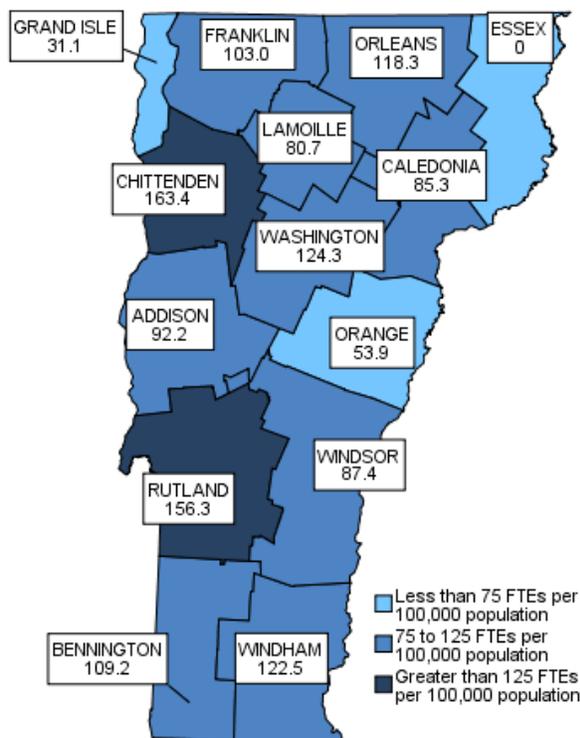


Overview

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 were obtained during the July 2017 relicensing period and represent 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. 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.

Pharmacy Technician FTEs per 100,000 Population by County



In Brief

Workforce

Survey period – July 2017
 Response Rate: 98.1%
 Licenses renewed: 1087
 Active in VT: 999
 VT Full-time Equivalents: 750.6

Demographics

% Female: 77.3%
 Median Age: 40
 % 60 or older: 15.0%

Education and Training

% certificate in pharm tech: 43.5%
 % educated in Northeast: 98.1%

Current Employment

% Working full-time at one site: 50.5%
 % Working at multiple sites: 3.6%
 % Planning to reduce hours: 2.8%
 % Planning to retire: 0.2%

Geographic Distribution

(FTEs per 100,000 population)
 Highest: 163.4, Chittenden County
 Lowest: No FTEs reported, Essex County

Workforce

- 1087 pharmacy technicians renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 1066 of them completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 98.1%
- Out of the 1066 respondents, 999 (93.7%) indicated that they were active practicing pharmacy technicians in Vermont.
- Of the 67 respondents reporting a non-active status, 40 (59.7%) 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 999 pharmacy technicians who reported being actively working in Vermont.

