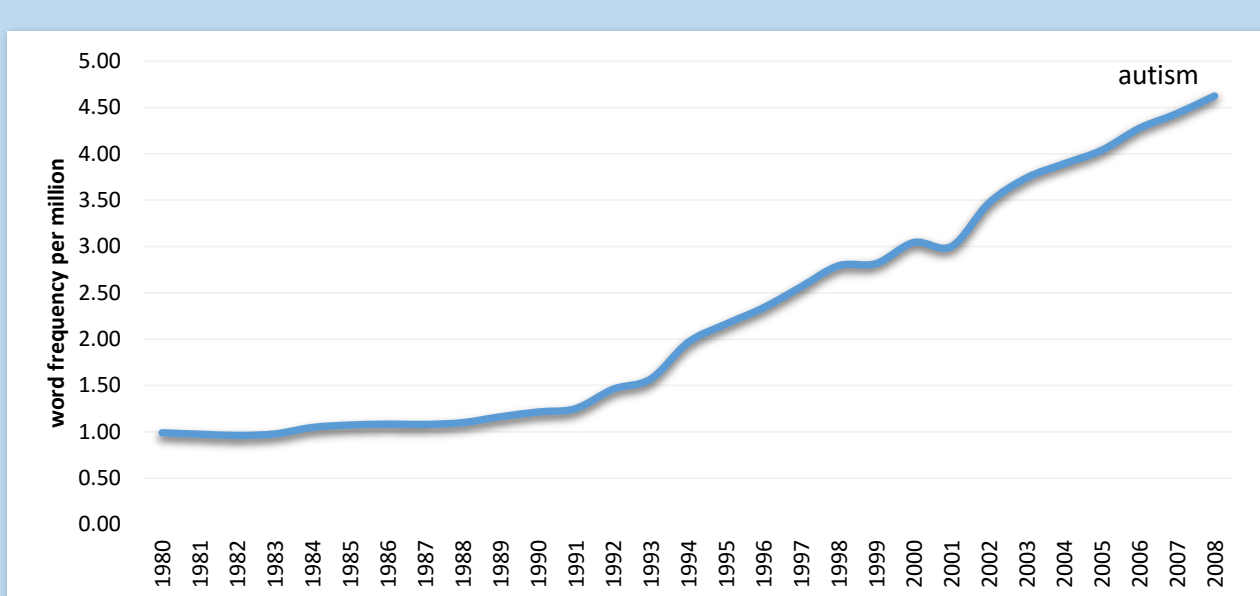


# The Autism Epidemic

## an epidemic of words

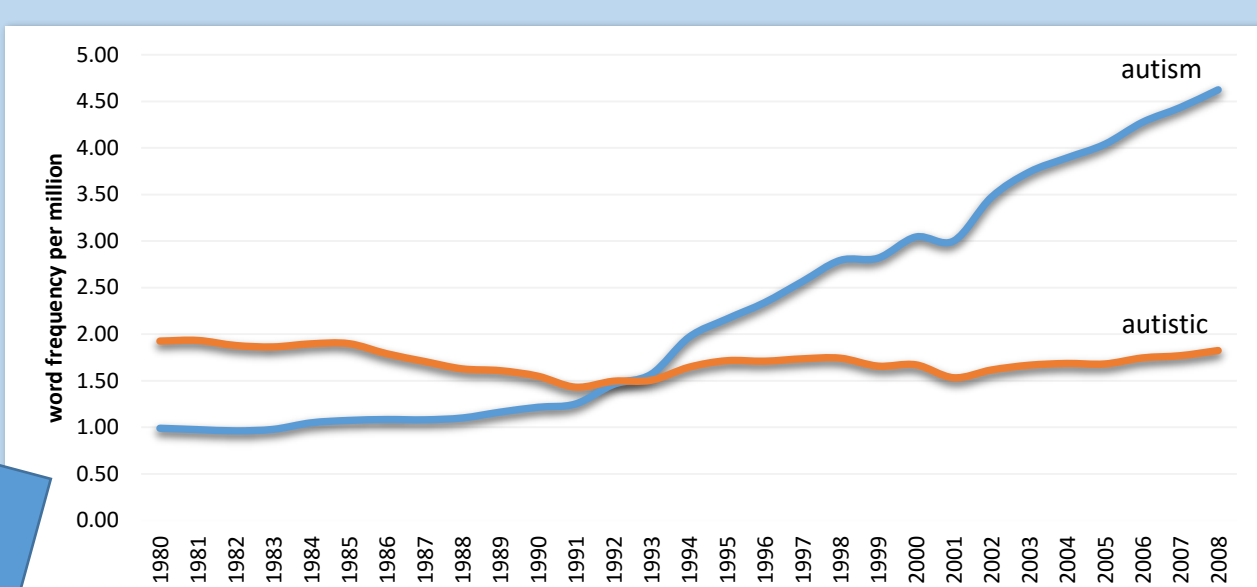
1 People believe autism is growing wildly because they read about it more.



