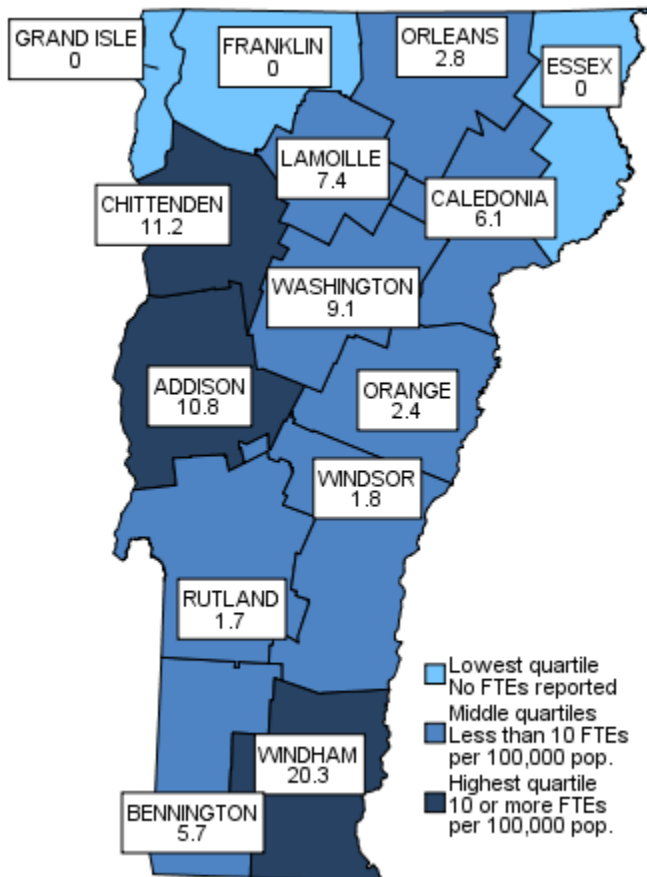


Overview

This Naturopathic Physician (ND) 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. In Vermont NDs are relicensed every two years. Data for this report were obtained during the September 2016 relicensing period and represent a snapshot of the profession at that time.

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians defines naturopathic medicine as a *distinct primary health care profession, emphasizing prevention, treatment, and optimal health through the use of therapeutic methods and substances that encourage individuals’ inherent self-healing process. The practice of naturopathic medicine includes modern and traditional, scientific, and empirical methods.*¹

Full time equivalents (FTEs) to 100,000 population ratio by county



In Brief

Workforce

Survey period – September 2016

Response Rate: 98.9%

Licenses renewed: 283

Active in VT: 69

Full-time Equivalents (FTEs): 45.4

Demographics

% Female: 71.0%

Median Age: 40

% 60 or older: 5.8%

Education and Training

% educated in Northeast: 19.1%

% Certification/Credentials in

- acupuncture: 20.3%
- craniosacral therapy: 8.7%
- nutrition: 7.2%
- midwifery or obstetrics: 5.8%

Specialties (at main location)

General Practice: 48.6%

Family Medicine: 17.1%

Current Employment

Full time hours at main site: 21.7%

Plans to increase hours: 20.3%

Plans to reduce hours: 2.9%

Plans to retire: 2.9%

Geographic Distribution

(FTE to 100,000 pop. ratio)

Highest: 20.3, Windham County

Lowest: 0, Essex, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties

Workforce

- 283 Naturopathic Physicians (NDs) renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 280 of them completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 98.9%
- Out of the total 280 respondents, 69 (24.6%) indicated that they were active and providing direct patient care in Vermont as NDs.
- Many of those licensed in Vermont work in states that did not have an ND licensure program. They chose to be licensed in Vermont in order to hold a valid license. This accounts for the large percentage of licensees who were not actively providing care in Vermont.
- Of the 211 respondents reporting a non-active status, 15 (7.1%) indicated they planned to work in Vermont as an ND within the next 12 months.
- The remainder of this report is based on the 69 respondents who reported being active and providing direct patient care in Vermont as NDs.

