

Health Care Professionals

2000 Survey Highlights

The information contained in this report is based on the records of all physicians who reported being in active patient care practice in Vermont during 2000. It includes primary care physicians (MD and DO) and physician specialists as in previous reports. It does not include medical residents and fellows.

Summary Data

- In 2000, a total of 1,480 physicians responded to the survey, 1,137 Medical Doctors and 43 Doctors of Osteopathy
- 39.6% report that they practice mainly in 1° care

Primary Care Physicians

- Statewide, there were 78 full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care physicians per 100,000 people in 2000. This is up from 71 FTE physicians per 100,000 people in 1992 and at the suggested average of 78.¹
- There was a net increase of 22 FTE primary care physicians between 1998 and 2000. This includes 19 additional physicians who practice mainly in primary care and 12 additional physician specialists who provide primary care.
- Vermont continues to make slow but steady progress in increasing the number of physicians available to provide primary care.
- In 2000, five counties had an adequate physician-to-population ratio. Four counties, had a limited need. Five counties had a severe shortage of primary care physicians.¹

¹ **Estimates of need:** The estimates of physician workforce requirements established by the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee (GMENAC, Reference number 1) are used as the basis for determining needs and making projections regarding physicians in this report.

Primary Care Physicians

By County

Physician to Population Ratio

In 2000, a total of 585 primary care physicians were in practice in Vermont.

Statewide, there were 78 full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care physicians per 100,000 people in 2000. This is up from 71 FTE physicians per 100,000 people in 1992 meeting the suggested average of 78.

Severe Need – by County

A total of five counties had a severe shortage of primary care physicians in 2000:

Essex	Caledonia	Franklin
Orange	Grand Isle	

Limited Need – by County

Four counties had an inadequate supply of primary care physicians.

