

Vaccines – Are They Still Contributing to the Greater Good?

Analysis by [Dr. Joseph Mercola](#)

✓ Fact Checked

March 24, 2023

STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- › To ensure the safety of as many children as possible, we need to have an open rational discussion about vaccine safety; 30 years ago, autism affected 1 in 10,000 children. Today, it afflicts as many as 1 in 50
- › If your baby has suboptimal gut flora, vaccines can become the proverbial "last straw" – the trigger that "primes" their immune system to develop chronic health problems
- › Evaluating differences in health outcomes among highly vaccinated and unvaccinated children could shed light on the vaccine safety conversation, but a large scale, well-designed study has never been done

Editor's Note: This article is a reprint. It was originally published November 15, 2014.

We are republishing articles from past years that remain eerily relevant in today's unprecedented climate. The multiple award-winning documentary, "The Greater Good," was initially released in 2011. We published it on our site for the first time seven years ago. This article has now been viewed a million times.

Ten years since the films debut, the tragic truth about the toxic effects of vaccines on brain and immune system health that was revealed in this groundbreaking film is as just as true today as it was when it was first shown in film festivals around the U.S.

It's incredibly important to view this documentary in the context of the mass COVID-19 injection campaign, in which the public is being coerced and forced via mandates to accept a largely experimental injection.

While many experts have spoken out that the risks of the COVID-19 jabs are too great for many populations,¹ including children and young people, pregnant women and people who are already naturally immune, health officials are still pushing the jabs for "the greater good."

What many may not recall is that Leslie Manookian, is not only the writer and producer of this award-winning documentary, but is also head of the Health Freedom Defense Fund that filed a lawsuit that resulted in the U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle on April 18, 2022, [voiding the U.S. CDC's national mask mandate](#) on airplanes and public transit.

Weaving together stories of families whose lives have been forever altered by vaccine damage, the documentary reveals how modern medicine, especially when driven by politics, ideology and big business, can rob you of some of your most basic human rights, including voluntary, informed consent to medical risk-taking.

The results of such politically and financially driven public health policies can be devastating. "The Greater Good" is a provocative but thoughtful and well-documented examination of hot button vaccine topics. Uniquely, it includes the perspectives of prominent voices messaging differently about vaccination in mainstream media today – both those pushing for mandatory vaccination policies and those opposing forced vaccination policies.

The profiles of families, whose children have been injured or even died from vaccination are heartbreaking, and it is infuriating to learn about the short cuts that government and industry take to fast track vaccines like Gardasil, and how too many doctors dismiss vaccine reactions as "a coincidence."

The film ends with a bittersweet but hopeful message, urging positive change to reduce fear so that parents, doctors and legislators can work together to protect the health of all children and prevent vaccine injuries and deaths.

Protecting Health of All Children Demands Individual Approach

There needs to be an open, rational discussion about vaccination, infectious diseases and health. After all, don't all of us want our children to be healthy and safe from unnecessary harm?

If we want to protect the health of all children, we cannot continue to ignore the signs that public health policies making mandatory use of multiple vaccines in early childhood as our nation's No. 1 disease prevention strategy has gotten to the point where we have no idea how many children's lives are being sacrificed in the name of "the greater good."

From my point of view, there can be little doubt that we need to review the safety and effectiveness of the current vaccination program in the U.S., and that this review needs to include methodologically sound investigative studies that are not compromised by conflicts of interest within industry and government.

If we don't do that now, we may not be able to stop further damage to the health of future generations. I encourage you to watch the documentary, "The Greater Good," to become better informed about the science, politics and ethics of vaccination, a film you can view for free here during this year's Vaccine Awareness Week.

Autism and The Thinking Moms Revolution

A producer of "The Greater Good"² has also released short videos with outtakes of interviews that were conducted for the film, as well as other information covering a number of vaccine topics. The video above is about the reported relationship between vaccination and autism, featuring mothers of vaccine injured children with autism from a group called The Thinking Moms Revolution.

