

# 1 in 31: Autism Care & Advocacy in the USA



Presented by  
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Children's  
Health Defense



**the Defender™**  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH DEFENSE NEWS & VIEWS

**April 23, 2026**

# A Tale of Two Towns on a River

Lisa Sykes, *Sacred Spark*

Babies in the River

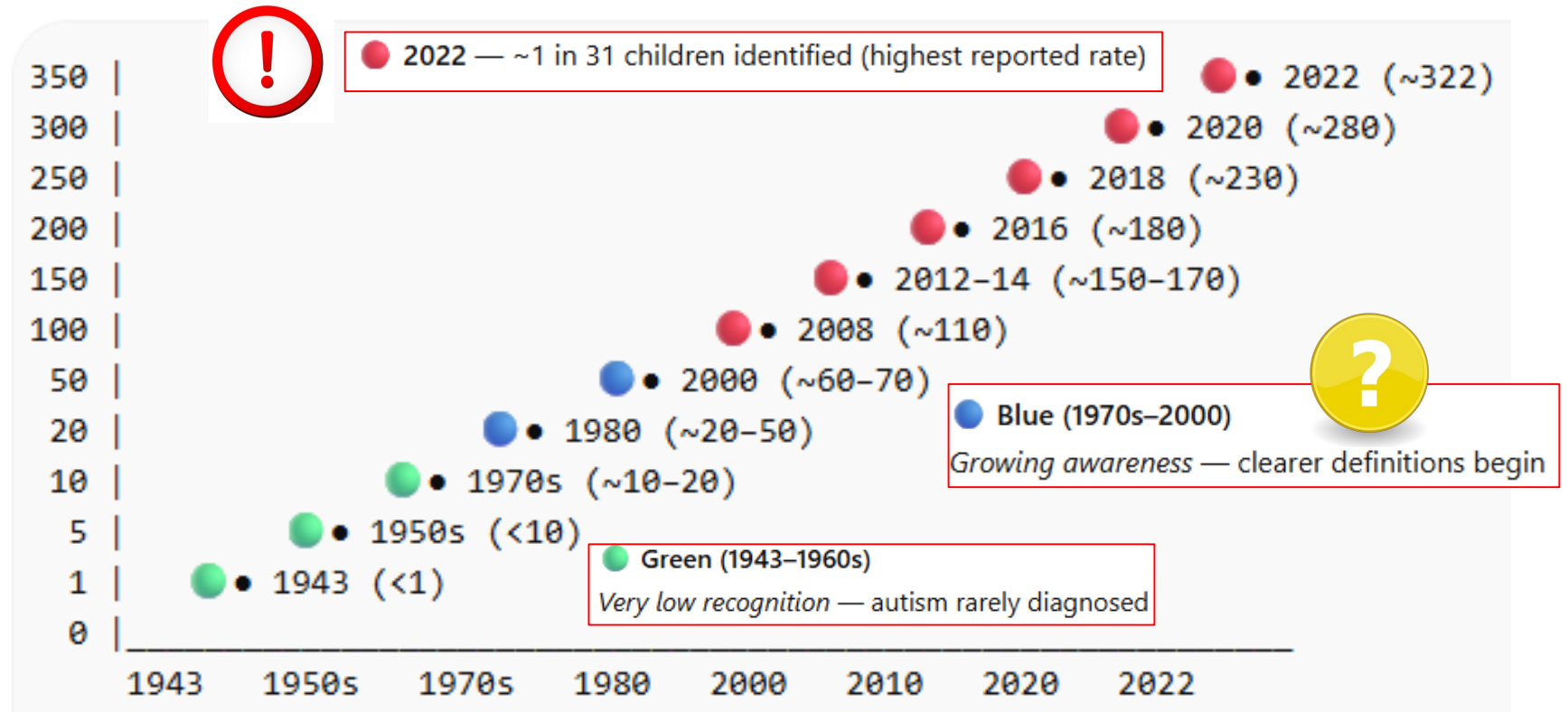
88% of Autism is Regressive

I. CARE

II. ADVOCACY

# Rise in Autism Identification (1943–2022)

Prevalence (per 10,000 children)



America's children are facing unprecedented epidemics!

