

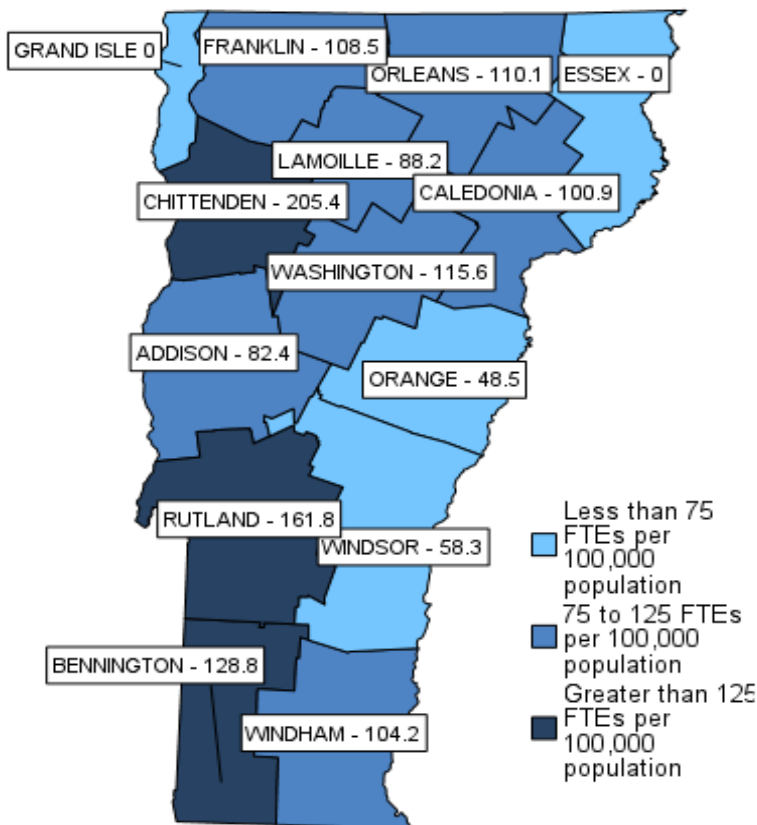
## Overview

This pharmacy technician census is part of the Vermont Department of Health's health care provider data program, which is used to monitor and measure the supply of health care providers in our state over time.

Vermont pharmacy technicians are relicensed every two years. Data for this report was obtained during the July 2023 relicensing period and represents a snapshot of the profession at that time.

Pharmacy technicians perform tasks related to dispensing medications under the supervision of a pharmacist. **Non-certified technicians** receive requests for refills of current prescriptions, process medical coverage claims, complete inventory responsibilities and perform cashiering duties. Employees having access to the prescription department, including cashiers and delivery people, must be registered as pharmacy technicians.

### Pharmacy Technician FTEs per 100,000 population by county



## In Brief

### Workforce

Survey period: July 2023  
 Response Rate: 99.2%  
 Licenses renewed: 1,212  
 Active in VT: 1,078  
 VT Full-time Equivalents: 829.4

### Demographics

% Female: 77.0 %  
 Median Age: 39  
 % 60 or older: 16.6%

### Education and Training

% certificate in Pharm Tech: 46.7%  
 % educated in Northeast: 96.5%

### Current Employment

% Working full-time hours at one site: 52.4%  
 % Working at multiple sites: 3.4%  
 % Planning to reduce hours: 2.8%  
 % Planning to retire: 1.1%

### Geographic Distribution

(FTEs per 100,000 population)  
 Highest: 205.4 Chittenden County  
 Lowest: No FTEs reported, Essex and Grand Isle Counties

### Trends in Statewide FTEs

2015: 746.8  
 2017: 750.6  
 2019: 732.0  
 2021: 765.0  
 2023: 829.4

**Certified technicians** have completed and maintain a national pharmacy technician certification approved by the VT Board of Pharmacy. In addition to the tasks of non-certified technicians, they receive new written or electronic prescription drug orders, perform prescription data entry, compound medications, and assist in the dispensing process. Both types of pharmacy technicians are included in this report.

## Workforce

- 1,222 pharmacy technicians renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 1,212 of these completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 99.2%.
- Out of the 1,212 respondents, 1,078 (88.9%) indicated they are actively practicing as pharmacy technicians in Vermont.
- Of the 134 respondents reporting a non-active status, 70 (52.2%) indicated they were planning to start working as a pharmacy technician in Vermont within the next 12 months.
- The remainder of this report is based on the 1,078 pharmacy technicians who reported actively working in Vermont.

## Demographics

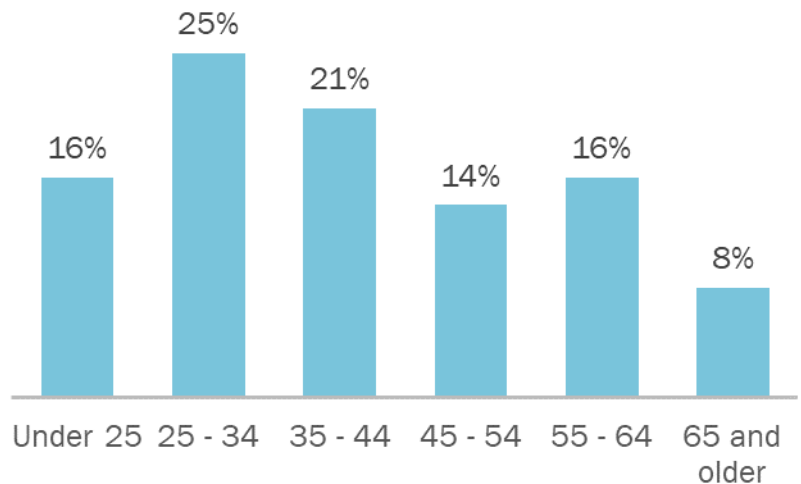
### Gender

- 77.0% of the pharmacy technicians in Vermont (818) are female.
- 18.8% (200) are male.
- 0.7% (6) prefer to self-describe.

