

**MESSAGING
AND
PARTNERSHIP**

FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

To protect the public from the unprofessional, improper, unlawful or incompetent practice of medicine, each of the states and territories making up the United States of America defines the practice of medicine within their borders and delegates the authority to enforce the law to a regulatory board.

The FSMB represents the 70 medical and osteopathic boards — commonly referred to as state medical boards — within the United States, including its territories and the District of Columbia.

It assists these boards as they go about their mandate of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare through proper licensing and disciplining of physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals.



**2021–2022
MESSAGING AND
PARTNERSHIP**

As a new environment for health care emerges in the United States, shaped by the challenges of COVID-19, innovation and adaptability will take on new importance for the medical regulatory community.

Our capacity to build strong, collaborative relationships and to convey our mission, clearly and accurately, will determine our success as we evolve in new directions.

While building pathways forward during this historic time, **messaging and partnership will be our watchwords.**

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“At historic times like these, institutions have the responsibility of looking inward and asking: What messages are we sending to the world around us?”

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

AT A TIME OF GREAT CHALLENGE — INCLUDING CIVIC POLARIZATION, complex social and political issues, emerging public health and environmental threats and fast-moving technological change — the need for clarity, responsibility and accuracy in our public discourse has never been

greater. Without facts and reliable information, we are powerless to find the strategies and solutions needed to move past the challenges we face.

At historic times like these, institutions have the responsibility of looking inward and asking: What messages are we sending to the world around us? What do our words and actions convey — and are they contributing to more clarity and public enlightenment at a time of uncertainty and challenge?

Just as importantly, institutions must also ask: Who can be our partners in building an environment of trust and reliability?

We believe these questions have attained new significance for the medical regulatory community over the last year in the face of a growing national conversation about misinformation and disinformation in the public square — particularly in health care.

That’s why we have chosen “**Messaging and Partnership**” as the theme for this year’s annual report, which details the FSMB’s activities during a momentous time in American history.

Our goal is to highlight for our stakeholders our primary messages — the underlying ideas that are driving our programs, policies and initiatives — while illustrating how these messages become more powerful through results-oriented partnerships.

In each of the major sections of this report you will find examples of our collaborative relationships and how we are working together to strengthen medical regulation and protect patients. They underscore our belief that, in the midst of enormous national challenges, the capacity to find common ground and common purpose with others is more important than ever.

From the continuing COVID-19 pandemic to alarming new increases in opioid-related deaths and the scourge of systemic racism and inequity in health care, the issues faced by the medical regulatory community are daunting — requiring innovative, interconnected responses from diverse partners with shared goals.

With that spirit animating our efforts in 2021-2022, the FSMB achieved strong results and measurable progress on its major initiatives.

In the pages that follow you will find highlights from each of our five core activity centers over the last year:

Advocacy: The FSMB was instrumental in leading national efforts against health care misinformation and disinformation in 2021-2022, raising visibility of the issue through media coverage and influencing other national organizations to take strong stands. We also fought efforts by state legislators to undercut the authority of state boards in their day-to-day work protecting patients, including providing legislative testimony and the support of our advocacy team in states impacted. Our strong support of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact continued, and we made progress in our efforts to introduce a similar compact for physician assistants. In a major step forward in addressing the nation's worsening opioid epidemic, we helped launch the Opioid Regulatory Collaborative. *Please see page 4.*

Data, Research and Assessment: Promoting license portability remains a key priority for the FSMB, and our *Provider Bridge* online platform facilitating physician mobility had significant growth — with more than 85,000 health professionals now registered. Our investments in data technology enabled new operational efficiencies in 2021-2022 for core offerings such as the Federation Credentials Verification Service, and new resources in our Physician Data Center (PDC) helped usage grow: Total queries of the PDC passed the one-million mark for the first time. We published our sixth biennial *Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States* and, with our partner, NBME, made improvements to the United States Medical Licensing Examination. *Please see page 8.*

Education and Policy: The steady expansion of the FSMB's accredited continuing medical education services continued over the last year, including robust growth in accreditation of online activities. More than 22,000 health care providers earned credit from FSMB-accredited programs — a record high. Our Virtual Education Program continued to offer new and timely topics, and our technology capabilities made it possible to offer a fully virtual Annual Meeting in 2021— including appearances by major keynote speakers from various locations in the United States. In a busy year for policy development, we launched new workgroups on telemedicine and on diversity, equity and inclusion in medical regulation and patient care. *Please see page 12.*

Communications: The FSMB's efforts in raising national awareness of problems associated with health care misinformation and disinformation were accelerated by a comprehensive media campaign, with impressive results: Our efforts were cited in the media more than 1,000 times over several months, and our national statement on misinformation and disinformation received more than 3 million views via Twitter. *The Journal of Medical Regulation* continued to implement its new strategic growth plan, launching an ancillary newsletter, *JMR News*, and introducing expanded content in special-topic sections. *Please see page 16.*

FSMB Foundation: The FSMB's philanthropic arm continued to make important investments to strengthen the future of medical regulation, including providing \$100,000 to support research on emergency preparedness and recovery — an issue of vital importance to state medical boards in the COVID-19 era. The Foundation extended support for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in 2021 and began laying the groundwork for an update of its five-year strategic plan. *Please see page 18.*

Also included this year is our new **Physician Licensing and Discipline Report**, which offers valuable insights about trends in the U.S. physician workforce. *Please see page 20.*

As you read our report, you will see that the FSMB continued to make strong progress in 2021-2022, despite the challenges of a stubborn global pandemic and other newly emerging issues.

Operationally, we are well positioned for success, with strong performance in our core products and services and a stable, productive staff that has admirably risen to the challenges of working in the COVID-19 environment.

Our medical regulatory community remains strong, resilient and united in purpose — partnering together for patient protection. We are grateful for each of the dedicated public servants who serve on, and work for, our member boards — and for our FSMB staff, elected leadership and volunteers, all of whom are vital to our efforts. To them, we offer our sincere thanks.



Kenneth B. Simons, MD
2021-2022 Chair, Board of Directors



Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, MACOI
President and CEO

MESSAGING
AND
PARTNERSHIP

A STRONG VOICE PROTECTS THE PUBLIC.

Opioid Regulatory Collaborative: Sharing Resources to Address a National Crisis

The opioid epidemic in the United States reached a grim milestone in 2021, when drug overdoses — increasingly intertwined with the COVID-19 pandemic — rose for the first time to more than 100,000 annually. The FSMB, long an active partner in the national effort to address opioid use disorder, took action in response, partnering with several other regulatory organizations to launch an innovative new alliance: **The Opioid Regulatory Collaborative**. Composed of leaders from the FSMB, **American Association of Dental Boards, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and National Council of State Boards of Nursing**, the new Collaborative will share resources and strategies to reduce opioid use disorder among the public and health care professionals — including seeking to align guidance for

state boards of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and dentistry where possible. An important partner in the effort has been the **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)**, which has shared resources and is actively participating with the new group as it formulates strategies.

In its first major effort, the ORC gathered policy leaders at NAM headquarters in Washington, D.C., in early 2022 for “**Addressing the Opioid Epidemic Through Regulatory Collaboration**,” a summit meeting that featured **Rahul Gupta, MD**, the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and some of the nation’s most prominent opioid experts.

“The interprofessional work of the ORC, and its effort to harmonize strategy, is vitally needed. Focusing on partnership across professions will enable coordinated action against the opioid epidemic.”

Aisha Salman, MPH
Director, Action Collaborative on
Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic
National Academy of Medicine



“NAM’s hosting of our first major conference, and the synergy it helped create, demonstrated the power of sharing resources to tackle major issues.”

Lisa Robin, MLA
Chief Advocacy Officer
FSMB



ADVOCACY

The FSMB's Washington, D.C., Advocacy Office served as a strong voice for the medical regulatory community in 2021-2022, advancing policy positions at both the state and federal level.

