

JANUARY 2020

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
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MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: REGISTRY STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 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. The tables on the following pages compare the statistics for January 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 will allow cardholders to buy from any provider -- rather than a specific, named provider -- by July 1 of this year.

Key Changes in Registry Statistics

Following are some of the key changes in registry statistics in recent years.

- The number of cardholders has increased 367% since passage of I-182, from 7,785 in October 2016 to 36,422 now.
- The number of providers has decreased about 41% since July 2018, and fewer providers are growing for a small number of cardholders. Just 90 of the providers were growing for 20 or fewer cardholders at the beginning of the year, down 66% from the 288 providers growing for 20 or fewer people in July 2018. The number of providers growing for more than 100 cardholders increased from 50 in July 2018 to 76 in January 2020, and three of those providers were growing for more than 2,000 cardholders each.
- A handful of doctors continue to provide written certification for a majority of cardholders. In January 2020, 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 24,009 cardholders and likely accounted for more than that, because of the way DPHHS breaks down the number of certifications per physician.
- The percentage of cardholders listing severe chronic pain as a debilitating medical condition stood at about 79% in January 2020, up slightly from about 76% in July 2018.

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	1/1/2020
Cardholders	7,785	26,549	36,422
Providers	522	420	249
Certifying Physicians	172	218	267
Testing Laboratories	*	3	4
Dispensaries	*	72	372
Chemical Manufacturing Endorsements	*	217	210

* 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	1/1/2020	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	1/1/2020
Under 18	5	48	69	0.06%	0.18%	0.19%
18-20	97	852	1,229	1.25%	3.20%	3.37%
21-30	852	5,034	6,789	10.94%	18.96%	18.64%
31-40	1,475	5,659	7,771	18.95%	21.32%	21.34%
41-50	1,317	4,273	5,855	16.92%	16.09%	16.07%
51-60	2,069	4,835	6,227	26.58%	18.22%	17.09%
61-70	1,700	4,536	6,476	21.84%	17.09%	17.78%
71-80	241	1,103	1,743	3.10%	4.16%	4.78%
81-90	24	187	242	0.31%	0.70%	0.66%
Over 90	5	22	21	0.06%	0.08%	0.06%
Total	7,785	26,549	36,422	100%	100%	100%

Cardholders by Debilitating Medical Condition

Condition	Number of Cardholders		
	10/31/2016	7/31/2018	1/1/2020
*Condition Added by Initiative 182			
Admittance Into Hospice Care	2	26	27
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	327	612	700
Cancer, Glaucoma, or HIV (AIDS)	485	1,878	2,396
Central Nervous System Disorder with Spasticity	726	2,174	2,874
Crohn's Disease	128	339	420
Epilepsy/Intractable Seizure Disorder	235	739	1,039
Intractable Nausea or Vomiting	745	1,979	2,595
Multiple Sclerosis	135	320	396
Painful Peripheral Neuropathy	1,169	3,344	4,355
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*	--	3,604	6,347
Severe Chronic Pain	4,773	20,078	28,797

Cardholders Per Registered Provider and Certifying Physician

# of Cardholders	Number of Providers		# of Cardholders	Number of Physicians	
	7/31/2018	1/1/2020		7/31/2018	1/1/2020
1	75	7	1	73	90
2	29	5	2	29	31
3	30	6	3	26	26
4	15	8	4	19	16
5	25	4	5	4	10
6	21	8	6	7	7
7	12	13	7	3	10
8	10	2	8	5	4
9	13	7	9	5	7
10	9	4	10	2	8
11-20	49	26	11-50	26	31
21-30	22	24	51-100	4	7
31-40	16	15	101-300	4	6
41-50	13	11	301-500	1	2
51-60	11	11	501-1,000	6	3
61-70	9	8	1,000-5,000	3	7
71-80	6	7	More than 5,000	1	2
81-90	1	6	Total	218	267
91-100	4	1			
101-250	31	43			
251-500	17	15			
501-1,000	1	15			
More than 1,000	1	3			
Total	420	249			

