



**STATEMENT FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF MARYLAND REGARDING  
TYENOL AND VITAMIN FOLATE  
September 22, 2025**

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced results of its autism research initiative, claiming new evidence on “causes” of autism and treatment. The Autism Society of Maryland appreciates the expenditure of additional resources this year for autism research, but we caution our community not to act on these proclamations before they are validated more broadly. Too often, families have been led astray by therapies based on thin or misleading science.

There’s one thing for sure. The cure that the Autism community is looking for is acceptance as full citizens who deserve equal access to education, housing and health care. If the Trump Administration is serious in its commitment to autism, they’ll dedicate the same resources to both research and delivering these services.

**Key Points from the Autism Society of America**

**On Acetaminophen (Tylenol)**

- The Autism Society of America expresses deep concern on the announcement of a link between prenatal acetaminophen (Tylenol) use and autism from the Administration.
- While some studies suggest associations, the strongest scientific evidence—A 2024 JAMA study (2M+ children) found no causal link once genetics and family factors were included. Alarmist claims could deter safe fever/pain treatment, which poses real pregnancy risks.

**On Folate and Leucovorin Research**

- Leucovorin studies are extremely small (fewer than 50 participants) and unproven.
- Antibodies studied are also found in non-autistic family members. • Leucovorin is a prescription drug—not a supplement. Off-label use risks false hope and harm.
- Families may wrongly believe a “treatment” exists; the research is early and limited.

**Autism is Diverse and Complex**

- To our knowledge, autism is not a single condition with a single cause. It is diverse and complex, with no single cause or experience.

- Today, 1 in 31 U.S. children are identified as autistic, compared to 1 in 150 in 2000.
- Autism is a spectrum: some people require 24/7 care, while others live independently, work, and thrive with supports. Our approach must reflect this diversity.
- Research shows autism arises from a combination of genetic, biological, and environmental factors— not a single cause.

**Additional Resources:**

1. SDBP (Society for Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics) statements:
  - a. For professionals: [https://sdbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SDBP\\_Autism-Statement\\_9.2025.pdf](https://sdbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SDBP_Autism-Statement_9.2025.pdf)
  - b. For patients and families: [https://sdbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SDBP\\_Autism\\_FAMILY-HANDOUT-9.2025.pdf](https://sdbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SDBP_Autism_FAMILY-HANDOUT-9.2025.pdf)
2. Research by Respected Scientist on Leucovorin: [Treatment of Folate Metabolism Abnormalities in Autism Spectrum Disorder - PMC](#)
3. Information on Tylenol: [Using acetaminophen during pregnancy may increase children’s autism and ADHD risk | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#). This short, simple summary reminds everyone to work with their doctor around their medications when pregnant, and for children after they are born.

**About the Autism Society of Maryland:** The Autism Society of Maryland (AUSOM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports individuals with autism, their families, and their communities in Howard, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties and the surrounding areas. AUSOM is an affiliate of the [Autism Society of America](#), a network of 70 such organizations across the country serving the autism community. Its mission is to create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. AUSOM offers a variety of resources, including information and resources, support and social groups (for caregivers, self-advocates, siblings), special education advocacy, workshops, advocacy, and social events. It emphasizes collaboration with service providers, schools, and policymakers to improve services and support across the lifespan.

For more information, email or call, [melissa.rosenberg@autismsocietymd.org](mailto:melissa.rosenberg@autismsocietymd.org) or 410-290-3466.