

Health Professional Licensing

House Interim Committee on
Behavioral Health and Health Care

Nicole Krishnaswami, JD
Executive Director





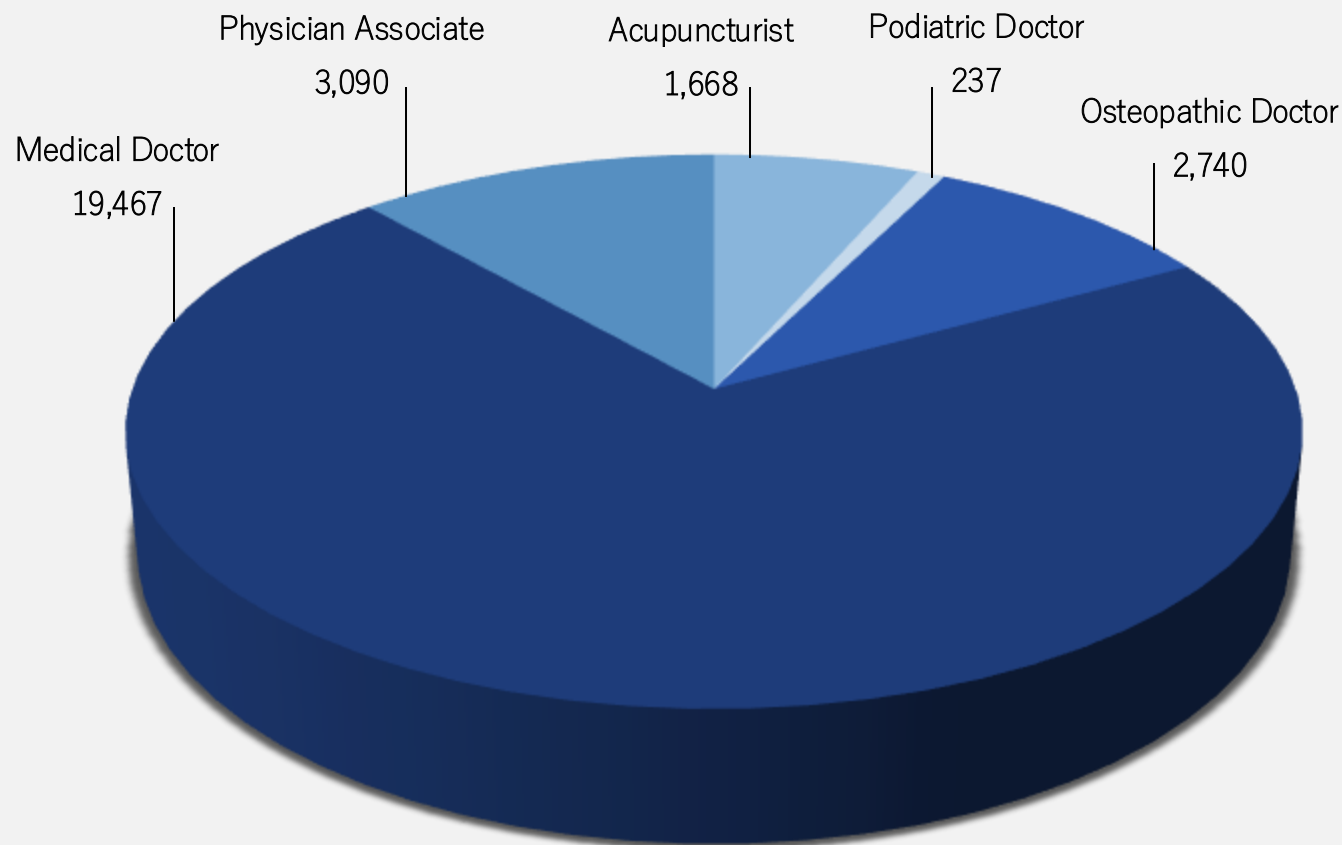
OREGON MEDICAL BOARD INTRODUCTION

14 Governor-appointed, Senate-confirmed, dedicated public servants who volunteer their time in the best interest of Oregonians

40 agency employees focused on efficiently and effectively licensing medical professionals and thoroughly and thoughtfully investigating patient safety concerns

LICENSING BASICS: THE NUMBERS

27,202 Licensees as of July 1, 2024



Established in 1889 to regulate the practice of medicine (ORS 677).

