

# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners protects the public and serves the state of Nevada by ensuring that only well-qualified, competent physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists and perfusionists receive licenses to practice in Nevada. The Board responds with expediency to complaints against our licensees by conducting fair, complete investigations that result in appropriate action. In all Board activities, the Board shall place the interests of the public before the interests of the medical profession and encourage public input and involvement to help educate the public as we improve the quality of medical practice in Nevada.

## THE BOARD

The Board is the oldest occupational licensing board in the state, having recently celebrated 121 years of service to the patients of Nevada (March 15, 1899 – March 15, 2020). The Board is composed of nine members, six of whom are actively practicing physicians and three of whom are public members. By statute, all of the members of the Board must be selected without regard to their individual political beliefs. All members are appointed by the Governor for a period of four years, and may be removed by the Governor for good cause. Board members may be appointed by the Governor to a second four-year term.

The Board has two Investigative Committees. Each Committee is composed of two physician Board members and one public Board member. The committees are charged with administering the disciplinary program of the Board.

The Board office is located at 9600 Gateway Drive in Reno, and has a satellite office at 6010 S. Rainbow Blvd., Building A, Suite 2, in Las Vegas.

## BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., *President***

Dr. Prabhu was appointed to the Board effective October 1, 2013, and was reappointed to a second term commencing August 31, 2017. He has been a practicing physician in Nevada for over three decades and founded Red Rock Medical Group, Eldorado Medical Center and Sleep Center of Nevada, specializing in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine. Dr. Prabhu is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in Pulmonary Medicine, Sleep Medicine and Critical Care Medicine, and is a graduate of the prestigious Calcutta University, Calcutta, India. He is currently serving as a Clinical Professor of Medicine with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine. Dr. Prabhu has held several critical positions, such as Medical Director of the ICU at Valley Hospital and Medical Co-Director of the ICU at University Medical Center. He served as the Pulmonary Consultant to Veterans Services in Las Vegas and as the Medical Director of the Veterans Nursing Home in Boulder City. Dr. Prabhu is the President of the Board and Chairman of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

### **M. Neil Duxbury, *Public Member, Vice President***

Mr. Duxbury is a public member of the Board, appointed to the Board effective December 11, 2015. He was reappointed to a second term commencing July 1, 2017. Mr. Duxbury holds a Bachelor's

Degree in Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno. During his college and post-college careers, he worked for the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, assisting with various medical research projects. He later assisted in medical research at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. Duxbury is active in the community and supports such organizations as the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, the University of Nevada, Reno, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He has served as a member of the YMCA Capital Campaign Committee, completed the Reno Chamber of Commerce Executive Training Program and was an active member of the Executive Association of Reno. Mr. Duxbury is the Vice President of the Board and Chairman of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

#### **April Mastroluca, *Public Member, Secretary-Treasurer***

Ms. Mastroluca is a public member of the Board, appointed to the Board effective December 11, 2015. She was reappointed to a second term commencing July 1, 2017. Ms. Mastroluca has worked in nonprofit for 17 years and is currently the Executive Director for the ALS Association, Nevada Chapter. In addition, she served as a Nevada State Assemblywoman from 2008 to 2012, where she chaired the Health and Human Services Committee. Volunteerism has always been important to Ms. Mastroluca, and she currently serves on the Advisory Board of Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth. She was the 2016 President of the Association of Fund Raising Professionals, Las Vegas Chapter, and is a member of Leadership Henderson, class of 2016. She previously was a member of Junior League, served as a Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troop Leader, served as President of Kesterson Elementary PTA and was on the Nevada PTA State Board. She holds a Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education from Boardsource. Previously, she completed the Emerging State Leaders Program at the Darden School of Business and the Western Legislative Academy from the Council of State Governments, West. Ms. Mastroluca is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board and a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

#### **Victor M. Muro, M.D.**

Dr. Muro was appointed to the Board effective September 28, 2015. He was reappointed to a second term commencing August 31, 2019. He is the Medical Director of Optum Medical Partners in Henderson, and was previously with Jacobs & Modaber/CareMore Medical Group in Las Vegas. Dr. Muro holds a medical degree from the UCLA School of Medicine and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is currently an appointee by the State Board of Health as a physician member of the Medical Laboratory Advisory Committee. Dr. Muro is a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

