

# National Pain Awareness Month

National Pain Awareness Month was created to increase awareness about the effects of pain, open the lines of communication in our local communities so that pain can be better understood and managed, and to educate citizens about the advanced treatment options available to help alleviate pain.



Pain affects more Americans than diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined.<sup>1</sup>



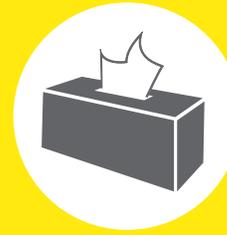
Workers lose an average of 4.6 hours per week of productive time due to a pain condition.<sup>2</sup>



An estimated 20 percent of American adults report that pain or discomfort disrupts their sleep a few nights a week or more.<sup>3</sup>



80 percent of people in the United States will experience back pain at some point in their lives.<sup>4</sup>



Besides the common cold, back pain is the number one reason people visit their family doctors.<sup>5</sup>



83 million Americans indicate that pain affects basic functioning in their everyday lives.<sup>6</sup>



September is National Pain Awareness Month across the United States.

## What is Pain?

**Oxford Dictionary:** Physical suffering or discomfort caused by illness or injury.

**Dorlands Medical Dictionary:** A more or less localized sensation of discomfort, distress or agony resulting from the stimulation of specialized nerve endings.

## Daily Habits to Help Reduce Pain:



Participate in Life



Quit Smoking



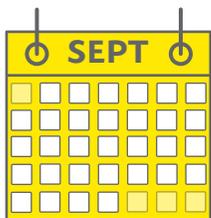
Healthy Diet



Exercise

## Goals of Pain Awareness Month

- ✓ Educate the community about the frequency and effects of pain with the message that pain is a serious public health issue
- ✓ Spread awareness about the treatments for painful conditions
- ✓ Encourage community members to get involved in pain awareness programs



Pain Awareness Month was first declared in September of 2001.

Sources: <sup>1</sup>National Center for Health Statistics. Health, United States, 2006, Special Feature on Pain With Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans. Hyattsville, MD. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/abus/abus06.pdf>. <sup>2</sup>Results from the American Productivity Audit. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14665809>. <sup>3</sup>National Sleep Foundation <http://www.sleepfoundation.org>). Sleep in America poll. 2000. <sup>4</sup>Vallfors B. Acute, Subacute and Chronic Low Back Pain: Clinical Symptoms, Absenteeism and Working Environment. Scan J Rehab Med Suppl1985; 11: 1-98. <sup>5</sup>U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2012. <sup>6</sup>The American Academy of Pain Medicine; [http://painmed.org/patientcenter/facts\\_on\\_pain.aspx](http://painmed.org/patientcenter/facts_on_pain.aspx)