Source: Google Books Ngram Viewer. <https://books.google.com/ngrams>

2 You find the word "autism" almost 5 times more frequently in publications in 2008\* than in 1980.

3 Person-first language has helped change the words we use. In 1980, the word "autistic" was twice as common as "autism."

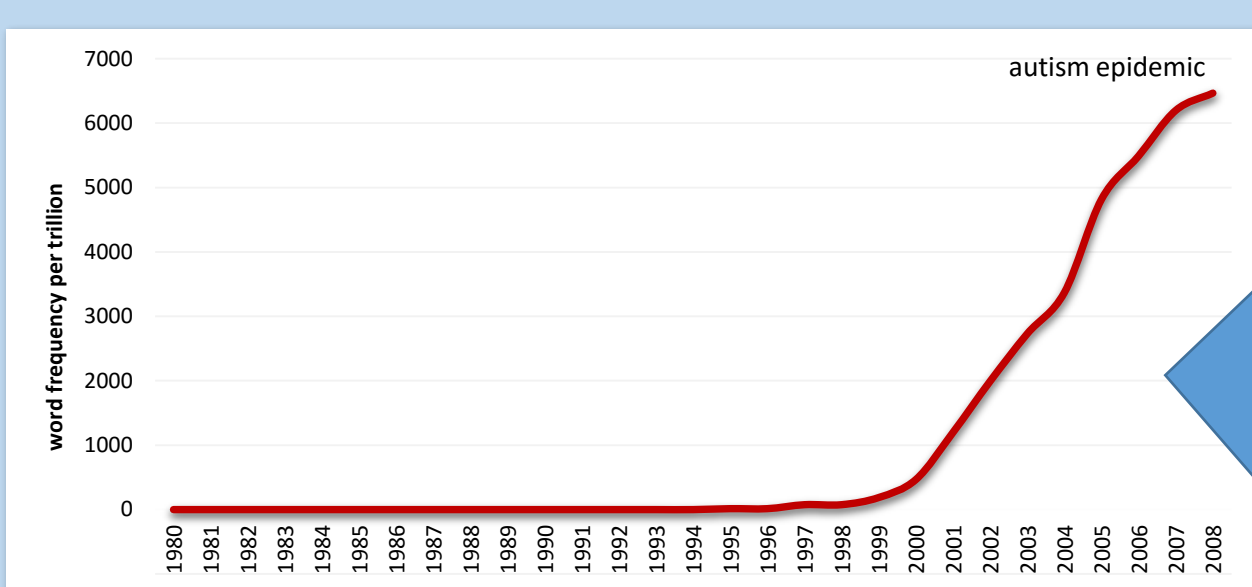


Source: Google Books Ngram Viewer. <https://books.google.com/ngrams>

4 While "autism" has skyrocketed, the use of "autistic" has remained flat or even declined.

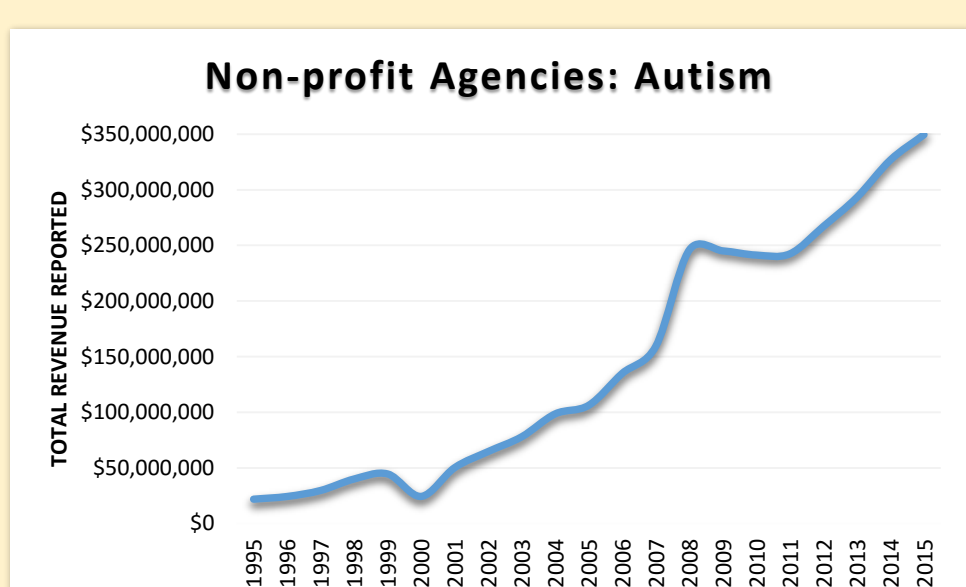
5 But this is nothing compared to the explosion of language referring to autism as an epidemic. You were **500** times more likely to read about autism as an epidemic in 2008\* compared to just 10 years earlier.

\*the last year with data available



