

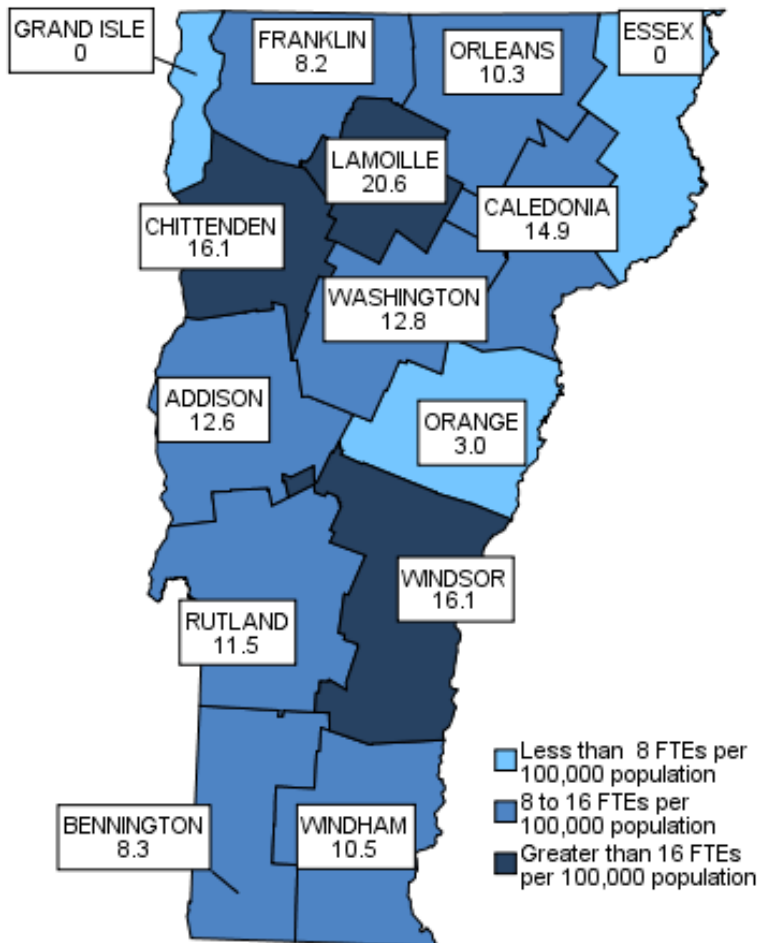
Health Care Workforce Census Optometrists, 2016

This optometrists 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. Data for this report were obtained from the 2016 census of optometrists.

Vermont health professionals are relicensed every two years. Data for this report were obtained during the July 2016 relicensing period and represent a snapshot of the profession at that time.

An optometrist is an eye doctor who has earned the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree. Optometrists examine eyes for both vision and health problems, and correct refractive errors by prescribing eyeglasses and contact lenses. Optometrists diagnose and treat some eye diseases with pharmaceutical agents.

Optometrist Full Time Equivalents per 100,000 population by County



In Brief

Workforce

Survey period – July 2016
Licenses renewed: 103
Response Rate: 100%
Active in VT: 92
Full-time Equivalents: 78.8

Demographics

% Female: 35%
Median Age: 50
% 60 or older: 30%

Education and Training

Educated in VT: none
Educated in Northeast: 66%

Specialties

90% (83) of the optometrists mainly provide primary eye care
4% (4) mainly treat ocular disease

Current Employment

Full time at main site: 38%
Full time at all sites: 49%
Plans to retire or reduce hours: 5%
Accepting Medicaid patients: 83%

Geographic Distribution

(FTE to 100,000 pop. ratio)

Highest: 20.6, Lamoille County; 16.1 Chittenden and Windsor Counties.
Lowest: 0, Essex and Grand Isle Counties; 3.0, Orange County.

Workforce

- 103 optometrists renewed their Vermont license in 2016.
- Out of these 103, 92 (89%) indicated that they were active and providing direct patient care in Vermont.

The remainder of this report is based on the 92 optometrists active in Vermont.

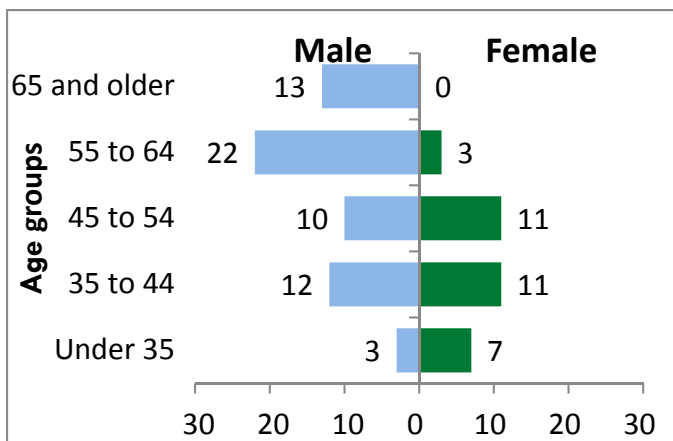
Demographics

Gender

- 32 (35%) were female.
- 60 (65%) were male.

