



Becoming Certified in Addiction Medicine through ABPM

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Executive Director, ABPM

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Disclosures

- **Michael Weaver, MD, DFASAM**
 - Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
 - Sub-board Director for the American Board of Preventive Medicine
 - No conflicts of interest to disclose
- **Christopher J. Ondrula, JD**
 - Executive Director for the American Board of Preventive Medicine
 - No conflicts of interest to disclose

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ABPM Specialties & Subspecialties

- Specialty Areas of Preventive Medicine
 - Aerospace Medicine
 - Occupational Medicine
 - Public Health and General Preventive Medicine
- Subspecialty Areas of Preventive Medicine
 - Addiction Medicine
 - Clinical Informatics
 - Medical Toxicology
 - Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine

Eligibility Requirements & Pathways to Certification

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Key Eligibility Requirements for Addiction Medicine Exam

- Current certification by any of the ABMS Member Boards or the AOA
- Medical degree or equivalent
- Medical licensure: current, unrestricted and valid in US or Canada in all jurisdictions where the physician is licensed
- Training or experience in Addiction Medicine
 - Practice Pathway
 - ACGME-Accredited Fellowship in Addiction Medicine

Practice Pathway

- Provides opportunity for physicians who have significant Addiction Medicine practice experience or training but who have not completed an ACGME-accredited Addiction Medicine fellowship to qualify for the certification exam
- Practice Pathway will be open through 2025 Exam Cycle

Practice Pathway: Time in Practice

- 1,920 hours of relevant practice in ADM at the subspecialty level
 - Completed over at least 24 months
 - Need not be continuous, but must be within 60 months immediately preceding June 30 of the application year
- Broad-based, professional activity with significant addiction medicine responsibility
 - Clinical care including prevention and treatment of individuals at risk for substance use disorders (minimum 480 hours)
 - Teaching, research and/or administration activities (maximum 1,440 hours)

ACGME-Accredited Fellowship Pathway

- Successful completion of a minimum of 12 months of ACGME-accredited fellowship training
 - If fellowship program is approved for more than 12 months of training, successful completion of all years of training for which the fellowship program is accredited
- Addiction Medicine fellowship programs began accreditation process through ACGME in February 2018

Examination Content, Questions & Timeline

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Exam Content

- Assesses ability to apply knowledge rather than recall of isolated facts
- Focuses on high-frequency and/or high-impact patient problems
- Emphasizes clinical situations and decisions arising in the experienced addiction medicine specialist's practice

Core Content Areas

Core Content Areas		
25%	01	Definitions
	02	Genetics
	03	Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Principles
	04	Pharmacology
	05	Neurobiology of Addiction
20%	06	Epidemiological Concepts
	07	Epidemiological Trends of Substance Use Disorders
	08	Prevention
40%	09	Screening, Assessment, and Brief Intervention
	10	Overview of Addiction Treatment
	11	Management of Inpatient and Outpatient Intoxication and Withdrawal
	12	Pharmacologic Interventions for Addictions
	13	Behavioral Interventions
	14	Co-Occurring and Medical Disorders among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Addiction
	15	Co-Occurring Psychiatric Disorders among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Addiction
	16	Pain and Addiction
15%	17	Ethical, Legal and Liability Issues in Addiction Practice

Exam Content

Addiction		Target Percentage
01	Alcohol	15-20%
02	Sedatives	7-10%
03	Stimulants	7-10%
04	Opioids	10-15%
05	Cannabinoids	7-10%
06	Nicotine	15-20%
07	Hallucinogens	.5-3%
08	Dissociatives	.5-3%
09	Inhalants	.5-3%
10	Anabolic steroids	.5-3%
11	Other substances	1-3%
12	Nonsubstance addiction	1-3%
13	General/All substances combined	1-5%

Exam Questions

- Multiple choice questions; single-best answer
- Types of Multiple-Choice Questions
 - **Recall:** specific important facts
 - **Interpretation:** e.g., identify a fatal study flaw, diagnose a patient
 - **Problem Solving:** e.g., judgment about clinical treatment, healthcare administration, study design, 2x2 tables, etc.
- Calculator, drug name list, and normal range values provided

What is NOT on the Exam?