Autism has skyrocketed over the past few decades and scientists and public health officials continue to argue about the reasons for why it is happening but something is clearly very wrong. Three decades ago, autism affected 4 in 10,000 children.³ In 2021, it's estimated to afflict as many as 1 in 54.⁴

While conventional medicine still claims there's no known cause for autism increases, members of a group called The Thinking Moms are speaking out about how they

brought a healthy child in for vaccination, and watched their child deteriorate following that vaccination.

As stated by one mom: "In this country, we're indoctrinated to believe in vaccines, and believe there's this incredibly impeccable science behind them. [But] once you start the investigation and you realize how flimsy the evidence is, for safety in particular ... that's when you realize how little of this is based on fact." On its website,⁵ "The Greater Good" team notes:

"In the early 2000's, CDC instructed vaccine makers to remove the mercury preservative in childhood shots. But as the mercury was being phased out of most childhood vaccinations, CDC recommended that pregnant women and infants at 6 months and again 7 months receive the flu shot – which they knew still contained mercury.

In addition to the flu shot, CDC began recommending that pregnant women also receive the Tdap vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus, and attenuated pertussis). So, pregnant women and their unborn babies are still being subjected to mercury-laden flu vaccines and aluminum-laden DTaP vaccines – and at an earlier point.

These vaccines during pregnancy contradict decades of advice to take no medications, quit smoking, stop drinking alcohol and avoid mercury laden seafood while pregnant, but people have been so conditioned to trust authority that they accept this, making it all too easy to tell parents, 'sorry, your kid was born that way' ...

[G]overnment health officials maintain the charade that they are trying to find a cause for autism when they have blown \$1.6 billion over the past decade looking for a supposed genetic cause despite ample science showing that environmental factors are the culprit."

The Good News

The good news is there is much more information available today about alternative biomedical therapies. These are being used by open-minded doctors addressing the neuroimmune dysfunction that children with vaccine-associated autism are suffering. Some children diagnosed with "autism" are improving through use of special diets, supplementation regimens and detoxification protocols tailored to their individual needs.

As noted in the video, there's a vast "underground" movement of parents who are sharing their experiences and successes and there are enlightened doctors who have been able to help children with autism when conventional medicine falls short. The Gut and Psychology Syndrome (GAPS) protocol is, in my view, among the most important treatment strategies out there, but there are also many others.

The GAPS nutritional protocol was created by Dr. Natasha Campbell-McBride, whose son was diagnosed with autism. She understands that there's a very important connection between damaged gut flora in pregnant women and developmental problems in their children, especially autism.

Establishing normal gut flora in the first 20 days or so of life plays a crucial role in the maturation of your baby's immune system. It's important to realize that babies who develop abnormal gut flora have compromised immune systems, which puts them at higher risk for suffering vaccine reactions.

In GAPS Babies, Vaccination Can Be 'the Last Straw'

If your baby has suboptimal gut flora, vaccines can become the proverbial "last straw" — the trigger that "primes" their immune system to develop chronic health problems. According to Campbell-McBride, in children with GAPS the toxicity flowing from their gut throughout their bodies and into their brains continually challenges their nervous system, preventing it from performing its normal functions and process sensory information.

Other researchers are now starting to back up her findings. For example, one 2013 study⁶ confirmed that autistic children have distinctly different microbiome compared to healthy children. Notably, they had fewer healthy bacteria, such as Bifidobacterium. Children diagnosed with autism also had markedly higher levels of toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

I believe the GAPS Nutritional program is vitally important for most, as the majority of people have such poor gut health due to poor diet and toxic exposures, but it's particularly crucial for pregnant women and young children.

The best way to prevent GAPS is for the mother to avoid all processed foods, sugar, antibiotics (including CAFO meats and antibacterial soaps) and birth control pills prior to conception. These cause pathogenic yeast and fungi to grow and also cause leaky gut that allows undigested protein fragments to sneak into the bloodstream contributing to autoimmune disease.

This can then be followed by breastfeeding and avoiding the use of antibiotics during (intrapartum) and after delivering.

