

According to data provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the increased autism rate in California is in

Autism is a severely incapacitating developmental disability for which there is no known cure. According to a report from the California Caseload Study, the rate of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Changes in the California Caseload: 1999-2002, the rate of children with Autism is a doubling of autism cases every four years, and the staggering increases are not limited to California.

The mother of an autistic child wonders aloud when health officials will wake up to the epidemic that has taken hold. She muses, "Maybe someday this will be as important as SARS and we'll get the same attention."

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VACCINES MAY FUEL AUTISM EPIDEMIC

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The authors concluded that "in light of voluminous literature supporting the biologic mechanisms for mercury childhood vaccines exceeding federal safety guidelines for the oral ingestion of mercury and previous epidemiology between thimerosal-containing childhood vaccines and neurodevelopment disorders and heart disease appear it is no secret among government and health officials that mercury is toxic and causes serious adverse reactions. It issued a joint statement calling for the removal of thimerosal from vaccines. Five years after the joint statement companies have indeed removed the toxic substance from their vaccines.

According to Mark Geier, "The 2003 Physicians' Desk Reference [PDR] still shows childhood vaccine manufactured by Aventis Pasteur, contains 25 µg [25 micrograms] of mercury, Hemophilus influenzae b (H vaccine, manufactured by Merck, contains 12.5 µg of mercury."

Geier continues, "In addition, the influenza vaccine that is recommended for an increasing segment of the pediatric population, it is possible that children in the U.S. in 2003 may be exposed to levels of mercury from thimerosal. Possible total childhood mercury in 2003 is more than 300 µg."

Whether the "labeling is correct" is the question du jour. According to Len Lavenda, a spokesman for Aventis Pasteur, "The PDR references both the single and multidosage. However, when we received the license for the multidosage formulation, we were waiting for approval. I believe it is at the FDA waiting for approval. We did not recall the product at that time because it was not yet on the market. We have been able to purchase the preservative formulation from us."

Lavenda continues: "The package insert talks about both the single and multidosage vials and it says that the parents don't have to worry about their children being administered 25 µg of thimerosal. It just takes time to get the product marketed."

Geier is astounded by Lavenda's admission. "If this is true, they should be in jail. They can't have an insert on a shot and the insert says such and such is in the shot, it had better be in it. If doctors can't rely on the insert, then admitting that thimerosal is still in the vaccine. There are at least 15 laws that say the insert should be in the insert and the accompanying product should be based on their labeling."

Assuming that the package inserts are correct, Geier tells Insight, "The EPA limit is 0.1 micrograms of mercury on their day of birth children are given the hepatitis B vaccine, which is 12.5 micrograms of mercury. The average of mercury – but in this one shot they are getting 12.5 micrograms. That's 39 times more than allowed by law. And this limit is for oral ingestion and not injection, which is much worse."

Rhonda Smith, a spokeswoman for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tells Insignia licensed vaccines," says Smith, "that are currently being manufactured for children in the U.S., except influenza." But according to the 2003 immunization schedule and the package inserts, there appear to be a diphtheria.

This scenario becomes even more bizarre when one further considers that thimerosal is not a necessary component and is added to vaccines only as a preservative – the theory being that multiple doses are taken according to Geier, "the solution to any such problem is to make vaccines available in a single dose, which is up the mumps, measles, rubella [MMR] vaccines in the PDR you'll see that they do not contain thimerosal but there is no preservative – nothing. What they did was put a label on it that says "This product does not contain

Geier insists, "I'm pro-vaccines, but the bottom line is that our kids are getting massive amounts of mercury injecting it into our children. Everyone should absolutely refuse to take a vaccine shot that has thimerosal in it more mercury children received in their childhood vaccines the more neurodevelopmental disorders there are support it."

So, if everyone acknowledges the toxicity of mercury and top U.S. health

officials have called for its removal, why is thimerosal still in vaccines? "Maybe," concludes Geier, "the mercury would see an unbelievable change in the rate of autism and there would be massive lawsuits. If you look at numbers fall dramatically."

Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), a longtime advocate for victims of autism, has a grandson who became autistic after years to the White House asking for a conference of scientists, researchers and parents to look into the cause mercury in vaccines is a major contributing factor to a growing number of neurological disorders among children

Burton explains that "thimerosal is a toxic substance – mercury – and should not be put in close proximity of immune system that may not be able to handle it. To my knowledge there never have been long-term tests we've got is an epidemic that is absolutely out of control."

The Indiana congressman continues, "One reason this isn't getting the attention it needs is that the Food and Drug Administration

Services [HHS] and the Centers for Disease Control. I've said in the past that in some cases it appears that pharmaceuticals, which I think have undue influence on our health agencies. Of course, they may not be pharmaceutical companies would have to cough up the money to take care of these kids who have been damaged

Burton means business. He insists, "The FDA, CDC and HHS should put out in a very public way the danger causing these problems. So the reports that come out of the FDA, CDC and HHS use ambiguous terms. We cause autism, they ought to get thimerosal off the market. Too many kids are being ruined for life because of

