

Medical Cannabis Program Update

APRIL 2019

Minnesota's medical cannabis program began distributing medical cannabis to registered patients on July 1, 2015. This update reports information collected from July 1, 2015 through March 31, 2019. The data for this update, unless otherwise noted, come from the medical cannabis patient registry system, a secure, web-based application system. This document 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 March 31, 2019. 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.

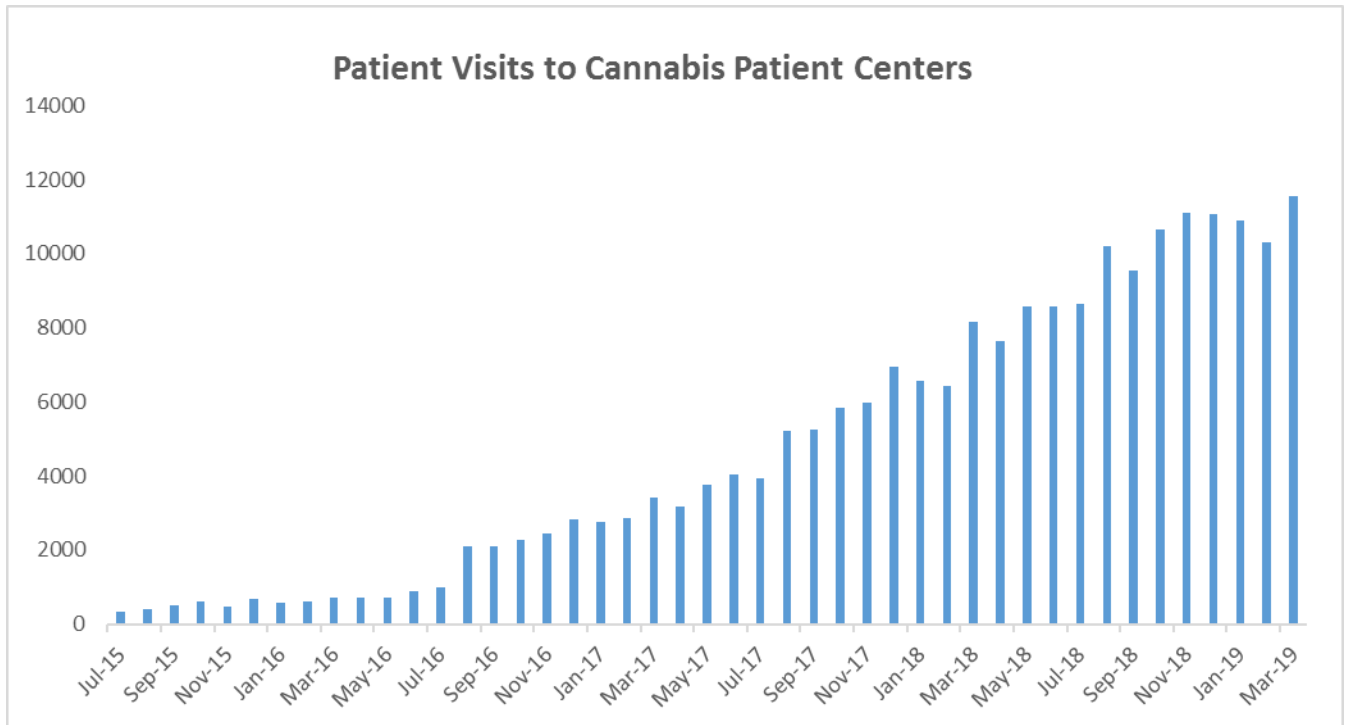


Figure 1. Total number of patient visits to a Cannabis Patient Center that resulted in purchase of medical cannabis products, by month.

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 March 31, 2019, there were 15,687 patients actively enrolled in the patient registry, 6,252 more than the 9,435 who were enrolled on March 29, 2018.

