

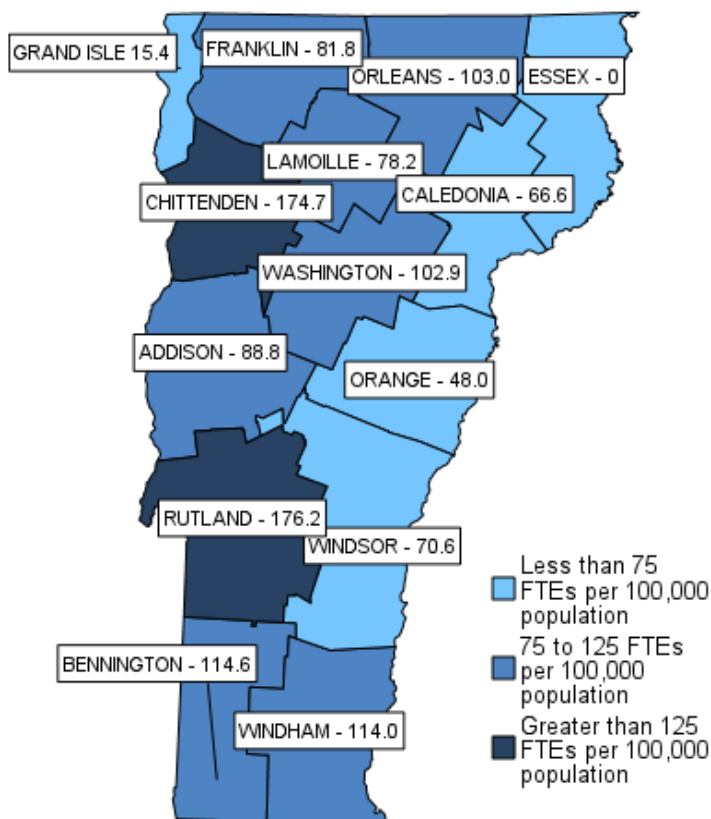
## Overview

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 was obtained during the July 2019 relicensing period and represents 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.

### Pharmacy Technician FTEs per 100,000 population by county



## In Brief

### Workforce

Survey period: July 2019  
Response Rate: 95.2%  
Licenses renewed: 1090  
Active in VT: 948  
VT Full-time Equivalents: 732.0

### Demographics

% Female: 77.2 %  
Median Age: 40  
% 60 or older: 17.6%

### Education and Training

% certificate in Pharm Tech: 45.9%  
% educated in Northeast: 97.8%

### Current Employment

% Working full-time hours at one site: 52.2%  
% Working at multiple sites: 3.2%  
% Planning to reduce hours: 2.9%  
% Planning to retire: 1.0%

### Geographic Distribution

(FTEs per 100,000 population)  
Highest: 176.2, Rutland County  
Lowest: No FTEs reported, Essex County

### Trends in Statewide FTEs

2015: 746.8  
2017: 750.6  
2019: 732.0

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.

## Workforce

- 1090 pharmacy technicians renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 1038 of these completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 95.2%
- Out of the 1038 respondents, 948 (91.3%) indicated they were active practicing pharmacy technicians in Vermont.
- Of the 90 respondents reporting a non-active status, 56 (62.2%) 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 948 pharmacy technicians who reported being actively working in Vermont.

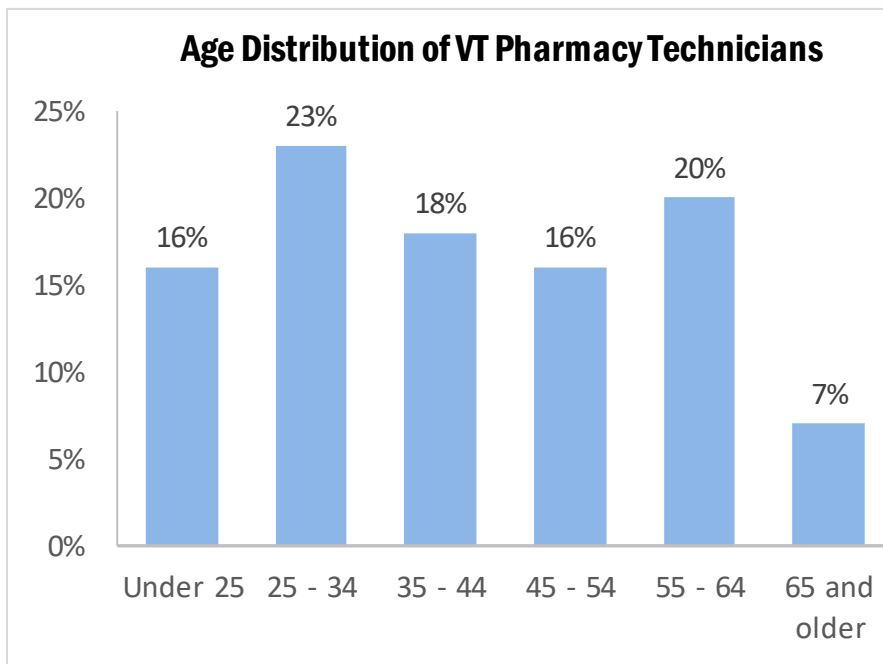
## Demographics

### Gender

- 77.2% of the pharmacy technicians in Vermont (731) were female.
- 22.3% (211) were male,
- 0.5% (5) reported other.

