



MARYLAND Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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Maryland Survey shows overwhelming support for preserving social work national exam and adding a multistate licensure compact

A survey conducted by the MD Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) reveals overwhelming endorsement for preserving the national licensing exam. This broad support is consistent across all demographics, including age, region, license level, and race and ethnicity.

The social work licensing examination is one part of an overall system that educates, prepares, licenses, and regulates the social work profession. The exam serves as the singular, uniform, objective measure of social work knowledge and skills. Like for other professions, and all Maryland health professions (e.g., doctors, nurses, lawyers and teachers), testing is standard practice to ensure practitioners demonstrate baseline competence and knowledge to deliver professional services.

The survey of 468 social workers licensed in the state of Maryland was conducted between February 7 and February 28, 2025. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.6%.

The respondents came from a stratified random sample of licensed social workers in Maryland. The survey's response rate was 24.25%, which is consistent with the typical response for online surveys.

Strong support for national licensing exam

81.1% Strongly or somewhat agree that Maryland should keep the licensing exam requirement (59.7% strongly agree)

59.4% Strongly or somewhat agree that Maryland should keep the **bachelor-level** licensing exam requirement (40.2% strongly agree).

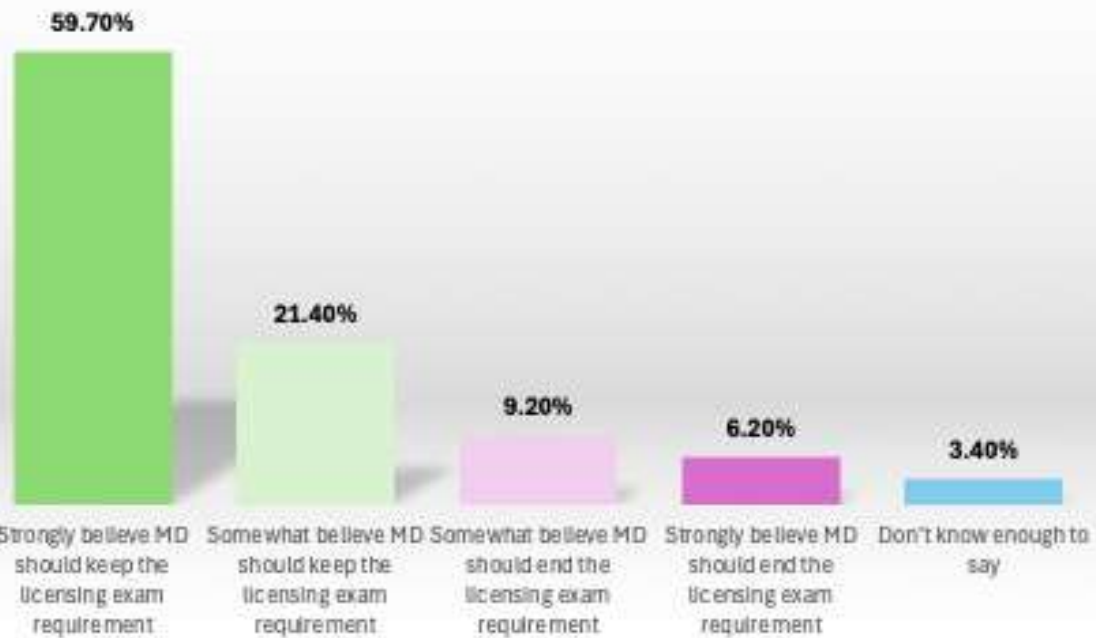
79.4% Strongly or somewhat agree that Maryland should keep the **master-level** licensing exam requirement (56.5% strongly agree).

80.0% Strongly or somewhat agree that Maryland should keep the **clinical** licensing exam requirement (65.2% strongly agree).

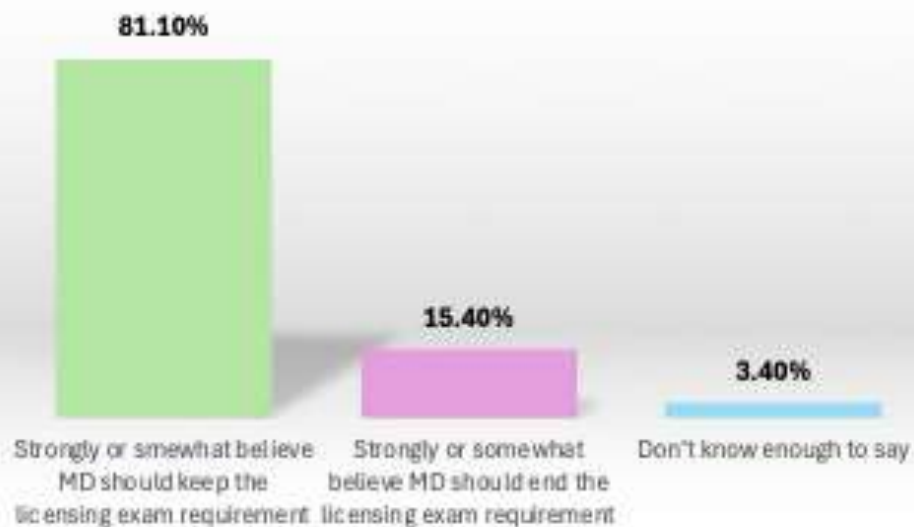
74.1% Strongly or somewhat agree that it would be a mistake to remove the social work licensing exam as a requirement for licensure.

