



West Virginia: Why Arthritis Matters

Arthritis affects **38.9%** of the population in West Virginia. That's **557,000** adults living with doctor-diagnosed arthritis in the state.

- There are over **54 Million** American adults with doctor diagnosed arthritis in the U.S.
- 1 in 3** veterans has arthritis, which accounts for **14.5%** of the people in West Virginia living with arthritis
- There are approximately **300,000 kids** with arthritis in the U.S. but only about **390 pediatric rheumatologists**. That's about 700 kids for each doctor.

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

- 319,000** adults in West Virginia have activity limitations caused by arthritis
- Among all adults in West Virginia with arthritis, **52.5%** 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:** **60.4%** of adults in WV with diabetes also have arthritis
- Heart Disease:** **66.3%** of adults in WV with heart disease also have arthritis
- Obesity:** **45.7%** of adults in WV who are obese also have arthritis

You can make a difference by advocating for state and federal legislation that will help people with arthritis in West Virginia. Legislative priorities for 2019 include:

- Workforce:** Legislation that addresses the pediatric rheumatology workforce shortage through federal loan repayment programs
- Congressional Arthritis Caucus:** Grows the bipartisan Congressional Arthritis Caucus, a forum to educate Members of Congress about the most pressing issues facing people with arthritis

Contact your local Arthritis Foundation [State Director of Advocacy & Access](#) to learn more.

Visit arthritis.org/advocate/our-policy-priorities to learn about our priorities.

Capital: Charleston
Founded: 1863
State Fruit: Golden Delicious Apple

