

# Associative lobbying: the example of autism

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### ABSTRACT

How does the associative system contribute to shaping representations and public policies concerning autism? This question refers to the more general role of social movements. In the field of health, these movements are increasingly involved in public action and are becoming increasingly influential. Associations of parents of autistic children have contributed to public awareness and have played a growing role in changing representations and public policies on autism but a gap has widened between the positions adopted by "Associative experts" who weigh on the political decisions and situations that many parents live in everyday life. This article on the role of parents' associations for autistic children in the United States and France aims to analyze the rise of associative lobbying that is influencing political authorities to set new standards for autism.

**KEYWORDS** autism, associations, mobilization, activism, lobbying.