



**IBD** Day  
MAY 19, 2011

WORLD

**IMPACT**

2010-2011 Crohn's & Colitis Patient Survey  
www.surveysolutions.co.uk/IBD-Survey

**I want to have a voice  
I care about the future  
I want to make an IMPACT**

World IBD Day, led by patient organizations representing 32 countries on four continents, is officially marked on May 19, 2011. Patient groups from 26 European nations, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Uruguay are working together to draw awareness to IBD.

IBD, which stands for inflammatory bowel diseases, is comprised of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis — two serious, chronic digestive diseases that affect five million people worldwide (2.2 million in the EU alone). There is no cure, no known cause, and little public understanding of the pain and chronic suffering with which IBD patients courageously cope every day of their lives.

**European Federation of Crohn's  
and Ulcerative Colitis Associations  
(EFCCA)**

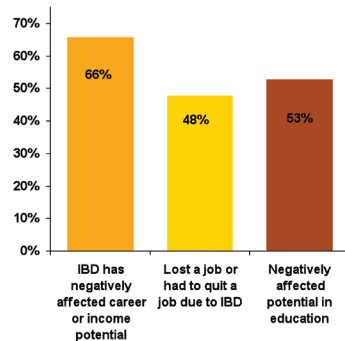
Website: <http://www.efcca.org/>  
E-mail: [info@efcca.org](mailto:info@efcca.org)

**United We Stand**

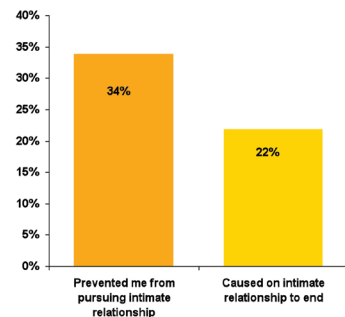


The European Federation of Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Associations (EFCCA) has recently launched the IMPACT survey which is a unique Europe-wide study aimed to discover the true impact of IBD not only on the quality of life, but also on the social, educational, employment, and holistic aspects of IBD. First results from the "IMPACT" study, which is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Abbott, the global health care company, show alarming figures.

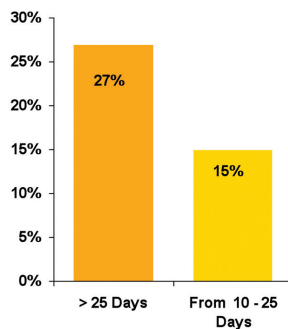
Over 66 % of respondents to the survey felt that their IBD has had a negative affect on their career, opportunities for advancement, and/or earning/income potential while 48% claimed to have lost a job, or had to quit a job because of their IBD. 27% of people with IBD have taken more than 25 days' sick leave in the past year due to IBD.



As regards "the effect of IBD on Intimate Relationships", 1 in 3 respondents, claim that their IBD has prevented them pursuing intimate relationships and 22% claim it has been the cause for ending an intimate relationship.



The study clearly shows that there is a need for serious dialogue between EU policy makers, patients' organisations and healthcare professionals in order to raise awareness and to ensure that concerns and needs of people with IBD are fed into EU policies.



The survey is still open

and can be completed anonymously online at: [www.survey-solutions.co.uk/ibd-survey](http://www.survey-solutions.co.uk/ibd-survey)

On the occasion of IBD World Day, EFCCA is launching an IBD awareness raising campaign starting with a meeting between EFCCA members and representatives of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Policy (DG Sanco) to present the first results of the IMPACT study followed by a street performance on Rond Point Schuman aimed at attracting attention amongst EU officials and the public at large.

The campaign will continue throughout the coming months running parallel to the completion of the IMPACT study in July. EFCCA will cooperate with the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) - which represents the medical profession - in preparing an analysis of the final study results and in presenting recommendations to Members of the European Parliament in autumn this year.

## About EFCCA

EFCCA was founded in 1990 and is an umbrella organisation representing 27 national patients' associations from 26 European countries and over 1 million people living with IBD. EFCCA aims to work to improve life for people with IBD and give them a louder voice and higher visibility across Europe. We would like to share some of the activities that our members in Europe and our colleagues worldwide are organising on IBD World Day:

### Poland:

A flash mob event in form of a colourful toilet paper battle on the main square of three major cities: Krakow, Warsaw and Katowice.

### Austria:

A toilet race involving 8 public figures will be organised in the city of Vienna

### UK:

Launch of the findings of a recently published report which highlights need for Employers, Government and the NHS to improve the working lives of people with Crohn's and Colitis

### Brazil:

A walk/run in the biggest park of Sao Paolo