

Vermont Department of Health

Physician Assistants

2004 Survey

Statistical Report

2004 Physician Assistants Survey

Statistical Report

State of Vermont
James Douglas, Governor

Agency of Human Services
Michael K. Smith, Secretary

Department of Health
Dr. Paul Jarris, MD, MBA, Commissioner

July 2005

Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. We gratefully acknowledge their assistance in the collection of this information.

We also wish to express our appreciation to all the physician assistants who took the time and effort to complete our survey.

Contents

Introduction1

Summary3

Vermont Physician Assistants' Demographic Characteristics

Table 1. Summary of Active Physician Assistants7
Table 2. Age by Specialty and by Gender.....8
Table 3. Age by Specialty for Each Gender.....9
Table 4. Age by County 10
Table 5. Gender by County 11
Table 6. Years in Clinical Practice..... 12

Vermont Physician Assistants' Distribution of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Table 7. Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by Age and Gender by Specialty 15
Table 8. Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by Age by County 16
Table 9. Numbers of Physician Assistants, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by County 17
Table 10. Numbers of Primary Care Physician Assistants, Full Time Equivalents
(FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by County 18
Table 11. Numbers of Specialty Care Physician Assistants, Full Time Equivalents
(FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by County 19
Table 12. Primary Care Physician Assistant FTE to Population Ratios by County 20
Table 13. Detailed Specialty List 21

Vermont Physician Assistants' Training

Table 14. Basis for Physician Assistant Certification 25

Vermont Physician Assistants' Practice Characteristics

Table 15. Average Patient Care Hours per Week, by Specialty and Age 29
Table 16. Average Patient Care Hours per Week, by Gender, Specialty and Age 30
Table 17. Average Patient Care Hours per Week, by Age, by County 31
Table 18. Hospital Admitting Privileges by Specialties 32
Table 19. Practice Availability by Specialty 33
Table 20. Practice Availability by County 34
Table 21. Providers Planning To Retire Or Reduce Hours 35

Vermont Physician Assistants by Hospital Service Areas

Table 22. Numbers of Physician Assistants, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by Hospital Service Area.....39

Table 23. Numbers of Primary Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by Hospital Service Area40

Table 24. Numbers of Specialty Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by Hospital Service Area41

Table 25. Primary Care Provider FTE to Population Ratios by Hospital Service Area.....42

Vermont Physician Assistants by Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Regions

Table 26. Numbers of Physician Assistants, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by AHEC Region.....45

Table 27. Numbers of Primary Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by AHEC Region46

Table 28. Numbers of Specialty Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by AHEC Region47

Table 29. Primary Care Provider FTE to Population Ratios by AHEC Region.....48

Comparison Between 2002 and 2004

Table 30. Changes in Number of PAs, Patient Care Hours, and Specialties51

Table 31. Primary and Specialty Care Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by County52

Appendices

A. General Notes and Terms 55

B. Notes for Specific Tables (referred to by number)..... 58

C. Questions Asked in the 2004 Physician Assistant Survey 60

D. Specialty Codes 61

E. Map of Vermont Counties and Towns 63

F. Map of Hospital Service Areas..... 64

Introduction

Since the health of Vermonters depends, in part, on access to health care, we need to identify and address problems related to the supply of health care providers, including their distribution by geography and specialty. In this report we present detailed profiles of physician assistants practicing in Vermont as of the beginning of the year 2004; these data, along with data on other health care providers, can be used as the basis for policy analysis, shortage area designations, and recruitment and retention activities.

Data Collection: This report includes physician assistants (PAs) who renewed their license as of the end of January, 2004. In cooperation with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, the Department of Health included a survey with the relicensing renewal in the fall of 2003. The license renewal was attempted in an on-line format, but due to software problems most PAs renewed their license by paper mail. The survey data were then entered into a computer manually. A list of the survey questions is included in Appendix C. The surveys that were returned were compared against a list of all PAs who were relicensed. Follow-up mailings and phone calls were then made to those PAs residing in Vermont, or a neighboring state, who did not return a survey to determine if they were providing patient care in Vermont, and if so, to complete the survey. All actively licensed PAs were reached.

Included in this report are physician assistants who provide patient care in Vermont. A number of PAs maintain Vermont licenses even though they do not practice in Vermont. These PAs are excluded from this report.

This is the fourth survey of physician assistants. Information on PAs who practice in Vermont will be updated every two years. Results from the previous surveys are also available. Similar data are collected from other health professionals, including physicians, advanced practice nurses, and dentists. Results from all of these surveys are available on the Department of Health web site, at <http://www.healthyvermonters.info/>.

Limitations: The surveys were reviewed for accuracy and consistency during the data entry and processing phases. Missing and/or inconsistent data items were evaluated as to their importance. For those data items that were determined to be essential, such as specialty or number of patient care hours, follow-up by phone and/or mail was conducted. Other data were inferred from other data sources or reported as missing. In general, however, the information for this report was self-reported and was not further verified. Data in this report are, therefore, subject to the limitations associated with the use of mailed surveys. The possibility of misinterpretation of survey items is always present, and it is possible that a small number of inconsistencies have arisen from such occurrences.

Detailed notes and definitions are included in the Appendices. Please contact us if you have any questions about the survey or the report. Call or write the Department of Health, Public Health Statistics, P.O. Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402, tel. (802) 863-7300.

Summary

- This report includes data reported by 155 physician assistants providing patient care in Vermont.
- 79 (51%) of the physician assistants work mainly in primary care including:
 - 55 Family Practice Medicine
 - 10 Primary Care Internal Medicine
 - 10 Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - 4 Pediatric Primary Care
- 76 physician assistants provide mainly specialty care including:
 - 37 Emergency Medicine
 - 18 Surgery (14 orthopedic, 3 general, 1 other)
 - 6 Dermatology
 - 5 Specialty Internal Medicine
 - 4 Urology
 - 6 other specialties
- The 155 Physician Assistants represent the equivalent of 131.6 full-time providers (FTEs, defined as 40 or more hours of patient care per week). This includes 62.3 FTEs in primary care and 69.2 FTEs in specialty care.
- Twenty-four of the 155 PAs are over age 55, and 4 of those are over 60.
- Eighty-seven, or 56%, of the 155 physician assistants are women.
- 63% of the women practice primary care, while 35% of the men practice primary care.
- 56% of all physician assistants work full-time (40 hours per week or more)
 - 44% of primary care providers and 68% of specialty care providers work full time
 - 78% of men and 39% of women work full time
- 55% have hospital admitting privileges
- 93% were University trained, 96% have taken the NCCPA Certification Exam

Comparison of Selected Physician Assistant Data, 1998-2004

	1998	2000	2002	2004
Total physician assistants active in Vermont	107	117	130	155
Percent female	52%	56%	59%	56%
Percent age 55 or older	4%	7%	9%	15%
Average patient care hours per week	36	34	36	37
Primary care PAs	68	70	69	79
Family Practice	44	51	53	55
Internal Medicine	12	7	7	10
Ob/Gyn	10	9	8	10
Pediatric Primary Care	2	3	1	4
% accepting new patients *	98%	94%	92%	97%
accepting new Medicaid patients *	91%	87%	86%	89%
accepting new Medicare patients *	96%	93%	86%	91%
Specialist PAs	39	47	61	76
Emergency Medicine	20	25	33	37
Internal Medicine	1	1	1	5
Orthopedic Surgery	5	5	8	14
Other Specialties	13	16	19	20
Primary care PA FTEs	48.8	50.9	54.3	62.3
Family Practice	34.3	39.3	43.6	45.4
Internal Medicine	8.4	4.7	5.3	7.5
Ob/Gyn	4.7	5.5	4.5	5.6
Pediatric Primary Care	1.4	1.4	1.0	3.9
FTEs/100,000 population **	8.1	8.4	8.8	10.0
Specialist PA FTEs	37.7	42.1	54.8	69.2
Emergency Medicine	19.1	21.8	29.4	33.8
Internal Medicine	0.8	1.1	1.0	4.8
Orthopedic Surgery	4.6	4.6	7.5	12.9
Other Specialties	13.2	14.6	16.9	17.7

* Multiple sites of same provider counted separately.

See Note 10 in Appendix B on tabulation of availability of care.

