

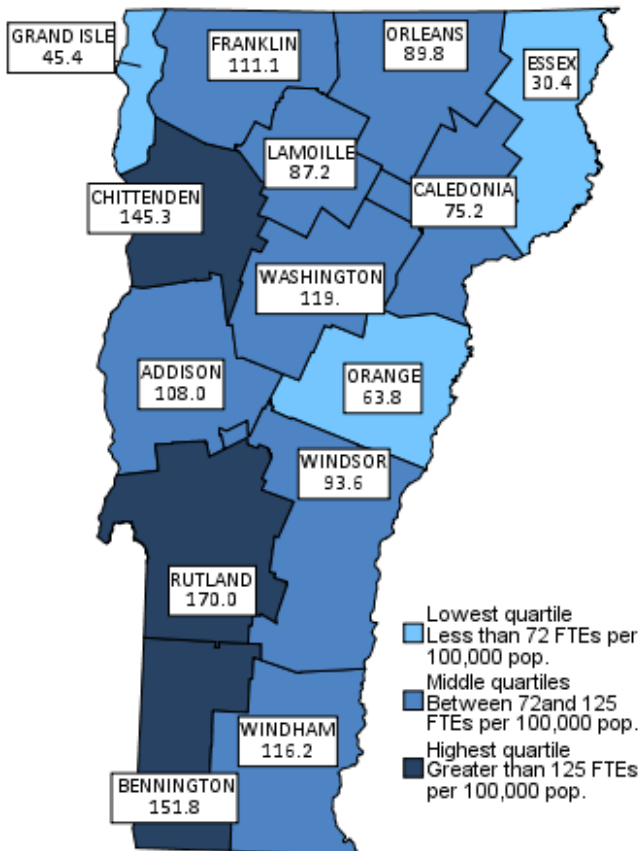
Overview

This pharmacy technician census is part of the Vermont Department of Health’s healthcare 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 2015 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.

Full Time Equivalents to 100,000 population ratio by county



In Brief

Workforce

Survey period – July 2015
 Response Rate: 98.2%
 Licenses renewed: 1073
 Active in VT: 968
 VT Full-time Equivalents: 746.8

Demographics

% Female: 78.2%
 Median Age: 42
 % 60 or older: 13.0%

Education and Training

% certificate /degree in pharm tech: 56.7%
 % educated in Northeast: 96.6%

Current Employment

% Working full-time at one site: 50.5%
 % Working at multiple sites: 2.6%
 % Planning to reduce hours: 2.6%
 % Planning to retire: 0.5%

Geographical Distribution

(Full time equivalents to 100,000 pop. ratio)
 Highest: 170.0, Rutland County
 Lowest: 30.4, Essex County

Workforce

- 1073 pharmacy technicians renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 1054 of them completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 98.2%
- Out of the 1054 respondents 968 (91.8%) indicated that they were active practicing pharmacy technicians in Vermont.
- Of the 86 respondents reporting a non-active status, 37 (43.0%) 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 968 pharmacy technicians who reported being actively working as a pharmacy technicians in Vermont.

