

RFK JR. AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES

RFK Jr. pushes and profits off a host of bizarre conspiracy theories that have had dangerous consequences. In the most egregious case, RFK Jr. and his nonprofit swooped in to American Samoa and spread false information about vaccine safety after two infants were tragically killed when nurses made mistakes administering the MMR vaccine. As a result, more than 80 people, most of them young children, died in a measles outbreak. During the COVID-19 pandemic, RFK Jr. specifically targeted African-Americans, who are more likely to die from the disease, with his anti-vaccine rhetoric.

He also spread or entertained many other conspiracy theories about everything from the government's role in 9/11 and his father's assassination to antidepressants causing school shootings.

RFK Jr. Spent Years Pushing False Claims About Vaccines

RFK JR. SPREAD FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT VACCINES, WITH FATAL CONSEQUENCES

March 2021: The Center For Countering Digital Hate Identified RFK Jr. As One Of 12 Individuals That Account For 65% Of Anti-Vaccine Content On The Internet. According to the Center for Countering Digital Hate, “At the outset of this research, we identified a dozen individuals who appeared to be extremely influential creators of digital anti-vaccine content. These individuals were selected either because they run anti-vaccine social media accounts with large numbers of followers, because they produce high volumes of anti-vaccine content or because their growth was accelerating rapidly at the outset of our research in February. Full profiles of each are available at the end of this report. [...] 2. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. [...] The Disinformation Dozen are responsible for up to 65% of anti-vaccine content Our analysis of over 812,000 posts extracted from Facebook and Twitter between 1 February and 16 March 2021 shows that 65 percent of anti-vaccine content is attributable to the Disinformation Dozen. This shows that while many people might spread anti-vaccine content on social media platforms, the content they share often comes from a much more limited range of sources. Exposure to even a small amount of online vaccine misinformation has been shown by the Vaccine Confidence Project to reduce the number of people willing to take a Covid vaccine by up to 8.8 percent.” [Center for Countering Digital Hate, [3/24/21](#)]

RFK Jr. Produced A Film Called “Medical Racism: The New Apartheid” Targeting Black And Latino Audiences. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was a producer on the film “Medical Racism” along with executive producer David Centner and producers Kevin D. Jenkins, Tony Muhammad, and Curtis Cost. [Medical Racism, [viewed 6/4/24](#)]

2015: Kennedy Met With Nation Of Islam Representative Tony Muhammad To Discuss Vaccine Concerns. According to Jezebel, “Robert Kennedy, Jr. wanted to meet a member of the black community who had the courage to take on the vaccine/autism issue.” Minister Muhammad told Jezebel that he met Kennedy through a white anti-vaccine activist named Lucy Cole, who was working with the Vaccine Injury Awareness League, a group that frequently collaborates with Kennedy. “She was just seeking a way to find some black leader who they could sit down with,” Muhammad said. “To connect with what’s happening with vaccines and black boys.” [Jezebel, [6/26/17](#)]

2015: Tony Muhammad And Anti-Vaccine Activists Met With Louis Farrakhan To Advocate Against Vaccines. Soon after teaming up with Kennedy, Muhammad decided it was time to take the issue to the Nation of Islam leadership: he and a group of white anti-vaccine activists flew to Chicago to meet with Louis Farrakhan. “At that time we decided to get involved with warning and educating our community,” Muhammad told Jezebel. “This has flown over the black community’s head.” [Jezebel, [6/26/17](#)]

CNN: “Kennedy Is One Of The Country’s Most Prominent Anti-Vaccine Activists.” According to CNN, “As he has before, Kennedy also declared Thursday that he is not “anti-vaccine” at all, merely a proponent of vaccine safety. In reality, Kennedy is one of the country’s most prominent anti-vaccine activists. He has for years used false and misleading claims to undermine public confidence in vaccines that are indeed safe.” [CNN, [7/21/23](#)]

RFK JR. MADE A FORTUNE PUSHING ANTI-VACCINE CONSPIRACY THEORIES

2017-2022: Kennedy, Jr. Was Paid \$1.9 Million In Salary By Children’s Health Defense. According to financial documents filed with the IRS, Children’s Health Defense paid Kennedy \$1,923,714 between 2017 and 2021 as a base salary. [Children’s Health Defense, form 990, fiscal years [2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022](#) via ProPublica]

