



State Medical Board of Ohio



CTR Physician Annual Report 2021



OVERVIEW

House Bill 523, effective on September 8, 2016, legalized medical marijuana in Ohio. The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program allows patients with certain medical conditions, upon the recommendation of an Ohio-licensed physician certified by the State Medical Board, to purchase and use medical marijuana.

Three state government agencies are responsible for the operation of Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program:

State Medical Board of Ohio

The State Medical Board of Ohio is responsible for certifying physicians to recommend and approving additional qualifying conditions.

Ohio Department of Commerce

The Ohio Department of Commerce is responsible for overseeing medical marijuana cultivators, processors, and testing laboratories.

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is responsible for overseeing medical marijuana retail dispensaries, the registration of medical marijuana patients and caregivers, the approval of new forms of medical marijuana, and coordinating the Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee.



CERTIFICATE TO RECOMMEND

Physicians who wish to recommend medical marijuana in Ohio must have an active Certificate to Recommend (CTR) from the State Medical Board of Ohio.

Eligibility for a CTR includes:

- Active, unrestricted MD or DO license
- Unprohibited access to Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)
- Active registration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Has not been denied a DEA license because of inappropriate prescribing, personally furnishing, dispensing, administering, supplying or selling a controlled substance or other dangerous drug
- Has not held a DEA or a state license that has been restricted because of inappropriate prescribing
- No disciplinary action by any licensing entity because of inappropriate prescribing
- 2 hours of CME certified by the Ohio State Medical Association or the Ohio Osteopathic Association

Regulatory Requirement

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4731.30 and Ohio Administrative Code 4731-32-03, certified physicians must annually submit to the State Medical Board a report that describes the physician's observations regarding the effectiveness of medical marijuana in treating the physician's patients during this year covered by the report, not including any information that identifies the patient.

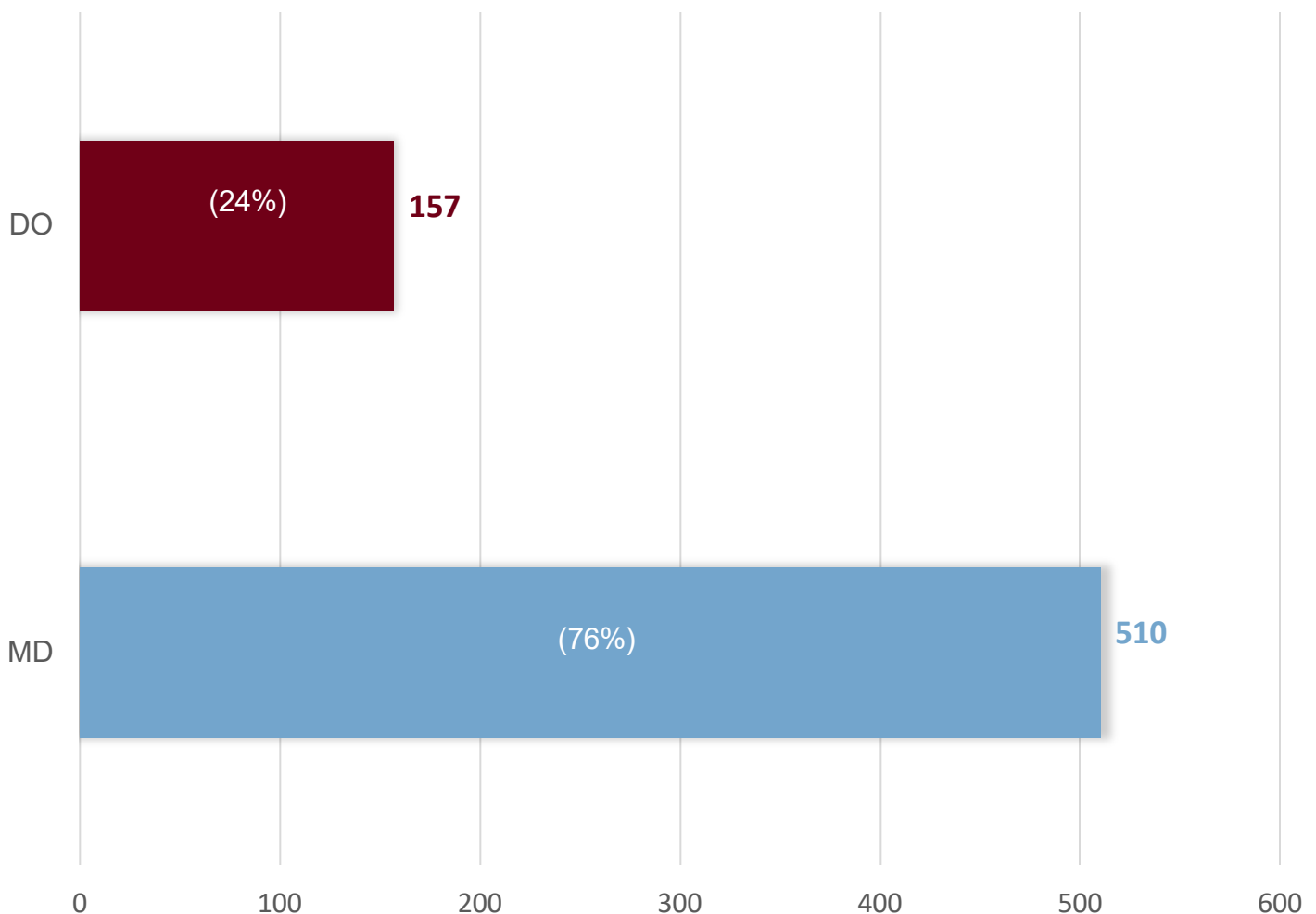


CERTIFICATE TO RECOMMEND

The State Medical Board of Ohio began issuing CTRs as part of the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program on April 11, 2018. In October 2019, Ohio's biennium budget (HB 166) became effective. One of the statutory policy changes eliminated the requirement of an affirmative vote of at least six members of the board to approve an application. With this change, the board's Secretary and Supervising Member were given the authority to approve CTR applications which allows the Licensure department to issue CTRs at a faster pace.

In June 2020, the Medical Board added an option in the renewal process to renew a physician license without renewing their CTR. This allowed physicians who no longer wanted to make recommendations to surrender their CTR with no formal board action. If the option is selected, the physician's license number drops the "CTR" suffix and the CTR endorsement is given an inactive status.

As of June 30, 2021, there are 667 active CTR physicians¹.

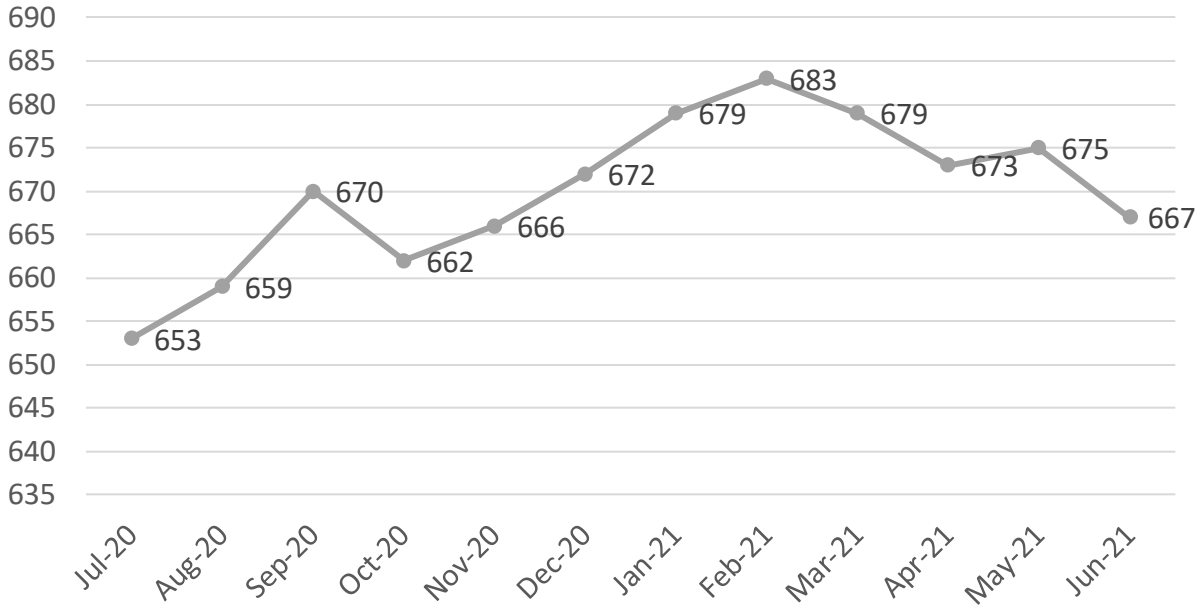


¹Allopathic physicians (MDs) make up more than 80 percent of all licensed physicians in Ohio. See the Annual Report for additional information.

