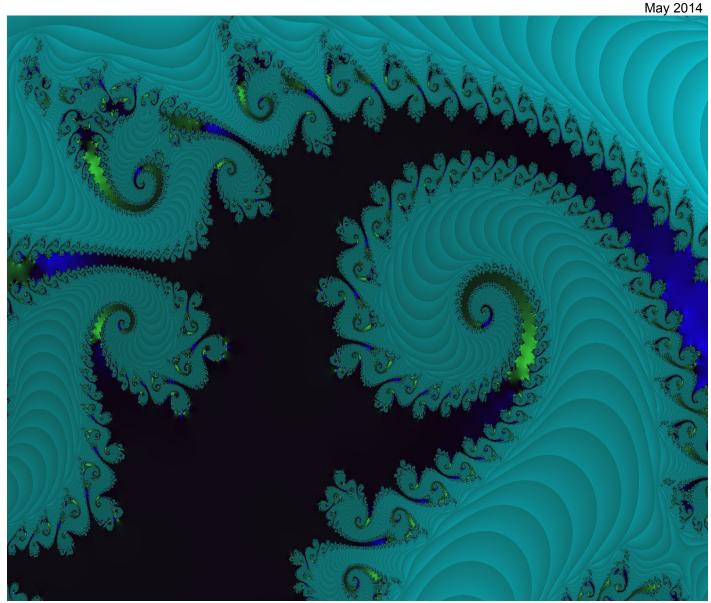


Radiation Therapy Staffing and Workplace Survey 2014

A Nationwide Survey of Radiation Therapy Managers Conducted by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists





American Society of Radiologic Technologists

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Executive Summary

The Radiation Therapy Staffing and Workplace Survey 2014 was e-mailed in February, 2014 to 3,524 managers of U.S. radiation therapy facilities. At the close of the survey in March, 2014, a total of 654 completed questionnaires had been submitted resulting in a response rate of 18.6%.

The sample size of 654 yields a margin of error for overall percentages of a maximum \pm 3.8% (at the 95% confidence interval).

To keep the report at a minimal length, responses to open-ended questions were not included, but are available upon request.

Staffing of the Facilities

The mean number of budgeted full-time equivalents (FTEs) across all facilities was:

- 8.2 for radiation therapy.
- 2.5 for medical dosimetry.

An estimation of the overall percentages of unfilled positions was calculated using the number of budgeted FTEs along with figures on vacant and recruiting positions.

- In radiation therapy, an estimated 1.6% of FTE positions are unfilled.
- In medical dosimetry, an estimated 3.6% of FTE positions are unfilled.
- Overall mean percentages of unfilled positions, calculated by combining the figures from both therapy and dosimetry, were highest in the Mountain region (4.5%) and lowest in the Middle Atlantic region (0.2%). Overall, the percent of unfilled positions combing both disciplines was 2.6%.

A majority of respondents (77.9%) described their facility as being appropriately staffed; 62.4% said their department is not currently under a hiring freeze, while 37.6% said their department is currently under a hiring freeze. Only 18.7% of respondents said their departmental budget had increased over the last fiscal year; 41.0% said it had remained the same, and 40.3% said it had decreased.

The survey also tracks longitudinal changes in staffing levels in radiation therapy and medical dosimetry.

 The number of FTE radiation therapists budgeted at each facility rose by 0.8 from 7.4 to 8.2 between 2012, when the last Radiation Therapy Staffing Survey was conducted, and 2014. Overall, the number of FTE therapists

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- budgeted per facility has increased by 2.2 from 6.0 in 2004 to 8.2 in 2014.
- The number of FTE medical dosimetrists budgeted at each facility remained the same at 2.5 between 2012 and 2014.
- The estimated vacancy rate for FTE positions in therapy dropped by 0.5% from 2.1% in 2012 to 1.6% in 2014. This continues a trend of generally falling vacancy rates since 2004, when the estimated vacancy rate for FTE therapists was 7.9%.
- The estimated vacancy rate for FTE positions in medical dosimetry fell by 1.5% from 5.1% in 2012 to 3.6% in 2014. As in therapy, the vacancy rate in dosimetry is far lower than it was in 2004 (8.0%); however, there has been greater variability in the vacancy rate over the 10-year span from 2004 to 2014, with a high of 9.3% in 2006 and lows of 3.6% in both 2010 and 2014.

