



Licensure:

Who, What, When, and How

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Objectives

- Purpose of Licensure for Laboratory Personnel
- Licensure History
- NCSCCLS's position
- NCSSAMT's position
- How can we achieve licensure in NC

Purpose of Personnel Licensure

Same as licensure of all other health care professionals

- Protect the public's health, welfare and safety
- Increase quality and minimize errors
- Protect the scope of practice of a profession
- Distinguish our education and expertise from others' education and expertise
- Create a database
- Useful for crisis mobilization for natural disasters or bioterrorism threats

Other Health Care Professionals with Personnel Licensure in NC

- Physicians
- Podiatry
- Dental Examiners
- Counselors
- Chiropractors
- Physical Therapy
- Dietitians/Nutrition
- Audiologists
- Athletic Trainers
- Respiratory Therapy
- Acupuncture
- Optometry
- Psychology
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language pathologists
- Social Workers
- Marriage and Family Therapy

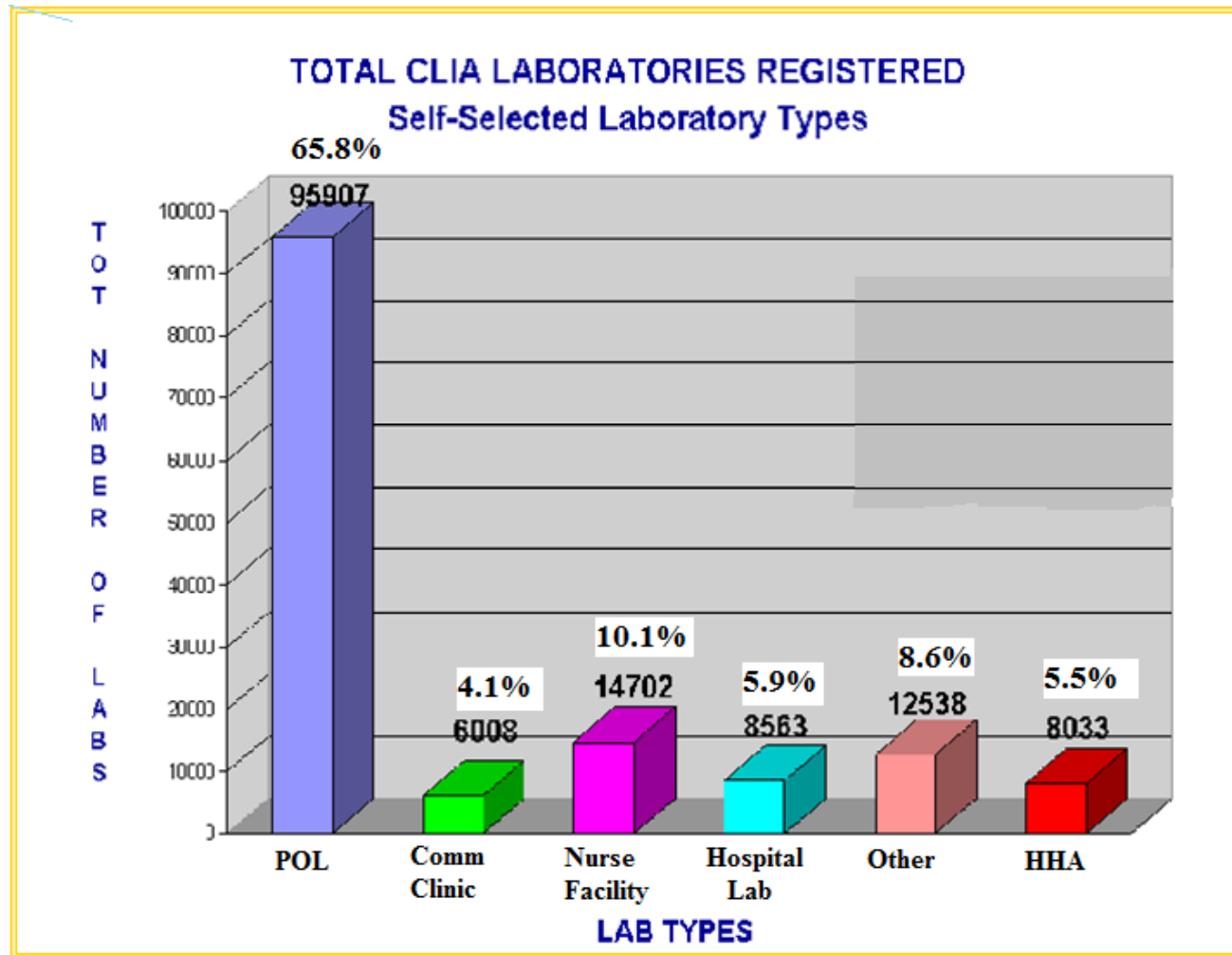
The Case in the Literature

- **Are Physicians' Office Laboratory Results of Comparable Quality to those Produced in Other Laboratory Settings?**

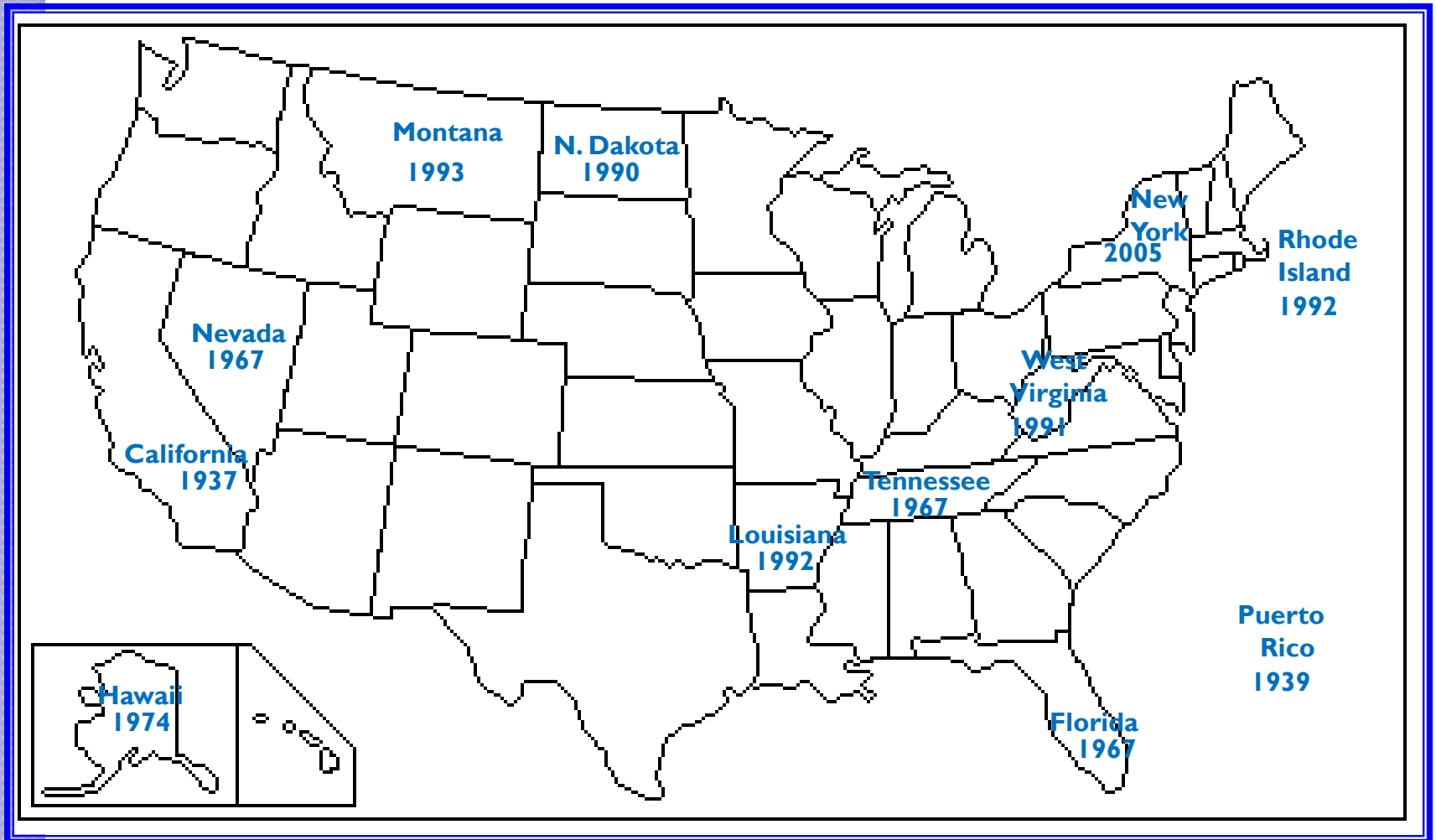
Hurst, Nickel and Hillborne. *JAMA*. February 11, 1998. 279:6, P468+

