

Data problems

Sampling

1. Half the sample (239/479) was recruited through anti-vaccine organizations and influencers:
 - Autism Action Network 76
 - CHD 64
 - Substack 30
 - Lara Logan 21
 - Sharyl Attkisson 20
 - TrialSite 10
 - MAHA, Martenson and AutismWarriorMom 8

Another 103 came via "Facebook post" or "direct invite via email," with no indication of whose.

2. Only 32 (7%) came from autism clinics or support groups, all after the Aug 31 revision.
3. Recruitment came in bursts tied to single mailings. 67 AAN responses arrived on Aug 26, and 37 CHD responses on Aug 30.
4. 74% name vaccines as the cause in free text. The sample is selected on the conclusion being tested.
5. There is no control group and no expected distribution. Nothing tells us how onsets would fall relative to visits in children with no vaccine hypothesis.

Instrument

6. The key variable is days since the last pediatrician visit. Vaccine timing is asked only in two late-added items, answered by 19 people and 1 person.
7. The interval only runs forward. Besides "never had a visit," the one non-"after" option is "same day, BEFORE the doctor saw my child." An onset shortly before a visit is recorded as a long interval after the previous visit.
8. The bins are unequal: single days for days 0–7, then 6-, 16- and 30-day bins. That exaggerates the early spike.

9. The items lead. "Vaccination" and "Tylenol" are tick-box options in the checklist of events in the 3 days before onset. One interval option is "same day, AFTER the doctor saw my child." The cause question comes before the timing questions.
10. Well-child visits are where developmental surveillance and M-CHAT screening happen (18 and 24 months). Concerns get identified at visits. Onset ages pile up on visit ages: 180 of 472 (38%) are exactly 12, 15, 18 or 24 months.
11. The instrument changed repeatedly during collection (Aug 27, Aug 31, Sep 3, Sep 5). The "Source" field was replaced by "Source New." Most added fields cover a fraction of respondents.
12. Once the survey asked about developmental pattern, only 32 of 96 reported normal development followed by regression, and only 25 could name an onset date. The first ~380 respondents were never screened this way, so everyone was pushed to date an onset against a visit.

Recall and verification

13. 86% of those who answered say the event was more than 5 years ago.
14. 191 are "absolutely certain" of a day-level interval for events more than 5 years ago. Among all "absolutely certain" respondents, 21 also say the onset date could be off by a month or more, and 28 also say it was "too long ago" to remember the preceding 3 days.
15. 154 of 479 have a missing interval or answered "don't remember."
16. No records were collected. 118 said producing records was unlikely or highly unlikely, 99 said "maybe," and only 75 were certain they could.
17. The diagnosis is unverified. Of the 228 asked, 26 have no formal diagnosis and 24 were diagnosed by a pediatrician.

Integrity

18. 78 submissions are missing. IDs begin at 46, and there are 33 gaps between 46 and 557. There is no exclusion log.
19. Some onset ages are impossible: 2212 months and 1122 months. 15 more fall at 7–18 years.
20. 20 respondents are coded "no vaccines ever given"; 6 of them describe a vaccine as the trigger.

21. Records aren't independent. The data include siblings and twins, one grandmother reporting two grandchildren, and at least one respondent who entered several children on one form (#267).
22. "How long ago" contradicts the narratives. Examples: "3–6 months ago" for a 2007 event (#421), "1–2 years ago" for a daughter who is now 33 (#126).
23. The released file contains identifying information: children's first names, birthdates, vaccination dates and lot numbers, named clinics and hospitals, and at least one email address.

Narrative problems

1. **Co-exposures.** 132 of the 223 who ticked "Vaccination" also ticked fever, illness, ear infection, antibiotics or Tylenol in the same 3-day window. Many children were sick at the time of vaccination.
2. **Wrong condition or wrong age.** 50 records describe something other than early-childhood autism:
 - onset after age 6
 - explicitly "not autism"
 - Tourette's, ADEM, ITP, PANDAS, a metabolic disorder or hypoxic birth injury
 - no formal diagnosis
3. **Unvaccinated onsets.** At least 24 unvaccinated children in the data had regressions or onsets, which respondents timed to illness, surgery, diet or formula.
4. **Belief formed later.** 22 narratives say the vaccine link was made years afterward. 8 of those name the source: RFK Jr., Rimland, Wakefield, VAXXED, Highwire/Siri/McCullough, "Covid vaccine results," or their own research.
5. **Confounders ignored.** 15 records blame vaccines despite serious documented alternatives:
 - named genetic syndromes (SYNGAP1, Pendred, Waardenburg)
 - a gene deletion or exome finding
 - extreme prematurity or NICU stays
 - prenatal drug exposure
 - an autistic parent or strong family history

16 more invoke MTHFR.

6. **Proxy reports.** 8 come from grandparents, aunts or guardians, including one reporting a granddaughter who "is fine" (#396).
7. **Gradual onsets coded as sudden.** At least 6 narratives describe a regression over months while the form records an onset within the same week (#84, #113, #166, #167, #348, #378).

