



South Dakota Department of Health

State of Medical Cannabis

Legislative Oversight Committee

August 17, 2026

Outline

Review

- Program Mission and Purpose
- Program Responsibilities

State of Medical Cannabis

- FY26 Data
- FY26 Program Accomplishments

FY27 Look Ahead





What is Public Health?

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention, and detection and control of infectious diseases.



VISION

Every South Dakotan
Healthy and Strong

MISSION

Working together to
promote, protect, and
improve health

Medical Cannabis Program Mission and Purpose

The **Mission** of the Medical Cannabis Program is to promote public health and safety by upholding the highest standards of regulatory compliance and fostering a transparent and accountable framework for the medical cannabis industry.

The **Purpose** of the Medical Cannabis Program is to provide rigorous oversight, continuous education, and collaboration with stakeholders to support responsible use of medical cannabis and advance the well-being of our communities.



Medical Cannabis Program Responsibilities

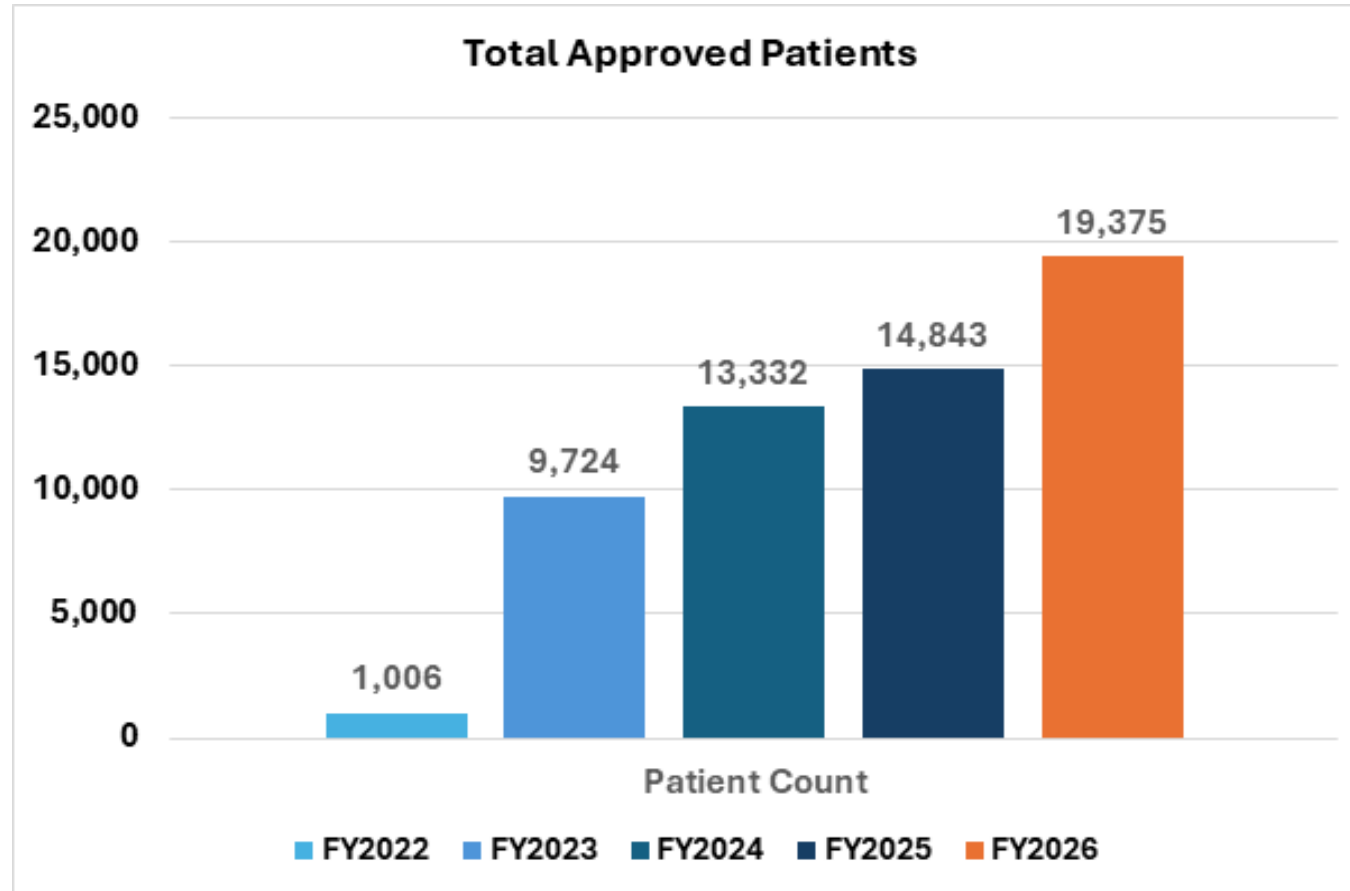
- Ensure a safe and effective medical cannabis program
 - Regulation of medical cannabis industry: statutes, administrative rules, program policies and procedures
 - Register and issue medical cannabis cards to patients and their caregivers
- Certify establishments:
 - Cultivators
 - Manufacturers
 - Dispensaries
 - Testing Facilities (laboratories)
 - Inventory tracking statewide for all medical cannabis and cannabis products
 - Inspection of establishments
 - Investigate complaints



