

The seal of the State of Illinois is centered in the background. It features a central figure of a Native American holding a bow and arrow, with a banner below that reads "STATE SOVEREIGN, NATIONAL UNION". The seal is surrounded by a circular border with the text "STATE OF ILLINOIS" at the top and "REGULATORY AGENCY" at the bottom.

# **PRESENTATION TO HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE**

**Mental Health Regulatory Agency**

**Todd Younkin, Executive Director**

**September 23, 2024**



# Mental Health Regulatory Agency

**The Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) was created in 2017 to provide administrative and regulatory oversight to:**

- Oregon Board of Psychology (BOP)
- Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (BLPCT)

**MHRA performs the following functions for the boards:**

- Budgeting and Contracting
- Recordkeeping
- Staffing
- Procedure and policymaking
- Performance Measurement

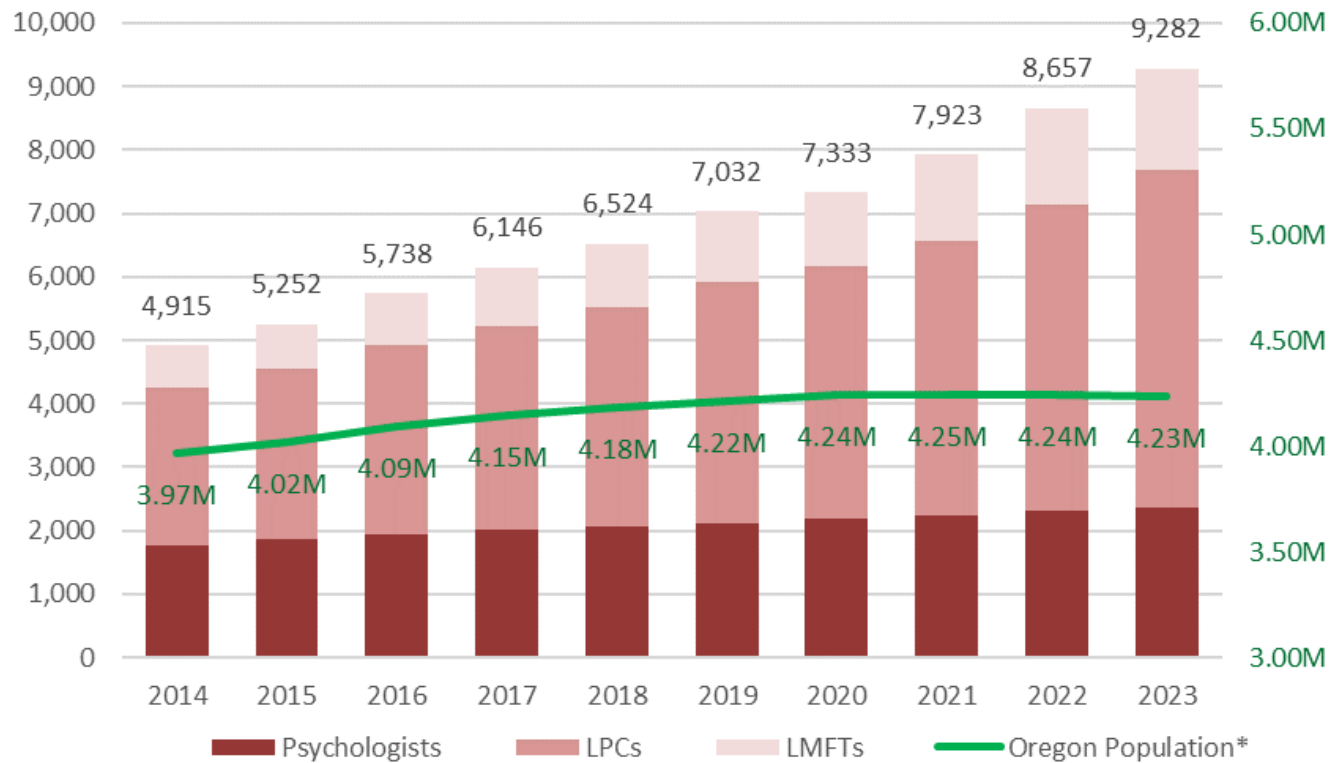
**The boards maintain their own separate authority for:**

