



Medical Cannabis Program Update

JULY 2020

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 June 30, 2020. 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 Dec. 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, St. Paul, and Willmar.

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, 2020. 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.

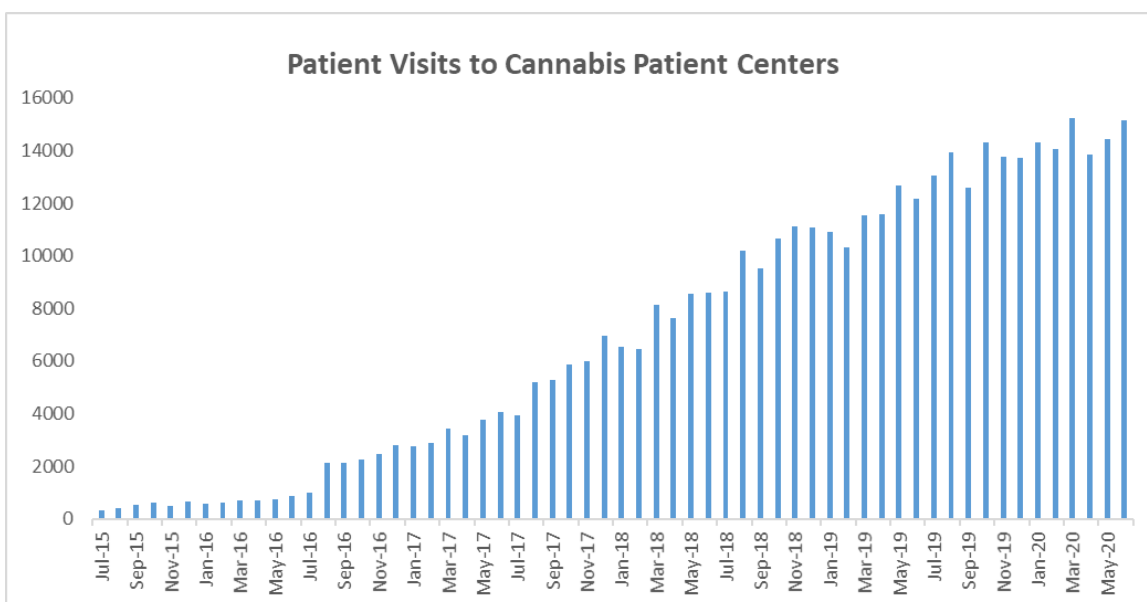


Figure 1. Total number of patient visits to a Cannabis Patient Center that resulted in purchase of medical cannabis products, by month.

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 June 30, 2020, there were 22,233 patients actively enrolled in the patient registry, an increase of 29% (or 5,031) above the 17,202 who were enrolled as of June 30, 2019. The patient enrollment numbers are artificially inflated this quarter by the governor’s emergency executive order (EO 20-26) which prevents enrollments from expiring during the on-going COVID-19 public health emergency.

