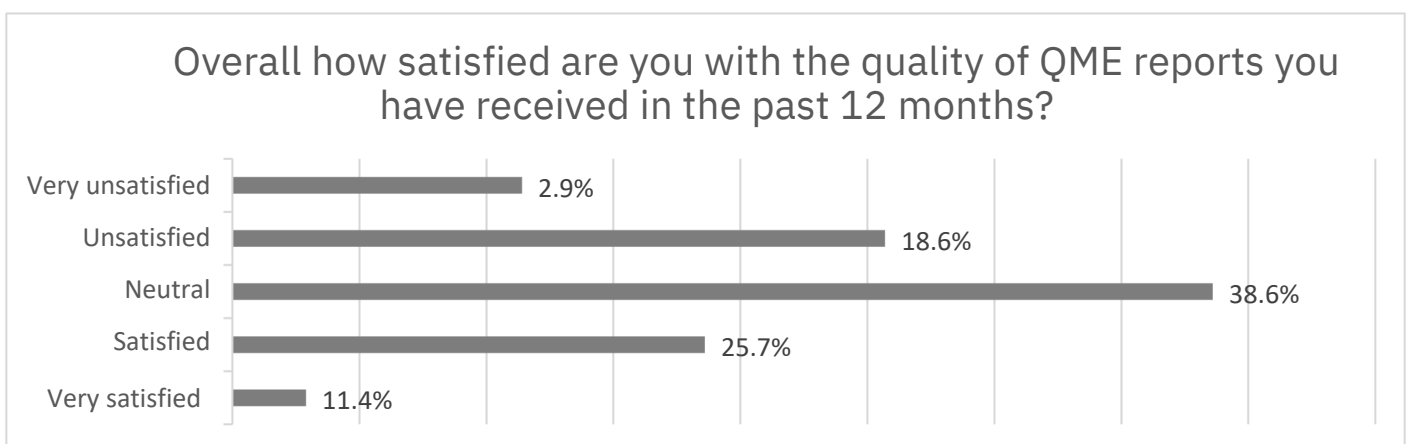
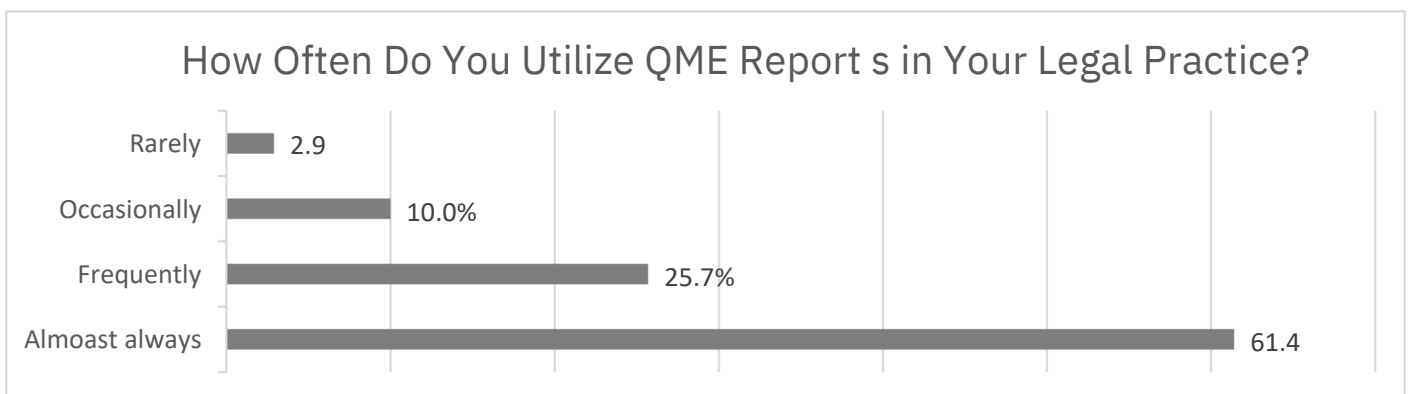