** Population estimates for 1998 revised after 2000 census.

Vermont Physician Assistants'
Demographic Characteristics

Table 1 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Summary of Active Physician Assistants

TOTAL	155	(100%)
Main specialty:		
Primary Care Total	79	(51%)
Family Practice	55	(35%)
Primary Care Internal Medicine	10	(6%)
Pediatric Primary Care	4	(3%)
Obstetrics and Gynecology	10	(6%)
Specialty Care Total	76	(49%)
Dermatology	6	(4%)
Emergency Medicine	37	(24%)
Internal Medicine Specialties	5	(3%)
General Surgery	3	(2%)
Orthopedic Surgery	14	(9%)
Other Surgery	1	(1%)
Urology	4	(3%)
Other Specialties	6	(4%)
Age groups:		
Younger than 35	38	(25%)
35 - 44	40	(26%)
45 - 54	53	(34%)
55 - 64	24	(15%)
65 and older	0	(0%)
Gender:		
Male	68	(44%)
Female	87	(56%)
Patient care hours:		
40 or more hours/week	87	(56%)
30 to 39 hours/week	33	(21%)
Less than 30 hours/week	35	(23%)
Number of supervising physicians:		
One	5	(3%)
Two	32	(21%)
Three	30	(20%)
Four or more	82	(55%)
unknown	6	
Number of practice sites:		
One	119	(77%)
Two	30	(19%)
Three	3	(2%)
Four or more	3	(2%)

Table 2 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Age by Specialty and by Gender

	Total	Number in Age Group						Age 60+
		<35	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	(%)
TOTAL	155	38	40	53	20	4	.	3%
MALES	68	12	16	26	12	2	.	3%
FEMALES	87	26	24	27	8	2	.	2%
PRIMARY CARE	79	15	18	30	14	2	.	3%
Family Practice	55	12	17	17	9	.	.	.
Internal Medicine	10	2	.	6	2	.	.	.
Pediatrics	4	1	.	2	1	.	.	.
Ob/Gyn	10	.	1	5	2	2	.	20%
SPECIALTY CARE	76	23	22	23	6	2	.	3%
Dermatology	6	3	2	1	.	.	.	.
Emergency Medicine	37	11	11	11	3	1	.	3%
Internal Medicine	5	1	2	2	.	.	.	.
General Surgery	3	2	.	1	.	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	14	2	4	8	.	.	.	.
Other Surgery	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Urology	4	1	2	.	1	.	.	.
Other Specialties	6	2	1	.	2	1	.	17%
	Total	Percent in Age Group						Age 60+
		<35	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	(%)
TOTAL	100%	25%	26%	34%	13%	3%	.	3%
MALES	100%	18%	24%	38%	18%	3%	.	3%
FEMALES	100%	30%	28%	31%	9%	2%	.	2%
PRIMARY CARE	100%	19%	23%	38%	18%	3%	.	3%
SPECIALTY CARE	100%	30%	29%	30%	8%	3%	.	3%

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.

Table 3 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Age by Specialty for Each Gender

Specialty	Total	Number in Age Group						Age 60+
		<35	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	(%)
TOTAL	155	38	40	53	20	4	.	3%
MALES	68	12	16	26	12	2	.	3%
PRIMARY CARE	24	3	3	10	8	.	.	.
Family Practice	20	2	3	7	8	.	.	.
Internal Medicine	3	1	.	2	.	.	.	.
Pediatrics	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
SPECIALTY CARE	44	9	13	16	4	2	.	5%
Emergency Medicine	25	6	9	7	2	1	.	4%
Internal Medicine	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.
General Surgery	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	10	1	3	6	.	.	.	.
Urology	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Other Specialties	2	.	.	.	1	1	.	50%
FEMALES	87	26	24	27	8	2	.	2%
PRIMARY CARE	55	12	15	20	6	2	.	4%
Family Practice	35	10	14	10	1	.	.	.
Internal Medicine	7	1	.	4	2	.	.	.
Pediatrics	3	1	.	1	1	.	.	.
Ob/Gyn	10	.	1	5	2	2	.	20%
SPECIALTY CARE	32	14	9	7	2	.	.	.
Dermatology	6	3	2	1	.	.	.	.
Emergency Medicine	12	5	2	4	1	.	.	.
Internal Medicine	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
General Surgery	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.
Other Surgery	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Urology	3	1	2	.	.	.	.	.
Other Specialties	4	2	1	.	1	.	.	.

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.

Table 4 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Age by County

County	Total	Number in Age Group						Age 60+
		<35	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	(%)
STATEWIDE TOTAL								
Total	155	38	40	53	20	4	.	3%
Primary Care	79	15	18	30	14	2	.	3%
Specialists	76	23	22	23	6	2	.	3%
Addison County								
Primary Care	3	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
Specialists	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Bennington County								
Primary Care	5	3	.	1	1	.	.	.
Specialists	5	1	1	2	1	.	.	.
Caledonia County								
Primary Care	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
Chittenden County								
Primary Care	26	3	7	9	5	2	.	8%
Specialists	29	12	8	6	2	1	.	3%
Essex County								
Primary Care	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Franklin County								
Primary Care	6	2	.	2	2	.	.	.
Specialists	3	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
Grand Isle County								
Primary Care	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lamoille County								
Primary Care	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Specialists	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Orange County								
Primary Care	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Orleans County								
Primary Care	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rutland County								
Primary Care	9	2	3	3	1	.	.	.
Specialists	9	3	2	3	1	.	.	.
Washington County								
Primary Care	9	1	3	4	1	.	.	.
Specialists	7	.	1	5	1	.	.	.
Windham County								
Primary Care	5	.	1	2	2	.	.	.
Specialists	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.
Windsor County								
Primary Care	9	2	1	4	2	.	.	.
Specialists	15	5	6	2	1	1	.	7%

Each provider is counted once in this table, in their main specialty group, and, independently, in their main county of practice (see Note 2).

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.

Table 5 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Gender by County

County	Total	Males	Females
STATEWIDE TOTAL			
Total	155	68 (44%)	87 (56%)
Primary Care	79	24 (30%)	55 (70%)
Specialists	76	44 (58%)	32 (42%)
Addison County			
Primary Care	3	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Specialists	1	1	0
Bennington County			
Primary Care	5	3 (60%)	2 (40%)
Specialists	5	2 (40%)	3 (60%)
Caledonia County			
Primary Care	1	0	1
Specialists	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Chittenden County			
Primary Care	26	4 (15%)	22 (85%)
Specialists	29	13 (45%)	16 (55%)
Essex County			
Primary Care	1	1	0
Specialists	0		
Franklin County			
Primary Care	6	5 (83%)	1 (17%)
Specialists	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
Grand Isle County			
Primary Care	1	0	1
Specialists	0		
Lamoille County			
Primary Care	1	0	1
Specialists	1	0	1
Orange County			
Primary Care	1	0	1
Specialists	0		
Orleans County			
Primary Care	2	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Specialists	0		
Rutland County			
Primary Care	9	5 (56%)	4 (44%)
Specialists	9	6 (67%)	3 (33%)
Washington County			
Primary Care	9	2 (22%)	7 (78%)
Specialists	7	5 (71%)	2 (29%)
Windham County			
Primary Care	5	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Specialists	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Windsor County			
Primary Care	9	4 (44%)	5 (56%)
Specialists	15	11 (73%)	4 (27%)

Each provider is counted once in this table, in their main specialty group, and, independently, in their main county of practice (see Note 2).

Table 6 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Years in Clinical Practice

In Clinical Practice	Total	In Vermont
Less than a year	5 (4%)	17 (11%)
1 or 2 years	15 (11%)	26 (17%)
3 or 4 years	14 (10%)	15 (10%)
5 to 9 years	29 (21%)	36 (23%)
10 to 14 years	15 (11%)	18 (12%)
15 to 19 years	18 (13%)	15 (10%)
20 to 24 years	21 (14%)	12 (8%)
25 years or more	18 (12%)	13 (8%)
unknown	20	3
Total	155	155
Median years	10	7

Vermont Physician Assistants'
Distribution of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Table 7 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by Age and Gender by Specialty

	Total	FTEs in Age Group								Age 60+
		<30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	(%)
TOTAL	131.6	7.8	26.8	19.5	14.0	17.3	28.1	16.7	1.4	1%
MALES	64.0	.9	10.6	9.0	6.6	8.9	16.3	10.7	1.1	2%
FEMALES	67.5	6.9	16.3	10.5	7.4	8.4	11.8	6.0	.2	.
PRIMARY CARE	62.3	2.9	9.9	7.3	6.2	6.4	17.5	12.0	.2	.
Family Practice	45.4	1.9	8.4	6.3	5.9	4.6	10.4	8.0	.	.
Internal Medicine	7.5	.	1.5	.	.3	1.0	2.7	2.0	.	.
Pediatrics	3.9	1.0	.	.	.	.9	1.4	.6	.	.
Ob/Gyn	5.6	.	.	1.0	.	.	3.0	1.4	.2	4%
SPECIALTY CARE	69.2	4.9	17.0	12.3	7.8	10.8	10.6	4.7	1.1	2%
Dermatology	5.7	.	2.8	1.0	.9	1.0	.	.	.	.
Emergency Medicine	33.8	1.0	8.9	7.2	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.7	1.0	3%
Internal Medicine	4.8	.	1.2	1.2	.5	1.0	1.0	.	.	.
General Surgery	2.8	.	2.0	.	.	.8	.0	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	12.9	.9	1.0	1.0	2.6	3.5	3.8	.	.	.
Other Surgery	1.0	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Urology	3.2	1.0	.1	1.1	.	.	.0	1.0	.	.
Other Specialties	5.0	1.0	1.0	.8	.	.	.	2.0	.1	3%
	Total	% of total FTEs in Age Group								Age 60+
		<30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	(%)
TOTAL	100%	6%	20%	15%	11%	13%	21%	13%	1%	1%
MALES	100%	1%	16%	14%	10%	14%	25%	17%	2%	2%
FEMALES	100%	10%	24%	16%	11%	12%	17%	9%	.	.
PRIMARY CARE	100%	5%	16%	12%	10%	10%	28%	19%	.	.
SPECIALTY CARE	100%	7%	25%	18%	11%	16%	15%	7%	2%	2%

