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## Board disciplined 51 physicians in 2010

DES MOINES, IA – Iowa Board of Medicine disciplinary action against physicians increased by 14.6 percent from 2009 to 2010, according to an annual report by the Federation of State Medical Boards.

There were 55 serious disciplinary actions taken against 51 Iowa-licensed physicians in 2010 compared with 48 actions involving 47 physicians in 2009. At the start of 2011, the Iowa Board was administering 10,593 medical licenses, 6,475 of which were for physicians actively practicing in Iowa.

The report covers serious disciplinary actions against physicians, including license revocations, surrenders, suspensions, probations and restrictions. The Board also uses other sanctions to regulate physicians, including civil penalties and confidential letters of warning. In 2010, the Board assessed penalties totaling \$122,500 (\$78,500 in 2009), and issued 67 letters of warning (91 in 2009).

Iowa's composite action index in the national report was 5.57 in 2010, up from 5.46 in the previous year. The index is a weighted average of disciplinary action taken against physicians practicing in the state, as well as all physicians licensed by that state.

Nationally, there were 5,652 serious disciplinary actions against physicians in 2010, down from 5,721 in 2009. There are about 735,000 actively licensed physicians in the U.S.

The federation is a national non-profit organization representing the 70 medical license boards that discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians.

The federation's annual report is available at:

<http://www.fsmb.org/pdf/2010-summary-of-board-actions.pdf>