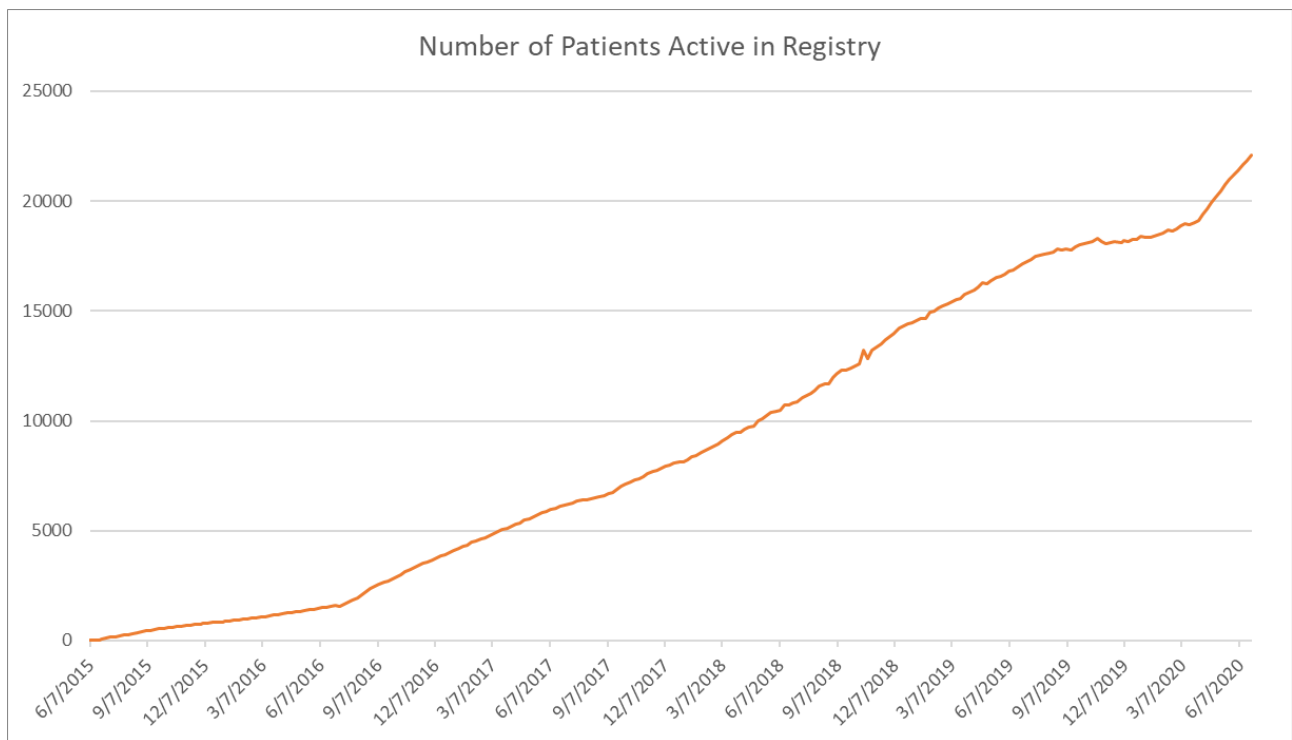


Figure 2. Weekly number of patients enrolled and in active status in registry, as of June 30, 2020.

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 Veterans Disability (including VA dependency and indemnity compensation), qualify for a reduced fee of \$50. Figure 3 shows that 52% of patients registered as of June 30, 2020, qualified for the reduced enrollment fee.

