



APPENDIX J

(Question 23): Statistical data on disciplinary actions for this profession / occupation in
other states.

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Typically, when one thinks of the responsibilities of a licensure board, one thinks of enforcement. This is an important function for any regulatory agency, but in the case of the design professions, it is one that is employed only sporadically. Many of the enforcement statistics are not readily available, but where they are, the numbers paint an interesting picture. New York provides an excellent compilation of its disciplinary actions for licensed professionals. In that state, 5 actions were taken against the over 1100 licensed landscape architects within the 10-year period between 1994-2003, or 0.429%. When compared to other design professions, this is a higher percentage rate than either architects (0.399%) or engineers (0.287%). In real numbers, there are over 27,000 engineers licensed in New York, and within that same 10-year period, only 79 actions were taken, or fewer than 8 per year.

This is not to say that enforcement is an inconsequential tool for protecting the public. Licensing boards are available to discipline professionals for malpractice or unethical behavior, including those who are practicing without a license. In these difficult fiscal times, boards are hampered by funding issues, which restricts their ability to aggressively seek out professionals who may be practicing without a license, or those who have otherwise violated the licensing statute.