

# Medical Cannabis in Maryland

Looking Back and Looking Ahead  
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# What is the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission?

- Statutorily created body, made up of 16 subject matter experts from diverse backgrounds in agriculture, law, medicine, and research.
- Serve in part-time, voluntary capacity
- Serve 4-year, staggered terms
- Independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health
- Hold quarterly public meetings



# MMCC's Role

- **Regulate medical cannabis businesses and patients:**

*Oversee all licensing, registration, inspection, and testing measures pertaining to Maryland's medical cannabis program and provide relevant program information to patients, providers, caregivers, growers, processors, dispensaries and testing laboratories.*

- **Use, possession, and distribution of illicit cannabis remains under authority of state and local law enforcement**
- **State licensing boards remain authority for certifying providers**
  - MMCC prohibited from establishing continuing education or other requirements for certifying providers



# The Players

**Grower (22)**



**Independent Testing  
Laboratory (5)**



**Dispensary (102)**



**Processor (28)**

# The Program

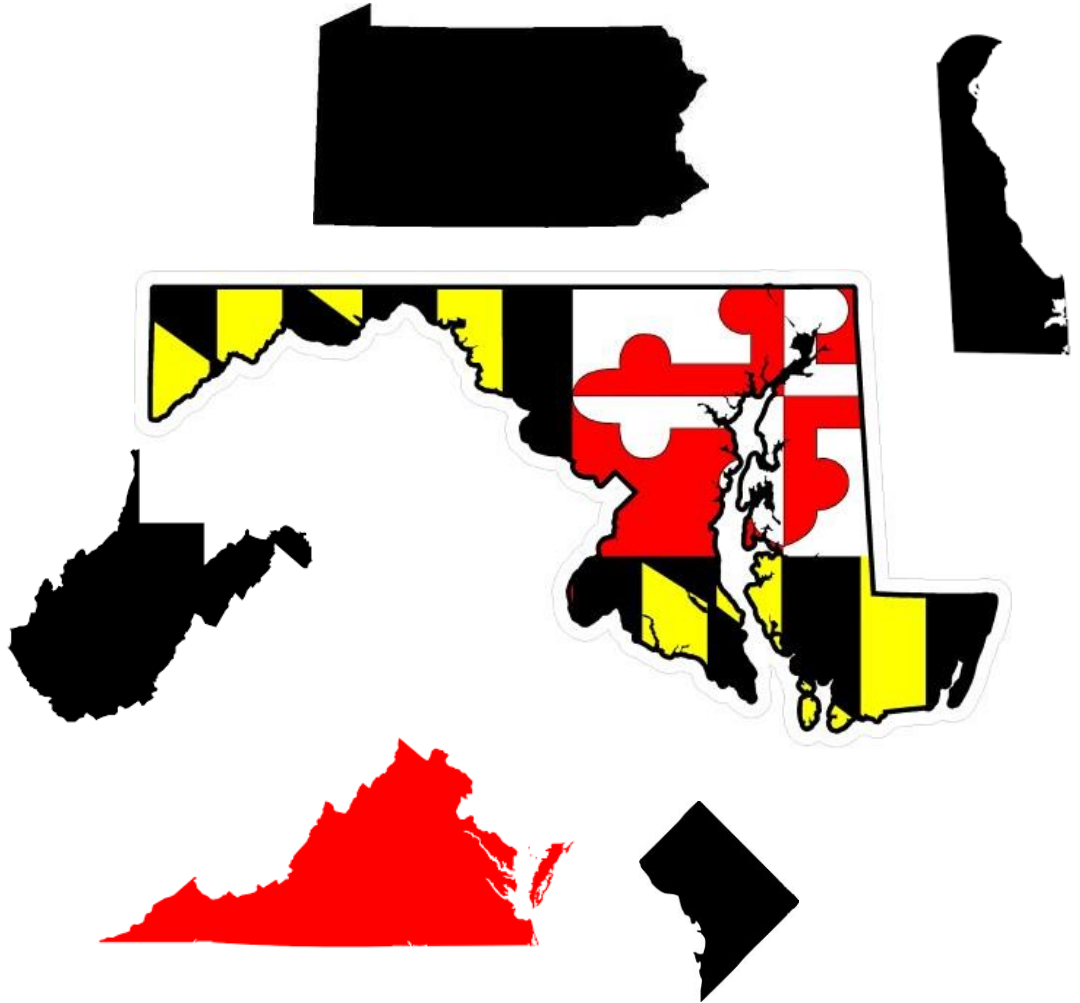
**State Population:** 6.05 million

**Patient Population:** 64,000 (1%)

**Providers:** 1,300 (Physicians,  
Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse  
Midwives, Dentists, and Podiatrists)

**Monthly Transactions:** 230,000

**Sales:** \$18,200,000 per month



# Program History

**2013**

General Assembly establishes the MMMC to oversee academic medical centers growing and dispensing medical marijuana

**2016**

Dentists, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives added to certifying providers

Preapprovals announced for growers, processors, and dispensaries

**2018**

HB 2 passes, altering the makeup of the Commission and expanding the program

**2015**

Marijuana is out, cannabis is in.