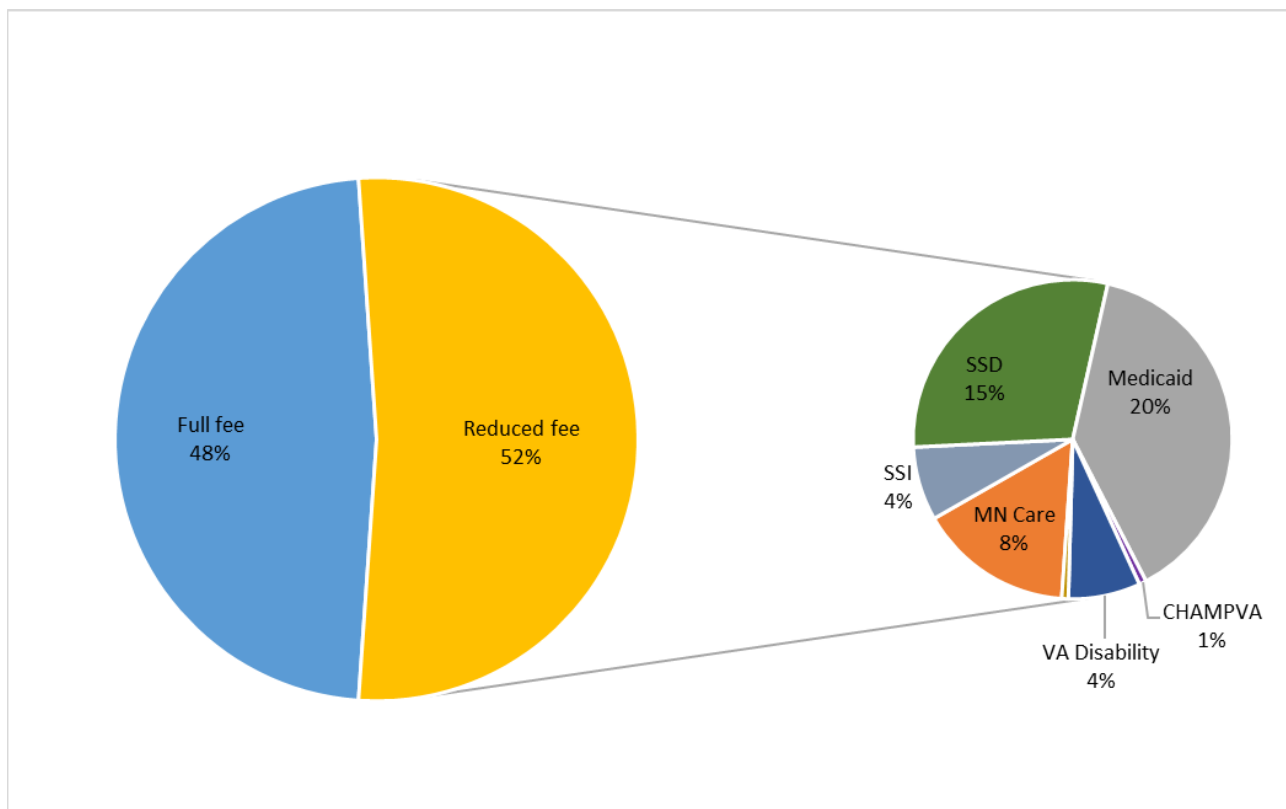


Figure 3. Breakdown of active patients by fee type (reduced vs. full fee) and types of government assistance for reduced fees, as of June 30, 2020.

The racial/ethnic distribution of active patients in the registry generally 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 | 2019 Census Bureau Estimates* |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| American Indian | 731 (3.3%) | 2.2% |
| Asian | 281 (1.3%) | 5.9% |
| Black | 1,241 (5.6%) | 8.3% |
| Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 40 (0.2%) | 0.2% |
| White | 19,361 (87.1%) | 86.2% |
| Hispanic | 649 (2.9%) | 5.6% |
| Other | 473 (2.1%) | - |

*<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html>

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)
- 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 Aug. 1, 2016.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), effective Aug. 1, 2017.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder, effective Aug. 1, 2018.
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea, effective Aug. 1, 2018.
- Alzheimer’s Disease, effective Aug. 1, 2019.
- Chronic Pain, to be effective Aug. 1, 2020.

Table 2 shows the number of active patients in the patient registry who have been certified as having that qualifying medical condition. As of June 30, 2020, 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 2: Count (%) of Active Patients by Condition* as of June 30, 2020

| Qualifying Condition | Patients Certified: N (%) |
|---|---------------------------|
| Glaucoma | 154 (1%) |
| HIV/AIDS | 129 (1%) |
| Tourette Syndrome | 129 (1%) |
| ALS | 30 (<1%) |
| Seizures | 688 (3%) |
| Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms | 2,607 (12%) |
| Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease | 633 (3%) |
| Cancer | 1,581 (7%) |
| Terminal Illness | 137 (1%) |
| Intractable Pain | 14,236 (64%) |

| Qualifying Condition | Patients Certified: N (%) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder | 5,027 (23%) |
| Autism Spectrum Disorder | 564 (3%) |
| Obstructive Sleep Apnea | 1,123 (5%) |
| Alzheimer’s Disease | 33 (<1%) |
| Total | 22,233 |

**Patients certified total more than 100% because 16.8% of the 22,233 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 48.4 years; however, the average age varies by qualifying medical condition.

