

how to end the autism epidemic

how to end the autism epidemic is a topic that has garnered significant attention from medical professionals, researchers, policymakers, and families worldwide. Exploring effective strategies to address the rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) requires understanding its potential causes, the importance of early intervention, and the role of community awareness. This article offers an in-depth analysis of the autism epidemic, examines current scientific perspectives, and provides practical approaches to support individuals and families affected by ASD. Readers will discover evidence-based prevention strategies, the significance of supportive therapies, and the impact of advocacy and education. By delving into these key areas, the article aims to empower readers with knowledge and actionable insights to help reduce the impact of autism in society. Continue reading to learn how comprehensive efforts—from research to real-world support—can contribute toward ending the autism epidemic.

- Understanding the Autism Epidemic
- Identifying Potential Causes of Autism
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Understanding the Autism Epidemic

The phrase “autism epidemic” refers to the significant increase in the number of diagnosed cases of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) over the past several decades. Once considered a rare condition, autism now affects approximately 1 in 36 children according to recent statistics. The rise in prevalence has sparked global concern and prompted in-depth research to uncover the reasons behind this trend. Understanding the autism epidemic involves examining changes in diagnostic criteria, improved awareness, and shifts in environmental and genetic factors. By gaining a clear perspective on the scope and nature of the epidemic, stakeholders can better formulate strategies to address its impact.

Defining Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorder encompasses a range of neurodevelopmental conditions characterized by challenges in social communication, repetitive behaviors, and restricted interests. The spectrum nature of ASD means symptoms and severity vary widely among individuals. Accurate definition and diagnosis are essential for effective intervention and support.

Trends in Autism Prevalence

Over the past 20 years, reported cases of ASD have risen sharply. While increased awareness and improved diagnostic practices contribute to these figures, ongoing research explores the possibility of genuine increases due to environmental or genetic factors. Monitoring prevalence trends is crucial for public health planning and resource allocation.

Identifying Potential Causes of Autism

Determining what contributes to the autism epidemic is complex and multifactorial. Scientists continue to investigate both genetic predispositions and environmental influences that may increase the risk of ASD. Understanding these causes is vital for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Genetic Factors

Genetic research has established that autism spectrum disorder is strongly heritable. Numerous genes have been linked to ASD, though no single genetic cause has been identified. Gene mutations and variations can affect brain development, leading to symptoms associated with autism.

Environmental Influences

Environmental factors play a significant role in autism risk. Some studied influences include prenatal exposure to chemicals, advanced parental age, complications during pregnancy, and infections. While not all environmental factors are proven contributors, ongoing research aims to clarify their impact.

Interactions Between Genetics and Environment

Most experts agree that the interaction between genetic susceptibility and environmental exposures is key to understanding autism's development. For instance, a child with a genetic predisposition may be more likely to develop ASD if exposed to certain environmental triggers during critical periods of brain development.

Effective Prevention Strategies for Autism

While no single solution exists for preventing autism, several evidence-based approaches can reduce risk and support healthy development. Prevention strategies focus on both public health measures and individual behaviors that optimize prenatal and early childhood environments.

Promoting Maternal Health

Ensuring optimal maternal health before and during pregnancy is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of autism. This includes regular prenatal care, maintaining a balanced diet, managing chronic conditions, and minimizing exposure to toxins and infections.

- Routine prenatal checkups and screenings
- Proper nutrition and supplementation (e.g., folic acid)
- Managing stress and mental health
- Avoiding harmful substances like tobacco, alcohol, and certain medications
- Minimizing exposure to environmental toxins

Reducing Environmental Risk Factors

Public health efforts to lower environmental risks may involve regulating exposure to chemicals, improving air and water quality, and providing education about potential hazards. Research continues to identify specific environmental triggers that may contribute to autism risk.

Genetic Counseling and Awareness

For families with a history of autism, genetic counseling can provide valuable information about risks and options. Increased awareness of genetic factors empowers parents to

make informed decisions regarding family planning and early intervention.

The Role of Early Intervention and Therapies

Early intervention is a cornerstone of efforts to address the autism epidemic. Timely, targeted therapies can significantly improve outcomes for children with ASD. Access to evidence-based services and support is critical for maximizing long-term development.

Benefits of Early Diagnosis

Identifying autism symptoms as early as possible allows for prompt intervention. Developmental screenings and assessments can detect signs of ASD in toddlers and infants, enabling families to seek specialized help sooner.

Therapeutic Approaches

A range of therapies is available to support individuals with autism, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social skills training. These interventions are tailored to meet the unique needs of each child and help them reach their full potential.

Family and Caregiver Support

Supporting families and caregivers is essential for successful intervention. Resources such as counseling, educational workshops, and support groups empower parents to advocate for their children and navigate the complexities of autism care.

Community Awareness and Advocacy

Community involvement is vital for addressing the autism epidemic. Raising awareness, promoting acceptance, and advocating for resources helps create a supportive environment for individuals with ASD and their families.

Public Education Campaigns

Educational campaigns inform the public about autism, reduce stigma, and encourage inclusion. These efforts foster understanding and empathy, making it easier for those affected by ASD to access services and participate in community life.

Policy Advocacy

Advocacy groups work to influence policy and secure funding for autism research, education, and support services. Effective advocacy ensures that the needs of individuals with ASD are prioritized at local, national, and global levels.

Innovations in Autism Research

Scientific advancements are central to ending the autism epidemic. Ongoing research aims to unravel the complexities of ASD, identify new causes, and develop more effective interventions. Collaboration between researchers, clinicians, and families accelerates progress.

Genomic and Biomarker Research

Cutting-edge studies investigate the genetic and biological markers associated with autism. These discoveries may lead to earlier diagnosis and personalized treatments tailored to each individual's unique genetic makeup.

Advances in Therapeutic Technology

Innovations in technology, such as digital therapies, virtual reality, and telehealth services, are expanding access to care for individuals with autism. These tools enhance the effectiveness of traditional therapies and support lifelong learning.

Supporting Families and Individuals with Autism

Comprehensive support for families and individuals with ASD is essential for improving quality of life. Access to educational resources, healthcare, and community programs fosters resilience and empowers those affected by autism.

Educational Resources

Specialized educational programs, individualized learning plans, and inclusive classroom environments help children with autism thrive academically and socially. Schools play a critical role in supporting students with ASD.

Healthcare Access and Integration

Coordinated healthcare services—ranging from primary care to specialized therapies—are vital for addressing the diverse needs of individuals with autism. Integration of services ensures continuity of care and optimizes outcomes.

Community Programs and Inclusion

Community-based programs promote social engagement, skill development, and independence for those with ASD. Encouraging participation in sports, arts, and recreational activities creates opportunities for growth and connection.

Conclusion

Efforts to end the autism epidemic require a multifaceted approach involving prevention, early intervention, research, and community support. By staying informed and proactive, societies can reduce the impact of autism and empower individuals and families to lead fulfilling lives. Continuous advancements in science, education, and advocacy will shape the future of autism care and contribute to building more inclusive communities.

Q: What are the main factors contributing to the autism epidemic?

A: The autism epidemic is largely attributed to a combination of genetic predisposition, environmental influences, and improved diagnostic practices. Researchers are still studying the interplay between these factors to better understand the rising prevalence of ASD.