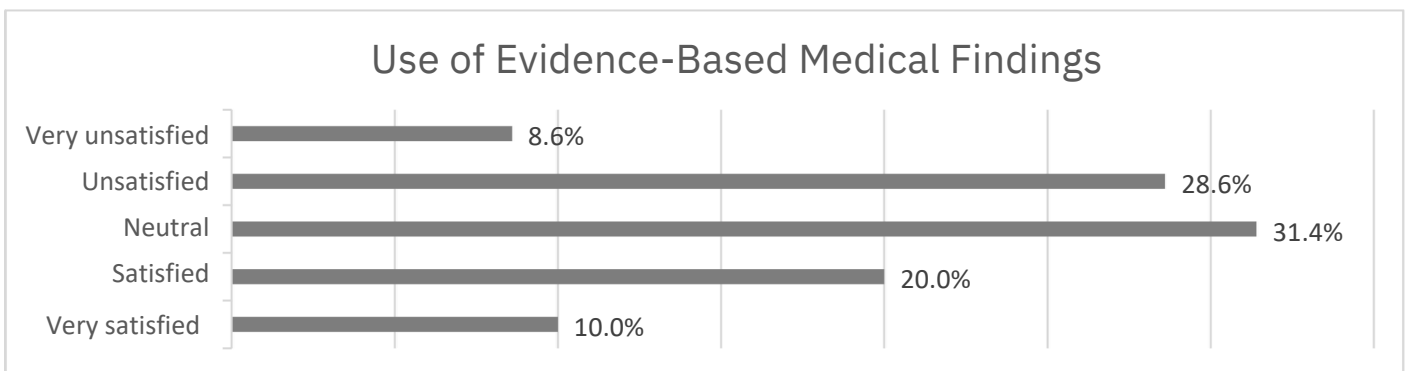
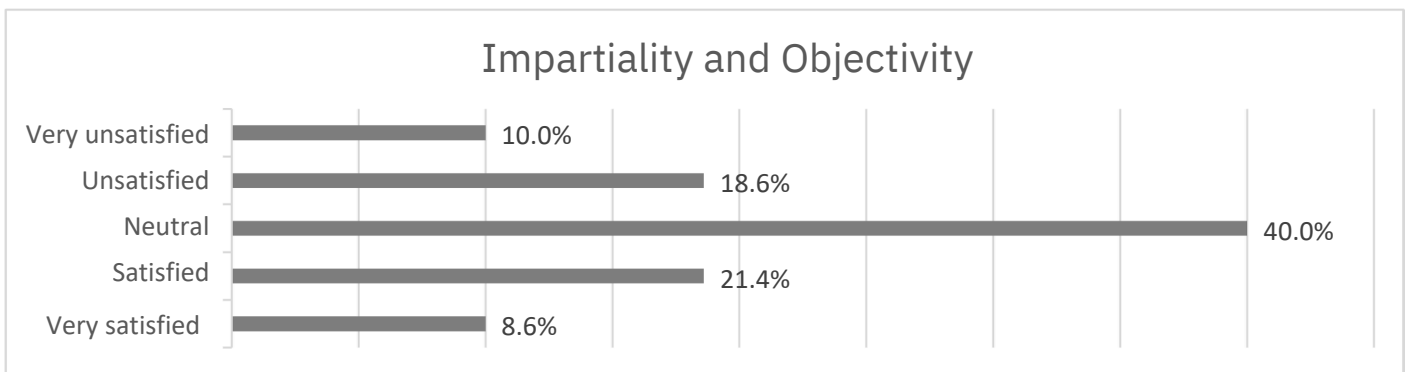