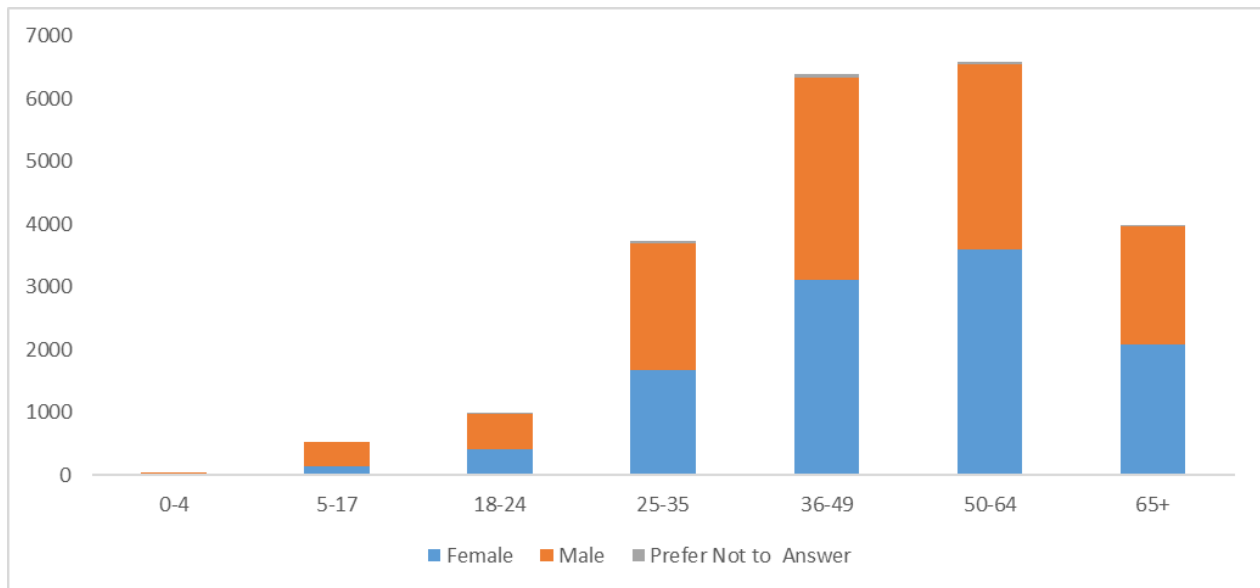


Figure 4. Breakdown of active patients by age and gender, as of June 30, 2020.

Table 3 demonstrates the breakdown of active, condition-specific patient counts by age. Patients certified as having Autism Spectrum Disorder have the lowest average age of 18.7 years; patients with Alzheimer’s disease have the highest average age of 75.5 years.

Table 3: Breakdown of Active Patients by Age Group and Qualifying Medical Condition, as of June 30, 2020.

| Age (y) | 0-4 | 5-17 | 18-24 | 25-35 | 36-49 | 50-64 | 65+ | Mean Age (SD) |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| All Conditions | 40 (<1%) | 526 (2%) | 981 (4%) | 3,735 (17%) | 6,388 (29%) | 6,585 (30%) | 3,978 (18%) | 48.4 (16.6) |
| Glaucoma | - | 1 (1%) | 2 (1%) | 12 (8%) | 19 (12%) | 58 (38%) | 62 (40%) | 59.0 (14.8) |
| HIV/AIDS | - | - | 3 (2%) | 33 (26%) | 43 (33%) | 45 (35%) | 5 (4%) | 44.7 (11.9) |
| Tourette Syndrome | - | 28 (22%) | 34 (26%) | 29 (23%) | 23 (18%) | 8 (6%) | 7 (5%) | 29.4 (15.9) |
| ALS | - | - | - | - | 7 (18%) | 19 (49%) | 13 (33%) | 59.5 (10.3) |
| Seizures | 18 (3%) | 112 (16%) | 98 (14%) | 177 (26%) | 177 (26%) | 73 (11%) | 33 (5%) | 32.7 (16.6) |
| Muscle Spasms | 2 (<1%) | 12 (1%) | 107 (4%) | 465 (18%) | 851 (33%) | 832 (32%) | 338 (13%) | 47.5 (14.4) |
| Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease | - | 2 (<1%) | 34 (5%) | 150 (24%) | 229 (36%) | 169 (27%) | 49 (8%) | 44.1 (13.7) |
| Cancer | 9 (1%) | 21 (1%) | 23 (2%) | 68 (45%) | 266 (17%) | 611 (39%) | 583 (37%) | 58.1 (15.3) |
| Terminal Illness | 3 (3%) | 3 (2%) | 6 (4%) | 5 (4%) | 16 (12%) | 39 (29%) | 65 (47%) | 59.4 (20.4) |
| Intractable Pain | 2 (<1%) | 34 (<1%) | 360 (3%) | 1,911 (13%) | 4,087 (29%) | 4,839 (34%) | 3,003 (21%) | 51.7 (15.3) |
| PTSD | - | 58 (1%) | 427 (9%) | 1,673 (33%) | 1,799 (36%) | 812 (16%) | 258 (5%) | 39.6 (12.9) |
| Autism Spectrum Disorder | 10 (2%) | 309 (55%) | 109 (19%) | 83 (15%) | 45 (8%) | 6 (1%) | 2 (<1%) | 18.7 (11.2) |
| Obstructive Sleep Apnea | - | 1 (<1%) | 8 (1%) | 111 (10%) | 418 (37%) | 429 (38%) | 156 (14%) | 50.5 (12.1) |
| Alzheimer's Disease | - | - | - | - | - | 3 (9%) | 30 (91%) | 75.5 (8.8) |