Q: How can early intervention help reduce the impact of autism?

A: Early intervention, including therapies such as ABA, speech, and occupational therapy, can significantly improve developmental outcomes for children with autism. Detecting symptoms early allows families to access specialized support and maximize the child's potential.

Q: Are there proven ways to prevent autism?

A: While there is no guaranteed method to prevent autism, promoting maternal health, reducing exposure to environmental toxins, and providing genetic counseling can help lower risk factors. Ongoing research aims to discover more effective prevention strategies.

Q: What role does community awareness play in addressing the autism epidemic?

A: Community awareness fosters acceptance, reduces stigma, and encourages inclusion of individuals with autism. Effective educational campaigns and advocacy efforts lead to better access to resources and support services for affected families.

Q: How does genetic counseling benefit families concerned about autism?

A: Genetic counseling provides families with information about autism risk factors and inheritance patterns, helping them make informed decisions about family planning and early intervention options.

Q: Are there new technologies that support individuals with autism?

A: Yes, advances in therapeutic technologies such as telehealth, digital therapies, and virtual reality are enhancing access to care and improving intervention outcomes for individuals with autism.

Q: What types of therapy are most effective for autism?

A: Effective therapies for autism include applied behavior analysis (ABA), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social skills training. These interventions are tailored to individual needs and promote skill development.

Q: How can policy advocacy help end the autism epidemic?

A: Policy advocacy secures funding for research, education, and support services, ensuring that the needs of individuals with autism are prioritized and addressed at all levels of government.

Q: What support is available for families of children with autism?

A: Families can access resources such as counseling, educational workshops, support groups, and specialized healthcare services. These supports help families navigate the challenges of autism and promote positive outcomes.

Q: Why is ongoing research crucial in the fight against autism?

A: Ongoing research is essential for discovering new causes, improving diagnostic methods, and developing more effective interventions. Scientific advancements drive progress toward reducing the impact of autism and ultimately ending the epidemic.

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How to End the Autism "Epidemic": A Reframing of the Conversation

The term "autism epidemic" is a contentious one. While the number of autism diagnoses has significantly increased over the past few decades, labeling it an "epidemic" implies a contagious disease that needs eradication. This framing is inaccurate and harmful. Autism is a neurodevelopmental difference, not a disease to be cured. This post reframes the conversation, moving away from the flawed "epidemic" narrative and focusing on what truly matters: supporting autistic individuals and their families. We'll explore the complexities surrounding autism diagnosis rates, address misconceptions, and discuss effective strategies for fostering inclusivity and understanding. This isn't about "ending" autism; it's about building a more accepting and supportive world for autistic people.

Understanding the Rise in Autism Diagnoses: Beyond the "Epidemic"

The dramatic rise in autism diagnoses isn't necessarily due to a sudden increase in the condition itself. Several factors contribute to the perceived "epidemic":

Improved Diagnostic Criteria and Awareness: The DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition) broadened the criteria for autism diagnosis, leading to more accurate identification of individuals on the spectrum. Increased public awareness also encourages more parents to seek professional evaluations.

Increased Screening and Early Diagnosis: Early intervention programs have become more prevalent, leading to earlier diagnoses. While this might inflate numbers, it also provides crucial support for autistic children and their families, significantly improving outcomes.

Changes in Reporting Practices: Improvements in data collection and reporting methods have resulted in more accurate statistics.

It's crucial to understand that these factors contribute significantly more to the increase in reported cases than any actual surge in autism prevalence. The focus should shift from a misguided attempt to "end" autism to creating a society that embraces neurodiversity.

Addressing Misconceptions About Autism

Several harmful myths surrounding autism hinder progress towards a more inclusive society. Let's debunk some of these:

Myth: Vaccines cause autism. This has been repeatedly and definitively disproven by extensive scientific research. The original study linking vaccines to autism was fraudulent and retracted.

Myth: Autism is a purely genetic disorder. While genetics play a role, environmental factors are also believed to contribute to autism's development. The exact interplay between genetics and environment remains a subject of ongoing research.

Myth: All autistic people are the same. Autism is a spectrum, meaning that individuals present with a wide range of symptoms and abilities. There's no single "autistic experience."

Addressing these misconceptions is crucial for creating a more understanding and supportive environment.

Fostering Inclusivity and Support: The True Path Forward

Instead of focusing on a futile attempt to "end" autism, let's concentrate on building a society that celebrates neurodiversity. This involves:

Early Intervention and Support Services: Providing access to high-quality early intervention programs significantly improves the outcomes for autistic children. These programs offer therapies, educational support, and resources to help autistic individuals thrive.

Inclusive Education: Creating inclusive classrooms that cater to the diverse needs of all students, including those on the autism spectrum, is essential. This requires teacher training, individualized education plans (IEPs), and a supportive learning environment.

Community Building and Support Networks: Support groups and online communities provide

valuable resources and connections for autistic individuals, their families, and caregivers. These spaces foster a sense of belonging and offer opportunities for sharing experiences and learning from one another.

Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns: Raising awareness and challenging harmful stereotypes is crucial for creating a more accepting society. Advocacy efforts play a vital role in promoting policy changes and ensuring that autistic individuals have equal rights and opportunities.

Research and Innovation: A Continuing Journey

Ongoing research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of autism is essential. This research should focus on understanding the diverse experiences of autistic individuals and developing effective interventions that improve their quality of life. Investment in research is not about "curing" autism, but rather about finding better ways to support and empower autistic people.

Conclusion

The concept of "ending" the autism "epidemic" is fundamentally flawed. Autism is not a disease to be eradicated; it's a neurodevelopmental difference that represents a significant part of human diversity. The real challenge lies in building a world that embraces neurodiversity, providing support for autistic individuals and their families, and challenging harmful misconceptions. Let's shift our focus from a misguided attempt to "end" autism to creating a more inclusive, accepting, and supportive society for all.

FAQs

1. Is there a cure for autism? No, there is no cure for autism. The focus should be on supporting autistic individuals and empowering them to lead fulfilling lives.
2. What are the early signs of autism? Early signs can include delayed language development, repetitive behaviors, and difficulty with social interaction. If you have concerns about a child's development, consult a pediatrician or developmental specialist.
3. What therapies are effective for autism? Various therapies, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), speech therapy, and occupational therapy, can be beneficial for autistic individuals. The most effective approach is often individualized to meet specific needs.
4. How can I support an autistic person? Be patient, understanding, and respectful. Learn about autism and its diverse manifestations. Advocate for inclusive policies and practices.

