

FACTS & STATS

Epilepsy by the Numbers

- **3.4 million** people and their families are affected by epilepsy in the United States¹.
- **65 million people** worldwide are living with epilepsy.
- **1 in 26** people will be diagnosed with epilepsy during their lifetime.
- **1 in 10** people will have a seizure during their lifetime.
- **150,000** new cases of epilepsy occur each year in the U.S.
- **470,000** children have epilepsy²
- **336,000** children have at least one seizure annually³
- **30 percent** of people with epilepsy do not gain full control of their seizures and continue to struggle day-to-day with the threat of imminent seizures
- **32 percent** of adults with epilepsy can't work vs. 7 percent of those without epilepsy⁴
- **29 percent** of adults with epilepsy can't use a car or public transit to get places vs. 8 percent without epilepsy⁵
- **21 percent** of adults with epilepsy can't pay for medicines vs. 9 percent without epilepsy⁶
- **\$2** per person affected by epilepsy is the estimated amount of federal funding for epilepsy research — nowhere near the federal funding for other neurological disorders which range from \$65 to \$1,147 per person affected.

Epilepsy is a Neurological Disorder

- Epilepsy is a disorder of the brain with different causes, such as head trauma, genetics, inflammation, infection, brain malformation, stroke, birth injury and more.
- Epilepsy is the underlying tendency of the brain to produce sudden abnormal bursts of electrical energy that disrupt other brain functions and cause seizures.
- Seizures come from the brain and are symptoms of epilepsy. Any brain can have a seizure.
- There are different types of seizures. Some are convulsive seizures and some are non-convulsive and can be as brief as a staring spell or a myoclonic jerk.
- Many people can find seizure control with medication(s), dietary therapies, surgical treatments, lifestyle changes and/or implanted devices or a combination of these.

¹ [CDC MMWR – August 2017](#)

²⁻⁶ CDC.gov/epilepsy

END EPILEPSY

Epilepsy Can Change Lives

- The impact of seizures and epilepsy can be significant in children and adults.
- Often children and teens with epilepsy find themselves feeling isolated and misunderstood; they may lose friends, may not be invited to birthday parties or may be ostracized or even teased or bullied at school.
- Some people with epilepsy hide their disorder, which can lead to feelings of isolation, helplessness and even depression.
- Adults with epilepsy oftentimes experience changes in their quality of life, such as mobility, relationships, employment, and social interactions.

Epilepsy Foundation Impact by the Numbers⁷

- **\$65 million** has been invested in epilepsy research since 1968.
- **90** different research projects have been funded since 2006.
- **15** research grants were awarded in 2017 totaling more than \$1 million.
- **508,534** school, community and first responder personnel trained in epilepsy recognition and seizure first aid since 2011 under CDC-funded programs.
- **108,522** people have been assisted through the 24/7 Helpline since 2014 when it started.
- **26** physicians had their epilepsy fellowship specialty training sponsored since 2006.
- **50** local chapters and affiliates make up the broad Epilepsy Foundation's nationwide network.
- **12+ million people** around the world are helped annually on Epilepsy.com.

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