

AUGUST 2021



MONTH IN REVIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PCC Members -

I hope you and your teams had a great summer.

With the momentum from the successful passage of Act 44, we are gearing up for fall and another legislative session here at PCC. The Legislative Input Committee, Executive Committee and the Lobbying Team are hard at work establishing a Fall Legislative Agenda. The PA Senate and PA House head back to Harrisburg September 20 and 27th respectively. If there is something you would like to see on our agenda please reach out to me. You can find information about current legislation under the Member Resources page on Pcanna.org. Please reach out if you need to be reminded of the password.

The implementation of Act 44 continues to be a slow, arduous process. Our legislative partners are engaged and helping us cut through the red tape of DOH. Please continue to advise me of struggles and setbacks and also please share any guidance or clarification you receive from DOH so we can ensure consistency.

Next month in PCC Month in Review we will begin to feature columns, best practices and white papers from our members. If you or someone on your team has written something that you would like to share with fellow PCC members please send my way so we can include it in the PCC Month in Review.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly!

Meredith Buettner
Executive Director



PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION

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ADULT USE UPDATE

- Representatives Jake Wheatley and Dan Frankel introduced a Co-Sponsorship Memo titled: "The Cannabis Regulatory Control Act" (Adult-Use Cannabis)
- We have still not see Senator Dan Laughlin and Senator Sharif Street's draft of bipartisan adult use legislation but will share as soon as we see it
- PCC's Adult Use Committee will review both bills and provide feedback
- PCC is continuing to monitor progress in neighboring states
- PCC submitted comments on CAO through both USCC & ATACH. Please email Meredith if you would like to see copies

DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES*

Serious Medical Condition Applications

- Applications
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Hepatitis
 - Hepatitis C
 - Chronic Insomnia
 - Major Depressive Disorder
- All denied

Program Data

- 131 Dispensaries now open
- July sales of \$120M - new program record
- 633,557 registered patients and caregivers to date
- 367,925 active patients
- 14.1 million dispensing events
- 40.4 million products dispensed
- \$3.4 billion in total sales
- \$1.4 billion by GPs to dispensaries
- \$2.0 billion by dispensaries to patients
- Flower is top selling product form
- Retail prices have fallen 7% since the beginning of the year
- DOH would like to see wholesale prices fall further

Physicians

- 1,603 approved practitioners
- 80% located in a half dozen counties
- Telemedicine is helping patient access to physicians
- Physicians are allowed to opt out of DOH posted list

Patient Hardship Fund

- Loan is now considered repaid
- Program will be known as Medical Marijuana Assistance Program
- Timeline for establishment to be shared when available

*Data from August 17,2021 MMAB Virtual Meeting

PA Medical Marijuana Dispensary Sales

<u>Year-Quarter</u>	<u>Product Sales</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
2017 Q4	0	\$ -
2018 Q1	\$590	\$ 590
2018 Q2	\$3,148,833	\$ 3,149,423
2018 Q3	\$20,624,591	\$ 23,774,015
2018 Q4	\$35,060,002	\$ 58,834,016
2019 Q1	\$47,813,173	\$ 106,647,189
2019 Q2	\$66,143,971	\$ 172,791,160
2019 Q3	\$91,602,724	\$ 264,393,883
2019 Q4	\$109,017,868	\$ 373,411,752
2020 Q1	\$132,859,670	\$ 506,271,421
2020 Q2	\$192,445,422	\$ 698,716,843
2020 Q3	\$245,532,814	\$ 944,249,658
2020 Q4	\$267,727,221	\$ 1,211,976,879
2021 Q1	\$306,670,511	\$ 1,518,647,390
2021 Q2	\$352,451,028	\$ 1,871,098,418
Total	\$1,871,098,418	

Data extracted as of 7/2/2021

Metrics are continually revised in real time, and subject to change without notice.

Medical marijuana sought by more than 50,000 people living in counties with no dispensaries

By John Finnerty/CNHI State Reporter Aug 20, 2021

More than 50,000 people registered to get medical marijuana live in one of 29 rural counties that don't have any medical marijuana dispensaries, according to data provided to CNHI by the Department of Health.

The department provided the information after being ordered to do so by the state Office of Open Records. The Department of Health initially refused to provide the data, saying it wouldn't release the information in order to avoid violating patient privacy protections built into the state's Medical Marijuana Law.

The Office of Open Records rejected the department's arguments in July saying that aggregated data about the medical marijuana program wouldn't violate any individual patient's privacy.