FY26 Medical Cannabis Program Data

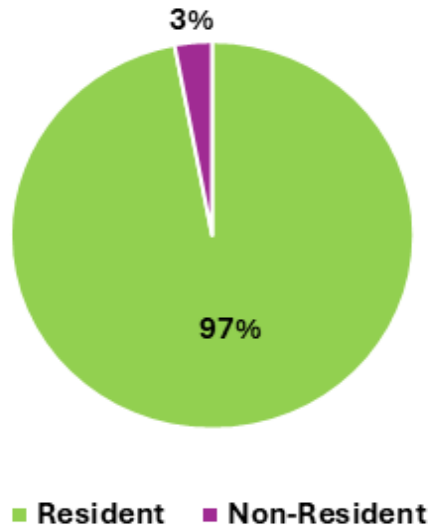


Patient Count

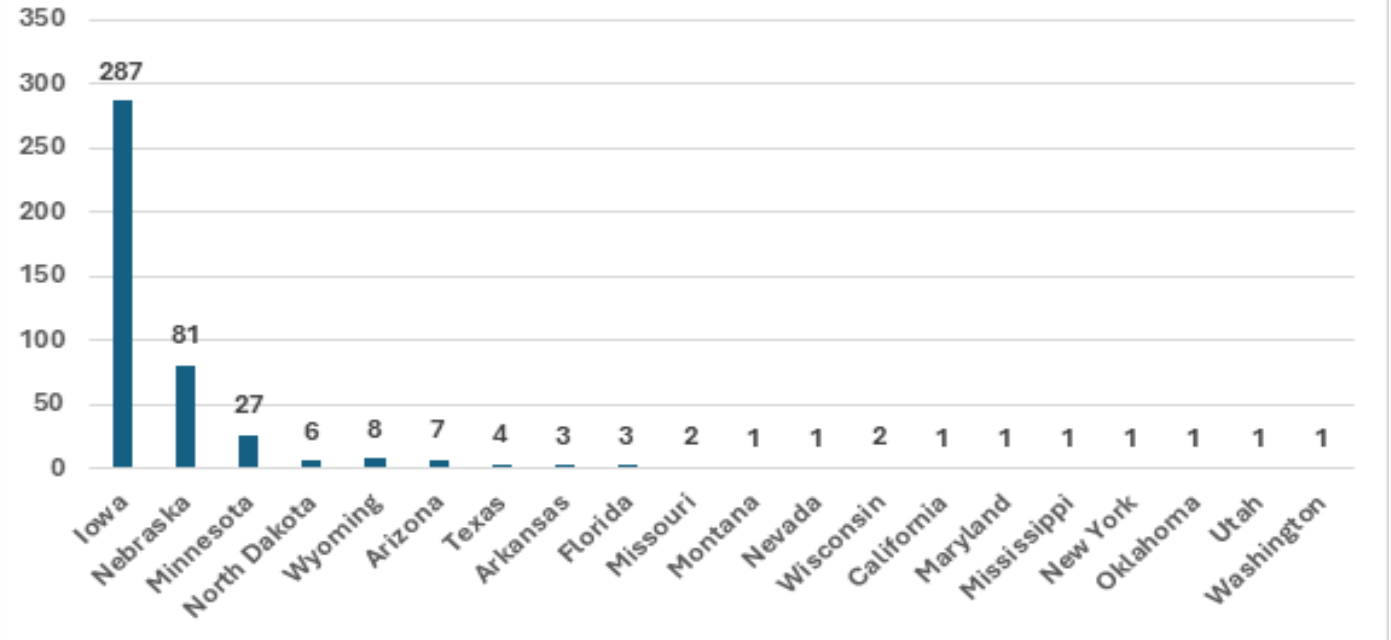


Patient Data by Residence

Resident vs Non-Resident

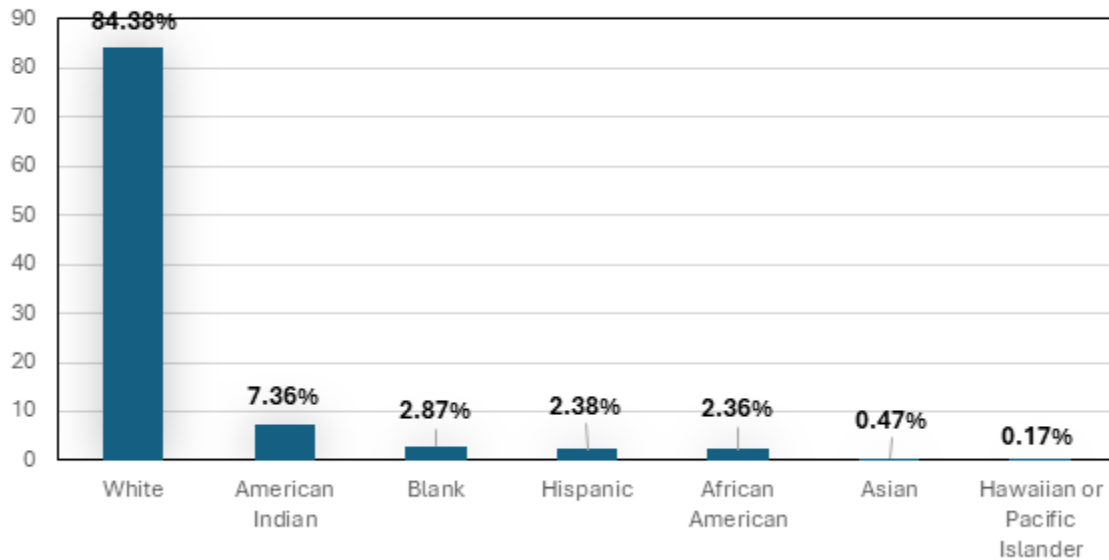


Non-Resident Cardholder State Location

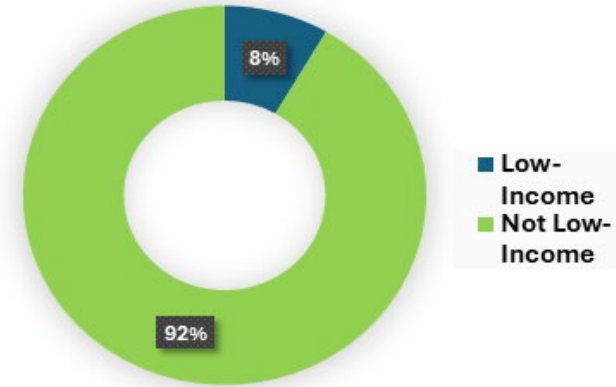


Patient Data- Race, Income, Gender

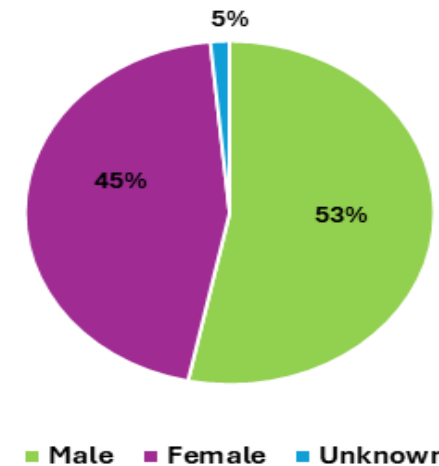
Percentage of Patients by Race/Ethnicity