It's also a good idea to make sure your baby's microbiome is healthy before getting any vaccinations. Fortunately, it's possible to rather inexpensively identify GAPS within the first weeks of your baby's life, which can help you make better-informed decisions about vaccinations, and about how to proceed to set your child on the path to a healthy life.

The entire process for identifying children who would be at risk for developing autism from a vaccine is described in her book, "Gut and Psychology Syndrome: Natural Treatment for Autism, Dyspraxia, A.D.D., Dyslexia, A.D.H.D., Depression, Schizophrenia."

What Doctors Really Know About Vaccines

Another short video published on "The Greater Good" website makes the point that doctors are not being taught about vaccine risks in medical school. In short, doctors are being taught about administering vaccines but not about how to identify a vaccine

reaction. Doctors strongly recommending and administering vaccines to children are not taught about the big gaps in vaccine safety science.

"They don't learn that no study exists comparing the medium or long term health outcomes of vaccinated to unvaccinated populations. They don't learn that vaccine safety studies don't use a true placebo, but instead use another vaccine or a solution containing mercury or aluminum as a placebo!

They don't learn that vaccine safety studies often last a few days to a few weeks keeping hidden long term side effects. They don't learn that vaccines can overwhelm the immune system and cause autoimmune disease. They don't learn that the aluminum in vaccines is known to cause cognitive impairment, autoimmune disease, gut issues and a host of other damage to healthy adults — goodness knows what they do to tiny infants.

They don't learn that the mercury in vaccines is documented in the medical literature as a potent neurotoxin and that it is still used in the manufacturing of some vaccines and as a preservative as well. They don't learn how the body processes the vaccine components because, well, no one has ever researched it."

In light of such vaccine education deficiencies in most medical schools, it becomes very important for parents to educate themselves — and their pediatricians, if they can — about how to identify and prevent vaccine reactions, injuries and deaths. And this is precisely why opening up discussions about these issues is so important. There are huge gaps in general knowledge, and huge gaps in research too, and those gaps really need to be addressed.

Why Won't the CDC Study Health Outcomes?

One study that could shed a lot of light on the vaccine safety conversation is a study comparing health outcomes of vaccinated versus unvaccinated children. As illogical as it seems, there has never been a large prospective well-designed study to evaluate

whether children who remain unvaccinated or receive fewer vaccines, are more or less healthy than children who receive all federally recommended vaccines. These kinds of studies do not exist.

And so the controversy about whether or not use of multiple vaccines in early childhood is having long-term adverse health effects and may do more harm than good continues. That said, unofficial surveys^{7,8} suggest that highly vaccinated children may have more chronic health problems than unvaccinated children, and that unvaccinated children have a far lower incidence rate of autism.

There's also a growing body of research suggesting that vaccines may be associated with a variety of brain and immune system disorders, including a potential increased risk for:

- Learning and developmental disabilities
- Brain damage
- Allergies, asthma and gut problems
- Autoimmune diseases
- Chronic infections

Autism Rates Jump Each Time This Happens

A study describing one potential unrecognized safety issue associated with vaccines was published in the September 2014 issue of the Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology.⁹ It discussed a potential correlation between autism and three specific vaccines: MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), varicella (chickenpox) and hepatitis-A vaccines. As reported by Global Research:¹⁰

"Using statistical analysis and data from the U.S. Government, U.K., Denmark and Western Australia, scientists at Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute (SCPI) found that increases in autistic disorder correspond with the

introduction of vaccines using human fetal cell lines and retroviral contaminants.

Even more alarming, Dr. Theresa Deisher, lead scientist and SCPI founder noted that, 'Not only are the human fetal contaminated vaccines associated with autistic disorder throughout the world, but also with epidemic childhood leukemia and lymphomas.'"

The main argument for a vaccine-autism connection in the study is the introduction of vaccines manufactured with human fetal cell lines containing fetal and retroviral contaminants. The cell line in question is known as WI-38. According to the authors, autism rates rose sharply each time another one of these vaccines were released.