The OMB licenses and regulates more than 27,000 Medical Doctors (MD), Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), Physician Associates (PA), and Acupuncturists (LAc).

In 2023, the Board welcomed to Oregon 1,519 MDs, 337 PAs, 309 DOs, 72 LAcS, and 15 DPMs, for a total of **2,252 new licensees**.

Board staff **renewed 23,290 licenses** in 2023.

LICENSING BASICS: CUSTOMER SERVICE

OMB licensing staff is composed of **10 employees**, each trained to process licenses and renewals:

- 1 Licensing Manager;
- 6 Licensing Specialists; and
- 3 Licensing Representatives (Call Center).

The OMB prides itself on strong customer service. Each phone call is answered by a staff member so that applicants, licensees, and the public speak with a person. Email responses are most often on the same day and no later than 2 business days.

In 2023, licensing staff responded to **24,545 emails** and answered **12,933 telephone calls**.

Sincere thank you for your rapid response and kind consideration. You have always been responsive and helpful in all my years of practice in Oregon.

The staff were always friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable. I was happy to have had my application processed so quickly once all the correct items were submitted.

Of 4 states that I have licenses in, this state board was by far the most available and friendly! I felt like I had a concierge ushering me through the whole process and I was very impressed by the experience. It makes me want to recommend OR as a state to practice to my colleagues.

This was one of the most efficient online processes that I have used in my career. Kudos to the team.

I applied for licensing in 3 states and found the Oregon Medical Board to be the most organized system. When I clicked into my application, it was very clear what documentation was still missing. I was also provided comments on my application. It was also very easy to reach a staff member by phone and have my questions answered. Thank you!

Over many years I have had nothing but excellence from the OMB.

