

## YOUTH OUTREACH



*Epilepsy affects over 3 million Americans.*

### What is epilepsy??

Epilepsy is a neurological condition. A seizure is a symptom of epilepsy. A diagnosis of epilepsy is generally given after a person experiences two or more unprovoked seizures.

Known causes of epilepsy include head injuries, stroke, brain tumors, poisoning, problems in brain development before birth, and serious infections such as encephalitis or meningitis. However, more than half the time, the cause of epilepsy is unknown.

*The Epilepsy Foundation has a network of affiliates nationwide that provide services in their local communities. To locate an affiliate in your area, call us toll-free or visit our website's home page and type in your zip code under 'community connections.'*

**For more info contact:**

### Program Objectives

By the age of 20, 1% of the population is expected to develop epilepsy. 45,000 children under the age of 15 develop epilepsy each year, and over 326,000 school children have epilepsy.

Youth Outreach efforts include a variety of activities, including the National Youth Council, Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP), local Youth Councils, and the GoEYC.org website. The Epilepsy Foundation National Youth Council is a group of 18-24 year olds with and without epilepsy dedicated to creating programs, services and networks to connect all youth, and to encourage young people affected by epilepsy to empower themselves. Since their inception in 2006, they have held a leadership conference for local youth council leaders, developed a college education program, a guide to local youth councils, started the GoEYC.org website, and used social networking to reach out to fellow young people affected by epilepsy.

The Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP) uses portions of the eight component model developed by the Division of Adolescent and School Health to encourage school districts to incorporate epilepsy education for students and staff. Affiliates use youth outreach programs to meet the requirements of the model being used by the local school boards and districts.

\*This program was made possible by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Available Resources

- For more information about youth issues, such as dating, transition to adulthood, high school, college or driving, visit [www.GoEYC.org](http://www.GoEYC.org).



- *A Guide to Local Youth Councils* is available to affiliates for use in developing or starting a youth council in their communities.
- For more information on the Coordinated School Health Program, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/CSHP/>.