



# Patient Safety Action Network

*Patient Driven, Patient Led*

<https://www.patientsafetyaction.org/>

**Medical Board Roundtable - A PSAN Initiative**

## **Bibliography/Links – State Medical Boards**

Updated 1/16/26

**NOTE:** This is a list of organizations and articles providing information about state medical boards – with a particular emphasis on their effectiveness and consumer focus. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to provide an overview of key information and articles on the topic. **Those highlighted in yellow have been added since the last update.** Compiled by Carol Cronin, Chair – Medical Board Roundtable: [c.cronin@comcast.net](mailto:c.cronin@comcast.net)

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### **CONSUMER INFORMATION**

Certification Matters – site maintained by American Board of Medical Specialties that provides information on doctors who are Board Certified

<https://www.certificationmatters.org/find-my-doctor/>

Citizen Advocacy Center

Assisting public members and the health professional oversight bodies on which they serve

(NOTE: organization inactive, but website maintained)

<http://www.cacenter.org/>

DocInfo – sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards – provides information on where doctors are licensed and whether they have any board actions. Then have to find information on individual state sites.

<https://www.docinfo.org/>

Medical Board Roundtable/Patient Safety Action Network (PSAN) – a national coalition of patient and

consumer advocates interested in increasing public awareness and responsiveness of state medical boards to patients, families and the public.

<https://www.patientsafetyaction.org/our-work/physician-oversight-and-accountability/>

Other PSAN Resources: <https://www.patientsafetyaction.org/resources/>

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

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***Cross Sectional Analysis of the 1039 U.S. Physicians Reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank for Sexual Misconduct, 2003–2013***

PLOS One, February 3, 2016.

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0147800>

Dubois, James; Anderson, Emily et al.

***Serious Ethical Violations in Medicine: A Statistical and Ethical Analysis of 280 Cases in the United States from 2008 – 2016***

American Journal of Bioethics, January 25, 2019

<http://www.bioethics.net/articles/serious-ethical-violations-in-medicine-a-statistical-and-ethical-analysis-of-280-cases-in-the-united-states-from-2008-2016/>

**NOTE:** Volume 19 (January 2019) has many stories on Sexual/other Ethical Violations by Physicians

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uajb20/19/1>

Grant, Darren and Alfred, Kelly

***Sanctions and Recidivism: An Evaluation of Physician Discipline by State Medical Boards***

*Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Vol. 32, No. 5, October 2007

This article descriptively assesses how physicians are disciplined by state medical boards throughout the United States, drawing on a nationwide database of sanctions delivered during the period 1994 – 2002.

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Harris, J. & Byhoff, E.(Univ. Of MI)

***Variations by state in physician disciplinary actions by US medical licensure boards***

*BMJ Quality and Safety*, 3/23/16

<http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2016/03/18/bmjqs-2015-004974#aff-2>

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<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-03-doctors-badly-state-team-wide.html>

And here is editorial about the study from the BMJ: "Disciplined Doctors: Learning from the Pain of the Past"

<http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2016/05/04/bmjqs-2016-005589.full>

Hyman, D., Rahmati, M. & Black, B.

***Medical Malpractice and Physician Discipline: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly***

*Social Science Research Network*, 6/29/18

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***JAMA Issue on Physician Professionalism and Governance, 5/12/15***

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/issue/313/18>

Kaynak, E & Rahman, H.

***It Takes More Than a Pill to Kill”: Bounded Accountability in Disciplining Professional Misconduct Despite Heightened Transparency***

Organization Science, 6/20/24

<https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/orsc.2023.17932>

Kohatsu, N., Gould, D & Ross, L.

***Characteristics Associated with Physician Discipline – A Case Control Study***

*Archives of Internal Medicine*, 3/22/04

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*Social Science Research Network*, 1/29/18

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2994529](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2994529)

Strong, DE

***Access to Enforcement and Disciplinary Data: Information Practices of State Health Professional Regulatory Boards of Dentistry, Medicine and Nursing***

*Journal of Health and Human Services Administration* 2011 Spring; 33 (4): 534-70

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Atlanta Journal Constitution

***Doctors and the Opioid Crisis: An AJC National Investigation***, December 2017 (behind paywall)

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***State Discipline of Physicians: Assessing State Medical Boards through Case Studies***, February 2006

Bovberg, R & Aliaga, P. (Urban Institute) and Gittler, J (University of Iowa College of Law)

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<https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/74616/stdiscp.pdf>

***Doctors Protecting Their Own***

CBS News

Part I: 1/4/21, <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/cbs-news-finds-medical-boards-often-fail-to-discipline-doctors-for-malpractice/>

Part II: 1/5/21: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/medical-boards-often-protect-doctors-over-patients-cbs-news-finds/>

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***Guidelines for the Structure and Function of a State Medical and Osteopathic Board, April 2024***  
<https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/guidelines-for-structure-function-of-state-medical-and-osteopathic-board-2024.pdf>

