



# Becoming Certified in Addiction Medicine through ABPM

ASAM 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference  
March 31 – April 3, 2022

**Christopher J. Ondrula, JD**

Executive Director, ABPM

**Michael Weaver, MD, DFASAM**

Sub-Board Director, ABPM

# Disclosure Information

- Presenter 1: Christopher J. Ondrula, JD
  - No Disclosures
- Presenter 2: Michael Weaver, MD, DFASAM
  - No Disclosures

# Objectives

- Describe the requirements for achieving certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM).
- Describe the process for maintaining certification during ABPM's transition to a new Continuing Certification Program.
- Identify ABPM resources to assist diplomates in meeting ABPM requirements.

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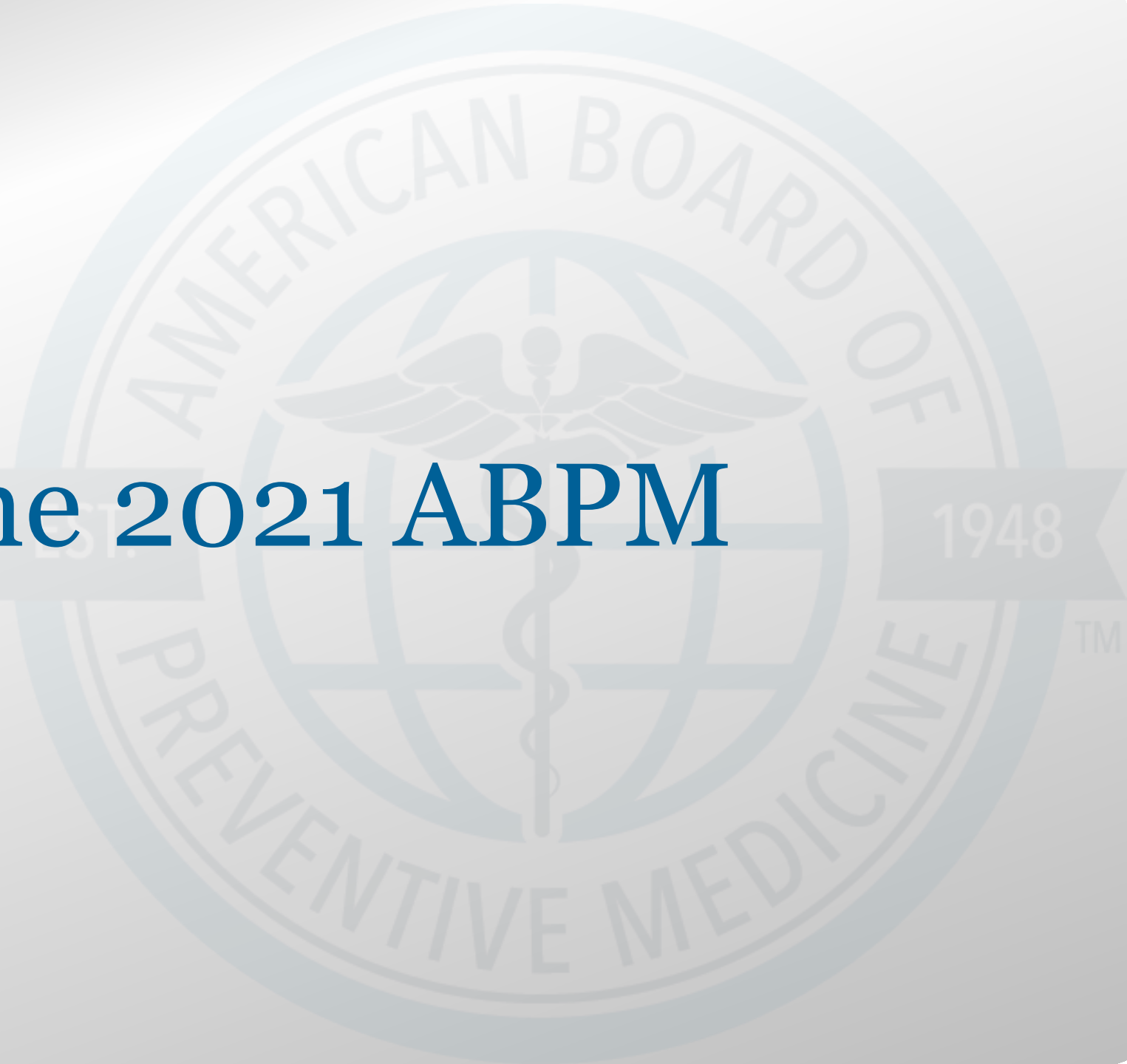
# ABPM Specialties & Subspecialties

