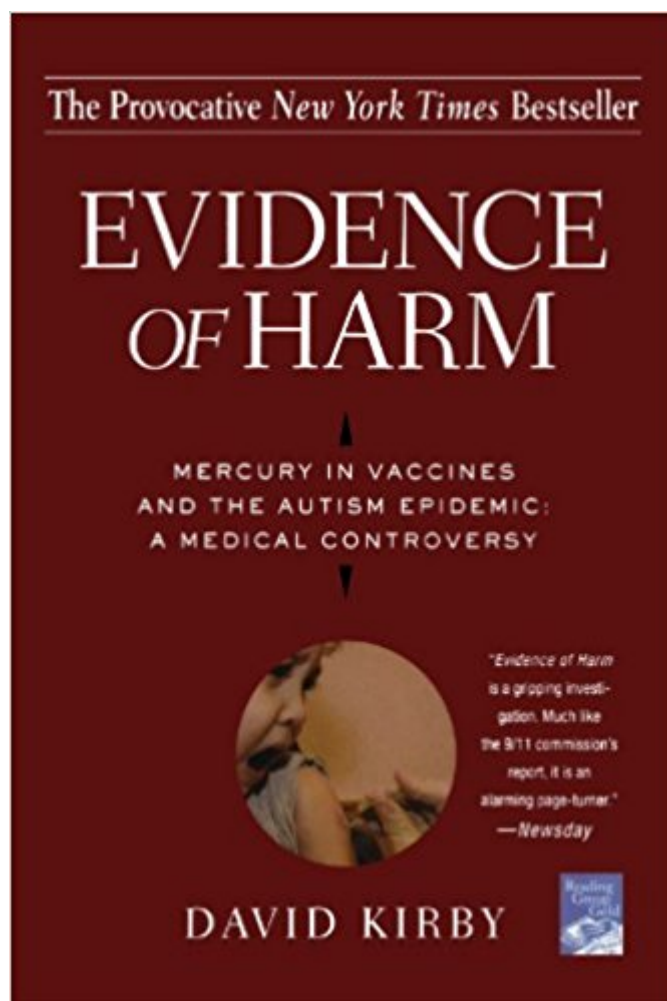


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Evidence Of Harm: Mercury In Vaccines And The Autism Epidemic: A Medical Controversy



Synopsis

In the 1990s reported autism cases among American children began spiking, from about 1 in 10,000 in 1987 to a shocking 1 in 166 today. This trend coincided with the addition of several new shots to the nation's already crowded vaccination schedule, grouped together and given soon after birth or in the early months of infancy. Most of these shots contained a little-known preservative called thimerosal, which includes a quantity of the toxin mercury. Evidence of Harm explores the heated controversy over what many parents, physicians, public officials, and educators have called an "epidemic" of afflicted children. Following several families, David Kirby traces their struggle to understand how and why their once-healthy kids rapidly descended into silence or disturbed behavior, often accompanied by severe physical illness. Alarmed by the levels of mercury in the vaccine schedule, these families sought answers from their doctors, from science, from pharmaceutical companies that manufacture vaccines, and finally from the Center for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration-to no avail. But as they dug deeper, the families also found powerful allies in Congress and in the small community of physicians and researchers who believe that the rise of autism and other disorders is linked to toxic levels of mercury that accumulate in the systems of some children. An important and troubling book, Evidence of Harm reveals both the public and unsung obstacles faced by desperate families who have been opposed by the combined power of the federal government, health agencies, and pharmaceutical giants. From closed meetings of the FDA, CDC, and drug companies, to the mysterious rider inserted into the 2002 Homeland Security Bill that would bar thimerosal litigation, to open hearings held by Congress, this book shows a medical establishment determined to deny "evidence of harm" that might be connected with thimerosal and mercury in vaccines. In the end, as research is beginning to demonstrate, the questions raised by these families have significant implications for all children, and for those entrusted to oversee our national health.

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Customer Reviews

Avoiding hyperbole while writing about a possible medical catastrophe is no easy task, but David Kirby has created a fine balance of investigative and personal detail in *Evidence of Harm*. Combining stories from the parents of autistic children with reports, speeches and studies from researchers, pediatricians and government officials, he creates a picture that is as terrifying as anything dreamed up by Hitchcock. The topic at hand is determining whether high levels of organic mercury present in an inexpensive preservative used in vaccinations can cause either autism or autism-like symptoms. Kirby's in a delicate position, searching for the truth between frantic parents (he focuses on the founders of political action group Safe Mind) and the self-protective pharmaceutical industry (the author thanks the nameless person who placed a pro-Eli Lilly litigation rider into the Homeland Security Act of 2002). He's also honest enough of a reporter to admit to the temptation of deciding mercury is the culprit behind a range of disorders, even in light of some inconclusive test results. The ultimate truth isn't clear, and Kirby is direct about each of the reasons his sources have for their biased opinions. While some of the straight research reports will likely go over the head of anyone not well versed in the terminology, the book is never dull--there is a continual urgency in the material that resists pedantry. However undecided the experts, readers will likely land firmly in one angry camp or the other. Jill Lightner --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. The first serious journalistic account of a highly controversial topic, Kirby's book addresses the front-page question: has a mercury-containing preservative called thimerosal, commonly used in children's vaccines, caused a national epidemic of juvenile autism? Following the development of the debate through the eyes of a handful of impassioned parents who formed the political action group, Safe Minds, Kirby, an experienced writer for the New York Times, crafts an engrossing David and Goliath story from this controversy, one in which the giant is an amalgamation of big government bureaucrats and corporate pharmaceutical lobbyists. Whether the association between thimerosal and autism is real remains to be seen, as Kirby points out. The evidence,

