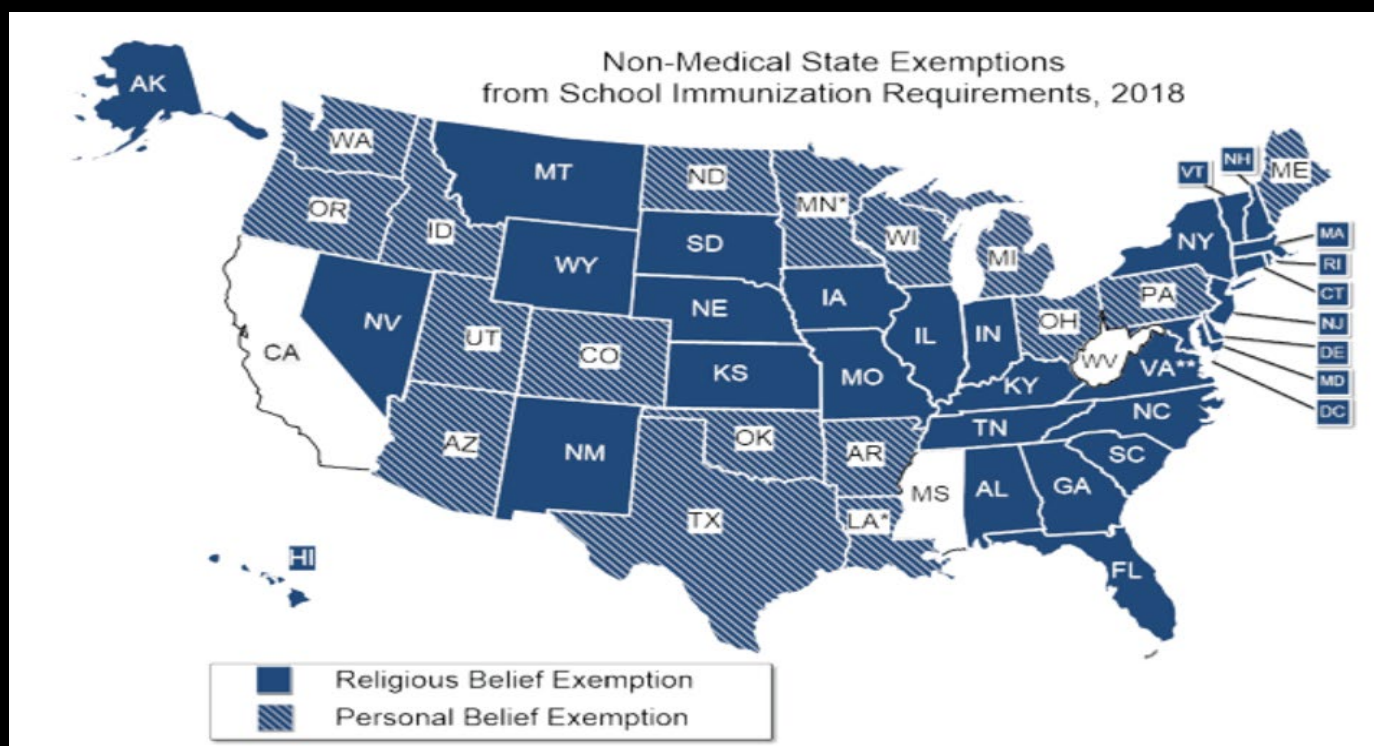
Vaccines – weakened strains of a disease that help the body's **natural** immune system develop resistance to the wild strain of the disease¹.

Provide the **benefits** of protecting the body from a disease **without** many of the **complications** of getting the disease.



Source: Klingensmith, Milt. "How Do Vaccinations Work? The Science of Immunizations." *Mlive.com*, Mlive.com, 10 Dec. 2014. www.mlive.com/news/2014/12/how_do_vaccinations_work_the_s.html.

THE PROBLEM – As more vaccines have been discovered and distributed, more and more of the public have begun to **distrust** vaccines and the science behind the development and distribution of vaccines². This distrust has led to increasing rates of **nonmedical exemptions** from vaccination in the United States and elsewhere, which is a public health and safety issue, as **epidemics** for diseases with vaccines have increased in frequency in the United States, France, and Britain, among others³



Source: "States with Religious and Philosophical Exemptions from School Immunization Requirements." National Conference of State Legislators, NCSL, 30 Jan. 2019. www.ncsl.org/research/health/school-immunization-exemption-state-laws.aspx.