- Specialty Areas of Preventive Medicine
  - Aerospace Medicine
  - Occupational Medicine
  - Public Health and General Preventive Medicine
- Subspecialty Areas of Preventive Medicine
  - Addiction Medicine
  - Clinical Informatics
  - Medical Toxicology
  - Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine

# ABPM Mission

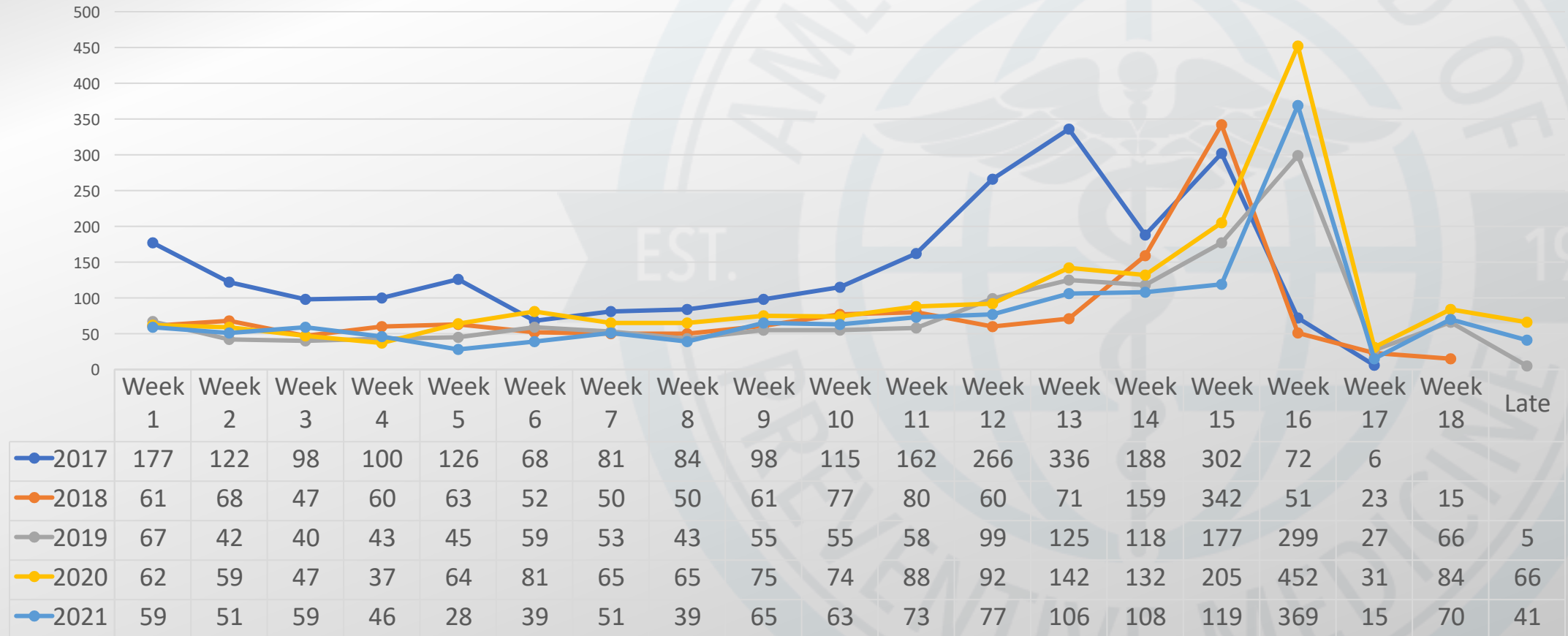
- Certify physicians practicing in Specialties and Subspecialties of Preventive Medicine.
- Extend, encourage and enhance study and standards of practice.
- Advance the cause of Preventive Medicine.

