

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY NEWS

SPRING 2026 EDITION



A Word from the Executive Director

Greetings from MHRA,

I want to provide a brief update of where we've been and where we are heading as we transition into the Spring and Summer months.

Where We've Been – December through January was a very busy time as we prepped for the February 2026 short legislative session. February through the beginning of March was a very fast-moving time as we monitored legislation of interest, provided testimony, and responded to requests for information. Since the end of the session in the first week of March, we have been busy incorporating updated budget information, identifying action items from legislation that passed, and beginning the planning process for new work items.

Current and Future Projects – This summer promises to be busy, with the projects below, which represent some, but not all, of the various work items we have identified:

- Licensed Behavioral Health and Wellness Specialist – The Board must implement this new license type by January 1, 2027. Related work will primarily include rulemaking and system programming.
- 2027 Legislative session preparation – MHRA is already beginning its preparation for the 2027 session, to include building the 2027-2029 Agency-Requested Budget that will ultimately become part of the budget the Governor presents to the Legislature in the 2027 session. Careful attention to detail will be necessary to ensure we continue to enhance services, respond to increasing workload, and protect the public while avoiding impact to our fee structure.
- Reduce compliance backlog – Our compliance team will be fully staffed as of April 20th. Once we onboard the new team member, we will focus their efforts on helping us address and reduce our current backlog of compliance cases. 2025 and the beginning of 2026 have seen an unprecedented number of complaints received (approximately 40% increase from 2024 to 2025, with similar volume so far in 2026) across our two boards, so this remains a formidable challenge.
- System tutorial videos – We recognize that sometimes customers find it difficult to navigate the online application/licensing portals. We are developing short tutorial videos to provide some assistance

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A Word from the Executive Director, Cont.

and clarity to minimize frustration and improve self-reliance for our customers using the portals. Thank you to our licensing team members for identifying this need and working to produce these videos.

- New resources for educators – Educators are very critical to the behavioral health workforce pipeline. The Board’s Education/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and the MHRA Policy and Licensing teams have been working hard to provide updated educator training. I appreciate the leadership the Committee and staff have shown in developing these resources.
- Continued system, process, and rule streamlining – Although it is not always visible from the outside, our licensing and compliance teams foster continuous improvement by identifying issues and solutions in their daily operations. We are always reviewing and updating our system and processes, carefully balancing the needs of licensees with our statutory charge of public protection. Additionally, a review of board minutes will show that both of our boards have been very busy identifying and implementing appropriate rule changes to reduce barriers and strengthen public protection.
- Licensing system upgrade – MHRA has joined a

statewide initiative with other licensing boards to identify multiple licensing system vendors as options for licensing system upgrades. This will help minimize costs of the procurement process as well as provide some consistency across the various boards. As this effort is still in the planning phase, costs and timelines for this upgrade are unknown at this time. As more information becomes known to us, we will update our customers.

- Continued policy work – As I have discussed before, MHRA was a participant on the First Lady’s [Behavioral Health Talent Council](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/Behavioral-Health-Talent-Council.aspx) - (<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/Behavioral-Health-Talent-Council.aspx>). The Council has released their report, and the Governor will work with the Council to identify and prioritize action items from the report. MHRA will continue to consult and participate in any actions that impact our boards.

As you can see, we have a full agenda this year with worthwhile projects. We look forward to improving our service to all of our customers: educators, applicants, registered associates, supervisors, licensees, and the public members our boards are charged with protecting. We hope you have an enjoyable, safe summer, and will provide more updates in our next newsletter.

Administrative Rulemaking

On March 20, 2026, the Board filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

Update terms, application representations, examination failures, residency requirements, investigation process, and fee refunds.

- Amend OAR 858-010-0018: Updates terms.
- Amend OAR 858-010-0020: Removes minimum \$200 civil penalty for applicant failure to disclose an arrest or conviction.
- Amend OAR 858-010-0025: Removes automatic application denial for licensure candidates that fail the national written examination for a third time.
- Amend OAR 858-010-0030: Removes automatic application denial for licensure candidates that fail the jurisprudence examination for a third time.
- Amend OAR 858-010-0036: Adds clarifications to

post-doctoral supervised work experience requirements and Board discretion to take action to address residency concerns.

