Physician Certification Pattern Review

2023 Annual Report
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Physician Certification Pattern Review Panel
Florida Board of Medicine
Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine

**Board of Medicine and
Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Physician Certification Pattern Review
2023 Annual Report**

Section 381.986(4)(j), Florida Statutes, directs the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to "jointly create a physician certification pattern review panel that shall review all physician certifications submitted to the medical marijuana use registry." The Physician Certification Pattern Review Panel (Panel) shall track and report the number of physician certifications and the qualifying medical conditions, dosage, supply amount, and form of marijuana certified. These data shall be reported both by individual qualified physician and in the aggregate, by county, and statewide.

The Panel is responsible for reporting its findings and recommendations by January 1 of each year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. This report analyzes data from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Physician Certification Pattern Review Panel

Chair and Vice Chair
   Sandra Schwemmer, D.O., Chair
   Nicholas Romanello, Consumer Member, Vice Chair

Members
   Jorge Gadea, D.O.
   William Kirsh, D.O.
   Nicole Justice, Consumer Member
   Amy Derick, M.D.
   Michael Wasylik, M.D.

This report provides a summary of the data for Fiscal Year 2022 (the 2023 Annual Report). In November of 2021, the Panel requested that the data cycle dates for the annual report be changed to align with the fiscal year for future reports. Comparisons between the data from FYs 2020, 2021, and 2022 were made. All physician certification data were extracted from the Medical Marijuana Use Registry (MMUR). Physician licensure information was extracted from the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) Licensure Database.

1. **FY 2020 Data:** 12 months of data, July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

2. **FY 2021 Data:** 12 months of data, July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

3. **FY 2022 (2023 Annual Report):** 12 months of data, July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Overview of the 2023 Annual Report Contents

Date Range for 2023 Annual Report Data

July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022

Purpose of the Panel

The Panel reviews physician certification patterns, produces an annual report including recommendations, and reports the findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 of each year, pursuant to section 381.986(4)(j), Florida Statutes (F.S).

Highlights of Trends in Physician Certifications

1. Based upon a review of the data for FYs 2020, 2021, and 2022, the data have reflected a steady increase in the number of physician certifications, physician certifications containing at least one order for smoking as a route of administration, the number of qualified patients, and qualified physicians.

    Physician certifications: 633,864 to 921,464 to 1,142,172.

    Certifications with smoke order(s): 532,111 to 860,291 to 1,089,072.

    Qualified patients with certifications: 401,818 to 607,220 to 757,600.

    Qualified physicians with certifications: 1,623 to 1,656 to 1,725.

2. The greatest number of certifications were issued by a small percentage of qualified physicians. This ratio has been increasing as more physicians see more patients, and more patients continue with subsequent certifications each fiscal year.

    2020: 69% of certifications were issued by 12% of qualified physicians; 1,000 + certifications each.
    2% of certifications were issued by 48% of qualified physicians; 1-49 certifications each.

    2021: 80% of certifications were issued by 15% of qualified physicians; 1,000 + certifications each.
    1% of certifications were issued by 45% of qualified physicians; 1-49 certifications each.

    2022: 83% of certifications were issued by 17% of qualified physicians; 1,000 + certifications each.
    1% of certifications were issued by 43% of qualified physicians; 1-49 certifications each.

3. The ordered average daily dose (mg) has shifted each year. This year, using a geometric mean calculation, daily dose amounts have increased slightly across all routes of administration for both low-THC cannabis and medical marijuana. Smoking as an appropriate route of administration remains consistently at the top of the limit allowed by statute, 2.5 oz. per order period.

CONTENTS

I. General Process for Medical Marijuana Certifications

1. Requirements for Qualified Physicians

Physicians qualify to order medical marijuana if they hold an active and unrestricted license as an allopathic physician under Chapter 458, F.S., or an osteopathic physician under Chapter 459, F.S., and successfully complete an approved 2-hour Continuing Medical Education course and examination. The course is repeated before the biennial license renewal deadline. All Florida-licensed physicians must provide information for a primary practice location. However, physicians may self-report as "Not Practicing", maintain an active license, and not provide a primary practice location. See Table 1.

Table 1. Total number of Florida-licensed physicians qualified to certify patients for medical marijuana.
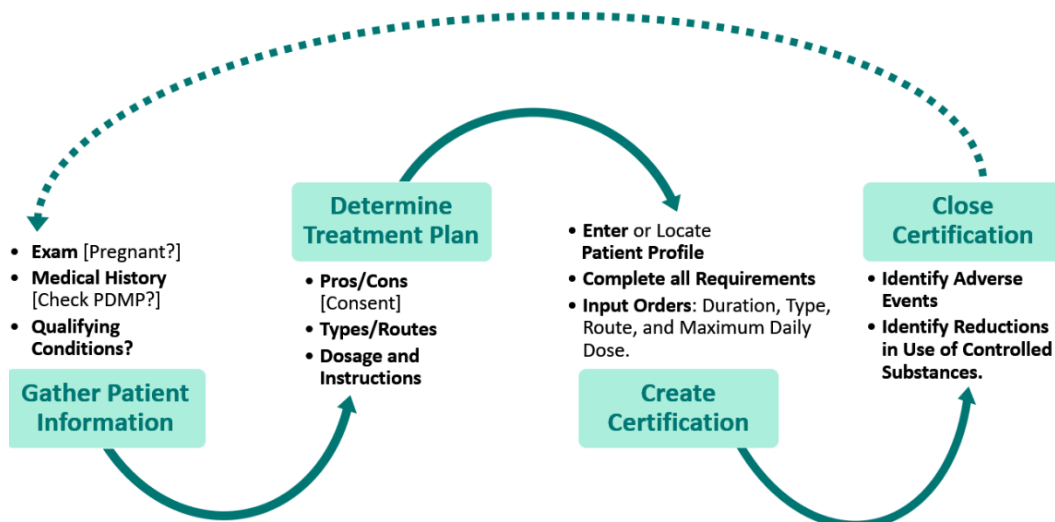
Reported Physician Practice Location Address	FY 2020[1]	FY 2021[1]	FY 2022[1]
In a Florida County	2,333	2,299	2,038
Not Practicing	41	32	25
Out of State	85	98	81

[1] Data cycle is July – June prior to January 1st publication date. See page i.

2. Requirements to Issue a Physician Certification

Figure 1 illustrates the general process to issue a physician certification. Currently, a physician certification can be issued only if the qualified physician conducted a physical examination while physically present in the same room as the patient; completed a full assessment of the patient's medical history; reviewed the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database; and diagnosed the patient with at least one qualifying medical condition. Qualified physicians are responsible for the determination that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient. Physicians must complete the medical consent form and, when appropriate, submit required documentation as part of the certification process. See section 381.986(4)(a-g), F.S.

Figure 1. General process for determining if medical marijuana is an appropriate patient treatment.

- **Exam** [Pregnant?]
- **Medical History** [Check PDMP?]
- **Qualifying Conditions?**

Gather Patient Information

Determine Treatment Plan
- Pros/Cons [Consent]
- Types/Routes
- Dosage and Instructions

- **Enter** or Locate Patient Profile
- **Complete all Requirements**
- **Input Orders**: Duration, Type, Route, and Maximum Daily Dose.

Create Certification

Close Certification
- **Identify Adverse Events**
- **Identify Reductions in Use of Controlled Substances.**

Physicians must submit required documentation and maintain up-to-date certification information in the MMUR. When closing a certification, physicians must note adverse events or reductions in use of other

controlled substances. To continue to use medical marijuana as a treatment for the patient's medical condition(s), physicians and patients must complete the entire process as a new certification.

