Hawaii’s Medical Cannabis Program

State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

May 28, 2021
Medical Cannabis States Timeline

1996 – 2002
• Total of 8 states
  • Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington

2002 – 2008
• Total of 13 states
  • Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Vermont

2009 – 2013
• Total of 20 states (plus DC)
  • Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Illinois

2014 – 2020
• Total of 47 states (plus DC, CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and USVI)
  • Arkansas, CNMI, Florida, Guam, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, USVI, and West Virginia
  • CBD-only laws: Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming
Hawaii’s Timeline

- **2000**: Medical Use of Cannabis Law
- **2013**: Patient registry transferred to DOH
- **2015**: Dispensary system established
- **2016**: Act 230 Working Group
- **2017**: Dispensaries begin opening
- **2018**: Office of Medical Cannabis Control & Regulation (OMCCR)
- **2019**: Out of State Patient Registration
- **2020**: OMCCR Joined CANNRA
- **2021**: SB 1139 Dual Use Working Group
Office of Medical Cannabis Control & Regulation (OMCCCR)

Mission
- Ensure safe access to medical cannabis for qualified patients

Guiding Principles
- Patient safety - Product safety - Public safety

Two Sections
- Patient Registry
- Dispensary Licensing
# 329 Patient Registry - Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN STATE ELIGIBILITY</th>
<th>OUT OF STATE ELIGIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certified as having one or more debilitating medical conditions recognized in Hawaii</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid ID</td>
<td>Valid state ID or drivers license from the patients home state/territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified by a licensed physician/advance practice registered nurse (APRN)</td>
<td>Valid Medical Cannabis Registration card issued by the patients home state/territory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualifying Debilitating Conditions

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Cancer
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS
- Lupus
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis

- A chronic or debilitating disease or condition that produces one or more of the following:
  - Cachexia or wasting syndrome
  - Severe pain
  - Severe nausea
  - Seizures
  - Severe & persistent muscle spasms (e.g., multiple sclerosis or Crohn’s disease)
Patient Distribution by Condition

Patients may be diagnosed with more than one condition

March 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Sclerosis</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent Muscle Spasms</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seizures</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV or AIDS</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Nausea</td>
<td>1,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cachexia/Wasting Syndrome</td>
<td>1,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Pain</td>
<td>2,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>4,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Sclerosis</td>
<td>26,888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Reported Conditions

Minors – Seizures; PTSD
Adults – Severe pain; PTSD
329 Registration Process

- Make an appointment to a certifying medical provider
- Patient completes online application at: https://medmj.ehawaii.gov/medmj/welcome
- Physician/APRN certifies medical condition
- DOH reviews, approves, emails link to e-card
Hawaii 329 Registration Card

In-State Patient Sample 329 Card

State of Hawaii 329 Medical Cannabis
Registration Number: 2019000067
Start Date: 09/30/2018  Expiration Date: 09/30/2019

Patient Last Name: Doe
First, Middle, Suffix: John A
Date of Birth: 01/01/1970

Caregiver Last Name: Smith
First, Middle, Suffix: Jane A
Date of Birth: 02/02/1975

Physician/APRN Name: /s/ EDNA J SMITH, APRN

State of Hawaii 329 Medical Cannabis
Grow Site:
9876 Hawaii Street  Honolulu 96822

The Medical Cannabis Program is managed by the Hawaii State Department of Health. Information Hotline: call (808) 733-2177 for general information about the program.
Average number of in-state applications:
- Received 2266/month
- Processed 2195/month

Average number of out-of-state applications:
- Received 315/month
- Processed 257/month

Average turnaround time: 3-5 business days
Valid Patients by Year

~2.17% Total Pop - 2020

Valid In-State Patients
Valid Out-of-State Patients
Patient Registry Program

Patient Population by County

Average In-State Patient

- Is male (59%)
- Over 45 years of age (58%)
- Lives on Oahu (47%)
- Has severe pain (84%)

32,193 In-State Patients
March 31, 2021
Patients by Age

32,193 In-State Patients March 2021
Oldest is 101
Youngest is 5
Medical Cannabis Use

§329-121 Definitions: “Medical Use” means...

...of cannabis or paraphernalia relating to the administration of cannabis to alleviate the symptoms or effects of a qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition.
Conditions of Use

• No acquiring, possession, cultivation, use in public places

• No use in any way that “endangers the health or well-being of another person”

• Must be transported in sealed container, not be visible to public, & not removed from the container while in public

• No protection of State laws if transported inter-island

• Patient registrations & grow sites subject to verification

• Complaints investigated by law enforcement

• Patients are required to carry their 329 card & valid ID whenever they are in possession of medical cannabis

• All Smoke Free Laws apply
§329-125 Patients and Caregivers

(a) may assert the medical **use** of cannabis as an affirmative defense to any prosecution involving cannabis under this [part] or part 712

(b) any patient or caregiver “not complying with the permitted scope of the medical **use** of cannabis shall not be afforded the protections against searches and seizures pertaining to the misapplication of the medical **use** of cannabis.”
Additional Patient and Caregiver Protections

Act 242 – effective July 1, 2015:

§329-125.5: Non-discrimination based solely on status as patient or caregiver for:

• **School Enrollment or Housing:** no school shall refuse to enroll...and no landlord shall refuse to lease property unless it would cause the school or landlord to lose a monetary or licensing related benefit under federal law.