Facility Demographics

The average respondent to the survey works in a facility that offers 12.0 radiation therapy and related services. The most commonly offered services are:

- Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) (95.2% of facilities).
- Conformal radiation therapy delivery (92.9% of facilities).
- CT simulation (92.5% of facilities).

The least commonly offered services are:

- Proton therapy (2.7% of facilities).
- Hyperthermia (2.9% of facilities).
- Dynamic adaptive radiation therapy (4.8% of facilities).

Moreover, according to the responses provided, the average facility sees 52.7 patients each day and uses 2.3 linear accelerators; 95.1% of respondents work in a facility that uses treatment planning stations, and on average, has 3.8 planning stations.

Personnel Demographics

The vast majority of respondents to the survey (90.7%) are currently working in radiation therapy.

The average respondent works at a facility that schedules 2.5 therapists and 1.0 dosimetrist per linear accelerator. On average, there is only 1.0 hour per day when only one therapist is scheduled per linear accelerator.

Radiation Therapy Staffing and Workplace Survey 2014



The majority of respondents (81.7%) work in a facility with daily on-site physics support. Among those with daily on-site physics support, the mean number of FTE physicists on staff is 3.0. Among those with no FTE physicists on staff, there is a physicist on staff for an average of 19.0 hours per week. However, 7.7% of the facilities with no full-time physicist have a physicist on site for an hour or less per week.

Retirement, Turnover and Inactive Demographics

Relatively few of the respondents (9.3%) are not working in radiation therapy; among those not currently

employed in the field, 29.5% said they are employed outside the profession, 18.0% said they are unemployed and currently seeking employment in radiation therapy, 11.5% said they are retired; 32.8% cited other reasons for their inactive status.

Respondents were also asked a couple of questions pertaining to retirement and workforce turnover. The average age at which employees typically retire from facilities responding to the survey is 63.9. Combining retirements, layoffs, terminations and employees leaving for various reasons, the average facility surveyed saw 0.9 employees in therapy/dosimetry leave in 2012 and 1.0 leave in 2013.



Calculation of Percent Vacancy Rates

The estimated proportion of unfilled positions for a given specialty for the population of U.S. hospital-based radiology facilities is defined as:

(mean number of vacant and recruiting FTEs per facility) / (mean number of budgeted FTEs per facility)*100

For example, in radiation therapy the mean vacant and recruiting FTE positions is equal to 0.13. When divided by the mean budgeted FTE of 8.2, this yields a proportion of unfilled FTE positions of 0.0158. Multiplying by 100 to give the percent value, and then rounding to the nearest tenth gives the percent vacancy rate for therapy of 1.6%.

Note that only combinations which included both the number of budgeted FTEs and the number of vacant and recruiting FTEs were used in the calculation of vacancy rates.

Staffing of the Facilities

Provide the budgeted and vacant full-time employees (FTEs) for your facility. Please use decimals for fractional FTEs.

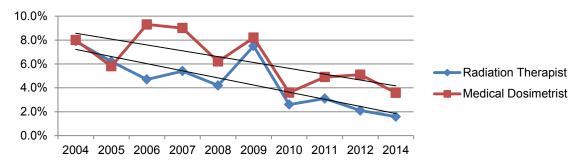
Radiation Therapist

Radiation Therapist						
Year	N	Mean Budgeted FTEs per Facility	Mean Vacant and Recruiting FTEs per Facility	Estimated Percent Unfilled FTE Positions		
2004	360	6.0	0.47	7.9%		
2005	352	6.4	0.40	6.2%		
2006	522	6.8	0.31	4.7%		
2007	549	7.1	0.39	5.4%		
2008	476	6.8	0.29	4.2%		
2009	448	7.2	0.54	7.5%		
2010	484	7.2	0.19	2.6%		
2011	460	7.4	0.23	3.1%		
2012	439	7.4	0.16	2.1%		
2014	575	8.2	0.13	1.6%		

