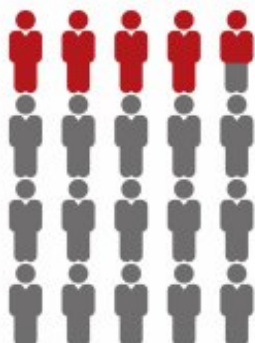


86 million workdays lost to migraine in the UK every year

April 27 2018

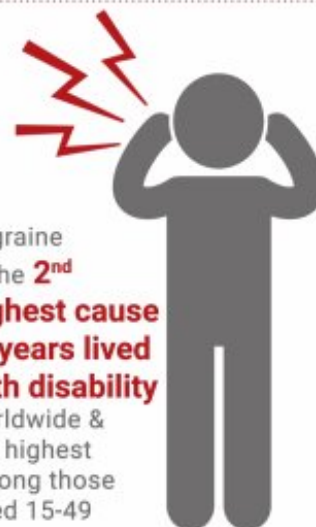
The Cost of Migraine to the UK



An estimated
23.3%
of adults aged
15-69 have migraine



10m adults aged 15-69
are estimated to
have migraine



Migraine
is the **2nd**
highest cause
of years lived
with disability
worldwide &
the highest
among those
aged 15-49



Each year, an average
of **11.4 equivalent**
workdays are lost
per person with
migraine¹



The **indirect costs of**
migraine due to lost
productivity are
estimated at just under
£8.8bn per annum³



Each year, an estimated
86m equivalent
workdays are lost
due to migraine-
related absenteeism
and presenteeism²



The **direct healthcare**
costs of migraine are
estimated to be in the
region of **£1bn** a year
(outpatient care, investigations,
acute medications, hospitali-
sations, and prophylactics)



Across the **44 Sustainability**
Transformation Partnership
(STP) regions in England,
estimated **emergency**
hospital admissions with
a primary diagnosis on
admission episode of
headache or migraine, have
increased by an average of
15% since 2012/13

The infographic highlights the main findings of the report. Credit: Work Foundation

The equivalent of 86 million workdays are lost to migraine each year and close to £1 billion is spent on healthcare costs associated with the condition. It affects more than 23 per cent of adults with almost 200,000 attacks happening in the UK every day - making migraine the most common neurological reason for accident and emergency attendance.

Launched this week in the Houses of Parliament, the new report is the first to examine the economic cost of [migraine](#) in the UK since 2003, and calculates the impact migraine has on productivity levels due to 'absenteeism and presenteeism' - either being absent from work or less effective while at work.

The report, *Society's headache: The socioeconomic impact of migraine*, was produced by the Work Foundation and funded by Novartis. It calls for Government to join forces with national bodies to develop a long-term strategy to improve migraine care and support for employees in the workplace.

The Work Foundation's Dr James Chandler is the lead author of the report. He said: "Migraine is the most common and disabling headache disorder which affects more than 20 per cent of adults in the UK. It tends to affect people between the ages of 15-49, so strikes at a time when people are at their most productive, impacting on their careers, family life and with it, the wider economy.

"Despite its prevalence and debilitating effects, public and professional understanding of it is generally poor and it is often badly managed by the health system. The condition is normally treatable if managed correctly, so we are calling for Government to introduce measures to improve patient care and increase understanding of the condition. Employers also have a role to play. Better working practices - promoting 'good' work - would empower people to manage their condition more effectively at [work](#), reducing the impact on individuals' careers and significantly improving productivity."

The [report](#) also suggests there are significant additional costs that are more difficult to quantify, as sufferers can deal with difficult symptoms such as anxiety between episodes that can impact on people's relationships and quality of life. Research suggests the condition is often linked to limitations in career advancement and potential earnings.

Provided by Lancaster University

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