

# TWO TAKES ON FIBRO: PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS & PRIVATE REALITIES

Two new national surveys comparing the perceptions of people who suffer from fibromyalgia with those of the general population found substantial differences between public perceptions and the private realities of this painful, chronic condition.\*

The American Chronic Pain Association (ACPA) and Forest Laboratories Inc. conducted two national surveys to gather and compare perceptions of people who have fibromyalgia with those of the general public. The surveys revealed the impact fibromyalgia has on many dimensions of a person's life including everyday activities, relationships, intimacy and workplace productivity.

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS AND PRIVATE REALITIES

While 92% of the general public has heard of fibromyalgia, many people do not understand that it is the simple things that fibromyalgia affects the most.

	General Population	People with Fibromyalgia
Drive a car	41%	61%
Keep up with exercise	71%	23%
Watch a movie	18%	75%

FM Q: When you were experiencing symptoms of fibromyalgia that had not yet been diagnosed by a healthcare professional, which of the following activities, if any, did you find it difficult to do?

GP Q: Please indicate which of the following activities, if any, you think people with fibromyalgia might find difficult to do.

## IMPACT OF FIBROMYALGIA

### Everyday tasks

Fibromyalgia symptoms can impact many aspects of a person's everyday activities.

- 71% of people experiencing fibromyalgia symptoms had difficulty vacuuming, doing yard work or cleaning their apartment/house
- More than half (58%) had difficulty lifting and carrying a bag of groceries or taking out the trash

### Personal relationships and intimacy

Romantic intimacy can suffer as a result of fibromyalgia.

- Most people (64%) with fibromyalgia who are in a relationship report they experienced difficulty being intimate with their partner
- More men (56%) than women (48%) found it more difficult to be physically intimate with their partner

### Work and career

People with fibromyalgia experienced difficulty completing tasks at work.

FM Q: Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.



Work life/career became more difficult because of their fibromyalgia symptoms (61%)



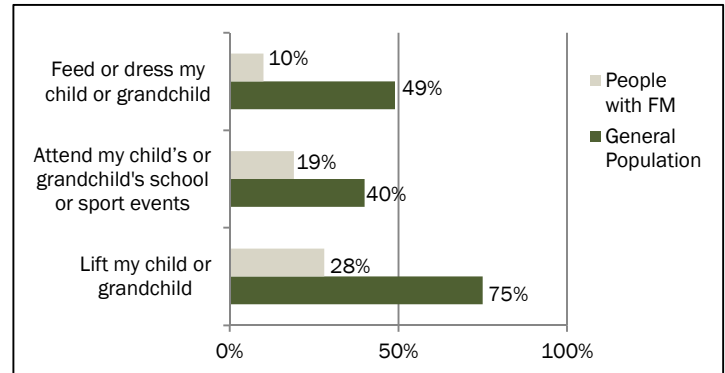
People with fibromyalgia responded they had to take more sick/personal days (60%)



Personal income decreased because of fibromyalgia symptoms (56%)

## Parenting

The general public perceived the impact of fibromyalgia on parenting to be greater than that reported by fibromyalgia respondents.



FMQ: When you were experiencing symptoms of fibromyalgia that had not yet been diagnosed by a healthcare professional, which of the following activities, did you find difficult to do?

GP Q: Please indicate which of the following activities, if any, you think people with fibromyalgia might find difficult to do

## IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS

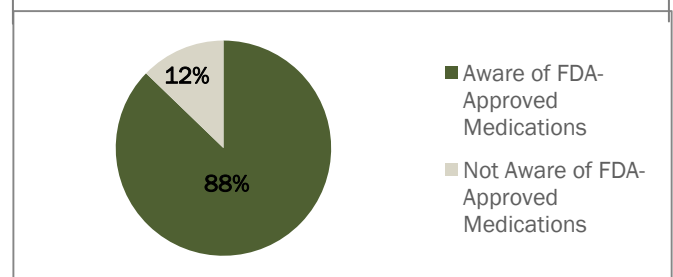
The majority (77%) of survey respondents waited up to three years before seeking help from a healthcare professional.

- 70% of people hesitated to visit a healthcare professional because they thought the symptoms would go away, yet 55% of people reported that talking to their healthcare provider was a good decision
- About one in three (34%) people were motivated to seek help because their symptoms became unbearable

## FIBROMYALGIA MANAGEMENT

The majority (88%) of respondents with fibromyalgia are aware that there are FDA-approved medications for the management of fibromyalgia

FM Q: Are you aware there are medications that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) specifically for the management of fibromyalgia?



\*Two surveys were conducted by Edelman StrategyOne | Fielded by Harris Interactive Service Bureau | 1,215 men and women diagnosed with fibromyalgia | 58 questions; 24 minutes | 1,022 adults from the general population | 37 questions; 11 minutes