48 out of 50 states, or **96%**, allow nonmedical exemptions for vaccination, including North Carolina.

Sources of Information

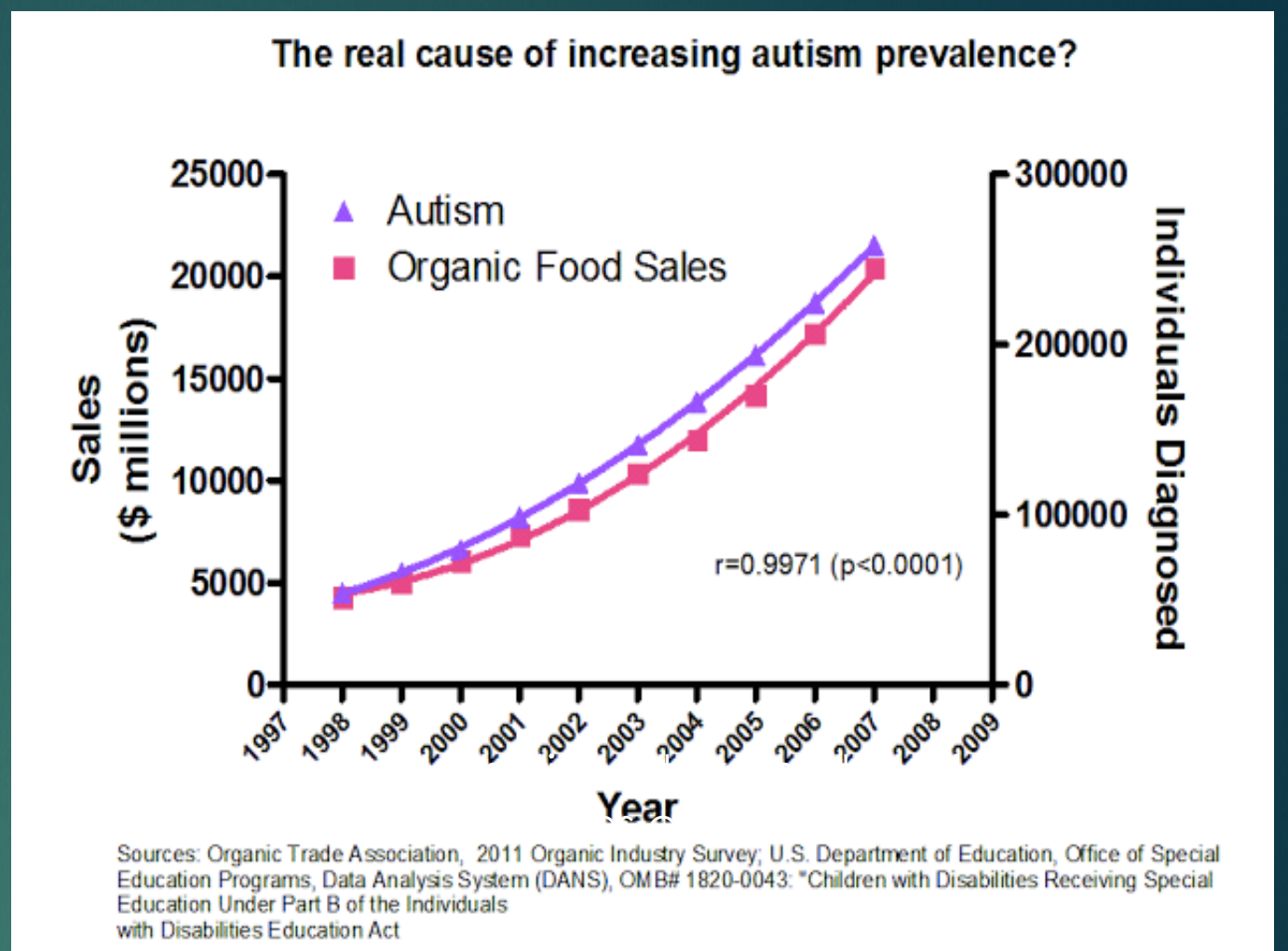
¹U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Vaccine Basics." Vaccines.gov, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 11 Oct. 2006. www.vaccines.gov/basics/index.html.

²Stern, Alexandra Minna, and Howard Markel. "The History Of Vaccines And Immunization: Familiar Patterns, New Challenges." *Health Affairs*, vol. 24, no. 3, May 2005, pp. 611-621. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.24.3.611.

