

CANNABIS AND HEMP association



NJ Medical Cannabis Program Statistics, Study, and Review

Summary

The NJ Medical Cannabis was reviewed because it has been a very quiet program since its inception and the CHA dug into the data to find out what is going on with NJ. The findings were interesting and gave some insight on how the NY program might be impacted.

1. Only 2,342 patients have signed up since inception. The program is at risk of being cancelled as a result.
2. The program is failing due to exorbitant costs the program's rigid rules, and doctor's reluctance to approve patients for treatment.
3. The dispensaries are having financial problems leading to low grade marijuana.
4. Of (6) licenses for dispensaries were given only (3) dispensaries have opened. Egg Harbor, Montclair, and Woodbridge. The state has not put a time expiration on the unopened dispensaries to open and they have not been pushed to either open or give up their license.
5. Only 296 of NJ's 21,000 Doctors have signed up for the program. NJ requires Doctors to register on the state website which has elicited a lot of calls from people with illegitimate health conditions to get in the program and has alienated a lot of doctors from wanting to participate. Cannabis is still stigmatized as being not a federally legal drug and doctors are wary of scaring away regular patients.
6. Dispensaries in NJ do not offer lozenges or edibles yet.
7. NJ will not consider expanding disease list until at least 2015. When the disease list expands, the patient count should increase along with the doctor registrations.
8. There are no deliver service provisions so bed ridden patients cant get access to the medicine.
9. Only (3) strains are available.
10. Governor Christie has shown little to no interest in the program.
11. Insurance doesn't cover the visits so the average out of pocket in Doctor's visits is \$1000. The cost to register for the program is \$200 and the average cost per ounce is \$400. It's expensive to get started.
12. The CEO of the Egg Harbor Dispensary resigned on June 12, 2014 because they could not make a profit.
13. In 2013 1672 patient applications were accepted only 2 were denied.