

PUTTING THE CARE PARTNER INTO PERSPECTIVE

MERCK

An MS Care Partner Factsheet

In the European Union it is estimated that **19 million people aged 25 and over** provide at least **20 hours a week care** for an elderly, disabled or chronically ill person and **approximately 9.6 million provide** at least **35 hours a week care**.¹

Multiple sclerosis (MS) and caregiving

About **2.3 million people** suffer from **multiple sclerosis worldwide**² and it is the most common, non-traumatic, disabling neurological disease in young adults.



People aged 18-34 years old make up the largest group of care partners in MS.



Family members and friends caring for a mother

with MS generated the majority of social media conversations related to MS caregiving.

MS care partners: key challenges^{3,4,5}

In the US and Europe:



41% of MS care partners suffer from anxiety, **38%** from depression and **34%** from insomnia



Chronic pain and how to alleviate it is a key concern



Financial pressures are a common challenge, especially when long-term care is required



Intimacy, divorce and parenting along with anxiety, depression and insomnia are common concerns in social media conversations

MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THE CONCERNS OF MS CARE PARTNERS SO THAT THESE CAN BE TACKLED ACCORDINGLY AND SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND.

¹ <http://www.eurocarers.org/userfiles/files/research/UniofYorksummary1109.pdf>. Accessed May 3, 2017.

² National MS Society. Multiple Sclerosis FAQs. <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/What-is-MS/MS-FAQ-s>. Accessed May 3, 2017.

³ Kantar Health. November 2016. NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SURVEY, 2016 [US]. Princeton, NJ.

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2117557/>. Accessed May 3, 2017.

⁵ MS Social Listening Report. Merck Data on file.