5. Where can I find more information and resources about autism? Numerous organizations, such as the Autism Speaks and the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), offer valuable information, resources, and support for autistic individuals and their families.

how to end the autism epidemic: *How to End the Autism Epidemic* J.B. Handley, 2018 [The author] offers a compelling, science-based explanation of what's causing the autism epidemic, the lies that enable its perpetuation, and the steps we must take as parents and as a society in order to end it--Provided by publisher.

how to end the autism epidemic: *Underestimated* J. B. Handley, Jamison Handley, 2021-03-23 The incredibly moving and inspiring story about a quest to finally be heard. In *Underestimated: An Autism Miracle*, Generation Rescue's cofounder J.B. Handley and his teenage son Jamison tell the remarkable story of Jamison's journey to find a method of communication that allowed him to show the world that he was a brilliant, wise, generous, and complex individual who had been misunderstood and underestimated by everyone in his life. Jamison's emergence at the age of seventeen from his self-described "prison of silence" took place over a profoundly emotional and dramatic twelve-month period that is retold from his father's perspective. The book reads like a spy thriller while allowing the reader to share in the complex emotions of both exhilaration and anguish that accompany Jamison's journey for him and his family. Once Jamison's extraordinary story has been told, Jamison takes over the narrative to share the story from his perspective, allowing the world to hear from someone who many had dismissed and cast aside as incapable. Jamison's remarkable transformation challenges the conventional wisdom surrounding autism, a disability impacting 1 in 36 Americans. Many scientists still consider nonspeakers with autism—a full 40 percent of those on the autism spectrum—to be "mentally retarded." Is it possible that the experts are wrong about several million people? Are all the nonspeakers like Jamison? *Underestimated: An Autism Miracle* will touch your heart, inspire you, remind you of the power of love, and ultimately leave you asking tough questions about how many more Jamisons might be waiting for their chance to be freed from their prison of silence, too. And, for the millions of parents of children with autism, the book offers a detailed description of a communication method that may give millions of people with autism back their voice.

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Age of Autism* Dan Olmsted, Mark Blaxill, 2010-09-14 A groundbreaking book, *THE AGE OF AUTISM* explores how mankind has unwittingly poisoned itself for half a millennium For centuries, medicine has made reckless use of one of earth's most toxic substances: mercury—and the consequences, often invisible or ignored, continue to be tragic. Today, background pollution levels, including global emissions of mercury as well as other toxicants, make us all more vulnerable to its effects. From the worst cases of syphilis to Sigmund Freud's first cases of hysteria, from baffling new disorders in 19th century Britain to the modern scourge of autism, *THE AGE OF AUTISM* traces the long overlooked history of mercury poisoning. Now, for the first time, authors Dan Olmsted and Mark Blaxill uncover that history. Within this context, they present startling findings: investigating the first cases of autism diagnosed in the 1940s revealed an unsuspected link to a new form of mercury in seed disinfectants, lumber fungicides and vaccines. In the tradition of *Silent Spring* and *An Inconvenient Truth*, Olmsted and Blaxill demonstrate with clarity how chemical and environmental clues may have been missed as medical experts, many of them blinded by decades of systemic bias, instead placed blame on parental behavior or children's biology. By exposing the roots and rise of The Age of Autism, this book attempts to point the way out - to a safer future for our children and the planet.

how to end the autism epidemic: *Evidence of Harm* David Kirby, 2007-04-01 In the 1990s reported autism cases among American children began spiking, from about 1 in 10,000 in 1987 to a shocking 1 in 166 today. This trend coincided with the addition of several new shots to the nation's already crowded vaccination schedule, grouped together and given soon after birth or in the early months of infancy. Most of these shots contained a little-known preservative called thimerosal,

which includes a quantity of the toxin mercury. Evidence of Harm explores the heated controversy over what many parents, physicians, public officials, and educators have called an epidemic of afflicted children. Following several families, David Kirby traces their struggle to understand how and why their once-healthy kids rapidly descended into silence or disturbed behavior, often accompanied by severe physical illness. Alarmed by the levels of mercury in the vaccine schedule, these families sought answers from their doctors, from science, from pharmaceutical companies that manufacture vaccines, and finally from the Center for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration—to no avail. But as they dug deeper, the families also found powerful allies in Congress and in the small community of physicians and researchers who believe that the rise of autism and other disorders is linked to toxic levels of mercury that accumulate in the systems of some children. An important and troubling book, Evidence of Harm reveals both the public and unsung obstacles faced by desperate families who have been opposed by the combined power of the federal government, health agencies, and pharmaceutical giants. From closed meetings of the FDA, CDC, and drug companies, to the mysterious rider inserted into the 2002 Homeland Security Bill that would bar thimerosal litigation, to open hearings held by Congress, this book shows a medical establishment determined to deny evidence of harm that might be connected with thimerosal and mercury in vaccines. In the end, as research is beginning to demonstrate, the questions raised by these families have significant implications for all children, and for those entrusted to oversee our national health.

how to end the autism epidemic: I Wish My Kids Had Cancer Michael Alan, 2008-10 *I Wish My Kids Had Cancer* is a father's gripping, real glimpse of his family's struggle to survive with two children with Autism. The book intimately, honestly, and powerfully, addresses the emotional, social, financial, political and medical aspects of a family fighting for their very existence. Learn about the struggle, the epidemic and Help Families In Need! Support Autism Through Song! Download the song *aState of Emergency* by world-renowned recording artist Sara Hickman. ALL Proceeds Donated to help Families with Autism! Visit www.iwishmykidshadcancer.com to download or visit www.sarahickman.com to download this powerful, emotionally charged song written in response to this book. Encourage others to listen and download! Help provide hope for those with Autism!

how to end the autism epidemic: NeuroTribes Steve Silberman, 2015-08-25 This New York Times–bestselling book upends conventional thinking about autism and suggests a broader model for acceptance, understanding, and full participation in society for people who think differently. “Beautifully told, humanizing, important.”—The New York Times Book Review “Breathtaking.”—The Boston Globe “Epic and often shocking.”—Chicago Tribune WINNER OF THE SAMUEL JOHNSON PRIZE FOR NONFICTION AND THE CALIFORNIA BOOK AWARD What is autism? A lifelong disability, or a naturally occurring form of cognitive difference akin to certain forms of genius? In truth, it is all of these things and more—and the future of our society depends on our understanding it. Wired reporter Steve Silberman unearths the secret history of autism, long suppressed by the same clinicians who became famous for discovering it, and finds surprising answers to the crucial question of why the number of diagnoses has soared in recent years. Going back to the earliest days of autism research, Silberman offers a gripping narrative of Leo Kanner and Hans Asperger, the research pioneers who defined the scope of autism in profoundly different ways; he then goes on to explore the game-changing concept of neurodiversity. *NeuroTribes* considers the idea that neurological differences such as autism, dyslexia, and ADHD are not errors of nature or products of the toxic modern world, but the result of natural variations in the human genome. This groundbreaking book will reshape our understanding of the history, meaning, function, and implications of neurodiversity in our world.

how to end the autism epidemic: Denial Mark Blaxill, Dan Olmsted, 2017-07-25 Even as the autism rate soars and the cost to our nation climbs well into the billions, a dangerous new idea is taking hold: There simply is no autism epidemic. The question is stark: Is autism ancient, a genetic variation that demands acceptance and celebration? Or is it new and disabling, triggered by something in the environment that is damaging more children every day? Authors Mark Blaxill and

Dan Olmsted believe autism is new, that the real rate is rising dramatically, and that those affected are injured and disabled, not merely “neurodiverse.” They call the refusal to acknowledge this reality Autism Epidemic Denial. This epidemic denial blocks the urgent need to confront and stop the epidemic and endangers our kids, our country, and our future. The key to stopping the epidemic, they say, is to stop lying about its history and start asking who profits? People who deny that autism is new have self-interested motives, such as ending research that might pinpoint responsibility—and, most threateningly, liability for this man-made epidemic. Using ground-breaking research, the authors definitively debunk best-selling claims that autism is nothing new—and nothing to worry about.

