

Methodology Change to Physician Reporting

August 2026

In our previous reports, physicians practicing **telemedicine** were included in table counts and totals. For the 2024 reporting year, we've removed providers practicing telemedicine to more accurately describe the physician workforce specifically providing care in Vermont.

Over the last few years, there's been an increase in physicians reporting telemedicine as the main way they are actively practicing in Vermont. Including those physicians in our reports has overshadowed the details of physicians primarily working with in-state patients. This document explains this change in detail and describes how the data we report may be different due to this change in methodology. If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact AHS.VDHPPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov.

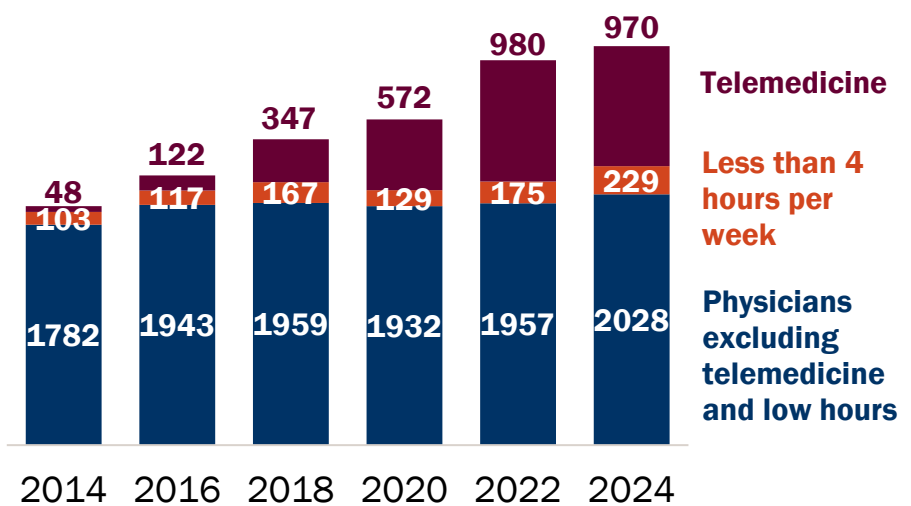
Key Points

- **When not including telemedicine or physicians working few hours, increases in numbers of providers over time are much smaller.**
- **Full-time equivalents (FTEs) are less affected by this change.**
- **These changes impact specialty care more than primary care.**

Changes in Numbers of Physicians

There is an increase in active physicians in Vermont in each census year after 2014. Over this time period, telemedicine physicians increased over 1900%. Physicians who practice fewer than four hours per week doubled by 2024. In contrast, physicians caring specifically for Vermonters more than four hours per week only increased 13% over the past 10 years.

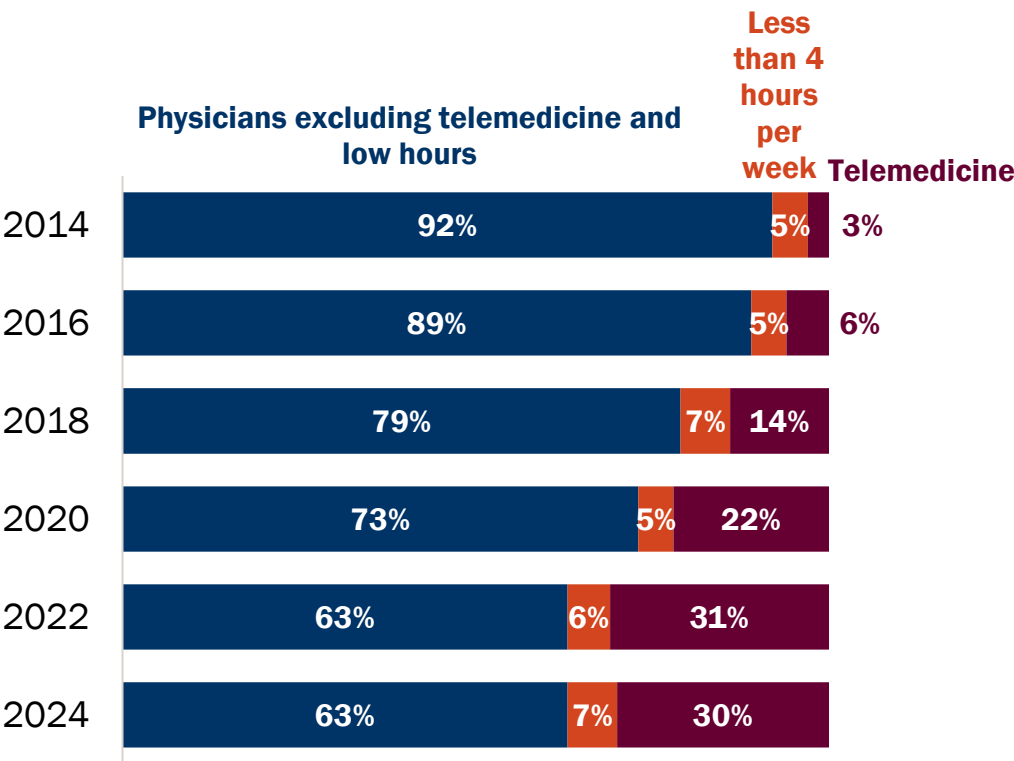
Numbers of Vermont Physicians from 2014 to 2024



