



# WASHINGTON'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

House Commerce & Gaming Committee  
October 21, 2021

# What is the Medical Marijuana Program

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## **Compliant Product**

- Three categories (General Use, High THC and High CBD)
- Only cardholders may purchase High THC products
- Requires testing for prohibited pesticides and heavy metals

## **Registry**

- Administered By the Department of Health
- Voluntary for adult patients, required for minors
- Used to confirm the validity of recognition cards during the sale process

## **MMJ Consultant**

- Not a healthcare provider
- Must complete a 20-hour state approved training course
- Create and issue recognition cards, assist with product selection, safe handling etc.

# Compliant Product **2021 Updates**

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## ● **2021 JLARC Study**

- Determined the tax exemptions are helping patients, should continue.
- JLARC recommended DOH and DOR clarify some ambiguity around which products are eligible.
- Ultimately JLARC, DOR and DOH worked together to clarify that tax exemptions are separate from and broader than compliant product classifications.

## ● **Coordination with LCB**

- Clarifying product packaging requirements which will assist patients in selecting products that may benefit their medical condition.

# Recognition Card Benefits

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## **Authorized Patient Registered:**

- May purchase 3 times the recreational limits
- May possess 6-15 plants if authorized
- May purchase high-THC products, when available
- Purchases at endorsed stores are not subject to sales tax
- Arrest protection
- May participate in a cooperative
- May purchase immature plants, clones and seeds from a licensed producer



## **Authorized Patient Not Registered:**

- May purchase only in accordance with the laws and rules for non-patients
- Affirmative defense to criminal prosecution if they possess no more than four plants and six ounces of usable marijuana
- May possess 4 plants

# MMJ Registry – A Word on Security

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- 2SSB 5052 (2015) required that the registry be contracted out rather than hosted by DOH.
- Information in the database is **exempt** from public disclosure, inspection, or copying.
- 2SSB 5052 (2015) required consultation with a cybersecurity company during implementation to ensure system security and integrity.

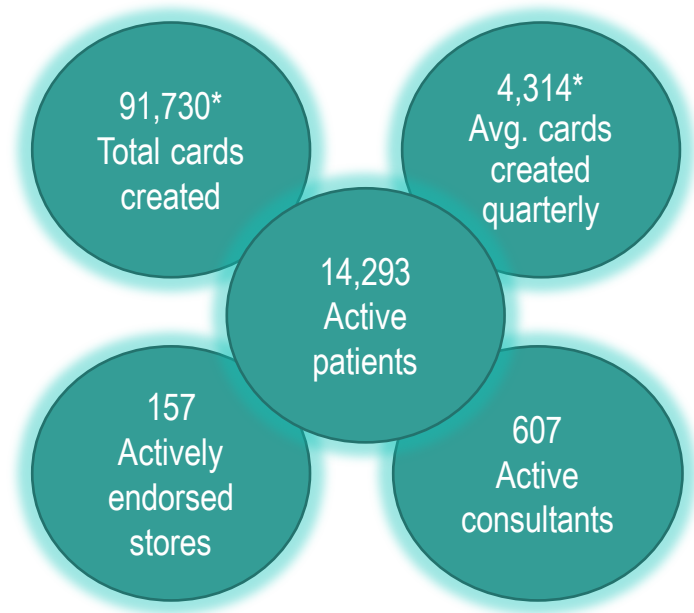
# Medical Marijuana Consultant **2021 Updates**

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- Emergency rule continues to allow MMJ consultants to obtain/renew certification without taking first aid/CPR course in person (i.e., online completion is acceptable)
- Chapter 246-72 MMJ Consultant rulemaking in progress
  - Update training requirements to reflect evolving industry standards

# Patient Statistics 2021

- Adults– Average age is 52, the most common authorization being intractable pain
  - Average age has increased from 50 to 52 since 2019
- Minors– Average age remains 12, the most common authorization being epilepsy

