



# The Facts on Irritable Bowel Syndrome

by NEWLIFEOUTLOOK TEAM

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## Raising IBS Awareness

Irritable bowel syndrome affects more people than you might think – about 35 million people in the US alone live with this GI disorder.

April is IBS Awareness month, but you can help raise awareness all year round, by educating yourself about IBS and talking to people about it. Sharing with other helps to remove any stigma associated with IBS, and will reduce your stress levels, too.

Read on to learn more about IBS, its symptoms and who it affects.

# The facts on Irritable Bowel Syndrome

## The facts

IBS is a chronic gastrointestinal disorder of unknown cause

IBS affects **35,000,000** people in the US

That's about **15%** of the population



**1 in 7** Americans live with IBS

2 out of every 3 IBS sufferers are women



## Symptoms

Abdominal pain or cramping  
Diarrhea or constipation - often alternating  
Gas (flatulence)



A bloated feeling  
Feeling that a bowel movement is incomplete  
Mucus in the stool

To meet the definition of IBS, symptoms must occur at least **3 days** a month

## Vitamin D and IBS

Did you know a recent study reports that high dose **vitamin D3** improves IBS symptoms in IBS sufferers

but how?

IBS is thought to be an **autoimmune disease**, which causes your immune system to **attack** your body's healthy tissue



Vitamin D is essential for a healthy immune system

Vitamin D is also important for **balance** of the intestinal mucosal barrier, which doesn't function correctly in those with IBS.

## IBS Awareness Month



Did you know April is **IBS Awareness Month**?

How can I help?

**Educate yourself** and discuss your knowledge on the topic

**Be active** and tell your legislators that research on intestinal health is important

**Spread the word** about IBS on social media or with a local news outlet

**If you have IBS** talk to others! Hiding your condition causes stress which can exacerbate symptoms

### References:

1. Facts about IBS. International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders. March 31, 2013.
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3. Sprake EF, Grant VA, Cerge BM. Vitamin D3 as a novel treatment for IBS, single case leads to critical analysis of patient centered data. BMJ case reports. 2012.
4. Symptoms. Irritable bowel syndrome. Mayo Clinic. March 30, 2013.

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