National Multiple Sclerosis Society

FACT SHEET

Our Vision

A world free of multiple sclerosis.

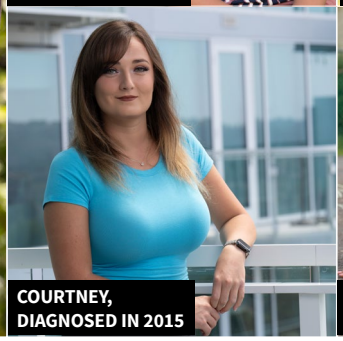
Our Mission

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


ROSA, DIAGNOSED IN 2021


JOSHUA (RIGHT), DIAGNOSED IN 2021


KENNETH, DIAGNOSED IN 2004


COURTNEY, DIAGNOSED IN 2015


KRESENCE (LEFT), DIAGNOSED IN 2016

- 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 live their best lives.
- 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** every year. Newly designed, the Society's website puts people affected by MS first.
- Nearly 75% of the Society's 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.
- Anyone affected by MS is welcome to contact an MS Navigator who can help provide the information, resources and support needed to move their lives with MS forward.

MS FACTS

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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

Over 1 MILLION PEOPLE

live with MS in the United States—**more than 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 & Resources** tool is available 24 hours a day to help people affected by multiple sclerosis find healthcare providers and community resources.
- Over 45,000 MS Activists influence policy for people affected by MS — including affordable access to medications and quality healthcare, funding of MS research and more support for families affected by MS.
- The Society leads the International Progressive MS Alliance, a one-of-a-kind global research network aimed at accelerating the development of new, effective treatments for progressive MS.
- Sylvia Lawry founded the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in March 1946 and dedicated her life to the MS movement. The Society is one of 48 organizations forming the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation also founded by Lawry, who died at age 86 in 2001.
- Dr. Tim Coetzee became the National MS Society's President and CEO in 2024, and has devoted more than two decades to the MS movement.
- 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.
- The Pathways to Cures roadmap, endorsed by more than 30 organizations around the world, is the plan to find MS cures. It aligns worldwide resources and research to close in on cures faster.
- The Society provides early career support and funding to MS researchers and clinicians, and supports careers in the MS space through mentorships, fellowships and grants.
- More than 300 Society-organized events each year strengthen the MS movement and are made possible by the 50,000 volunteers who dedicate their time and talent.

MS FACTS

There are
4 BASIC DISEASE COURSES
that have been identified:

1. Clinically isolated syndrome (CIS)
2. Relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS)
3. Secondary progressive MS (SPMS)
4. Primary progressive MS (PPMS)

People of
ALL GENDERS GET MS.

Most people are
diagnosed between the
AGES OF 20 AND 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.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
nationalMSsociety.org
1-800-344-4867

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