



**Board of
Pharmacy**

**ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2025**

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

www.pharmacy.ohio.gov

OVERVIEW

MISSION

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy shall act efficiently, consistently, and impartially in the public interest to pursue optimal standards of practice through communication, education, legislation, licensing, and enforcement.

ABOUT THE BOARD

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy was established by the General Assembly in May of 1884 and consists of nine members, eight pharmacists and one member of the public, who are appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. The Board currently has a staff of 92 full-time employees, including 11 pharmacists, who are responsible for carrying out day-to-day operations. The duties of the Board have grown over the years and encompass the enforcement of the following chapters of the Ohio Revised Code:

2925. – Criminal Drug Laws

3715. – Pure Food and Drug Law

3719. – Controlled Substance Act

4729. – Pharmacy Practice Act & Dangerous Drug Distribution Act

4752. – Home Medical Equipment Services Providers

In enforcing these chapters, the Board licenses and regulates more than 93,000 professionals, including pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians, and sites where drugs and home medical equipment are purchased and stored prior to delivery to a patient. The sites licensed by the Board include, but are not limited to, retail pharmacies, home medical equipment services providers, hospitals, drug wholesalers, prescriber offices, drug manufacturers, veterinary clinics, nursing homes, prisons and jails, emergency medical service organizations, medical gas distributors, and pain management clinics.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy is charged with preventing, detecting, and investigating the diversion of dangerous drugs, including controlled substances. The Board investigates and presents evidence of violations of drug laws by any person and refers them for prosecution and/or administrative action. In these efforts, the Board works collaboratively with other state prescriber boards and law enforcement to conduct investigations of healthcare professionals (pharmacists, physicians, dentists, nurses, etc.) who may be in violation of Ohio law.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the members of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25) Annual Report. Some of our highlights from FY 25 include:

New Ohio Pharmacy Access Dashboard –

The Board announced the launch of a new dashboard tracking access to retail pharmacies across the state. The dashboard utilizes Board of Pharmacy licensing data to provide users with a visualization of where pharmacy openings and closures are occurring and offers insights into how closures are impacting access to pharmacy services in Ohio. To access the dashboard, visit:

www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/trends.



STEVEN W. SCHIERHOLT

Joint Regulatory Statement on Retail IV Therapy Clinics – The Board, along with the State Medical Board of Ohio and the Ohio Board of Nursing, issued a joint regulatory statement on the operation of retail IV therapy clinics. The statement includes important reminders about the use of qualified staff to diagnose and treat patients, adhering to the scope of practice for healthcare providers established by law, compliance with Ohio's drug compounding rules, appropriate use of drug administration protocols, ensuring proper clinic oversight, and other concerns observed by the Boards. To review a copy of the statement, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/IVtherapy.

Accessible Services Online Search Tool – The Board launched an online search tool to help locate Ohio pharmacies that provide accessible services to Ohioans who have low vision, are hard of hearing, or require language translation services. It allows patients and caregivers of patients requiring such services to search pharmacies in their area to find locations that best meet their needs. This tool can be found at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Access.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OARRS Enhancements – OARRS added a new feature to alert healthcare providers about patients who have experienced a previous non-fatal drug overdose. These alerts are intended to improve care coordination and promote access to medication for opioid use disorder and other tools to prevent fatal overdoses. To assist healthcare providers in using this new alert, the Board developed training materials that can be accessed by visiting:
www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFOD.

Online Review and Quiz for Reciprocity – The Ohio Board of Pharmacy began offering a convenient online review and quiz for out-of-state pharmacists applying for licensure via reciprocity. The Board's Reciprocity Review and Quiz is designed to provide applicants with critical knowledge on the laws and rules governing the practice of pharmacy. The feedback for this project has been positive, with some applicants saying it has taken time and stress out of the reciprocity process.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for taking the time to review the Ohio Board of Pharmacy's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. We remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting the health and safety of all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven W. Schierholt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven W. Schierholt
Executive Director

LICENSING

The Licensing Department's responsibilities include the processing of all licensure and registration applications; all verifications of good standing; and support to all field agents, inspectors, and specialists. The Board licenses/registers all of the following:

- Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians.
- Terminal Distributors of Dangerous Drugs: Sites where dangerous drugs are purchased and stored prior to delivery to a patient such as retail pharmacies, hospitals, prescriber offices, veterinary clinics, nursing homes, prisons and jails, emergency medical service organizations, and pain management clinics.
- Distributors of Dangerous Drugs: Sites who are engaged in the sale of dangerous drugs at wholesale. A distributor of dangerous drugs includes the following license types: manufacturer of dangerous drugs, outsourcing facility, third-party logistics provider, repackager of dangerous drugs, and wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs (includes broker and virtual wholesaler).
- Home Medical Equipment Services Providers (HME): Sites who are engaged in the sale, delivery, installation, maintenance, replacement, or demonstration of home medical equipment.

