



State Medical Board of Ohio

2025 CTR Physician Annual Report

OVERVIEW

House Bill 523, effective on September 8, 2016, legalized medical marijuana in Ohio. The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program (OMMCP) 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.

Currently, two 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, medical marijuana retail dispensaries, the registration of medical marijuana patients and caregivers, and the approval of new forms of medical marijuana.

Division of Cannabis Control:

In 2023, the state operating budget (House Bill 33) included language to establish the Division of Cannabis Control within the Ohio Department of Commerce.

The Division is tasked with administering the Medical Marijuana Control Program. This change included transferring the licensing and regulation of medical marijuana cultivators, processors, testing laboratories, and dispensaries, and overseeing the Patient & Caregiver Registry from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to the Ohio Department of Commerce.

To learn more about the Division of Cannabis Control, visit com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/cannabis-control/.



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.

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

In June 2020, the Medical Board, the agency responsible for certifying physicians to recommend and approving additional qualifying conditions, added an option in the renewal process to allow a physician to renew a license without renewing the previously issued CTR. This allows physicians who no longer want 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, 2025, there are 553 active CTR physicians¹.

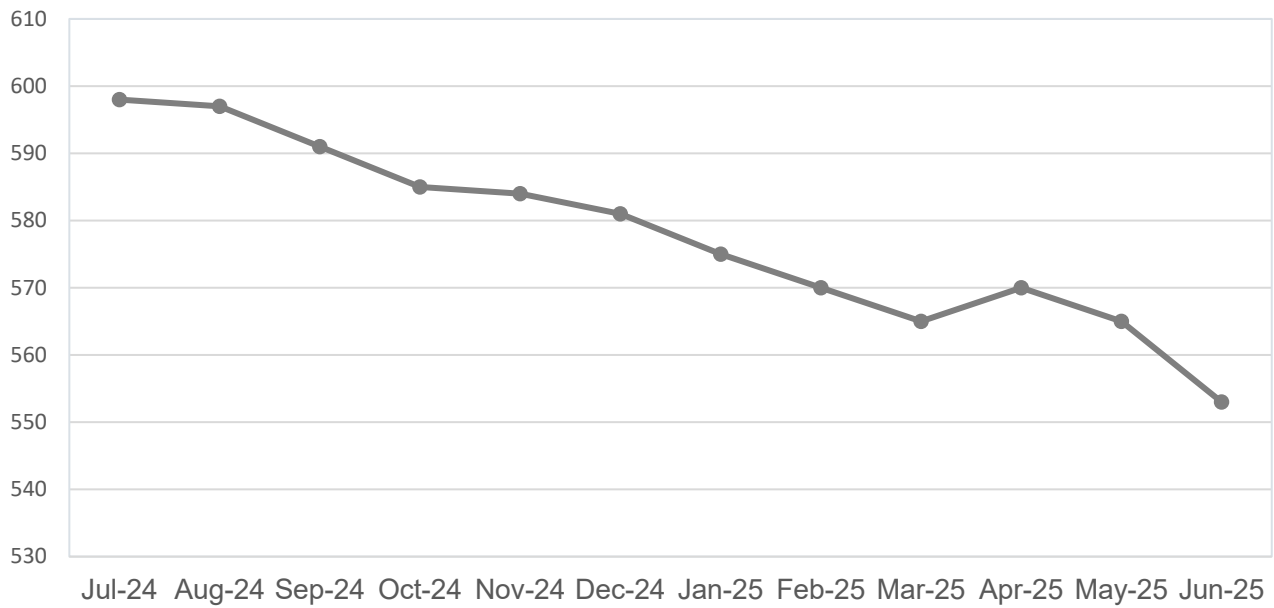
Regulatory Requirement

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 the year covered by the report, not including any information that identifies the patient.

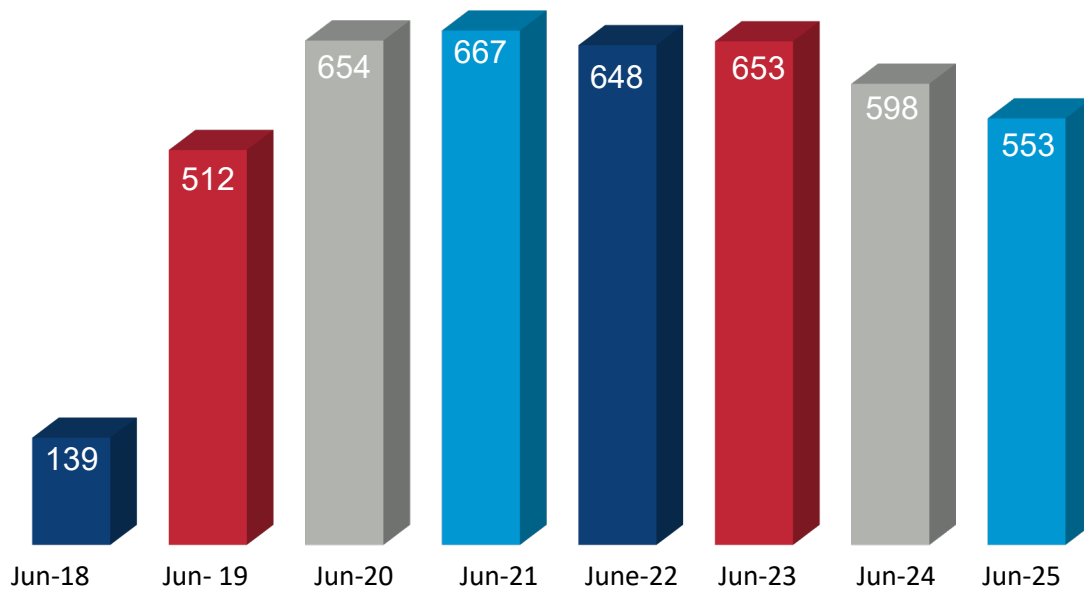
¹Allopathic physicians (MDs) make up more than 80 percent of all licensed physicians in Ohio. See the Annual Report for additional information.