Countering Misinformation and Disinformation: FSMB Leads National Effort to Protect Public from False Claims

As the United States faced massive upheaval from COVID-19 in 2021, a new threat emerged: The rapid rise of misinformation and disinformation by physicians and other health professionals. Recognizing the issue as a growing threat to patient safety, the FSMB Board of Directors issued a formal statement on July 29, 2021, warning that spreading COVID-19 vaccine misinformation could put physicians' licenses at risk.



FSMB President and CEO Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, appeared on CNN.

In the weeks that followed, the FSMB's statement garnered significant media attention, including coverage from CNN and other major news outlets and more than 3.5 million views on Twitter. Many state medical boards either adopted the FSMB's statement or crafted their own versions, and many major health organizations — ranging from the **American Board of Medical Specialties** to the **American College of Physicians** — created statements that often lauded or referred to the FSMB and its position.

The FSMB's strong advocacy against misinformation and disinformation has continued, leading to higher usage and awareness of its various resources for consumers — including strong growth of DocInfo.org, which offers details on physicians' licensure status and disciplinary history.

Legislative Overreach: A New Concern for State Medical Boards

In late 2021, the FSMB began monitoring a troubling trend in state legislatures throughout the country — legislation aimed at limiting state medical boards' authority to investigate patient harm related to COVID-19. By early 2022, more than 45 bills in 23 states had proposed harmful legislation.

The FSMB launched a strong response, which has included national distribution of a formal statement opposing the legislation, testimony to state legislators and direct legislative and research assistance to state boards impacted. The issue has been tagged for high priority by the FSMB's advocacy team as it continues to monitor developments.

ADVANCING THE CASE FOR LICENSE PORTABILITY

The United States continues to struggle with inequities in access to health care — particularly in rural and underserved communities. The FSMB's multi-year effort to improve license portability for physicians to address these needs gained momentum in 2021-2022, supported by a five-year, \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant is helping advance key initiatives:

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

(IMLC): Since its implementation in 2017 as a way to streamline licensure for physicians who want to practice in multiple states, the IMLC has steadily grown. During the pandemic, its growth spiked, as physicians gained new awareness of its utility and value. To date, more than 20,000 applications have been processed and more than 30,000 licenses issued using the IMLC — which now has 37 member jurisdictions, including 35 states, the District of Columbia and the territory of Guam. Seven other states now have IMLC legislation pending.



The steady growth of the IMLC continued in 2021-2022. Nearly 75% of U.S. states are now participants.

Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact: The success of the IMLC has helped spur development of a similar compact for PAs. The FSMB partnered with the **American Academy of Physician Assistants**, **Council of State Governments (CSG)** and **National Commission**



on Certification of Physician Assistants in 2021 to move this concept forward, including development of a website, PA-license.org, and model legislation. A major meeting of representatives from

medical and PA licensing boards, federal agencies and the PA profession, held in late 2021, helped galvanize a long-term plan for introducing the concept nationally.

STATE MEDICAL BOARD SUPPORT

FSMB Advocacy Team: Providing Multi-faceted Service for Boards

Providing direct support to meet the needs of state medical boards is the FSMB's highest strategic priority — and it offered a wide variety of services and resources to accomplish this goal in 2021-2022:

State Medical Board Assistance: FSMB staff worked directly with many member boards during the year to help them achieve their legislative and policy priorities, answering research requests, providing testimony and white papers, participating in planning and strategy sessions and connecting boards with resources at the FSMB or other organizations.



Advocacy Network News offers comprehensive tracking of state and federal legislation and policy developments.

(IMLC). The team offers extensive resources on the IMLC state-adoption process, and helps guide state efforts forward as they introduce legislation. In the five years since the IMLC became operational, the number of states and territories participating has grown from 12 to 37.

COVID-19 Resources: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FSMB has maintained easily accessible online charts documenting state waivers for out-of-state physicians practicing in-person and via telemedicine, as well as expediting licensure for inactive or retired physicians.

Grassroots Advocacy: The **FSMB Advocacy Network**, a resource for promoting policy and legislation of importance to state medical boards, has grown to more than 700 participants. Network members are kept apprised of policy developments via **FSMB Advocacy News**, a newsletter that over the last year has significantly expanded its content, with more legislative news and analysis.

Legislative Tracking: FSMB staff track relevant legislation and regulations in state houses across the United States, as well as the U.S. Congress, and work closely with state medical regulators as bills advance. In 2021, the FSMB tracked thousands of bills nationwide on a variety of issues.

IMLC Support: One of the advocacy team's priorities is assisting states participating in, or interested in joining, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Legislation Highlights: FSMB Backs Federal Bills

Since it was established in 2010, the FSMB's Washington, D.C., advocacy office has served as a strong presence in the nation's capital — working closely with Congress, the White House and various federal agencies to ensure the needs of state medical boards are reflected in legislation.

In early 2022, the advocacy team celebrated an important legislative success when the **Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act** was adopted — providing resources aimed at the growing rate of stress and burnout in the health care workforce. The FSMB had vigorously advocated for this bill.

The FSMB also endorsed:

The **TRIAGE Act of 2021 (HR. 5248)**, which advances efforts to ensure that qualified health care professionals are effectively mobilized during the COVID-19 pandemic and future national emergencies.

The **VA Provider Accountability Act (S.2041)**, which would help ensure that veterans receive quality care from qualified and properly vetted health care providers. The FSMB's longstanding advocacy to improve information-sharing between the Department of Veterans Affairs and state medical boards remains a priority.

The **DRUGS Act of 2021 (S.3399, H.R. 6352)**, which aims to curb illegal online sales of prescription drugs and controlled substances.

Facilitating the Safe Growth of Telemedicine in the United States

The use of telemedicine has dramatically increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the FSMB has intensified its efforts as an advocate for measures to ensure patient safety as the trend continues.

Recognizing the need for strong telemedicine guidelines in a fast-changing environment, it launched a new **Workgroup on Telemedicine** in 2021. Other action steps taken by the FSMB over the last year included hosting webinars and panel discussions with experts in telemedicine and continued engagement by its Washington, D.C.-based advocacy team with organizations such as the **American Telemedicine Association** and federal agencies.

In addition to patient safety, the FSMB's advocacy aims to ensure that telemedicine access extends to rural and underserved communities.



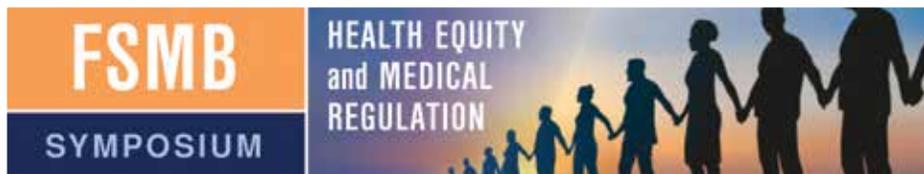
Despite pandemic restrictions in 2021-2022, FSMB advocacy staff continued to engage with stakeholder organizations, including giving public testimony and providing presentations on key issues.

Addressing Challenging Issues in Medicine

Among the priorities of state medical regulators is ensuring high-quality professional environments for the delivery of medical care and addressing important public health issues. In 2021-2022, the FSMB participated in initiatives aimed at issues that pose challenges to public health and to the safe, equitable and competent practice of medicine.

Opioid Abuse: Since 2018, the FSMB has been a steadfast partner with the **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** and other organizations in NAM's **Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic**. Drug overdoses — already a serious issue in the United States — have risen dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the FSMB has intensified its efforts in response. Actions in 2021 included adoption of new formal recommendations to address physician impairment — including from substance abuse — and launch of the **Opioid Regulatory Collaborative**, coalescing the efforts of multiple health regulatory organizations. FSMB President and CEO **Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP**, continued to serve as a member of the NAM Collaborative's Steering Committee and FSMB Past Chair **J. Daniel Gifford, MD, FACP**, served as the FSMB's liaison to NAM on this subject.