See Note 1 for a description of the calculations of ages

Table 8 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by Age by County

County	Total	FTEs in Age Group						Age 60+
		<35	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	(%)
STATEWIDE TOTAL								
Total	131.6	34.6	33.5	45.4	16.7	1.4	.	1%
Primary Care	62.3	12.7	13.4	24.0	12.0	.2	.	.
Specialists	69.2	21.9	20.1	21.4	4.7	1.1	.	2%
Addison County								
Primary Care	1.8	.8	.5	.5	.	.	.	.
Specialists	1.8	.6	1.2	.	.1	.	.	.
Bennington County								
Primary Care	4.8	2.9	.	1.0	.9	.	.	.
Specialists	4.4	1.3	.3	1.8	1.0	.	.	.
Caledonia County								
Primary Care	.7	.	.7	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	2.0	.	.	2.0	.	.	.	.
Chittenden County								
Primary Care	19.2	2.2	5.3	7.4	4.1	.2	.	1%
Specialists	27.3	11.8	8.0	5.7	1.6	.1	.	.
Essex County								
Primary Care	1.0	.	.	1.0	.	.	.	.
Specialists	.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Franklin County								
Primary Care	5.8	2.0	.	1.8	2.0	.	.	.
Specialists	2.8	.9	.8	1.1	.	.	.	.
Grand Isle County								
Primary Care	1.0	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lamoille County								
Primary Care	.2	.	.	.2	.	.	.	.
Specialists	.7	.	.6	.1	.	.	.	.
Orange County								
Primary Care	1.0	.	.	1.0	.	.	.	.
Specialists	.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Orleans County								
Primary Care	1.9	.	.9	1.0	.	.	.	.
Specialists	.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rutland County								
Primary Care	8.4	2.0	2.1	3.4	.9	.	.	.
Specialists	6.7	2.3	1.5	2.8	.1	.	.	.
Washington County								
Primary Care	7.0	.9	2.0	3.1	1.0	.	.	.
Specialists	6.0	.	1.0	4.0	1.0	.	.	.
Windham County								
Primary Care	3.0	.2	.8	.9	1.1	.	.	.
Specialists	3.3	.2	1.0	2.0	.	.1	.	2%
Windsor County								
Primary Care	6.6	.8	1.0	2.8	2.0	.	.	.
Specialists	14.2	4.8	5.6	2.0	.9	.9	.	6%

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.

Table 9 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by County

Count FTEs Hours	TOTAL	PRIMARY CARE TOTAL	SPECIALTY CARE TOTAL
STATEWIDE TOTAL	155 131.6 5682	82 62.3 2630	84 69.2 3052
Addison County	6 3.7 168	3 1.8 72	5 1.8 96
Bennington County	13 9.2 380	5 4.8 190	8 4.4 190
Caledonia County	3 2.7 133	1 .7 29	2 2.0 104
Chittenden County	58 46.5 2071	28 19.2 853	32 27.3 1218
Essex County	1 1.0 40	1 1.0 40	.. ..
Franklin County	9 8.6 359	6 5.8 243	4 2.8 116
Grand Isle County	1 1.0 40	1 1.0 40	.. ..
Lamoille County	3 .9 38	1 .2 8	2 .7 30
Orange County	2 1.0 38	2 1.0 38	.. ..
Orleans County	2 1.9 75	2 1.9 75	.. ..
Rutland County	25 15.1 638	11 8.4 342	14 6.7 296
Washington County	18 12.9 568	11 7.0 295	9 6.0 273
Windham County	11 6.3 263	6 3.0 127	6 3.3 136
Windsor County	25 20.8 870	11 6.6 277	16 14.2 594

In this table providers may be counted more than once (Note 4).

Table 10 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Primary Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by County

Count FTEs Hours	PRIMARY CARE TOTAL	FAMILY	INTERNAL	PEDIATRIC	OB/GYN
STATEWIDE TOTAL	82 62.3 2630	58 45.4 1890	14 7.5 317	6 3.9 158	10 5.6 265
Addison County	3 1.8 72	2 1.4 54	. . . . .	1 .5 18	.. .. .
Bennington County	5 4.8 190	4 3.8 150	. . . . .	1 1.0 40	.. .. .
Caledonia County	1 .7 29	1 .4 17	1 .3 12	.. .. .	.. .. .
Chittenden County	28 19.2 853	17 11.1 473	4 2.3 104	1 .9 40	8 4.9 236
Essex County	1 1.0 40	. . . . .	1 .5 20	1 .5 20	.. .. .
Franklin County	6 5.8 243	5 4.8 200	1 1.0 43	.. .. .	.. .. .
Grand Isle County	1 1.0 40	1 1.0 40	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Lamoille County	1 .2 8	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	1 .2 8
Orange County	2 1.0 38	1 .8 32	. . . . .	. . . . .	1 .2 6
Orleans County	2 1.9 75	2 1.9 75	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Rutland County	11 8.4 342	10 8.4 342	. . . . .	. . . . .	1 .0 1
Washington County	11 7.0 295	8 6.2 261	2 .1 4	1 .4 16	1 .3 14
Windham County	6 3.0 127	3 1.3 58	3 1.1 45	1 .6 24	.. .. .
Windsor County	11 6.6 277	8 4.4 188	3 2.2 88	.. .. .	.. .. .

In this table providers may be counted more than once (Note 4).

Table 11 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Specialty Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by County

Count FTEs Hours	SPECIALTY CARE								
	TOTAL	INTERN. MEDIC.	GEN. SURG.	ORTHO. SURG.	OTHER SURG.	DERMAT- LOGY	UROLOGY	EMERG. MED.	OTHER
STATEWIDE TOTAL	84	7	4	15	1	6	6	48	6
	69.2	4.8	2.8	12.9	1.0	5.7	3.2	33.8	5.0
	3052	244	129	571	43	226	143	1477	218
Addison County	5	1	.	1	.	.	1	2	.
	1.8	.2	.	1.0	.	.	.1	.6	.
	96	6	.	42	.	.	6	42	.
Bennington County	8	1	.	2	.	.	1	4	1
	4.4	.2	.	1.8	.	.	.3	1.2	1.0
	190	8	.	77	.	.	10	54	40
Caledonia County	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	2	.
	2.0	.	.8	.6	.	.	.	.5	.
	104	.	33	40	.	.	.	31	.
Chittenden County	32	4	2	4	.	6	1	13	2
	27.3	4.0	2.0	4.0	.	5.7	.9	9.6	1.1
	1218	210	95	189	.	226	40	392	65
Essex County	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Franklin County	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1
	2.8	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.0	.8
	116	.	.	.	.	.	.	83	33
Grand Isle County	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Lamoille County	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.
	.7	.	.	.6	.	.	.	.1	.
	30	.	.	25	.	.	.	5	.
Orange County	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Orleans County	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Rutland County	14	1	.	1	.	.	2	10	1
	6.7	.5	.	1.0	.	.	.9	3.2	1.0
	296	20	.	40	.	.	45	151	40
Washington County	9	.	1	3	.	.	1	7	1
	6.0	.	.0	.9	.	.	.0	4.0	1.0
	273	.	0	42	.	.	2	189	40
Windham County	6	.	.	1	.	.	.	5	.
	3.3	.	.	1.0	.	.	.	2.3	.
	136	.	.	40	.	.	.	96	.
Windsor County	16	.	.	2	1	.	1	12	.
	14.2	.	.	1.9	1.0	.	1.0	10.3	.
	594	.	.	76	43	.	40	434	.

In this table providers may be counted more than once (see Note 4).

Table 12 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Primary Care Provider FTE to Population Ratios by County

County	FTEs	Population	FTEs per 100,000	Population per FTE
STATEWIDE TOTAL	62.35	621,394	10.03	9,966
Addison County	1.81	36,865	4.91	20,386
Bennington County	4.75	36,956	12.85	7,780
Caledonia County	.73	30,464	2.38	42,019
Chittenden County	19.24	149,286	12.89	7,757
Essex County	1.00	6,654	15.03	6,654
Franklin County	5.80	47,556	12.19	8,202
Grand Isle County	1.00	7,643	13.08	7,643
Lamoille County	.21	24,418	.85	117,206
Orange County	.96	29,189	3.28	30,524
Orleans County	1.88	27,372	6.85	14,598
Rutland County	8.43	63,616	13.26	7,543
Washington County	6.95	59,068	11.77	8,495
Windham County	3.00	44,284	6.78	14,739
Windsor County	6.59	58,023	11.36	8,801

Only primary care providers are included in this table.
 One FTE is 40 (or more) hours per week, 48 weeks per year
 or more. The FTEs are rounded to two digits for display
 only - the ratios were calculated using the unrounded values.