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 as reported June 30 of the corresponding year.

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

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

The 131st Ohio General Assembly determined the initial 21 qualifying conditions in House Bill 523. The Medical Board has approved five conditions in the petition process since 2018: cachexia (2020), Huntington's disease (2021), spasticity (2021), terminal illness (2021), and irritable bowel syndrome (2023). There are currently 26 qualifying conditions in the program.

During the February 9, 2022, meeting, the board's Medical Marijuana Committee determined that the petitions submitted for degenerative disc disease and lupus were already covered by the existing qualifying condition of pain that is either chronic or intractable. Arthritis, migraines (chronic), and complex regional pain syndrome were determined to meet the same criteria during the 2021 petition period. The board published an updated position statement about these conditions which is available at med.ohio.gov and will update it as needed.

Qualifying Conditions	
1. AIDS	14. Irritable Bowel Syndrome
2. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	15. Multiple Sclerosis
3. Alzheimer's Disease	16. Pain: Chronic/Severe or Intractable
4. Cachexia	17. Parkinson's Disease
5. Cancer	18. Positive Status for HIV
6. Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy	19. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
7. Crohn's Disease	20. Sickle Cell Anemia
8. Epilepsy/ Seizure Disorder	21. Spasticity
9. Fibromyalgia	22. Spinal Cord Disease or Injury
10. Glaucoma	23. Terminal Illness ⁵
11. Hepatitis C	24. Tourette Syndrome
12. Huntington's Disease	25. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Inflammatory Bowel Disease	26. Ulcerative Colitis

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

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 July 1, 2025, and July 31, 2025, the Medical Board emailed the survey to each physician with an active CTR. Physicians received weekly reminder notifications. A notification was also included in the CTR newsletter from March through July.

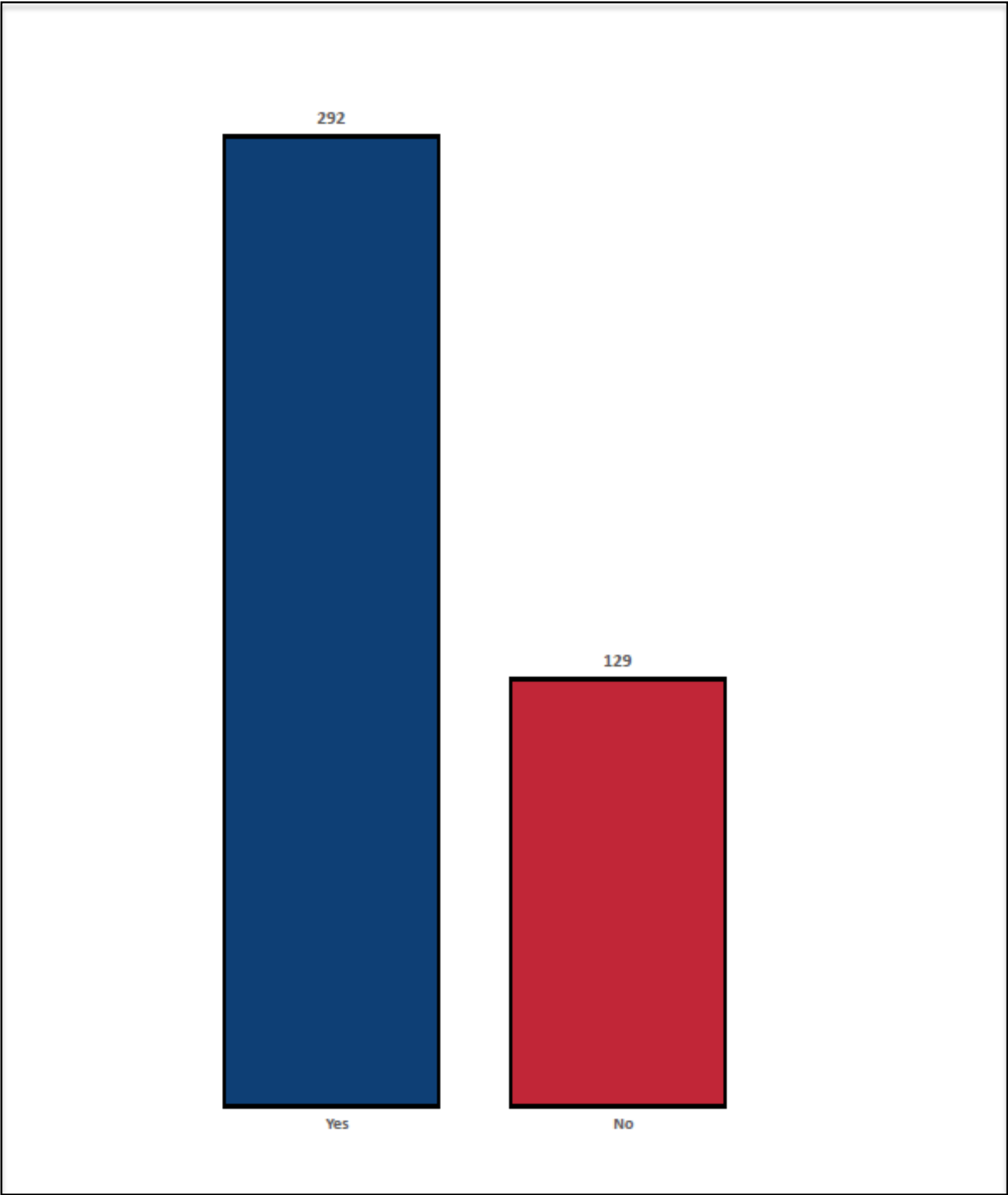
In total, 421 physicians submitted a survey.

