

# Medical Cannabis Program Update

OCTOBER 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 September 30, 2016. 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 September 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.

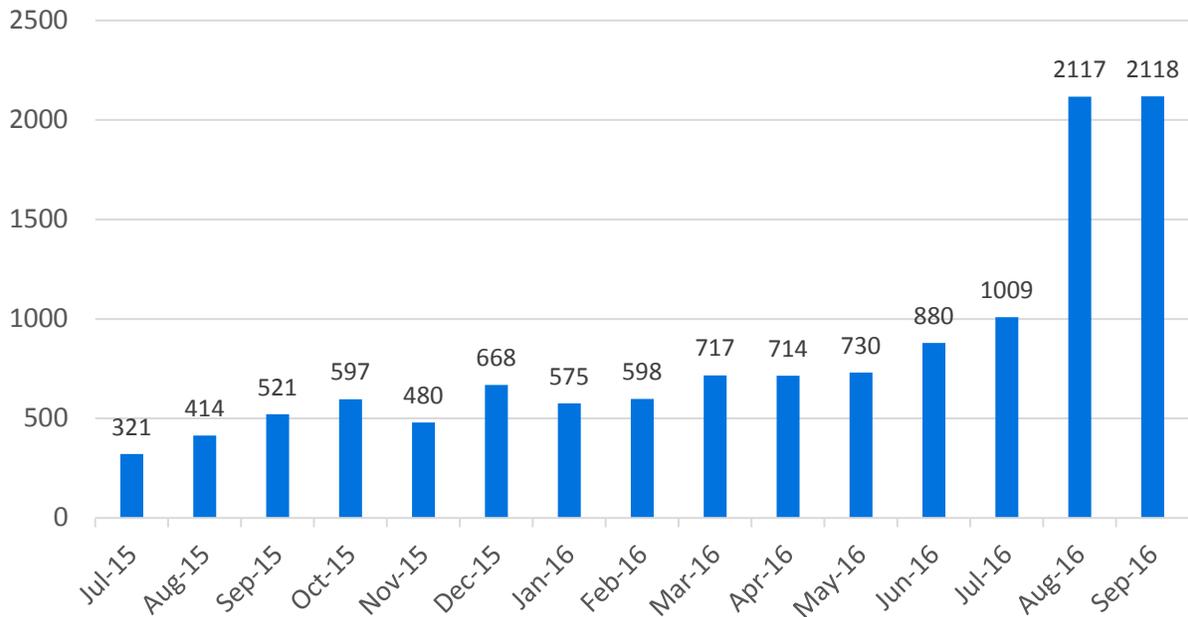


Figure 1. Total number of patient visits to a Cannabis Patient Center which resulted in purchase of medical cannabis products, by month since the program start.

## 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 September 30, 2016, there are 2,806 patients actively enrolled in the patient registry, an increase of 1,218 from the 1,588 enrolled on June 30, 2016. This increase is due primarily to the addition of Intractable Pain as a qualifying medical condition.