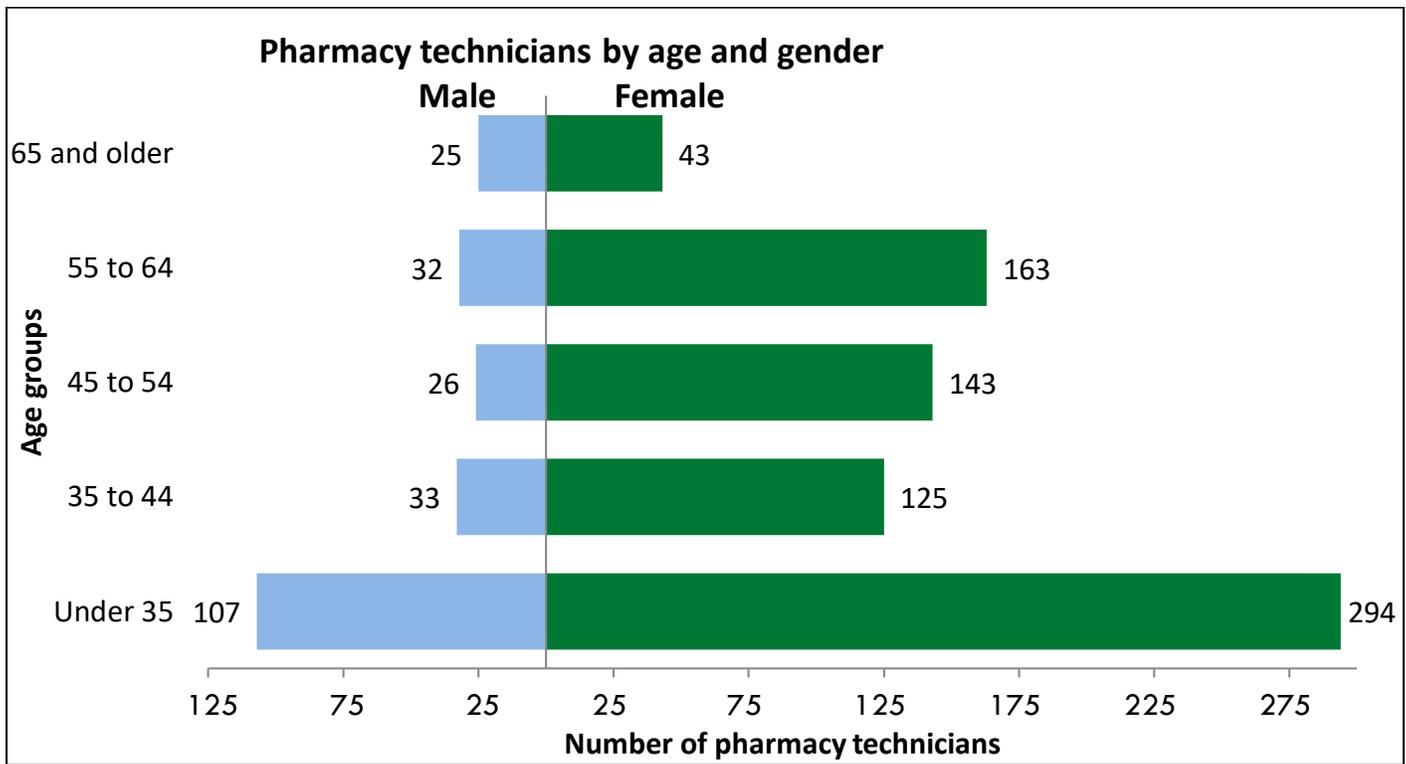
Demographics

Gender

- 77.3% (768) were female.
- 22.5% (223) were male.

Age

- 40.3% (403) were under 35.
- 33.0% (330) were between 35 and 54.
- 26.6% (266) were 55 and older.



Education

- 43.5% (433) had a pharmacy technician certificate or degree in pharmacy tech.
- 54.2% (539) had on-the-job training.
- 39.1% (387) were nationally certified as pharmacy technicians.

Region where training occurred	Number	Percent
Vermont	922	93.4%
Northeast, excluding VT	46	4.7%
Midwest	2	0.2%
South	10	1.0%
West	6	0.6%
Foreign Country	1	0.1%

Practice Characteristics

Number of sites

- 96.4% (959) pharmacy techs worked at a single practice site.
- 3.6% (36) worked at 2 or more sites.

Practice setting

- 73.5% (731) of pharmacy technicians worked in a retail setting.
- 18.3% (182) worked in a hospital.

Main Setting	Number*	Percent
Large Chain Community Pharmacy (> 10 stores)	368	37.0%
Small Community Pharmacy (4 – 10 stores)	52	5.2%
Independent Community Pharmacy (< 4 stores)	206	20.7%
Supermarket / Box Store Pharmacy	105	10.5%
Hospital	182	18.3%
Nursing Home/Long Term Care	42	4.2%
Compounding Pharmacy	21	2.1%
Clinic-Based Pharmacy	6	0.6%
Other	13	1.3%
*Missing data for 4 (0.4%) respondents		

