



Rapid survey among Hawai'i medical cannabis patients and providers on the potential effects of legalization of adult use ("recreational" or non-medical use)

August 22, 2022

Report prepared by

**Hawai'i State Department of Health
Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation**

**Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force
Medical Use Permitted Interaction Group**

Many of the 240 written comments raised other employment challenges, including not being able to apply for specific jobs, fear of losing their jobs, having to hide or lie about their use status in job applications or at work, and not medicating because of random drug testing at the workplace. For example, patients wrote,

"I do not apply at places that will drug test, which many, many places in Hawai'i do. In fact, I go so far as to Google like crazy until I find out if they test, or not."

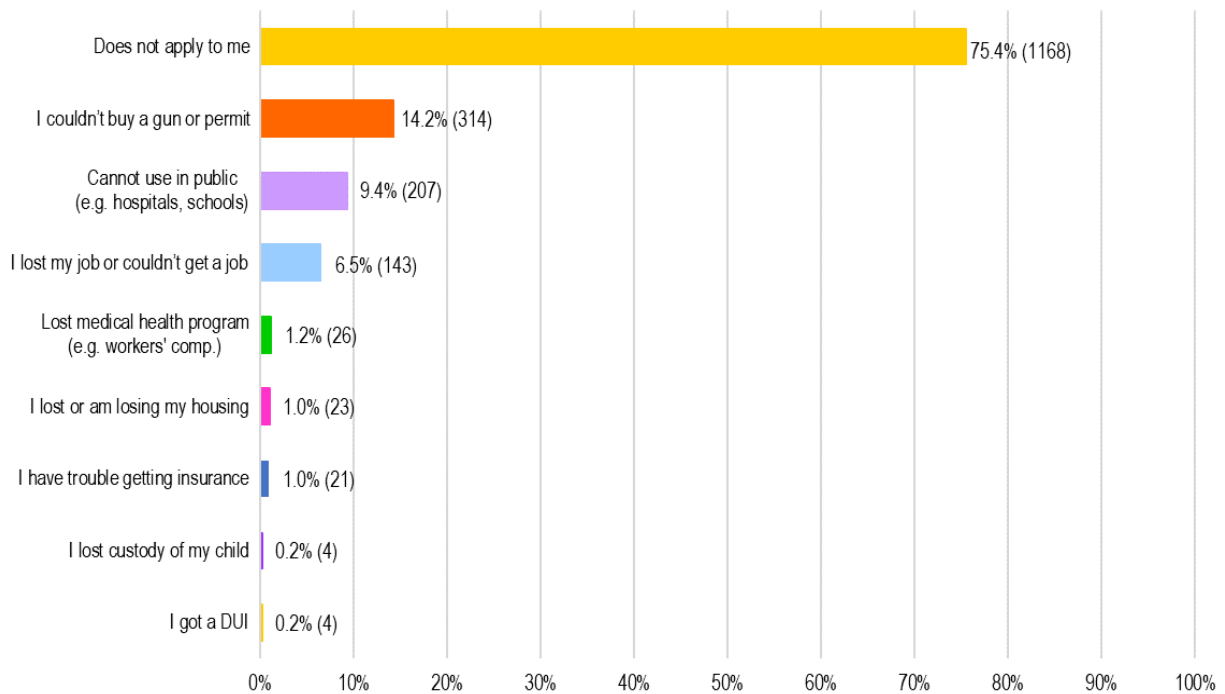
"[Hawaii Police Department] asked me to surrender my card to move forward with dispatcher application. I asked what about those who work while of opioids/steroids, etc... they couldn't answer me."

Other challenges that medical use patients have encountered include difficulty receiving healthcare from doctors not supportive of medical cannabis use, not being able to medicate at home when covered by federal housing, bank account closure, disqualification for disability or life insurance, travel restrictions, and stigma and discrimination. The status of marijuana as a Schedule 1 substance under federal law is a barrier to accessing housing and governmental assistance and places the financial burden on patients needing medical cannabis treatment.

"Could not live certain places, housing options limited, due to no MMJ in lease. I do not want to lie on rental app. I cannot participate in certain VA programs and state programs because MMJ is not authorized and is still a class 1 "drug".

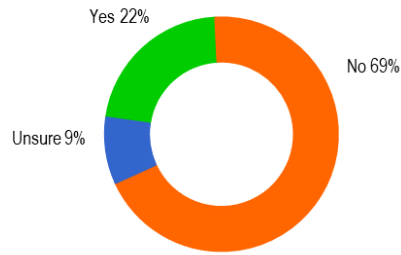
"I'm a 71 year old Vet with Stage 4 prostate cancer patient with Tripler Chemo Clinic. Neither Aloha Care/Medicaid or the DOD prescribes cannabis products. It needs to be covered."

Figure 11. Patients reporting they are negatively impacted by the federal cannabis laws



Number of responses = 2211

Figure 12. Providers reporting federal cannabis law negatively impacted medical practice



Number of responses = 33

Seven providers stated that the conflict between federal and state cannabis laws has negatively impacted their medical practice by interfering with their ability to provide patient care, specifically to patients who cannot access cannabis and many others that are hesitant to enroll in the medical cannabis program. Most of the providers (69%) had not been negatively impacted, and 9% were unsure (Figure 11). A provider recommended that should the state legalize adult use; a strength-tiered system should be established to limit higher medical THC percentages to medical cannabis patients.