



Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

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IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
MARK BOWDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Board disciplined 47 physicians in 2009

DES MOINES, IA – Iowa Board of Medicine disciplinary action against physicians increased by 4.3 percent from 2008 to 2009, according to an annual report by the Federation of State Medical Boards.

There were 48 serious disciplinary actions taken against 47 Iowa-licensed physicians in 2009 compared with 46 actions involving 41 physicians in 2008. At the start of 2010, the Iowa Board was administering 10,375 medical licenses, 6,340 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 Iowa Board also uses other sanctions to regulate physicians, including letters of warning and civil penalties. In 2009, the Iowa Board assessed penalties totaling \$75,000, compared with \$92,500 in 2008.

Iowa's composite action index was 5.46 in 2009, unchanged from 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 5,721 serious disciplinary actions against physicians in 2009, up 6.3 percent from 2008. 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/2009-summary-board-actions.pdf>