



Research indicates that other factors besides the genetic component are contributing to the rise in increasing occurrences of ASD, such as environmental toxins (e.g., heavy metals such as mercury), which are more prevalent in our current environment than in the past. Findings indicate that many children with autism or those who are at risk of developing autism have a metabolic impairment that reduces their ability to rid their bodies of heavy metals and other toxins. Build-up of these toxins in the body can lead to brain and nervous system damage and developmental delays.

ASA's Environmental Health Project, established in 2006, aims to further our understanding of possible environmental contributors to autism and other health issues, and to continue to build a grassroots community to continue research into and awareness of the effect of environmental influences on autism.

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