

Impact of the New York State Repeal of Nonmedical Vaccination Exemptions on Schools: Perspectives from a Survey of School Administrators

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INTRODUCTION

- In June 2019, the New York State (NYS) legislature repealed the religious exemption from school-entry vaccination requirements¹
- More than 26,000 NYS students with prior religious exemptions were expected to be affected by the change²
- Prior to the repeal, religious vaccination exemptions were more common among NYS non-public schools³

OBJECTIVES

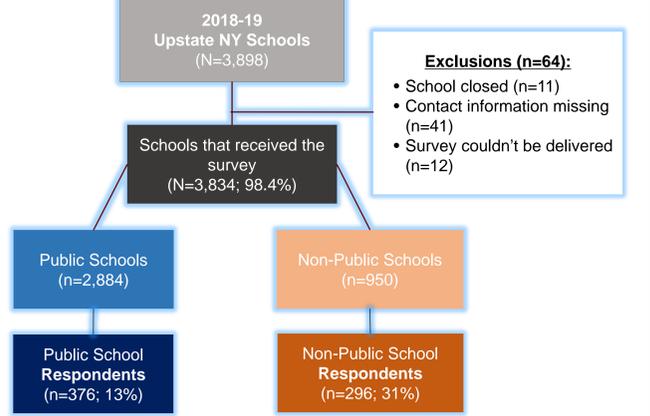
- To examine the impact of the NYS legislation on schools + assess whether effects were differential by school type

METHODS

- Electronic survey of upstate NY (i.e. non-NYC) school administrators
- Questions examined: time spent on compliance activities, student enrollment, absenteeism, & medical vaccination exemptions
- Using REDCap, the survey was sent to all upstate NY school administrators in November 2019, with reminders ongoing
- Basic descriptive statistics were used to compare the results by school type (i.e. public vs. non-public schools)

STUDY ENROLLMENT

Figure 1. Flow diagram of study enrollment.



PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1. Characteristics of schools by response status

Variable	SURVEY			
	Respondents (n=672)		Non-respondents (n=3,162)	
	Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI
% Public schools	56%	(52%, 60%)	80%	(79%, 82%)
School enrollment	342	(317, 366)	477	(464, 491)
Student composition:				
% Economically disadvantaged	46%	(44%, 48%)	46%	(45%, 47%)
% White	88%	(82%, 94%)	73%	(67%, 79%)
% Medical Exemptions	0.3%	(0.2%, 0.3%)	0.3%	(0.2%, 0.3%)
% Religious Exemptions	3%	(2%, 3%)	2%	(2%, 2%)

The NYS repeal of nonmedical vaccination exemptions from school entry requirements decreased student enrollment, increased student absenteeism, & increased medical vaccination exemptions among a sample of upstate NY schools



RESULTS

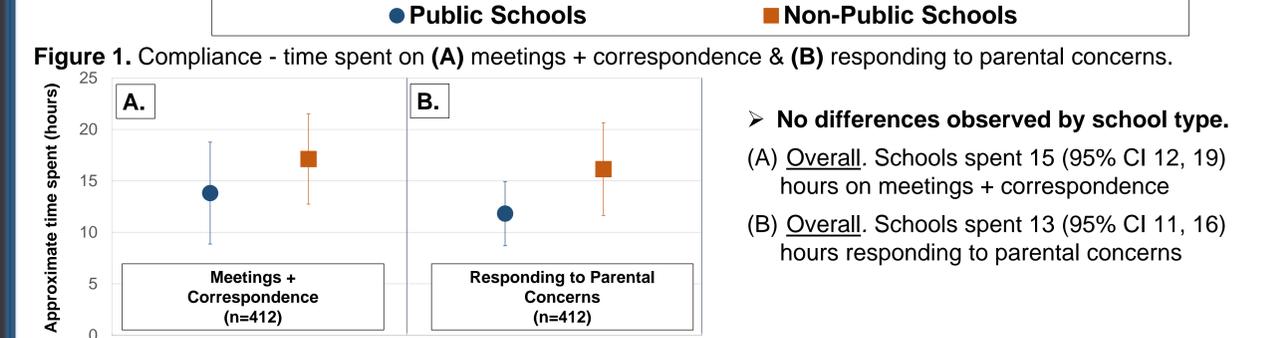


Figure 1. Compliance - time spent on (A) meetings + correspondence & (B) responding to parental concerns.

