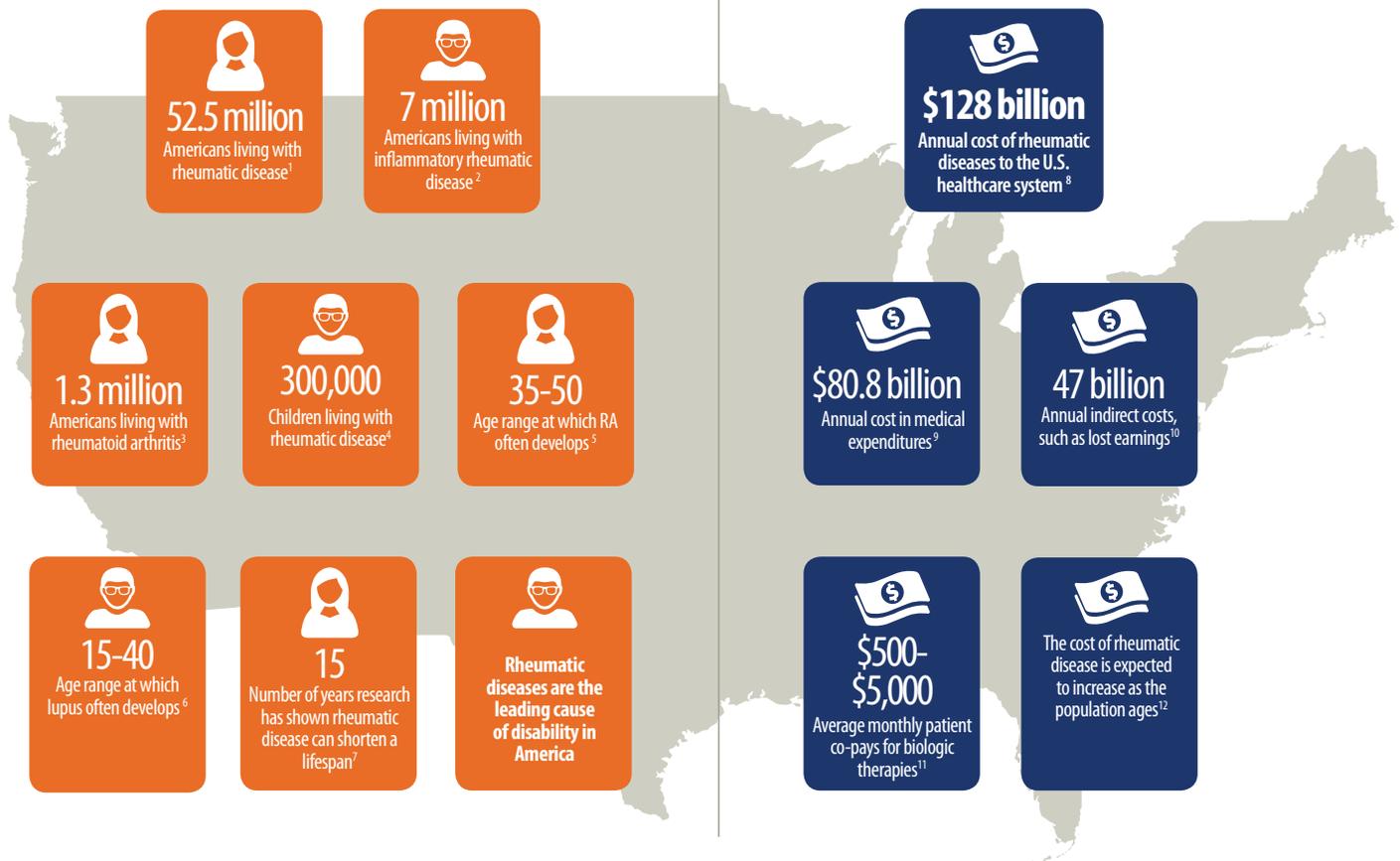


# Rheumatic Disease in America: Cost and Impact

**52.5 million Americans** are living with some form of rheumatic disease, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis, lupus, gout, scleroderma, ankylosing spondylitis, Sjögren's and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Rheumatic diseases are the leading cause of disability in America and cost the U.S. healthcare system an estimated \$128 billion annually<sup>1</sup>.

## Rheumatic diseases are the leading cause of disability in America

## The cost of rheumatic disease is expected to increase as the population ages



## About the American College of Rheumatology

The American College of Rheumatology represents U.S. rheumatologists, rheumatology health professionals and the millions of U.S. patients living with rheumatic disease. We advocate for high-value, high-quality healthcare policies and reforms that will ensure safe, effective, affordable and accessible rheumatology care for our patients.

<sup>1</sup>Barbour KE, Helmick CG, Theis KA, Murphy LB, Hootman JM, Brady TJ, et al. Prevalence of Doctor-Diagnosed Arthritis and Arthritis-Attributable Activity Limitation — United States, 2010–2012. *MMWR*. 2013;62(44):869–873. PubMed PMID: 24196662.

<sup>2</sup>Helmick CG, Felson DT, Lawrence RC. Estimates of the prevalence of arthritis and other rheumatic conditions in the United States. *Arthritis & Rheumatism*. 2008;58(1):15–25

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>WebMD E-Medicine Health website. (2011). Rheumatoid arthritis. Retrieved from [http://www.emedicinehealth.com/rheumatoid\\_arthritis/article\\_em.htm](http://www.emedicinehealth.com/rheumatoid_arthritis/article_em.htm). Accessed January 24, 2011

<sup>6</sup>The Lupus Foundation website. (2011). Statistics on Lupus. Lupus Foundation of America. Retrieved from <http://www.lupus.org/about/statistics-on-lupus>. Accessed on May 2, 2011

<sup>7</sup>Rheumatoid Arthritis. *New York Times*. <http://health.nytimes.com/health/guides/disease/rheumatoid-arthritis/overview.html>

<sup>8</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National and state medical expenditures and lost earnings attributable to arthritis and other rheumatic conditions — United States, 2003. *MMWR*. 2007;56(1):4–7

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.