Please note, the Medical Board recognizes some physicians with a CTR do not recommend medical marijuana. The response rate for the remainder of the survey questions may vary depending on the physicians' participation in the program.



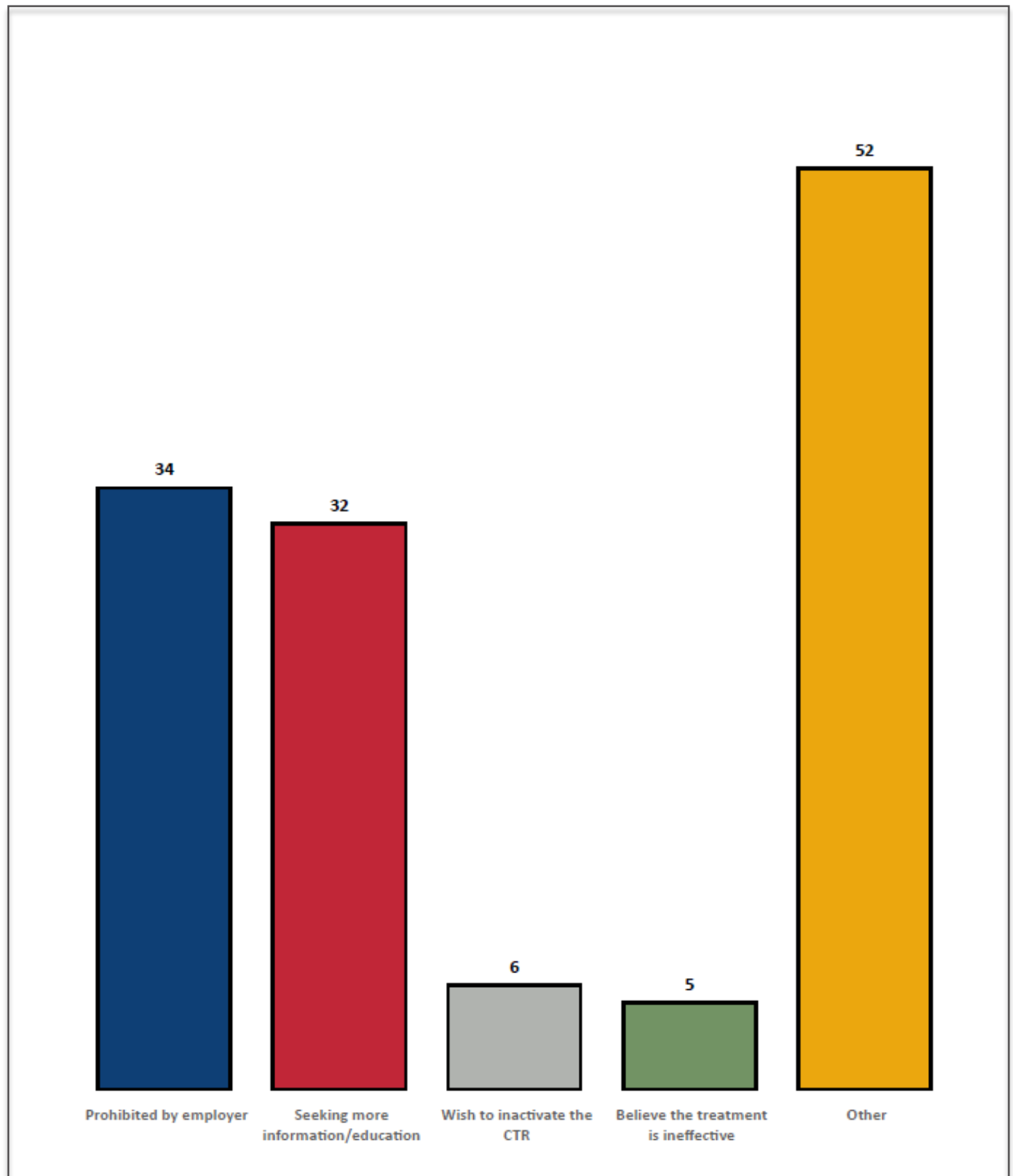