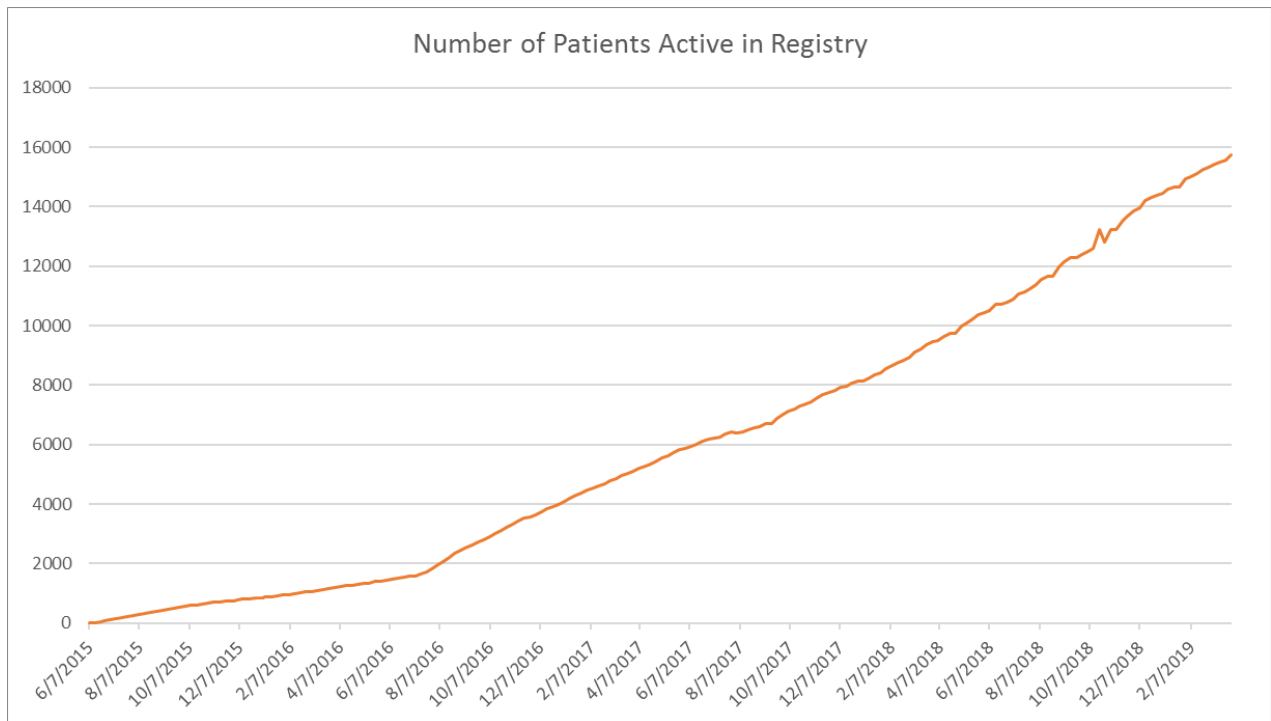


Figure 2. Weekly number of patients enrolled and in active status in registry.

Patients must pay an enrollment fee before they are eligible to legally purchase and possess medical cannabis. Minnesota Statutes, Section 152.35 sets the annual patient enrollment fee at \$200; patients who receive medical assistance, such as Minnesota Care (MN Care), Social Security Disability (SSD), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA) and CHAMPVA, qualify for a reduced fee of \$50. Figure 3 shows that 52 percent of patients registered as of March 31, 2019 qualified for the reduced enrollment fee.