- Complaint investigations
- Regulatory enforcement
- Establishment and collection of fees
- Licensing criteria and practice standards



# Licensing Statistics and Trends

Growth: Oregon Population & MHRA Licensees



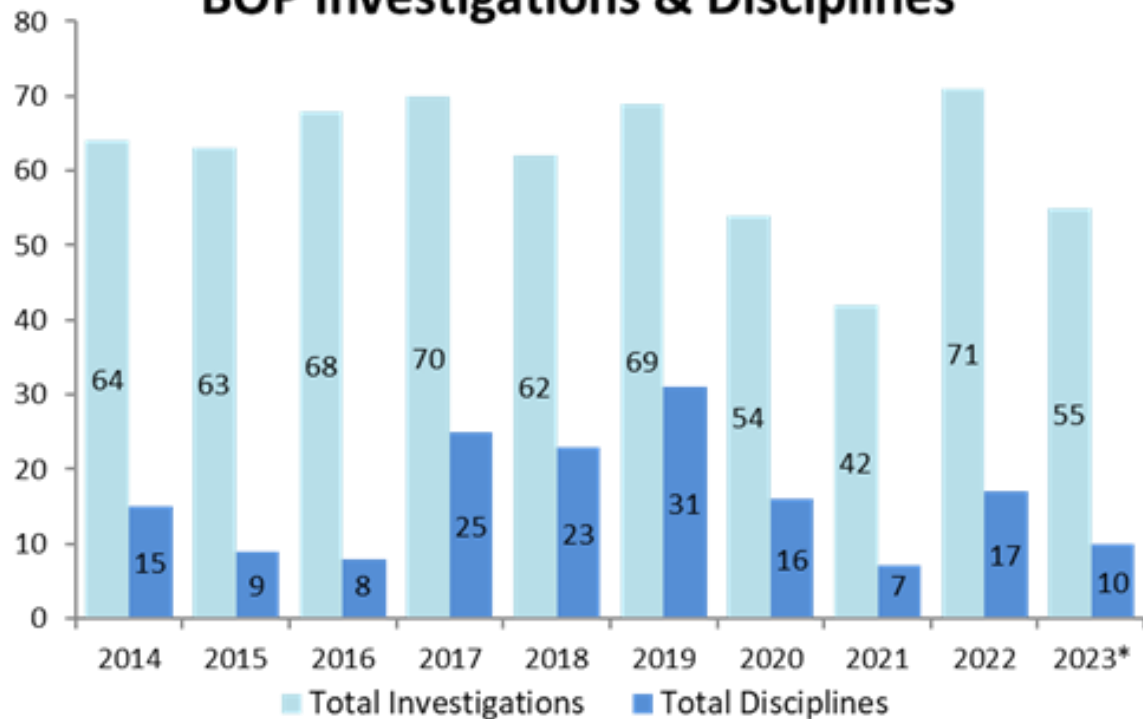
\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program data by State

- In 2023, BOP issued **131** new psychologist licenses, approved **58** new residencies, and issued **132** limited permits. The licensee base, currently **2,400**, has grown by an average of **3.2% per year** over the past decade.
- In 2023, BLPCT issued **647** new professional counselor licenses, **166** marriage and family therapist licenses, and **661** new associate registrations. The licensee/registrant base, currently **9,518**, has grown by an average of **9.4% per year** over the past decade. The Board began issuing limited permits in 2024 per House Bill 3300 (2023).