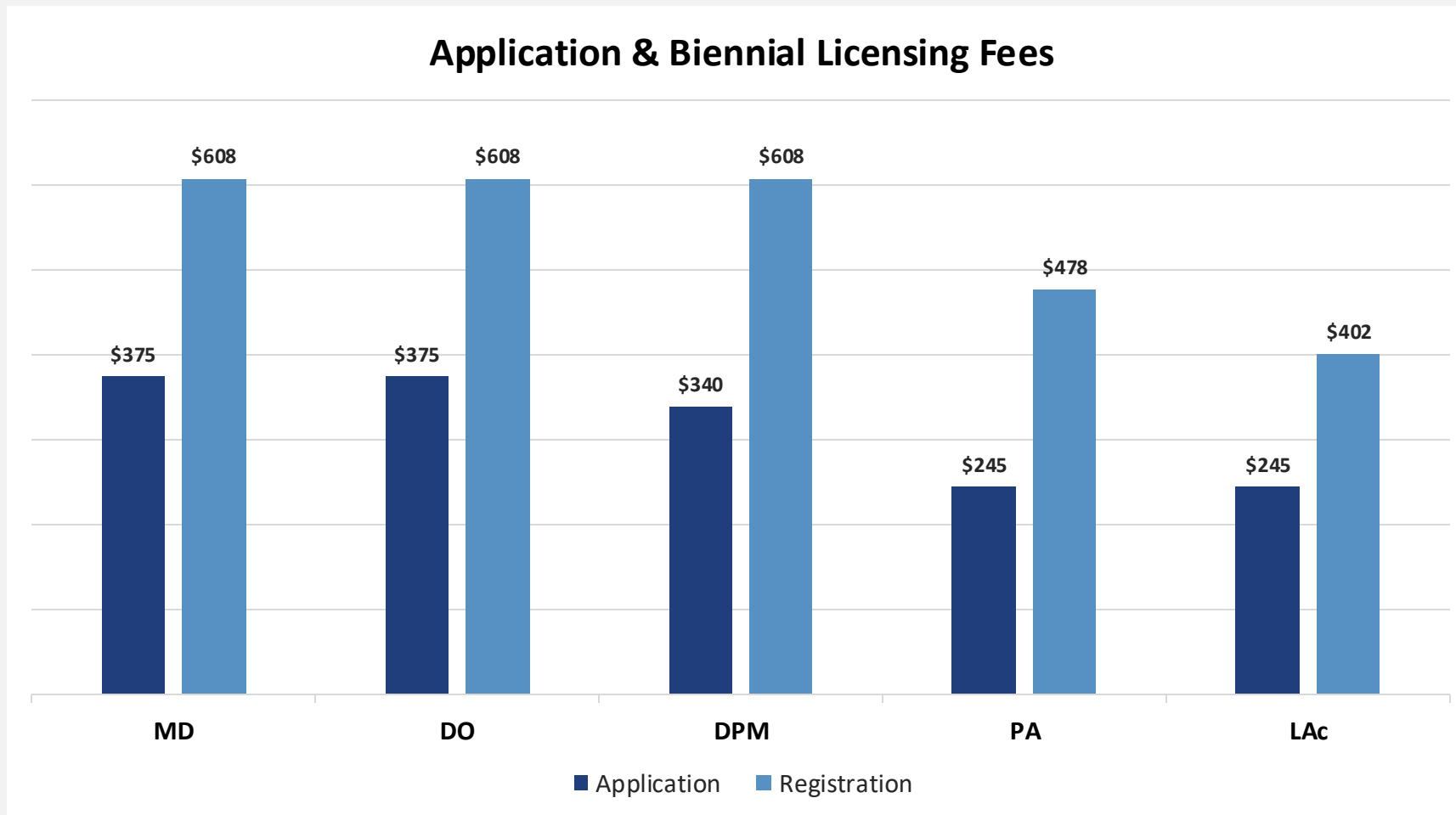
People were readily available to answer questions making the process easier. Thanks

Very quick phone response concerning adjustment to my medical license. Thanks

The online license renewal process is excellent. Streamlined and easy to navigate. Thank you!

APPLICATION/RENEWAL PROCESS: LICENSE FEES

Applications and Renewals are **online** through the Applicant/Licensee Service Portal.
Licensure costs depend on the license being applied for:



APPLICATION/RENEWAL PROCESS: TIMELINES

Application Processing Timelines:

Timeframe	2022	2024
Processing Applications Received	5 Business Days	2-3 Business Days
License Approvals	1 business day	1 business day
Overall Process Averages*	3 months	2 months
Internal and External Barriers	Staffing	Staffing

Renewal Process:

- Occurs **every two years**.
- Licensing staff renewed **23,284** licenses between September 2023 and September 2024.
- The average processing time for license renewals is **2 business days**.
- Renewal late fees depend on the license being applied for:
 - MDs, DOs, and DPMs = \$195
 - PAs and LAcS = \$80

APPLICATION/RENEWAL PROCESS: PERSONAL HISTORY QUESTIONS



Supporting Applicants and Licensees through the Application Process

On June 1, 2023, the Board officially changed its license and renewal applications to remove intrusive and stigmatizing questions around mental health care and treatment.

The applications now offer an advisory statement with supportive language around mental health. Licensees and applicants are accountable for their own well-being.

[Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation](#)

APPLICATION/RENEWAL PROCESS: EFFORTS UNDERWAY

Database Replacement/ Upgrade Underway

- Ultimately will offer increased functionality (API with national databases)
- More user-friendly interface for applicants and licensing staff
- Possibility for credentialing organizations to access OMB data for source information

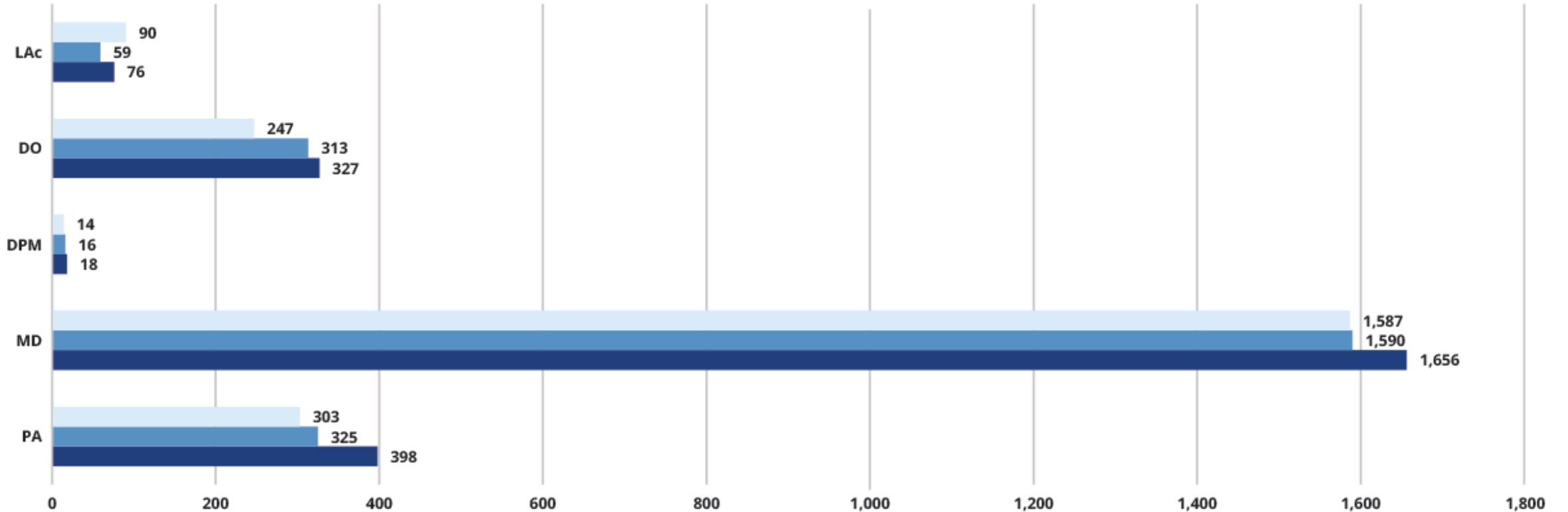


APPLICATION/RENEWAL PROCESS: APPLICATION GROWTH

■ Sept 2021-22 - 2,241

■ Sept 2022-23 - 2,330

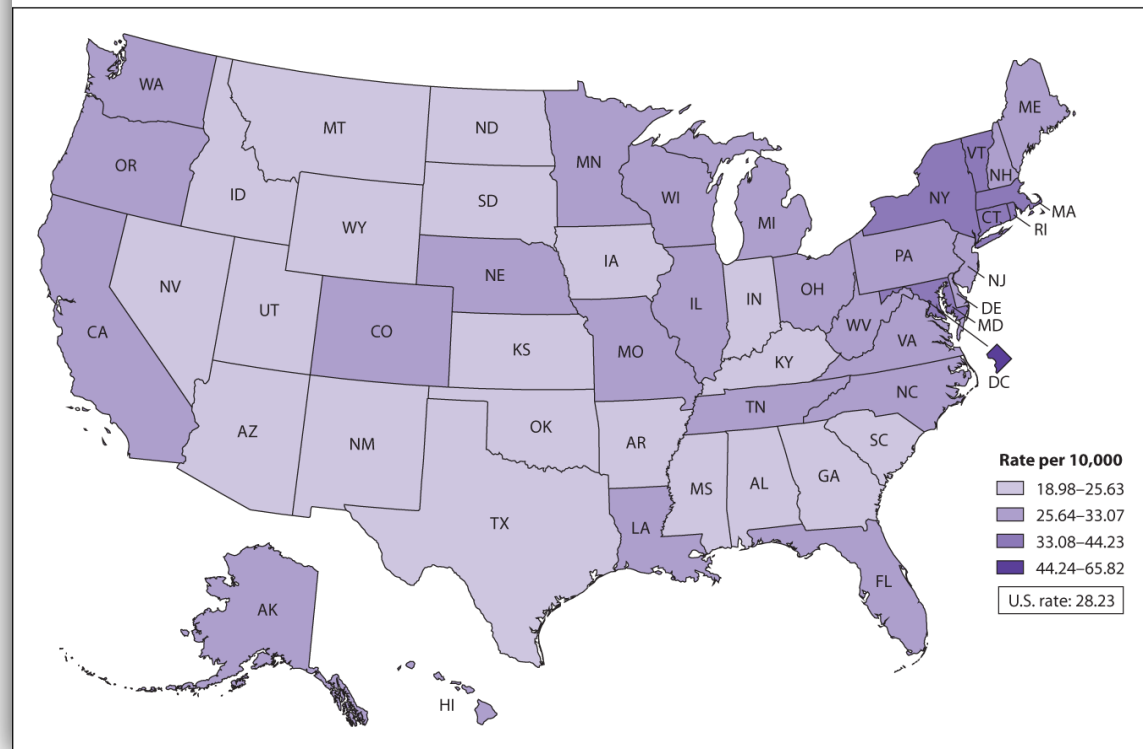
■ Sept 2023-24 - 2,475



OUT-OF-STATE LICENSES: INTERSTATE COMPACT

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) would limit existing strategies OMB uses to ensure medical providers are safe and competent.

Figure. Number of physicians in patient care per 10,000 resident population, by state: United States, 2019



Reduced standards for licensure:

- No review of malpractice claims, employment history (including sexual misconduct), criminal history, or NPDB
- Cannot require re-entry plans
- Inability to monitor impaired licensees

Additional concerns:

- Medical practice act differences between Compact states (Dobbs v. Jackson)
- Mandatory sharing of information between Compact states
- Automatic suspensions triggered by disciplinary actions in Compact states
- Inaccurate data
- Slow processing times
- No access to source documents (e.g. for credentialing)