- **New York Times: Children’s Health Defense Was “A Leading Spreader Of Anti-Vaccine Falsehoods.”** According to the New York Times, “In 2021, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. earned more than \$500,000 as the chairman and top lawyer at Children’s Health Defense, the nonprofit organization that he has helped build into a leading spreader of anti-vaccine falsehoods and a platform for launching his independent bid for the White House.” [New York Times, [11/16/23](#)]

Kennedy, Jr. Also Profits From Anti-Vaccine Lawsuits. According to the New York Times, “While most people have to work, Mr. Kennedy did not always settle for the six-figure salary he was earning in positions with nonprofits. For decades, he has entwined his loftier missions with opportunities for enrichment. In addition to his salary at Children’s Health Defense, for instance, he stands to profit personally from lawsuits, including against the pharmaceutical giant Merck over a common vaccine for children.” [New York Times, [11/16/23](#)]

RFK JR. CLAIMED CHILDHOOD VACCINES CAUSE AUTISM AND OTHER ILLNESSES

RFK Jr. Claimed That Vaccines Cause Autoimmune Diseases, Developmental Disorders, And Allergies. According to Kennedy’s website, “Furthermore, autism is not the only issue of concern when it comes to the childhood vaccine schedule. Developmental disorders, autoimmune diseases, allergies, and other conditions are also associated with vaccination. CDC refuses to perform a study comparing the outcomes of fully vaccinated children to children who have never received any vaccines.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

RFK Jr. Claimed Vaccines Cause Autism. According to the Associated Press, “Again and again, Kennedy has made his opposition to vaccines clear. In July, Kennedy said in a podcast interview that ‘There’s no vaccine that is safe and effective’ and told FOX News that he still believes in the long-ago debunked idea that vaccines can cause autism. In a 2021 podcast he urged people to ‘resist’ CDC guidelines on when kids should get vaccines.” [Associated Press, [7/31/23](#)]

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RFK Jr. Defended His Claim That Vaccines Cause Autism. According to Kennedy’s website, “What evidence does Mr. Kennedy have to support the claim that vaccines cause autism? [...] Mr. Kennedy does not believe that vaccines are the sole cause of autism. He believes they are a contributing factor. Dr. Leo Kanner’s 1943 study of children born between 1931 and 1938, all of whom were born to educated and affluent parents, many of which were MDs, described the new discovery of the disorder known as autism today. [10] As tempting as it is to use the age of autism to vindicate vaccination as autism’s culprit, we must not ignore the fact that the inaugural diphtheria toxoid vaccine was newly licensed in 1932, marking the first time aluminum was used in human vaccines—and this was done in combination with mercury, which was still considered to be a miracle drug at the time. [11] The rapid rise of autism coincided with the expansion of the vaccine schedule from 24 doses of 7 vaccines throughout childhood up until 1986 to 62 doses of 13 vaccines in 2002. [12][13][14] CDC currently recommends over 70 doses of 17 vaccines. [15]” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

RFK Jr. And His Nonprofit “Flooded (American Samoa) With Misinformation” About Vaccine Safety After Two Infants Died Following An Error In Administering The MMR Vaccine, Leading To 83 More Deaths. According to FactCheck.org, “Kennedy also played a part in one of the worst measles outbreaks in recent memory. In 2018, two infants in American Samoa died when nurses accidentally prepared the combined measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine with expired muscle relaxant rather than water. The Samoan government temporarily suspended the vaccination program, and anti-vaccine advocates — including Kennedy and his nonprofit — flooded the area with misinformation. The vaccination rate

dropped to a dangerously low level. The next year, when a traveler brought measles to the islands, the disease tore through the population, sickening more than 5,700 people and killing 83, most of them young children.” [FactCheck.org, [8/9/23](#)]

Vaccines Are Safe

Vaccines Do Not Cause Autism. According to the CDC, “Some people have had concerns that ASD might be linked to the vaccines children receive, but studies have shown that there is no link between receiving vaccines and developing ASD. The National Academy of Medicine, formerly known as Institute of Medicine, reviewed the safety of 8 vaccines to children and adults. The review found that with rare exceptions, these vaccines are very safe.” [CDC, accessed [2/1/23](#)]

