Adults Ages 18 or Older with Self Reported Doctor-Diagnosed Arthritis in Massachusetts. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2009.

Table 1 describes the prevalence of arthritis by various characteristics (overall, sex, age, race/ethnicity, education level, obesity, and physical inactivity). Use this table when you want to describe arthritis prevalence in your state by these important sociodemographic characteristics.

Table 1. How many adults in Massachusetts have arthritis?

1,164,000 (25%) adults have arthritis.
434,000 (20%) men have arthritis.
729,000 (30%) women have arthritis.

By age:
225,000 (55%) adults 75 years or older have arthritis.
224,000 (53%) adults between the ages of 65 and 74 have arthritis.
508,000 (32%) adults between the ages of 45 and 64 have arthritis.
193,000 (9%) adults between the ages of 18 and 44 have arthritis.

By race/ethnicity:
980,000 (26%) whites have arthritis.
45,000 (19%) Blacks have arthritis.
63,000 (17%) Hispanics have arthritis.

By education:
97,000 (29%) adults with less than a high school education have arthritis.
323,000 (29%) with a high school education have arthritis.
743,000 (23%) with more than a high school education have arthritis.

Tables 2 and 3 contain impact measures of arthritis. The numerators in these tables are people with arthritis who also have the relevant impact. The denominators in these tables are all adults in the state with arthritis. Use these tables when you want to describe specific arthritis impacts among adults with arthritis.

Table 2. Among adults with arthritis in Massachusetts, what proportion have arthritis-attributable limitations and joint pain?

Activity limitation:
Of adults with arthritis, 44% (502,000) have activity limitation due to their arthritis.
43% of women with arthritis have activity limitation due to their arthritis.
44% of men with arthritis have activity limitation due to their arthritis.

Work limitation:
Of working-age (18-64) adults with arthritis, 29% (200,000) have some work limitation due to their arthritis.
28% of working-age women with arthritis have some work limitation due to their arthritis.
30% of working-age men with arthritis have some work limitation due to their arthritis.

Social participation restriction:
Of adults with arthritis, 14% (159,000) have social participation restriction due to their arthritis.
14% of women with arthritis have social participation restriction due to their arthritis.
13% of men with arthritis have social participation restriction due to their arthritis.

Severe joint pain:
Of adults with arthritis, 24% (273,000) have severe joint pain due to their arthritis.
25% of women with arthritis have severe joint pain due to their arthritis.
21% of men with arthritis have severe joint pain due to their arthritis.

Table 3. Among adults with arthritis in Massachusetts, what proportion report fair/poor health, or at least 14 unhealthy or limited activity days in the past 30 days?

Fair or poor general health:
Of adults with arthritis, 25% (294,000) rate their general health status as fair or poor.
25% of women with arthritis rate their general health status as fair or poor.
26% of men with arthritis rate their general health status as fair or poor.

Fair or poor general health by race/ethnicity:
22% of whites with arthritis rate their general health status as fair or poor.
38% of Blacks with arthritis rate their general health status as fair or poor.
54% of Hispanics with arthritis rate their general health status as fair or poor.

Poor physical health for 14 or more of the past 30 days:
Of adults with arthritis, 243,000 (21%) reported poor physical health for 14 or more of the past 30 days.

Poor mental health for 14 or more of the past 30 days:
Of adults with arthritis, 160,000 (14%) reported poor mental health for 14 or more of the past 30 days.

Activity limitation attributable to poor physical or mental health for 14 or more of the past 30 days:
Of adults with arthritis, 153,000 (22%) reported activity limitation attributable to poor physical or mental health for 14 or more of the past 30 days.

Table 4 contains the same arthritis impact measures as Table 2, but differs by referring to all adults in Massachusetts, not just those with arthritis. The numerators in this table are the same people with arthritis who also have the relevant impact, so the absolute numbers are the same. However, the denominator is different from Table 2. In Table 4, the denominator is the adult population of the state. Use this table when you want to describe how much arthritis impacts the whole adult population. For example, 13% of women in Massachusetts have activity limitation due to their arthritis.

Table 4. Among all adults in Massachusetts, how many have arthritis and arthritis-attributable limitations and joint pain?

Activity limitation:
About 11% ***of all adults*** have activity limitation due to their arthritis.
13% of all women have activity limitation due to their arthritis.
9% of all men have activity limitation due to their arthritis.

Work limitation:
About 5% ***of all working-age (18-64) adults*** have some work limitation due to their arthritis.
6% of all working-age women have some work limitation due to their arthritis.
4% of all working-age men have some work limitation due to their arthritis.

Social participation restriction:
About 3% ***of all adults*** have social participation restriction due to their arthritis.
4% of all women have social participation restriction due to their arthritis.
3% of all men have social participation restriction due to their arthritis.

Severe joint pain:
About 6% ***of all adults*** report severe joint pain.
7% of all women report severe joint pain.
4% of all men report severe joint pain.

Table 5a provides the prevalence of arthritis among adults with other chronic conditions as well as the overall prevalence of arthritis in the state. For the first column describing the prevalence of arthritis in the state, the denominator is all adults in the state. For all the other chronic conditions, the denominators in this table are all adults in the state with each chronic condition. Use this table to demonstrate the high prevalence of arthritis among adults with other chronic conditions. This information may be useful for working across programs in the state health department and for partnership building.

Table 5a. In Massachusetts, how common is arthritis among the general adult population compared with arthritis prevalence among adults with other chronic conditions?

25% of adults in the general population have arthritis.
50% (185,000) adults with diabetes also have arthritis.
55% (152,000) adults with heart disease also have arthritis.
44% (530,000) adults with high blood pressure also have arthritis.
38% (541,000) adults with high cholesterol also have arthritis.

Table 5b provides the prevalence of arthritis among adults with risk factors for chronic disease, as well as the overall prevalence of arthritis in the state. For the first column describing the prevalence of arthritis in the state, the denominator is all adults in the state. For all the other risk factors, the denominators in this table are all adults in the state with each risk factor. Use this table to demonstrate the high prevalence of arthritis among adults with common risk factors for chronic disease. This information may be useful for working across programs in the state health department and for partnership building.

Table 5b. In Massachusetts, how common is arthritis among the general adult population compared with arthritis prevalence among adults with risk factors for chronic disease?

25% of adults in the general population have arthritis.
25% (393,000) of adults who are overweight have arthritis.
35% (341,000) of adults who are obese have arthritis.
37% (202,000) of adults who are inactive have arthritis.
28% (192,000) of adults who smoke have arthritis.

Table 6 allows you to compare the prevalence of physical inactivity, obesity, and overweight between adults with and without arthritis. This information may be useful for working across programs in the state health department and for partnership building.

Table 6. Are adults in Massachusetts with arthritis more physically inactive or overweight/obese than adults without arthritis?

Of adults with arthritis:
202,000 (18%) are inactive
341,000 (31%) are obese
393,000 (36%) are overweight

Of adults without arthritis:
340,000 (10%) are inactive.
626,000 (19%) are obese.
1,171,000 (35%) are overweight.

Note about rounding of estimates: Estimates in the summary table are rounded to the nearest whole number while all of the standard tables round to the nearest tenth of a percent. As a result, you may detect slight discrepancies because the summary table may have a number which is rounded down when one might expect it should have rounded up. For example, an underlying rate of 27.49 rounds up to 27.5 for the standard tables and rounds down to 27 for the summary page. Any discrepancies that result should not be big enough to matter much when using these tables to make the points you want to make.