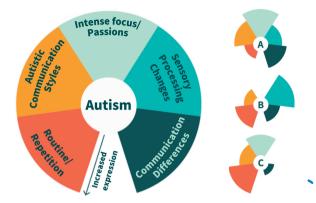
Iouisiana families for vaccines

The Facts About Autism & Vaccines





Why do more people seem to be diagnosed with Autism?

As of 2023, **1 in 36 children in the US are diagnosed with Autism**. Improvements in identification and accessibility of healthcare, along with reduced stigma, have helped Autistic people get an accurate diagnosis sooner and receive the support and services they need to thrive. **Disparities continue to exist in diagnostic rates in marginalized communities** and adults.



Are vaccines and Autism linked?

Vaccines do not cause Autism. A fraudulent study was published in 1998 claiming that the MMR vaccine caused autism in 8 children. Subsequent **studies on hundreds of thousands of children have found no link between vaccines and Autism**. Other studies have identified genetic factors, nervous system differences, and congenital rubella syndrome (prevented by the MMR vaccine), to be associated with increased likelihood of Autism.



What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong, brain-based developmental disability that **begins in the womb**, and impacts the way the brain processes and uses information. There are many Autistic traits and each individual experiences them differently.



Why are vaccines so important for Autistic people?

Autistic people are more likely to have cooccurring conditions that make them **more vulnerable to infectious diseases**. Also, Autistic people are part of every population and exist in every marginalized community, which also leaves them **more at risk of negative health outcomes**.



Vaccine accessibility is important for people of all ages and ability levels.

Vaccines are a critical part of keeping our schools and communities safe and our economies functioning. It is important to support programs that make vaccines more accessible to all Louisianans.