

Georgia Composite Medical Board



Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

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About the Board

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is the agency mandated with the licensure and regulation of: physicians, physician assistants, respiratory care professionals, perfusionists, acupuncturists, orthotists, prosthetists, auricular (ear) detoxification technicians, resident physician permits, cosmetic laser practitioners, pain management clinics, as well as pharmacy vaccine/ nurse practitioners prescribing protocol approvals.

The Board is also the reviewing authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses prescriptive authority.

The Medical Board investigates complaints and disciplines those who violate *The Medical Practice Act* or other laws or rules governing the professional behavior of its licensees.

The Board meets monthly to license and regulate the professions listed above. Although meeting times and locations may vary, the majority are held at the Board's office in Atlanta. Agendas, minutes and additional information can be found on the Board's website at www.medicalboard.ga.gov.

Investigative Committee is comprised of five members of the Board tasked to examine initial complaints and the results of all investigations made against professional licensees to determine if a violation of the Medical Practice Act may have occurred. This committee also reviews medical malpractice reports for further action.

Physician Licensing Committee are six members of the Board charged with evaluating applicants for licenses as physicians in Georgia. By establishing licensure & practice standards, reviewing non-routine applications, and interviewing applicants, they assure the fitness of those granted the right to practice.

Wellness Committee is comprised of five members of the Board. It is charged with reviewing cases in which an impairment issue could influence the licensee's continued ability of or return to practice.

Rules Committee comprises all members of the Board and develops rules to the laws that govern the performance of medical professions licensed by the Board. Its goal is to assist in defining the criteria by which we assess and assure the continued competency of all licensees throughout their professional careers.

Seven **Advisory Committees**, comprised of volunteer professionals from practicing communities, and at least two members of the Board, help regulate the following professions in the same manner as the Physician Licensing Committee:

- Acupuncture Committee
- APRN Protocol Committee
- Clinical Perfusionists Committee
- Cosmetic Laser Practitioner Committee
- Orthotist and Prosthetist Committee
- Physician Assistant Committee
- Respiratory Care Committee

All matters pertinent to the profession are reviewed and discussed before the Board Committees, then sent to the Board for final approval.

Board Members

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is a sixteen member organization comprised of 13 Physicians (MD & DO), two Consumer Members, and one non-voting Physician Assistant ex-officio member.

All voting members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.

E. Daniel DeLoach, MD
Chairperson
Savannah

John Jeffrey Marshall, MD
Vice Chairperson
Gainesville

John S. Antalis, MD
Dalton - Past Chair (2016-17)

Keisha Callins, MD
Albany

Gretchen Collins, MD
Lawrenceville

John Downey, DO
Augusta

Charmaine Faucher, PA-C
Ex-Officio Member- *Acworth*

Alexander S. Gross, MD
Kennesaw - Past Chair (2010-11)

Thomas Harbin Jr., MD
Atlanta

Rob Law, CFP
Consumer Member- *Atlanta*

B.K. Mohan, MD
Riverdale

David Retterbush, MD
Valdosta - Past Chair (2014-15)

Joe Sam Robinson, MD
Macon

Barby J. Simmons, DO
Atlanta

Ronnie Wallace, MBA
Consumer Member - *Rome*

Richard L. Weil, MD
Atlanta - Past Chair (2013-14)

Message from the Board Chairman

We are pleased to offer you an update from the Georgia Composite Medical Board. In July, the Board changed leadership with Dr. Dan DeLoach being elected Chair of the Board and Dr. John Jeffrey Marshall, Vice Chair.

The Board holds monthly meetings the first Thursday of each month, usually. Parts of the meetings are open to the public, except confidential applications review and enforcement/disciplinary actions. The Board's Rules Committee is open to the public and we encourage interested parties to attend the Committee meeting and help to shape the future rules and regulations for the practice of medicine. Information about meeting dates, Board news, and Rules posting can all be found at the Board's website at www.medicalboard.ga.gov.

In light of the opioid crisis, the Medical Board, with the help of the Department of Public Health, has been actively writing rules that can better assist physicians understand the impact of over-prescribing.