- Amend OAR 858-020-0045: Amends process for notification of investigation to supervisors and investigator method of seeking guidance. Clarifies that cooperation with a Board investigation includes sending other requested documents and that witness interviews are conducted as necessary. Describes possible Board actions in the event of resident investigation or report of ethical concerns by supervisor.
- Adopt OAR 858-020-0096: Prohibits licensees, residents, temporary practitioners, and applicants from making misrepresentations to the Board or allowing third parties to submit responses to Board forms on their behalf. Sets forth that failure to comply violates statute and may be grounds for sanction.

Administrative Rulemaking, Cont.

- Adopt OAR 858-030-0010: Sets forth when fees are refundable.

The agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business. Please email

your comments to laree.stashek@mhra.oregon.gov or mail them to the Board's office at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 130, Salem, OR 97302. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2026.

Please visit our [Administrative Rulemaking Webpage](#) for more information.



Photo by [Preston Browning](#) on [Unsplash](#)

2026 Legislative Summary

The 2026 Oregon Legislative Session began on February 2, 2026 and adjourned sine die on March 6, 2026. Here are a couple of important measures that affect the agency:

- **House Bill 4083**- This is the Governor's Behavioral Health bill, which mostly places requirements on the Oregon Health Authority related to its provider credentialing procedures. The bill was originally proposed to place the Board of License Social Workers (BLSW) under the Mental Health Regulatory Agency umbrella, along with the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (BLPCT) and the Board of Psychology (BOP), but this component was removed in an amendment. It requires BLSW and BLPCT to adopt rules that allow cross-licensure supervision of associates by other licensees of BLPCT, BLSW, and BOP. There is no action required of BLPCT, since the Board has already allowed registered associates to be supervised by LCSWs and psychologists since its inception.
- **Senate Bill 1547**- This establishes a new bachelor's level license type- the Licensed Behavioral Health and Wellness Practitioner- under the

Board of Psychology, to be operational on January 1, 2027. This was one of the recommendations made by the Task Force on Youth Behavioral Health established by House Bill 4151 in 2024. The scope of practice includes behavioral health promotion, prevention, and brief intervention. It explicitly excludes diagnosis, independent treatment, and administration or interpretation of intelligence, academic achievement, or neuropsychological tests. These new licensees will only be authorized to provide services under the direct supervision of psychologists, psychiatrists, LPCs, LMFTs, LCSWs, or psychiatric nurse practitioners. Expect to see draft administrative rules to implement this new license before BOP in September, with a notice of proposed rulemaking out for public comment shortly thereafter.

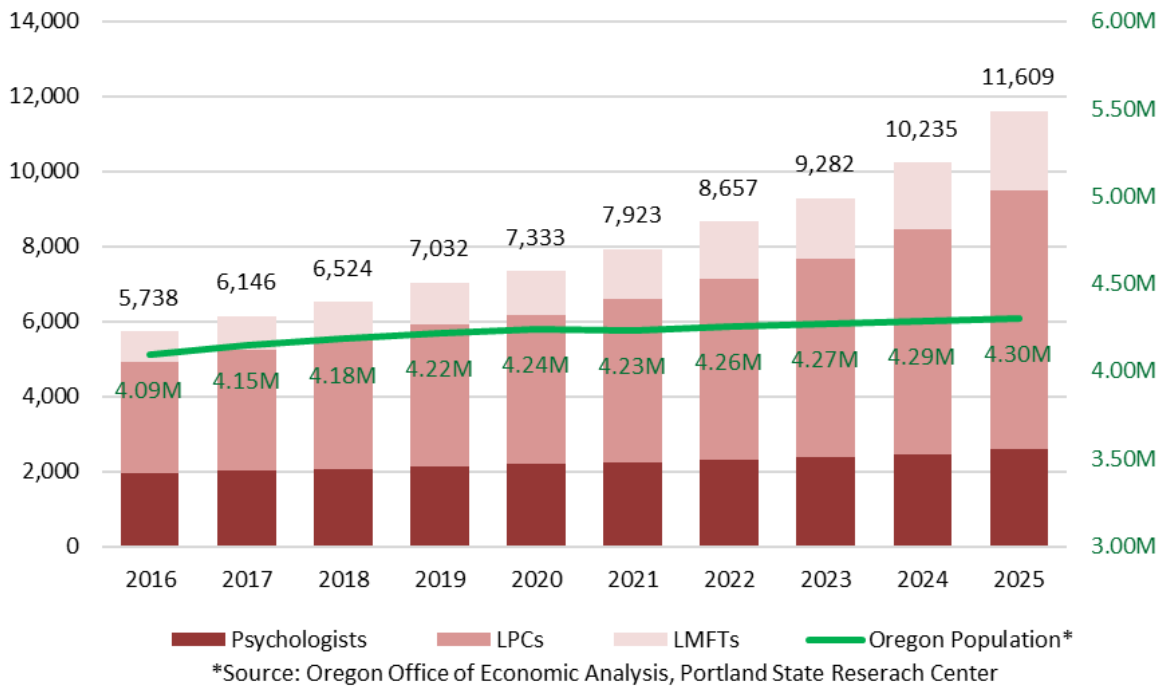
This is provided for informational purposes only. Please note that the Board cannot provide additional information or advice about outside bills. Each measure above includes a hyperlink where you can find more information on the Oregon State Legislature website.

