

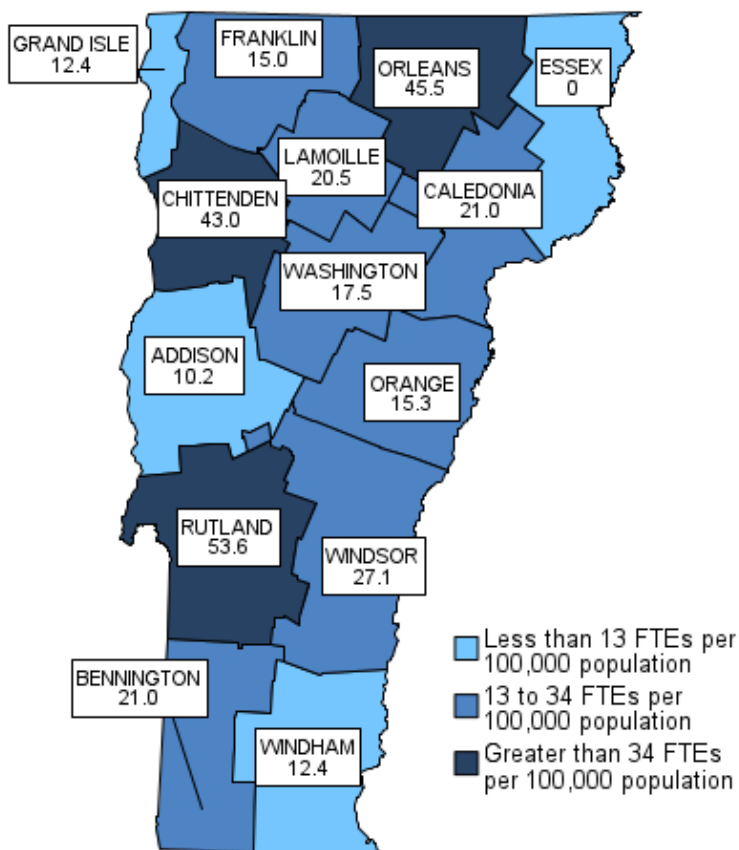
Overview

This Respiratory Therapists report is part of the Vermont Department of Health's health care provider data program, which is used to monitor and measure the supply of health care providers in Vermont over time.

Vermont professionals are relicensed every two years. Data for this report were obtained during the November 2020 relicensing period and represent a snapshot of the profession at that time.

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema, or from a short-term disease, such as pneumonia. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions.

Respiratory Therapist FTEs per 100,000 population by county



In Brief

Workforce

Survey period: November 2020
Response Rate: 99%
Licenses renewed: 346
Active in VT: 255
VT Full-time Equivalents: 185.8

Demographics

% Female: 63%
Median Age: 44
% 60 or older: 13%

Education and Training

% Associate or bachelor's degree: 94%
% Educated in Vermont: 54%
% Educated in Northeast: 86%

Main Specialties

Adult Acute Care: 63%
Home Care: 10%

Current Employment

Full-time at main site: 47%
Planning to increase hours: 4%
Planning to decrease hours: 2%

Geographic Distribution

(FTEs per 100,000 population)
Highest: 53.6 Rutland County
Lowest: No FTEs reported in Essex County

Trends in Statewide FTEs

2018: 207.8
2020: 185.8

Workforce

- 346 respiratory therapists renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 344 of these completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 99.4%.
- Out of the 344 respondents, 255 (74%) indicated they were actively practicing as respiratory therapists in Vermont.
- Of the 89 respondents reporting a non-active status, 47 (53%) indicated they were planning to start or resume working as a respiratory therapist in Vermont within the next 12 months.
- The remainder of this report is based on the 255 respiratory therapists who reported being actively working in Vermont.

Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)

- 255 respiratory therapists provided 185.8 total FTEs.
- 24.1 FTEs, or 13% of total FTEs, were provided by 34 respiratory therapists aged 60 or older.
- 47% (120) of respiratory therapists worked 40 or more hours per week at their main site.
- Respiratory therapists FTEs decreased by 22 from 2018 to 2020.

