

Nevada State Health Division

Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning,
Epidemiology and Response



Nevada State Health Division

"Public Health: Working for a Safer & Healthier Nevada"

Medical Marijuana Program

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

Background and Authority:

Statutory Mandate

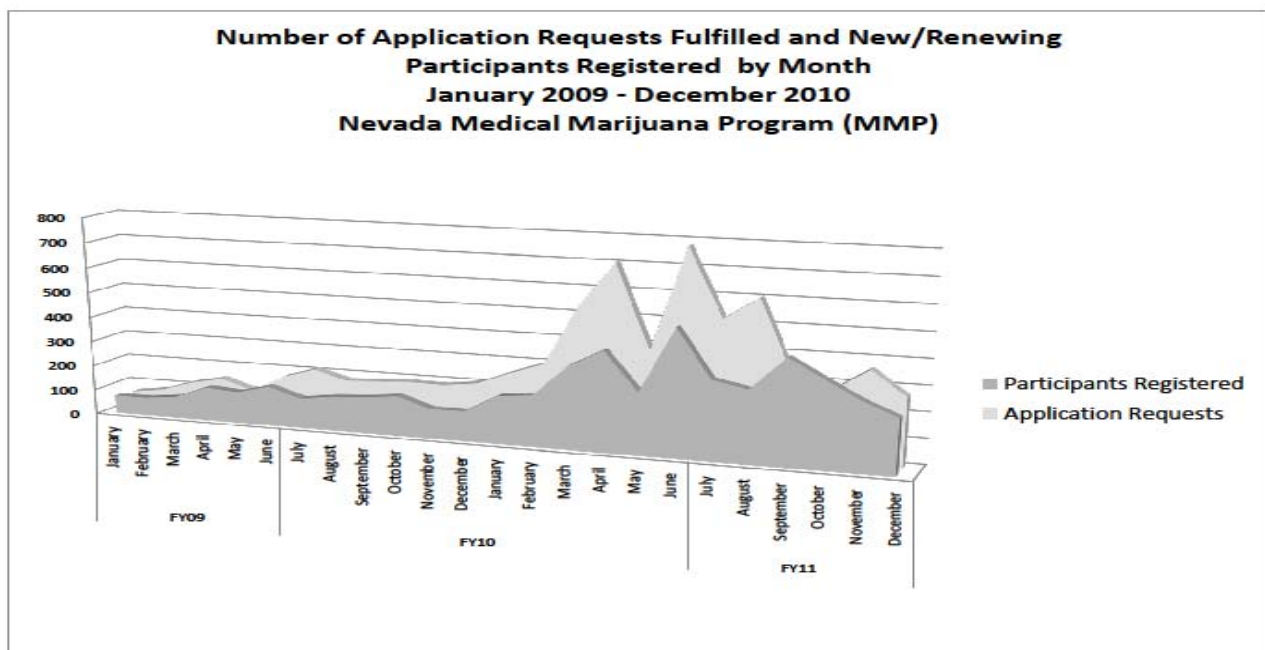
Nevada Constitution, Article 4, Section 38. Use of plant of genus Cannabis for medical purposes. NRS 453A, Medical Use of Marijuana.

Program Description

The Nevada Marijuana Health Registry is a state registry program within the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada State Health Division. The role of the program is to administer the provisions of the Medical Use of Marijuana law as approved by the Nevada Legislature and adopted in 2001. Individuals can apply for the registry, and if found eligible, they are approved for issuance of an identification card authorizing them, within limitations, to cultivate and utilize the Cannabis plant for personal use only. Eligibility is determined through physician certification of a qualifying medical condition, an acceptable criminal background check, and proof of Nevada residency.

Growth and Trends

The Medical Marijuana Program is projecting continued growth over the next biennium. The growth trend below was calculated by evaluating the actual number of applications received and processed since the move of the program from the Department of Agriculture to the Health Division in 2008. The amount of data from the Department of Agriculture was very limited. The trend numbers reflect document tracking from January 2009 to present. As awareness of the registry grows, we anticipate this trend to continue.

