

APRIL 2021



# MONTH IN REVIEW



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PCC Members -

Happy Five Year Anniversary of Act 16! We have experienced rapid growth in the market and much credit goes to you as operators for your ability to deliver medicine to patients safely and effectively while experiencing such growth. On the next page we share some updated statistics made available through press release by DOH..

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission closed the comment period of the proposed final program regulations on April 5th. DOH has indicated that they intend to issue final regulations by November 2021.

We continue working closely with partners in the General Assembly to make much needed modernizations to Act 16. We also continue to be a thoughtful contributor to the adult-use conversation in Pennsylvania. We have been engaged with stakeholders across to Commonwealth to ensure that the current MMOs are the on ramp to adult use legislations.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions - I can always be reached at [Meredith@pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@pcanna.org) or 717-220-3508

Best,

Meredith V. Buettner  
Executive Director

**PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION**

**204 STATE STREET HARRISBURG, PA 17101**

**717-220-3508 | [WWW.PCANNA.ORG](http://WWW.PCANNA.ORG)**

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATES

- Act 16
  - Representative Schemel filed HB 1024 on 3/26/2021
  - PCC is working with other members to carry much needed modernization amendments as well as our partners in the Senate.
- Proposed Final Program Regulation
  - Comment period closed 4/5/2021
  - DOH has indicated they intend to issue final regulations by November 2021.
- PCC continues to offer feedback to Senators Street & Laughlin regarding their bi-partisan adult use bill

# DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES\*

## Market

31.2 million products have been sold to date  
\$2.6 Billion in total sales  
\$1.5 Billion in sales to patients

## Operational Permits

28 GPs (Includes operational CRs)  
23 Shipping products to dispensaries  
114 Dispensaries

## Chapter 20 Update

Initial research published  
Additional Studies approved  
Virtual Research Summit held in December

## Patients

530,000 patients and caregivers registered  
327,4000 activer certifications

## Physicians

2,100 registered in the program  
1,530 completed training

\*Data from April 17, 2021 Press Release from DOH found here.

## PC PAC INFORMATION

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

Please mail your contributions to:

PC PAC | 204 State Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101

**Corporate contributions cannot be made to PC PAC**

**CONTRIBUTE NOW**



## EXTRAORDINARY MARKET GROWTH

Headset recently released a full data set for Pennsylvania's Medical Cannabis Market. Below are some highlights of their research:

- \$909.4M in sales from April 2020 - March 2021
- \$123.88 Average basket size over last 12 months
- Category Sales for last 12 months
  - \$394.3M Flower
  - \$335.1M Vapor Pens
  - \$140.7M Concentrates
  - \$19.4M Tincture & Sublingual
  - \$13.3M Capsules
  - \$6.5M Topical
- Average Item Prices by Category for last 12 months
  - Flower: \$53.07
  - Vapor Pens: \$50.58
  - Concentrates: \$61.26
  - Tincture & Sublingual: \$56.08
  - Capsules: \$30.88
  - Topical: \$30.55

\*Data from Headset's Pennsylvania Cannabis Market Report Linked Here

## **Medical Marijuana Program Celebrates Five-Year Anniversary, Continues Commitment to Patients in Pennsylvania**

April 17, 2021

Governor Tom Wolf today commemorated the five-year anniversary of Act 16 of 2016, better known as the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Act, which established the medical marijuana program in the commonwealth.

Close to 553,000 patients and caregivers are registered for the program in order to obtain medical marijuana for one of 23 serious medical conditions. There are more than 327,400 active certifications as part of the program.

“On the five-year anniversary of the creation of Pennsylvania’s medical marijuana program, we continue to forge ahead in getting medicine to those with serious medical conditions,” Gov. Wolf said. “The work that the Department of Health does to ensure that products are available and that patients are able to receive medicine as seamlessly as possible, particularly during the pandemic, is exemplary.”

All of the 114 operational dispensaries are open and dispensing products to patients. Twenty-eight grower/processors are operational, with 23 shipping product to dispensaries. Many of these grower/processors have recently expanded their location, or are in the process of doing so to help ensure that they are able to provide more products to those with one of the 23 serious medical conditions eligible for use of medical marijuana products.

“In addition to the well-run medical marijuana program, the department is very proud of its unique and first-of-its-kind medical marijuana research program,” said Acting Sec. of Health Alison Beam. “It is clear that the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program is among the most successful programs across the country.”

The clinical research program, guided by Act 43 of 2018, allows for eight clinical registrants who each must hold both a grower/processor and a dispensary permit. Clinical registrants must have a research contract with one of eight approved academic clinical research centers.