- “Conclusions: Significant differences exist among POLs, POLs using registered clinical laboratory scientists (medical technologists), and non-POLs. Testing personnel in many POLs might lack the necessary education, training, and oversight common to larger facilities. We must better understand the contributing factors that result in the poorer results of POLs relative to non-POLs. In the meantime, patients should be aware that preliminary findings suggest that differences in quality of laboratory tests based on testing site may exist. Laboratory directors at all testing sites must ensure that they understand laboratory practice sufficiently to minimize errors and maximize accuracy and reliability. Directors must understand their obligation when they elect to oversee those assigned testing responsibility. Legislators may wish to reconsider the wisdom of further easing restrictions on those to whom we entrust our laboratory specimens.”

National Data from CMS



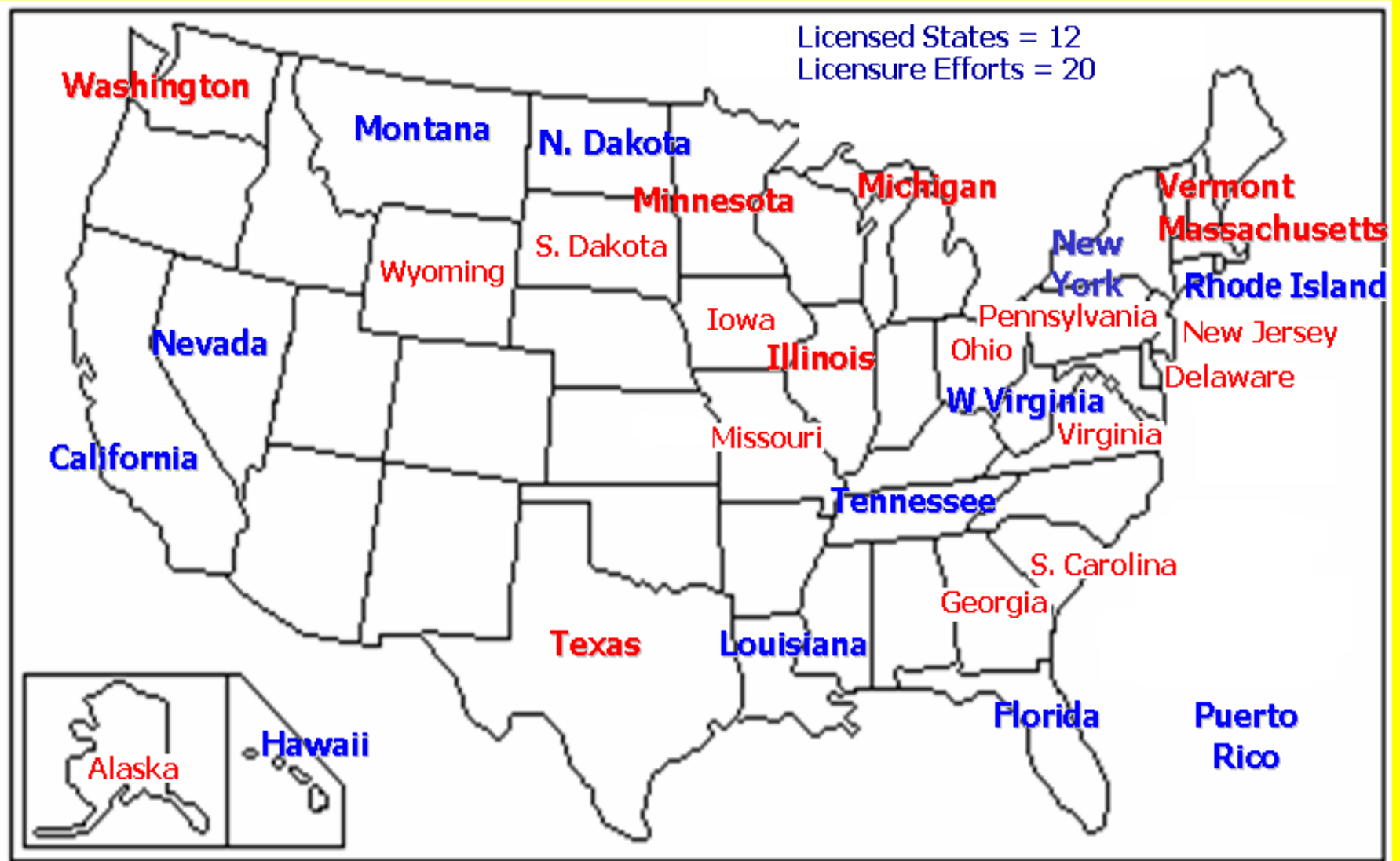
States with Statutes in Place



Licensure Movements

- In 2004 there was a renewed vigor set forth by Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania.
- In 2005 New York attained Licensure !
- All other states are still trying to get bills passed, and more states have begun the process

Lab Personnel Licensure Efforts



College of American Pathologists (CAP)- Now Officially Neutral

- Previous statements made by CAP
 - “No established link between state licensure of clinical laboratory personnel and discernable improvements in laboratory quality.”
 - “Labs are already effectively regulated through CLIA.”
 - RESPONSE - Link between education and error rate in literature
 - “Licensure would substantially limit entry into the clinical laboratory workforce and exacerbate personnel shortages.”
 - RESPONSE – ASCP Wage and Vacancy Survey
 - “Legislation would limit the authority of pathologists to select, assign, and qualify personnel.”
 - RESPONSE – Yes!!!

Family Practice Physicians

- **Concerns**

- Unable to personnel to fill our lab positions
- Licensure would significantly raise laboratory costs making it difficult to survive resulting in closing our labs.
