BY THE NUMBERS
Musculoskeletal Back Pain
Back and neck disorders, injuries, and disk disorders

Major Cause of Disability/Health Care Cost
- 1 in 4 (58.8 million) adults suffer from chronic low back pain; for 40%, pain radiates down the leg.
- $253 billion: Annual U.S. cost for treatment and lost wages due to back pain**

Back and Neck Conditions
- Back/Neck Disorders: inflammatory/arthritis, spondylosis, stenosis, lumbago, sciatica
- Injuries: fractures, dislocations, sprains
- Disk Disorders: herniation, degeneration
- 72%: proportion of low back health care visits by adults in prime working ages 18 to 64*
- 45 to 64 years: age group reporting highest rate of back pain***
- 8.4 million persons with limitations in performing activities of daily living due to chronic back pain ***
- Degeneration is often the cause of back pain, but for millions more the underlying cause is unknown, making treatment options uncertain.

Health Care Impact
- 52 million health care visits for low back pain*
- 66% increase in number physician office visits for back/neck pain 2000 to 2010*
- 9% all hospital and emergency department visits have a diagnoses of back or neck pain**
- 15 million hospital days, 8% of hospital days all causes**
- 742 thousand spine procedures performed in 2011 for back pain**

Economic Impact: Lost Work Time and Wages
- $150.4 billion: hospital cost to treat back pain**
- 291 million: lost work days due to back and neck pain***
- $131.8 billion: annual earnings loss for persons with back/neck condition**

* 2010, ** 2011, *** 2012
References: For additional information, refer to the tables listed below at www.boneandjointburden.org.

Leading Cause of Disability and Health Care Cost


Back/Neck Conditions


Health Care Impact


Economic Burden

