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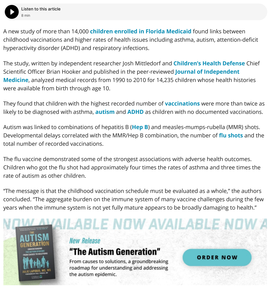
TOXIC EXPOSURES

Study of 14,000 Children Links Vaccination to Higher Rates of Chronic Illness

A study of Florida Medicaid data found that children with the most recorded vaccinations had more than twice the rates of asthma, autism and ADHD diagnoses as those with none. "The aggregate burden on the immune system of many vaccine challenges during the few years when the immune system is not yet fully mature appears to be broadly damaging to health," the authors wrote.

by **Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.**

NOVEMBER 19, 2026



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A new study of more than 14,000 **children enrolled in Florida Medicaid** found links between childhood vaccinations and higher rates of health issues including asthma, autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and respiratory infections.

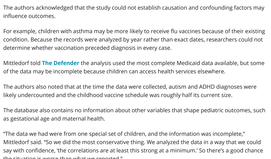
The study, written by independent researcher Josh Mitteldorf and **Children's Health Defense** Chief Scientific Officer Brian Hooker and published in the peer-reviewed **Journal of Independent Medicine**, analyzed medical records from 1990 to 2010 for 14,235 children whose health histories were available from birth through age 10.

They found that children with the highest recorded number of **vaccinations** were more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with asthma, **autism** and **ADHD** as children with no documented vaccinations.

Autism was linked to combinations of hepatitis B (**Hep B**) and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) shots. Developmental delays correlated with the MMR/Hep B combination, the number of **flu shots** and the total number of recorded vaccinations.

The flu vaccine demonstrated some of the strongest associations with adverse health outcomes. Children who got the flu shot had approximately four times the rates of asthma and three times the rate of autism as other children.

"The message is that the childhood vaccination schedule must be evaluated as a whole," the authors concluded. "The aggregate burden on the immune system of many vaccine challenges during the few years when the immune system is not yet fully mature appears to be broadly damaging to health."



What the Florida Medicaid records showed

The **Florida Medicaid database** contains records for more than 10 million patients. Of the 14,235 children studied, 9,703 had at least one documented vaccination, while 4,532 had no vaccinations.

The researchers examined associations between vaccination status and diagnoses of autism, developmental delay, ADHD, asthma, respiratory infections, ear infections, skin rashes, streptococcal infections and fever.

In total, 4,360 had an asthma diagnosis, 2,267 had ADHD, 4,411 had developmental delays and 152 had autism.

Children with no recorded vaccinations had a 21% annual probability of receiving medical attention for a respiratory infection, compared with 47% in the highest vaccination category.

The total number of diagnoses increased with the number of recorded vaccine doses, the study showed.

The flu, MMR, and combined diphtheria-tetanus vaccines were associated with the worst outcomes.

DTP-Hib (**Haemophilus influenzae type b**), HPV and pneumococcal vaccines were associated with the least detrimental outcomes.

The researchers also identified associations between flu shots and developmental delays, respiratory infections and other **conditions**. Several diagnoses increased with the number of recorded flu vaccinations.

The authors acknowledged that the study could not establish causation and confounding factors may influence outcomes.

For example, children with asthma may be more likely to receive flu vaccines because of their existing condition. Because the records were analyzed by year rather than exact dates, researchers could not determine whether vaccination preceded diagnosis in every case.

Mitteldorf told **The Defender** the analysis used the most complete Medicaid data available, but some of the data may be incomplete because children can access health services elsewhere.

The authors also noted that at the time the data were collected, autism and ADHD diagnoses were likely undercounted and the childhood vaccine schedule was roughly half its current size.

The database also contains no information about other variables that shape pediatric outcomes, such as gestational age and maternal health.

"The data we had were from one special set of children, and the information was incomplete," Mitteldorf said. "So we did the most conservative thing. We analyzed the data in a way that we could say with confidence, 'the correlations are at least this strong at a minimum.' So there's a good chance the situation is worse than what we reported."

They said their findings were "suggestive, not definitive" and indicate the need for rigorous testing in larger, more complete datasets with better data for individual variables.

Accounting for differences in medical care given

According to the researchers, the greatest potential for bias is that families who vaccinate may be more likely to seek medical care — this is known as the "healthy vaccinee effect."

Those children may therefore have more opportunities to be diagnosed, which could create the appearance of higher disease rates.

To account for this, the researchers grouped children by their number of annual well-child visits and compared vaccination status and diagnoses within each group.

They also found evidence of protective effects. Hepatitis A and flu vaccinations were associated with fewer ear infection diagnoses, while Hib vaccination was associated with fewer ADHD diagnoses.

They urged caution in interpreting these findings, which they said may also be linked to the healthy vaccinee effect.

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Authors call for better data access

The authors anticipated that those who support the current vaccine status quo would dismiss their paper for its limitations. Instead, they argued, the appropriate response would be "to insist that the data necessary to overcome those limitations be made available to the independent **scientific** community without gatekeeping by agencies with vested interests in the status quo."

They called on state Medicaid agencies, insurance companies and health maintenance organizations to make de-identified medical records available to independent researchers.

Those datasets, they said, could allow investigators to reproduce the Florida analysis, account for additional confounding factors and examine health outcomes across larger populations.

They wrote:

> "The status quo is (potentially) bad for child patients, and their parents, who have no organized representation. But it is also (potentially) bad for health insurance companies and HMOs, which are not only paying the cost of vaccinations that have questionable value; they are also paying for the downstream treatment of diseases whose prevalence is increased by the vaccination schedule. …
>
> "… The take-home message is that those empowered to form public health policy have an urgent need to review all vaccines for safety, using better data than is available from Florida Medicaid datasets."

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Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.
Brenda Baletti, Ph.D., is a senior reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about capitalism and politics for 13 years in the writing program at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. in human geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's from the University of Texas at Austin.

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America has gone from #1 in World health to # 47 in the last 75 years…and our government does nothing to find out why, because it might harm the money-procuring industries (Two of the biggest culprits that have caused the nation's health to decline…The Food Industry and the Medical Industry…There are others that have contributed, such as, the Chemical Industry and the Electronics Industry.
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LinLM — 5 hours ago
How many more studies do they need?
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Rob bff — 12 hours ago
It's now obvious that these studies don't matter.
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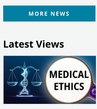
Mayfield — 12 hours ago
This is a good epidemiological study and I would like to thank the authors for their hard work. At the same time I curse the FDA for approving the mmr and hep b shots to begin with. The process looks like trying to incriminate the wolf after it has wreaked havoc in the chicken coop. The wolf is guilty until proven innocent. The wolf is guilty.
1 | Reply

holisticpoet — 13 hours ago
What is so disheartening about these studies is that it seems if a study states that vaccinated children die at ten times the rate of the unvaccinated, those who control those who dictate the vaccine schedule will say that there is nothing to see here. In other words it seems to not matter how much information tells us that vaccines are causing immeasurable harm, nothing will be done about it. The profits of big pharma always come first. This is not as in my world. I don't let anyone in my family get vaccinated if I can help it.
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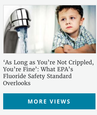
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