

## Who is REALLY smoking marijuana under the guise of medicine?



### California

Voters in the state of California approved a “medical” marijuana act in 1996 and the law went into effect the following day. There are an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 “medical” marijuana “patients” in California. In cities like San Diego where the issue has been closely examined, only 2% of those smoking marijuana under the guise of medicine have serious conditions such as AIDS, glaucoma and cancer. A full 98% are “treating” more minor conditions such as back and neck pain, anxiety, muscle spasms, insomnia, headaches and other insignificant conditions. But even more troubling is that 12% of the users are under 21!

Source: California Police Chiefs Association. Medical Marijuana Dispensary Information, Medical Marijuana Dispensaries-San Diego (Power Point).

[http://www.californiapolicechiefs.org/nav\\_files/medical\\_marijuana.html](http://www.californiapolicechiefs.org/nav_files/medical_marijuana.html)

Source: CNN Money.com *How marijuana became legal* by Roger Parloff. September 18, 2009

### Oregon

Voters in the state of Oregon approved a “medical” marijuana act in 1998. As of October 1, 2009, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program has 23,873 individuals that legally hold “medical” marijuana ID cards, and of those, 88% are treating “severe pain” (an indefinable term that is being used to cover medical conditions such as menstrual cramps, headaches, and minor arthritis) rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (4.4%), glaucoma (1.5%) and HIV+/AIDS (2.2%).

Source: Oregon.gov, Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/index.shtml>

### Washington

In 1998 voters in Washington approved a measure that would allow for the use of “medical” marijuana. The law did not set up a state run registry system; therefore, there are no statistics on the number of people participating in the program.

### Alaska

Voters in the state of Alaska approved a “medical” marijuana act in 1998 which currently has 222 registered ID card holders. Alaska’s program does not track specific medical conditions of the applicants.

### Maine

Maine's voters approved a “medical” marijuana program in 1999 and then passed an initiative in 2009 that will establish a registry system. To date the state has not released information regarding how many individuals are currently using marijuana as a so-called medicine.

### Colorado

Voters in the state of Colorado passed a “medical” marijuana amendment in 2000. As of July 31, 2009, the Marijuana Registry Program has 11,094 individuals that legally hold registry ID cards, up 1,288 since May 30, 2009. Of the 11,094 ID card holders, 90% are treating “severe pain” (as explained above), and 27% are treating “muscle spasms” rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (3%), glaucoma (1%) and HIV+/AIDS (1%).

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Medical Marijuana Registry Update.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/Medicalmarijuana/marijuanaupdate.html>

## Hawaii

In 2000 the Hawaii legislature passed a “medical” marijuana bill, and as of December 2008 the program has 4,560 participants. Of the 4,560 participants, 68 % are treating the "debilitating medical condition" of severe pain (as explained above). That was followed by 1.5% for persistent muscle spasms, 1.4% for HIV or AIDS, 1.2% for cancer, 1.1% for severe nausea, .05% for seizures and .03% for wasting syndrome.

Source: Article in the Maui News titled *Careful what you ask for*, dated 2/9/09. [http://www.mauinews.com/page/content\\_detail/id/514619.html](http://www.mauinews.com/page/content_detail/id/514619.html)

## Nevada

In 2000 voters approved a “medical” marijuana ballot question in Nevada. The Department of Health said that they are finding out who is registered when they renew their cards and it might take years to collect the required data.

## Vermont

On May 26, 2004 SB 76 became law, without Governor James Douglas’ signature, establishing the states “medical” marijuana program. The state has not released information regarding how many people are registered in the program or for what medical conditions for which the registration cards were approved.

## Montana

Voters in Montana approved a “medical” marijuana initiative in 2004. Of the 1,989 participants in the registry program, 72.6% are treating chronic pain or chronic pain with muscle spasms. Combined, the more serious conditions such as cancer, glaucoma and HIV represent 3.6% of the program’s participants.

Source: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, medical marijuana program coordinator. March 27, 2009.

## Rhode Island

Their Medical Marijuana Act was enacted on January 3, 2006. As of December 30, 2008, 561 individuals are participating in the program. Of those, 63.71% are treating a chronic disease or condition (chronic pain, severe nausea and severe persistent muscle spasms) rather than more serious conditions such as cancer (11.95%), glaucoma (1.69%), HIV+/AIDS (4.50%) and Hepatitis C (9.7%).

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health <http://www.health.ri.gov/hsr/mmp>

## New Mexico

In April 2007, Governor Bill Richardson signed SB which allows the use and distribution of “medical” marijuana to state-authorized “patients.” Since the program began in July 1, 2007, the Department of Health has approved 755 applications authorizing the use of so-called medical marijuana. Of those, 204 have been approved to produce marijuana for themselves. The state has not released information regarding the medical conditions for which the applications were approved.

Source: <http://newmexicoindependent.com/41452/n-m-approves-four-new-medical-marijuana-producers>

## Michigan

November 2008 voters in the state of Michigan passed a “medical” marijuana proposal. As of Oct 1, 2009, the state has received 7,060 applications and has issued 6,135 registration cards. The state has not released information regarding the medical conditions for which the registration cards were approved.

Source: <http://www.cm-life.com/2009/10/19/about-6000-michigan-residents-using-medical-marijuana/>

## New Jersey

January 2010 New Jersey legislators passed “medical” marijuana legislation.