

Barbara Loe Fisher, President  
National Vaccine Information Center

Institute of Medicine Meeting  
August 23, 2004

D.A. Henderson, M.D., on  
DPT Vaccine Reactions:

“We do not find evidence of any long term  
brain damage, none at all. We do not see  
evidence of seizure disorders.”

*-Transcript of NBC “Now” Show  
March 2, 1994*



# AUTISM A.L.A.R.M.

## **A**utism is prevalent

- 1 out of 6 children are diagnosed with a developmental disorder and/or behavioral problem
- 1 in 166 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder

# Thimerosal-Containing Vaccines and Health Problems *- Unpublished VSD Data*

- Stammering
- Tics
- Sleep disorders
- Eating disorders
- Emotional disturbances
- Attention deficit disorder
- Speech and language disorders
- Coordination problems
- Seizures
- Autism
- Other significant health problems

“...the Committee concludes that the evidence favors rejection of a causal relationship between thimerosal containing vaccines and autism....

The Committee concludes that the evidence favors rejection of a causal relationship between MMR vaccine and autism....

The Committee does not consider a significant investment of studies of the theoretical vaccine-autism connection to be useful at this time.”

Institute of Medicine  
May 18, 2004

“I find it quite appropriate to utilize the 2004 IOM Report as a tool for identifying the items of evidence that are available concerning the general issue of whether MMR vaccines cause autism...

The Institute of Medicine seems clearly to be an appropriate source of expert assistance for a special master in a Vaccine Act proceeding....

I note that during the 15-year history of the Vaccine Act, special masters have consistently referred to and relied upon [those] reports of the Institute of Medicine...”

July 15, 2004, Special Master Ruling in the U.S. Court of Claims  
In Re: Claims for Vaccine Injuries Resulting in Autism Spectrum  
Disorder or similar Neurodevelopment Disorders

“This analysis suggests that in our study population, the risks of **tics, ADD, language and speech delays and developmental delays** in general may be increased by exposures to thimerosal-containing vaccines during the first six months of life. Confirmation of these findings in a different population and further quantification of the dose response effect are needed.”

-CDC Unpublished findings-VSD  
Year: 2000

“the CDC recognizes the importance of data sharing when questions are raised regarding a particular study’s design and methodology... the CDC has developed a data sharing process designed to allow an independent researcher to replicate or conduct a modified analysis of a previous VSD study, while maintaining the confidential nature of the data.”

-Roger Bernier, M.D., Associate Director for Science  
National Immunization Program  
*Testimony in Congress: 2002*



“We call on the Secretary of Health, Tommy Thompson, to provide the public, especially non-government, non-industry affiliated vaccine researchers, with full, open and timely access to all government vaccine safety monitoring data, including the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD).”

[www.NVIC.org/Petition.htm](http://www.NVIC.org/Petition.htm)

“The lack of adequate data regarding many of the adverse events under study was of major concern to the committee. Presentations at public meetings indicated that many parents and physicians share this concern...

in the course of its reviews additional obvious needs for research and surveillance were identified.”

-Institute of Medicine Vaccine Safety Committee  
Adverse Events Associated with Childhood Vaccines, 1994

# Epidemic of Chronic Illness and Disability in Children

- 1 in 6 have development delays or behavior disorders
- 3 million learning disabled schoolchildren
- 94,000 autistic schoolchildren
- 4 million with ADHD
- 9 million with asthma
- 300,000 have juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- 1 in 400 to 500 are diabetic