

# Epilepsy Facts



Wear Purple on March 26<sup>th</sup> to support epilepsy awareness.

- **One in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime.**
- Every two minutes a new case of epilepsy is diagnosed.
- Epilepsy is a physical disorder of the brain where brief malfunctions, or seizures, disrupt normal patterns of electrical impulses. Epilepsy is not a mental illness and is not contagious.
- There are around 40 different types of seizures, ranging from brief absent stares, to full body convulsions. Some people are born with seizures and others suffer a severe head injury or disease that can lead to seizures.
- More than 3 million Americans suffer from epilepsy...50,000+ people in the state of Wisconsin. Epilepsy does not discriminate based on age, race, income or whether you are a boy or girl.
- Many famous people suffer from epilepsy: former Minnesota Gopher Football Coach Gary Kill, Rock Star Prince, Gold Medal Winner Florence Griffith Joyner, Actor Danny Glover, Author Charles Dickens, Scientist Thomas Edison.
- Purple Day was founded by Cassidy Megan, a nine-year-old girl with epilepsy who wanted kids with epilepsy to know they are not alone.
- Epilepsy is a chronic medical problem that for many people can be successfully treated. Unfortunately, treatment doesn't work for everyone. There is an urgent need for more research, better treatments, and a cure.



**Lily's Fund for Epilepsy Research**  
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