³Omer, Saad B., and Robert Bednarczyk. "Measles Was Eliminated. But We Can't Be Sure It'll Stay That Way." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 11 Feb. 2019. www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/02/11/measles-was-eliminated-we-

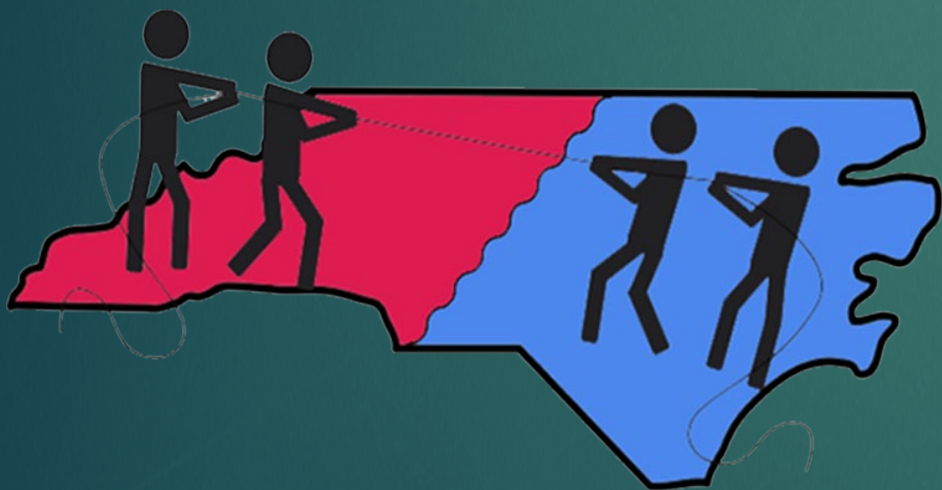
Common Myths and Misconceptions (and Counterpoints):

- Vaccines cause autism
 - This is simply not true.^{1 2}
- All vaccine hesitant individuals (especially parents of newborn children) believe that vaccines cause autism³
 - Many vaccine hesitant individuals are wary of for-profit pharmaceutical companies commonly known as “big pharma.”³



EFFECTIVE POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS (most to least effective)

1. Make **essential** vaccines mandatory⁴
 - PRO: found to be effective in France
 - CON: not clear if positive effects only because of mandatory vaccination (confounding factors)
2. Increase training for medical professionals regarding vaccine hesitant individuals
 - PRO: increase trust level between patients and healthcare providers
 - CON: difficult to guarantee that all healthcare providers not only get the same quality of training, but implement their training in similar manners
3. Make **all** vaccinations mandatory⁵
 - PRO: should increase vaccine coverage rates
 - CON: increase distrust between patients and healthcare providers, between patients and government, not guaranteed because of resistance and pushback to current required vaccinations



Source: Boell, Heinrich. "Symbols of the Democrat and Republican Party Fighting over North Carolina." *Heinrich Boell Stiftung*, 2 Nov. 2018. us.boell.org/.

Specific to North Carolina:

-The state knows its **population's values** based on how the population votes on other issues. This means that the **specific solution** implemented (as mentioned above) is dependent on the state. A national-level policy on immunizations would likely cause increased distrust of government because of the inherent distance between a locality and the national government.

Sources:

¹Park, Alice. "Doctor behind Vaccine-Autism Link Loses License." *Time*, Time, 24 May 2010. healthland.time.com/2010/05/24/doctor-behind-vaccine-autism-link-loses-license/.

²Taylor, Luke E., et al. "Vaccines Are Not Associated with Autism: An Evidence-Based Meta-Analysis of Case-Control and Cohort Studies." *Vaccine*, vol. 32, no. 29, 17 June 2014, pp. 3623-3629. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2014.04.085>.

³Bianco, Aida, et al. "Parent Perspectives on Childhood Vaccination: How to Deal with Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal?" *Vaccine*, vol. 37, no. 7, 8 Feb. 2019, pp. 984-990. doi:[10.1016/j.vaccine.2018.12.062](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2018.12.062).

⁴Omer, Saad B., and Robert Bednarczyk. "Measles Was Eliminated, But We Can't Be Sure It'll Stay That Way." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 11 Feb. 2019. www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/02/11/measles-was-eliminated-we-cant-be-sure-its-stay-that-way/.

⁵Russi, Mark B., and Robert S. Baltimore. "Mandatory Influenza Vaccine." *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, vol. 33, no. 03, 2012, pp. 222-223. doi:[10.1086/664493](https://doi.org/10.1086/664493).