



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, stroke and mood or anxiety disorders 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 more than 10 per cent of adult Canadians.
- In 2007-2008, over 4.2 million Canadians (16 per cent) aged 15 years and older reported having arthritis. With the aging population, this number is expected to increase to approximately 7 million (20 per cent) in 2031 and two-thirds (64 per cent) of those affected are women.
- There are 100,000 Canadians diagnosed with arthritis each year. As the baby boomer population ages, one million more Canadians per decade will be diagnosed with arthritis, at least until 2031.
- 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 lives with juvenile arthritis.
- 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.
- In 2000, the economic burden of arthritis in Canada was estimated to be \$6.4 billion representing almost one third of the total cost of musculoskeletal diseases – the most costly group of diseases.
- Of the total arthritis-related costs, the greatest impact is due to the indirect costs (\$4.3 billion) from lost production attributable to long-term disability and premature death. Direct costs (\$2.1 billion) include hospital, drug, physician and additional health care expenditures.
- Nearly two thirds (65 per cent) of the total arthritis-related costs were incurred by individuals aged 35-64 years (\$4.1 billion), which emphasizes the important economic burden of arthritis in Canadians of work-force age.
- Forty-four per cent are working with job limitations and 33 per cent required job modifications. Over 70 per cent of those aged between 55 and 64 years reported not being in the labour force. On average, over a quarter of men and women aged between 25 and 44 years with arthritis are not in the labour force because of their arthritis.
- The vast majority of Canadians take medication to manage the disease and at close to \$270 million, the cost of arthritis medications continues to rise.
- In 2007, over 4 million prescriptions for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs were written in Canada for individuals with a diagnosis of arthritis; 30 per cent were written for people with Osteoarthritis; 9 per cent were for Rheumatoid Arthritis, connective tissue diseases and other inflammatory conditions; and, 61 per cent were for other arthritis conditions.

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- In 2005-2006, there were 2.2 million hospitalizations for individuals aged 15 years and older in Canada. Arthritis was associated with over 6 per cent (132,000) of the total hospitalizations, but accounted for more of the surgical hospitalizations – 93,730 or 13 per cent.
- Only 1.3 per cent of attributed health science research is dedicated to arthritis.
- In 2005-2006, the total number of arthritis-related visits to a physician in Canada, excluding the Territories, was estimated to be 8.5 million. On average, 2.3 arthritis-related visits per person were made during 2005-2006 and more women than men consulted a physician for arthritis (women to men ratio 1.4:1).
- In 2005-2006, 59,200 joint replacements for arthritis were performed in Canada.
- While deaths from arthritis are uncommon, in 2005, 777 women and 296 men in Canada died from an arthritis condition: Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and other connective tissue diseases accounted for approximately 60 per cent of all arthritis deaths.
- Arthritis is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in First Nations, on- and off-reserve (19 per cent and 18 per cent respectively), Inuit (13 per cent) and Métis (21 per cent). Close to two-thirds of First Nations living on- and off-reserve reporting arthritis were between 30 and 59 years of age (64 per cent and 61 per cent, respectively).

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