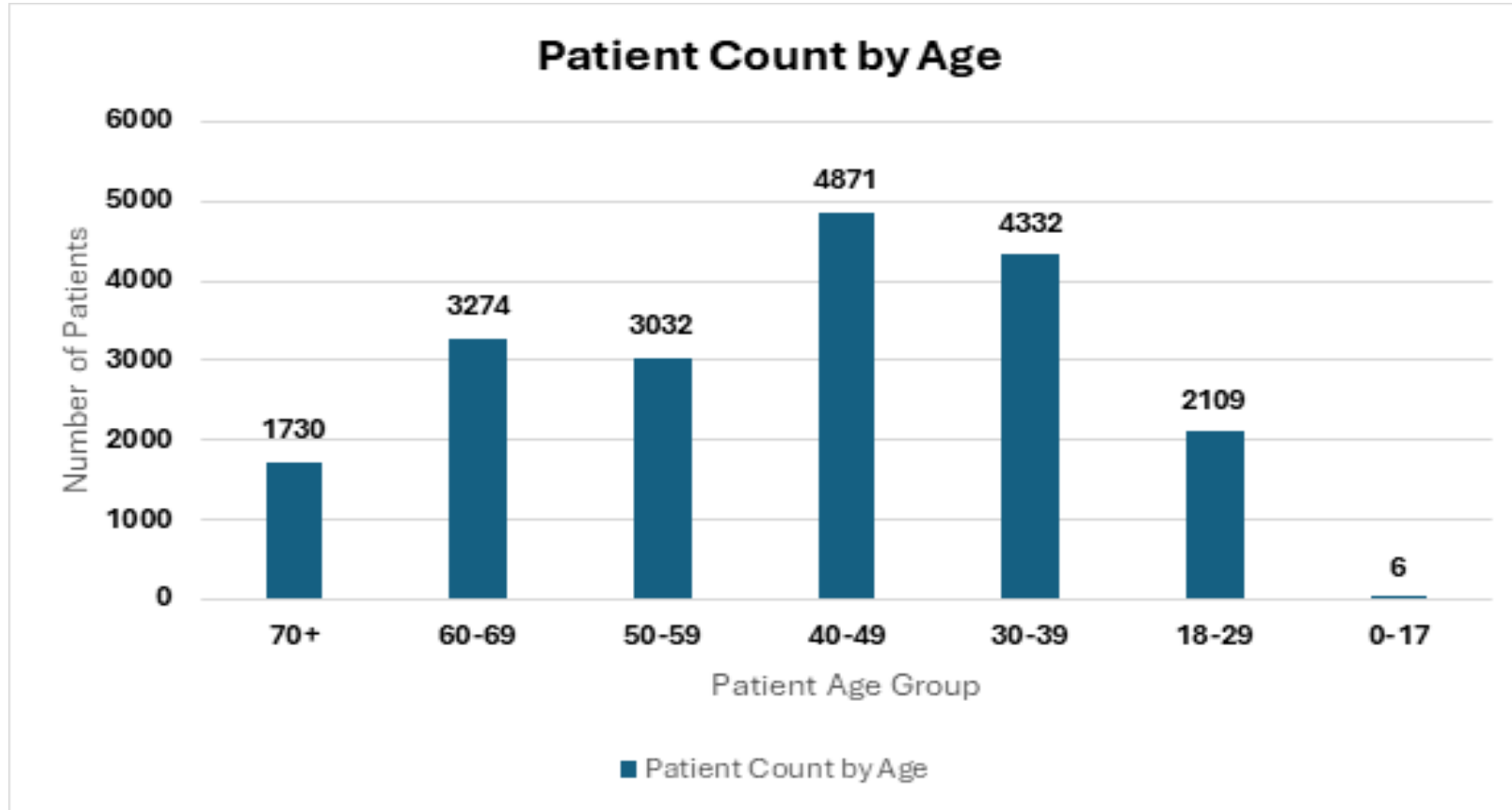
Patient Percent by Income



Patient Count by Gender



Patient Count by Age



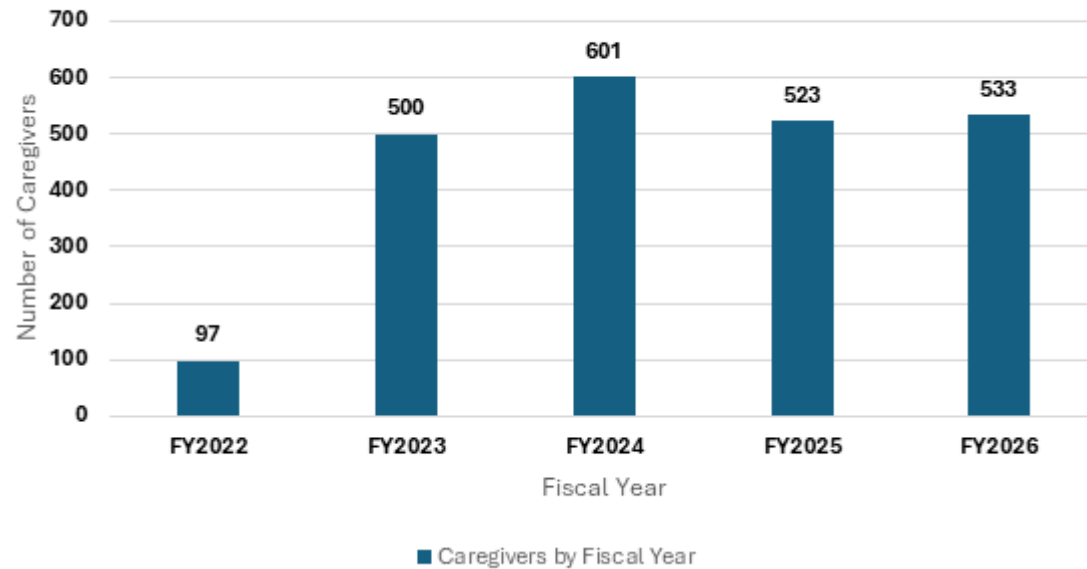
Patients by Condition

Condition	Patient Count %
Severe, debilitating pain	70.50%
Post - traumatic stress disorder	13.99%
Severe and persistent muscle spasms	3.95%
Cancer or its treatment, if associated with severe or chronic pain, nausea or severe vomiting, or cachexia or severe wasting	3.91%
Severe nausea, except nausea associated with pregnancy	3.22%
Seizures	1.22%
Multiple Sclerosis	0.98%
Epilepsy and seizures	0.83%
Crohn's disease	0.66%
Cachexia or <u>wasting</u> syndrome	0.49%
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome or positive status for human immunodeficiency virus	0.20%
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	0.04%

