Today’s piece was prepared by Isaac Miller, MS-4, based on a Fox News article [Autism Rate Now 1 in 40 US Kids, Study Finds](https://www.foxnews.com/health/autism-rate-now-1-in-40-us-kids-study-finds)

This article talks about a recently published study in *Pediatrics* that estimated the rate of autism to be 1/40 in the US population based on a 2016 internet survey that asked approximately 43,000 parents with kids aged 3 to 17 if their child had ever been diagnosed with autism. It then compares this number to the lower rates found in two other prior surveys and briefly explains them. The article explains that these surveys cannot be compared to one another and that while reports over the years suggest autism rates are rising, experts are not sure if this is a true increase.

Strengths of this article are that it includes three different surveys rather than relying on one, briefly explains them, and suggests the “rate” (or more accurately, the estimated “prevalence”) could be anywhere 1/40 to 1/59 based on them; however, it mentions that they are not comparable but does not explain why. It also calls the 1/59 report the most rigorous but does not explain why it is the most rigorous. It also does not identify the “experts” that challenge if the rate is truly rising. The article mentions that autism can be missed by doctors and parents but does not give suggestions of what they can do to avoid its being missed other than suggesting the use of the app Milestone Tracker which it does not expound on its credibility. The article provides a brief definition of autism without providing resources for more information - this could be confusing and fearmongering to parents especially within the context that rates could be rising. The article’s title is click-bait and sensationalist as it doesn’t reflect accurately a range as described in the article.

**AUTISM PREVALENCE AND RELATED RESOURCES FOR PARENTS:**[Autism prevalence](http://www.autism-society.org/what-is/facts-and-statistics/) *Autism Society*[Learning the signs of autism](https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Autism/LearntheSigns) *Washington State Department of Health*
[What is Autism?](https://autismsciencefoundation.org/what-is-autism/) *Autism Science Foundation*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!