The question remains: How and why does a child develop autism? Which children are more susceptible? What pollutants are most detrimental? Beyond exposure to harmful substances in the environment (including heavy metals, vaccines, antibiotics, GMOs, medications or pesticides), how do epigenetics, bioaccumulation, individual predisposition and chemical sensitivity to environmental toxins influence the autism epidemic? We need your help to find the answers.

Everyone is exposed to toxins every day that can damage both a mother’s and a father’s pre-conception well-being and put their children’s health at risk. A pregnant woman passes her toxins directly to her developing fetus. In 2004, the Environmental Working Group found a total of 287 different toxic chemicals in infants’ blood, including pesticides, plasticizers, food additives and wastes from burning coal, gasoline, and garbage. Of these 287 chemicals, they found 180 known or suspected carcinogens, 217 neurotoxins, and 208 that caused birth defects or abnormal development – with potential links to autism.

While genes can increase the risk of autism, the weight of the science indicates that autism is an environmental rather than genetic disorder. Increasing recognition of autism as a whole-body disorder reinforces the idea that environmental triggers are one of the main causes of autism. New scientific research in neurology, immunology, metabolism, endocrinology, and epidemiology shows that autism is often environmentally induced. Autism research funding efforts have begun to open up new frontiers. The role of parents in helping answer questions regarding what causes autism, and how to stop this epidemic, is essential. We all need to work together to recover our children’s health and prevent more children from being harmed.

Support SafeMinds today
- Sign up for our e-news and read our blogs on the current issues of concern
- Follow and share our work on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest with friends and family
- Make a contribution to us supporting scientific research in priority areas or to one of our programs.

SafeMinds welcomes your help
We support both professionals and family members of all ages to join us in the fight to prevent neurodevelopmental disorders, uncovering underlying illnesses, and help our children get well.
Mission
SafeMinds believes that the epidemic of childhood autism and the disabilities that accompany autism will end when our environment, food, and health care products are universally safe and non-toxic. SafeMinds works for justice, accountability and integrity in science and public policy as a means of preventing these disabilities in future generations. We educate and empower people, focus on prevention and fund research to find treatments that will lead to recovery for those living with autism.

Vision
By accomplishing our mission, we will assist in creating optimal health in pregnant women, infants and children through the elimination of exposures to neurodevelopmental toxins.

Goals
- Seek justice and accountability from elected and administrative leaders who control the government response to autism.
- Educate the community about the science linking environmental toxins to autism and related diseases and support further research into these causes.
- Be the destination for those seeking information about autism’s environmental connection by providing timely, interactive and accessible information.
- Drive the conversation around key environmental topics that promote prevention, treatment and recovery for individuals diagnosed with autism and related conditions.

SafeMinds believes parents and families deserve answers
- What is causing the autism epidemic?
- Why did this happen to my child?
- What about vaccines and environmental toxicants?
- What can I do to help recover my child’s health?
- How can we prevent autism and stop this epidemic?

Truth
SafeMinds’ ultimate goal is to find the truth about the connection between environmental toxins and neurodevelopmental disorders.

To that end, we encourage and support efforts to conduct medical research to help discover scientifically proven treatments to reverse environmentally-caused neurological damage in children and prevent future generations from facing similar outcomes.