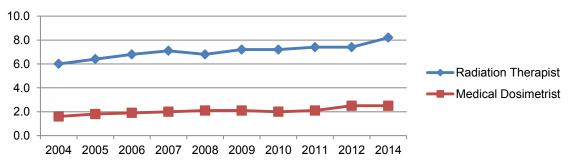
Medical Dosimetrist

Medical Dosilietiist						
Year	N	Mean Budgeted FTEs per Facility	Mean Vacant and Recruiting FTEs per Facility	Estimated Percent Unfilled FTE Positions		
2004	360	1.6	0.13	8.0%		
2005	352	1.8	0.11	5.8%		
2006	522	1.9	0.18	9.3%		
2007	549	2.0	0.18	9.0%		
2008	441	2.1	0.13	6.2%		
2009	409	2.1	0.17	8.2%		
2010	432	2.0	0.07	3.6%		
2011	411	2.1	0.10	4.9%		
2012	406	2.5	0.12	5.1%		
2014	544	2.5	0.09	3.6%		

Estimated Percent Unfilled FTE Positions



Mean Budgeted FTEs per facility



2014 Estimated Percent of Unfilled FTE Positions by Geographic Region

Discipline	Statistic	East North Central	Pacific	Mid- Atlantic	East South Central	South Atlantic	West South Central	Mountain	West North Central	New England
Radiation	N	99	82	26	102	78	61	33	38	42
Therapist	%	1.7%	2.4%	3.0%	1.5%	2.4%	0.6%	1.3%	0.8%	0.4%
Medical	N	89	76	25	99	74	61	31	33	42
Dosimetrist	%	7.6%	5.1%	4.0%	4.6%	2.7%	2.6%	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%

Overall Mean	4.5%	3.7%	3.5%	3.1%	2.6%	1.6%	1.5%	0.9%	0.2%

^a Mountain: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico

Pacific: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii

West North Central: Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota and Iowa

South Atlantic: Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and

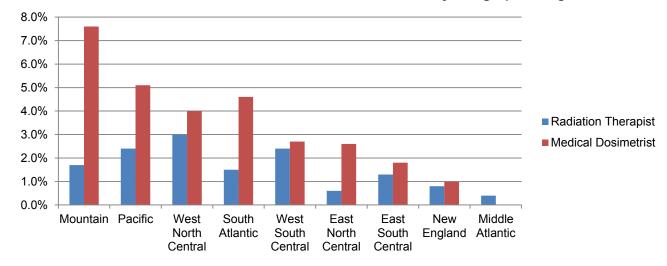
Georgia

West South Central: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana East North Central: Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio East South Central: Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama

New England: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut

Mid-Atlantic: New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey

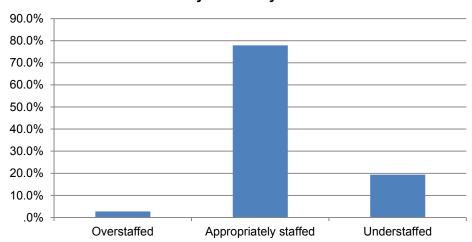
2014 Estimated Percent of Unfilled FTE Positions by Geographic Region



In terms of staffing levels, how would you describe your facility?

	N	Valid Percent
Overstaffed	16	2.7%
Appropriately staffed	454	77.9%
Understaffed	113	19.4%
Total	583	100.0%

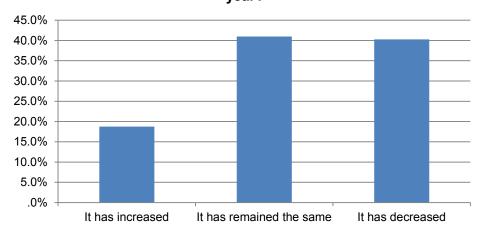
In terms of staffing levels, how would you describe your facility?



Which of the following options best describes your department's operating budget over the last fiscal year?

	N	Valid Percent
It has increased	107	18.7%
It has remained the same	234	41.0%
It has decreased	230	40.3%
Total	571	100.0%

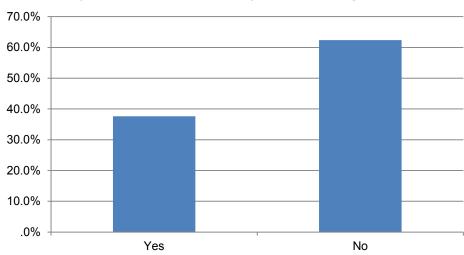
Which of the following options best describes your department's operating budget over the last fiscal year?



Is your department currently under a hiring freeze?

	N	Valid Percent
Yes	217	37.6%
No	360	62.4%
Total	577	100.0%

Is your department currently under a hiring freeze?



