

# Uncovering the Widespread Work-Related Issues Associated with Epilepsy:

## For Both Patients and Their Caregivers



Epilepsy has a much greater impact on a person than the physical symptoms alone. Since it is a neurological disease, **epilepsy can affect all aspects of a patient’s life, as well as the lives of their caregiver, both socially and financially.** One area that has substantial impact – for both patients and caregivers – is the workplace and employment-related issues. **The Seize the Truth about Epilepsy Perceptions (STEP) Survey revealed how important being able to work is for the epilepsy community.**<sup>1</sup>

**41%** of patients surveyed are **very or extremely fearful that they will have a seizure at work.**

After **not being able to drive (56%),** patients **(48%)** ranked **not being able to work/go to school** as the most disruptive to their quality of life.

Epilepsy has led to about **1/3 of patients losing their job** and **48%** of patients agree that epilepsy **limits the types of jobs** they can do.

Patients **(36%)** also report **not being able to focus at work** because of their condition.



**Caregivers (36%)** also report that epilepsy has **negatively impacted their future plans.**

When asked how their future was impacted, **59%** of caregivers reported that it **made having a career harder** and **56%** reported it **made it hard to save money for the future.**

**Patients (33%)** listed **job discrimination** as one of the **negative experiences** caused by epilepsy. Others include:

**45%** of patients have been **alienated by others** or experienced others **being afraid to be with them.**

**1 out of 4** experience **bullying or being made fun of by peers.**

When asked about the programs that are needed, patients **(71%)** and caregivers **(69%),** as well as HCPs **(60%),** feel that it is **important to teach people in schools and workplaces about seizures so it is widely understood and accepted.**

**32%** of patients feel that it is **disruptive to their quality of life** explaining epilepsy to new people in their lives.

Approximately **80%** of patients and caregivers feel **some form of isolation** due to their epilepsy.

**Patients and caregivers are challenged by the public’s lack of understanding & misunderstanding of epilepsy in a complex number of ways.**

Patients, caregivers, and HCPs agree that the media’s portrayal of epilepsy has created the expectation of convulsing seizures on the floor.

**And HCPs, more so than patients or caregivers, believe patients with epilepsy experience significant shame and discrimination.**

For additional information about the survey, please visit [www.WebMD.com/EpilepsySurvey](http://www.WebMD.com/EpilepsySurvey)

For more information about SK life science, please visit: [www.sklifescienceinc.com](http://www.sklifescienceinc.com) or email: [media@SKLSI.com](mailto:media@SKLSI.com)

1. SK Life Science, Inc. and Kantar Health. "Seize the Truth about Epilepsy Perceptions (STEP) Survey." February 7, 2019 to March 27, 2019.