

Cannabis in the Commonwealth

The Cannabis Control Authority
& Current Cannabis Laws

7/9/25

Mission Statement

As an independent, political subdivision of the Commonwealth, the Cannabis Control Authority promotes public safety, advances public health, and protects communities in Virginia through effective medical cannabis oversight and balanced and inclusive cannabis regulation, policy, and education.



History of the CCA

2021

Established by General Assembly

2022

First staff hired

2024

Began regulating medical cannabis

CCA's Roles

Regulator



Policy Advisor



Educator



Cannabis Laws in Virginia

What's Legal?

Medical
Cannabis



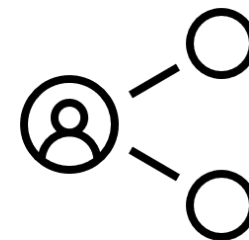
Limited Home
Cultivation



Limited
Possession



Limited Adult
Sharing



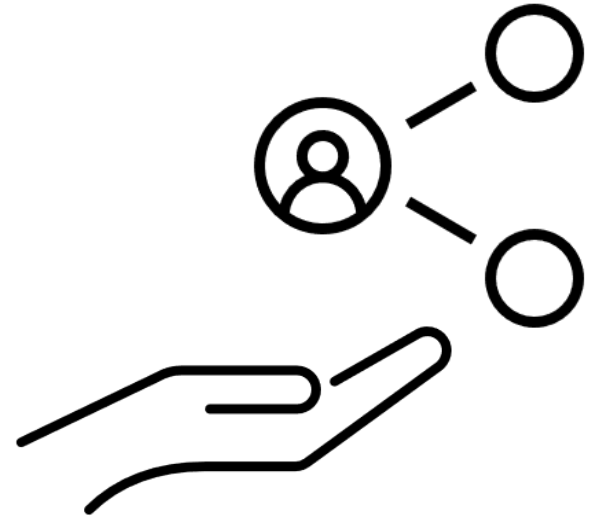
Home Cultivation

- Cultivation of up to 4 plants in primary private residence for those 21+
- Plants must be properly labeled
- Must not be visible from public areas
- Must prevent access by minors



Limited Possession & Adult Sharing

- Possession for personal use at residence for adults 21+
- Public possession up to 1 oz. for adults 21+
- Adults 21+ can privately share up to 1 oz. of marijuana with other adults 21+ without compensation



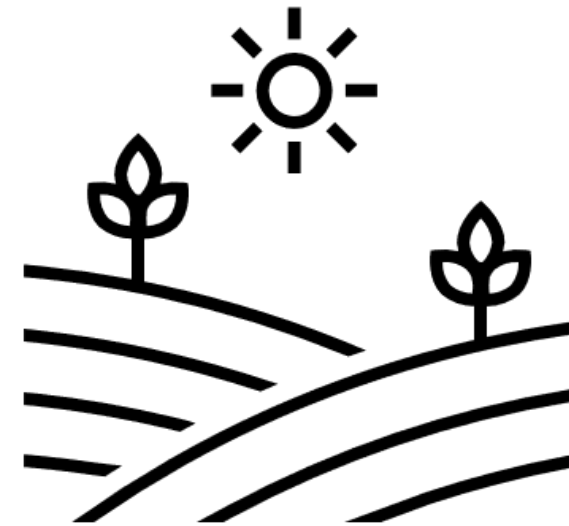
Cannabis Tax

- Medical cannabis exempt from sales and use tax
 - § 58.1-609.10.
 - 23VAC10-210-940.
- Taxes on retail sales of cannabis from 2024 & 2025 adult use legislation
 - Total possible tax rate of 11.625 percent
 - 8% state
 - 2.5% local option
 - 1.125% for school funding



Hemp

- Cannabis plants with less than .3% delta-9 THC by weight
- Legal under federal law
- Regulated by VDACS
 - Products must have less than .3% total THC and no more than 2 mg THC or a cannabidiol (CBD) to THC ratio of 25:1



What's Illegal?

