



## Who is REALLY using marijuana under the guise of medicine?

Produced by Save Our Society From Drugs: Updated November 2017

### **California-approved by voters and implemented in 1996; allows for marijuana collectives that are regulated by local government and estimated at 4,000.**

The state does not require users to register, therefore it is difficult to maintain accurate data on the program. It is estimated that 750,000-1,125,000, or 3% of the state's population, uses "medical" marijuana. A study of over 1,700 patients from nine CA clinics in 2006 found that 72.9% of users were male and over 82% reported using for pain; the next highest conditions reported were muscle spasms (41.1%), headaches (40.7%), anxiety (37.8%), nausea/vomiting (27.7%), and depression (26.1%). Sources: [OLR Research Reports, A Comparison of Medical Marijuana Programs, Toke of the Town. Medical Marijuana Patients Number 750,000 in California](#) by Steve Elliott, May 31, 2011, [A Tectonic Shift for Marijuana](#) by David Downs June 2015.

### **Oregon-approved by voters and enacted in 1998. Legislation to allow dispensaries passed in 2014 and to date, 380 dispensaries have registered with the state.**

As of July 2017, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program has 61,867 individuals that legally hold "medical" marijuana ID cards and, of those, 91% are treating "severe pain" (an indefinable term that is being used to cover medical conditions such as menstrual cramps, headaches, and minor arthritis) rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (5.9%), glaucoma (1.5%) and HIV+/AIDS (0.8%). The state has 31 dispensaries and 14 processing sites operating. Source: [Oregon.gov, Oregon Medical Marijuana Program \(OMMP\)](#)

### **Washington-approved by voters and enacted in 1998; does not allow for dispensaries but allows for home cultivation.**

The initial law did not set up a state-run registry system; therefore, it is difficult to get accurate data. 2015 legislation requires them to establish a voluntary database of registered users. According to a fiscal report, as of Nov. 2016 (the most current data available), 13,979 qualifying patients and designated providers registered with the state. Source: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/2300/2016/MMJdatabaseCostReport.pdf>

### **Alaska-approved by voters in 1998 and enacted on March 3, 1999; does not allow for dispensaries but allows for home cultivation.**

As of Feb. 2017 there are 1,053 registered users in the Alaska Medical Marijuana Program. The program does not track specific medical conditions of the applicants. Source: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/PDFs/MMR\\_counts\\_2013\\_2017.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/PDFs/MMR_counts_2013_2017.pdf)

### **Maine-approved by voters and enacted in 1999; 2009 approved dispensaries and there are currently 8 in operation.**

As of Dec. 2016, the most recent published data, the program reports 51,324 registered users. At this time the program does not require users to register and does not reveal the conditions for which users register. The state reports 8 registered dispensaries. Sources: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/mmm/documents/2016-MMMP-Annual-Report.pdf>

### **Colorado-approved by voters in 2000 and enacted on June 1, 2001; legislation in 2009 regulated dispensaries and as of June 2017 there are 513 regulated "medical" dispensaries in operation and 801 cultivation centers.**

As of Sept. 2017, there are 92,840 individuals who legally hold registry ID cards. Of those, 93% are treating "severe pain," and 28% are treating "muscle spasms" rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (4%), glaucoma (1.2%) and HIV+/AIDS (less than 1%). The

average age of cardholders is 45 and 62% are male. Currently, 3,078 “patients” are under the age of 21. Source: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2017-medical-marijuana-registry-statistics>

**Hawaii-legislation passed and enacted in 2000; legislation passed in 2015 allows for the establishment of 8 dispensaries that opened in July of 2016.** As of Oct. 31, 2017, the program has 19,666 registered users. Of those, 66% are treating “severe pain” rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (4%), glaucoma (1.4%) and HIV+/AIDS (less than 1%), for which the program is intended. Source: <http://health.hawaii.gov/medicalcannabisregistry/submenu/program-statistics/>,

**Nevada- approved by voters in 2000 and enacted on October 1, 2001; legislation passed in 2013 allows for dispensaries and to date, 58 are operational.** As of Sept. 2017, the program has 25,760 registered users of which 546 are under the age of 21. Of the 25,760 registered users, 87% are treating “severe pain” rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (6%), glaucoma (1.4%) and HIV/AIDS (less than 1%). Sources: [http://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnavgov/content/Reg/MM-Patient-Cardholder-Registry/dta/Monthly\\_Reports/Monthly%20Report%20Sept%202017\(4\).pdf](http://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnavgov/content/Reg/MM-Patient-Cardholder-Registry/dta/Monthly_Reports/Monthly%20Report%20Sept%202017(4).pdf)  
<http://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnavgov/content/Reg/MedMarijuana/OpenDispensaryList06.18.17.pdf>

