

# An Introduction to the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP)

## The creation of OCP in 2019

The Mills Administration created the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) in February 2019.

OCP's mission is to ensure the health and safety of all Mainers by effectively and responsibly licensing and regulating cannabis establishments.

## The early work of OCP

The establishment of OCP brought with it two critical tasks:

1. Implement the *Cannabis Legalization Act* and stand up a new regulatory framework for adult use cannabis.
2. Take on and modernize the administration of Maine's Medical Use of Cannabis Program, which had previously been housed within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

## The work of OCP today

Since its founding, OCP has been solely responsible for the registration, licensing, compliance, and general oversight for Maine's medical and adult use cannabis programs.

Now in 2025, OCP has grown to be an office of nearly 50 staff members across five divisions: Licensing; Compliance; Media and Stakeholder Relations; Policy; and Data Analytics.

## OCP's 2024 Initiatives

### Public Health & Safety Campaigns

- *Let's Talk Cannabis Maine Parents* provided parents and adult mentors with resources for talking to teens about cannabis
- *Safe Storage for ME* offered free lockable storage bags to patients and consumers

### Continued Monitoring of the Mandatory Testing System

- OCP's audit testing found deficiencies with licensees' sample collection procedures
- Maine's first recalls of adult use cannabis and cannabis products were issued

### Task Force Participation

- OCP convened a Cannabis Hospitality Task Force pursuant to P.L. 2023, ch. 679
- OCP participated in DACF's Intoxicating Hemp-derived Products Working Group

### Feedback Solicitation

- Program participants were surveyed about resource needs and interactions with OCP
- OCP visited three more counties as part of its Community Listening Tour

### Increased Transparency

- Violation data for both the medical and adult use cannabis programs was added to the OCP website (updated quarterly)
- Testing data for the adult use program was added to the OCP website along with expanded medical registrant information

## Adult Use Cannabis Program

**Cannabis Store:** A facility licensed to sell adult use cannabis and cannabis products to consumers.

**Consumer:** An individual 21 years of age or older who may make a purchase from a cannabis store.

**IIC:** An individual identification card issued to any licensed individual and to any principal, employee, or other support staff of a licensee.

**Licensee:** A cultivation facility, products manufacturing facility, cannabis store, or cannabis testing facility in the Adult Use Cannabis Program.

**Municipal Opt-in:** A municipality's decision to affirmatively permit the operation of some or all cannabis establishments within the municipality.

## Medical Use of Cannabis Program

**Caregiver:** A registered individual that may acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, sell, supply, or dispense cannabis and cannabis products to qualifying patients and other registrants.

**Caregiver Retail Store:** A store used by a registered caregiver to sell cannabis and cannabis products to qualifying patients and other items to the general public at a fixed location.

**Certifying Provider:** A physician, a certified nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant.

**Dispensary:** A registered entity that may acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, sell, supply, or dispense cannabis and cannabis products to qualifying patients and other registrants.

**Registrant:** A registered caregiver, dispensary, cannabis testing facility, manufacturing facility, or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances in Maine's Medical Use of Cannabis Program.

**RIC:** A registry identification card that identifies an individual who has registered with the Office in accordance with Chapter 558-C.

**Qualifying Patient:** An individual who has been a resident of the State for at least 30 days and who possesses a valid written certification regarding medical use of cannabis.

## Program Compliance

**Compliance Inspectors:** OCP employees who work to ensure program compliance.

**Inspection:** An official visit by OCP to an active or prospective cannabis establishment to check for compliance with program statutes and rules.

**Investigation:** A process for investigating suspected infractions by program participants as a result of a complaint or as a result of routine compliance activities.

**Technical Assistance:** Support provided by OCP to program participants to help them become compliant with program statutes and rules.

## Testing and Tracking

**Audit Testing:** Testing and sampling conducted by OCP to verify licensee compliance with program requirements.

**Final Form:** Cannabis or cannabis products in the form that will be sold to a consumer; except that the cannabis or cannabis product need not be prepackaged into individual retail units to be considered in its "final form".

**Inventory Tracking:** A system for the tracking of cannabis plants, cannabis, and cannabis products from immature cannabis plant to the point of retail sale, return, disposal, or destruction.

**Lab Shopping:** When a licensee submits samples to multiple labs in an attempt to secure the most favorable test results.

**Metrc:** The State's current vendor for adult use cannabis inventory tracking.

**Pre-treatment:** The process to reduce or eliminate contaminants from a batch of cannabis or cannabis products before a representative sample has been sent for testing.

**Remediation:** The process to reduce or eliminate contaminants from a batch of cannabis or cannabis products in the event a cannabis testing facility determines the representative sample has failed testing.

