

ARTHRITIS SOCIETY FACTS & FIGURES

- Over 4.6 million, or one in six, Canadians aged 15 years and older report having arthritis. By 2031, this will rise to seven million Canadians (one in five).
- Two-thirds of those affected with arthritis are women.
- Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in Canada, ranking first overall among women and second overall among men.
- Up to 24,000 Canadian children aged 18 and under have arthritis, or more than 3 out of every 1,000 kids.
- More than 10 percent of Canadian adults have osteoarthritis (OA), a degenerative joint disease.
- Joint damage caused by OA accounts for more than 80 per cent of hip replacement surgery and over 90 per cent of knee replacements in Canada.
- An estimated one million Canadians live with inflammatory arthritis, autoimmune disorders that include rheumatoid arthritis (RA), juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and gout.
- Nearly three of every five people with arthritis are of working age (under 65).
- Arthritis costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$33 billion a year in cost of treatment and lost productivity. If the spread of the disease is left unchecked, that figure is projected to more than double to \$67 billion a year by 2031.
- Over a quarter of men and women with arthritis aged between 25 and 44 years are not in the labour force because of their disease.
- While many men and women with arthritis work, 44 per cent report working with job limitations and 33 per cent require job modifications.
- Within 30 years, there will be a new diagnosis of OA every 60 seconds, meaning nearly 30 per cent of the employed labour force will be physically impacted by the disease.
- Approximately 14 per cent of Canadians over the age of 15 make at least one visit to a physician for a reason owing to arthritis; in 2005-06, arthritis accounted for about 8.5 million such visits in Canada.

1. Arthritis Alliance of Canada, *The Impact of Arthritis in Canada: Today and Over the Next 30 Years* (Fall 2011), 14.

2. Public Health Agency of Canada, *Life with Arthritis in Canada: A Personal and Public Health Challenge* (Ottawa: Health Canada, 2010), 12.

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*, 59.

5. Arthritis Community Research & Evaluation Unit (ACREU) for The Arthritis Society, *Childhood Arthritis in Canada*, 2013.

6. *Life with Arthritis in Canada*, 108.

7. *Ibid.*, 12.

8. *The Impact of Arthritis in Canada*, 32, 40.

9. *Life with Arthritis in Canada*, 64.

10. *Ibid.*, 64.

11. *The Impact of Arthritis in Canada*,

12. *Ibid.*, 13.

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