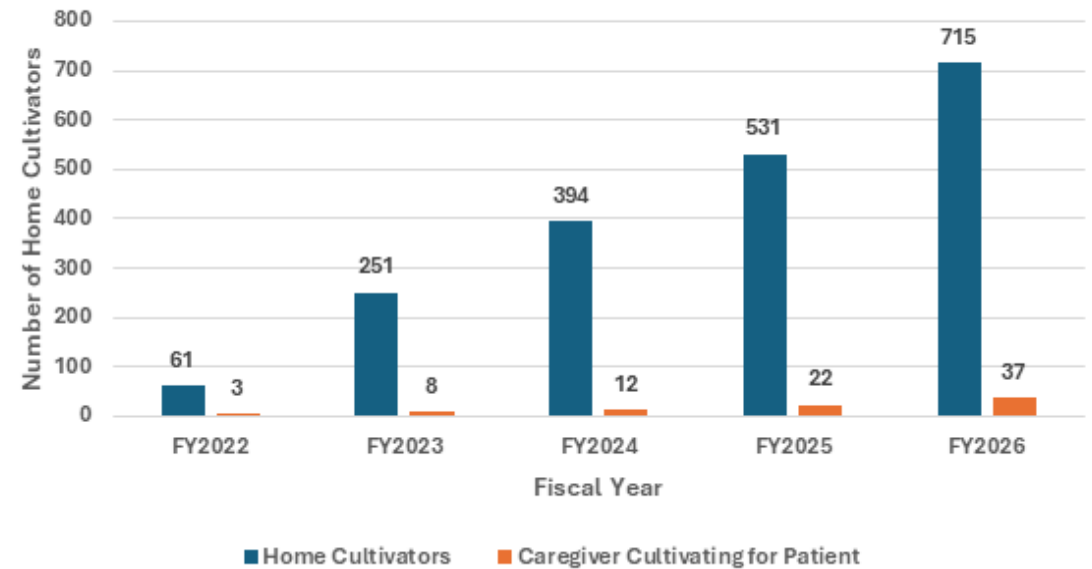


Home Cultivation and Caregiver Data

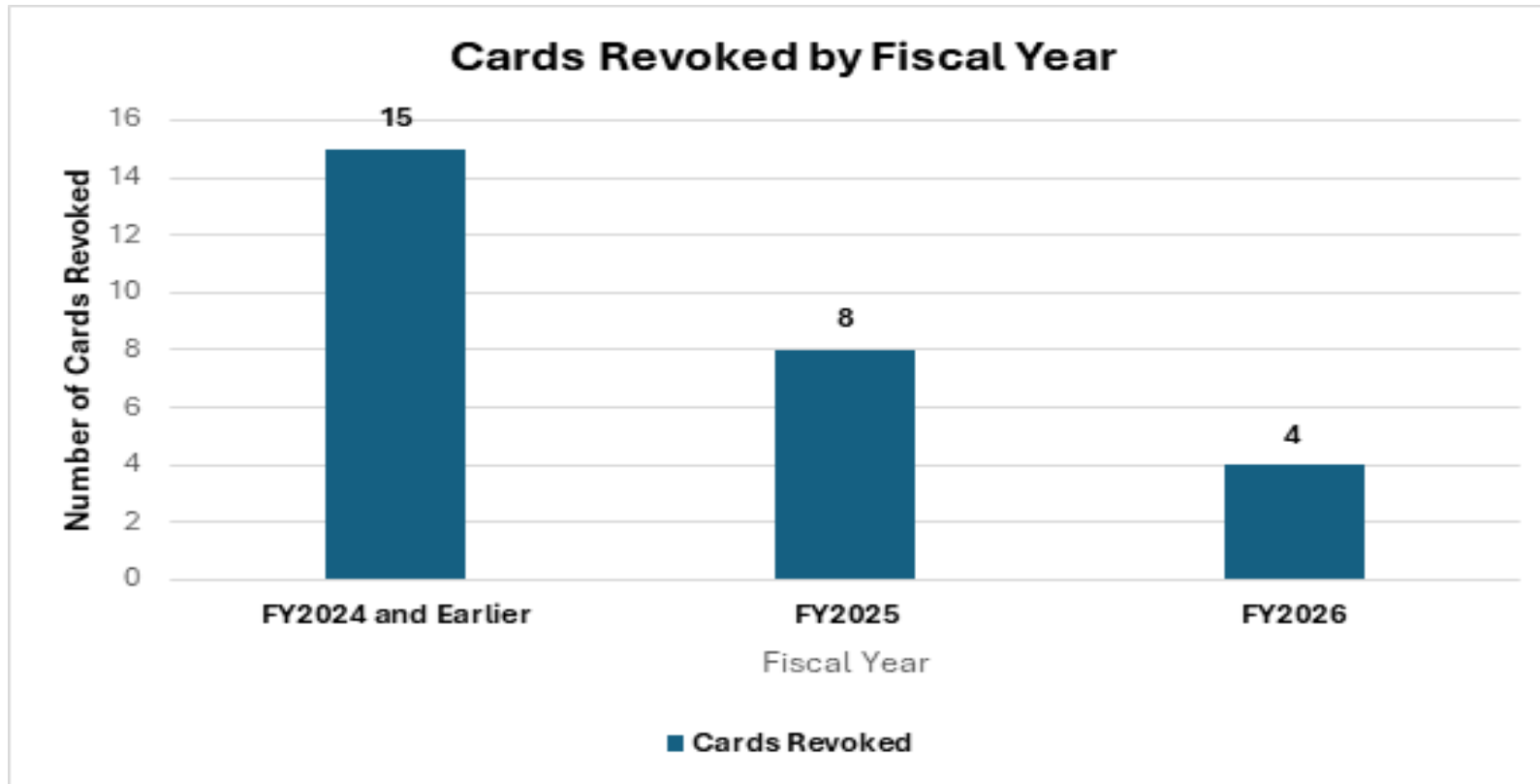