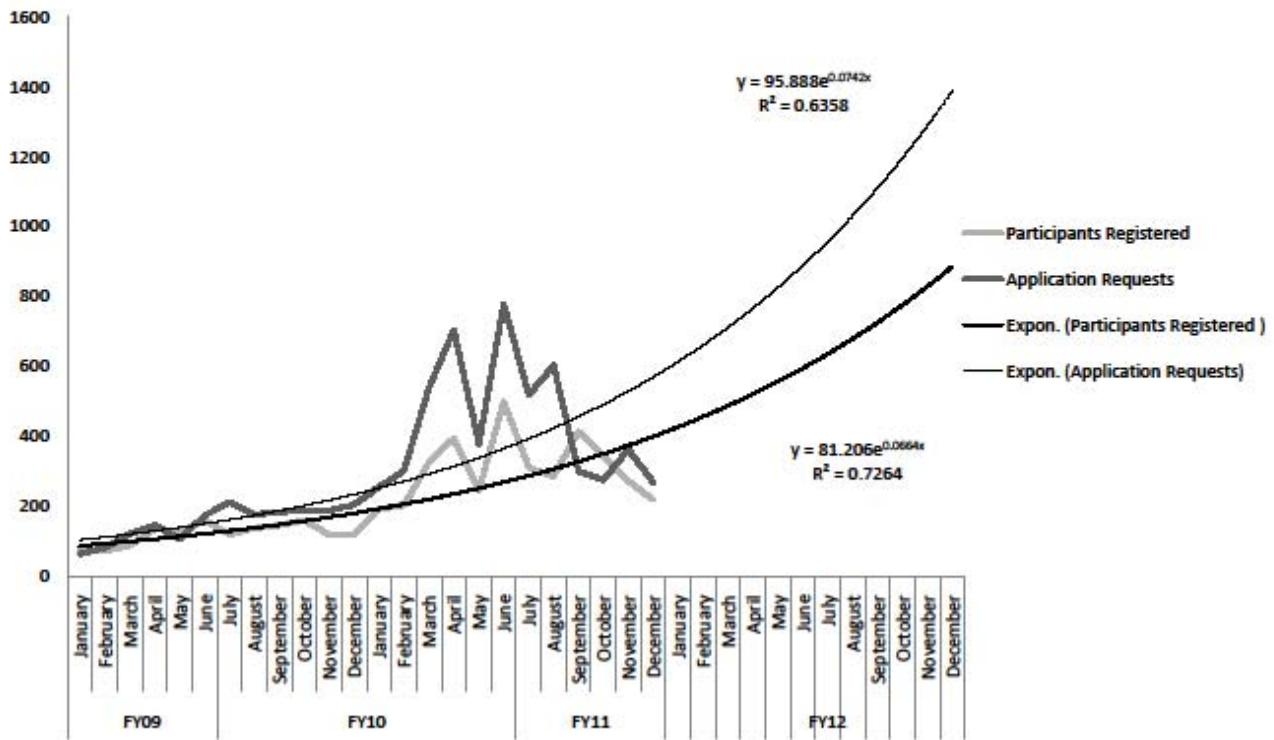


Nevada Medical Marijuana Program Statistics as of January 1, 2011	
Number of patients currently holding cards	2,898
Number of pending applications	311
Number of caregivers holding cards for these patients	56
Number of Nevada Licensed physicians who have signed applications	200
Number of applications received from July 1, 2010 to January 13, 2011	
New Applications	1,358
Renewals	590
Current cardholder's conditions**	
Cachexia	116
Cancer	73
Glaucoma	42
HIV+/AIDS	38
Severe Nausea	536
Severe Pain	2,610
Seizures	51
Muscle Spasms	1,436
Number of patient cardholders per region	
Clark County	2,108
Washoe County	370
Balance of State	420
Number of current cardholders by age group	
Less than 18 years of age	3
18 to 20 years old	36
21 to 24 Years old	147
25 to 34 years old	748
35 to 44 years old	648
45 to 54 years old	628
55 to 64 years old	545
65 years of age or older	145

**Medical conditions are not exclusive. A patient may have more than one diagnosed qualifying medical condition

12 Month Projected Growth Trend

**Number of Application Requests Fulfilled and New/Renewing
Participants Registered by Month
With 12 Month Projections
January 2009 - December 2010
Nevada Medical Marijuana Program (MMP)**