**Vermont-legislation passed and enacted in 2004; law was expanded in 2011 to allow for dispensaries. Currently, 4 dispensaries are operational and a 5<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to open by March 2018.** As of Aug. 2017, there are 4,609 ID card holders. Information regarding their approved conditions is confidential. Sources: <http://medicalmarijuana.vermont.gov/registered-dispensaries>

**Montana-approved by voters and enacted in 2004; law was expanded in 2016 to again allow for dispensaries. Currently there are an estimated 40 dispensaries open for business.** As of Oct. 2017, there were 19,815 participants in the registry program. Of those, 71% are treating chronic pain. Combined, the more serious conditions such as cancer, glaucoma and HIV, represent 7.5% of the program’s participants. The average user is 45 and 656 of users are under the age of 21. Source: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/qad/documents/LicensureBureau/MarijuanaProgram/October2017MMRegistry-2.pdf?ver=2017-11-02-142701-453>

**Rhode Island-legislation passed in 2005 by overriding the Governor’s veto and enacted on January 3, 2006; legislation allowed for the establishment of 3 dispensaries.** As of June 2017 the program had 18,155 registered users. Of those, 59% are treating “severe pain” rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (6.5%), glaucoma (less than 1%) and HIV/AIDS (less than 1%). Source: <http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/programreports/2017Quarter4MedicalMarijuana.pdf>

**New Mexico-legislation passed and enacted in 2007; the law allows for dispensaries and to date there are 64 licensed to produce marijuana.** As of Sept. 2017, there are 48,861 active users. Combined, the more serious conditions such as cancer, glaucoma and HIV, represent 7% of participants. Sources: <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/report/3847/> and <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/2101/>

**Michigan-passed by voters and enacted in 2008; the law does not set up regulations for dispensaries but does not prohibit them; in 2013 the MI AG declared dispensaries illegal and shut down 200 of them but 100’s were still in operation throughout the state. In Sept. 2016 the legislature passed bills to regulate the industry through 5 different licenses and ordered all current dispensaries to close by Dec. 15, 2017. Currently, the existing dispensaries are allowed to remain open as the states transitions into the new system.** As of Dec. 2016 (the most current data availbe), there were 148,908 registered users. Of those, 80% are treating “severe pain” rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (3.8%), glaucoma (1.2%) and HIV/AIDS (less than 1%). Source:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Medical\\_Marihuana\\_Act\\_-\\_FY\\_2016\\_Statistical\\_Report\\_MCL\\_333.26426\\_and\\_Program\\_Information\\_Section\\_507\\_546675\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Medical_Marihuana_Act_-_FY_2016_Statistical_Report_MCL_333.26426_and_Program_Information_Section_507_546675_7.pdf)

**New Jersey-legislation passed in 2010 and enacted in July of 2011; law allows for limited dispensaries and to date 5 are operational and 1 is in the approval process.** As of Dec. 2016 (the most current data available), there were 10,799 registered users. Combined, terminal cancer and terminal illnesses account for 8.2% of participants. Source: [http://www.nj.gov/health/medicalmarijuana/documents/annual\\_report\\_2016.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/health/medicalmarijuana/documents/annual_report_2016.pdf)

**Washington, DC-Congress lifted ban in 2010 and program was enacted on July 27, 2010; law allows for dispensaries and cultivation centers and currently 5 dispensaries are operational as well as 8 cultivation centers.** As of Aug. 2016 (the most current data available), the Department of Health registered 5,303 users. In 2014 the District passed the *Medical Marijuana Emergency Act* in which physicians were no longer required to report specific medical conditions. Source: <https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/MMPPProgramUpdateMemo10012017%20%2800000003%29.pdf>

**Arizona- passed by voters and enacted in 2010; allows for dispensaries and there are over 100 currently operating in the state.** As of Sept. 2017, there are 143,239 register users and of those 84% are treating chronic pain. Combined, the more serious conditions such as cancer, glaucoma and HIV represent 3.6% of the program's participants. 115,967 ounces of marijuana were sold by AZ dispensaries in May 2017 of which 4,832.90 ounces were in the form of marijuana infused edible products! Sources: <http://www.azdhs.gov/documents/licensing/medical-marijuana/reports/2017/2017-sept-monthly-report.pdf>