Active cardholders are continuing to visit dispensaries more than once a month to get treatment for a serious medical condition. More than 31.2 million products have been sold since the start of the program, and total sales within the program are close to \$2.6 billion, which includes sales by the grower/processors to the dispensaries, and sales by the dispensaries to patients and caregivers. More than \$1.5 billion in sales has been from the dispensaries to patients.

More than 2,100 physicians have registered for the program, more than 1,530 of whom have been approved as practitioners.

“From before I signed the Act, the state’s medical marijuana program’s success has been a tribute to the support received from patients and caregivers,” Gov. Wolf said. “The dedication from patients and caregivers in offering guidance and support is a testament to the value of this significant program.”

As a sign of the program’s continued commitment to get medical marijuana to patients, in March of 2020 the program temporarily suspended certain statutory and regulatory provisions in order to improve access to this form of medication during the COVID-19 emergency to:

- Allow dispensary employees to provide medical marijuana to cardholders in their vehicles on the facility’s property;
- Remove the current cap that limits the number of patients assigned to one caregiver, to allow for more caregivers to patients in need;
- Eliminate background checks for caregiver applications, limited to renewal applications only, in order to expedite the caregiver renewal process;
- Suspend in-person consultations and allow for remote consultations between approved practitioners and medical marijuana patients; and
- Suspend limitation on medical marijuana dispensing to 30 days by requiring approved practitioners to notate on the patient’s certification to dispense a 90-day supply.
- Suspend requirement for a medical professional – physician, pharmacist, physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner – to be on site at the dispensary during dispensing hours, which allows for medical professionals to work remotely.

The statutory and regulatory suspensions will remain in place for as long as the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency is in effect.

## PCC PRIORITIES: MODERNIZING ACT 16

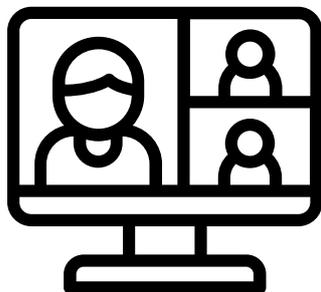
- Adequate Supply for Patients
  - Increase Patient Supply by allowing for product remediation
  - Allow patients and certifiers a wider variety of medical marijuana choices for the treatment of allowable conditions
  - Allow Hemp-derived Ingredients to be added to medical marijuana to increase the supply of high-cbd products
- Patient Access
  - Increase accessibility by allowing dispensaries to relocate to where patients are
  - Allow MMOs to use Application-Programming Interface
- Social Equity
  - Allow individuals with misdemeanor drug - related convictions to be employed in the medical marijuana industry

[DOWNLOAD PCC ACT 16 PRIORITIES DOCUMENT HERE](#)



## PCC PRIORITIES: ADULT USE CANNABIS

- Creation of an independent regulatory body to oversee both the medical and adult-use programs
- Current permit holders serving as the "on-ramp" for a well regulated adult-use market allowing revenue to be realized most quickly
- Co-located dispensaries, no inventory separation requirements
- An effective tax rates that generates meaningful revenue while displacing the illicit market
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Creating incentives for municipalities as opposed to allowing opt outs



## PCC MEMBER LOBBYIST CALL

PCC holds a twice monthly call for the lobbyist of members. The purpose of this call is to update our member's lobbyists and to ensure we are all working together on industry goals. Does your company have a contract lobbyist? If so, please connect them with Meredith via email at [Meredith@pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@pcanna.org).

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS PCC MEMBER RESOURCES PAGE](#)

APRIL 2021

## LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT: STATE REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN HARRIS HOUSE DEMOCRATIC WHIP 186TH DISTRICT - PHILADELPHIA



State Representative Jordan Harris has emerged as a rising star and leading progressive voice in the Pennsylvania legislature on issues that matter most to his constituents, including criminal justice reform and education reform. First chosen to represent the 186th Legislative District on Nov. 6, 2012, Harris was most recently selected by his colleagues to serve again as the Democratic Caucus Whip for the 2021-22 legislative session. The Whip is the second highest ranking position in leadership behind only the caucus leader, and Harris is only the second African American to hold the position of Whip for the Democratic Caucus and the youngest member of leadership in either the House or the Senate. Harris previously served as chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus.

Harris has become a national leader on the topic of criminal justice reform and often sought out to attend panel discussions and criminal justice reform events around the country. With Republican co-sponsor Sheryl DeLozier, Harris helped author Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Law. The law was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf in June 2018 and was hailed as a national model for the automatic sealing of certain criminal records. By June 2020, it's expected that up to 30 million criminal records will be automatically sealed in Pennsylvania. Since the passage of Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Law multiple other states have passed automatic record sealing legislation and Congress currently has Clean Slate legislation awaiting action.