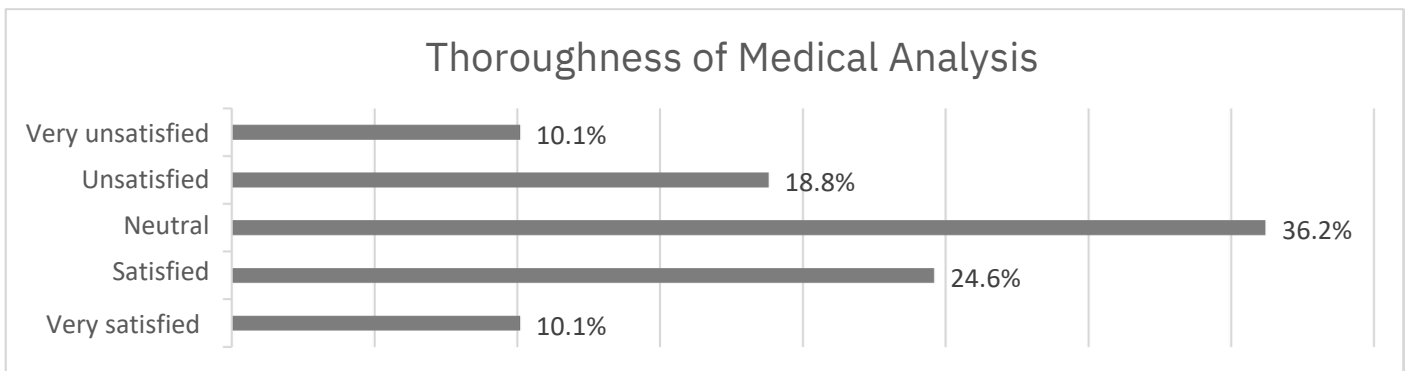
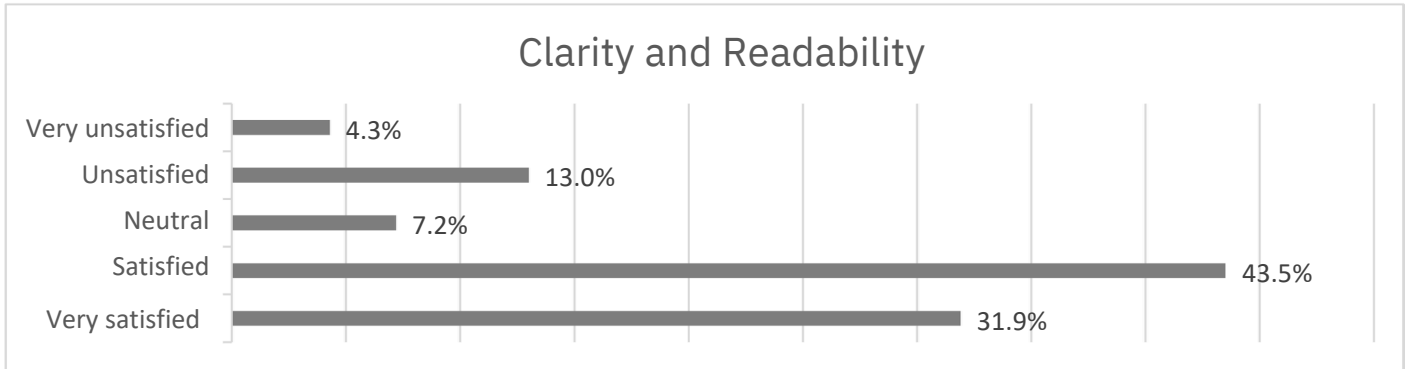
# STATE OF QME REPORTING 2024

