Medical Marijuana Registry Program Update
(as of September 30, 2009)

In the November 2000 general election, Coloradoans passed Amendment 20, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) was tasked with implementing and administering the Medical Marijuana Registry program. In March of 2001, the State of Colorado Board of Health approved the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the administration of the program, and on June 1st, 2001, the Registry began accepting and processing applications for Registry Identification cards.

Statistics of the registry include:

- 19,691 new patient applications have been received to date since the registry began operating in June 2001. Twenty-four (24) applications have been denied, 21 cards have been revoked, 236 patients have died, and 2,054 cards have expired, bringing the total number of patients who currently possess valid Registry ID cards to 17,356.
- Seventy-three percent of approved applicants are male.
- The average age of all patients is 40. Currently eight patients are minors (under the age of 18).
- Fifty-seven percent of patients reside in the Denver-metro and area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas & Jefferson counties), with the remainder of patients found in counties throughout Colorado.
- Patients on the Registry represent all the debilitating conditions covered under Amendment 20. Severe pain accounts for 90% of all reported conditions; muscle spasms account for the second-most reported condition at 30%.
- Sixty-seven percent of patients have designated a primary care-giver (someone who has significant responsibility for managing the patient's care).
- Over 800 different physicians have signed for patients in Colorado.

Please see the attached tables for a complete listing of all statistical information.

As of June 14, 2004 care-givers are no longer issued cards.

As of January 25, 2008 only a portion of the patient's social security number appears on their registration card.

As of October 27, 2008 all applications, renewal and changes to the Registry must be submitted via mail and include a legible photo copy of the patient's Colorado Identification. Faxes and emails will no longer be accepted.

As of December 1, 2008 all changes to the Registry must be signed by the patient making the change in blue ink.

In addition to administering the Registry, CDPHE has been charged with accepting and reviewing petitions to add conditions to the current list of debilitating medical conditions/symptoms. To date, four petitions have been received, one for Parkinson's disease, one for Asthma, one for Anxiety and another for Bi-Polar Disorder. All petitions were subsequently denied due to lack of scientific evidence that treatment with marijuana might have a beneficial effect.

There have been three marijuana-related convictions of patients on the Registry, and no physicians have experienced federal reprisals. However, reluctance to participate due to the inconsistencies between state and federal marijuana laws has been expressed by doctors and patients alike.

No general funds have been designated for this program, and the Amendment allows CDPHE to collect fees to cover the administrative costs of administering the program. Currently the fee is $90, and is evaluated annually by CDPHE. The fee was lowered from $110 on June 1, 2007.

Numerous questions have arisen regarding interpretation of statutory language. The law does not clearly state where marijuana plants may be grown or if two or more patients and/or care-givers may share one growing space. Statutory language also places certain burdens upon local and state law enforcement officers, such as the requirement of keeping alive plants that are confiscated until a resolution is reached (i.e., a decision not to prosecute, the dismissal of charges, an acquittal, etc.).

Table I: County Information

County	Number of Patients	Percent of Patients
Adams	1,167	7%
Alamosa	18	<1%
Arapahoe	1,472	8%
Archuleta	39	<1%
Baca	13	<1%
Bent	7	<1%
Boulder	1,982	11%
Broomfield	176	1%
Chaffee	54	<1%
Cheyenne	6	<1%
Clear Creek	59	<1%
Conejos	4	<1%
Costilla	4	<1%
Crowley	13	<1%
Custer	11	<1%
Delta	117	1%
Denver	2,467	14%
Dolores	13	<1%
Douglas	582	3%
Eagle	266	2%
El Paso	1,540	9%
Elbert	53	<1%
Fremont	112	1%
Garfield	251	1%
Gilpin	80	<1%
Grand	83	<1%
Gunnison	77	<1%
Hinsdale	4	<1%
Huerfano	47	<1%
Jackson	*	*
Jefferson	2,007	12%
Kiowa	*	*
Kit Carson	5	<1%
La Plata	166	1%
Lake	71	<1%
Larimer	1,584	9%
Las Animas	32	<1%
Lincoln	7	<1%
Logan	23	<1%
Mesa	574	3%
Mineral	*	*
Moffat	18	<1%
Montezuma	43	<1%
Montrose	95	1%
Morgan	19	<1%
Otero	59	<1%
Ouray	17	<1%
Park	134	1%
Phillips	11	<1%
Pitkin	138	1%
Prowers	8	<1%

Pueblo	256	1%
Rio Blanco	13	<1%
Rio Grande	10	<1%
Routt	80	<1%
Saguache	37	<1%
San Juan	*	*
San Miguel	31	<1%
Sedgwick	3	<1%
Summit	272	2%
Teller	157	1%
Washington	6	<1%
Weld	752	4%
Yuma	6	<1%

* Indicates fewer than three patients in the category

Table II: Conditions

Reported Condition	Number of Patients Reporting Condition	Percent of Patients Reporting Condition**
Cachexia	414	2%
Cancer	492	3%
Glaucoma	188	1%
HIV/AIDS	192	1%
Muscle Spasms	5,273	30%
Seizures	482	3%
Severe Pain	15,654	90%
Severe Nausea	3,612	21%

**Does not add to 100% as some patients report using medical marijuana for more than one debilitating medical condition.

Table III: User Characteristics

Sex	Percent on Registry	Average Age**
Male	73%	39
Female	27%	42

** The overall average age of all patients is 40 years old.