

# WHO Report – Epilepsy: A public health imperative

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological diseases worldwide, affecting around 50 million people of all ages around the world.

The risk of premature death in people with epilepsy is up to three times that of the general population.

The lives of people with epilepsy are often impacted by stigma, discrimination and human rights violations.

We know that while 80% of people with epilepsy live in low- and middle-income countries, most of them do not have access to treatment. This is despite the availability of effective anti-seizure medicines, which can cost as little as USD\$5 per year. A lack of action to address the epilepsy treatment gap has dire consequences for people's lives and well-being, and impacts social and economic development.

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