Average weekly hours – at main site	Number	Percent
Less than 20 hours	39	15%
20-39 hours	96	38%
40 hours or more	120	47%

Demographics

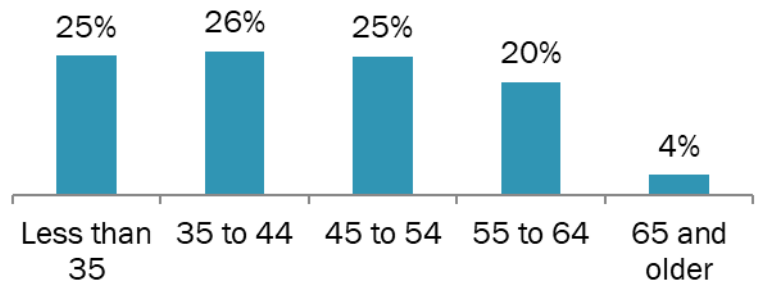
Gender

- 38% of the respiratory therapists in Vermont (95) were male.
- 63% (158) were female.
- 2 did not answer the question.

Age

- The median age was 44.
- 25% were younger than 35, and 51% were between ages 35 and 54.

Age Distribution of VT Respiratory Therapists



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 podiatrists.

- 230 respiratory therapists were white (90%), 2% were Black, 1% were Asian, 1% were American Indian or Alaskan Native, <0.5% were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 2% preferred to self-describe their race. 13 preferred not to answer or were missing data.
- 8 respiratory therapists (3%) were Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin, and 233 (92%) were not. 14 respiratory therapists preferred not to answer the question or were missing data for ethnicity.

Education and Training

- The 255 respiratory therapists active in Vermont in 2020 completed their degrees in the regions as seen in the table to the right.
- 94% of respiratory therapists had earned an associate or bachelor's degree.

Region where training/educ. occurred	Number	Percent
Vermont	131	54%
New Hampshire	28	12%
Northeast excluding VT & NH	47	20%
South	12	5%
Central	4	2%
West	19	8%
* Missing data from 14 individuals		

Practice Characteristics

Practice Setting

- 80% (205) of respiratory therapists worked in a hospital setting

Main Setting	Number	Percent
Hospital	205	80%
Durable Medical Equipment	27	11%
Nursing home/extended care/assisted living facility	8	3%
Home Health	5	2%
Other setting	10	4%

Number of sites

- 94% (239) of respiratory therapists practiced at a single site.
- 6% (16) worked at two or more sites.

Specialties

- 63% (160) of respiratory therapists reported adult acute care as their specialty.

Specialty at main location	Number	Percent
Adult Acute Care	160	63%
Home Care	25	10%
Diagnostics	12	5%
Neonatal/Pediatrics	10	4%
Continuing Care / Rehab	8	3%
Education	8	3%
Sleep	8	3%
Long-Term Care	6	2%
Other	18	7%

Current Experience and Future Plans

- The median years licensed as a respiratory therapist is 9 years.
- 18% of respiratory therapists have been licensed for over 20 years.
- 88% plan to continue working the same number of hours in the next 12 months.
- 4% plan to increase their hours.
- 2% plan to reduce their hours.

Years Licensed	Number	Percent
0 to 5 years	93	37%
6 to 10 years	52	21%
11 to 15 years	48	19%
16 to 20 years	14	6%
21 to 25 years	15	6%
Over 25 years	30	12%
* Missing data from 3 individuals		

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory therapist FTEs have decreased, with a decrease of 22 FTEs between 2018 and 2020.
- Relative to population, respiratory therapists were most common in Rutland, Chittenden and Orleans counties.
- Respiratory therapists in Vermont were predominately female and relatively young, with a median age of 44.
- Over 85% of respiratory therapists received their training in the Northeast.

For more information, contact: AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov

Appendix

Active Respiratory Therapist

A respiratory therapist who reported working in Vermont as a respiratory therapist (regardless of how many hours) is considered active.

Census

The census was taken during the biennial relicensing process which ended on November 30, 2020. The data include all licensed respiratory therapists except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (September – November 2020), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of November 30, 2022. Copy of census questions available upon request.

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Full time is defined as 40 or more working hours in Vermont per week, 48 weeks or more per year. Reporting more than 40 hours per week is defined as one FTE regardless of the number of hours over 40 per week worked.

Hours per week

Average weekly hours are based on hours and weeks reported, adjusted to a full-time 48-week working year (hours * (weeks/48)). Thus, the average weekly hours for an individual working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks) is 20.

Limitations

Accuracy of setting data is difficult to interpret since many respiratory therapists employed at the same location chose different settings to describe the same work location.

Main Practice, Site, Setting, and Specialty

The main practice, site, setting, or specialty refer to the practice in which the respiratory therapist worked the greatest number of annual hours.

Map Quartiles

For county maps, 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 2020 and were provided by the Department of Health.

Respiratory Therapists 2020

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