**Delaware- legislation passed in 2011 and was enacted in July of 2012; allows for dispensaries and currently 3 are operational and other is expected to open in 2018.** As of July 2017, there were 3,588 registered users. Of those, 60% are treating chronic pain. Combined, the more serious conditions such as cancer, HIV, and terminal illness represent 13% of the program's participants Source: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/files/mmpannrpt2017.pdf>

**Connecticut-legislation passed and enacted in 2012; law allows for the establishment of dispensaries and currently 9 are operational and 4 producers have been approved.** As of Oct. 2017, there are 21,572 registered users. New reports do not list medical conditions. Source: [http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?a=4287&Q=533228&PM=1&dcpNav=|&dcpNav\\_GID=2109](http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?a=4287&Q=533228&PM=1&dcpNav=|&dcpNav_GID=2109)

**Massachusetts-passed by voters in 2012 and enacted in May of 2013; allows for the establishment of 35 dispensaries of which 15 are operational to date.** As of Sept. 2017, there are 41,077 registered users. The program does not disclose qualifying medical conditions for registered users. Source: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-medical-use-of-marijuana-program-snapshot>

**New Hampshire-legislation passed in 2013; allows for 4 dispensaries all of which opened in 2015.** As of Dec. 2016 (the most recent data available), there are 2,089 registered users. Unlike most other states, the New Hampshire law allows someone to use for severe pain if not response to other treatment and as defined sever pain accounts for 75% of registerd users. Source: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/tcp/documents/tcp-data-report-2016.pdf>

**Illinois-legislation passed in 2013 and enacted in January of 2014; allows for dispensaries and 20 have been approved to date.** As of Jan. 2016 (the most current data available), there are 4,037 registered users. Source: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/mid-year-data-report-january-2016-040616.pdf>

**Maryland-legislation passed in 2014; allows for a maximum of 109 dispensaries state wide.** The Commission has issued 15 pre-approvals to companies to grow marijuana, 15 pre-approvals to companies to process marijuana, and 102 pre-approvals to companies to dispense marijuana. No registry data is available to date. Source: <http://mmcc.maryland.gov/Pages/current-diversity-statistics.aspx>

**New York-legislation passed in 2014; allows for the establishment of dispensaries and cultivation centers. Currently there are 19 dispensaries in operation and 21 that are listed as “coming soon.”** As of Oct. 2017, there are 34,757 registered users. There is no current information on medical conditions. Source: [https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical\\_marijuana/](https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/)  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical\\_marijuana/application/selected\\_applicants.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/application/selected_applicants.htm)

**Minnesota-legislation passed in 2014; allows for the establishment of 8 dispensaries.** The program does not allow for the use of “plant” marijuana, only pills and oils and qualifies 9 conditions for use. As of Sept. 2017, there are 7,022 registered active users. Of those 67% are using for pain. Source: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/cannabis/about/update1017.pdf>

**Pennsylvania- legislation passed in 2016; allows for the initial permitting of 50 dispensaries of which each can have three separate locations.** There is no current data on the number of registered users as they are still working to implement the program.

**Louisiana- passed legislation in 2016.** Originally the state passed legislation that would allow physicians to prescribe medical marijuana, since marijuana cannot be prescribed; the law never went into effect. In 2016, legislation passed that changed the wording to recommend and passed another law that amends criminal statutes to specifically offer protections to patients and their caregivers for possession and consumption of medical marijuana. The state is working on regulations to implement the law and media reports anticipate the program to be active by mid-2018.

**Florida – constitutional amendment passed in 2016; implementation legislation passed during the 2017 special session allowing for the establishment of 17 cultivation sites that are allowed to have no more than 25 dispensaries each. To date, 18 dispensaries are open.** As of Oct. 2017, there are 46,952 registered users. There is no current data on medical conditions. Source: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-medical-marijuana-use/bi-weekly-updates/documents/171026-bi-weekly-update.pdf>

**Arkansas- passed by ballot measure in 2016; allows for 32 dispensary licenses and five cultivation facility licenses.** Program is in the implementation process and has not registered any users.

**North Dakota- passed in 2016 by ballot measure; allows for cultivation and dispensing centers.** Program is in the implementation process and is currently accepting applicants for review.