# Review of the 2021 ABPM Exam Cycle

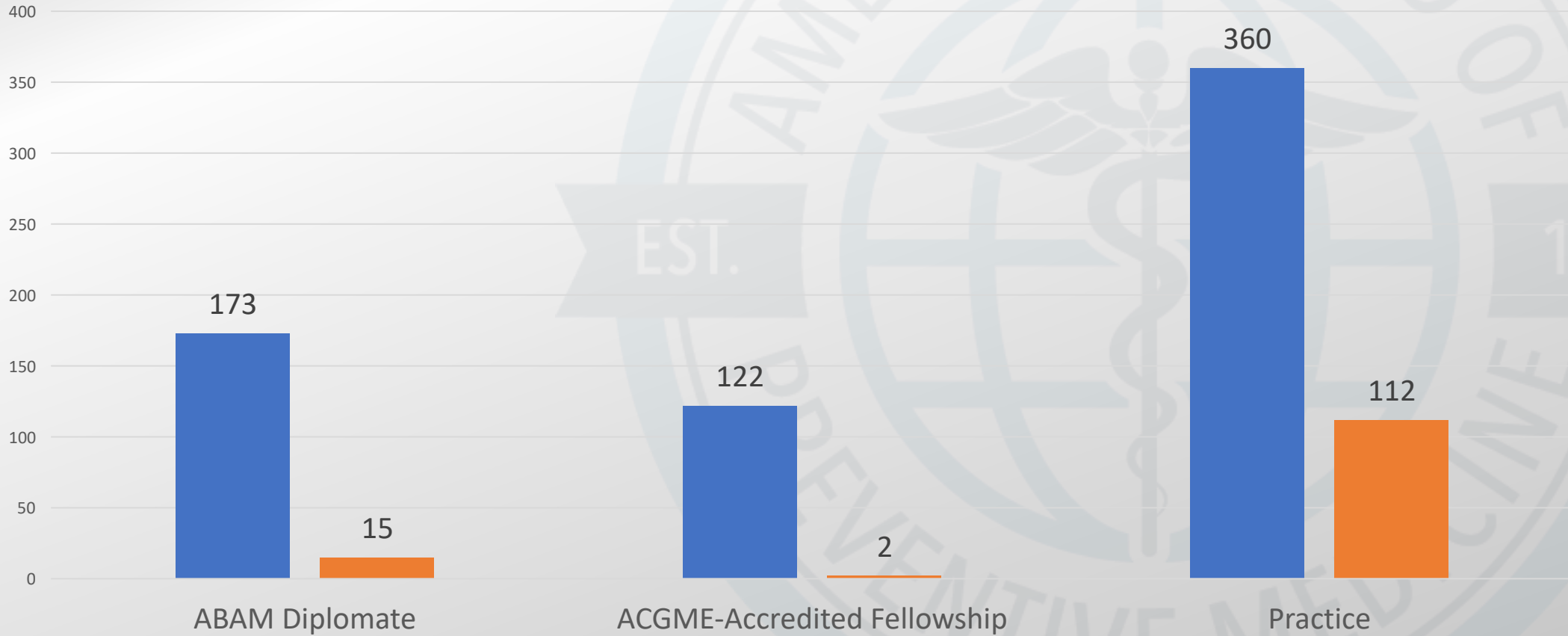




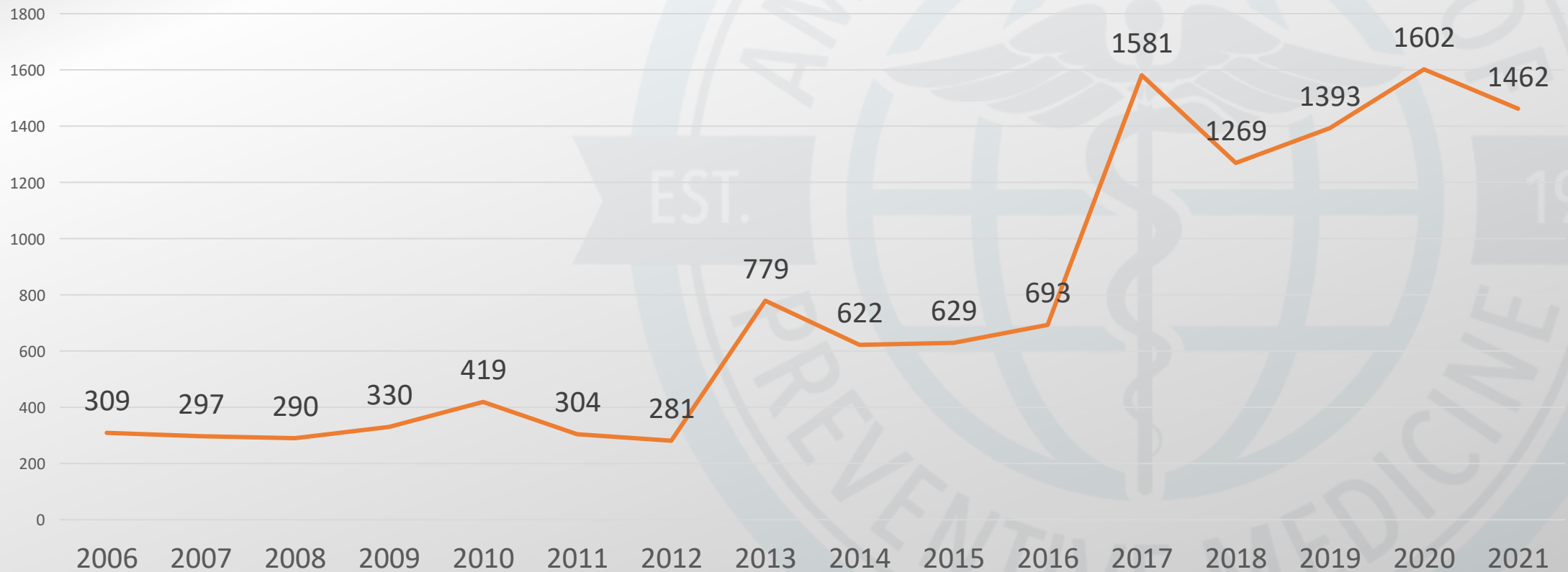