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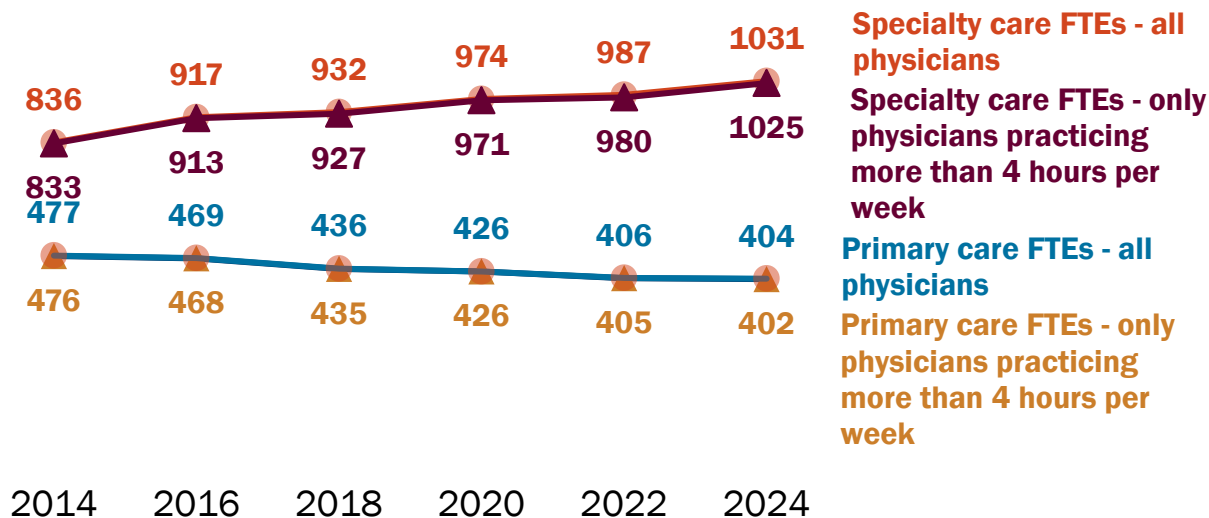


Percentages of Different Groups of Physicians from 2014 to 2024



Changes to Full-Time Equivalents

In previous reports, FTEs have not been calculated for physicians practicing via telemedicine who could not indicate the amount of time specifically caring for Vermonters, so removing them from analysis does not change calculated FTEs at all. Physicians working less than four hours per week contribute less than 1% of the total FTEs in the state, so while removing them does lower total FTEs, the change is eight or less for any census in the past 10 years.

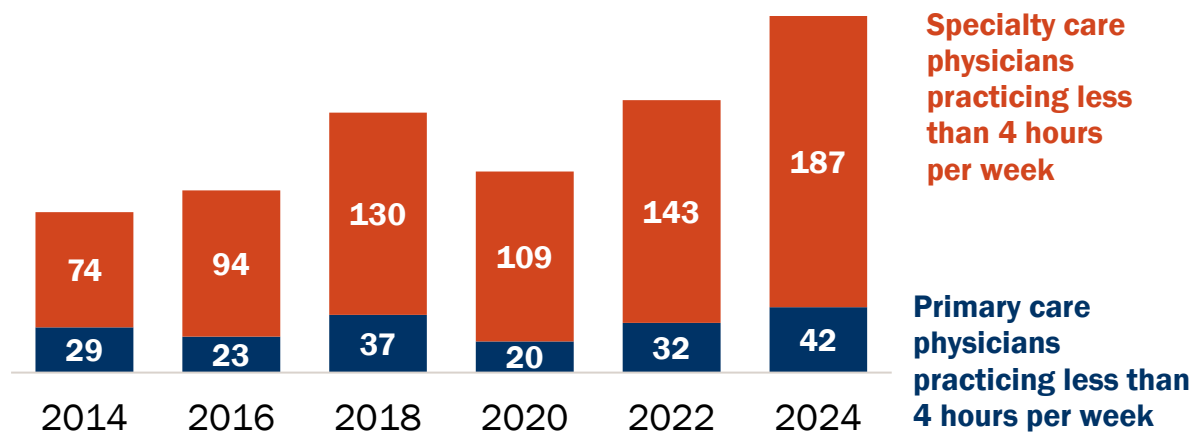


Changes in Primary Care and Specialty Care

Physicians Practicing Less than Four Hours per Week

Most physicians working less than four hours per week in Vermont are specialists. Even so, more than one out of six are working in primary care. Removing these providers decreases both primary and specialty care numbers, but there is a greater decrease in specialists.

Numbers of primary and specialty care physicians practicing less than four hours a week over time



Telemedicine

Historically, telemedicine providers have been considered specialists, so removing them only impacts specialty care numbers. The largest increases are in radiology, internal medicine, psychiatry, emergency medicine, and neurology. Removing telemedicine providers affects these specialties the most, but there are also smaller changes in several other specialties.

Most Common Specialties in Telemedicine Providers Over Time

Specialty	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Radiology	29	61	161	171	181	225
Internal Medicine Specialties	.	17	50	71	167	145
Psychiatry	6	4	7	46	70	93
Emergency Medicine	1	15	25	59	87	76
Neurology	3	3	16	42	51	44