FY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Launched a new, convenient online review and quiz for out-of-state pharmacists applying for licensure via reciprocity. The Board's Reciprocity Review and Quiz is designed to provide applicants with critical knowledge on the laws and rules governing the practice of pharmacy. Implementing this on-demand review and quiz reduces the licensure issuance process by approximately 30 days.**
- **Received recognition as a Leader in Supporting Healthcare Worker Wellbeing. As a Wellbeing First Champion, the Board of Pharmacy underwent a process to verify that its licensure and renewal applications for pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians are free from intrusive and stigmatizing language around mental health care and treatment. This means that these individuals can seek needed care without fear of losing their license.**

FY 2025 Licensing Statistics

Type of License	FY 2025 Active*	FY 2025 New†
Pharmacist	24,073	1,152
Pharmacy Intern	3,650	731
Pharmacy Technician	37,252	8,863
Terminal Distributors	25,351	2,085
Drug Distributors	2,447	169
HME Service Providers	868	56
Total	93,641	12,876

*Represents all licenses that were active during FY 2025. Issue date is before July 1, 2025 and expiration date greater than June 30, 2024.

†Represents all licenses that were issued during FY 2025. Issue date is on or between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The healthcare profession is not immune to substance use disorders and mental health conditions. Such medical conditions impair a healthcare professional's competency, ability, and judgement. Substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions that are left untreated may not only cause a healthcare professional to risk their career but may also endanger the life of a patient.

These medical conditions can be effectively treated, and it is possible for healthcare professionals that are in treatment or recovery to return to practice.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy encourages all healthcare professionals who may be struggling with a substance use disorder or mental health condition to seek help. Our rules encourage you to seek help if you need it, with no fear of reprisal or repercussions. Specifically, the Board's duty to report rules do not require reporting to the Board if a licensee voluntarily seeks treatment for a mental health condition or substance use disorder.

For more information about the available substance abuse and mental health resources for healthcare professionals, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Recovery.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The primary responsibility of the Compliance & Enforcement Department, in coordination with the Legal Department, is the investigation and prosecution of administrative violations and criminal acts perpetrated by license holders and applicants, as well as prescription drug-related crimes committed by healthcare professionals and the public. Department staff also perform pharmacy inspections; train pharmacy, medical, and law enforcement personnel; and assist outside agencies with criminal investigations involving prescription drugs.

FY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Compliance staff worked in close coordination with other state regulators, local drug task forces, and federal law enforcement partners to identify and prosecute aberrant prescribers of controlled substances and dangerous drugs in Ohio. Their efforts resulted in multiple criminal convictions, the closure of clinics in violation of rule and law, and the revocation of licenses from non-compliant healthcare professionals.**
- **In one Board investigation, a Central Ohio pharmacist was convicted on multiple federal counts of fraud. The court sentenced the pharmacist to a five-year prison sentence, required the pharmacist to pay approximately \$2.3 million in restitution, and imposed three years of court supervision upon release.**
- **Following another Board investigation, a Central Ohio physician pleaded guilty to one count of attempted engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, one count of attempted money laundering, and three counts of drug trafficking following a Board investigation which established the physician was issuing suboxone prescriptions to patients without medical necessity.**
- **Compliance initiated efforts to identify and inspect prescriber practices operating as medical spas and wellness clinics, both licensed and unlicensed. Inspections of these clinics led to the seizure of numerous counterfeit and foreign-sourced drugs, as well as drugs intended for research use only or otherwise not approved by the FDA. This focus resulted in the summary suspension of 30 medical spas/wellness clinics in FY 2025.**
- **The OARRS Early Intervention program expanded its reach by adding three new counties, bringing the total number of participating county prosecutor's offices to 25. OARRS Early Intervention agents are actively working to reduce fatal drug overdoses in Ohio by contributing to 23 overdose fatality review committees.**

FY 2025 CASE SUSPECTS BY TYPE

Administrative actions taken against a licensee can range from permanent revocation to imposition of fines or, for pharmacists, interns, and technicians, additional continuing education requirements. Suspensions and probations are also utilized, particularly in cases of substance abuse where rehabilitation is deemed possible.

The tables below provide a summary of administrative actions taken by the Board in FY 2025.