Of those whose work entails clinical mental health service provision (325 participants), **80.7% strongly or somewhat believe** that Maryland should keep the national exam as a requirement for licensure.

Licensure Exam Endorsement

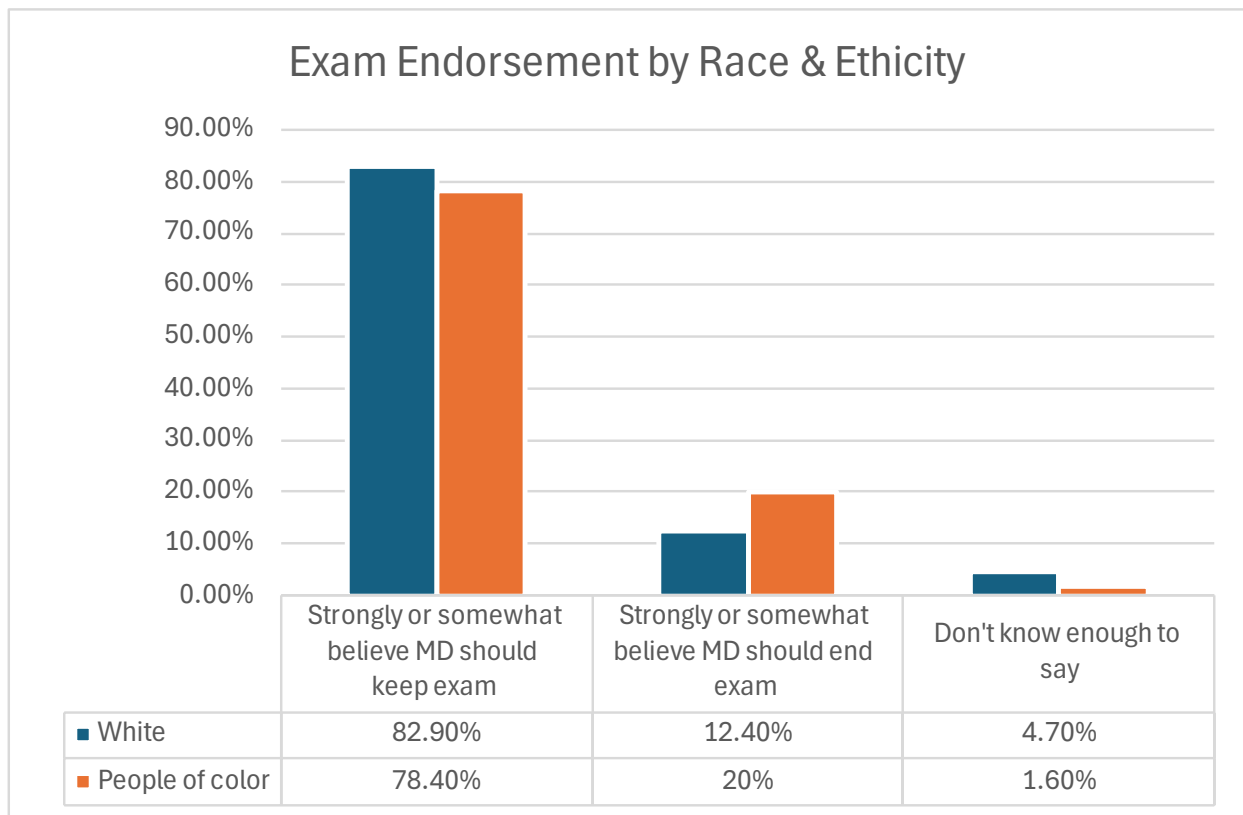


Overall Licensure Exam Endorsement



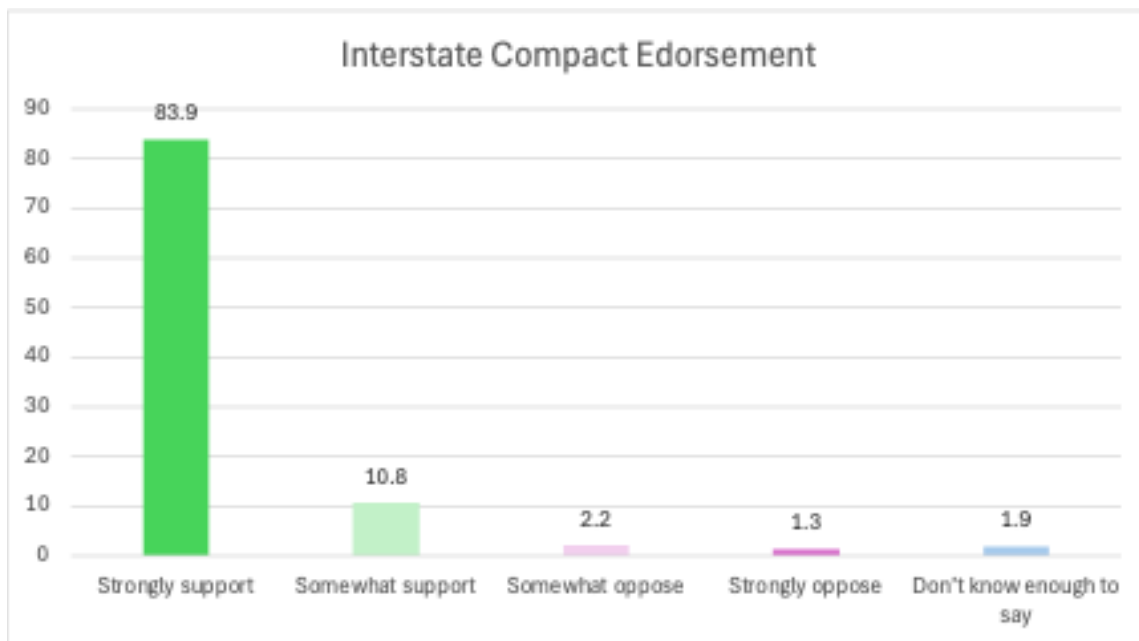
Statements of support for national exam	Agree or Somewhat Agree
The licensing exam is an important measure of a social worker's competence to serve vulnerable clients.	76.5%
New social workers should be required to take a national exam to become licensed.	81.3%
Requiring the exam to become a licensed practitioner assists in maintaining high professional standards among social workers.	81.9%
Requiring the exam to become a licensed practitioner builds public trust in the competency of social workers as professionals who protect vulnerable populations.	82.0%
The social work licensure exam helps protect the integrity of the social work profession by ensuring practitioners meet minimal qualifications to work with at-risk groups and vulnerable populations.	80.3%
Having a social work degree and a criminal history background check should be sufficient to obtain a social work license in Maryland.	32.0%

Strong support among people of color	Agree or Somewhat Agree
<p>The majority believe that Maryland should keep the national exam as a requirement for licensure.</p> <p>Percentage of endorsement of national exam within groups:</p>	<p>Overall: 78.4%</p> <p>Asian: 83.3% Black or African American: 81% Multiracial: 80% Latinx/Hispanic: 68%</p>
<p>The majority believe that new social workers should be required to take a national exam to become licensed.</p> <p>Percentage of endorsement within groups:</p>	<p>Overall: 83.2%</p> <p>Asian: 83.3% Black or African American: 85.4% Multiracial: 80% Latinx/Hispanic: 76%</p>
