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Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
Sue O'Connell, Legislative Research Analyst

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: REGISTRY STATISTICS AS OF JULY 2020

Background

Department of Public Health and Human Services statistics provide the information in the following tables about the number of people registered or licensed under the Montana Medical Marijuana Act in July 2020. The tables compare the statistics for July 2020 to statistics for:

- October 2016, the month after a limit of three patients per provider went into effect following the Montana Supreme Court ruling upholding portions of Senate Bill 423 that had been on hold since its passage in 2011; and
- July 2018, the last month for which the previous Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee (2017-2018) received a report on registry statistics.

The Medical Marijuana Act changed significantly after October 2016 through voter approval of Initiative 182 in November 2016 and passage of Senate Bill 333 in the 2017 Legislature. Combined, those measures removed the limit on the number of cardholders per provider, allowed use of marijuana for post-traumatic stress disorder, allowed for testing laboratories, dispensaries, and chemical manufacturing endorsements, and required testing of marijuana and infused products.

The 2019 Legislature then passed SB 265, which revised square footage growing areas for providers, allowed physicians to use telemedicine to certify debilitating medical conditions, increased the tax on gross sales to 4%, increased certain licensing fees, and allowed cardholders to buy from any provider rather than a specific, named provider.

Highlights of Registry Statistics

Following are some of the highlights of the most recent registry statistics.

- The number of cardholders went up by more than 5,000 people between April and July of this year, from 33,531 in April to 38,385. The increase offset the 8% drop in cardholder numbers that occurred between January and April. Overall, the number of cardholders increased about 5.4% in the first seven months of the year.
- The 240 providers registered to grow and manufacture marijuana are now able to sell products to any registered cardholder, rather than only individuals who have specifically named the cardholder in their application for a registry card. The "untethering" of patients and providers occurred on June 2, 2020, as part of the changes authorized by SB 265. Providers, however, must monitor cardholder sales to ensure that individuals are not exceeding the maximum allowable purchase amounts on any given day or for any given month.
- A handful of doctors continue to provide written certification for a majority of cardholders. Nine doctors certified more than 1,000 cardholders each; one provided written certification for more than 8,000 individuals. Their certifications accounted for at least 28,009 cardholders, or 72% of the cardholders.

The following tables summarize available information on people registered to use marijuana for a debilitating medical condition, physicians who are providing certification of those medical conditions, and licensees who are able to grow, manufacture, and sell marijuana and marijuana-infused products.

General Overview

Category	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	7/31/2020
Cardholders	7,785	26,549	38,385
Providers	522	420	240
Certifying Physicians	172	218	288
Testing Laboratories	*	3	4
Dispensaries	*	72	363
Chemical Manufacturing Endorsements	*	217	208

* Testing labs, dispensaries, and chemical manufacturing endorsements were not specifically allowed at this time.

Cardholders by Age

Age	Number of Cardholders			Percentage of Cardholders		
	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	7/31/2020	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	7/31/2020
Under 18	5	48	70	0.06%	0.18%	0.18%
18-20	97	852	1,237	1.25%	3.20%	3.22%
21-30	852	5,034	7,363	10.94%	18.96%	19.18%
31-40	1,475	5,659	8,487	18.95%	21.32%	22.11%
41-50	1,317	4,273	6,318	16.92%	16.09%	16.46%
51-60	2,069	4,835	6,283	26.58%	18.22%	16.37%
61-70	1,700	4,536	6,630	21.84%	17.09%	17.27%
71-80	241	1,103	1,767	3.10%	4.16%	4.60%
81-90	24	187	217	0.31%	0.70%	0.57%
Over 90	5	22	13	0.06%	0.08%	0.03%
Total	7,785	26,549	38,385	100%	100%	100%

Cardholders by Debilitating Medical Condition

Condition	Number of Cardholders		
*Condition Added by Initiative 182	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	7/31/2020
Admittance Into Hospice Care	2	26	24
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	327	612	703
Cancer, Glaucoma, or HIV (AIDS)	485	1,878	2,357
Central Nervous System Disorder with Spasticity	726	2,174	3,099
Crohn's Disease	128	339	457
Epilepsy/Intractable Seizure Disorder	235	739	1,043
Intractable Nausea or Vomiting	745	1,979	2,835
Multiple Sclerosis	135	320	382
Painful Peripheral Neuropathy	1,169	3,344	4,715
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*	--	3,604	7,616
Severe Chronic Pain	4,773	20,078	30,295

Cardholders Per Registered Provider and Certifying Physician

# of Cardholders	Number of Providers		# of Cardholders	Number of Physicians	
	7/31/2018	7/31/2020		7/31/2018	7/31/2020
1	75	NA	1	73	106
2	29	NA	2	29	35
3	30	NA	3	26	29
4	15	NA	4	19	11
5	25	NA	5	4	11
6	21	NA	6	7	13
7	12	NA	7	3	6
8	10	NA	8	5	5
9	13	NA	9	5	8
10	9	NA	10	2	4
11-20	49	NA	11-50	26	36
21-30	22	NA	51-100	4	4
31-40	16	NA	101-300	4	4
41-50	13	NA	301-500	1	3
51-60	11	NA	501-1,000	6	4
61-70	9	NA	1,000-5,000	3	6
71-80	6	NA	More than 5,000	1	3
81-90	1	NA	Total	218	288
91-100	4	NA			
101-250	31	NA			
251-500	17	NA			
501-1,000	1	NA			
More than 1,000	1	NA			
Total	420	NA			

NA = Not Applicable. Providers no longer limited to selling to specific cardholders.

