

Radiographers in Vermont

Summary of March 2005 Survey

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Introduction

One factor in assuring access to quality health care for all Vermonters is current knowledge of health workforce resources. For that reason, the University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences conducted the 2005 Radiologic Technologist and Technician (Radiographer) survey. Of the 543 invited Vermont-licensed Radiographers, 315 completed the survey for a 58% response rate.

Radiographers,¹ one of four major types of diagnostic imaging professionals, use X-rays to perform diagnostic imaging. They may pursue advanced training in mammography (breast imaging for cancer screening), computed tomography technology (CAT scans), or magnetic resonance technology (creating images using magnets and radio waves). First recognized as a profession in the 1920s, there were 159,000 radiographers employed in the U.S. in 2001. That year, hospitals responding to an American Hospital Association survey reported a 15.3% vacancy rate and 68% said it was more difficult to recruit radiographers compared to 1999.

U.S. employment was expected to grow 24% by 2010. Most diagnostic imaging professionals work in hospitals (65%), but 28% work in physician practices. A certificate or associates degree is required for entry.

Education

Degree level first prepared as radiographer

- High School 7%
- Training 44%
- Associates 47%
- Bachelors 2%

Highest radiographer degree earned

- Associates 50%
- Bachelors 7%
- Masters 1%

Highest non-radiographer degree earned

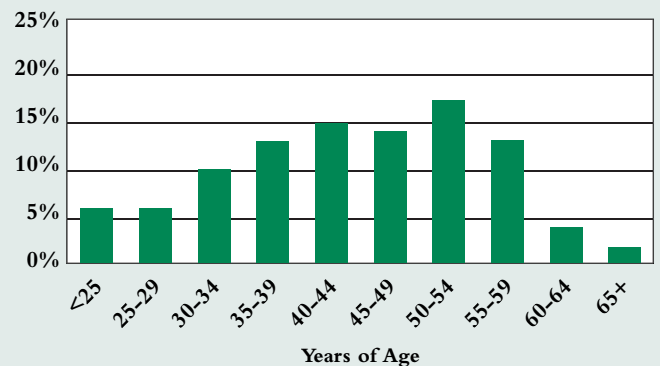
- Associates 18%
- Bachelors 10%
- Masters 3%
- Doctorate <1%

COMPARISON OF US VERSUS VERMONT RADIOGRAPHERS

Radiographers	US ¹	VT
Age		Mean 43.8 yrs Range 21-72 yrs
Female	73%	80%
Caucasian	82%	89%
Reported Mean Annual Income	\$38,860 (salary)	\$48,875 (personal income)

¹ Center for the Health Professions, University of California, San Francisco, "Diagnostic Imaging Professionals in California" (October 2003).

AGE OF RADIOGRAPHERS



Location of program

Vermont 57%, New York 13%, New Hampshire 3%, Massachusetts 8%, Other States 18%.

Continuing Education

85% participated in a Continuing Education program (past 12 months) of which 53% seminar, conference, or meeting, 45% home study or readings; 15% hospital on-site; 16% other.

Certification

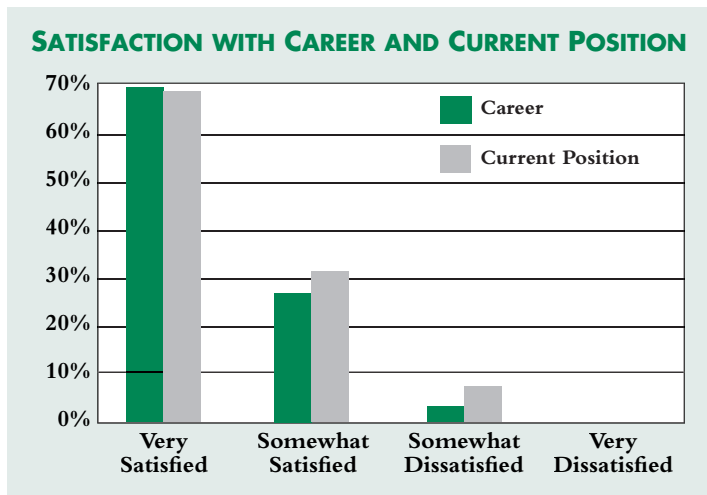
98% are certified by the American Registry of Radiologic (ARRT) Technologists of which 65% have Primary Certification (PC) and 34% have Post-Primary Certification (PPC). Post-Primary Certifications are in: Cardiovascular-Interventional Technology, Mammography, Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Quality Management, Sonography, Bone Densitometry, Vascular Sonography, Cardiac-Interventional Technology, Vascular-Interventional Technology, and Breast Sonography.

Employment

Full time 64%, Part time 24%, Per diem 7%, No Answer 4%.

Worksite setting, current RT position

- Community hospital 44%
- Academic medical center 22%



Would you advise a high school or college student to pursue a radiographer career?

Yes 89%, No 4%, Unsure 7%.

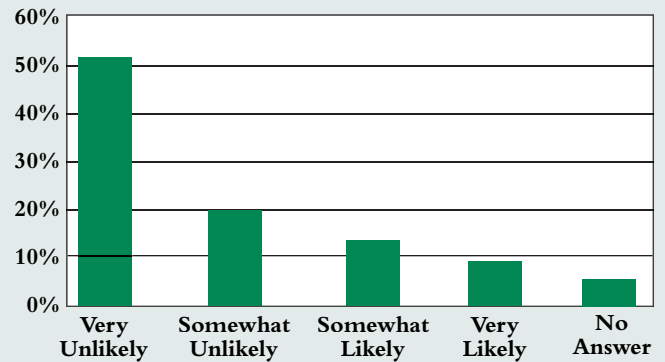
Income

Mean annual income - \$48,875,

Mean annual household income - \$73,930.

79% (160/203 reporting) provide sole or primary income.

LIKELINESS TO LEAVE POSITION IN NEXT YEAR



Major Reasons reported by those “Somewhat” or “Very Likely” to leave (N=68)

- Move or relocate 47%
- Position change 40%
- Salary/benefits 40%
- Management practices 24%
- Job stress 26%
- Return to school 21%
- Supervisor relationships 19%
- Family responsibility 12%
- Co-worker relationships 12%
- Job assignment 10%
- Retirement 9%
- Promotion 9%
- Health reasons 6%

Discussion

The fact that VT radiographers “likely to leave” the current position list more positive (move/relocate, salary/benefits, position change) than negative (management practices, job stress) reasons is encouraging. Of those likely to leave, one in four do list job stress, and one in five supervisor relationships, as reasons. Of interest is that 40% noted salary as a reason for leaving despite the Vermont annual salary being reported as \$10,000 higher than the US average.

References

- (1) Center for the Health Professions, University of California, San Francisco, “Diagnostic Imaging Professionals in California” (October 2003).