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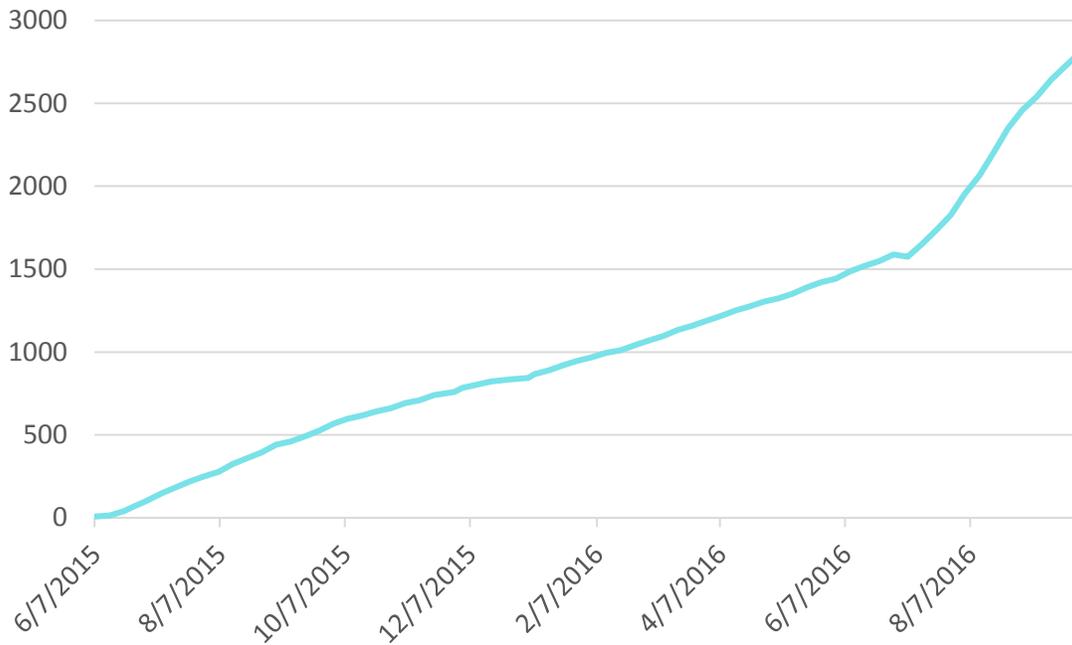


Figure 2. Weekly number of patients enrolled and in active status in registry.

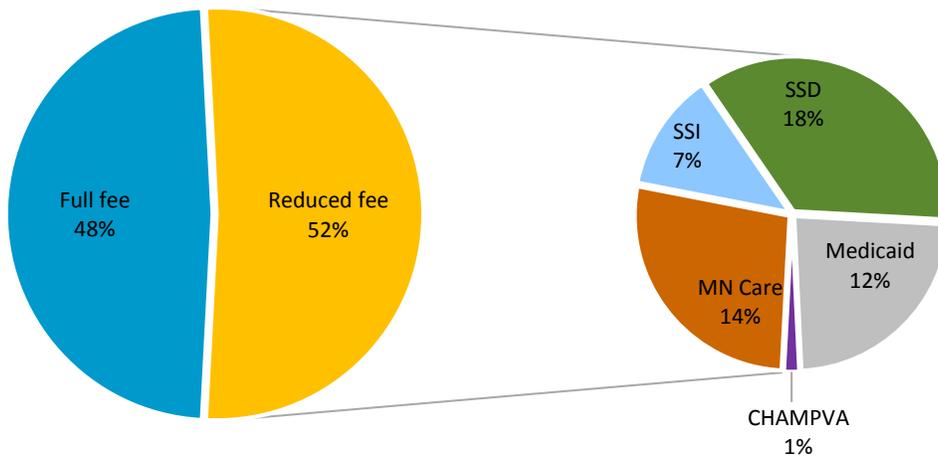


Figure 3. Breakdown of active patients by fee type (reduced vs. full fee) and types of government assistance for reduced fees.

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 52 percent of registered patients have qualified for the reduced enrollment fee, a decrease of 5 percent from the 57 percent qualifying for the lower fee as of June 30, 2016.

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***

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Medical Cannabis Registry</b>	<b>2014 Census Bureau Estimates*</b>
American Indian	73 (2.6%)	1.9%
Asian	35 (1.2%)	5.0%
Black	135 (4.8%)	6.5%
Hawaiian	5 (0.2%)	0.1%
White	2436 (86.8%)	87.5%
Hispanic	67 (2.4%)	4.9%
Other	43 (1.5%)	1.7%
Unknown	28 (1%)	

\*<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; 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. Intractable Pain was added as a qualifying medical condition by the commissioner of health, 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) intractable pain, (2) severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis, and (3) cancer or its treatment, accompanied by severe or chronic pain, nausea, or severe wasting.