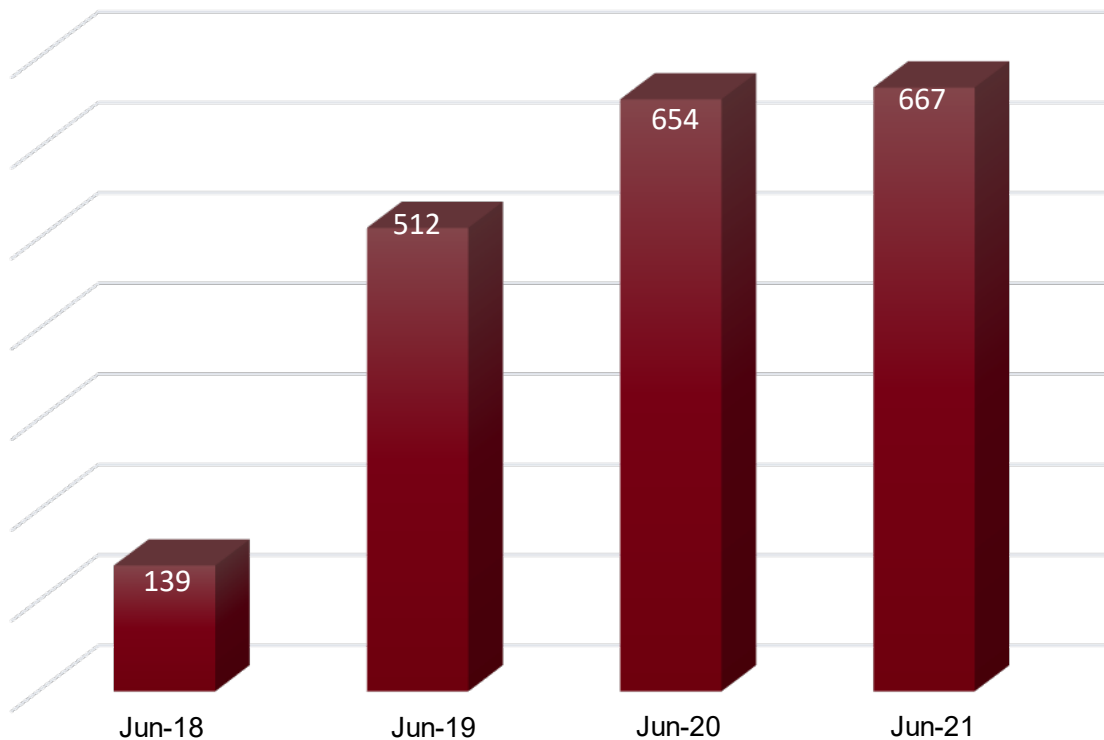


CERTIFICATE TO RECOMMEND

Number of Active CTRs by Month in the Last Year²



Number of Active CTRs By Year^{3 4}



²Data as reported from CTR newsletters. The newsletters are distributed after the monthly board meeting.

³Data reported by the State Medical Board of Ohio 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 Annual Report.

⁴Physicians were first able to apply for a certificate to recommend in 2018.



QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Ohio General Assembly 131 determined the initial 21 qualifying conditions in House Bill 523. The Medical Board has approved four conditions in the petition process since 2018: cachexia (2020), Huntington’s disease (2021), spasticity (2021), and terminal illness (2021). There are currently 25 qualifying conditions in the program.

During the February 10 meeting, the board’s Medical Marijuana Committee determined that the petitions submitted for arthritis, migraines (chronic), and complex regional pain syndrome were already covered by the existing qualifying condition of pain that is either chronic or intractable. The board has created a position statement about these conditions which is available on med.ohio.gov and will update the document as needed.

Qualifying Conditions	
1. AIDS	14. Multiple Sclerosis
2. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	15. Pain: Chronic/Severe or Intractable
3. Alzheimer’s Disease	16. Parkinson’s Disease
4. Cachexia	17. Positive Status for HIV
5. Cancer	18. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
6. Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy	19. Sickle Cell Anemia
7. Crohn’s Disease	20. Spasticity
8. Epilepsy / Seizure Disorder	21. Spinal Cord Disease or Injury
9. Fibromyalgia	22. Terminal Illness ⁵
10. Glaucoma	23. Tourette Syndrome
11. Hepatitis C	24. Traumatic Brain Injury
12. Huntington’s disease	25. Ulcerative Colitis
13. Inflammatory Bowel Disease	

⁵Terminal illness is a diagnosis for a life expectancy of six months or less if the illness runs its normal course.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

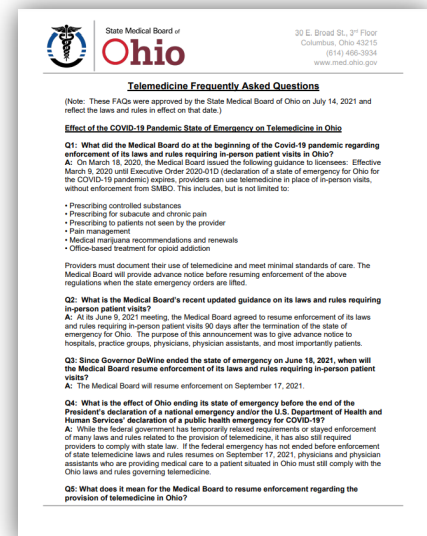
The board used the monthly CTR newsletter to share important provider updates, as well as patient and Registry information from the Board of Pharmacy.

As the pandemic emerged, CTR physicians were encouraged to add caregivers for their medical marijuana patients and were permitted to use telemedicine in place of in-person visits.

[Ohio Revised Code 4731.30](#) and [Ohio Administrative Code 4731-32-03](#) require an in-person visit to make an initial recommendation and an in-person visit at least once a year. The Medical Board suspended enforcement of telemedicine regulations for licensees during the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed physicians with a CTR to use telemedicine in place of in-person visits. Once the state of emergency was lifted, the board announced that enforcement of the above regulation would resume on September 17, 2021.

On July 14, 2021, the Medical Board approved new telemedicine FAQs and made them available on [med.ohio.gov](https://www.med.ohio.gov).

After reviewing ample public comment from stakeholders and the increasing COVID-19 cases, the board voted to extend the suspension of enforcement of telemedicine regulation until December 31, 2021.





SURVEY

To satisfy the statutory and rule requirement of an annual report, the Medical Board created an online survey that asked about the observed effectiveness of medical marijuana on patients. Between April 30 and June 15, 2021, the Medical Board emailed the survey to each physician with an active CTR and distributed the survey to physician associations. A notification was also included in the CTR newsletter from January through May.