Opioid Prescribing

The Board recently adopted Rule 360-15-.01(3), which requires physicians (not resident physicians) maintain an active DEA certificate and prescribe controlled substances. Additionally, physicians shall complete three (3) or more hours of AMA/AOA PRA Category 1 CME at least one time, which is designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The rule effective date is January 1, 2018, or the first renewal following licensure. Completion of this requirement may count as three hours toward the CME requirement for license renewal. We hope the following FAQ will assist with any concerns:

For a complete list of frequently asked questions, please visit the Board's website at www.medicalboard.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E.D. DeLoach, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

E. Dan DeLoach, MD

Message from the Executive Director

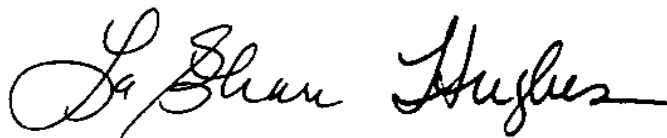
The Board members and staff of the Georgia Composite Medical Board are pleased to present the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017. The report shows the activities of the Board this past fiscal year, including licensure data and enforcement.

The Board is pleased to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the Georgia Physician Health Program (PHP). The PHP continues to provide confidential care to healthcare providers that have wellness (drug and/or alcohol issues). If you need help or know of a colleague that could benefit from this service, please encourage them to make contact.

It is again a great pleasure to recognize the hard work of the Board members, as well as the members of the Board's seven advisory committees that volunteer their time to protect the citizens of Georgia. Their contribution represents no small sacrifice working tirelessly without compensation. Our state is fortunate to have these public servants. I also thank the dedicated staff, all of whom are mostly new employees, who faced turnover and a change in leadership, but have remained determined to provide excellent customer service to their fellow citizens. I am honored to serve with the Board and staff.

I am committed to improve the Board's customer service. Please reach out to me with any comments or suggestions at lhughes@dch.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaSharn Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

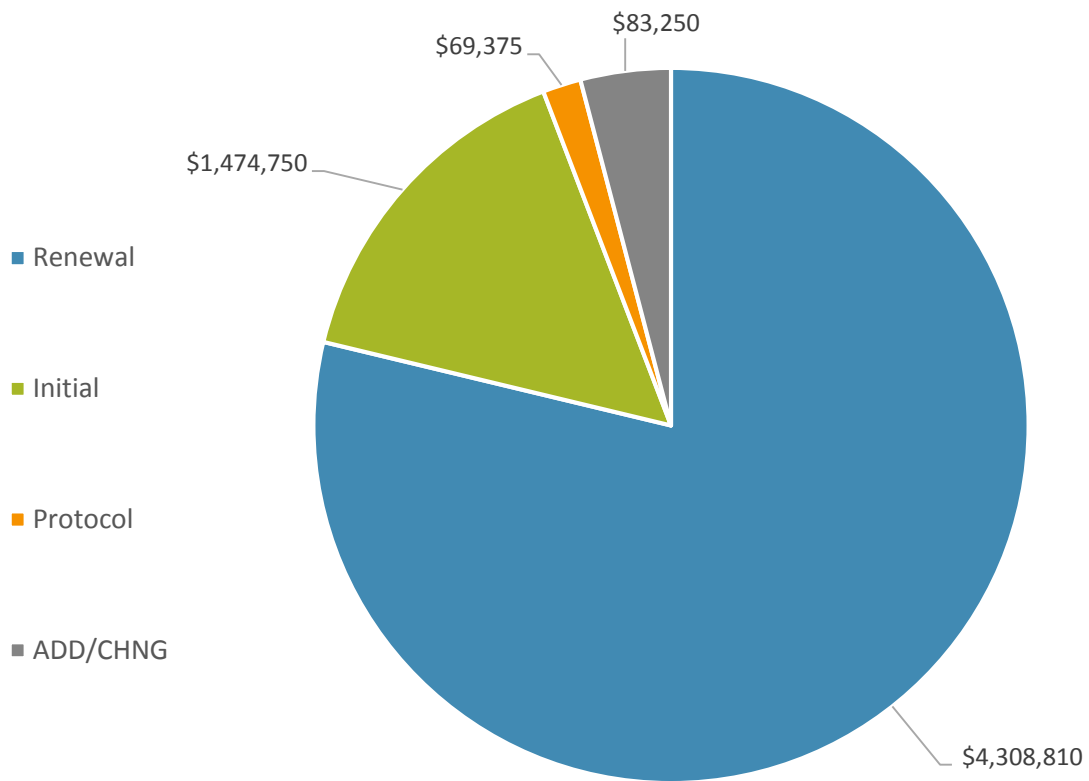
*LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Interim Executive Director*

Licensing

The Board is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that qualified healthcare providers have the education, training, and the ability to practice with skill and safety to protect the citizens of Georgia. The Board also reviews Advanced Practice Registered Nurses protocols for prescriptive authority.