Facility Demographics

State

State	N
AK	1
AL	11
AR	6
AZ	20
CA	50
CO	10
CT	4
DE	1
FL	31
GA	15

State	N
HI	1
IA	8
ID	1
L	24
IN	18
KS	7
KY	10
LA	6
MA	18
MD/DC	16

State	N
ME	2
MI	19
MN	10
MO	13
MS	5
MT	2
NC	19
ND	2
NE	5
NH	1

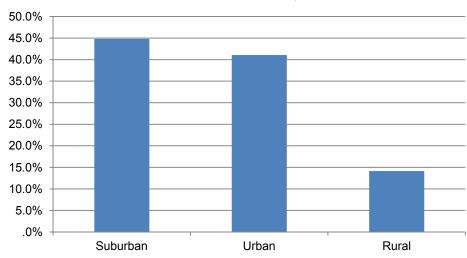
State	N
NJ	14
NM	2
NV	2
NY	37
ОН	16
OK	8
OR	6
PA	39
RI	0
SC	6

State	N
	IN
SD	1
TN	9
TX	44 5
UT	5
VA	14
VT	0
WA	17
WI	16
WV	4
WY	1

Location of facility:

	N	Valid Percent
Suburban	263	44.8%
Urban	241	41.1%
Rural	83	14.1%
Total	587	100.0%

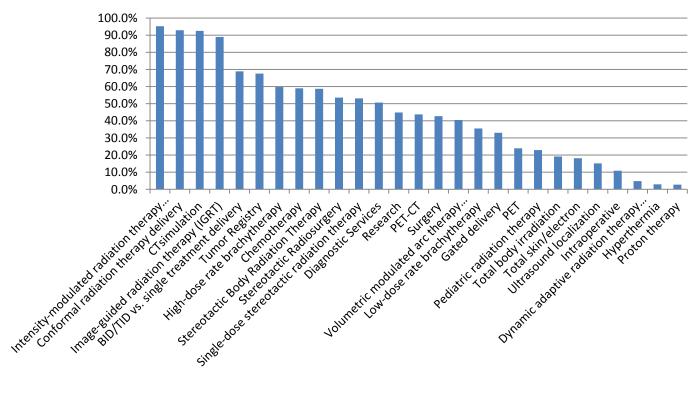
Location of facility:



Which of the following services does your facility provide?

vincing of the following services does your racinty p		
	N	Valid Percent
Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)	560	95.2%
Conformal radiation therapy delivery	546	92.9%
CT simulation	544	92.5%
Image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT)	523	88.9%
BID/TID vs. single treatment delivery	405	68.9%
Tumor Registry	397	67.5%
High-dose rate brachytherapy	351	59.7%
Chemotherapy	347	59.0%
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy	345	58.7%
Stereotactic Radiosurgery	315	53.6%
Single-dose stereotactic radiation therapy	312	53.1%
Diagnostic Services	298	50.7%
Research	264	44.9%
PET-CT	257	43.7%
Surgery	251	42.7%
Volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT)	238	40.5%
Low-dose rate brachytherapy	209	35.5%
Gated delivery	194	33.0%
PET	141	24.0%
Pediatric radiation therapy	135	23.0%
Total body irradiation	113	19.2%
Total skin/electron	107	18.2%
Ultrasound localization	89	15.1%
Intraoperative	64	10.9%
Dynamic adaptive radiation therapy (DART)	28	4.8%
Hyperthermia	17	2.9%
Proton therapy	16	2.7%

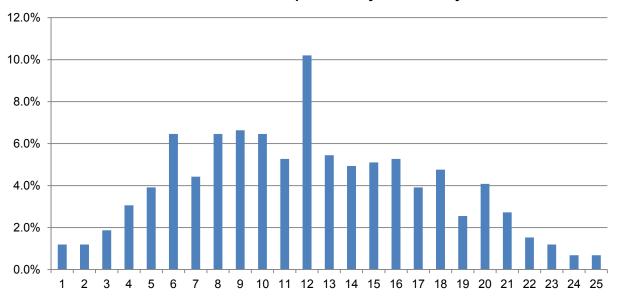
Which of the following services does your facility provide?