OUT-OF-STATE LICENSES: FREE/EXPEDITED/EXEMPT

Temporary (FREE) Licenses/Authorizations

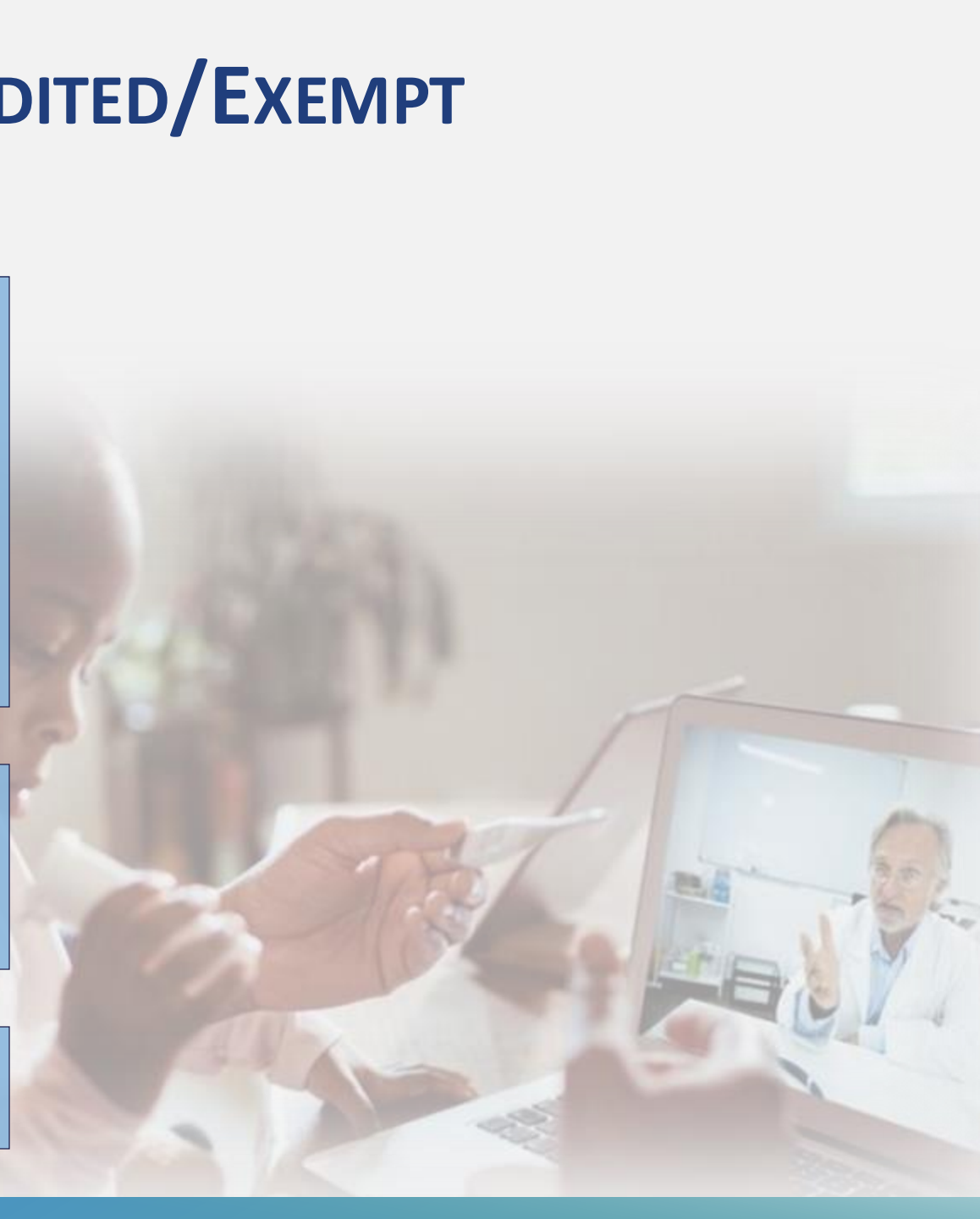
- To obtain or provide training (outside of a residency program) – 30 days/year
- To serve as a medical expert in civil or criminal litigation – 30 days/year
- To provide care during & immediately following a declared emergency – emergency + 90 days
- To volunteer at a non-profit organization – 5 days/year
- To volunteer with a coordinating organization – 30 days/year

Out-of-State Licensees

- Expedited Endorsement – primary source verification of core credentials is waived
- Telemedicine Licenses

License Exemptions

- Exemptions for Telemedicine continuity of care



OREGON MEDICAL BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

2023 Disciplinary Actions

Investigation Totals	2021	2022	2023
Investigations Opened	713	757	804
Investigations Closed	868	792	877
Investigative Committee Interviews	59	47	47
Reportable Orders	75	91	53

Public Orders & Agreements	2021	2022	2023
Automatic Suspensions	2	3	0
Corrective Action Agreements	14	12	9
Stipulated Orders	58	71	45
Voluntary Limitations	0	2	0
Final Orders	0	3	0

OREGON MEDICAL BOARD

Over 130 Years of Ensuring Patient Safety



Nicole Krishnaswami, JD

Executive Director

nicole.krishnaswami@omb.oregon.gov

END OF PRESENTATION
BLANK SLIDE