In FY 2017, the Board reviewed 4,355 applications and issued 3,314 new licenses. This is an increase of 110 applications from FY 2016. The Board reviewed 1,091 of physician assistants supervisory add change applications and 462 APRN prescribing protocols. The Board processed 21,043 renewal applications.

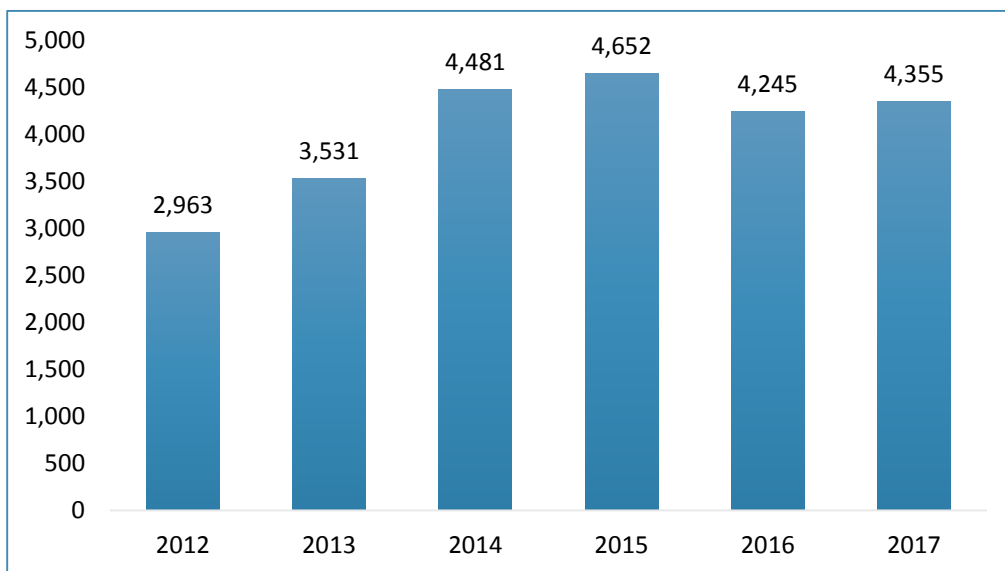
FY 2017 Applications by Revenue



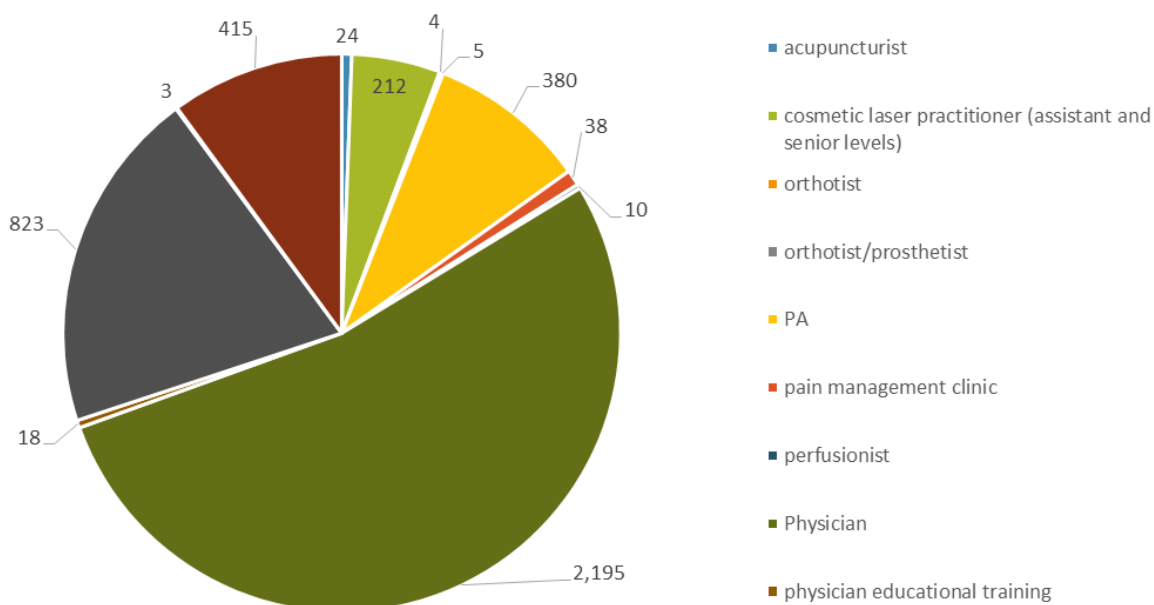
Licensing Trends and Breakdown

Application growth since FY 2014 has steadied to pre-2014 in consistency but currently, we receive, on average, more than 4200 new application a year.

