

# Carpe Diem – Seize the Day Blog

***Editor's Note: Content presented in the Carpe Diem – Seize the Day Blog is for awareness and informational purposes only, and it is not meant to be a diagnostic tool.***

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. Just ask Phylis Feiner Johnson. She calls epilepsy a “stealth disease”, because it’s difficult to imagine how so few people know about a “silent” condition that affects so many.

For example, few people know:

- \* Epilepsy affects over 3.4 million Americans of all ages – more than Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, and Parkinson’s Disease combined.
- \* In America, Epilepsy is as common as Breast Cancer, and takes as many lives.
- \* It’s the third most common neurological disorder after Alzheimer’s and stroke.
- \* Almost 500 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed every day in the United States.
- \* Epilepsy affects 50,000,000 people worldwide.
- \* One in 26 people will develop epilepsy.
- \* One in 10 people will suffer a seizure in their lifetime.
- \* This year another 200,000 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with epilepsy.
- \* Children ages 0-2 and seniors 65 years of age and older are at higher risk of being diagnosed with epilepsy.
- \* 30% of those diagnosed are children.
- \* Epilepsy can develop at any age and can be a result of genetics, stroke, head injury, and many other factors.
- \* There are 40+ different types of seizures.
- \* For many soldiers suffering traumatic brain injury on the battlefield, epilepsy will be a long-term consequence.
- \* In two-thirds of patients diagnosed with epilepsy, the cause is unknown.
- \* In over 30% of patients, seizures cannot be controlled with treatment.

\* The mortality rate among people with epilepsy is two to three times higher than the general population.

\* Epilepsy results in an estimated annual cost of \$15.5 billion in medical costs and lost or reduced earnings and production.

**\* The Federal Government spends much less on epilepsy research compared to other diseases, which affect fewer people.**

\* Each year the National Institute of Health (NIH) spends \$30 billion on medical research, but just ½ of 1% is spent on epilepsy.

**Did you know that St Valentine is the patron saint of people with epilepsy!**

*Editor's Note: The Carpe Diem – Seize the Day Blog will be distributed and posted weekly.*  
Always remember – **CARPE DIEM – SEIZE THE DAY!**

[Steve.Hutton@epilepsy-ohio.org](mailto:Steve.Hutton@epilepsy-ohio.org)