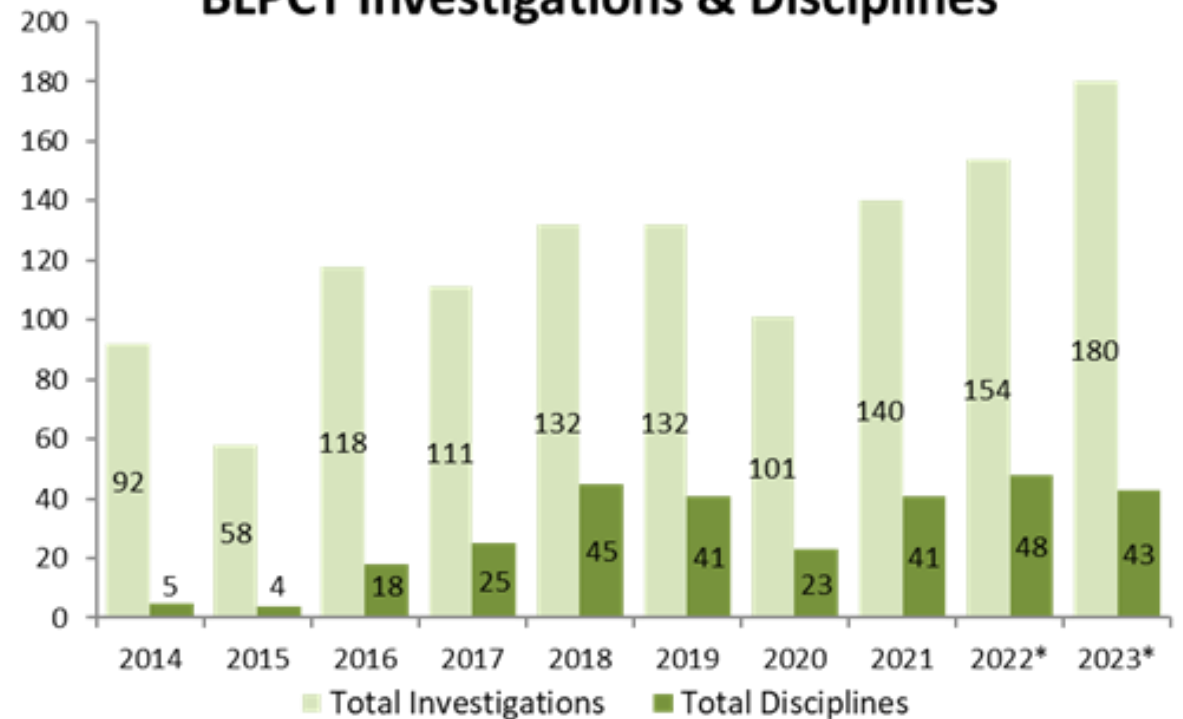


# Compliance Statistics and Trends

## BOP Investigations & Disciplines



## BLPCT Investigations & Disciplines





# Applications/Renewals – BOP

- **Applications** received via automated applicant portal.
- Completed applications routinely approved within two days.
- Application fees:
  - Psychologist - \$480 plus \$46.25 background check fee
  - Limited Permit (30 days in 12 months) - \$120
  - Temporary Practice Authorization (active duty military spouse) - \$700
- **Renewals** accomplished via automated licensee portal *every two years*.
- Renewals routinely processed instantaneously.
- Renewal Fees:
  - Psychologist - \$600
  - Late fees (1-30 days post-expiration date) - \$210



# Out of State Applicants – BOP

Application Documentation Requirements - BOP			
	Other Methods	Endorsement (Licensed 5-15 years)	Endorsement (Licensed ≥ 15 years)
Proposed Residency Contract (if clinical experience is needed)	✓		
Competency Exam (or verification thereof)	✓	✓	
Criminal Background Check	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Degree Supervisor Reference Form(s)	✓		
Educational Record Form (foreign degrees only)	✓	✓	
Graduate Transcript	✓	✓	
Oregon Jurisprudence Exam	✓	✓	✓
Post-Degree Supervisor Reference Form(s) (if post-degree clinical experience has been completed)	✓	✓	
Verification of Licensure from Another State (if any licenses are held)	✓	✓	✓



# Applications/Renewals – BLPCT

- **Applications** received via automated applicant portal.
- Completed applications routinely approved within two days.
- Application fees:
  - Licensed Professional Counselor / Marriage and Family Therapist - \$290 plus \$46.25 background check fee
  - Limited Permit (30 days in 12 months) - \$100
  - Temporary Practice Authorization (active duty military spouse)- \$405
- **Renewals** accomplished via automated licensee portal *every two years*.
- Renewals routinely processed instantaneously.
- Renewal fees:
  - Licensed Professional Counselor / Marriage and Family Therapist - \$290
  - Delinquent (Late) fees (1-31 days post-expiration date) - \$50