SURVEY RESULTS

Have you made any medical marijuana recommendations since July 1, 2024?



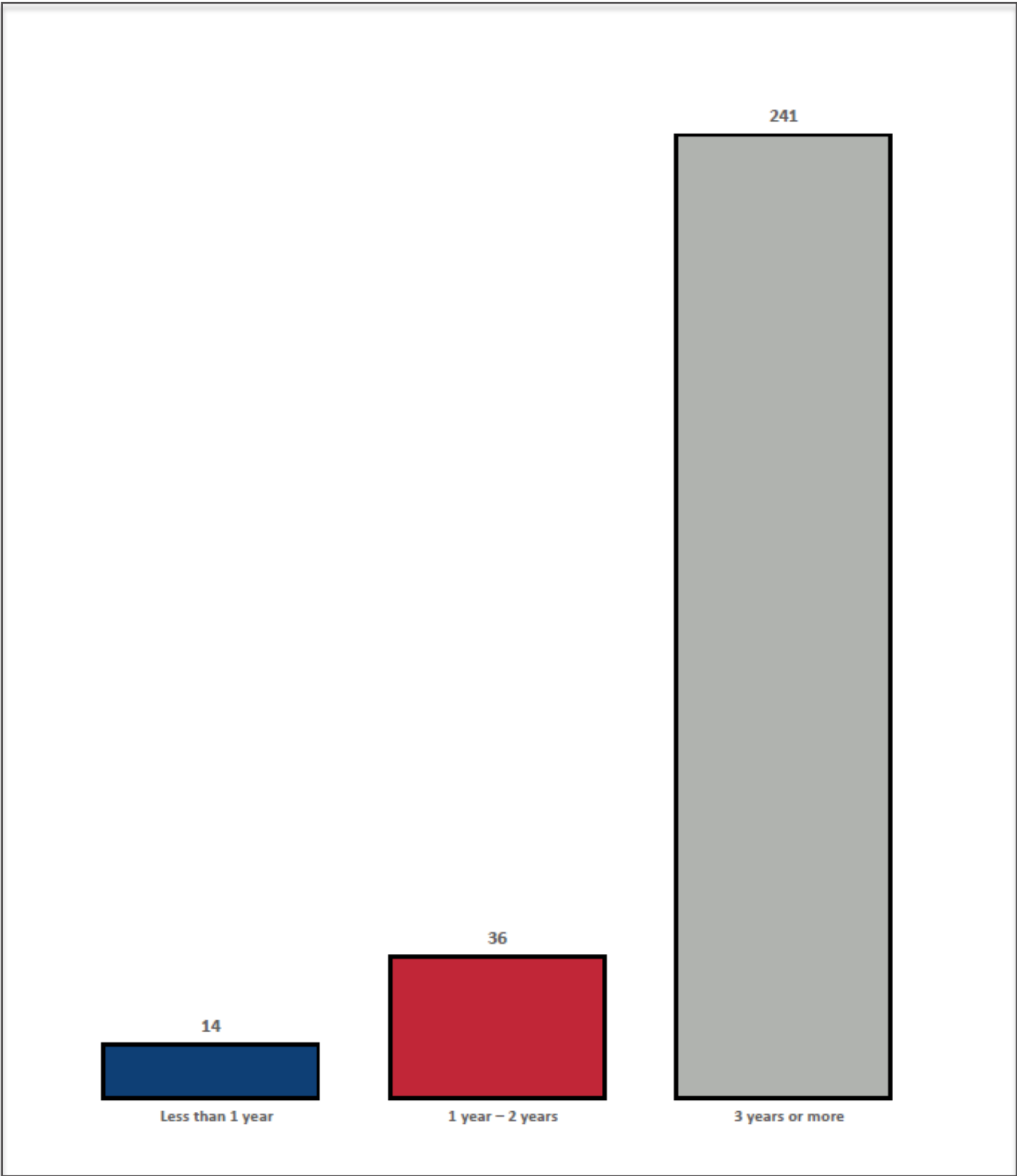
SURVEY RESULTS

If you answered “No” to the previous question, please select the reason below. Check all that apply. If Other, please specify.