New Applications by Fiscal Year

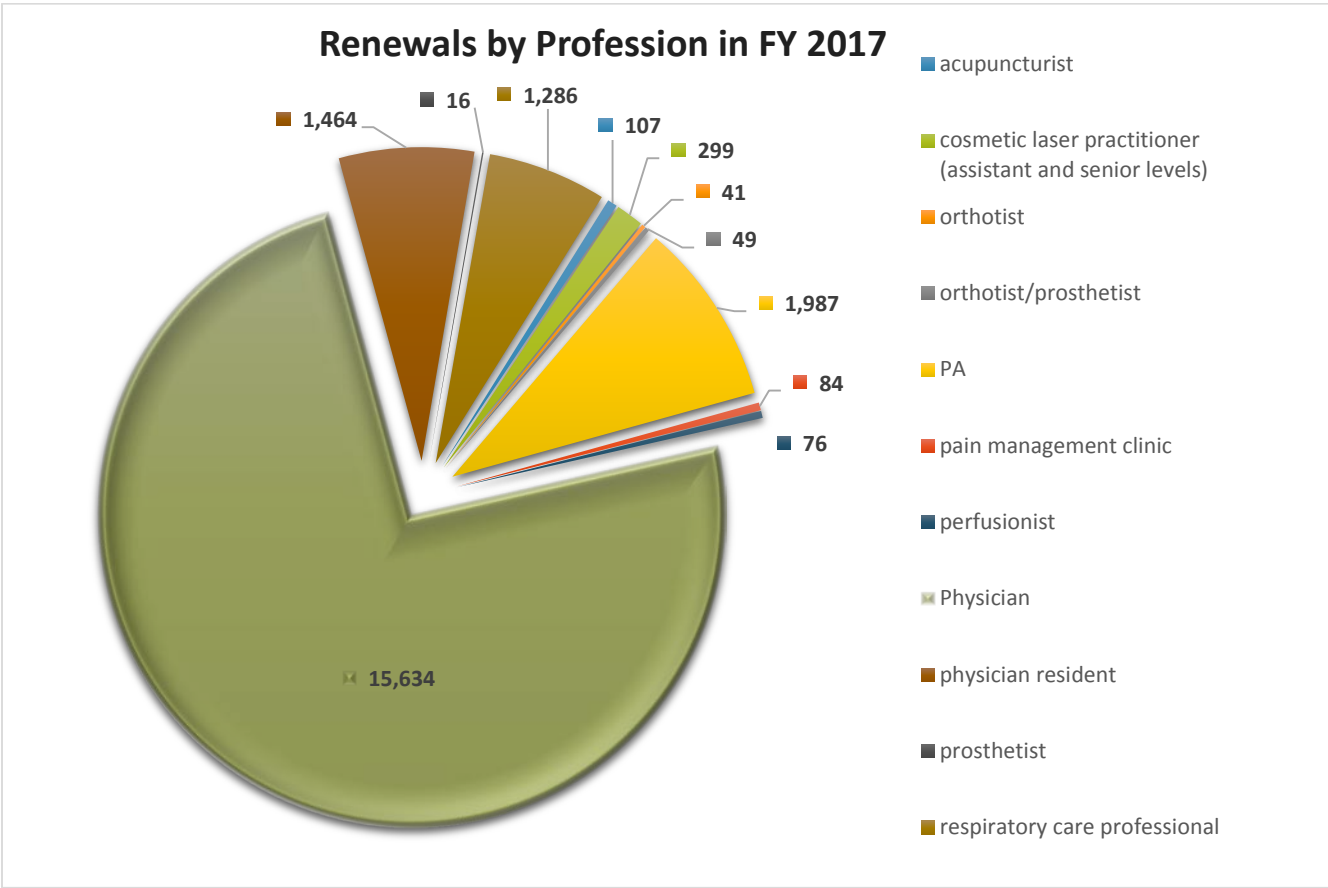
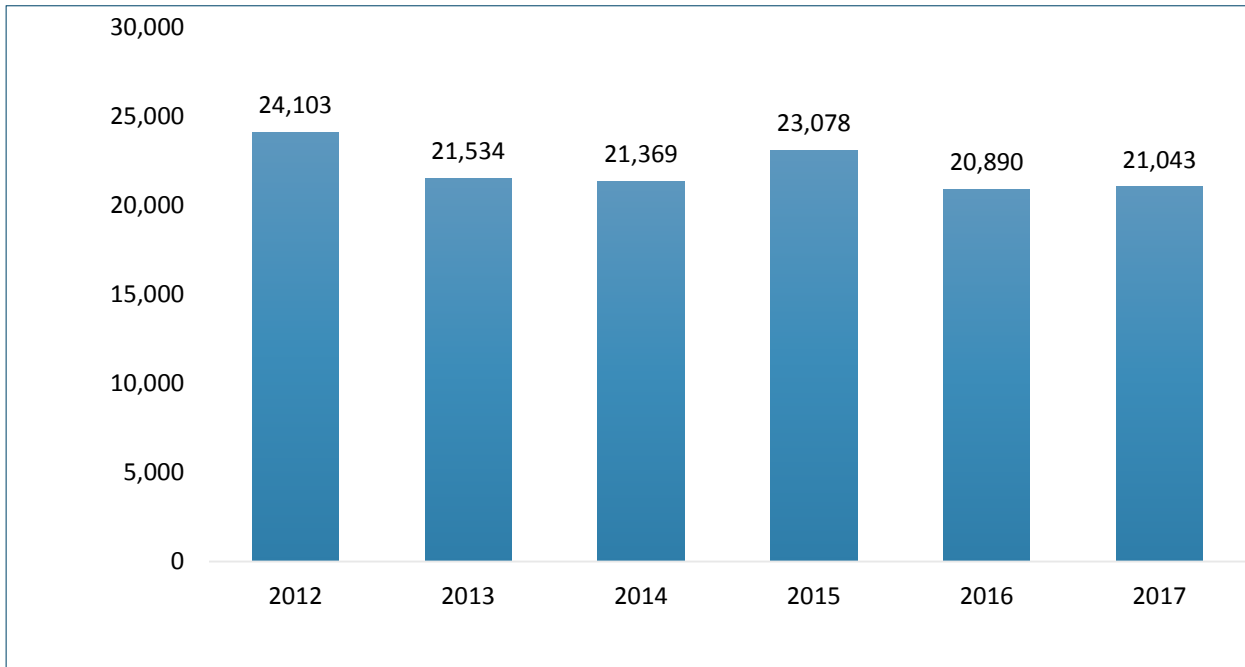