"Finding the requested aggregated data to be confidential would lead to an absurd result. Under such a broad reading of confidentiality, information such as the total number of Pennsylvanians using the medical marijuana program would be confidential and disclosure of that figure could result in criminal sanctions. The OOR cannot conclude that this was the General Assembly's intent," Kyle Applegate, chief counsel for the Office of Open Records, wrote in the order directing the Department of Health to release the data.

This is the first time the agency has released the information publicly, said Meredith Buettner, executive director of the Pennsylvania Cannabis Coalition, a trade group representing growers and dispensary operators.

The information has been sought by the cannabis industry group, she said, because the data could help inform their decisions about where to locate dispensaries even as the Department of Health has acknowledged there are large areas of the state under-served by the program. Buettner said without access to the information about patient residency by county, dispensary operators have been forced to make decisions about where to locate dispensaries based on market surveys and population data.

"Having patient counts by counties could help us make business decisions about where to locate the remaining dispensaries that haven't opened, to be able to fill patients' needs. You know, it would make that process a lot easier. No one has ever been given that information," Buettner said. "If you looked at other medical marijuana regulatory bodies across the country, you would be able to find this information with a Google search."

The Department of Health website lists 127 dispensaries operating in the state. State law now allows up to 198 dispensaries.

At a Medical Marijuana Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, John Collins, director of the Medical Marijuana Program, said there are 367,925 active patients buying medical marijuana.

At the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board meeting in May, Collins said that in under-served areas, particularly in North-Central Pennsylvania, patients must drive at least half an hour in some cases may be driving as much as two hours to get to the nearest dispensary.

Despite that warning, the department initially refused to disclose the number of residents by county until ordered to do so by the Office of Open Records.

The data provided to CNHI showed that there were 595,336 patients registered with the program, as of Aug. 13. The data showed that 53,293 people registered to get medical marijuana live in counties where there are no dispensaries.

In seven of the counties with no dispensaries — Cameron, Forest, Fulton, Juniata, Potter, Sullivan and Tioga — there are fewer than 1,000 people registered to use medical marijuana.

Buettner said the number of patients would include all those who've sought medical marijuana cards since medical marijuana sales started in 2018. Those eligible to obtain medical marijuana must get a doctor to indicate that the patient suffers from one of 23 serious medical conditions, including Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and cancer. In some cases, people who registered to get medical marijuana may have since died. In other cases, the patient could have used medical marijuana until their condition improved and stopped, she said.

About 182,000 people who've requested medical marijuana cards were residents of Philadelphia and the suburban counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery. That area has 40 dispensaries.

Montgomery County, with 44,000 medical marijuana patients, has 14 dispensaries. Philadelphia, with almost 58,000 medical marijuana patients, has 13 dispensaries.

In western Pennsylvania, Allegheny County, with 63,910 medical marijuana patients, has 10 dispensaries.

By region

The Department of Health divided the state into six regions for the purposes of overseeing the medical marijuana program

In the Northwestern region, with 42,136 medical marijuana patients, six counties — Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Forest, Venango and Warren — don't have any dispensaries. Of those six counties, only Venango, with 2,262 medical marijuana patients, had more than 2,000 medical marijuana patients. There are nine dispensaries in the other seven counties in the region.

In the North-Central Region, with 27,206 medical marijuana patients, seven counties have no dispensaries. None of those counties have more than 2,000 patients. There are six dispensaries spread across the other five counties in that region.

In the Northeastern Region, with 79,927 medical marijuana patients, five counties have no dispensaries -- Carbon, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming. Of those counties without dispensaries, Carbon has 3,407 medical marijuana patients, Pike has 3,108 and Wayne has 2,521. There are 19 dispensaries in the other five counties in the region.

In the Southwestern Region, with 126,677 medical marijuana patients, only four counties — Armstrong, Greene, Indiana and Somerset — don't have dispensaries. There are 25 dispensaries in the other seven counties.

In the South-Central Region, with 89,557 medical marijuana patients, six counties — Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry counties — have no dispensaries. Three of those counties have more than 2,000 medical marijuana patients: Bedford with 3,029, Huntingdon with 2,174 and Perry with 2,108. There are 21 dispensaries in the other seven counties in the region.

In the Southeastern Region, where there are 229,837 medical marijuana patients, only one county, Schuylkill County, has no dispensaries. There are 6,226 medical marijuana patients in Schuylkill County, far more than any other county without a dispensary, according to the Department of Health data. There are 47 dispensaries in the other seven counties in the region.

