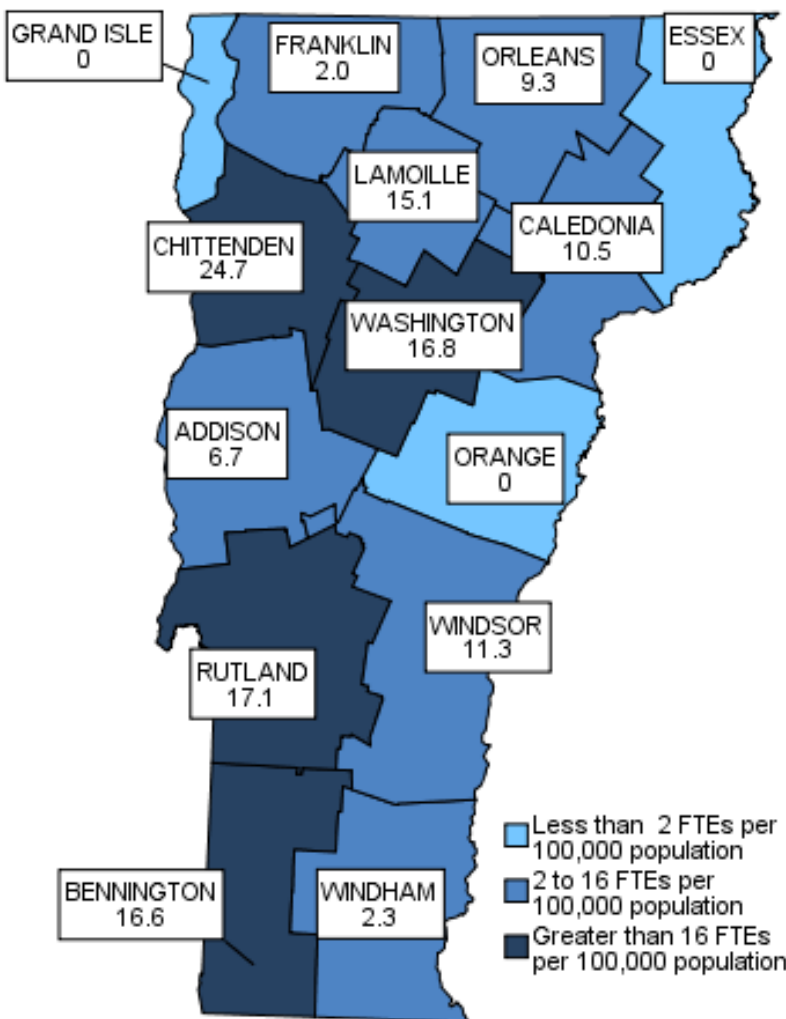


This opticians report is part of the Vermont Department of Health's health care provider data program, which is used to monitor and measure the supply of health care providers in Vermont over time. Data for this report were obtained from the 2016 census of opticians.

Vermont health professionals are relicensed every two years. Data for this report were obtained during the July 2016 relicensing period and represent a snapshot of the profession at that time.

Opticians dispense glasses and contact lenses based on the prescriptions of an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Their job also includes molding eyeglass frames to fit and advising patients on proper care of their eyewear. Opticians also have administrative duties.

### *Optician Full Time Equivalents per 100,000 population by County*



## In Brief

### Workforce

Survey period – July 2016  
 Licenses renewed: 110  
 Response Rate: 99%  
 Active in VT: 95  
 Full-time Equivalents (FTE): 86.0

### Demographics

% Female: 63%  
 Median Age: 48  
 % 60 or older: 17%

### Education and Training

Educated in VT: 66%  
 Educated in Northeast: 97%

### Specialties

89% (85) of the opticians mainly provided eyeglasses  
 7% (7) mainly provided primary eye care

### Current Employment

Full time at main site: 63%  
 Full time at all sites: 71%  
 Plans to retire or reduce hours: 3%  
 Accepting Medicaid patients: 51%

### Geographic Distribution

*(ratio of FTEs to 100,000 population)*  
 Highest: 24.7, Chittenden County;  
 17.1, Rutland County; 16.6, Bennington County.  
 Lowest: No opticians in Essex, Grand Isle and Orange Counties.

## Workforce

- 110 opticians renewed their Vermont license in 2016. 109 responded to the census.
- Out of these 109, 95 (87%) indicated that they were active and providing direct patient care in Vermont.

The remainder of this report is based on the 95 opticians active in Vermont.

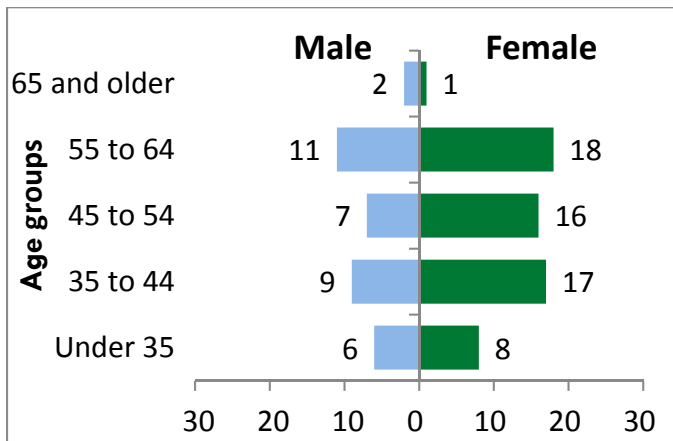
## Demographics

### Gender

- 60 (63%) were female.
- 35 (37%) were male.