⊘ Possession

- Of any amount with intent to distribute
- By anyone under 21
- Of any amount on school grounds or school buses
- Publicly of more than 1oz. of cannabis

⊘ Consumption

- By anyone under 21
- Or sharing in public spaces
- (Landlords may prohibit tenants from growing or using cannabis on rental property)

⊘ Retail/Sales

- Retail sales outside of the medical cannabis program
- Giving cannabis in exchange of something else (e.g., a product or service)
- Home cultivation of more than 4 plants or for retail use

⊘ Travel

- Operating a vehicle while cannabis-impaired
- Consumption or possession of an open container of cannabis while operating a motor vehicle (applies to driver and passenger)
- Mailing, shipping, or traveling interstate with cannabis

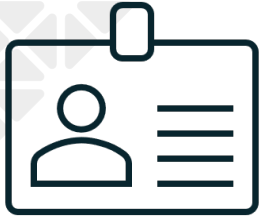
Medical Cannabis Program

Overview

Licensed facilities dispense medical cannabis to individuals that meet basic qualifications and have been issued a written certification by a medical practitioner.



Patient Requirements



Meet basic qualifications

- Live in Virginia
- Valid government-issued ID
- Have condition that may benefit from the use of cannabis



Receive certification by licensed practitioner

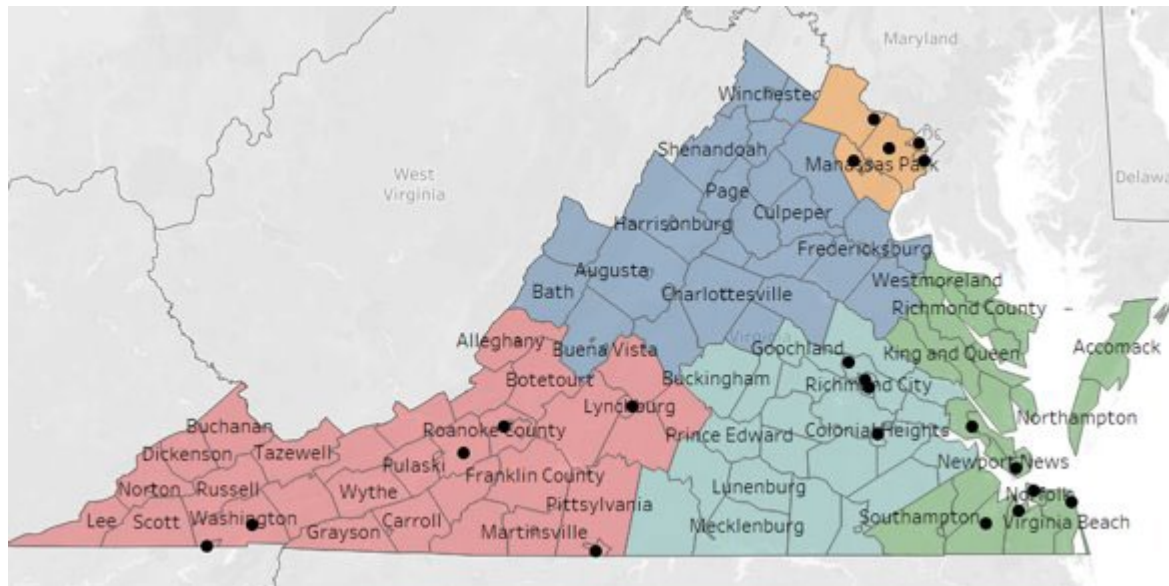
- Eligible practitioners: doctors, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses
- Parents/legal guardians can get written certification on behalf of minor or vulnerable adult
- Must be renewed annually by licensed practitioner