**Table 2**

**Count (%) of Active Patients by Condition\***

Qualifying Condition	Patients: N (%)
Glaucoma	31 (1%)
HIV/AIDS	48 (2%)
Tourette Syndrome	34 (1%)
ALS	14 (1%)
Seizures	292 (10%)
Muscle Spasms	869 (31%)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease	129 (5%)
Cancer	492 (18%)
Terminal Illness	89 (3%)
Intractable Pain	1212 (43%)
Total	2807

\*13.5% of the 2807 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 48.6 years, however the average age varies by qualifying medical condition.

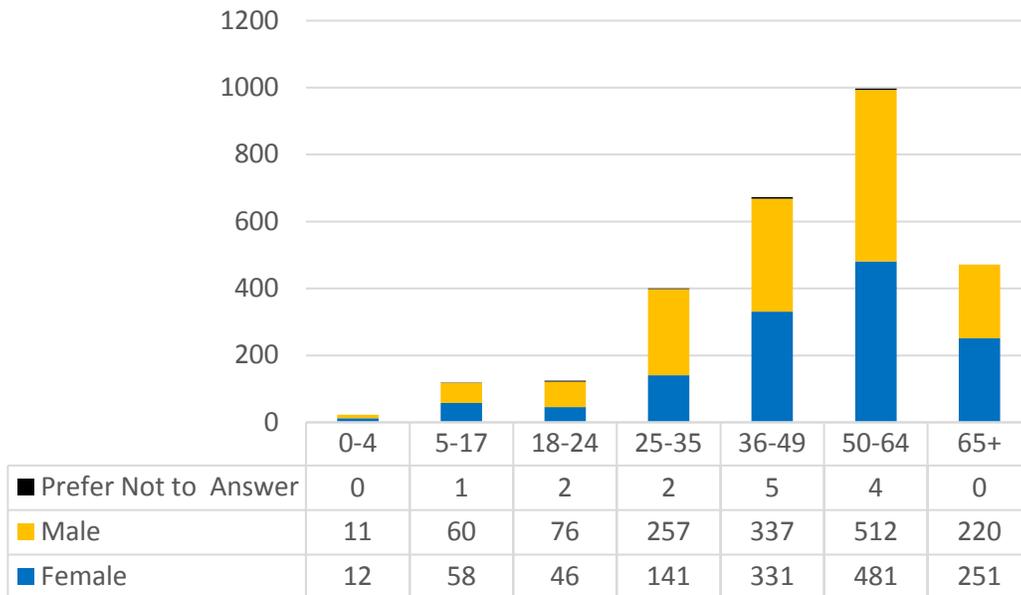


Figure 4. Breakdown of active patients by age and gender.

Table 3 demonstrates the breakdown of active, condition-specific patient counts by age. Patients certified as having Tourette syndrome have the lowest average age of 23.8 years; patients with glaucoma have the highest average age of 59.9 years.

**Table 3**

***Breakdown of Active Patients by Age Group and Qualifying Medical Condition***

Age (y)	All Conditions	Glaucoma	HIV/AIDS	Tourette Syndrome	ALS	Seizures	Muscle Spasms	Crohn's Disease	Cancer	Terminal Illness	Intractable Pain
0-4	23 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	19 (7%)	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (0%)	1 (1%)	1 (0%)
5-17	119 (4%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	14 (41%)	0 (0%)	83 (28%)	7 (1%)	3 (2%)	11 (2%)	6 (7%)	4 (0%)
18-24	124 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (12%)	0 (0%)	43 (15%)	33 (4%)	12 (9%)	7 (1%)	3 (3%)	33 (3%)
25-35	400 (15%)	1 (3%)	9 (19%)	11 (32%)	0 (0%)	62 (21%)	158 (18%)	38 (29%)	34 (7%)	6 (7%)	156 (13%)
36-49	673 (24%)	4 (13%)	16 (33%)	4 (12%)	4 (29%)	58 (20%)	255 (29%)	44 (34%)	68 (14%)	15 (17%)	314 (26%)
50-64	997 (36%)	17 (55%)	22 (46%)	1 (3%)	6 (43%)	17 (6%)	322 (37%)	26 (20%)	222 (45%)	34 (38%)	470 (39%)
65+	471 (17%)	9 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (29%)	10 (3%)	92 (11%)	6 (5%)	148 (30%)	24 (27%)	234 (19%)
Mean Age (SD)	48.6 (17.9)	59.9 (12.4)	45.0 (1.5)	23.8 (12.4)	57.1 (11.0)	25.8 (17.0)	47.4 (14.7)	40.7 (13.9)	56.7 (15.8)	54.2 (21.0)	52.1 (15.6)

