

Viewpoint: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has used COVID to make anti-vaccine disinformation mainstream

While many nonprofits and businesses have struggled during the pandemic, Kennedy's anti-vaccine group has thrived. An investigation by The Associated Press finds that Children's Health Defense has raked in funding and followers as Kennedy used his star power as a member of one of America's most famous families to open doors, raise money and lend his group credibility. Filings with charity regulators show revenue more than doubled in 2020, to \$6.8 million.

Since the pandemic started, Children's Health Defense has expanded the reach of its newsletter, which uses slanted information, cherry-picked facts and conspiracy theories to spread distrust of the COVID-19 vaccines.

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While there are rare instances when people have severe reactions to vaccines, the billions of doses administered globally provide real world evidence that they are safe. The World Health Organization says vaccines prevent as many as [5 million deaths](#) each year.

During the pandemic, Kennedy has become a near-ubiquitous source of false information about COVID-19 and vaccines. Earlier this year, Kennedy was named one of the "Disinformation Dozen" by the Center for Countering Digital Hate, which says he and the Children's Health Defense website are among the top spreaders of false information about vaccines online.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)