



Sensible Action For Ending Mercury-Induced
Neurological Disorders

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SafeMinds Analysis of IOM Vaccine Report: The Failures, the Flaws and the Conflicts of Interest

Washington, D.C.— In the first of a series of forthcoming analyses, SafeMinds—America's leading scientific organization investigating the risks that mercury-containing medical products pose to our children—issued the following assessment of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Vaccine Safety Committee's report on the link between childhood autism and mercury-containing vaccines.

"The Institute of Medicine has a simple mission: to stand for the advancement and integrity of science. The IOM's Immunization Safety Review Committee disavowed that mission yesterday," stated Mark Blaxill, director of SafeMinds. "In reviewing a possible cause underlying the recent explosion in autism rates, they made a number of ghastly mistakes."

Blaxill was responding to the IOM's report, released yesterday, that apparently used flawed science to conclude a minimal risk between mercury in vaccines and autism. "The IOM's rush to judgment showed that the fix was in even before the evidence could be reviewed, and that they ignored the thoughtful recommendations of their previous studies. They placed too much weight upon flawed epidemiological analyses and paid little attention to scientific research that demonstrated clear links between mercury-related exposures and autism."

In response to questions regarding conflicts of interests with some of the government's presenters, Blaxill added, "The IOM chose to completely ignore pervasive conflicts of interest in the authors' groups involved in dismissing connections between mercury and autism, groups directly linked to vaccine manufacturers or the public health agencies that promoted the expansions in the exact vaccine exposures under question. This was a sad day for independent scientific review."

"The scientific and autism-parent communities will not accept this judgment as final. A ten-fold increase in U.S. autism rates is a public health epidemic crisis of historical importance and demands explanation. Escalating exposures to vaccines containing toxins such as mercury coincided with this tragic increase in autism, and numerous independent studies have demonstrated the link between the increased exposure and the rise in autistic children. The IOM chooses to deny reality and that is not acceptable. We need to find out exactly what has happened to our children," concluded Blaxill.

Additional SafeMinds comments and reviews of the involved science may be viewed at www.SafeMinds.org.

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