#### **Aury Nagy, M.D.**

Dr. Nagy was appointed to the Board effective August 31, 2016. He is a neurosurgeon and is currently a partner in Nevada Brain & Spine Care. Dr. Nagy is a Las Vegas native, holds a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine, and is certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery. He served as Spine Committee Chair and Neurosurgery Section Chief for Spring Valley Hospital, as well as an adjunct clinical faculty member for Touro University. He was a product development consultant and Speakers Bureau clinical lecturer and educator for Integra NeuroSciences, Inc. He is currently a speaker for LDR regarding its artificial cervical disc and Medtronic for its Deep Brain Stimulator technology. Dr. Nagy is a frequent author on the subject of back pain and has participated in several research programs regarding spine and brain injuries. He was the first neurosurgeon in Nevada to place an artificial cervical disc in a patient and his deep brain stimulation procedures for Parkinson's patients are well-regarded. He has served in the White House Medical Corps as a neurosurgeon and is a member of the Southern Nevada Medical Reserve Corps, as well as the Clark County Medical Society. Dr. Nagy

is an active member of the Southern Nevada business community, a supporter of renewable energy, and has been involved in numerous medical and community organizations. He has also served on the Governor's Workforce Board Health Sector Committee, as well as the Federal Health Information Advisory Committee to U.S. Congress. Dr. Nagy is a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

#### **Michael C. Edwards, M.D., FACS**

Dr. Edwards was appointed to the Board effective July 1, 2017. He is a board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon with Anson, Edwards and Higgins Plastic Surgery Associates in Las Vegas, with over 21 years of clinical experience. He holds a medical degree from the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine and is currently serving as a Clinical Instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine, Department of Surgery. Dr. Edwards is a past-president of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, and past-president of the Clark County Medical Society. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of many professional organizations, including the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, American Society of Plastic Surgery, American Association of Plastic Surgery, and the Nevada State Medical Association. Dr. Edwards is a veteran of the United States Air Force. Throughout his military career, he served as Chief of Surgery, Chief of Plastic Surgery and Chief of Staff. Dr. Edwards is a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

#### **Weldon Havins, M.D., J.D.**

Dr. Havins was appointed to the Board effective August 31, 2017. He holds a medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine, a Master's degree in Management from the Claremont Graduate University, and a law degree and a Master of Laws degree in Health Law from the University of San Diego. Dr. Havins was the Executive Director and legal counsel for the Clark County Medical Society from 2001 to 2008. Following a stint as Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, he received a full-time appointment to the faculty at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he currently serves as an Associate Dean, Professor and Director of Medical Jurisprudence, and Professor of Ophthalmology, while practicing General Ophthalmology part time. Dr. Havins is a member of the Nevada Bar and is in-house counsel for Touro University Nevada. He is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and the American Board of Legal Medicine. He serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Legal Medicine and the American Board of Legal Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, and the American College of Legal Medicine. He is a past-president of the Nevada State Medical Association. He has numerous publications in medical journals and law reviews. Dr. Havins is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

#### **Maggie Arias-Petrel, *Public Member***

Ms. Arias-Petrel is a public member of the Board, appointed to the Board effective August 1, 2019. She was born in Quito, Ecuador, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Universidad Central of Quito-Ecuador. Ms. Arias-Petrel specializes in the areas of marketing, business development, strategic partnerships, non-profit organizations, events, and community outreach – local, national, and international. She has over twenty years of medical practice management, marketing and consulting experience. She served as a practice administrator for several multispecialty practices in Las Vegas, including the Women's Health Center of Southern Nevada, during three decades. Ms. Arias-Petrel truly understands the needs of a comprehensive healthcare service and access to the underserved communities in Nevada. She is actively involved at a local and national level. She serves as the Nevada representative on the White House Committee on Aging, the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Summits, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber Summits, and most recently, with The Latino

Coalition. She was also invited by former U.S. Senator Harry Reid to participate on the Democratic Hispanic Task Force on Healthcare in Washington, D.C. Ms. Arias-Petrel is the past Chairwoman of the Board of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Nevada and she also serves on many other boards, such as Dignity Health, the American Red Cross and Workforce Connections, among others.