Physician Wellness and Burnout: A dangerous byproduct of the COVID-19 pandemic has been high levels of burnout among U.S. physicians — who have valiantly treated patients in highly stressful conditions over the last two years. The FSMB continued to offer guidance in 2021 through its **Physician Wellness and Burnout** policy, and to help shape national strategies as a member of NAM's **Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience** — with FSMB Past Chair Art Hengerer, MD, serving as its liaison to NAM on this subject. Other actions last year included helping fund a major effort in Ohio to study the impact of stress and burnout on the state's physicians, and developing presentations on well-being, to be held during the FSMB's 2022 Annual Meeting.



Diversity and Health Equity: Research continues to show that racial and ethnic minorities in the United States experience higher rates of illness and death across a wide range of health conditions than other population groups, and are significantly under-represented in the medical profession. Recognizing the impact of these issues, the FSMB has launched a multi-level initiative that includes the creation of a new **Workgroup on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Medical Regulation and Patient Care**. During the last year, it also published a formal national statement calling for greater equity in health care and hosted a virtual symposium on the topic.

PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN MEDICAL REGULATION

FSMB's Collaborative Efforts with Longstanding Partners in 2021-2022 Helped Add Impact and Value

FSMB elected leaders, volunteers and staff represented the voice of the medical regulatory community at a wide range of meetings and special events over the last year, creating synergies in an increasingly connected global environment for regulators. A sampling of highlights includes:

IAMRA Activities: The FSMB continued to play a pivotal role as the Secretariat and founding member of the **International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)**, which now includes 118 member organizations from 48 countries — among them, nine FSMB member boards and many U.S. health organizations. FSMB staff and elected leadership



were well-represented at IAMRA's 14th biennial conference, held virtually in October, 2021, with many serving as primary presenters and panel moderators. FSMB President and CEO **Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP**, was reappointed to be the voting delegate from the U.S. to IAMRA's Members General Assembly.

FSMB-NBME-NBOME Meeting: In early 2022, the FSMB gathered with the leadership of the **National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME)** and **National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)** at the FSMB's advocacy office in Washington, D.C., to discuss developments in physician licensure assessment in the United States and possible areas of future collaboration.

Tri-Regulator Collaborative: The FSMB continued its work with its partners, the **National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)** and the **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)**, which, with the FSMB, form the

**THE
TRI-REGULATOR
COLLABORATIVE**

2021

Federation of State Medical Boards
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
National Council of State Boards of Nursing

Tri-Regulator Collaborative. Now in its 11th year, the Collaborative represents the boards that, combined, regulate more than 5 million physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists and nurses in the United States. Planning is currently underway for the fifth biennial Tri-Regulator Symposium, to be held in 2022.

SECURE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES OUR MISSION.

FSMB, IMLC and AMA: Working Together to Expedite Physician Licensing and Mobility

When the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)** became operational in 2017, one of its most attractive features for physicians was its ability to streamline the credentials-verification process required for multi-state licensure. As the COVID-19 pandemic widened in 2021, increasing the need for physician mobility, demand for expedited licensure grew. In



response, the FSMB and IMLC began discussions aimed at streamlining the IMLC licensing

process even further — particularly the time needed to notify state medical boards of key information about physicians' qualifications for licensure through the Compact. A third participant — the **American Medical Association (AMA)** — joined the effort, and after months of work, a new IMLC feature — the **Physician Attribute Verification Report (AVR)** — was introduced. The AVR combines verification of multiple categories of primary-source data required for physicians to participate in the Compact in one convenient and user-friendly report, saving many hours of primary-source verification by boards. In addition to FSMB data, the AVR provides information from the AMA's Masterfile, including details about physicians' schooling and graduate medical education — key components for IMLC eligibility. Just months after its launch, the new effort by the FSMB, IMLC and AMA is already yielding results: IMLC boards using the AVR report that processing times have been cut significantly.

“The AVR is an excellent example of how organizations can combine their strengths and resources for wider benefit. It's making a real difference for patient care.”

Mark A. Spangler
Chair
IMLC Commission



“The FSMB's data and technical capabilities bring significant operational efficiencies to the table — which adds great value to collaborative projects like the AVR.”

Mike Dugan, MBA
Chief Operating Officer
FSMB

DATA, RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

The FSMB's data-sharing, research and assessment capabilities provided a valuable resource for state medical boards, health organizations and the public in 2021-2022.

FSMB License Portability Efforts Advance Through Provider Bridge

Improving license portability for physicians and physician assistants has long been one of the FSMB's strategic goals: By reducing licensing hurdles and burdens, access to health care is improved — especially in rural and underserved communities.

A notable resource in the FSMB's ongoing license portability efforts is **Provider Bridge**, a robust new online platform that helps connect volunteer health care providers with state agencies and health care entities during emergencies. Launched during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in January 2021, use of Provider Bridge has increased over the last year, with nearly 40 health care and emergency entities now participating and more than 85,000 health care professionals registered.



Funding and support for the FSMB's license portability efforts has been provided by the **U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**, including a \$2.5 million grant for the launch of Provider Bridge.

The platform has been an effective new tool during the pandemic, offering a directory of state and federal COVID-19 resources and a dedicated customer service hub to help clinicians navigate state emergency licensure waivers and other modifications.

The Provider Bridge team worked closely with the **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)** in 2021 to expand nurse data available to Provider Bridge, and it continues to engage other new partners — including the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission** — to increase the website's reach and impact. In addition to the data and resources provided by the NCSBN, other Provider Bridge partners include the **National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants** and the **American Board of Medical Specialties**.

With its technology foundation established and visibility growing, Provider Bridge is positioned to serve as an enduring resource for the health care system during future state or national emergencies.



Data Investments, Digital Transformation Initiative Yielded Efficiencies and Savings for FSMB Operations in 2021-2022

Recognizing the critical importance of data and technology in achieving its strategic objectives, the FSMB has dramatically upgraded its information technology (IT) platforms in recent years — part of an organization-wide initiative that continues to yield benefits.

The FSMB continued to make major investments in technology in 2021-2022, enabling strong progress as it upgrades its digital capabilities and integrates its diverse data systems in today's complex information environment.

Most recently it has put a strong emphasis on digital transformation — improving operational efficiency and customer service by adopting paperless technologies and expanding publicly available, web-based content. Examples:

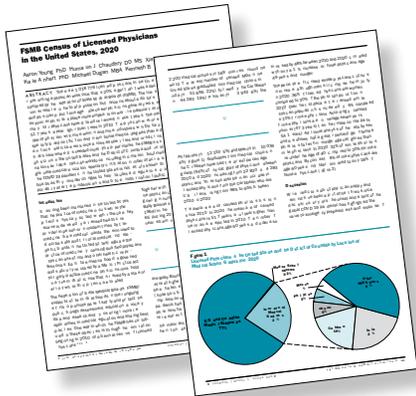
Digital Certification: Certification is at the heart of many of the FSMB's data services, and its transition to new, more efficient digital certification and signing processes has enabled significant cost savings and efficiencies in a range of settings — from **United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE)** transcript-processing to registration for its new **Provider Bridge** resource. Since launching new digital processes in late 2020, more than 40,000 USMLE transcripts have been electronically signed and delivered.

FSMB.org: The FSMB's recently redesigned website features a growing selection of content, tools and resources for medical regulators and the public, including previously paper-based data products, such as its **Medical Regulatory Trends and Actions Report** — now updated yearly and easily accessible online. The FSMB's biennial **Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States** is now featured online as well, with user-friendly graphics and easily accessible data. Website traffic continues to grow: In 2021, FSMB.org was visited by more than 970,000 individuals, generating 3.5 million page views.

FSMB Census: Physician Workforce Surpasses One Million

The FSMB published its sixth biennial **Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States** in 2021, offering comprehensive demographic information about the U.S. physician workforce, along with comparisons to data from the first Census, published in 2011.