Population estimates are from the Census Bureau for July 2004
 (see note 7).

Table 13 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Detailed Specialty List

SPECIALTY GROUP Specialty	Count of PAs Working in Specialty		
	As Main Specialty	As Secondary Specialty	FTEs
TOTAL	155		
--- PRIMARY CARE ---			
FAMILY PRACTICE			
Family Practice	55	3	45.4
INTERNAL MEDICINE (PRIMARY)			
Internal Medicine	10	4	7.5
PEDIATRICS (PRIMARY)			
Adolescent Internal Medicine	1	0	.9
Adolescent Medicine (Pediatrics)	1	0	.5
Pediatrics (general)	2	2	2.5
OB/GYN			
Obstetrics & Gynecology	10	0	5.6
--- SPECIALTY CARE ---			
DERMATOLOGY			
Dermatology	6	0	5.7
EMERGENCY MEDICINE			
Emergency Medicine	37	10	33.6
Emergency Medicine: Sports	0	2	.3
INTERNAL MEDICINE (SPECIALTY)			
Cardiovascular Disease	4	1	4.2
Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabol.	0	1	.2
Hematology (Internal Medicine)	1	0	.3
Medical Oncology	0	1	.3
SURGERY			
General Surgery	3	1	2.8
General Vascular Surgery	1	0	1.0
Orthopedic Surgery	14	1	12.9
UROLOGY			
Urology	4	2	3.2
OTHER SPECIALTIES			
Neurology	1	0	1.0
Occupational Medicine	2	0	1.8
Otolaryngology	1	0	1.0
Plastic Surgery	1	0	1.0
Psychiatry	1	0	.1

Vermont Physician Assistants' Training

Table 14 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Basis for Certification

Basis for VT Certification	TOTAL	Certification Examination			
		NCCPA	STATE	OTHER	UNKNOWN
Apprenticeship	10	5	2	1	2
University	140	129	0	1	10
unknown	5	3	0	1	1
TOTAL	155	137	2	3	13

Vermont Physician Assistants'
Practice Characteristics

Table 15 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Average Patient Care Hours per Week,
by Provider Specialty and Age

Main Specialty	Total	Average Patient Care Hours per Week				% Working Full Time (%)
		All Ages	Age < 45	Age 45-54	Age 55+	
ALL SPECIALTIES	155	37	38	37	31	56%
PRIMARY CARE	79	34	34	34	32	44%
Family Practice	55	36	32	41	38	51%
Internal Medicine	10	31	.	27	.	30%
Pediatrics	4	32	.	.	.	50%
Ob/Gyn	10	26	.	24	16	20%
SPECIALTY CARE	76	40	41	40	30	68%
Dermatology	6	38	37	.	.	67%
Emergency Medicine	37	39	43	34	27	62%
Internal Medicine	5	46	38	.	.	80%
General Surgery	3	45	.	.	.	100%
Orthopedic Surgery	14	43	42	43	.	79%
Other Surgery	1	.	.	.	.	.
Urology	4	32	27	.	.	50%
Other Specialties	6	36	44	.	28	67%

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.

'Full Time' is 40 (or more) hours of direct patient care per week in Vermont, 48 weeks per year (see Note 22).

Averages based on less than 3 people are suppressed.

Table 16 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Average Patient Care Hours per Week,
by Provider Gender, Specialty and Age

Main Specialty	Total	Average Patient Care Hours per Week				% Working Full Time (%)
		All Ages	Age < 45	Age 45-54	Age 55+	
MALES:						
ALL SPECIALTIES	68	42	45	43	35	78%
PRIMARY CARE	24	41	39	42	40	83%
Family Practice	20	41	38	43	40	85%
Internal Medicine	3	38	.	.	.	67%
Pediatrics	1	.	.	.	.	.
SPECIALTY CARE	44	43	46	43	28	75%
Emergency Medicine	25	41	45	37	26	64%
Internal Medicine	4	53	.	.	.	100%
General Surgery	2	.	.	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	10	46	46	46	.	90%
Urology	1	.	.	.	.	.
Other Specialties	2	.	.	.	.	.
FEMALES:						
ALL SPECIALTIES	87	33	35	31	26	39%
PRIMARY CARE	55	31	33	31	24	27%
Family Practice	35	33	31	39	.	31%
Internal Medicine	7	28	.	23	.	14%
Pediatrics	3	27	.	.	.	33%
Ob/Gyn	10	26	.	24	16	20%
SPECIALTY CARE	32	36	37	33	.	59%
Dermatology	6	38	37	.	.	67%
Emergency Medicine	12	35	39	29	.	58%
Internal Medicine	1	.	.	.	.	.
General Surgery	1	.	.	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	4	35	.	.	.	50%
Other Surgery	1	.	.	.	.	.
Urology	3	27	27	.	.	33%
Other Specialties	4	43	44	.	.	75%

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.

'Full Time' is 40 (or more) hours of direct patient care per week in Vermont, 48 weeks per year (see Note 22).

Averages based on less than 3 people are suppressed.

Table 17 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Average Patient Care Hours per Week,
by Provider Age, by County

County	Total	Average Patient Care Hours per Week				% Working Full Time (%)
		All Ages	Age < 45	Age 45-54	Age 55+	
STATEWIDE TOTAL						
Primary Care	79	34	34	34	32	44%
Specialists	76	40	41	40	30	68%
Addison County						
Primary Care	3	30	.	.	.	0%
Specialists	1	.	.	.	.	.
Bennington County						
Primary Care	5	38	38	.	.	60%
Specialists	5	35	.	.	.	60%
Caledonia County						
Primary Care	1	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	2	.	.	.	.	.
Chittenden County						
Primary Care	26	33	34	37	26	38%
Specialists	29	42	43	44	27	83%
Essex County						
Primary Care	1	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.
Franklin County						
Primary Care	6	42	.	.	.	100%
Specialists	3	38	.	.	.	33%
Grand Isle County						
Primary Care	1	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.
Lamoille County						
Primary Care	1	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	1	.	.	.	.	.
Orange County						
Primary Care	1	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.
Orleans County						
Primary Care	2	.	.	.	.	.
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.	.
Rutland County						
Primary Care	9	36	34	40	.	67%
Specialists	9	35	40	37	.	33%
Washington County						
Primary Care	9	34	29	37	.	33%
Specialists	7	38	.	32	.	43%
Windham County						
Primary Care	5	25	.	.	.	20%
Specialists	4	37	.	.	.	75%
Windsor County						
Primary Care	9	32	22	32	.	33%
Specialists	15	41	42	.	.	80%

See Note 1 for description of the calculation of age.
'Full Time' is 40 (or more) hours of direct patient care per week in Vermont, 48 weeks per year (see Note 22).
Each provider is counted once, in main specialty group and, independently, in main county of practice (see Note 2).
Averages based on less than 3 people are suppressed.

Table 18 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Hospital Admitting Privileges by Specialties

Specialty	Total PA's	Number of PA's with Hospital Privileges	
TOTAL	155	85	(55%)
PRIMARY CARE	79	25	(32%)
Family Practice	55	16	(29%)
Internal Medicine	10	5	(50%)
Pediatrics	4	2	(50%)
Ob/Gyn	10	2	(20%)
SPECIALTY CARE	76	60	(80%)
Dermatology	6	2	(40%)
Emergency Medicine	37	29	(78%)
Internal Medicine	5	5	(100%)
General Surgery	3	3	(100%)
Orthopedic Surgery	14	12	(86%)
Other Surgery	1	1	(100%)
Urology	4	4	(100%)
Other Specialties	6	4	(67%)

Providers are only counted once in the last column, even if they have privileges at multiple hospitals. The hospital privileges of one provider are unknown, this provider is counted in the "Total" column, but excluded from the calculation of the percentage.

Table 19 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Practice Availability by Specialty

Specialty	Physician Assistants	Accept New Patients	Participate in Medicaid	Accept New Medicaid Patients	Participate in Medicare	Accept New Medicare Patients
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	118 *	97%	97%	92%	97%	92%
PRIMARY CARE	79	97%	99%	92%	100%	94%
Family Practice	55	96%	100%	90%	100%	92%
Internal Medicine	10	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Pediatrics	4	100%	75%	75%	.	.
Ob/Gyn	10	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
SPECIALTY CARE	39 *	97%	94%	91%	91%	88%
Dermatology	6	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Internal Medicine	5	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
General Surgery	3	.	.	.	.	.
Orthopedic Surgery	14	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Other Surgery	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Urology	4	100%	100%	75%	100%	75%
Other Specialties	6	83%	67%	67%	50%	50%

* Emergency Medicine is excluded from this table.
See Note 10 regarding tabulation of availability of care.