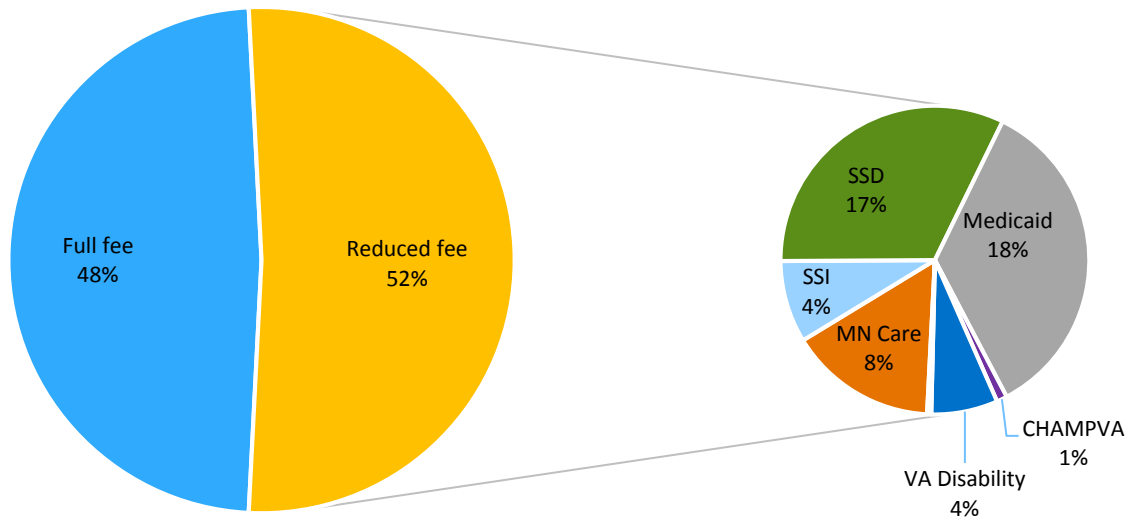


Figure 3. Breakdown of active patients by fee type (reduced vs. full fee) and types of government assistance for reduced fees, as of March 31, 2019.

The medical conditions that qualify a patient for the medical cannabis program 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;
- Terminal Illness with life-expectancy of less than 1 year (must be accompanied by severe or chronic pain, nausea , or severe wasting); and,
- Crohn’s Disease was extended to Inflammatory Bowel Disease (including Crohn’s Disease) effective July 1, 2016.

The Commissioner of Health has added the following qualifying medical conditions:

- Intractable Pain, effective August 1, 2016;
- Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD), effective August 1, 2017;
- Autism Spectrum Disorder, effective August 1, 2018; and
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea, effective August 1, 2018.

The Commissioner has also conditionally added Alzheimer’s Disease as a qualifying condition, to be effective August 1, 2019.

Table 1 shows the number of active patients in the patient registry who have been certified as having that qualifying medical condition. As of March 31, 2019, the three most frequently certified qualifying medical conditions are (1) intractable pain, (2) PTSD, and (3) severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis.

Table 1: Count (%) of Active Patients by Condition* as of March 31, 2019

Qualifying Condition	Patients Certified: N (%)
Glaucoma	110 (1%)
HIV/AIDS	92 (1%)
Tourette Syndrome	112 (1%)
ALS	37 (<1%)
Seizures	630 (4%)
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	1,831 (12%)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease	474 (3%)
Cancer	1,349 (9%)
Terminal Illness	138 (1%)
Intractable Pain	9,974 (64%)
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	2,624 (17%)
Autism Spectrum Disorder	483 (3%)
Obstructive Sleep Apnea	609 (4%)
Total	15,687

**Patients certified total more than 100% because 14.1% of the 15,687 patients are currently certified for more than one condition; this table counts each certified condition.*

Figure 4 displays the number of active patients by age and gender. The average age of registered patients is 48.9 years; however, the average age varies by qualifying medical condition.

