

National Autism Prevalence Trends From United States Special Education Data

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Main Outcome Measures. A disability category classification of autism, mental retardation, speech and language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or other health impairment, as documented by state departments of education and reported to the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education.

Results. Prevalences of disability category classifications for annual birth cohorts from 1975 to 1995 were calculated by using denominators from US Census Bureau estimates. For the autism classification, there were birth cohort differences, with prevalences increasing among successive (younger) cohorts. The increases were greatest for annual cohorts born from 1987 to 1992. For cohorts born after 1992, the prevalence increased with each successive year but the increases did not appear to be as great, although there were fewer data points available within cohorts. No concomitant decreases in categories of mental retardation or speech/language impairment were seen. Curves for other health impairments, the category including children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, also showed strong cohort differences.

Conclusions. Cohort curves suggest that autism prevalence has been increasing with time, as evidenced by higher prevalences among younger birth cohorts. The narrowing in vertical separation of the cohort curves in recent years may mark a slowing in the autism prevalence increase.

- The authors, from Johns Hopkins and the University of Minnesota are using data from state departments of education and reported to the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education, the same data that have been used in the tables and analysis generated by the Autism Autoimmunity Project since 1999
- The authors report on birth cohorts and state that autism prevalence increased starting with children born in 1975, around the period where MMR vaccine, that had been licensed in 1971, became widely used.* See graph below
- The increases were greatest for annual cohorts born from 1987 to 1992, when HIB and Hepatitis B vaccinations were added to the “routine pediatric vaccination schedule”. Both vaccines contained Thimerosal.

- The authors found that although the number of children with autism is still increasing, it is increasing at a slower rate starting with children who turned 6 in 1998.
- Age-specific prevalences were calculated for 5 disability categories including autism for ages 6 through 17 years in each of 10 years, 1992 through 2001.
- The year 1992 was the first year in which all states were mandated to provide counts for autism.

TAAP Tables

The following table, lists the number of children aged 6-21 in US Schools and the yearly percent increase since the introduction of DSM IV.

School Year	Students Autism	Percent Increase
1994-95	22,780	
1995-96	28,813	26.48
1996-97	34,082	18.28
1997-98	42,487	24.66
1998-99	53,561	26.06
1999-00	65,391	20.86
2000-01	78,717	20.37
2001-02	97,847	20.61
2002-03	118,603	21.21
2003-04	140,922	18.81

Note that the % increase in the number of children aged 6 to 21 in the autism category according to the US DOE did go down after a high of 26.06 in 1998-99.

TAAP believes that this trend may not persist.

The following table lists the number of children in the autism category aged 3 – 5 according to the US DOE.

School year	Students Autism	Percent Increase
2000-01	15,581	
2001-02	17,032	9.3
2002-03	19,017	11.6
2003-04	22,724	19.5
2004-05		

The following tables show the recent autism statistics in the few states that responded to TAAP inquiries. It is most likely that these figures will remain unchanged in the next yearly report of the US DOE to Congress.

Ages 6-21

State	2003-2004	2004-2005	Percentage Increase
Arkansas	1,040	1,192	14.6
Arizona	2,131	2,617	22.8
California	19,034	22,691	19.2
Colorado	879	1,072	22.0
Florida	5,915	7,256	22.7
Georgia	3,956	4,667	18.0
Idaho	571	686	20.1
Indiana	4,755	5,558	16.9
Kentucky	1,358	1,551	14.2
Louisiana	1,640	1,871	14.1
Maine	815	985	20.9
Michigan	6,341	7,318	15.4
Mississippi	622	767	23.3
Missouri	2,664	3,138	17.8
Montana	247	257	4.0
Nebraska	557	694	24.6
New Hampshire	585	929	58.8
New Jersey	4,933	5,738	16.3
New Mexico	359	416	15.9
North Carolina	4,074	4,763	16.9
North Dakota	220	246	11.8
Ohio	5,146	6,308	22.6
Oklahoma	959	1,308	36.4
Oregon	3,759	4,341	15.5
Pennsylvania	5,805	7,034	21.2
South Dakota	328	379	15.5
Tennessee	1,659	2,034	22.6
Texas	10,354	12,412	19.9
Utah	1,030	1,279	24.2
Virginia	3,533	4,271	20.9
Washington	2,824	3,414	20.9
Wisconsin	3,259	3,876	18.9