Number of services provided by each facility

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	7	1.2%	1.2%
2	7	1.2%	2.4%
3	11	1.9%	4.3%
4	18	3.1%	7.3%
5	23	3.9%	11.2%
6	38	6.5%	17.7%
7	26	4.4%	22.1%
8	38	6.5%	28.6%
9	39	6.6%	35.2%
10	38	6.5%	41.7%
11	31	5.3%	46.9%
12	60	10.2%	57.1%
13	32	5.4%	62.6%
14	29	4.9%	67.5%
15	30	5.1%	72.6%
16	31	5.3%	77.9%
17	23	3.9%	81.8%
18	28	4.8%	86.6%
19	15	2.6%	89.1%
20	24	4.1%	93.2%
21	16	2.7%	95.9%
22	9	1.5%	97.4%
23	7	1.2%	98.6%
24	4	0.7%	99.3%
25	4	0.7%	100.0%
Total	588	100.0%	
Mean	12.0 (SD=5.4)	<u> </u>	
Percentiles	5th=3.7, 25=7	.9, 50th=11.7, 75th	n=16.0, 95th=21.2

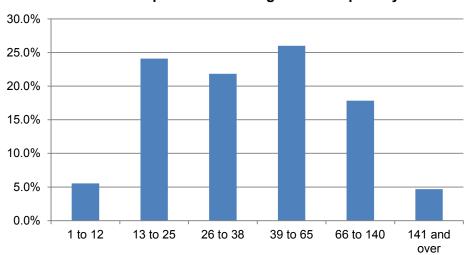
Number of services provided by each facility



Number of patients receiving treatment per day

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 to 12	30	5.2%	5.2%
13 to 25	139	24.3%	29.5%
26 to 38	126	22.0%	51.5%
39 to 65	150	26.2%	77.7%
66 to 140	103	18.0%	95.6%
141 and over	25	4.4%	100.0%
Total	573	100.0%	
Mean	52.7 (SD= 54.8)		
Percentiles	5th=13, 25th=25, 50th=38, 75=63, 95th=139		

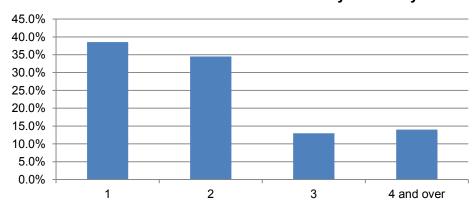
Number of patients receiving treatment per day



Number of linear accelerators in use at your facility

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	219	38.6%	38.6%
2	197	34.7%	73.2%
3	74	13.0%	86.3%
4 and over	78	13.7%	100.0%
Total	568	100.0%	
Mean	2.3 (SD=2.4)		
Percentiles	5th .22, 25th=1.2 50th=1.8, 75th=2.7, 95th=5.7		

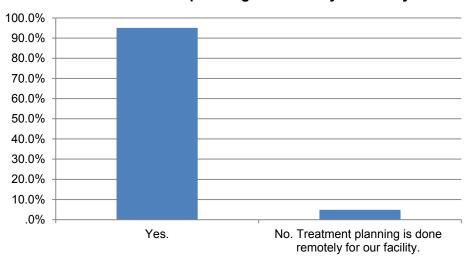
Number of linear accelerators in use at your facility



Are there treatment planning stations at your facility?

	N	Valid Percent
Yes.	546	95.1%
No. Treatment planning is done remotely for our facility.	28	4.9%
Total	574	100.0%

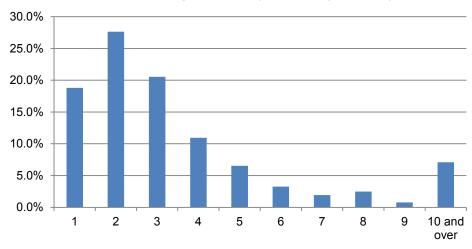
Are there treatment planning stations at your facility?



If you selected "yes" to the previous question, how many treatment planning stations do you have at your facility?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
4			
1	98	18.8%	18.8%
2	144	27.6%	46.4%
3	107	20.5%	67.0%
4	57	10.9%	77.9%
5	34	6.5%	84.5%
6	17	3.3%	87.7%
7	10	1.9%	89.6%
8	13	2.5%	92.1%
9	4	0.8%	92.9%
10 and over	37	7.1%	100.0%
Total	521	100.0%	
Mean	3.8 (SD=4.0)		
Percentiles	5th=-, 25th=1.7, 50th=	2.7, 75=4.3, 95=1°	1.7

If you selected "yes" to the previous question, how many treatment planning stations do you have at your facility?

