Today’s piece was prepared by Meeka Gandhi, MD, based on a PBS story [The autism rate is on the rise, CDC says. Here’s what that actually means](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/the-autism-rate-is-on-the-rise-cdc-says-heres-what-that-actually-means).

This article essentially attempts to debunk the idea that autism is on the rise due to vaccinations and refocus on the idea that diagnosis and recognition of autism is improving. There is a specific focus on the improvement in access to resources in African American and Hispanic populations that are leading to what seems like increasing rates of autism, but rather are increasing recognition of the diagnosis. The article relies on numbers, sources like the CDC, and anecdotes regarding misinformation about vaccines to push its point. It is short and to the point, but it is easy for the reader to get lost in the numbers. It would not be difficult for a reader to misinterpret the article’s meaning as “autism is increasing among minority populations” and somehow make a connection with vaccines in some way. In the article, there is a link to a video that discusses the vaccine conflict in Vermont and while informative, could be distracting to the general point of the article, which is to say that 1) there are inequities amongst populations as to who is able to access what they need to help their children and 2) these inequities have an impact on the numbers. This particular article seems to have many large points which makes if difficult to focus on one.

**RESOURCES ON AUTISM:**

[Autism Speaks](https://www.autismspeaks.org/) *Advocacy, research and support for those affected with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related conditions*

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html) *Portal to statistical and support information regarding research and services*

[Autism Society of Washington State](http://autismsocietyofwa.org/v2/) *Regional education and advocacy*

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

Dr. Gandhi adds:

*\*\*There is a paucity of resources accessible to non-providers regarding access and equity in autism diagnosis and resources*