# 54% of US Youth are Chronically Ill

WE ARE IN A CRISIS

**4** in **10** kids  
with  
**Depression**

**1** in **5** kids  
with  
**Obesity**

**1** in **5** kids  
with  
**Suicidal Thoughts**

**1** in **6** kids  
with  
**Developmental  
Disorders**

**1** in **10** kids  
with  
**Anxiety**

**1** in **10** kids  
with  
**ADHD**

**1** in **12** kids  
with  
**Asthma**

**1** in **13** kids  
with  
**Food Allergies**

**1** in **44** kids  
with  
**Autism**

**1** in **285** kids  
with  
**Cancer by Age 20**



# Characteristics of Autism

The range of autism characteristics varies greatly and may be recognized as early as 18 months.

## Communication & Social Traits

### 1. Pragmatic (Social) Language Difficulties

- Trouble with back-and-forth conversation
- Delays in speech or language development
- Difficulty understanding jokes, sarcasm, or implied meaning

### 2. Eye Contact & Nonverbal Communication

- Limited or avoided eye contact
- Difficulty reading facial expressions or body language
- May not use gestures (pointing, waving) naturally

### 3. Tone of Voice Differences

- Speech may sound monotone, unusually loud, or very quiet
- Rhythm and pitch of speech may seem "off" or robotic

## Behavioral Traits

### 1. Repetitive Behaviors (Stimming)

- Movements like rocking, hand-flapping, spinning
- Repeating sounds, words, or actions
- Unusual use of objects (e.g., spinning wheels instead of playing with the toy as intended)

### 2. Ritualistic or Rigid Patterns

- Strong preference for routines
- Eating same foods or watching the same content repeatedly
- Distress when routines are disrupted or plans change

### 3. Self-Injurious Behaviors

- Head banging, biting, scratching
- Often linked to sensory overload, frustration, or communication challenges
- Requires medical and behavioral support

**PROFOUND  
AUTISM**

# What is PROFOUND AUTISM?

US: About **26.7% (750,000)** of autistic individuals (**1 in 4**) meet the criteria requiring 24/7 care.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

"People with profound autism as those who "will never pay taxes, they'll never hold a job, they'll never play baseball, they'll never write a poem, they'll never go out on a date," and added that "many of them will never use a toilet unassisted".

**VS**



Elizabeth Warren @SenWarren · Apr 17

I won't share RFK Jr.'s lies about autism.

It's disgusting and dangerous.

If he had a shred of decency, he would apologize and resign.

Autistic people contribute every day to our nation's greatness.

To every kid with autism, I'm in this fight all the way for you.



# Autism Prevalence

1% of the world's population has autism.



1%

Globally, the rate of autism in the population tends to be between **60 and 100 children diagnosed per 10,000**. **Approx. 80 MILLION**.

The average across all countries combined is about **83.2 children diagnosed for every 10,000**. In total, around **43 countries** have diagnostic rates that are lower than this average.