RFK JR. PUSHED CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

RFK Jr. Claimed The COVID Vaccine “Actually Cost Lives.” According to Kennedy’s website, “Did Mr. Kennedy encourage Covid vaccine hesitancy that cost millions of lives? [...] Absolutely not. This claim is scientifically unsupported. The U.S. had very high adult Covid vaccination rates and still lost more people per capita than any other country by a substantial margin. Many countries with much lower rates of vaccination did not see higher deaths. For example, Haiti, with one-fortieth the vaccines administered per capita compared to the USA, saw 75 deaths per million from Covid, whereas the USA saw 3,000 deaths per million. Looking at global data, it seems hard to argue that vaccination was a silver bullet. Furthermore, looking at all-cause mortality, there is reason to believe that Covid vaccination actually cost lives. Many countries, for example, Germany and Japan, saw spikes in mortality quickly following vaccination campaigns that could not be attributed to Covid. [7] A recent analysis of death statistics in Minnesota appears to show that Covid interventions—including vaccines—caused more excess mortality than Covid itself.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

RFK Jr. Claimed Vaccines Were Not Safety-Tested. According to Kennedy’s website, “Is Mr. Kennedy an ‘anti-vaxxer?’ [...] No, Mr. Kennedy is an advocate for safe vaccines. The proper safety studies have never been conducted: long-term, all-cause mortality studies comparing on-time, fully-vaccinated children to never-vaccinated children. Mr. Kennedy has publicly said that vaccines are not safety tested, and has gone on to explain that he is referring to the fact that of all the vaccines children receive today, not one was tested in an inert placebo-controlled trial prior to licensure. As shown in the graphic on page 14 of this link, out of 38 vaccines on the market in 2019 (excluding flu vaccines), 35 were tested in trials where no one in the respective control groups received an inert placebo. [5] These vaccines were tested against previously licensed vaccines, some of them going back many decades without being tested against an inert placebo. By their definition, vaccines are immune activating and cannot function as inert placebos. Conducting ‘placebo controlled’ trials in this manner ensures that documented serious reactions are approximately equivalent in both the control group and the group receiving the vaccine being tested. Three of the available vaccines were tested in studies where the control group was mixed between participants receiving inert and immune activating placebos.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

2022: RFK Jr. Said “COVID Shots Are A Crime Against Humanity.” In a tweet, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote, “In his new book, ‘Cause Unknown: The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths in 2021 and 2022,’ former BlackRock fund manager Edward Dowd details data showing the COVID shots are a crime against humanity.” [Twitter, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., [12/12/22](#)]

RFK Jr. Was A Hypocrite On COVID-19 Vaccines

RFK Jr. Urged Attendees At A Party At His Home To Be Vaccinated. According to Politico, “Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is one of the most prominent anti-vaxxers in the country. So it came as a surprise when an invitation to a holiday party at his home in California last week urged attendees to be tested or vaccinated beforehand, two people familiar with the matter told Daniel Lippman.” [Politico, [12/17/21](#)]

RFK Jr. Targeted The Black Community With His Anti-COVID Vaccine Conspiracies, And Made Money Off It

RFK Jr. Released A Film Promoting The Theory That The COVID-19 Vaccine Was Part Of A Conspiracy Against Black Communities. According to NBC, “As vaccine distribution in the U.S. has ramped up, so has the misinformation blitz targeting Black communities. A new video from anti-vaccination activists released online Thursday adds to what experts have called an effort to ‘weaponize’ the outside damage Covid-19 has done in communities of color. The video was released by anti-vaccination activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who was recently banned from Instagram for spreading Covid-19 vaccine conspiracy theories, and Republican megadonor David Centner. The hourlong film, which relies heavily on the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee, promotes false claims that Covid-19 vaccination efforts are part of a larger, sinister experiment on Black communities.” [NBC News, [3/11/21](#)]

Kennedy And His Non-Profit Fundraised Off His Targeting Of The Black Community

Kennedy, Jr. And His Non-Profit Raised Money Off the Movie. According to NBC, “The video — the newest in a series of anti-vaccine propaganda films produced or promoted by Kennedy — was distributed through Kennedy's organization, Children's Health Defense, in the midst of a turbulent vaccine rollout and concerns over who will have access to the treatment and when. After people sign up for notification of the film's release, a message on the website urges visitors to donate to Children's Health Defense.” [NBC, [3/11/21](#)]

2021: Kennedy, Jr. Was Paid More By Children’s Health Defense Than Any Previous Year. According to financial data filed with the IRS, Children’s Health Defense paid Kennedy \$501,516 in 2021, more than any other previous year. [Children’s Health Defense, form 990, fiscal years [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#) via ProPublica]

