



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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September 8, 2016

The Honorable Randi Becker, Chair
Senate Health Care Committee
Post Office Box 40402
Olympia, Washington 98504-0402

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

Dear Senator Becker and Representative Cody:

This report satisfies RCW 18.225.800 which directs the Department of Health to annually report through 2020 the number of times mental health providers with an associate's license are renewing their credential four, five, and six times. We submitted our first report in October 2014. 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 or not these expanded limits on associate licensure renewals improve the ability of associates to obtain full licensure.

The department began issuing associate licenses for these 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 "full" licensure as a mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, advanced social worker, or licensed independent clinical social worker.

Graph 1 and Table 1 represent the total number of times associate licenses obtained under Chapter 18.225 RCW that have been renewed each fiscal year. Table 1 also breaks out renewal information by each profession. Graph 2 and Table 2 represent how many times associate licensees actually renew prior to gaining full licensure in their professions, technically referred to as superseding. While data on supersession is not specifically required by statute, it is included to better reflect the number of renewals licensees are selecting to successfully complete the associate program.

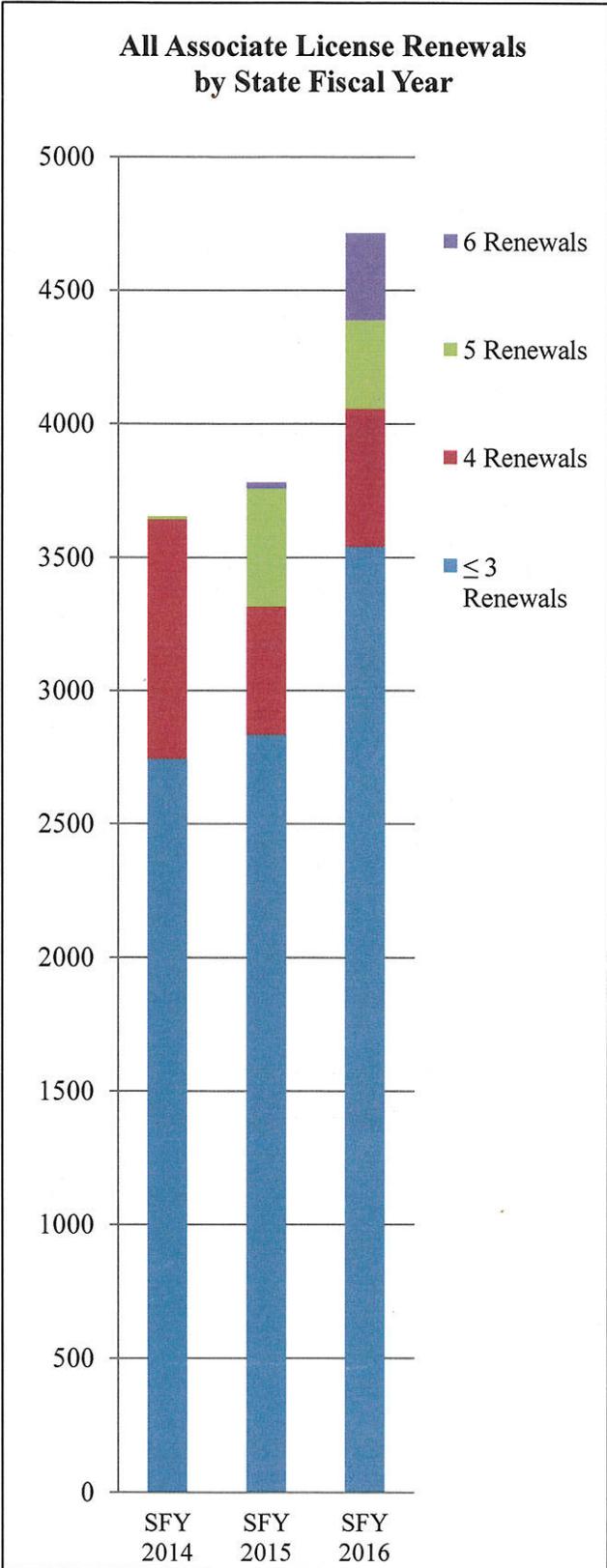
Please contact Lisa Hodgson, Office Director of Health Professions and Facilities, at 360-236-2927 or lisa.hodgson@doh.wa.gov if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Members, Senate Health Care Committee
Members, House Health Care and Wellness Committee
Matt Steuerwalt, Governor's Office
Martin Mueller, Department of Health

Graph 1



Graph 2

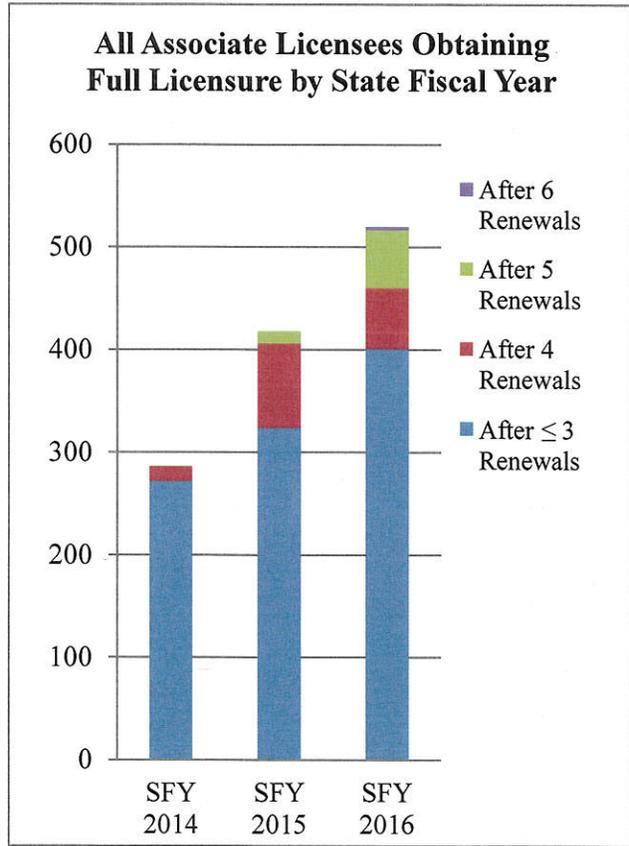


Table 1

**Associate License Renewals by State Fiscal Year
 Professionals Licensed Under Chapter 18.225 RCW, by 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	1419	1388	1722			
	Four	250	233	245			
	Five	5	190	139			
	Six	NA	7	139			
	Total	1647	1808	2247			
Marriage and Family Therapist	Three or fewer	283	389	483			
	Four	216	50	57			
	Five	0	44	37			
	Six	NA	1	26			
	Total	499	484	603			
Advanced Social Worker	Three or fewer	238	125	151			
	Four	61	28	21			
	Five	1	55	33			
	Six	NA	4	46			
	Total	300	212	251			
Independent Clinical Social Worker	Three or fewer	979	930	1182			
	Four	193	179	191			
	Five	7	154	124			
	Six	NA	10	114			
	Total	1179	1273	1611			
Grand Total - All Renewals		3625	3777	4712			

Table 2

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

Times Renewed Prior to Full Licensure	SFY 14	SFY 15	SFY 16	SFY 17	SFY 18	SFY 19
Three or fewer	271	323	400			
Four	14	82	59			
Five	1	12	57			
Six	NA	0	3			
Grand Total - All Renewals	286	417	519			