



West Virginia Fact Sheet 2016

- 530,000 people in West Virginia have arthritis or a related disease (2013 BRFSS)
- 36% of all West Virginians have arthritis (2013 BRFSS)
- 64% of adults with diabetes in West Virginia also have arthritis (2013 BRFSS)
- 54% of adults with hypertension in West Virginia also have arthritis (2013 BRFSS)
- 44% of adults who are obese in West Virginia also have arthritis (2013 BRFSS)
- The approximate annual cost of arthritis to West Virginia in direct and indirect costs exceeds 1 billion dollars (Medical Expenditure Panel Survey)
- According to the CDC Cost Calculator, approximately \$877 million dollars is spent on direct costs by all payers in WV each year.
- An estimated 1,600 children in West Virginia have some form of arthritis and no pediatric rheumatologists (CDC)
- The prevalence of arthritis-attributable work limitation (AAWL) among all working-age adults with arthritis in West Virginia is 41.7% (CDC)
- CDC data identifies arthritis as the most common causes of disability.

Ambassador Program

Arthritis Ambassadors are official liaisons between the Arthritis Foundation and their member of Congress. This program trains individuals into elite advocates ready to take on the challenges facing the arthritis community.

What is an Advocate?

Advocates help improve the lives of people living with arthritis. The key to success in changing government policies and funding is through grassroots advocacy and our e-advocates are the Arthritis Foundation's chief resource for making positive changes in Washington.

What does an Advocate do?

Advocates make their opinions and personal stories known. By signing up, you'll receive Action Alerts in your inbox when important arthritis-related issues are debated on Capitol Hill. In 5 minutes or less, you'll be able to write your elected officials and tell them their constituents care about arthritis and how it impacts our communities.

To register, go to
www.arthritis.org/TakeAction