

## **Board of Massage and Bodywork**

Delaware Health Force Team

The primary objective of the Delaware Board of Massage and Bodywork 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 massage therapists, certifications to massage technicians and Massage Establishment licenses (see figures 1-5). It also issues temporary certifications to massage technicians.

The Board's statutory authority is in [24 Del. C., Chapter 53](#).

The Board of Massage and bodywork 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.

### **Massage Therapist**

Massage therapists treat clients by using touch to manipulate the muscles and other soft tissues of the body.<sup>1</sup>

Individuals holding a Delaware Massage Therapist license must be 18 years old, pass the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) exam and:

- not licensed by any other jurisdiction (state, District of Columbia, or U.S. territory),  
OR
- licensed by another jurisdiction but have not practiced continuously in that jurisdiction for at least two years, OR
- currently licensed as a Certified Massage Technician or Temporary Massage Technician in Delaware.

A "reciprocity" agreement can be made if a therapist is are currently licensed in another jurisdiction AND has practiced continuously in that jurisdiction for at least two years, AND has passed the NCBTMB exam.

### **Massage Therapist Technician**

Delaware Certified Massage Technicians must be 18 years old and:

- not licensed by any other jurisdiction (state, District of Columbia, or U.S. territory),  
OR

- licensed by another jurisdiction but have not practiced continuously in that jurisdiction for at least two years.

A “reciprocity” agreement can be made if a technician is currently licensed in another jurisdiction AND has practiced continuously in that jurisdiction for at least two years.

## **Temporary Massage Technician Certification**

The purpose of a Temporary Massage Technician Certification is to allow an individual to practice while completing the educational requirements. They must be at least 18 years old, and have not yet completed the educational requirements for Massage Technician Certification.

The temporary certification is valid for one year only. It cannot be renewed, reissued or changed to inactive status.

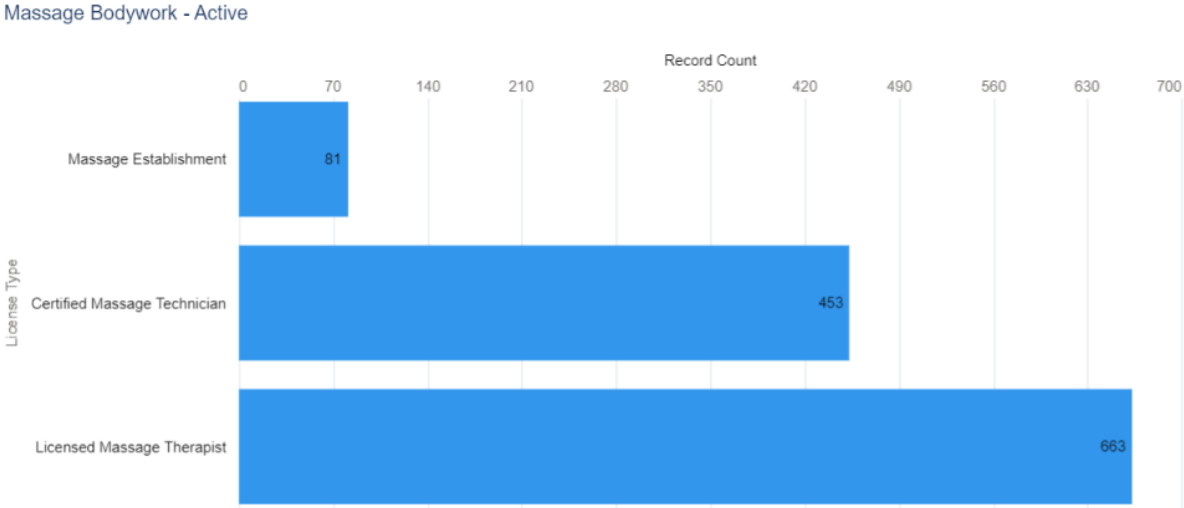
## **Massage Establishments**

An establishment license from the Board of Massage and Bodywork is required for each location operating as a Massage Establishment as defined by 24 Del. C. §5302 and Section 12.0 of the Board’s Rules and Regulations. If any of the following occurs, a new application for licensure must be approved:

- An existing unlicensed massage/bodywork business with a first application for establishment licensure,
- Opening a new establishment,
- The ownership of an existing establishment is changing (regardless of whether the name is changing),
- The name of an existing establishment is changing (regardless of whether the owner is changing),
- The location of an existing establishment is changing.

The establishment may need other licenses and permits (such as a business license from the Division of Revenue or permit from the town/city where the establishment operates). Please see facilities section of this report for additional information.

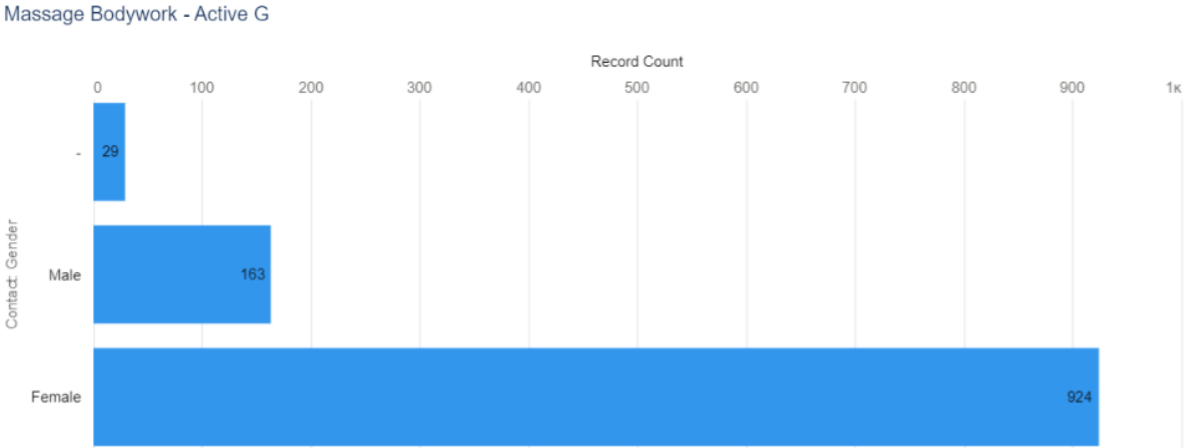
Figure 1. Active Massage and Bodywork Licenses by Type\*, N=1,197



Aug 3, 2022, 4:23 PM - Viewing as Timothy Gibbs

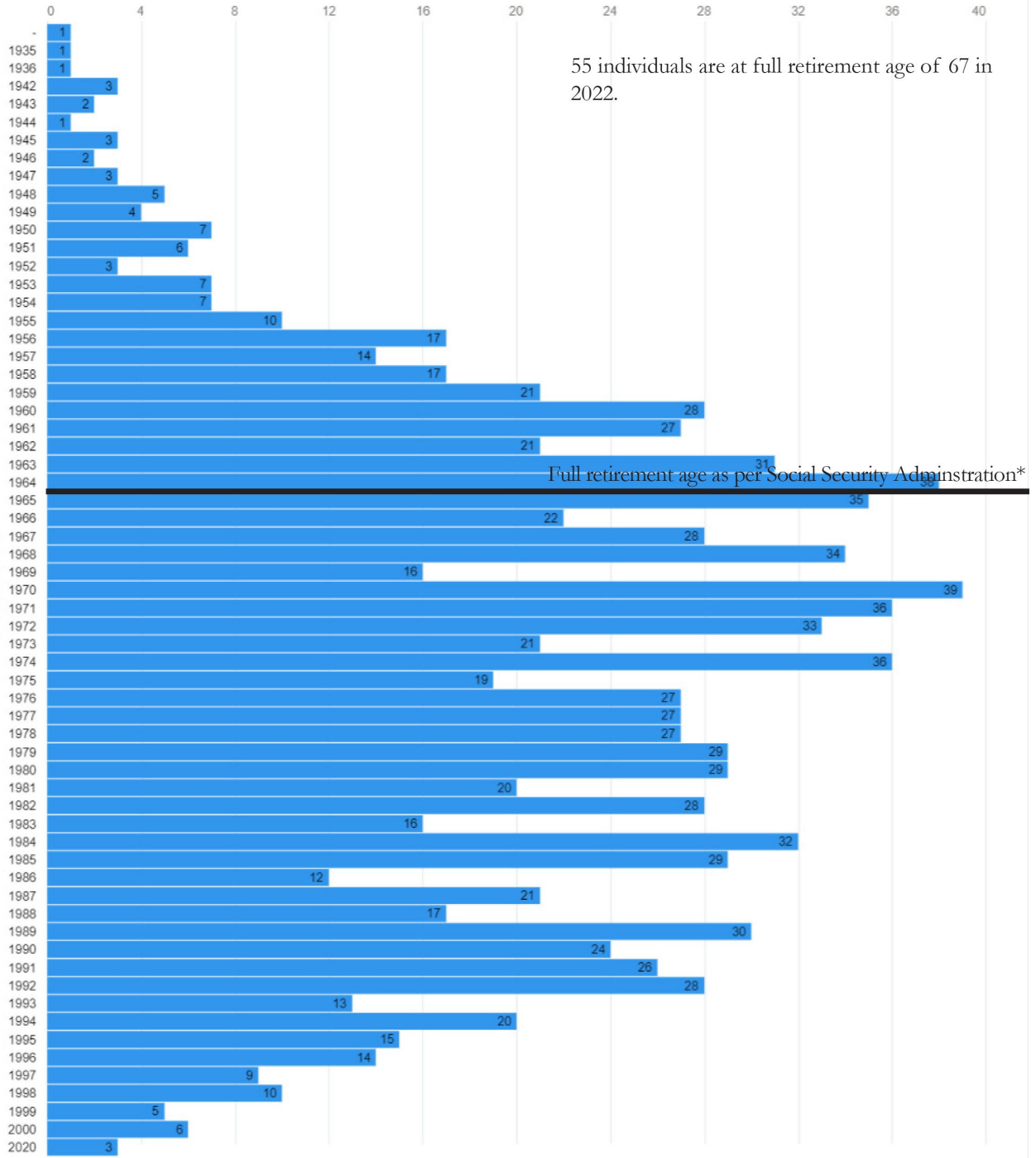
\* an active license does not guarantee an individual is actively seeing patients.

Figure 2. Active Certified Massage Technician & Massage Therapist Licenses by Gender (when reported)



Aug 16, 2022, 9:37 AM - Viewing as Timothy Gibbs

Figure 3. Active Certified Massage Technician & Massage Therapist Licenses by Birth Year (when reported)



55 individuals are at full retirement age of 67 in 2022.

Full retirement age as per Social Security Administration\*

Note. One individual 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 Massage and Bodywork Licenses by ZIP code

Lic by Map Zip Massage People BY

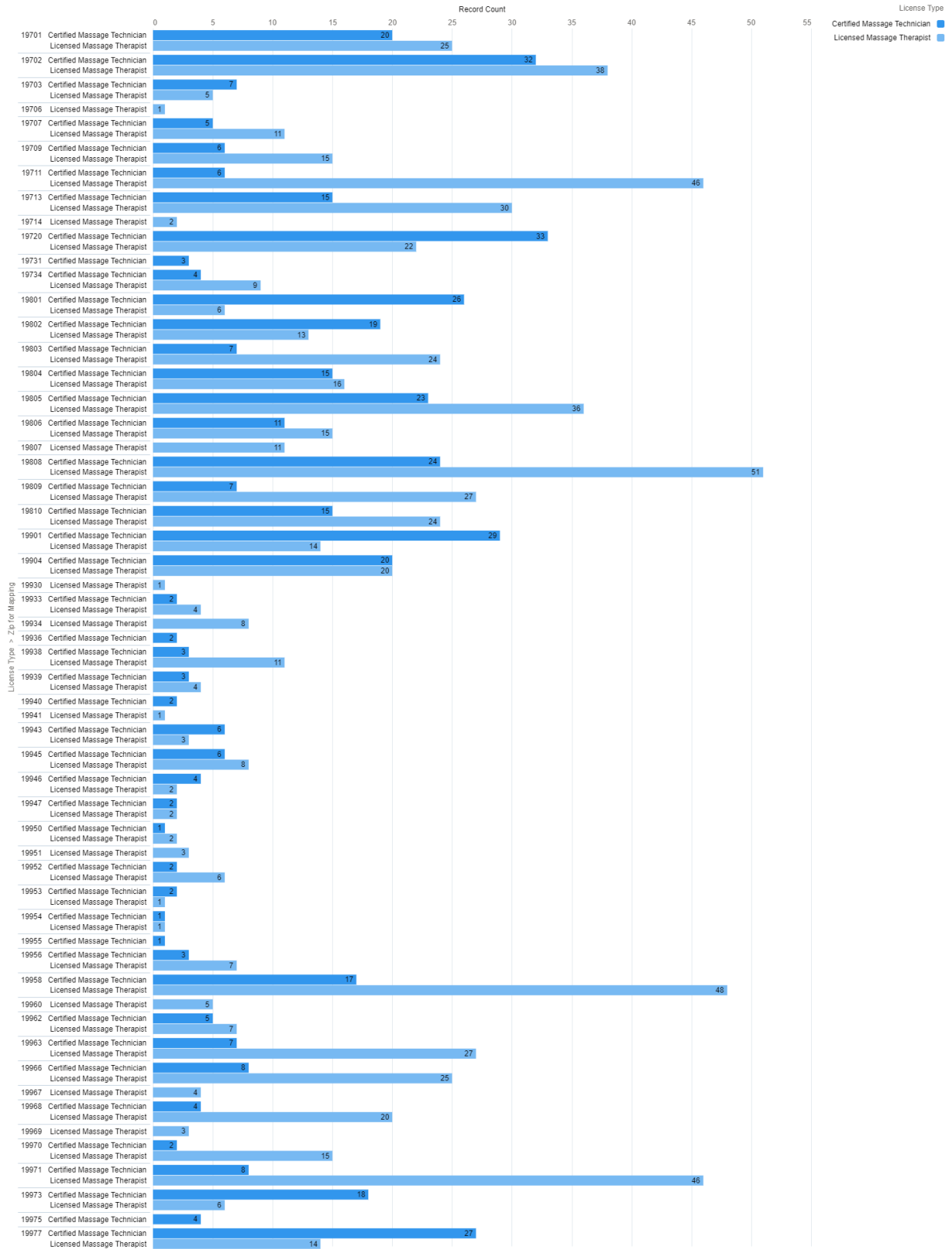
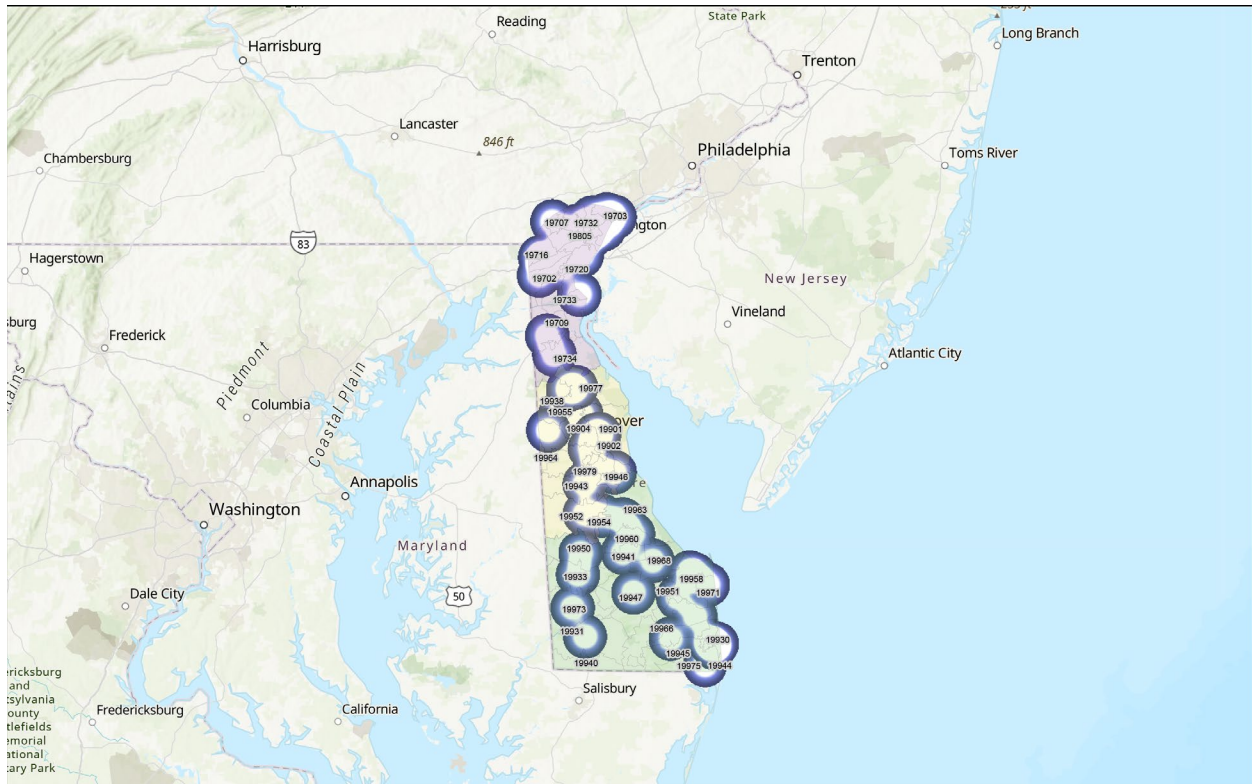


Figure 5. Visual Distribution of Active Massage and Bodywork Licenses by ZIP code



## References

1. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2022, Aug). Massage therapists. Occupational outlook handbook. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/massage-therapists.htm>

Copyright (c) 2022 Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.