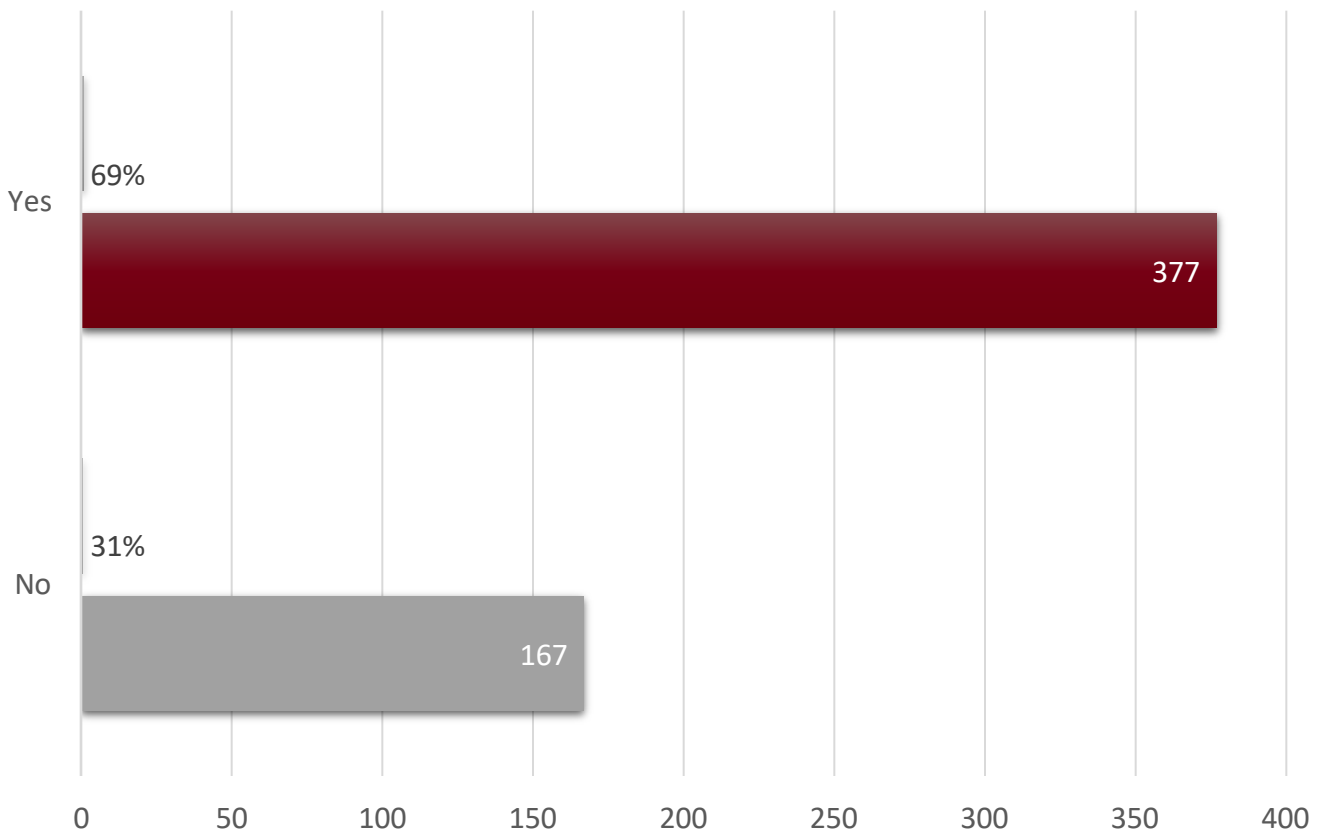
In total, 544 physicians submitted a survey.

Please note, the Medical Board recognizes some physicians with a CTR do not recommend medical marijuana. Therefore, only questions 1, 35 and 36 were mandatory for the completion of the survey. The response rate for the remainder of the survey questions may vary depending on the physicians' participation in the program.



SURVEY RESULTS

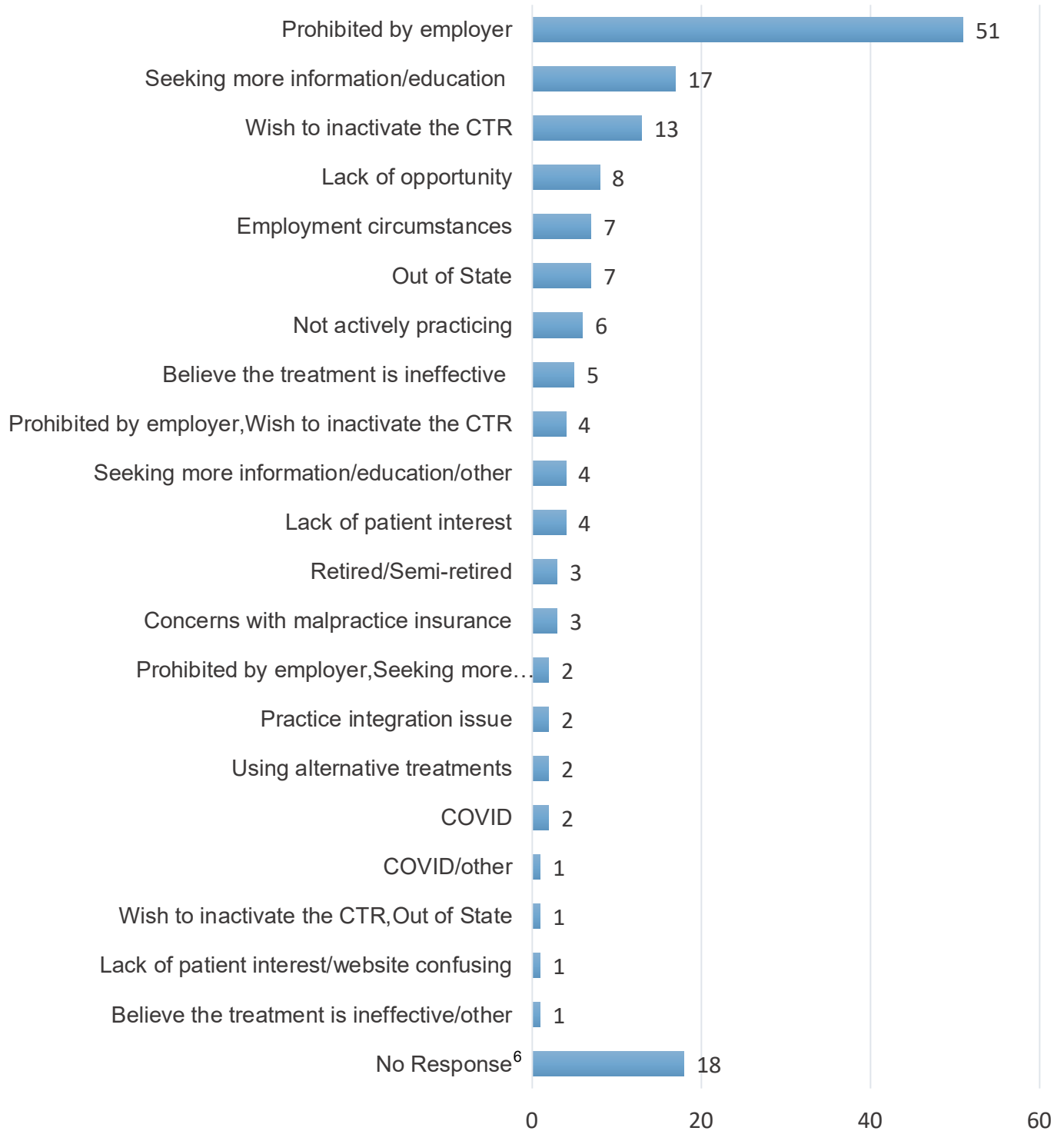
Question 1) Have you made any medical marijuana recommendations?





SURVEY RESULTS

Question 2) If you answered "No" to question 1, please select the reason below. Check all that apply.