Providers were asked if they accept new patients and if they participate in Medicaid and Medicare for each site where they practice. In this table each provider is counted once, in his or her main specialty. A provider is counted as accepting new patients if they accept new patients at any site, and as participating in Medicaid or Medicare if they participate at any site.

All practice settings are included. This table is not comparable to previous reports. See Note 11.

Denominators for percentages do not include unknowns.

Table 20 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
Practice Availability by County

County	Offices	Plan to Continue Practice	Accept New Patients	Accept New Medicaid Patients	Accept New Medicare Patients
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
STATEWIDE TOTAL					
Primary Care	95	95%	97%	89%	91%
Specialists	48	95%	97%	94%	91%
Addison County					
Primary Care	3	67%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	2	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bennington County					
Primary Care	5	100%	80%	80%	100%
Specialists	5	80%	100%	100%	100%
Caledonia County					
Primary Care	2	.%	50%	50%	0%
Specialists	2	100%	.%	.%	.%
Chittenden County					
Primary Care	32	93%	96%	82%	89%
Specialists	20	100%	100%	100%	93%
Essex County					
Primary Care	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.
Franklin County					
Primary Care	7	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	1	100%	100%	0%	0%
Grand Isle County					
Primary Care	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.
Lamoille County					
Primary Care	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Orange County					
Primary Care	2	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.
Orleans County					
Primary Care	2	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	0	.	.	.	.
Rutland County					
Primary Care	11	100%	100%	89%	100%
Specialists	5	100%	100%	100%	100%
Washington County					
Primary Care	11	100%	100%	90%	100%
Specialists	6	80%	75%	75%	75%
Windham County					
Primary Care	6	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specialists	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Windsor County					
Primary Care	11	89%	100%	90%	80%
Specialists	5	100%	100%	100%	100%

Each site a provider practices in is counted separately.
'Plan to Continue Practice' is for 12 months following the survey.
Denominators for percentages do not include unknowns.
See Note 10 regarding tabulation of availability.
All practice settings are included. This table is not comparable
to previous reports. See Note 11.

Table 21 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Providers Planning To Retire Or Reduce Hours

TOTAL	6	(100%)
Main specialty:		
Primary Care Total	3	(50%)
Family Practice	3	(50%)
Specialty Care Total	3	(50%)
Emergency Medicine	2	(33%)
Orthopedic Surgery	1	(17%)
Age groups:		
younger than 35	3	(50%)
35 - 44	1	(17%)
45 - 54	2	(33%)
55 - 64	0	(0%)
65 and older	0	(0%)
Gender:		
Male	3	(50%)
Female	3	(50%)
Current Patient care hours:		
40 or more hours/week	4	(67%)
30 to 39 hours/week	1	(17%)
less than 30 hours/week	1	(17%)

Note: the survey asked the Retire Or Reduce Hours question separately for each site. Tabulated here are the providers that indicated they will leave or reduce hours in any of that person's sites.

Vermont Physician Assistants
by Hospital Service Areas

Table 22 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), and
 Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by Hospital Service Area

	Count FTEs Hours	TOTAL	PRIMARY CARE TOTAL	SPECIALTY CARE TOTAL
STATEWIDE TOTAL		155 131.6 5682	82 62.3 2630	84 69.2 3052
Barre		18 12.9 568	11 7.0 295	9 6.0 273
Bennington		13 9.5 395	6 4.9 198	8 4.6 197
Brattleboro		4 2.5 99	3 1.5 59	1 1.0 40
Burlington		58 46.5 2071	28 19.2 853	32 27.3 1218
Middlebury		6 3.7 168	3 1.8 72	5 1.8 96
Morrisville		3 .9 38	1 .2 8	2 .7 30
Newport		3 2.9 115	3 2.9 115	.. ..
Randolph		3 1.9 74	3 1.9 74	.. ..
Rutland		25 15.1 638	11 8.4 342	14 6.7 296
Springfield		19 16.7 706	9 6.3 270	12 10.4 436
St. Albans		10 9.6 399	7 6.8 283	4 2.8 116
St. Johnsbury		3 2.7 133	1 .7 29	2 2.0 104
White River Jct		10 6.7 277	2 .8 31	8 5.9 246

Hospital Service Areas have been redefined since the previous reports -- see Appendix A and Appendix F.

In this table providers may be counted more than once (Note 4).

Table 23 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Primary Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by Hospital Service Area

Count FTEs Hours	PRIMARY CARE TOTAL	FAMILY	INTERNAL	PEDIATRIC	OB/GYN
STATEWIDE TOTAL	82 62.3 2630	58 45.4 1890	14 7.5 317	6 3.9 158	10 5.6 265
Barre	11 7.0 295	8 6.2 261	2 .1 4	1 .4 16	1 .3 14
Bennington	6 4.9 198	5 3.9 158	. . . .	1 1.0 40	.. ..
Brattleboro	3 1.5 59	. . . .	2 .9 35	1 .6 24	.. ..
Burlington	28 19.2 853	17 11.1 473	4 2.3 104	1 .9 40	8 4.9 236
Middlebury	3 1.8 72	2 1.4 54	. . . .	1 .5 18	.. ..
Morrisville	1 .2 8	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	1 .2 8
Newport	3 2.9 115	2 1.9 75	1 .5 20	1 .5 20	.. ..
Randolph	3 1.9 74	2 1.7 68	. . . .	. . . .	1 .2 6
Rutland	11 8.4 342	10 8.4 342	. . . .	. . . .	1 .0 1
Springfield	9 6.3 270	6 3.8 172	4 2.5 98	.. ..	.. ..
St. Albans	7 6.8 283	6 5.8 240	1 1.0 43	.. ..	.. ..
St. Johnsbury	1 .7 29	1 .4 17	1 .3 12	.. ..	.. ..
White River Jct	2 .8 31	2 .8 31	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

Hospital Service Areas have been redefined since the previous reports -- see Appendix A and Appendix F.

In this table providers may be counted more than once (Note 4).

Table 24 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Specialty Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by Hospital Service Area

Count FTEs Hours	SPECIALTY								
	CARE TOTAL	INTERN. MEDIC.	GEN. SURG.	ORTHO. SURG.	OTHER SURG.	DERMAT- LOGY	UROLOGY	EMERG. MED.	OTHER
STATEWIDE TOTAL	84 69.2 3052	7 4.8 244	4 2.8 129	15 12.9 571	1 1.0 43	6 5.7 226	6 3.2 143	48 33.8 1477	6 5.0 218
Barre	9 6.0 273	. .0 .	1 .0 0	3 .9 42	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 .0 2	7 4.0 189	1 1.0 40
Bennington	8 4.6 197	1 .2 8	. .0 .	2 1.8 77	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 .3 10	4 1.4 62	1 1.0 40
Brattleboro	1 1.0 40	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 1.0 40	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .
Burlington	32 27.3 1218	4 4.0 210	2 2.0 95	4 4.0 189	. .0 .	6 5.7 226	1 .9 40	13 9.6 392	2 1.1 65
Middlebury	5 1.8 96	1 .2 6	. .0 .	1 1.0 42	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 .1 6	2 .6 42	. .0 .
Morrisville	2 .7 30	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 .6 25	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 .1 5	. .0 .
Newport	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .
Randolph	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .
Rutland	14 6.7 296	1 .5 20	. .0 .	1 1.0 40	. .0 .	. .0 .	2 .9 45	10 3.2 151	1 1.0 40
Springfield	12 10.4 436	. .0 .	. .0 .	2 1.8 72	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	10 8.6 364	. .0 .
St. Albans	4 2.8 116	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	3 2.0 83	1 .8 33
St. Johnsbury	2 2.0 104	. .0 .	1 .8 33	1 .6 40	. .0 .	. .0 .	. .0 .	2 .5 31	. .0 .
White River Jct	8 5.9 246	. .0 .	. .0 .	1 .1 4	1 1.0 43	. .0 .	1 1.0 40	5 3.8 159	. .0 .

Hospital Service Areas have been redefined since the previous reports -- see Appendix A and Appendix F.

In this table providers may be counted more than once (see Note 4).