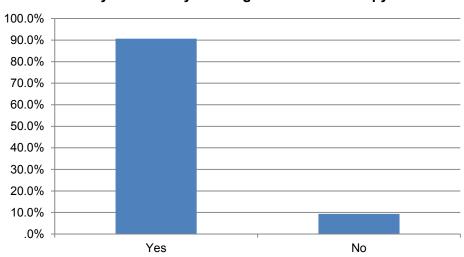


Personnel Demographics

Are you currently working in radiation therapy?

	N	Valid Percent
Yes	593	90.7%
No	61	9.3%
Total	654	100.0%

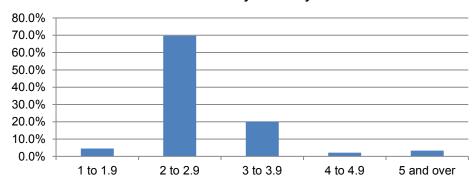
Are you currently working in radiation therapy?



On average, how many therapists per linear accelerator are scheduled at your facility?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 to 1.9	27	4.6%	4.6%
2 to 2.9	410	69.7%	74.3%
3 to 3.9	118	20.1%	94.4%
4 to 4.9	13	2.2%	96.6%
5 and over	20	3.4%	100.0%
Total	588	100.0%	
Mean	2.5 (SD=2.4)		
Percentiles	5th=1.5, 25th=1.8, 50th=2.2, 75th=2.8, 95th=3.9		

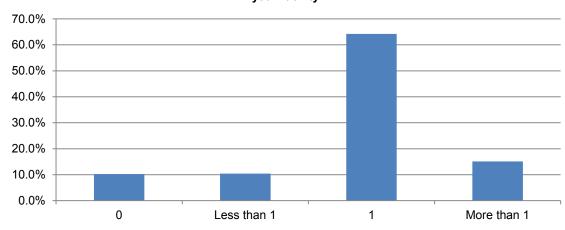
On average, how many therapists per linear accelerator are scheduled at your facility?



On average, how many dosimetrists per linear accelerator are scheduled at your facility?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	57	10.3%	10.3%
Less than 1	58	10.4%	20.7%
1	357	64.2%	84.9%
More than 1	84	15.1%	100.0%
Total	556	100.0%	
Mean	1.0 (SD=0.7)		
Percentiles	5th=-, 25th=0.9, 50th=1.0, 75th=1.2, 95th=2.0		

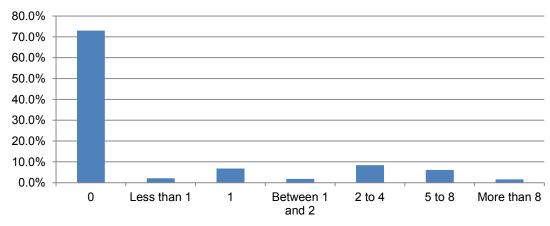
On average, how many dosimetrists per linear accelerator are scheduled at your facility?



How many hours per day does your facility routinely schedule only one radiation therapist per linear accelerator?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 hours	406	73.0%	73.0%
Less than 1 hour	12	2.2%	75.2%
1 hour	38	6.8%	82.0%
Between 1 and 2 hours	10	1.8%	83.8%
2 to 4 hours	47	8.5%	92.3%
5 to 8 hours	34	6.1%	98.4%
More than 8 hours	9	1.6%	100.0%
Total	556	100.0%	
Mean	1.0 hour (SD=2.8 hours)		
Percentiles	5th=-, 25th=-, 50th=6 minutes, 75th=43 minutes, 95th=4 hours and 46 minutes		

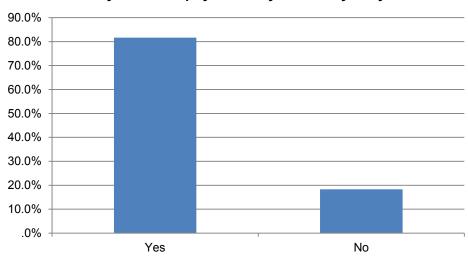
How many hours per day does your facility routinely schedule only one radiation therapist per linear accelerator?



Do you have a physicist at your facility daily?

