

Celiac Facts & Figures

- Celiac Disease affects 1 in 133 average, healthy Americans. It is the most common genetically based, autoimmune disorder in the world.
- The number of people living with celiac disease in the United States (2.2 million), is greater than the populations of Alaska, Delaware, Washington DC, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and Vermont. 97% of them are undiagnosed.
- Celiac disease is more common than Crohn's disease (500,000), Ulcerative Colitis (500,000) and Cystic Fibrosis (30,000) combined.
(Source attached: *Fasano et. al., Archives of Internal Medicine. February 2003.*)
- Failure to diagnose celiac disease can lead to other autoimmune disorders such as type 1 diabetes. Of the 1.2 million people with type 1 diabetes, 6% (70,650) also have celiac disease.
- On average, it takes eleven years for a symptomatic person, in the United States to be diagnosed with celiac disease. This delay dramatically increases an individual's risk of developing additional autoimmune disorders, neurological problems, osteoporosis and even cancer.
(Source: *Characteristics of adult celiac disease in the USA: results of a nation survey. Green, P.H. et. al. American Journal of Gastroenterology, 2001.*)
- Physicians: Please refer to the following website for some additional information regarding the diagnosis of celiac disease.
<http://aafp.org/afp/980301ap/pruessn.html>