All eight Cannabis Patient Centers were open by July 1, 2016. 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 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 distribution facility. Registered designated caregivers must pass a criminal background check.

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

**Table 4**

*Active Designated Caregivers by Condition\**

Qualifying Condition	Total Patients	Patient with Caregivers: N (%)
Glaucoma	31	6 (19%)
HIV/AIDS	48	2 (4%)
Tourette Syndrome	34	1 (3%)
ALS	14	9 (64%)
Seizures	292	47 (16%)
Muscle Spasms	869	96 (11%)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease	129	11 (9%)
Cancer	492	114 (23%)
Terminal Illness	89	29 (33%)
Intractable Pain	1212	74 (6%)
All Conditions	2807	323 (12%)

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

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	Total Patients	Patients with PLGs: N (%)
Glaucoma	31	0 (0%)
HIV/AIDS	48	1 (2%)
Tourette Syndrome	34	20 (59%)
ALS	14	1 (7%)
Seizures	292	174 (60%)
Muscle Spasms	869	25 (3%)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease	129	5 (4%)

**Table 5**

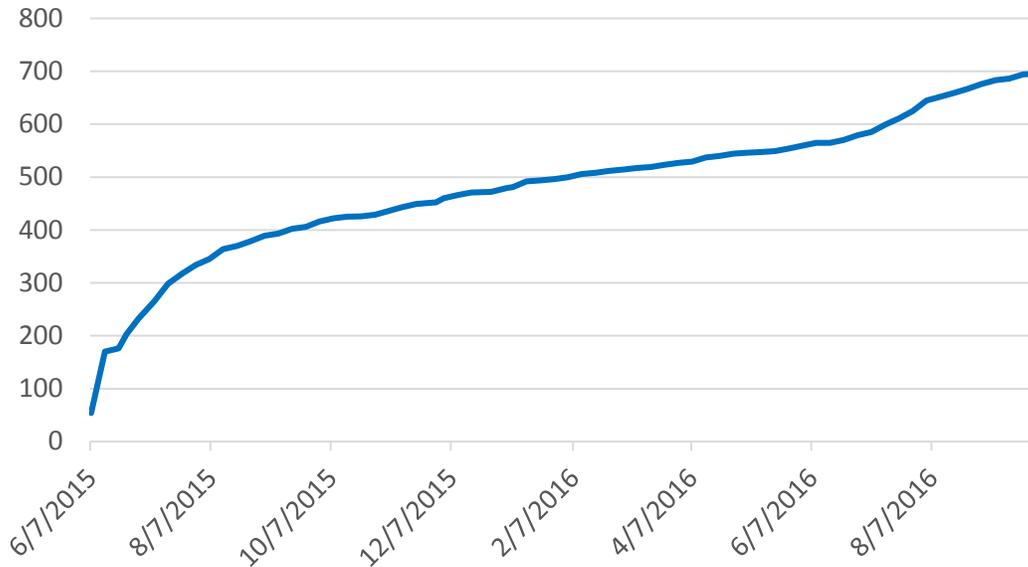
**Active Patients With Parents/Legal Guardians Authorized to Pick Up Medication**

<b>Cancer</b>	492	20 (4%)
<b>Terminal Illness</b>	89	10 (11%)
<b>Intractable Pain</b>	1212	14 (1%)
<b>All Conditions</b>	2807	253 (9%)

## 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 as of September 30, 2016, 696 health care practitioners are approved in the registry system), and 572 are physicians, 38 are physician assistants, and 86 are APRNs.