	N	Valid Percent				
Yes	468	81.7%				
No	105	18.3%				
Total	573	100.0%				

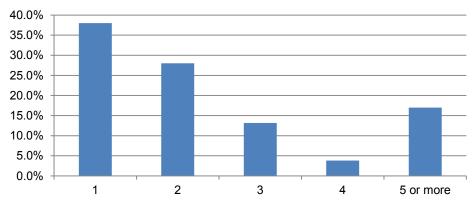
Do you have a physicist at your facility daily?



If you selected "yes" on the previous question, how many FTE physicists do you have on staff? (Rounded to the nearest whole number.)

-	Frequency	Valid Percent				
1	179	38.0%				
2	132	28.0%				
3	62	13.2%				
4	18	3.8%				
5 or more	80	17.0%				
Total	471	100.0%				
Mean	3.0 (SD=4.0)					
Percentiles	5th=0.8 25th=1.1 50th=1.9 75th=3.1 95th=9.5					

If you selected "yes" on the previous question, how many FTE physicists do you have on staff?

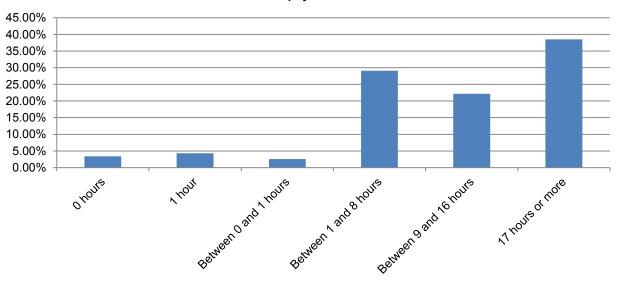


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If you do not have an FTE physicist on staff at your facility, how many hours per week is there a physicist on site?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent			
0 hours	4	3.4%	3.4%			
1 hour	5	4.3%	7.7%			
Between 0 and 1 hours	3	2.6%	10.3%			
Between 1 and 8 hours	34	29.1%	39.4%			
Between 9 and 16 hours	26	22.2%	61.6%			
17 hours or more	45	38.5%	100.0%			
Total	117	100.0%				
Mean	19.0 (SD=18.2)					
Percentiles	5th=0.4, 25th=5.6, 50th=15.4, 75th=24.0, 95th=63.6					

If you do not have an FTE physicist on staff at your facility, how many hours per week is there a physicist on site?





Retirement, Turnover and Inactive Demographics

At what age do employees typically retire from your facility?

	Age
N	420
Mean	63.9
SD	3.3
Median	65.0

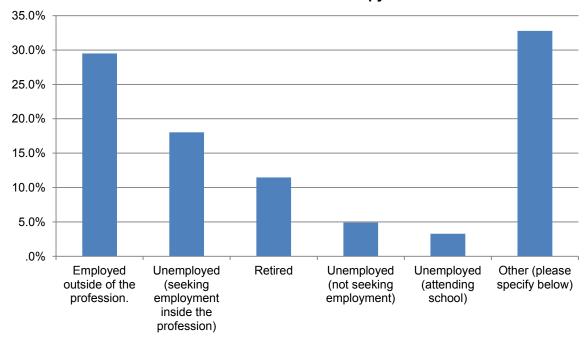
Over the last two years, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) radiation therapists or medical dosimetrists in your department have left for any of the following reasons?

	Retirement Layoffs		yoffs Terminated With Cause		Left to Work in Another Profession		Personal Reasons (health, family, continuing their education, etc.)		Other Reasons		Total			
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
N	416	417	419	417	426	428	426	426	431	420	398	400	-	-
Mean	.08	.10	.12	.15	.14	.19	.12	.14	.21	.18	.18	.27	.85	1.03
SD	.29	.31	.55	.57	.38	.56	.40	.44	.67	.54	.54	.68	2.83	3.09
Median	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00

Choose the primary reason you are unemployed or employed outside of radiation therapy.

		Valid
	N	Percent
Employed outside of the profession.	18	29.5%
Unemployed (seeking employment inside the	11	18.0%
profession)		
Unemployed (attending school)	7	11.5%
Unemployed (not seeking employment)	3	4.9%
Retired	2	3.3%
Other (please specify below)	20	32.8%
Total	61	100.0%

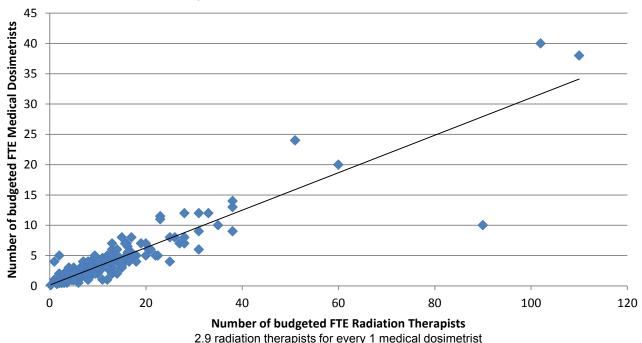
Choose the primary reason you are unemployed or employed outside of radiation therapy.