Providers and Cardholders by County

County	# of Providers		# of Cardholders		Population (2018 Estimate)	Cardholders as % of Population	
	7/31/2018	1/1/2020	7/31/2018	1/1/2020		7/31/2018	1/1/2020
Beaverhead	3	2	304	419	9,404	3.23%	4.46%
Big Horn	0	0	153	300	13,338	1.15%	2.25%
Blaine	1	0	72	236	6,807	1.09%	3.47%
Broadwater	4	2	138	198	6,085	2.40%	3.25%
Carbon	9	5	240	306	10,714	2.29%	2.86%
Carter	0	0	4	10	1,238	0.33%	0.81%
Cascade	15	4	1,323	2,217	81,643	1.62%	2.72%
Chouteau	1	0	62	86	5,745	1.08%	1.50%
Custer	3	0	186	242	11,586	1.56%	2.09%
Daniels	0	0	24	41	1,747	1.37%	2.35%
Dawson	0	0	138	254	8,680	1.48%	2.93%
Deer Lodge	1	1	279	332	9,131	3.07%	3.64%
Fallon	0	0	42	40	2,920	1.35%	1.37%
Fergus	0	0	158	307	11,113	1.38%	2.76%
Flathead	59	44	2,672	3,506	102,106	2.72%	3.43%
Gallatin	103	67	4,529	5,941	111,876	4.33%	5.31%
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	1/1/2020	7/31/2018	1/1/2020		7/31/2018	1/1/2020
Glacier	0	0	197	325	13,747	1.44%	2.36%
Golden Valley	0	0	16	16	826	1.93%	1.94%
Granite	1	1	50	55	3,378	1.48%	1.63%
Hill	1	3	350	619	16,347	2.12%	3.79%
Jefferson	5	4	323	412	12,097	2.73%	3.41%
Judith Basin	0	0	17	37	1,952	0.88%	1.90%
Lake	5	2	437	556	30,250	1.47%	1.84%
Lewis and Clark	29	16	2,136	2,864	68,700	3.17%	4.17%
Liberty	0	0	13	22	2,430	0.54%	0.91%
Lincoln	10	5	551	771	19,794	2.86%	3.90%
Madison	6	1	481	375	8,768	6.07%	4.28%
McCone	0	0	9	13	1,675	0.53%	0.78%
Meagher	0	0	44	67	1,866	2.41%	3.59%
Mineral	2	1	83	127	4,316	1.98%	2.94%
Missoula	39	30	3,138	4,361	118,791	2.70%	3.67%
Musselshell	4	1	96	111	4,651	2.09%	2.39%
Park	18	3	852	1,160	16,736	5.29%	6.93%
Petroleum	0	0	7	8	513	1.43%	1.56%
Phillips	1	1	52	94	4,074	1.26%	2.31%
Pondera	1	1	76	87	5,972	1.25%	1.46%
Powder River	1	0	7	19	1,716	0.40%	1.11%
Powell	2	0	115	143	6,968	1.68%	2.05%
Prairie	0	0	20	24	1,087	1.69%	2.21%
Ravalli	16	15	924	1,333	43,172	2.20%	3.09%
Richland	3	2	127	182	10,913	1.11%	1.67%
Roosevelt	0	0	247	440	11,059	2.18%	3.98%
Rosebud	2	1	87	180	9,063	0.94%	1.99%
Sanders	9	3	247	320	11,844	2.14%	2.70%
Sheridan	0	1	49	102	3,424	1.34%	2.98%
Silver Bow	18	5	1,261	1,591	34,993	3.65%	4.55%
Stillwater	3	2	167	228	9,534	1.78%	2.39%
Sweet Grass	2	1	51	82	3,710	1.41%	2.21%
Teton	0	0	65	91	6,162	1.07%	1.48%
Toole	2	0	54	73	4,853	1.08%	1.50%
Treasure	0	0	6	8	679	0.87%	1.18%
Valley	1	1	96	195	7,437	1.27%	2.62%
Wheatland	1	0	28	52	2,236	1.32%	2.33%
Wibaux	0	0	8	16	1,034	0.73%	1.55%
Yellowstone	39	25	3,396	4,824	160,137	2.14%	3.01%
Total	420	249	26,549*	36,422	1,062,305	2.55%	3.43%

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

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