Table 4 indicates the majority of enrolled patients come from or near the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Sixty-eight percent of enrolled patients come from the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Only 14% 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. Twelve percent come from Southern Minnesota (defined as the Rochester, Mankato, Willmar postal codes). The remaining 6% come from the St. Cloud region.

Table 4. Approved and active patients, by ZIP code region as of June 30, 2020

| Region | ZIP Codes | Active Patients |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| St Paul | 55000-55199 | 6,384 |
| Minneapolis | 55300-55599 | 8,677 |
| Duluth | 55600-55899 | 1,367 |
| Rochester | 55900-55999 | 1,136 |
| Mankato | 56000-56199 | 773 |
| Willmar | 56200-56299 | 657 |
| St Cloud | 56300-56399 | 1,395 |
| Brainerd | 56400-56499 | 743 |
| Detroit Lakes | 56500-56599 | 566 |
| Bemidji | 56600-56699 | 351 |
| E Grand Forks | 56700-56799 | 175 |

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, legal guardians, or spouses acting as caregivers. All caregivers must be enrolled in the patient registry system. A patient’s parent, legal guardian, or spouse 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, legal guardians, or spouse 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 requires assistance in administering medical cannabis or obtaining medical cannabis from a CPC. Registered designated caregivers must pass a criminal background check.

Table 5 displays the number of patients with registered designated caregivers or registered parents/legal guardians/spouses, by qualifying medical condition, as of June 30, 2020. Prior to July 1, 2019, a patient’s spouse was required to qualify as a designated caregiver in order to register in the program. Under legislation which became effective July 1, 2019, a patient’s spouse is no longer required to register as a designated caregiver. Therefore, the significant number of caregivers who are spouses of patients may still be registered as designated caregivers rather than parents/legal guardians/spouses and would be represented in the

middle column of Table 5. Of 2,110 registered parents/legal guardians/spouses, 1,111 were registered parents/legal guardians and 999 were registered spouses.

Table 5: Active Designated Caregivers and/or Registered Parents/Legal Guardians/Spouses (PLGS) by Condition* as of June 30, 2020

| Qualifying Condition | Total Patients | Patient with Registered Caregivers: N (%) | Patients with Registered PLGS: N (%) | Patients with Caregiver and/or PLGS: N (%) |
|---|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Glaucoma | 154 | 19 (12%) | 6 (4%) | 25 (16%) |
| HIV/AIDS | 129 | 6 (5%) | - | 6 (5%) |
| Tourette Syndrome | 129 | 5 (4%) | 58 (45%) | 60 (47%) |
| ALS | 30 | 12 (31%) | 10 (26%) | 22 (56%) |
| Seizures | 688 | 53 (8%) | 290 (42%) | 326 (47%) |
| Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms | 2,607 | 266 (10%) | 181 (7%) | 435 (17%) |
| Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Including Crohn's Disease | 633 | 32 (5%) | 42 (7%) | 74 (12%) |
| Cancer | 1,581 | 273 (18%) | 261 (17%) | 522 (33%) |
| Terminal Illness | 137 | 43 (32%) | 22 (16%) | 62 (45%) |
| Intractable Pain | 14,236 | 1,038 (7%) | 829 (6%) | 1,842 (13%) |
| Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder | 5,027 | 165 (3%) | 265 (5%) | 420 (8%) |
| Autism Spectrum Disorder | 564 | 31 (3%) | 464 (41%) | 469 (42%) |
| Obstructive Sleep Apnea | 1,123 | 44 (8%) | 43 (8%) | 87 (15%) |
| Alzheimer's Disease | 33 | 15 (46%) | 13 (40%) | 26 (79%) |
| Total | 22,233 | 1,539 (7%) | 2,110 (10%) | 3,559 (16%) |

*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.