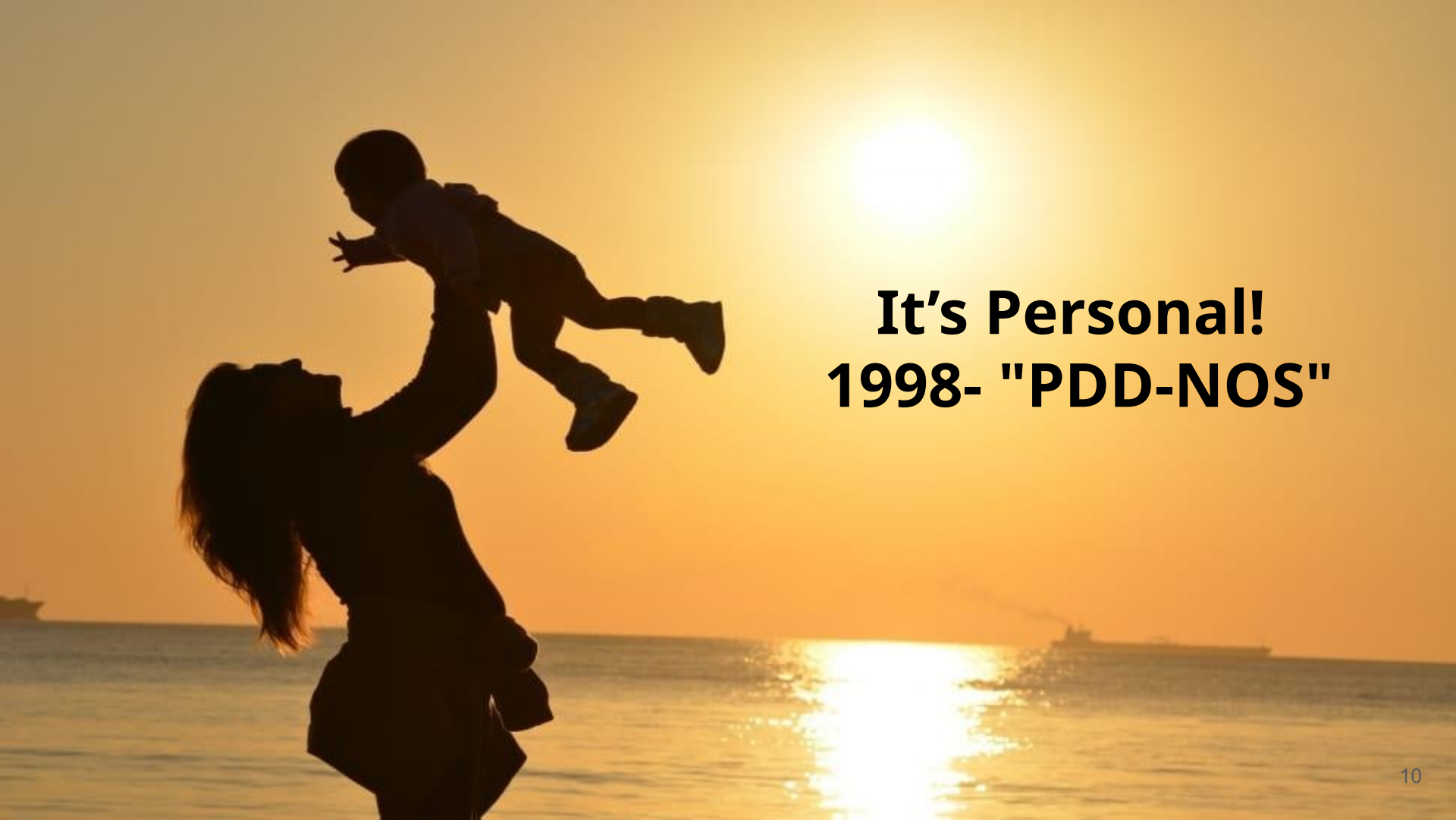
Countries with low diagnosed autism are in Europe.

- The lowest rate of diagnosed autism is in France, with about 69 out of every 10,000 children diagnosed.
- About 1 out of every 144 children in France is given an autism diagnosis, followed by 1 out of every 142 children in Portugal.
- About 1 out of every 139 children is given an autism diagnosis in Iceland, Norway, Germany, and Italy.
- The next four countries with the lowest rates of diagnosed autism are Greece, Austria, Belgium, & Spain.



The country with the highest rate of diagnosed autism in the world is Qatar.

- High rate of diagnosed autism in the world is Qatar, with about 1 in 66 people being diagnosed.
- About 151 people per 10,000, followed by 112 people per 10,000 in the United Arab Emirates.
- Oman, Bahrain, & Saudi Arabia have rates higher than 100 people per 10,000, at 107, 103, and 101 respectively.
- The next five countries with the highest rate of diagnosed autism are Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Afghanistan, and Palestine.



**It's Personal!  
1998- "PDD-NOS"**

## Genetics Don't Suddenly Create Epidemics!

- 501 published papers
- \$2.3 billion dollars & research (nothing to show)
- Never control for vaccination status

It's not better awareness

Why the Increase?