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Freakonomics Radio, 2/7/25  
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***Doctors With Troubled Pasts Are Performing Cosmetic Surgeries Tied to Crippling Pain and Injury***  
KFF Health News, 9/30/25  
<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/doctors-clinics-cosmetic-surgeries-pain-injury-discipline-malpractice-lawsuits/>

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***Medicare Slow to Boot Docs with State Sanctions***, 5/17/18  
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/states-of-disgrace/72923>  
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***FDA warning letters to doctors flag serious problems, but state medical boards do nothing***, 8/17/18  
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<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/27/va-failed-report-90-potentially-dangerous-medical-providers-gao-confirms/890582001/>

***Thousands of doctors practicing despite errors, misconduct***, 8/20/13

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***Imminent Danger: One Doctor and a Trail of Injured Women, Oct./Nov. 2023***

<https://www.wync.org/shows/nyc-now/imminent-danger>

## **NATL./STATE REPORTS/ARTICLES – SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

**AL**

***Sexual Misconduct by Doctors: Alabama Law Keeps Patients in the Dark***

AL.com, 8/9/18

[https://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2018/08/sexual\\_misconduct\\_at\\_the\\_hands.html](https://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2018/08/sexual_misconduct_at_the_hands.html)

**AZ**

***Misconduct accusations against this Arizona doctor span a generation. But he kept his medical license***

Arizona Republic, 12/13/23

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-investigations/2023/12/13/michael-ridge-doctor-misconduct-allegations/71783514007/>

**CA**

***A Doctor Allegedly Whispered to His Patient That She Looked Like a ‘Sexy Librarian***

The Atlantic, 12/13/2018

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/12/doctors-sexual-assault-california/578014/>

**GA/NATIONAL**

***Doctors and Sex Abuse – Overall Series:***

[http://doctors.ajc.com/table\\_of\\_contents/](http://doctors.ajc.com/table_of_contents/)

***State Report Cards***

<http://doctors.ajc.com/states/>

Atlanta Journal Constitution, 2016

**ID**

***Surgeon’s arrest for sexual battery a ‘catalyst’ for Idaho health care workers to talk about abuse***

Idaho Capital Sun, 2/27/23

[https://idahocapitalsun.com/2023/02/27/surgeons-arrest-for-sexual-battery-a-catalyst-for-idaho-health-care-workers-to-talk-about-abuse/?fbclid=IwAR0KjAJrk8fOxW6OJ5VnV-4GrcObmLpIHrcRgSDRL6UrIJNLqVjs\\_9ldsUk](https://idahocapitalsun.com/2023/02/27/surgeons-arrest-for-sexual-battery-a-catalyst-for-idaho-health-care-workers-to-talk-about-abuse/?fbclid=IwAR0KjAJrk8fOxW6OJ5VnV-4GrcObmLpIHrcRgSDRL6UrIJNLqVjs_9ldsUk)

**IL**

***Doctors Operate Unchecked*** (A Chicago Tribune series on how state regulators and the criminal justice system allow doctors to continue practicing despite allegations of sexual misconduct.) - *Note: Behind Paywall*

Chicago Tribune, 2010 - 2011

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<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2010/10/06/sex-offending-doctors-left-on-honor-system-2/>

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**Believed** - Podcast about Larry Nassar case in Michigan

Michigan Public Radio, 2018-2021

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## NATIONAL

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Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, 2/5/24

<https://www.jabfm.org/content/sexual-misconduct-board-certified-family-physicians-descriptive-study>

**The Big #MeToo Moment for Doctors Is Finally Here**

NY Times, 11/20/23

[https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/20/opinion/abuse-doctors-patients-metoo.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.g00.BKwD.2MArNbbIS\\_VJ&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/20/opinion/abuse-doctors-patients-metoo.html?unlocked_article_code=1.g00.BKwD.2MArNbbIS_VJ&smid=url-share)

**Communicating about Physician Sexual Misconduct: How are State Medical Boards Doing?**, June 2022

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**Report and Recommendations of the FSMB Workgroup on Physician Sexual Misconduct**, May 2020

Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)

<https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/report-of-workgroup-on-sexual-misconduct-adopted-version.pdf>

**15 Year Summary of Sexual Misconduct by US Physicians to the NPDB, 2003 – 2017**, May 2020

Public Citizen

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## NC

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WBTV, 5/20/24

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New York Magazine, 9/12/23

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City & State New York, 2/21/21

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OH

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Columbus Dispatch, 2/23

<https://www.dispatch.com/in-depth/news/2023/02/02/preying-on-patients-hundreds-of-doctors-have-abused-harassed-ohioans/69844571007/>

OR

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Post and Courier, 1/28/18

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TX

***No Other Option***

Texas Observer, 10/4/21

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UT

***94 Women Allege a Utah Doctor Sexually Assaulted Them. Here's Why a Judge Threw Out Their Case.***

Salt Lake Tribune/ProPublica, 2/22/23

<https://www.propublica.org/article/94-utah-women-sue-obgyn-for-sexual-assault-judge-tosses-case>

