

Excerpted from the **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)**  
– January 12, 2007

Full report can be found:

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5601a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm5601a2\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5601a2.htm?s_cid=mm5601a2_e)

## **National and State Medical Expenditures and Lost Earnings Attributable to Arthritis and Other Rheumatic Conditions --- United States, 2003**

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States (1), potentially limiting affected persons from walking a few blocks or climbing a flight of stairs. Using Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data, CDC analyzed national and state-specific direct costs (i.e., medical expenditures) and indirect costs (i.e., lost earnings) attributable to arthritis and other rheumatic conditions (AORC) in the United States during 2003. This report describes the results of that analysis, which indicated that, in 2003, the total cost of AORC in the United States was approximately \$128 billion (\$80.8 billion in direct and \$47.0 billion in indirect costs), equivalent to 1.2% of the 2003 U.S. gross domestic product. Total costs attributable to AORC, by state/area, ranged from \$225.5 million in the District of Columbia to \$12.1 billion in California. Total costs attributable to AORC have increased substantially since 1997 (2), and that increase is expected to continue because of the aging of the population and increases in obesity and physical inactivity. These findings signal the need for broader implementation of effective public health interventions, such as arthritis and chronic disease self-management programs, which can reduce medical expenditures (3) among persons with AORC.

Table 2

TABLE 2. Direct and indirect costs attributable to arthritis and other rheumatic conditions, by state/area — Medical Expenditure Panel Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), United States, 2003

State/Area	Direct costs (medical expenditures)		Indirect costs (lost earnings)		Total costs (in millions) (\$)
	No. of adults affected (in thousands) <sup>a</sup>	Costs (in millions) (\$) <sup>b</sup>	No. of adults affected (in thousands) <sup>b</sup>	Costs (in millions) (\$)	
Alabama	1,132	1,617.9	763	978.9	2,596.8
Alaska	112	160.0	89	114.6	274.7
Arizona	1,062	1,517.9	643	824.6	2,342.5
Arkansas	636	908.5	415	532.8	1,441.3
California	5,503	7,863.3	3,331	4,273.3	12,136.6
Colorado	830	1,186.2	572	733.3	1,919.5
Connecticut	660	943.1	389	499.4	1,442.5
Delaware	163	232.7	102	130.7	363.4
District of Columbia	103	146.7	61	78.7	225.5
Florida	3,595	5,137.5	1,938	2,486.0	7,623.5
Georgia	1,681	2,401.8	1,176	1,508.8	3,910.7
Hawaii	171	243.9	102	131.4	375.3
Idaho	248	354.2	163	209.5	563.6
Illinois	1,154	1,649.0	796	1,021.1	2,670.0
Indiana	1,383	1,976.6	939	1,204.4	3,180.9
Iowa	583	832.7	325	417.0	1,249.7
Kansas	490	700.1	316	405.8	1,106.0
Kentucky	1,042	1,488.4	731	938.0	2,426.4
Louisiana	892	1,275.0	593	761.3	2,036.3
Maine	290	413.9	184	236.1	650.0
Maryland	1,058	1,512.6	753	966.8	2,479.3
Massachusetts	1,234	1,764.1	756	970.1	2,734.2
Michigan	2,406	3,437.8	1,652	2,119.4	5,557.2
Minnesota	955	1,364.2	630	807.8	2,171.9
Mississippi	656	938.1	434	556.3	1,494.5
Missouri	1,275	1,821.8	820	1,051.9	2,873.7
Montana	179	256.0	109	139.6	395.6
Nebraska	344	492.3	206	264.8	757.0
Nevada	441	630.9	304	390.7	1,021.6
New Hampshire	252	360.3	166	213.1	573.5
New Jersey	1,593	2,276.8	967	1,267.0	3,543.7
New Mexico	340	485.6	222	284.4	770.0
New York	3,898	5,569.9	2,460	3,155.7	8,725.5
North Carolina	1,790	2,558.2	1,211	1,553.4	4,111.6
North Dakota	130	185.2	78	99.5	284.7
Ohio	2,511	3,588.3	1,681	2,156.8	5,745.0
Oklahoma	727	1,039.5	458	588.1	1,627.7
Oregon	716	1,023.3	457	585.7	1,609.1
Pennsylvania	2,957	4,225.6	1,833	2,352.1	6,577.7
Rhode Island	229	327.3	143	183.5	510.8
South Carolina	927	1,324.9	630	808.0	2,132.9
South Dakota	161	229.7	95	121.7	351.4
Tennessee	1,375	1,964.7	1,018	1,306.6	3,271.3
Texas	3,765	5,380.1	2,592	3,326.1	8,706.2
Utah	353	504.9	246	315.0	819.9
Vermont	129	183.9	83	105.9	289.8
Virginia	1,484	2,121.2	1,048	1,344.7	3,465.9
Washington	1,215	1,735.8	819	1,051.1	2,786.9
West Virginia	523	746.8	344	441.4	1,188.2
Wisconsin	1,084	1,549.0	698	895.8	2,444.9
Wyoming	106	151.9	71	91.3	243.1
<b>United States</b>	<b>—<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>80,800.0</b>	<b>—<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>47,000.0</b>	<b>127,800.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Aged ≥18 years.<sup>†</sup> State estimates might not sum to total because of rounding.<sup>§</sup> Persons aged 18–64 years.<sup>†</sup> National cost estimates were apportioned using each state's proportion of the overall number of arthritis cases in BRFSS. The CDC arthritis program recommends using BRFSS data for estimating state-level measures of arthritis and National Health Interview Survey data for national measures of arthritis.