Source: Google Books Ngram Viewer. <https://books.google.com/ngrams>

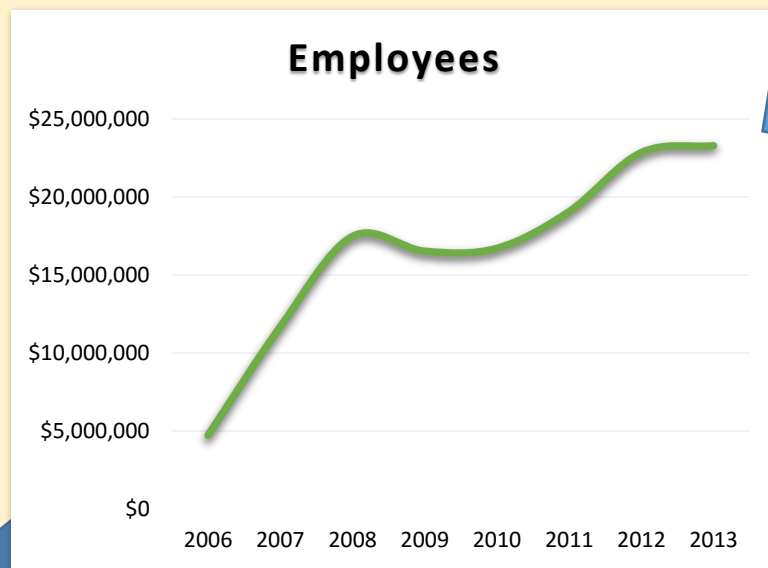
## the rapid growth of the autism charity business



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics. <http://nccsweb.urban.org/tablewiz/pc.php>  
Registered 501(c)(3) charities in category 684 reporting assets on form 990.

1 The increased focus on the autism epidemic is reflected in the growth of charities and autism-focused voluntary health agencies that provide patient assistance and family support, community services, public and professional education, medical research support, and health-related advocacy.

2 Donations to these charities has increased dramatically, up **1600%** in the last 20 years in the US alone. People are concerned about this epidemic. Celebrities endorse these organizations.