Black Americans Were Disproportionately Killed By COVID-19

Black Americans Died At Twice The Rate Of White Americans From COVID. According to NPR, “Black Americans have twice the risk of dying from COVID-19 compared with white Americans. Racial disparities in vaccination uptake persist across the United States.” [NPR, [6/08/21](#)]

RFK Jr. Claimed That COVID-19 Was Engineered To Spare Jews And Chinese

RFK Jr. Claimed That COVID-19 Was Genetically Engineered To Spare Ashkenazi Jews And Chinese People. According to the New York Post, “Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. dished out wild COVID-19 conspiracy theories this week during a press event at an Upper East Side restaurant, claiming the bug was a genetically engineered bioweapon that may have been ‘ethnically targeted’ to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people. Kennedy floated the idea during a question-and-answer portion of raucous booze and fart-filled dinner at Tony’s Di Napoli on East 63d Street. ‘COVID-19. There is an argument that it is ethnically targeted. COVID-19 attacks certain races disproportionately,’ Kennedy said. ‘COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and black people. The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese.’ ‘We don’t know whether it was deliberately targeted or not but there are papers out there that show the racial or ethnic differential and impact,’ Kennedy hedged.” [New York Post, [7/15/23](#)]

- **RFK Jr. Claimed The Video Of Him Saying COVID Was Engineered To Spare Jews And The Chinese Was False And Part Of A “Coordinated Character Assassination” Because He Challenged The “US Empire.”** According to Kennedy’s website, “No, Mr. Kennedy did not say and did not mean to imply that Covid or the Sars-CoV-2 virus was ‘targeted to spare Jews.’ That mischaracterization of his remarks was a malicious and inflammatory smear. Mr. Kennedy is a staunch supporter of the state of Israel and all Jewish people. The video in question was of him speaking off-the-record about how the U.S. and other governments have done research on ethnically-targeted bioweapons, as has been reported in numerous mainstream outlets, as detailed in the timeline below. Media should be focused on bioweapon statements from elected officials, industry groups, and regulatory agencies rather than mischaracterizing a few seconds of out-of-context video. Mr. Kennedy’s position is that bioweapons research should be reined in immediately, and such research should be designated as a prohibited activity under the international treaty for biological disarmament. [...] The larger issue arising from this incident is one of information warfare. It is no accident that this fallacious story appeared in hundreds of publications within the space of 24 hours. This kind of coordinated character assassination is a common establishment tactic used to destroy any public figure who challenges

the US empire, endless war, or corporate control of government. The formula is simple: falsely associate the troublemaker with something so morally reprehensible that no one will want to have anything to do with him, then amplify that message in coordinated unison.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

RFK Jr. Compared American Surveillance To Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam

RFK Jr. Claimed That COVID-era Surveillance Would Have Given Anne Frank “No Hope Whatsoever Of Hiding Or Escaping.” According to Kennedy’s website, “Did Mr. Kennedy compare Covid lockdowns to the Holocaust or claim life is harder today than it was for Anne Frank? [...] No, Mr. Kennedy never compared Covid lockdowns to the Holocaust. That is a deliberate misreading of what he obviously said. His point was that if the Nazi government had possessed the surveillance tools we have today, Anne Frank and Hitler’s other targets would have had no hope whatsoever of hiding or escaping. Mr. Kennedy was warning about new technologies of surveillance and control: ubiquitous cameras, AI facial recognition systems, 415,000 low-level satellites that are going to be looking at every square inch of the earth 24 hours a day, GPS and cell phone tracking, the tracking of every movement and every transaction. Even Hitler and Stalin never dreamed of such a level of totalitarian control technology. If we are not careful to rein these technologies in, we will have set up the full apparatus for ‘turnkey totalitarianism.’” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

RFK Jr. Said He “Won’t Take Sides” On 9/11

July 2024: RFK Jr. Said He “Won’t Take Sides” On 9/11 Attacks. According to The Hill, “Another instance of bad news for Kennedy came Friday, when he posted online that he ‘won’t take sides’ on the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Kennedy soon clarified that he was responding to a report on CBS’s ‘60 Minutes’ that raised speculation about possible Saudi involvement in the al Qaeda attacks, but the remarks drew attention over perceived echoes of long-running conspiracy theories about 9/11.” [The Hill, [7/6/24](#)]

