

Ethics of Opting-out of Vaccinations



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Outline

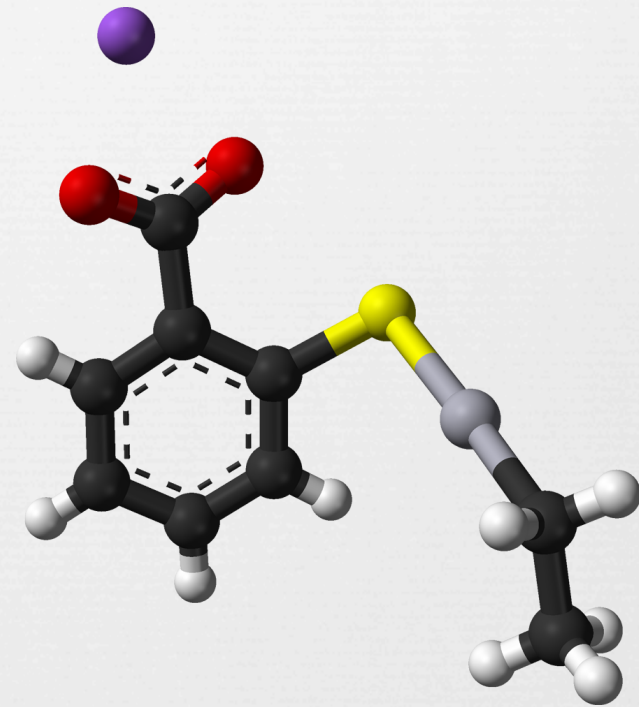


- ∞ Causes of caution
- ∞ Scientific results
- ∞ Effects
- ∞ Ethical implications

Thimerasol



- Contains mercury
- Used as a preservative
- Phased out in US by 2001



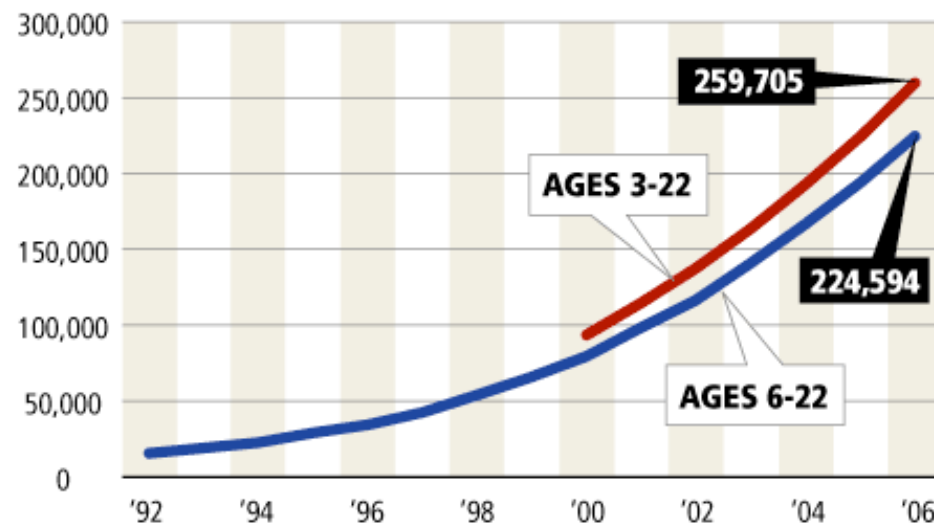
Autism Rates



RECOGNIZED CASES OF AUTISM IN U.S.

Cases of diagnosed autism spectrum disorders have increased dramatically. But it is not clear how much of this is because of improved diagnosis and expanded classifications of autism versus an actual increase in the disorder. Today, scientists estimate that 1 in 150 children has an autism spectrum disorder.

Number of cases



Sources: www.fightingautism.org, www.ideadata.org, Centers for Disease Control SEATTLE P-1

MMR Controversy



℞ **M**easles

℞ **M**umps

℞ **R**ubella

℞ The Lancet paper

℞ Danish study

MMR Effects



- ❧ Vaccination rates:
 - ❧ <80% in London
 - ❧ 70% in Ireland

- ❧ Outbreak
 - ❧ 110 infants in critical condition
 - ❧ 3 died of preventable disease

Herd Immunity



- ❧ Cannot be vaccinated:
 - ❧ Too young
 - ❧ Immunological disorders
 - ❧ Transplant patients

- ❧ Decline vaccinations:
 - ❧ Religious grounds
 - ❧ Health/safety reasons

Eradication



↻ Eradicated:

↻ Smallpox

↻ Scheduled for eradication:

↻ Polio

↻ Measles

↻ Rubella

Ethics



- ❧ Every vaccination carries a small risk
- ❧ Should some be allowed to avoid it?
- ❧ “If the vaccines work, who am I putting at risk?”
- ❧ Effects on autism research

Conclusion



- ∞ Wellbeing of a child
- ∞ Welfare of community
- ∞ Trust in doctors/scientific community

References



- ❧ Frontline: The Vaccine War
- ❧ Centers for Disease Control
- ❧ AAP
- ❧ The Lancet