**WA**

***Discipline delayed: Washington state struggles to stop sexual misconduct in health care, leaving patients vulnerable***

Seattle Times, 11/28/21

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/times-watchdog/discipline-delayed-washington-state-struggles-to-crack-down-on-health-providers-sexual-misconduct/>

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Eric Andrist and Marian Hollingsworth

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Consumer Reports Advocacy, Press Release 9/19/18

[https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/press\\_release/governor-brown-signs-landmark-law-requiring-doctors-on-probation-to-notify-patients/](https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/press_release/governor-brown-signs-landmark-law-requiring-doctors-on-probation-to-notify-patients/)

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***Dangerous Doctors: Malpractice Lawsuits Rarely Lead to Discipline***

Sun Sentinel (Broward and Palm Beach FL), 11/17/17

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Report of GA Dept. Of Audits and Accounts – Performance Audit Division, (11/2020)

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Chicago Tribune (1/7/2014)

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***Bad doctors are out there. But the agency charged with identifying them is faltering (Editorial)***

Boston Globe, 1/9/26

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Boston Globe, 12/19/25

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Portland Press Herald, 3/19/16

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Portland Press Herald, 3/19/16

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Minnesota Star Tribune, 7/16/22

<https://www.startribune.com/state-medical-board-is-a-campaign-target/600190894/>

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<https://www.wlbt.com/2019/02/21/your-side-investigates-doctors-deception/>

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ProPublica, 3/21/25

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***Montana Renews Accused Cancer Doctor's License Despite Criminal, Civil Inquiries***

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**NH:**

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Boston Globe Spotlight Investigation (Whole Series)

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/investigations/spotlight/>

**NY**

***46 doctors on LI were allowed to keep practicing freely for months or years even after misconduct***

Newsday, 5/14/25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP2xRJN7p5o&t=907s>

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***A Deadly Epidural, Delivered by a Doctor With a History of Mistakes***

New York Times, 1/23/23

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/23/nyregion/anesthesiologist-brooklyn-deaths.html#:~:text=New%20York%20Times-,A%20Deadly%20Epidural%2C%20Delivered%20by%20a%20Doctor%20With%20a%20History,One%20was%20fatal.>

**PA/National**

Unstoppable: This Doctor Has Been Investigated at Every Level of Government. How Is He Still Practicing?

Propublica, 8/9/23

[https://www.propublica.org/article/pennsylvania-doctor-investigated-at-every-level-why-is-he-still-practicing?utm\\_campaign=trueanthem&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.propublica.org/article/pennsylvania-doctor-investigated-at-every-level-why-is-he-still-practicing?utm_campaign=trueanthem&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook)

**SC/NC**

***South Carolina secrets: What the medical board doesn't tell you about problem doctors***

WBTV, 5/14/24

<https://www.wbtv.com/2024/05/14/south-carolina-secrets-what-medical-board-doesnt-tell-you-about-problem-doctors/>

**SD:**

***State sets hearing to strip patient safety advocate of medical license***

Argus Leader, 10/6/17

<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2017/10/06/state-sets-hearing-strip-patient-safety-advocate->

medical-license/737739001/

***Results of state death investigation of teen disputed***

Argus Leader, 3/12/16

<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2016/03/12/results-state-death-investigation-teen-disputed/81406252/>

**TN:**

***Trust Me I'm a Doctor,***

This American Life, 10/2/20

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/719/trust-me-im-a-doctor>

(Also see above: New York Review)

**TX:**

***The Tale of Eric the Red***

Texas Observer, 9/12/22

<https://www.texasobserver.org/rogue-surgeon-red-eric-scheffey-texas/>

***Anatomy of a Tragedy: Dr. Christopher Duntsch***

Texas Observer, 8/28/13

<http://www.texasobserver.org/anatomy-tragedy/>

**WI:**

***Doctor Discipline: A Wisconsin State Journal Special Investigation***

Wisconsin State Journal 1/29/13

[https://host.madison.com/news/local/health\\_med\\_fit/doctor-discipline-a-wisconsin-state-journal-special-investigation/collection\\_915deb5c-6994-11e2-b9d8-0019bb2963f4.html](https://host.madison.com/news/local/health_med_fit/doctor-discipline-a-wisconsin-state-journal-special-investigation/collection_915deb5c-6994-11e2-b9d8-0019bb2963f4.html)

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB):

<http://www.fsmb.org/>

Link to list of FSMB List of state medical/osteopathic boards:

<https://www.fsmb.org/contact-a-state-medical-board/>

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

<https://www.imlcc.org/>

Journal of Medical Regulation (published by FSMB)

<http://jmronline.org/?code=fsmb-site>

National Practitioner Data Bank:

<https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/>