

# Epilepsy Fact Sheet



Epilepsy, one of the most common neurological diseases in the world, is a chronic disorder that causes recurrent seizures. Epilepsy is defined as having two or more unprovoked seizures that can range anywhere in severity from muscle jerks to severe convulsions.<sup>1</sup>

In order to understand epilepsy, it is important to separate fact from fiction:

## Fact vs. Fiction



Everyone who has epilepsy is unique, the way they experience symptoms and seizures are different<sup>2</sup>



Epilepsy can develop in anyone at any age<sup>2</sup>



Epilepsy is a disorder that ranges broadly in severity from individual to individual<sup>2</sup>



Epilepsy is contagious



## Types of Seizures

### PARTIAL-ONSET (*focal*)

Partial-onset seizures, sometimes called focal seizures, refer to those that start in an area or network on one side of the brain. They can be localized or spread to larger areas<sup>3</sup>

### GENERALIZED ONSET (*tonic-clonic, absence, or atonic*)

Generalized seizures affect both sides of the brain or large networks of cells on both sides from the onset of the event<sup>3</sup>

### UNKNOWN ONSET

This classification is given if the beginning of the seizure is not known and may be changed to a generalized or focal onset diagnosis once additional testing is completed<sup>3</sup>

## The Prevalence and Impact of Epilepsy



Nearly 65 million people suffer from epilepsy worldwide, including more than 3.4 million people in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>

**1 in 26**

people will develop epilepsy or recurring seizures in their lifetime<sup>5</sup>



Slightly more men than women have epilepsy<sup>2</sup>



Epilepsy also creates a significant economic burden for the healthcare system, patients and their families in both direct (outpatient visits, hospital stays) and indirect costs (employment, productivity)<sup>6</sup>



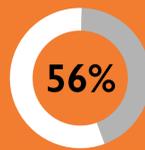
Even today, people living with epilepsy can suffer from stigma and discrimination and experience a negative impact on overall quality of life for themselves and their families<sup>1</sup>



In addition to the social and economic burden, epilepsy is associated with complications such as sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP), dependency, depression and anxiety, and cognitive impairment<sup>2</sup>

## Current Unmet Need

While important advances have been made over the years, too many people continue to face the disruptive challenges associated with epilepsy.



adults with epilepsy are still having seizures<sup>7</sup>



Despite the approval of **more than a dozen** AEDs over this timeframe, the percentage of refractory epilepsy patients has not changed<sup>8</sup>

**Education around epilepsy is important for broader public understanding of this complex disorder**

For additional information, please visit: [www.sklifescienceinc.com](http://www.sklifescienceinc.com) or email: [media@SKLSI.com](mailto:media@SKLSI.com).

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Epilepsy. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/epilepsy>. Accessed April 2, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Epilepsy Foundation. Learn. <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn>. Accessed April 2, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Epilepsy Foundation. New Terms for Seizure Classification. <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/typesseizures/new-terms-seizure-classification>. Accessed February 22, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> CURE. What is epilepsy? <https://www.cureepilepsy.org/about-epilepsy/what-is-epilepsy>. Accessed Sept. 13, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> American Epilepsy Society. Facts and Figures. [https://www.aesnet.org/for\\_patients/facts\\_figures](https://www.aesnet.org/for_patients/facts_figures). Accessed February 22, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Allers, K. "The economic impact of epilepsy: a systematic review." *BMC Neurol*. 2015; 15:245.

<sup>7</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Active Epilepsy and Seizure Control in Adults — United States, 2013 and 2015. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/vol-umes/67/wr/mm6715a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6715a1](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/vol-umes/67/wr/mm6715a1.htm?s_cid=mm6715a1). Accessed December 27, 2018.

<sup>8</sup> Chen Z, Brodie MJ, Liew D, Kwan P. Treatment outcomes in patients with newly diagnosed epilepsy treated with established and new antiepileptic drugs: a 30-year longitudinal cohort study. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29279892>. Published online December 26, 2017.