- True/False items
- K-type questions: choose appropriate set of correct answers
- Trick questions
- “Experimental” questions

Exam Timeline

- Late October – early November: all exams administered
- November/December: all exams scored
- December/January: Key validation process
 - Each question's performance reviewed
 - Focus on low-performing question
 - Questions may be retained, re-keyed, or dropped based on performance
 - Each candidate's exam is then rescored
- January: Board reviews exam results and characteristics
 - Scores equated to a standardized score so passing standard represents the same level of proficiency year after year
 - Eliminates effects of variance in exam difficulty from year to year

Certificate

- Attests that all requirements of Certification in the Specialty/Subspecialty have been met.
- Dated January 1 of the year after the exam.
 - Subject to continuing compliance with Continuing Certification Program (CCP) requirements, Certificate will expire December 31, ten years after issuance
 - E.g., for those passing the 2023 examination, the effective date of the Certification will be January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2033.
- All Addiction Medicine Diplomates Certified by the ABPM are subject to the Annual Fee

Important Dates

Application Window Opens - March 15

Exam Registration Opens - May 24

Application Window Closes – June 30

Late Application Window Opens - July 1

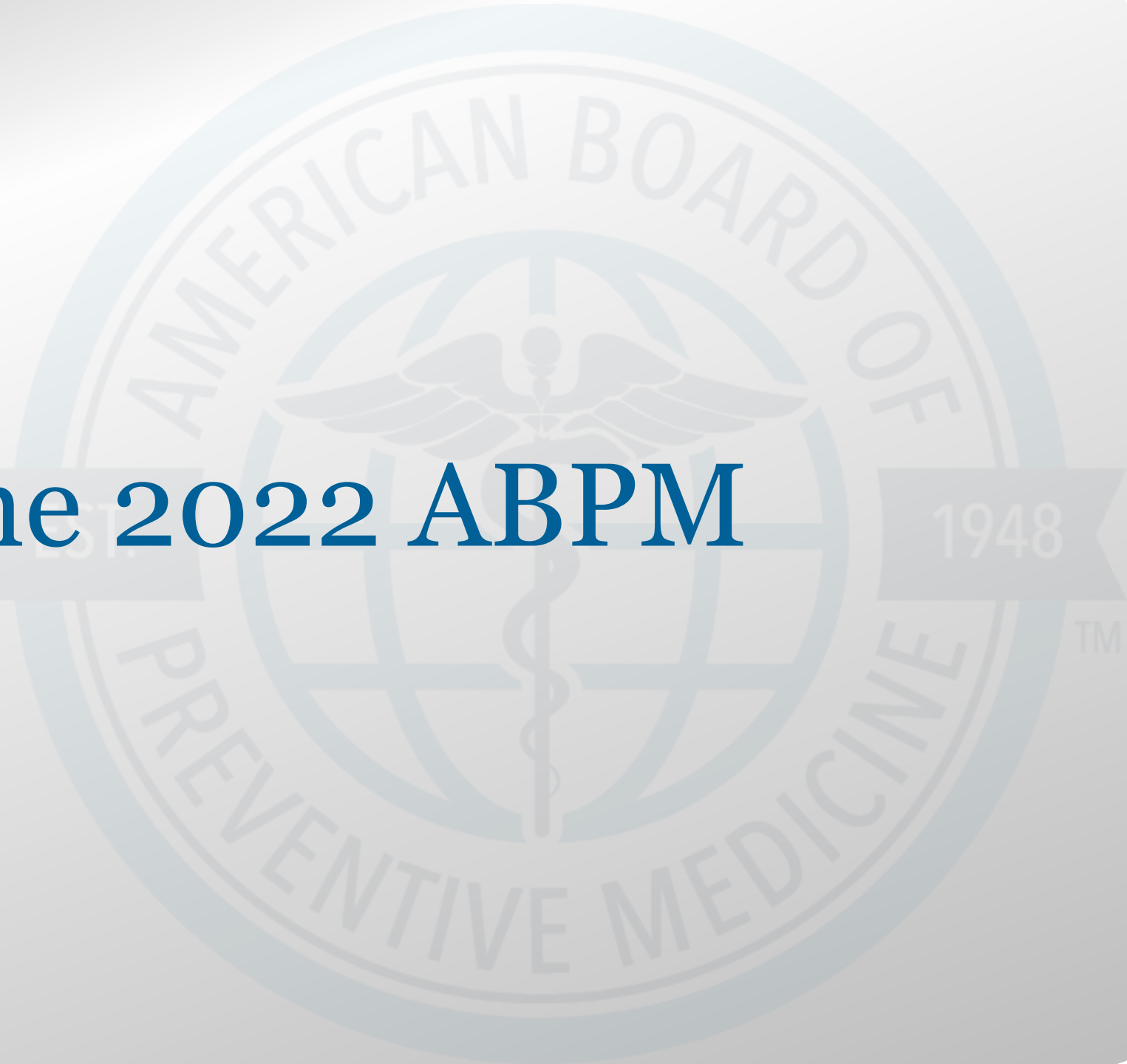
Late Application Window Closes - July 15

