

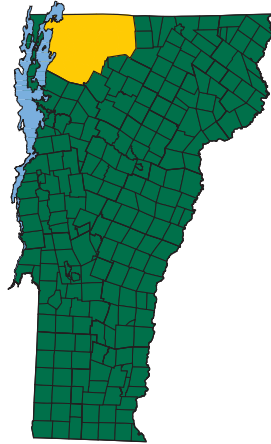
# Franklin County

## POPULATION

Population (2014).....	48,642 <sup>6</sup>
Persons under 5.....	6.1%
Persons 5-18.....	17.2%
Persons 19-64.....	63.3%
Persons 65+.....	13.4%

## Race

White.....	95.6%
Black or African American.....	0.6%
American Indian & Alaska Native... ..	1.0%
Asian.....	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.....	0%
Two or more races.....	2.2%



## Ethnicity and Language

In 1997, Franklin County had the highest population of residents with French or French Canadian ties, ranging from 32% to 60% per town. Many families continue to speak French.

[www.vt-fcgs.org/images/vtfrench.jpg](http://www.vt-fcgs.org/images/vtfrench.jpg)<sup>7</sup>

The Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, St. Francis Soloki Band – the largest group of native persons – has been recognized by the state of Vermont and strives for federal recognition. The band has an office in Swanton and holds an annual festival open to the public.

[www.abenakination.org](http://www.abenakination.org)

For a handbook on cultural competency, visit the Champlain Valley AHEC web site: [www.cvahec.org/resources/cultural-competency](http://www.cvahec.org/resources/cultural-competency)

## SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Franklin County	Vermont
Per capita income (2009-13).....	\$27,398	\$29,167
Median household income (2009-13).....	\$56,240	\$54,267
Population below poverty.....	10.2%	11.8%

The wage needed to afford housing in Franklin County is \$21.31 per hour, significantly above the state wage of \$17.57. In contrast, the average actual wage per job is \$29,530 or \$14.19 per hour.

## PLACE

Franklin County is 637 square miles, with 54.9 square miles under water. Population density is 71.3 persons per square mile (VT 67.9).

## THE ECONOMY

The county's north boundary on the U.S.-Canadian border brought increased jobs and national attention since 9/11. Major employers include customs houses and U.S. Immigration & Naturalization (including Homeland Security).

Franklin County continues to lead Vermont in dairy, maple production, and other agricultural products.<sup>5</sup>

## Education

	Franklin County	Vermont
High school graduation rate.....	88.8%	91.4%
College degree.....	23.7%	34.8%

## Major Employment Sectors<sup>1</sup>

Public Sector.....	24.9%
Services.....	53.8%
Goods.....	21.6%

## HEALTH

### Risk Factors and Chronic Conditions<sup>2</sup>

	Franklin County	Vermont
Adult smokers.....	19%	16%
Adult obesity.....	29%	25%
Excessive drinking.....	20%	19%
Motor vehicle crash death rate.....	16%	12%
Children under 18 in poverty.....	15%	16%

Substance abuse treatment referrals are rising and the county is concerned about opiate use.

## HEALTH INDICATORS

### Access<sup>3</sup>

13% of residents report having no health insurance at all (VT 8%).

There is a shortage of 15 primary care physicians (full-time equivalent).<sup>4</sup>

Only 63% of Franklin County adults received influenza immunization in 2008.

Only 13% of adults do not have a usual primary care physician – among the best outcomes in the state.

Since one internal medicine physician retired in early 2009, the NOTCH Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) has opened a new site in St. Albans. NOTCH participates in a Health Resources and Services Administration Rural Health Outreach Grant, awarded to the Bi-State Primary Care Association, to serve migrant farm workers.

### Women & Infants<sup>3</sup>

93% of pregnant women receive prenatal care in the first trimester (VT 90%).

Teen birth rate among 15-17-year-olds is 18.4 per thousand live births (VT 15.8).

Low birth weight rate (≤5.5 lbs) is 6.8% (VT 6.5%).

69% of women >40 years old have had a mammogram (VT 70%).

### Disease Rates<sup>3</sup>

Heart disease death rate is 219 per 100,000 population, second highest in the state (VT 138).

29% of adults are obese, the worst county rate in the state (VT 25%)

Stroke death rate is 41 per 100,000 (VT 44 per 100,000).

Diabetes-related deaths of 101 per 100,000 (VT 91 per 100,000).

Asthma hospitalizations among youth <18 are 3.2 per 10,000, (VT 9.1 per 10,000). The asthma rate is higher among Abenaki persons.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) deaths among people 45 and older are 139 per 100,000 (VT 123 per 100,000).

