

“Autism and Hope”

Brookings Institute
Washington, DC
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History of Autism

1940's – 1960's

Age of Denial

1960's – 1980's

Age of Defeat

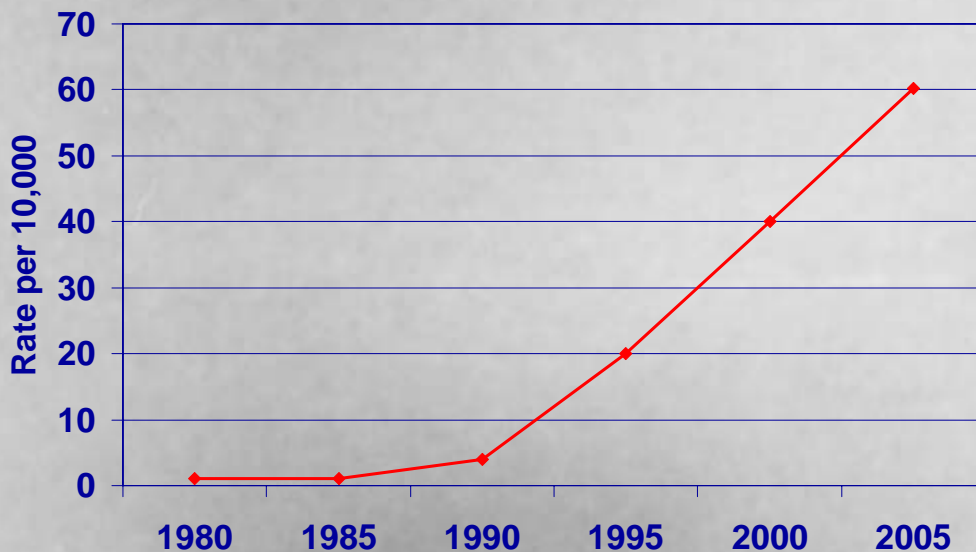
1990's – present

Age of Hope



What Changed?

- **Marked increase in prevalence**
 - **1980: 1 in 10,000**
 - **1990: 1 in 2,500**
 - **1995: 1 in 500**
 - **2000: 1 in 250**
 - **2005: 1 in 166**



What Changed?

- **CAN and NAAR founded in 1995**
 - **Built a vibrant autism research field**
 - **Developed resources (AGRE, ISAAC, ATP)**
 - **Lobbied for more government spending**
 - **Children's Health Act of 2000**
 - **Combating Autism Act of 2005**
 - **Awareness**
 - **Gave families hope**



Autism Myths

- **Must assume intelligence**
- **Early identification is best treatment**
- **Intensive intervention leads to best outcome**
- **Autism is treatable**
- **Autism is extremely heterogeneous**
- **Increase in prevalence is real**
- **Strong evidence toward interaction between genetics and the environment**



CAN Science

- **Find the problem**
 - Identify the pathways and subtypes
- **Find the children**
 - Earlier dx and biomarkers
- **Find the treatments**
 - Clinical care centers and trail networks
- **Find the resources**
 - Data collection and management
 - Biomaterials



Autism Community

- We're young – 10 years old
- We're strong – #'s increasing, passionate, smart
- We suffer from a little autism ourselves
- We will conquer this disease during our lifetime



Our Core Beliefs

- **Urgency Matters**
 - Autism is a national emergency
 - A cure for autism will come during our children's lifetime
- **Improved Quality of Life is Possible**
 - Individuals with autism deserve a better QOL
 - Autism can be treated
 - Early identification leads to better outcomes
- **Science is Key to Solution**
 - Science can be hurried
 - Collaboration and sharing is key