*NOTE: This is not an all-encompassing list of key terms, and some definitions have been condensed for discussion purposes. Program rules and statutes are available on OCP's website for review. Please contact OCP with any questions.*

# Medical Use of Cannabis Program Data

Learn more at [www.maine.gov/dafs/ocp/open-data/medical-use](http://www.maine.gov/dafs/ocp/open-data/medical-use)

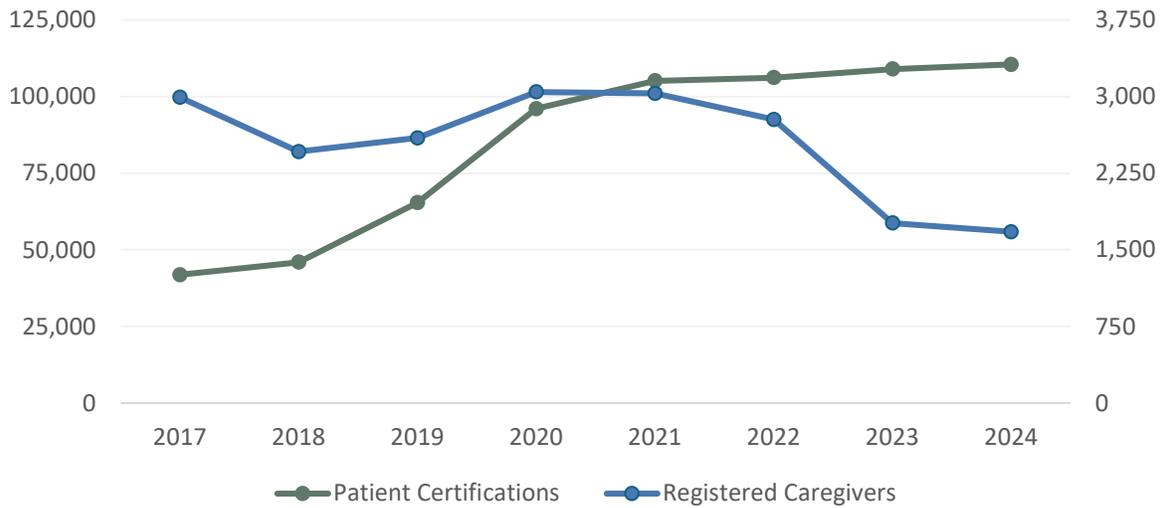
## Active Medical Registrants

Registration Type	All Active	w/ Retail
Registered Caregivers	1,677	237
Registered Dispensaries	71	46
<b>Total Medical Registrants</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>283</b>

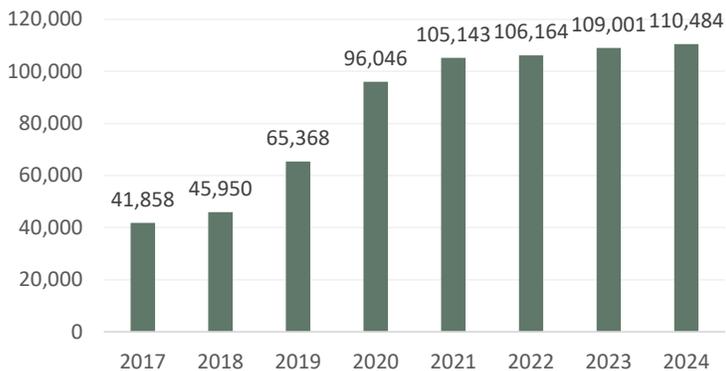
**777**  
Certifying Providers

**110,484**  
Patient Certifications

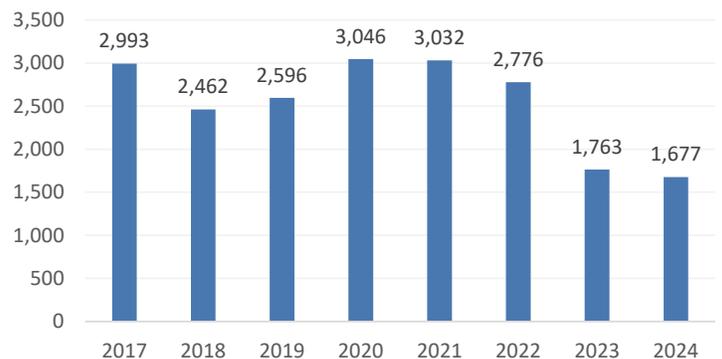
## Patient Certifications vs. Registered Caregivers, 2017–2024



## Patient Certifications by Year



## Registered Caregivers by Year



# Adult Use Cannabis Program Data

Learn more at [www.maine.gov/dafs/ocp/open-data/adult-use](http://www.maine.gov/dafs/ocp/open-data/adult-use)

