

# How mercury was absolved: creativity, collusion and censorship

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## Abstract

*Thimerosal and the Occurrence of Autism, Negative Ecological Evidence from Danish Population-Based Data* by Madsen *et al.* was hurriedly published in the September 2003 issue of *Pediatrics* and was considered a “well-designed epidemiological study” by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Vaccine Safety Review (VSR) Committee at its February 9, 2004 meeting. The study appears to be curiously absent of mechanisms typically associated with good scientific effort. This narrative details concerns regarding Madsen *et al.* such as their changes in participant selection methods, mid-study expansion of cohort populations, and changes in diagnostic grouping. These concerns were formulated in a letter to the Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatrics*. They were not addressed, and the letter was never published. The following is an update of the concerns addressed in the letter to *Pediatrics*.

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