Age

- 33 (36%) of optometrists were younger than 45
- 13 (14%) of optometrists were 65 or older.



Education and Training

- The 92 optometrists active in Vermont in 2016 completed their degrees mostly in the Northeast:

| Where degree was completed | Number | Percent |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Vermont | 0 | 0% |
| Other Northeast | 61 | 66% |
| South | 12 | 13% |
| Central | 8 | 9% |
| West | 9 | 10% |
| Foreign | 1 | 1% |

Practice Characteristics

Specialties

FTEs in most common specialties, including secondary specialties:

- Primary eye care – 54.9 FTEs
- Ocular disease - 8.4 FTEs
- Contact lenses - 8.9 FTEs
- Eyeglasses - 2.9 FTEs

Access to care

- 83% accepted Medicaid patients (at their main practice site).
- 95% accepted Medicare patients (at their main practice site).

Number of practice sites

- 20% of optometrists (18) practiced at 2 or more locations.

Practice setting

- For optometrists' main practice location, the most common setting was private group practice (47%), followed by private solo practice (35%) and ophthalmology office (10%).

Full Time Equivalent

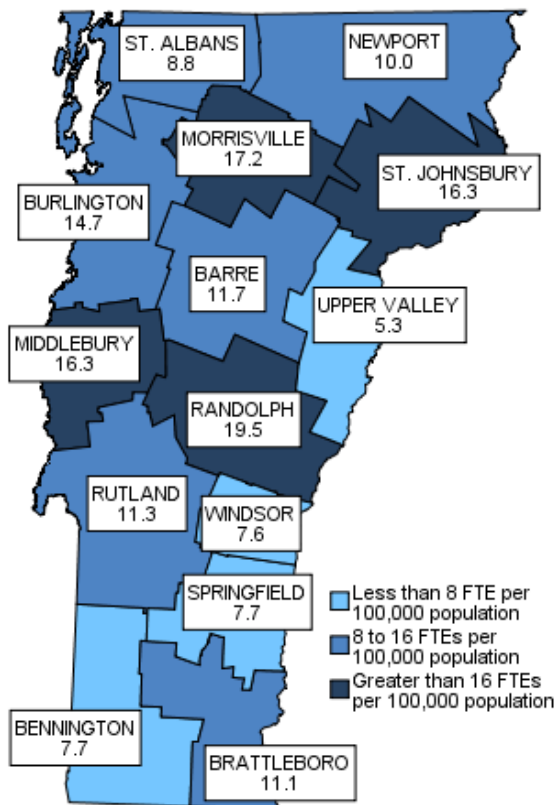
- 35 (38%) worked 40 hours or more per week at their main work site.
- 45 (49%) worked 40 hours or more per week at all their work sites combined.
- 85 (92%) worked at least half-time, i.e., 20 hours per week (all sites combined).
- 78.8 total FTEs were provided by 92 optometrists.
- 25.0 FTEs, or 32% of total FTEs, were age 60 and older (28 individuals).

Blueprint Health Care Areas

(see Appendix for details)

- Randolph Health Care Area had the most FTEs per 100,000 population (19.5), followed by Morrisville (17.2).
- Upper Valley (5.3), Windsor (7.6), Bennington and Springfield (both 7.7) had the fewest optometrist FTEs per 100,000 population.

Optometrist FTEs per 100,000 population by Blueprint Health Care Areas



Current Experience and Future Plans

- Median amount of time since first licensed as an optometrist: 22 years.
- Range: 1 to 49 years.

In the next 12 months

- Most optometrists plan to continue working as they are.
- 1 planned to retire.
- 4 planned to reduce hours.
- 5 planned to increase hours.

Observations

- Optometrists are unevenly spread around the state, but are not over-concentrated in Chittenden County.

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 Optometrist

An optometrist who reported working in Vermont as such (regardless of how many hours) is considered active.

Census

The census was taken during the biennial optometrist license renewal which ended on July 31, 2016. The data include all optometrists except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May – July 2016), as their license was valid until the next renewal date in July 2018. 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.

Geographical Regions

States were grouped into the following regions:

Northeast: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA

South: DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, KY, TN, AL, MS, AR, OK, LA, TX

Central: OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS

West: MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, NV, WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.

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 of an individual refer to the practice site, setting, or specialty with the greatest number of reported annual hours.

Map Shading

Map colors are by 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 2016 and were provided by the Department of Health.

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 an individual working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks) is 20.