# Out of State Applicants – BLPCT

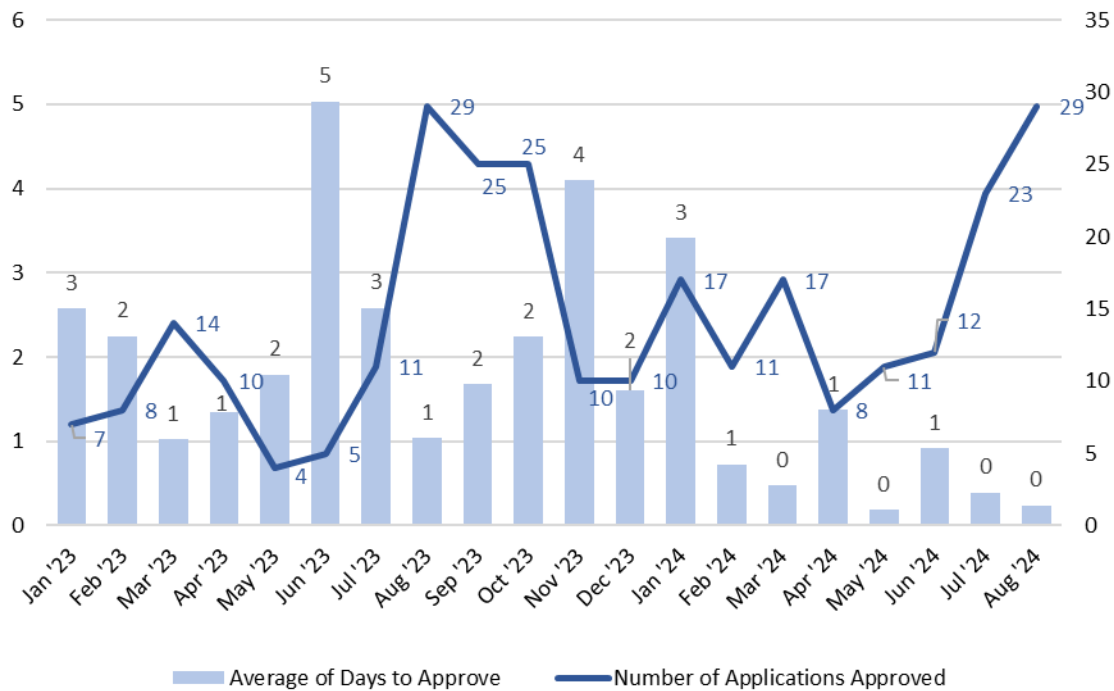
Application Documentation Requirements - BLPCT		
	Other Methods	Reciprocity (Licensed ≥ 3 years)
Associate Supervised Clinical Experience Plan (if clinical experience is needed)	✓	
Competency Exam (or verification thereof)	✓	✓
Criminal Background Check	✓	✓
Degree Program Direct Client Contact Hours (if pre-degree clinical experience was completed)	✓	
Educational Record Form (unaccredited programs only)	✓	
Graduate Transcript	✓	✓
Oregon Law and Rules Exam	✓	✓
Post-Degree Supervised Clinical Experience Form (if post-degree clinical experience has been completed)	✓	
Verification of Licensure from Another State (if any licenses are held)	✓	✓



