



# Medical Cannabis Program Update

JULY 2016

Minnesota's medical cannabis program began distributing medical cannabis to registered patients on July 1, 2015. This update reports on the time period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The data for this update, unless otherwise noted, come from the medical cannabis patient registry system, a secure, web-based application system, and is updated quarterly.

## Cannabis Manufacturers

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) registered two medical cannabis manufacturers on December 1, 2014. They are responsible for the cultivation, production, and distribution of medical cannabis in the state. The manufacturers are Minnesota Medical Solutions, LLC and LeafLine Labs, LLC.

Minnesota Medical Solutions operates distribution facilities, or Cannabis Patient Centers (CPCs), in Minneapolis, Rochester, Moorhead, and Bloomington.

LeafLine Labs operates CPCs in Eagan, St. Cloud, Hibbing, and St. Paul.

Figure 1 displays the total number of patient visits to a CPC that resulted in medical cannabis purchases between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Each visit may have resulted in the purchase of multiple products and variable quantities; additionally patients may have made several purchase visits during this time period. Only the number of total CPC visits is reflected in this figure.

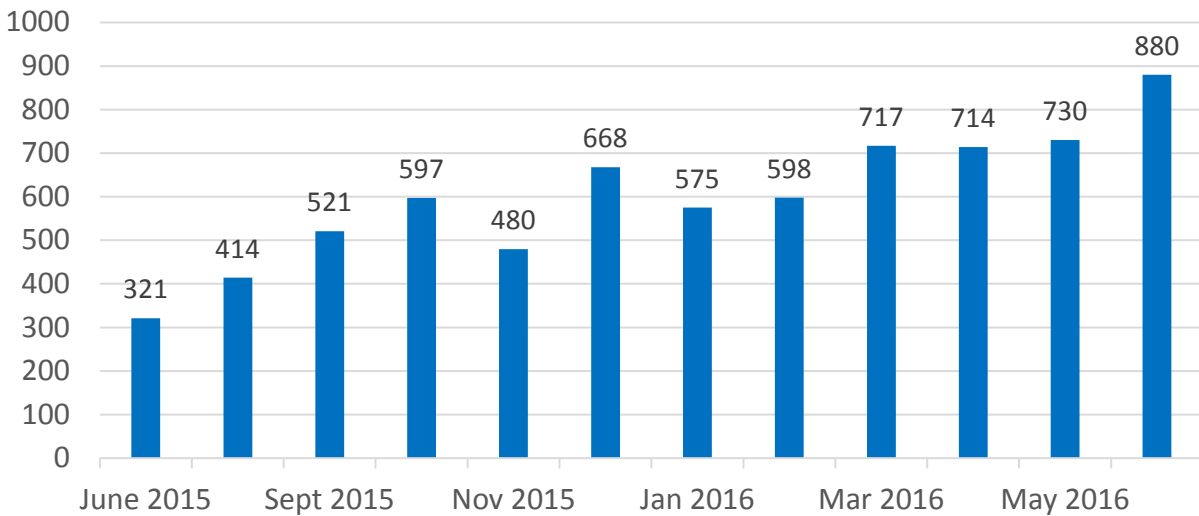


Figure 1. Total number of patient visits to a Cannabis Patient Center which resulted in purchase of medical cannabis products, by month since the program start.

## Patients

Qualifying patients must be enrolled in the medical cannabis patient registry to be eligible to legally purchase and possess medical cannabis. As part of the application process, a patient’s qualifying medical condition must be certified by a health care practitioner; this qualifying medical condition and the patient must be re-evaluated and re-certified by a health care practitioner every year.

Figure 2 displays the weekly number of patients enrolled and in active status in the registry. As of June 30, 2016, there are 1520 patients actively enrolled in the patient registry.

