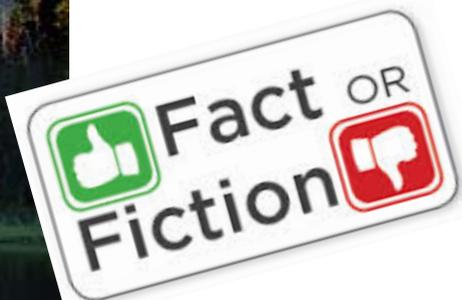




IDAHO

Department of
Health and Welfare

FUN FACTS AND MYTHS



WELFARE QUEENS, DEADBEAT DADS AND BEING A FOSTER PARENT



BUSTED

DICK ARMSTRONG
DIRECTOR

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE



MYTH: MOST WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE DRUG USERS

BUSTED

Fiction: That's apparently what Florida governor Rick Scott thought, too.

The state of Florida began drug testing welfare recipients in 2011. About 2% tested positive for drug use. Federal statistics show that the rate of drug use among welfare recipients is about the same as it is for the general public.



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MYTH: IT'S MY MONEY. I DON'T HAVE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT IF I DON'T WANT TO.

BUSTED

Fiction: Sorry, but the urban legend of the deadbeat dad is slowly dying.

Our tool chest for collecting money for Idaho children includes mandatory wage withholding by employers, garnishing federal and state tax returns and lottery winnings, and even accessing bank accounts. We can also suspend your driver's license, fishing, hunting and even professional licenses. And we can even take your passport—while you are out of the country!!



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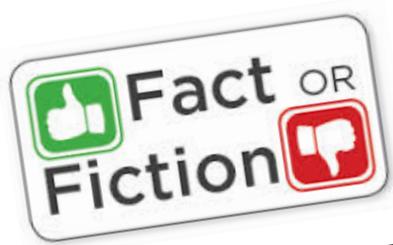
BUT DID YOU KNOW.....???



- In 1997, \$18 M. in child support was collected through wage withholding. In SFY 2013, it was \$104 M.
- One-half of all people notified their licenses were going to be suspended ponied up. But, about 160 licenses are still suspended each month.
- 15% of people who pay child support are women.
- Idaho collects 62% of support owed, but over \$600 M. is past due. 30% of custodial parents never receive one cent.



- There is a big difference between deadbeat and deadbroke dads (and moms). We sympathize and work closely with deadbroke payers—they want to support their children, but often are victims of the economic times.



MYTH: GETTING TOO MANY VACCINES AT ONE TIME WILL OVERWHELM MY CHILD'S IMMUNE SYSTEM.

BUSTED

Fiction: There are more bacteria in your child's mouth than there are people in the world.

Compared to what they typically encounter and manage during the day, vaccines are literally a drop in the ocean for children.

Studies by the CDC have shown, in theory, healthy infants could safely get up to 100,000 vaccines at once.

The bottom line: It's safe to give your child simultaneous vaccines or vaccine combinations.



BUT DID YOU KNOW.....???



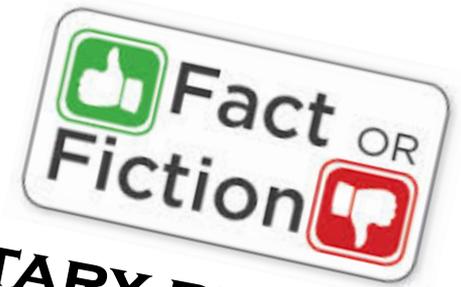
- The state purchases and supplies children's vaccines to healthcare providers so all children have access. Over 600,000 children's vaccines were distributed by the Idaho Immunization Program last year.



- Idaho has the second highest exemption rate in the nation. Idaho law makes it convenient for parents to declare an exemption during school registration.
- Idaho has been steadily increasing its vaccination rate, improving from 48th in the nation in 2007, to 23rd in 2013.



MYTH: DRUG ADDICTION IS A VOLUNTARY BEHAVIOR



BUSTED



Fiction: If you are going to be a volunteer, don't raise your hand for this one.

Addictive drugs actually change your brain in ways that result in compulsive, and even uncontrollable drug use. Also, many people with mental illness self-medicate, becoming addicted to drugs or alcohol. Substance use disorders can be very complex for effective treatment.



BUT DID YOU KNOW.....?



Myth: Prescription pain medications are safer than street drugs.

Truth: Since 2003, prescription pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin have been involved in more overdose deaths than heroin and cocaine combined.



Myth: Marijuana is not addictive.

Truth: 1 of 11 people who use it become addicted. Hey Oregon, what are you thinking?

Myth: Hard liquor drinks are more addictive than beer or wine.

Truth: Alcohol is king as the most addictive substance in the U.S. One of every 12 adults suffer from its abuse or dependence. And it does not matter what liquid form you drink. (But wine stains on the white carpet are harder to get out!)