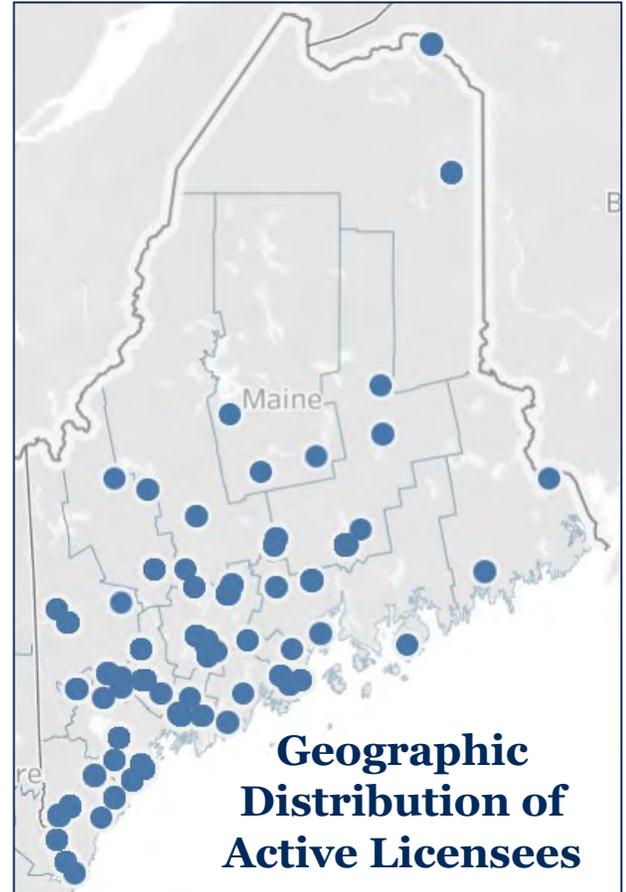
## Active Adult Use Licensees

License Type	Active
Cultivation	87
Products Manufacturing	74
Retail Store	169
Testing Facility	4
<b>Total Adult Use Licensees</b>	<b>334</b>

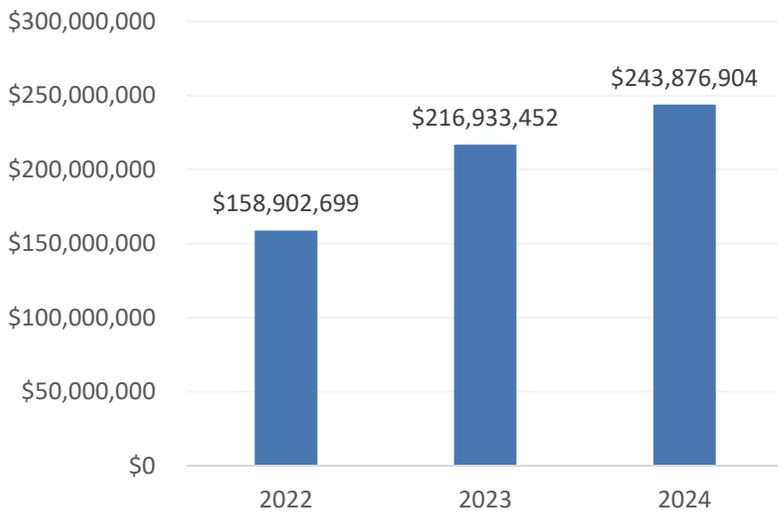
## Total Municipalities Opted-in

License Type	Opt-ins*
Cultivation	112 (23%)
Products Manufacturing	81 (17%)
Retail Store	75 (15%)
Testing Facility	80 (17%)

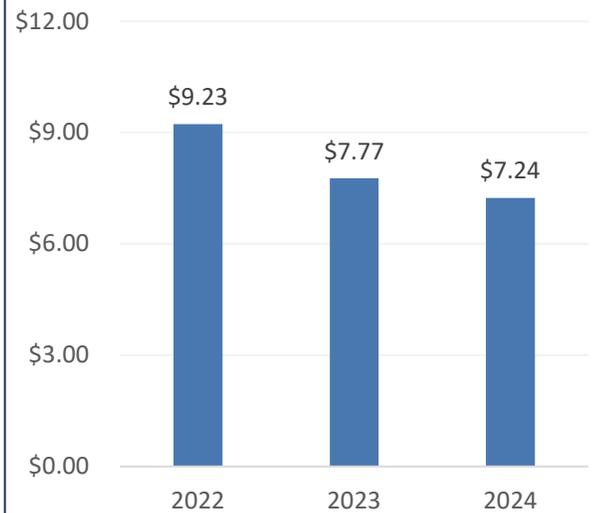
\* % = estimated percentage of all Maine municipalities



## Annual Adult Use Retail Sales



## Average Price per Gram



# Anticipated & Emerging Issues Related to Cannabis



## Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) Department Bill

OCP has submitted one department bill for consideration during the 132nd legislative session: **LD 104, *An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis.***

- LD 104 establishes a program for the mandatory testing and tracking of medical cannabis and updates the mandatory testing requirements of the Adult Use Cannabis Program to reflect the streamlined requirements proposed for the medical program.