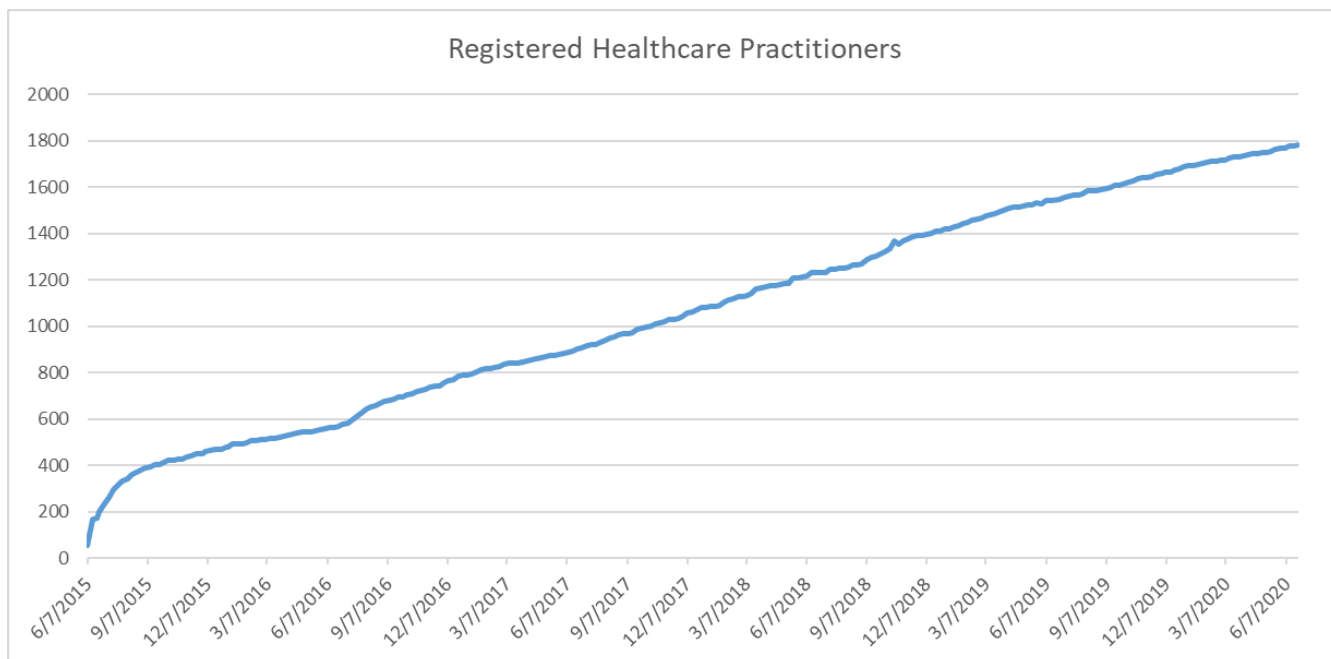


Figure 5. Count of registered health care practitioners actively in the patient registry since the program start, through June 30, 2020.

Table 6 shows that as of June 30, 2020, there were 1,770 health care practitioners approved in the registry system. Of the 1,770 registered practitioners, 1,267 are physicians, 149 are physician assistants, and 354 are APRNs. One year ago, there were 1,560 registered health care practitioners, 1,150 of whom were physicians (74%), 119 of whom were physician assistants (8%), and 266 of whom were APRNs (19%).