For example, in the U.S., autism rates jumped in 1980 to 1981 following the approval of Meruvax II and MMR II, both of which were made with the human fetal cell line WI-38. Another jump in autism prevalence occurred in 1988, corresponding to three factors:

1. The addition of a second dose of MMR II
2. A highly successful measles vaccination campaign that raised compliance from 50% to 82% between the years 1987 and 1989
3. The introduction of Poliovax in 1987

In 1995, autism rates jumped again after the introduction of the Varicella vaccine, Varivax. In conclusion, the authors note that "rising autistic disorder prevalence is directly related to vaccines manufactured utilizing human fetal cells."

Although this is only one hypothesis for how and why vaccines may be contributing to the rising incidence of autism among children, there are many outstanding questions about vaccine science and policy that must be answered quickly before more vaccines are added to the government recommended and mandated list for children and adults.

Unfortunately, statistics on links between vaccines and autism are sparse, and when an article does come out even hinting there is a link, it's immediately followed with comments from "fact" checking websites and vaccine promoters denying it. This,

despite the fact that only one vaccine – the MMR – and one vaccine ingredient – thimerosal – have actually ever been scientifically explored. As noted by Children's Health Defense:¹¹

"The truth is none of those vaccines have ever been studied or considered for their relationship to autism, so no one has any idea. This would be like trying to identify the source of a plane crash, suspecting mechanical failure, solely analyzing one of the wings, and then declaring the entire airplane free of culpability."

In the meantime, to protect your own health and the health of your children, please empower yourself with information and become well-informed about infectious diseases and vaccines so you can make wise health care choices.

Protect Children's Health With These Positive Actions

You can access more information about vaccination and health on the National Vaccine Information Center's (NVIC) website at www.NVIC.org. The parent co-founders of NVIC, whose children were injured by DPT vaccine, launched the vaccine safety and informed consent movement in the U.S. in 1982. The website is the largest and oldest website on the internet publishing accurate, well-referenced information about vaccination and infectious diseases.

- **Post a video vaccine reaction report** – You can make people more aware that vaccine reactions, injuries and deaths are real by posting a video vaccine reaction report on NVIC's online Memorial for Vaccine Victims [here](#).

NVIC launched "Protect Life: Witness a Vaccine Reaction" on NVIC.org during Vaccine Awareness Week 2016. In 2021 NVIC has an active vaccine injury reporting form where you [can share details of your or your child's vaccine injuries](#). I encourage you to participate if you or a loved one has experienced a serious vaccine reaction.

Sharing your story of how vaccination changed your life or the life of someone you care about can educate and save other people from having to suffer in the same way.

- **Take action to protect vaccine exemptions in your state** — If you want to actively work in your state to protect legal vaccine exemptions so you are able to make voluntary vaccine choices for yourself and your children, I encourage you to sign up today to be a user of the free online [NVIC Advocacy Portal](#), so you can be kept up to date on legislation moving in your state that may threaten vaccine exemptions and puts you in touch with your own elected representatives so you can make your voice heard. You can also sign up for NVIC's free e-newsletter, The Vaccine Reaction, [here](#).

It is up to all of us, individually, to participate in our democracy and make sure that the laws which govern us do not infringe upon our civil liberties and take away our human right to exercise choice and informed consent to vaccine risk-taking.

Sources and References

- ¹ RAIR Foundation. June 9, 2021
- ² The Greater Good
- ³ [Autismsciencefoundation.org](#)
- ⁴ CDC.gov, National Health Statistics Report, Number 65, March 20, 2013 (PDF)
- ⁵ The Greater Good, Vaccine Beat 1: Autism
- ⁶ PLOS ONE October 9, 2013 [Epub ahead of print]
- ⁷ SAGE Open Med. 2020; May 27, 2020
- ⁸ NewportRI.com March 21, 2019
- ⁹ Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology September 2014: 6(9); 271-284 (PDF)
- ¹⁰ Globalresearch.org September 8, 2014
- ¹¹ Children's Health Defense August 11, 2020 one vaccine and one vaccine ingredient have actually ever been scientifically explored