**Bret W. Frey, M.D.**

Dr. Frey was appointed to the Board effective August 31, 2019. He is a longtime Nevadan with a passion for emergency and aero-medical medicine. Earning a Bachelor of Science from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1989, he published numerous scientific articles during a seven-year research career thereafter. Dr. Frey holds a medical degree from the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, and is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. He has served Nevadans in a multitude of capacities to improve statewide medical care, and has practiced in many emergency departments statewide. Dr. Frey serves on the Board for the Nevada Chapter of the American College of Emergency Medicine, is a member of the Government Affairs Commission of the Nevada State Medical Association, is the Nevada Medical Director for Reach Air Medical Services, and is President of Northern Nevada Emergency Physicians – the largest emergency physician group in northern Nevada.

## CURRENT BOARD STAFF

### *Executive Staff:*

Edward O. Cousineau, J.D., Executive Director  
Sarah A. Bradley, J.D., MBA, Deputy Executive Director  
Donya Jenkins, Finance Manager

### *Administrative Staff:*

Laurie L. Munson, Chief of Administration and Information Systems  
Linda Lang, Finance Assistant  
Julie M. Espinoza, Credentialing and Consumer Assistance Specialist

### *Legal Division Staff:*

Robert Kilroy, J.D., General Counsel  
Aaron Bart Fricke, J.D., Senior Deputy General Counsel  
Donald K. White, J.D., Deputy General Counsel  
Dawn DeHaven Gordillo, Legal Assistant  
Sheri L. Quigley, Legal Assistant

### *Investigative Staff:*

Ernesto Diaz, Chief of Investigations  
George J. Tuioti, Deputy Chief of Investigations, Las Vegas office  
Trent S. Hiatt, CMBI, Senior Investigator  
Donald A. Andreas, CMBI, Senior Investigator, Las Vegas office  
Monica C. Gustafson, CMBI, Senior Investigator  
Kim Friedman, CMBI, Senior Investigator, Las Vegas office  
Johnna S. LaRue, CMBI, Senior Investigator  
Libi Anders, Investigator  
Samantha M. Hendricks, Investigator  
Norma Perkins, Administrative Assistant  
Debra A. Foster, Administrative Assistant, Las Vegas office  
Paul McClintock, M.D., Medical Reviewer  
Michael Jacobs, M.D., PhD, Medical Reviewer, Las Vegas office