Caregivers by Fiscal Year



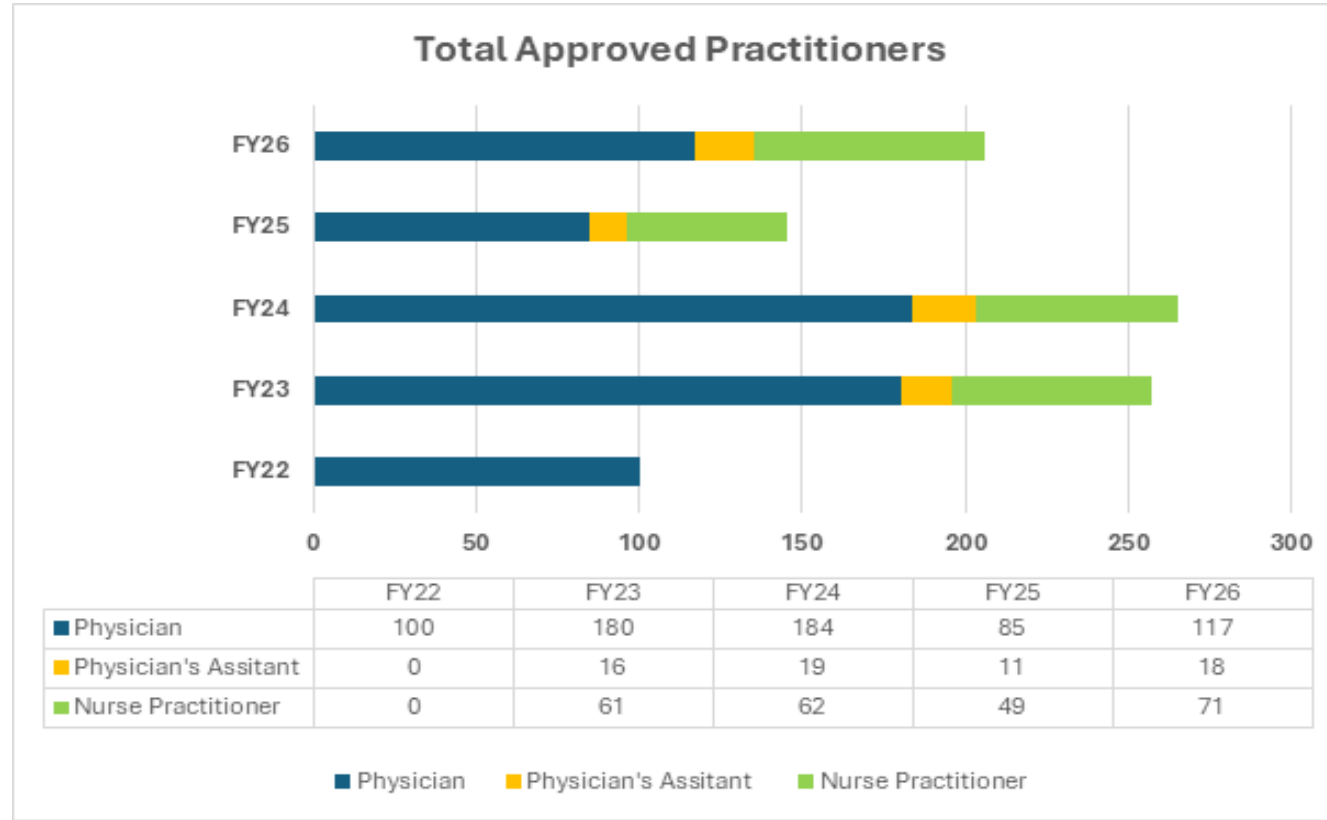
Number of Home Cultivators over Fiscal Year