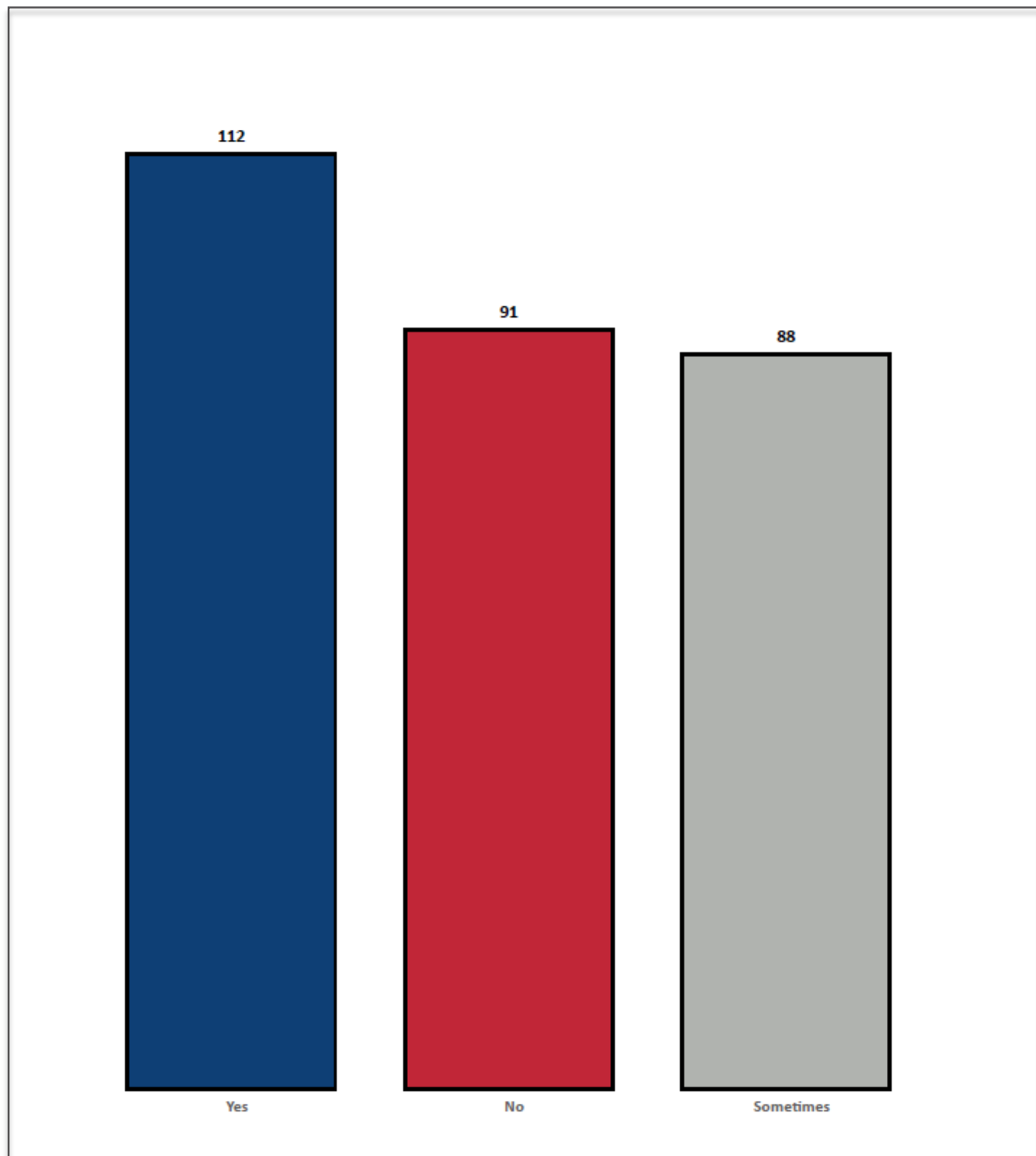
SURVEY RESULTS

Approximately how long have you held an active CTR?



