



CANADIAN
ARTHRITIS
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CANADIEN
DE L'ARTHRITE

ARTHRITIS FACTS AND FIGURES

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- Arthritis affects more adults than cancer, heart disease, respiratory conditions and spinal cord trauma and has a serious impact on quality of life.
- The term arthritis includes more than 100 diseases and conditions – Osteoarthritis is the most common form, affecting 1 in 10 adult Canadians.
- Approximately one in six (4 million+) Canadians aged 15 years and over has some form of arthritis and two-thirds of those affected are women.
- There are 100,000 Canadians diagnosed with arthritis each year.
- Arthritis is not just a disease of the elderly: The average age of onset is between 41 and 50, and it is the most common chronic childhood disorder. An estimated one in 1,000 Canadian children below age 16 live with juvenile arthritis.
- As the baby boomer population ages, one million more Canadians per decade will be diagnosed with arthritis, at least until 2031.
- Each year almost 44,000 surgical procedures are carried out in Ontario alone specifically for arthritis and related disorders.
- Research projects a need for a 64 per cent increase in the number of rheumatologists in Canada to deal with the growing prevalence of the disease by 2026. The current rate of recruitment is insufficient to maintain current manpower and meet future needs.

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- Nearly three of every five people with arthritis are of working age (under 65) and as the leading cause of disability in Canada today, more than 600,000 Canadians with arthritis are unable to work.
- The total economic burden of arthritis in Canada is estimated at \$4.4 billion, with additional workdays lost each year due to arthritis symptoms.
- Long-term disability and lost productivity account for almost 80 per cent of arthritis-related costs, with 70 per cent of these costs incurred by individuals aged 35-64.
- The vast majority of Canadians take medication to manage the disease and at close to \$270 million, the cost of arthritis medications continue to rise.
- People with arthritis made almost double the number of visits to their doctors than those without arthritis.
- Ten per cent of hospital admissions each year are arthritis-related, but only 1.3 per cent of attributed health science research is dedicated to this area.

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