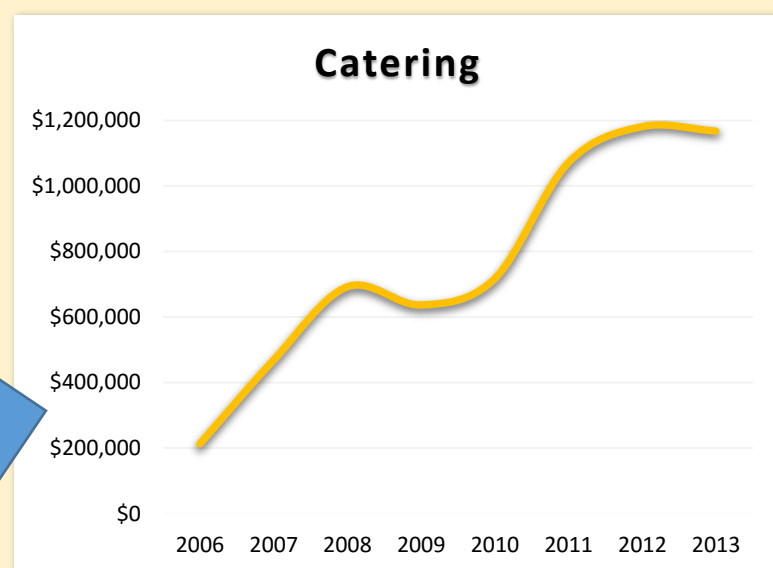


Source: Autism Speaks Financial Statements: Salary + Benefits + Payroll Tax. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/about-us/annual-reports>

4 One way is to look at the financial statements of the self-proclaimed\* world's leading autism science and advocacy organization.

\*<https://www.autismspeaks.org/about-us>

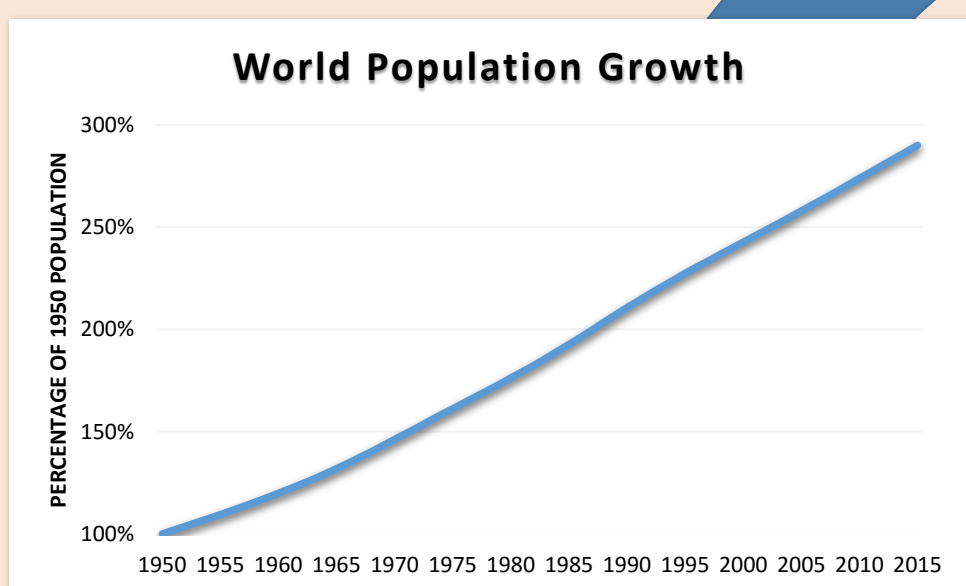
5 The increase in spending in many categories matches the increased use of the powerful epidemic language.



