



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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November 29, 2018

The Honorable Annette Cleveland, Chair  
Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee  
Post Office Box 40466  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0466

The Honorable Eileen Cody, Chair  
House Health Care and Wellness Committee  
Post Office Box 40600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Senator Cleveland and Representative Cody:

This report fulfills the requirements of RCW 18.225.800, which directs the Department of Health (department) to annually report, through 2020, the number of times mental health providers with an associate's license renew their credential four, five, and six times. We submitted our first report in October 2014.

**Major Finding**

In state fiscal year 2018 (SFY 2018), 86 percent of those who obtained their mental health provider licensure did so with four or fewer renewals of their associate license. Another 9 percent did so with five renewals and 5 percent with six renewals.

**Background**

The department began issuing associate licenses for mental health professions in July 2009. At the time, an associate license could be renewed annually no more than four times. This meant associates had five years (initial associate licensure plus four annual renewals) to complete the additional education and supervisory requirements to apply for licensure as a mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, advanced social worker, or independent clinical social worker.

In 2013, the legislature expanded the number of renewals allowed for an associate license from four to six (Chapter 73, Laws of 2013). At the same time, the department was directed to submit this annual report to help the legislature assess whether these expanded limits on associate licensure renewals remain adequate.

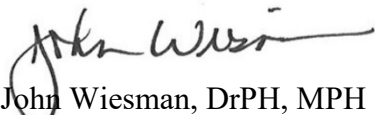
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**Data**

Table 1 shows the number of times associate licenses were renewed among those who are fully licensed by profession and fiscal year. Table 2 shows the number of associate license renewals by profession and fiscal year.

Please contact Brad Burnham, program manager in the department's Office of Health Professions, at 360-236-4912 or [brad.burnham@doh.wa.gov](mailto:brad.burnham@doh.wa.gov) if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH  
Secretary of Health

cc: Members, House of Representatives Health Care and Wellness Committee  
Members, Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee  
Drew Shirk, Governor's Office  
Kristin Peterson, Department of Health

**Table 1.**

**Full Licensees: Times Renewed Prior to Obtaining Full Licensure,  
Professionals Licensed Under Chapter 18.225 RCW, by Profession and State Fiscal Year**

| Associate Profession               | Times Renewed  | SFY 14     | SFY 15     | SFY 16     | SFY 17     | SFY 18     | SFY 19 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| Mental Health Counselor            | Three or fewer | NA         | 203        | 245        | 288        | 258        |        |
|                                    | Four           |            | 35         | 32         | 26         | 21         |        |
|                                    | Five           |            | 2          | 28         | 8          | 19         |        |
|                                    | Six            |            | 0          | 0          | 18         | 9          |        |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>   |            | <b>240</b> | <b>305</b> | <b>340</b> | <b>307</b> |        |
| Marriage and Family Therapist      | Three or fewer | NA         | 44         | 60         | 69         | 80         |        |
|                                    | Four           |            | 7          | 5          | 11         | 7          |        |
|                                    | Five           |            | 0          | 7          | 4          | 6          |        |
|                                    | Six            |            | 0          | 0          | 4          | 4          |        |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>   |            | <b>51</b>  | <b>72</b>  | <b>88</b>  | <b>97</b>  |        |
| Advanced Social Worker             | Three or fewer | NA         | 6          | 10         | 6          | 7          |        |
|                                    | Four           |            | 3          | 2          | -          | 1          |        |
|                                    | Five           |            | 1          | 6          | -          | 2          |        |
|                                    | Six            |            | 0          | 0          | 1          | 2          |        |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>   |            | <b>10</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>7</b>   | <b>12</b>  |        |
| Independent Clinical Social Worker | Three or fewer | NA         | 70         | 85         | 81         | 106        |        |
|                                    | Four           |            | 37         | 20         | 24         | 39         |        |
|                                    | Five           |            | 9          | 16         | 10         | 26         |        |
|                                    | Six            |            | 0          | 3          | 16         | 14         |        |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>   |            | <b>116</b> | <b>124</b> | <b>131</b> | <b>185</b> |        |
| Grand Total – Full Licensure       | Three or fewer | 271        | 323        | 400        | 444        | 451        |        |
|                                    | Four           | 14         | 82         | 59         | 61         | 68         |        |
|                                    | Five           | 1          | 12         | 57         | 22         | 53         |        |
|                                    | Six            |            | 0          | 3          | 39         | 29         |        |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>   | <b>286</b> | <b>417</b> | <b>519</b> | <b>566</b> | <b>601</b> |        |

**Table 2.**

**Number of Associate License Renewals by Profession and State Fiscal Year**

| <b>Associate Profession</b>        | <b>Times Renewed</b> | <b>SFY 14</b> | <b>SFY 15</b> | <b>SFY 16</b> | <b>SFY 17</b> | <b>SFY 18</b> | <b>SFY 19</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mental Health Counselor            | Three or fewer       | 1,419         | 1,388         | 1,722         | 2,108         | 2,493         |               |
|                                    | Four                 | 250           | 233           | 245           | 299           | 364           |               |
|                                    | Five                 | 5             | 190           | 139           | 134           | 166           |               |
|                                    | Six                  | NA            | 7             | 139           | 211           | 264           |               |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1,674</b>  | <b>1,818</b>  | <b>2,245</b>  | <b>2,752</b>  | <b>3,287</b>  |               |
| Marriage and Family Therapist      | Three or fewer       | 283           | 389           | 483           | 620           | 757           |               |
|                                    | Four                 | 216           | 50            | 57            | 77            | 90            |               |
|                                    | Five                 | 0             | 44            | 37            | 39            | 55            |               |
|                                    | Six                  | NA            | 1             | 26            | 42            | 50            |               |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>         | <b>499</b>    | <b>484</b>    | <b>603</b>    | <b>778</b>    | <b>952</b>    |               |
| Advanced Social Worker             | Three or fewer       | 238           | 125           | 151           | 157           | 191           |               |
|                                    | Four                 | 61            | 28            | 21            | 37            | 34            |               |
|                                    | Five                 | 1             | 55            | 33            | 22            | 37            |               |
|                                    | Six                  | NA            | 4             | 46            | 64            | 68            |               |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>         | <b>300</b>    | <b>212</b>    | <b>251</b>    | <b>280</b>    | <b>330</b>    |               |
| Independent Clinical Social Worker | Three or fewer       | 979           | 930           | 1,182         | 1,465         | 1,703         |               |
|                                    | Four                 | 193           | 179           | 191           | 255           | 301           |               |
|                                    | Five                 | 7             | 154           | 124           | 141           | 186           |               |
|                                    | Six                  | NA            | 10            | 114           | 168           | 219           |               |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1,179</b>  | <b>1,273</b>  | <b>1,611</b>  | <b>2,029</b>  | <b>2,409</b>  |               |
| <b>Grand Total - All Renewals</b>  |                      | <b>3,652</b>  | <b>3,787</b>  | <b>4,710</b>  | <b>5,839</b>  | <b>6,978</b>  |               |