Georgia: Why Arthritis Matters

Arthritis affects 25.4% of the population in Georgia. That’s 1,890,000 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 16.8% of the people in Georgia 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.

- 981,000 adults in Georgia have activity limitations caused by arthritis
- Among all adults in Georgia with arthritis, 41.8% 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: 53.3% of adults in GA with diabetes also have arthritis
- Heart Disease: 57.6% of adults in GA with heart disease also have arthritis
- Obesity: 35.3% of adults in GA 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 Georgia. 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
- Workforce: Legislation that addresses the pediatric rheumatology workforce shortage through federal loan repayment programs

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.