Iowa Board of Medicine

Phone: 515-281-5171
www.medicalboard.iowa.gov

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

When you or a loved one are ill and need medical care, it can be stressful. You have many things to be concerned about, but worries about your doctor's competency should not be one of them. The Iowa Board of Medicine strives to ensure that only qualified, skilled physicians and acupuncturists practice in Iowa.

In addition to helping Iowans get quality medical care, the Iowa Board of Medicine helps doctors. The Board has improved the license renewal system for doctors. In FY2011, 95% of physicians renewed their license online, eliminating wait-time and allowing for immediate practice.

And, by streamlining the peer review system, the Board has been able to take disciplinary action sooner, and when necessary, remove incompetent physicians from practice.

Did you know? There are 11,134 physicians and 46 acupuncturists licensed to provide health services to Iowans.

Why is the Iowa Board of Medicine important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Iowans deserve medical care and acupuncture from competent, qualified practitioners. By licensing providers, we help keep untrained and dishonest individuals from working in Iowa.
- The medical board provides licensure, investigation, and services for professionals with substance abuse or mental health problems. Iowa law mandates such services.
- Research shows that monitoring programs, like the Iowa Physician Health program, are highly effective in reducing the likelihood of a return to addictive or problem behavior.
- Thousands of Iowans use the Docfinder service on the medical board's Web site each year. Docfinder provides information about licensees to the public.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

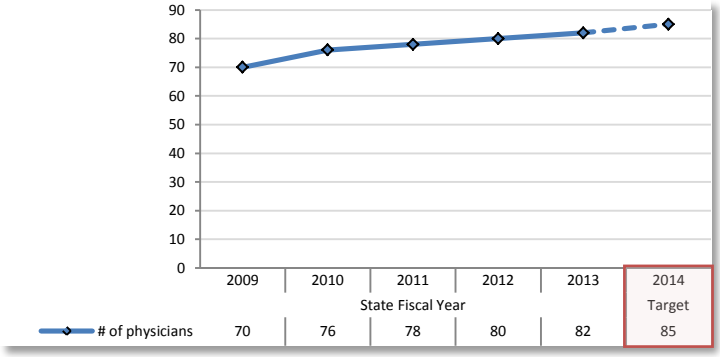
Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do we do?

- License health professionals.
- Investigate complaints about health professionals.
- Discipline health professionals who have broken the law.
- Monitor disciplined and impaired health professionals so they can return to practice as soon as they are safe to practice again.
- Provide information about licensure and discipline to the public, employers, and credentialers.
- Speak to professional groups, students, and the public.
- Watch trends in other states and use that information to help form policy.

How do we measure our progress?

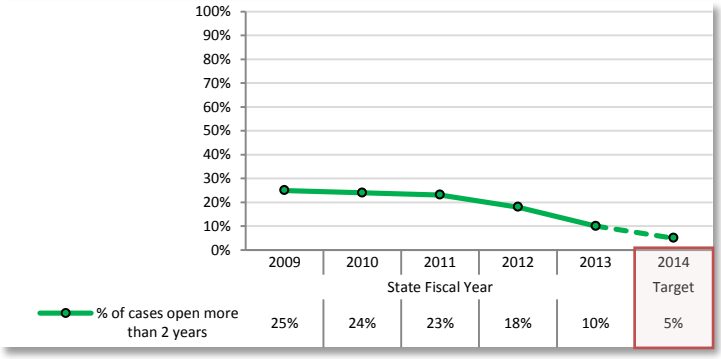
❶ **Number of physicians with signed contracts in the Iowa Physician Health Program.**



Data Source: Manual counts. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? More than 400 physicians have participated in this monitoring program since its establishment in 1996.

❷ **Percent of open cases that have been open for more than two years.**



Data Source: Board database. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? The percentage continues to decline, allowing the Board to be more responsive to public concerns about licensees' competence and conduct.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. All Iowans can use the Docfinder on the medical board's Web site to search for a licensed physician or acupuncturist. Go to www.medicalboard.iowa.gov to use Docfinder.
2. Physicians and licensed acupuncturists should learn about and follow ethical and medical guidelines.
3. Physicians and employers should use the Iowa Physician Health Program to deal with physicians who show an impairment or potential impairment (for example, addiction or mental health problems). Go to www.iphp.iowa.gov to learn more.

Expenditures

Retained fees: K19-2071/2075

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	$0	$0	$0
Other funds*	$2,157,286	$2,637,823	$4,041,139
Total funds	**$2,157,286**	**$2,637,823**	**$4,041,139**
FTEs	19.83	22.47	24.00

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

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