Addison	Washington	Rutland
Orleans		

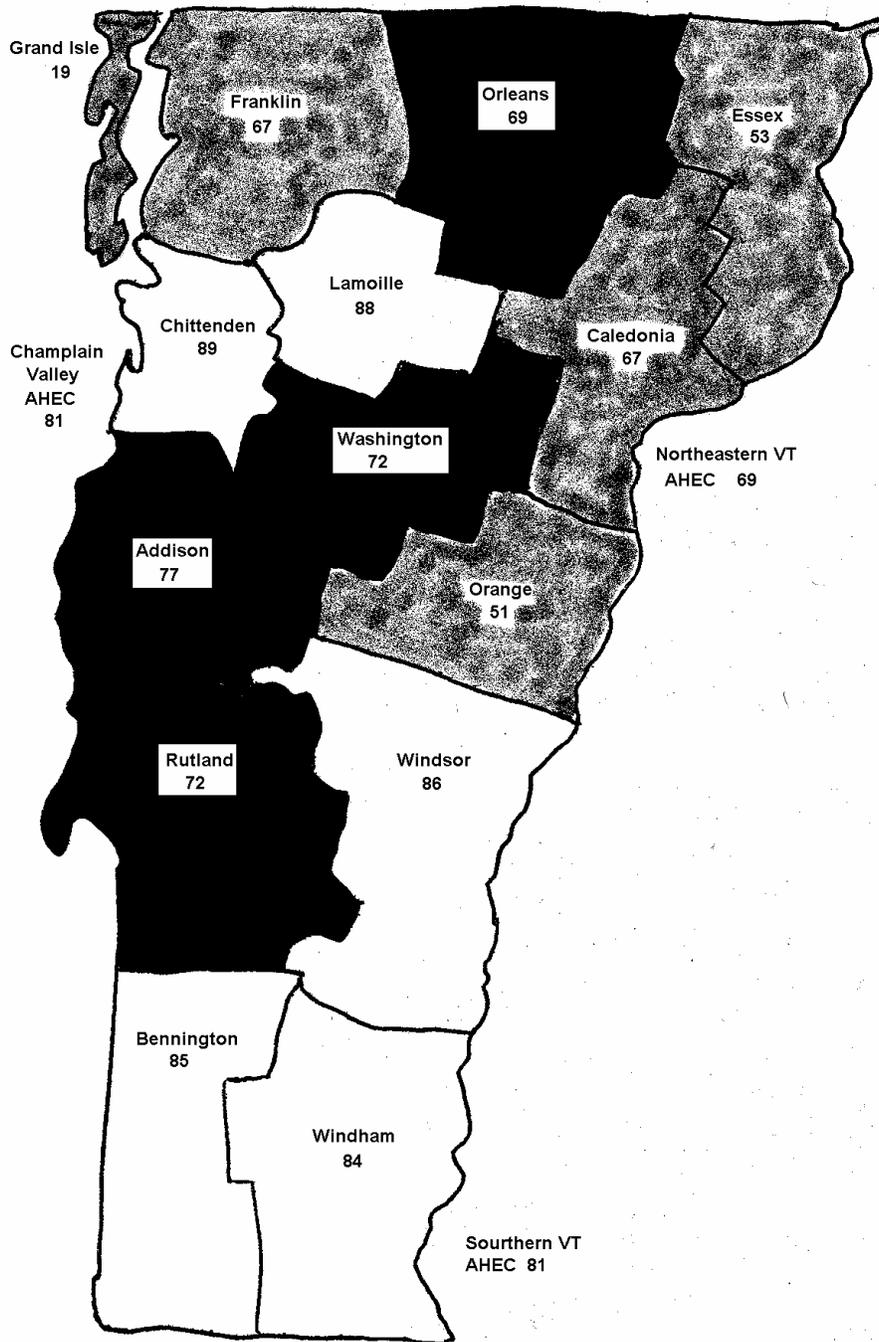
Adequate Supply – by County

Five counties had an adequate physician to population ratio:

Lamoille	Bennington	Chittenden
Windsor	Windham	

Primary Care Physician to Population Ratio by County & Area Health Education Center • 2000

Statewide: 78 per 100,000 population



Suggested average: 78 per 100,000 population

 = **Severe Need**
≤ 67 per 100,000

 = **Limited Need**
