

The autism epidemic is real

The number of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder is on the rise all over the planet.

In **France**, there are an estimated 700 000 individuals on the spectrum, but real figures are probably much higher, as screening procedures and tools are largely insufficient. Disagreement between experts as to the nature of autism (psychopathology or neurologic disorder) treatment options, the lack of appropriate services and denial of parental choice in the children's care, all lead to underdiagnosis and underestimation of autism numbers.

In the **USA**, more than a million have autism and numbers are even higher in young children. 1 in 36 children are now on the spectrum. Since early 1980s, the number of vaccines given to children has nearly quadrupled and the autism rate has gone up more than 30 000% during the same time period.

In the **UK and Northern Ireland**, the situation seems to be even worse. By 2004 the number was hovering round 1% for children in both secondary and primary groups. National Statistics and the Department of Health then stopped collecting data. In 2018, the first school census by a UK health body since 2004, the Northern Ireland Department of Health, found a rate of 1 in 35 across the province, and 1 in 21 in Belfast, while 60% were in the most disabled category.

Autism is the new 'childhood epidemic'.

The cost of denial

In the autism information page of its website, the World Health Organisation acknowledges that there are probably many factors that make a child more likely to have an ASD, including environmental and genetic factors.

In a more detailed report, the WHO evaluated the costs of care for an autistic person throughout its life time between US \$1,4 million and US \$2,4, according to the level of intellectual deficiency. The loss of income for the family of the afflicted member due to the necessity of providing him care, further aggravates the financial burden that goes with this human tragedy.

Going from US \$225 million in 2015, it is estimated that by 2025, the cost of autism could reach US \$1 trillion every year in the USA alone. The need to thoroughly study and investigate all elements likely to influence the incidence of autism, including vaccines, is vital for the survival of our entire society.

To this day, the WHO has done nothing to investigate the 'environmental factors' of autism, while stopping the epidemic should be a priority.