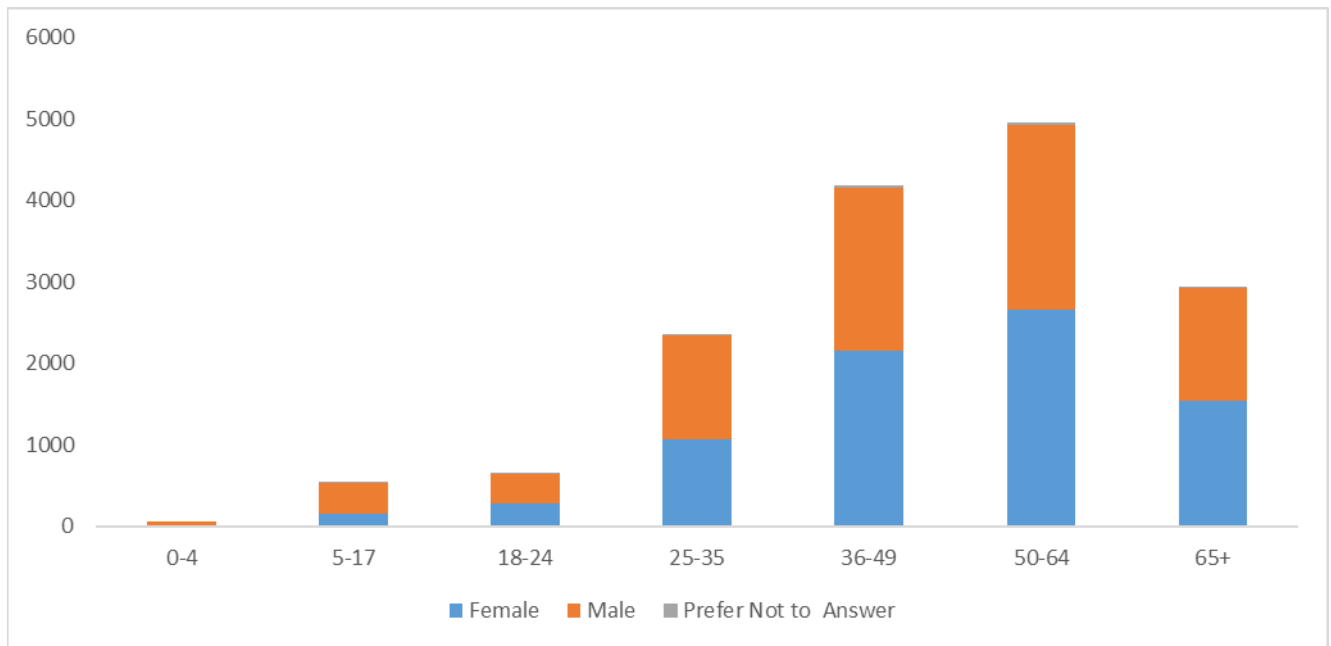


Figure 4. Breakdown of active patients by age and gender, as of March 31, 2019.

Table 2 demonstrates the breakdown of active, condition-specific patient counts by age. Patients certified as having Autism Spectrum Disorder have the lowest average age of 16.3 years; patients with terminal illness have the highest average age of 59.3 years.

Table 2: Breakdown of Active Patients by Age Group and Qualifying Medical Condition, as of March 31, 2019

Age (y)	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-35	36-49	50-64	65+	Mean Age (SD)
All Conditions	55 (<1%)	526 (3%)	662 (4%)	2361 (15%)	4196 (27%)	4959 (32%)	2931 (19%)	48.9 (17.1)
Glaucoma	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	9 (8%)	18 (16%)	39 (35%)	40 (36%)	56.1 (14.5)
HIV/AIDS	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (4%)	15 (16%)	33 (36%)	38 (41%)	2 (2%)	45.6 (11.5)
Tourette Syndrome	0 (0%)	34 (30%)	19 (17%)	28 (25%)	20 (18%)	5 (5%)	6 (5%)	28.0 (16.2)
ALS	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	7 (19%)	19 (51%)	10 (27%)	57.7 (11.1)
Seizures	27 (4%)	136 (22%)	94 (15%)	139 (22%)	145 (23%)	63 (10%)	26 (4%)	30.6 (17.6)
Muscle Spasms	1 (<1%)	14 (1%)	61 (3%)	282 (15%)	572 (31%)	651 (36%)	250 (14%)	48.8 (14.5)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease	0 (0%)	5 (1%)	34 (7%)	129 (27%)	160 (34%)	111 (23%)	35 (7%)	42.6 (14.0)
Cancer	8 (1%)	20 (2%)	23 (2%)	69 (5%)	199 (15%)	510 (38%)	520 (39%)	58.2 (15.5)
Terminal Illness	2 (1%)	5 (4%)	3 (2%)	4 (3%)	16 (12%)	58 (42%)	50 (36%)	59.3 (18.4)
Intractable Pain	1 (<1%)	36 (<1%)	229 (2%)	1226 (12%)	2719 (27%)	3652 (37%)	2111 (21%)	52.4 (15.1)
PTSD	1 (<1%)	43 (2%)	196 (8%)	827 (32%)	919 (35%)	488 (19%)	150 (6%)	40.4 (13.2)

Age (y)	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-35	36-49	50-64	65+	Mean Age (SD)
<i>Autism Spectrum Disorder</i>	19 (4%)	287 (59%)	102 (21%)	48 (10%)	20 (4%)	5 (1%)	2 (<1%)	16.3 (10.1)
<i>Obstructive Sleep Apnea</i>	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	5 (1%)	69 (11%)	220 (36%)	228 (37%)	86 (14%)	50.1 (12.3)

Table 3 indicates the majority of enrolled patients come from or near the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Only twelve percent of enrolled patients come from the northern tier (defined as the Duluth, Brainerd, Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, and East Grand Forks zip code regions listed in Table 4). Seventy-one percent of enrolled patients come from the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Table 3. Approved and active patients, by Zip code region as of March 31, 2019

Region	ZIP Codes	Active Patients
St Paul	55000-55199	4,743
Minneapolis	55300-55599	6,418
Duluth	55600-55899	859
Rochester	55900-55999	651
Mankato	56000-56199	553
Willmar	56200-56299	407
St Cloud	56300-56399	959
Brainerd	56400-56499	447
Detroit Lakes	56500-56599	344
Bemidji	56600-56699	186
E Grand Forks	56700-56799	117

Caregivers

Patients who require extra help can use their registry account to invite caregivers to assist them in picking up medical cannabis from a cannabis patient center or in administering the medical cannabis. 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 a patient to have a registered designated caregiver only 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 CPC. Registered designated caregivers must pass a criminal background check.