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Autism Matrix* Gil Eyal, 2013-08-26 Today autism has become highly visible. Once you begin to look for it, you realize it is everywhere. Why? We all know the answer or think we do: there is an autism epidemic. And if it is an epidemic, then we know what must be done: lots of money must be thrown at it, detection centers must be established and explanations sought, so that the number of new cases can be brought down and the epidemic brought under control. But can it really be so simple? This major new book offers a very different interpretation. The authors argue that the recent rise in autism should be understood an “aftershock” of the real earthquake, which was the deinstitutionalization of mental retardation in the mid-1970s. This entailed a radical transformation not only of the institutional matrix for dealing with developmental disorders of childhood, but also of the cultural lens through which we view them. It opened up a space for viewing and treating childhood disorders as neither mental illness nor mental retardation, neither curable nor incurable, but somewhere in-between. The authors show that where deinstitutionalization went the furthest, as in Scandinavia, UK and the “blue” states of the US, autism rates are also highest. Where it was absent or delayed, as in France, autism rates are low. Combining a historical narrative with international comparison, *The Autism Matrix* offers a fresh and powerful analysis of a condition that affects many parents and children today.

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Myth of Autism* Michael J. Goldberg, 2014-07-29 Experts agree that America is in the midst of a disturbing epidemic of what has thus far been diagnosed as autism. In just thirty years autism diagnoses have risen from 1 in 5,000 children to 1 in 110, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But in the history of our society there has never been an “epidemic” of any developmental or genetic disorder—it is scientifically impossible. So what is this mysterious affliction known as “autism,” and how can we stop it? Dr. Goldberg and his colleagues illustrate why autism cannot be genetic, but is a symptom of a treatable neurological disease that attacks the brain’s immune system. Readers will come to understand that Autism is not psychological or developmental, but a medical disease, Autism is caused by a dysfunction in the neuro-immune system and often by secondary neurotropic viruses that impact the neuro-immune system and brains, illnesses such as autism, ADD/ADHD, and chronic fatigue syndrome all have different “labels” but are actually variations on the same thing: neuro-immune dysfunction syndromes (NIDS), and what you can do to transform your own life or the lives of your loved ones. Dr. Goldberg's knowledge base is greater than anyone else's in this treatment area. He is the best expert in this field, in my opinion. I could have taken my son to any autism doctor in the world and I chose Dr. Goldberg. --Bruce L. Russell, MD, FAAFP

how to end the autism epidemic: *Unstrange Minds* Roy Richard Grinker, 2008-07-31 A father's inspiring portrait of his daughter informs this classic reassessment of the epidemic of autism. When Isabel Grinker was diagnosed with autism in 1994, it occurred in only about 3 of every 10,000 children. Within ten years, rates had skyrocketed. Some scientists reported rates as high as 1 in 150. The media had declared autism an epidemic. *Unstrange Minds* documents the global quest of Isabel's father, renowned anthropologist Roy Richard Grinker, to discover the surprising truth about why autism is so much more common today. In fact, there is no autism epidemic. Rather, we are experiencing an increase in autism diagnoses, and Grinker shows that the identification and treatment of autism depends on culture just as much as it does on science. Filled with moving stories and informed by the latest science, *Unstrange Minds* is a powerful testament to a father's search for

the truth.

how to end the autism epidemic: Healing the New Childhood Epidemics: Autism, ADHD, Asthma, and Allergies Kenneth Bock, Cameron Stauch, 2008-04-29 A comprehensive program that targets all four of the 4-A epidemics: autism, ADHD, asthma, and allergies “An easy-to-read commonsense guide to beneficial biomedical treatments.”—Temple Grandin Doctors have generally overlooked the connections among the 4-A disorders. For years the medical establishment has considered autism medically untreatable and utterly incurable, and has limited ADHD treatment mainly to symptom suppression. Dr. Kenneth Bock, a leading medical innovator, along with his colleagues, have discovered a solution that goes to the root of the problem. They have found that modern toxins, nutritional deficiencies, metabolic imbalances, genetic vulnerabilities, and assaults on the immune and gastrointestinal systems trigger most of the symptoms of the 4-A disorders, resulting in frequent misdiagnosis and untold mysteries. Dr. Bock’s remarkable Healing Program is an innovative biomedical approach that has changed the lives of more than a thousand children. Drawn from medical research and based on years of clinical success, this program offers a safe, sensible solution that is individualized to each child to help remedy the root causes. Dr. Bock also shares the dramatic true stories of parents and children that will inspire you to change the life of your own child. Hope is at last within reach.

how to end the autism epidemic: In a Different Key John Donvan, Caren Zucker, 2016-01-19 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “Sweeping in scope but with intimate personal stories, this is a deeply moving book about the history, science, and human drama of autism.”—Walter Isaacson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Code Breaker* “Remarkable . . . A riveting tale about how a seemingly rare childhood disorder became a salient fixture in our cultural landscape.”—The Wall Street Journal (Ten Best Nonfiction Books of the Year) The inspiration for the PBS documentary, *In a Different Key* In 1938, Donald Triplett of Forest, Mississippi, became the first child diagnosed with autism. Beginning with his family’s odyssey, *In a Different Key* tells the extraordinary story of this often misunderstood condition, from the civil rights battles waged by the families of those who have it to the fierce debates among scientists over how to define and treat it. Unfolding over decades, *In a Different Key* is a beautifully rendered history of people determined to secure a place in the world for those with autism—by liberating children from dank institutions, campaigning for their right to go to school, challenging expert opinion on what it means to have autism, and persuading society to accept those who are different. This is also a story of fierce controversies—from the question of whether there is truly an autism “epidemic,” and whether vaccines played a part in it; to scandals involving “facilitated communication,” one of many unsuccessful treatments; to stark disagreements about whether scientists should pursue a cure for autism; to compelling evidence that Hans Asperger, discoverer of the syndrome named after him, participated in the Nazi program that consigned disabled children to death. By turns intimate and panoramic, *In a Different Key* takes us on a journey from an era when families were shamed and children were condemned to institutions to one in which a cadre of people with autism push not simply for inclusion, but for a new understanding of autism: as difference rather than disability.

how to end the autism epidemic: *Autism Causes, Prevention and Treatment* John J Cannell, MD, 2015-04-15 Autism affects 1 in every 68 American newborns. Cases of autism are increasing at a rate of 12% every year and families spend up to \$100,000 per year to manage this disease; lifetime expenses may exceed \$3 million per sufferer. What has changed to cause this rapid rise in the incidence of autism spectrum disorder? Who’s the most susceptible? And what can be done about it? In this truly groundbreaking work, autism researcher John Cannell, MD, provides the most comprehensive and compelling explanation to date regarding the causes, prevention strategies, and treatment protocols that, in many cases, reverse autistic symptoms. Cannell, founder of the Vitamin D Council, draws on decades of research to make the strong case that vitamin D is very important in preventing autism and that high doses of vitamin D can be quite successful in treating some people with an autism spectrum disorder. He provides a thorough explanation of the relationship between autism and vitamin D, dispels many of the existing theories related to causes of autism, and presents

a solid foundation for a revolutionary new approach to preventing and treating autism. Also included is a thorough discussion about obtaining safe levels of vitamin D through supplementation, sunlight, and diet. Heartwarming and encouraging case studies round out this innovative new book.

