

Arthritis-Related Mortality in Vermont

September 2026

Arthritis is one of the most common chronic conditions among Vermonters, affecting 30% of the adult population. Vermont adults with arthritis report worse health and more co-occurring chronic conditions, compared to those without arthritis. Arthritis directly and indirectly contributes to the mortality of Vermont residents.

This brief describes the number of deaths associated with arthritis among Vermonters and how arthritis contributes to premature death in the state.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact ahs.vdhpdpanalytics@vermont.gov.

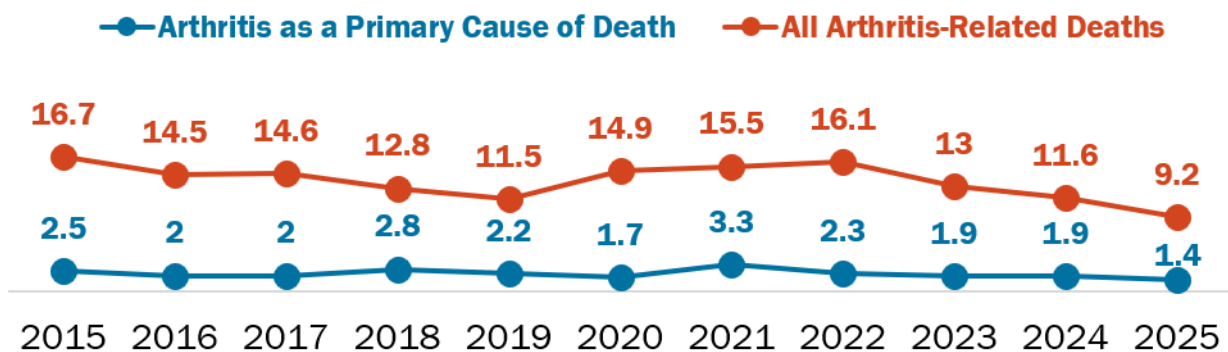
Key Points

- **The rate of arthritis-related deaths among Vermonters is low.**
- **Arthritis does not significantly contribute to premature death in Vermont but does impact quality of life.**

Number of Arthritis Deaths

- In 2025, the rate of arthritis as a primary cause of death was 1.4 deaths for every 100,000 Vermonters. The rate of all arthritis-related deaths was 9.2 for every 100,000 Vermonters.
- The Vermont rate of arthritis as a primary cause of death in 2024 is significantly higher compared the US death rate of 0.9 deaths per 100,000 Americans. However, it is similar to other New England states with growing older adult populations (Maine and New Hampshire).
- The rate of arthritis as a primary cause of death has not significantly changed from 2015 to 2025. The rate of all arthritis-related deaths is significantly lower in 2025, compared to 2015, though statistically similar to the 2024 rate.

Rate of arthritis deaths per 100,000 Vermonters



Sources: VT Vital Statistics, 2015-2025. 2025 data is preliminary.

CDC WONDER, 2024

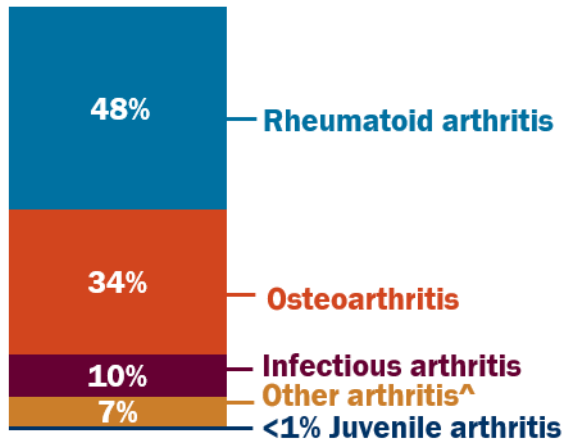


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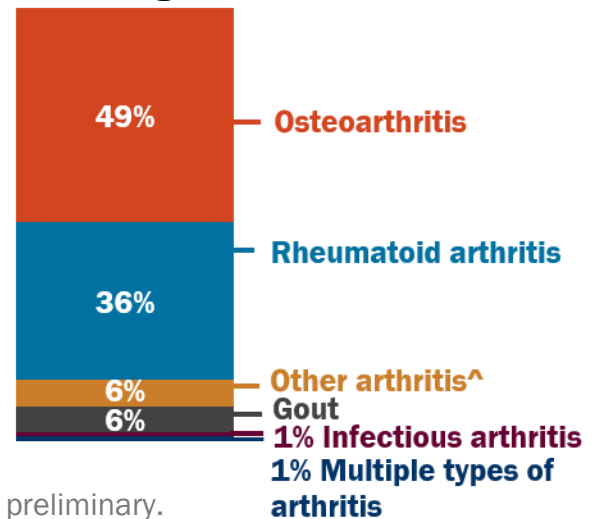


Different types of arthritis can contribute to death.

Rheumatoid arthritis accounts for nearly half of all deaths where arthritis is the primary cause of death.



Osteoarthritis accounts for nearly half of deaths where arthritis is a contributing cause of death.



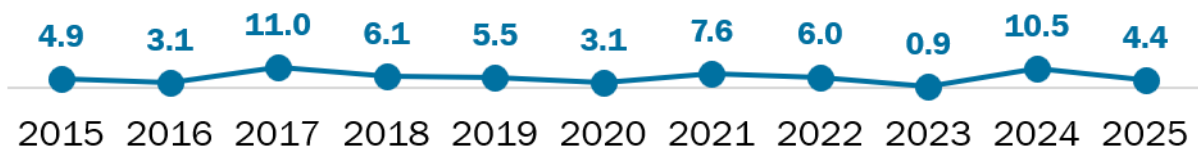
Sources: VT Vital Statistics, 2015-2025. 2025 data is preliminary.

Years of Potential Life Lost

- Years of potential life lost (YPLL) is a mortality measure that sums the number of years of life lost due to premature death. Premature death is defined as death before the age of 75.
- In 2025, there were two premature deaths from arthritis, resulting in 25 YPLL. The rate of YPLL with an underlying cause of arthritis is 4.4 years per 100,000 Vermonters ages 1-74.
- In 2025, arthritis contributed to <0.1% of the years of potential life lost among Vermonters.

Rate of YPLL with a Primary Cause of Arthritis

Rate per 100,000 Vermonters ages 1-74.



Sources: VT Vital Statistics, 2015-2025. 2025 data is preliminary.

Conclusions

The data in this brief confirms that arthritis contributes to mortality among Vermonters. Rheumatoid arthritis is the most common type of arthritis in cases where arthritis was the primary or principal cause of death. In cases where arthritis was a contributing cause of death, osteoarthritis was the most common type. Arthritis does not contribute significantly to premature death in Vermont. However, YPLL does not measure quality of life or morbidity associated with a condition. Although arthritis does not significantly contribute to premature death, it impacts the health and quality of life for those living with the disease. For more information on arthritis and quality of life among Vermonters, refer to [the Arthritis Risk Factors and Impact on Quality of Life](#) data brief.

Data Notes

^Other forms of arthritis include: psoriatic and enteropathic arthropathies, other crystal arthropathies, other specific arthropathies, other arthritis, and arthropathies in other diseases classified elsewhere.

A primary cause of death is the condition-specific diagnosis code(s) listed as the primary reason for death. A disease-related or contributing cause of death is one for which the condition-specific diagnosis code(s) are listed in any of the twenty available causes of death.