Present certification at a licensed dispensary

- Bring written certification and valid government-issued ID

Program Overview

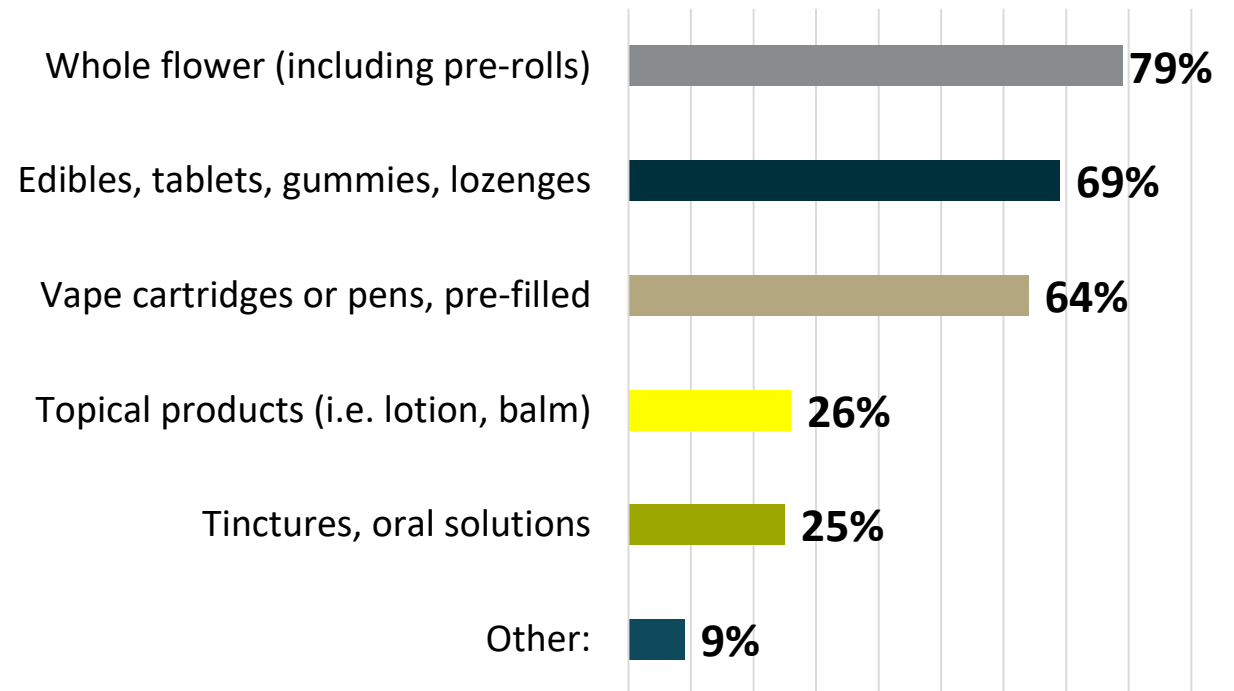


- Virginia divided into 5 Health Service Areas (HSA)
- Limit on number of facilities in each HSA:
 - 1 facility with cultivation, processing, and dispensing operations
 - 5 additional standalone dispensaries
 - 1 separate cultivation location
- Currently 24 facilities (across all types)

Patient Numbers

- Unique patients:
 - **104,840** in 2024
 - **98,396** in 2023
- Reported monthly spending:
 - 32% spent more than \$300.
 - 25% spent \$201-\$300.
 - 24% spent \$101-\$200.