The Census, published in the FSMB's *Journal of Medical Regulation*, shows that the number of licensed physicians in the United States has surpassed the one-million mark for the first time, representing a physician workforce that is 20% larger than it was a decade ago.



Other highlights:

- The average age of the licensed physician population continues to rise: 31% are now 60 or older.
- The percentage of physicians who are women also continues to rise.
- Physician educational backgrounds have become more diverse: Licensed U.S. physicians have received degrees from 2,200 medical schools in 169 countries.

FCVS: Maintaining Strong Service Through the Pandemic

Despite the continuing challenges of the pandemic in 2021, the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) delivered a strong year of results.

More than 246,000 physicians and physician assistants have used FCVS, which provides permanent storage of their primary-source verified credentials — and the number of users continues to grow each year.

FCVS delivered nearly 73,000 profiles in 2021, a 12% increase over 2020. Productivity was up, with the release of FCVS profiles by team members increasing by 52% since 2018. Progress on other initiatives included:

Robotic Technology: FCVS continues to expand its use of robotic technology to assist with processing rote tasks, improving overall processing time.

Customer Support Efficiencies: In keeping with the FSMB's overall workflow efficiency efforts, email support increased during 2021, while total telephone call volume decreased.

Closed Residency Programs: The FSMB's Closed Residency Programs service, which provides ongoing storage of training records for physicians who attended a training program that no longer exists, continued to grow in 2021. This important source of data necessary for ensuring physician competency and patient safety now includes 55 programs representing more than 200 specialties.

ASSESSMENT SERVICES



A Strong Year for USMLE

The **United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)** will achieve an important milestone in 2022, when it observes three decades of service to the health care system. Hundreds of thousands of physicians have taken all or part of the USMLE examination sequence since its launch, representing approximately 58% of the more than one million licensed physicians in the United States.

The FSMB and its partner in the USMLE, the **National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)**, have continually worked to improve the test, including making structural changes in 2021 designed to ensure it is well positioned for the future. Among the highlights:

Step 2 CS Discontinuation: In early 2021, the FSMB and NBME announced the discontinuation of work to relaunch a modified Step 2 Clinical Skills examination (Step 2 CS), which had been suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. USMLE now defines successful completion of its examination sequence as passing Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3.

Attempt Limit Reduction: The test Attempt Limit was reduced in 2021 from six to four attempts, including incomplete attempts, per Step. Examinees who have or reach four failed attempts on a Step without passing will be prohibited from taking any future USMLE exams, including any Steps they have not yet started.

USMLE Step 1 Score Reporting: Reporting for Step 1 has transitioned from a numeric score and pass/fail outcome to pass/fail-only reporting for exams taken on or after January 26, 2022.

Website Launch: A new USMLE website was launched in October 2021, featuring expanded resources for test takers, streamlined and user-friendly organization and features such as videos and podcasts.

State medical boards' participation in the USMLE has continued to be strong: Since 1992, more than 300 members and staff from 63 boards have participated in the USMLE in some capacity.

The FSMB and NBME also made improvements to the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) and Post-Licensure Assessment System (PLAS) in 2021-2022 — services that ensure licensed physicians are qualified to continue medical practice.

COMPETENCE REQUIRES LIFELONG LEARNING.

Partnering with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to Address Diversion Awareness

For nearly two decades, the FSMB has put a strong emphasis on curbing the opioid epidemic, including assisting other organizations as they develop educational resources and guidelines for prescribers. In 2018, the FSMB partnered with the **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** to serve as the accredited CME provider for its multiple regional Practitioner Diversion Awareness Conferences (PDACs). Designed to help health care practitioners identify and prevent diversion activity, these in-person conferences were open to all DEA-registered practitioners and prescribers, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and veterinarians. From mid-2018 to early 2020, the DEA hosted, and the FSMB accredited, 21 PDACs for a combined attendance of 8,006 prescribers. In early 2021, with the COVID-19 pandemic persisting in the United States, the DEA decided to revamp the PDACs and to host them virtually as live webinars, with the FSMB as the accredited CME provider. The goal: provide greater accessibility to the content and reach a wider audience. Renamed **“Opioid and Diversion Awareness: The Current State of the Opioid Epidemic,”** the first of the virtual courses was held in July 2021. The results have been impressive: Since the first session, the virtual course has been offered seven additional times and has resulted in 19,446 physician and non-physician learners receiving vital education on opioid prescribing.



“ The FSMB’s accrediting services have helped the DEA advance important information and resources to prescribers. We look forward to continuing to make this important educational opportunity available to all DEA-registered practitioners. ”

Claire Brennan
Section Chief
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration



“ Our recent work with the DEA in the virtual education environment has added a promising new element in the FSMB’s ongoing effort to address opioid prescribing issues. ”

Kelly Alfred
Director of Education Services
FSMB

EDUCATION

The unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 continued to shift the landscape for health care in the United States in 2021-2022. In response, the FSMB launched education and policy-making initiatives aimed at helping the medical regulatory community adapt.

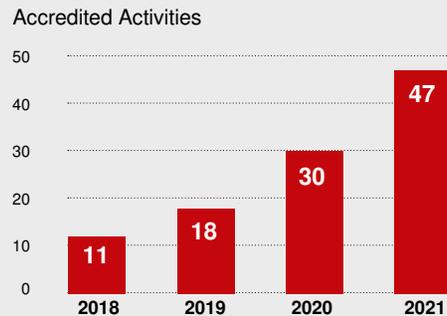
CME Accreditation Services: Steady Growth, Targeted Topics

Now in its sixth year as an accredited CME-education provider, the FSMB's Continuing Medical Education program achieved strong growth in 2021-2022, building on its capacity to support the virtual content of a diverse range of partners.

The CME program accredited a total of 47 educational activities, including 22 live internet courses and 25 web-based enduring activities, for a total of more than 80 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* hours. Participation in FSMB-accredited CME courses increased by 76% — largely due to new digital learning formats and ease of online access for learners.

In addition to accrediting programs for others, the FSMB hosted five accredited webinars of its own on its new virtual education learning hub — which features streamlined CME tracking and generation of certificates.

Steady Growth: Activities Accredited by FSMB 2018-2021



As an accredited CME provider, the FSMB has:

- Educated nearly 36,000 learners.
- Accredited 136 CME activities.
- Provided more than 337 hours of instruction.

Enforcement Administration, the Federation of State Physician Health Programs, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and National Board of Medical Examiners.



FSMB Virtual Education: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Online Audience, with New Programming

Launched in 2020 as a temporary response to the in-person restrictions caused by COVID-19, the FSMB's Virtual Education Program was extended in 2021 — becoming an ongoing and regularly available educational resource for regulators, health professionals and policy makers.

The on-demand internet courses, typically an hour in length, are offered on a wide range of topics, with most approved for accredited continuing medical education *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Featuring health experts and policy makers, the courses allow online attendees to participate in Q&A sessions and live chatting. Recorded versions of the live events are posted at the FSMB's online learning hub and available for up to a year for CME credit.



The FSMB's October 2021 webinar on misinformation and disinformation was well-attended, drawing 279 participants and featuring lively discussion.

More than 1,700 attendees have registered for sessions since the launch of the Virtual Education Program, and attendance figures have been comparable — and often have surpassed — similar FSMB sessions hosted in live settings.

A key advantage of the Virtual Education Program is the flexibility it offers: Courses on fast-developing issues can be quickly organized, providing audiences with timely content.

Case in point: As concerns grew nationally over the rising incidence of health care misinformation and disinformation in 2021, the FSMB organized a webinar titled "Stopping the Spread: Disinformation and its Impact on Physicians and Patients" that offered diverse and valuable policy perspectives from a prominent disinformation expert and FSMB representatives. The webinar drew one of the Virtual Education Program's largest audiences since its launch.