MMCC may license growers, processors, dispensaries and ITLs

MMCC accepts applications

**2017**

Dispensaries open and begin selling medical cannabis

**2019**

New applications for growers and processors

HB 17/SB 426 continue to alter the cannabis landscape



# Looking Ahead



# Priority Issues

**Program Diversity**

**Regulations**

- **Edibles**
- **Advertising**
- **Research**

**Collaboration with State and Local Partners**



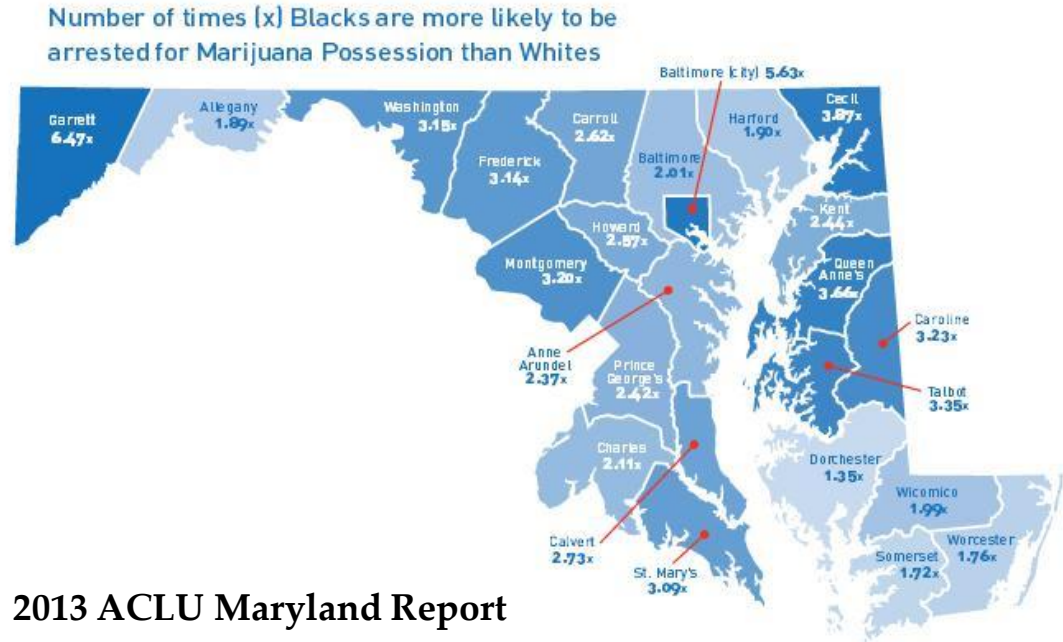


# Program Diversity



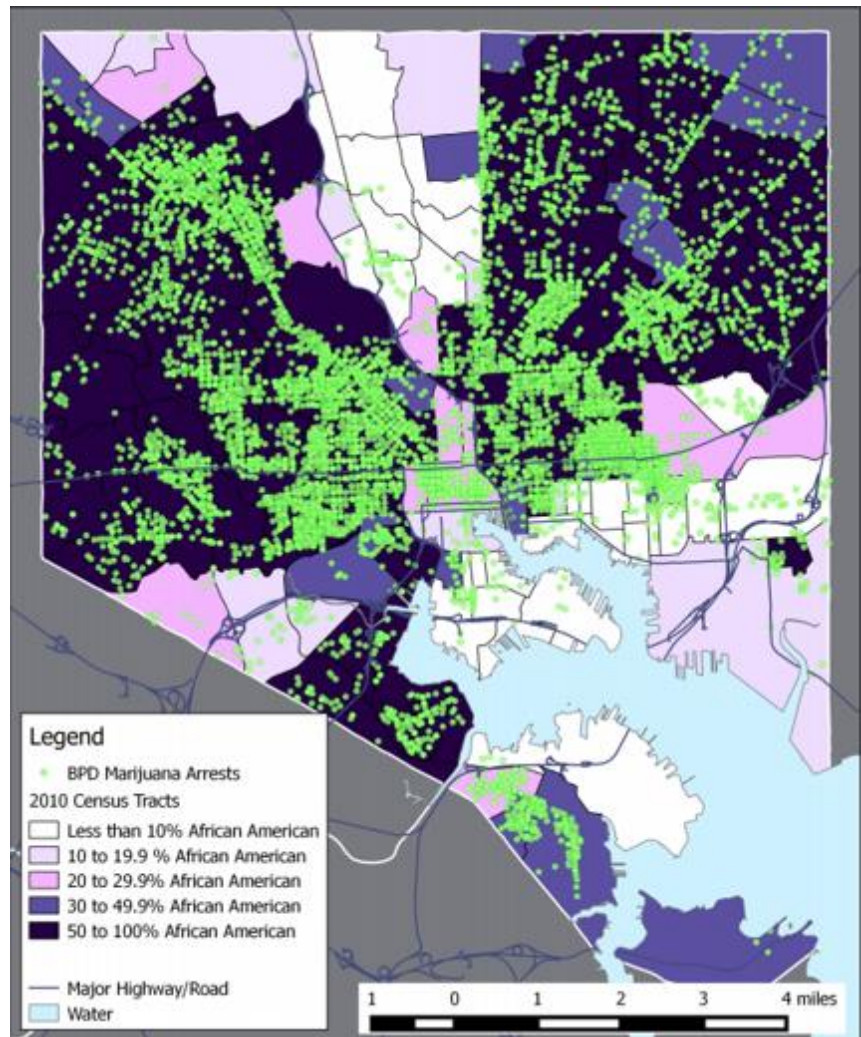
# Racial Disparities in Cannabis Criminalization

- Nationally, African Americans are nearly 4x as likely to be arrested