Exam Registration Closes - September 15

Exam Administration – October 16 – November 5

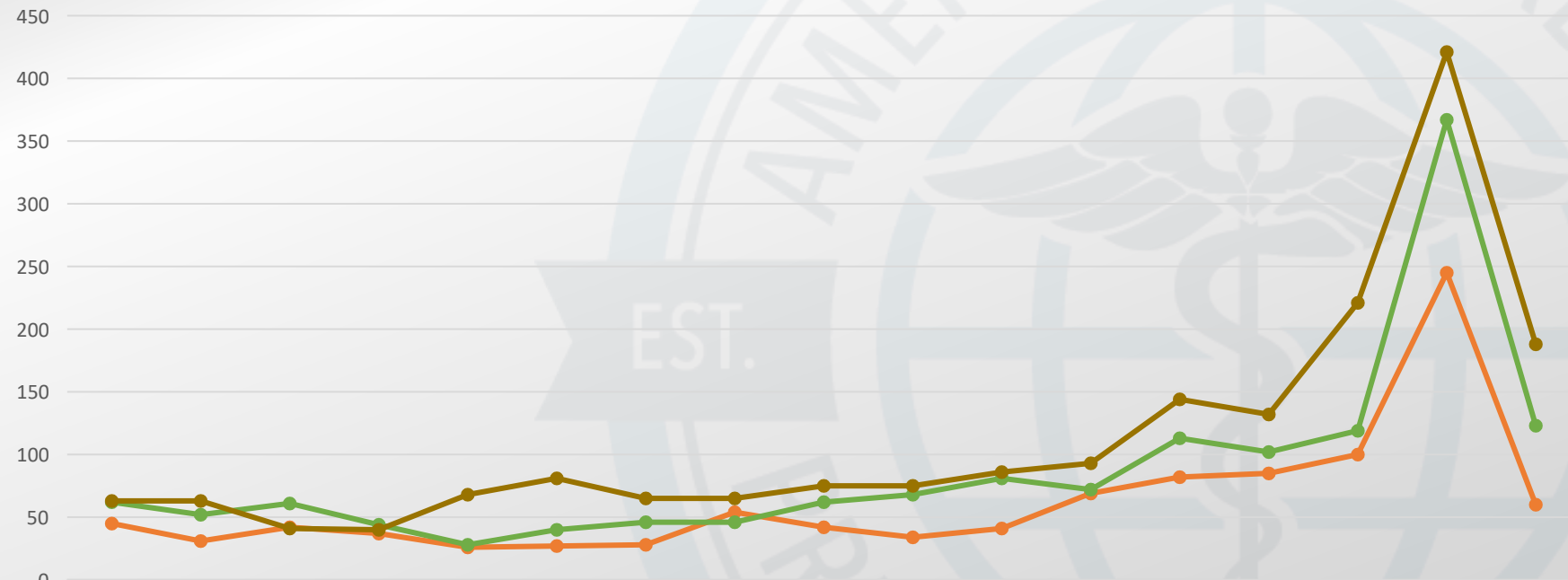
Exam Results – Mid January 2024

Review of the 2022 ABPM Exam Cycle



Application Totals (2020–2022)

