



## The cost of Parkinson's revealed in new Europe-wide workplace survey of people living with Parkinson's

- One third of people with Parkinson's asked lose over €20,000 per year in lost earnings and extra costs
- Two in five people asked would have stayed in work longer if they received more reasonable accommodations in their job
- Fear – of discrimination, job loss, stigma – is biggest driver behind one in five respondents not revealing their Parkinson's diagnosis to employers

**22 OCTOBER 2025:** A new survey by charity Parkinson's Europe has painted a damning picture of working with Parkinson's, revealing steep financial losses, fear of stigma and uncertainty about workplace rights.

Almost 1,000 people with Parkinson's responded to the Europe-wide survey as part of the charity's [Welcome in the Workplace](#) campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the right to request reasonable accommodations at work for people living with Parkinson's and other long-term health conditions.

Over 30 questions were asked, on topics including communicating a Parkinson's diagnosis with employers, how respondents' working hours and financial security have

been affected since diagnosis, their knowledge of their workplace rights, and whether they have requested any reasonable accommodations.

### Key statistics revealed in the survey include:

- Only half of respondents told their employers about their Parkinson's diagnosis immediately, with the rest either waiting until their symptoms began to affect their work (24%) or not telling their employer at all (22%).
- When people with Parkinson's who had not disclosed their diagnosis at work were asked why, 42% said their reasons were fear-based, including 21% expressing a fear they would lose their job. Other fears included being discriminated against, demoted, or treated differently.
- Shockingly, almost half of people surveyed were 'not at all familiar' with employment regulations about disability or chronic health conditions.
- Of those who hadn't received any reasonable accommodations, one in four admitted they were unaware they could even ask for them.
- More positively, 42% of respondents had received some reasonable accommodations at work, with remote working and time off for health appointments named among the most helpful.

- Two in five people asked would have stayed in work longer if they received more reasonable accommodations in their job.
- 6 out of 10 respondents felt that having Parkinson's had affected their financial security. One third of these respondents claimed that this amounted to €20,000 per year or more, with 11% estimating their monetary loss to be more than €50,000 per year.

**President of Parkinson's Europe, Josefa Domingos, says:**

"It is essential to focus on the experiences of people living with Parkinson's when working to improve their care and overall quality of life. The results from Parkinson's Europe's survey clearly show that this principle applies beyond clinical environments. The survey highlights an often-overlooked aspect of living with Parkinson's: the importance of sustainable employment and the right of individuals to remain active, valued, and supported in the workplace."

"Listening to employees, and working with them to create working conditions that allow them to work effectively and comfortably, can mean the difference between a person with Parkinson's being able to work, or not. It is crucial that everyone feels empowered to request any reasonable adjustments they need, and feels supported in their workplace."

Read a full report of the survey results here <https://parkinsonseurope.org/parkinsonslife/careers-cut-short-financial-loss-and-fear-of-stigma-new-survey-working-with-parkinsons/>

**For further enquiries or interview a spokesperson from Parkinson's Europe please contact**

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**About Parkinson's**

- Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world, with over 10 million diagnoses globally – a number that is expected to double over the next 50

years. There are 1.2 million people living with Parkinson's in Europe.

- Parkinson's occurs when brain cells that make dopamine, a chemical that coordinates movement, stop working or die. The most common symptoms are tremor (shaking), slowness of movement and rigidity (muscle stiffness, but the condition can cause a wide range of other symptoms including anxiety, pain, sleep disturbance, mood and cognition issues and a decreased quality of life.
- There is currently no cure for Parkinson's. Symptoms are currently managed with medication, surgical treatments and complementary therapies.

**More information:**

[Parkinson disease - key facts from the World Health Organisation](#)

[The burden of neurological diseases in Europe: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017](#)  
[The Lancet - Global, regional, and national burden of neurological disorders, 1990–2016.](#)

**About Parkinson's Europe**

- Parkinson's Europe is the leading voice for Parkinson's in Europe. We provide trusted information; raise awareness about the condition; and facilitate research collaboration.
- We are an umbrella organisation with members across Europe, including Parkinson's UK, France Parkinson, Parkinson Vereniging, & Parkinson Italia
- We founded [World Parkinson's Day](#), which takes place annually on 11 April.
- Parkinson's Europe is a not for profit organisation registered in Brussels, and a charity registered in England and Wales.