

# Health Care Workforce Census Occupational Therapists, 2018

**March 2020** 

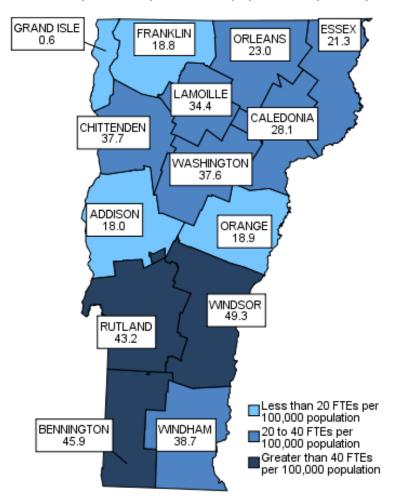
#### **Overview**

This Occupational Therapists report 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 Vermont over time.

Vermont professionals are relicensed every two years. Data for this report were obtained during the May 2018 relicensing period and represent a snapshot of the profession at that time.

Occupational Therapists (OTs) promote independence, meaningful occupations, and patients' functional ability. They assist individuals in regaining skills as well as in increasing their abilities and decreasing limitations or disabilities. They recommend, as needed, adaptive equipment and training in its use, guidance, and education for family members and caregivers.

## Full time equivalents per 100,000 population by county



#### In Brief

#### Workforce

Survey period – May 2018 Response Rate: 99% Licenses renewed: 393 Active in VT: 318

Full-time Equivalents: 215

## **Demographics**

% Female: 93% Median Age: 44 % 60 or older: 16%

# **Education and Training**

% educated in VT: 2%

% educated in Northeast: 73%

# **Main Specialties**

Physical rehabilitation – 26% School systems – 21% Gerontology – 13%

#### **Current Employment**

Full time hours at main site: 25% Full time hours (all sites): 28% Plans to reduce hours: 5%

Plans to retire: 1%

# **Geographic Distribution**

FTEs per 100,000 population:

Statewide: 34.4

Highest: 49.3, Windsor County Lowest: 0.6, Grand Isle County

## **Workforce**

- 393 Occupational Therapists renewed their Vermont license in 2018.
- Data were obtained for 392 OTs, and 318 (81%) indicated that they were active and providing direct patient care in Vermont.
- Of the 74 that renewed but were not active in Vermont, 36 said they expect to resume Vermont activity within a year.
- The remainder of this report is based on the 318 OTs active in Vermont.

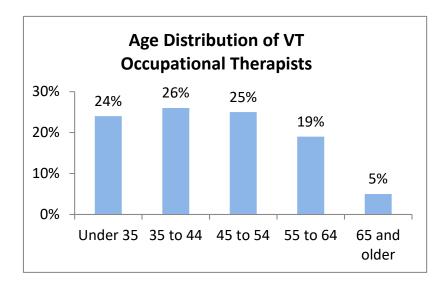
# **Demographics**

# Gender

- 93% (294) were female.
- 7% (23) were male.

# Age

- 24% (77) were younger than 35.
- 26% (83) were between 35 and 44.
- 25% (80) were between 45 and 54.
- 19% (61) were between 55 and 64.
- 5% (16) were 65 or older.



# **Education and Training**

Most of the 318 OTs active in Vermont in 2018 completed their degrees in the Northeast, as seen in the table:

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Practice	Linaracterictice

#### Most common specialties

- 84 OTs reported working mainly in physical rehabilitation
- 67 worked mainly in school systems
- 40 worked mainly in gerontology

#### Number of sites

18% of OTs practiced at 2 or more locations.

#### Practice setting

For OTs' main practice location, the most common settings were:

- a school or college system (25%)
- a skilled nursing facility (19%)
- home health (16%)
- a hospital or medical center (11%)
- an outpatient clinic (11%)

Highest degree awarded in	Number
Northeast	210
South	25
North Central	21
West	16
Outside US	16

# **Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)**

- 215 total FTEs were provided by the 318 total OTs.
- 25% worked 40 hours or more per week at their main site.
- 28% worked 40 hours or more per week at all their work sites combined.
- 74% worked at least 20 hours per week at all their work sites combined.
- 28 FTEs, or 13% of total FTEs, were age 60 and older (51 individuals).

Hours worked per week	OTs
40 or more	90
20 or more but <40	146
Less than 20	82

# **Current Experience**

Median time since first licensed as an occupational therapist: 17 years.

# Plans for the next 12 months

- 3 (1%) planned to retire.
- 15 (5%) planned to reduce hours.

# **Key Takeaways**

- The OTs are predominantly female.
- The most common settings for OTs are schools, skilled nursing facilities, and home health.
- Relative to population, OTs are most common in the Southern half of the state.

For more information, contact:

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# **Appendix**

#### **Active Occupational Therapist**

An OT who reported working in Vermont as such (regardless of how many hours) is considered active.

#### Census

The census was taken during the biennial podiatrist relicensing process which ended on May 31, 2018. Census questions available upon request.

# Main Practice, Site, Setting, and Specialty

The main practice site, setting, or specialty of an individual refer to the practice site, setting, or specialty with the greatest number of reported annual hours.

# Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Full time is defined as 40 or more working hours in Vermont per week, 48 weeks or more per year. Reporting more than 40 hours per week is defined as <u>one</u> FTE regardless of the number of hours over 40 per week worked.

#### Maps

For county 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 2018 and were provided by the Department of Health.

#### Primary Practice, Site, Setting, and Specialty

The primary or main practice, site, setting, or specialty refer to the practice with the greatest number of reported annual hours per individual.

#### **Weekly Hours**

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