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

Of people living with narcolepsy surveyed:

- 86% (n=173) agreed that the disorder is life changing
- 68% (n=135) agreed that they never feel like a “normal” person
- 80% (n=159) agreed that life is a daily struggle
- 76% (n=152) agreed that it has affected important moments in their lives

Yet, 78% (n=940) of the general public surveyed agreed that they have no idea what it must be like to live with narcolepsy, which impacts up to 200,000 Americans.

The survey 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+ years to be diagnosed following the onset of their symptoms.

Four in ten (n=77) 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% (n=51) of people living with narcolepsy surveyed reported having cataplexy
- And 54% (n=107) 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% (n=144) reported that they avoided telling people they have narcolepsy, and when they did, two-thirds (n=135) agreed they believed people were skeptical.

Of people living with narcolepsy surveyed:

- 68% (n=135) reported they avoided telling people they have narcolepsy.
- 67% (n=134) reported they believed others thought they did not really have narcolepsy.
- 1 in 4 (n=47) reported having been fired from a job or demoted because of problems related to narcolepsy.
- 37% (n=62) reported having failed a class at school or withdrawing entirely because of symptoms of narcolepsy.

Those surveyed agreed that the entertainment media portrayal of narcolepsy contributed to misperceptions about the causes, symptoms, and impact of the disorder.

- 84% (n=210) of physicians and 74% (n=149) of people living with narcolepsy surveyed agreed that social media and the entertainment industry have a distorted view of the disorder.
- Over 2/3 (n=813) of the general public surveyed agreed that people do not take narcolepsy seriously.
- 29% (n=353) 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% (n=157) expressed frustration with current treatment options.
- Only 1 in 8 (n=24) agreed that their narcolepsy symptoms are completely or mostly under control.
- 94% (n=188) agreed that new treatment options are needed.