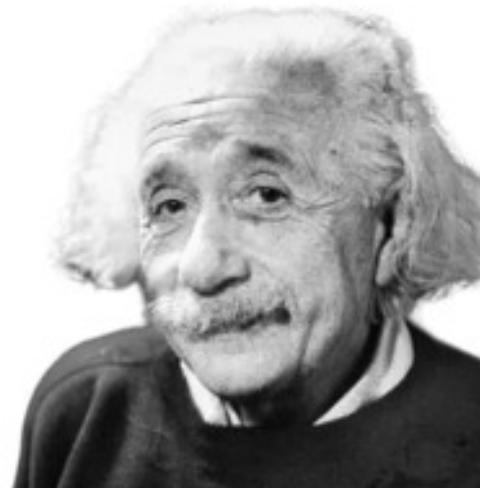


# Two Key Adages:



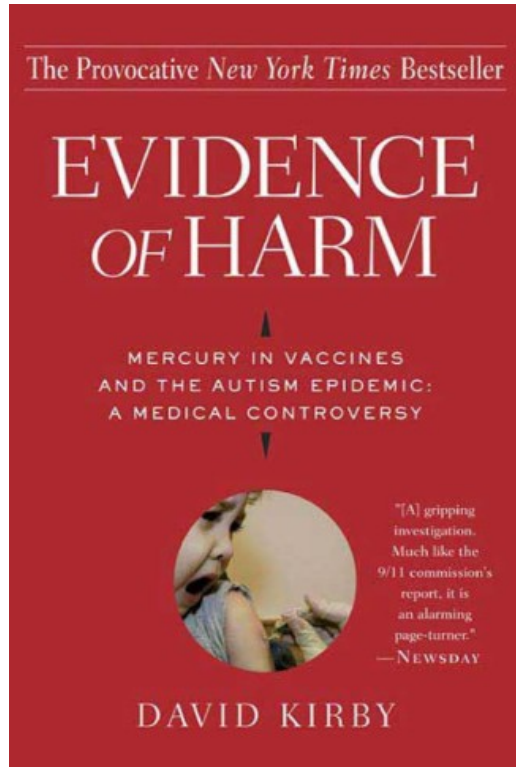
Incentives Dictate Outcomes.

"We cannot solve our  
problems with the same  
thinking we used when we  
created them."  
**-Albert Einstein**