Comparison of Applications Submitted 2020 to 2022



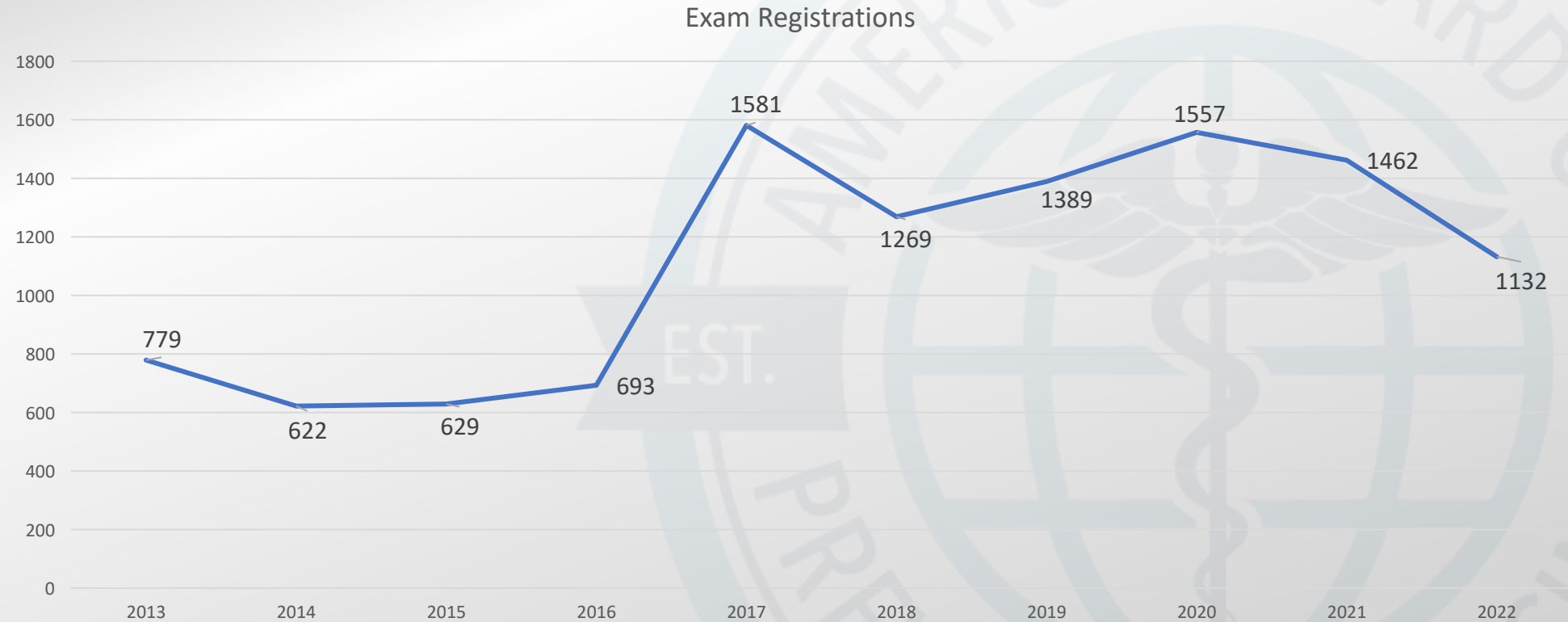
Total of Applications Submitted Per Year

