

Data Bank Updates Research Data and Resources



The Data Bank expanded its research offerings on April 30, 2012 to include additional data analysis and output capabilities. Our intent is to build upon the recent map-based reporting tool currently on our website by offering a data analysis tool that facilitates independent analysis of the more than 800,000 reports contained in the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). Located on the Data Bank's website, the new statistical application permits users to perform specific data analyses and create their own customized data tables.

The new Data Analysis Tool uses more than 20 years of data collected by the Data Bank, making thousands of variations possible. The enhanced functionality will benefit researchers working in the health sector, as well as risk management analysts and policymakers.

Note: This data set **does not** include any information that identifies individual practitioners or reporting entities; it is designed to provide data for statistical reporting and analysis only.

You may now take advantage of the following features:

- Point-and-click selection for both Adverse Action Reports and Medical Malpractice Reports. For adverse action report analysis, the user can select any combination of state, action year, action type and practitioner type. Similar analyses can be performed on medical malpractice reports using state, payment year, practitioner type, and payment amount. Data tables can be created using counts or percentages for the nation as well as individual states for all combinations of variables.
- Options for tabular or graphic data on a statewide or national basis. Tabular output can be displayed graphically in yearly trend lines.
- Additional variables are now available in the Data Analysis Tool. Users will be able to create data tables by specific practitioner type (e.g., Dentist, Professional Nurse, Para-Professional Nurse and Non-Physician Specialties).

The Data Analysis Tool supplements a variety of stock data tables currently available for physicians. The preformatted tables include report totals, physician and population counts, and distribution percentages for medical malpractice payments. The Data Analysis Tool results can be downloaded for your own use. To view these and other data tools please visit our research web page.

The Data Bank is committed to establishing a robust research data set to inform policy, guide training, and promote compliance. In service to that commitment, the Data Bank will continue to keep you informed as its [research data and tools](#) evolve.

Report Forwarding Gains Users



The Data Bank electronic Report Forwarding enhancement is already being used by many State Boards and reporting organizations, and the numbers are growing. Since January 23, State Boards can opt to receive certain report types electronically, and reporting organizations can choose to have reports automatically forwarded to State Boards that allow electronic receipt of these types of reports.

As of early April, 342 State Boards were accepting Report Forwarding and 1,540 reports were electronically forwarded. This valuable service not only enables reporters to comply with and meet their reporting obligations under Federal law, but also improves workflow processes and allows State Boards to receive the required important report information more quickly.

State Boards and organizations that report Medical Malpractice Payment Reports, Clinical Privilege Reports, or Professional Society Reports are reaping the benefits of Report Forwarding. You can learn more about electronic Report Forwarding by visiting the [Report Forwarding Tutorial](#) (PDF - 636 KB) or the [Report Forwarding webcast](#) (Flash - 25 min | [PDF](#) - 2.3 MB).

The charts below show Report Forwarding statistics for the first 10 weeks after its introduction. We expect more users to participate as they continue to learn about this time-saving enhancement. Some states who participate in the Continuous Query service may decline Report Forwarding because they automatically receive reports on their enrolled practitioners.

Table 1. State Boards' Report Forwarding Usage
Update as of April 4, 2012

Status	Number of Boards	Percentage
Total Number of State Boards Eligible for Report Forwarding	542	100%
Number of State Boards Accepting Report Forwarding	342	63%
Number of State Boards Declining Report Forwarding	53	10%
Number of State Boards That Still Need to Make a Choice	147	27%

Table 2. Number of Reports Forwarded and Viewed By State Boards
as of April 4, 2012

Status	Number of Boards	Percentage
Total Number of Reports Forwarded	1,540	100%
Number of Reports Viewed by State Boards	1,350	88%
Number of Forwarded Reports Not Viewed by State Boards	114	7%
Number of Reports Declined by State Boards*	19	1%
Number of Reports Awaiting Action	57	4%

**If a State Board declines to view a report, the reporting organization must mail the report to the appropriate State Board to meet Federal reporting regulations.*

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact the Data Bank Customer Service Center via [email](#) or phone at 1-800-767-6732.

Dear Data Bank

This column answers questions about Data Bank policies and procedures. If you have a question, please email "[Dear Data Bank](#)." We look forward to hearing from you!

If a State Board reviews a complaint received about a practitioner, and a Letter of Concern is subsequently issued to the practitioner, would it be reportable to the Data Bank?

It depends on how the state views a Letter of Concern. Any negative action or finding that is publicly available information and is rendered by a licensing or certification authority is reportable. Some states consider a Letter of Concern to be a publicly available negative action or finding, thereby making it reportable. States that do not consider a Letter of Concern to be a publicly available negative action or finding are not required to report the action.

What kind of report should a State Board submit to the Data Bank when modifying or revising a previously reported action?

The Board should submit a Revision-to-Action Report. The Revision-to-Action Report describes an action that relates to and/or modifies an adverse action previously reported. A revision is a separate subsequent action and does not negate the action previously reported. For example, if additional sanctions are taken against the practitioner based on a previously reported incident, if the length of the original action is extended or reduced, or if the license is reinstated, a Revision-to-Action Report should be submitted to the Data Bank.

If you would prefer to discuss a specific issue in person, please call the Customer Service Center at 1-800-767-6732. Information Specialists are available to speak with you weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (5:30 p.m. on Fridays) Eastern Time. The Customer Service Center is closed on all Federal holidays.