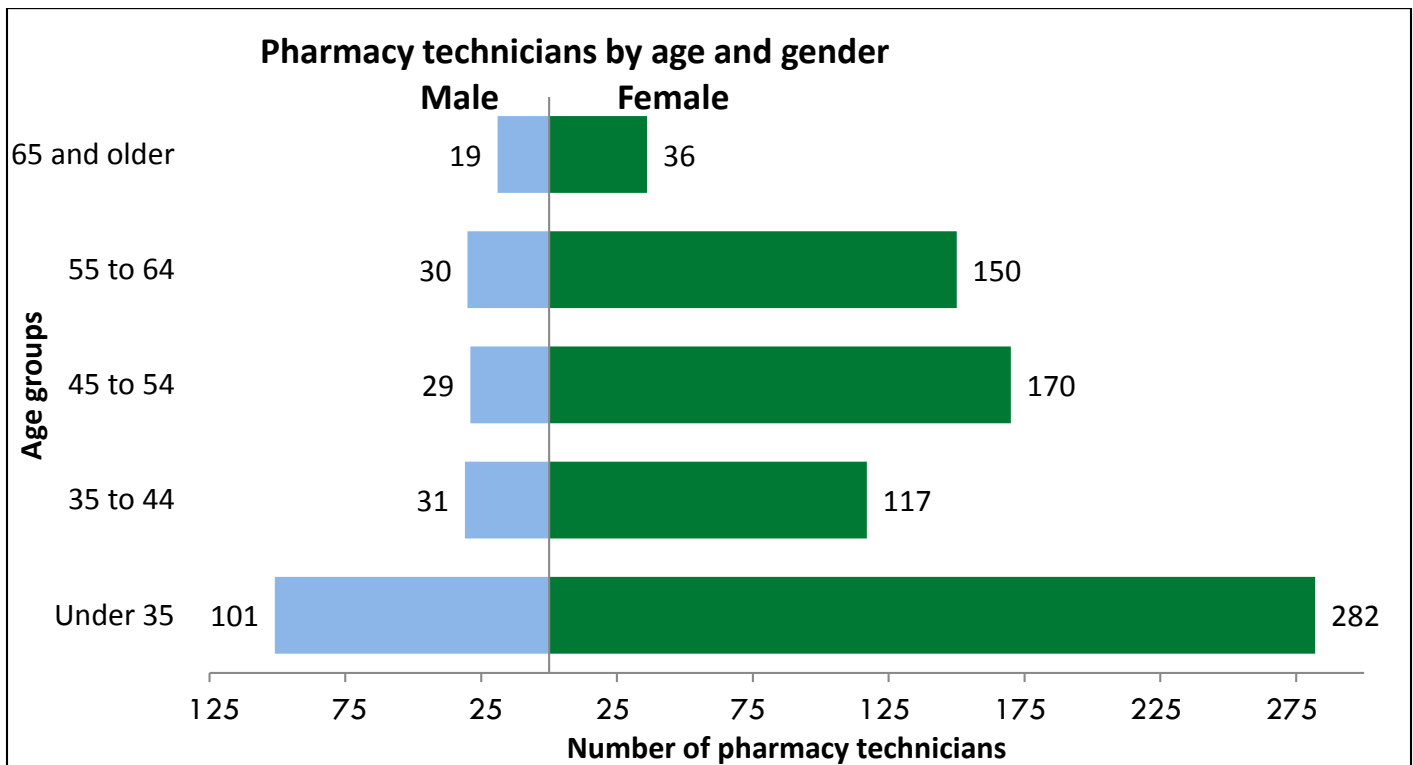
Demographics

Gender

- 78.2% (757) of active pharmacy technicians were female.
- 21.8% (211) of active pharmacy technicians were male.

Age

- 39.7% (383) of the pharmacy technicians were under 35.
- 36.0% (347) were between 35 and 54.
- 24.4% (235) were 55 and older.



Education

- 68.4% (630) of the technicians reported some type of pharmacy tech training including
 - 56.7% (522) – pharmacy technician certificate or degree in pharmacy tech
 - 7.7% (71) – on the job training or grandfathered status
 - 2.1% (19) – employer certificate
 - 2.0% (18) – currently in training
- 88.3% (666) of the technicians received their training in Vermont.

Region where training occurred	Number	Percent
Vermont	666	88.3%
Northeast, excluding VT	62	8.2%
South	12	1.6%
Central	6	0.8%
West	8	1.1%

Practice Characteristics

Number of practice sites

- 97.4% (943) pharmacy techs worked at a single practice site. 2.6% (25) worked at 2 or more sites.

Type of practice

- 74.6% (722) of pharmacy technicians worked in a retail setting. 18.8% (182) worked in a hospital.
- Hospitals and pharmacy chains with 4 or more stores hired a greater percentage of those with pharmacy technician training than did independent community pharmacies, supermarkets or box stores.