<p>The majority believe that it would be a mistake to remove the social work licensing exam as a requirement for licensure.</p> <p>Percentage of endorsement within groups:</p>	<p>Overall: 70.6%</p> <p>Asian: 83.3% Black or African American: 73% Multiracial: 80% Latinx/Hispanic: 72%</p>



Participants were asked if they supported the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact for Maryland. Under the **Compact**, social workers would have the option to apply for a multi-state license that would allow them to practice in any state that is part of the **Compact**. To qualify for this multi-state license, practitioners **will** need to pass the National Licensing Exam.

Strong Support for multi-state licensure Compact		
Overall support: 94.7%	Strongly support the Compact:	83.9%
	Somewhat support the Compact:	10.8%
By educational level	Bachelor’s license holders (LBSW):	83.3%
	Master’s license holders (LMSW):	93.5%
	Master’s license holders (LCSW):	91.7%
	Clinical license holders (LCSW-C)	95.2%
Support from people of color: 93.7%	Strongly support the Compact:	83.1%
	Somewhat support the Compact:	10.6%





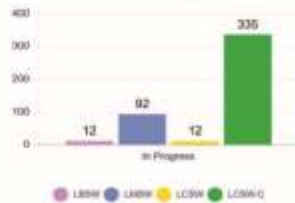
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

2025 BOARD SURVEY REPORT

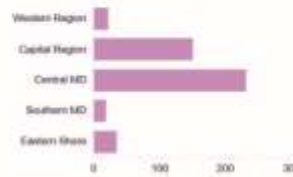
**Resource
Survey Report
Total Submitted**

Survey Completed:
468

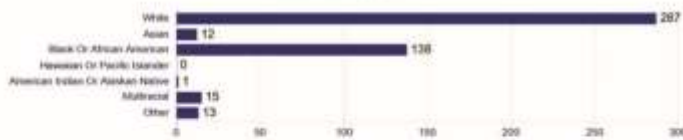
License Categories



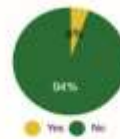
Maryland Practice Region



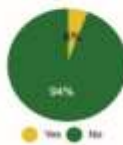
Racial Demographic



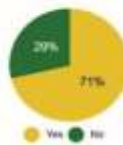
Of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin



Require Special Accommodations?



Mental Health Service Provision?



Board Approved Supervisor?

