



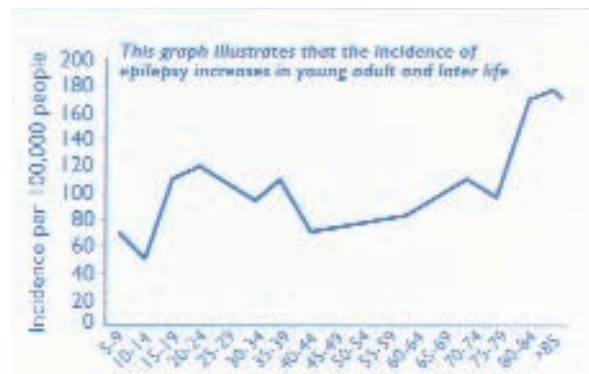
Neurosupport Centre, Norton Street, Liverpool L3 8LR

Tel: 0151 298 2666 Fax: 0151 298 2333 Email: epilepsym@mersey.demon.co.uk Website: www.epilepsymersey.org.uk

epilepsy - some facts and figures

The incidence of epilepsy

In medical terms, this refers to the number of new diagnoses of a condition occurring in a set population within a given time limit - usually per 100,000 people over a period of one year. Wallace (1998) determined that the incidence of epilepsy is 80 new cases per 100,000 of population are diagnosed each year. Applied to the population of the UK and Ireland, this means that every year about 44,000 people are newly diagnosed with epilepsy.

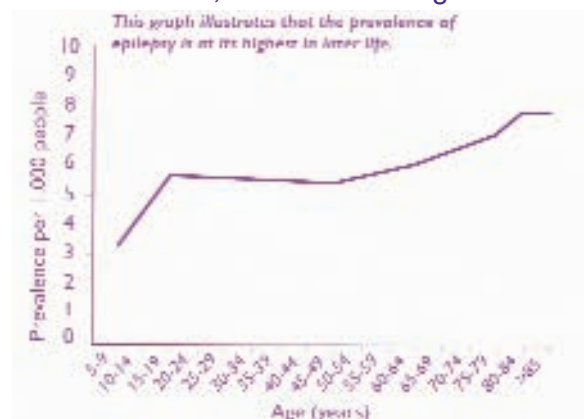


The prevalence of epilepsy

This, in medical terms, describes the number of people in a population who have a particular condition. It is usually expressed in terms of the number of cases in every 1,000 of the population.

In 1995 a sample population of 2,052,922 people in England and Wales showed that the prevalence of treated epilepsy (people who are taking antiepileptic drug treatment) was 5 in every 1,000 people. Applied to the population of the UK and Ireland, this means that there are approximately 325,000 people being treated for epilepsy.

Extending these figures to a worldwide population, there are many millions of people who are being treated for epilepsy besides those who, for whatever reason, are not receiving treatment.



The figures linked to both incidence and prevalence clearly illustrate that, as a person with epilepsy, you are part of a very large group of people.