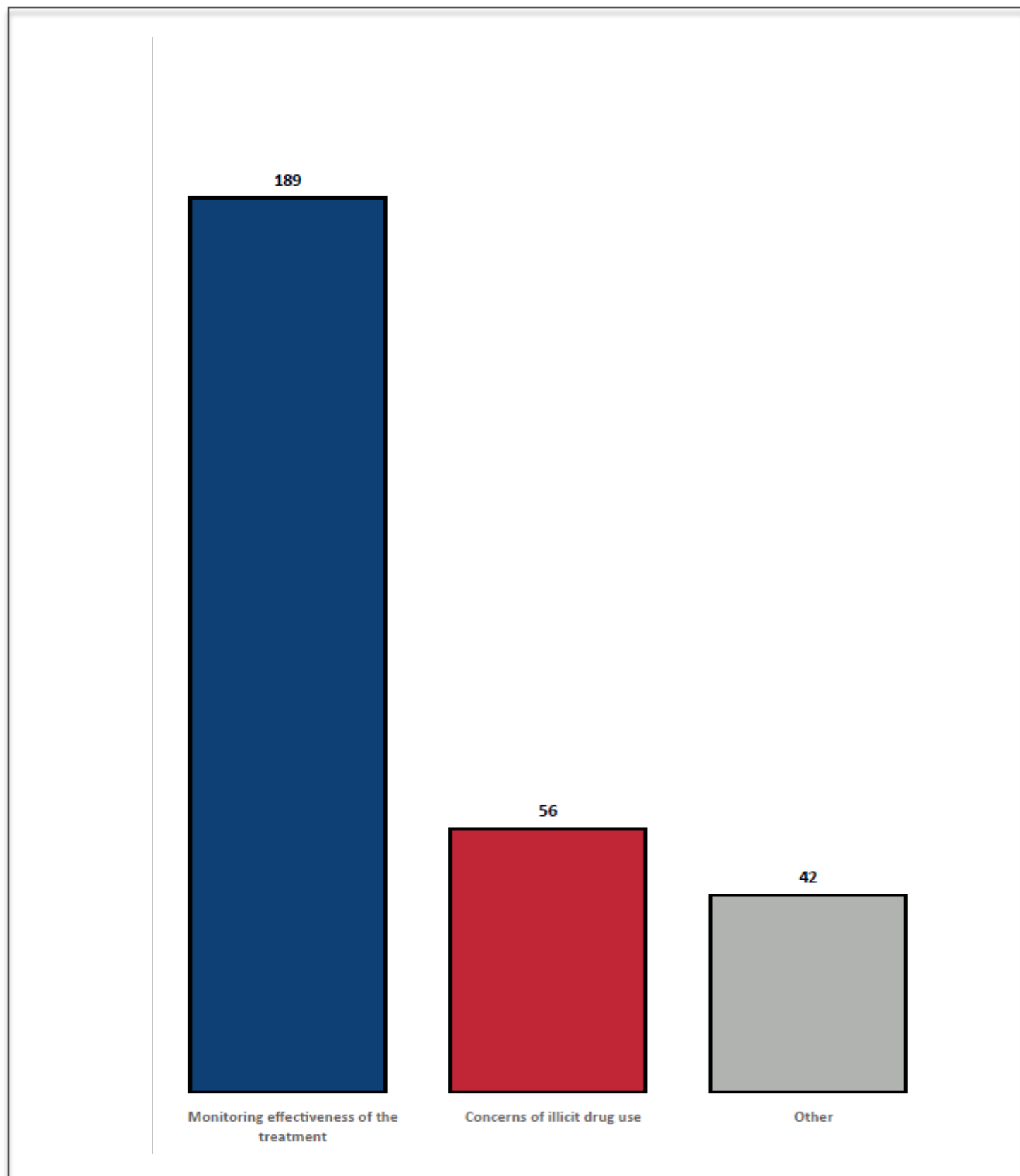
SURVEY RESULTS

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?