➤ **No differences observed by school type.**
 (A) Overall. Schools spent 15 (95% CI 12, 19) hours on meetings + correspondence
 (B) Overall. Schools spent 13 (95% CI 11, 16) hours responding to parental concerns

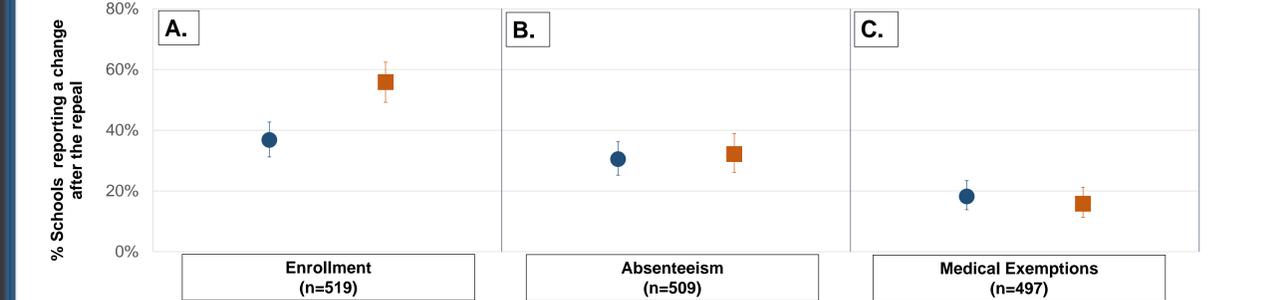


Figure 2. Schools reporting a change in (A) student enrollment, (B) absenteeism, or (C) medical exemptions.

➤ **A higher percentage of non-public schools reported changes in (A) enrollment, but changes in (B) absenteeism + (C) medical exemptions were similar by school type.**
 (A) Non-public schools were 1.5 (95% CI:1.3, 1.8) times more likely to report changes in enrollment than public schools
 (B) Overall. 31% (95% CI: 27%, 35%) of schools reported changes in absenteeism
 (C) Overall. 17% (95% CI:14%, 20%) of schools reported changes in medical exemptions

Figure 3. Number of (A) students lost, (B) mean days absent, or (C) new medical exemptions among schools reporting changes in enrollment, absenteeism, or medical exemptions, respectively.

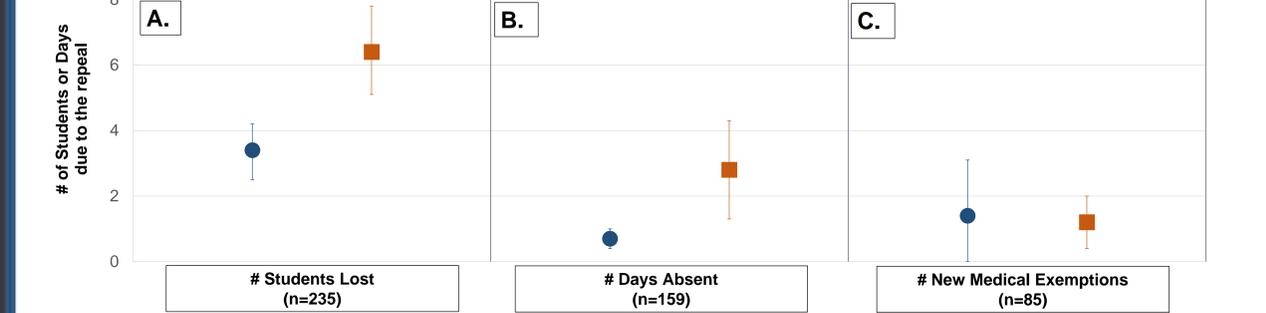


Figure 3. Number of (A) students lost, (B) mean days absent, or (C) new medical exemptions among schools reporting changes in enrollment, absenteeism, or medical exemptions, respectively.

➤ **Among schools that reported changes, non-public schools reported a higher number of (A) students lost & (B) student days absent, but the number of (C) new medical exemptions were similar by school type.**
 (A) Non-public schools lost a mean of 3.1 (95% CI:1.4, 4.8) more students than public schools
 (B) Non-public school students were absent 2.1 (95% CI: 0.7, 3.5) days longer than public school students
 (C) Overall. A mean of 1.3 (95% CI: 0.3, 2.4) new medical exemptions were reported among schools affected by the law

CONCLUSION

- The NYS repeal of the religious vaccine exemption decreased student enrollment, increased absenteeism, & increased medical vaccine exemptions among upstate NY schools in this sample
- Survey respondents differed from non-respondents & results may not be generalizable to non-participants
- Future work will account for non-response to estimate the law's overall impact on upstate NY schools

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

- Funding for this study was provided by an ACPHS new faculty start up award

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