# Comparison of Applications, 2017-2021



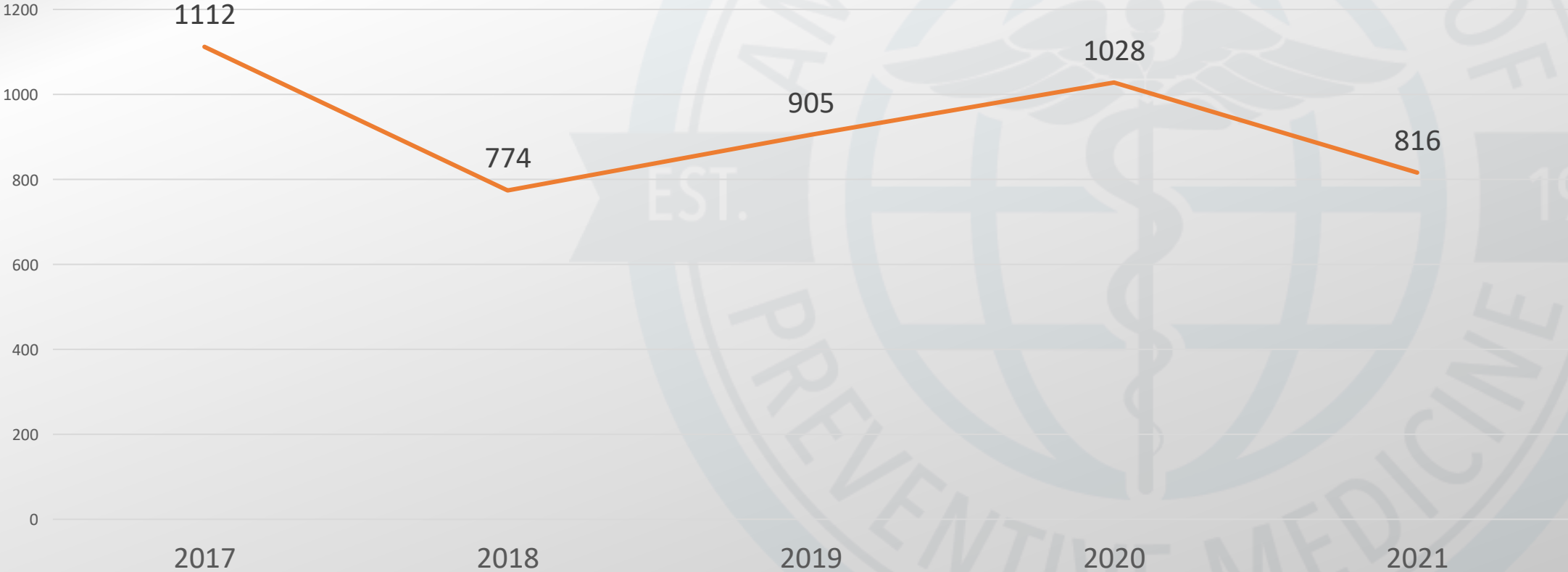
# Addiction Medicine Applications Completed by Pathway, 2021