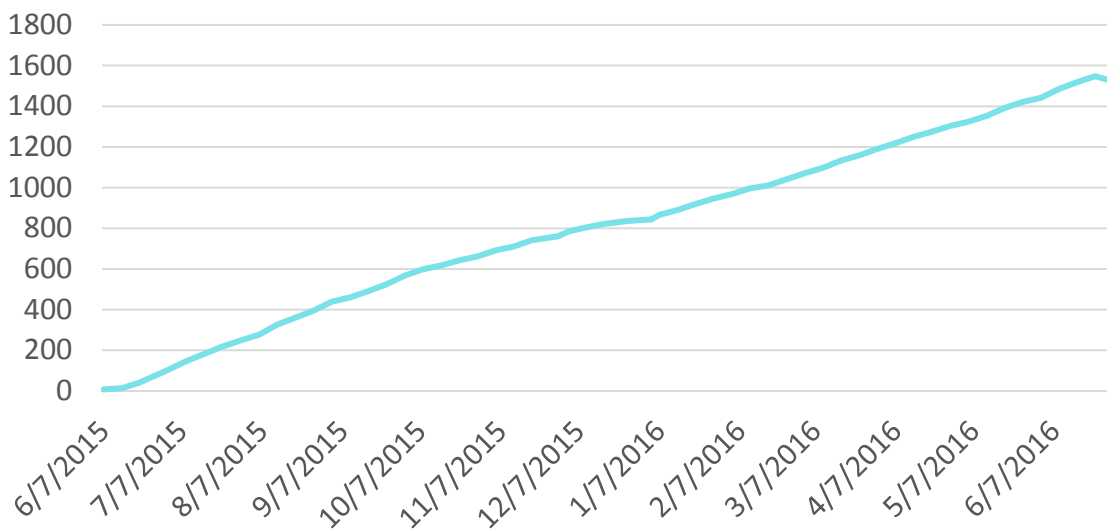


Figure 2. Weekly number of patients enrolled and in active status in registry.

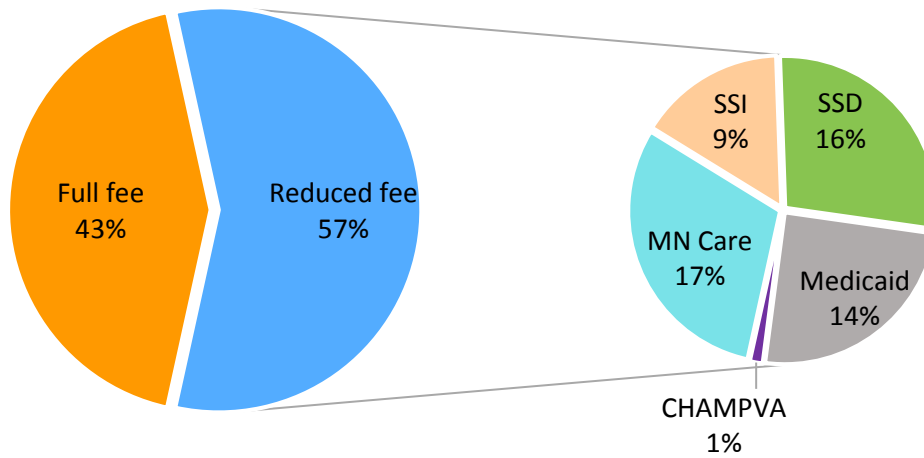


Figure 3. Breakdown of active patients by fee type (reduced vs. full fee) and types of government assistance for reduced fees.

Patients must pay an enrollment fee before they are eligible to legally purchase and possess medical cannabis. Minnesota Statutes section 152.35 requires patients to pay a fee of \$200 to enroll in the program. Patients who receive government assistance (MN Care, Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid/MA and CHAMPVA) qualify for a reduced fee of \$50. Figure 3 shows that approximately 57 percent of registered patients to date have qualified for the reduced enrollment fee.