Chart on following page

Patients by County as of 8/13/2021			
County	Patients	County	Patients
Adams	6,854	Lackawanna	12,531
Allegheny	63,910	Lancaster	21,847
Armstrong	2,723	Lawrence	3,853
Beaver	8,892	Lebanon	6,851
Bedford	3,029	Lehigh	17,455
Berks	18,873	Luzerne	15,844
Blair	7,129	Lycoming	4,828
Bradford	1,404	McKean	1,559
Bucks	32,759	Mercer	3,598
Butler	8,272	Mifflin	1,826
Cambria	5,421	Monroe	6,702
Cameron	336	Montgomery	44,058
Carbon	3,407	Montour	1,085
Centre	5,906	Northampton	14,905
Chester	25,780	Northumberland	4,622
Clarion	1,470	Perry	2,108
Clearfield	5,976	Philadelphia	55,735
Clinton	1,750	Pike	3,018
Columbia	3,256	Potter	505
Crawford	3,062	Schuylkill	6,226
Cumberland	12,492	Snyder	1,433
Dauphin	16,009	Somerset	2,131
Delaware	24,599	Sullivan	174
Elk	1,838	Susquehanna	1,831
Erie	13,619	Tioga	859
Fayette	5,569	Union	1,384
Forest	297	Venango	2,262
Franklin	6,808	Warren	1,723
Fulton	763	Washington	10,034
Greene	1,330	Wayne	2,521
Huntingdon	2,174	Westmoreland	15,805
Indiana	2,586	Wyoming	1,713
Jefferson	2,553	York	22,694
Juniata	820		

AUGUST 2021

LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT: SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

President Pro Tempore Jake Corman

Jacob "Jake" Doyle Corman III, of Centre County, was elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania in 1998. Senator Corman represents the 34th Senatorial District, which includes all of Centre, Mifflin, and Juniata counties and part of Huntingdon County.

Senator Corman was elected in 2020 to serve as President Pro Tempore of the state Senate, where he presides over the Senate floor when the Lt. Governor is unavailable and fills the position of Lt. Governor if the office becomes vacant.

As the top-ranking official in the Senate, Senator Corman is responsible for appointing the chairs and members of the Senate's 22 standing committees while serving as an ex-officio member of those committees. The office also refers bills and resolutions to the appropriate Senate committees for consideration.

From 2015 to 2020, Senator Corman served as Senate Majority Leader, the second highest-ranking position in Senate leadership. In that position, Senator Corman set the legislative agenda, developed policies and strategies for the Senate Republican Caucus, and chaired the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. He also played a major role in negotiating issues with the Administration and House of Representatives as well as supervising action on the Senate floor.

First elected to Senate Leadership in 2009, Senator Corman served as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget.

Senator Corman has a reputation for taking a pragmatic approach to how the House, Senate and Governor's office can collaborate to make Pennsylvania government work for Pennsylvanians. His hands-on experience in state and federal government has made him one of the General Assembly's foremost authorities on public policy and fiscal issues.

Senator Corman has been a leader in addressing issues greatly impacting the Commonwealth. In 2017, Senator Corman prime sponsored Senate Bill 1, legislation to overhaul and modernize Pennsylvania's pension system and limit future financial risks for taxpayers. Act 5 of 2017 has been hailed nationally as "one of the most comprehensive and impactful reforms any state has implemented" and a catalyst for the "biggest turnaround in contribution adequacy nationwide."

Senator Corman obtained an Associate Degree in Communications from the Pennsylvania College of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Pennsylvania State University. Senator Corman resides in Bellefonte, Centre County, with his wife and three children.



THE SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THE 2021-22 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

FROM LEFT: MAJORITY WHIP JOHN GORDNER; PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE JAKE CORMAN; MAJORITY LEADER KIM WARD; APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAT BROWNE; POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARIO SCAVELLO; STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DAVID C. ARGALL; CAUCUS ADMINISTRATOR CAMERA BARTOLOTTA; CAUCUS CHAIR BOB MENSCH; DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE ELDER VOGEL; CAUCUS SECRETARY RYAN AUMENT.

Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward

Senator Kim Ward is the first woman in the history of the Pennsylvania Legislature to serve as Majority Leader in either the Pennsylvania House or Senate.

In 2008, Senator Ward won the Pennsylvania 39th Senatorial District seat and was the first woman ever elected to that seat. She was re-elected in 2012 & 2016, and most recently in 2020. During the 2019-2020 legislative session, she was appointed to the Majority Caucus Administrator position in the Senate.

Prior to her election to the Senate, she served as a Westmoreland County Commissioner in 2008, and on the Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors from 2002-2007 where she was Chairwoman of the Board for the final three years.

Senator Ward's legislative accomplishments include laws reducing spending on state subsidized methadone treatment transportation; implementing the federal E-Verify program to ensure workers on publicly funded construction projects were legally permitted to work; and re-authorizing the emergency services grant program. She led the effort to enact legislation reforming Pennsylvania's child abuse laws and providing greater protections for children against abuse.

