



Arthritis

Arthritis is among the most common chronic conditions in the United States. Seniors have high rates of arthritis. People who have arthritis use more health services than those who do not. Among those ages 70 and older, those with arthritis are more likely to have stayed in a nursing home than those who do not have arthritis. Almost half of those with arthritis are ages 65 or older and therefore qualify for Medicare. Among Medicare adults ages 45 to 64, 15% of those with arthritis have Medicare coverage compared to just 3% of that age group who do not have arthritis.

63% Of all individuals with arthritis are female.

46% Of persons with arthritis are ages 65 or older.

20% Of adults with arthritis ages 51 to 61 have difficulty with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs).

50% Of arthritic adults ages 70 or older have difficulty with one or more ADLs.

92% Of elderly arthritic adults use prescription drugs compared to 82% of elderly people who do not have arthritis.



Reference

National Academy on an Aging Society. *Challenges for the 21st Century: Chronic and Disabling Conditions*. National Academy on an Aging Society Web site. www.agingociety.org/agingociety/pdf/arthritis.pdf. March 2000. Accessed July 7, 2008.



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