2025 Year-End Stats

Licensing

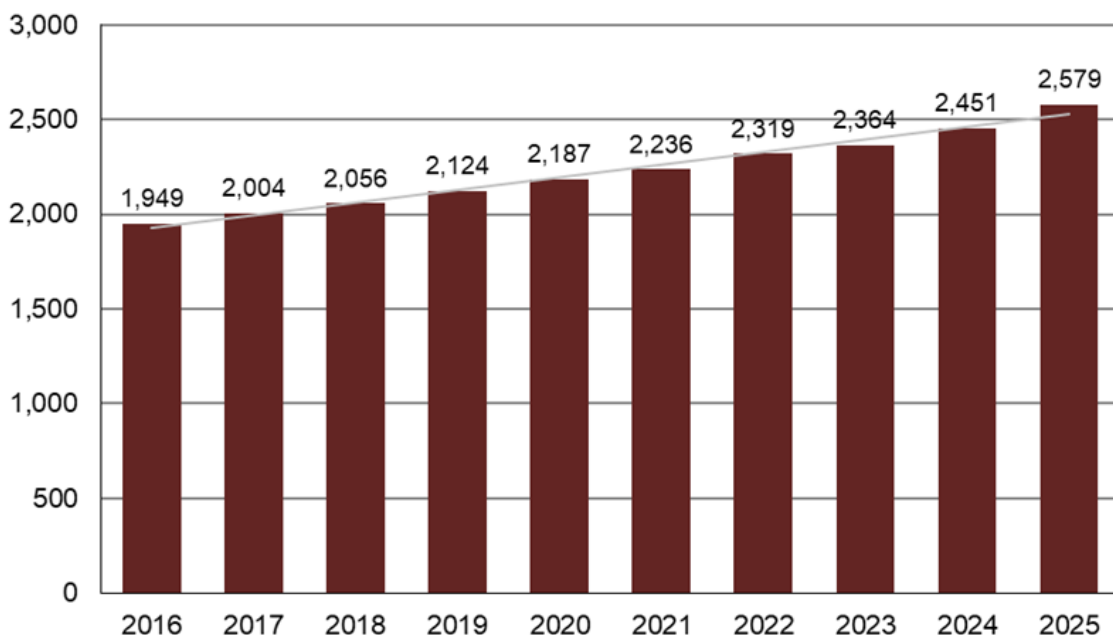
The following graphic displays the total year-end count of all Mental Health Regulatory Agency as compared to the Oregon population overall over the past decade.