FSMB ANNUAL MEETING

Surge in COVID-19 Moves 2021 Annual Meeting Online

Faced with the continued spread of COVID-19 in 2021, the FSMB decided for the second year in a row to move its Annual Meeting online — successfully transitioning meeting content via its newly developed e-learning platform.

Held April 29 – May 1, 2021, the FSMB's Virtual Annual Meeting combined two days of programming in addition to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates and installation of the Chair and newly elected FSMB leaders. A record 672 attendees tuned in.

The overarching theme for the meeting centered on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on medical regulation, exploring topics from telemedicine and physician wellness to health care inequities. Highlights included:

Keynote Speakers: High-profile speakers during the meeting included **Ashish K. Jha, MD, MPH**, Dean of Brown University School of Public Health and a globally recognized expert on pandemics, and **Jeh Johnson, JD**, Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.

New Features: Among other innovations, the FSMB hosted its first-ever **Town Hall Meeting** during the event, giving online attendees the opportunity to interact directly with FSMB President and CEO Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, and FSMB 2020-2021 Chair Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA.

Virtual Networking: In an effort to retain the connectivity and networking that has been a key feature of the FSMB's in-person Annual Meeting,

the online event featured, for the first time, virtual networking chat rooms that facilitated interactions between attendees.

The FSMB's 2022 Annual Meeting in New Orleans will return to an in-person format.



Ashish K. Jha, MD, MPH, of the Brown University School of Public Health, was among the featured speakers during the 2021 virtual Annual Meeting.

FSMB Video Series Continues to Raise Awareness



The FSMB's popular video series, **FSMB Spotlight**, continued to air new episodes in 2021-2022, featuring interviews with health care leaders and policy makers. Hosted by FSMB President and CEO Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, the videos explore topics of interest to medical regulators and the public.

Recent episodes have featured:

Victor Dzau, MD, President of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), discussing the work of NAM and its partnership with the FSMB on important issues such as physician burnout and the opioid epidemic.

Kevin O'Connor, DO, White House physician, discussing his role as President Biden's personal physician, as well as COVID-19, telemedicine and other health care topics.

The videos, five to six minutes in length, are available at the FSMB's website and online video platforms such as YouTube.

FSMB Town Hall: On February 1, 2022, the FSMB hosted its second online Town Hall Meeting for state medical board executives, chairs, and other regulatory leaders — led by FSMB Chair Kenneth B. Simons, MD, and FSMB President and CEO Humayun Chaudhry, DO, MACP.

Designed to encourage dialogue and connection, the hour-long session included updates and discussion on COVID-19, misinformation and disinformation in medicine, trends in telemedicine and the opioid epidemic. State boards were well represented at the event, with more than 60 individuals attending.



FSMB Leaders Elected: During the 2021 FSMB House of Delegates meeting, **Kenneth B. Simons, MD** (*far left*), was sworn in as the 100th Chair of the FSMB Board of Directors. **Sarvam P. TerKonda, MD** (*immediate left*), was elected to serve as Chair-elect. **Jone C. Geimer-Flanders, DO**, was elected to serve as Treasurer.

Individuals elected to begin terms as Board members starting in 2021 were:

- **Andrea A. Anderson, MD**
- **Mohammed A. Arsiwala, MD** (re-elected)
- **Denise Pines, MBA**
- **Sandra L. Schwemmer, DO**

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A Busy Year for the FSMB's Workgroups and Policy Teams

Each year, the FSMB's many workgroups, committees, task forces and other teams — made up of state medical board leaders and FSMB stakeholders — develop guidelines and recommendations on a variety of policy topics of importance to the health care community.

Efforts in 2021-2022 included:

Workgroup on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Medical Regulation and Patient Care (New): Led by **Jeffrey D. Carter, MD**, this new Workgroup was launched in 2021 to help state medical boards address health inequity and systemic racism in medical regulation.



The Workgroup is identifying best practices aimed at eliminating systemic inequities and building better understanding of the root causes of bias and racism. The Workgroup is part of the FSMB's multi-pronged initiative on racism and inequity, which has included educational webinars and a special symposium hosted in 2021.

Workgroup on Telemedicine (New): This new Workgroup, led by **Shawn P. Parker, JD, MPA**, was established in response to accelerated changes in the environment for telemedicine practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic — including the provision of license waivers, easing of geographic restrictions on telemedicine practice and other recent trends. The Workgroup has developed a report and recommendations for replacing the FSMB's 2014 "Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine," based upon recent developments.

Workgroup on Emergency Preparedness and Response: Led by 2020-2021 FSMB Chair **Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA**, this Workgroup has proven to be one of the most active in the FSMB's history — developing important action strategies and policy recommendations during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Workgroup has collected and evaluated the pandemic-related experiences and needs of

state medical boards and other external stakeholder organizations, and its recommendations — adopted by the FSMB House of Delegates (HOD) at its 2021 meeting — have provided a

valuable resource for future public health emergencies. Further recommendations are to be presented at the 2022 meeting of the HOD.



Ethics and Professionalism Committee:

Chaired by **Katie L. Templeton, JD**, the Committee continued to play a vital role during another challenging pandemic year, including developing the FSMB's formal public statement "Spreading COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation May Put Medical License at Risk." The statement garnered widespread media attention and led to adoption of similar stances by other health care organizations. The Committee's formal report on misinformation and disinformation will be considered by the HOD at its 2022 meeting.

Other workgroups active during the 2021-2022 year included the **BACE (Board Action and Content Evaluation) Workgroup**, chaired by **Melanie de Leon, JD, MPA**, which continued its efforts to bring consistency in the reporting of disciplinary matters by state medical boards; and the **Workgroup on Board Education, Service and Training (BEST)**, led by **Thomas W. Mansfield, JD**, which continued to create online resources to assist state medical board members fulfill the roles and responsibilities associated with board service.



The Ethics and Professionalism Committee's statement on health care misinformation and disinformation had major impact when released in 2021.

fsmb HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Major Actions of the FSMB House of Delegates

During its 2021 Annual Meeting, the FSMB House of Delegates, the FSMB's governing body, formally adopted:

- Position statement on: "Treatment of Self, Family Members and Close Relations"
- Policy on: "Physician Illness and Impairment: Towards a Model that Optimizes Patient Safety and Physician Health," adopted as amended
- Recommendations contained in the Report of the FSMB Workgroup on Emergency Preparedness and Response
- "Guidelines for the Structure and Function of a State Medical and Osteopathic Board," superseding the previous edition
- Substitute Resolution 21-1 on "Incorporating the Care of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities into the Medical School Curriculum"

CLARITY AND ACCURACY BUILD TRUST.

JMR Podcasts: Raising Awareness and Fostering Dialogue On Issues that Matter

The *Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR)*, which is distributed to medical regulators and policy makers in the United States as well as to an audience of international readers, remains one of the FSMB's most important tools for raising awareness of vital issues. Over the last several years, it has embarked on a strategic initiative to widen its audience and broaden its impact, including launching a variety of new platforms for content-sharing — among them, the **JMR Podcast**. Hosted by **David A. Johnson, MA**, the FSMB's Chief Assessment Officer and a leading historian on medical regulation in the United States, the podcasts feature interviews with authors whose work has appeared in *JMR* — giving them the opportunity to dig deeper into their research and offer additional perspectives on diverse health care issues. Often, the podcasts provide advice and resources that can be immediately helpful in the day-to-day work of medical regulators — for example, a recent episode offering suggestions from author **Tristan McIntosh, PhD**, on nationwide best practices for state boards to help protect

patients from “egregious harm” by physicians. Nine podcasts have aired since the podcast's debut — segments are posted

at *JMR's* newly redesigned JMRonline.org website, and are easily accessible via Spotify, Apple and other leading podcasting platforms.