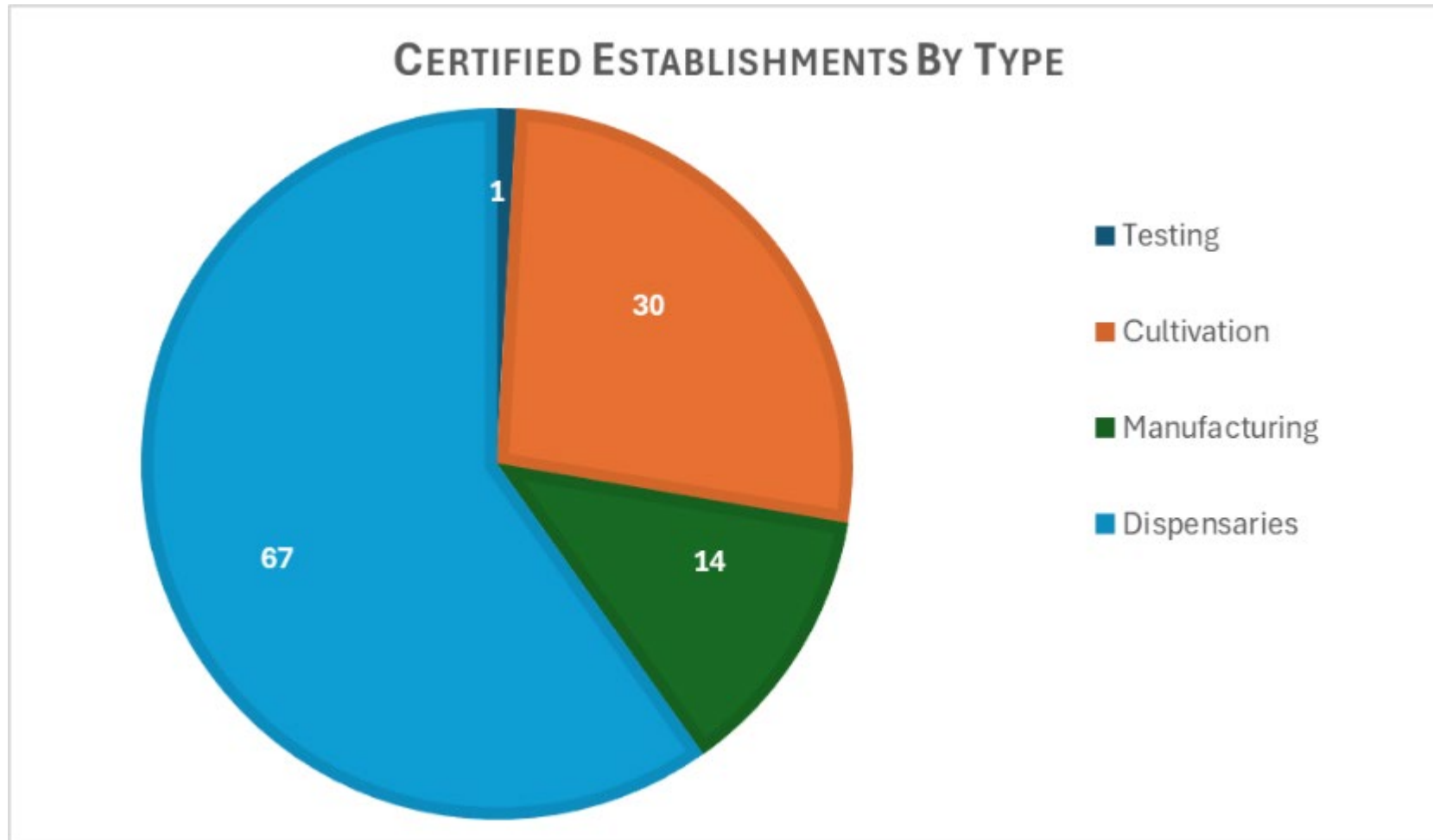
Patient Cards Revoked



Practitioners



2026 Establishment Count



Inspections

SDCL 34-20G-69 **Inspection of medical cannabis establishments.**

A medical cannabis establishment is subject to inspection by the department during business hours.

Establishment Type	Routine	Site Visit	Complaint/Off Site	Total
Dispensary	62	41	8	111
Cultivation	24	22	1	47
Manufacturing	14	10	1	25
Testing	2	1	1	4



Most Frequent Rule Violations Cited During Inspections in FY26

Training-Inventory Tracking System	44:90:04:16
Security Cameras- Placement, Recording, and Storage	44:90:04:07-44:90:04:09
Record Keeping- Inventory Tracking	44:90:11:01
Record Keeping- Record Retention	44:90:11:02, 44:90:11:03
Facility- Scales	44:90:04:25
SOPs- Waste Management	44:90:03:05 (9)
Operating Procedures/Operating Hours	44:90:03:05(3)



Program Revenue and Expenditures

Cardholder Fees Revenue	\$1,508,790.52
Caregiver Card Fees Revenue	\$800
Home Cultivation Fees	\$18,242.59
Establishment Fees Revenue	\$1,035,000
Penalties/Fines	\$84,500
Total Revenue	\$2,647,333.11

Total Expenditures: \$1,554,331.28



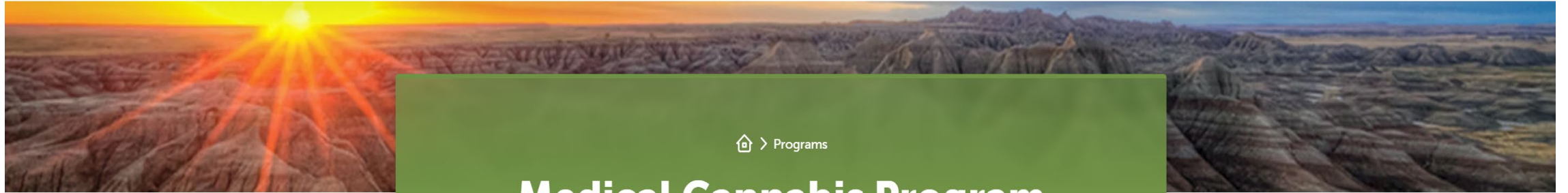
Program Accomplishments



Website Consolidation



[Topics](#) ▾ [Programs](#) ▾ [Licensing & Records](#) ▾ [Healthcare Professionals](#) ▾ [Data & Reports](#) ▾ [Laboratory](#) ▾ [News & Statutes](#) ▾