In a bipartisan fashion, Harris is again championing criminal justice reform in the 2019-20 legislative session by cosponsoring, with DeLozier, a bill to reform Pennsylvania's outdated, archaic, and overly punitive probation system. The bill, with wide bipartisan support from both legislators and advocates, would help reduce technical violations that hold individuals under a constant state of supervision. Recognizing that probation is the quick sand of the criminal justice system, meaning the harder you try to get out the more it pulls you back in, Harris hopes to alleviate the financial strain placed on Pennsylvania by focusing on people who don't need the attention while helping formerly incarcerated and convicted individuals move on from probation to live a successful life and be important members of their community.

Prior to being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Harris focused on his passion for helping children and young adults as he was appointed as the Executive Director of Philadelphia's Youth Commission where he advised the Mayor, City Council and other key decision-makers on issues relating to the city's youth and young adults. In this office, Harris spearheaded initiatives that helped address and ultimately end Philadelphia's outbreak of nuisance flash mobs, including extending the hours of the city's recreation centers and creating alternative activities. He was also instrumental in designing Slam Dunk, a summer program that assisted over 600 high school students in meeting credit requirements for graduation.

After graduating from Philadelphia's John Bartram Motivation High School, Harris earned his bachelor's degree from Millersville University in Government and Political Affairs. He also holds a master's degree in Education from Cabrini College and is currently a Doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Neumann University. Before pursuing a career in public service, he worked as an educator in the Philadelphia Public School System for several years.

Harris has been instrumental in the work against gun violence in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. Working hand-in-hand with Gov. Wolf, the state is now approaching gun violence as a public health issue. This declaration will help the state drastically expand its response to the gun violence crisis. As part of the 2018-19 budget package, the General Assembly created a \$60 million block grant program for school and community safety, making Pennsylvania a national leader in this fight. Harris has also been instrumental in working with fellow legislators to bring funding to Gun Violence Task Force. This program aims to target gun traffickers and get illegal guns off the street in Philadelphia. In the 2019-20 budget, Harris and the Philadelphia Delegation were able to secure a \$2.5 million increase in funding for the task force.

Representative Harris also championed a crackdown on nuisance businesses, known as "stop and gos" in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. He sponsored H.B. 1547, which offered provisions to be enforced by the state Liquor Control Board. Language from Harris' bill made it into the Fiscal Code enacted with the 2017-18 state budget.

His work was essential in creating a partnership between Cheyney University and Starbucks aimed at improving access to higher education for African Americans and promoting the school's legacy as the nation's oldest historically black college.

Representative Harris is currently President of the Board of Directors at Lincoln Day Educational Center, the oldest continuously operating African American Day School in the country. Harris currently serves as a member of the Council of Trustees at his alma mater - Millersville University. He serves as a Member of the Board of the Hardy Williams Education Fund, the Christian Street YMCA, and the Knight Foundation. He is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Nu Sigma Chapter and Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons Cephas Lodge #98

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### PAMMJ

PCC Affiliate Member

PAMMJ is a group of people who believe cannabis is an essential medicine and have seen the benefits manifested first hand. Over the past few years each entered the cannabis industry at different times and for different reasons, but cannabis is what brought them together. The staff at PAMMJ are all patients themselves.

Through their website PAMMJ.com you can book a consultation and find more information about the PA MMJ Program and cannabis as a whole. To reach PAMMJ email: [info@PAMMJ.com](mailto:info@PAMMJ.com)

## 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 is \$1,000 per quarter**

*If you have a vendor who may be interested in becoming an affiliate member please email [Meredith@Pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@Pcanna.org).*

## IMPORTANT DATES\*

### Dispensary Call

Tuesday, May 3 @ 1pm Via Zoom

### Grower/Processor Call

Tuesday, May 11 @ 1pm Via Zoom

### Adult Use Committee Call

Wednesday, May 12 @ 1pm Via Zoom

### PA DOH MMMAB Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, May 18 @ 10am

*LINK WILL BE EMAILED WHEN AVAILABLE*

### Advocacy & Outreach Committee Call

Tuesday, May 18 @ 1pm Via Zoom

### PCC 2Q Quarter Virtual Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 20 @ 12pm Via Zoom

*LINK WILL BE EMAILED THE WEEK PRIOR*

### Legislative Input Committee Call

Thursday, May 27 @ 2pm Via Zoom

*\*All times are EST*

**EMAIL [MEREDITH@PCANNA.ORG](mailto:MEREDITH@PCANNA.ORG) TO BE ADDED TO A CALL OR COMMITTEE TODAY.**



Dues invoices are emailed quarterly to your billing contact. To check or update your billing information please email [Meredith@pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@pcanna.org)

## 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