### Age

- 40 (42%) of opticians were younger than 45
- 3 (3%) of opticians were 65 or older.



## Education and Training

- Two-thirds of the opticians completed their training in Vermont:

Where degree was completed	Number	Percent
Vermont	61	66%
Other Northeast	29	31%
South	1	1%
Midwest	0	0%
West	1	1%
Foreign	1	1%

## Practice Characteristics

### Specialties

FTEs in most common specialties, including secondary specialties:

- Eyeglasses – 64.0 FTEs
- Primary eye care – 10.2 FTEs
- Contact lenses – 5.6 FTEs

### Access to care

- 51% accepted Medicaid patients (at their main practice site).
- 65% accepted Medicare patients (at their main practice site).

### Number of practice sites

- 8% of opticians (8) practiced at 2 or more locations.

### Practice setting

- For opticians' main practice location, the most common settings were Independent Optometry Clinic (43%) and Optician Shop (31%).

## Full Time Equivalents

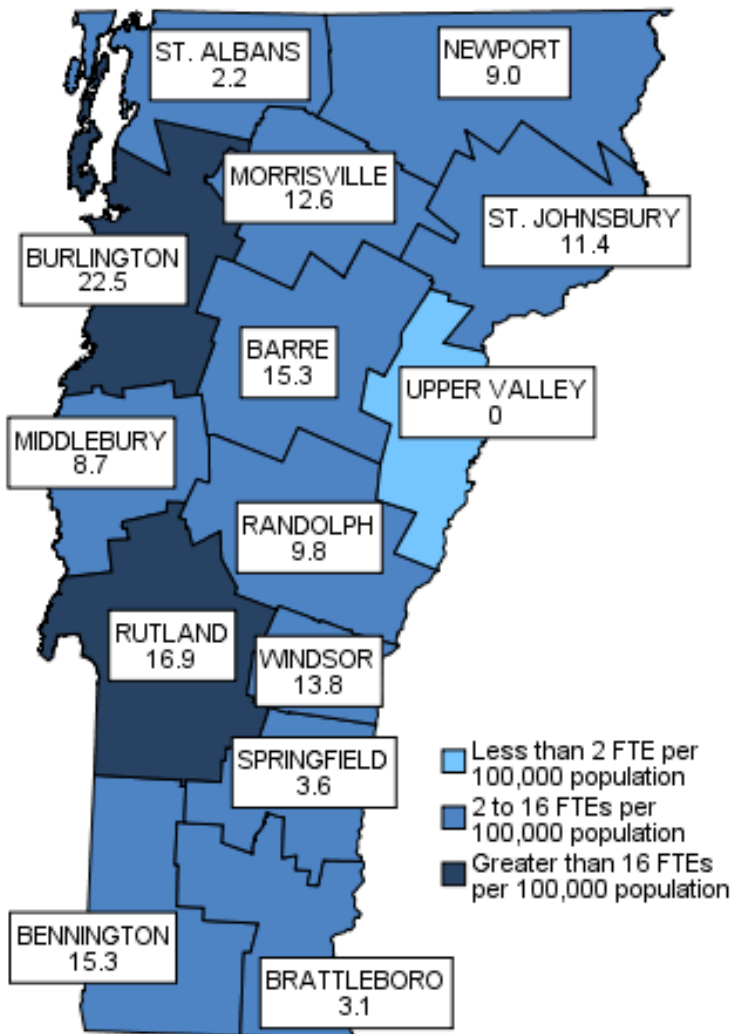
- 60 (63%) worked 40 hours or more per week at their main work site.
- 67 (71%) worked 40 hours or more per week at all their work sites combined.
- 87 (92%) worked at least half-time, i.e., 20 hours per week (all sites combined).
- 86.0 total FTEs were provided by 95 opticians.
- 14.3 FTEs, or 17% of total FTEs, were age 60 and older (16 individuals).

## Blueprint Health Care Areas

(see Appendix for details)

- Burlington Health Care Area had the most FTEs per 100,000 population (22.5), followed by Rutland (16.9).
- Upper Valley (0), St. Albans (2.2), Brattleboro (3.1) and Springfield (3.6) had the fewest optician FTEs per 100,000 population.

*Optician FTEs per 100,000 population by Blueprint Health Care Areas*



## Current Experience and Future Plans

- Median amount of time since first licensed as an optician: 16 years.
- Range: 0 to 49 years.

### In the next 12 months

- Most opticians plan to continue working as they are.
- None planned to retire.
- 3 planned to reduce hours.
- 4 planned to increase hours.

## 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](mailto:AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov)

## Appendix

### Active Optician

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

### Census

The census was taken during the biennial optician license renewal which ended on July 31, 2016. The data include all opticians except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May – July 2016), as their license was valid until the next renewal date in July 2018. Census questions 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. Reporting more than 40 hours per week is defined as one FTE regardless of the number of hours over 40 per week worked.

### Geographical Regions

States were grouped into the following regions:

Northeast: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA

South: DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, KY, TN, AL, MS, AR, OK, LA, TX

Central: OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS

West: MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, NV, WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.

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

### Map Shading

Map colors are by 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.

### 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 an individual working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks) is 20.