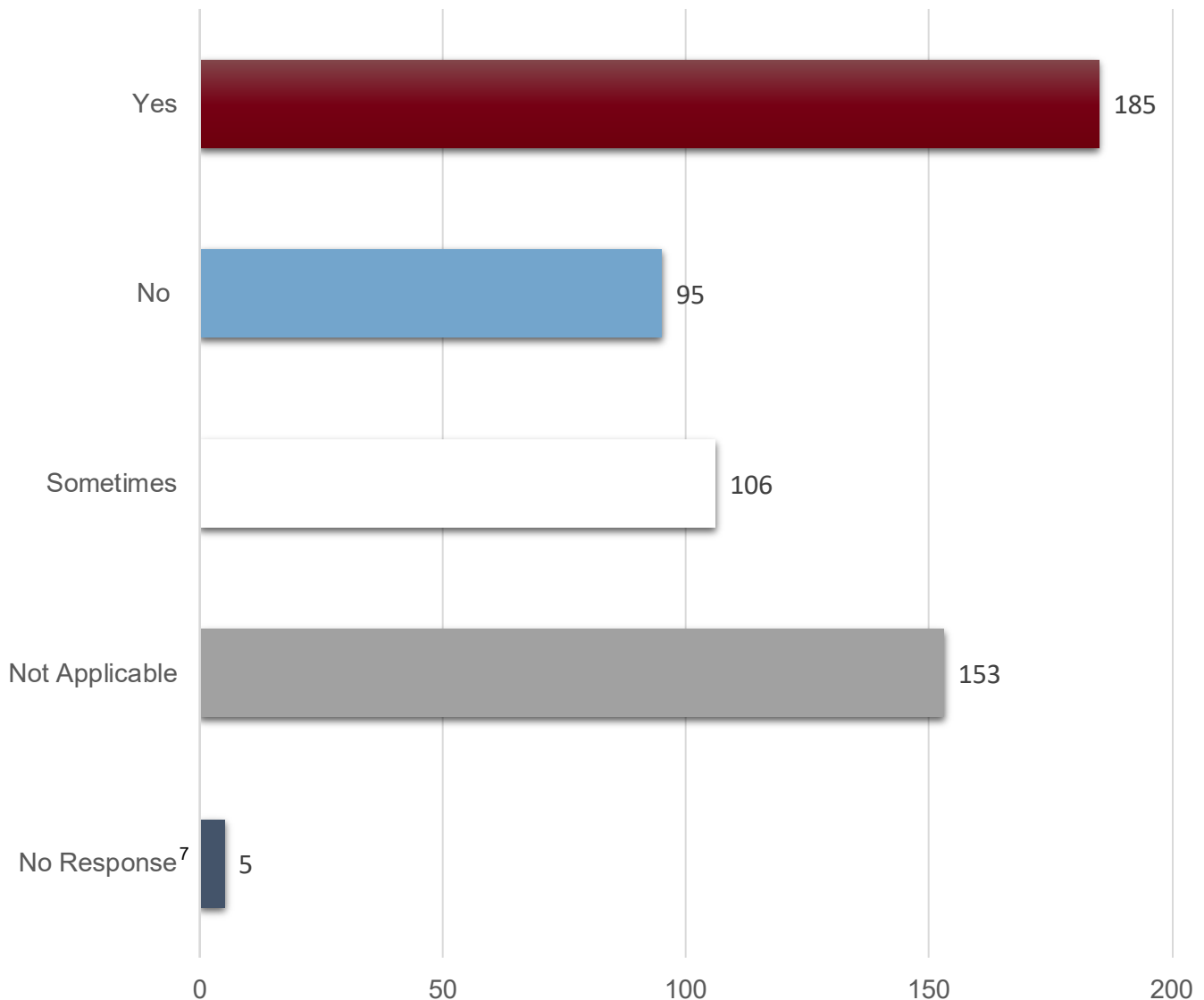


⁶All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



SURVEY RESULTS

Question 3) Ohio Administrative Code 4731-32-03 (E) states that the physician recommending treatment with medical marijuana shall be available to provide follow-up care and treatment to the patient, including physical examinations relevant to the patient's condition. Do you require your medical marijuana patients to have an in-person appointment more than once per year?

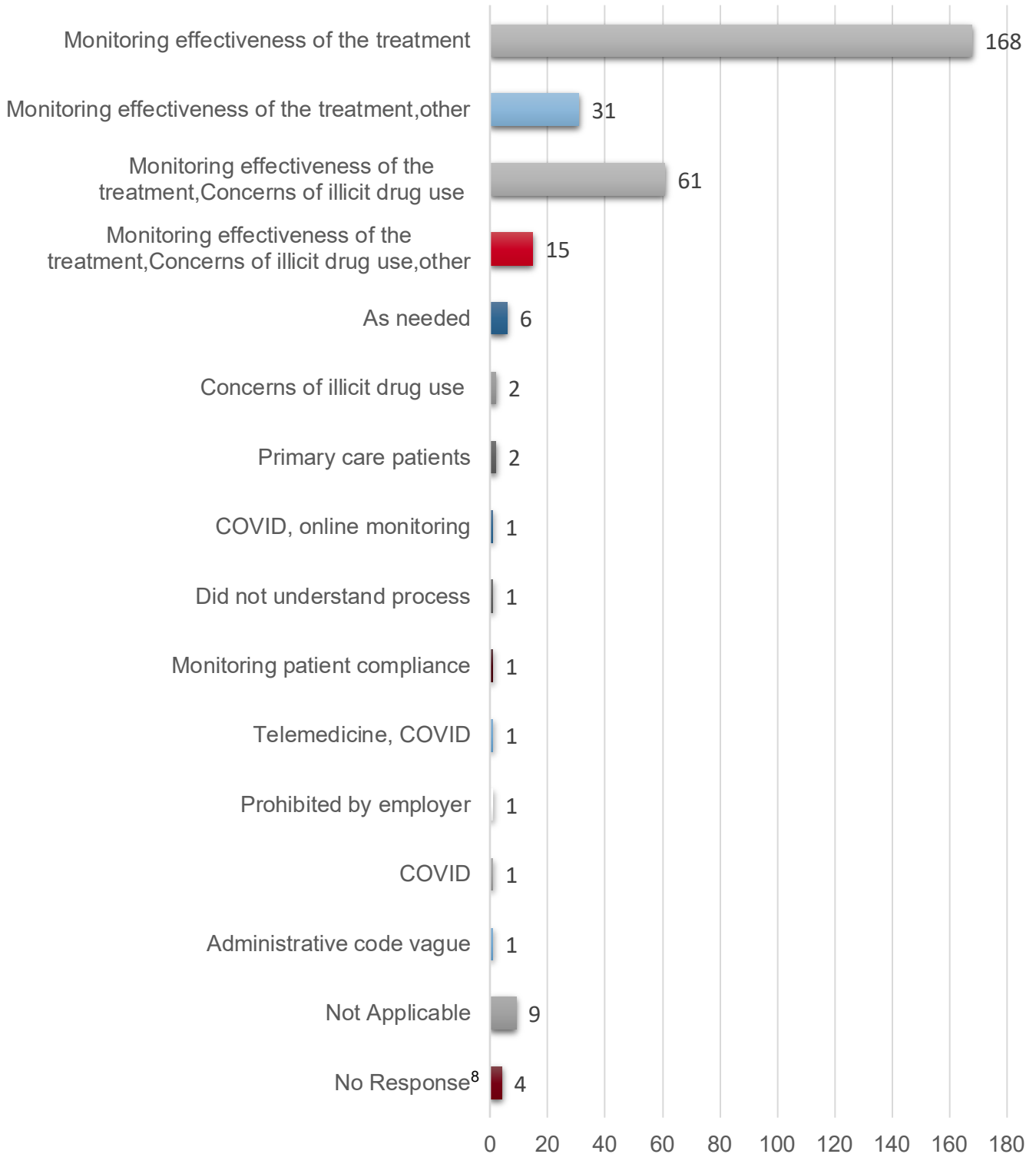


⁷All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



SURVEY RESULTS

Question 4) If you answered "Yes" or "Sometimes" to question 3, please select the reason below. Check all that apply.

