



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FACT SHEET



ANQUETTE, DIAGNOSED IN 2013



PETER, DIAGNOSED IN 2015



JOSHUA (CENTER), DIAGNOSED IN 2015

- The National Multiple Sclerosis Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world and provides services designed to help people with MS and their families move their lives forward.
- The Society has invested more than \$1.1 billion to advance MS research and paved the way for every effective MS treatment available today, including the first therapies for primary progressive and pediatric MS.
- 6.5 million people access [nationalMSSociety.org](https://www.nationalMSSociety.org) every year.
- Nearly 75% of total revenue is devoted to research and services for people living with MS.
- The Society partners with the healthcare community to promote access to comprehensive high-quality healthcare and has launched the careers of 120 MS specialists who provide care to more than 100,000 people with MS.
- In the U.S., 100% of people affected by MS have access to an MS Navigator who will partner with them to address individual challenges and concerns. Case management is available when problems are so complex they require home visits.

VISION

A world free of multiple sclerosis.

MISSION

We will cure MS while empowering people affected by MS to live their best lives.

MS FACTS

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information between the brain and body.

Nearly 

1 MILLION PEOPLE

live with MS in the United States—
2X the previous estimate.

SYMPTOMS VARY from person to person



and range from numbness or tingling to walking difficulties, fatigue, dizziness, pain, depression, blindness and paralysis.


- The Society’s comprehensive online Find Doctors and Resources tool is available 24 hours a day to help people affected by MS find healthcare providers and community resources.
- 39,809 MS activists influence policy for people with MS, advocating for grants for millions of family caregivers, tax credits for home modifications and billions in federal MS research funding .
- As lead agency of the International Progressive MS Alliance, the Society leads a coordinated, global effort to fuel breakthroughs for people with progressive MS. 20 MS organizations from 19 countries have joined the Alliance.
- Sylvia Lawry founded the National MS Society in March 1946 and dedicated her life to the MS movement. The National MS Society is one of 48 organizations forming the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation also founded by Lawry, who died at age 86 in 2001.
- Cyndi Zagieboylo became the National MS Society’s president and CEO in 2011 and has devoted three decades to the MS cause.
- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving us closer to a world free of MS.

MS FACTS

There are **4 BASIC DISEASE COURSES** that have been identified:

- 1 Clinically isolated syndrome
- 2 Relapsing-remitting MS
- 3 Secondary progressive MS
- 4 Primary progressive MS

People of  **ALL GENDERS GET MS.**

Most people are **diagnosed between the AGES OF 20 & 50**  but **research estimates upwards of 10,000 children** under the age of 18 live with MS worldwide.

MS OCCURS IN MOST ETHNIC GROUPS 

This wasn’t historically known due to underrepresentation in clinical research and healthcare inequities.



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nationalMSSociety.org
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