

## Asthma and Immunization: Is there a connection?

The November, 1997 issue of the journal *Epidemiology* reported that a group of children who had not had their diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) and polio immunizations had a 0% occurrence of Asthma. Children who had their immunizations had a significantly higher occurrence.

The Christchurch Health and Development Study (Australia) involved 1,265 children born in 1977, 23 of whom had not received their diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) and polio immunizations. The researchers were trying to find out whether some component in infant vaccinations would increase the risk of them developing asthma. The 23 children who had no immunizations had no recorded asthma episodes or other allergic illness before the age of 10 years. In the children who were immunized, 23.1% of them had asthma episodes, 22.5% had asthma consultations, and 30.0% had medical consultations for other allergic illness. Similar differences were observed at ages 5 and 16 years.

Asthma affects 15 million people in the United States and has increased tremendously over the past 20 years. To find out more about the dangers of vaccination, contact the National Vaccine Information Center at 512 West Maple Avenue, #206, Vienna, VA 22180. Their toll-free number is 1-800-909-SHOT (7468). ▲