

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

DATE REPORT ISSUED: February 20, 2026
 ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California
 SUBJECT: Discussion on Maternal Mortality Data and Outcomes
 CONTACT: Sharlene Smith, Chief of Enforcement

BACKGROUND:

In response to requests from patient advocates, Medical Board of California (Board) staff reviewed maternal mortality data and is providing the summary of the following information: complaints received, complaints referred to a medical consultant for review, complaints referred for investigation, complaints referred for administrative action, outcomes of complaints referred for administrative action, specialties of the licensees, complaints closed, closing dispositions, and whether the licensees had prior administrative action.

METHODOLOGY:

Pursuant to [Health and Safety Code section 123635\(a\)](#), maternal mortality/maternal death is defined as: The death of a person during pregnancy or within a year from the end of pregnancy, and related to, or aggravated by, the pregnancy or birth, including, but not limited to, death by suicide. To ensure relevant data was extracted and reviewed, Board staff cast a broad net looking at complaints received and complaints closed in Fiscal Years (FY) 22/23, 23/24, and 24/25 for physicians and surgeons with specialties in internal medicine, family medicine, emergency medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, neonatology/perinatology and licensed midwives. It is important to note that complaints closed¹ data may include complaints received in a prior FY. The result of the review includes cases involving maternal mortality. The data captured revealed the respondent is either a physician and surgeon specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, internal medicine, emergency medicine, or neonatology/perinatology or a licensed midwife.

FINDINGS:

The data reported below are different data sets, one reporting information on complaints *received* in the FYs, the other reporting information on complaints *closed* in the FYs.

Below is a breakdown of the findings related to the 24 complaints received in FYs 22/23, 23/24, and 24/25:

- 3 licensees had prior administrative action
- 15 referred to a medical consultant for review
- 18 complaints closed
- 5 complaints remain open
- 8 referred for investigation
- 5 referred to the Attorney General's Office (AGO)

¹ Total number of "Closed" includes the following: Insufficient Evidence; Inadequate Evidence; past SOL; Accusations Dismissed; and Administrative Actions. Excludes case closed because consolidated with another case.

- 2 accusations filed
 - 1 surrender
 - 1 revocation

It is important to note that the complaints closed data below may include information on complaints received in a prior FY.

Of the 20 complaints closed in FYs 22/23, 23/24, and 24/25, below is a breakdown of the findings:

- 2 licensees had prior administrative action
- 14 referred to a medical consultant for review
- 6 referred for investigation
- 4 referred to the AGO
- 4 accusations filed
 - 1 surrender
 - 2 licensees placed on probation

Agenda Item 7

	FY 22/23							FY 23/24							FY 24/25						
	Complaints Received	Obstetrics	Gynecology	Internal Medicine	Emergency Medicine	Neonatal/Perinatal	Licensed Midwife	Complaints Received	Obstetrics	Gynecology	Internal Medicine	Emergency Medicine	Neonatal/Perinatal	Licensed Midwife	Complaints Received	Obstetrics	Gynecology	Internal Medicine	Emergency Medicine	Neonatal/Perinatal	Licensed Midwife
Total Complaints Received	11	9	0	1	1	0	0	5	3	1	0	0	0	1	8	7	0	1	0	0	0
Licensees with Prior	1							1							1						
Referred to MC	6							4							5						
Closed*:	8							5							5						
Insufficient Evidence	2							2							0						
No violation	3							2							2						
Inadequate evidence	2							0							0						
Past SOL	0							0							3						
Referred to investigation	5							1							2						
Referred to AG	4							1							0						
Accusations Filed	1							1							0						
Accusations Dismissed	0							0							0						
Administrative Actions:	1							1							0						
Surrendered	0							1							0						
Revoked	1							0							0						
Probation	0							0							0						

*Total number of "Closed" includes the following: Insufficient Evidence; No Violation; Inadequate Evidence; Past SOL; Accusations Dismissed; and Administrative actions. Excludes case closed because consolidated with another case.

	FY 22/23							FY 23/24							FY 24/25						
	Complaints Closed	Obstetrics	Gynecology	Internal Medicine	Emergency Medicine	Neonatal/Perinatal	Licensed Midwife	Complaints Closed	Obstetrics	Gynecology	Internal Medicine	Emergency Medicine	Neonatal/Perinatal	Licensed Midwife	Complaints Closed	Obstetrics	Gynecology	Internal Medicine	Emergency Medicine	Neonatal/Perinatal	Licensed Midwife
Total Complaints Closed*	3	0	1	1	0	1		11	7	0	0	0	0	4	6	5	0	1	0	0	0
Licensees with Prior	0							1							1						
Referred to MC	3							10							1						
Insufficient Evidence	0							2							1						
No violation	2							7							1						
Inadequate evidence	0							0							0						
Past SOL	0							0							3						
Referred to investigation	2							3							1						
Referred to AG	1							2							1						
Accusations Filed	1							2							1						
Accusations Dismissed	1							0							0						
Administrative Actions:	0							2							1						
Surrendered	0							0							1						
Revoked	0							0							0						
Probation	0							2							0						

**Total Complaints Closed* includes the following: Insufficient Evidence; No Violation; Inadequate Evidence; Past SOL; Accusations Dismissed; and Administrative actions. Excludes case closed because consolidated with another case.