- Phlebotomists would not qualify for a license.

ASCP Position on Licensure

- ASCP 2004 Survey on State Licensure showed:
 - 68,000 surveyed - >10,000 responded
 - 72% of ASCP members supported licensure
 - 18% opposed
 - 10% no opinion (Ratio of support to opposition ~4:1)
 - Support among pathologists was more than 2:1
 - 62% supported
 - 26% opposed
 - 12% no opinion
- State Licensure of Laboratory Personnel (Policy # 05-02) approved June 2005
 - “Licensure legislation would ensure that laboratory personnel possess appropriate academic and clinical training, pass competency-based examinations conducted by an approved national certifying organization, and participate in continuing education programs.”

ASCLS Position on Licensure

- ASCLS has proposed a Laboratory Personnel Licensure position paper that was accepted by the ASCLS BOD 3/26/06
- ASCLS has historically been an avid supporter of personnel licensure

Region III

- It has been proposed that all states in region III without licensure move forward with a bill
- This will help dilute the opposition by having numerous hearings
- Region III has 8 states and 3 have licensure (Tennessee, Florida, and Puerto Rico)
- South Carolina and Georgia have already begun the process



NCSCLS LICENSURE PLANS

How Does NC Attain Licensure

- Long road ahead
- Fundraising
- Establish coalition of laboratory organizations or documents stating “no –opposition” to bill
- Hire lobbyist
- Draft a bill
- Start NC Leg Day - grassroots advocacy

How Does NC Attain Licensure

- Head to NC legislature
- Get a senator or house rep. to sponsor bill, first reading and assigned to committee
- Get bill through committee and subcommittee votes, second reading and debate,
- Get bill to the floor (third reading) and passed, moved to next house or senate, follows same routes, through committee to floor

How Does NC Attain Licensure

- Once passed in both houses, bill enrolled
- Signed by both presiding officers during daily session, considered ratified
- Presented to Governor day after ratification
- If Governor signs or takes no action, bill becomes a law



WHAT QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE?

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