- The black/white arrest rate disparity has only grown since 2001.
- From 2001-2010 Maryland had the **4<sup>th</sup> highest arrest rate for marijuana possession** – 409 per 100,000; nearly double the national average.
- Baltimore City had the **5<sup>th</sup> highest marijuana possession arrest rate** at 1,136 per 100,000 residents.
- From 2015-2017, **96 percent** of arrestees in Baltimore City were black
- Arrests rose **15 percent** between 2016 and 2017



# Baltimore, MD marijuana arrest data, 2011-2013

Dark Blue = majority African American district



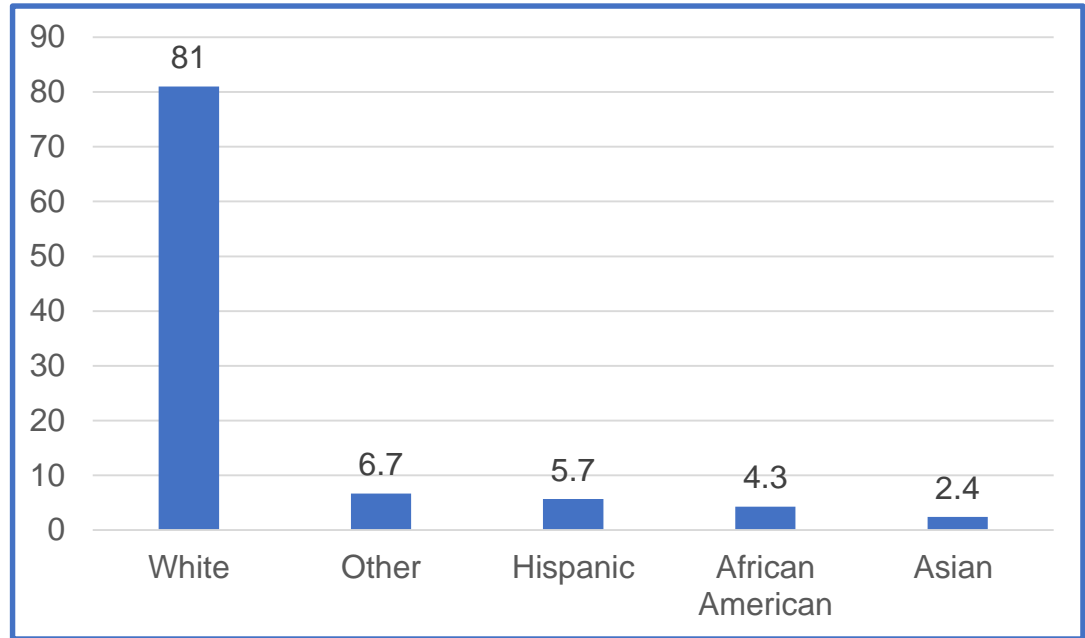
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**MMCC**