Suspect Types	Total
Pharmacist	423
Pharmacy Intern	16
Pharmacy Technician Trainee	99
Registered Pharmacy Technician	68
Certified Pharmacy Technician	96
Pharmacy Professional [TOTAL]	702
Pharmacies (Licensed Locations)	1,384
Med Spa/Wellness Clinics	118
Medical Doctor	144
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine	29
Medical Assistant	4
Nurse	263
Dentist	19
Veterinarian	19
Registered Vet Tech	2
Medical Professional [TOTAL]	480
General Public	285

Top 10 Case Types Investigated	Total
Suspicious Purchases	345
Minimum Qualifications of TDDD/WDDD	219
Drug Security	214
Error in Dispensing	192
Theft of Drugs	151
Consumer Complaint	136
Background Investigation	126
Questionable Dispensing	105
Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drugs	99
Questionable Prescribing	87

Inspection Data	
Total Inspections Completed	3,448
Written Warnings Issued	1,329
Administrative Case Data	
Admin. Cases Referred to the Legal Department	689
Summary Suspensions*	36

**A summary suspension is a method of immediately suspending a license or registration. It is utilized if the alleged offense presents "a danger of immediate and serious harm to others." Licensees and registrants that are summarily suspended are still entitled to a full hearing by the Board in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.*

Events/Organizations:

Ohio Pharmacists Association:

- 2025 Spring Technician Seminar
- Law updates
- Annual Conference

College of Pharmacies:

- Cedarville University
- University of Findlay
- University of Toledo
- The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy
- The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

DEA:

- Practitioner Diversion Awareness Conference

FDA:

- Intergovernmental compounding meeting

Other Associations:

- AASHP
- Fulton County Health
- OCCP
- NADDI
- HDA
- NASCSA
- West Central Ohio SHP
- SMBO/OBP

FY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)

- **During the reporting period, Compliance & Enforcement staff completed 3,448 inspections resulting in 1,329 written warnings issued. A total of 689 cases were referred to the Board's Legal Department for administrative action.**
- **Compliance & Enforcement continued its focus on education and outreach. Staff developed and delivered 14 continuing education webinars and participated in a joint healthcare board training with the State Medical Board of Ohio and the Ohio Board of Nursing covering emerging med spa and IV hydration issues.**
- **On April 15, 2025, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy announced that Chief Pharmacist Jenni Wai was selected to receive its 2025 John F. Atkinson Service Award. To be considered, nominees must have provided NABP with exemplary service in protecting the public health, having made exceptional accomplishments related to pharmacy law and compliance. NABP noted, "[A]s chief pharmacist, Wai provides expert guidance on pharmacy practice, clinical knowledge, and the application of federal and state regulations to the Board's executive director, board members, and stakeholders."**

POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Policy and Communications Department is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies to advance the Board's policy initiatives and outreach to external stakeholders, including all of the following:

- Articulating the Board's position on legislation proposed by the General Assembly.
- Facilitating the administrative rules process by coordinating the Board's Rules Review Committee, submission of proposed rules to the Common Sense Initiative, and rule filings with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.
- Coordinating the Board's responses to legislative committee requests and other inquiries from individual members and General Assembly staff.
- Assisting with the implementation of legislative and regulatory changes.
- Developing educational materials and guidance on Board initiatives and policy changes.
- Serving as a liaison to the public and the media on the role of the Board in protecting the health and safety of Ohioans.

FY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **The Policy and Communications Department sent over 5 million email updates to licensees in FY 25.**
- **Launched an online search tool that maps Ohio pharmacies that provide accessible services to Ohioans who have low vision, are hard of hearing, or require language translation services. This tool allows patients and caregivers of patients requiring such services to search pharmacies in their area and find locations that best meet their needs.**
- **Oversaw the successful development and implementation of new rules for recall procedures, outpatient pharmacy delivery services, immunizations, ephedrine, mobile clinic and medication unit satellite licenses, verification of licensure prior to sale, and OARRS and ASAP 5.0.**
- **Issued new pocket cards and flyers educating licensees and Ohioans on steps for detecting counterfeit drugs, the best practices to prevent drug diversion, and tips for patients of med spas and IV hydration clinics.**
- **Distributed 6,600 fentanyl test strips and 6,500 naloxone patient counseling brochures to licensees across Ohio.**
- **Launched new X and Bluesky accounts to better connect with licensees and let them know about Board of Pharmacy initiatives.**

OHIO AUTOMATED RX REPORTING SYSTEM



Board of Pharmacy

Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System

To address the growing misuse and diversion of prescription drugs, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy created Ohio's prescription drug monitoring program, known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). Established in 2006, OARRS collects information on

all outpatient prescriptions for controlled substances (and two non-controlled drugs, gabapentin and naltrexone) dispensed by Ohio-licensed pharmacies and personally furnished by licensed prescribers in Ohio. Additionally, all medical marijuana sales are reported to OARRS by Ohio licensed dispensaries within 5 minutes of sale. Drug wholesalers are also required to submit information on all controlled substances sold to an Ohio-licensed pharmacy or prescriber.