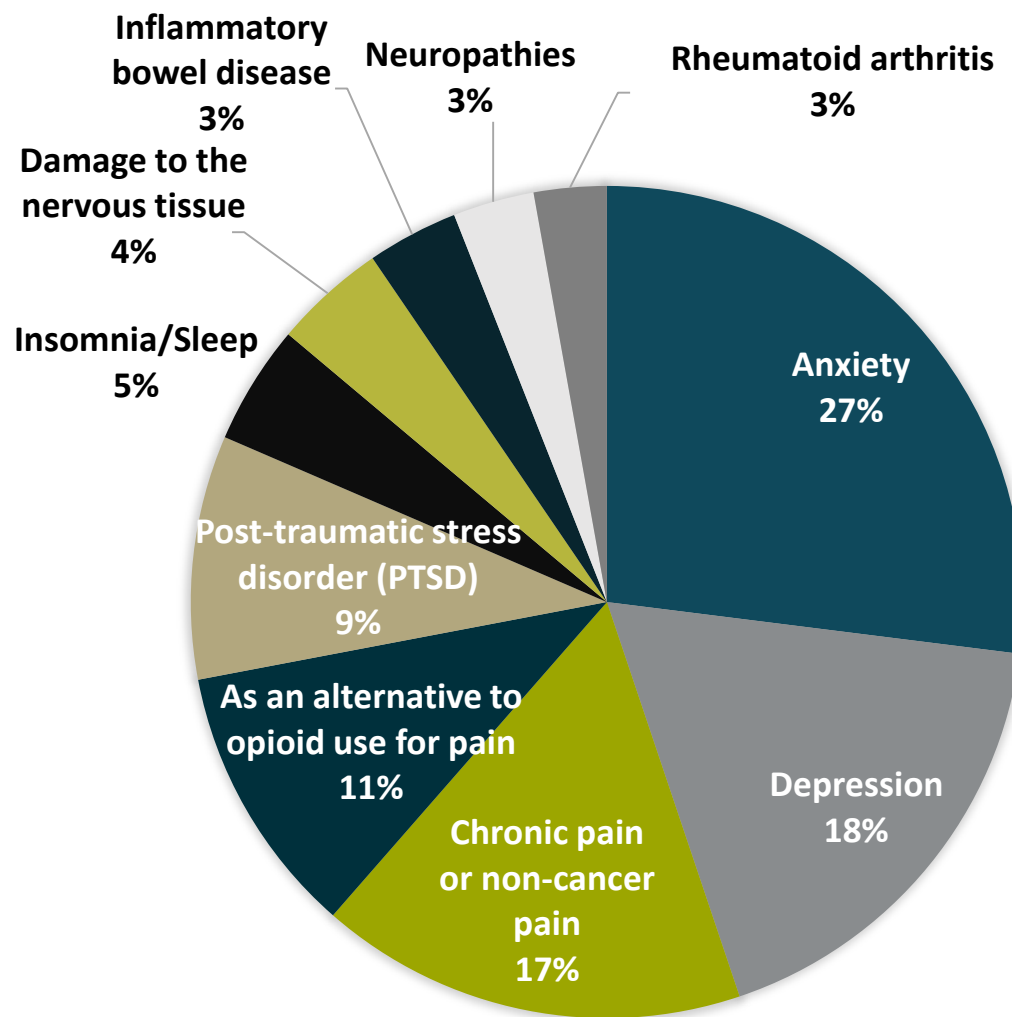
Purchased Medical Cannabis Products



Medical Cannabis Program Patient Satisfaction Survey (2024)

- The CCA issued a medical cannabis patient survey to assess how the Virginia medical cannabis program (MCP) serves patients, parents or legal guardians of patients, and registered agents.
- The MCP Satisfaction survey captured patterns of:
 - Cannabis use
 - Process of obtaining a written certification
 - Purchase behaviors
 - Dispensary experiences
 - Overall satisfaction

The three most reported medical conditions were **anxiety**, **depression**, and **chronic pain**; 62% of survey respondents use medical cannabis for these conditions.



Q16. Please indicate which condition(s) you, the patient, use medical cannabis for. (N=722)

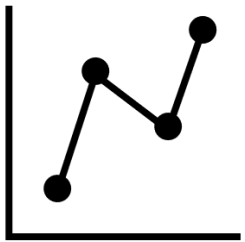
Seed-to-Sale Tracking

- Seed-to-sale consists of an inventory control system that tracks the cultivation, processing, and sale of cannabis and cannabis-infused products
- Virginia's seed-to-sale system went live on **July 1, 2025**
- Tracking increases available data leading to an increase in public health and safety by ensuring:
 - No diversion of products to the illicit market
 - No illicit products enter the regulated market

CCA Data & Educational Initiatives

Educational Initiatives

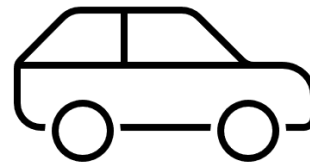
Data Collection



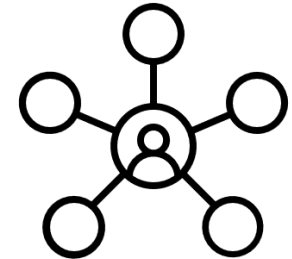
Educational Resources



Safe Driving Campaign



Partnerships & Outreach



Educational Resources

Cannabis laws
in Virginia



Health
Risks



Responsible
Use



Available for
bulk order!



Impaired Driving Survey (2024)

- 783 Virginia residents aged 16 or older with a driver's license were surveyed.
- Partnered with SSRS to manage data collection and process, clean and weigh the collected data.
- Data were weighted to be representative of Virginia residents who are 16 and older and have a driver's license.

Perceptions of Drivers

Almost one third (30%) of Virginia drivers believe those who consume marijuana are usually safer drivers. These perceptions are unchanged from 2022.

People who consume marijuana are a danger to others while driving and their driving behavior is impaired