“ We found that the *JMR* Podcast was a very effective way of disseminating a distilled, easy-to-understand summary of our research project to a broader audience. ”

Tristan J. McIntosh, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Washington University School of
Medicine in St. Louis



“ Medical boards value precisely the kind of operational insights provided by Dr. McIntosh and her colleagues in their article, which was highlighted on the *JMR* Podcast. ”

David A. Johnson, MA
Chief Assessment Officer
Federation of State Medical Boards

COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping medical regulators well-informed and well-connected — while raising public awareness of the vital role state medical boards play — was at the heart of the FSMB communications team's efforts in 2021-2022.

FSMB eNews and Roundtable Webinars: Building a Community

Communicating regularly with internal audiences continues to be among the FSMB's highest priorities as it fulfills its strategic imperative of state medical board support. Two key tools help move this effort forward:

FSMB eNews: Introduced in 2010, *FSMB eNews* is a concise email newsletter that summarizes news and developments in medical regulation and provides links to breaking news stories and resources from the FSMB. Since its launch, more than 1,200 issues have been distributed to a list of subscribers that continued to grow in 2021-2022 and now numbers over 5,000.



FSMB Roundtable Webinars: Supplementing *FSMB eNews* as a community-building tool is the FSMB's popular Roundtable Webinar series, which is observing its 20th anniversary in 2022. During periodically scheduled virtual sessions, the series connects state medical boards with leaders in medical regulation and health care for in-depth discussions of important issues. Topics in 2021-2022 ranged from license portability to educational requirements for international medical graduates.

JMR: Growth and Innovations Continue

The Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR), the FSMB's peer-reviewed, quarterly publication, continued implementation of its long-term growth plan over the last year, including expanding page-counts per issue, adding new authors and introducing new content categories. Among the highlights:



JMR News: Launched in 2021, this new online newsletter keeps readers up to date on new developments, content and resources offered by *JMR*.

Special Sections: *JMR* introduced special sections on targeted topics in 2021, including cognitive screening for aging physicians and the relationship between state medical boards and medical students.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Series: A new series of articles, titled "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Medical Regulation," has been launched, exploring this important topic from a variety of perspectives.

Peer-review Restructuring: A project that will expand and improve *JMR's* current peer-review process has begun and will continue through 2022.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Busy Year for FSMB Media Team as Pandemic Continues

The FSMB's media relations team had another extraordinarily busy year as the COVID-19 pandemic persisted. In response to the rapid spread of pandemic-related misinformation and disinformation, the FSMB issued a formal public statement and took other advocacy measures aimed at protecting the public — ratcheting up media inquiries significantly. Later in the year, media interest grew again when the FSMB advocated strongly against efforts by state legislatures to undercut state medical board authority.

Major Media Interviews: FSMB President and CEO Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP, joined by other FSMB elected leaders and senior staff, provided public commentary in a variety of media settings, including widely broadcast interviews for CNN and NPR. Among the outlets covering the FSMB's efforts were *The New York Times*, *Politico*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *CBS News*, *CNBC* and many others.



News Releases/Social Media: Using its news-distribution platform, the FSMB sent news releases to a network of thousands of media outlets on the importance of accurate pandemic-related information to public safety. Using Twitter and other social media platforms, it reached other stakeholders directly.

Metrics: To date, FSMB leadership has granted interviews or provided comment to dozens of reporters from major national and international news outlets on pandemic-related issues, and metrics indicate sustained media attention:

- The FSMB's Tweet linking to its statement on physician disinformation was viewed 3.4 million times and engaged with (retweeted, liked, clicked on) more than 43,000 times.
- The FSMB was mentioned in more than 1,400 news stories between October 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022.
- The link to the FSMB's misinformation/disinformation statement on FSMB.org has been viewed more than 57,000 times.



COVID-19
MISINFORMATION / DISINFORMATION

PREPARE TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES.

Ohio Physicians Health Program: Utilizing FSMB Funding to Improve Physician Wellness

In 2020, the FSMB Foundation launched a new grant initiative aimed at helping medical regulatory and health care systems better position themselves to respond to future pandemics, public health emergencies or disaster situations. Among the recipients of the new “COVID-19 State Response Grants” was the **Ohio Physicians Health Program (OhioPHP)**, which used its \$25,000 grant to study the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of the state’s health care professionals. The OhioPHP — which provides services for physicians and others who may be affected by mental illness, substance abuse or other disorders — conducted a survey of more than 13,000 health professionals, concluding

that the pandemic had dramatically accelerated burnout, feelings of hopelessness, and alcohol and substance use among them. The number of respondents indicating feelings of hopelessness or being depressed “nearly every day” increased by 700% during the pandemic, according to the survey, and those who expressed concern about their own use of alcohol or other substances increased by nearly 300%. The survey

also showed that resources to help health professionals cope were underutilized. The OhioPHP is now using the survey’s findings to help identify policy and regulatory strategies to bolster Ohio’s responses to future emergencies impacting the health care workforce.



COVID-19 Well-being Survey

A look into the mental health and well-being of Ohio's healthcare professionals.



“ Without FSMB Foundation funding, implementation of this project would not have been possible. We are extremely grateful for a partnership that has helped us address a serious issue in Ohio. ”

Kelley M. Long, MBA
Executive Director
Ohio Physicians Health Program



“ The outstanding research of the OhioPHP has helped broaden the reach and impact of the Foundation’s work, and will certainly benefit medical regulators as they address physician wellness. ”

Patricia A. King, MD, PhD, FACP
Board Member
FSMB Foundation Board of Directors

FSMB FOUNDATION

As the philanthropic arm of the FSMB, the FSMB Foundation funds research and education initiatives that strengthen, support and advance the work of state medical boards. Its generous grant-funding in 2021-2022 contributed tangibly to helping today's medical regulators prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

Foundation Begins New Round of Strategic Planning

Five years after its last strategic plan update, the FSMB Foundation began preparations in 2021-2022 for an update of its long-term goals and objectives, with draft recommendations expected in late 2022.

The Foundation's last plan, developed in 2017, was aimed at widening its impact and long-term sustainability. Over the five years that followed, the Foundation significantly raised the level of its core funds available for grantmaking and the number and type of grants it distributed. Along the way, it provided more than \$240,000 in funding to



Janelle A. Rhyne, MD, MACP, FSMB Foundation President.

support projects aimed at the opioid epidemic, license portability, emergency preparedness and other topics important to medical regulators.

“While the plan has served us well, we recognize that health care has changed dramatically since then — including the impacts of COVID-19,” said Foundation President **Janelle A. Rhyne, MD, MACP**. “Our goal will be to ensure that our priorities are well aligned with the future needs of the medical regulatory community.”

Other FSMB Foundation Highlights

IMLC Grant Funding Sustained: Participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact has grown significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, helped by funding from the FSMB Foundation. The Foundation approved additional funding to advance the Compact in 2021, adding to the \$50,000 in support it has provided to date to help both states interested in participating and those that have already joined. The Compact, which is helping to streamline physician licensing in the United States, now includes 35 states, the District of Columbia and Guam.

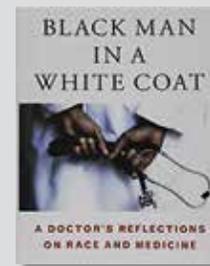
Updated Grant Processes: The Foundation's Grants Committee, under the leadership of **Randal C. Manning, MBA, CMBE**, completed its initiative to significantly update and standardize Foundation grant-application forms and procedures in 2021-2022.

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING



Black Man in a White Coat: Damon Tweedy, MD, Featured in Virtual Event

The FSMB Foundation's 2021 annual fundraiser, held May 12, 2021 in a virtual setting for the second year in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic, featured best-selling author **Damon Tweedy, MD**. Dr. Tweedy's book “**Black Man in a White Coat**,” chronicles his experiences grappling with race, bias and the health problems of Black Americans.



