



# Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Fact Sheet

## Major Public Health Concern

- At least 45 million people in the US report sensitivity to various chemicals.<sup>1</sup>
- About 3 million Americans are diagnosed with MCS.<sup>1</sup>
- MCS affects people of all ages, economic status, race, and both genders.<sup>1</sup>
- Chemicals that people with MCS react to are toxic and affect everyone to some extent.

## Medical Findings

- Brain scans show reduced blood flow to the brain when people with MCS are under chemical exposure.<sup>2-7</sup>
- Physical variances identified in MCS include brain inflammation, oxidative stress, excitotoxicity, cardiac and airway disease, and auto-immune disorders.<sup>8-14</sup>
- Mast cell activation and disorders of porphyrin metabolism have been linked to MCS.<sup>15</sup>
- Genetic variations relating to detoxification processes have been linked to MCS.<sup>16</sup>

## The Cost of Environmental Illnesses

- Annual expenditures for healthcare and lost productivity due to MCS are estimated at \$71.8 billion dollars per year.<sup>18</sup>

## Environmental Factors

- Indoor and outdoor environmental exposures can trigger reactions: perfumes and fragrances, cleaning solutions, scented laundry products, pesticides, herbicides, paint and building materials, gasoline and petroleum based products, artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives.<sup>12</sup>

## MCS Can be Controlled

- With a plan that includes avoidance and control of environmental triggers, many people with MCS can lead normal, healthy, and active lives.<sup>18</sup>

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