presented here in excruciating detail but clouded by the parents' editorializing, is inconclusive but suggestive. Readers inclined to believe the parents' case will be convinced that there has been a big conspiracy; readers inclined to be skeptical will likely view the parents as self-serving proselytizers who spin each piece of evidence to suit their forgone conclusions. Walking the middle line, Kirby acknowledges that "each side accuses the other of being irrational, overzealous, blind to evidence they find inconvenient, and subject to professional, financial, or emotional conflicts of interest that cloud their judgment." And though Kirby clearly sympathizes with the parents' tragic experience of autism in their families and their inherent desire for justice, and though he occasionally demonstrates a lack of understanding about the politics of scientific publication and the wording of scientific articles, his book remains one of the most thoroughly researched accounts of the thimerosal controversy thus far. This is the book for medical professionals and concerned parents to read. It's accessible in its handling of medical topics and compelling in its recounting of the parents' fight to advance their agenda in the face of both political and scientific roadblocks.

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Evidence of Harm is a factual, critical, meticulous and extremely thorough investigation of the machinations, greed, collusion, inhumane acts, corruption, cover ups, hidden agendas, obfuscation of facts, fear mongering, deceit, with holding of information regarding the harmful and toxic undesired effects of vaccinations and the questionable efficacy and safety of vaccinations by the FDA and the CDC. Their pecuniary/vested and conflict of interests in their relationships with BigPharma is puerile, insidious and clearly a matter of putting 'Profit Before Patients.' The torture of orthodox allopathic medicine that the FDA and CDC has inflicted upon the world population is reprehensible and unjustified when there are more humane alternative allopathic cancer treatments that provide a pain free, quality and dignity of a normal life throughout the treatment protocol. What if some of the \$47 trillion spent on the 'War on Cancer' to date had been spent on prevention and the alternative allopathic treatment protocols? It is obvious that their hearts are not in it for the public interest and well being. It is painfully obvious that the FDA and CDC are places filled with egos of titanic proportions. Their primary focus is on their careers, working towards their fame, glory, fortune and recognition. What of the 'Revolving Door Syndrome' where officers of the FDA and CDC can resign from the respective agencies one day, go to work for BigPharma the following day and subsequently lobby for the Fast Tracking and Grandfather clause approval of new drugs. And no one bats an eyelid! How insidious is this! What if it was they who were put through the same

persecution and purgatory with which they have hunted down Dr Stanislaw Burzynski? What if they were exposed to the same terrifying and horrific process with which they have treated Dr Stanislaw Burzynski's patients and those seeking out his treatment? Regrettably and sadly they have clearly demonstrated that they do not have an empathic, humane and compassionate bone in their respective bodies. The FDA and CDC are in breach and contravention of the Nuremberg Code, Article 19 'The Right to Know' and the Commission on the Rights of the Child. Given their actions in the matters of Alan Yurko and Gabrielle Swank the FDA and CDC have been complicit in a travesty of Natural and Social Justice and cruelty to humanity and should face the Judicial consequences of their actions.

If you want to know where the idea of mercury, vaccinations, and autism came from, here is one of the sources. It traces the work of parents who began to unravel the connection themselves and formed the group Safe Minds to deal with this. It shows the duplicity of the NIH and why they are not to be trusted. If you give money to Autism Speaks you are supporting high salaries and fancy Manhattan offices but if you support Safe Minds, Adventures in Autism and other sincere groups, you will be doing real good. Start by reading this book.

Thank you

This book is a must read for those seeking an insight into the struggles involved with fighting for information and to be heard regarding vaccines. The unrelenting struggle of concerned parents to fight against a deaf bureaucracy, our government, inspires hope and shows that the battle is against egos, complacency, and denial.

Great book. Very informative. Much evidence for tying autism to vaccinations. A must read for all. Answers a lot of questions except why would the government allow and why would the drug companies put mercy in the vaccinations. More cover ups. More lies. My heart goes out to all these families that have dealt with a life time of pain due to this. Please use an open mind and think what is happening.

I bought this because i have a child with autism and i felt like i wanted more answers. I got some of them answered with this book! It is excellently written and David Kirby really delves in. It also traces the stories of parents who are fighting for what they know happened to their children and all the

corruption out there. A must read. I do have to say though I almost got angry reading it. The truth in this matter is shocking if you open your eyes! Job well done David Kirby keep up the good fight!!

An excellent behind-the-scenes chronicle of the vaccine-autism controversy. I would've preferred a little less about the people and a lot more about the technical elements of the debate, but this book does cover important aspects of both.

A definite possibility to the autism epidemic that is taking over the USA. If you are going to have a baby you should read this and then decide if you want to vaccinate the way they currently have the schedule, which I truly believe needs to be changed.

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