Growth: Oregon Population & MHRA Licensees



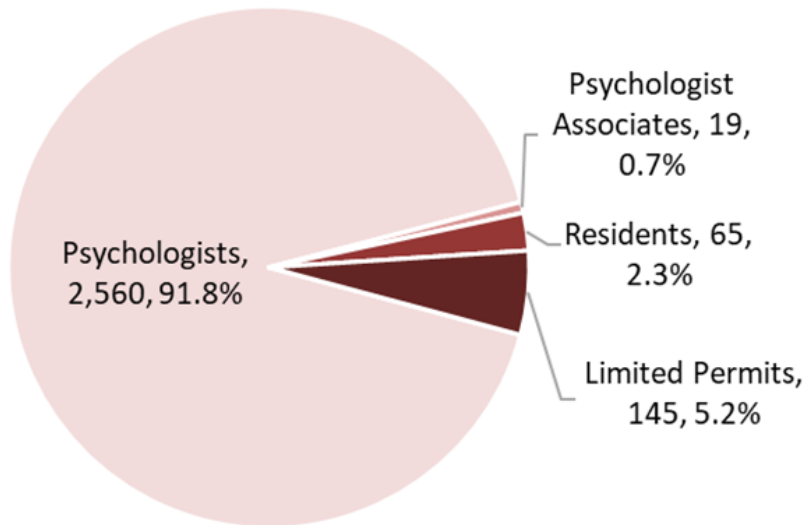
The following graphics display the total volume of fully licensed, independently practicing licensees at the end of each year over the past decade.

