

## Frequently Used Arthritis Phrases & Acronyms

(for those dealing with arthritis as a public health problem)

- AF:** Arthritis Foundation
- AFYAP:** Arthritis Foundation/YMCA Aquatics Program; water-based exercise program for persons with arthritis.
- AHRQ:** Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (formerly AHCPR, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research); part of the public Health Service; the nation's health services research agency.
- APEP:** Arthritis Prevention and Education Program located within the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Office of Community Development.
- Arthritis:** A term with various meanings in various settings.  
Public Health: A shorthand term for the 100+ arthritis and other rheumatic conditions.  
Medicine: Inflammation of a joint.
- Arthritis and other rheumatic conditions:**  
Phrase used to describe an ICO-9-CM based list of diagnoses, as developed by the NADW.
- ASHC:** Arthritis Self-Help Course; six-week self-management course shown to reduce pain and physician visits.
- ASTHO:** Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; the national organization of top state health officials.
- ASTCDPD:** Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors; and affiliate of ASTHO.
- ASTDHPPE:**  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Health Promotion and Public Health Education.
- Biological agents:**  
New therapeutic agents aimed at interfering with several immune and inflammatory pathways that likely contribute to cartilage and bone destruction; examples include monoclonal antibodies, recombinant forms of molecules such as interleukin-1 receptor antagonist, recombinant soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor fusion protein, and interleukin-10.
- BRFSS:** Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System; a state-based telephone survey conducted in all 50 states; supported by CDC.
- CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the nation's prevention agency; part of the Public Health Service.
- Chronic Joint Symptoms (CJS):**  
Used to describe persons in the NHIS and BRFSS Surveys who answer yes to the NADW-developed questions "During the past 12 months, have you had pain, aching, stiffness or swelling in or around a joint?" and "Were these symptoms present on most days for at least one month?"
- Corticosteroids:**  
Powerful anti-inflammatory agents used to interfere with inflammatory during acute flares of disease and occasionally long-term; has recognized, adverse effects with long-term use.
- CSPA:** Consultants on Scientific Priorities in Arthritis; organized by ASTCDPD; funded by CDC.

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- CSTE:** Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist, an affiliate of ASTHO; decides on nationally reportable diseases.
- DMARDS:** Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; examples include methotrexate, sulfasalazine, antimalarial agents, gold azathioprine, cyclosporine, and cyclophosphamide.
- Doctor diagnosed arthritis (DrDxArth):**  
Use to describe persons in the BRFSS who answer yes to the question “Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have arthritis?”
- HP2010/Healthy People 2010:**  
The national prevention initiative that every decade identifies opportunities to improve the health of all Americans; many states develop their own HP 2010 objectives related to the national objectives.
- Health-related quality of life (HRQOL):**  
An individual’s or group’s perceived physical and mental health over time. It is a subset of quality of life (QOL), a popular term that conveys an overall sense of well being, including aspects of happiness and satisfaction with life as a whole.
- ICD-9-CM:** International Classification of Diseases, 9<sup>th</sup> Revision, Clinical Modification.
- MCBS:** Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey; ongoing survey of a sample of new Medicare beneficiaries.
- MCO:** Managed care organization.
- Musculoskeletal conditions:**  
A large category of conditions that includes arthritis and other rheumatic conditions, metabolic and other bone diseases (e.g. osteoporosis), fractures, etc.
- NAAP:** *National Arthritis Action Plan—A Public Health Strategy*. A strategic planning document to address arthritis as a public health problem; co-sponsored by AF, CDC, and ASTHO.
- NADW:** National Arthritis Data Workgroup; organized by NIAMS and supported by AF, ACR, and CDC; objective is to review and report on the national prevalence and socioeconomic impact of the rheumatic diseases.
- NAMCS:** National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey; conducted by the NCHS; focuses on visits to doctors offices.
- NCHS:** National Center for Health Statistics; part of CDC; conducts national surveys of health.
- NHAMCS:** National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey; conducted by the NCHS; focuses on visits to hospital outpatient and emergency departments.
- NHANES:** National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey; conducted regularly by the NCHS; NHANES 3 (1988-1994); planned to run annually starting in 2000.
- NHDS:** National Hospital Discharge Survey; conducted annually by NCHS; provides a nationally representative sample of non-federal, acute care discharges.

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- NHIS:** National Health Interview Survey; conducted annually by NCHS; the source of many estimates of arthritis prevalence and burden.
- NIAMS:** National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, and Skin Diseases; part of the NIH.
- NIH:** The National Institutes of Health; the nation's biomedical research agency; part of the Public Health Service.
- NSAIDS:** Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs used to interfere with inflammation association with arthritis; examples include aspirin and ibuprofen (Motrin).
- OA:** Osteoarthritis; the most prevalent type of arthritis, affecting 21 million Americans.
- OAAP:** *Oklahoma Arthritis Action Plan: Maximizing Ability, Minimizing Disability ...in all Communities.* A five-year comprehensive public health strategy created by the Oklahoma Arthritis Network to increase public awareness about arthritis and related conditions and to maximize the quality of life for Oklahomans affected by these conditions through the development of resources, promotion of access to appropriate health care management, and the provision of education.
- OAN:** Oklahoma Arthritis Network, a statewide coalition established in 1999 as a collaborative partnership among but not limited to health professionals, consumers, business leaders, educators, and private/public organizations.
- PACE:** People with Arthritis Can Exercise; AF-supported land-based exercise intervention for persons with arthritis.
- Public Health:** What we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy (Institute of Medicine).
- Prevention:** A concept in public health that encompasses three levels (see NAAP):  
Primary prevention: Preventing a disease or condition from occurring in the first place.  
Secondary prevention: Identifying a disease in its earliest stage so that prompt and appropriate management can be initiated.  
Tertiary prevention: Focuses on reducing or minimizing the consequences of a disease once it has developed.
- Quality of life (QOL):** See HRQOL (above).
- RA:** Rheumatoid arthritis; a common and serious type of arthritis, affecting 2.1 million Americans.