

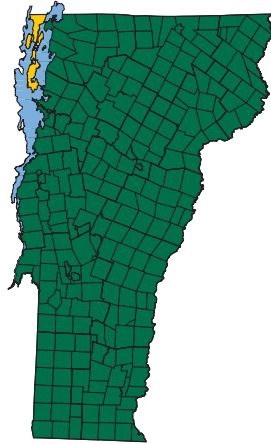
Grand Isle County

POPULATION

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Population (2013)..... | 6,982 ⁴ |
| Persons under 5..... | 4.7% |
| Persons 5-18..... | 14.4% |
| Persons 19-64..... | 64.2% |
| Persons 65+..... | 16.7% |

Race

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| White..... | 95.1% |
| Black or African American..... | .5% |
| American Indian & Alaska Native..... | 1.1% |
| Asian..... | 0.4% |
| Two or more races..... | 2.7% |



Ethnicity and Language

In 1997, about half the residents of the northern towns of Isle LaMotte and Alburg had French or French Canadian ties. Many families continue to speak French at home.⁵

www.vt-fcgs.org/images/vtfrench.jpg

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

For a handbook on cultural competency, visit the Champlain Valley AHEC web site at: www.cvahec.org/CulturalCompetency.htm

SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

| | Grand Isle County | Vermont |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| Per capita income (2000)..... | \$33,159 | \$29,167 |
| Median household income (2009-13)..... | \$59,509 | \$54,267 |
| Population below poverty..... | 8.4% | 11.8% |

The wage needed to afford housing in Grand Isle County is \$21.31 per hour, significantly above the state average affordable housing-wage of \$17.57.

PLACE

Population Density: 85.2 persons per square mile (VT 67.9). Island geography provides unique challenges to accessing services, particularly in winter.

THE ECONOMY

Grand Isle County has one the state's lowest unemployment rates at 5.9%.

57.2% of workers are employed outside the county. Out-of-county workers spend on average 50% more time commuting to work than other Vermonters. The mean commute time to work is 33.4 minutes.

Education

| | Grand Isle County | Vermont |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| High school graduation rate..... | 91.6% | 91.4% |
| College degree..... | 23.3% | 34.8% |

Major Employment Sectors¹

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Manufacturing..... | 22% |
| Service Providing..... | 49.8% |
| Government..... | 28.2% |

HEALTH

Elders who need long-term care combined with housing have no local options to move into a residential care home or congregate housing site with a supportive services program. No other county in Vermont is without options to support local aging in place.

Risk Factors and Chronic Conditions²

| | Grand Isle County | Vermont |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Adult smokers..... | 16% | 15% |
| Adult obesity..... | 28% | 22% |
| Excessive drinking..... | 9% | 17% |
| Motor vehicle crash death rate..... | 9% | 13% |
| Children under 18 in poverty..... | 14% | 12% |

HEALTH INDICATORS

Access³

6% of residents report having no health insurance.

There is a shortage of five (fulltime-equivalent) primary care physicians.

62% of Grand Isle County adults received influenza immunization in 2008 (VT 66%).

16% of adults do not have a primary care provider.

The NOTCH Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) participates in a HRSA Rural Health Outreach Grant awarded to the Bi-State Primary Care Association to serve migrant farm workers. In addition to all other services, the Keeler Bay practice offers farm visits in partnership with UVM College of Medicine residents and biweekly clinics.

Women & Infants²

91% of pregnant women receive prenatal care in the first trimester (VT 90%).

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

Disease Rates³

Heart disease death rate is 226 per 100,000 population, the highest rate in the state (statewide average of 138).

25% of adults are obese (VT 22%).

Diabetes-related deaths of 78 per 100,000 (VT 91 per 100,000).

Asthma hospitalizations among youth <18 is 3.5 per 10,000, which is significantly below the statewide rate of 9.1 per 10,000. In contrast, the asthma rate among Abenaki persons is much higher.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) death rate among people 45 and older is 230 per 100,000, the highest rate in the state (VT 23 per 100,000).

PRIMARY CARE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER

Alburg Health Center www.notchvt.org
Keeler Bay Health Center..... www.chcb.org

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

University of Vermont Medical Center: An academic medical center located in Chittenden County. UVMHC has 458 staffed beds, more than 30 care sites and Vermont's only Level 1 Trauma Center. 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

Vermont Department of Health: The St. Albans office provides information for the public and providers about current health issues. 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

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

C.I.D.E.R.: A private, non-profit membership organization of Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources (CIDER), with an emphasis on addressing needs of islanders who are elderly or have a disability. Through innovative direct services and partnerships the group provides information and referral, transportation, meals, housing, reassurance and other supports. The agency is a member of the local United Way. www.cidervt.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

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

MEDIA, RECREATION & LEISURE

Cell telephone signal is limited in many parts of the county.

NEWS

Burlington Free Press: Daily newspaper, including calendar of events. www.burlingtonfreepress.com

The Islander: www.lakechamplainislander.com

RECREATION

Vermont State Parks: The county is home to several state parks: www.vtstateparks.com

Alburg Dunes State Park
Burton Island State Park
Grand Isle State Park
Kill Kare State Park
Knight Island State Park
North Hero State Park
Sand Bar State Park
Woods Island State Park

Lake Champlain Bikeways: www.champlainbikeways.org

CULTURE AND LEISURE ATTRACTIONS

Lake Champlain Islands Events Calendar: For local events, check www.champlainislands.com

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

Vermont Shakespeare Festival: www.vermontshakespeare.org

1 Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Economic and Demographic Profile Series 2009, 2007 data www.vtlmi.info/profile2009.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/caledonia/24

3 The Health Status of Vermonters, March 2008, Vermont Department of Health, <http://healthvermont.gov/research/healthstatusreport.aspx> See Appendix, county data.

4 U.S. Census Bureau, Vermont Quick Facts 2013 for Grand Isle County, Vermont.

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