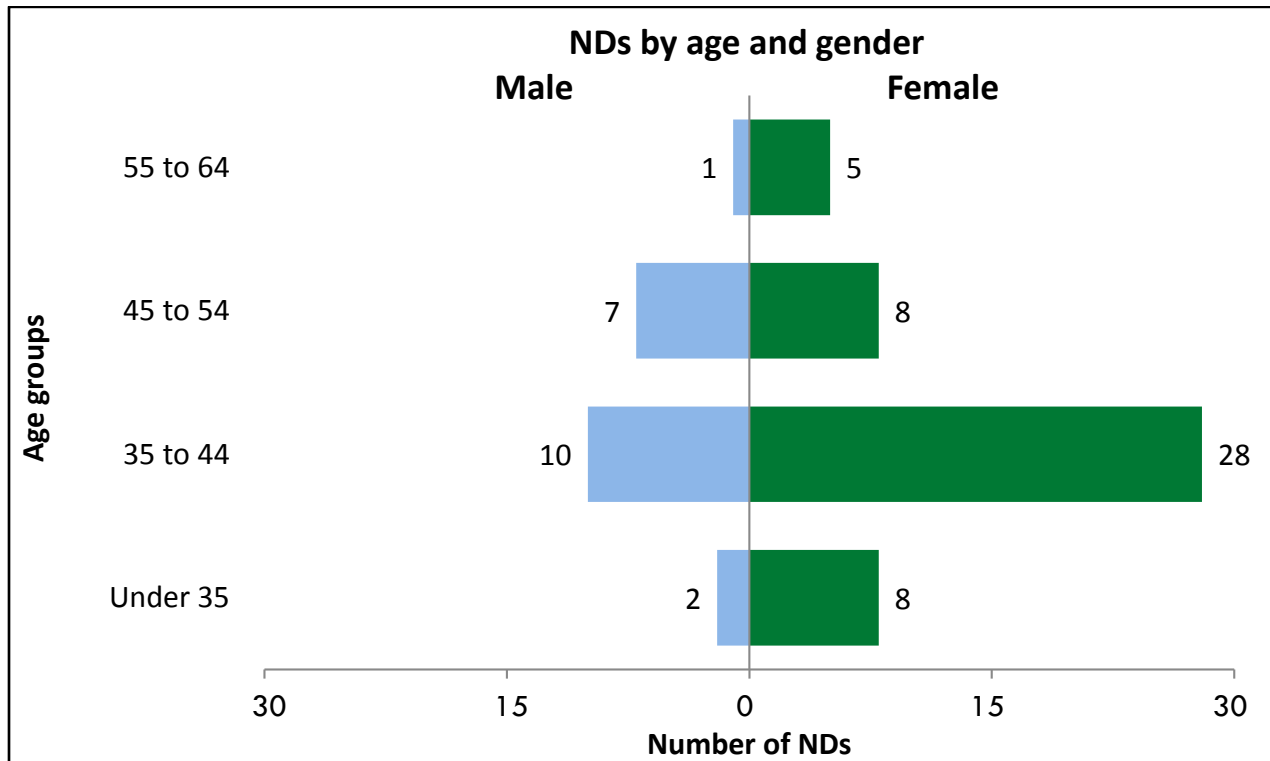
Demographics

Gender

- 71.0% (49) were female
- 29.0% (20) were male

Age

- The median age for NDs was 40 years.
- 55.1% (38) were between the ages of 35 and 44.
- There were no NDs older than 64.



Education and Training

- Most NDs received their training in Oregon (26) or Washington (22).
- NDs had additional certifications and credentials in acupuncture (14), craniosacral therapy (5), nutrition (5), midwifery and obstetrics (4), and other fields.

Region where highest degree awarded	Number	Percent
Vermont	3	4.4%
Northeast, excluding VT	10	14.7%
Central	1	1.5%
West	54	79.4%

Certifications and Credentials	Number	Percent
Acupuncture	14	20.3%
Craniosacral therapy	6	8.7%
Nutrition	5	7.2%
Midwifery/Obstetrics	4	5.8%
Nursing/Nurse Practitioner	3	4.3%
Massage therapy	2	2.9%
Oncology	2	2.9%
Other	9	13.0%

Practice Characteristics

Number of sites

- 85.5% (59) NDs worked at a single location and 14.5% (10) worked at two locations.

Specialties

- NDs provided information on their primary and secondary specialty for all their work locations.
- General practice and family medicine were the most common specialties at NDs' main work locations.

Specialties at main location	Primary	Secondary	Combined	Combined Percent
General Practice	46	5	51	48.6%
Family Medicine	15	3	18	17.1%
Oncology/Hematology	2	4	6	5.7%
Acupuncture		4	4	3.8%
Gastroenterology		4	4	3.8%
Gynecology		4	4	3.8%
Endocrinology		3	3	2.9%
Pediatrics		3	3	2.9%
Chronic disease	2		2	1.9%
Internal Medicine		1	1	1.0%
Sports Medicine/Orthopedics		1	1	1.0%
Other	4	4	8	7.6%

Practice setting

- 98.6% (68) of NDs reported their main practice setting as private outpatient office or group practice. The remaining ND's main practice setting was patient home /home care.

