

JUNE 2020

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
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MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: REGISTRY STATISTICS AS OF APRIL 2020

Background

Department of Public Health and Human Services statistics provide the following information about the number of people registered or licensed under the Montana Medical Marijuana Act in April 2020. The tables on the following pages compare the statistics for April 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 2016-2017 Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee 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. That change allowing purchase from any provider went into effect on June 2 of this year.

Highlights of Registry Statistics

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

- The number of cardholders declined about 8% between January 2020 and April 2020, from 36,422 in January to 33,531 in April. That marks only the second decrease in the number of cardholders since passage of I-182 in November 2016. The other decrease occurred in June 2018, almost 2 years earlier.
- The number of providers has continued to decline from the 420 providers who were licensed in July 2018. However, about the same number were growing for 20 or fewer cardholders in April as were at the beginning of the year, while about the same number were growing for more than 100 cardholders in April as were doing so in January.
- 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 7,000 individuals. Their certifications accounted for at least 23,009 cardholders, or nearly 69% of the cardholders.
- The percentage of cardholders listing severe chronic pain as a debilitating condition is holding steady at about 79%.

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	4/1/2020
Cardholders	7,785	26,549	33,531
Providers	522	420	235
Certifying Physicians	172	218	269
Testing Laboratories	*	3	4
Dispensaries	*	72	355
Chemical Manufacturing Endorsements	*	217	199

* 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	4/1/2020	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	4/1/2020
Under 18	5	48	75	0.06%	0.18%	0.22%
18-20	97	852	1,082	1.25%	3.20%	3.23%
21-30	852	5,034	6,867	10.94%	18.96%	20.48%
31-40	1,475	5,659	6,483	18.95%	21.32%	19.33%
41-50	1,317	4,273	5,419	16.92%	16.09%	16.16%
51-60	2,069	4,835	5,621	26.58%	18.22%	16.76%
61-70	1,700	4,536	6,091	21.84%	17.09%	18.16%
71-80	241	1,103	1,650	3.10%	4.16%	4.92%
81-90	24	187	225	0.31%	0.70%	0.67%
Over 90	5	22	17	0.06%	0.08%	0.06%
Total	7,785	26,549	33,531	100%	100%	100%

Cardholders by Debilitating Medical Condition

Condition	Number of Cardholders		
	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	4/1/2020
*Condition Added by Initiative 182			
Admittance Into Hospice Care	2	26	22
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	327	612	655
Cancer, Glaucoma, or HIV (AIDS)	485	1,878	2,197
Central Nervous System Disorder with Spasticity	726	2,174	2,838
Crohn's Disease	128	339	413
Epilepsy/Intractable Seizure Disorder	235	739	937
Intractable Nausea or Vomiting	745	1,979	2,528
Multiple Sclerosis	135	320	358
Painful Peripheral Neuropathy	1,169	3,344	4,196
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*	--	3,604	6,400
Severe Chronic Pain	4,773	20,078	26,588

Cardholders Per Registered Provider and Certifying Physician

# of Cardholders	Number of Providers		# of Cardholders	Number of Physicians	
	7/31/2018	4/1/2020		7/31/2018	4/1/2020
1	75	7	1	73	92
2	29	9	2	29	38
3	30	4	3	26	20
4	15	2	4	19	16
5	25	10	5	4	10
6	21	8	6	7	8
7	12	7	7	3	13
8	10	8	8	5	6
9	13	7	9	5	1
10	9	4	10	2	5
11-20	49	23	11-50	26	37
21-30	22	21	51-100	4	5
31-40	16	13	101-300	4	5
41-50	13	11	301-500	1	1
51-60	11	15	501-1,000	6	3
61-70	9	6	1,000-5,000	3	7
71-80	6	5	More than 5,000	1	2
81-90	1	3	Total	218	269
91-100	4	2			
101-250	31	41			
251-500	17	13			
501-1,000	1	11			
More than 1,000	1	5			
Total	420	235			