Source: Autism Speaks Financial Statements: Catering. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/about-us/annual-reports>

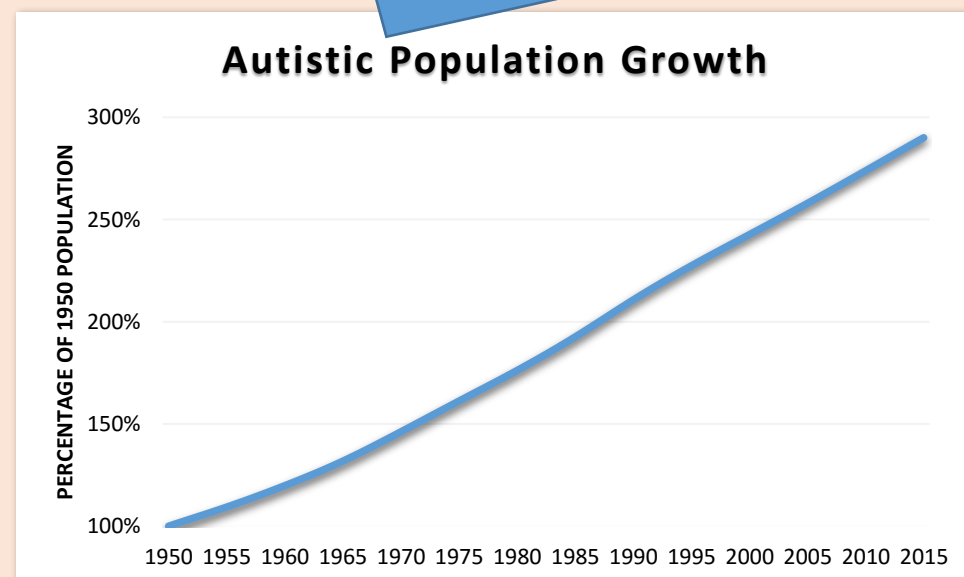
## so where are all those extra autistic people?

1 The overall increase in world population in the last 65 years...



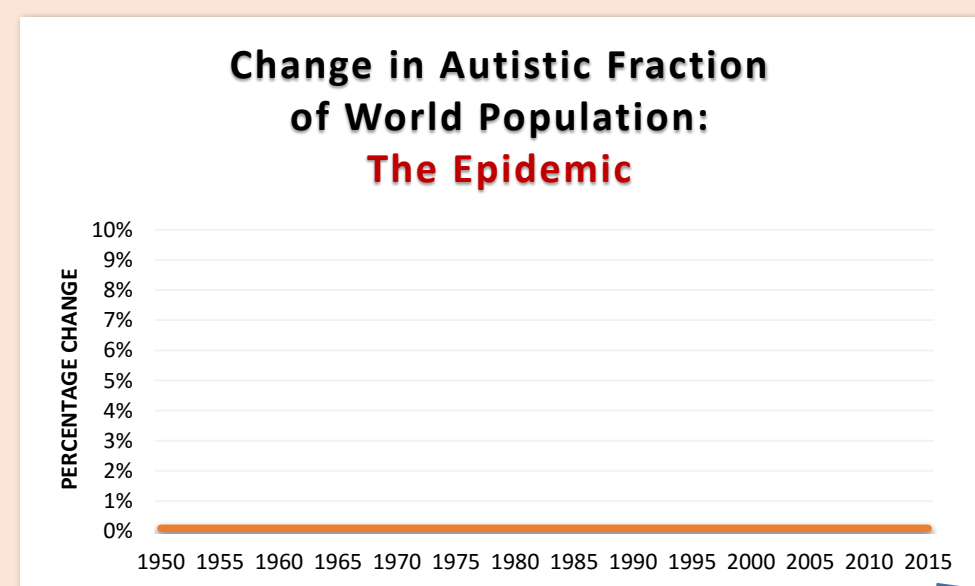
Source: GeoHive. [http://www.geohive.com/earth/his\\_history3.aspx](http://www.geohive.com/earth/his_history3.aspx)

2 ...is matched by the overall increase in the autistic population.



Source: I just copied the previous chart.

3 The only reason there are more autistic people in the world today is because there are more people in the world today.



Source: Common sense.

4 Autism doesn't come from an epidemic. Autism doesn't come from toxins or vaccines or a spreading disease.

5 Autistic people come from where they have always come from: the wombs of women. This has been true for thousands of years. This will be true for as long as humans don't have a way to prevent these births from happening.

6 Let's ease the lives of these people, as we should for all people. Let's welcome these people. Let's cherish these people. Let's stop making up stories and start focusing on what really matters.