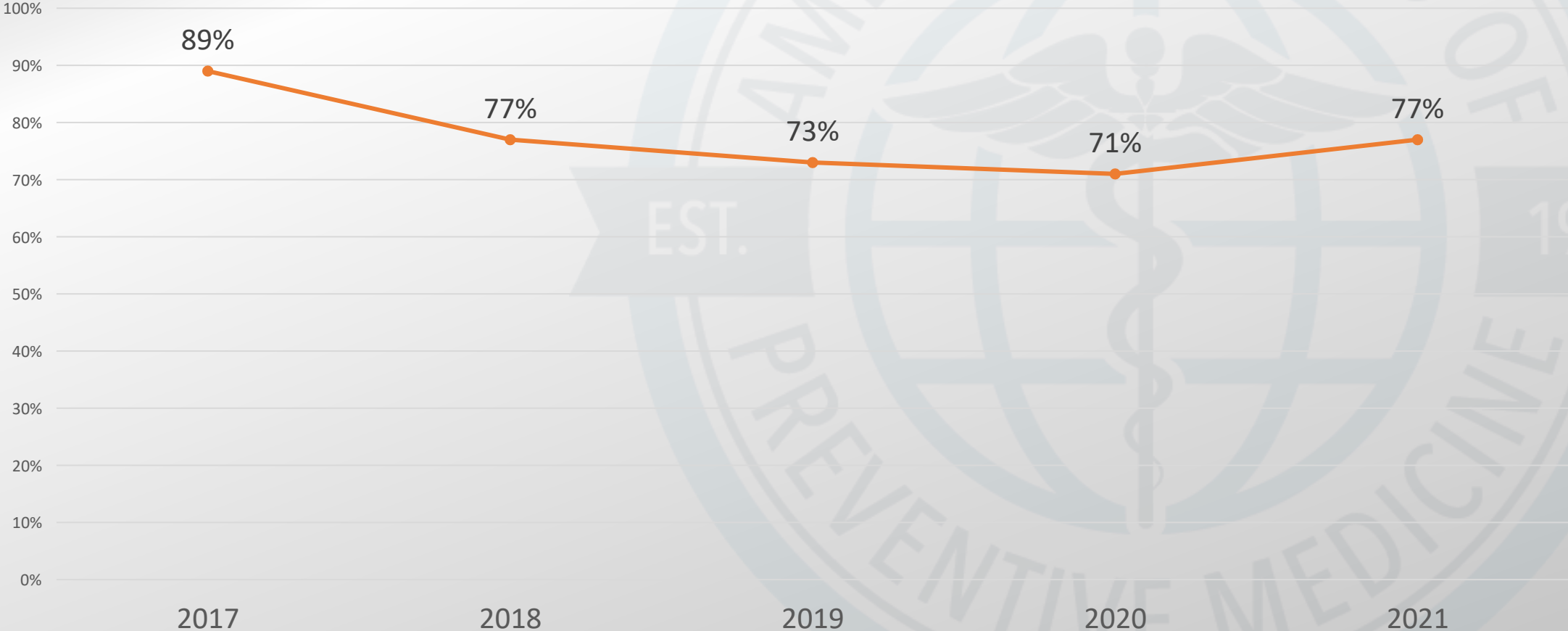
# Exam Registrations, 2006-2021



# Addiction Medicine Exam Registrations, 2017-2021



# Addiction Medicine Exam Pass Rates by Pathway



# Eligibility Requirements & Pathways to Certification



# Key Eligibility Requirements for Addiction Medicine Exam

- Current certification by any of the ABMS Member Boards or the AOA
- Medical degree or equivalent
- Medical licensure: current, unrestricted and valid in US or Canada in all jurisdictions where the physician is licensed
- Training or experience in Addiction Medicine
  - Practice Pathway
  - ACGME-Accredited Fellowship in Addiction Medicine