FY2017 New Applications by Profession



Licensing Trends and Breakdown

Renewals Processed By Fiscal Year



Enforcement

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is responsible for regulating and enforcing the *Medical Practice Act* and the Rules adopted by the Board.

The Board does this by handling complaints that it receives from a variety of sources, including: patients, family members, fellow practitioners, hospitals, other law enforcement agencies, other state medical boards, Federation of State Medical Board, malpractice actions, the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), etc. The Board's staff and medical director determines if the complaint is within the jurisdiction of the GCMB.

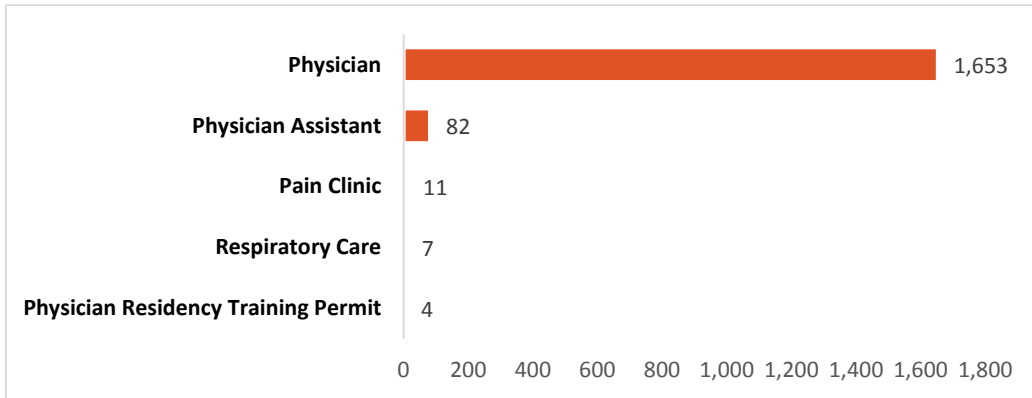
A complaint within the jurisdiction of the Medical Board may then follow one of two paths: (1) a Matter under Inquiry (MUI) or (2) a formal investigation. In an MUI, the licensee is asked to give a narrative response concerning their medical care rendered. The patient's records are subpoenaed for evaluation by a panel of Board members assigned to review the complaint. The panel presents its findings to the Board, which then determines if the licensee may have violated the Georgia Medical Practice Act or otherwise deviated from the generally accepted standards of care. An MUI may turn into a formal investigation by the Board.