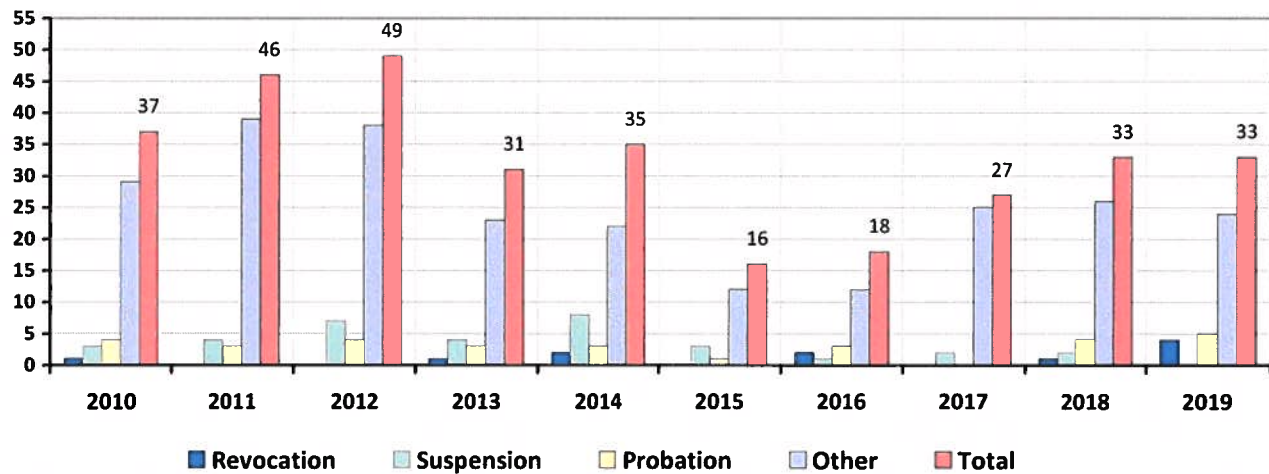
**Licensing Staff:**

Lynnette Daniels, Chief of Licensing  
Curtis Worden, Deputy Chief of Licensing  
Brandi M. Harris, Senior License Specialist  
Alexandra D. Lucas, License Specialist  
Kristin Santos, License Specialist  
Tara Bailey, License Specialist  
Kristin Penley, License Specialist  
Christina Hall, License Specialist  
Brenda Riviera, License Specialist  
Jami Land, Licensing Administrative Assistant

## COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS AND DISCIPLINE

In 2019, the Board opened 902 investigations, closed 653 investigations (many of which, of course, originated in preceding years) and imposed 33 disciplinary actions against physicians. The graph below shows the number and types of discipline imposed by the Board regarding physicians for the last ten years.

**Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Medical Doctors\***



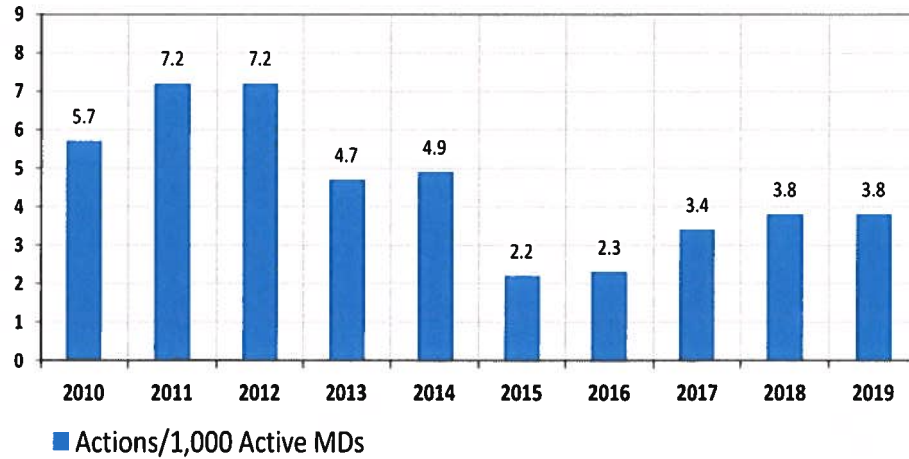
Note: "Other" actions include: Voluntary Surrender of License While Under Investigation, License Restriction, Public Reprimand, Licensure Denial, CME Ordered, Fine, Drug or Alcohol Treatment Program Ordered, and Competency Exam Ordered.

\*Any discrepancy in these numbers from a report published by any other source is due to: (1) differences in verbiage or categorization; or (2) differences in the number of actions taken per practitioner.



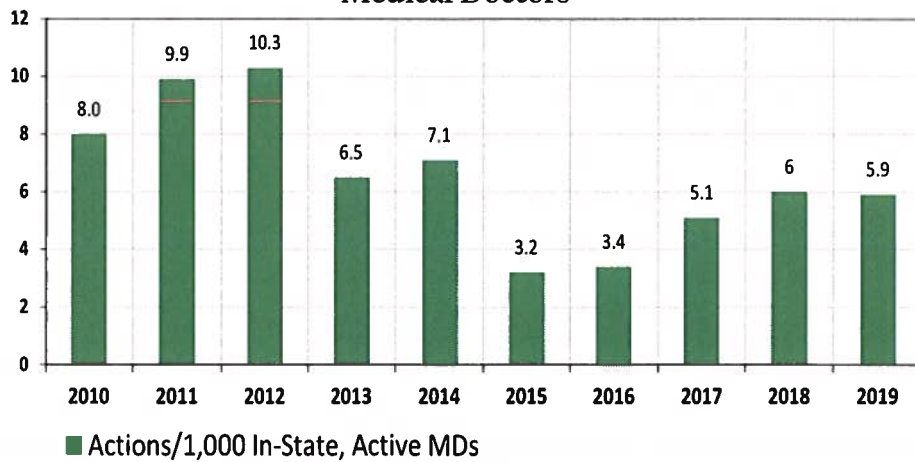
The graph below shows the rate of disciplinary actions taken by the Board per 1,000 active-status licensed physicians for the last ten years.