68-77 per 100,000

 = **Adequate Supply**
78 or more per 100,000

Primary Care Physicians

By Health Care Area

Severe Need – by Health Care

In 2000, four Health Care Areas continue to have a severe shortage. This is the same as 2000.

Central VT	Northwestern	Gifford
Northeastern		

Limited Need – by Health Care Area

Four Health Care Areas had an inadequate supply:

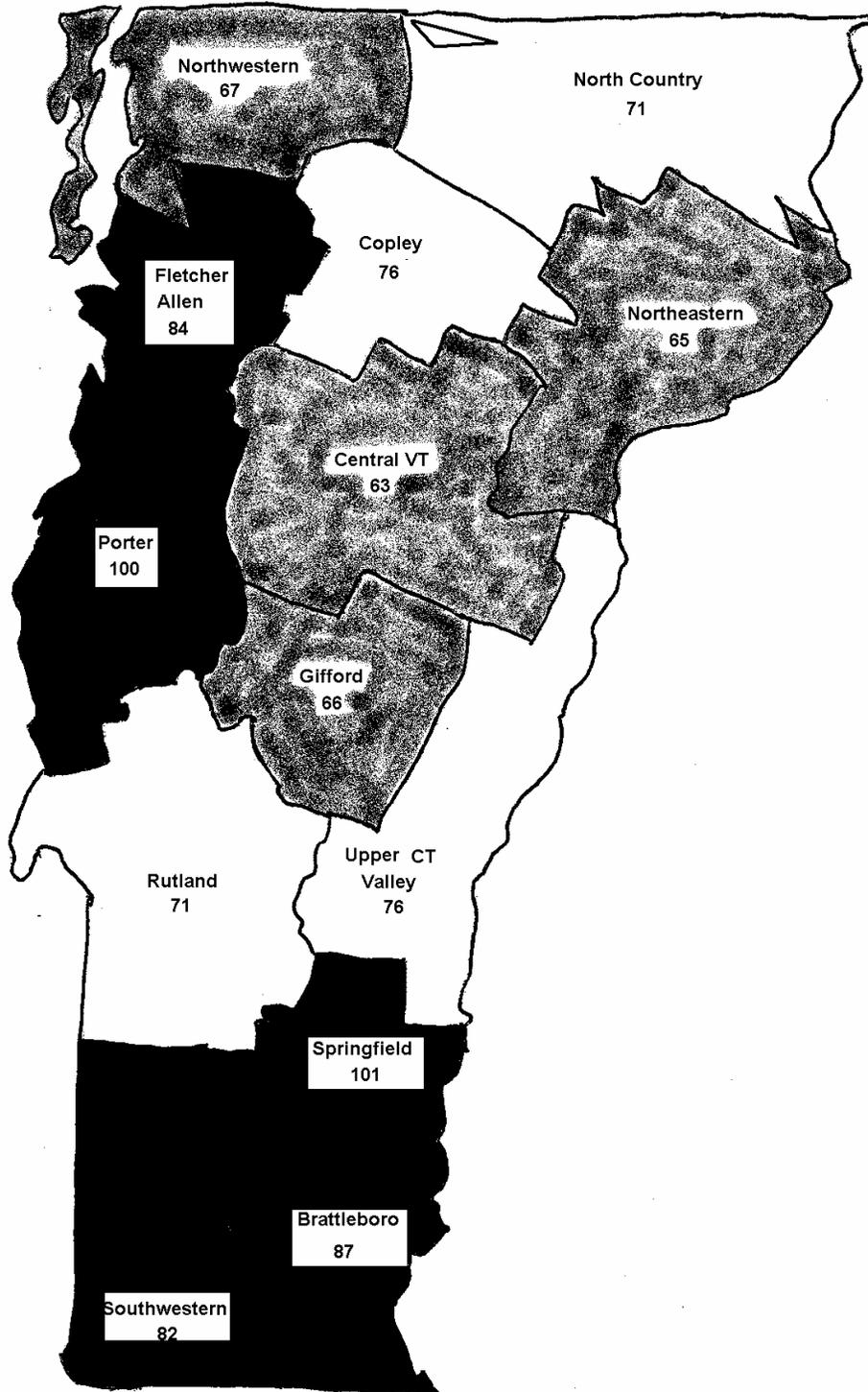
Copley	North Country	Upper CT Valley
Rutland		