Pharmacy technician training by type of pharmacy	Some Pharmacy Technician Training	No Documented Pharmacy Technician Training	Total
Hospital	144 (83%)	30 (17%)	174
Large Community Pharmacy (4 or more stores)	263 (77%)	77 (23%)	340
Small Community Pharmacy (fewer than 4 stores)	126 (55%)	101 (45%)	227
Supermarket / Box Store Pharmacy	58 (49%)	61 (51%)	119
Other	39 (64%)	22 (36%)	61
Total *	630(68%)	291(32%)	921

* Missing data for 47 (5%) respondents

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

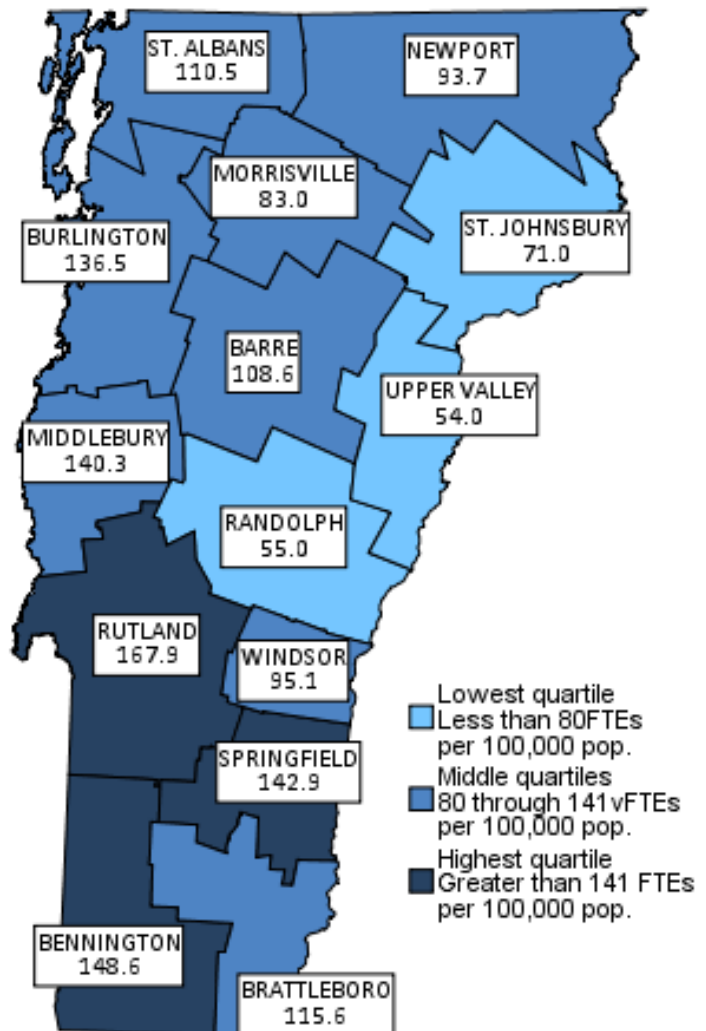
- 968 pharmacy techs provided 746.8 FTEs.
- Just over half, 52.2% (505), of pharmacy technicians worked 40 or more hours per week.

Hours Worked per Week	Number	Percent
40 or more	505	52.2
30 to 39	150	15.5
20 to 29	115	11.9
10 to 19	94	9.7
Under 10	103	10.7

- The average number of weekly hours worked by pharmacy technicians was 32.

Geographic Distribution

- 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, followed by Brattleboro and Springfield.
- Upper Valley, Randolph, and St. Johnsberry Health Care Areas had the lowest FTE ratios.



Current Experience and Future Plans

- Median years pharmacy techs had been licensed in Vermont was 5 years.
- 4.8% (44) of pharmacy techs had been licensed in Vermont for over 25 years.
- On average pharmacy technicians had been licensed for 6 years, with no age group having an average length in the profession of over 8 years.

Age	Years in profession
Under 35	3.9
35 to 44	7.4
45 to 54	7.2
55 to 64	8.1
65 and over	6.1

In the next 12 months

- 88.1% (840) planned to continue working as they had been.
- 4.5% (43) planned to increase their hours.
- 2.6% (25) planned to reduce their hours.
- 0.5% (5) planned to retire.

Observations

- Most pharmacy technicians are female.
- Although the average length of time pharmacy technicians had been in their role was 6 years, most technicians reported that they expected to continue in the field for the next 12 months.
- Most pharmacy technicians work in retail pharmacies.
- Those working in larger chains and hospitals are more likely to have some formal pharmacy technician training than those working in other settings.

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

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, 2105. The data include all licensed pharmacy technician except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May - July 2015), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of July 31, 2017. 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 2015 and were provided by the Department of Health.

2015 Licensed Pharmacy Technicians

States

States were 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.