• **Medical Care:** shall not constitute the use of an illicit substance or otherwise disqualify a registered qualifying patient from medical care, and

• **Custody:** provided that the patients’ or caregivers’ conduct did not create “a danger to the safety of the minor”

There is neither protection for patients in employment situations nor a requirement for DOH to verify type of employment prior to issuing 329 cards.
Medical Cannabis Use

Registered patients may:

- Grow no more than 10 plants at a single location
  - Tagged with the patient’s registration number and expiration date
- Possess no more than 4 ounces of usable cannabis
- Purchase medical cannabis from a dispensary
- Designate a caregiver – ratio 1:1
Medical Cannabis Use
Grow Sites and Caregivers as of March 31, 2021

2,670 or 8% of registered patients have a caregiver

Caregiver’s By County
- Oahu – 53% or 1,405
- Hawaii – 20% or 534
- Maui – 21% or 557
- Kauai – 7% or 174
Dispensary Program
Eight Licensees

- 3 Oahu
  - 7 Dispensaries
- 2 Maui
  - 3 Dispensaries
- 2 Hawaii
  - 6 Dispensaries
- 1 Kauai
  - 1 Dispensary
Electronic Seed to Sale Tracking

- Cultivation
- Harvest
- Flowers & Products
- Lab Testing
- Retail
- Patient
Quality Assurance Testing

- Potency – THC, CBD, etc.
- Heavy Metals, Pesticides, Solvents
- Microorganisms – bacteria, molds, yeast
- Mycotoxins
- Visible foreign or extraneous material
- Moisture content
Products
Dispensaries may dispense up to 4 ounces in a 15-day period & not to exceed 8 ounces in 30 days
Statewide Sales by Month for August 2017 through April 2021
Proportion of Patients Accessing Dispensaries

- **Unique Patient Encounters**

  - **2017**
  - **2018**
  - **2019**
  - **2020**

31
Statewide Sales by Product Type for 2017 through 2020
Three cannabis-related questions will be included in the 2021 BRFSS:

1. **Current Use**
   - During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana or cannabis?

2. **Mode of Use**
   - During the past 30 days, which one of the following ways did you use marijuana the most often? Did you usually...

3. **Reason for Use**
   - When you used marijuana or cannabis during the past 30 days, was it usually:
Colorado Marijuana Use Patterns - Adults

**Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2020**

- Significant increase in past 30-day use/consumption among adults ages 18 years & older – 2014 (13.6%), 2017 (15.5%) 2019 (19.0%)
- Significant increase in daily or near daily use/consumption among all adults – 2014 (6.0%), 2017 (7.6%), 2019 (9.1%)
- Significant increase in adults that think daily use/consumption has slight or no risk of harm – 2017 (46.2%), 2019 (52.3%)
- In 2019, nearly half (48.2%) of adult users/consumers used or consumed marijuana daily or near daily

January 2021, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment
Marijuana Use – Hawaii & Colorado
High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey
Marijuana Mode of Use – Hawaii High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey

![Graph showing the mode of marijuana use in Hawaii high schools from 2015 to 2019. The graph illustrates the decline in smoking and an increase in vaping and eating marijuana.](image-url)
Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2020

Significant increase in driving after recently using among high school students that drove in the past 30 days – 2017 (9.0%), 2019 (11.2%)

Significant increases in dabbing (2015-5.7%, 2017-6.9%, 2019-10.2%) & vaporizing (2015-4.4%, 2017-4.0%, 2019-6.8%) among high schoolers

Although smoking remained the most reported usual method of use in 2019 (55.9%), that is a significant decrease from 2017 (77.8%)

However, dabbing as the usual method of use among current high school users significantly increased from 2017 (7.6%) to 2019 (20.4%)

January 2021, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment
Illicit Drug Use Before & During Pregnancy – HI PRAMS

ILLICIT DRUG USE INCLUDES AMPHETAMINES, COCAINE, HEROIN, MARIJUANA, SNIFING GASOLINE, GLUE, HAIRSPRAY, OR OTHER AEROSOLS, TRANQUILIZERS, OR HALLUCINOGENS

• Total cannabis exposures increased, however, while quarterly plant-related exposure reports declined, manufactured product exposure reports increased overall and for each specific product

• Plant materials were the most common exposures (65.5%), followed by edibles (19.3%), concentrates (9.6%), vaporized liquids (3.8%), and other manufactured products

• Manufactured product exposures more often involved children <10 years (27.0%), compared with plant-based exposures (8.4%)

• Edible exposures had the greatest proportion of children (36.6%)

Colorado Scientific Literature Review
Substantial Evidence

**Adults**

- THC can cause acute psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, paranoia, delusional beliefs, & feeling emotionally unresponsive during intoxication. These symptoms are worse with higher doses of THC.

**Adolescents & Young Adults**

- Daily or near daily use is associated with future psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia in adulthood

- Use is strongly associated with developing psychotic symptoms in adulthood, such as hallucinations, paranoia, & delusional beliefs

- Weekly or more frequent use is strongly associated with failure to graduate from high school

- Even less than weekly use is associated with future high-risk use of alcohol, tobacco, & other drugs
Colorado Scientific Literature Review
Moderate Evidence

**Adults**
- Use of marijuana with THC concentration >10% is associated with future psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia

**Adolescents & Young Adults**
- Use of higher THC concentration (>10% THC) is associated with continued use & development of future mental health symptoms & disorders
- Weekly or more frequent use is associated with not attaining a college degree
- Weekly, or more frequent, use is associated with impaired learning, memory, math & reading achievement, even 28 days after last use
- Use is associated with suicidal thoughts or attempting suicide
A Public Health Approach for Regulating Commercially Legalized Cannabis

• Provide protection to children and youth and other vulnerable and marginalized populations through careful regulation
• Minimize harm to the public
• Prioritize equity, social justice and ameliorating harms caused to populations disproportionately impacted by prior drug policy approaches
• Monitor patterns of cannabis use and related public health and safety outcomes
Contact OMCCR:
Registry: medicalcannabis@doh.hawaii.gov
Dispensary: doh.medcannabis.dispensary@doh.hawaii.gov