Appendix A. Scatterplots

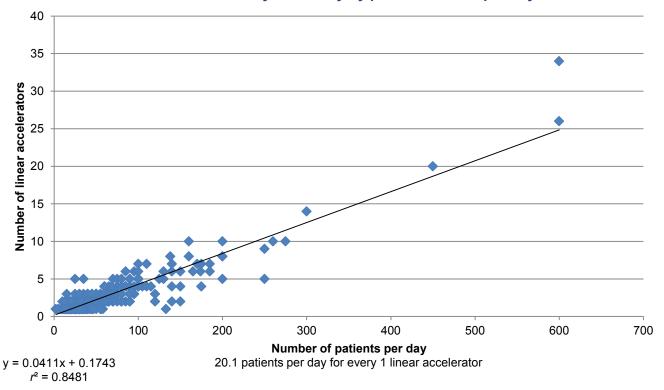
Below are scatterplots that demonstrate the observed relation between selected variables from the survey. Please note that these scatterplots do not necessarily demonstrate any causal relation. They merely show how the given factors measured in the survey vary from each other. In each instance below, one variable is treated as independent (charted on the x-axis) and another is treated as dependent (charted on the y-axis). The diamond-shaped points on the chart represent each of the observed data points from the survey. The diagonal line running across the chart represents the best-fit straight line through the observed data points. This is derived from the regression equation in the lower left-hand corner of the chart. The r^2 measures the proportion of variance among the data points accounted for by the regression equation. The closer the r^2 is to 1, the better the line fits the data; the closer the r^2 is to 0, the more poorly the line fits the data. Also listed is the ratio of the variable on the x-axis to the variable on the y-axis.

Number of Budgeted FTE Medical Dosimetrists per Facility by Number of Budgeted FTE RadiationTherapists per Facility

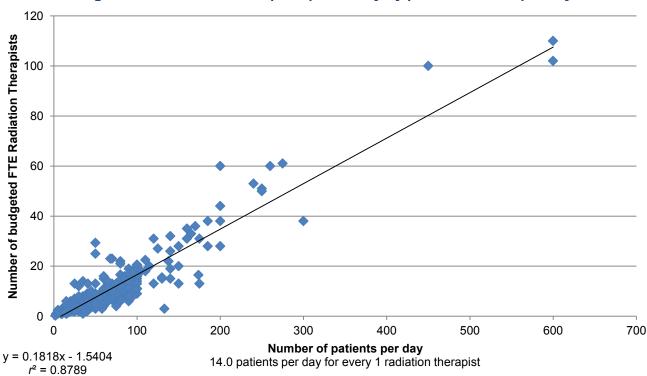


y = 0.3091x + 0.1172 $r^2 = 0.8467$

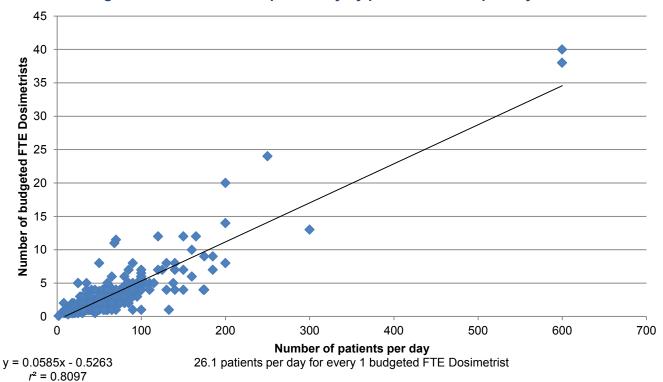
Number of linear accelerators used at your facility by patients treated per day



Number of budgeted FTE radiation therapists per facility by patients treated per day



Number of budgeted FTE dosimetrists per facility by patients treated per day



Number of budgeted FTE physicists per facility by patients treated per day by