how to end the autism epidemic: How to Prevent Autism Dara Berger, 2017-07-04 The statistics are alarming and become more so every year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 68 children have been identified with an autism spectrum disorder, making it one of the fastest growing developmental disorders in the United States. Further, the CDC estimates that parents with a child on the autism spectrum can have nearly a 20 percent chance of having a second child with autism. In *How to Prevent Autism*, Dara Berger shares her personal journey with autism. She describes everything that went wrong with her son that led to an autism diagnosis and everything she did differently to prevent her daughter from suffering the same fate. She interviews eight well-known ASD experts—including doctors, nutritionists, nurses, and scientists—about the factors that have led to the growing epidemic of autism. Based on the best practices for preventing autism in children, each professional offers perspectives grounded in their own research and their patients' improvements. The book covers every detail—from the importance of mothers' cleaning out their bodies pre-conception, through common genetic mutations that may put children at risk, to the crucial role of nutrition in prevention. All parents agree that every choice counts when it comes to the health of their children. As Dara Berger makes clear in this personal, informative, and authoritative book, the stakes could not be higher when it comes to autism.

how to end the autism epidemic: The Addiction Spectrum Paul Thomas, Jennifer Margulis, 2018-09-04 If anyone you know is struggling with addiction—or if you think you might have a problem—you want to read this book.”—GARTH STEIN, bestselling author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain* a proven, comprehensive program that compassionately guides the reader to a place of resolution—DAVID PERLMUTTER, MD, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Grain Brain*, and, *Brain Maker* a massive achievement and a giant step forward for addiction medicine—ANNIE GRACE, author of *This Naked Mind* Drug overdose is now the leading cause of death for Americans under fifty. Even as opiate addiction skyrockets, more people than ever before are hooked on alcohol, sedatives, cigarettes, and even screens. The face and prevalence of addiction has changed and evolved, but our solutions to addiction are stuck in the past. We've been treating addiction as a black or white issue, a disease you either suffer from or will never suffer from. The problem with this model is that it doesn't account for the incredible forces working against all of us, pushing all of us toward addiction: stress, undernourishment, sleep-deprivation, vitamin D deficiency, and isolation, not to mention a flawed medical system and corrupt pharmaceutical companies doling out prescriptions at every turn. The truth: Addiction is a disease that, like many others, exists on a spectrum. We are more vulnerable to becoming addicted to substances at certain points in our lives and based on the evidence provided in *The Addiction Spectrum*, most effective at kicking addiction when we take a holistic approach. With the help of the 13-point plan and individual protocols detailed in this book, you have the power to change your destiny. No one understands this more than Dr. Paul Thomas, who recovered from alcohol addiction early in his career and founded one of the most effective rehabilitation centers for teens and young adults in his hometown of Portland, OR. Named one of the top family doctors and one of the top pediatricians in the country, Dr. Paul is also board-certified in both integrative medicine and addiction medicine. This unique combination of specialties is intentional: Dr. Paul has devoted his entire life and career to saving lives. Using the best conventional medicine alongside the new science of alternative health, Dr. Paul has treated thousands of patients with the life-saving solutions provided in *The Addiction Spectrum*. Addiction is a compendium of often devastating circumstances that have gone unchecked by society for far too long. This book is a positive light and guide to overcoming not only addiction but the challenges and obstacles that affect us all.

how to end the autism epidemic: Autism: A Very Short Introduction Uta Frith, 2008-10-23 What is autism and Asperger syndrome? What are the core symptoms, and what causes them? How early can autism be recognised and what can be done? Why does autism seem to be more and more

common? Are we all a little bit autistic? This Very Short Introduction offers a clear statement on what is currently known about autism and Asperger syndrome. Looking at symptoms from the full spectrum of autistic disorders, and evaluating current evidence from neuroscience and genetics, this authoritative and accessible book explores the source and nature of social impairment and exceptional talent. Autism: A Very Short Introduction gives a glimpse of life seen through the eyes of autism.--BOOK JACKET.

how to end the autism epidemic: *Callous Disregard* Andrew J. Wakefield, 2017-11-21 *Callous Disregard* is the account of how a doctor confronted first a disease and then the medical system that sought and still seeks to deny that disease, leaving millions of children to suffer and a world at risk. In 1995, Dr. Andrew Wakefield came to a fork in the road. As an academic gastroenterologist at the Royal Free School of Medicine and the University of London, he was confronted by a professional challenge and a moral choice. Previously healthy children were, according to their parents, regressing into autism and developing intestinal problems. Many parents blamed the MMR vaccine. Trusting his medical training, the parental narrative, and, above all, the instinct of mothers for their children's well-being, he chose what would become a very difficult road. Dr. Wakefield provides the facts and an explanation of the problem that confronted him and his colleagues fifteen years ago. He does this in a detailed forensic analysis of the lies, obfuscation, cover-up, and dystopian science and medicine that panders to commercial interests at the expense of your children.

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Autism Epidemic*: Wayne McRoy, 2019-04-16 Why is the prevalence of autism skyrocketing at such an alarming rate? What are the underlying causes of this epidemic? Why are we no closer to a cure? Is there a hidden agenda behind the rise in the autism rate? *The Autism Epidemic: Transhumanism's Dirty Little Secret* explores these questions and many more. What is transhumanism? And, what is its relationship to autism? Join me on my quest to get to the heart of the truth behind the autism epidemic. The shocking revelations unveiled in this book are critical to our future...

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Environmental and Genetic Causes of Autism* James Lyons-Weiler, 2016-11-08 *The Environmental and Genetic Causes of Autism* delves deep into the full body of past and current research to reveal how genetic predispositions and environmental factors can combine to produce the conditions autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). To make this groundbreaking volume, Dr. James Lyons-Weiler combed through the past fifty years of published research on autism, exploring subjects such as genetic variation, mechanisms of neurotoxicity of metals and pesticides, and the central and combined roles of each in causing autism. Lyons-Weiler provides a major overview of all aspects of the condition of autism, reviews changes in diagnoses and treatments, and explains how genetic information can be used to tailor effective treatments, and sometimes reversals, of the symptoms. He also presents practical forward-looking suggestions on how to design future studies to facilitate the discovery of biomarkers for autism risk and how to classify the full range of autism spectrum disorders. Autism is considered one of the most mystifying conditions of our day, and alarmed scientists, doctors, politicians, and parents are desperately trying to understand why the condition is escalating. According to the CDC, rates in the United States have risen from an estimated one in two thousand children in 1980, to one in sixty-eight in 2012, and a new National Health Interview Survey shows a rate of one in forty-five. By the time you read this book, that number may have changed yet again. While most autism researchers focus on either environmental or genetic causes of autism, Lyons-Weiler's opus demonstrates that to fully understand the condition and to finally put its rate on the decrease, it is essential to pay attention to the science showing how the two classes of factors interact.