Providers and Cardholders by County

County	# of Providers		# of Cardholders		Population (2018 Estimate)	Cardholders as % of Population	
	7/31/2018	7/31/2020	7/31/2018	7/31/2020		7/31/2018	7/31/2020
Beaverhead	3	2	304	391	9,404	3.23%	4.16%
Big Horn	0	0	153	285	13,338	1.15%	2.14%
Blaine	1	0	72	299	6,807	1.09%	4.39%
Broadwater	4	2	138	216	6,085	2.40%	3.55%
Carbon	9	4	240	334	10,714	2.29%	3.12%
Carter	0	0	4	12	1,238	0.33%	0.97%
Cascade	15	3	1,323	2,423	81,643	1.62%	2.97%
Chouteau	1	0	62	99	5,745	1.08%	1.72%
Custer	3	0	186	238	11,586	1.56%	2.05%
Daniels	0	0	24	39	1,747	1.37%	2.23%
Dawson	0	0	138	282	8,680	1.48%	3.25%
Deer Lodge	1	0	279	344	9,131	3.07%	3.77%
Fallon	0	0	42	38	2,920	1.35%	1.30%
Fergus	0	0	158	338	11,113	1.38%	3.04%
Flathead	59	37	2,672	3,638	102,106	2.72%	3.56%
Gallatin	103	67	4,529	5,864	111,876	4.33%	5.24%
Garfield	0	0	5	6	1,268	0.38%	0.47%

County	# of Providers		# of Cardholders		Population (2018 Estimate)	Cardholders as % of Population	
	7/31/2018	7/31/2020	7/31/2018	7/31/2020		7/31/2018	7/31/2020
Glacier	0	2	197	403	13,747	1.44%	2.93%
Golden Valley	0	0	16	18	826	1.93%	2.18%
Granite	1	1	50	58	3,378	1.48%	1.72%
Hill	1	2	350	803	16,347	2.12%	4.91%
Jefferson	5	4	323	457	12,097	2.73%	3.78%
Judith Basin	0	0	17	41	1,952	0.88%	2.10%
Lake	5	3	437	587	30,250	1.47%	1.94%
Lewis and Clark	29	12	2,136	3,101	68,700	3.17%	4.51%
Liberty	0	0	13	27	2,430	0.54%	1.11%
Lincoln	10	4	551	764	19,794	2.86%	3.86%
Madison	6	2	481	379	8,768	6.07%	4.32%
McCone	0	0	9	15	1,675	0.53%	0.90%
Meagher	0	0	44	74	1,866	2.41%	3.97%
Mineral	2	2	83	123	4,316	1.98%	2.85%
Missoula	39	29	3,138	4,633	118,791	2.70%	3.90%
Musselshell	4	1	96	113	4,651	2.09%	2.43%
Park	18	4	852	1,131	16,736	5.29%	6.76%
Petroleum	0	0	7	8	513	1.43%	1.56%
Phillips	1	1	52	115	4,074	1.26%	2.82%
Pondera	1	1	76	106	5,972	1.25%	1.77%
Powder River	1	0	7	16	1,716	0.40%	0.93%
Powell	2	0	115	143	6,968	1.68%	2.05%
Prairie	0	0	20	24	1,087	1.69%	2.21%
Ravalli	16	17	924	1,369	43,172	2.20%	3.17%
Richland	3	1	127	194	10,913	1.11%	1.78%
Roosevelt	0	0	247	489	11,059	2.18%	4.42%
Rosebud	2	1	87	186	9,063	0.94%	2.05%
Sanders	9	3	247	321	11,844	2.14%	2.71%
Sheridan	0	1	49	110	3,424	1.34%	3.21%
Silver Bow	18	5	1,261	1,622	34,993	3.65%	4.64%
Stillwater	3	2	167	235	9,534	1.78%	2.46%
Sweet Grass	2	1	51	77	3,710	1.41%	2.08%
Teton	0	1	65	102	6,162	1.07%	1.66%
Toole	2	0	54	71	4,853	1.08%	1.46%
Treasure	0	0	6	6	679	0.87%	0.88%
Valley	1	1	96	213	7,437	1.27%	2.86%
Wheatland	1	0	28	53	2,236	1.32%	2.37%
Wibaux	0	0	8	15	1,034	0.73%	1.45%
Yellowstone	39	24	3,396	5,337	160,137	2.14%	3.33%
Total	420	240	26,549*	38,385	1,062,305	2.55%	3.61%

* The July 2018 cardholder total includes 337 people for whom the county of residence was unknown.

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