- **RFK Jr. Said He Was “Personally Agnostic” On 9/11.** According to MSNBC, “The long-shot presidential candidate said his stance on 9/11 came in response to recent reporting from CBS News’ ‘60 Minutes’ that a Saudi intelligence operative with ties to two 9/11 hijackers may have been involved in planning the attacks. Kennedy said that releasing government files on ‘contentious topics’ like 9/11 and unidentified aerial phenomena, or UFOs — issues he said he was ‘personally agnostic on’ — would be his way of re-establishing public trust in the government. ‘Speculation about what our government may be covering up is rife outside the mainstream of our political culture,’ he wrote. ‘Trust [in] government is at an all-time low. The way to restore that trust is through honesty and transparency.’” [MSNBC, [7/6/24](#)]
- **RFK Jr. Said As President He Would “Open The Files” On 9/11.** According to MSNBC, “Robert F. Kennedy Jr., independent presidential candidate and proponent of various conspiracy theories, said he will ‘open the files’ on the 9/11 attacks if elected president, vowing not to ‘take sides’ on the issue. ‘My take on 9/11: It’s hard to tell what is a conspiracy theory and what isn’t. But conspiracy theories flourish when the government routinely lies to the public,’ Kennedy wrote in a post on X on Friday. ‘As President I won’t take sides on 9/11 or any of the other debates. But I can promise is that I will open the files and usher in a new era of transparency.’” [MSNBC, [7/6/24](#)]

RFK Jr. Implicated The U.S. Government In The Assassinations Of His Father And Uncle

May 2023: RFK Jr. Said His Uncle, President John F. Kennedy, Was Assassinated By A Plot That Included The CIA. According to Fox News, “Democratic presidential primary candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., doubled down on his insistence the CIA was involved in the assassination of his uncle, President John F. Kennedy, telling Fox News’ Sean Hannity it is a ‘60-year cover-up.’ Kennedy — the son of Bobby Kennedy, who was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan in 1968 — claimed on ‘Hannity’ Monday there is strong evidence the Central Intelligence Agency had a role in a plot that led to President John F. Kennedy’s assassination at the hands of Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963. ‘There’s millions of pages of documents; CIA documents, of

transcripts, of recorded conversations from the Cuban embassy in Mexico City -- it's hard to summarize the evidence,' he said. Kennedy said one of the Warren Commission's leaders was ex-CIA Director Allen Dulles – brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles – who was notably fired by JFK. '[Dulles] insinuated himself onto the Warren Commission and essentially ran the Warren Commission and kept this evidence from the Warren Commissioners. Either way, when Congress, 10 years later, investigated the crime with much more evidence than the Warren Commission had at its disposal,' Kennedy claimed.. 'Congress found that, yeah, it was a plot. It was a conspiracy [and] there were multiple people involved.'" [Fox News, [5/9/23](#)]

2018: RFK Jr. Said After Meeting With Sirhan Sirhan, Who Was Convicted Of Assassinating His Father In 1968, He Was Convinced That Sirhan Had Not Killed Him. According to The Washington Post, “Just before Christmas, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pulled up to the massive Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, a California state prison complex in the desert outside San Diego that holds nearly 4,000 inmates. Kennedy was there to visit Sirhan B. Sirhan, the man convicted of killing his father, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, nearly 50 years ago. While his wife, the actress Cheryl Hines, waited in the car, Kennedy met with Sirhan for three hours, he revealed to The Washington Post last week. It was the culmination of months of research by Kennedy into the assassination, including speaking with witnesses and reading the autopsy and police reports. 'I got to a place where I had to see Sirhan,' Kennedy said. He would not discuss the specifics of their conversation. But when it was over, Kennedy had joined those who believe there was a second gunman, and that it was not Sirhan who killed his father.” [Washington Post, [5/26/18](#)]

RFK Jr. Suggested There Was An Alternative Shooter In His Father's Assassination. According to Vanity Fair, “He claimed there was a mysterious alternative shooter in the death of his father in 1968 (going so far as to interview Sirhan B. Sirhan in prison and proclaim him innocent).” [Vanity Fair, [7/2/24](#)]

- **RFK Jr. Suggested The CIA Was Involved In His Father's Assassination.** According to Vanity Fair, “He claimed that the CIA was possibly involved in the assassination—claims that caused deep pain for his siblings.” [Vanity Fair, [7/2/24](#)]