The racial/ethnic distribution of active patients in the registry reflects the state’s demographics, as can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1**

**Active Patient Race and Ethnicity Compared to Overall State Demographics**

Race/Ethnicity	Medical Cannabis Registry	2014 Census Bureau Estimates*
American Indian	41 (3%)	1.9%
Asian	26 (2%)	5.0%
Black	100 (7%)	6.5%
Hawaiian	3 (0%)	0.1%
White	1288 (85%)	87.5%
Hispanic	38 (3%)	4.9%
Other	23 (2%)	1.7%
Unknown	6 (0%)	

\*<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

The qualifying medical conditions are: Cancer or its treatment (must be accompanied by severe or chronic pain, nausea, or severe wasting); Glaucoma; HIV/AIDS; Tourette Syndrome; Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease); Seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy; Severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis; Crohn’s Disease; and Terminal Illness with life-expectancy of less than 1 year (must be accompanied by severe or chronic pain, nausea, or severe wasting). Crohn’s Disease was extended to Inflammatory Bowel Disease (including Crohn’s Disease) by statute amendment during the 2016 legislative. Intractable Pain will be added as a qualifying medical condition, effective August 1, 2016.

Table 2 shows the number of active patients in the patient registry who have been certified as having that qualifying medical condition. The three most frequently certified qualifying conditions are (1) cancer or its treatment, (2) severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis, and (3) seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy.

<b>Table 2</b>	
<b><i>Count (%) of Active Patients by Condition*</i></b>	
<b>Qualifying Condition</b>	<b>Patients: N (%)</b>
Glaucoma	20 (1%)
HIV/AIDS	51 (3%)
Tourette Syndrome	29 (2%)
ALS	18 (1%)
Seizures	300 (20%)
Muscle Spasms	685 (45%)
Crohn's Disease	106 (7%)
Cancer	392 (26%)
Terminal Illness	75 (5%)

\*9.5% of the 1520 patients have more than one qualifying condition; in this table each certified condition is counted.

Figure 4 displays the number of active patients by age and gender. The average age of registered patients is 44.2 ± 18.7 years, however the average age varies by qualifying medical condition.

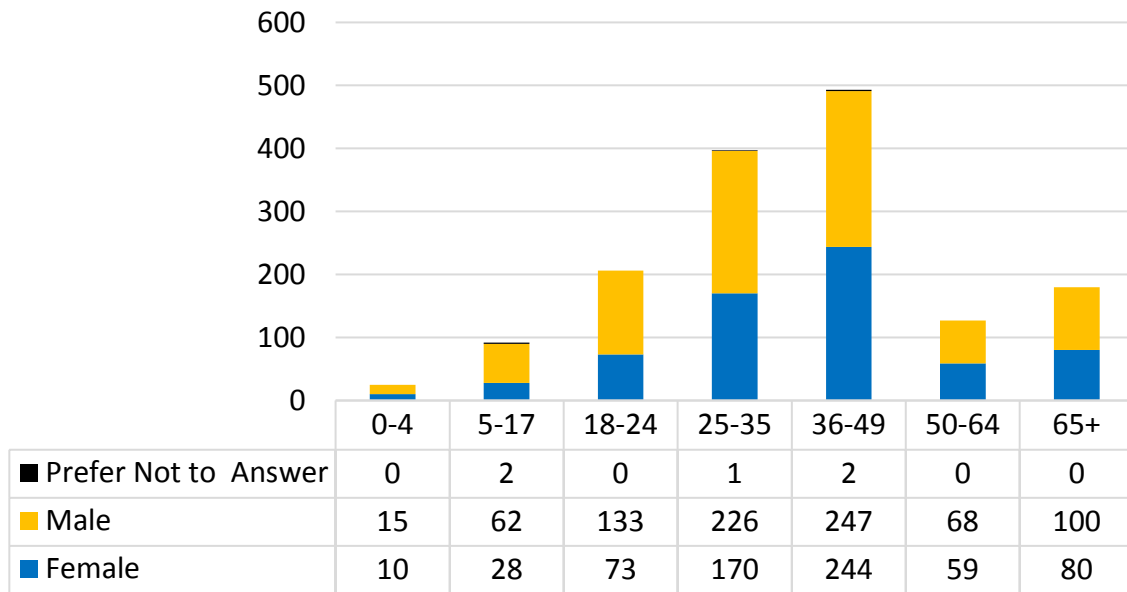


Figure 4. Breakdown of active patients by age and gender.