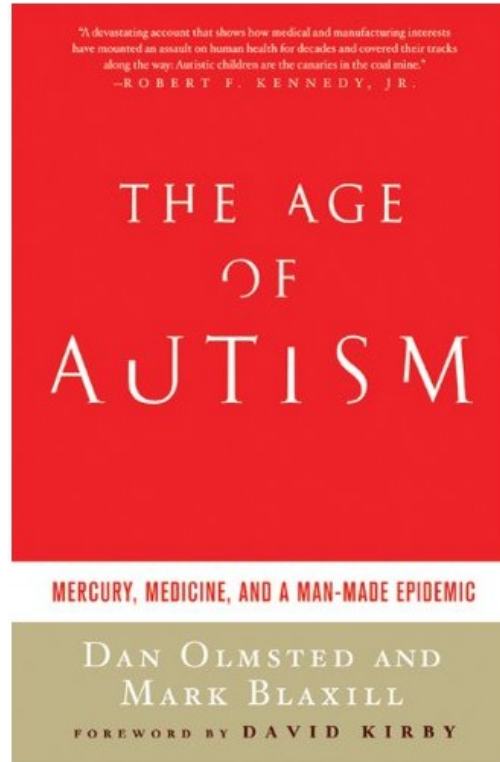


# Key Books on Autism

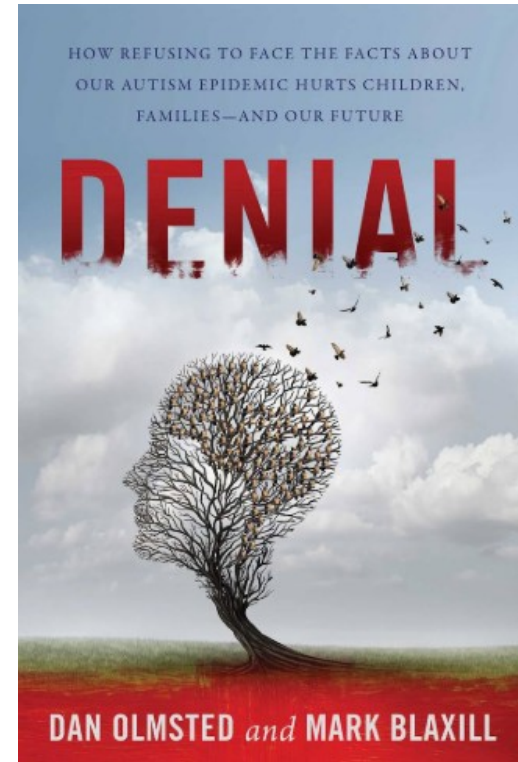
2005



2010



2017



# CARE:

- Recognize that your child has been POISONED
- The problem is NOT PSYCHIATRIC
- Start Spelling/Letterboarding and other means of communication
- Biomedical interventions: diet and everything else to heal the child

# Spelling to Communicate (S2C) / Rapid Prompting Method (RPM)

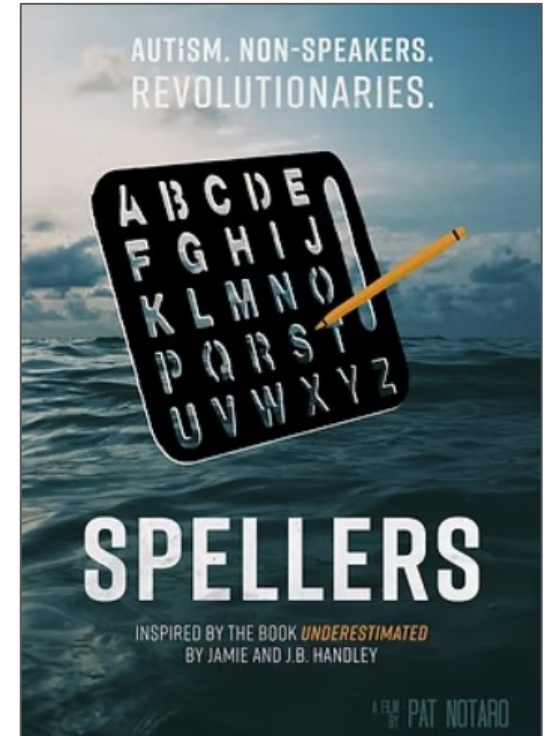
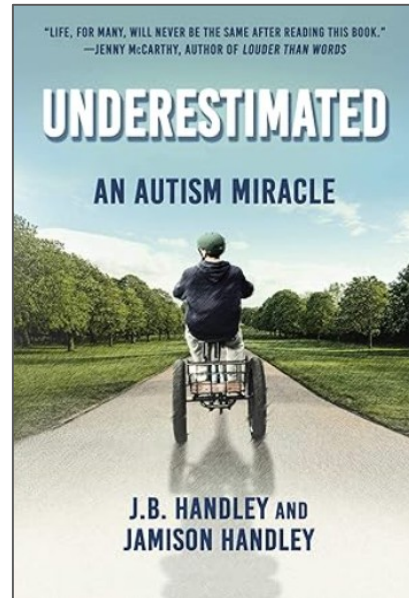
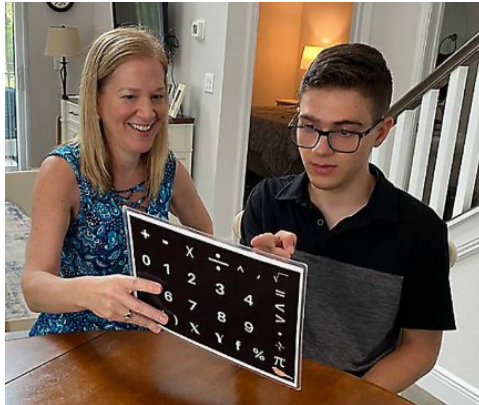


The Gamechanger - "What if they'd been wrong...about every single one of them?"