MYTH: I COULD NEVER BE A FOSTER PARENT BECAUSE I'M NOT MARRIED AND DON'T MAKE A LOT OF MONEY AND DON'T OWN MY HOME AND DON'T EVEN MAKE MY BED IN THE MORNING.

BUSTED



Fact: You're a perfect match—for some lucky child.

You just need compassion, patience, and a willingness to help a child and their family during a difficult time. You don't have to be married and you can rent. The only financial requirement is that you have enough income to support yourself and your family aside from the money you are reimbursed to care for a child living in foster care. You can call 2-1-1 Idaho CareLine for more info.



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WELFARE QUEEN MYTH: “THERE’S A WOMAN IN CHICAGO. SHE HAS 80 NAMES, 30 ADDRESSES, 12 SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS. ... SHE’S GOT MEDICAID, GETTING FOOD STAMPS AND SHE IS COLLECTING WELFARE UNDER EACH OF HER NAMES. HER TAX-FREE CASH INCOME ALONE IS OVER \$150,000” – RONALD REAGAN DURING 1976 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN



BUSTED

Fiction, But Reagan Won the Presidency!

Actually, it was not all fiction. He put the facts together from three different women, all who were abusing the system.

But that was 1976.

Welfare reform in 1996 dethroned the welfare queen and put her to work. States were given more control of welfare programs, instituting work requirements and time limits for benefits. As a result, people now have to be working or taking part in job search activities if they receive Food Stamps or cash assistance.

Technology is now the ruler. DHW's benefit eligibility process relies on more than 20 state and federal databases to verify identity, obtain or check information, and reduce fraud and abuse





MYTH: A WOMAN CAN CASH IN ON WELFARE BY HAVING MORE CHILDREN

BUSTED



Fiction: In Idaho, the maximum cash assistance available is \$309/month. That's for 1 child... or 16.

- There's a 2-year lifetime limit for cash assistance.
- The program requires recipients to be in job training or working -- No freeloaders!!
- Each month, 200 family households receive cash assistance. That's out of 578,000 Idaho households!



Octomom X 2



MYTH: POOR PEOPLE CAN GET HEALTHCARE THROUGH MEDICAID

BUSTED

Fiction: Healthy, working age adults are not eligible for Idaho Medicaid—even if they are poor or unemployed or homeless.

Who's eligible?

- Low-income pregnant women
- Children from low income families
- People with disabilities
- Low-income elderly
- Adults, with children in the home, who are extremely low-income.



Can you believe a monthly income limit of \$517/month for a family of four? \$518 earnings and you buy your own insurance....with what?

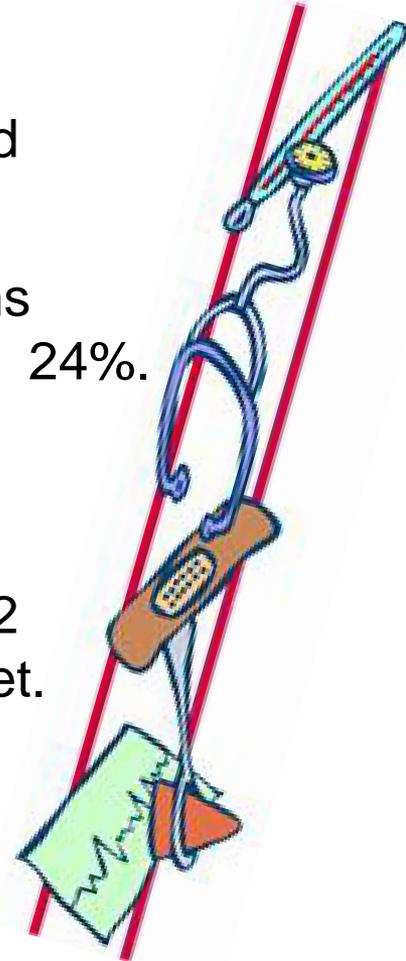
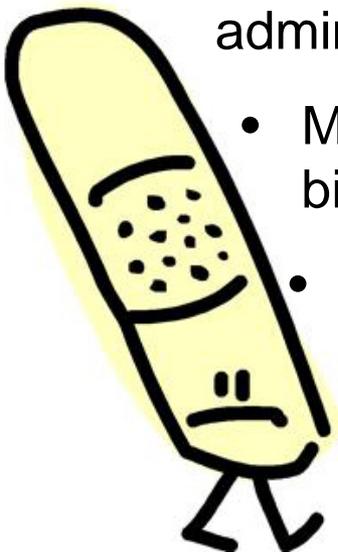


BUT DID YOU KNOW.....?



- Medicaid averaged 252,600 participants in SFY 2014. Children make up 74% of enrollment, but only 36% of expenses.
- Medicaid pays for approximately 44% of all prenatal care and deliveries in Idaho.
- The federal government pays about 70% of all medical claims in the program. State general fund (tax dollars!) account for 24%.
- 97% of Medicaid's budget is paid out in claims. 3% is for administration and personnel.