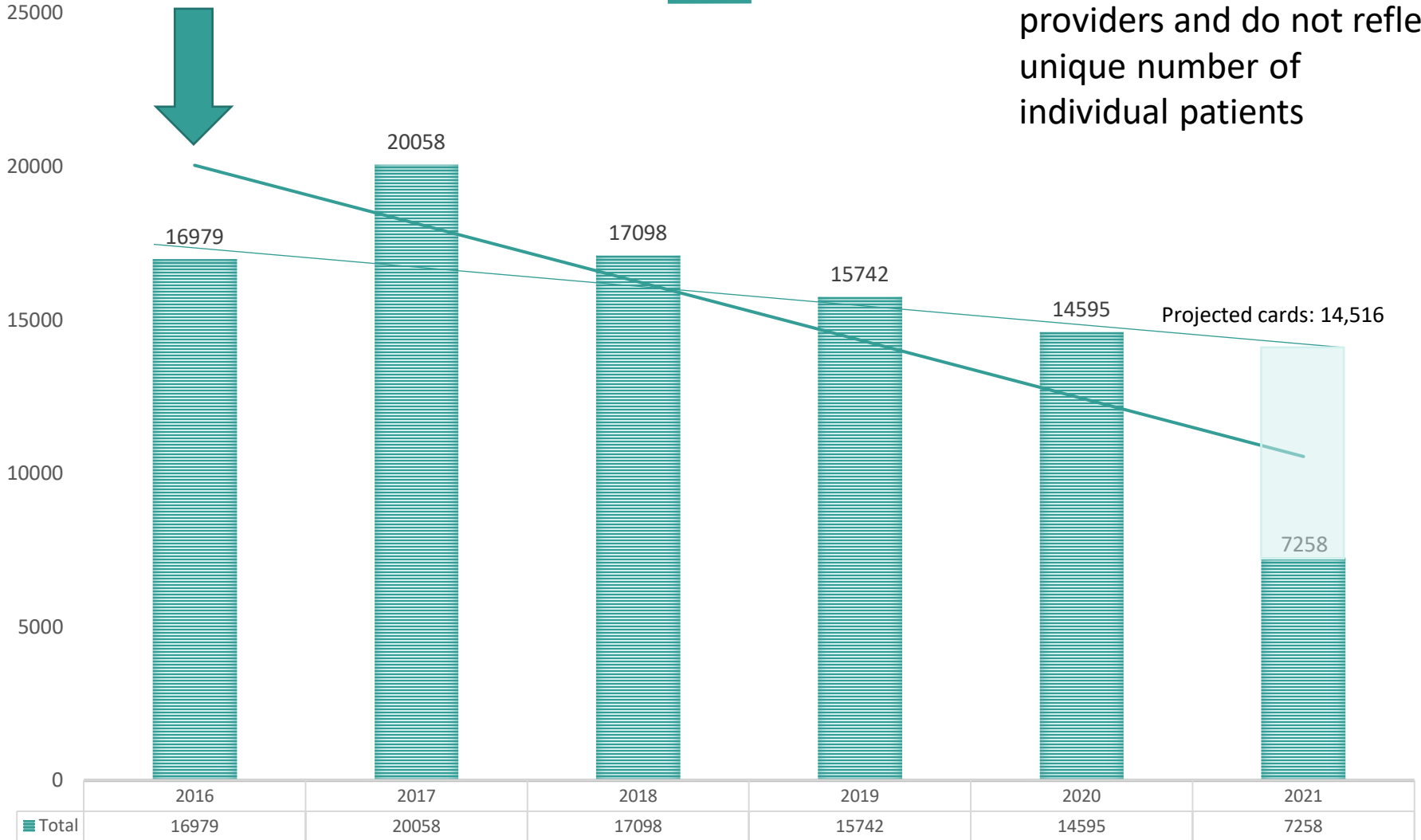


\*Total cards created are not representative of total ACTIVE cardholding patients. The numbers listed represent initial cards and cards that were replaced, renewed, corrected or revoked.

# TOTAL CARDS CREATED\* 7/1/2016 - 06/30/2021

\*Numbers account for each card created for both patients and designated providers and do not reflect unique number of individual patients

Registration  
go-live 7/1/2016





# Next Steps & Moving Forward

- Consultant rules in progress



- Development of Tax preference interpretive statement & rules
- Ongoing registry management
- Participation on the Cannabis Science Task Force

# Department of Health Medical Marijuana Program Contacts

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Health Systems Quality Assurance Division

**Kristin Reichl**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy*

**Martin Pittioni**

*Director, Office of Health Professions*

**Allyson Clayborn**

*Program Manager*

[www.doh.wa.gov/MedicalMarijuana](http://www.doh.wa.gov/MedicalMarijuana)

[medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov](mailto:medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov)

360-236-4819



@WADeptHealth



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