



# Wisconsin: Why Arthritis Matters

Arthritis affects **24.8%** of the population in Wisconsin. That's **1,104,000** 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 **14.8%** of the people in Wisconsin 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.

- 543,000** adults in Wisconsin have activity limitations caused by arthritis
- Among all adults in Wisconsin with arthritis, **38.4%** 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:** **46.5%** of adults in WI with diabetes also have arthritis
- Heart Disease:** **54.7%** of adults in WI with heart disease also have arthritis
- Obesity:** **33.8%** of adults in WI 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 Wisconsin. Legislative priorities for 2019 include:

- Step Therapy:** Legislation that addresses burdensome use of step therapy, or “fail first”, which can restrict access to needed therapies
- Market Stabilization:** State strategies to make health insurance more affordable and adequate on the individual exchange

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

Visit [arthritis.org/advocate/our-policy-priorities](http://arthritis.org/advocate/our-policy-priorities) to learn about our priorities.

Capital: Madison  
Founded: 1848  
State Animal: Badger