### Age

- 40.9% (441) are under 35 years of age.
- 35.5% (382) are between 35 and 54 years of age.
- 23.7% (255) are 55 years of age and older.

### Age Distribution of VT Pharmacy Technicians



### Race and Ethnicity

Respondents were asked to select their race and could select multiple responses or choose not to answer, therefore numbers may not equal the total number of pharmacy technicians.

- 938 pharmacist technicians are white (87.1%), 2.0% are Asian, 1.8% are Black, 0.9% are American Indian or Alaskan Native, and <0.5% are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. 14 pharmacy technicians prefer to self-describe (1.3%), and 84 prefer not to answer or did not answer the question about race.
- 29 pharmacy technicians (2.7%) are Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin, and 965 (90.4%) are not. 84 pharmacy technicians preferred not to answer the question or were missing data for ethnicity.

## Education and Training

- 47.7% (512) have a pharmacy technician certificate or degree in pharmacy tech.
- 51.4% (552) have on-the-job training.
- 41.7% (446) are nationally certified as pharmacy technicians.
- Most of the 1,078 pharmacy technicians in Vermont in 2023 completed their degrees in the Northeast (96.5%) as seen in the table, including 91.8% in Vermont.

Region where training/educ. occurred	Number	Percent
Vermont	978	91.8%
Northeast excluding Vermont	50	4.7%
Midwest	3	0.3%
South	22	2.1%
West	8	0.8%
Outside the U.S.	4	0.4%
* Missing data from 13 individuals		

## Practice Characteristics

### Number of sites

- 96.7% of pharmacy technicians (1,042) work at a single practice site.
- 3.3% (36) work at two or more sites.

### Practice Setting

- 70.0% (755) of pharmacy technicians work in a retail setting, including 43.3% (467) at large chain community pharmacies.
- 21.9% (236) work in a hospital.

Main Setting	Number	Percent
Independent Community Pharmacy (<4)	84	7.8%
Small Chain Community Pharmacy (4-8 stores)	65	6.0%
Large Chain Community Pharmacy (>10 stores)	467	43.3%
Mass Merchandiser (Big Box store)	49	4.5%
Supermarket Pharmacy	90	8.3%
Clinic-Based Pharmacy	18	1.7%
Hospital	236	21.9%
Nursing Home/Long Term Care	40	3.7%
Compounding Pharmacy	2	0.2%
Other	27	2.5%

## Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)

- 1,078 pharmacy technicians provide 829.4 total FTEs.
- Over half, 52.4% (564), of pharmacy technicians work 40 or more hours per week at their main site.
- 125.1 FTEs, or 15.1% of total FTEs, are provided by 179 technicians aged 60 or older.

Average weekly hours – at main site	Number	Percent
Less than 20 hours	224	20.8%
20-39 hours	289	26.8%
40 hours or more	564	52.4%
* Missing data from 1 individual		

## Current Experience

- Median time since starting as a pharmacy technician in Vermont: 4 years.
- 4.5% (48) of pharmacy technicians started working in Vermont over 25 years ago.

## Future Plans

- 79.1% (851) plan to continue working as they have been in the next 12 months.
- 8.7% (94) plan to increase their hours in the next 12 months.
- 2.8% (30) plan to reduce their hours.
- 1.6% (17) plan to retire or seek a job in a different field.

## Trends in Statewide FTEs

- Pharmacy Technician FTEs increased by 82.6 from 746.8 in 2015 to 829.4 in 2023.
- From 2021 to 2023, FTEs increased by 64.4.

Pharmacy Technician FTEs by Year



## Key Takeaways

- After decreasing between 2015 and 2019, pharmacy technician FTEs in Vermont increased by nearly 100 FTEs between 2019 and 2023.
- Just over half of pharmacy technicians work full time at their main site, and 8.7% are planning to increase their hours over the next 12 months.
- Pharmacy technicians in Vermont are predominately female (77.0%) and relatively young, with a median age of 39.
- Relative to population, pharmacy technicians are most common in Chittenden, Rutland and Bennington counties.

For more information, contact: [AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov)

## Appendix

### Active Pharmacy Technicians

A pharmacy technician who reported working in Vermont as a pharmacy technician (regardless of how many hours) is considered active.

### Census

The census was taken during the biennial pharmacy technician relicensing process which ended on July 31, 2023. The data include all licensed pharmacy technicians except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May - July 2023), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of July 31, 2025. Census questions are available upon request.

### Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Full time is defined as 40 or more working hours in Vermont per week, 48 weeks or more per year. A pharmacy technician reporting more than 40 hours per week is defined as one FTE regardless of the number of hours over 40 per week worked.

### Main Practice, Site, Setting, and Specialty

The main practice, site, setting, or specialty refer to the practice in which the pharmacy technician worked the greatest number of annual hours.

### Map Quartiles

Map colors define quartiles. The lowest 25% of FTE equivalents to population ratio is displayed in the lightest color, the middle 50% in medium, and highest 25% in the darkest color.

### Missing data

Unless otherwise noted, missing data are excluded from tables. Thus, totals may vary from table to table.

### Population Estimates

Population estimates are for July 2022 and were provided by the Department of Health.

### Weekly Hours

Average weekly hours are based on hours and weeks reported, adjusted to a full-time 48-week working year (hours \* (weeks/48)). Thus, the average weekly hours for a pharmacy technician working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks), is 20.