<b>Table 6</b>	
<b><i>Breakdown of Registered Health Care Practitioners by Type</i></b>	
<b>Physician</b>	572 (82%)
<b>Physician Assistant</b>	38 (6%)
<b>Advance Practice RN</b>	86 (12%)
<b>Total</b>	696

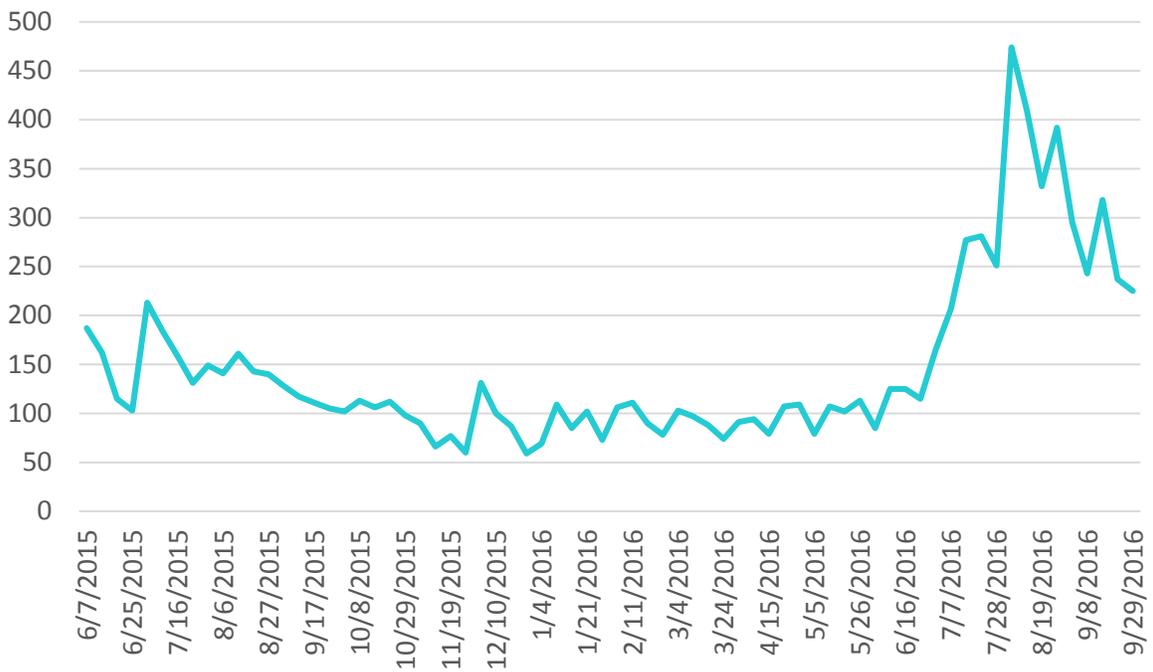


Figure 6. Number of weekly calls received since the program start.

Activity in the program increased beginning July 1, 2016, when patients with Intractable Pain became eligible to have their medical condition certified to be eligible for the program. Phone calls received by OMC increased beginning in June and the highest call volume week for the program came the first week of August with 474 calls received.

Table 7 indicates the majority of enrolled patients come from or near the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Only 8.3 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 7).

**Table 7**

***Approved and Active Patients, by Region***

<b>Region</b>	<b>ZIP Codes</b>	<b>Active Patients</b>
<b>St Paul</b>	55000-55199	964
<b>Minneapolis</b>	55300-55599	1108
<b>Duluth</b>	55600-55899	92
<b>Rochester</b>	55900-55999	150
<b>Mankato</b>	56000-56199	109
<b>Willmar</b>	56200-56299	87
<b>St Cloud</b>	56300-56399	153
<b>Brainerd</b>	56400-56499	45
<b>Detroit Lakes</b>	56500-56599	58
<b>Bemidji</b>	56600-56699	24
<b>East Grand Forks</b>	56700-56799	15

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