Facts About Epilepsy

- Epilepsy affects over 3 million Americans—more people than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and Parkinson’s disease combined.
- Epilepsy represents 1% of the burden of disease worldwide—equivalent to lung cancer in men and breast cancer in women.
- In over 40% of patients, seizures are not controlled even with the best medical treatments. Many more have only partial control and the strategies used to control their seizures may have devastating consequences.
- The severe epilepsy syndromes of childhood can cause developmental delay and brain damage, leading to a lifetime of dependency and continually accruing costs.
- The mortality rate for people with epilepsy is three times greater than that of the general population and the risk of sudden death is 24 times greater.
- Recurrent seizures (indicating epilepsy) are also a burden for many people living with brain tumors and other disorders such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, multiple sclerosis, tuberous sclerosis, and a variety of genetic syndromes.
Who Is CURE?

CURE, Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy, is a grassroots organization founded in 1998 by parents of children with epilepsy. Unwilling to sit back and accept the devastation of seizures and the debilitating side effects of treatments, these parents came together to spearhead the search for a cure.

CURE raises funds to sponsor cutting-edge research around the world as well as landmark conferences, workshops, and infrastructures that support scientists in their quest for answers. The families of CURE also call attention to the urgent need for increased public and private investment in epilepsy research by sharing their personal stories in their communities, with the media, and on Capitol Hill.

Due to the passion and generosity of families, friends, and volunteers, over 95% of funds donated support these critical research and awareness programs.

What Is Epilepsy?

Epilepsy, sometimes referred to as a seizure disorder, is one of the most common and severe neurological conditions. It occurs when the brain’s electrical system malfunctions.

For a person with epilepsy, a sudden and unusually intense burst of electrical energy in the brain affects consciousness, movement, and sensation. These events are called seizures and, like bolts of lightning, are unpredictable and often dangerous. Each one brings with it the potential to damage the brain or cut short a life.

When a person has had two or more seizures which have not been brought on by fever, brain injury, or any other identifiable cause, he or she is considered to have epilepsy.

Epilepsy affects one in every 100 Americans. It can develop at any age, but the highest incidence rates are reported in children and older adults. Possible causes include head injury, brain tumor, toxins, and certain genetic or infectious diseases. For over two-thirds of patients with epilepsy, the cause is unknown and more than 40% of all patients continue to have seizures even with the best available treatments.

Historically, epilepsy has been neglected and misunderstood. This has impeded scientific progress, leaving treatment and research efforts in the dark ages.

What You Can Do

A cure for epilepsy can be found—this is the dream that has brought the families of CURE together. Help us raise public consciousness of the prevalence and severity of the disease, and help us raise the funds—that both private and public—that are so desperately needed to advance the research.

Please join us in whatever way you can:

› Share what a cure would mean to you with the people you know best: family, friends, colleagues, and members of your community, online support group, Facebook, or MySpace page.

› Contact your members of Congress or local media outlets about the critical need for a greater focus on epilepsy research to find a cure.

› Make a donation—over 95 cents of every dollar goes directly to research and awareness programs.

› Host an event or let us match you up with an event in your area to raise dollars for research.

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED.
312.255.1801 | 800.765.7188 | www.CUREepilepsy.org

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