



Illinois: Why Arthritis Matters

Arthritis affects **24.8%** of the population in Illinois. That's **2,308,000** 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 **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 **390 pediatric rheumatologists**. That's about 700 kids for each doctor.

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

- 1,073,000** adults in Illinois have activity limitations caused by arthritis
- Among all adults in Illinois with arthritis, **34.8%** 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:** **50.9%** of adults in IL with diabetes also have arthritis
- Heart Disease:** **51%** of adults in IL with heart disease also have arthritis
- Obesity:** **33.9%** of adults in IL 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 Illinois. Legislative priorities for 2019 include:

- Out-of-Pocket Cost Limits:** Legislation that tackles high out-of-pocket costs for specialty medications
- 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: Springfield
Founded: 1818
State Bird: Cardinal