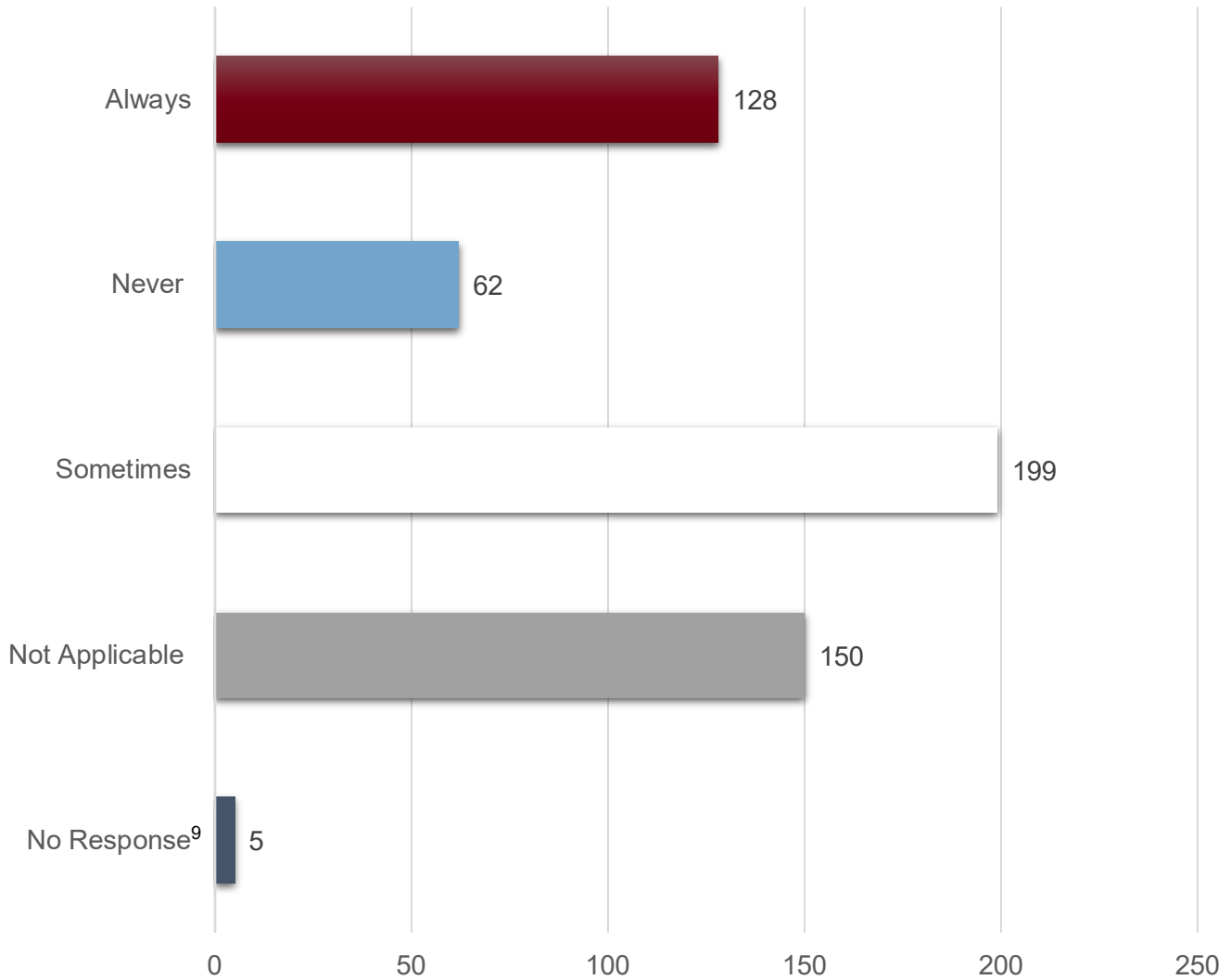


⁸All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



SURVEY RESULTS

Question 5) According to 4731-32-03 (B)(11) a physician may confirm a previously diagnosed qualifying condition made by an Ohio licensed physician, if certain conditions are met. How often do you make a recommendation based on a confirmed diagnosis of a qualifying condition made by another physician instead of making the original diagnosis?

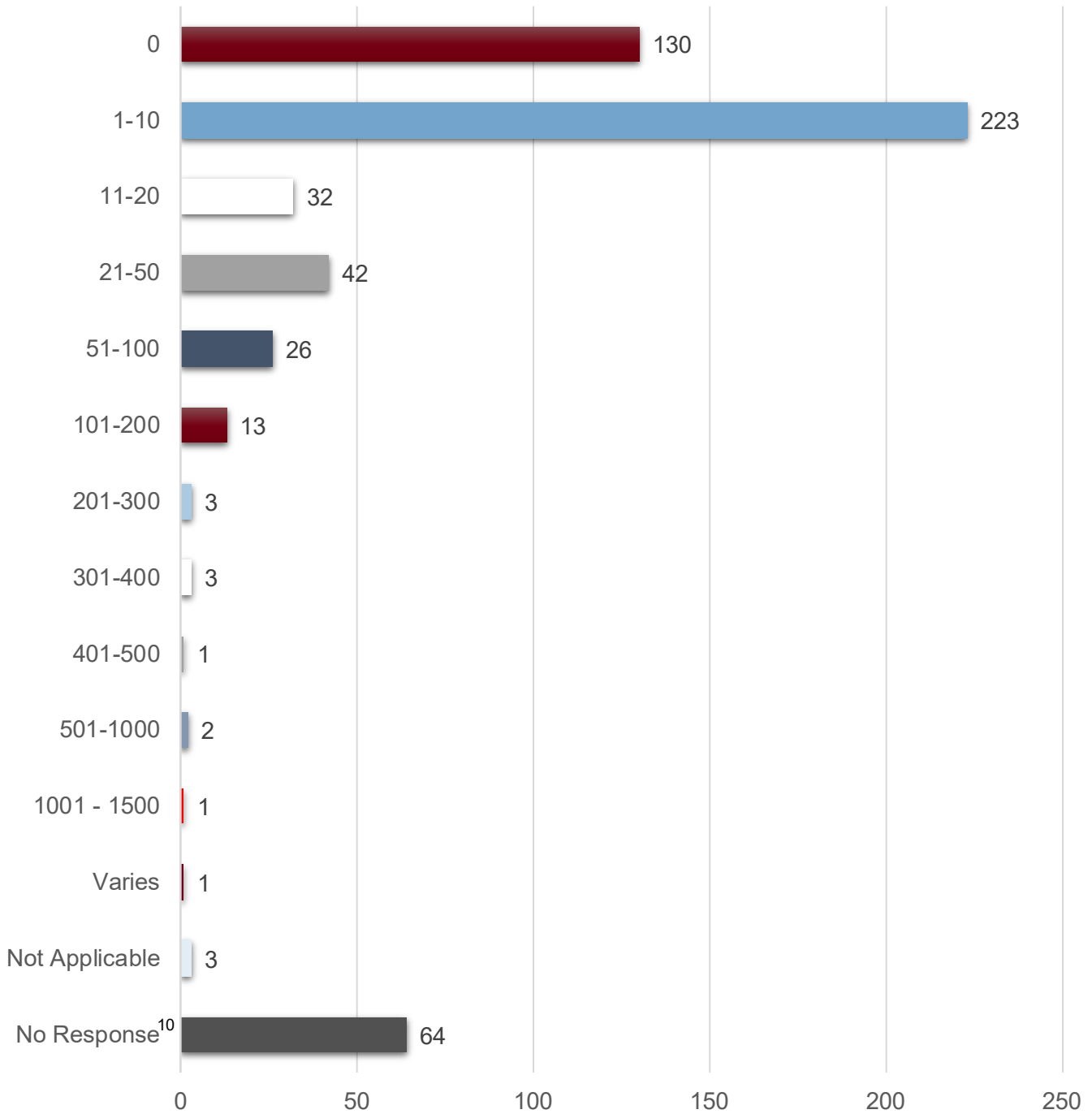


⁹All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



SURVEY RESULTS

Question 6) On average, how many medical marijuana patients do you see each month?

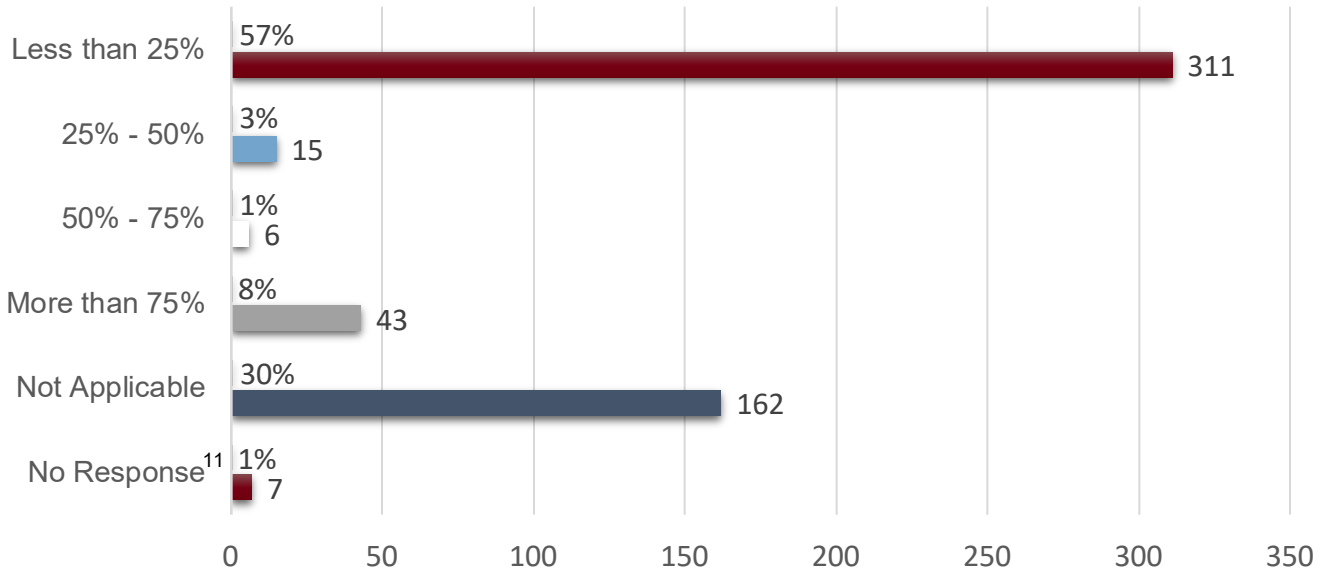


¹⁰All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."