*"People whose inside doesn't match their outside are people like me." - Unreliable Speaker*

*"In typing, that is where the true me is." - NonVerbal Speaker*

*"I yearn to be in the conversation about the topic at hand, but knowing that I can't be in it. I can totally get very good ideas about what I want to say. Then I can't say them."*

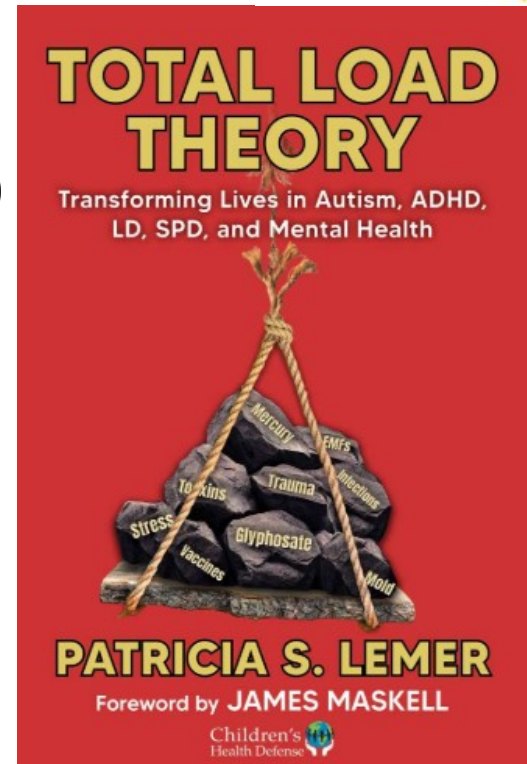


WATCH ON YOUTUBE

# Many Valuable Therapies; Each Person Unique

WE HAVE TO LOOK AT  
THE "TOTAL LOAD"!

- 🎵 Music therapy – engagement, communication, emotional
- 🐾 Animal-assisted therapy – emotional regulation, motivation
- 🧘 Sensory-based interventions – swings, weighted tools
- 🥗 Dietary changes (gluten-free/casein-free diets, KETO, Carinove)
- 💊 Supplements (omega-3s, vitamins, probiotics)
- 🧠 Neurofeedback – brainwave training (early-stage evidence)
- 🧠 Arrowsmith Program - brain plasticity
- 👁️ Vision therapy / 👂 Auditory therapy - [Tomatis Method](#)
- 🩸 Medications – Leucovorin, CBD
- 🧴 Homotoxicology - developed by Hans-Heinrich Reckeweg
- 🩸 Stem Cell treatments
- 🐕 Service Dogs
- 🌳 Nature!



**From autism diagnosis...**



**to adult with autism.**



# **Overall Cost of ASD Special Education (U.S.) (2024)**

## **Per Student, Per Year, ages 5-21**

- Typical range: **\$25,000 – \$90,000**
- High-support programs: **\$80,000 – \$150,000+**
- Specialized autism schools: **\$130,000–\$140,000+**

**Lifetime education cost (ages 5–21, autism) - Derived estimate based on U.S. special education and intensive autism service cost research:  
\$425,000 to \$5.1 million per student**

**Average Lifetime \$ cost of care for person with  
Autism is about \$3.2-\$3.6 Million\*.**

## Post Secondary Education / Vocational and Employment

**Sources:** *U.S. Department of Education (2014-2016), Bureau of Labor Statistics (2022)* / U.S. Department of Education, Drexel University A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, National Center for Education Statistics

- Roughly 30–35% of students with autism enroll in some form of postsecondary education: 2-4 year college or vocational rehabilitation (VR) services.
- Only 21% of people w/disabilities, including autism, are employed.
- Only 27% of adults with autism in state developmental disability services had paid employment
- 99% of autistic adults needing employment services do not receive them

## Housing

**Sources:** Autism Speaks, Drexel University A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Nearly 87% of autistic adults live with a parent or caregiver after high school.
- Only about 17–20% live independently in their own home or apartment.
- Many rely on family support or supervised living arrangements.
- There is a significant shortage of affordable, supportive housing options for autistic adults.
- Transitioning to independent living is often limited by: Employment challenges; Financial constraints; Need for daily living support

# ADVOCACY

- "Pay it Forward"
  - Barbara Lowe Fisher, David Kirby, Dan Olmsted, Mark Blaxill, Lyn Redwood, Laura Bono

Let's Stop the Mad Men and Women in the Village Upstream!