Table 25 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Primary Care Provider FTE to Population Ratios
 by Hospital Service Area

HSA	FTEs	Population	FTEs per 100,000	Population per FTE
STATEWIDE TOTAL	62.35	621,394	10.03	9,966
Barre	6.95	66,566	10.45	9,574
Bennington	4.94	40,610	12.16	8,225
Brattleboro	1.48	32,134	4.59	21,786
Burlington	19.24	168,320	11.43	8,747
Middlebury	1.81	28,369	6.37	15,688
Morrisville	.21	26,608	.78	127,718
Newport	2.88	28,641	10.04	9,962
Randolph	1.86	14,684	12.64	7,911
Rutland	8.43	64,445	13.09	7,641
Springfield	6.27	28,932	21.67	4,614
St. Albans	6.80	44,945	15.13	6,612
St. Johnsbury	.73	27,653	2.62	38,142
White River Jct	.76	49,487	1.54	64,768

Hospital Service Areas have been redefined since the previous reports -- see Appendix A and Appendix F.

Only primary care providers are included in this table. One FTE is 40 (or more) hours per week, 48 weeks per year or more. The FTEs are rounded to two digits for display only - the ratios were calculated using the unrounded values.

Population estimates are from the Census Bureau for July 2004 (see note 7).

Vermont Physician Assistants by
Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Regions

Table 26 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Providers, Full Time Equivalent (FTEs), and
 Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by AHEC region

	Count FTEs Hours	TOTAL	PRIMARY CARE TOTAL	SPECIALTY CARE TOTAL
		-----	-----	-----
STATEWIDE TOTAL		155	82	84
		131.6	62.3	69.2
		5682	2630	3052
Champlain Valley		70	36	38
		59.8	27.9	31.9
		2639	1209	1430
Northeast VT		27	17	13
		20.4	11.7	8.7
		892	485	407
Southern VT		63	31	35
		51.4	22.8	28.6
		2150	935	1215

In this table providers may be counted more than once (Note 4).

Table 27 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Primary Care Providers, Full Time Equivalent (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by AHEC Region

Count FTEs Hours	PRIMARY CARE TOTAL	FAMILY	INTERNAL	PEDIATRIC	OB/GYN
STATEWIDE TOTAL	82 62.3 2630	58 45.4 1890	14 7.5 317	6 3.9 158	10 5.6 265
Champlain Valley	36 27.9 1209	23 18.3 768	5 3.3 148	2 1.4 58	8 4.9 236
Northeast VT	17 11.7 485	12 9.3 385	4 .9 36	2 .9 36	2 .7 28
Southern VT	31 22.8 935	23 17.8 738	6 3.3 133	2 1.6 64	1 .0 1

In this table providers may be counted more than once (Note 4).

Table 28 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Numbers of Specialty Care Providers, Full Time Equivalents (FTEs),
 and Total Weekly Patient Care Hours, by AHEC Region

Count FTEs Hours	SPECIALTY								
	CARE TOTAL	INTERN. MEDIC.	GEN. SURG.	ORTHO. SURG.	OTHER SURG.	DERMAT- LOGY	UROLOGY	EMERG. MED.	OTHER
STATEWIDE TOTAL	84 69.2 3052	7 4.8 244	4 2.8 129	15 12.9 571	1 1.0 43	6 5.7 226	6 3.2 143	48 33.8 1477	6 5.0 218
Champlain Valley	38 31.9 1430	5 4.2 216	2 2.0 95	5 5.0 231	. . . . .	6 5.7 226	1 1.0 46	17 12.2 517	3 2.0 98
Northeast VT	13 8.7 407	. . . . .	2 .8 34	5 2.2 107	. . . . .	. . . . .	1 .0 2	10 4.6 225	1 1.0 40
Southern VT	35 28.6 1215	2 .7 28	. . . . .	6 5.7 233	1 1.0 43	. . . . .	4 2.2 95	22 17.0 736	2 2.0 80

In this table providers may be counted more than once (see Note 4).

Table 29 -- VT Physician Assistants, 2004
 Primary Care Provider FTE to Population Ratios by AHEC Region

AHEC region	FTEs	Population	FTEs per 100,000	Population per FTE
STATEWIDE TOTAL	62.35	621,394	10.03	9,966
Champlain Valley	27.85	241,350	11.54	8,666
Northeast VT	11.72	177,165	6.61	15,120
Southern VT	22.78	202,879	11.23	8,906

Only primary care providers are included in this table.
 One FTE is 40 (or more) hours per week, 48 weeks per year
 or more. The FTEs are rounded to two digits for display
 only - the ratios were calculated using the unrounded values.

Population estimates are from the Census Bureau for July 2004
 (see note 7).

Vermont Physician Assistants
Comparison Between 2002 and 2004

Table 30 -- VT PAs, 2002 and 2004
 Changes in Number of PAs, Patient Care Hours
 and Specialties, between 2002 and 2004

	2002	2004	Change	
TOTAL	130	155	+25	+19%
Age Groups:				
Younger than 35	24	38	+14	+58%
35 - 44	36	40	+4	+11%
45 - 54	59	53	-6	-10%
55 - 64	10	24	+14	+140%
65 and older	1	0	-1	-100%
Gender:				
Male	53	68	+15	+28%
Female	77	87	+10	+13%
Patient Care Hours:				
40 or more hours/week	65	87	+22	+34%
30 to under 40 hours/week	35	33	-2	-6%
Less than 30 hours/week	30	35	+5	+17%
Main Specialty:				
Primary Care Total	69	79	+10	+14%
Family Practice	53	55	+2	+4%
Internal Medicine	7	10	+3	+43%
Pediatrics	1	4	+3	+300%
Ob/Gyn	8	10	+2	+25%
Specialty Care Total	61	76	+15	+25%
Anesthesiology	3	0	-3	-100%
Emergency Medicine	33	37	+4	+12%
Internal Medicine	1	5	+4	+400%
General Surgery	1	3	+2	+200%
Orthopedic Surgery	8	14	+6	+75%
Other Surgery	3	1	-2	-67%
Other Specialties	12	16	+4	+33%

Note: "Other Specialties" includes some specialty groups that are displayed separately in either the 2002 or the 2004 reports but not in both, e.g., psychiatry, dermatology and urology.

Table 31 -- VT PAs, 2002 and 2004
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by County

PRIMARY CARE:	2002	2004	Change
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
STATE TOTAL	54.3	62.3	+8.0
Addison County	2.6	1.8	-.8
Bennington County	3.3	4.8	+1.5
Caledonia County	.8	.7	-.1
Chittenden County	17.2	19.2	+2.0
Essex County	1.0	1.0	.
Franklin County	2.0	5.8	+3.8
Grand Isle County	.	1.0	+1.0
Lamoille County	.2	.2	.
Orange County	1.4	1.0	-.4
Orleans County	2.0	1.9	-.1
Rutland County	6.0	8.4	+2.4
Washington County	8.0	7.0	-1.0
Windham County	3.2	3.0	-.2
Windsor County	6.6	6.6	.
SPECIALTY CARE:	2002	2004	Change
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
STATE TOTAL	54.8	69.2	+14.4
Addison County	.1	1.8	+1.7
Bennington County	5.7	4.4	-1.3
Caledonia County	1.0	2.0	+1.0
Chittenden County	21.5	27.3	+5.8
Essex County	.	.	.
Franklin County	2.7	2.8	+.1
Grand Isle County	.	.	.
Lamoille County	.5	.7	+.2
Orange County	.8	.	-.8
Orleans County	.	.	.
Rutland County	4.7	6.7	+2.0
Washington County	7.1	6.0	-1.1
Windham County	2.5	3.3	+.8
Windsor County	8.3	14.2	+5.9

Appendices

Appendix A. General Notes and Terms

Definition of Active Physician Assistant

A PA who was licensed or relicensed for the period 2004-2005 in Vermont, and who provided patient care hours in Vermont (not as locum tenens) as reported in the survey, is considered an active physician assistant.

Physician assistants not represented in these tables

Only *active* PAs are reported. Those who hold a Vermont license but are not actively in practice are excluded from all tables.

Specialties

Physician assistants reported their specialties using a predefined list. See Table 13 for the exact specialties reported. For the the rest of the tables the detailed specialties were grouped in the following way:

Primary Care

- Family Practice includes general practice, family practice, and geriatric medicine.
- Internal Medicine includes general internal medicine and geriatric internal medicine.
- Pediatrics includes pediatric primary care as well as adolescent medicine.
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) includes physician assistants who reported a solely gynecological practice or a solely obstetrical practice, along with those who reported both obstetrics and gynecology.

Specialty Care

- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Internal Medicine includes several internal medicine subspecialties
- General Surgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Other Surgery includes most other (non-orthopedic) surgical specialties, such as general vascular surgery, abdominal surgery, cardiovascular surgery, colon and rectal surgery, neurological surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care, thoracic surgery, and traumatic surgery.
- Urology
- Other Specialties includes all specific specialties that are not included in the above specialty groups.

Note that some specialty groups that were reported separately in previous surveys are now included in "Other Specialties" (Anesthesiology and Psychiatry), while some other specialty groups are now reported separately (Dermatology and Urology). This was done to reflect the prevalence of the specialty groups as it changes over time. See Table 13 for the full list of detailed specialties reported.