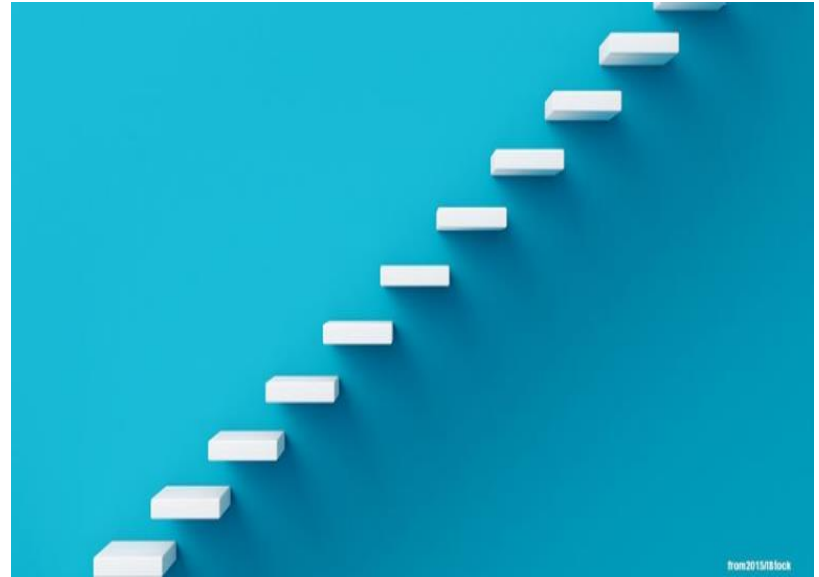
MARYLAND MEDICAL  
CANNABIS COMMISSION

# Marijuana Business Owners and Founders by Race (National)



# Steps Taken in Maryland

- **January 2018** – Disparity Study Report Letter
- **April 2018** – Emergency legislation (HB 2) increases licenses and eliminates blanket prohibition on drug felons as owners/investors and employees
- **December 2018/March 2019** – Amend Regulations
- **January 11, 2019** – Revise Grower and Processor Applications
- **November 2018-February 2019** – MMCC-LBCM co-host 16 public outreach events
- **December 2018-March 2019** – MMCC Awards 5 grants to educational/business development organizations to assist small, minority, and women business owners and entrepreneurs
- **July 2019 (tentative)** – Third-Party vendor registration



# Regulations

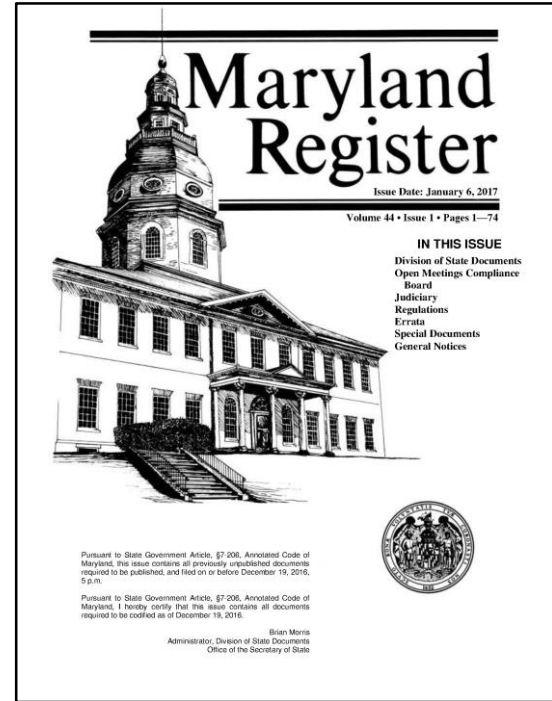


# Regulations Overhaul

- **April 26 – May 28** – 30-day public comment period for draft regulations on third-party transport, independent testing laboratories, penalties, patient ID cards, and more
- **June 18** – Policy Committee meeting
- **June 27** – Full Commission meeting
- **August/September** – Policy Committee meeting
- **September 26** – Full Commission meeting

## Topics include

- **Edibles**
- **Academic Research**
- **Advertising**
- **Transfer of Ownership**
- **Role of Clinical Director**



# Collaboration





# Areas for Collaboration

- Certifying Provider Education and Sanction
- Patient Education
- Legal Protections
- Use on School Grounds
- Regulatory Development

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**Any Questions?  
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Note: The information presented here are for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.

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