Metal-cines (Metals + Medicines) – Hg and Al

CHD Tenets:

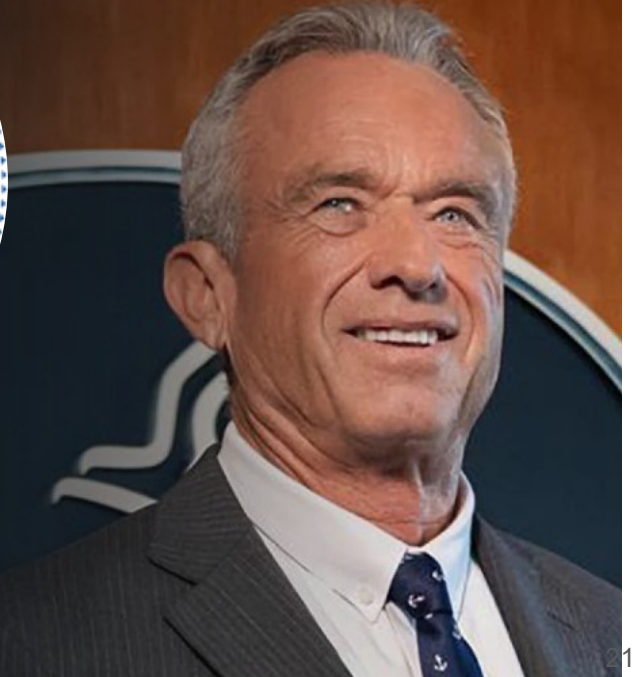
1. Educate about the Harms of Toxic Exposures
2. Hold Those Accountable who are Creating them and seek redress  
school for spellers; precedent for the blind and deaf
3. Put in place Safeguards—no medical mandates; no compulsory metal-cines

**"A healthy person has a thousand dreams,  
a sick person has only one." - Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**

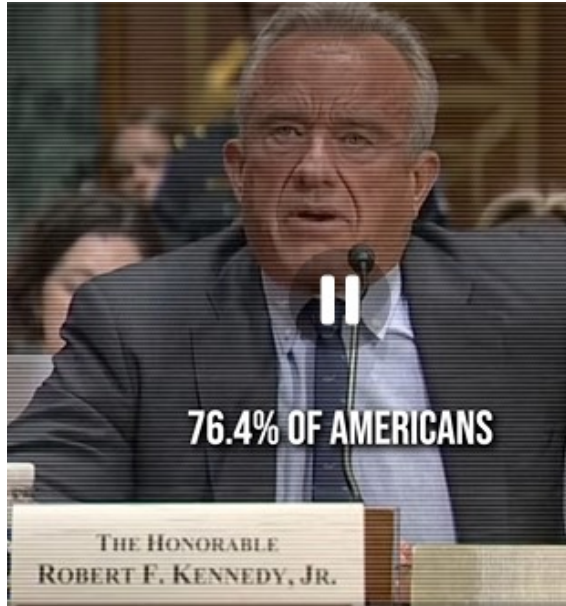
YEAR ONE OF  
**MAHA**

**Building a healthier, stronger America**

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Kennedy, HHS is taking bold, decisive action to reform America's food, health, and scientific systems to identify the root causes of the chronic disease epidemic and Make America Healthy Again.



**We (the United States) have the sickest population in the world.  
That is a failure of government.**



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as the 26th U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on **February 13, 2025**. His appointment was confirmed by a Senate vote of 52-48. After his confirmation, President Trump issued an Executive Order establishing the **Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission**, which Secretary Kennedy was tasked to chair.

# Snapshot: Year One of MAHA

## Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

HHS is rapidly implementing President Trump's Most-Favored-Nation drug pricing order that will significantly reduce Americans' prescription costs.

## Bringing Back Physical Fitness

Sec. Kennedy and DOW Sec. Hegseth brought physical fitness back into the mainstream with the Pete & Bobby Challenge

## Dairy Industry Pledges to Remove Artificial Dyes

The dairy industry has pledged to eliminate artificial food dyes from ice cream by 2028, a voluntary step applauded by HHS, USDA, and FDA.