## Medical Use of Cannabis Program

### Untested and Untracked Cannabis

- Maine's medical cannabis is not tracked on a statewide basis nor is it subject to mandatory testing. As a result, Maine's 110,000+ medical cannabis patients cannot be sure they have access to uncontaminated cannabis cultivated by program registrants.

### Limited Authority to Keep Illicit Operators out of the Medical Program

- OCP has limited grounds to deny an application to become a registered caregiver and limited authority to prevent illicit operators using medical program registration cards as a veil of legitimacy for interstate drug trafficking.

## Adult Use Cannabis Program

### Excise Tax on Adult Use Cannabis

- The cannabis excise tax continues to create difficulties for adult use cultivators.

### Inventory Tracking System Request for Proposals (RFP)

- OCP's contract with its current inventory tracking system vendor, Metrc, expires in February 2026. An RFP for the next inventory tracking contract is anticipated to be released before the end of the month.

### On-site Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis

- OCP convened a legislatively charged Cannabis Hospitality Task Force over the summer to consider on-site cannabis consumption. The task force's final report is forthcoming.

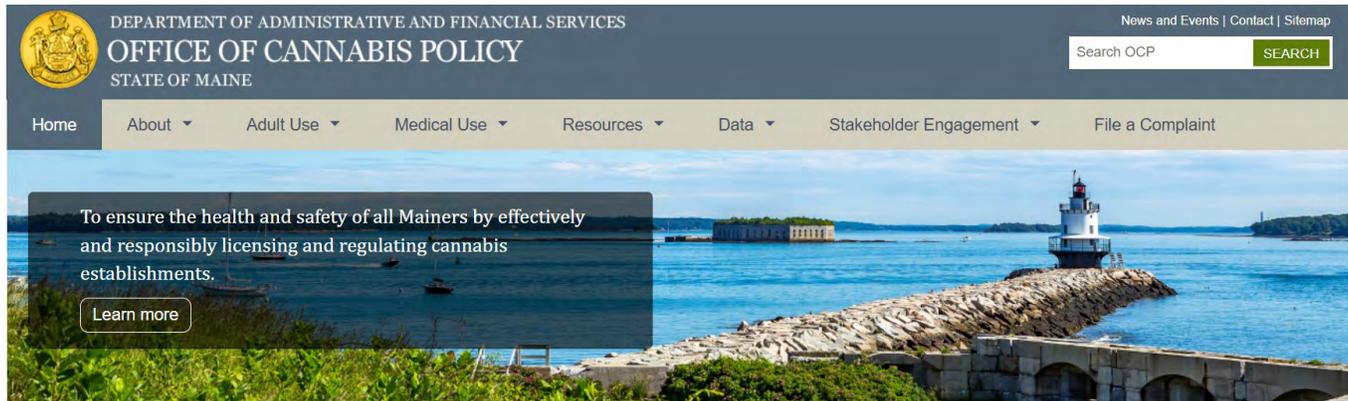
## Issues Impacting Both Cannabis Programs

### Intoxicating Hemp-derived Products (IHDPs)

- Absent clear federal policy, Maine and other states have been increasingly inundated with products containing IHDPs. These products are unregulated, untested, and untracked but widely available for sale to consumers regardless of age.



# Navigating the OCP Website



<https://www.maine.gov/dafs/ocp>

## Adult Use

- » Links to the [rules and statutes](#) governing the Adult Use Cannabis Program
- » [Applications and forms](#) for participants in the adult use program

## Medical Use

- » Links to the [rules and statutes](#) governing the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program
- » [Applications and forms](#) for participants in the medical program

## Resources

- » Information about [cannabis product recalls](#)
- » A series of [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- » Copies of all [guidance documents](#) issued by the Office
- » Links to various OCP [reports and surveys](#)
- » A [Resource Library](#) with a variety of handouts and information for different stakeholder groups

## Data

- » [Downloadable information](#) about active and pending adult use licensees
- » [Downloadable information](#) about active and pending medical registrants
- » Historic violation data for both the [medical](#) and [adult use](#) cannabis programs
- » [Testing, municipal opt-in](#), and preliminary [sales data](#) for the adult use program

## Stakeholder Engagement

- » Details about OCP's [Community Listening Tour](#) and [Cannabis Conversations](#)
- » Materials from OCP [task forces/workgroups](#)

## File a Complaint

- » An [online form](#) to report any compliance and/or enforcement issues to OCP, including an adverse health reaction