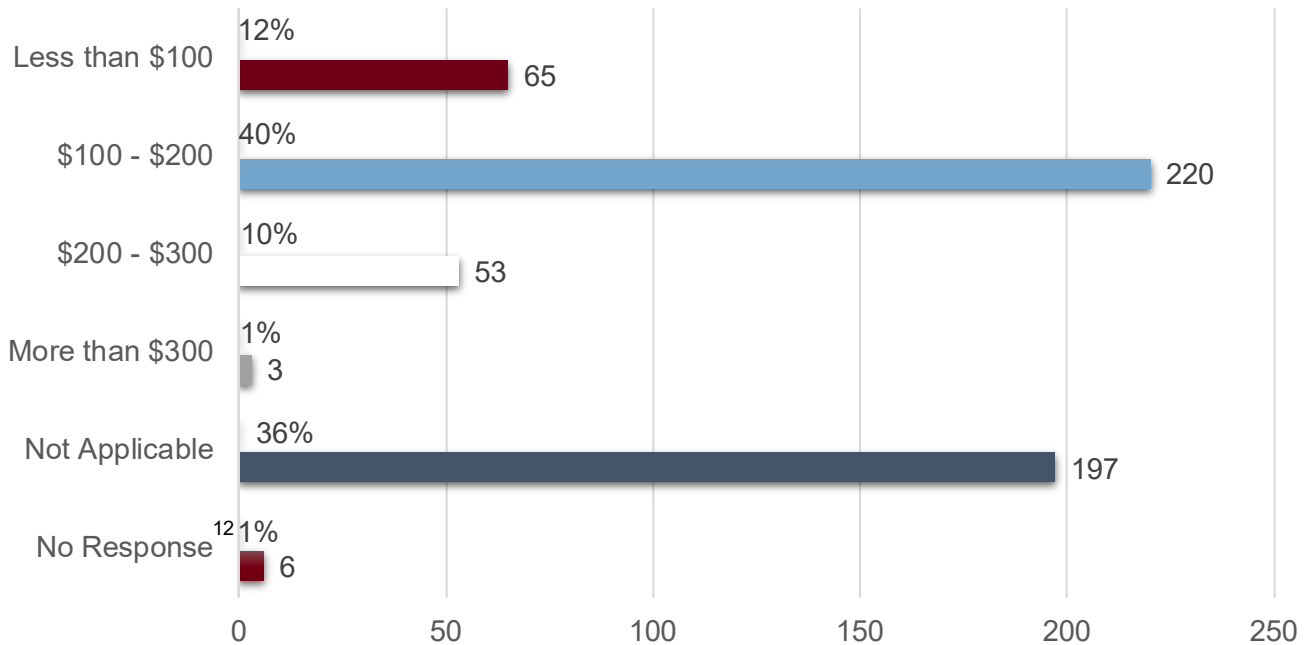


SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7) What percentage of your practice consists of medical marijuana patients?



Question 8) What is the average cost of a patient appointment for a medical marijuana recommendation or renewal at your practice?

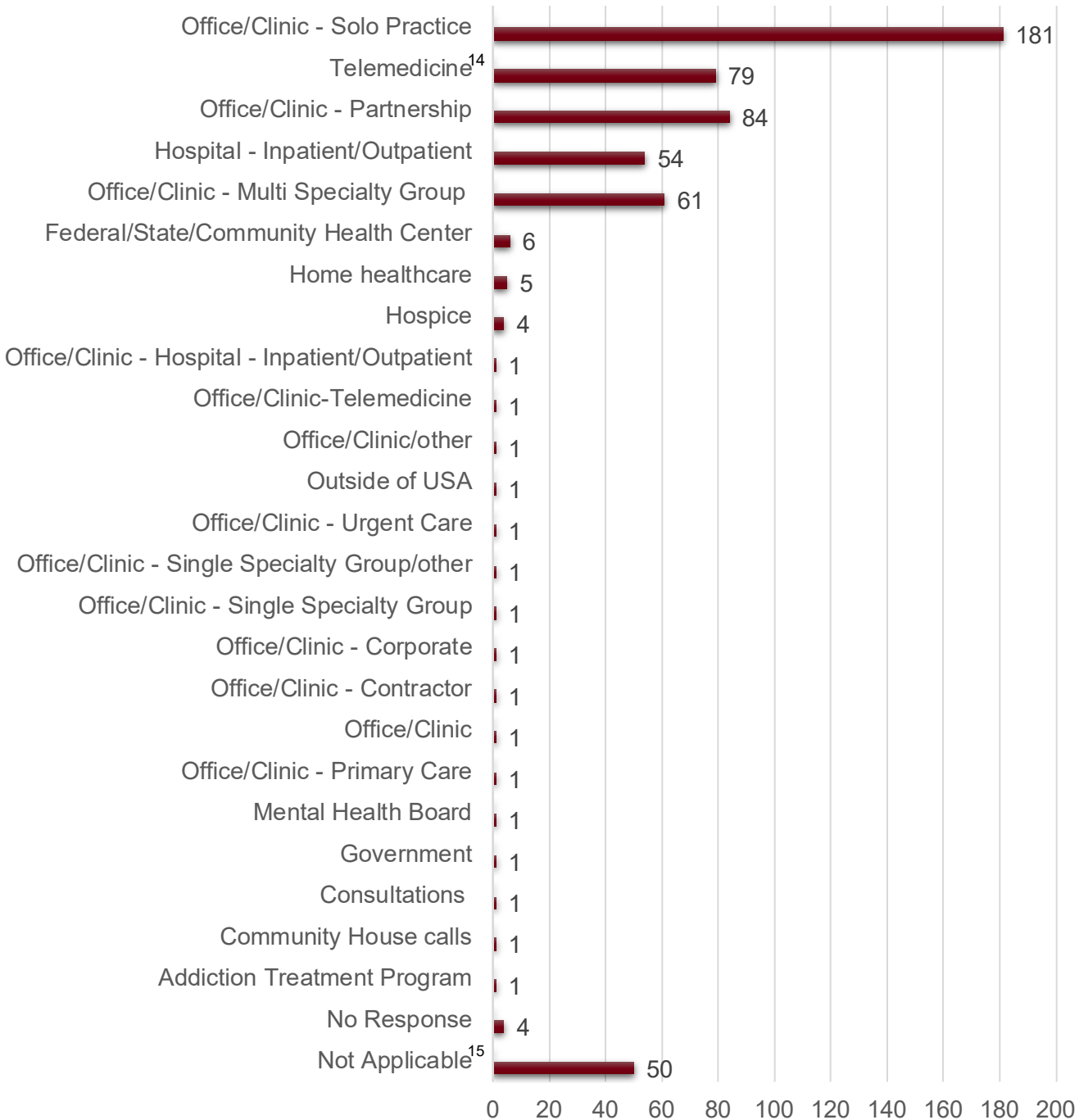


¹¹⁻¹²All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9) What is your practice setting?¹³



¹³The practice locations reported capture both the locations of physicians that are actively making recommendations and of the physicians who have a CTR but are not recommending medical marijuana.

