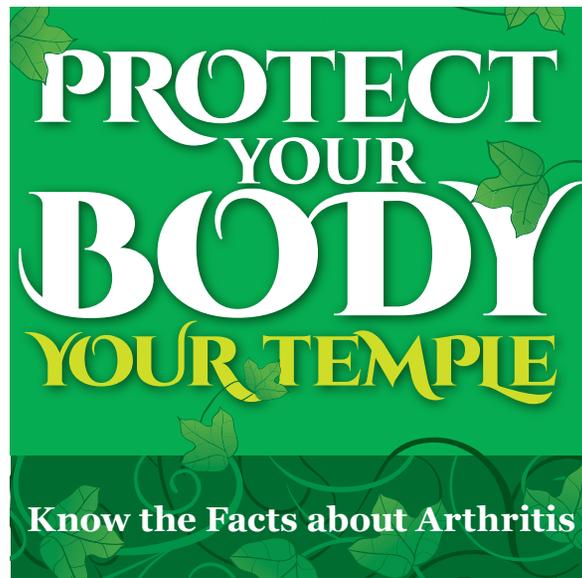
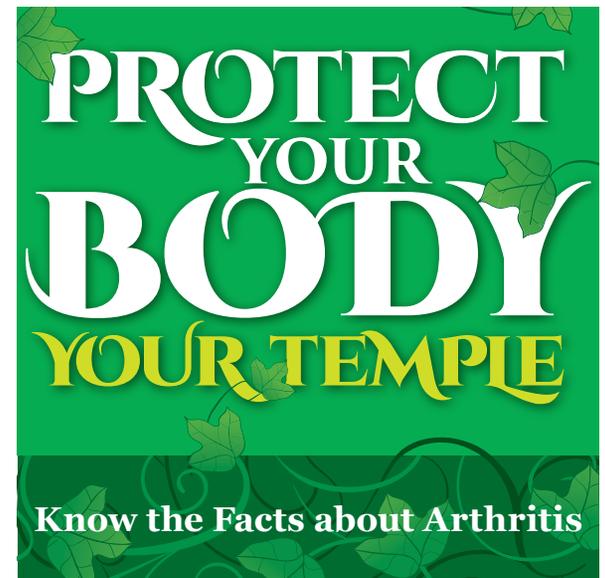


- Arthritis is the most common chronic illness and is the leading cause of disability in the U.S.
- It is a term used to refer to more than 100 different joint diseases.
- The severity of the diseases range from relatively mild forms such as tendinitis and bursitis to crippling forms such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and other disorders that affect every part of the body.
- It affects an estimated 52 million (1 in 5) adults in the U.S. and is expected to affect approximately 67 million by 2030.
- S.C. has the 6th highest rate of arthritis in the nation.
- An estimated one million, or 28 percent, of South Carolinians 19 or older report having arthritis.



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- It affects people of all racial and ethnic groups. In South Carolina:
 - » 15 percent of Hispanic adults have arthritis.
 - » 25 percent of Black adults have arthritis.
- Arthritis takes a much larger toll on the quality of life for Hispanics and blacks than it does for whites.
- It is more common among adults 65 and older, however almost two thirds of people with arthritis are younger than 65.
- Arthritis is more common in women than in men.
- It is more common among adults who are obese.
- Arthritis cannot be cured, but can be managed through skills learned in self-management programs, physical activity and by maintaining a healthy weight.



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For More Information:
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