RFK Jr. Claimed 5G Was Both Medically Dangerous And Linked To Government Population Control

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- **RFK Jr. Claimed Wireless Internet Caused ADHD, Brain Damage, And Impaired Blood Flow, Among Other Physical And Mental Harm.** According to the FAQ on Kennedy’s website, “What is Mr. Kennedy’s opinion on 5G? Does he think it can be used for mind control? Does he think it is a totalitarian tool? Does he think it is unsafe? [...] No, Mr. Kennedy does not think, and has never said that 5G can be used for mind control. As people begin to rely increasingly more on network-connected devices, known as the Internet of Things (IOT), our comfort, communication, security, and the functionality of our entire households hinge on internet performance. Any network that drastically increases data transfer speeds becomes critical to the success of the IOT, and such reliability drives people’s reliance on and conversion to living enmeshed with the IOT. As we saw with the Taliban in 2021, authoritarian-ordered internet outages have the power to bring life to a grinding halt, as they have been used to isolate protestors, quash dissent, and exert influence over citizens. Having society fully dependent on any network, and on the IOT, is a vulnerable position to be in. As it pertains to 5G, Mr. Kennedy has always advocated for the FCC to review its outdated, 25-year-old health and safety guidelines before unilaterally applying them to 5G technology without investigation. On Aug. 13, 2021 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled in favor of Children’s Health Defense (CHD) in its landmark case against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) challenging the FCC’s decision not to review its health and safety guidelines regarding 5G and wireless technology. [43] The court’s decision states that the FCC failed to provide a reasoned

explanation for its determination that its current guidelines adequately protect against harmful effects of exposure to radiofrequency radiation and failed to review the extensive evidence— scientific evidence and evidence of existing sickness — that was filed with the FCC. The Joint Appendix of Mr. Kennedy’s brief includes references to thousands of peer-reviewed scientific studies showing DNA damage, reproductive harm, neurological effects such as ADHD, and radiation sickness, which seems to be the most widespread manifestation of wireless harms. [44] The evidence shows effects on the brain, including impaired blood flow and damage to the blood-brain barrier, cognitive and memory problems and effects on sleep, melatonin production and mitochondrial damage. Causal mechanism of harm was also established. Oxidative Stress, a mechanism of harm that can lead to cancer, non-cancer conditions and DNA damage, was found in 203 out of 225 studies.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

RFK Jr. Claimed The News Media Were Part Of A Government Operation

2024: Kennedy Claimed The New Head Of NPR, Katherine Maher, Was A CIA Agent Involved In An Operation To Brainwash Americans. According to ABC News, “He was specifically referring to Katherine Maher, who nearly two months earlier became NPR's CEO and president after a long career in international development and digital advocacy. At the fundraiser, Kennedy said Maher's hiring at NPR was just the latest salvo in the CIA's 'systematic takeover of the American press, particularly the liberal media.' Kennedy continues to amplify such claims at campaign events, in media interviews, and on social media, supporting them with what experts described to ABC News as 'half-truths,' 'intimations,' misinterpretations of law, and twisted historical anecdotes. He often cites widespread -- but utterly unsubstantiated -- allegations that a CIA program supposedly called 'Operation Mockingbird' secretly recruited journalists decades ago to help brainwash Americans. ‘Operation Mockingbird is alive and well today,’ Kennedy has said repeatedly in recent months.” [ABC News, [6/20/24](#)]

RFK Jr. Claimed Pesticides Were Causing Gender Dysphoria

June 2023: RFK Jr. Said “Sexual Dysphoria” In Children Stemmed From “Chemical Exposure,” Citing A Study Showing Exposure To Atrazine Caused Some Male Frogs To Develop Female Sex Organs And Become Infertile. According to PolitiFact, “Are herbicides in the water causing children to become transgender? That was the theory Democratic presidential challenger Robert F. Kennedy Jr. posed on a June 5 podcast. 'I think a lot of the problems we see in kids, and particularly boys, it's probably underappreciated how much of that is coming from chemical exposures, including a lot of the sexual dysphoria that we're seeing,' said Kennedy to podcast host and conservative commentator Jordan Peterson. [...] In the podcast, Kennedy referred to a study that found that exposure to the herbicide atrazine in water caused some male frogs to develop female sex organs and become infertile. His description matches the details of a study published in 2010. 'If it's doing that to frogs, there's a lot of other evidence that it's doing it to human beings as well,' Kennedy said. He offered no examples of that evidence. Kennedy made similar comments on Joe Rogan's podcast 10 days later.” [PolitiFact, [6/28/23](#)]

