Often misunderstood and misdiagnosed, narcolepsy impacts a person’s daily functioning and social well-being.

Of people living with narcolepsy surveyed:

- 86% agreed the disorder is life-changing
- 68% agreed they never feel like a “normal” person
- 80% agreed life is a daily struggle
- 76% agreed it has affected important moments in their lives

Yet, 78% of the general public surveyed agreed they had no idea what it must be like to live with narcolepsy, which impacts up to 200,000 Americans.

The survey also highlighted the complexity of the disorder and challenges in symptom recognition and diagnosis.

People may spend years living with symptoms prior to being diagnosed with narcolepsy, and the journey to diagnosis can be long and complex.

In fact, for people living with narcolepsy surveyed, it took 6+ yrs to be diagnosed following the onset of their symptoms.

Four out of 10 people living with narcolepsy surveyed reported being initially misdiagnosed with another condition. According to literature, about two-thirds of people living with narcolepsy have cataplexy, a sudden and brief loss of muscle strength or tone, often brought on by emotions or situations.

Only 26% of people living with narcolepsy surveyed reported having cataplexy.

And 54% reported knowing little to nothing about cataplexy.
People living with narcolepsy surveyed cited the behavior and perceptions of other people as being among the biggest challenges of living with the disorder.

72% reported that they avoid telling people they have narcolepsy, and when they do, two-thirds agreed they believe people are skeptical.

Among people living with narcolepsy surveyed:
- 68% reported they believe others thought they did not really have narcolepsy
- 67% reported they believed others thought they used narcolepsy as an excuse not to work or do other things
- 1 in 4 reported they have been fired from a job or demoted because of problems related to narcolepsy
- 37% reported having failed a class at school or withdrawing entirely because of symptoms of narcolepsy

Those surveyed agreed the entertainment media portrayal of narcolepsy contributed to misperceptions about the causes, symptoms and impact of the disorder.
- 84% of physicians and 74% of people living with narcolepsy surveyed agreed social media and the entertainment industry have a distorted view of the disorder
- Over 2/3 of the general public surveyed agreed that people do not take narcolepsy seriously
- 29% of the general public surveyed reported having seen, read, or heard somebody make light of narcolepsy or make a joke about it

Even with treatment, people living with narcolepsy continue to feel the impact of their symptoms. The survey underscored the need for new treatment options to address the challenges and unmet needs of people living with narcolepsy.

Of people living with narcolepsy surveyed:
- 93% expressed frustration with current treatment options
- Only 1 in 8 (12%) agreed their narcolepsy symptoms are completely or mostly under control
- 94% agreed that new treatment options are needed