BOP Licensee Count at Year End



2025 Year-End Stats, Cont.

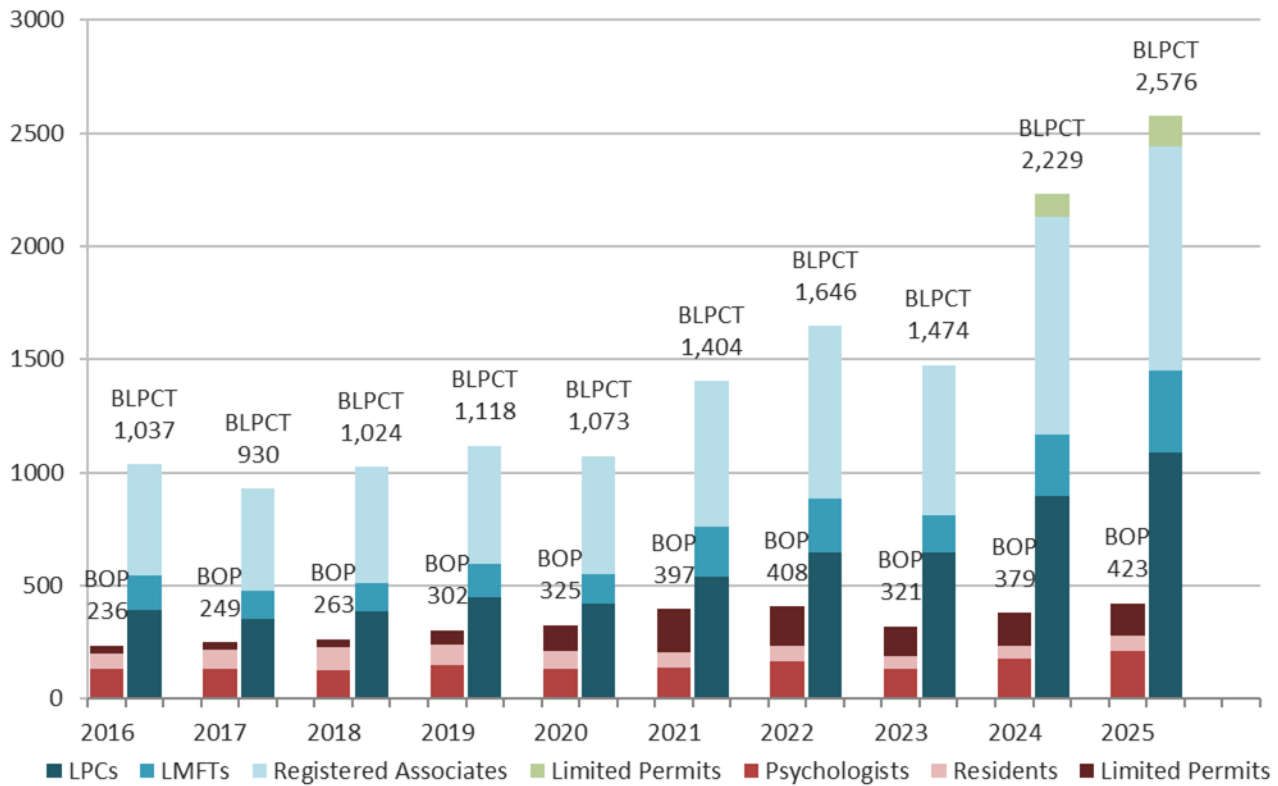
BOP Practitioners - Year End 2025



At year-end 2025, there were 2,789 individuals authorized to provide services to Oregonians, including 2,579 total licensees. The chart on the left shows the breakdown by authorization type. Of the 2,560 psychologists, 2,246 were on active status (87.7%), 149 were on semi-active status (5.8%), and 165 were on inactive status (6.4%). Of the 19 psychologist associates, 12 were on active status (63.2%), 5 were on semi-active status (26.3%), and 2 were on inactive status (10.5%). This represents an average overall growth of 3.2% per year over the past 10 years.

The following graphic displays the volume of new licenses, associate registrations, residents, and limited permits issued by the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (BLPCT) and the Board of Psychology (BOP) over the last 10 years.

New Practice Authorizations by Year by Board

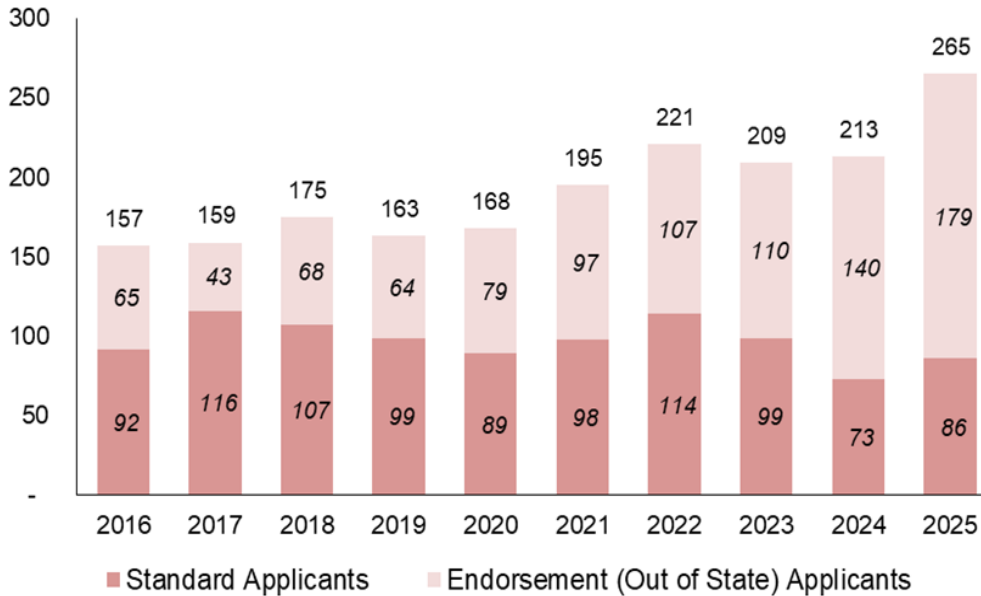


BLPCT has grown an average of 12.2% per year in the volume of new authorizations issued. 2024 saw a 51.2% record high increase from the prior year. The 2025 growth was less drastic but still significant at 15.6%, with 1,087 new LPCs, 362 new LMFTs, and 989 new registered associates, including 842 professional

2025 Year-End Stats, Cont.

BOP has grown an average of 7.4% per year in the volume of new authorizations issued. 2025 saw an 11.6% increase from the prior year, with 213 new licensees, 145 limited permits, and 65 new psychologist residents. The volume of new psychologists increased by 19.7% over 2024.