Adequate Supply – by Health Care Area

Five Health Care Areas had an adequate physician to population ratio:

Fletcher Allen	Porter	Springfield
Brattleboro	Southwestern	

Primary Care Physician to Population Ratio by Health Care Area • 2000



Statewide: 78 per 100,000 population
Suggested average: 78 per 100,000 population

= **Severe Need**
≤ 67 per 100,000

= **Limited Need**
68-78 per 100,000

= **Adequate Supply**
78 or more per 100,000

Specialty Care Physicians

By Health Care Area

Specialist to Population Ratio

In 2000, a total of 895 specialty care physicians, which includes 42 pathologists, worked in Vermont. Statewide, there were 110 full-time equivalent (FTE) specialty care physicians per 100,000 people. (This does not include pathologists.) The suggested average is 78 to 95 per 100,000 population.

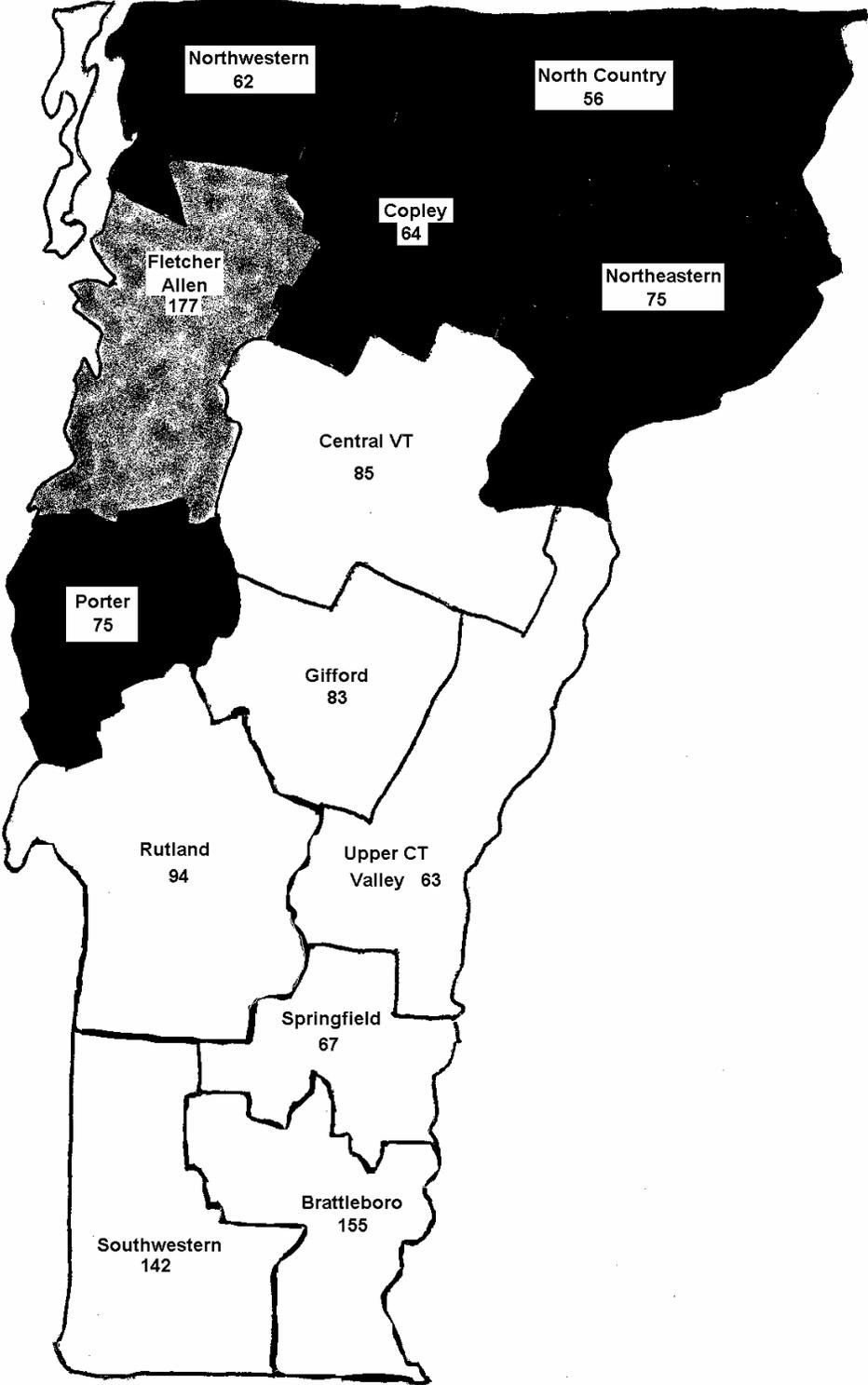
Distribution of Specialists

Distribution of specialists is closely related to the size and nature of the local hospital. Approximately 47 percent of the entire specialty care FTEs practice in the Fletcher Allen Health Care Area and in the Upper Connecticut Valley Health Care Area (which includes Dartmouth-Hitchcock specialists with Vermont practice sites).

38 percent of the entire specialist FTEs are located in the seven health care areas where the daily hospital census averages 30 to 150 patients (Rutland, Central VT, Springfield Southwestern, Brattleboro, Upper CT Valley , and Gifford). The remainder is located in the five health care areas where the average daily census is 30 patients or less.

Specialist to Population Ratio by Health Care Area • 2000

Statewide: 110 per 100,000 population



Suggested average: 78-95 per 100,000 population

 = more than 150 patients/day

 = 30-150 patients/day

 = fewer than 30 patients/day

Specialty Care Physicians

By Specialty

Physician to Population Ratio, by Specialty

Average per 100,000 population compared to suggested average for each of the specialties:

PRIMARY CARE	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	Suggested Average
Family Practice	29.3	28.1	30.2	31.8	34.7	32
Internal Medicine	19.5	20.1	21.2	21.1	21.1	28
OB/Gynecology	9.3	8.7	9.2	8.6	8.8	9
Pediatrics	12.7	12.7	12.7	13.5	12.9	11
SPECIALTY CARE						
General Surgery	8.3	7.0	7.0	5.6	5.9	11
Adult Psychiatry	14.3	14.2	15.3	15.9	16.1	33
Child Psychiatry	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.5	13

Note: only the reported specialty 'child and adolescent psychiatry' is included in the 'Child Psychiatry' line here. Any care provided to children as part of a practice reported under the general 'Psychiatry' specialty is included here in 'Adult Psychiatry', as are the specialties 'addiction psychiatry' and 'geriatric psychiatry'.

Primary Care Specialties include Family Practice, General Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics.

Specialty Care includes Surgery, Specialized Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology, Psychiatry, Radiology, and others.

