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Policies among US pediatricians for dismissing patients for delaying or refusing vaccination

U.S. researchers surveyed a nationally representative sample of pediatricians in hopes of better understanding their handling of patients who are noncompliant with vaccine protocols.

Specifically, the doctors were asked if and how they dismiss families who decline vaccines or ask to "spread out" immunizations in the primary series.

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Specifically, the doctors were asked if and how they dismiss families who decline vaccines or ask to "spread out" immunizations in the primary series. Among 448 pediatricians approached, 303 completed the questionnaire, for a response rate of 68%. Participants were predominantly female and most were in private practice. Their responses indicate that 37% of pediatricians stopped seeing families for refusing vaccines in the primary series, while 6% dismissed them for requesting to spread them out. Only 37% of pediatricians personally made the dismissal decision, whereas 51% said it was established office policy to let go families that resist vaccine recommendations. Vaccine refusal is commonplace—the World Health Organization lists it among the top 10 global health threats—and the subsequently high rate of dismissals among these families is

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vaccinations, and whether they limit access to medical care or erode trust in clinicians.

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<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2770611>

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