# I. Executive Summary

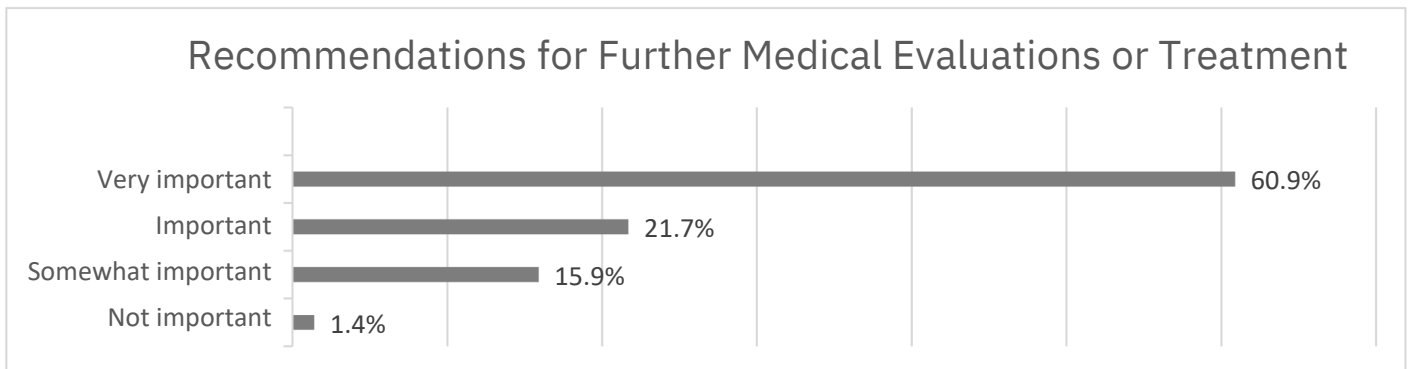
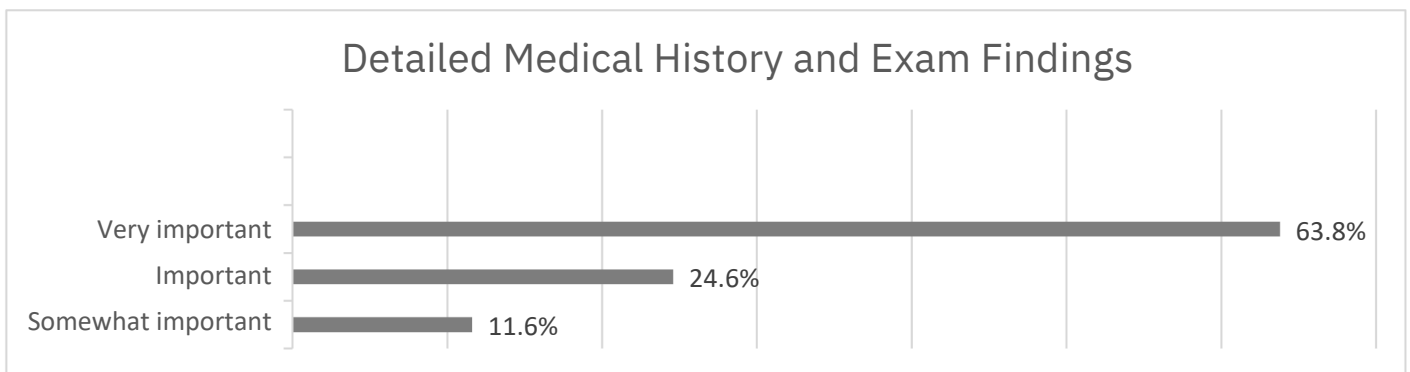
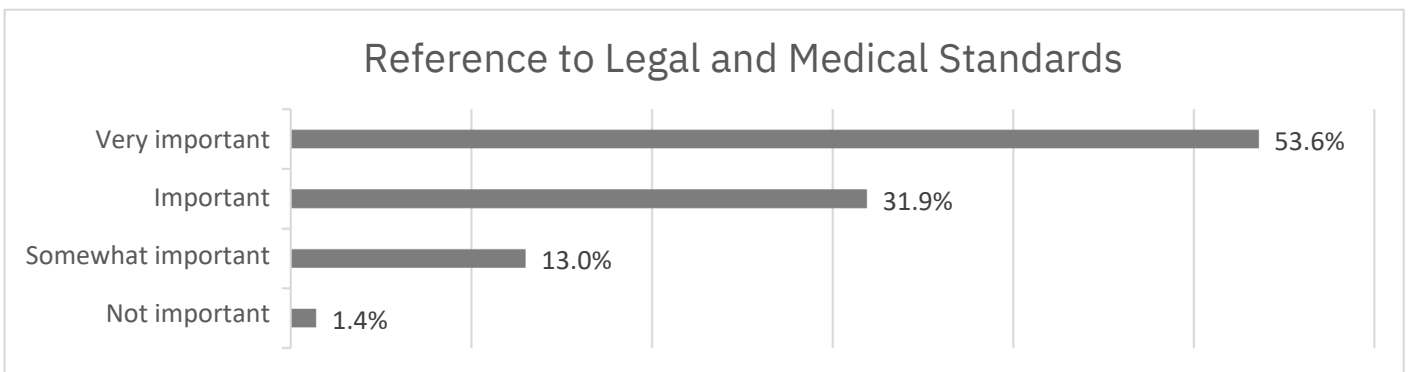
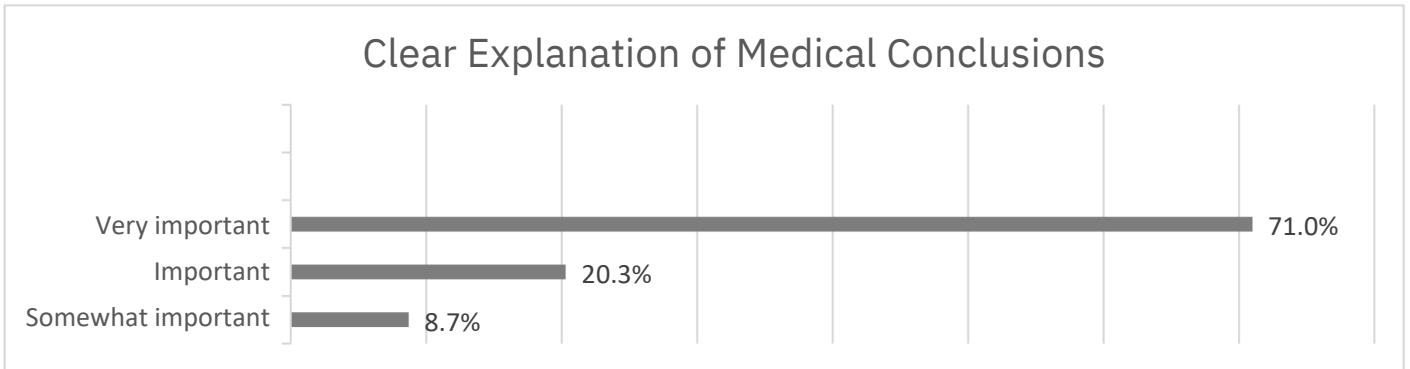
The recent survey of legal professionals reveals significant insights into the use and perception of QME reports within the legal field. It is evident that QME reports are a cornerstone in legal practice, with 60.3% of respondents using them frequently and 26.5% almost always. However, overall satisfaction with these reports is lukewarm, with 40.3% of respondents feeling neutral, while a considerable portion is either unsatisfied (25.4%) or very unsatisfied (11.9%). Only 19.4% express satisfaction, and just 2.9% are very satisfied. Key areas of dissatisfaction include the clarity and readability of reports, as well as the thoroughness and impartiality of medical analysis. Although the use of evidence-based findings generally receives neutral to positive feedback, the timeliness of reports is a mixed bag, indicating room for improvement. Respondents emphasize the importance of detailed medical history, clear explanations, references to medical literature, and well-organized summaries.