Providers and Cardholders by County

County	# of Providers		# of Cardholders		Population (2018 Estimate)	Cardholders as % of Population	
	7/31/2018	4/1/2020	7/31/2018	4/1/2020		7/31/2018	4/1/2020
Beaverhead	3	2	304	378	9,404	3.23%	4.02%
Big Horn	0	0	153	244	13,338	1.15%	1.83%
Blaine	1	0	72	238	6,807	1.09%	3.50%
Broadwater	4	2	138	184	6,085	2.40%	3.02%
Carbon	9	3	240	303	10,714	2.29%	2.83%
Carter	0	0	4	5	1,238	0.33%	0.40%
Cascade	15	4	1,323	2,047	81,643	1.62%	2.51%
Chouteau	1	0	62	85	5,745	1.08%	1.48%
Custer	3	0	186	207	11,586	1.56%	1.79%
Daniels	0	0	24	41	1,747	1.37%	2.35%
Dawson	0	0	138	243	8,680	1.48%	2.80%
Deer Lodge	1	1	279	323	9,131	3.07%	3.54%
Fallon	0	0	42	29	2,920	1.35%	0.99%
Fergus	0	0	158	319	11,113	1.38%	2.87%
Flathead	59	41	2,672	3,173	102,106	2.72%	3.11%
Gallatin	103	65	4,529	5,342	111,876	4.33%	4.77%
Garfield	0	0	5	4	1,268	0.38%	0.32%

County	# of Providers		# of Cardholders		Population (2018 Estimate)	Cardholders as % of Population	
	7/31/2018	4/1/2020	7/31/2018	4/1/2020		7/31/2018	4/1/2020
Glacier	0	0	197	312	13,747	1.44%	2.27%
Golden Valley	0	0	16	16	826	1.93%	1.94%
Granite	1	1	50	56	3,378	1.48%	1.66%
Hill	1	3	350	561	16,347	2.12%	3.43%
Jefferson	5	4	323	456	12,097	2.73%	3.77%
Judith Basin	0	0	17	33	1,952	0.88%	1.69%
Lake	5	1	437	527	30,250	1.47%	1.74%
Lewis and Clark	29	15	2,136	2,686	68,700	3.17%	3.91%
Liberty	0	0	13	16	2,430	0.54%	0.66%
Lincoln	10	4	551	703	19,794	2.86%	3.55%
Madison	6	1	481	351	8,768	6.07%	4.00%
McCone	0	0	9	14	1,675	0.53%	0.84%
Meagher	0	0	44	64	1,866	2.41%	3.43%
Mineral	2	1	83	11	4,316	1.98%	0.25%
Missoula	39	28	3,138	4,000	118,791	2.70%	3.37%
Musselshell	4	1	96	101	4,651	2.09%	2.17%
Park	18	3	852	1,038	16,736	5.29%	6.20%
Petroleum	0	0	7	7	513	1.43%	1.36%
Phillips	1	1	52	97	4,074	1.26%	2.38%
Pondera	1	1	76	93	5,972	1.25%	1.56%
Powder River	1	0	7	13	1,716	0.40%	0.76%
Powell	2	0	115	125	6,968	1.68%	1.79%
Prairie	0	0	20	21	1,087	1.69%	1.93%
Ravalli	16	15	924	1,218	43,172	2.20%	2.82%
Richland	3	2	127	178	10,913	1.11%	1.63%
Roosevelt	0	0	247	458	11,059	2.18%	4.14%
Rosebud	2	1	87	147	9,063	0.94%	1.62%
Sanders	9	2	247	301	11,844	2.14%	2.54%
Sheridan	0	1	49	96	3,424	1.34%	2.80%
Silver Bow	18	5	1,261	1,437	34,993	3.65%	4.11%
Stillwater	3	2	167	217	9,534	1.78%	2.28%
Sweet Grass	2	1	51	73	3,710	1.41%	1.97%
Teton	0	0	65	89	6,162	1.07%	1.44%
Toole	2	0	54	61	4,853	1.08%	1.26%
Treasure	0	0	6	6	679	0.87%	0.88%
Valley	1	1	96	190	7,437	1.27%	2.55%
Wheatland	1	0	28	48	2,236	1.32%	2.15%
Wibaux	0	0	8	16	1,034	0.73%	1.55%
Yellowstone	39	23	3,396	4,530	160,137	2.14%	2.83%
Total	420	235	26,549*	33,531	1,062,305	2.55%	3.16%

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

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