BOP Applications Received- by Type by Year



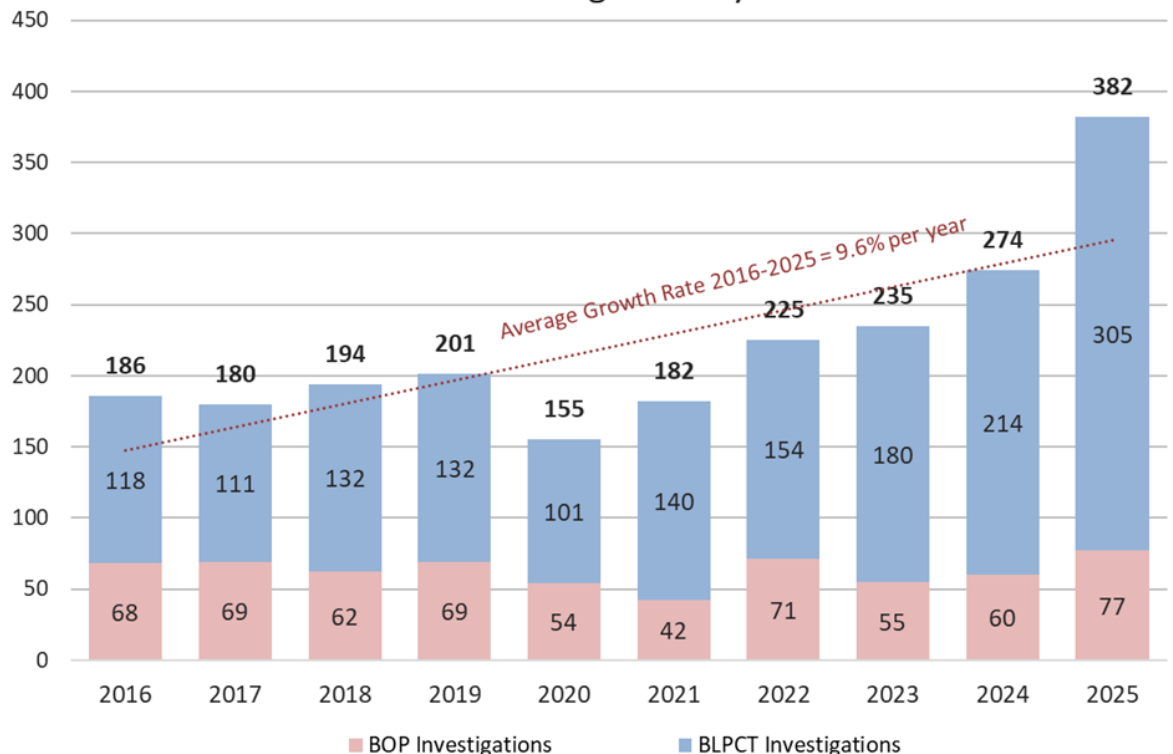
The graphic on the left displays the volume of psychologist licensure applications received. There were 265 licensure applications in 2025, a 24.4% increase over 2024. This exceeds the prior all-time high of 221 applications in 2022 by 44. The volume of applications has been growing by an average of 6.4% per year over the past decade. Out of the 1,925 total applications received during this time, 973 (50.5%) were standard applications and 952 (49.5%) were endorsement applications (psychologists previously licensed in other states), but the trend is shifting more toward a greater proportion of

endorsement applications in the past several years.

Compliance

The graphic on the right displays the volume of investigations received each year by the boards.