# Practice Pathway

- Provides opportunity for physicians who have significant Addiction Medicine practice experience or training but who have not completed an ACGME-accredited Addiction Medicine fellowship to qualify for the certification exam
- Practice Pathway will be open through 2025 Exam Cycle
  - Original Expiration Date was at the conclusion of the 2021 Exam Cycle
  - ABPM sought and received a 4-year extension of the Practice Pathway
- Two pathway tracks:
  - Time in practice
  - Non-ACGME-Accredited Fellowship training



# Practice Pathway: Time in Practice

- 1,920 hours of relevant practice in ADM at the subspecialty level
  - Completed over at least 24 months
  - Need not be continuous, but must be within 60 months immediately preceding June 30 of the application year
- Broad-based, professional activity with significant addiction medicine responsibility
  - Clinical care including prevention and treatment of individuals at risk for substance use disorders (minimum 480 hours)
  - Teaching, research and/or administration activities (maximum 1,440 hours)

# Practice Pathway: Non-ACGME-Accredited Fellowship

- Successful completion of at least 12 months of fellowship training accredited by the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM)
  - Documentation of the training curriculum
  - Description of applicant training experience
  - Verification by Program Director
- If fellowship training is less than 12 months, training time may be applied to the “Time in Practice” track

# ACGME-Accredited Fellowship Pathway

- Successful completion of a minimum of 12 months of ACGME-accredited fellowship training
  - If fellowship program is approved for more than 12 months of training, successful completion of all years of training for which the fellowship program is accredited
- Addiction Medicine fellowship programs began accreditation process through ACGME in February 2018

# Examination Content, Questions & Timeline



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# Exam Content

- Assesses ability to apply knowledge rather than recall of isolated facts
- Focuses on high-frequency and/or high-impact patient problems
- Emphasizes clinical situations and decisions arising in the experienced addiction medicine specialist's practice

# Core Content Areas

Core Content Areas		
25%	01	Definitions
	02	Genetics
	03	Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Principles
	04	Pharmacology
	05	Neurobiology of Addiction
20%	06	Epidemiological Concepts
	07	Epidemiological Trends of Substance Use Disorders
	08	Prevention
40%	09	Screening, Assessment, and Brief Intervention
	10	Overview of Addiction Treatment
	11	Management of Inpatient and Outpatient Intoxication and Withdrawal
	12	Pharmacologic Interventions for Addictions
	13	Behavioral Interventions
	14	Co-Occurring and Medical Disorders among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Addiction
	15	Co-Occurring Psychiatric Disorders among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Addiction
	16	Pain and Addiction
15%	17	Ethical, Legal and Liability Issues in Addiction Practice

# Exam Content

Addiction		Target Percentage
01	Alcohol	15-20%
02	Sedatives	7-10%
03	Stimulants	7-10%
04	Opioids	10-15%
05	Cannabinoids	7-10%
06	Nicotine	15-20%
07	Hallucinogens	.5-3%
08	Dissociatives	.5-3%
09	Inhalants	.5-3%
10	Anabolic steroids	.5-3%
11	Other substances	1-3%
12	Nonsubstance addiction	1-3%
13	General/All substances combined	1-5%

# Exam Questions

- Multiple choice questions; single-best answer
- Types of Multiple-Choice Questions
  - **Recall:** specific important facts
  - **Interpretation:** e.g., identify a fatal study flaw, diagnose a patient
  - **Problem Solving:** e.g., judgment about clinical treatment, healthcare administration, study design, 2x2 tables, etc.
- Calculator, drug name list, and normal range values provided



# What is NOT on the Exam?

- True/False items
- K-type questions: choose appropriate set of correct answers
- Trick questions
- “Experimental” questions