3. Requirements for Patients to Obtain Medical Marijuana

Figure 2 illustrates the general process for patients to obtain medical marijuana. Once a qualified physician determines that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient, a certification is created for the patient. Certifications contain orders with a maximum duration of 35 to 70 days depending on route of administration (Edibles, Inhalation, Oral, Smoking, Sublingual, Suppository, or Topical).

Current certifications have a maximum duration of 210 days, or three consecutive 70-day orders (six consecutive 35-day orders for smoking). Patients are allowed one current (active) certification and one pending (future) certification. Each order has a start and end date. Physicians can modify current orders.

Once a physician certification has been issued, first-time qualified patients must obtain a Florida Medical Marijuana ID card. If medical marijuana as a treatment for the patient's medical condition is continued, the card must be renewed every 12 months. Orders can be filled at any medical marijuana treatment center (MMTC) in Florida.

Figure 2. General process for Florida residents who are interested in obtaining certifications for medical marijuana.
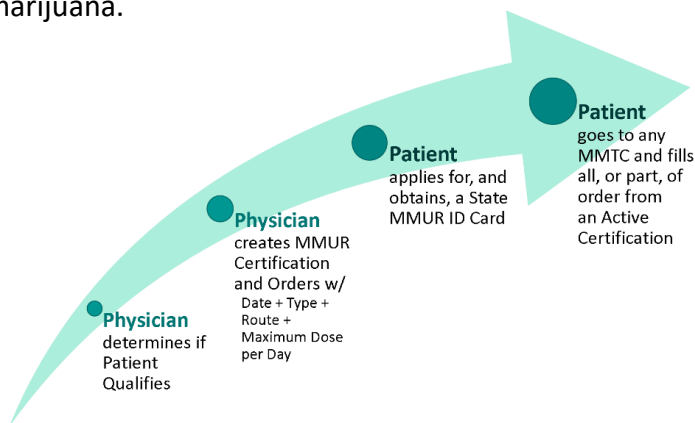
4. Reporting Physician Certification Data

- Physician certification data for this report were pulled directly from the MMUR rather than vendor-generated reports used previously. This investment toward internal control of data gives the Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) more support for its Quality Assurance team, a critical feature in live data systems. Increased data access will allow rapid reporting by developing dashboards.

- Physician primary practice locations (addresses physicians provide in the Practitioner Profile) are taken from the MQA licensure database.

- Section 381.986(4)(j), F.S., requires the Panel to report physician certification data "both by individual qualified physician and in the aggregate, by county, and statewide." Please see the separate document, "Data Tables for Physician Certification Pattern Review, 2023 Annual Report."

II. Trends in Physician Certifications

Table 2 and Figure 3 show the growth in number of physician certifications, individual patients, and qualified physicians. Patient counts reflect distinct individuals; patients may have more than one certification in each time period.

Table 2: Growth in physician certifications for medical marijuana use.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Percent Change FY 2021 to FY 2022
Certifications	633,864	921,464	1,142,172	24% ↑
Individual Patients	401,818	607,220	757,600	25% ↑
Qualified Physicians with Certifications	1,623	1,656	1,725	4% ↑
All Qualified Physicians	2,459	2,429	2,144	12% ↓

Figure 3. Number of physician certifications and patient counts in FY 2020, FY 2021, and FY 2022.
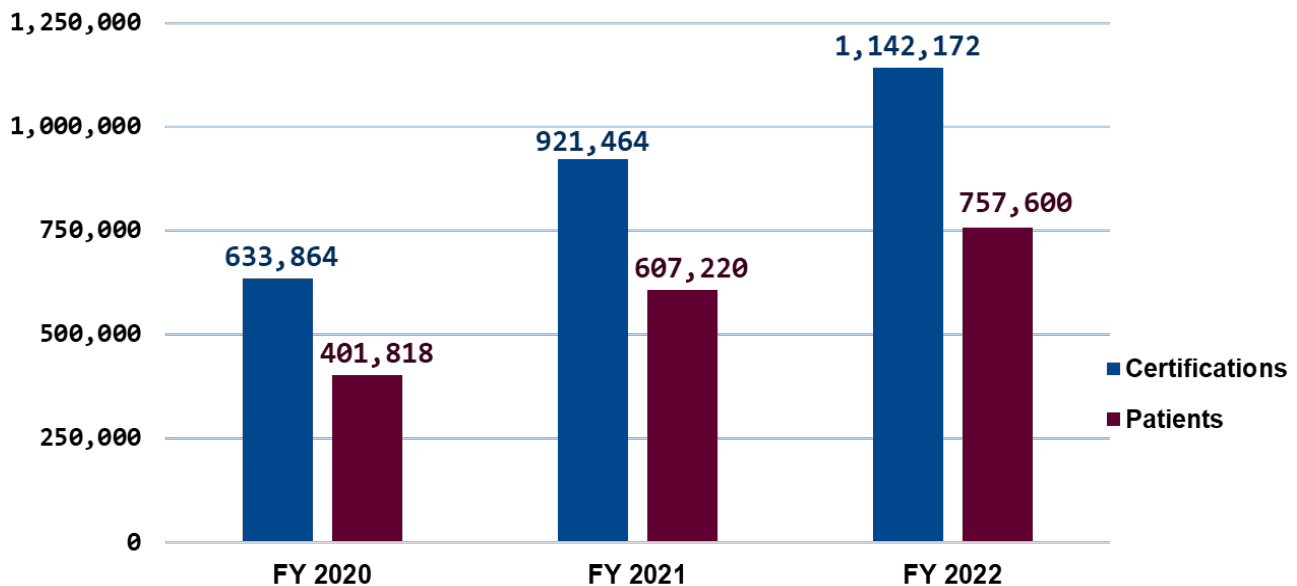
Table 3 provides information on how certification counts can vary by qualified physician. Only qualified physicians who have issued physician certifications during the time periods for the three data sets are included. The number of certifications has increased more than the number of qualified physicians issuing certifications, as can be seen in the average number of certifications per physician and the range in number of certifications per physician. This is illustrated in the three pie charts in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

Table 3: Number of certifications in each data set.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
All Certifications	**633,864**	**921,464**	**1,142,172**
Average number of certifications per physician	391	556	662
Range in number of certifications per physician	1 to 13,924	1 to 25,033	1 to 32,686
Median	57	66	76
Mode	1	1	1
Individual Patients	**401,818**	**607,220**	**757,600**

Figure 4. Trends in the percentage of physicians whose total number of certifications fall into one of four groups. Percentages are based on the number of physicians in each group divided by the total number of physicians in that data set.

■ 1 certification per physician

■ 2 to 49 certifications per physician

■ 50 to 999 certifications per physician

■ 1,000 or more certifications per physician

FY 2020 (N=1,623)

12%
N=188

5%
N=83

43%
N=690

41%
N=662

FY 2021 (N=1,656)

15%
N=246

4%
N=73

40%
N=666

40%
N=661

FY 2022 (N=1,725)