Table 4 displays the number of patients with registered designated caregivers or registered parents/legal guardians, by qualifying medical condition, as of March 31, 2019.

Table 4: Active Designated Caregivers and/or Registered Parents/Legal Guardians by Condition* as of March 31, 2019

Qualifying Condition	Total Patients	Patient with Registered Caregivers: N (%)	Patients with Registered PLGs: N (%)	Patients with Caregiver and/or PLG: N (%)
Glaucoma	110	3 (3%)	9 (8%)	12 (11%)
HIV/AIDS	92	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Tourette Syndrome	112	54 (48%)	7 (6%)	56 (50%)
ALS	37	0 (0%)	18 (49%)	18 (49%)
Seizures	630	308 (49%)	65 (10%)	344 (55%)
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	1,831	67 (4%)	248 (14%)	310 (17%)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease	474	14 (3%)	21 (4%)	35 (7%)
Cancer	1,349	50 (4%)	265 (20%)	312 (23%)
Terminal Illness	138	11 (8%)	42 (30%)	50 (36%)
Intractable Pain	9,974	138 (1%)	745 (7%)	879 (9%)
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	2,624	84 (3%)	81 (3%)	163 (6%)
Autism Spectrum Disorder	483	406 (84%)	22 (5%)	413 (86%)
Obstructive Sleep Apnea	609	4 (1%)	18 (3%)	22 (4%)
Total	15,687	1,010 (6%)	1,229 (8%)	2,182 (14%)

*A designated caregiver is limited to caring for one patient at a time, unless the patients live at the same address.

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.

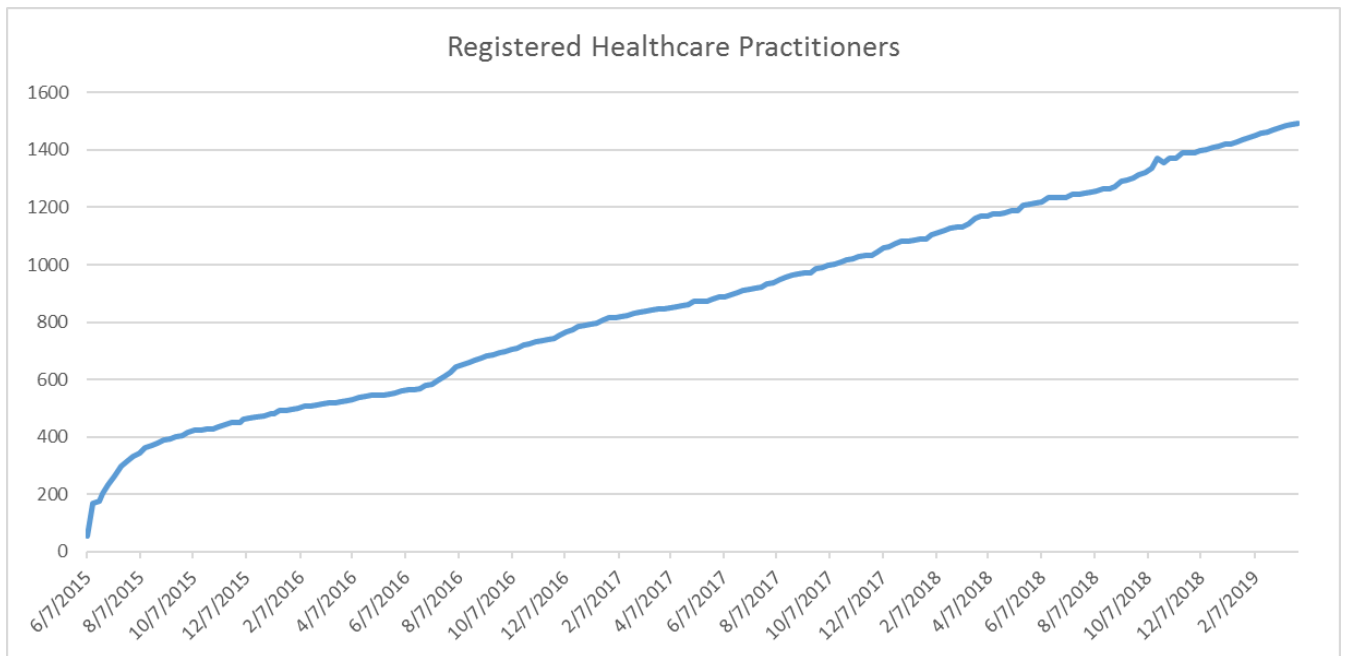


Figure 5. Count of registered health care practitioners actively in the patient registry since the program start.