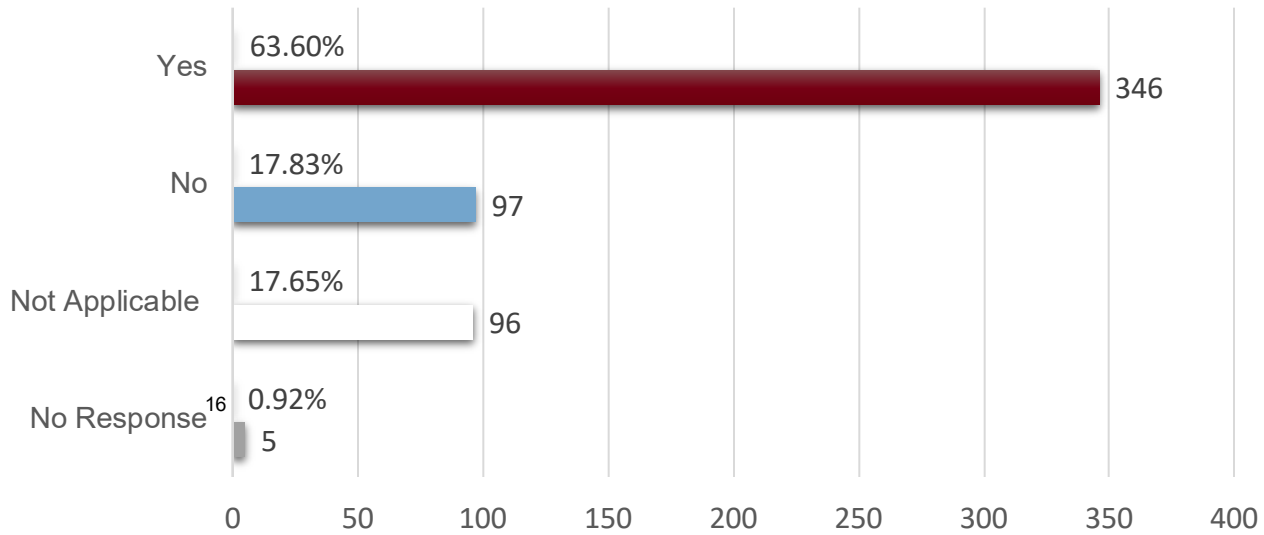
¹⁴During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Medical Board suspended enforcement of regulation that required in-person visits, allowing physicians to use telemedicine for initial visits and renewals. Enforcement of this regulation will resume on September 17, 2021, 90 days after the lifting the of the state emergency.

¹⁵All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."

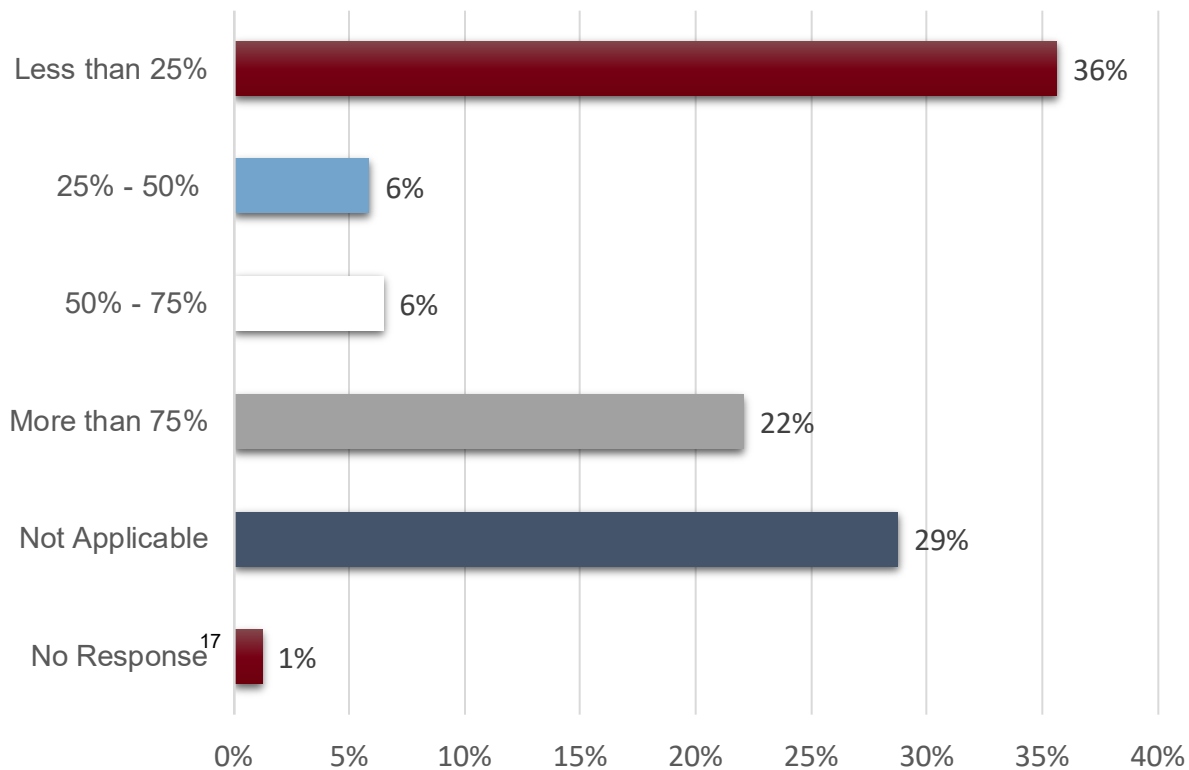


SURVEY RESULTS

Question 10) Do you use telehealth for any of your patient appointments?



Question 11) If you answered yes to question 9, what percentage of your patient appointments are completed with telehealth?



¹⁶⁻¹⁷All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



SURVEY RESULTS

Questions 12 - 33) In your observations, how satisfied are you with the effectiveness of medical marijuana in treating your patients with [qualifying condition]?¹⁸

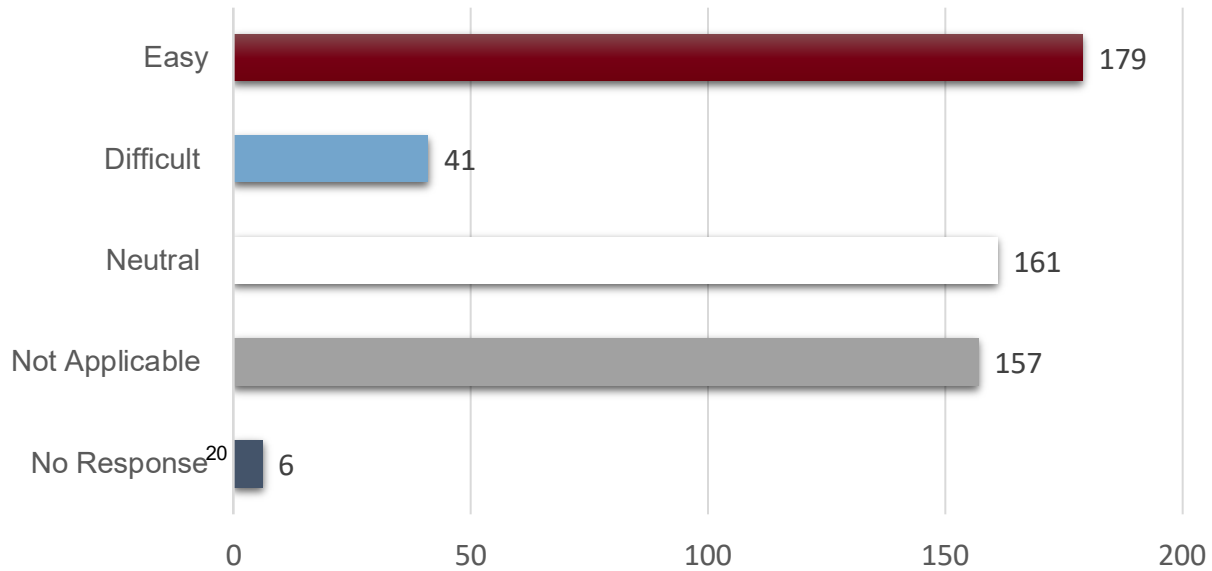
Qualifying Condition	No Response	Not Applicable	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied
Aids	1.10%	67.83%	0.18%	5.15%	25.74%
Alzheimer's disease	1.84%	68.75%	0.74%	8.82%	19.85%
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	2.21%	78.49%		3.49%	15.81%
Cachexia	1.47%	58.64%	0.18%	3.49%	36.21%
Cancer	1.10%	41.73%	0.37%	4.96%	51.84%
Chronic traumatic encephalopathy	2.21%	69.12%		4.41%	24.26%
Crohn's disease	1.10%	52.21%		4.04%	42.65%
Epilepsy or another seizure disorder	1.29%	53.86%	0.74%	4.96%	39.15%
Fibromyalgia	0.74%	38.79%	0.74%	4.78%	54.96%
Glaucoma	2.21%	64.89%	0.37%	6.80%	25.74%
Hepatitis C	1.47%	65.07%	0.92%	8.09%	24.45%
Inflammatory bowel disease	1.65%	50.00%		4.60%	43.75%
Multiple sclerosis	1.65%	52.76%	0.18%	4.41%	40.99%
Pain that is either chronic and severe or intractable	0.74%	28.68%	0.92%	5.15%	64.52%
Parkinson's disease	1.47%	59.74%	0.18%	6.07%	32.54%
Positive status for HIV	1.10%	70.22%	0.37%	5.88%	22.43%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	1.10%	40.26%	0.18%	4.23%	54.23%
Sickle cell anemia	2.02%	79.96%	0.18%	4.41%	13.42%
Spinal cord disease or injury	1.29%	54.23%	0.37%	4.04%	40.07%
Tourette's syndrome	1.29%	73.16%		4.23%	21.32%
Traumatic brain injury	2.39%	56.80%		5.51%	35.29%
Ulcerative colitis	1.47%	53.86%		3.49%	41.18%