17%
N=300

4%
N=70

39%
N=666

40%
N=689
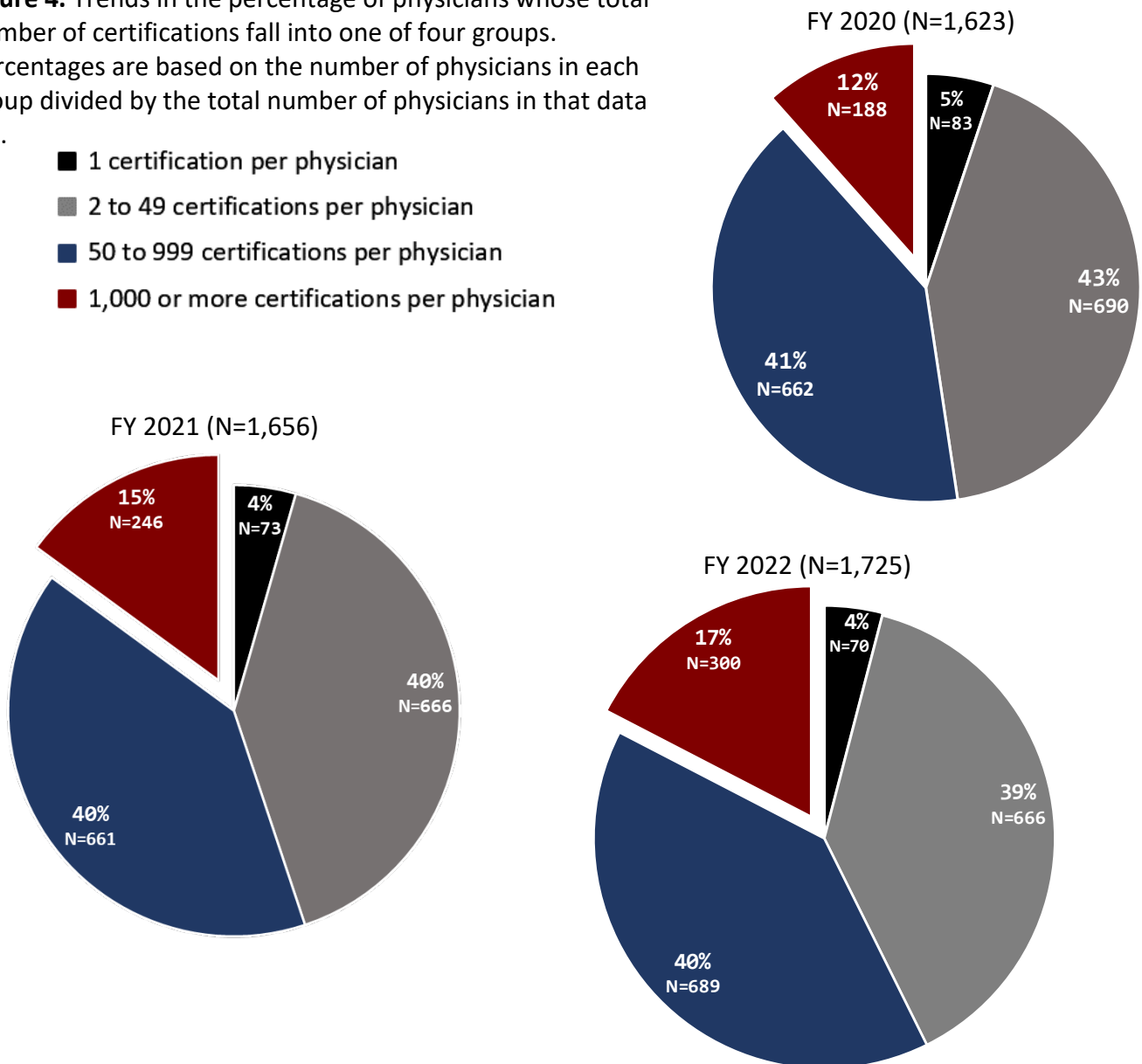
Figure 5. Percentage of certifications issued by physicians in each of the four groups. For example, in FY 2022, 0.01% of certifications issued were from physicians (N=70) who issued only 1 certification and 83% of certifications issued were from physicians (N=300) who issued 1,000 or more certifications. Physician counts in each group are in Figure 4.
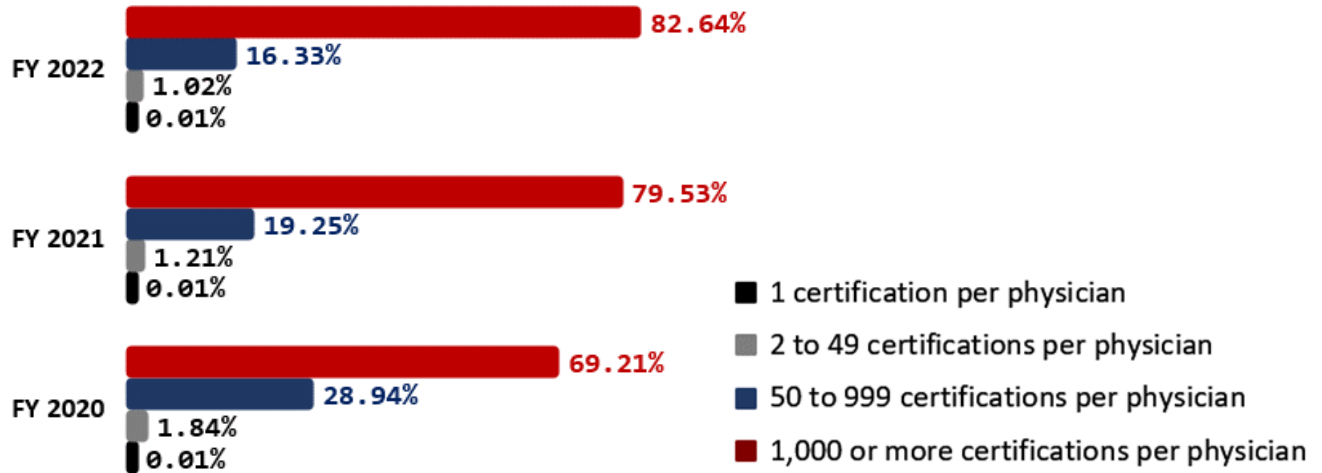
Two changes occurred during the past four reporting periods: first, marijuana in a form for smoking became available for medical use on March 18, 2019, (Senate Bill 182) and second, edibles as a route of administration became available on August 27, 2020, when the Department of Health issued production standards. See Figure 6.

Figure 6. Month and year counts for certifications created and newly enrolled patients (no previous certifications) from January 1, 2018, through June 30, 2022. Point values for January and July are shown for each line. The June 2022 values are in black.
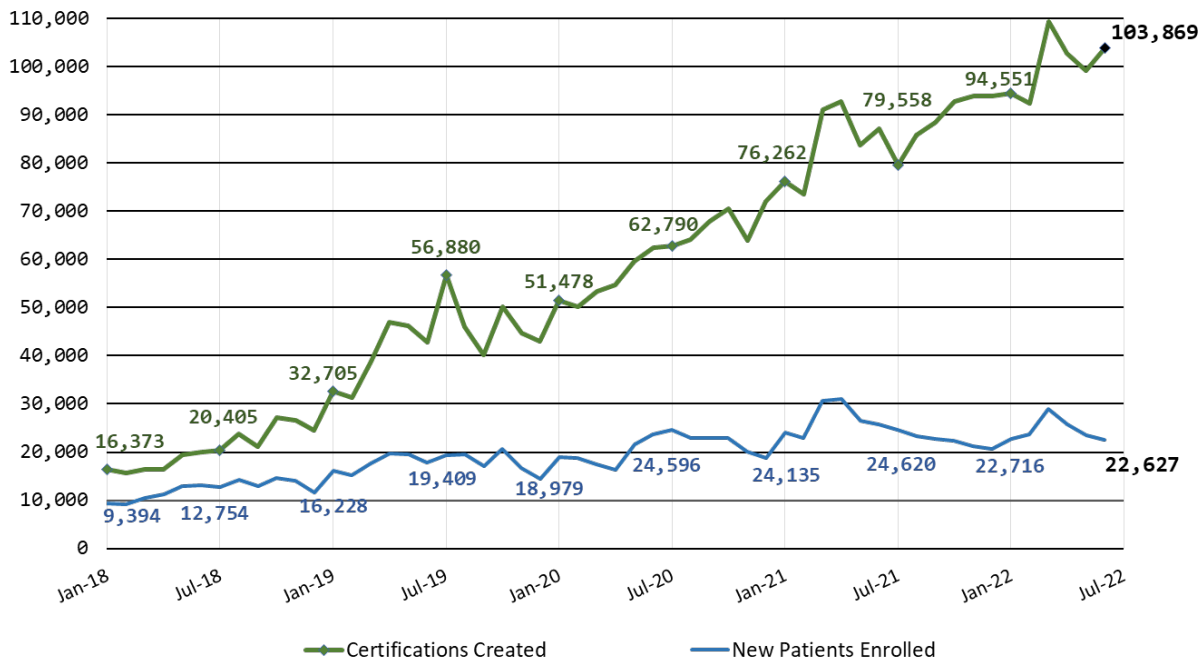
III.   Trends in Patient Qualifying Condition

Physicians are required to determine that a patient's medical condition meets one of the qualifying conditions listed in section 381.986(2), F.S. The list is included in Table 4. Patients may have more than one qualifying condition recorded in the MMUR by a qualified physician and more than one certification.