Table 3 demonstrates the breakdown of active, condition-specific patient counts by age. Patients certified as having seizure disorders have the lowest average age:  $24.1 \pm 15.9$  years; patients with glaucoma have the highest average age:  $61.0 \pm 14.5$  years.

Table 3										
<i>Breakdown of Active Patients by Age Group and Qualifying Medical Condition</i>										
Age (y)	All Conditions	Glaucoma	HIV/AIDS	Tourette Syndrome	ALS	Seizures	Muscle Spasms	Crohn's Disease	Cancer	Terminal Illness
0-4	25 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	22 (7%)	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)
5-17	127 (8%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	11 (38%)	0 (0%)	98 (33%)	5 (1%)	1 (1%)	13 (3%)	7 (9%)
18-24	92 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (10%)	0 (0%)	42 (14%)	30 (4%)	9 (8%)	9 (2%)	4 (5%)
25-35	206 (14%)	1 (5%)	7 (14%)	9 (31%)	0 (0%)	54 (18%)	102 (15%)	31 (29%)	20 (5%)	5 (7%)
36-49	397 (26%)	2 (10%)	16 (31%)	5 (17%)	2 (11%)	64 (21%)	221 (32%)	37 (35%)	74 (19%)	15 (20%)
50-64	493 (32%)	8 (40%)	26 (51%)	1 (3%)	9 (50%)	17 (6%)	261 (38%)	20 (19%)	173 (44%)	31 (41%)
65+	180 (12%)	9 (45%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	7 (39%)	3 (1%)	64 (9%)	8 (8%)	101 (26%)	12 (16%)
Mean Age (SD)	44.2 (18.7)	61.0 (14.5)	46.3 (11.4)	25.3 (11.9)	60.5 (9.7)	24.1 (15.9)	47.4 (14.4)	41.0 (14.3)	54.7 (16.2)	48.8 (20.4)

By July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 all eight Cannabis Patient Centers became open. A description of one-way distances travelled from patient homes to the nearest CPC will be available later this year.

## Caregivers

There are two different groups of caregivers in the Minnesota medical cannabis program: designated caregivers and parents or legal guardians acting as caregivers. All caregivers must be enrolled in the patient registry system. A patient’s parent or legal guardian may act as caregiver and be entered in the registry without having to qualify as a designated caregiver. A patient may have both registered designated caregivers and registered parents or legal guardians acting as caregivers.

The law permits patient to have a registered designated caregiver if the patient’s health care practitioner certifies that the patient suffers from a developmental or physical disability that prevents the patient from either self-administering the medication or acquiring the medication from a distribution facility. Registered designated caregivers must pass a criminal background check.

Table 4 displays the number of active designated caregivers by condition.

<b>Table 4</b>	
<b><i>Active Designated Caregivers by Condition*</i></b>	
<b>Qualifying Condition</b>	<b>Caregivers: N (%)</b>
<b>Glaucoma</b>	4 (2%)
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	1 (0%)
<b>Tourette Syndrome</b>	1 (0%)
<b>ALS</b>	10 (5%)
<b>Seizures</b>	38 (19%)
<b>Muscle Spasms</b>	75 (37%)
<b>Crohn's Disease</b>	7 (3%)
<b>Cancer</b>	84 (41%)
<b>Terminal Illness</b>	22 (11%)
<b>All Conditions</b>	205 (14%)

\*Currently each caregiver is designated for one patient each.

Table 5 shows the number of patients with registered parents or legal guardians authorized to pick up medical cannabis on the patient's behalf.