Appendix – Narrative issues: Steve, these are examples of narratives that contradict your findings directly, contradict their own claims in their own entries, and severely undermine the data quality you have. **You cannot ignore these. EACH of these cases needs to be tossed.**

"Never vaccinated," yet vaccine-triggered onset

- **#555** is marked "No vaccines were ever given," then describes DTaP and OPV at 18 months with onset the same day, "absolutely certain."
- **#393** is also "No vaccines ever given," with cause listed as the Hep B vaccine and onset the same day after the visit.
- **#368** is "No vaccines ever given," then says "he got a lot of vaccines during the visit." Recovery is credited to church members laying hands on him.
- **#353** is unvaccinated, but a DPT shot was given after a dog bite to the eye. The child was reportedly reading and doing a USA map puzzle before that, at about 33 months. Early reading at that age is itself a recognized feature in some autistic children (hyperlexia).
- **#347** is unvaccinated. The parent believes the ex-husband poisoned the child to avoid child support, and is "absolutely certain" of the timing.
- **#255** is fully unvaccinated, and the parent attributes the regression to methylmalonic acidemia. The parent explicitly says it wasn't vaccines, yet the case sits in the onset data.
- **#260** is unvaccinated with an APGAR score of zero at birth. The parent attributes the autism to hypoxia.

Not autism, or not early childhood, but counted anyway

- **#366** says in its own words: "Not autism, but jaundice, brain tumor, grand mal seizures caused by 0-6 month vaccines."
- **#91** says the child "did not develop autism," but developed tics at 4 and was diagnosed with Tourette's.
- **#114** is "not autistic by any means." It describes fever after a third-grade school immunization, with onset at 84 months.

- **#142** is an HPV vaccine at about 11 years, followed by a diagnosis of autoimmune encephalopathy.
- **#104** is an HPV vaccine followed by an anaphylactic allergy, with onset at 162 months.
- **#514** began with a bike accident at age 8, then an FND diagnosis, with progressive decline afterward.
- **#397** describes a child born in 1977, Tylenol at age 5, and ear pain at 8–9. There is no autism, just a "communication handicap" and ADHD, and the child graduated college.
- **#249** had acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM) confirmed on MRI.
- **#346** had immune thrombocytopenia (ITP).
- **#108** is scarlet fever or strep, framed as PANDAS and treated by a homeopath.

The narrative says gradual; the coding says "next day, absolutely certain"

- **#113** is a self-identified MD whose interval is "next day, absolutely certain." In the notes: "regression wasn't acute or immediate, it took time. Within 6 months..."
- **#330** is "absolutely certain" of the interval. In the narrative: "didn't happen overnight, it took time."
- **#120** is also "absolutely certain," while describing "a gradual change by 18 months."
- **#367** says the parent "never realized it occurred one week after shots for more than 11 years" until seeing dates in the baby book. The symptom was ear fluid at 2 months, which later needed tubes.

The belief came first, the memory after

- **#269** says the child was diagnosed in 1994–95, "before the Wakefield affair. After that, I linked his sudden-onset autism to the MMR."
- **#96** is from 1990. The family "denied it until the horrible Covid vaccine results were made known."
- **#62** connected it only after hearing Bernard Rimland's MMR surveys.
- **#58** has cause listed as "The MMR Vax 100%. And according to Robert Kennedy Jr, the use of tylenol..."

Physiologically implausible details

- **#146:** within hours, "even his head shape changed (got bigger)."
- **#239:** the child's hair turned "orangish and crispy."
- **#61:** after a flu shot, the child's fingernails and toenails fell off. The same story appears in **#214**, where it is an adult sibling after a Hep B shot. That record also blames the grandmother's deafness and the aunt's fatal pancreatic cancer on flu shots.
- **#211:** at 12 months the child was "effectively a linguistic savant, using almost disturbingly complex vocabulary and sentence structure."
- **#208:** the child lost stereoscopic vision.
- **#162** reports "over 100 seizures" and a temperature over 105.1°F. **#133** reports 106°F within 3 hours.

Proxy and hearsay reports

- **#197:** "my sister said her daughter..." This is the respondent's niece, reported secondhand.
- **#398:** an aunt reporting for her deceased sister's child, described as a "first hand report."
- **#341** and **#343:** the same grandmother reporting two granddaughters. One is coded "Recently (within 3 months)," although the child is now 12.
- **#416:** a grandmother whose parents "are in denial about any spectrum disorder." The cause is listed as immunizations plus too much computer time.
- **#450:** a grandmother, with no diagnosis yet (assessment booked for Jan 2027). The cause is the mother's COVID vaccine during pregnancy.

Heavy prenatal and perinatal confounders, attributed to vaccines

- **#92:** prenatal meth and tramadol exposure plus prematurity, yet DTaP is "what pushed her over the edge."
- **#517:** born at 23 weeks with intraventricular hemorrhage, weighing 1 lb 4 oz.
- **#451:** birth parents' cannabis abuse and neglect.
- **#446:** whole-exome sequencing found a genetic disorder that doctors believe causes the autism. The parent writes "we disagree."

The "how long ago" field is also unreliable

- **#421** is coded "3 to 6 months ago" for an event in summer 2007.
- **#126** is coded "1 to 2 years ago," but the daughter is 33.
- **#190** is coded "6 months to 1 year ago" for an event "in the late 80's."

Respondents who flagged the problems themselves

- **#106** called the survey "obviously biased towards trying to blame vaccines," noting non-believers would drop out and that vaccines were the only exposure asked about.
- **#267** said the questions were confusing: "I think I answered this wrong for other kids." This suggests multiple children were entered on one form.
- **#227** has two autistic boys and asked for a question on affected siblings. Siblings, twins (#51, #107, #115) and the grandmother's pair are all in the data as independent observations.