- Medicaid's SFY 2015 budget is a little more than \$2 billion and accounts for 80% of DHW's total budget.
- Stump the Chump: Do you know the difference between Medicare and Medicaid?





ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAN RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS

BUSTED

Fiction: Undocumented immigrants have never been eligible for Food Stamps.



- Legal immigrants can only get Food Stamps if they have lived in the U.S. for at least five years.
- Refugees can receive Food Stamp benefits if they meet other eligibility requirements.
- Many immigrants are reluctant to apply for Food Stamps because of language barriers or fear it will affect their immigration status.



BUT DID YOU KNOW.....?



- 82% of all SNAP benefits go to households with children, elderly or people with a disability.
- The average Food Stamp benefit is \$115/month. That's \$3.83/day or \$1.28/meal. A 4-piece Chicken McNuggets Happy Meal costs \$2.99.



- Food Stamps cannot be used for alcohol, tobacco, pet food, medicine, household supplies, or prepared and hot foods.
- Unless a small child is in the household, participants must work or be in job training.

- Increased oversight has reduced trafficking to less than 1% of benefits.



- Idaho's enrollment peaked at 238,000 in January 2012, but is now less than 200,000





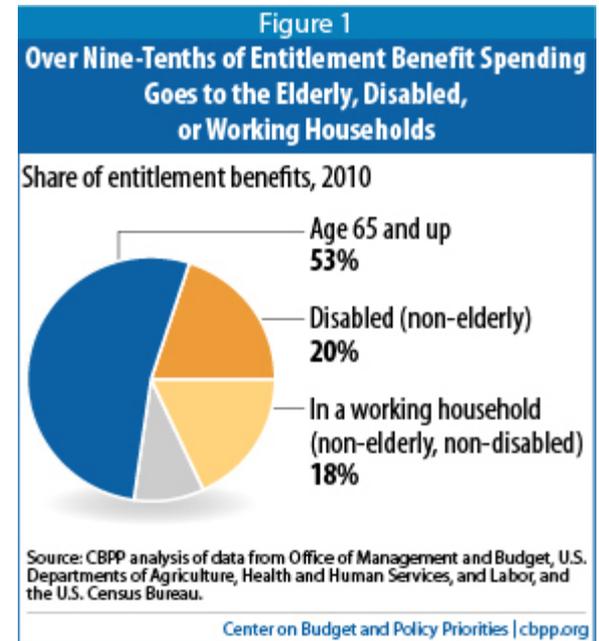
WELFARE SPENDING ON NON-WORKERS IS SINKING THE U.S BUDGET



Fiction: More than 90% of Welfare budget goes to the elderly, disabled or members of working households. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2012*

Only 12% of federal budget goes to safety net programs. The big federal spenders:

- 24% to Social Security
- 22% to Medicare and Medicaid
- 19% for Defense and Security
- 8% for federal retirees and veterans benefits and pensions.



Quiz: Do you have Ebola?

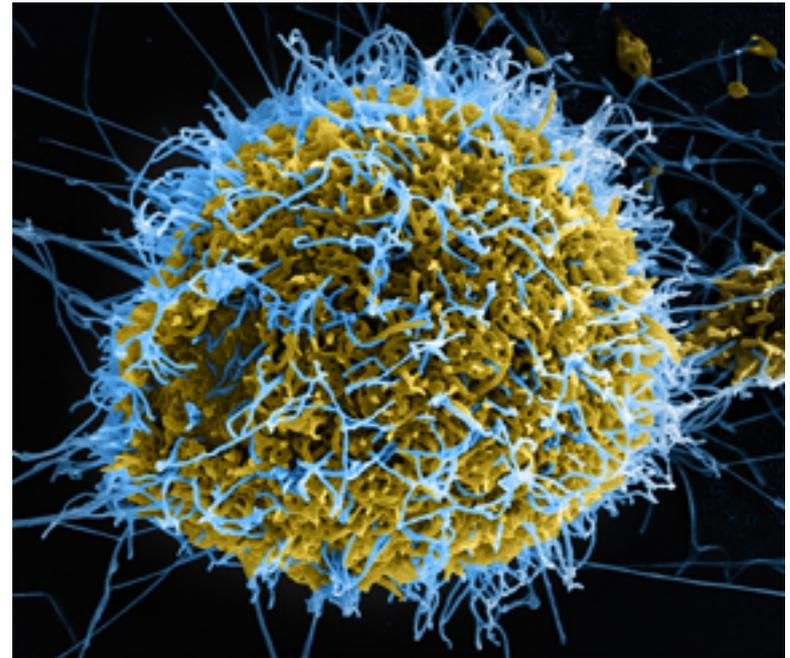


Have you touched the vomit, blood, sweat, saliva, urine or other gross bodily fluids from someone who has Ebola?



- Yes
- No

If No, you do not have Ebola.



Do you watch the news?

- Yes
- No



If yes, you have a highly contagious strain of Ebola, called Fearbola.



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Questions?



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