For more information on OARRS, including resources, reports, and data, please visit the OARRS website at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OARRS.

FY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **OARRS added a new feature to alert healthcare providers about patients who have experienced a previous non-fatal drug overdose. Ohio Hospital Emergency Departments via the Ohio Department of Health and the state's Health Information Partner, Clinisync, now provide data on patients treated for a non-fatal overdose at Ohio emergency departments to OARRS. This information is displayed in OARRS to pharmacists and prescribers as an effort to improve care coordination and promote access for opioid use disorder treatment and other tools to prevent fatal overdoses.**
- **Over the past year, OARRS data was shared with communities and stakeholders to inform overdose prevention, with prescribing trends presented during the RecoveryOhio Monthly Drug Trends calls and prescription dispensation data integrated into the RecoveryOhio Drug Overdose Early Warning Dashboard to help local leaders identify future drug poisoning hotspots and guide rapid response.**
- **OARRS is a highly utilized system. In FY 2025, more than 512 million patient reports were requested by OARRS users, averaging 42.7 million patient reports per month.**
- **OARRS continues to be a high-value resource with more than 130,000 active user accounts and 7,827 new accounts created in FY 2025.**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025 (JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025)

FY 2025 Revenue	
Fund 4K90 (Operating Expenses) License fees and other assessments as well as various fines, forfeited bonds, and bail collected by the State Board of Pharmacy that are not credited to Fund 4A50.	\$14,906,421
Fund 4A50 (Drug Law Enforcement) Fines and bail or property forfeitures that result from the Board's drug law enforcement efforts.	\$5,944
Fund 3HD0 (Pharmacy Federal Grants) Harold Rogers Prescription Monitoring Program grants distributed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.	\$1,844,035
Fund 3HH0 (OARRS Integration) Grant money received from Medicaid to support OARRS integration with medical record systems.	\$567,543
Fund 3HM0 (Equitable Sharing Treasury) Money derived from the proceeds of investigations worked with federal agencies under the administrative umbrella of the Department of the Treasury	\$0
Fund 3HN0 (Equitable Sharing Justice) Money derived from the proceeds of investigations worked with federal agencies under the administrative umbrella of the Department of Justice	\$0
Fund 5SG0 (Drug Database) Donations and grant subawards used to operate and make improvements to OARRS under ORC 4729.83.	\$604,000
TOTAL REVENUE FY 2025	\$17,927,943

FY 2025 Expenses	
Fund 4K90 (Operating Expenses) Used by the Board to administer and enforce laws governing the legal distribution of dangerous drugs and the practice of pharmacy. A portion of this funding also goes to support the operation of Ohio's prescription drug monitoring program known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).	\$12,679,484
Fund 4A50 (Drug Law Enforcement) Used by the Board for drug law enforcement purposes only.	\$23,981
Fund 3HD0 (Pharmacy Federal Grants) Harold Rogers Prescription Monitoring Program grants distributed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.	\$1,844,035
Fund 3HH0 (OARRS Integration HITECH) Grant money received from the Ohio Department of Medicaid to support OARRS integration with medical record systems.	\$567,543
Fund 3HM0 (Equitable Sharing Treasury) Money derived from the proceeds of investigations worked with federal agencies under the administrative umbrella of the Department of the Treasury	\$13,083
Fund 3HN0 (Equitable Sharing Justice) Money derived from the proceeds of investigations worked with federal agencies under the administrative umbrella of the Department of Justice	\$50,031
Fund 5SG0 (Drug Database) Implement enhancements to OARRS.	\$3,327,046
TOTAL EXPENSES FY 2025 [1, 2]	\$18,505,204

[1] Expenses reflect actual cash disbursements during FY 2025 and include some expenses budgeted with FY 2024 appropriation. Similarly, some expenses budgeted with FY 2025 appropriation will be disbursed in FY 2026 and reflected on that year's annual report.

[2] Section 119.092(E) requires the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to disclose fees paid to a prevailing eligible party in FY 2025.

Number of Awards of Compensation for Fees Paid by the Agency: 1

Total Amount of Awards of Compensation for Fees Paid by the Agency: \$11,515.00

Nature of the Award: Franklin County Court of Common Pleas filed a motion for the Board of Pharmacy to pay attorney fees for the matter of 24CV003154.



Board of Pharmacy

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of all Ohioans through the administration and enforcement of laws governing the legal distribution of dangerous drugs and the practice of pharmacy. Should you need any assistance or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Board Members

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