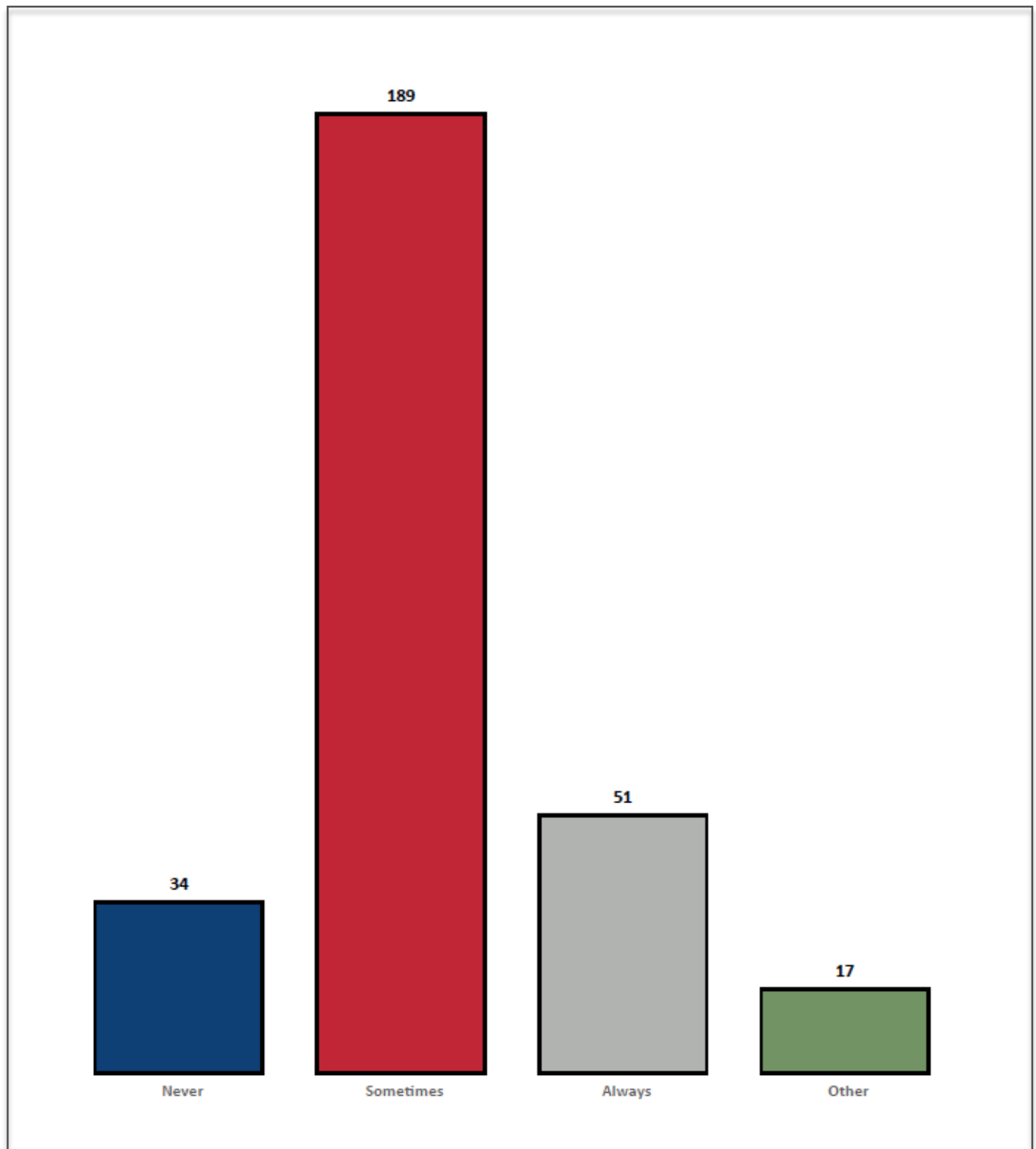
SURVEY RESULTS

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



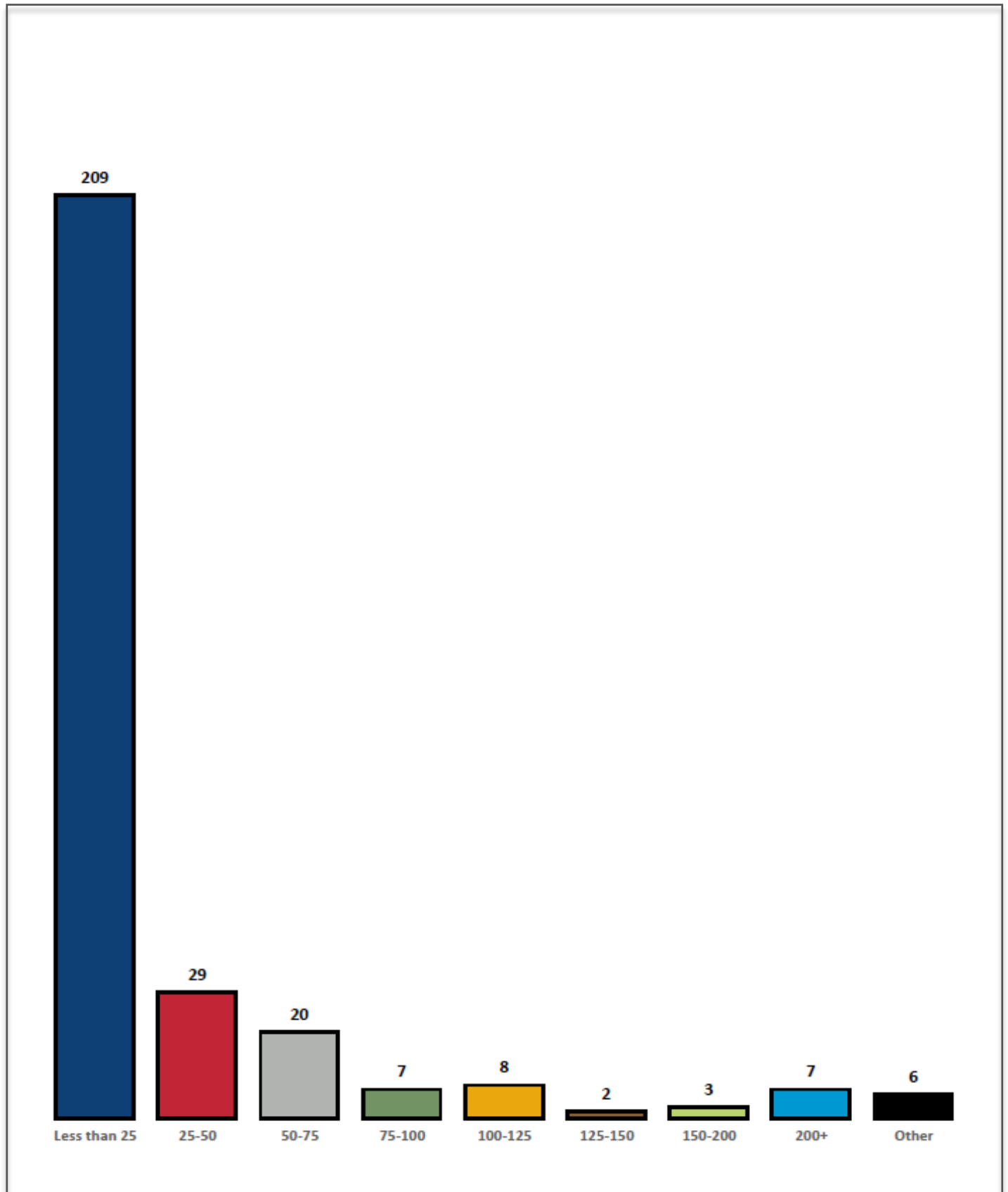
SURVEY RESULTS