Access to care

- 95.6% (65) NDs were accepting new patients at their main site.
- 80.9% (55) participated in Medicaid at their main site.
- 77.9% (53) were accepting new Medicaid patients at their main site.

Full Time Equivalents

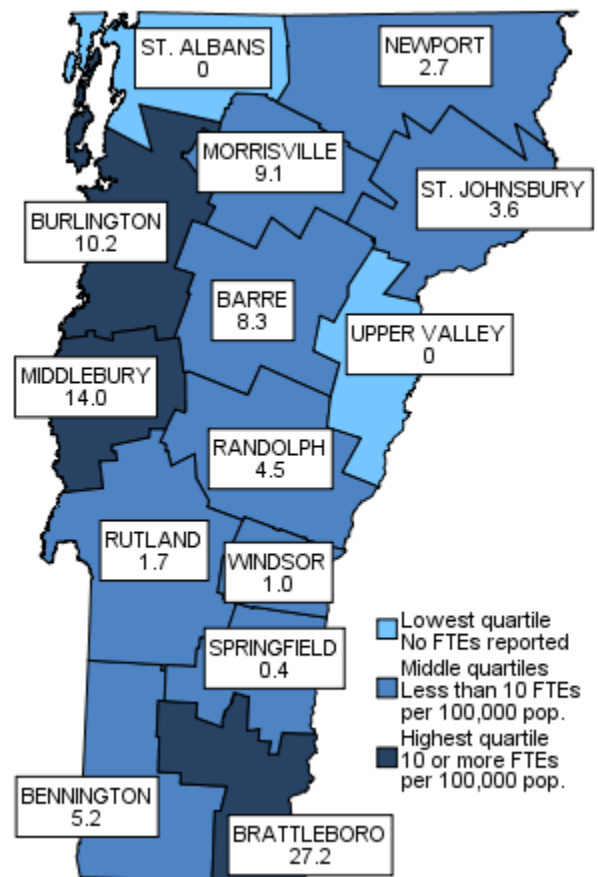
- The 69 NDs provided 45.4 full time equivalents (FTEs).
- 21.7% (15) NDs worked 40 or more hours per week at their main work location.

Weekly Hours	Number	Percent
Under 20 hours	21	30.4%
20 to 39 hours	33	47.8%
40 to 59 hours	12	17.4%
60 or more hours	3	4.3%

Blueprint 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. (<http://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/>)
- The highest ratio of ND FTEs to 100,000 population was in the Brattleboro Health Care Area (27.2), followed by Middlebury (14.0) and Burlington (10.2).
- No NDs reported working in St. Albans and Upper Valley Health Care Areas.

Full time equivalents (FTEs) to 100,000 population ratio by Blueprint Health Care Areas



Current Experience and Future Plans

- Median years NDs had been licensed in Vermont was 6 years.
- 7.2% (5) of currently active NDs had been licensed over 20 years.

In the next 12 months

- 73.9% (51) planned to continue working as they had been.
- 20.3% (14) planned to increase their hours.
- 2.9% (2) planned to reduce their hours.
- 2.9% (2) planned to retire.

Years licensed in Vermont	Number	Percent
0 to 5	32	46.4%
6 to 10	21	30.4%
11 to 15	8	11.6%
16 to 20	3	4.3%
21 to 25	4	5.8%
Over 25	1	1.4%

Observations

- Over half (55.1%) of NDs were between the ages of 35 and 44.
- Over three quarters (76.8%) had been licensed in Vermont for 10 years or less.
- Most NDs (95.6%) were accepting new patients, and 80.9% participated in Medicaid.
- No NDs reported working in St. Albans and Upper Valley Health Care Areas.

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 Naturopathic Physician

A naturopathic physician who reported working in Vermont as naturopathic physician (regardless of how many hours) is considered active.

Census

The census was taken during the biennial naturopathic physician relicensing process which ended on September 30, 2016. The data include all licensed professionals except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (July - September), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of September 30, 2018. 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. An individual 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 with the greatest number of reported annual hours per individual.

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.

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

Endnotes:

1. American Association of Naturopathic Physicians. Definition of Naturopathic Medicine. Downloaded from <http://www.naturopathic.org/content.asp?contentid=59> on 2/28/2017.