Primary Care Physicians

Age & Gender

Age

Approximately nine percent of Vermont's primary care physicians are under age 35, compared to six percent in 1998.

Eleven percent of both primary care and specialty care physicians are over the age of 60 and may retire within the next few years. This is unchanged since 1994.

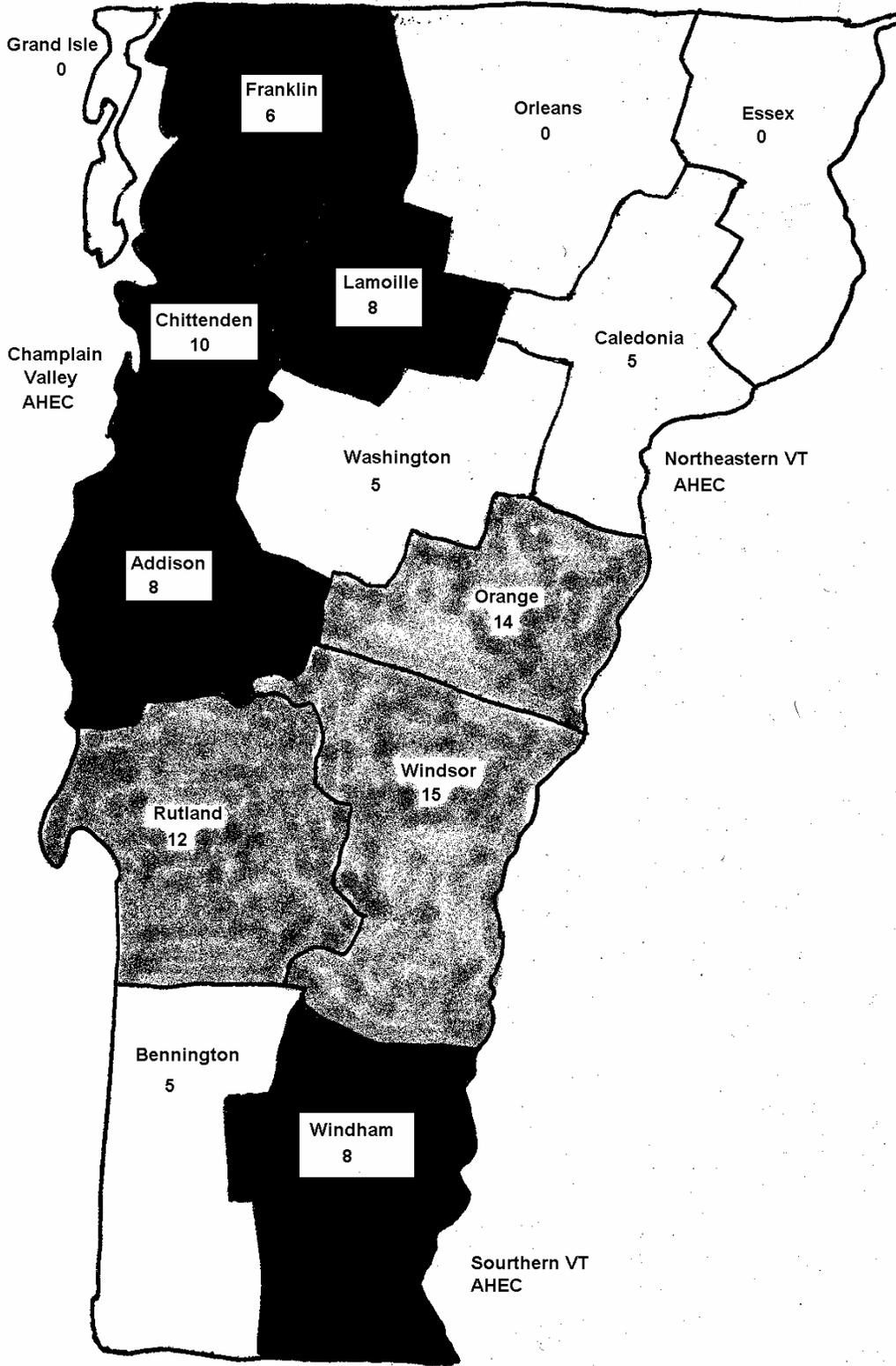
The percentage of primary care physicians over age 60 varies from zero in Essex, Grand Isle, and Orleans counties to 15 percent in Windsor County. In three more counties, at least 10 percent of primary care physicians are over age 60.