Table 4: Trends in the total number and percentage of qualifying conditions reported in each data set. Conditions listed in **bold font** are the top three qualifying conditions reported by physicians.

Qualifying Condition	FY 2020 Number	FY 2020 Percent[2]	FY 2021 Number	FY 2021 Percent[2]	FY 2022 Number	FY 2022 Percent[2]
(a) Cancer	49,612	5.1%	59,999	3.8%	66,457	3.8%
(b) Epilepsy	14,146	1.4%	19,154	1.2%	16,921	1.0%
(c) Glaucoma	10,389	1.1%	13,072	0.8%	15,069	0.9%
(d) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	6,802	0.7%	9,203	0.6%	8,833	0.5%
(e) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)	1,409	0.1%	2,051	0.1%	1,963	0.1%
(f) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	**328,890**	**33.6%**	**607,004**	**38.6%**	**695,592**	**39.4%**
(g) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	6,889	0.7%	12,153	0.8%	3,997	0.2%
(h) Crohn's disease	19,326	2.0%	29,649	1.9%	32,965	1.9%
(i) Parkinson's disease	7,424	0.8%	8,945	0.6%	7,285	0.4%
(j) Multiple sclerosis (MS)	97,923	10.0%	184,113	11.7%	160,218	9.1%
(k) Medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated in paragraphs (a)-(j)[1]	**238,896**	**24.4%**	**412,835**	**26.2%**	**508,124**	**28.8%**
(l) A terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification	2,250	0.2%	3,494	0.2%	3,292	0.2%
(m) Chronic nonmalignant pain	**194,836**	**19.9%**	**212,507**	**13.5%**	**244,899**	**13.9%**
Total qualifying conditions reported:	978,792		1,574,179		1,765,615	
Total number of certifications:	633,864		921,464		1,142,172	
Total number of individual patients:	401,818		607,220		757,600	

[1] Physicians are required to provide information on certifications under qualifying condition (k) same kind or class.

[2] Percent of total qualifying conditions reported.

In September 2020, the Panel requested information on the top five medical conditions qualified physicians recorded most often in the MMUR under qualifying condition (k). In November 2020, the Panel asked for more detail on the medical conditions of patients certified under qualifying condition (f), PTSD.

Data for Tables 5, 6, and 7 are physician entries to the MMUR under qualifying condition (k). These data were collected separately from the data in previous tables and as such will vary slightly. For live data systems like the MMUR, each download is a snapshot in time; small differences in the data are expected. Data submitted using a paper copy of Form DH-MQA-5027 (rev. 02/2018) are not included.

Table 5. Patient medical conditions[1] reported by physicians for 1% or more of patients certified as qualifying condition (k) "medical conditions of the same kind or class as…" in FY 2022.

Patient medical conditions by category using the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems	FY 2022	
	Number	Percent[2]
1. **One form of "anxiety"** (e.g., generalized anxiety disorder, depression, insomnia, panic attacks, sleep disorders).	180,382	42%
2. **One or more symptoms, diseases, or disorders for "chronic pain from neuro or muscular degeneration or injury"** (e.g., cervical or lumbar pain, degenerative disc/joint disease, muscle spasms, myopathic encephalopathy, restless leg syndrome, rheumatoid/osteoarthritis).	108,388	25%
3. **Only "chronic pain" or "pain"** reported.	38,268	9%
4. **One or more forms of "anxiety"** AND **one or more forms of "chronic pain from neuro or muscular degeneration or injury."**	22,304	5%
5. **Two or more forms of "anxiety" as listed.**	39,759	9%
Others with 1,421 or less: digestive, respiratory, infectious disease, circulatory, genitourinary, genetic, skin and connective tissue, ophthalmological.	21,919	5%
Unable to determine	20,316	5%
Number of medical conditions reported:	431,336	
Number of qualifying condition (k) certifications:	508,124	
Number of distinct patients in this table:	281,199	
Number of physicians in this table:	720	

[1] Patients may have multiple certifications and 1 to 5 medical conditions.
[2] Percent of total number of medical conditions reported.

In the MMUR, all certifications using qualifying condition (k) "medical conditions of the same kind or class as…" require identification of one or more qualifying conditions (a)-(j) the physician identifies as a match to the patient's medical condition(s).

Because a patient's certification may include multiple medical conditions, and/or multiple matches to qualifying conditions (a)-(j), the records were sorted to review only those certifications with *one other qualifying condition (a)-(j).*

In this reporting period, 69% (352,611 of 508,124) certifications met these conditions. See Table 6.

Table 6: Number and percentage of times each qualifying condition (a)-(j) was identified as being the "same kind, or class" as the patient's medical condition. Conditions listed in **bold font** are the top three reported by physicians.

Qualifying Condition[1]	FY 2022 Number	Percent[2]
(a) Cancer	3,499	0.99%
(b) Epilepsy	5,708	1.6%
(c) Glaucoma	376	0.1%
(d) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	1,538	0.4%
(e) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)	238	0.07%
(f) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	**210,354**	**59.7%**
(g) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	1,323	0.4%
(h) Crohn's disease	**12,208**	**3.5%**
(i) Parkinson's disease	2,330	0.7%
(j) Multiple sclerosis (MS)	**115,037**	**32.6%**
Total *single* qualifying condition reported:	352,611	
Number of distinct patients in this table:	244,946	
Number of physicians in this table:	698	

[1] Qualifying condition (k) patient medical condition(s) may align with more than one qualifying condition, only certifications with one (a)-(j) qualifying condition noted are shown here.
[2] Percent of total number of single qualifying conditions reported.

Table 7 provides an expansion of qualifying condition (k) data requested by the Panel in the 2021 recommendations to staff. The Panel was specifically interested in patient medical conditions physicians identified in certifications that identified qualifying condition (f) post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as being the same kind or class or as comparable to the patient medical condition.

There were 245,006 medical conditions reported in 233,654 certifications for 166,965 patients by 614 physicians that met the Panel's request. Medical conditions reported by physicians for 1% or more of patients with qualifying condition (k) certifications were grouped into six categories.

Table 7: Number and percentage of patient medical conditions physicians reported as being the "same kind, or class" as qualifying condition (f) post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) under qualifying condition (k) requirements, July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Medical conditions listed under qualifying condition (k) certifications that do not use (f) PTSD are provided for comparison.