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Panic Virus* Seth Mnookin, 2012-01-03 A searing account of how vaccine opponents have used the media to spread their message of panic, despite no scientific evidence to support them.

how to end the autism epidemic: *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism* Peter J. Hotez, 2020-11-17 Internationally renowned medical scientist, frequent media contributor, and autism dad Dr. Peter J. Hotez explains why vaccines do not cause autism. In 1994, Peter J. Hotez's

nineteen-month-old daughter, Rachel, was diagnosed with autism. Dr. Hotez, a pediatrician-scientist who develops vaccines for neglected tropical diseases affecting the world's poorest people, became troubled by the decades-long rise of the influential anti-vaccine community and its inescapable narrative around childhood vaccines and autism. In *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism*, Hotez draws on his experiences as a pediatrician, vaccine scientist, and father of an autistic child. Outlining the arguments on both sides of the debate, he examines the science that refutes the concerns of the anti-vaccine movement, debunks current conspiracy theories alleging a cover-up by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and critiques the scientific community's failure to effectively communicate the facts about vaccines and autism to the general public, all while sharing his very personal story of raising a now-adult daughter with autism. A uniquely authoritative account, this important book persuasively provides evidence for the genetic basis of autism and illustrates how the neurodevelopmental pathways of autism are under way before birth. Dr. Hotez reminds readers of the many victories of vaccines over disease while warning about the growing dangers of the anti-vaccine movement, especially in the United States and Europe. Now, with the anti-vaccine movement reenergized in our COVID-19 era, this book is especially timely. *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism* is a must-read for parent groups, child advocates, teachers, health-care providers, government policymakers, health and science policy experts, and anyone caring for a family member or friend with autism. When Peter Hotez—an erudite, highly trained scientist who is a true hero for his work in saving the world's poor and downtrodden—shares his knowledge and clinical insights along with his parental experience, when his beliefs in the value of what he does are put to the test of a life guiding his own child's challenges, then you must pay attention. You should. This book brings to an end the link between autism and vaccination.—from the foreword by Arthur L. Caplan, NYU School of Medicine

how to end the autism epidemic: Vaccines 2.0 Mark Blaxill, Dan Olmsted, 2015-02-03 The CDC's bloated vaccine schedule has doubled since 1988, after the federal government gave pharmaceutical companies immunity from lawsuits. Autism and other childhood disorders like asthma, ADHD, juvenile diabetes and digestive ailments have skyrocketed. And parents are understandably nervous, desperate for objective guidance that takes those concerns seriously. *Vaccines 2.0* looks at the lengthy roster of today's recommended injections, the documented risks that accompany them, and helps parents choose a schedule based on unbiased, uncensored, unconflicted science. From whether to get a flu shot during pregnancy--and how to avoid dangerous mercury if you do--to the Hep B shot within hours of birth, to the controversial Gardasil vaccine for preteens, *Vaccines 2.0* provides the tools to decide for yourself. The three sections cover: Why should you care? What should you know? What can you do? The exclusive Risk-Reward Assessment assigns a numerical score to each of the 14 recommended vaccines. Also included is information on learning to spot, report and treat side effects; talking to your doctor and finding a sympathetic one if you can't, and comparing alternative schedules if you decide to delay or skip shots. When it comes to your child, it's your choice. *Vaccines 2.0* will give you the information you need to choose wisely.

how to end the autism epidemic: An Unfortunate Coincidence Julie Obradovic, 2016-11-01 In her poignant account, Julie Obradovic discusses her heart-rending struggle with her daughter's autism and her subsequent quest for answers. She reveals the feelings of depression and helplessness brought on by the diagnosis and her initial inability to find help. Unwilling to give up, however, Obradovic began fighting, finding a treatment for her daughter and going on to campaign on behalf of others. *An Unfortunate Coincidence* is the result of this fight. The account takes its readers through the political, historical, and scientific developments behind the greatest medical controversy of our time, including: The findings of the vaccine injury compensation program Investigations of CDC fraud and the subsequent congressional hearings and findings The identical symptoms of autism and mercury poisoning Eyewitness reports of families and educators The author's struggle to present her point of view and the backlash intended to silence it Ultimately, *An Unfortunate Coincidence* will ask the readers to take a closer look at the evidence uncovered by ten years of research and decide just how many coincidence claims they are willing to accept.

how to end the autism epidemic: The HPV Vaccine On Trial Mary Holland, Kim Mack Rosenberg, Eileen Iorio, 2018-09-25 A Groundbreaking Guide to the HPV Vaccine and the Science, Safety, and Business Behind It Cancer strikes fear in people's hearts around globe. So the appearance of a vaccine to prevent cancer—as we are assured the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will—seemed like a game-changer. Since 2006, over eighty countries have approved the vaccine, with glowing endorsements from the world's foremost medical authorities. Bringing in over \$2.5 billion in annual sales, the HPV vaccine is a pharmaceutical juggernaut. Yet scandal now engulfs it worldwide. The HPV Vaccine on Trial is a shocking tale, chronicling the global efforts to sell and compel this alleged miracle. The book opens with the vaccine's invention, winds through its regulatory labyrinths, details the crushing denial and dismissal of reported harms and deaths, and uncovers the enormous profits pharma and inventors have reaped. Authors Holland, Mack Rosenberg, and Iorio drill down into the clinical trial data, government approvals, advertising, and personal accounts of egregious injuries that have followed in countries as far-flung as Japan, Australia, Colombia, India, Ireland, the U.K. and Denmark. The authors have written an unprecedented exposé about this vaunted vaccine. Written in plain language, the book is for everyone concerned – parents, patients, doctors, nurses, scientists, healthcare organizations, government officials, and schools. Ultimately, this book is not just about the HPV vaccine, but about how industry, government, and medical authorities may be putting the world's children in harm's way.

how to end the autism epidemic: Vaccine Epidemic Louise Kuo Habakus, Mary Holland, Kim Mack Rosenberg, 2011-02-09 Public health officials state that vaccines are safe and effective, but the truth is far more complicated. Vaccination is a serious medical intervention that always carries the potential to injure and cause death as well as to prevent disease. Coercive vaccination policies deprive people of free and informed consent—the hallmark of ethical medicine. Americans are increasingly concerned about vaccine safety and the right to make individual, informed choices together with their healthcare practitioners. Vaccine Epidemic focuses on the searing debate surrounding individual and parental vaccination choice in the United States. Habakus, Holland, and Rosenberg edit and introduce a diverse array of interrelated topics concerning the explosive vaccine controversy, including the ethics of vaccination mandates, corrupting conflicts of interest in the national vaccine program, and personal narratives of parents, children, and soldiers who have suffered vaccine injury. Newly updated with additional chapters focusing on institutional scientific misconduct, mandates for healthcare workers, concerns about HPV vaccine development, and the story behind the Supreme Court's recent vaccine decision, Vaccine Epidemic remains the essential handbook for the vaccination choice movement and required reading for all people contemplating vaccination for themselves and their children.