**Table 5**

**Active Patients With Parents/Legal Guardians Authorized to Pick Up Medication**

Qualifying Condition	Patients with PLGs: N (%)
Glaucoma	0 (0%)
HIV/AIDS	1 (0%)
Tourette Syndrome	16 (6%)
ALS	1 (0%)
Seizures	190 (76%)
Muscle Spasms	19 (8%)
Crohn's Disease	4 (2%)
Cancer	24 (10%)
Terminal Illness	12 (5%)
All Conditions	251 (17%)

## Health Care Practitioners

Health care practitioners who can certify a patient’s qualifying medical condition are Minnesota licensed physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). The health care practitioner must be enrolled in the medical cannabis registry before certifying a patient’s qualifying medical condition.

As can be seen in Figure 5, the number of health care practitioners registering with the program continues to increase.

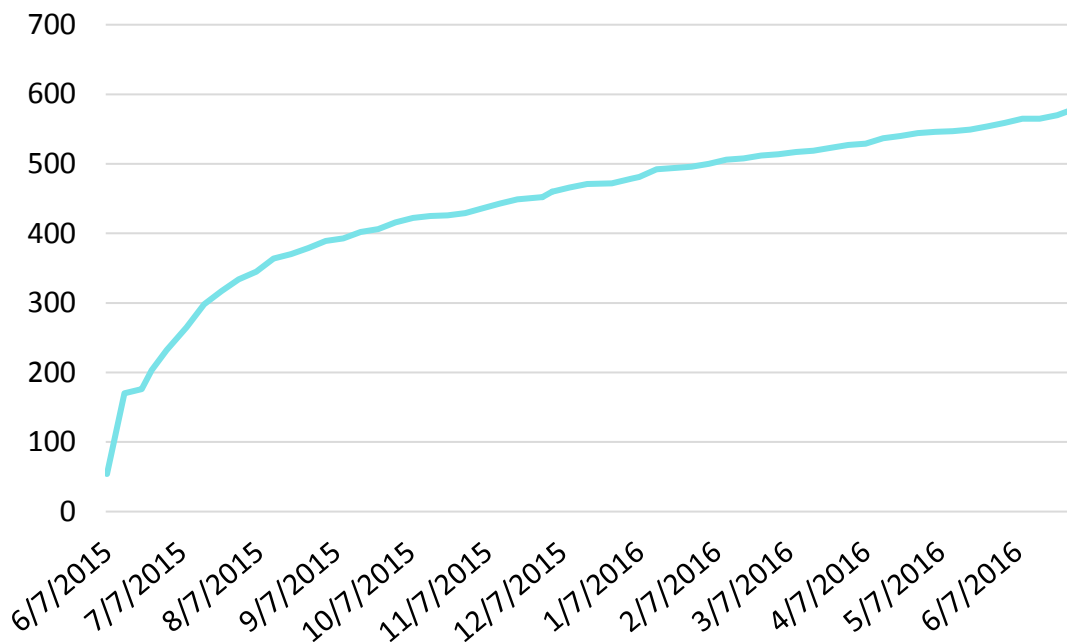


Figure 5. Count of registered health care practitioners actively in the patient registry since the program start.

Table 6 shows that of the 605 health care practitioners approved in the registry system (as of 6/30/16), 499 are physicians, 29 are physician assistants, and 77 are APRNs.

<b>Table 6</b>	
<b><i>Breakdown of Registered Health Care Practitioners by Type</i></b>	
<b>Physician</b>	499 (83%)
<b>Physician Assistant</b>	29 (5%)
<b>Advance Practice RN</b>	77 (13%)
<b>Total</b>	605

Minnesota Department of Health  
Office of Medical Cannabis  
PO Box 64882,  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882  
1-844-879-9688  
[health.cannabis@state.mn.us](mailto:health.cannabis@state.mn.us)  
[www.health.state.mn.us/medicalcannabis](http://www.health.state.mn.us/medicalcannabis)

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