Gender

Twenty-six percent of all physicians are women, up from 20 percent in 1992, 22 percent in 1994 and 1996, and 24 percent in 1998. 35.4 percent of primary care physicians and 20.7 percent of specialty care physicians are women.

Percentage of Primary Care Physicians over Age 60 by County & Area Health Education Center • 2000

Statewide: 9



 = 11 - 15 %

 = 6 - 10 %

 = 0 - 5 %

Primary & Specialty Care Physicians

Patient Care Hours

Average Work Week

Physicians in Vermont, both primary care and specialty care, average 38 patient care hours per week, plus 7 additional hours of administration, research, teaching, and other duties.

Average Work Week, by Specialty

(# of hours in patient care)

	1994	1996	1998	2000
All Primary Care	42	41	39	39
All Specialty Care	40	37	39	38
Anesthesia	55	51	52	48
General Surgery	-	48	47	46
Internal Medicine	35	33	35	38
Emergency	33	29	33	32
Psychiatry	29	30	35	35

Patient Care Hours per Week • 2000 Percentage of Vermont Physicians

< 30 hours
27%

30-39 hours
16%

40+ hours
57%

Statewide Average: 38 hours

Note: Hours shown reflect only hours spent in patient care; work hours/work week does not reflect time spent on call, doing charts or administrative functions, in research, teaching, etc. Therefore, a physician's total work hours are higher than are shown here.

Primary & Specialty Care Physicians

Availability of Services

Primary Care – Family Practice

	1998	2000
Percent of sites accepting new patients	85	79
Percent of sites accepting new Medicaid patients	76	70
Percent of sites accepting new Medicare patients	80	78

Primary Care – Internal Medicine

	1998	2000
Percent of sites accepting new patients	81	62
Percent of sites accepting new Medicaid patients	73	51
Percent of sites accepting new Medicare patients	78	58

Primary Care – Pediatrics

	1998	2000
Percent of sites accepting new patients	92	97
Percent of sites accepting new Medicaid patients	92	97
Percent of sites accepting new Medicare patients	NA	NA

Primary Care – OB/G

	1998	2000
Percent of sites accepting new patients	100	93
Percent of sites accepting new Medicaid patients	98	90
Percent of sites accepting new Medicare patients	98	91

Specialty Care – Overall

	1998	2000
Percent of sites accepting new patients	97	97
Percent of sites accepting new Medicaid patients	92	91
Percent of sites accepting new Medicare patients	95	95

Practice Sites

In 2000, 96 percent of office practice sites expected to continue operating for the next year.

One or more primary care practice sites were expected to close within the year in Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties.

Primary & Specialty Care Physicians

Trends

Physician Count

The total number of physicians (primary care and specialty care) in Vermont has increased by 290 since 1992:

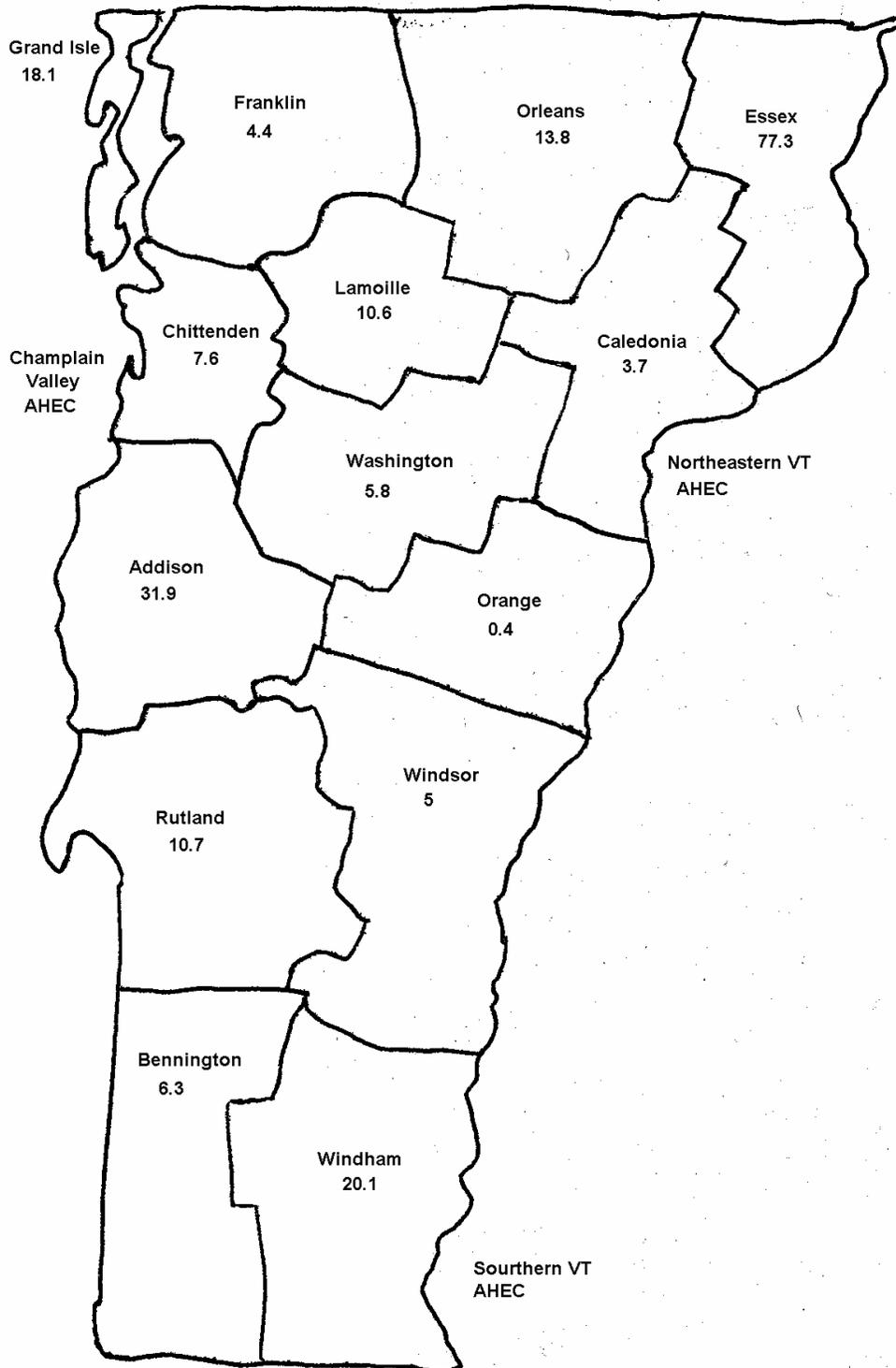
1992	...	1,190
1994	...	1,204
1996	...	1,384
1998	...	1,410
2000	...	1,480

Primary Care Physician to Population Ratio

The ratio of full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care physicians to 100,000 people has increased from 71 in 1992 to 78 in 2000.

The largest increase was in Essex County, with a 77 percent increase in the number of FTE physicians per 100,000 people. Orange County's physician to population ratio increased by only 0.4 percent during the same period.

**% Increase - Primary Care Physician to Population Ratio
by County & Area Health Education Center • 1992-2000**
Statewide: 9.6 increase



Primary & Specialty Care Physicians

Tenure & Turnover

Between 1998 and 2000, a total of 263 physicians began practice in the state and 193 left practice.

	Began	Left
Primary Care	95	56
Specialty Care	168	137

New Primary Care Physicians

There was a net increase of 22 full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care physicians between 1998 and 2000. This includes 19 additional physicians who practice mainly in primary care and 12 additional physician specialists who provide some primary care.

Among the primary care physicians who began practice in the state between 1998 and 2000, 44 percent are women and 35 percent are under the age of 35.

New Specialty Care Physicians

There was an increase of 37 physicians providing any specialty care and 39 who do mainly specialty care. There was an overall increase of 26 FTE specialty care physicians.

Tenure & Turnover

Primary care physicians who stay at least five years are most likely to continue in practice in Vermont until they near retirement age.

Training at the University of Vermont

	Doctors (Residents, Med. School, etc.) who reported there training site	Any Training in Vermont	
Primary Care	575	237	(41%)
Specialty Care	867	300	(35%)
Total	1,442	537	(37%)

In 2000, 537 of all physicians providing patient care graduated from UVM Medical School or did a residency with Fletcher Allen Health Care. Physician who did both are counted only once.