## PRIMARY CARE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

Enosburg Health Center  
Richford Health Center  
St. Albans Health Center  
Swanton Health Center  
[www.notchvt](http://www.notchvt)

## HOSPITALS

**Northwestern Medical Center:** Located in St. Albans, it is a 70-bed, not-for-profit, acute-care hospital. NMC provides primary and preventive care, surgical and specialty services, inpatient and outpatient care, 24-hour physician-staffed emergency services, and a walk-in clinic. NMC supports a number of primary care affiliates.  
[www.northwesternmedicalcenter.org](http://www.northwesternmedicalcenter.org)

**University of Vermont Medical Center:** An academic medical center with a service area that includes Franklin County and other areas totaling one million persons. UVMHC has 458 staffed beds, more than 30 care sites and Vermont's only Level 1 Trauma Center. [www.uvmhealth.org](http://www.uvmhealth.org)

## KEY STATE & COMMUNITY AGENCIES

**2-1-1:** Free information and referral from the United Ways of Vermont. Community members who need to identify resources for any need can receive information by dialing 2-1-1 toll-free from anywhere in Vermont. 2-1-1 works with TTY and provides interpreted services for limited English-speaking persons. [www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org)

**Vermont Department of Health:** The St. Albans office provides information for the public and providers about current health issues.  
[www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)

**Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO):** Operating throughout the northwestern region to provide food shelf, home weatherization, tenant support, mobile home assistance, Head Start, housing assistance, emergency fuel assistance, food stamp outreach, community garden and farm-to-family voucher programs, tax filing and other form preparation services, information, and advocacy for low-income persons. The agency served nearly 10,000 households last year. [www.cvoeo.org](http://www.cvoeo.org)

**Champlain Valley Agency on Aging:** Provides information and referral for all seniors and their families/supporters, case management for frail elders and certain younger adults with physical disabilities, and administers other Older American Act programs for the region. Call an Agency on Aging toll free from anywhere in Vermont at 1-800-642-5119. [www.cvaa.org](http://www.cvaa.org)

**The Economic Services Division:** The Vermont Department of Children and Families provides outreach, eligibility determination, and benefits administration for all state and federally funded basic and health needs programs. The Division has a phone-based client services system which can be accessed 24/7 at 1-800-479-4151. Transactions that require a discussion with a staff person must be made between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday by calling the same number. [www.dcf.vermont.gov/services](http://www.dcf.vermont.gov/services)

**Franklin-Grand Isle United Way:** Serving the islands of Grand Isle County as well as Franklin County it provides information about volunteer opportunities, supports a community health partnership, and provides funding to member agencies and youth-directed programs. [www.fgiunitedway.org](http://www.fgiunitedway.org)

**Northwestern Counseling and Support Services:** Providing treatment and services to children and adults with chronic mental health, developmental disabilities, substance abuse problems, and other mental health and medical psychiatric needs. Call (802) 524-6554. [www.ncssinc.org](http://www.ncssinc.org)

## MEDIA, RECREATION & LEISURE

Many radio and television signals originating from outside the county are received in much of Franklin County. The extreme northeast and northwest parts of the county have fewer reception options. Cell telephone signal is limited in many parts of the county.

## NEWS

**St. Albans Messenger:** Daily newspaper includes local news and calendar of community events. [www.samessenger.com](http://www.samessenger.com)

## RECREATION

**Burton Island State Park:** St. Albans

**Collins-Perley Sports and Fitness Center:** St. Albans

**Mississquoi Natural Wildlife Refuge:** Swanton

**Mississquoi Valley Rail Trail:** More than 20 miles of trails for biking, walking, skiing, and more. St. Albans and surrounding area

**Vermont State Parks:** [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)

## CULTURE AND LEISURE ATTRACTIONS

**Abenaki Tribal Museum & Cultural Center:** Swanton

**The Opera House:** Enosburg Falls, [enosburgoperahouse.org](http://enosburgoperahouse.org)

**Vermont Maple Festival:** St. Albans

**The Free Library System:** Visit the library catalog page for Vermont to click on links to the library nearest you. Vermont libraries have free Internet service and community activities. Hours vary and may be limited to certain days of the week in rural towns.

[www.publiclibraries.com/vermont.htm](http://www.publiclibraries.com/vermont.htm)

## COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

**Community College of Vermont:** A public, two-year, open-admissions institution that provides degree, transfer, occupational, and continuing education opportunities. It is a member of the Vermont State Colleges system and has 12 sites around the state, including one in St. Albans. [www.ccv.edu](http://www.ccv.edu)

1 Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Economic and Demographic Profile Series 2013, [www.vtmi.info/profile2013.pdf](http://www.vtmi.info/profile2013.pdf)

2 From County Health Rankings, a project of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute [www.countyhealthrankings.org/vermont/franklin/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/vermont/franklin/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot)

3 The Health Status of Vermonters, March 2008, Vermont Department of Health, [http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/documents/HealthStatusRpt2008\\_appendix.pdf](http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/documents/HealthStatusRpt2008_appendix.pdf)

4 Primary Care Survey for the Champlain Valley 2011, Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center.

5 Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Housing and Wages in Vermont, 2009 Vermont Housing Finance Agency

6 U.S. Census, Vermont Quick Facts 2013 for Franklin County, Vermont.

7 French Canadian and French Ancestry by Town, Canadian Studies Program, University of Vermont, 1997