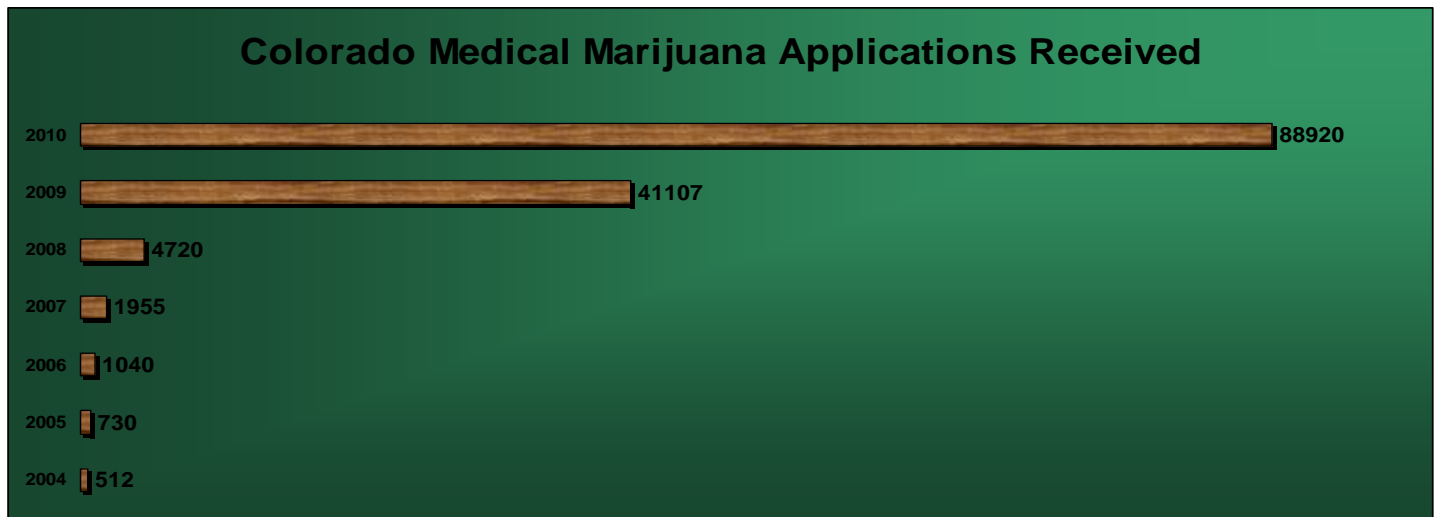


Other States

Growth trends and statistics from Colorado and Oregon's Medical Marijuana Programs were also reviewed. Both states have seen an ongoing sky rocketing increase. Colorado had a 771% increase in registrants from 4720 registrants in 2008 to 41,107 registrants in 2009. In just under 12 years of having a medical marijuana registry, Oregon has nearly 1% of the state's population registered in the program. If 1% of the population of Nevada elects to participate in the program, it would translate to nearly 27,000 participants.

Colorado:

Medical Marijuana Registry Accepted Application History								
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change
Jan	29	51	45	131	245	495	11508	2225%
Feb	32	67	60	123	246	587	12320	1999%
Mar	37	72	84	143	286	807	10872	1247%
Apr	39	64	98	135	328	1192	8537	616%
May	34	85	108	169	360	1264	6881	444%
Jun	60	64	103	146	431	1943	7864	305%
Jul	52	48	81	143	432	2492	5806	133%
Aug	54	47	97	179	489	3674	5080	38%
Sep	38	52	94	197	495	3523	5113	45%
Oct	49	76	114	221	527	4751	5591	18%
Nov	58	66	91	176	424	9794	5695	-42%
Dec	30	38	65	192	457	10585	3653	-65%
Totals	512	730	1040	1955	4720	41107	88920	
% Increase/year		43%	42%	88%	141%	771%	116%	



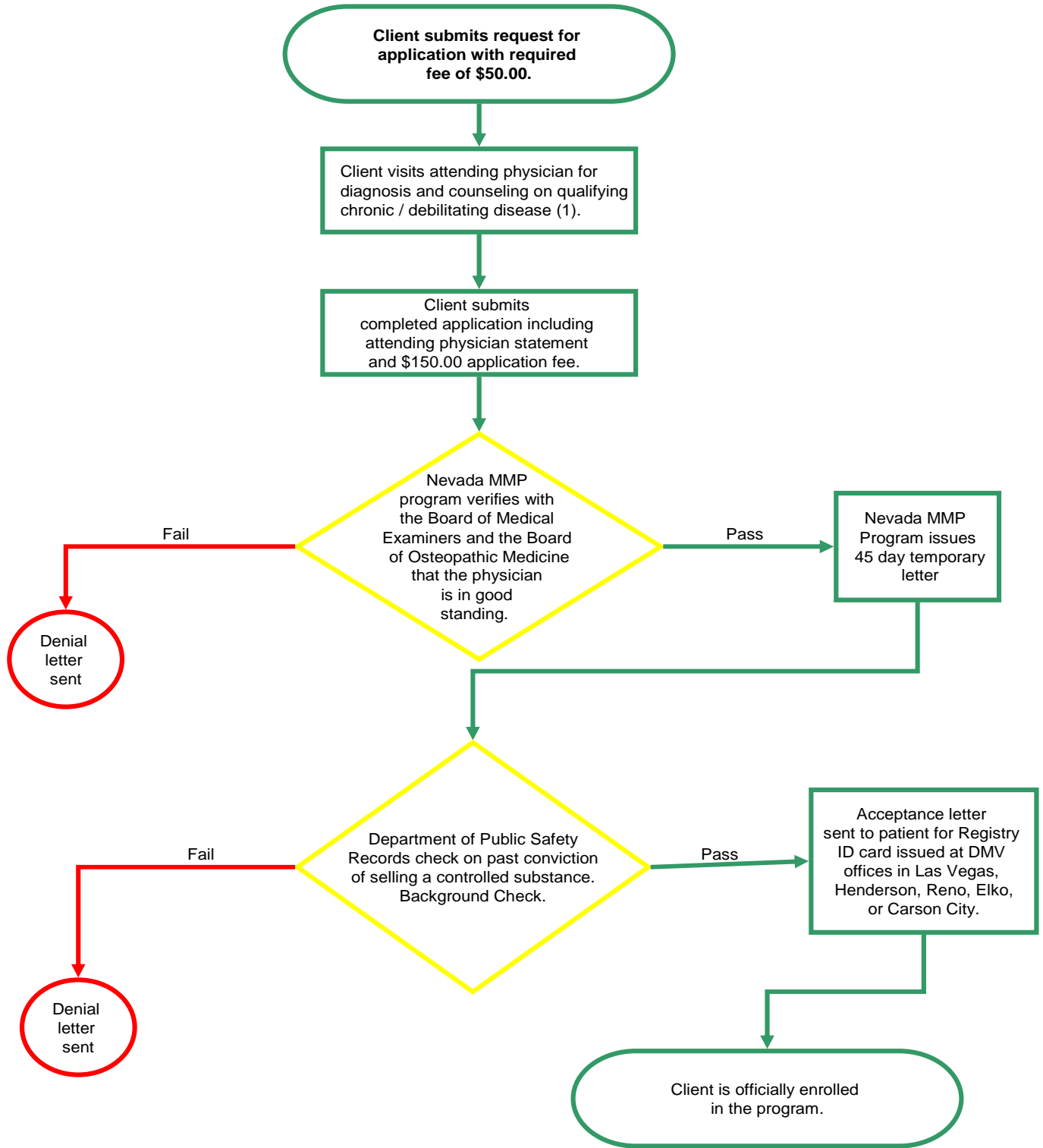
Oregon:

Oregon Medical Marijuana Program Statistics as of January 1, 2011

- Number of patients currently holding cards: **38,269**
- Number of caregivers holding cards for these patients: **19,971**
- Number of Oregon-licensed physicians with **current** OMMP patients (MDs and DOs only): **1,768**
- Number of Oregon-licensed physicians who have signed applications (MDs and DOs only) over the history of the program: **3,715**
- Number of *new* applications received January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010: **24,418**
- Number of *renewal* applications received January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010: **19,133**
- Number of pending applications (including renewal applications) on January 1, 2011: **10,569**

Medical Marijuana Application and Approval Process:

NEVADA MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM (MMP)



(1) Qualifying Chronic / Debilitating Diseases include: Aids, Cancer, Glaucoma. Medical Conditions involving – Cachexia, Muscle Spasms, Seizures, Severe Nausea, Severe Pain.

Staffing and Operating Needs

Time and effort analysis was accomplished by timing all processing activities from the application request to the final approval letter that is sent to the patient. The calculations also include time to respond to over 150 calls per day and other administrative duties. The program currently has one full time equivalent (FTE) Administrative Assistant II. Time and effort analysis reflects a current shortage of one FTE Administrative Assistant II for processing applications and answering calls. There is also need for a Program Officer FTE position to perform process improvement activities, supervise staff work activities, establish policy and procedures to be adapted as the program grows, and oversee cash handling and budget activities. The Medical Marijuana Program has requested an additional Program Officer I to perform quality assurance activities and develop and implement an education, training, and outreach program for physicians and law enforcement to facilitate compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 453A and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 453A.

Due to the Medical Marijuana Program moving to the Vital Records area, there is a need to re-engineer the Vital Records/Medical Marijuana cubicles to accommodate staff. The existing furniture was moved from the Kincaid Building and includes mixed pieces from various vendors that cannot be added to or adapted. Re-engineering will also require additional power and data drops to accommodate new equipment.

The Medical Marijuana Program has a critical need for education and training for physicians and law enforcement. With the growth of the program, the requests for information have increased, and the existing FTE has been unable to meet the informational needs of the stakeholders. Needs of the Medical Marijuana Program include establishing a training curriculum, implementing a web based training application, supporting DOIT hosting costs, covering postage, creating and distributing reference materials, and yearly travel to all counties in the State. Travel needs include yearly travel to each county to train local law enforcement and physicians practicing in the county. All travel will be in-state.

Technology Needs:

In addition to the requested staff, the program has identified a need for a new database program that will handle the increasing number of participants and allow for more efficient automation of tracking and registration activities. The program is currently using a Microsoft Access database; however, as the database continues to grow, Access will not be able to handle the projected growth of the program. The program will also need additional hardware and storage solutions from the Nevada Department of Information Technology. Without the improved database application, the program will need an additional three FTE Administrative Assistants to handle the projected document processing workload.

The required functions of the proposed system are as follows:

- Improved timeliness in the approval of applications
- Increased security of patient data
- Timely, accurate and complete collection of data from data providers such as physicians, patients and caregivers
- Improved work flow
- Improved customer service