Patient medical conditions[1] by category using the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems	FY 2022			
	Listed PTSD		No PTSD listed	
	Number	Percent[2]	Number	Percent[2]
1. **One form of "anxiety"** (e.g., generalized anxiety disorder, depression, insomnia, panic attacks, sleep disorders).	165,957	67.7%	14,425	7.7%
2. **Two or more forms of "anxiety" as listed.**	36,328	14.8%	3,431	1.8%
3. **One or more forms of "anxiety"** AND **one or more forms of "chronic pain from neuro or muscular degeneration or injury"**.	15,435	6.3%	6,869	3.7%
4. **Only "chronic pain" or "pain"** reported.	6,574	2.7%	31,694	17.0%
5. **One or more symptoms, diseases, or disorders for "chronic pain from neuro or muscular degeneration or injury"** (e.g., cervical or lumbar pain, degenerative disc/joint disease, muscle spasms, myopathic encephalopathy, restless leg syndrome, rheumatoid/osteoarthritis).	2,715	1.1%	105,673	56.7%
6. **Digestive** (e.g., abdominal pain, anorexia, loss of appetite, celiac disease, colitis, diabetes, diverticulitis, irritable bowel syndrome, nausea, pancreatitis, vomiting, wasting syndrome)	3,808	1.6%	8,887	4.8%
Combined total for medical conditions identified 515 times[1] or less: autoimmune, circulatory, genetic, genitourinary, infectious disease, ophthalmological, respiratory, and/or skin and connective tissue.	2,621	1.1%	6,604	3.5%
Unable to determine	11,568	4.7%	8,748	4.7%
Number of medical conditions:	245,006		186,331	
Number of distinct patients:	166,965		123,774	

[1] Patients may have multiple certifications and 1 to 5 medical conditions.
[2] Percent of total medical conditions reported.

IV. Trends in Orders by Type, Route, and Average Daily Dose

Data in this section refer to the total number of orders across all certifications, or to the geometric mean of the daily dose ordered per physician by route and type. Within each certification, the number of orders and the maximum daily dose in milligrams per day (mg) for any order, route, or type can vary.

Tables 8 and 9 provide the total number of orders by type and route for all certifications between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2022. The increase in number of certifications increases the number of orders. Sublingual and Suppository order counts continue to increase more rapidly than other routes of administration.

Table 8: Total number of orders for low-THC cannabis, by route, in all certifications in each data set. Edibles as a route of administration became available August 27, 2020.

Route	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Percent Change FY 2021 to FY 2022
Edibles	-	2,257,090	3,226,136	N/A[1]
Inhalation	1,551,506	2,512,034	3,224,199	28% ↑
Oral	1,593,656	2,546,474	3,234,702	27% ↑
Sublingual	784,982	2,119,418	3,143,905	48% ↑
Suppository	98,662	300,903	472,315	57% ↑
Topical	1,471,936	2,455,131	3,167,278	29% ↑

[1]A full year comparison cannot be made.

Table 9: Total number of orders for medical marijuana, by route, in all certifications in each data set. Edibles as a route of administration became available August 27, 2020.

Route	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Percent Change FY 2021 to FY 2022
Edibles	-	2,356,750	3,308,693	N/A[1]
Inhalation	1,726,259	2,620,144	3,297,212	26% ↑
Oral	1,701,284	2,615,992	3,298,967	26% ↑
Sublingual	857,242	2,200,278	3,207,690	46% ↑
Suppository	105,454	309,768	475,743	54% ↑
Topical	1,575,919	2,530,751	3,232,525	28% ↑

[1]A full year comparison cannot be made.

Tables 10 and 11 show the statewide average of the physician's average daily dose ordered in milligrams per day (mg) for six routes of low-THC cannabis and medical marijuana. With three full years of data, changes in trends were noted in the average daily dose amounts ordered.

Comparing the FY 2021 data with the FY 2022 data, *and including outlier* amounts, Low-THC cannabis average daily dose amounts ordered have increased for all routes of administration. Edibles, Inhalation, and Oral routes each increased by 7%. Suppository and Topical Routes both increased by 11%. The Sublingual route increased by 8%.

The FY 2021 data and FY 2022 data comparison of medical marijuana average daily dose amounts ordered, *including outlier* amounts, similarly showed an increase across all routes. The Edibles route increased by 10%. Inhalation and Oral routes both increased by 9%. The Sublingual, Suppository, and Topical routes showed increases of 11%, 13%, and 16% respectively. Note: Edibles as a route only had ten months of data in FY 2021, as it became available August 27, 2020.

In order to retain all data observations and make comparisons without skewing caused by outlier amounts, the data presented here also include a geometric mean (GeoMean) calculation. A geometric mean uses all data observations to create a mean closer to the median. The usual average calculation (arithmetic mean) is provided for comparison, as are descriptive statistics for each data set (i.e., the range of physician doses high to low, the median or middle point, and the mode or most frequently occurring number). See the "Terms and Definitions" section for more detail on geometric mean calculations and outliers.

Table 10: Statewide geometric mean daily dose (mg) for low-THC cannabis, in Edibles, Inhalation, and Oral forms, in each data set. Edibles as a route of administration became available August 27, 2020. Number of physicians with orders in each year is included in brackets.

Low-THC	Edibles		Inhalation			Oral		
	FY 2021 [1,423]	FY 2022 [1,553]	FY 2020 [1,375]	FY 2021 [1,451]	FY 2022 [1,501]	FY 2020 [1,442]	FY 2021 [1,500]	FY 2022 [1,560]
GeoMean	179	192	195	212	226	172	189	203
Max	44,800	44,800	462,522	14,000	19,000	21,385	18,080	20,435
Min	3.0	5.0	1.0	10.0	5.0	1.0	2.0	5.0
Median	142	173	147	166	200	122	150	188
Mode	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

Table 11: Statewide geometric mean daily dose (mg) for Low-THC cannabis, in Sublingual, Suppository, and Topical forms, in each data set. The number of physicians with orders in each year is included in brackets.

Low-THC	Sublingual			Suppository			Topical		
	FY 2020 [1,289]	FY 2021 [1,435]	FY 2022 [1,514]	FY 2020 [565]	FY 2021 [682]	FY 2022 [791]	FY 2020 [1,305]	FY 2021 [1,415]	FY 2022 [1,508]
GeoMean	164	177	191	172	205	228	139	159	177
Max	14,458	14,000	20,435	14,000	14,000	19,000	19,122	21,000	20,435
Min	4.0	4.4	3.0	10.0	15.0	10.0	1.0	3.0	1.0
Median	118	141	183	167	191	200	117	138	164
Mode	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

Table 12: Statewide average daily dose (mg) from all physician's average daily dose for medical marijuana, in Edibles, Inhalation, and Oral forms, in each data set. Edibles as a route of administration became available August 27, 2020. The number of physicians with orders in each year is included in brackets.

Medical Marijuana	Edibles		Inhalation			Oral		
	FY 2021 [1,553]	FY 2022 [1,689]	FY 2020 [1,567]	FY 2021 [1,599]	FY 2022 [1,674]	FY 2020 [1,557]	FY 2021 [1,601]	FY 2022 [1,667]
GeoMean	**176**	**193**	**204**	**227**	**248**	**176**	**196**	**214**
Max	14,000	36,500	36,888	14,000	36,500	5,329,944	14,000	18,025
Min	10.0	10.0	5.0	15.0	3.0	2.0	5.0	9.0
Median	139	167	149	170	200	124	149	186
Mode	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

Table 13: Statewide average daily dose (mg) from all physician's average daily dose for medical marijuana, in Sublingual, Suppository, and Topical forms, in each data set. The number of physicians with orders in each year is included in brackets.

