The Autism Epidemic

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

You find the word "autism" almost 6 times more frequently in publications in 2008* than in 1980.

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

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 50 years earlier.

The increased focus on the autism epidemic is reflected in the growth of autism-related advocacy. This has been true for thousands of years. This will be true for as long as humans don't have a disease.

Let's stop making up stories and start focusing on what really matters.

*https://books.google.com/ngrams

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

The increase in spending on many agencies matches the increased use of the powerful epidemic language.

Employees

Catering

Change in Autistic Fraction of Total Population: The Epidemic

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Donations to these charities has increased dramatically, up 1600% in many categories matches the overall increase in the word frequency per million.

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One way is to look at the financial statements of the world's leading autism-related charities and their related advocacy.

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so where are all those extra autistic people?

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

World Population Growth

Autistic Population Growth

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

Autism doesn’t come from an epidemic. Autism doesn’t come from brains or receivers or a spreading disease.

Autistic people come from where they have always come from: the words of humans. 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.

Let’s make 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.