

Stop saying that vaccines cause autism. **They don't.**

With new talk about a Coronavirus vaccine, discussion of so-called “vaccine injury” has been increasing, and more people are openly professing wary attitudes about vaccines.

This is *dangerous*.

Not only because it increases the chances of people compromising herd immunity, putting vulnerable people at risk, but because **it creates a culture where dismissing scientific facts becomes normalized, where thoroughly verified information is tossed aside just because it doesn't fit a certain narrative.**

One of the most common refrains among anti-vaxxers is that vaccines cause autism. This is demonstrably false, as has been proven time and time again by dozens of studies- even those conducted by organizations such as Autism Speaks, which hoped to find a link between autism and vaccines. But alas, **there isn't one.**

[One of the most recent studies](#) on the subject, released in 2019, was conducted over an entire decade and included 657,461 children. **No link between the MMR vaccine and autism was found.**

But of course, anti-vaxxers don't listen to science. They never have.

It's barely useful to try arguing with hardcore anti-vaxxers on the basis of science, since they don't acknowledge reality or enjoy making attempts to understand it. Their cult-like views have no foundation in material reality, so it's not really possible to have a reasonable debate on the subject.

What anti-vaxxers love about vaccines is that they're such an easy scapegoat for any perceived issue that crops up in a child's early developmental history. Because of the way the brain develops in early childhood, autistic traits start to become more apparent around the same time that kids are receiving lots of vaccines. **But just because two things happen around the same time, doesn't mean there's a causal relationship between them.**

Now, let's pretend. Let's pretend that the anti-vaxxers are right. Let's pretend that sometimes, under certain circumstances, receiving lots of vaccines in early childhood can cause a child to become autistic. And let's also acknowledge that vaccines are effective in preventing disease.

What the anti-vaxxers are saying, according to their own unfounded beliefs, is that having a healthy autistic child is worse than having a dead neurotypical child. They are saying that to be autistic is a fate worse than death. They are saying that autistic

people's lives are completely and utterly worthless, that our existence is nothing more than a tragic burden on society.

My existence is valuable. I am a whole, autistic human being. I should not have to say that. I should not have to justify my existence. **I should not have to plead with the neuromajority for them to recognize that autistic people count as human beings, too.** Yes, autistic people who stim in public. Yes, autistic people who can't speak. Yes, autistic people who can't bathe ourselves. All of us. *All of us.* **All of us.**

Autism is not a death sentence, it's a developmental disability. If you can't recognize the difference, that's your own problem. But don't go around telling me I'm worth less than a decomposing corpse.

Now let's remove ourselves from the anti-vaxxer delusion, and look at what's actually happening here:

Fewer and fewer children are being properly vaccinated, which has caused the resurgence of diseases humanity had previously eradicated. More people are dying and getting sick from preventable diseases.

And the number of autistic people is staying the same, because of course it is- autism is caused overwhelmingly by inherited genetic factors. Better diagnosis methods and identification later in life has led to the superficial appearance of an increase in the number of autistic people over the past few decades, but we've existed the whole time.

So, more people are dying and getting sick, for no good reason. All because of an obtuse anti-science conspiracy theory being pushed by neurotypical bigots who believe autistic people shouldn't exist.

~Eden 🐸