¹⁸Huntington's disease, spasticity, and terminal illness were not approved by the board until June 9, 2021 and were therefore not included in this survey.

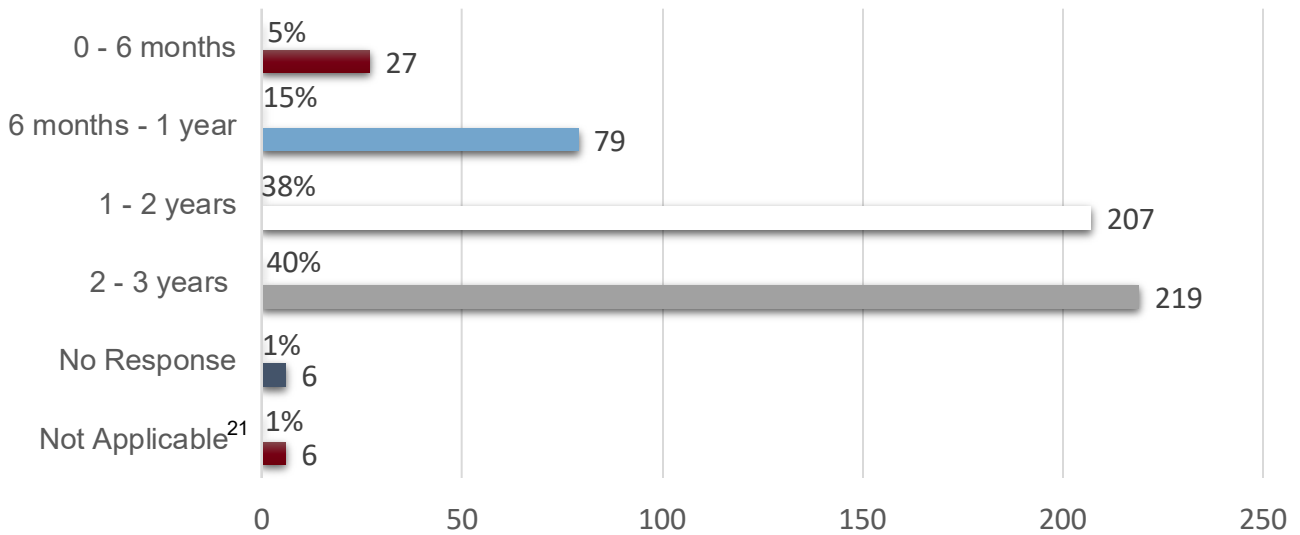


SURVEY RESULTS

Question 34) How would you describe the level of difficulty of navigating the Patient & Caregiver Registry? ¹⁹



Question 37) Approximately how long have you held an active CTR?



¹⁹Question 35 asked for the physician's name and question 36 asked for the physician's license number. The responses are not included in this report.

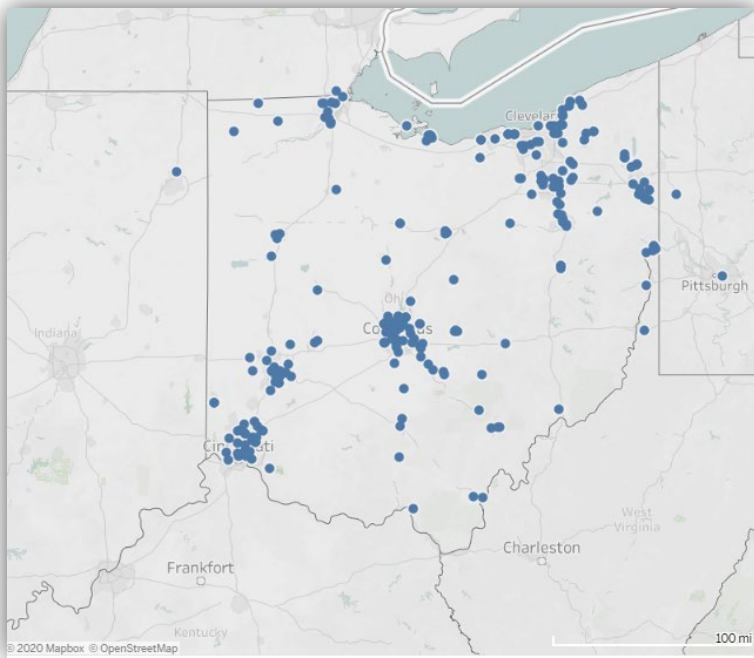
²⁰⁻²¹All fields left blank by respondent were categorized as "No Response."



RESOURCES

Physicians with an Active Certificate to Recommend Medical Marijuana

The search map feature is the primary resource for locating the physicians with a CTR because each physician on the map has indicated they are actively making recommendations and provided their preferred practice address in the survey. Please note, not all physicians that hold an active CTR are making recommendations. The search map feature can be found at <https://med.ohio.gov/Publications/CTR-Search>.



Petition Period

The next petition submission period to add qualifying conditions will be November 1 - December 31, 2021.

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 4731-32-05, the petition must detail:

- (1) The name and contact information for the person submitting the petition.
- (2) The specific disease or condition requested to be added as a qualifying condition;
- (3) Information from experts who specialize in the study of the disease or condition;
- (4) Relevant medical or scientific evidence pertaining to the disease or condition;
- (5) Consideration of whether conventional medical therapies are insufficient to treat or alleviate the disease or condition;
- (6) Evidence supporting the use of medical marijuana to treat or alleviate the disease or condition, including journal articles, peer-reviewed studies, and other types of medical or scientific documentation;
- (7) Letters of support provided by physicians with knowledge of the disease or condition. This may include a letter provided by the physician treating the petitioner, if applicable.

Anyone may submit a petition requesting a condition be added to the OMMCP. If a condition has been previously rejected by the board, the new petition must contain new scientific information that supports the request.



RESOURCES

State Medical Board of Ohio Website

A new page has been added to med.ohio.gov which houses the board's medical marijuana resources for physicians and patients in one place. It includes a list of the current qualifying conditions, instructional videos, information about the next steps in the petition process and more.

File a Complaint

The Medical Board does not have authority over clinics and offices or cost of services, but it does regulate the physicians with a certificate to recommend medical marijuana. If you have a concern with your CTR physician, you may file a complaint at med.ohio.gov or by calling the confidential hotline at 1-833-333-SMBO (7626).

Contact Information

The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program is committed to operating a program that ensures the safety of the public and access to a safe medical product. For more information on the program, visit: medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov.

If you have questions regarding physicians with a certificate to recommend or qualifying conditions, email the Medical Board at medicalmarijuana@med.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program Toll-Free Helpline responds to inquiries from patients, caregivers, and health care professionals regarding adverse reactions to medical marijuana and provides information about available services. To contact the helpline, please dial: 1-833-4OH-MMCP (1-833-464-6627).