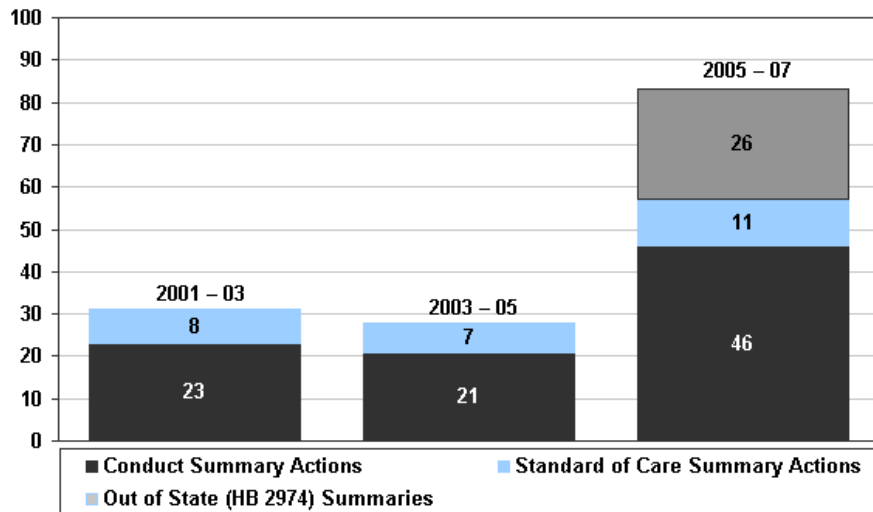




Serious Discipline Actions



Summary actions can be taken by any disciplining authority - board, commission or secretary - when there is evidence of immediate harm to patients. Summaries limit or suspend the health care professional from practice until a hearing is held. The practitioner is still entitled to a legal and fair process, referred to as due process.

The number of summary actions tripled between 2005 and 2007. This was due to more focus on misconduct, including sexual misconduct, and the addition of mandatory suspensions in 2006. The 2006 legislature passed House Bill 2974. This requires summary suspension of anyone prohibited from practice in another state. The prohibition must be based on conduct considered unprofessional in Washington.

Source: Washington State Department of Health. Data compiled from licensing, complaint, discipline and other information. See also, *2005–2007 Biennial Report*, Health Professions Quality Assurance and Regulatory Activities. June 2008.

Note: Periods are based on the biennium, which includes the two-year state budget cycle. For example, 05-07, would be July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007.