The Board's agents refer serious complaints, criminal violations, public safety threats, and similar situations directly for formal investigations. These agents are P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement personnel who are trained in traditional and Medical Board investigations. The results of investigations by agents are also evaluated by Board members and staff from the Attorney General's Office to determine if there are violations and any discipline and/or prosecutions are warranted.

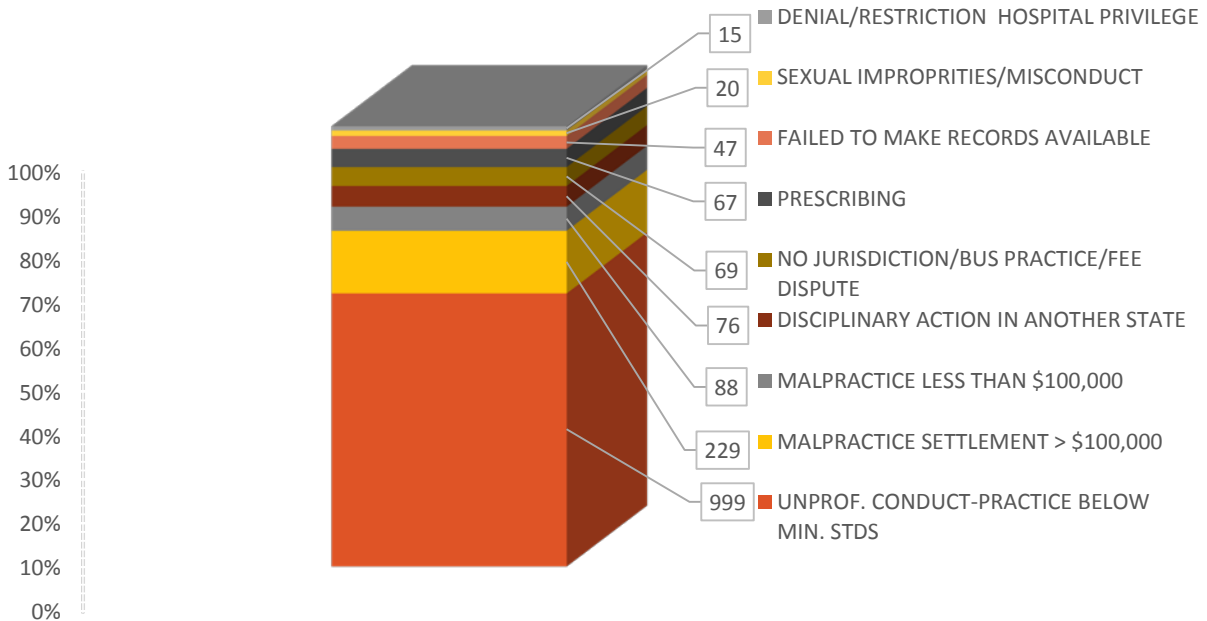
Enforcement Trends and Breakdown

During Fiscal Year 2017, the Board received 2,261 new complaint. Of the new complaints received, 1,787 were found to be within the jurisdiction of the Board either as a MUI or required an agent investigation.