Dr. Tweedy's book, which has been widely praised by reviewers, sparked new national discussions about health equity in the U.S. medical system upon its publication. His participation in the FSMB Foundation event coincided with other FSMB initiatives launched in 2021, including a special **Workgroup on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Medical Regulation and Patient Care**.

Following Dr. Tweedy's presentation, he answered questions from the online viewing audience. The event was moderated by FSMB Foundation President Janelle A. Rhyne, MD, MACP.

Since their inception in 2013, the Foundation's annual funding events have raised thousands of dollars to support its grant-making activities.

FSMB FOUNDATION STRATEGIC GOALS

Sustainability: Strengthen the Foundation's long-term viability and effectiveness by implementing funding and programmatic activities that are sustainable.

Collaboration and Partnership: Develop collaborative relationships and partnerships with external organizations that enhance the Foundation's impact and broaden its reach.

Organizational Effectiveness: Implement governance and administrative structures that are fiscally responsible, transparent and adaptable.

Research: Fund and support original and existing research initiatives that improve the safety of patients and the quality of health care through effective medical regulation.

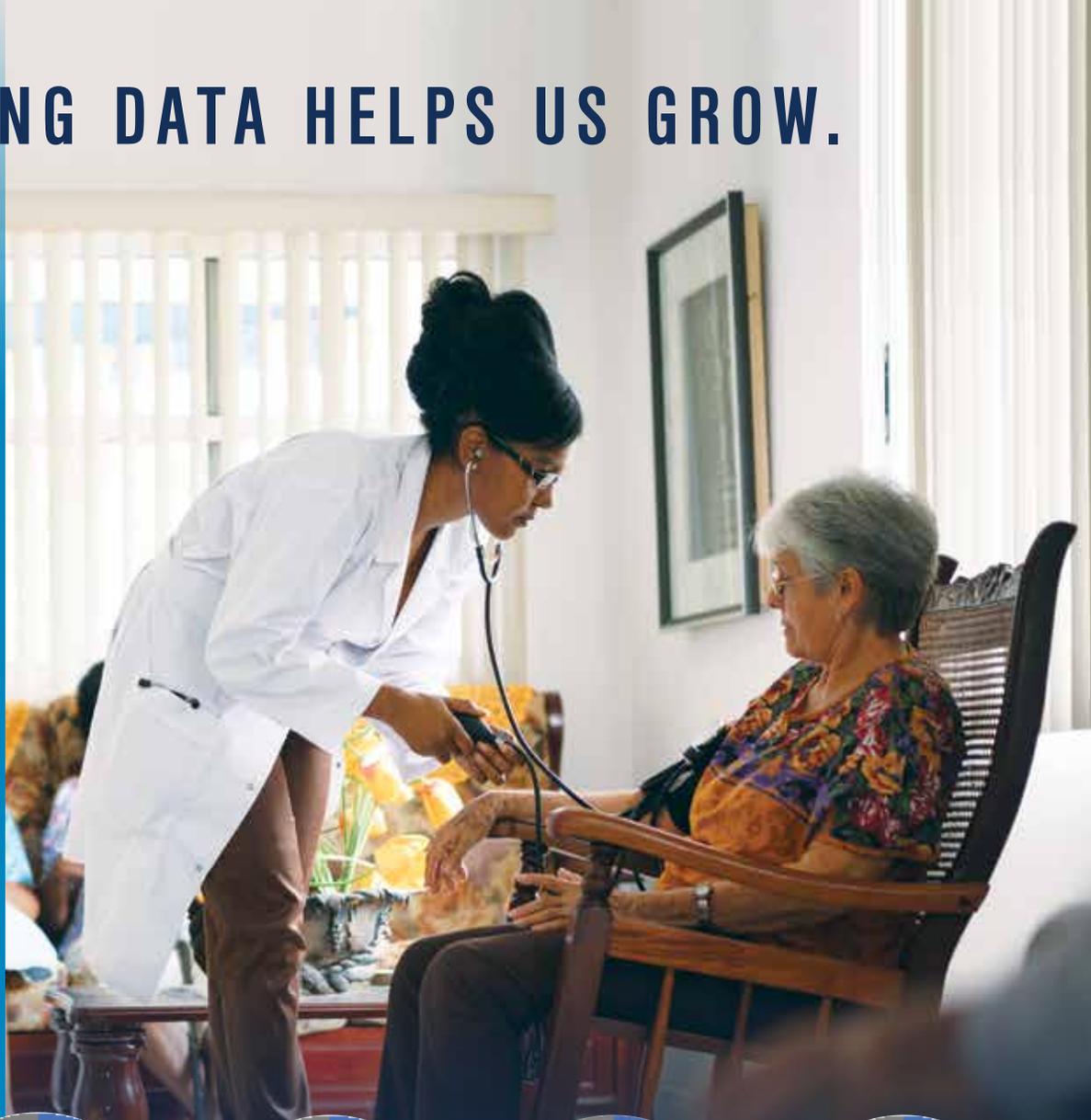
Education: Fund and support original and existing education initiatives that improve the safety of patients and the quality of health care through effective medical regulation.

UNDERSTANDING DATA HELPS US GROW.

2021 Physician Licensing and Discipline Report

Every other year, the FSMB publishes its “Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States” — the most comprehensive database of U.S. physician demographic information available. The FSMB has published six biennial censuses since the first census in 2011. Census information is gleaned from U.S. state medical boards and other sources, then it is compiled in the FSMB’s Physician Data Center (PDC). The FSMB continues to add to this data in the years that fall between each formal census.

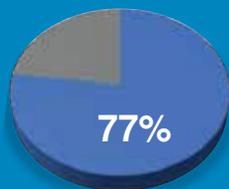
Using this data, the FSMB is able to provide important information about trends in physician licensure. The FSMB’s latest PDC data indicate that the number of licensed physicians in the United States is growing but that the physician workforce is also aging. The percentage of physicians who are female continues to increase. Other physician data highlights from the last year are included here.



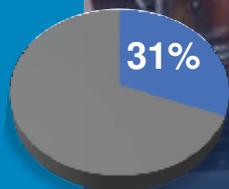
2021 LICENSED PHYSICIANS: AT A GLANCE



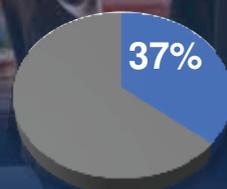
9 in 10 have **MD degrees**, 10% have **DO degrees**



More than 3 in 4 are **U.S. or Canadian medical graduates**



Physicians are aging: 31% are **60 or older**



Nearly 4 in 10 are **female**: this number continues to increase



8 out of 10 are **specialty certified**



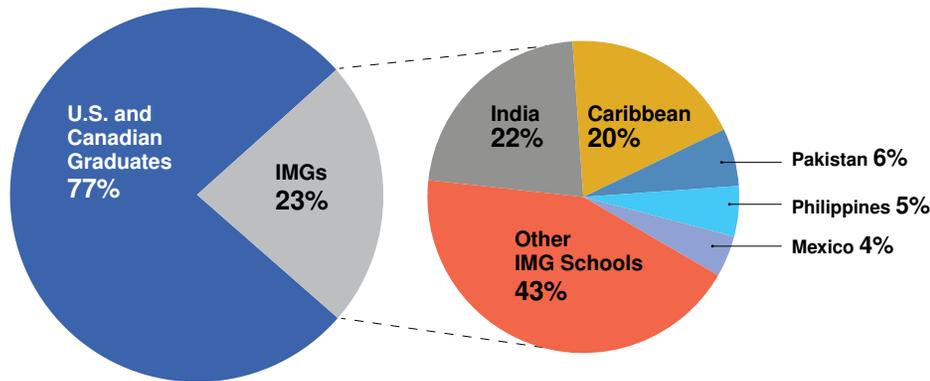
Nearly 1 in 4 are **licensed to practice in multiple states**

U.S. PHYSICIAN LICENSURE

As of 2021, the number of licensed physicians in the United States and the District of Columbia exceeds 1,026,000.