how to end the autism epidemic: Irreversible Damage Abigail Shrier, 2020-06-30 NAMED A BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE ECONOMIST AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF 2021 BY THE TIMES AND THE SUNDAY TIMES Irreversible Damage . . . has caused a storm. Abigail Shrier, a Wall Street Journal writer, does something simple yet devastating: she rigorously lays out the facts. —Janice Turner, The Times of London Until just a few years ago, gender dysphoria—severe discomfort in one's biological sex—was vanishingly rare. It was typically found in less than .01 percent of the population, emerged in early childhood, and afflicted males almost exclusively. But today whole groups of female friends in colleges, high schools, and even middle schools across the country are coming out as “transgender.” These are girls who had never experienced any discomfort in their biological sex until they heard a coming-out story from a speaker at a school assembly or discovered the internet community of trans “influencers.” Unsuspecting parents are awakening to find their daughters in thrall to hip trans YouTube stars and “gender-affirming” educators and therapists who push life-changing interventions on young girls—including medically unnecessary double mastectomies and puberty blockers that can cause permanent infertility. Abigail Shrier, a writer for the Wall Street Journal, has dug deep into the trans epidemic, talking to the girls, their agonized parents, and the counselors and doctors who enable gender transitions, as well as to

“detransitioners”—young women who bitterly regret what they have done to themselves. Coming out as transgender immediately boosts these girls’ social status, Shrier finds, but once they take the first steps of transition, it is not easy to walk back. She offers urgently needed advice about how parents can protect their daughters. A generation of girls is at risk. Abigail Shrier’s essential book will help you understand what the trans craze is and how you can inoculate your child against it—or how to retrieve her from this dangerous path.

how to end the autism epidemic: *The Peanut Allergy Epidemic, Third Edition* Heather Fraser, 2017-06-06 Essential reading for every parent of a child with peanut allergies—third edition with a foreword by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Why is the peanut allergy an epidemic that only seems to be found in western cultures? More than four million people in the United States alone are affected by peanut allergies, while there are few reported cases in India, a country where peanut is the primary ingredient in many baby food products. Where did this allergy come from, and does medicine play any kind of role in the phenomenon? After her own child had an anaphylactic reaction to peanut butter, historian Heather Fraser decided to discover the answers to these questions. In *The Peanut Allergy Epidemic*, Fraser delves into the history of this allergy, trying to understand why it largely develops in children and studying its relationship with social, medical, political, and economic factors. In an international overview of the subject, she compares the epidemic in the United States to sixteen other geographical locations; she finds that in addition to the United States in countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sweden, there is a one in fifty chance that a child, especially a male, will develop a peanut allergy. Fraser also highlights alternative medicines and explores issues of vaccine safety and other food allergies. This third edition features a foreword from Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and a new chapter on promising leads for cures to peanut allergies. *The Peanut Allergy Epidemic* is a must read for every parent, teacher, and health professional.

how to end the autism epidemic: Unraveling the Mystery of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Karyn Seroussi, 2014-10-14 *Unraveling the Mystery of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder* is an essential guide for parents with autistic children who hope to better understand and intervene with the disorder. When their nineteen-month-old son, Miles, was diagnosed with autism, Karyn Seroussi, a writer, and her husband, a scientist, fought back with the only weapons at their disposal: love and research. Consulting medical papers, surfing the Web, and networking with other parents, they traced the onset of their child's problems to an immune system breakdown that coincided with his vaccinations. As a result, his digestive system was unable to break down certain proteins, which in turn led to abnormal brain development. So Karyn and her husband got to work -- Karyn implementing their program at home while her husband tested his theories at the scientific lab where he worked. *Unraveling the Mystery of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder* is an inspiring and suspenseful chronicle of how one couple empowered themselves to challenge the medical establishment that promised no hope -- and found a cure for their child. Here are the explanations and treatments they so carefully researched and discovered, a wealth of crucial tools and hands-on information that can help other parents reverse the effects of autism and PDD, including step-by-step instructions for the removal of dairy and gluten from the diet, special recipes, and an explanation of the roles of the key players in autism research.

how to end the autism epidemic: One Heart, One Mind Pierre Fontaine, 2016-03-21 A diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can be startling news for any parent. Professional homeopath Pierre Fontaine CCH provides hope for a permanent-and natural-solution. Disputing that most ASD is not reversible, Fontaine empowers parents with the knowledge needed to seek alternative care. Through explanations of both ASD and homeopathy, he presents cases from his own practice that demonstrate how autism can be reversed when paired together. Fontaine outlines how he looks into both the child's history and the parents' experience of their child in order to go beyond simply treating the symptoms of the disorder. He ultimately seeks to find what is at the core of the child's suffering-and how parents can help. *One Heart, One Mind* gives families, as well as health professionals, a fresh look at how practical solutions to autism can be discovered in a book that offers exactly what parents are seeking: Hope.

how to end the autism epidemic: The Journal of Best Practices David Finch, 2012-01-03 *A New York Times Bestseller* A warm and hilarious memoir by a man diagnosed with Asperger syndrome who sets out to save his relationship. Five years after David Finch married Kristen, the love of his life, they learned that he has Asperger syndrome. The diagnosis explained David's ever-growing list of quirks and compulsions, but it didn't make him any easier to live with. Determined to change, David set out to understand Asperger syndrome and learn to be a better husband with an endearing zeal. His methods for improving his marriage involve excessive note-taking, performance reviews, and most of all, the Journal of Best Practices: a collection of hundreds of maxims and hard-won epiphanies, including "Don't change the radio station when she's singing along" and "Apologies do not count when you shout them." David transforms himself from the world's most trying husband to the husband who tries the hardest. He becomes the husband he'd always meant to be. Filled with humor and wisdom, The Journal of Best Practices is a candid story of ruthless self-improvement, a unique window into living with an autism spectrum condition, and proof that a true heart is the key to happy marriage.

how to end the autism epidemic: Vaccines, Autoimmunity, and the Changing Nature of Childhood Illness Thomas Cowan, 2018 Over the past 50 years, rates of chronic illness, learning disabilities, and allergies in children have exploded--1 in 6 children has a diagnosed learning disorder, 1 in 50 has autism, and 1 in 13 has severe food allergies. Instead of blaming genetics or increased awareness and diagnosis, author Thomas Cowan, MD, attributes these rising numbers to our current vaccination policy. In *Vaccines, Auto-Immunity, and the Assault on Childhood*, Cowan combines his years of experience as a medical practitioner with his research into the history and science of vaccines to show how childhood illnesses, which help children to develop a robust immune system, are now eschewed by conventional medicine in favor of an increasing array of vaccinations that do more harm than good. Invoking philosopher Rudolph Steiner's vision of vaccines as inspired by spirits of darkness, Cowan brings to light the various ways in which scientists and government officials work to promote a vaccine program that only increases suffering. Along the way he questions commonly held views of cell biology, the role of water in the body, and the spatial and spiritual components of autism. Additionally, he provides hope of recovery in the form of a nontoxic course of treatment for those suffering chronic inflammation and other adverse immune responses to vaccines. Cowan's thoughtfully bold writing takes us on a journey into the history of illness, questioning the true origins of diseases such as polio, and asking important questions, such as: why did paralytic polio make a sudden appearance in the US in the years between 1916-1918? The answers lie far beyond what conventional medicine would have us believe. *Vaccines, Auto-Immunity, and the Assault on Childhood* asks that we re-examine not only our modern health system but our relationship with the spiritual world. Only then will we find true health.