Determination of a physician assistant’s main specialty

A PA’s “main” specialty is the specialty group in which the PA works the most hours. In case of a tie (equal hours reported in two specialties), the specialty group listed first in the above list is chosen. This has the effect of choosing primary care over specialty care, and more specific specialties over the “other specialties” category, in case of a tie.

Definition of Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Reported hours per week were prorated based on the number of work weeks per year. Full time is defined as 40 patient care hours per week or more, for 48 weeks per year. Reported hours per week were adjusted to an annual average, based on a standard of 48 weeks per year. E.g., if 52 weeks were reported, the hours were multiplied by 52/48. A physician reporting more than 40 (adjusted) hours per week is defined as *one* FTE regardless of the number of hours. See the following examples:

		<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Example 1:	Primary Care	48	10	0.25
	Specialty Care	48	10	0.25
	Total		20	0.50
Example 2:	Primary Care	52	10	0.27
	Specialty Care	52	10	0.27
	Total		20	0.54
Example 3:	Primary Care	52	20	0.50
	Specialty Care	52	20	0.50
	Total		40	1.00
Example 4:	Primary Care	48	35	0.50
	Specialty Care	24	70	0.50
	Total		70	1.00

In the first example, the physician assistant works half-time and has hours split equally between primary and specialty care. The second example is similar except for the number of weeks being more than 48 so the FTEs are adjusted upwards. The pattern is the same in Example 3, except the hours total 40 for 1.0 FTE, and the adjustment for 52 weeks does not matter since the total FTE for a person is never more than 1.0. In the fourth example the physician assistant spends an average of 70 hours per week in patient care: 35 hours of primary care every week, and 70 hours of specialty care in each of only 24 weeks per year. This is calculated as 1.0 FTE total, and 0.5 FTE for each of primary care and specialty care.

Hospital Service Areas

The Hospital Service Areas (HSAs) in this report are different from both the HSAs and the Health Care Areas in the reports from previous surveys. Hospital Service Areas (HSAs) in this report are as redefined in 2004. The 2004 version are based on inpatient discharges where the diagnosis indicates the need for immediate care, for the years 1997-2001. Unlike previous versions, all Vermont towns have been assigned to a Vermont HSA. The name of each HSA is based on the most populous town in that service area. For a map of these new HSAs see Appendix F.

Area Health Education Centers

The Area Health Education Center regions (AHECs) are defined as groups of counties: The Champlain Valley AHEC includes Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties. The Northeast Vermont AHEC includes Caledonia, Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, and Washington counties. The Southern Vermont AHEC includes Bennington, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor counties.

Determination of a physician assistant's main County (or other area)

Main county is the county in which the physician assistant practices the greatest number of patient care hours. Similarly for main hospital service area, etc.

Numerical precision

Most numbers are displayed in finite precision in that they are individually rounded. Thus, some rows or columns of numbers may not add exactly to the displayed total (to the last, rightmost digit). This applies to FTEs, percentages and hours, for example, whether the numerals displayed are decimal or whole numbers. Counts of physician assistants are exact integers, however, and should add up to displayed totals.

Tables displaying each physician assistant in a single cell vs. multiple-count tables

Most of the tables contain information that is individual-based (e.g., age, sex, and board certification). Each PA is represented in only one cell in the table. Those with more than one specialty, or more than one practice site or setting, are counted only in the row and column representing their main specialty, main setting, or main practice location.

Other tables count some PAs in more than one row or column, e.g., in every county the PA works in, and thus the numbers in the "total" row or column may be less than the sum of the rows or columns. Wherever this is the case, it is stated in the notes specific to that table.

Appendix B. Notes for specific tables

1. **Calculation of Age**

Ages are calculated as of 1/31/2004, based on the date of birth. For example, a person born during January 1960, or on any date in 1959 after January, is considered 44 years old. Tables that refer to age in 2002 are based on ages as of 1/31/2002.

2. **“Main” Specialty and “Main” County determined independently**

Each physician assistant’s main practice specialty, and main county of practice, are determined independently, and used to determine the row and column in the table in which this physician assistant will be counted. Secondary specialties and counties are ignored. A physician assistant may practice their main specialty primarily in a county other than their main overall county, but that is ignored in this table.

(note 3 skipped intentionally)

4. **Notes regarding tables listing physician assistant Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and Hours by County or by other geographical areas:**

These tables count each physician assistant who provides primary and/or specialty care in that county or area. The same physician assistant may be counted in more than one town, more than one area, and in both the “primary” and “specialty” columns.

Because of this inclusive approach taken in tallying physician assistant across many practice locations, the numbers in the “Total” rows and “Total” columns will generally be less than the sum of the individual rows and columns. This applies to the area totals which sum the town-level physician assistant counts, the state totals which sum the area-level counts, and the “Total” of primary and secondary care combined. Unlike the totals for the counts of physician assistants, however, the numbers listed in the “Total” rows and “Total” columns for the “FTE” and “Hours” statistics *do* equal the sums of the individual items (except for rounding error).

See also Note 22 regarding the calculation of weekly hours and FTEs.

(notes 5 and 6 skipped intentionally)

7. **Population Estimates**

2004 population estimates are for July 1, 2004, as released by the Census Bureau in June 2005. In the table (on page 4) reporting such ratios from previous surveys, the 2002 population data are as prepared for the VT Department of Health by Claritas, Inc., and 2000 population data are 2000 Census numbers. After the 2000 Census, estimates for 1991-1999 were revised to better reflect actual population trends.

These revised intercensal estimates were used in the comparison table on page 4, and will not match reports published prior to 2001.

(notes 8 and 9 skipped intentionally)

10. **Notes regarding Availability of Care**

The survey form allowed the physician assistant to answer the “availability” questions (e.g., whether they accept new patients) separately for each site.

In the table depicting availability of care by specialty, each provider is counted once, in his or her main specialty. A provider is counted as accepting new patients if they accept new patients at any site, and as participating in Medicaid or Medicare if they participate at any site. This is different from the analogous table in previous reports, which counted all sites of each provider.

In the table depicting availability of care by county, the unit of counting is neither the provider nor the site, but rather the provider - site association. More than one response per provider is tabulated if that provider reported working at more than one site. Each site of each provider is tabulated under the specialty reported, whether or not that is the provider’s main specialty. This is the same method as used in previous reports. The numbers in the summary on page 4 are from here.

The following specialties are excluded from the “accept Medicare patients” statistic (both numerator and denominator): all pediatric specialties (including adolescent medicine), maternal and fetal medicine, reproductive endocrinology, and child and adolescent psychiatry.

11. **Practice settings included**

Unlike reports from surveys prior to 2004, where only office-based settings were counted, in this report all settings are included. This is due to the way providers were asked about settings, which did not allow a distinction between hospital-affiliated outpatient offices and hospital inpatient services. The inclusion of all settings did not seem to make much of a difference in the computed percentages accepting new patients. Nevertheless, these percentages are not precisely comparable with the previous surveys.

(notes 12 through 21 skipped intentionally)

22. **Patient Care Hours**

"Full Time" is defined here as 40 (or more) hours of direct patient care per week, for 48 or more weeks per year, in Vermont. Average weekly hours (and FTEs), based on 48 weeks per year, were computed for providers who reported working more or less than 48 weeks per year. This results in fractional hours, and rounding errors may affect the displayed hours. Thus, in some cases the hours in the "total" columns differ, usually by one hour, from the totals of the hours displayed in the detail columns. Some providers provide additional patient care outside Vermont (not listed), or do some other types of work besides direct patient care.

APPENDIX C: QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE 2004 PA SURVEY

Certificate number (*separate survey form for each certificate*)

First name

Last name

Gender

Daytime phone number

Date of birth

Type of exam: NCCPA / State / Other

Basis for certification: Apprenticeship / University

Hospital privileges? Y/N

Year started practice in VT

Practice in VT in last 12 months? Y/N

Licensed specialty

Total no of supervising physicians

Year started practice

Town of primary practice setting

State of primary practice setting

Participate in Medicaid? Y/N

Accept new Medicaid patients? Y/N

Active in clinical practice in VT? Y/N

First town of practice

Practice setting, one of the following:

Community Based

Hospital Based

School / College

Business / Worksite

Extended Care

Other

Work here as locum tenens? Y/N

Have medicaid patients here? Y/N

Have medicare patients here? Y/N

Accept new patients here? Y/N

Accept new medicaid patients here? Y/N

Accept new medicare patients here? Y/N

Weeks per year here

First specialty (*see codes, Appendix D*)

Hours per week in first specialty

Second specialty (*see codes, Appendix D*)

Hours per week in second specialty

Plan to reduce hours here? Y/N

(Similar questions about additional sites)

SPECIALTY CODES

(primary care specialties in boldface)

