



# Join Advocates to Support Establishing Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

## Please Support Efforts to Establish Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition and the tardive dyskinesia community, we urge you to support designating the first full week in May (May 5-11, 2024) as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

## What is Tardive Dyskinesia?

Tardive dyskinesia (TD) is an involuntary, sometimes irreversible movement disorder that can occur due to use of antipsychotics, commonly prescribed to treat bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and depression, or other medications. More than 500,000 Americans are affected by TD.

Those with TD experience involuntary, repetitive movements of their face, limbs or torso – movements that can be uncomfortable or painful. According to a survey of people diagnosed with TD, the condition affects their ability to do everyday activities. More than half (61%) reported a negative impact to their ability to sleep, with almost as many people (47%) noting a negative impact on their ability to work.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, people living with TD often face stigma, which can worsen mental health symptoms and cause embarrassment or withdrawal from society.<sup>2</sup> Sixty-eight percent of people living with TD reported a moderate to extreme effect on their self-esteem.

## Why Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week Matters

Despite the fact that more than 500,000 people in the United States are affected by TD, the condition is still widely unknown or misunderstood due to a lack of public awareness.

During Mental Health Month (May), it's important to recognize that one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition. It is critical to also acknowledge that up to 30% of people receiving prolonged treatment with antipsychotics may develop TD.<sup>3</sup>

Recognition of Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week will help promote greater awareness about the impact and burden of TD, both for the public and those who may be at risk of developing the condition. Increased awareness will support people living with TD, their caregivers and their communities.

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We urge you to formally recognize the first full week of May as

**Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week | May 5-11, 2024**



# MOVEMENT DISORDERS

POLICY COALITION

 MoveDisorders  @MoveDisorders



[MovementDisordersPolicy.org](http://MovementDisordersPolicy.org)

## References

1. Ascher-Svanum, H. et al. Tardive dyskinesia and the 3-year course of schizophrenia: results from a large, prospective, naturalistic study. *J Clin Psych.* 2008;69(10):1580-1588.
2. Cloud LJ, Zutshi D, Factor SA. Tardive dyskinesia: therapeutic options for an increasingly common disorder. *Neurotherapeutics.* 2014;11(1):166-176.
3. Carbon M et al. Tardive Dyskinesia Prevalence in the Period of Second-Generation Antipsychotic Use: A Meta-Analysis. *J Clin Psychiatry.* 2017 Mar;78(3):e264-e278. doi: 10.4088/JCP.16r10832.