Table 6: Breakdown of Registered Health Care Practitioners by Type, as of June 30, 2020

| Healthcare Practitioner Type | N (%) |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Physician | 1,267 (72%) |
| Physician Assistant | 149 (8%) |
| Advanced Practice RN | 354 (20%) |
| Total | 1,770 |

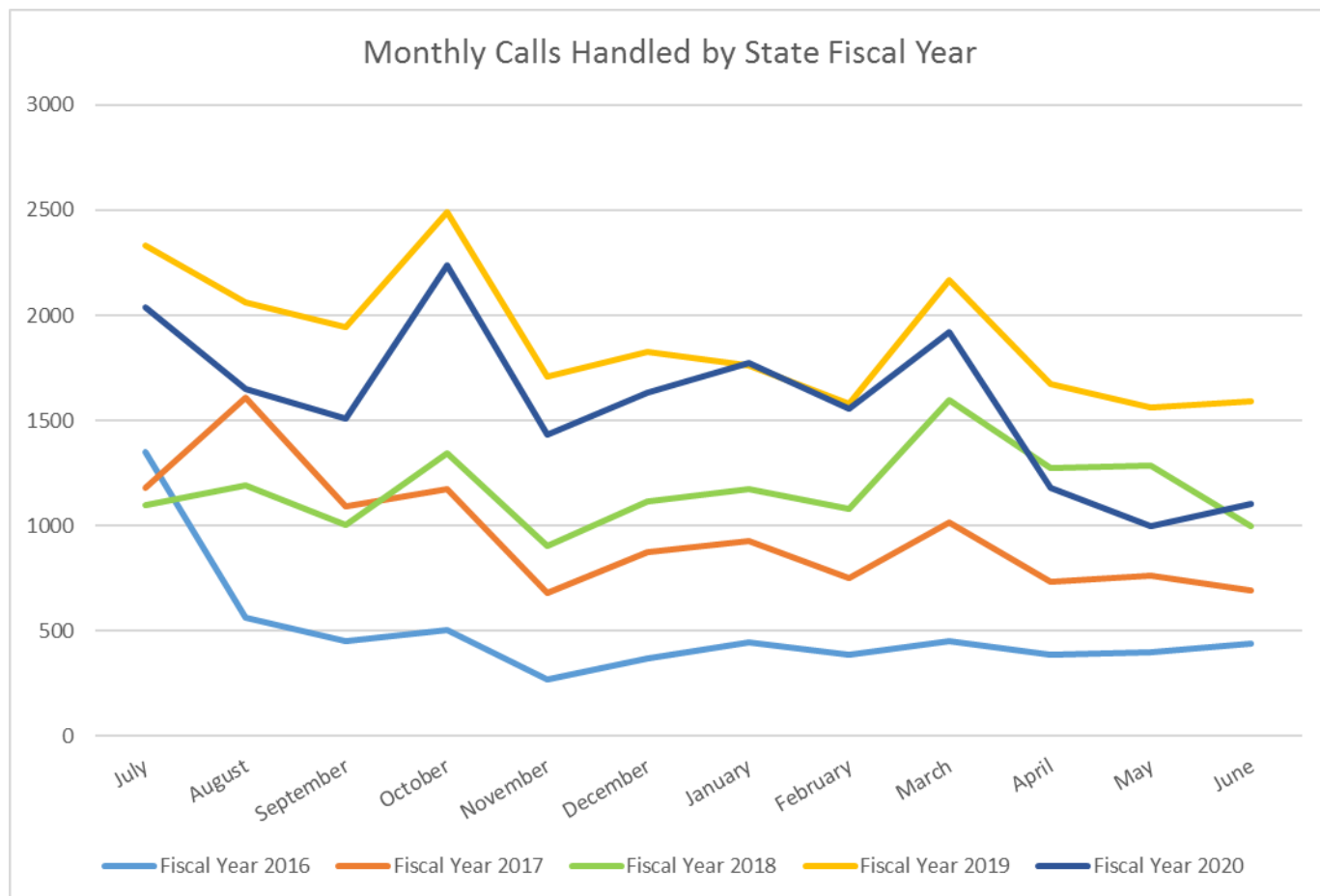


Figure 6. Number of monthly calls handled by OMC staff since program start. The month of July, fiscal year 2016, also includes the calls handled from June when the call center went live.

Activity in the program markedly increased beginning July 1, 2016, when Intractable Pain became a qualifying medical condition. The volume of phone calls received by OMC increased beginning in July 2016. Six of the ten highest call-volume months occurred in fiscal year 2019 (ending June 30, 2019). There were fewer calls handled in fiscal 2020 than in fiscal year 2019.

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