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

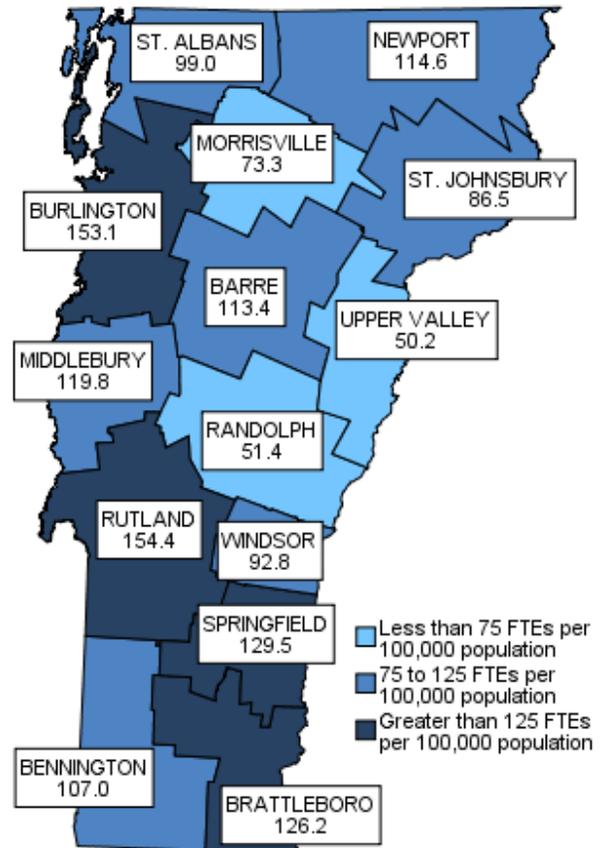
- 999 pharmacy techs provided 750.6 FTEs.
- Just over half, 50.5% (502), of pharmacy technicians worked 40 or more hours per week.
- 100.1 FTEs, or 13.3% of total FTEs, were provided by 149 technicians aged 60 or older.

Hours Worked per Week	Number	Percent
Less than 20 hours	217	21.8%
20 to 39 hours	276	27.7%
40 hours or more	502	50.5%

Blueprint Health Care Areas

- The Health Care Areas in this report are those used by the Vermont Blueprint for Health, an initiative working to transform the way primary care and comprehensive health services are delivered and paid for. (<http://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/>)
- The highest ratio of pharmacy tech FTEs to 100,000 population was in the Rutland Health Care Area (154.4), followed by Burlington (153.1).
- Upper Valley, Randolph, and Morrisville Health Care Areas had the lowest FTE ratios.

Pharmacy Technician FTEs per 100,000 Population by Blueprint Health Care Areas



Current Experience and Future Plans

- Median years since starting work as a pharmacy technician in Vermont: 5 years.
- 5.9% (57) of pharmacy techs started working in Vermont over 25 years ago.

In the next 12 months

- 82.7% (825) planned to continue working as they had been.
- 6.9% (69) planned to increase their hours.
- 2.8% (28) planned to reduce their hours.
- 0.4% (4) planned to retire or seek a job in a different field.

Questions

For tables detailing these data or further information, contact:

Vermont Department of Health
 Division of Health Surveillance – Workforce Census
 108 Cherry Street, Drawer 41
 PO Box 70
 Burlington, VT 05402-0070
 Tel. 802-863-7300
 Email: AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov

Years licensed in Vermont	Number	Percent
0 to 5 years	506	52.2%
6 to 10 years	194	20.0%
11 to 15 years	127	13.1%
16 to 20 years	61	6.3%
21 to 25 years	25	2.6%
Over 25 years	57	5.9%

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, 2017. The data include all licensed pharmacy technician except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May - July 2017), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of July 31, 2019. 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.

Health Care Areas

The Health Care Areas in this report are those used by the Vermont Blueprint for Health, an initiative working to transform the way primary care and comprehensive health services are delivered and paid for. It disseminates information on healthcare expenditures, utilization, and care quality measures within these regions (see <http://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/>). Data are available for other regional definitions from the Division of Health Surveillance. See the contact information at the end of this report.

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 2016 and were provided by the Department of Health.

States

States are grouped into the following regions:

Northeast	Midwest	South		West
Connecticut	Illinois	Alabama	North Carolina	Alaska
Maine	Indiana	Arkansas	Oklahoma	Arizona
Massachusetts	Iowa	Delaware	South Carolina	California
New Hampshire	Kansas	Florida	Tennessee	Colorado
New Jersey	Michigan	Georgia	Texas	Hawaii
New York	Minnesota	Kentucky	Virginia	Idaho
Pennsylvania	Missouri	Louisiana	Washington DC	Montana
Rhode Island	Nebraska	Maryland	West Virginia	Nevada
Vermont	North Dakota	Mississippi		New Mexico
	Ohio			Oregon
	South Dakota			Utah
	Wisconsin			Washington
				Wyoming

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 a pharmacy technician working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks), is 20.