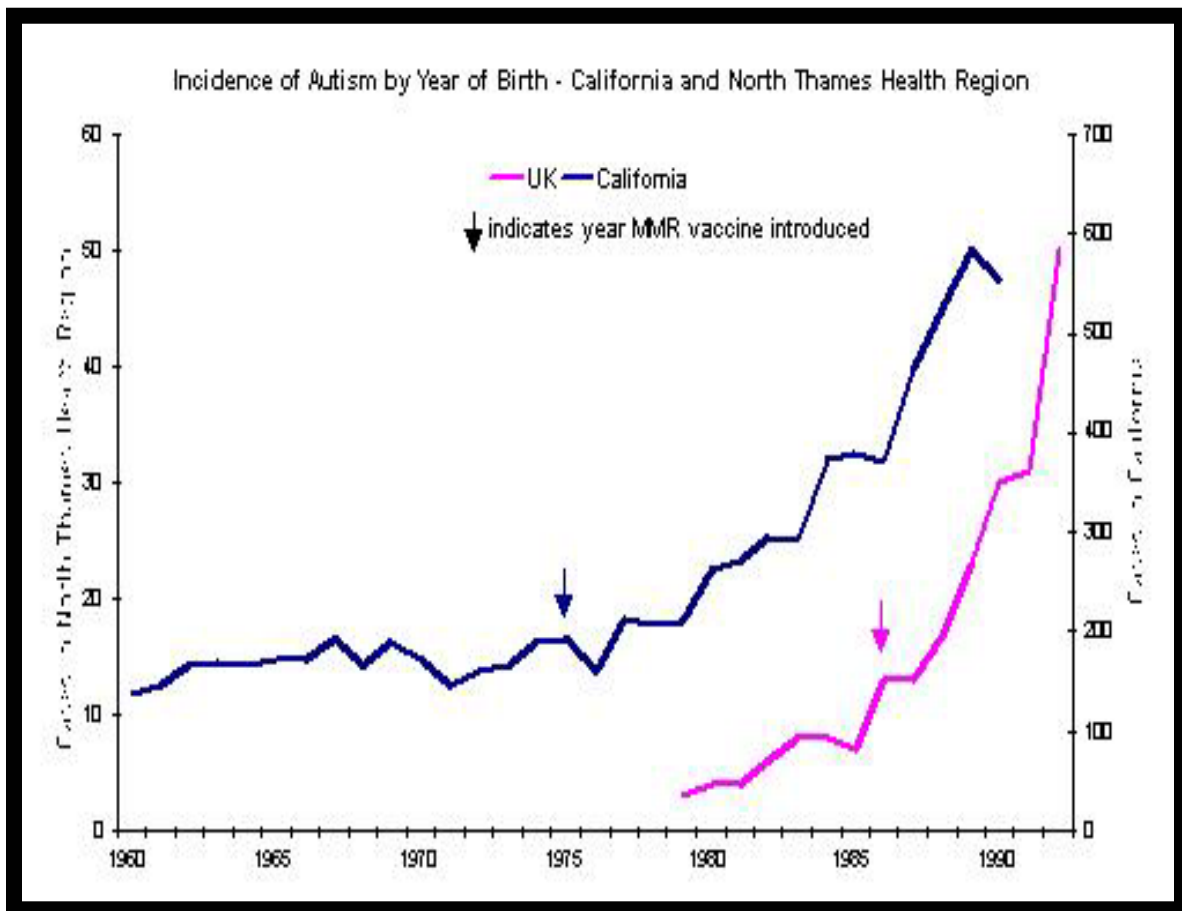
Ages 3-5

State	2003-2004	2004-2005	Percentage Increase
Arkansas	74	102	37.8
Arizona	157	223	42.0
California	5,829	6,598	13.2
Colorado	99	121	22.2
Florida	1,236	1,415	14.5
Georgia	427	504	18.0
Idaho	64	69	7.8
Indiana	679	699	2.9
Kentucky	228	232	1.8
Louisiana	284	332	16.9
Maine	203	270	33.0
Michigan	918	1,031	12.3
Missouri	199	255	28.1
Montana	23	31	47.6
New Hampshire	82	120	46.3
New Jersey	570	650	14.0
New Mexico	54	73	35.2
North Carolina	613	644	5.1
North Dakota	20	32	60.0
Ohio	344	366	6.4
Oklahoma	32	34	6.3
Oregon	630	686	8.9
Pennsylvania	1,373	1,582	15.2
Tennessee	299	356	19.1
Texas	1,586	1,824	15.0
Utah	149	205	37.6
Virginia	418	470	12.4
Washington	288	333	15.6
Wisconsin	410	485	18.3

The fact that significant increases in autism prevalence are still occurring in the younger age groups, the 3 to 5 year old children known to the DOE, should be a concern to everyone.

*The following Autism Research Institute Graph is relevant. It shows the increase in autism and spectral disorders in California and a region in the United Kingdom. Cases of autism in California increased noticeably in the late 70's shortly after the MMR vaccination became widely used. They increased in a parallel fashion in the North Thames region after 1988, when the MMR vaccination was included in the United Kingdom recommended pediatric vaccination schedule.

The MMR vaccine was widely used in the US starting in the mid to late seventies and in the UK starting in 1988.



http://www.ideadata.org/tables26th/ar_aa3.htm

http://www.ideadata.org/tables27th/ar_aa3.htm

http://www.ideadata.org/tables26th/ar_aa2.htm

http://www.ideadata.org/tables27th/ar_aa2.htm

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Autism is 1 in 150 children today, 1 in 68 families! TAAP (The Autism Autoimmunity Project) is a non-profit charity dedicated to obtaining funding for independent research into the cause, treatment and prevention of autism and other autoimmune disorders. Please visit our new website at <http://www.TAAP.info> and "TAAP into the Truth!"