how to end the autism epidemic: Representing Autism Stuart Murray, 2008-01-01 From concerns about an 'autism epidemic' to the MMR vaccine crisis, autism is a source of peculiar fascination in the contemporary media. Author Stuart Murray, himself the parent of an autistic child, contends that for all the coverage, autism rarely emerges from the various images we produce of it as a comprehensible way of being in the world—instead occupying a succession of narrative spaces as a source of fascination and wonder. A refreshing analysis and evaluation of autism within contemporary society and culture, *Representing Autism* establishes the autistic presence as a way by which we might more fully articulate our understanding of those with the condition, and what it means to be a human. "This is an outstanding volume of empathetic scholarship. . . . *Representing Autism* is a truly significant piece of cultural criticism about one of the defining conditions of our time."—Mark Osteen, Loyola College

how to end the autism epidemic: Look Me in the Eye John Elder Robison, 2008-09-09 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "As sweet and funny and sad and true and heartfelt a memoir as one could find." —from the foreword by Augusten Burroughs Ever since he was young, John Robison longed to connect with other people, but by the time he was a teenager, his odd habits—an inclination to blurt out non sequiturs, avoid eye contact, dismantle radios, and dig five-foot holes

(and stick his younger brother, Augusten Burroughs, in them)—had earned him the label “social deviant.” It was not until he was forty that he was diagnosed with a form of autism called Asperger’s syndrome. That understanding transformed the way he saw himself—and the world. A born storyteller, Robison has written a moving, darkly funny memoir about a life that has taken him from developing exploding guitars for KISS to building a family of his own. It’s a strange, sly, indelible account—sometimes alien yet always deeply human.

how to end the autism epidemic: The Moth in the Iron Lung Forrest Maready, 2018-06-05 A fascinating account of the world's most famous disease-polio- told as you have never heard it before. Epidemics of paralysis began to rage in the early 1900s, seemingly out of nowhere. Doctors, parents, and health officials were at a loss to explain why this formerly unheard of disease began paralyzing so many children-usually starting in their legs, sometimes moving up through their abdomen and arms. For an unfortunate few, it could paralyze the muscles that allowed them to breathe. Why did this disease start to become such a horrible problem during the late 1800s? Why did it affect children more often than adults? Why was it originally called teething paralysis by mothers and their doctors? Why were animals so often paralyzed during the early epidemics when it was later discovered most animals could not become infected? The Moth in the Iron Lung is a fascinating biography of this horrible paralytic disease, where it came from, and why it disappeared in the 1950s. If you've never explored the polio story beyond the tales of crippled children and iron lungs, this book will be sure to surprise.

how to end the autism epidemic: The Autisms Mary Coleman, Christopher Gillberg, 2012-01-05 Rev. ed. of: *Biology of the autistic syndromes* / Christopher Gillberg, Mary Coleman. 3rd ed. 2000.

how to end the autism epidemic: A Shot in the Dark Harris Livermore Coulter, Barbara Loe Fisher, 1991-01-01 Every week, tens of thousands of children across America are injected with the DPT (diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus) vaccine. The law requires it, and most children will get four DPT shots before they are two years old. But what if one of the components of the vaccine was not safe? What if it caused not only pain, swelling, screaming, and high fever, but also shock, convulsions, brain damage, and even death? And, to make matters worse, what if there were a safer alternative but parents didn't know about it? Wouldn't the government require the drug manufacturers to produce the safer vaccine to protect the lives of the children who might otherwise suffer the shot's crippling side effects? The answer is, unfortunately, no. A Shot in the Dark is a chilling account of just how dangerous the whole-cell pertussis vaccine (the P part of the DPT shot) has proven to be. It provides accurate research into the history of the vaccine's development and usage. It exposes the roles played by the FDA and drug companies. It tells the tragic stories of the young victims of the vaccine. This book is also a guide for rightfully concerned parents who are looking for answers to important questions. What are the warning signs to look for to tell if your child is likely to be sensitive to the vaccine? What should parents ask their doctors about the vaccine and their child's medical profile? What is being done, here and in other countries, to combat this frightening situation? What can parents do now to help? A Shot in the Dark is a responsible, eye-opening look at a potential problem that every parent of every young child living in this country must face. Armed with the facts in this important book, parents will be able to make informed decisions about their real medical options. Book jacket.

how to end the autism epidemic: Eye Contact Cammie McGovern, 2006-06-01 Like The Lovely Bones and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Cammie McGovern’s breakout novel is at once a hypnotic thriller and an affecting portrait of people as real as our next-door neighbors. In Eye Contact, two children vanish in the woods behind their elementary school. Hours later, nine-year-old Adam is found alive, the sole witness to his playmate’s murder. But because Adam has autism, he is a silent witness. Only his mother, Cara, can help decode his behavior for the police. As the suspense ratchets, Eye Contact becomes a heart-stopping exploration of the bond between a mother and a very special child.

how to end the autism epidemic: Boys Adrift Leonard Sax, 2016-06-28 Why America's sons

are underachieving, and what we can do about it. Something is happening to boys today. From kindergarten to college, American boys are, on average, less resilient and less ambitious than they were a mere twenty years ago. The gender gap in college attendance and graduation rates has widened dramatically. While Emily is working hard at school and getting A's, her brother Justin is goofing off. He's more concerned about getting to the next level in his videogame than about finishing his homework. In *Boys Adrift*, Dr. Leonard Sax delves into the scientific literature and draws on more than twenty years of clinical experience to explain why boys and young men are failing in school and disengaged at home. He shows how social, cultural, and biological factors have created an environment that is literally toxic to boys. He also presents practical solutions, sharing strategies which educators have found effective in re-engaging these boys at school, as well as handy tips for parents about everything from homework, to videogames, to medication.

how to end the autism epidemic: Love Tears & Autism Cecily Paterson, 2018-09 When Cecily's son was diagnosed with autism, everything she'd ever believed about love was turned upside down. In the end, she'd have truly trust God, practice real love, and do just as much learning as her beautiful little boy. Third prize winner in the 2012 Australian Christian Book of the Year awards. Revised and updated edition.

how to end the autism epidemic: Autism Jessie Hewitson, 2018-03-22 'A wise SatNav for what is often a bewildering, or even scary, zone of parenting. The book offers real-world, road-tested, child-first and family-friendly advice; while also highlighting the twin truths that autism is not a tragedy, and that adaptation and acceptance are not resignation' David Mitchell, bestselling author and co-translator of *The Reason I Jump* 'A must-read for anyone with an autistic child in their life' Laura James, author of *Odd Girl Out* Written by Jessie Hewitson, an award-winning journalist at The Times, *Autism* is the book she wishes she had read when her son was first given the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. It combines her own experiences with tips from autistic adults, other parents - including author David Mitchell - as well as advice from autism professionals and academics such as Professor Simon Baron-Cohen. *Autism* looks at the condition as a difference rather than a disorder and includes guidance on: · What to do if you think your child is autistic · How to understand and support your child at school and at home · Mental health and autism · The differences between autistic girls and boys 'It is incredibly useful and informative, full of new research and interviews that put right an awful lot of misinformation. I cannot recommend this highly enough' The Sun 'Exceptionally useful and informative' Uta Frith, Emeritus Professor of Cognitive Development, UCL

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