

Board of Funeral Services

Delaware Health Force Team

The primary objective of the Delaware Board of Funeral Services is to protect the public from unsafe practices and practices which tend to reduce competition or fix prices for services. The Board must also maintain standards of professional competence and service delivery. To meet these objectives, the Board

- develops standards for professional competency,
- promulgates rules and regulations,
- adjudicates complaints against professionals and, when necessary, imposes disciplinary sanctions.

The Board issues licenses to funeral directors, interns, funeral establishments and crematory establishments. It also issues funeral director limited licenses to Maryland- or Pennsylvania-licensed funeral directors.

The Board's statutory authority is in [24 Del. C., Chapter 31](#).

The Board of Funeral Services licenses both individuals and facilities which is somewhat different from many other board of the Division of Professional Regulation. Information on facilities is contained in the facilities section of this report.

Funeral Resident Intern

All applicants, with the exception of the applicants who meet the experience requirement below to apply by reciprocity, must apply for a Funeral Resident Intern license and serve a one-year internship in Delaware, with the intention of later applying for Delaware licensure as a Funeral Director. A Delaware resident internship is required if a practitioner:

- does not hold a current Funeral Director license in any jurisdiction (state, U.S. territory or District of Columbia)
- holds a current Funeral Director license in another jurisdiction but has not practiced as a funeral director at least three of the past five years.

If a current Funeral Director license is current in another jurisdiction and an individual has practiced as a funeral director at least three of the past five years, they may submit the Funeral Director application.

Funeral Director

The Funeral Director oversees, directs, and coordinates all aspects of funeral services including body preparation, visitation, services, burials, and cremations, while providing caring support and advice to families and friends of the deceased.¹

Funeral Director Limited Licensure

Funeral Director Limited licensure (see Figures 1-5) is available only to funeral directors validly licensed by another jurisdiction (U.S. state, possession, territory or District of Columbia)

provided that the jurisdiction where he or she is licensed grants a similar privilege to Delaware-licensed funeral directors (24 Del. C. §3108). Currently, Delaware only has limited licensure agreements with the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Funeral Director Limited licensure allows a practitioner to:

- make a removal of a dead human body in Delaware,
- return the body to another state or country,
- return dead bodies from another state or country to Delaware for final disposition,
- complete the family history portion of the death certificate,
- sign the death certificate in the capacity of a licensed funeral director, and
- execute any other procedures necessary to arrange for the final disposition of a dead human body.

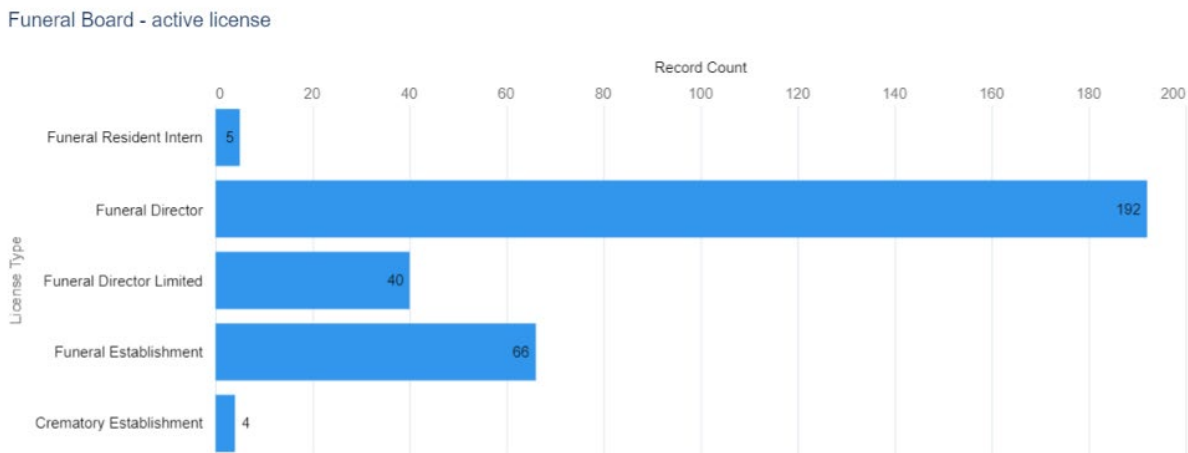
Funeral Establishment Permit

A valid Funeral Establishment Permit issued by the Board of Funeral Services is required to open or operate a funeral establishment in Delaware. This permit is required in addition to any business license issued by the Division of Revenue. Please see the facilities section of this report for additional information.

Crematory Establishment

A valid Crematory Establishment Permit issued by the Board of Funeral Services is required to open or operate a crematory in Delaware when crematory is not part of a Delaware-licensed Funeral Establishment’s operation. Section 13.2.13 of the Board’s Rules and Regulations more fully explains when a crematory does not need a permit. Please see facilities section of this report for additional information.

Figure 1. Active Funeral Services Licenses by Type*, N=307



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* an active license does not guarantee an individual is actively seeing patients.

Figure 2. Active Funeral Services Licenses by Gender, select license types (when reported)

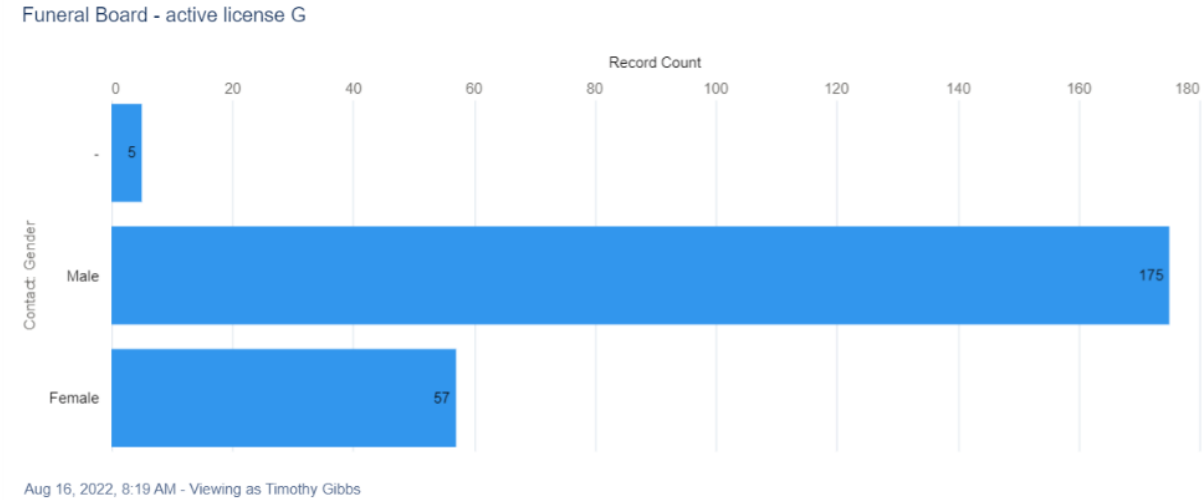
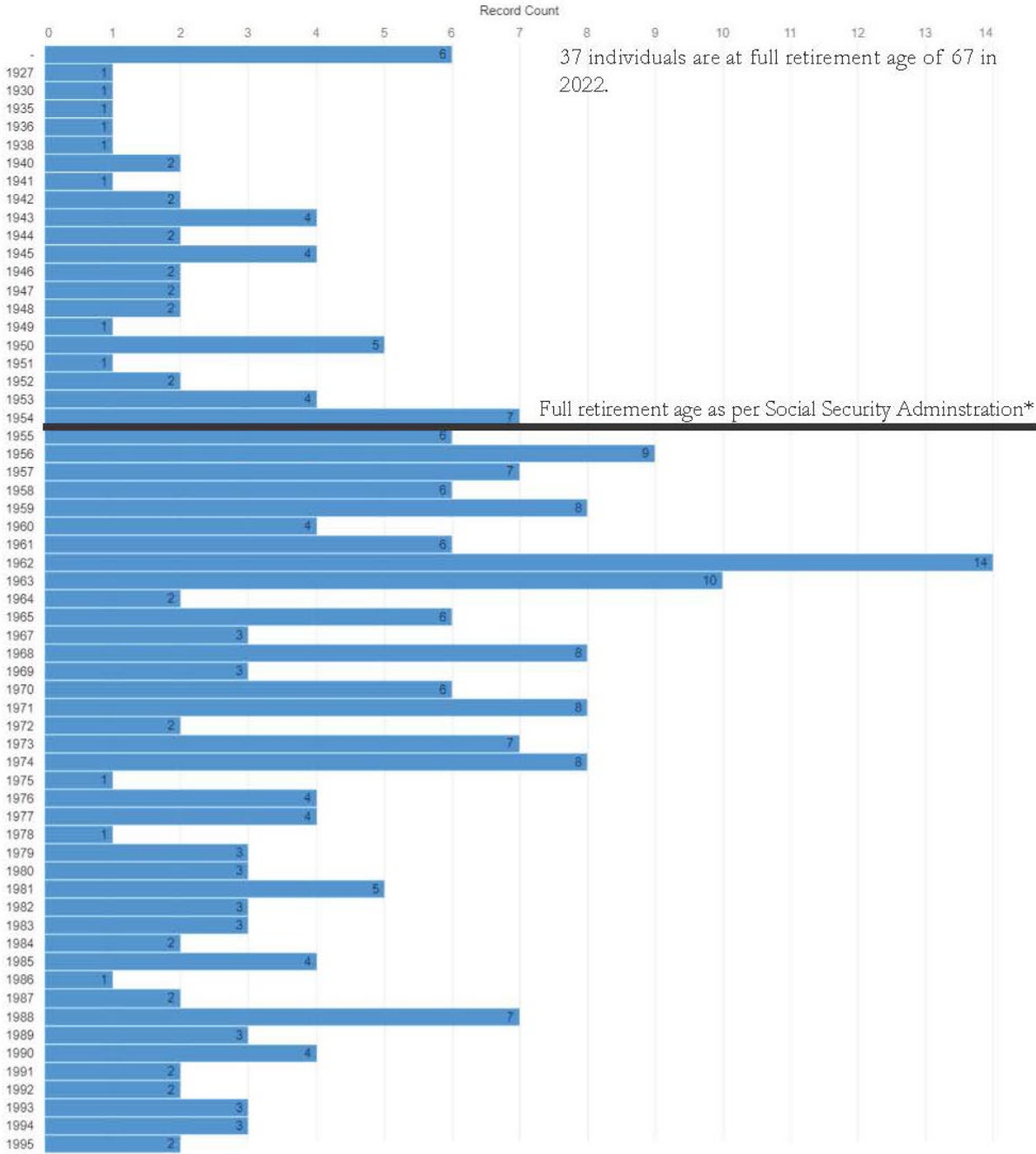


Figure 3. Active Funeral Services Licenses by Birth Year (when reported)

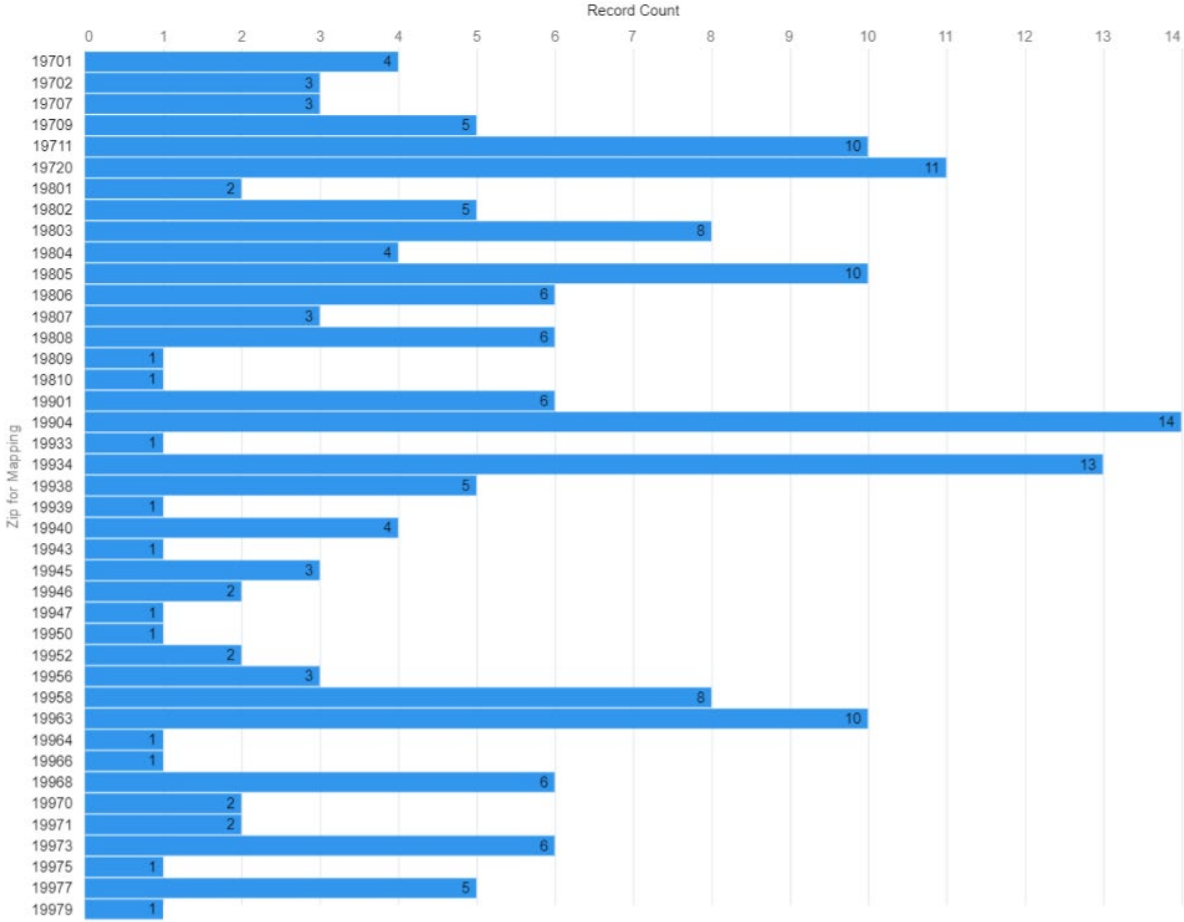


Note: Six individuals did not provide a year of birth

* According to the Social Security Administration “Full retirement age is the age when you can start receiving your full retirement benefit amount. The full retirement age is 66 if you were born from 1943 to 1954. The full retirement age increases gradually if you were born from 1955 to 1960, until it reaches 67. For anyone born 1960 or later, full retirement benefits are payable at age 67.”

Figure 4. Numerical Distribution of Active Funeral Services Licenses by ZIP code

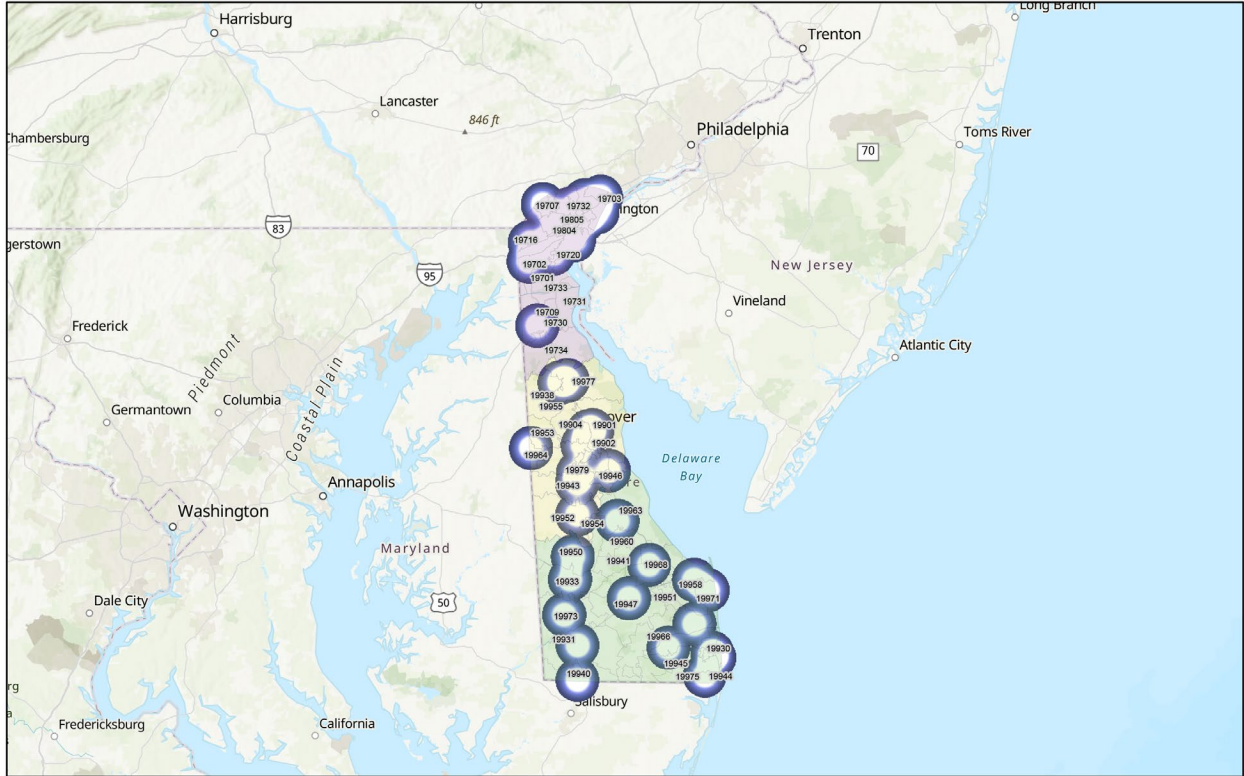
License by Mapping Zipcode Funeral ZIP



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Figure 5 shows most, but not all, ZIP codes due to scaling limitations. Hot spots are employed to bring perspective to viewing the overall map and distribution of healthcare professionals and should not be interpreted as valuing value without referring to the numbers listed in the chart above.

Figure 5. Visual Distribution of Active Funeral Services Licenses by ZIP Code



References

1. Society for Human Resource Management. (2022). Funeral directors. Retrieved from <https://www.shrm.org/ResourcesAndTools/tools-and-samples/job-descriptions/Pages/Funeral-Director.aspx>

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