Majority complaints received by profession:



Allegations of complaints investigated focus on Physicians:



The category “No Jurisdiction” accounts for one-fourth of complaints reported. These complaints are not in the Board’s jurisdiction because the complaints

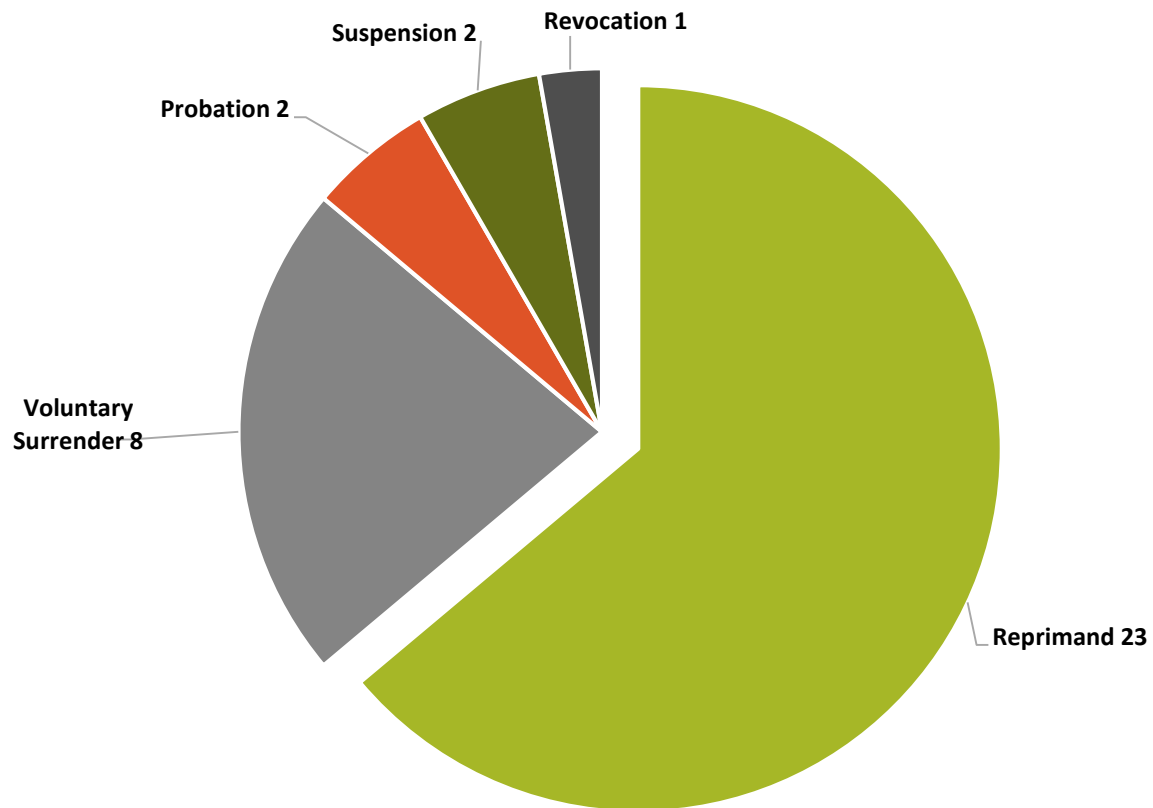
involve dentists or podiatrists that are not licensed by the Board. This category also includes billing disputes, which the Board does not investigate.

Complaints that involve no follow-up information, made anonymously with insufficient information or complaints made regarding a facility would also fall into this category.

Disciplinary Actions

If a complaint, once fully investigated, rises to the point that the Board must sanction the license of a regulated practitioner, then a Disciplinary Action is issued. The actions can range from:

- Letter of Concern
- Public Reprimand
- Probation
- Suspension
- Revocation/Surrender of license
-



The Board issued the following sanctions of various degrees in Fiscal year 2017.

Financial

The Georgia Composite Medical Board operates with a budget appropriated by the General Assembly and certain administrative fees. The services that the Board provides to the people of Georgia are delivered in an efficient, cost-effective way.

In FY 2017, the Board's total budget was **\$2,399,884**, appropriated by the General Assembly, with which the Board enhanced the health and safety of Georgia's patients through its licensing and regulatory activities. During the year, the Board collected **\$6,556,894**, more than double that amount in fees, which were turned over to the state's treasury.

This is a **37%** return of investment on the budget granted by State Legislature.

Revenue Collected Fiscal Year 2017

<u>Fees Category</u>	<u>FY2017</u>
Renewal Fees	\$4,308,085
Application and other license fees	\$1,789,825
Fines and enforcement cost recovery	\$88,518
Other administrative fees	\$370,466

Contact Information



2 Peachtree Street, NW, 36th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 656-3913

Website: www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

General e-mail: medbd@dch.ga.gov