**Rate of Disciplinary Actions Per All Licensed Active-Status Medical Doctors**



The graph below shows the rate of disciplinary actions taken by the Board per 1,000 in-state, active-status licensed physicians for the last ten years.

**Rate of Disciplinary Actions Per In-State, Active-Status Medical Doctors**



# LICENSING

The Board licenses physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, perfusionists, and limited licenses for residency training. In 2019, the Board issued the following new licenses:

Practice	
Physicians*	977
Physician Assistants	142
Respiratory Therapists	147
Perfusionists	9
Residency Training Licenses	194

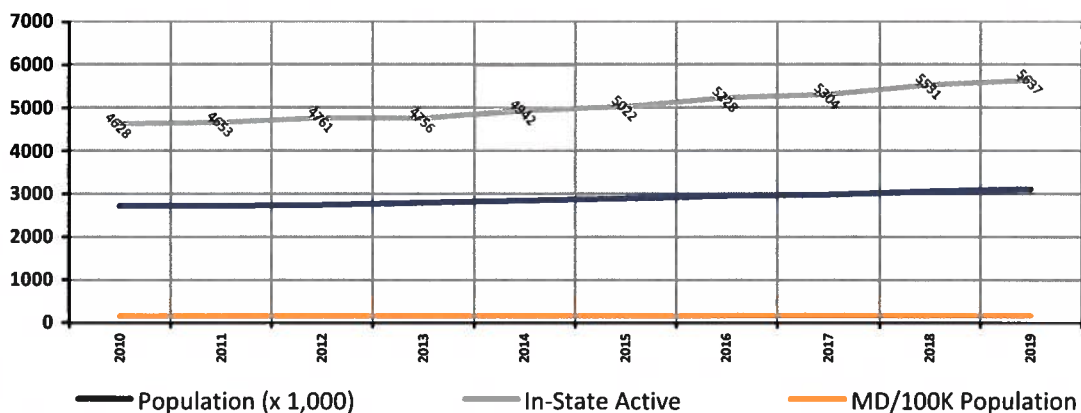
\*267 of these physicians were licensed via the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC).

Average licensing times in 2019 were as follows (these times include weekends and holidays):

Practice	Average Time to License	Fastest Time to Licensure
Physicians (Non-IMLC)	77 days	1 day
Physicians (IMLC)	3 days	same day
Physician Assistants	61 days	23 days
Respiratory Therapists	59 days	21 days
Perfusionists	9 days	7 days

In 2019, the ratio of physicians to 100,000 population\* remained the same as the previous year. The following graph shows the growth of the state's population (measured in thousands so that the trend line will fit on the graph, and last reported at 3,112,937), the state's active, in-state physician population (in absolute numbers), and the ratio of physicians to population (measured as physicians per 100,000 population). From 2010 through 2015, the ratio averaged between 170 and 174. In 2016, the ratio increased to 177; in 2017, the ratio increased to 178; and in 2018 and 2019, the ratio was 181.

Comparison of Population With In-State, Active Physicians



\*Population statistics provided by the Nevada State Demographer, Nevada Department of Taxation.



The physician licensure for active, in-state physicians increased by 1.9% in 2019. The following table is a county-by-county breakdown of physician licenses for the last ten years. In 2019, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Lander, Mineral and Washoe Counties showed growth in their physician populations; Carson City, Churchill, Lyon, Nye and Pershing Counties showed a decrease; and the remaining six counties remained static in their physician populations.

