



Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database and the Profiles of Individuals Registered for Medical Marijuana (January 2018)



A 2017 amendment to the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative Act added several new data elements to the Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), including medical marijuana qualifying patient data. The figures below offer a preliminary look into the conditions, coverage sources, and demographics of individuals registered for medical marijuana. The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016 lists 18 qualifying conditions (QC) and symptoms for which a patient may qualify for medical marijuana. The conditions listed below are not necessarily the condition for which an individual qualified for medical marijuana. Rather, they are the types of conditions experienced, as captured by medical claims in the APCD.

Conditions seen in individuals registered for medical marijuana

Number with condition

Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue <i>QC example: severe arthritis</i>	1,677
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs <i>QC examples: glaucoma, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis</i>	1,561
Diseases of the respiratory system	1,432
Diseases of the circulatory system	1,393
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	1,323
Injury and poisoning	1,207
Diseases of the digestive system <i>QC example: ulcerative colitis</i>	1,190
Infectious and parasitic diseases <i>QC examples: hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS</i>	1,169
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1,159
Mental illness	1,114
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	967
Neoplasms <i>QC example: cancer</i>	780
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	399
Congenital anomalies	123
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	70
Other conditions and factors influencing health status	1,735

Cancer types seen in individuals registered for medical marijuana

Number with condition

Cancer of the skin	118
Cancer of the breast	48
Cancer of the male genital organs	48
Cancer of the uterus and cervix	36
Cancer of the bronchus, lung	29
Cancer of the lymphatic and hematopoietic	28
Colorectal cancer	25
Other gastrointestinal cancer	21
Cancer of the urinary organs	21
Cancer, other primary	56

Individuals registered for medical marijuana grouped by coverage source

Number of registered individuals

Medicare	1,268
Commercial	1,093
Medicaid	411
Not currently identified in the APCD	883

Individuals registered for medical marijuana by age



These figures use Arkansas APCD data (2013–2016) to identify medical marijuana qualifying patient diagnoses. Diagnoses were identified by using Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) categories. Each qualifying patient is only counted once in a category.

ACHI is a nonpartisan, independent, health policy center that serves as a catalyst to improve the health of Arkansans.

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