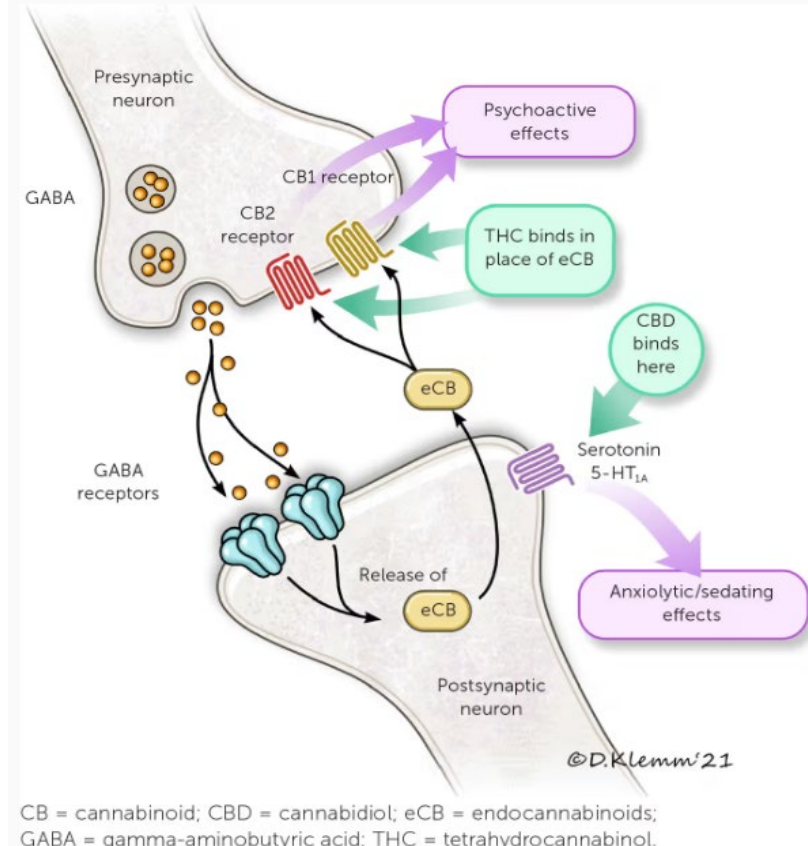
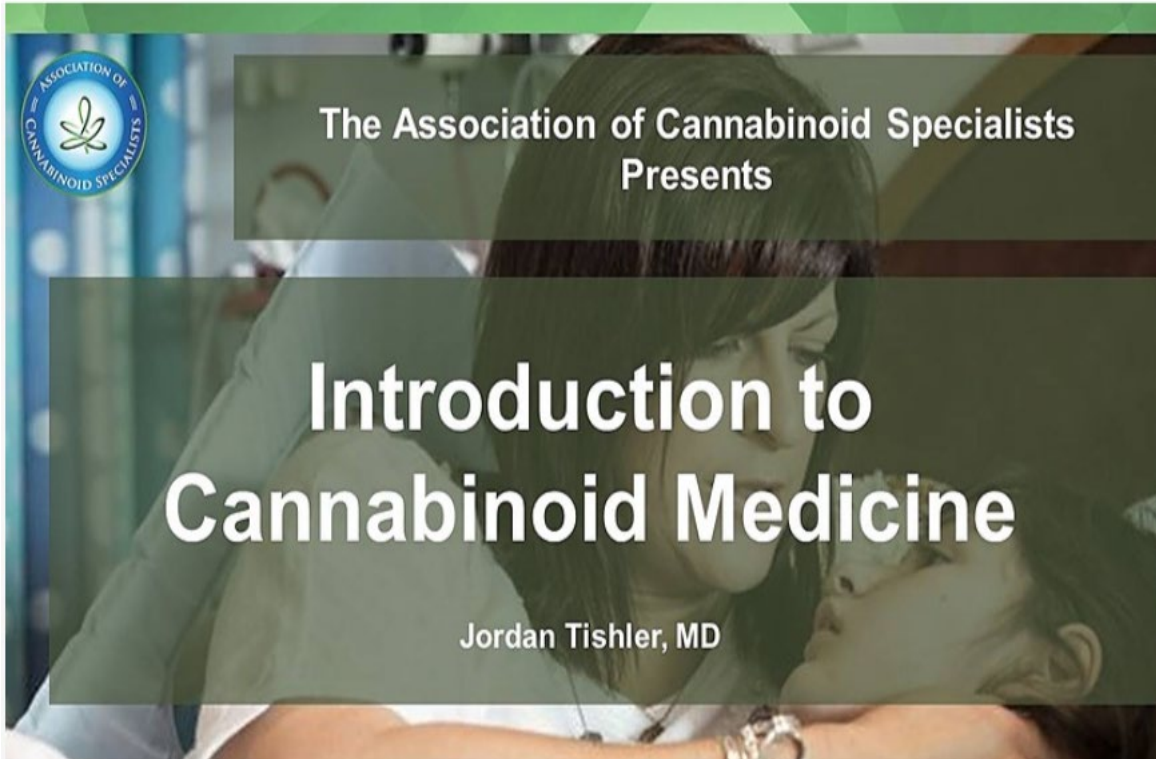
[Home](#) > [Programs](#)

Medical Cannabis Program

The South Dakota Medical Cannabis Program was created to provide qualifying South Dakota patients with regulated access to medical cannabis. Established after voters approved Initiated Measure 26 in November 2020, the program ensures that individuals with eligible medical conditions can obtain medical cannabis products safely and for legitimate therapeutic use.



Provider Education



Mechanism of action for cannabinoids at CB1 receptor. Neurophysiology of CB2 receptor action not well characterized.

Illustration by Dave Klemm

Information from references 10 and 13.



Patient Education

MEDICAL CANNABIS Safe Storage

Storing Medical Cannabis Safely

If you use medical cannabis, it's important to store it safely away from children and pets. Just like any other drug, medication, or household chemical, cannabis and edibles must be kept secure and out of reach.

Safe storage helps ensure that only the certified patient or designated caregiver has access. Furthermore, proper storage inhibits mold and bacteria growth that may negatively impact health.

Keep Your Medical Cannabis Safe in a Lockbox

Kids, pets, or even curious visitors can get into medical cannabis if it's not locked up and out of sight. It's always best to keep cannabis in child-resistant packaging, and invest in a safe or lockbox to ensure the only person who can get to your medical cannabis is you.

If a child accidentally eats cannabis in any form, immediately contact a medical professional or call the poison control hotline (1-800-222-1222). Symptoms of an accidental cannabis poisoning include problems walking or sitting up, difficulty breathing, and becoming sleepy. If the reaction seems more severe, call 911 or go to an emergency room right away.