### Physician Licensure Counts (2010-2019)

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Carson City	151	158	152	164	168	171	177	173	173	155
Churchill	20	22	23	27	29	24	24	25	27	21
Clark	3186	3207	3305	3277	3403	3460	3605	3674	3845	3943
Douglas	84	87	89	80	86	79	79	85	87	97
Elko	46	48	41	40	40	43	42	39	39	42
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	9	10	11	12	11	11	12	9	9	9
Lander	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	4
Lincoln	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lyon	13	15	16	15	16	12	13	14	13	11
Mineral	6	5	6	5	5	6	4	2	2	3
Nye	15	16	14	13	16	15	13	12	13	10
Pershing	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1
Storey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washoe	1081	1069	1088	1110	1155	1186	1246	1254	1306	1327
White Pine	9	10	10	9	9	9	8	11	11	11
<b>In-State Active Status</b>	<b>4628</b>	<b>4653</b>	<b>4761</b>	<b>4756</b>	<b>4942</b>	<b>5022</b>	<b>5228</b>	<b>5304</b>	<b>5531</b>	<b>5637</b>
<b>Out-of-State Active Status</b>	<b>1888</b>	<b>1757</b>	<b>2084</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>2116</b>	<b>2561</b>	<b>2523</b>	<b>3229</b>	<b>3066</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE STATUS</b>	<b>6516</b>	<b>6410</b>	<b>6845</b>	<b>6624</b>	<b>7193</b>	<b>7138</b>	<b>7789</b>	<b>7827</b>	<b>8760</b>	<b>8703</b>
<b>Inactive &amp; Retired Statuses</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>772</b>
<b>TOTAL LICENSED (Active, Inactive &amp; Retired Statuses)</b>	<b>7286</b>	<b>7168</b>	<b>7593</b>	<b>7442</b>	<b>7994</b>	<b>7944</b>	<b>8591</b>	<b>8599</b>	<b>9523</b>	<b>9475</b>

The number of physician assistants increased significantly by 6.4% in 2019. The locale of physician assistants trends similarly to the locale of physicians statewide, as is shown on the following table. In 2019, there was growth in Clark, Douglas, Elko, Lander, Mineral and Washoe Counties; Carson City, Churchill, Lyon, Nye and Pershing Counties showed decreases; and the remaining six counties remained static.

### Physician Assistant Licensure Counts (2010-2019)

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Carson City	13	16	17	14	18	17	18	28	28	32
Churchill	4	6	9	10	9	9	10	7	6	5
Clark	332	342	386	398	452	479	533	559	618	655
Douglas	11	9	12	16	17	15	19	19	18	21
Elko	5	5	7	9	10	13	14	15	17	18
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Lander	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lincoln	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Lyon	6	6	4	5	6	7	9	9	9	8
Mineral	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	4	5
Nye	7	4	4	2	2	5	4	3	5	4
Pershing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Storey	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Washoe	91	91	104	109	121	138	149	156	183	195
White Pine	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE STATUS</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>953</b>

The number of respiratory therapists decreased by 3.2% in 2019. In 2019, Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lyon, Nye and Washoe Counties showed decreases; and the remaining eight counties remained static.

### Respiratory Therapist Licensure Counts (2010-2019)

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Carson City	12	12	13	12	13	11	14	12	14	12
Churchill	5	4	5	4	4	5	6	8	9	8
Clark	880	920	1006	982	1069	1079	1167	1158	1246	1231
Douglas	20	18	15	16	16	13	13	14	16	15
Elko	6	8	9	7	8	9	10	12	13	9
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Humboldt	4	5	5	4	4	2	2	2	4	3
Lander	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyon	18	15	16	15	16	15	14	14	17	15
Mineral	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	2
Nye	11	13	12	13	15	13	14	15	14	10
Pershing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washoe	176	192	197	186	202	191	207	193	199	180
White Pine	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE STATUS</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>1284</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>1354</b>	<b>1346</b>	<b>1457</b>	<b>1435</b>	<b>1539</b>	<b>1490</b>

The number of perfusionists remained static in 2019, with growth in Clark County, a decrease in Washoe County, and all other counties remaining static.

### Perfusionist Licensure Counts (2010-2019)

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Carson City	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Churchill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	20	19	25	20	23	20	24	19	24	25
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elko	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pershing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washoe	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	6	5	4
White Pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE STATUS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or comments regarding this Annual Report should be directed to:

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Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
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