## II. Rate Your Level of Satisfaction with the following aspects of QME Reports:



# III. How Important Are the Following Elements a QME Report?



## IV. Critical Areas for Improvement - Based on Free-Response Questions:

### Ⓢ **Causation and Apportionment:**

There is a notable deficiency in the thoroughness and detail of causation and apportionment explanations within reports. This is by far the most criticized area of QME reports. In the survey, almost a third of the participants voiced this concern.

### Ⓢ **Conciseness and Clarity:**

Reports tend to be overly verbose and lack directness. Such a drawback was expressed by close to 10% of the respondents.

### Ⓢ **Quality and Readability:**

Reports often suffer from poor quality control and readability issues. Almost 10% of the respondents communicated this weakness.

### Ⓢ **Honesty and Impartiality:**

Concerns exist regarding the integrity of some QMEs who might extend evaluations unnecessarily. Such thoughts are commonplace among 15% of those surveyed.

### Ⓢ **Comprehensive Analysis:**

Participants expressed a need for more thorough evaluations that cover all aspects of permanent impairment and relate findings directly to the injury.

### Ⓢ **Medical Expertise vs. Legal Arguments:**

Reports sometimes drift into legal arguments or over-rely on case law rather than focusing on medical facts. However, this sentiment was voiced by less than 5% of the respondents.

### Ⓢ **Response to Specific Questions:**

Frequently, reports do not adequately address specific questions, leading to the need for supplemental reports and delays in decision making. Such a concern holds true among a quarter of those surveyed.



### ✔ **Use of Medical Standards and Guidelines:**

Inconsistent application of standards like the AMA Guides and neglect of relevant legal precedents is a concern. Around 20% of the attorneys felt this is not being done consistently by QMEs.

### ✔ **Addressing Future Medical Care:**

Reports often overlook long-term medical needs, which affect patient care and compensation. This issue was expressed by one tenth of the attorneys.

### ✔ **Error Reduction:**

Grammatical errors and inaccuracies in reports undermine their credibility. Which is a concern expressed by some of the respondents.

## V. Feedback on Examples of Useful/Effective QME Report Characteristics

### ✔ **Conciseness and Clarity:**

Succinct reports with clear spacing and straightforward conclusions are highly valued. Stakeholders prefer reports that are direct and free from superfluous detail.

### ✔ **Objective vs. Subjective Analysis:**

Effective reports clearly differentiate between subjective complaints and objective findings, relying on solid medical evidence rather than exaggerated claims.

### ✔ **Detailed Explanation:**

Reports are more impactful when they thoroughly explain the reasoning behind conclusions, particularly regarding Impairment ratings and apportionment, and clearly utilize AMA Guideline tables and methodologies.

### ✔ **Quality of Analysis:**

A well-crafted analysis, especially concerning industrial aggravation and exacerbation, enhances report utility. Depth in discussion and clear references to medical evidence are crucial.



### ✔ **Comprehensive Approach:**

Reports that offer a brief yet thorough history, detailed physical exam findings, and adherence to medical standards like AMA Guidelines are deemed effective. Including discussions on apportionment with evidence of other factors is also important.

### ✔ **Responsiveness to Questions:**

Reports that address all questions posed in cover letters or referral documents are graded higher as they demonstrate thorough consideration of case specific concerns.

### ✔ **Medical Expertise:**

The most credible reports often come from board-certified experts who provide detailed assessments and future medical care descriptions, adding depth and authority to their findings.

## VI. Feedback for Suggestions for improving quality and utility of QMEs

### ✔ **Honesty and Integrity:**

There are worries that QMEs might extend evaluations unnecessarily for financial gain or claim to have not received documents to justify billing for supplemental reports.

### ✔ **Efficiency in Reviewing Records:**

Including a summary or list of reviewed records is beneficial, but excessively lengthy reviews do not necessarily strengthen an opinion.

### ✔ **Focus and Specialization:**

It is suggested to avoid using Orthopaedic QMEs for non-surgical cases and to use non-surgical specialists when appropriate.

### ✔ **Timeliness and Understanding:**

Reports should be timely and demonstrate a clear understanding of apportionment.



### ✔ **No Bias and Comprehensive Coverage:**

Reports must be unbiased and cover all critical aspects, including MMI, causation, TTD, future medical needs, and work restrictions.

### ✔ **Avoiding Unnecessary Multiplicity:**

QMEs should avoid generating multiple reports for financial reasons and focus on providing well-reasoned, supported reports without needing numerous supplemental reports.

### ✔ **Attention to Detail:**

Reports should be more detailed, reflecting a thorough understanding of the law and addressing all aspects of a case comprehensively.

### ✔ **Financial Motivations:**

There is concern about the rising financial incentives for evaluators, particularly with increasing Med Legal Fee schedules.