Most recently, Senator Ward has had several of bills she introduced to address the COVID-19 pandemic pass the General Assembly. Signed into law was her legislation requiring the Pennsylvania Department of Health to share the location of COVID-19 positive cases with emergency responders so they can better protect themselves and their communities.

She is a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Hempfield Township, the Italian Sons and Daughters of America and the NRA. Senator Kim Ward is a native southwestern Pennsylvania resident who grew up in Meadowlands, Washington County. She attended The Community College of Allegheny County Respiratory Therapy program, the University of Pittsburgh, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Before entering politics, Kim worked as a Board-Certified Respiratory Therapist at Allegheny General Hospital, Vanderbilt University Hospital and Hershey Medical Center.

She and her husband, Dr. Thomas Ward, have three sons, Tom, Michael, and Matthew and three beautiful grandchildren, Josie Jane, Thomas and Roman.

AUGUST 2021

EMAIL MEREDITH@PCANNA.ORG TO BE ADDED TO A COMMITTEE CALL TODAY

IMPORTANT DATES*

Dispensary Call

Tuesday, September 7 @ 1pm Via Zoom

Grower/Processor Call

Tuesday, September 14 @ 1pm Via Zoom

Legislative Input Committee Call

Thursday, September 23 @ 2pm Via Zoom

*All times are EST

MEMBERSHIP INFO

PCC 2021 Dues Schedule PER PERMIT

GPs: \$3,000/quarter

Dispensaries: \$1,500/quarter

Labs: \$1,500/quarter

Clinical Registrants: \$4,500/quarter

Affiliates: \$1,000/quarter

If your organization is taking advantage of online payment options please make sure your payment includes your organizations name. Dues invoices are emailed quarterly to your billing contact. To check or update your billing information please email Meredith@pcanna.org

The Pennsylvania Cannabis Political Action Committee is the bipartisan political action committee of PCC. The goal of the PC PAC is to support candidates seeking elective office that advocate for access to medical and/or adult-use cannabis in Pennsylvania.

Suggested initial contributions to PC PAC:

Grower Processors: \$5,000

Dispensaries \$2,500

Clinical Registrants: \$2,500

Laboratories & Affiliates: \$1,000

PC PAC INFORMATION

Please mail your contributions to:
PC PAC | 204 State Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101

Corporate contributions cannot be made to PC PAC



Executive Committee

Jamie Ware, Holistic Industries: Chair
Jeremy Unruh, PharmaCann: Vice-Chair
John Sullivan, Cresco Labs: Treasurer
Sara Payne, Jushi: Secretary
Open: At-Large

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Agri-Kind

PCC Grower Processor Member

Agri-Kind is a team brought together by a passion for growing the finest medical cannabis possible. The team at Agri-Kind works daily to research a wide variety of products targeted for specific conditions, with the most profound medical efficacy. Focusing on marketing exclusively research-proven products, it is their mission to maintain a strict ISO/FDA compliance-based approach to all our practices, processes, and procedures, to employ the quality and controls necessary to produce the most effective, potent, and consistent products on the market.

Agri-Kind aims to produce the finest, most harmonious cannabis. Agri-Kind believes that growing premium cannabis is part science and part art. Their team of artisans: growers, extraction experts, and cultivators are the cream of the crop—with years of experience and specialized expertise.

To learn more visit agri-kind.com

PCC Affiliate Members

[Cerealia Group - Transportation Services](#)

[Hamburg Rubin - Legal Services](#)

[McKim & Creed - Engineering Services](#)

[PAMMJ - Patient Certifications](#)

[ScarletEx - Closed Loop Delivery](#)

[Utility Rate Analysts - Energy Consulting & Procurement](#)

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

The PCC Affiliate Membership program brings together the greater Pennsylvania Cannabis Community in order to advance legislation, regulations and implementation of Pennsylvania's cannabis program. Affiliate Membership is open to any entity who supports the purposes of PCC and is engaged in the business of supplying current permit holders with goods and services. Examples of Affiliate Member businesses include but are not limited to cannabis accessories; cultivation equipment or supplies; dispensary equipment or supplies; financial, legal, advocacy or insurance services; packaging, security or software companies.

Affiliate Members may participate in all PCC programming, meetings and receive coalition communications. Affiliate Members may join relevant committees but are not eligible for membership on the Executive Committee as they are classified as Non-Voting. Affiliate Members will receive an updated business-to-business contact sheet for all members on a quarterly basis and have logo and company information displayed on the Affiliate Member page of the PCC Website. Opportunities for advertising in PCC communications and presenting at membership meetings are also available to Affiliate Members.

Affiliate Membership dues: \$1,000/ quarter