

Measuring the Health Impact of Arthritis

Case Study

YHEC conducted research on behalf of the charity Versus Arthritis to estimate the quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) lost in the UK to three key types of arthritis: rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

YHEC developed a simple calculator model to answer three research questions:

- How many QALYs would a person lose over their lifetime if they were diagnosed with arthritis in childhood, early or later adulthood, or older age?
- How many QALYs are lost overall to arthritis each year in the UK?
- Over 10 and 20 years, how many QALYs are lost to arthritis in the UK?

The results of the analysis indicated that, on average, a person diagnosed with arthritis will lose around 5 QALYs over their lifetime.



This figure relates to loss of length of life (i.e. dying early) and quality of life (e.g. due to experiencing pain). The analysis also estimated that over

400,000 QALYs are lost to arthritis in the UK each year.

The research was published in Versus Arthritis' Defying Arthritis at Every Age report and was featured on national news programmes, including BBC Breakfast and Sky News.



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