

Prevalence of Non-Communicable Neurological Disorders

A global look at the number of people living with these neurological disorders

Neurological non-communicable diseases include acute diseases like stroke, subacute diseases like motor neuron diseases, chronic deteriorating conditions such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease, and chronic conditions such as migraine and seizures which have a significant burden on daily activities.

Non-communicable neurological disorders affect the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscle, and the major diseases include stroke, migraine, tension-type headache, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, Parkinson's Disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and motor neuron diseases.

Neurological non-communicable diseases affect billions of people around the globe and are the leading cause of disability around the globe.

Global Prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases

3 billion people live with headache disorders.

50 million people live with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

50 million people live with epilepsy.

15 million people suffer a stroke each year.

7 million people are affected by Parkinson's Disease.

2.8 million people are impacted by multiple sclerosis.



Physical Impact

Neurological non-communicable diseases don't just affect the brain and can impact every aspect of a person's life:

- Cognitive
- Sensory
- Motor

Societal Impact

These diseases can impact society as a whole, removing people from their loved ones, the workforce and their communities. Healthcare systems can be under-equipped or even unequipped for preventing, identifying and treating these diseases. Many of these diseases require long-term care, which can create an additional societal burden. This can strain healthcare systems, which can further reduce the capacity and quality of treatment available.

Brain diseases and disorders are found around the globe in every age group, gender and socioeconomic class. By understanding how widespread the impact of non-communicable brain diseases is, society is better equipped to find solutions and improve lives. Learn more about brain health by visiting our website at wfneurology.org/brain-health-initiative.