- **PolitiFact Rated His Claim “False.”** According to PolitiFact, “Kennedy said the herbicide atrazine in the water supply is contributing to 'sexual dysphoria' in children. 'Sexual dysphoria' is not a medical term and Kennedy's team did not respond when we asked for clarification of that phrase. Gender dysphoria is the experience of distress that can occur when a person's gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth. Some research suggests atrazine can harm human health, specifically related to reproductive health and hormones. But no scientific studies in humans link atrazine exposure to gender dysphoria. A 2010 study in frogs that Kennedy appeared to refer to found evidence that atrazine exposure has a feminizing effect on frogs and can cause genetically male frogs to develop ovaries. But biological differences mean those findings cannot be unilaterally applied to humans. The frog study's lead researcher said there is currently no data to support Kennedy's claim. We rate this claim False. “ [PolitiFact, [6/28/23](#)]

RFK Jr. Supported Research Into Whether Atrazine Can Make People Trans. According to Kennedy’s website, “Has Mr. Kennedy claimed that transgenderism is caused by atrazine? [...] Mr. Kennedy believes the link between atrazine is speculative, but concerning and worth further research. Numerous reputable scientific studies have explored the consequences of atrazine exposure on African clawed frogs and other vertebrates. While frogs are especially susceptible to atrazine and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals, their mechanisms of action are not exclusive to frogs.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

- **Atrazine Was A Pesticide.** According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Atrazine is a chlorinated triazine systemic herbicide that is used to selectively control annual grasses and broadleaf weeds before they emerge. Pesticide products containing atrazine are registered for use on several agricultural crops, with the highest use on field corn, sweet corn, sorghum, and sugarcane.” [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

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RFK Jr. Claimed Antidepressants Caused School Shootings

RFK JR. SAID SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS WERE LINKED TO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

June 2023: RFK Jr. Said There Was “Tremendous Circumstantial Evidence [That] SSRIs And Benzos And Other Drugs Are” Leading To School Shootings And Said Prior To Prozac, “We Had Almost None Of These Events.” According to Rolling Stone, “On the topic of gun violence, Kennedy was once again able to pin blame on pharmaceutical companies, suggesting that the epidemic of school shootings in the U.S. may be attributable to SSRI antidepressants. ‘I also am going to look very closely at the role of psychiatric drugs in these events,’ Kennedy promised. ‘And there are no good studies right now. That that should have been done years ago on this issue, because there’s a tremendous circumstantial evidence [that] SSRIs and benzos and other drugs are doing this.’ By his own admission, there is no data to corroborate such an effect, and it’s unclear what ‘circumstantial evidence’ he was referring to. ‘And prior to the introduction of Prozac, we had almost none of these events in our country,’ Kennedy continued, naming a specific antidepressant in yet another unsupported claim. ‘The one thing that we have, it’s different than anybody in the world, is the amount of psychiatric drugs our children are taking.’ He then alleged that the National Institutes of Health won’t research the supposed link between these drugs and shootings ‘because they’re working with the pharmaceutical industry.’” [Rolling Stone, [6/5/23](#)]

RFK JR. CAMPAIGN WEBSITE FAQ ORIGINALLY ASSERTED THAT SSRIS CAUSED SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

RFK Jr. Claimed There Was Evidence Antidepressants Cause School Shootings. According to Kennedy’s website, “Is there evidence linking SSRI antidepressants to the epidemic of student shooters in the United States, as Mr. Kennedy

suggested, placing blame on pharmaceutical companies? [...] Yes, Mr. Kennedy believes that there is enough evidence to merit further investigation into a link.” [Team Kennedy, FAQ, [8/15/23](#), via archive.org]

January 2024: RFK Jr.’s Current FAQ Does Not Mention Any Link Between SSRI’s And School Shootings. [FAQ, Team Kennedy, accessed [1/29/24](#)]

January 2024: RFK Jr.’s Defense Was Still Accessible On His Website After Being Removed From The FAQ. [Team Kennedy, “SSRI Student Shooter FAQ,” accessed [1/29/24](#)]

