

Arthritis in Alberta

Arthritis is one word that describes more than 100 disease types and affects one in five Alberta residents. Within a generation, more than one in four Albertans is expected to have the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The total economic burden of osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in Alberta, including the costs of direct health care and lost productivity, were estimated at \$3.3 billion based on national figures compiled by the Arthritis Alliance of Canada.

The human story

Arthritis affects more than 6 million Canadians. According to the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, more than 500,000 Albertans are living with arthritis.

Osteoarthritis in Alberta

In 2010, 404,110 people – or 1 in 9 – were living with osteoarthritis. Within a generation (30 years) it is anticipated that 1 in 4 or 1.05 million Albertans will be living with OA and one person in Alberta will be diagnosed every 12.1 minutes. *

Rheumatoid Arthritis in Alberta

Unlike OA, rheumatoid arthritis can occur at any age. In 2010, 24,812 people in Alberta were living with RA. The prevalence of RA is expected to rise by 89 per cent by 2030. In 2040, 54,694– or 1 in 79 people in Alberta – will be living with RA; one person in Alberta will be diagnosed with RA every 3.6 hours.

** The statistics in this document are based on a 2011 report commissioned by the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program and conducted by RiskAnalytica using a life and economic simulation framework (Life at Risk®) to generate a base model of the health and economics of OA and RA. Using historical Alberta data as inputs, the base model estimated the health and economic impacts of OA and RA over the next 30 years.*

Economic Impact

Impact on the Productivity of the Alberta Labour Force (OA)

While OA is generally perceived as a condition that affects older adults, it is estimated that OA resulted in \$2.75 billion dollars in productivity losses in Alberta in 2010. This number is expected to rise by 58 per cent by 2020 and more than double by 2040 (115 per cent). Summed over the next 30 years, OA is expected to result in \$145 billion in productivity losses in Alberta alone (after adjusting for inflation and interest rates).

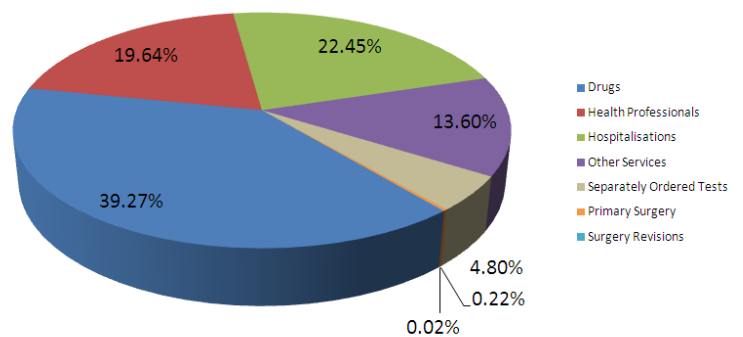
Impact on the Productivity of the Alberta Labour Force (RA)

On average, someone with RA will be work disabled within 10 years of getting the disease. In 2010, it is estimated that RA generated \$519 million dollars in productivity losses in Alberta. This number is expected to rise by 99 per cent by the year 2040. The cumulative total productivity losses generated by RA are expected to reach \$26 billion dollars by 2040 (after adjusting for inflation and interest rates).

Direct Health Care Costs (OA) on the Province of Alberta

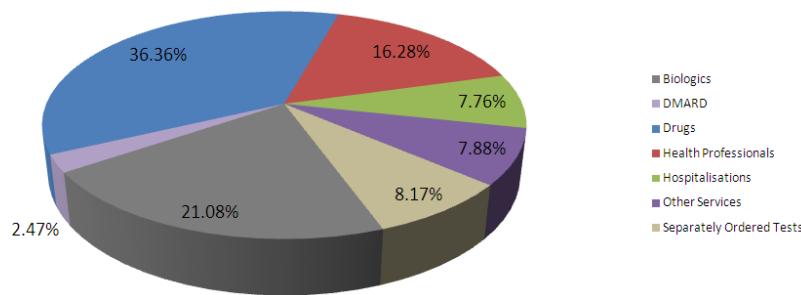
It is estimated that OA drove \$933 million dollars in direct health care costs in Alberta in 2010. These costs are expected to rise by 76 per cent by 2020 and by 126 per cent in 2040 (in 2010 dollar terms). Over the next 30 years, the cumulative total direct health care costs associated with OA in Alberta are expected to exceed \$52.7 billion dollars.

Direct Health Costs of Osteoarthritis: 2010



Direct Health Care Costs (RA) on the Province of Alberta

Direct Health Costs of Rheumatoid Arthritis: 2010



It is estimated that RA drove \$218 million dollars in direct health care costs in Alberta in 2010. These costs are expected to rise by 49 per cent by 2040 (in 2010 dollar terms). Total cumulative direct health care costs associated with RA in Alberta are expected to exceed \$9.12 billion dollars over the next 30 years (2040).