Medical Marijuana	Sublingual			Suppository			Topical		
	FY 2020 [1,408]	FY 2021 [1,528]	FY 2022 [1,608]	FY 2020 [656]	FY 2021 [762]	FY 2022 [884]	FY 2020 [1,430]	FY 2021 [1,500]	FY 2022 [1,597]
GeoMean	**157**	**178**	**198**	**174**	**207**	**233**	**134**	**157**	**182**
Max	40,513	14,000	35,750	4,800	14,000	16,000	21,385	14,333	18,458
Min	3.0	5.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	10.0	3.0	5.0	5.0
Median	112	136	179	157	172	200	115	130	165
Mode	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

V. Top Five Physicians by Reporting Measures

The following tables provide information on the top five physicians in each data set and include:

1. Number of certifications.

2. The number and physician's percentage of the top three qualifying conditions: (f) PTSD, (k) Medical Conditions of the Same Kind or Class as or Comparable to those enumerated in paragraphs (a)-(j), and (m) Chronic Nonmalignant Pain. Physician Specialty Area as provided in the Practitioner Profile in the MQA Licensure Database is included, if available.

3. The highest average maximum daily dose in milligrams per day (mg) by type and route.

Note:

1. By statute, allopathic and osteopathic physicians are not required to include or update specialties in the Practitioner Profile. Specialty information in Tables 15, 16, 17, 34, 35, and 36 is as of July 1, 2022, and may not reflect current information.

2. Physician license numbers in this section have been de-identified with a unique identifier (UID).

3. Patients may have more than one qualifying condition in a single certification, and more than one certification in a reporting period.

1. Physicians with the Highest Number of Certifications

Table 14: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications in each data set.

FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022		
UID	Number of Certifications	Number of Patients	UID	Number of Certifications	Number of Patients	UID	Number of Certifications	Number of Patients
AY	13,924	5,941	AY	25,033	9,905	AY	32,686	12,496
BA	12,241	8,253	AZ	15,806	9,711	BA	17,677	11,820
AZ	11,841	8,098	BA	15,516	10,742	EH	15,735	12,746
AU	6,134	4,188	DL	9,841	6,978	DL	14,918	13,374
J	5,795	3,543	CY	9,521	6,456	DW	13,677	10,839

Table 15: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications including "Qualifying Condition (f) PTSD."

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Range in Total Number of Certifications	3,712 to 13,926	7,815 to 25,033	10,060 to 32,686
Range in Percentage of Physician's Certifications including (f) PTSD	67% to 99.7%	75% to 98%	73% to 99%
Physician Specialty Area[1]	• Pediatrics • Family Medicine • Emergency Medicine Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Radiology-Diagnostic • Hospice and Palliative Medicine • Not Listed	• Radiation Oncology • Pediatrics • Family Medicine • Not Listed

[1] Reference on page 13.

Table 16: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications including "Qualifying Condition (k) Medical Conditions of the Same Kind or Class."

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Range in Total Number of Certifications	4,712 to 13,926	7,024 to 25,033	9,348 to 32,686
Range in Percentage of Physician's Certifications including (k) Same Kind or Class	27% to 76%	34% to 78%	17% to 80%
Physician Specialty Area[1]	• Pediatrics • Family Medicine • Emergency Medicine • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Radiology-Diagnostic • Hospice and Palliative Medicine • Not Listed	• Radiation Oncology • Pediatrics • Family Medicine • Not Listed

[1] Reference on page 13.

Table 17: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications including "Qualifying Condition (m) Chronic Nonmalignant Pain."

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Range in Total Number of Certifications	3,712 to 13,926	5,899 to 25,033	7,500 to 32,686
Range in Percentage of Physician's Certifications including (m) Chronic Pain	52% to 99.7%	45% to 96%	41% to 96%
Physician Specialty Area[1]	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Plastic Surgery • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Internal Medicine • Pediatrics • Obstetrics and Gynecology • Not Listed

[1] Reference on page 13.

2. Physicians with the Highest Average Daily Dose – Low-THC Cannabis by Route

Table 18: Low-THC cannabis: **Edibles**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg). No data for the 2020 Report. Edibles as a route of administration became available August 27, 2020.

FY 2020 (No Data)	FY 2021			FY 2022		
	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
	AT	44,800	3	AT	44,800	3
	DZ	14,000	6	EI	19,388	39
	EA	10,650	6	EJ	19,000	15
	DT	10,000	3	AA	17,649	21
	I	8,948	166	DZ	14,000	51
	Geometric mean[1]: 179 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 192 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 19: Low-THC cannabis: **Inhalation**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
W	462,522	9,760	DZ	14,000	6	EJ	19,000	15
X	25,290	6	EA	9,988	8	EI	17,621	43
A	19,122	101	AT	9,600	4	DZ	14,000	51
AA	11,413	16	Y	9,000	2	AM	12,244	129
I	8,923	120	I	9,000	177	EN	10,000	3
Geometric mean[1]: 195 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 212 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 226 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 20: Low-THC cannabis: **Oral**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
A	21,385	102	DI	18,080	9	EI	20,435	37
AA	11,821	19	DZ	14,000	6	EJ	19,000	15
I	8,923	120	EA	9,988	8	AA	17,649	21
AB	4,559	32	I	9,000	177	DZ	14,000	51
DJ	3,750	4	AA	7,875	55	AM	12,284	132
Geometric mean[1]: 172 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 189 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 203 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 21: Low-THC cannabis: **Sublingual**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
A	14,458	99	DZ	14,000	6	EI	20,435	37
AA	14,000	3	AJ	11,000	4	EJ	19,000	15
I	9,500	6	EA	9,988	8	DZ	14,000	51
AB	4,646	14	I	9,000	149	AM	12,244	129
EL	3,942	11	DM	8,453	1,119	EO	9,518	743
Geometric mean[1]: 164 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 177 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 191 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 22: Low-THC cannabis: **Suppository**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
AF	14,000	3	DZ	14,000	6	EJ	19,000	15
I	10,000	3	DO	10,000	42	AM	14,000	18
U	2,400	1	AM	9,400	9	DZ	14,000	51
C	1,420	2	I	9,000	138	EO	9,319	731
BH	1,260	50	DM	8,676	1,090	I	9,000	270
Geometric mean[1]: 172 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 205 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 228 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 23: Low-THC cannabis: **Topical**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022		
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
A	19,122	101	AJ	21,000	8	EI	20,435	37
AJ	17,500	3	DI	20,033	3	EJ	19,000	15
I	8,930	118	DH	20,000	2	DZ	14,000	51
BD	7,133	3	DZ	14,000	6	AM	12,556	129
AC	7,100	6	EF	10,725	4	EN	10,000	3
Geometric mean[1]: 139 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 159 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 177 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

3. Physicians with the Highest Average Daily Dose – Medical Marijuana by Route

Table 24: Medical marijuana: **Edibles**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg). No data for Edibles in the 2020 Report. Edibles as a route of administration became available August 27, 2020.

FY 2020 (No Data)			FY 2021			FY 2022		
			UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
			DZ	14,000	6	EP	36,500	12
			DI	13,102	23	AT	16,833	9
			EA	10,650	6	EI	16,824	45
			AT	8,983	15	EJ	16,000	18
			DM	7,821	1,211	EQ	14,000	3
			Geometric mean[1]: 176 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 193 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 25: Medical marijuana: **Inhalation**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
Y	36,888	12	DZ	14,000	6	EP	36,500	12
A	19,122	101	DI	10,386	29	EI	16,891	45
X	16,920	9	DQ	10,000	3	EJ	16,000	18
AJ	14,000	3	EA	9,988	8	EQ	14,000	3
AA	11,450	16	DH	9,082	56	EB	14,000	10
Geometric mean[1]: 204 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 227 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 248 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 26: Medical marijuana: **Oral**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
M	5,329,944	1,121	DZ	14,000	6	EI	18,025	42
AU	109,331	18,332	DI	11,169	27	EJ	16,000	18
A	21,385	102	EA	9,988	8	EQ	14,000	3
BE	18,464	35	DH	9,773	46	DZ	14,000	54
AA	11,853	19	AA	7,170	55	AM	12,284	132
Geometric mean[1]: 115 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 196 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 214 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 27: Medical marijuana: **Sublingual**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
BE	40,513	54	DZ	14,000	6	EP	35,750	12
AJ	17,500	2	AJ	11,000	4	EI	18,933	40
A	14,458	99	EA	9,988	8	EJ	16,000	18
AA	14,000	3	DM	8,439	1,121	AM	15,148	132
EL	4,340	10	EG	8,400	1	DZ	14,000	54
Geometric mean[1]: 157 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 178 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 198 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 28: Medical marijuana: **Suppository**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

	FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022	
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
AQ	4,800	6	DZ	14,000	6	EJ	16,000	18
DI	3,500	2	DO	10,000	42	AM	14,000	18
EM	1,963	8	AM	9,400	9	DZ	14,000	54
DJ	1,833	6	DM	8,676	1,090	EO	9,330	731
U	1,750	6	DC	3,298	87	AY	7,281	57
Geometric mean[1]: 174 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 207 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 233 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

Table 29: Medical marijuana: **Topical**, top five physicians with the highest average daily dose (mg).

FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022		
UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders	UID	Average Daily Dose (mg)	Number of Orders
A	21,385	102	DH	14,333	35	EI	18,458	41
AJ	17,500	1	DZ	14,000	6	EJ	16,000	18
BD	10,450	2	AJ	12,500	8	AM	15,148	132
AT	9,600	3	EF	10,725	4	EB	14,000	3
Y	7,600	2	EA	9,988	8	DZ	14,000	54
Geometric mean[1]: 134 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 157 mg/day			Geometric mean[1]: 182 mg/day		

[1] No outliers removed.

VI.   Marijuana in a Form for Smoking

Certifications with orders for smoking began on March 18, 2019, when Senate Bill 182 (2019) was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. See section 381.986 (4)(c), F.S.

Table 30: Number of certifications that contain at least one order for smoking in each data set.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
All Certifications with at Least One Order for Smoking	532,111	860,291	1,089,072
Average number of certifications with smoking per physician	391	591	695
Range in total number of certifications with smoking per physician	1 to 13,924	1 to 24,624	1 to 32,584
Median	57	66	75
Mode	1	1	1
All Patients (with smoking certifications)	351,177	575,095	728,655

Table 31: All smoking orders, percentage of total qualified physicians with orders for smoking, and descriptive statistics (in ounces ordered) in each data set.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
All Orders for Smoking	2,983,098	4,931,098	6,302,534
Percentage of Physicians with Orders for Smoking	83%	88%	91%
GeoMean ounces ordered	2.45	2.46	2.47
Max	2.50	2.50	2.50
Min	0.03	0.60	0.54
Median	2.50	2.50	2.50
Mode	2.50	2.50	2.50

Table 32: Trends in the total number and percentage of qualifying conditions reported in certifications containing at least one order for smoking. Patients may have more than one qualifying condition per certification. Conditions listed in **bold font** are the top three qualifying conditions reported by physicians.

Qualifying Condition	FY 2020 Number	FY 2020 Percent[1]	FY 2021 Number	FY 2021 Percent[1]	FY 2022 Number	FY 2022 Percent[1]
(a) Cancer	37,424	4.5%	51,713	3.5%	59,224	3.5%
(b) Epilepsy	11,206	1.4%	17,165	1.2%	15,513	0.9%
(c) Glaucoma	8,374	1.0%	11,870	0.8%	14,126	0.8%
(d) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	5,739	0.7%	8,509	0.6%	8,426	0.5%
(e) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)	1,159	0.1%	1,825	0.1%	1,651	0.1%
(f) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	**291,533**	**35.3%**	**576,442**	**39.3%**	**670,199**	**40.0%**
(g) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	6,098	0.7%	11,423	0.8%	3,559	0.2%
(h) Crohn's disease	16,015	1.9%	27,065	1.8%	31,483	1.9%
(i) Parkinson's disease	4,571	0.6%	6,810	0.5%	5,896	0.4%
(j) Multiple sclerosis (MS)	83,453	10.1%	169,059	11.5%	148,922	8.9%
(k) Medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated in paragraphs (a)-(j)	207,355	25.1%	389,109	26.5%	485,470	28.9%
(l) A terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification	1,607	0.2%	3,100	0.2%	3,043	0.2%
(m) Chronic nonmalignant pain	**151,774**	**18.4%**	**193,155**	**13.2%**	**229,990**	**13.7%**
Total qualifying conditions reported:	826,308		1,467,245		1,677,502	
Total number of certifications:	532,111		860,291		1,089,072	
Total number of patients: (with smoking certifications)	352,177		575,095		728,655	

[1] Percent of total qualifying conditions reported.

Table 33: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications containing at least one order for smoking.

FY 2020			FY 2021			FY 2022		
UID	Number of Certifications	Number of Patients	UID	Number of Certifications	Number of Patients	UID	Number of Certifications	Number of Patients
AY	13,924	5,941	AY	24,624	9,844	AY	32,584	12,482
BA	12,241	8,253	AZ	15,802	9,711	BA	17,316	11,646
AZ	11,841	8,098	BA	15,429	10,700	EH	15,716	12,735
AU	6,134	4,188	DL	9,840	6,978	DL	14,918	13,374
J	5,795	3,543	CY	9,392	6,407	DW	13,668	10,834

Table 34: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications containing at least one order for smoking and including "Qualifying Condition (f) PTSD."

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Range in Total Number of Certifications	3,707 to 12,322	7,740 to 24,624	10,059 to 32,584
Range in Percentage of Physician's Certifications including (f) PTSD	74% to 99.7%	75% to 99%	74% to 99%
Physician Specialty Area[1]	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Diagnostic Radiology • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Diagnostic Radiology • Not Listed

[1] Specialty information is as of July 1, 2022 and may not reflect current information.

Table 35: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications containing at least one order for smoking and including "Qualifying Condition (k) Medical conditions of the same kind or class."

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Range in Total Number of Certifications	4,634 to 12,322	6,744 to 24,624	7,408 to 17,316
Range in Percentage of Physician's Certifications including (k) Same Kind or Class	28% to 72%	34% to 78%	55% to 80%
Physician Specialty Area[1]	• Family Practice, Hospice and Palliative Medicine • Emergency Medicine • Pediatrics • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Family Practice, Hospice and Palliative Medicine • Pediatrics • Radiology-Diagnostic • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Radiation Oncology • Hospice and Palliative Medicine • Not Listed

[1] Specialty information is as of July 1, 2022 and may not reflect current information.

Table 36: Top five physicians with the highest number of certifications containing at least one order for smoking and including "Qualifying Condition (m) Chronic nonmalignant pain."

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Range in Total Number of Certifications	3,178 to 12,322	5,799 to 24,624	7,473 to 32,584
Range in Percentage of Physician's Certifications including (m) Chronic Pain	52% to 99.7%	45% to 96%	41% to 96%
Physician Specialty Area[1]	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Plastic Surgery • Not Listed	• Family Medicine • Pediatrics • Internal Medicine • Obstetrics and Gynecology • Not Listed

[1] Specialty information is as of July 1, 2022 and may not reflect current information.

VII.   Summary of the 2023 Annual Report

Physician certifications created for qualified patients each month continue to show a cumulative increase for each year of reporting. For example, certifications increased by 57% (32,705 to 51,478) from January 2019 to January 2020, then increased by 48% (to 76,262) for January 2021. From January 2021 to January 2022, certifications per month increased more slowly, 24% (to 94,551). The most recent monthly count was 103,869 for June 2022.