2022: 1048

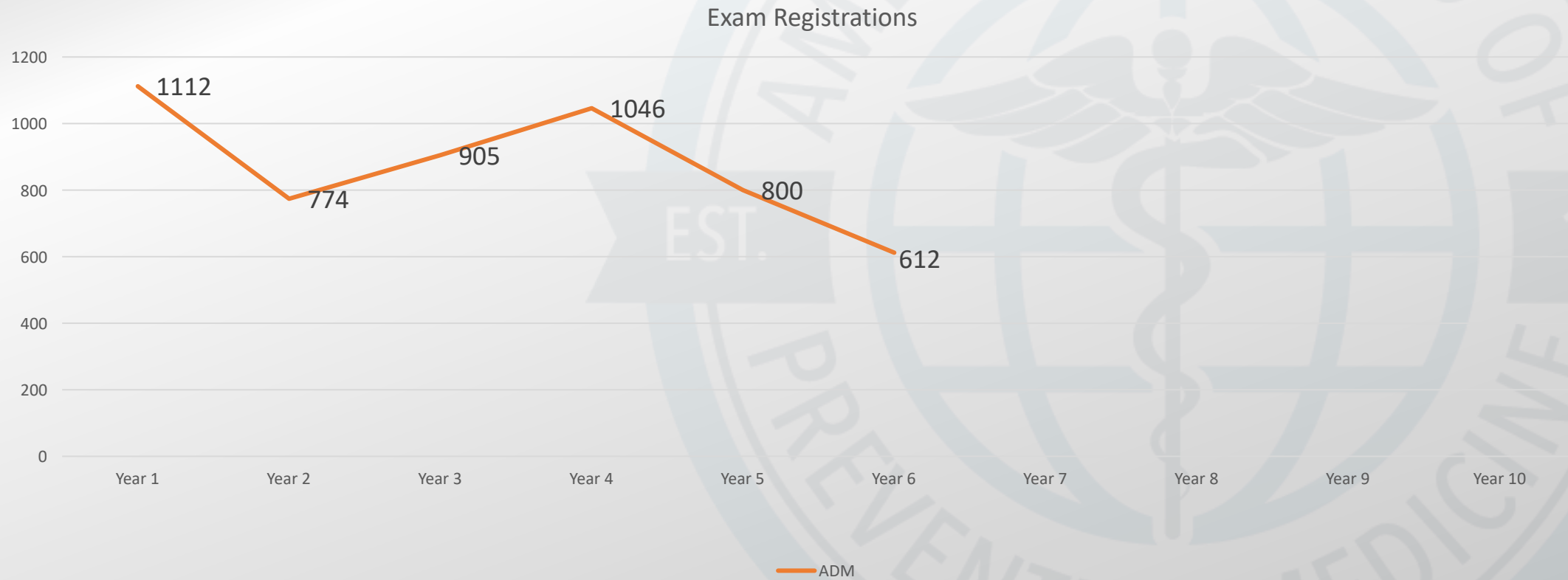
2021: 1486

2020: 1921

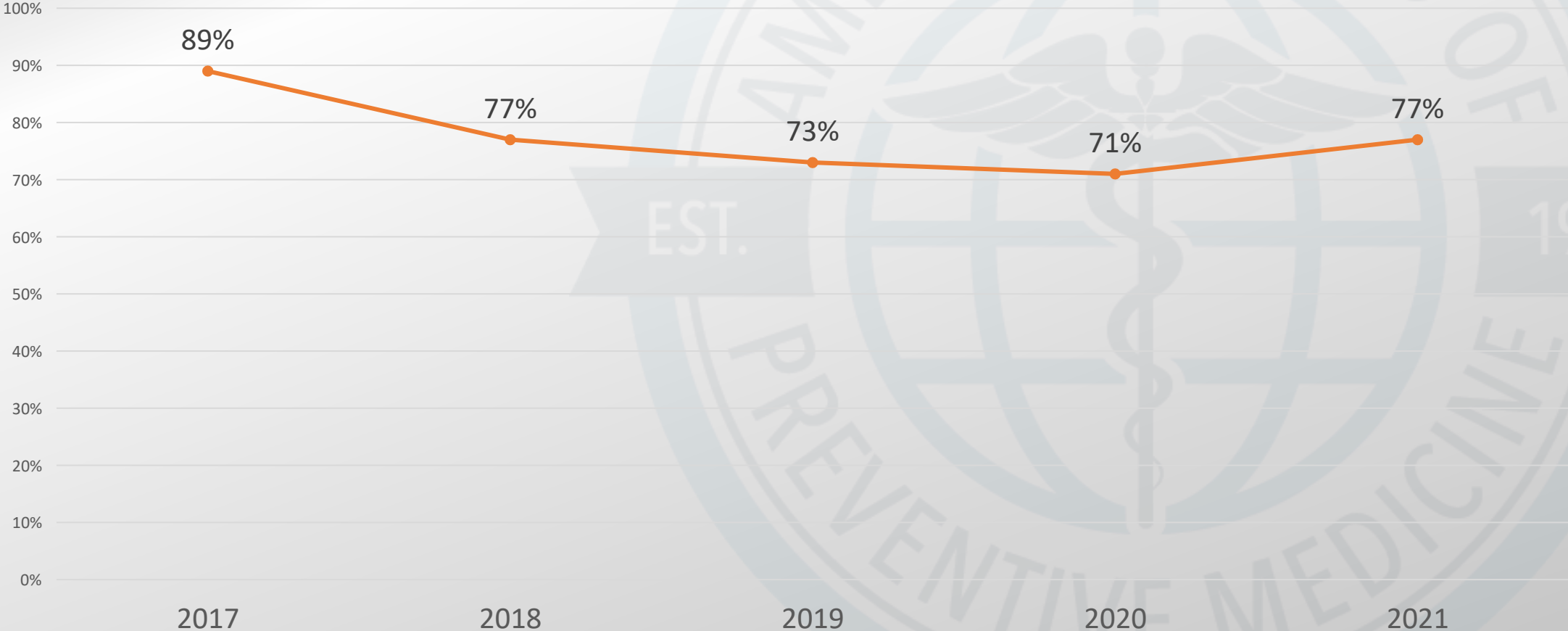
ABPM Exam Registrations: 2013-2022



2022 Exam Registrations Addiction Medicine



Addiction Medicine Exam Pass Rates by Pathway





Continuing Certification Program – Three Phase Plan

Three Phase Implementation of CCP

- Phase 1 – January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024
- Phase 2 – January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029
- Phase 3 – January 1, 2030, to December 31, 2039



Phase 1 Requirements

January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024

Review of Professional Standing

At all times, ABPM Diplomates shall be required to maintain a full, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in all states, territories or jurisdictions for which the Diplomate has a license to practice medicine.