Table 5 shows that as of March 31, 2019, there were 1,494 health care practitioners approved in the registry system. Of the 1,494 registered practitioners, 1116 are physicians, 112 are physician assistants, and 266 are APRNs. One year ago, there were 1,169 registered health care practitioners, 903 of whom were physicians (77%), 76 of whom were physician assistants (7%), and 190 of whom were APRNs (16%).

Table 5: Breakdown of Registered Health Care Practitioners by Type, as of March 31, 2019

Healthcare Practitioner Type	N (%)
Physician	1116 (75%)
Physician Assistant	112 (7%)

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Advanced Practice RN	266 (18%)
Total	1,494

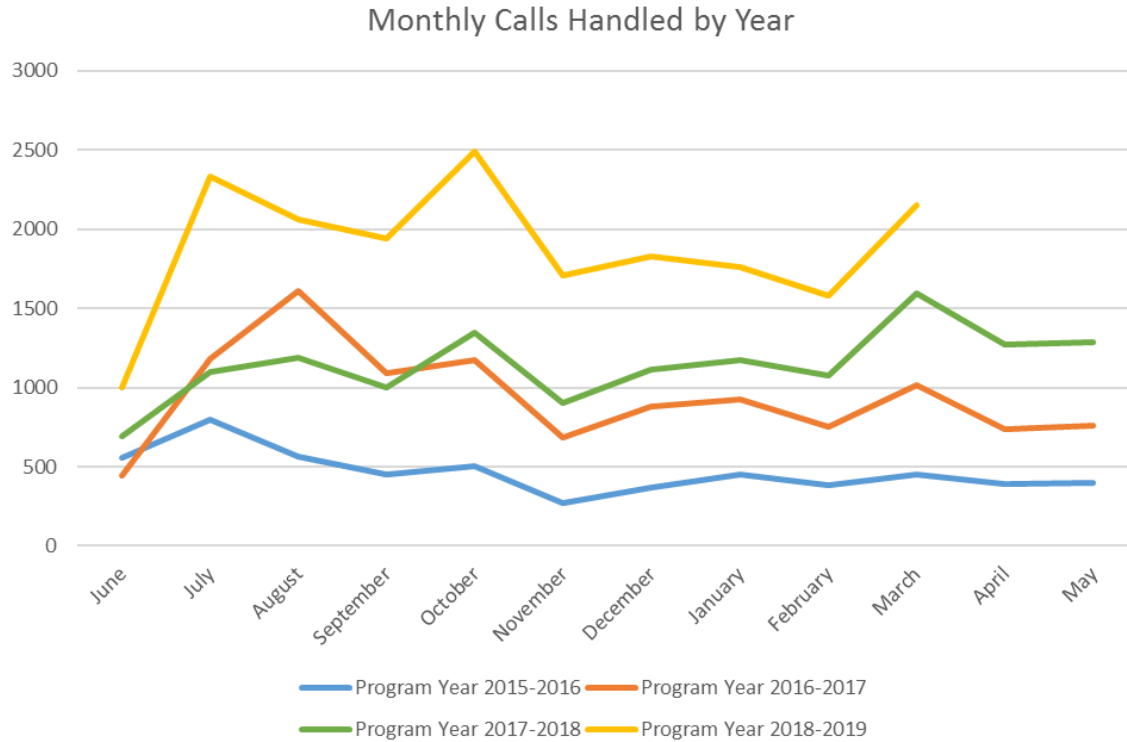


Figure 6. Number of monthly calls handled by OMC staff since program start.

Activity in the program increased beginning July 1, 2016, when Intractable Pain became a qualifying medical condition. Phone calls received by OMC increased beginning in June 2016. With one exception, each quarter’s call volume has been greater than the call volume for that quarter in the previous year. The eight highest call-volume months have occurred in the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

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