### Age

- 39.0% (370) were under 35 years of age.
- 33.1% (314) were between 35 and 54 years of age.
- 27.8% (264) were 55 years of age and older.



### Race and Ethnicity

- Respondents were asked to select their race and could select multiple responses or choose not to answer, therefore numbers may not equal the total number of pharmacy technicians.
- 865 pharmacist technicians were White (91.2%), 1.7% were Asian, 1.2% were Black, 0.5% were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and <0.5% were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. 10 pharmacy technicians selected another race that was not listed (1.1%), and 44 preferred not to answer (4.6%).
- 12 pharmacy technicians (1.3%) were Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin, and 891 (94.2%) were not. 45 pharmacy technicians preferred not to answer the question or were missing data for ethnicity.

## Education and Training

- 46.4% (440) had a pharmacy technician certificate or degree in pharmacy tech.
- 50.0% (474) had on-the-job training.
- 44.5% (417) were nationally certified as pharmacy technicians.
- Most of the 948 pharmacy technicians in Vermont in 2019 completed their degrees in the Northeast (97.8) as seen in the table.

Highest degree awarded in...	Number	Percent
Northeast	914	97.8%
Midwest	2	0.2%
South	11	1.2%
West	6	0.6%
Outside the U.S.	2	0.2%
* Missing data from 13 individuals		

## Practice Characteristics

### Number of sites

- 96.7% (917) of pharmacy technicians worked at a single practice site.
- 3.3% (31) worked at two or more sites.

### Practice Setting

- 69.7% (661) of pharmacy technicians worked in a retail setting.
- 21.1% (200) worked in a hospital.

Main Setting	Number	Percent
Independent Community Pharmacy (<4)	161	17.0%
Small Chain Community Pharmacy (4-8 stores)	39	4.1%
Large Chain Community Pharmacy (>10 stores)	354	37.3%
Mass Merchandiser (Big Box store)	25	2.6%
Supermarket Pharmacy	82	8.6%
Clinic-Based Pharmacy	12	1.3%
Hospital	200	21.1%
Nursing Home/Long-Term Care	35	3.7%
Compounding Pharmacy	28	3.0%
Other	12	1.3%

## Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)

- 948 pharmacy technicians provided 732.0 total FTEs.
- Over half, 52.2% (495), of pharmacy technicians worked 40 or more hours per week at their main work site.
- 120.1 FTEs, or 16.4% of total FTEs, were provided by 167 technicians aged 60 or older.

Average weekly hours - main site	Number	Percent
Less than 20 hours	181	19.1%
20 to 39 hours	272	28.7%
40 hours or more	495	52.2%

## Current Experience

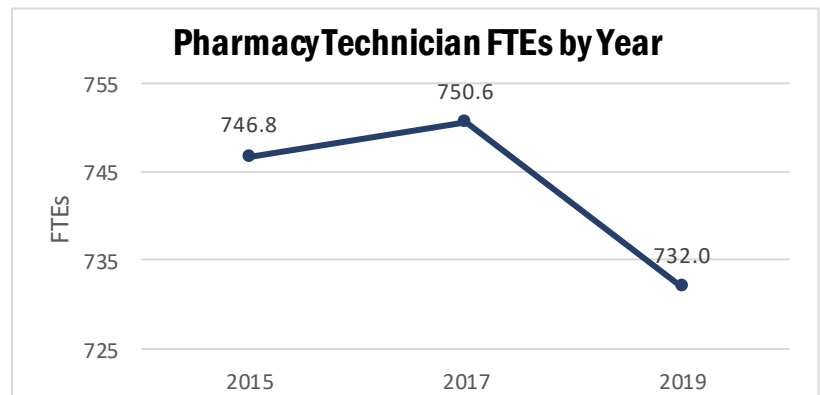
- The median time since first licensed as a pharmacy technician was 5 years – that is, half of pharmacy technicians received their license within the last 5 years.
- 5.6% (52) of pharmacy technicians started working in Vermont over 25 years ago.

## Future Plans

- 81.7% (774) planned to continue working as they had been in the next 12 months.
- 7.4% (70) planned to increase their hours in the next 12 months.
- 2.9% (27) planned to reduce their hours.
- 1.0% (9) planned to retire or seek a job in a different field.

## Trends in Statewide FTEs

- Pharmacy Technician FTEs decreased by 14.8 from 746.8 in 2015 to 732.0 in 2019.
- From 2017 to 2019, FTEs decreased by 18.6.



## Key Takeaways

- Pharmacy technicians in Vermont are predominately female and relatively young, with a median age of 40.
- The most common settings for pharmacy technicians are retail settings and hospitals.
- Relative to population, pharmacy technicians are most common in Rutland County and Chittenden County, followed by the southernmost counties.
- Pharmacy technicians saw a decrease in FTEs between 2015 and 2019 with most of the decrease occurring between 2017 and 2019.

For more information, contact: [AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov](mailto: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, 2019. The data include all licensed pharmacy technicians except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May - July 2019), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of July 31, 2021. 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.

### 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 approximate 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 2019 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 a pharmacy technician working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks), is 20.