## Restoring Biological Truth

HHS issued guidance defending women and children, restoring the concept of biological truth - recognizing there are only two sexes: male and female.

## Cleaning Up Public Drinking Water

Utah became the first state to ban added fluoride in public drinking water, as communities take decisive steps to reduce harmful.

## Demanding Nutrition Education Reforms

Sec. Kennedy and Ed. Sec. McMahon are overhauling nutrition education in U.S. medical training so physicians can prevent diet-related chronic disease.

## Fixing Prior Authorization System

Sec. Kennedy and CMS Admin. Oz secured industry pledges to streamline prior authorization across health plans, cutting red tape and improving care.

## Strengthening Rural Health

CMS unveiled the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program, delivering dignity and dependable care to rural America.

## Expanding MAHA to Head Start

HHS invested \$61.9 million to strengthen nutrition in Head Start programs, expanding access to fresh, healthy food for more than 100,000 families.

## Overhauling the GRAS Standard

Sec. Kennedy and the FDA plan to close the GRAS (generally recognized as safe) loophole that allows untested ingredients into the food supply.

## AI-Backed Childhood Cancer Research Doubled

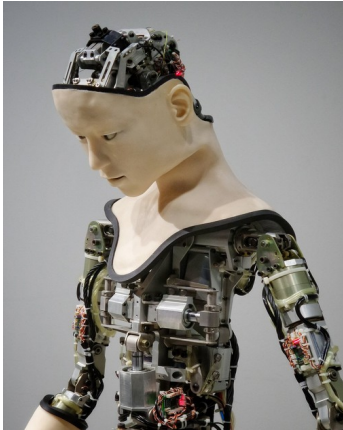
HHS doubled the funding for its Childhood Cancer Data Initiative to accelerate the development of improved diagnostics, treatments, and prevention.



## Working for our Children's Future



## Beyond 2023



## WHAT IS A 15 MINUTE CITY?



# What does "Winning" mean?



## Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)

### win·ning

*adjective*

adjective: **winning**; superlative adjective: **winningest**

1. gaining, resulting in, or relating to victory in a contest or competition.  
"a winning streak"

**Similar:** victorious successful triumphant vanquishing conquering first 

2. attractive; endearing.  
"a winning smile"

**Similar:** engaging charming appealing endearing sweet cute 

*noun*

plural noun: **winnings**; noun: **winning**

money won, especially by gambling.  
"he went to collect his winnings"

**Similar:** prize money money won gains prize(s) booty spoils 

# How Do We Get There? How Did We Get Here?

- "You are the change you are seeking."
- Community!
- Lessons of MAHA – expand the coalition:
  - issues: food, air, water, medicines, wireless radiation
  - affected: all with chronic disease—asthma, allergies, ADHD, cancer, COVID-injured
- We are millions and billions
- Challenge censorship and repression
  - expose it
  - use new media opportunities, eg podcasts, Substack, Peertube
  - recognize mainstream media is dying and dead
  - Be Wary of Digital IDs/Digital Currency

## LOOKING BACK OVER 25 YEARS:

- now over 100 people employed full-time
  - CHD, ICAN, MAHA, SfHF, React19
- now visibility in "mainstream"
- now have aligned Secretary of HHS
- now have hearings on public health policy
  - eg COVID inquiries in US and Italy
- public opinion has shifted!
  - Left-leaning poll – 46% of US opposes vaccine mandates and believes the official science narrative is dubious
- Measles drumbeat increasingly silly
- Suppression of truth becoming more obvious



- **YOU decide what goes in your body and your minor children; prior, free and informed consent;**
- **NO medical mandates of any kind;**
- **NO "minor consent" doctrines by any name;**
- **NO liability protections for vaccines and "medical countermeasures";**
- **Transparency and accountability, including criminal prosecution for what happened during COVID and before.**

# We Are CHD

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/  
1Oq43Js8LWxmR7svSux4PgyAanOrQHqzM](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Oq43Js8LWxmR7svSux4PgyAanOrQHqzM)

# THANK YOU

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