

January 21, 2015

Background

The Health Department works to ensure that Vermonters are provided quality diagnostic and therapeutic x-ray services through a comprehensive registration and inspection effort.

Registrations are renewed annually and amended as needed with new equipment or modifications. Registration allows the Health Department to maintain a database of x-ray machines by location, responsible party, users and other attributes.

Currently in Vermont:

- ± 430 x-ray facilities and 1,600 registered machines
- 25% to 30% (108-129) are inspected in any one year

Inspection Frequency & Reporting

Using the recommendations of the *National Council for Radiation Protection and Measurements*, x-ray units and facilities are inspected at a frequency appropriate to the relative risks of use. Dental, veterinarian and podiatric facilities are inspected every four to five years. Medical and chiropractic facilities are inspected every two years. Inspection of facilities at a more frequent rate may be due to a move to a new location, sale to a new owner, or purchase of new x-ray machines.

Following inspection, the facility is provided with a report that documents all findings and seeks corrective action for any unacceptable findings.

The Health Department follows up on corrective actions to ensure compliance.

'Critical Items'

Inspections are conducted by a certified health physicist to look for critical items.

- Ensure the x-ray unit is functioning properly and evaluate its condition
- Take measurement of exposure to the patient, the x-ray operator, patients and staff in adjacent rooms, the public
- Evaluate the film and image processing and dark room procedure
- Evaluate shielding used by the facility to protect personnel and patients
- Evaluate other possible sources of radiation
- Evaluate the personnel monitoring system (dosimeters/badges)

2013 Inspection Results

- 127 x-ray facilities were inspected
- Of these, 71 (56%) were in full compliance
- 45 (80%) of the facilities that were not in compliance came into compliance after the inspection
- Lack of acceptable lead aprons and thyroid collars was the main area of concern. When cracked or torn, increased exposure to radiation can occur

Annual reports of x-ray inspections are published on the Health Department's website under Radiological Health.

X-ray Inspections Data Explorer

In 2014, the Health Department launched its X-ray Inspections Data Explorer. This allows Vermonters to see X-ray Facility Inspection Scores – *See over for a snapshot look –*

**Vermont X-Ray Inspections Data Explorer
Scores by Practice (2013)**

Data Notes

Help Print Share



Welcome

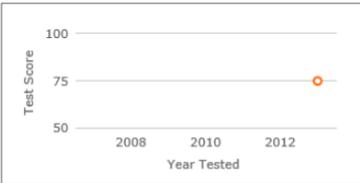
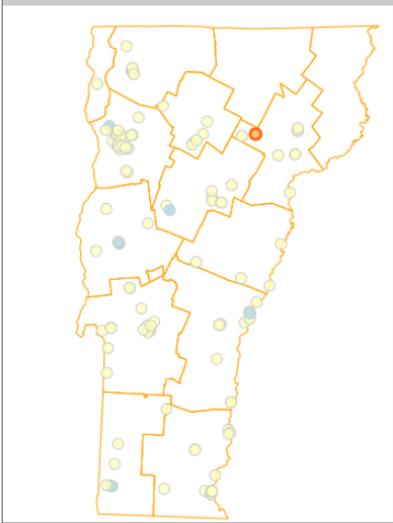
X-ray inspections are performed at different intervals for each type of facility. If there is no data next to a facility for a particular year, no inspection was completed that year. Dental, veterinarian and podiatric facilities are inspected every 4 to 5 years. Medical and chiropractic facilities are inspected every 2 years. To find the years that a facility was inspected hover over the facility name in the box to the right. Look at the chart in the middle bottom of the page and you

VT X-Ray Equipment Inspections

- 0 - 70
- 71 - 80
- 81 - 90
- 91 - 100

Vermont Counties

Click on a year.
Hover over locations for facility name, type, town, and score



2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

Facility Name	Town	Facility Type	Scores by Practice (2013)
Stratthaus, Gerard	HARDWICK	Dental	74.8
Sugarbush South - FAHC	FAYSTON	Medical	
Sunny Hollow Dental	COLCHESTER	Dental	
Sunset Valley Dental	WOODSTOCK	Dental	
SVHCE Mountain Medical Services - SVMC	DOVER	Medical	
Taconic Spine	MANCHESTER	Medical	
Tamarack Veterinary Hospital	WESTFORD	Veterinary	
Tanneberger Veterinary Hospital	ST. ALBANS CITY	Veterinary	
Temple Chiropractic	ROCKINGHAM	Chiropractic	100.0
The Animal Doctor	ENOSBURG	Veterinary	

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Statewide Average Statewide Score (2013)

Statewide 97.7