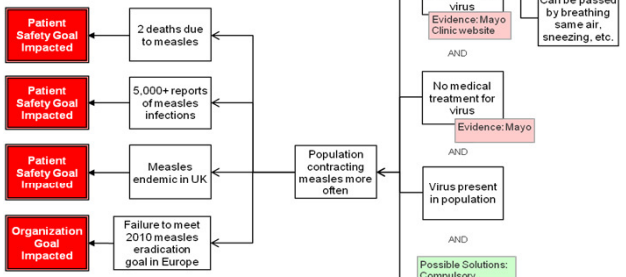
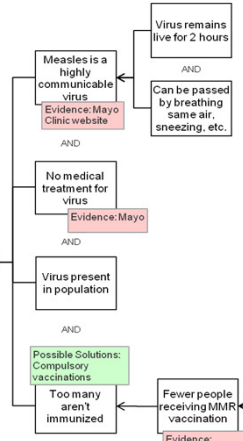
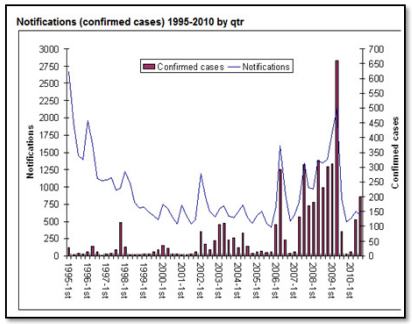
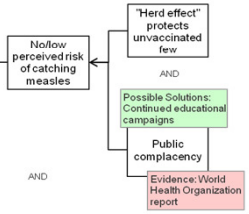
Autism & the MMR Vaccine: Effects of a Fraudulent Study

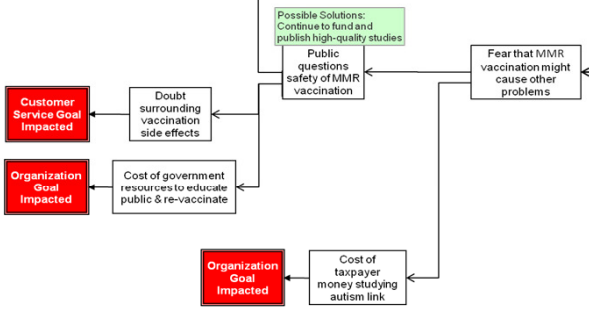
United Kingdom
1998 - Present

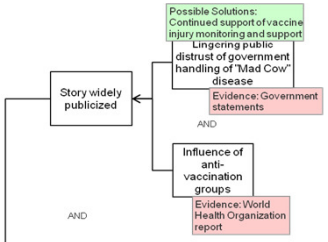


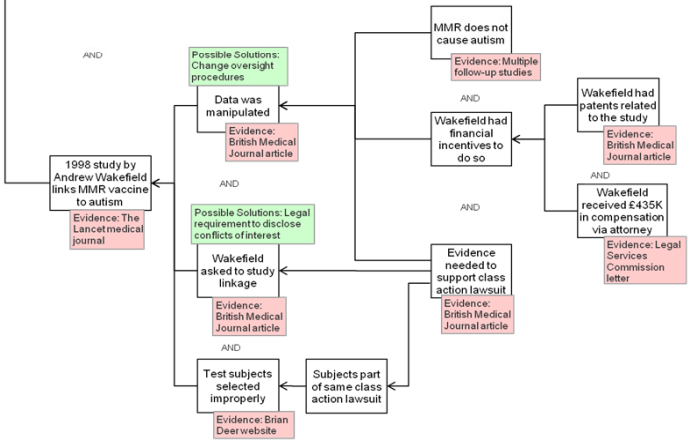












Measles, once considered conquered in most of the developed world, is now making resurgence in the United Kingdom. Why? Parents fear vaccinating their children. The Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination rate nationwide dropped as low as 84% during the last decade. Following the drop, measles became more prevalent, infecting thousands after a decade of steep declines. Unfortunately, this also coincided with multiple deaths stemming from measles - deaths that were all preventable.

Why the drop in vaccinations? In this instance, there is clear reason. A widely-publicized study headed by Andrew Wakefield in 1998 found a correlation between the MMR vaccination, autism and bowel disease. Any rational parent would fear causing autism in their child, especially when the perceived risk of catching measles was at an all-time low.

To create this "study", Wakefield is accused of grossly manipulating data. One of the longest medical board investigations in UK history found that all 12 cases included in the study were altered. Multiple studies which followed showed absolutely no link between the MMR vaccination and autism. In short, he fabricated the story completely.

Step 1. Define the Problem

What	Problem(s)	Increased rate of measles in UK, Deaths due to measles
When	Date	1998 - Present
	Different, unusual, unique	Significant decrease in rate of MMR vaccinations
Where	State, city	United Kingdom

Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety	2 deaths due to measles
Patient Safety	5,000+ reports of measles infections
Patient Safety	Measles endemic in UK population
Customer Service	Doubt surrounding vaccination side
Organization	Cost of taxpayer money studying
Organization	Cost to government educate public & re-vaccinate
Organization	Failure to meet 2010 measles eradication goal in Europe

Why?

Effect ← Cause

NOTE: Read the Cause Map from left to right with the phrase "Was Caused By" in place of each arrow.

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