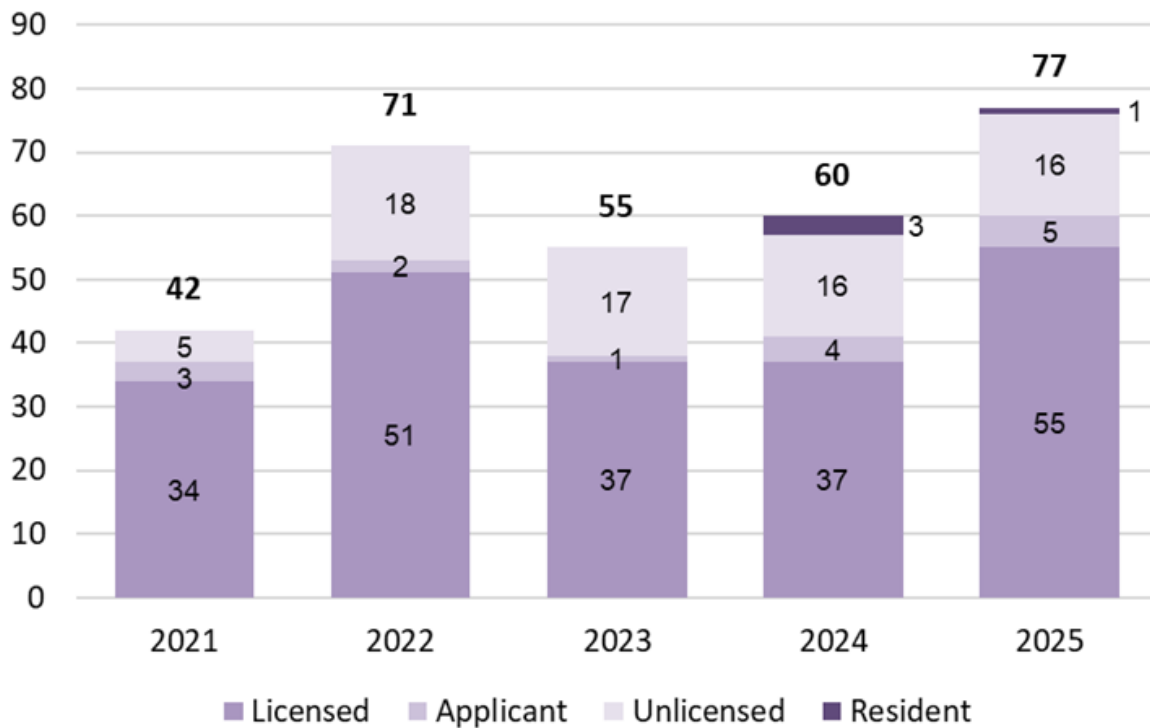
MHRA Investigations by Year



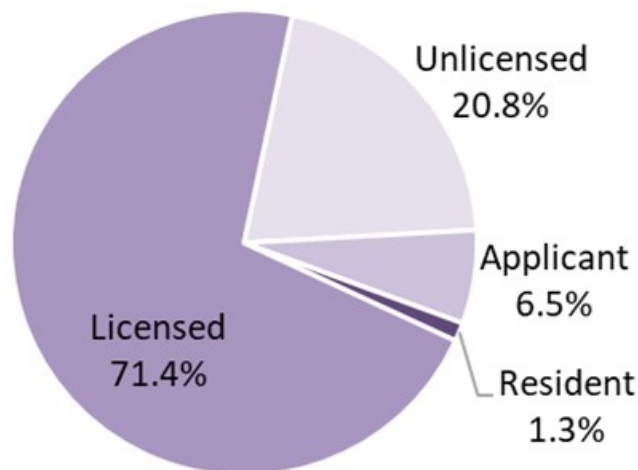
2025 Year-End Stats, Cont.

In 2025, MHRA saw an unprecedented volume of 382 cases, reflecting a 39.4% increase over 2024. BOP cases have grown by an average of 4.8% per year over the past ten years, and BLPCT cases have grown an average of 12.9%, for an overall 9.6%. The following graphics break down BOP cases by type.

BOP Investigations by Type: 5-Year History



BOP 2025 Investigations by Type



Reminder- you can find statistics and helpful Q&A on the Board's [General Practice](#) webpage.

New Resource for Oregon Psychology Educators

The Board is pleased to announce a new dedicated page: [Trainings for Educational Programs](#). This resource is designed for educators at accredited Oregon psychology programs that lead to psychologist licensure.

Request a Live Training

Educators can now request live sessions presented by our licensing team. These sessions are tailored to help students navigate the path to licensure and can include:

- **Board Functions:** Understanding the Board's role vs. professional associations.
- **Licensing Insights:** Current statistics, recent Board initiatives, and licensure qualifications.

- **Application Support:** A walkthrough of the Applicant Portal and forms, plus helpful tips and common pitfalls to avoid.
- **Interactive Q&A:** Direct access to our team for specific student or faculty questions.