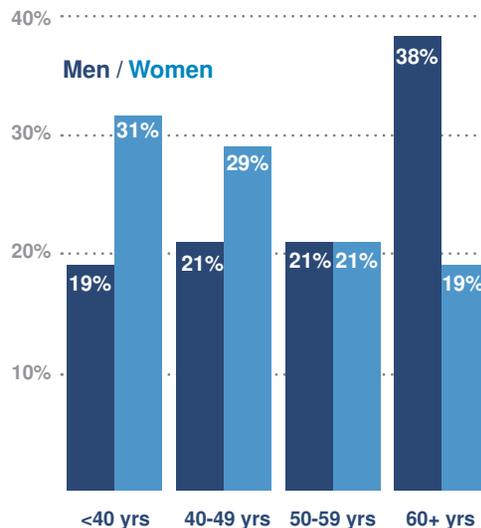
U.S. Licensed Physicians by Medical Training

- 90% are allopathic physicians (MDs); 10% are osteopathic physicians (DOs)
- 77% are U.S. and Canadian Graduates (USMGs) and 23% are international graduates (IMGs)
 - The largest numbers of licensed IMGs graduated from schools in India (22%), the Caribbean (20%), Pakistan (6%), the Philippines (5%) and Mexico (4%)
 - 66% of licensed Caribbean medical school graduates are U.S. citizens



U.S. Licensed Physicians by Sex and Age

- By age category:*
 - 24% are less than 40 years old
 - 23% are 40 to 49 years old
 - 21% are 50 to 59 years old
 - 31% are 60 years old and older
- 63% are men and 37% are women
- 31% of female physicians are younger than age 40 and 19% are age 60 years and older
- 19% of male physicians are younger than age 40 and 38% are age 60 and older
- 85% are specialty certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties or American Osteopathic Association
- 23% hold two or more active licenses



U.S. PHYSICIAN DISCIPLINE

One important role of state medical boards is the responsibility for disciplining physicians who engage in unprofessional, improper or incompetent medical practice. The FSMB has collected and shared information about state medical board disciplinary actions since its founding in 1912, maintaining a comprehensive repository of national disciplinary data.

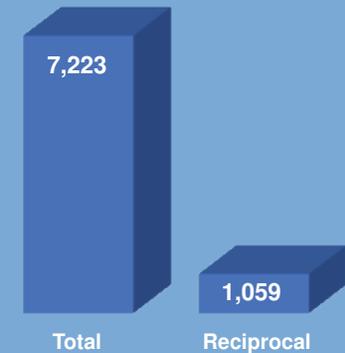
Key disciplinary statistics from 2021 include:

- 3,402 physicians received 7,223 disciplinary actions by state medical boards in the United States
- 15% of all board actions taken by state medical boards were reciprocal (actions based on originating boards)
- 1,609 physicians were disciplined for the first time by state medical boards
- The largest categories of disciplinary actions by state medical boards were restricted licenses and reprimands.

Physicians Disciplined by State Medical Boards in 2021



Actions Taken by State Medical Boards in 2021



* Note: Percentages do not add up to 100%, due to rounding error and/or data were unknown because they were either not collected by state medical boards or not made available to the FSMB.

The Federation of State Medical Boards: Partners in Protecting the Public

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Alabama Board of Medical Examiners | Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure | Puerto Rico Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline |
| Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama | Maryland Board of Physicians* | Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline* |
| Alaska State Medical Board | Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine* | South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners* |
| Arizona Medical Board | Michigan Board of Medicine* | South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners |
| Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery | Michigan Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery | Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners |
| Arkansas State Medical Board* | Minnesota Board of Medical Practice* | Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination |
| Medical Board of California | Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure | Texas Medical Board |
| Osteopathic Medical Board of California | Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts | Utah Physicians and Surgeons Licensing Board* |
| Colorado Medical Board | Montana Board of Medical Examiners* | Utah Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Licensing Board |
| Connecticut Medical Examining Board | Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery | Vermont Board of Medical Practice* |
| Delaware Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline | Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners | Vermont Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons |
| District of Columbia Board of Medicine | Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine | Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners |
| Florida Board of Medicine | New Hampshire Board of Medicine | Virginia Board of Medicine* |
| Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine | New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners* | Washington Medical Commission |
| Georgia Composite Medical Board | New Mexico Medical Board** | Washington Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery |
| Guam Board of Medical Examiners | New York State Board for Medicine* | West Virginia Board of Medicine |
| Hawaii Medical Board | New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct | West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine |
| Idaho Board of Medicine | North Carolina Medical Board | Wisconsin Medical Examining Board* |
| Illinois State Medical Board | North Dakota Board of Medicine | Wyoming Board of Medicine |
| Medical Licensing Board of Indiana | Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Health Care Professions Licensing Board | |
| Iowa Board of Medicine | State Medical Board of Ohio* | |
| Kansas State Board of Healing Arts | Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision* | |
| Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure | Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners | |
| Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners* | Oregon Medical Board* | |
| Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine | Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine* | |
| | Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine | |

* Original 1912 charter member board of the FSMB

** The New Mexico Medical Board and the New Mexico Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners merged to become one board on June 18, 2021.

The Federation of State Medical Boards

represents a community of dedicated public servants, spread throughout the United States. Their commitment to protecting the public and ensuring the highest standards of medical quality is the key to the successful operation of the nation's medical regulatory system. In the following pages, we acknowledge the work of the many individuals who make up our boards, committees, workgroups, advisory councils and task forces. We thank them for their important contributions.

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North Carolina



Denise Pines, MBA
California Osteopathic



Sandra L. Schwemmer, DO*
Florida Osteopathic



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Oklahoma Osteopathic



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FSMB President/CEO



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FSMB Articles Help Advance Ideas

Each year, published articles by FSMB staff and board members contribute to the national dialogue on health policy issues. A sampling from 2021-2022 includes:

Johnson DA, "The North Carolina Medical Licensing Examination, 1886-1925: Analysis of Performance by Graduates of Historically Black Medical Colleges," *North Carolina Historical Review*. April 2021. 152-82.

Arnhart K, Cuddy M, Barone M, Johnson DA, Young A. "Multiple United States Medical Licensing Exam Attempts and the Estimated Risk of Disciplinary Actions Among Graduates of U.S. and Canadian Schools," *Academic Medicine*. September 2021, 1319-23.

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Katsufakis PJ, Chaudhry HJ. "Evolution of Clinical Skills Assessment in the USMLE: Looking to the Future After Step 2 CS Discontinuation," *Academic Medicine*. September 2021, 1236-1238.

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Seiler N, Chaudhry HJ, Lovitch K, et al. Telehealth Services and the Law: The Rapidly Evolving Regulatory Landscape and Considerations for STI and HIV Services. Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Accepted for publication, 2022.

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In Memoriam LaSharn Hughes, MBA, 1954-2021



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The Federation of State Medical Boards represents the 70 state medical and osteopathic regulatory boards — commonly referred to as state medical boards — within the United States, its territories and the District of Columbia. It supports its member boards as they fulfill their mandate of protecting the public’s health, safety and welfare through the proper licensing, disciplining, and regulation of physicians and, in most jurisdictions, other health care professionals.

VISION

The FSMB supports state medical boards as they protect the public and promote quality health care, partnering and innovating with them to shape the future of medical regulation.

MISSION

The FSMB serves as a national voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, data, research and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices.

STRATEGIC GOALS

State Medical Board Support: Serve state medical boards by promoting best practices and providing policies, advocacy, and other resources that add to their effectiveness.

Advocacy and Policy Leadership: Strengthen the impact of state medical regulation in a dynamic, interconnected health care environment.

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Communications and Education: Raise public awareness of the vital role of state medical boards while providing educational tools and resources that enhance the quality and effectiveness of medical regulation.

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