The World Lupus Federation conducted a global survey to study how lupus affects the body’s organs. The 15-question survey was administered in March of 2022 to people with lupus. The survey results demonstrate the significant impact that lupus has on the health and quality of life among those living with the disease, and the challenges in treating it. Click here to view detailed global survey results.

Among the survey participants reporting organ impact...

Over half were hospitalized because of organ damage caused by lupus (n=5,789)

42% were told by a doctor that, due to lupus, they have irreversible organ damage (n=5,789)

87% of survey respondents living with lupus reported one or more major organs or organ systems affected by the disease. (n=6,704)

“Seems like every five years another one of my organs is brought into the mix and affected by lupus.”
- Survey Respondent, 2022

Skin and bones were most commonly reported as being affected by lupus. (n=5,833)

Skin: 60%
Bones or Musculoskeletal System: 45%
Kidneys: 36%
GI or Digestive System: 34%
Eyes: 31%
Central Nervous System: 26%
Lungs: 24%
Heart: 22%
Reproductive System: 7%

People living with lupus face treatment challenges for organ problems.

Nearly 3 in 4 survey respondents (71%) with organs affected by lupus are taking at least one medication specifically to treat lupus-related organ problems. \(^{(n=4,862)}\)

1 in 4 have been told by a doctor that their current or previous lupus treatments directly caused damage to their organs. \(^{(n=5,417)}\)

Top challenges to obtaining or taking medications to treat lupus-related organ problems were reported by people with the disease. \(^{(n=3,446)}\)

- **56%** Concerns about safety or side effects
- **42%** High cost of medications
- **25%** Medication in short supply
- **19%** COVID-19 restricted access

Most respondents (89%) reported that lupus-related organ damage led to at least one significant challenge to their quality of life. \(^{(n=5,789)}\)

- **59%** Challenges participating in social or recreational activities
- **38%** Mental health problems
- **33%** Inability to work (unemployment)
- **33%** Financial insecurity or problems
- **33%** Challenges with mobility or transportation
- **26%** Long-term disability
- **23%** Short-term disability

“Since lupus has begun affecting my eyes, brain, and nervous system, my life has changed completely.”

- Survey Respondent, 2022

*Nations represented include: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Republic of the...), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong (S.A.R.), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of...), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe*