

IRB ANNUAL REPORT

Jan – Dec 2024

Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

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CPHS FACULTY REPORT

The UTHealth Houston Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is committed to continuous quality improvement. This means we actively reflect on and refine our processes, ensuring efficient and effective review. We gather feedback from researchers, analyze data, and implement evidence-based changes. This ongoing process strengthens our ability to safeguard research participants while fostering scientific progress, ultimately promoting a culture of excellence in ethical research conduct.

As part of the quality improvement effort, the HRPP earned full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) in June 2009 and has maintained its accredited status continuously since then.

The quality assurance plan includes review of IRB metrics and feedback from the research community to assess the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program and make improvements, when necessary, to enhance the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program.

This report dives into the UTHealth Houston IRB's operations in 2024. It includes data on the submissions reviewed by the IRB in 2024, including types of submissions and turnaround time.

If you have questions, suggestions, or feedback, or if you would like more information about IRB operations, please contact cphs@uth.tmc.edu.

IRB PERSONNEL

IRB Leadership

Institutional Official

Anne Dougherty, MD
Vice President, Human Research Protection Program

IRB Panel 1

Chair: Rebecca Lunstroth, JD
Vice Chair: Rita Swinford, MD

IRB Panel 3

Chair: Charles Miller, PhD
Vice Chair: Susan Wootton, MD

IRB Panel 2

Chair: Deborah Brown, MD
Vice Chair: Catherine Thompson, BSN, MPH

IRB Panel 4

Chair: Max Buja, MD
Vice Chair: Joy Schmitz, PhD

IRB Membership Roster: [Current Term - September 2024 to August 2025](#)

IRB Staff:

Susan Vanessa Fuller, BS, IRB Manager

Laura K. Lincoln, BS, IRB Manager

Alba Zeigler, BS, CPhT, IRB Coordinator

Chandni Chaudhari, MD, IRB Coordinator

Gabrielle Longo, BS, IRB Coordinator

Ryesha Cook, MBA, IRB Coordinator

Meagan Olivares, BS, CCRP, Research Compliance Specialist (Reliance)

Adrick Harris, BS, Graduate Research Assistant (Personnel Changes)

Jackie Martinez-Garcia, BS, Graduate Research Assistant (Translations)

Barbara Legate, BS, Sr. Business Systems Analyst (iRIS Support)

Research Compliance Staff:

Sujatha Sridhar, MBBS, Associate Vice President, Research Compliance (Policies)

Elizabeth Gendel, PhD, Director, Research Compliance (Regulatory Reviewer)

Sylvia Romo, BSBM, Assistant Director, Research Compliance (NHSR and Reliance)

Shwetha Pazhoor, MS, Program Manager, Research Compliance (Post-Approval Audits)

Jessica Martinez, MPH, Sr. Research Compliance Specialist (Post-Approval Audits)

IRB WORKLOAD METRICS

Figure 1. New Protocols Submitted for IRB Review

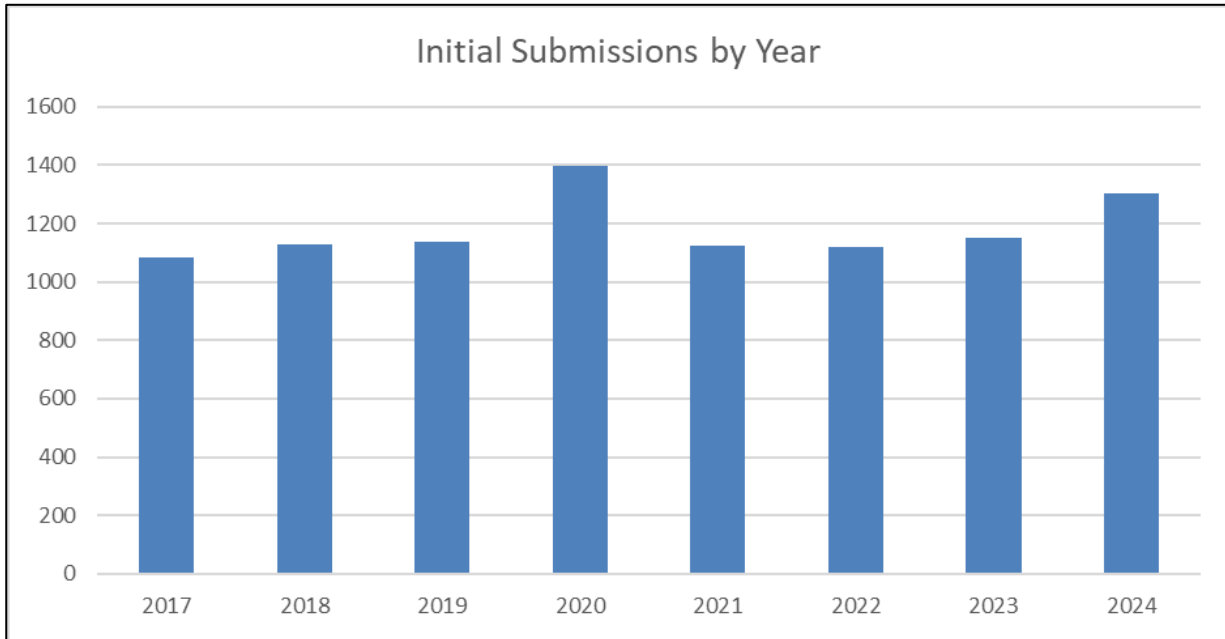


Figure 2. New Quality Improvement Projects Submitted to QI Registry

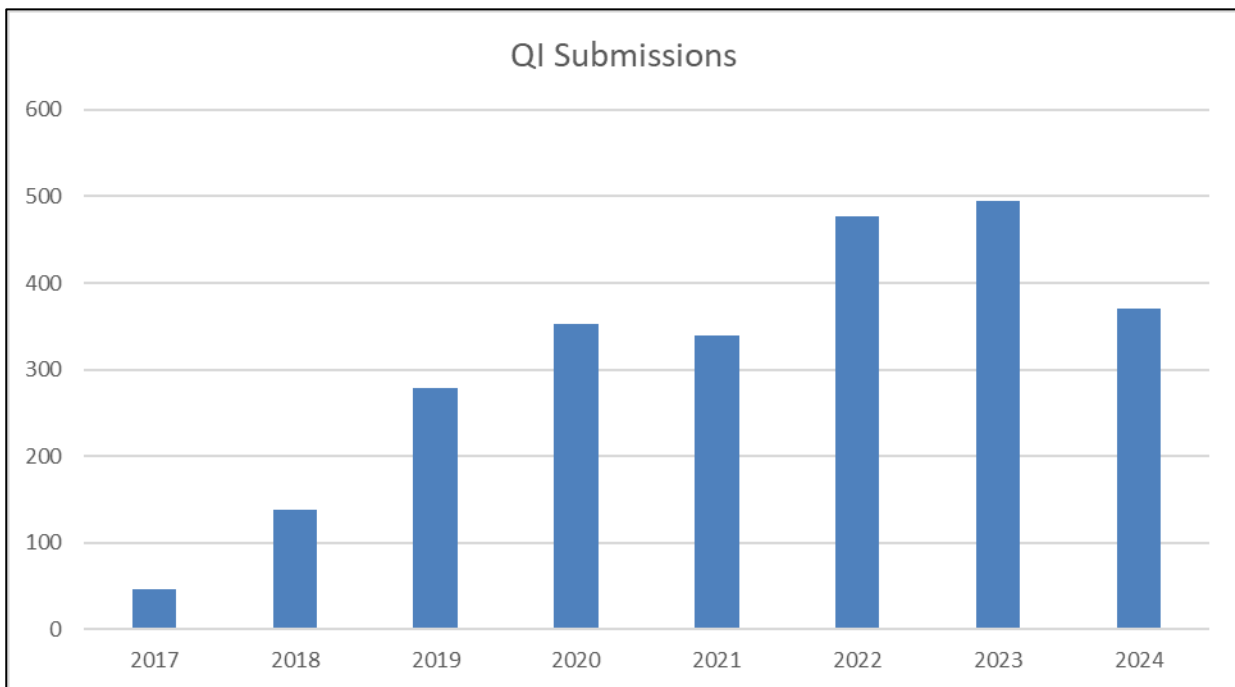


Figure 3. Submissions by Type in 2024

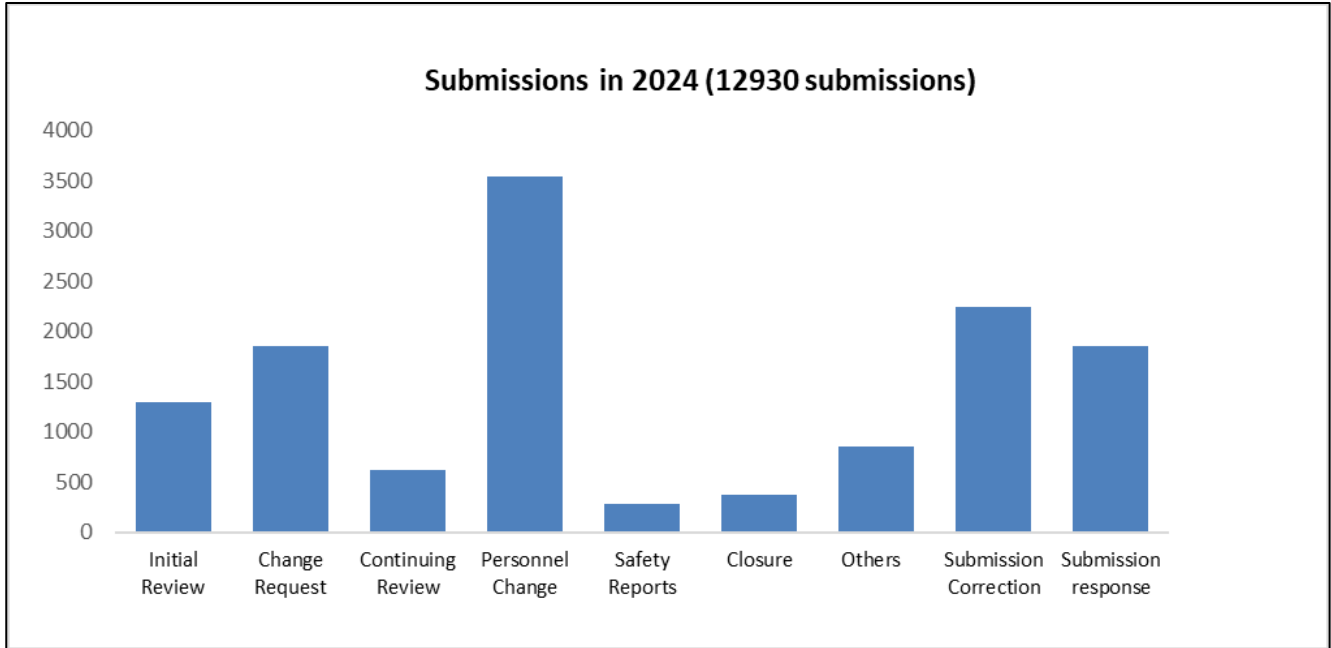
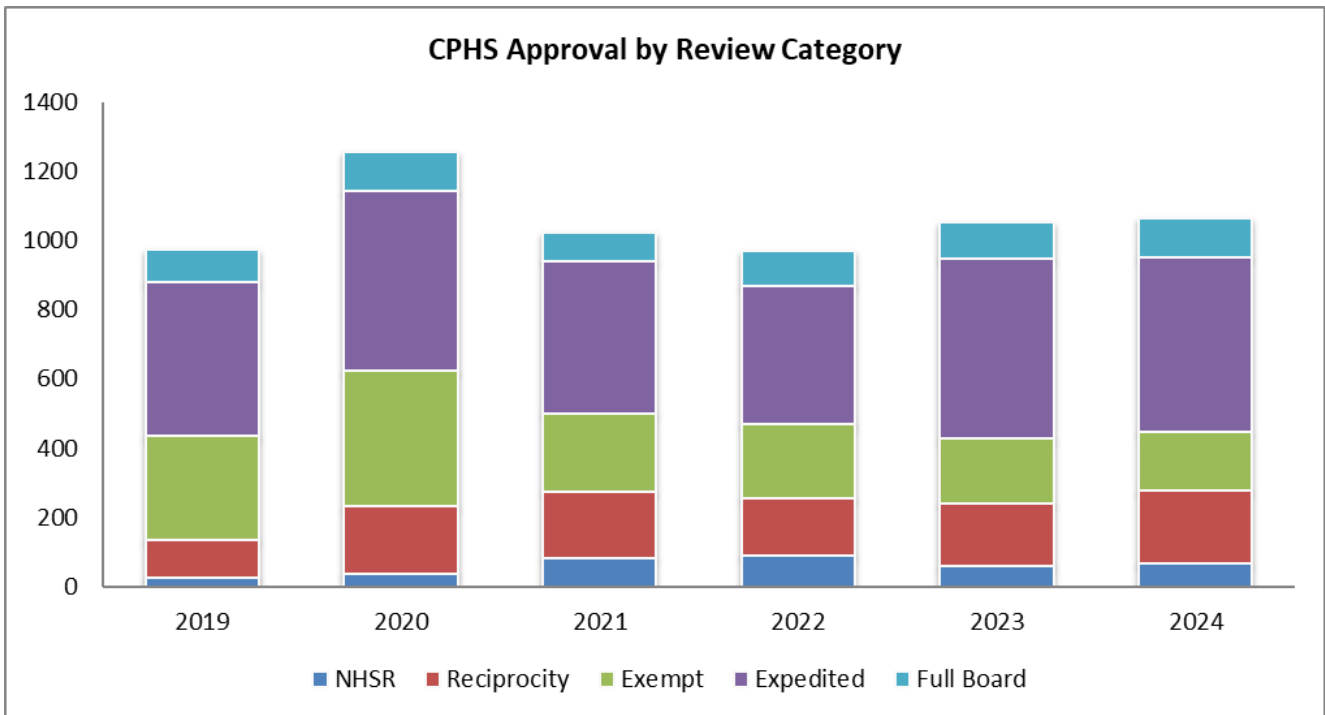


Figure 4. New Protocols Approved from 2019-2024 by Review Category



NHSR – Not Human Subjects Research

IRB OPERATIONS METRICS

Figure 5. Time to Approval for Initial Reviews by Review Category

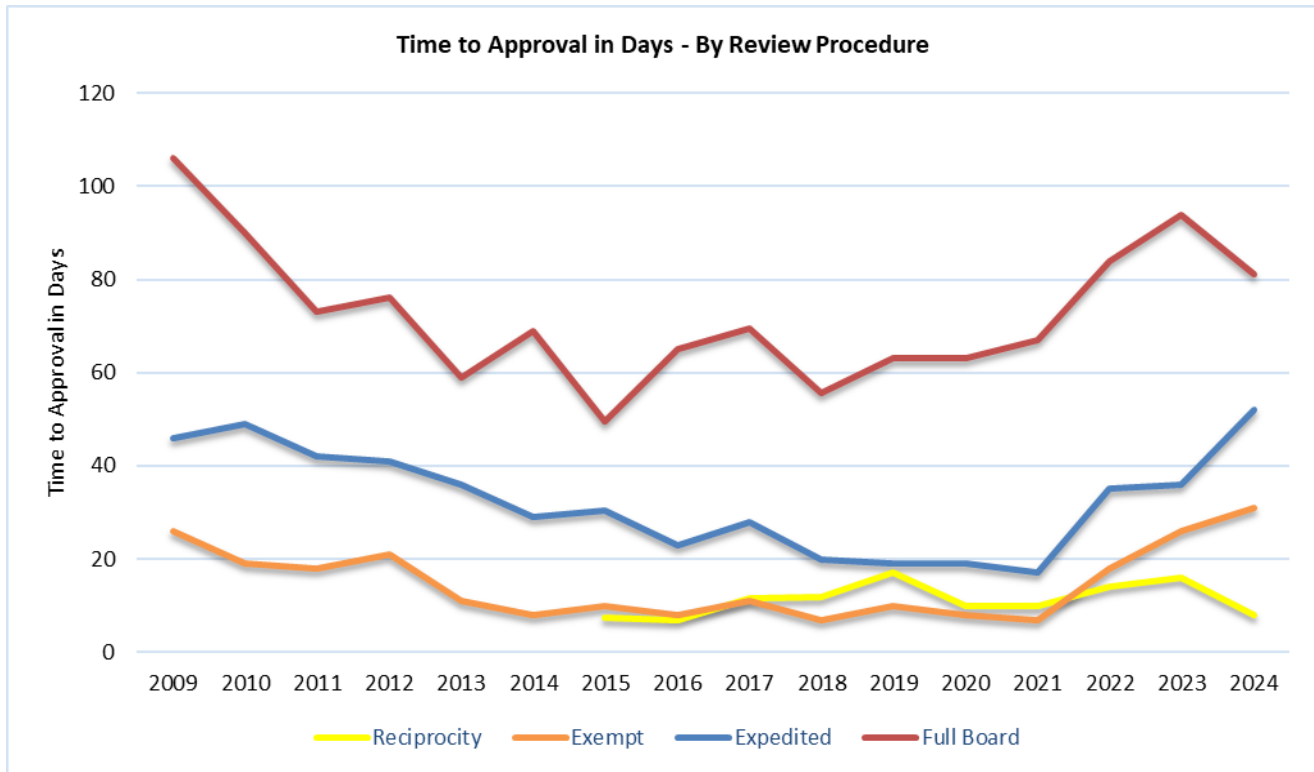
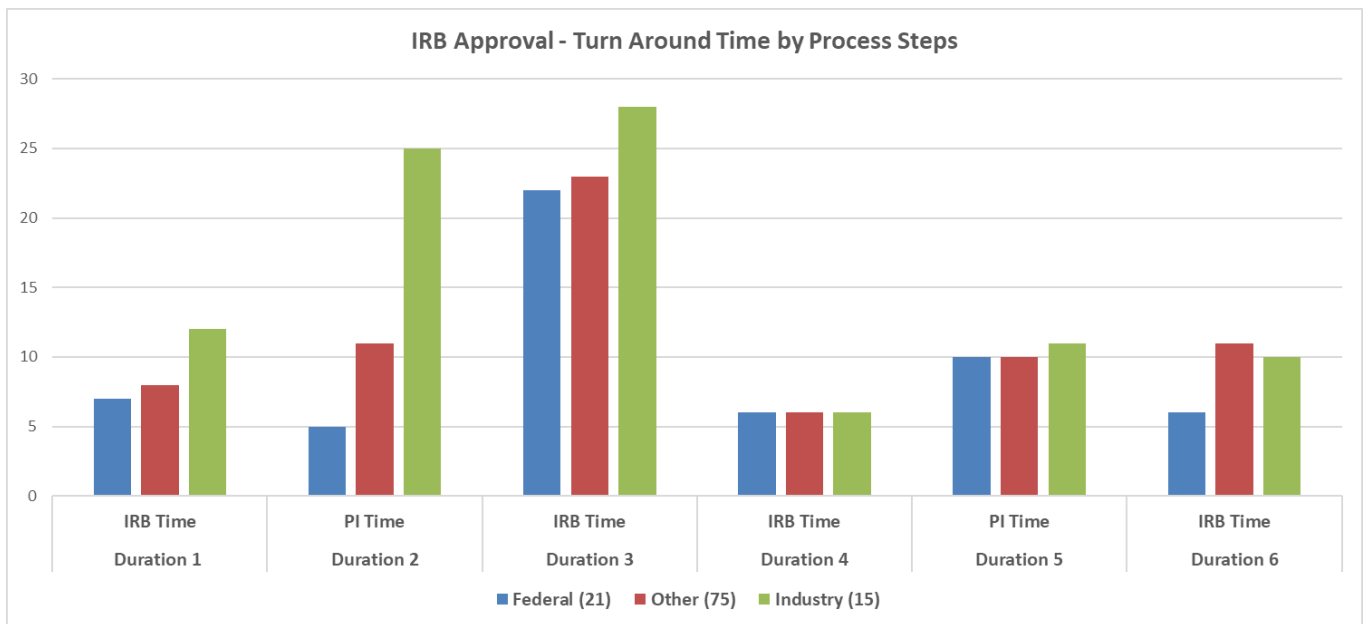
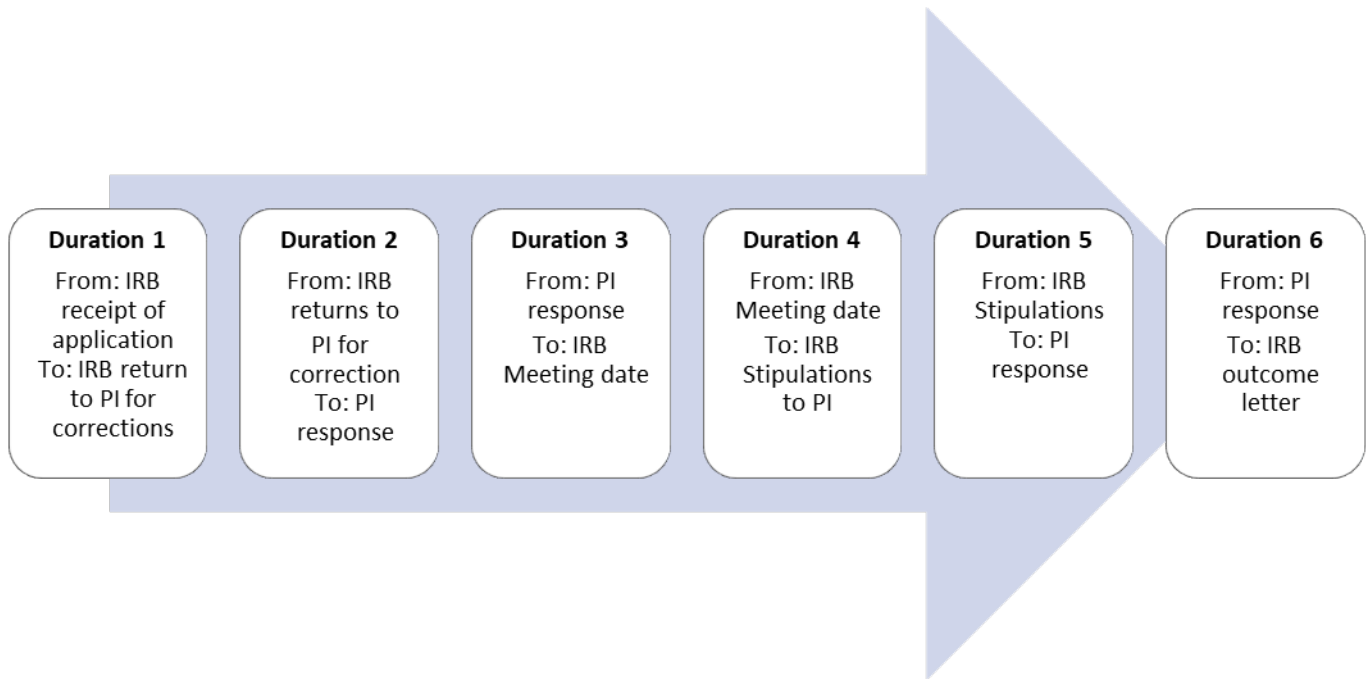


Figure 6. Turnaround Time for New Protocols Approved by Full Board



CPHS FACULTY SURVEY

A link to the CPHS Faculty Survey is sent with IRB outcome letters. Between January 2024 and December 2024, there were 102 responses.

Figure 7. CHPS Faculty Survey