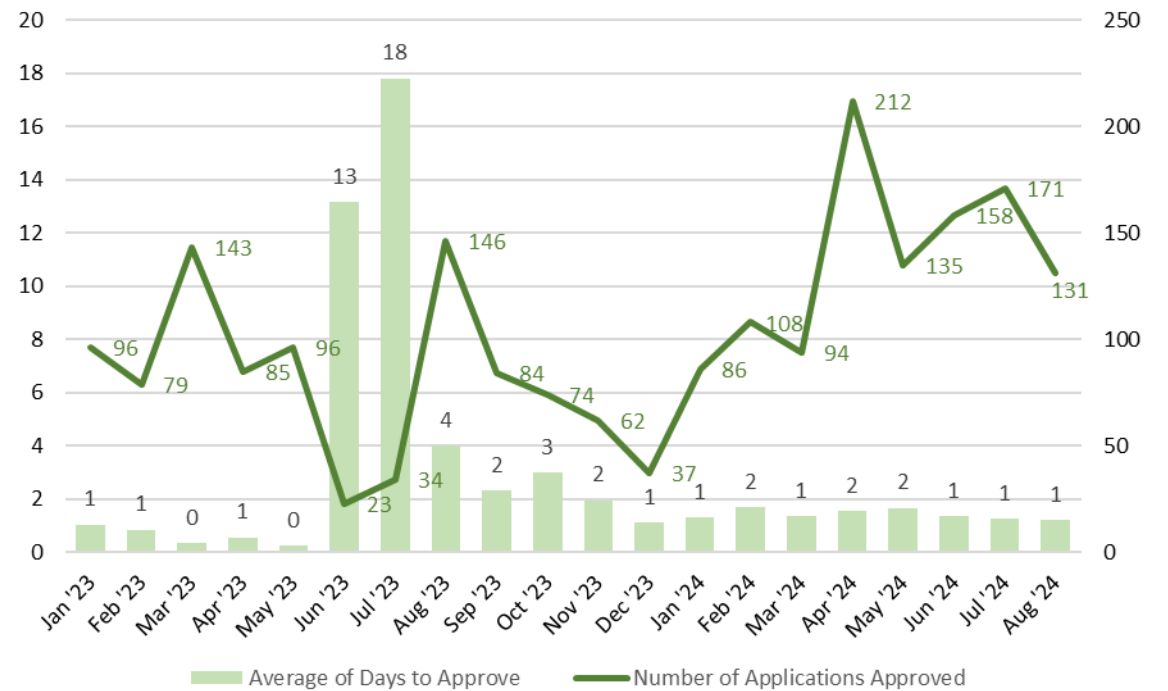


# Key Performance Measure: Time to Approve

**BOP Applications - Days to Approve**



**BLPCT Applications - Days to Approve**





# Licensure is a Dynamic Process

- **Board (Agency)** – establish requirements, develop processes, information delivery, staff support, systems support
- **Applicant** - timely/accurate submission of required documentation
- **Third Parties** (Other state licensing entities, supervisors, educational institutions) - timely submission of required documentation



# BOP Reducing Barriers to Licensure

- Rule Changes 2023
  - Increased flexibility for approval of coursework for internationally-degreed students
- Rule/Policy Changes 2024
  - Reduced licensing fees by 14-23%
  - Eliminated unnecessary reference forms
  - Reduced documentation required of Endorsement (out-of-state) applicants
  - Reduced post-degree experience requirements to allow applicants to qualify sooner
  - Allowed internationally-degreed psychologists licensed at least 5 years to qualify for Licensure by Endorsement



# BLPCT Reducing Barriers to Licensure

- Rule Changes 2023
  - Reduced supervised clinical experience requirement (LPC/LMFT) from 2,400 hrs to 1,900 hrs
  - Created additional flexibility within cumulative hour requirements
  - Created additional flexibility for out-of-state applicants with less than 5 years licensure in other states
  - Removed Competency Exam deadlines, resulting in fewer denials
- Statute/Rule Changes 2024
  - Added limited permit
  - Removed automatic denial of supervised hours for late submittal
  - Reduced fees
  - HB 4010 removed requirement for Board approval of Professional Disclosure Statement



# MHRA Connects With Customers in a Variety of Ways

- Licensing System – apply, renew, submit documents, check status
- Website
- Voicemail
- Email
- In-person
- Phones
  - In 2024, and as recently as this month, staffing shortages resulted in a temporary inability to provide live phone support.
  - Live phone support has been restored as of Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- MHRA Benchmark: next business day for email/voicemail inquiry



# Opportunities

- Data collection and focused process improvement efforts
- Assistance request
  - Database (ARB)
  - Staffing support (ARB)
  - Disciplinary Cost Assessment Authority



# Interstate Compacts

- Compacts must be evaluated independently.
- Both boards have voted to request legislation enabling them to enter into their respective compacts.
- Board Counsel and Legislative Counsel are working to draft enabling legislation and address possible constitutional and statutory conflicts.

The background features a large, semi-transparent seal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The seal is circular with a gold outer ring containing the text "MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY" in blue. Inside this ring is a blue ring with the text "OF" at the top and "1859" at the bottom. The center of the seal depicts an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a shield. The shield contains a sun rising over a body of water with a ship. Below the shield is a banner with the text "THE UNION".

# Questions?

Mental Health Regulatory Agency  
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