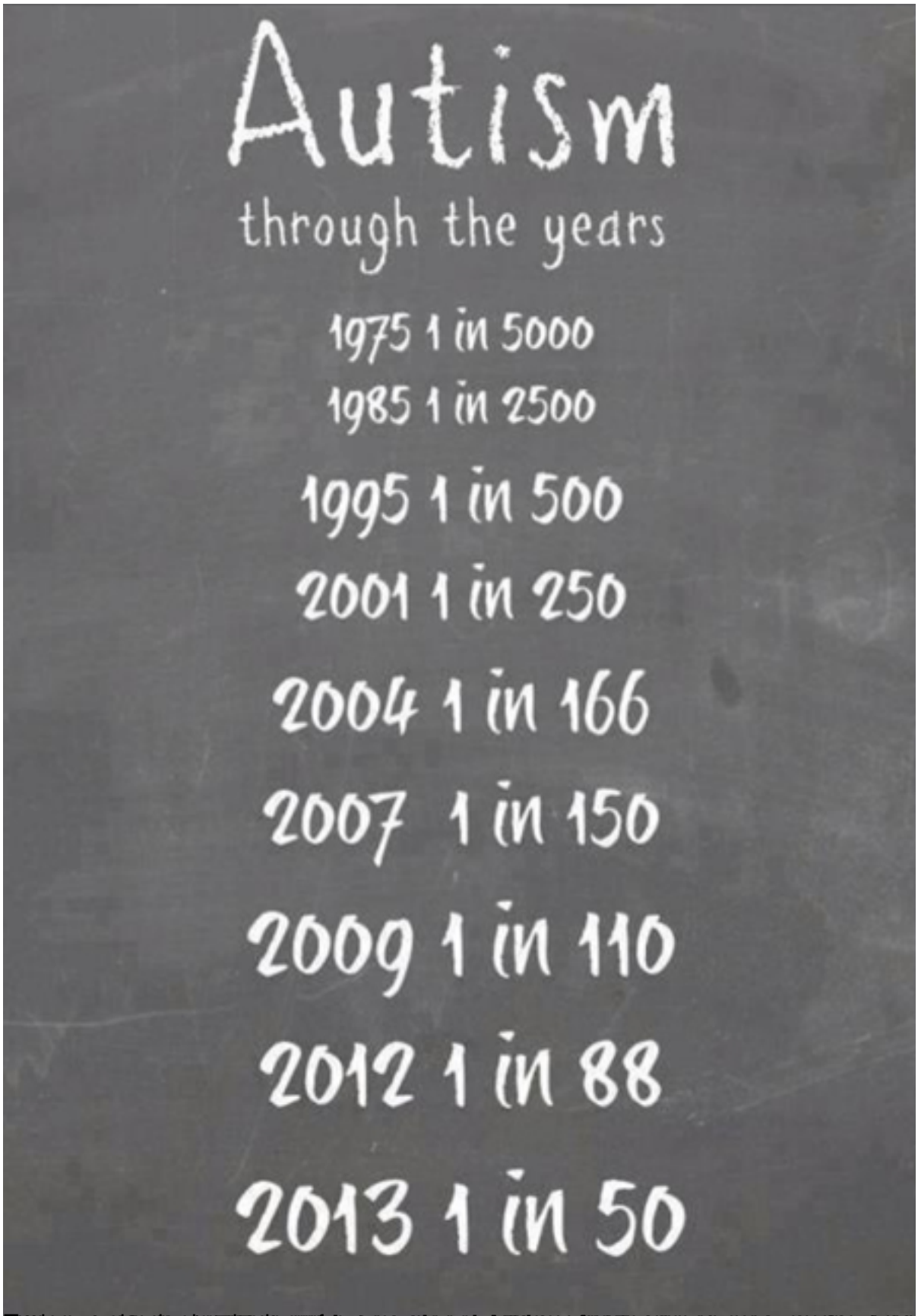
Autism. It used to be that thing you weren't quite sure of. It was that thing that you learned out of watching TV's version of *Parenthood*, or the movies *Rain Man* or *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* It's still not something that impacts every family, but by now, if you think about it, you know someone with a family member that has autism, or have heard about it.

Whether parents are getting the diagnosis earlier, the growing awareness of it in the medical community, the expansion of the mental disorder's classification, or the fact that it's becoming more and more common regardless of these factors, autism now touches everyone. Below illustrates the alarming expansion of those on the autism scale:


Autism
through the years
1975 1 in 5000
1985 1 in 2500
1995 1 in 500
2001 1 in 250
2004 1 in 166
2007 1 in 150
2009 1 in 110
2012 1 in 88
2013 1 in 50

[redacted]

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