What is Arthritis?

The word arthritis applies to more than 100 different rheumatic conditions of unknown or varied causes with the most common forms being osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, juvenile arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus (also known as lupus or SLE), and scleroderma.

Arthritis in Missouri

Who’s Affected?

- Approximately 1.4 million Missourians (32%) have arthritis. This is a 6% increase over the 2003 estimate of 30%
- 1.72 million Missouri adults are projected to have doctor-diagnosed arthritis by 2030 (an estimated 25% increase from 2005)\(^4\)
- Arthritis occurs more frequently among older Missourians (See Figure 1)
- Arthritis is more common among females (34.9%) than males (28.6%) in Missouri and in the US

Physical Activity

- 16.7% of Missouri adults who have arthritis are inactive compared to 9.9% of Missouri adults who do NOT have arthritis (Table 1)
- Increasing the number of Missouri adults with arthritis who are active is essential in the management of arthritis, since physical activity has many noteworthy benefits including: reductions in pain and improvements in physical function, mental health, and quality of life\(^2\)

| Table 1: Percent of adults who have arthritis and without arthritis who are inactive |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                                   | Adults with Arthritis | Adults without Arthritis |
| Percent Inactive                  | 16.7%               | 9.9%             |

Cost

- In 2003, the total cost resulting from arthritis and other rheumatic conditions in Missouri was more than $2.8 billion \(^5\) (The U.S. total cost resulting from arthritis was $128 billion.\(^2\))
- With the increased prevalence projections for 2030, the cost resulting from arthritis will continue to increase as well
Arthritis and Weight

- Among Missouri adults with arthritis 72% are overweight or obese compared to 58.4% of Missouri adults without arthritis.
- Reducing the prevalence of overweight/obesity among Missouri adults who are diagnosed with specific types of arthritis can help reduce the development and symptoms of those conditions. For example, weight control can lower a person's risk for developing osteoarthritis, and weight loss can reduce symptoms for people with knee osteoarthritis. ²

Arthritis and Other Chronic Conditions

- 61% of Missouri adults with diabetes also have arthritis.
- 66% of Missouri adults with cardiovascular disease also have arthritis.
- 52% of Missouri adults with hypertension also have arthritis.
- 50% of Missouri adults with high cholesterol also have arthritis.
- With so many of Missouri adults reporting these conditions also reporting being diagnosed with arthritis, it is important to address the unique barriers that having arthritis presents to participating in physical activity, especially since physical activity is often recommended to individuals who have these co-morbidities as a strategy for management. ²

What's Happening in Missouri

- Missouri has seven Regional Arthritis Centers (known as RACs). See map below for RAC locations.
- From July 2007 to June 2008, Missouri offered a total of 830 evidence-based courses throughout the state in partnership with the RACs.
- Starting in July 2008, Missouri will be modifying the evidence-based course selection to include Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, Arthritis Foundation Self-Help Program, Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, and EnhanceFitness.

Missouri Arthritis Program - Regional Arthritis Centers

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