

# Illinois: Why Arthritis Matters

Arthritis affects **25.9%** of the population in Illinois. That's **2,410,371** adults living with doctor-diagnosed arthritis in the state.

As of January 2020

- ▼ There are over **54 Million** American adults with doctor diagnosed arthritis in the U.S.
- ▼ **1 in 3** veterans has arthritis, which accounts for **12.6%** of the people in Illinois living with arthritis
- ▼ There are approximately **300,000 kids** with arthritis in the U.S. but only about **445 pediatric rheumatologists**. That's about 700 kids for each doctor.

## Over 24 million Americans experience activity limitations due to their arthritis.

- ▼ **1,053,300** adults in Illinois have activity limitations caused by arthritis
- ▼ Among all adults in Illinois with arthritis, **42.9%** have work limitations
- ▼ Arthritis in the U.S. has an economic burden of **\$304 billion** – made up of medical expenses and lost wages

## Adults with arthritis often have one or more chronic conditions.

- ▼ **Mental Health:** Anxiety and depression affect **1/3** of U.S. adults with arthritis 45 years of age or older
- ▼ **Diabetes:** **43.8%** of adults in IL with diabetes also have arthritis
- ▼ **Heart Disease:** **39.6%** of adults in IL with heart disease also have arthritis
- ▼ **Obesity:** **32.4%** of adults in IL who are obese also have arthritis

## You can make a difference for people living with arthritis in Illinois by advocating for key priorities.

### State

- ▼ **Prior Authorization:** Streamlines the prior authorization process for both patients and providers.

### Federal

- ▼ **Out of Pocket Cost Limits:** Tackles high out-of-pocket costs for specialty medications.

Contact the Arthritis Foundation's Advocacy and Access team for more information.



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