70%



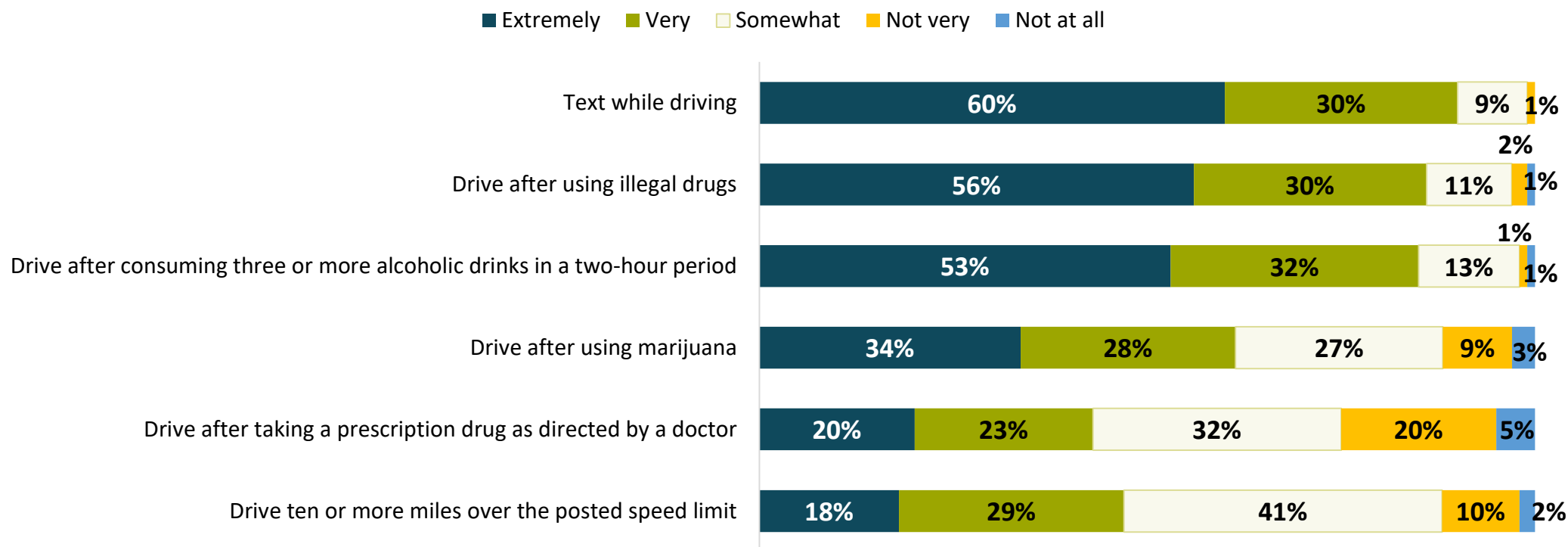
People who consume marijuana tend to drive slower and more cautiously and are usually safer drivers

30%

Q14. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view (even if neither is exactly right)? Base: Total Respondents (2022 n=783; 2024 n=783)

Perceived Danger Levels of Various Behaviors and Driving

More Virginia drivers continue to rate texting while driving, as well as driving after using illegal drugs or consuming alcohol, as extremely dangerous compared to driving after using marijuana.



Q11. How dangerous do you believe it is to (INSERT ITEM)? Base: Total Respondents (2022 n=783; 2024 n=783)

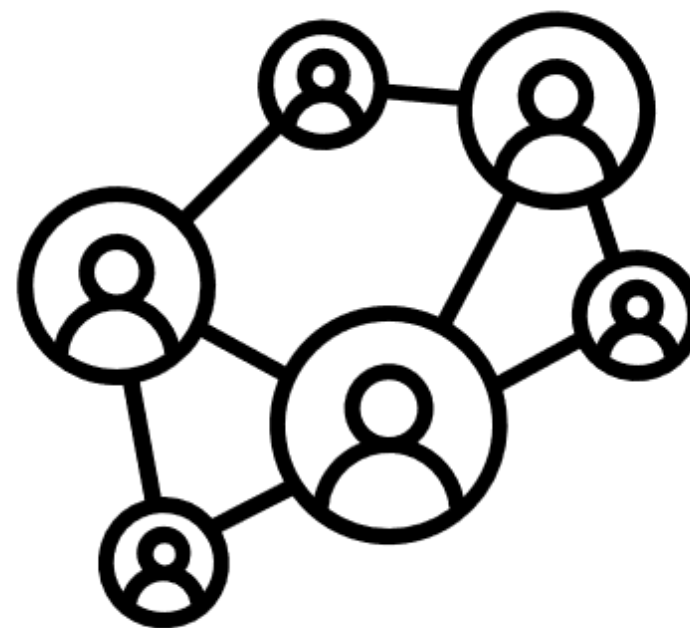
Safe Driving Campaign

- Most recent campaign ran 2022-2024
- Media platforms included:
 - Digital / Online, Billboards
 - TV, Radio, Streaming
 - Social Media
 - Partnership Toolkit
 - Includes Spanish language
 - Still available on our website!
- RFP in progress to develop a new campaign in 2025



Partnerships and Outreach

- Workgroups
- Presentations
- Resource development and distribution
- Exhibit tables
- Partner or support projects/initiatives



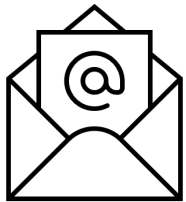
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Full data reports available at cca.virginia.gov/reports.

Questions?