# Exam Timeline

- Late October – early November: all exams administered
- November/December: all exams scored
- December/January: Key validation process
  - Each question's performance reviewed
  - Focus on low-performing question
  - Questions may be retained, re-keyed, or dropped based on performance
  - Each candidate's exam is then rescored
- January: Board reviews exam results and characteristics
  - Scores equated to a standardized score so passing standard represents the same level of proficiency year after year
  - Eliminates effects of variance in exam difficulty from year to year

# Certificate

- Attests that all requirements of Certification in the Specialty/Subspecialty have been met.
- Dated January 1 of the year after the exam.
  - Subject to continuing compliance with Continuing Certification Program (CCP) requirements, Certificate will expire December 31, ten years after issuance
  - E.g., for those passing the 2022 examination, the effective date of the Certification will be January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2032.
- All Addiction Medicine Diplomates Certified by the ABPM are subject to the Annual Fee

# Important Dates

Application Window Opens - March 14

Exam Registration Opens - May 25

Application Window Closes – June 30

Late Application Window Opens - July 1

Late Application Window Closes - July 15

Exam Registration Closes - September 16

Exam Administration – October 10-30

Exam Results – Early February 2023

# Continuing Certification Program Update



# Updated ABMS Standards for Continuing Certification

- ABMS approved updated Standards for Continuing Certification in October 2021
  - Provides framework for a meaningful process of ongoing professional development and assessment
  - All ABMS Member Boards, including ABPM, are obligated to implement the updated standards in their continuing certification programs, using a phased approach

# Transitioning to Continuing Certification

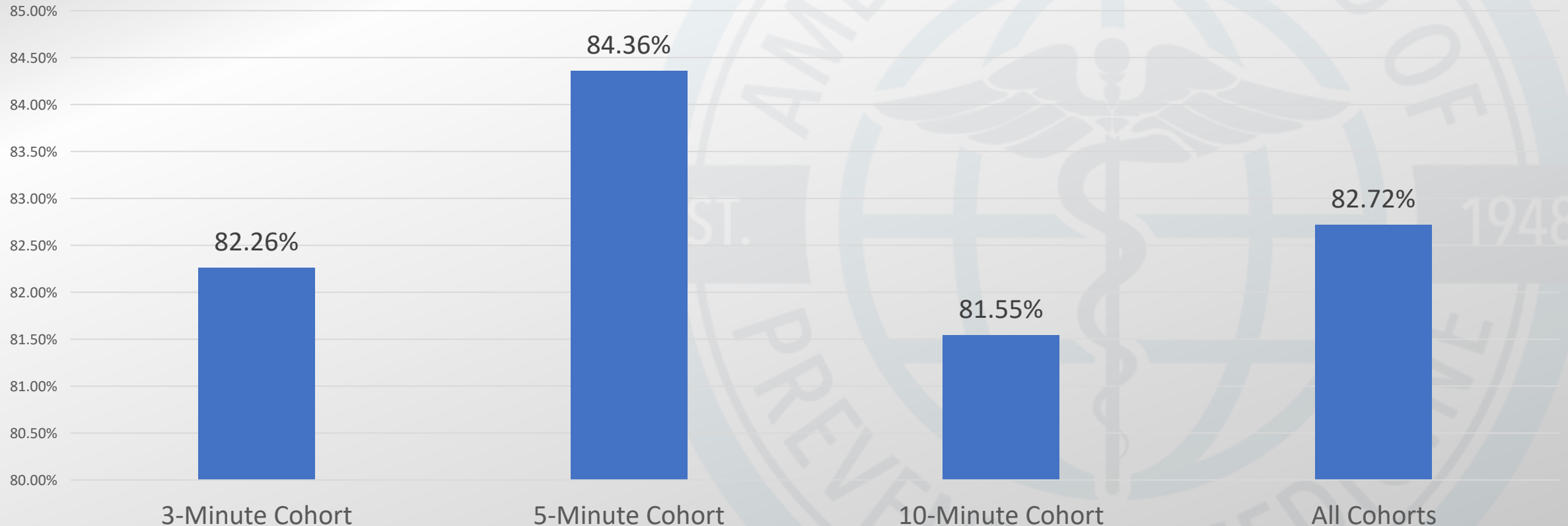
- Phase 1 of the ABPM's CCP launches January 1, 2023, when all Time-Limited Diplomates will be required to:
  - Attest online to earning 20 CME credits per year
  - Pay the annual fee
- Phase 2 of the ABPM's CCP, including a Longitudinal Assessment Program (LAP) is expected to launch for all Specialties & Subspecialties on January 1, 2025