New patient enrollment each month increased by 17% from January 2019 compared to January 2020 (16,228 to 18,979), and by 27% for January 2021. Enrollments each month then decreased by 6% (to 22,716) for January 2022. The most recent monthly count was 22,627 for June 2022.

The average daily dose ordered for low-THC cannabis and medical marijuana has changed slightly since the previous fiscal year. The amounts ordered for marijuana in a form for smoking remain consistent with previous reports.

Data Tables for Physician Certifications contain detailed certification data for individual qualified physicians, and in the aggregate, by county and statewide, and are provided in a separate document.

Panel Recommendations from 2022 Report

Requests to Panel Support Staff:

1. Consider comparable data from other states or jurisdictions for future reports, if applicable.

2. Present data using the geometric mean versus the average in future reports.

3. Include an emphasis on the unreliability of physician primary practice location information.

4. Provide a break-down of physicians with certifications greater than 1,000 or more into smaller groups (adding 2,000 and 5,000 or more).

5. Change the data cycle from October 1 through September 30 to July 1 through June 30 to align with the fiscal year in future reports.

VIII. Panel Recommendations for FY 2023

1. Add information on the impact of COVID-19 on physician certification counts, if possible.
2. Add data on order counts by age groups, if possible.

IX.   Terms and Definitions

Average (AVG) daily dose is the average of all *maximum* daily doses ordered within a physician certification by route of administration and type (low-THC cannabis or medical marijuana).

Average ounces are the average of all "total ounces per 35-day order period of marijuana in a form for smoking" by certification, physician, county, or state.

Cannabidiol (CBD) for low-THC cannabis ordered by route(s) in the MMUR is measured in milligrams per day.

Chronic nonmalignant pain means pain that is caused by a qualifying medical condition or that originates from a qualifying medical condition and persists beyond the usual course of that qualifying medical condition.

County is based on the primary practice location (address) physicians provided in the MQA Licensure Database.

Dose is the milligrams (mg) per day for each route of administration a physician recommends in the MMUR as part of a certification for marijuana. The "total mg/day" is the sum of all doses for a given form and type of marijuana ordered. All dose data entered were used.

Form is a term referenced in section 381.986, F.S., to describe the routes of administration.

Geometric mean is a method for describing the central tendency of a set of numbers by finding the product of their values. An arithmetic mean adds numbers instead of multiplies them. The geometric mean is used when there are large fluctuations in a data set to prevent outliers from skewing result, yet still included those data points in the analysis.

Low-THC cannabis means a plant of the genus *Cannabis*, the dried flowers of which contain 0.8 percent or less of THC and more than 10 percent of CBD weight for weight; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; or any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant or its seeds or resin that is dispensed from an MMTC.

Marijuana means all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC cannabis, which are dispensed from an MMTC for medical use by a qualified patient.

Medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) are licensed by the state to grow, process, and dispense marijuana to qualified patients who have certifications and identification cards issued by the OMMU.

Medical Marijuana Use Registry (MMUR) is a secure, electronic, online medical marijuana use registry for physicians, patients, and caregivers that is accessible to law enforcement agencies, qualified physicians, and MMTCs.

Medical use means the acquisition, possession, use, delivery, transfer, or administration of marijuana authorized by a physician certification. The term does not include:

1. Possession, use, or administration of marijuana that was not purchased or acquired from an MMTC.
2. Possession, use, or administration of marijuana in the form of commercially produced food items other than edibles or of marijuana seeds.

3. Use or administration of any form or amount of marijuana in a manner that is inconsistent with the qualified physician's directions or physician certification.
4. Transfer of marijuana to a person other than the qualified patient for whom it was authorized or the qualified patient's caregiver on behalf of the qualified patient.
5. Use or administration of marijuana in the following locations:
    a. On any form of public transportation, except for low-THC cannabis not in a form for smoking.
    b. In any public place, except for low-THC cannabis not in a form for smoking.
    c. In a qualified patient's place of employment, except when permitted by his or her employer.
    d. In a state correctional institution, as defined in section 944.02, F.S., or a correctional institution, as defined in section 944.241, F.S.
    e. On the grounds of a preschool, primary school, or secondary school, except as provided in section 1006.062, F.S.
    f. In a school bus, a vehicle, an aircraft, or a motorboat, except for low-THC cannabis not in a form for smoking.
6. The smoking of marijuana in an enclosed indoor workplace is defined in section 386.203(5), F.S.

Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) Licensure Database contains information on health care practitioners in the state of Florida licensed under Chapter 458, F.S., and Chapter 459, F.S. The information includes an indicator for physicians who have qualified to order low-THC cannabis and medical marijuana for qualified patients.

Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) is charged with writing and implementing the Florida Department of Health rules for the use of marijuana; overseeing the statewide MMUR; and licensing Florida businesses to cultivate, process, and dispense marijuana to qualified patients. More information about the MMUR is available online at the OMMU's website: https://knowthefactsmmj.com/

Orders refer to consecutive order periods, up to three, each with a maximum number of 70 days. Within the 70-day period, physicians can choose to order 10 options: low-THC cannabis and/or medical marijuana in up to five different routes of administration.

Physician certifications for marijuana in a form for smoking may have up to six order periods, each with a maximum number of 35 days.

Outliers are individual data observations (such a mg/dose or total supply amount in mg) that are an abnormal distance from all other data observations in the set. Observations that fell more than 1.5 interquartile ranges below the first quartile or above the third quartile were considered outliers and removed from calculations for average daily dose and supply totals.

Physician certification means a qualified physician's authorization for a qualified patient to receive marijuana and a marijuana delivery device from an MMTC.

Physician county data are pulled from the most recent data available relative to the end of the reporting period. "Not Practicing" physicians had an active status in the MQA Licensure database when county information was accessed; "Out of State" physicians had out-of-state addresses but were otherwise listed as active status.

Practitioner Profile information is drawn from the MQA Licensure Database and contains physician information that is posted in the online "License Verification" search.

Qualified patient means a resident of this state who has been added to the MMUR by a qualified physician to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device for medical use and who has a qualified patient identification card.

Qualified physician means a person who holds an unrestricted license as an allopathic physician under Chapter 458, F.S., or as an osteopathic physician under Chapter 459, F.S., and is in compliance with the physician education requirements of subsection (3) of 381.986, F.S.

Qualifying medical conditions are required for physician certification. A patient must be diagnosed with at least one of the following conditions to qualify to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device:

(a) Cancer

(b) Epilepsy

(c) Glaucoma

(d) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

(e) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

(f) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

(g) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

(h) Crohn's disease

(i) Parkinson's disease

(j) Multiple sclerosis (MS)

(k) Medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated in paragraphs (a)-(j)

(l) A terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification

(m) Chronic nonmalignant pain

Routes of administration are defined in the Department of Health's Emergency Rule 64ER20-31, Florida Administrative Register, as the appropriate method for the usable product to be taken into the body of the qualified patient, as certified by a qualified physician.

Smoking means burning or igniting a substance and inhaling the smoke. As permitted by section 381.986(4)(c), F.S., qualified physicians may determine that smoking is an appropriate route of administration for a qualified patient.

Supply is the total amount in milligrams (mgs) for all orders within a certification (daily dose multiplied by the number of days ordered) for all routes of administration other than smoking. For smoking, supply is the total amount in ounces (oz) for all orders within a certification.

Terminal condition means a progressive disease or medical or surgical condition that causes significant functional impairment, is not considered by a treating physician to be reversible without the administration of life-sustaining procedures and will result in death within one year after diagnosis if the condition runs its normal course.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for medical marijuana ordered by route(s) in the MMUR is measured in milligrams per day.

Type is low-THC cannabis or medical marijuana.

Contact Us
Your feedback is important to us.
If you have questions or suggestions
about this report, please let us know.

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