0101 Allergy and Immunology	1001 Nuclear Medicine
0102 Clinical & Laboratory Immunology	
	1101 Obstetrics & Gynecology
0201 Anesthesiology	1102 Critical Care Medicine
0202 Critical Care Medicine	1103 Gynecologic Oncology
0203 Pain Management	1104 Maternal & Fetal Medicine
	1105 Reproductive Endocrinology
0301 Colon & Rectal Surgery	
	1201 Ophthalmology
0401 Dermatology	
0402 Dermatopathology	1301 Orthopaedic Surgery
0403 Clinical & Laboratory Dermatology	1302 Hand Surgery
0404 Dermatological Immunology	
	1401 Otolaryngology
0501 Emergency Medicine	1402 Otolaryngology/Neurotology
0502 Medical Toxicology	1403 Pediatric Otolaryngology
0503 Pediatric Emergency Medicine	
0504 Sports Medicine	1501 Anatomic & Clinical Pathology
	1502 Anatomic Pathology
0601 Family Practice	1503 Clinical Pathology
0602 Geriatric Medicine	1504 Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
0603 Sports Medicine	1505 Chemical Pathology
	1506 Cytopathology
0701 Internal Medicine	1507 Dermatopathology
0702 Adolescent Medicine	1508 Forensic Pathology
0703 Cardiac Electrophysiology	1509 Hematology
0704 Cardiovascular Disease	1510 Immunopathology
0705 Critical Care Medicine	1511 Medical Microbiology
0706 Clinical & Laboratory Immunology	1512 Neuropathology
0707 Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism	1513 Pediatric Pathology
0708 Gastroenterology	
0709 Geriatric Medicine	1601 Pediatrics
0710 Hematology	1602 Adolescent Medicine
0711 Infectious Disease	1603 Clinical & Laboratory Immunology
0712 Medical Oncology	1604 Medical Toxicology
0713 Nephrology	1605 Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
0714 Pulmonary Disease	1606 Pediatric Cardiology
0715 Rheumatology	1607 Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
0716 Sports Medicine	1608 Pediatric Emergency Medicine
	1609 Pediatric Endocrinology
0801 Medical Genetics	1610 Pediatric Gastroenterology
0802 Clinical Biochemical Genetics	1611 Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
0803 Clinical Biochemical/Molecular Genetics	1612 Pediatric Infectious Disease
0804 Clinical Cytogenetics	1613 Pediatric Nephrology
0805 Clinical Genetics (Md)	1614 Pediatric Pulmonology
0806 Clinical Molecular Genetics	1615 Pediatric Rheumatology
	1616 Pediatric Sports Medicine
0901 Neurological Surgery	1617 Children With Special Health Needs
0902 Critical Care Medicine	

CODES CONTINUED ON BACK

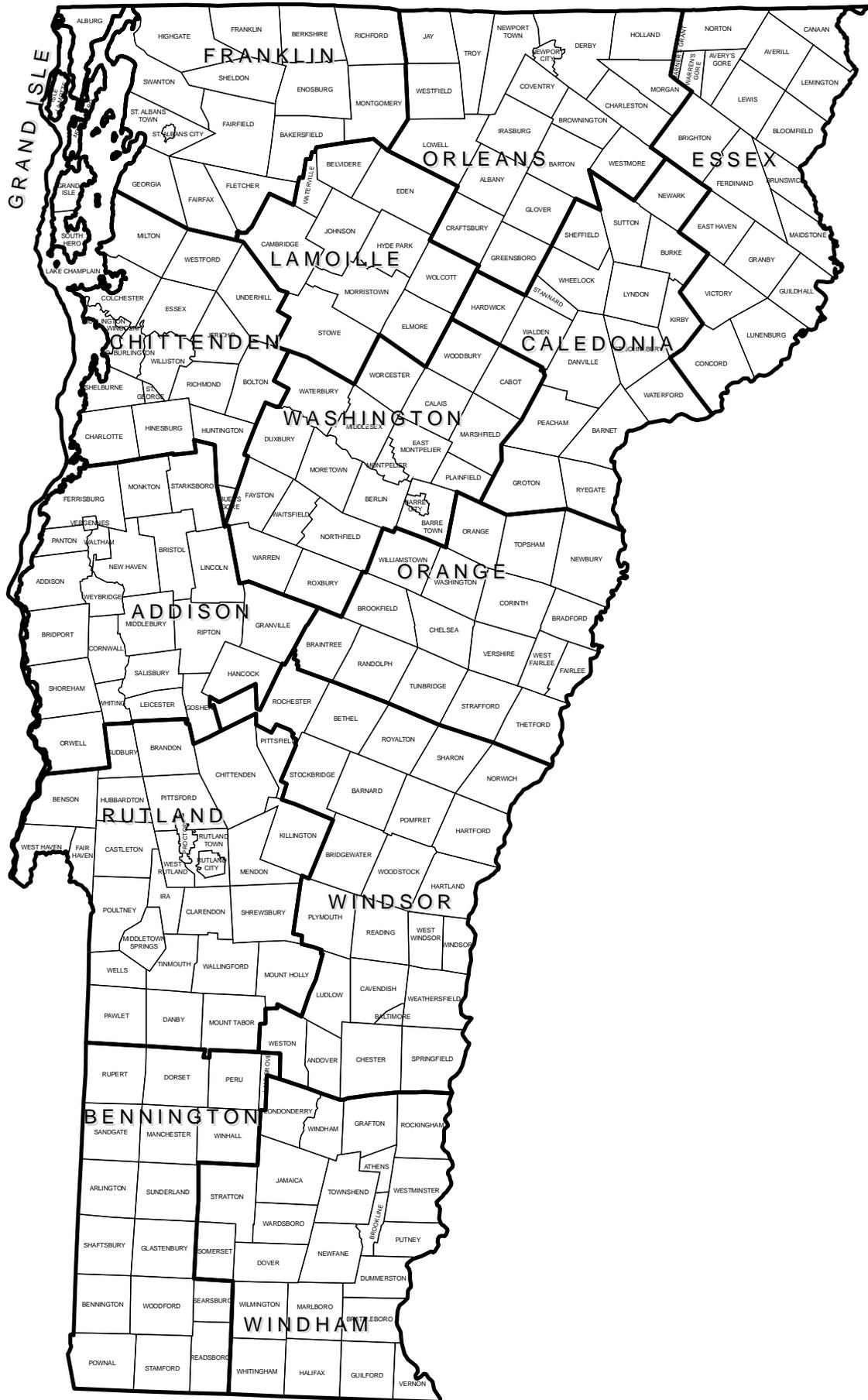
SPECIALTY CODES

(primary care specialties in boldface)

1701 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	4001 Abdominal Surgery
1801 Plastic Surgery	4002 Acupuncture
1802 Hand Surgery	4003 Addiction Medicine
	4004 Adult Reconstructive Orthopedics
	4005 Allergy
1901 Preventive Medicine	
1902 Aerospace Medicine	4006 Cardiovascular Surgery
1903 Occupational Medicine	4007 Clinical Pharmacology
1904 Public Health & General Preventive	4008 Diabetes
1905 Medical Toxicology	
1906 Underseas Medicine	4009 Facial Plastic Surgery
Psychiatry & Neurology	4010 General Practice
(Board Name - Not A Specialty)	4011 Gynecology
2001 Psychiatry	4012 Head & Neck Surgery
2002 Neurology	4013 Hepatology
2003 Neurology With Special Qualifications	4014 Homeopathic Medicine
In Child Neurology	4015 Immunology
2004 Addiction Psychiatry	4016 Legal Medicine
2005 Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	4017 Musculoskeletal Oncology
2006 Forensic Psychiatry	4018 Neuroradiology
2007 Geriatric Psychiatry	4019 Nutrition
2008 Clinical Neurophysiology	
	4020 Obstetrics
2101 Radiology	4021 Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
2102 Diagnostic Radiology	4022 Orthopedic Surgery Of The Spine
2103 Radiation Oncology	4023 Orthopedic Trauma
2104 Radiological Physics	4024 Pain Medicine
2105 Nuclear Radiology	4025 Pediatric Allergy
2106 Pediatric Radiology	4026 Pediatric Ophthalmology
2107 Vascular & Interventional Radiology	4027 Pediatric Orthopedics
	4028 Pediatric Surgery (Neurology)
2201 Surgery	4029 Pediatric Urology
2202 Surgery Of The Hand	4030 Psychoanalysis
2203 Pediatric Surgery	4031 Radioisotopic Pathology
2204 Surgical Critical Care	4032 Sports Medicine (Orthopedic Surgery)
2205 General Vascular Surgery	4033 Traumatic Surgery
	4034 Sleep Medicine
2301 Thoracic Surgery	
2401 Urology	9001 Rotating Internship (Residency)
3201 General Osteopathic Medicine	9999 Other - Please Specify

CODES CONTINUED ON FRONT

Vermont Town and County Boundaries



**Hospital Service Areas (HSAs)
Based on 1997-2001 Immediate Care Inpatient Discharges**