Coming Soon

We are currently developing a series of training videos that will be hosted on this new page for easy, on-demand viewing.

This initiative is part of our commitment to transparency and building stronger partnerships with the academic community. We look forward to supporting you and your students!

Increase in OHA Survey Fee

Beginning July 1, 2026, the Board must start collecting an increased fee on behalf of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA): from \$4 to \$8 during each renewal. OHA establishes this fee pursuant to [ORS 676.410](#), to create and maintain its health care workforce database. You may visit the OHA [Health Care Workforce Reporting Webpage](#) for more information about the program, which includes data and reports about Oregon's healthcare workforce.

Enforcement Actions

During the period of time from January 13, 2026, to April 10, 2026, the Board took the following actions:

Arlen S. Craig, Ph.D. (Applicant) was previously licensed by the Board (license number 2315) from approximately October 2013 through September 13, 2019. Applicant's license was revoked by the Board pursuant to a stipulated final order in Board Case No. 2018-062, entered on September 13, 2019. The stipulated final order in that case incorporated herein by reference. In the stipulated final order, Applicant admitted that he violated ORS 675.020(2)(d)(A) and ES 3.04 Avoiding Harm, ES 3.05 Multiple Relationships, ES 10.05 Sexual Intimacies With a Current Therapy Client, and ES 10.08 Sexual Intimacies With a Former Therapy Client when he was a licensee of the Board. In addition to stipulating to the revocation of his license, Applicant stipulated to payment of a \$5,000 civil penalty to the Board. On February 19, 2024, Applicant submitted an application for licensure as a Psychologist in Oregon to the Board. The Board finds that Applicant violated ORS

675.070(2)(d)(A), ES. 3.04, ES. 3.05, ES 10.05, and ES 10.08. Applicant's application for licensure to practice as a psychologist in Oregon is denied.

Cynthia Healey, Ph.D. (Licensee) is licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon. Licensee maintains a private psychology practice in Eugene, Oregon. In addition to her private practice, Licensee operates a dance studio which provides recreational exercise in a group setting to paying customers. Licensee has invited psychology patients to become customers of her dance studio, and Licensee has taken dance studio customers as psychology patients. Licensee did not take any professionally appropriate steps to protect patients from potential harm in merging the professional psychology relationship (where the therapeutic alliance is essential to effective treatment and where confidentiality and privacy are essential) and the relationship through her business (where customers interact in a group setting and where Licensee's attention is necessarily divided among the group and where Licensee is free to en-

Enforcement Actions

gauge in communications or banter of a type different from the professional psychological relationship). Licensee invited patients who became her dance studio customers to join the Facebook page for her dance studio; and then used the Facebook page to solicit sales of raffle tickets to fund a community cause that

Licensee endorsed. The acts and conduct of Licensee described above constitute violations of ES 3.04, ES 3.05 and ES 3.08 Licensee was ordered to practice under supervision for a minimum of one year.

Calendar/Upcoming Events

April 2026

04/16: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
04/17: Education/DEI Committee Meeting

May 2026

05/08: **Board Meeting**
05/15: Education/DEI Committee Meeting
05/25: *Office Closed, Memorial Day*

June 2026

06/18: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
06/18: Education/DEI Committee Meeting
06/19: *Office Closed, Juneteenth*

July 2026

07/03: *Office Closed, Independence Day*
07/10: **Board Meeting**
07/17: Education/DEI Committee Meeting

August 2026

08/20: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
08/21: Education/DEI Committee Meeting

September 2026

09/07: *Office Closed, Labor Day*
09/11: **Board Meeting**
09/18: Education/DEI Committee Meeting

* *Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled.* Please also visit our [Board Meetings Webpage](#).

If you would like to submit an 'In Memoriam' tribute for a member the psychologist community please email psychology.board@mhra.oregon.gov.



Photo by [Ethan Grey](#) on [Unsplash](#)

OBOP News is the official newsletter of the Oregon Board of Psychology and is edited by board staff. Please visit our website at Oregon.gov/psychology, email, or contact us with any comments or suggestions.

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