



MEDICAL MARIJUANA
PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY 7/1/2022-6/30/23

SEPTEMBER 2023

In accordance with the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act, § 21-28.6-6(m), the Department of Health (RIDOH) respectfully submits this annual report on applications for the use of medical marijuana for symptom relief.

1) The total number of applications for registration as a qualifying patient, primary caregiver and authorized purchaser made to RIDOH.

For the fiscal year, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 RIDOH received 1,107 new patient applications, 45 caregiver applications and 95 authorized purchaser applications.

2) The total number of applications for registration as a qualifying patient, primary caregiver and authorized purchaser approved:

For the fiscal year, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 RIDOH approved and issued 1,598 patient registrations, 41 caregiver registrations and 83 authorized purchaser registrations.

The number of applications approved is larger than the number received due to there were a percentage of applications that were incomplete upon receipt. When we receive the requisite documentation and/or fees for incomplete applications, the application is approved, and the registration is issued at that time.

3) The nature of the debilitating conditions of qualifying patients:

Practitioner Written Certifications contained the following debilitating conditions for the time period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

Please note that many patients have more than one diagnosis code. Therefore, the count of diagnosis codes will always be higher than the number of patients.

Qualifying Debilitating Condition	Percentage of Total Patients	Number of Patients
Severe Debilitating, Chronic Pain	56.03%	748
Severe Nausea	5.54%	74
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	18.28%	244
Cancer or Treatment	12.51%	167
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	3.45%	46
Seizures, Including Epilepsy	1.65%	22
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	1.05%	14
Hepatitis C or Treatment	0.37%	4

Glaucoma or Treatment	0.30%	4
Positive Status for HIV or Treatment	0.37%	5
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.45%	6

4) The number of registrations revoked:

There were no registrations revoked in accordance with §21-28.6-9 of the Act during the time period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

5) Specializations, if any, of practitioners providing written certification for qualifying patients: PLEASE NOTE: The percentages and patient count data listed below are based upon the total number of currently active patients.

As of June 30, 2023, the specializations of Rhode Island practitioners who provided written certifications were as follows. These percentages are grouped by profession then sorted by patient count per specialty.

Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Internal Medicine	3,111	35.78%
Family Practice	1,399	16.09%
Surgery	246	2.83%
Anatomic Pathology	3	0.03%
Surgical Critical Care	241	2.77%
Neurology	419	4.82%
Rheumatology	261	3.00%
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	85	0.98%
Medical Oncology	164	1.89%
Hematology	120	1.38%
Psychiatry	54	0.62%
Gastroenterology	38	0.44%
Orthopedic Surgery	46	0.53%
Neurologic Surgery	50	0.58%
Infectious Disease	59	0.68%

Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Obstetrics and Gynecology	22	0.25%
Pulmonary Disease	16	0.18%
Emergency Medicine	83	0.95%
Pediatrics	30	0.35%
Nephrology	20	0.23%
Gynecologic Oncology	6	0.07%
Pediatric Infectious Disease	14	0.16%
Ophthalmology	8	0.09%
Anesthesiology	8	0.09%
Child Neurology	8	0.09%
Pain Management- Anesthesiology	8	0.09%
Geriatric Medicine (FP) – Family Practice	1	0.01%
Urology	11	0.13%
Clinical Neurophysiology- Psychiatry & Neurology	7	0.08%
Geriatric Medicine-Internal Medicine	8	0.09%
Radiation Oncology	5	0.06%
Otolaryngology	5	0.06%
Allergy & Immunology	1	0.01%
Geriatric Psychiatry – Psychiatry & Neurology	4	0.05%
Child Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	1	0.01%
Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism (IM)- Internal Medicine	2	0.02%
Thoracic Surgery	2	0.02%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	1	0.01%
Dermatology	1	0.01%
Occupational Medicine	1	0.01%

6) The number of active qualifying patient, primary caregiver and authorized purchaser registrations as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, there was a total of 11,618 active patient registrations, 222 active caregiver registrations and 350 active authorized purchaser registrations.

7) An evaluation of the costs permitting the use of marijuana for symptom relief, including any costs to law enforcement agencies and costs of any litigation.

RIDOH costs for the Medical Marijuana Program (MMP) for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 was \$246,185.04.

The cost of administration of the Medical Marijuana Program includes three (3) staff dedicated solely to MMP, a percentage of one (1) Health Program Administrator whose duties include oversight of the program; and database, secure photo ID equipment and maintenance costs.

There was no litigation regarding medical marijuana during the 2023 fiscal year.

8) Statistics regarding the number of marijuana-related prosecutions against registered patients and caregivers, and an analysis of the facts underlying those prosecutions.

There were no prosecutions against any registered patients, caregivers or purchasers during the 2023 fiscal year.

9) Statistics regarding the number of prosecutions against physicians for violations of this chapter.

There were no prosecutions against physicians during the 2023 fiscal year.

10) Whether the United States Food and Drug Administration has altered its position regarding the use of marijuana for medical purposes or has approved alternative delivery systems for marijuana.

There has been no change in the FDA position