Talking to Your Kids About Medical Cannabis in the Home

When talking with your children about medications or other potentially harmful products, include medical cannabis in the conversation. Children should learn what medical cannabis looks like and know that only certified patients, or their designated caregiver(s), should access it.



Medical Cannabis Safe Storage Checklist

MY MEDICAL CANNABIS IS...

- ☐ In child-resistant packaging
- ☐ In a clearly labeled medicinal container
- ☐ In a locked cabinet or lockbox
- ☐ In the trunk while I am driving
- ☐ In a cool, dark place
- ☐ In a dry place
- ☐ In an airtight container
- ☐ Out of direct sunlight
- ☐ Away from heat sources
- ☐ In a glass or plastic container, not a plastic bag



For more information SCAN the above using your smartphone.



REMEMBER: USE IT RESPONSIBLY.
STORE IT RESPONSIBLY.

[medcannabis.sd.gov](https://www.medcannabis.sd.gov)

11-18-2021

Medical Cannabis: Health Considerations



PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT

This handout is for informational purposes only and does not advocate for or against cannabis use. It is important to talk with your clinician(s) about any cannabis use to ensure safe, coordinated care.

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Cannabis use during pregnancy or breastfeeding is not considered safe because cannabinoids can reach the fetus or infant. Research in this area is still limited, and existing studies suggest potential risks.

Potential Risks During Pregnancy

- Cannabinoids can cross the placenta.
- Some studies suggest increased risk of low birth weight or developmental concerns, though research is ongoing.

Breastfeeding Considerations

- THC and other cannabinoids can pass into breast milk.
- THC is stored in body fat and can remain in milk for extended periods.
- Possible effects on infant brain development are not fully understood.

If you are pregnant, planning pregnancy, or breastfeeding, discuss cannabis use with your healthcare provider.

Interactions With Other Medications

Cannabis may interact with certain medications. These interactions can increase side effects or change how medications work.

Examples of Possible Interactions

- **Sedatives or sleep medications:** May increase drowsiness.
- **Antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications:** May affect mood or alertness.
- **Blood thinners (e.g., warfarin):** Cannabis may alter how the body processes these drugs.
- **Seizure medications:** CBD may affect levels of certain anti-seizure drugs.
- **Medications metabolized by the liver:** Both THC and CBD can interact with enzymes involved in drug metabolism.

Always tell your healthcare provider and pharmacist if you use cannabis so they can review for interactions.

Considerations for Older Adults

Older adults may be more sensitive to the effects of cannabis, especially THC.

Potential Risks

- **Dizziness or balance problems:** May increase risk of falls.
- **Confusion or changes in thinking:** May increase in those with cognitive impairment.
- **Heart rate changes:** THC may temporarily increase heart rate.
- **Increased medication interactions:** Cannabis may interact with many prescription and over-the-counter medications.

General Tips

- Start with a **low dose**, especially THC.
- Avoid inhaling smoke due to lung irritation.
- Monitor for changes in sleep, mood, or alertness.

Chronic Medical Conditions

People with chronic illnesses should use cannabis cautiously and in coordination with a healthcare provider. Examples of Conditions That Require Extra Care

- **Heart disease:** THC may increase heart rate or blood pressure.
- **Lung disease (e.g., COPD, asthma):** Smoking or vaping can irritate the lungs.
- **Mental health conditions:** Cannabis can affect mood, anxiety, or thinking patterns differently for each person.
- **Liver or kidney disease:** May influence how cannabinoids are metabolized or excreted.

A clinician can help determine whether cannabis is safe to use alongside ongoing treatments.

Key Takeaways

- Cannabis can pose increased risks during **pregnancy, breastfeeding, older age, or chronic illnesses.**
- Cannabis may interact with medications.
- Discuss cannabis use with your clinician(s) to ensure coordinated and safe care.



Funding Source Disclaimer:



[medcannabis.sd.gov](https://www.medcannabis.sd.gov)



Complaint Process



Topics ▾Programs ▾Licensing & Records ▾Healthcare Professionals ▾Data & Reports ▾Laboratory ▾News & Statutes ▾

Medical Cannabis Cardholder Complaint Form

To share information about a grievance, complaint, or concern regarding any medical cannabis cardholder in South Dakota, please utilize this form. Provide as much information as possible. When sharing the information, think about the basics of "who, what, when, and where" to describe your concern(s). Attach any pictures or other documentation supporting your concern(s).

To have your complaint investigated, all information requested below must be completed.

Date of Complaint Submission *

Full Name of Person Reporting Complaint *

Valid Email of Person Reporting Complaint *

Full Name or Number of Cardholder *

Address of Cardholder *

Minimum of City/State required

Type of Complaint *

☐ Suspected violation of rules

☐ Home cultivation concerns

☐ Suspected illegal activity

☐ Other

Describe the complaint in your own words, including any relevant details such as date, time, names, etc. *

Please attach any supporting documentation

Choose Files

No file chosen

Send

September 2025-Present

15 Establishment Complaints
23 Cardholder Complaints



Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) Process

- Provides opportunity for establishment to dispute a citation found on inspection by submitting additional information to support compliance at the time of inspection
- Must be submitted within 10 business days of the inspection report date
- Approximately 10 IDRs received since November 2025
- 5 adjustments made as result



Fall 2025-Present

- Patient survey
- Enhanced data available on website
- Inspection reports available on website
- Developed inspections standard operating procedures, including mandatory pre-inspections
- Expanded Research and Development Testing
- PDMP integration
- Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Rules Package
 - a) Cleaning up language
 - b) Training- Inventory tracking system
 - c) Storage of security camera footage
 - d) Fines- Category 4 and Category 5 first offense will be Corrective Action Plan only



Looking Ahead

- New, all-in-one software system for patients and providers, establishment registrations, and inspections tracking
- Streamlined establishment registration process
- Robust, interactive data reporting on website
- Updates to the website
- Cannabis rescheduling





SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[DOH.SD.GOV](https://doh.sd.gov)