# LAP Pilot in Clinical Informatics

- ABPM's LAP Pilot includes all Diplomates Certified by the ABPM in Clinical Informatics
- Cohorts broken down into separate groups having 3, 5, or 10 minutes to answer each MCQ
- Every six-months required to answer 12 MCQs using the ABPM's on-line assessment tool
- Open-book Exam
- Pilot launched April 1, 2021 and will conclude March 31, 2023
- Segment 1 Results very promising

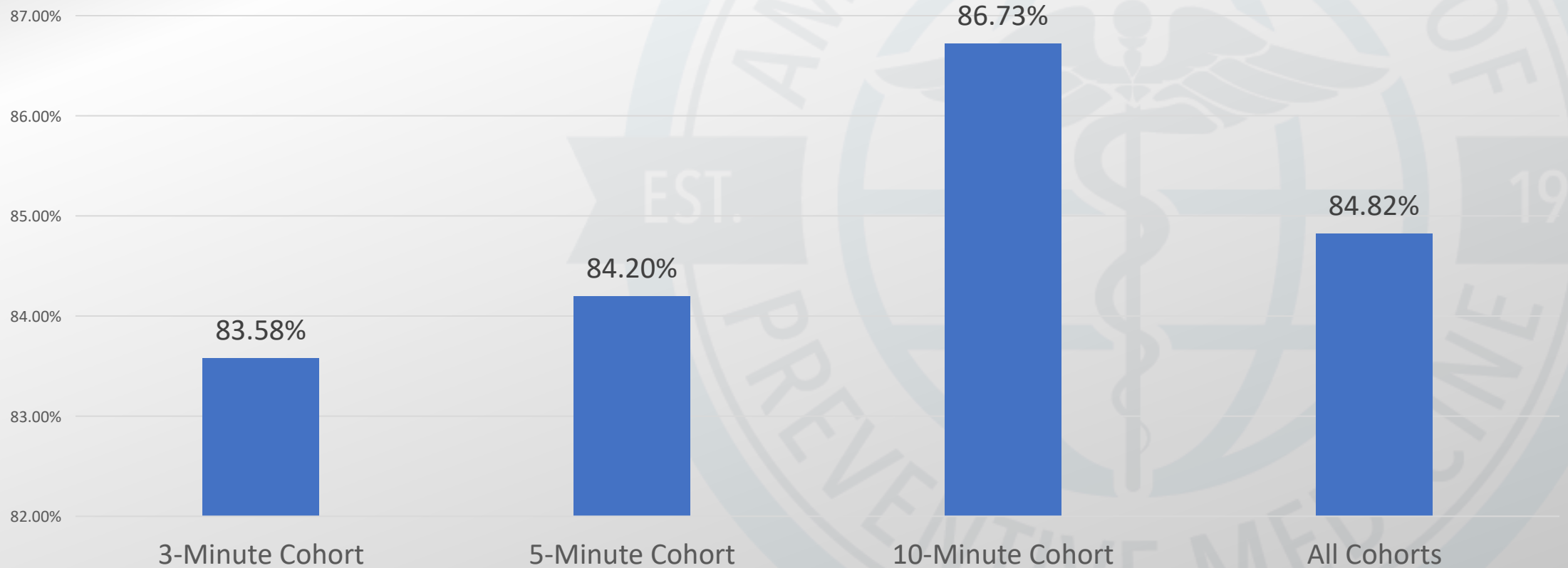


# Percentage of Segment 1 Assessments (12 Questions) Completed by Cohort



Number of Diplomates assigned to each cohort:  
3-Minute: 696  
5-Minute: 697  
10-Minute: 699

# Percentage of Questions Rated “Somewhat” or “Very Relevant” by Cohort\*



\*For those CI Diplomates who answered all 12 Items in Segment 1 of the LAP - Pilot

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Questions?