Lifelong Professional Development

- 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023
 - 6 of the 20 CME Credits must be specific to the Diplomate's ABPM Certification(s)
- 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024
 - 6 of the 20 CME Credits must be specific to the Diplomate's ABPM Certification(s)
- Diplomates shall attest annually to completion of the CME requirement via the online “Attestation Form” on the ABPM Physician Portal.
- No audits will be conducted during Phase 1



Phase 2 Requirements

January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029

Review of Professional Standing

At all times, ABPM Diplomates shall be required to maintain a full, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in all states, territories or jurisdictions for which the Diplomate has a license to practice medicine.

Lifelong Professional Development

- 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ annually regardless of the number of ABPM Certificates.
 - 6 of the 20 CME credits must be specific to a Diplomate's ABPM Certification(s).
- Diplomates shall attest annually to completion of the CME requirement via the online "Attestation Form" on the ABPM Physician Portal.
- ABPM shall audit up to 5% of attestations for compliance.
 - Audits demonstrating non-compliance will result in Suspension of Diplomate's ABPM Certification(s).
 - Diplomate shall have a period of six-months to complete the "missed" CME requirement.
 - Diplomates who timely complete "missed" CMEs will be subject to automatic audit for the next 2 calendar years.
 - If a Diplomate has not completed the "missed" CME requirement in the six-month period, that Diplomate's Certification(s) shall be Revoked and the Diplomate will be subject to re-entry requirements.

LAP Transition Plan (Jan 1, 2025-Dec 31, 2029)

- All Time-Limited Diplomates shall be required to participate in the LAP.
- Answer 30 Specialty/Subspecialty questions annually
 - Diplomate with Multiple ABPM Certifications MUST participate in LAP for each Certificate
- Open-book: reference materials may be consulted
- There will be no time limit for a Diplomate's response to an individual LAP item
 - Once a Diplomate "opens an item" the Diplomate must answer and cannot close the item (by closing the browser window) prior to submitting a response. Doing so will result in the response being marked incorrect.
- The extended LAP Pilot will be subject to industry-standard psychometric analysis for longitudinal assessment platforms. Each year a Minimum Passing Score (MPS) shall determine if a participating Diplomate achieves an MPS during the extended LAP Pilot.
- Diplomates who fail to meet the MPS in 4 of the 5 administrations during Phase 2 shall be required to participate in a Remediation Activity.



Phase 3 Requirements

January 1, 2030, to December 31, 2039

Continuous Certification Process

- CCP Requirements in Phase III
 - Pay Administrative Fee – Annual
 - Maintain a full, valid & unrestricted license to practice medicine - Annual
 - Complete 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ - Annual
 - Participate in LAP by answering 30 questions (untimed & open book) - Annual
 - Diplomate must complete one IHHC Activity designed to positively impact & improve a Diplomate's practice – 1x/5-year period



Continuing Certification Program – Three Phase Plan Graphic

Phase 2 Process

CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CCP)		PHASE 1 January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024	PHASE 2 January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2029	PHASE 3 January 1, 2030 – December 31, 2039
Professionalism & Licensure	Maintain a full, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine	✓	✓	✓
Annual Certification Fee Requirement	Submit an annual \$175 certification fee	✓	✓	✓
Lifelong Professional Development	Earn general and certificate-specific Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits	20 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ Annually 6 credits must be certificate-specific	20 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ Annually 6 credits must be certificate-specific	20 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ Annually 6 credits must be certificate-specific
Longitudinal Assessment Program (LAP)	Participation in Annual LAP which will be subject to psychometric analysis and a minimum passing score (MPS)	Not Required	Answer 30 certificate-specific questions using LAP Platform and achieve an MPS in 4 out of 5 years	Answer 30 certificate-specific questions using LAP Platform and achieve an MPS in 4 out of 5 years
Improving Health and Health Care (IHHC)	Complete an activity designed to positively impact and improve a Diplomate's practice	Not Required	Not Required	TBD* <small>*Subject to final approval by ABMS' Continuing Certification Committee</small>

Find your specific requirements by visiting the Continuing Certification link on the ABPM website at www.theabpm.org

Questions?