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?



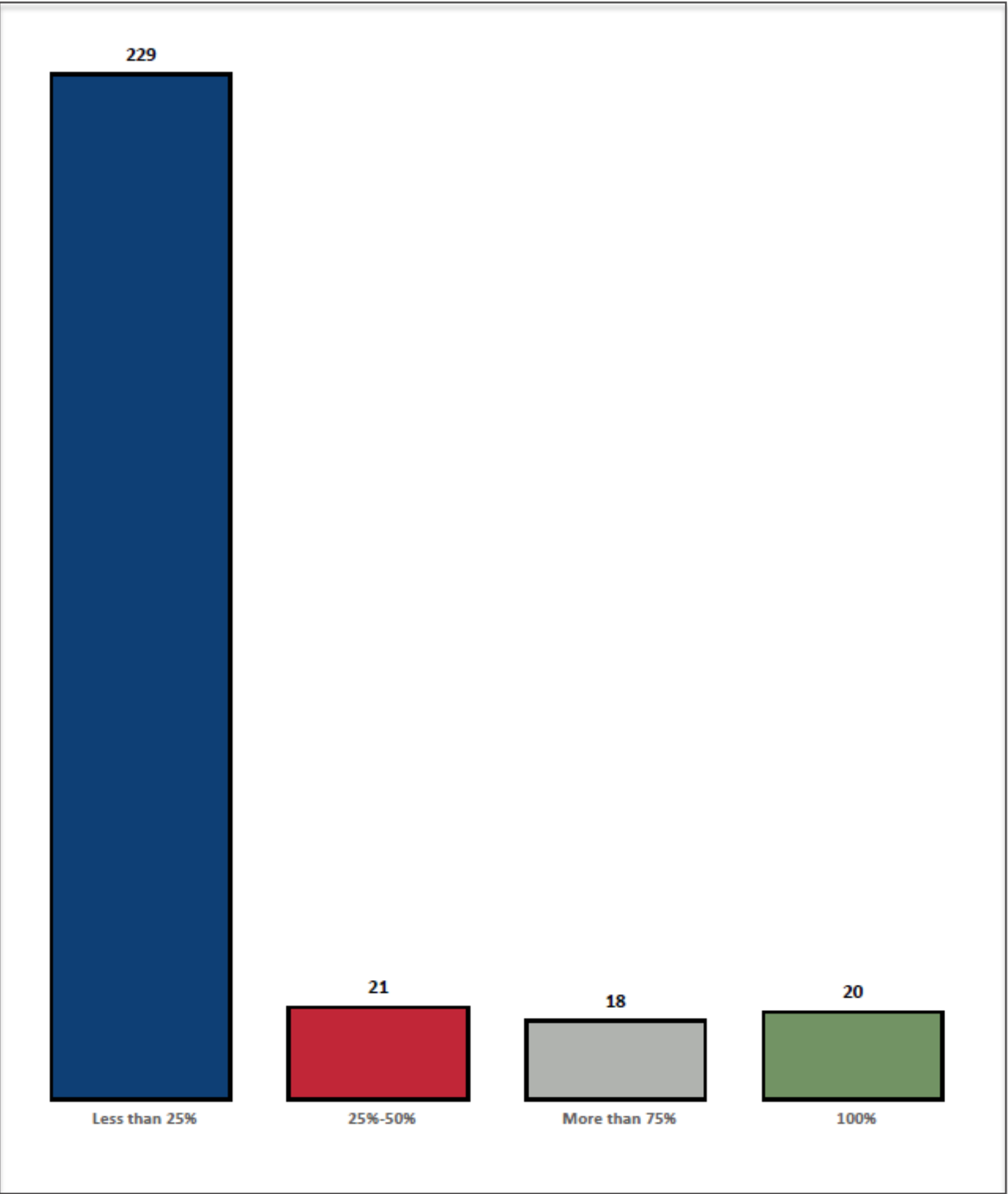
SURVEY RESULTS

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



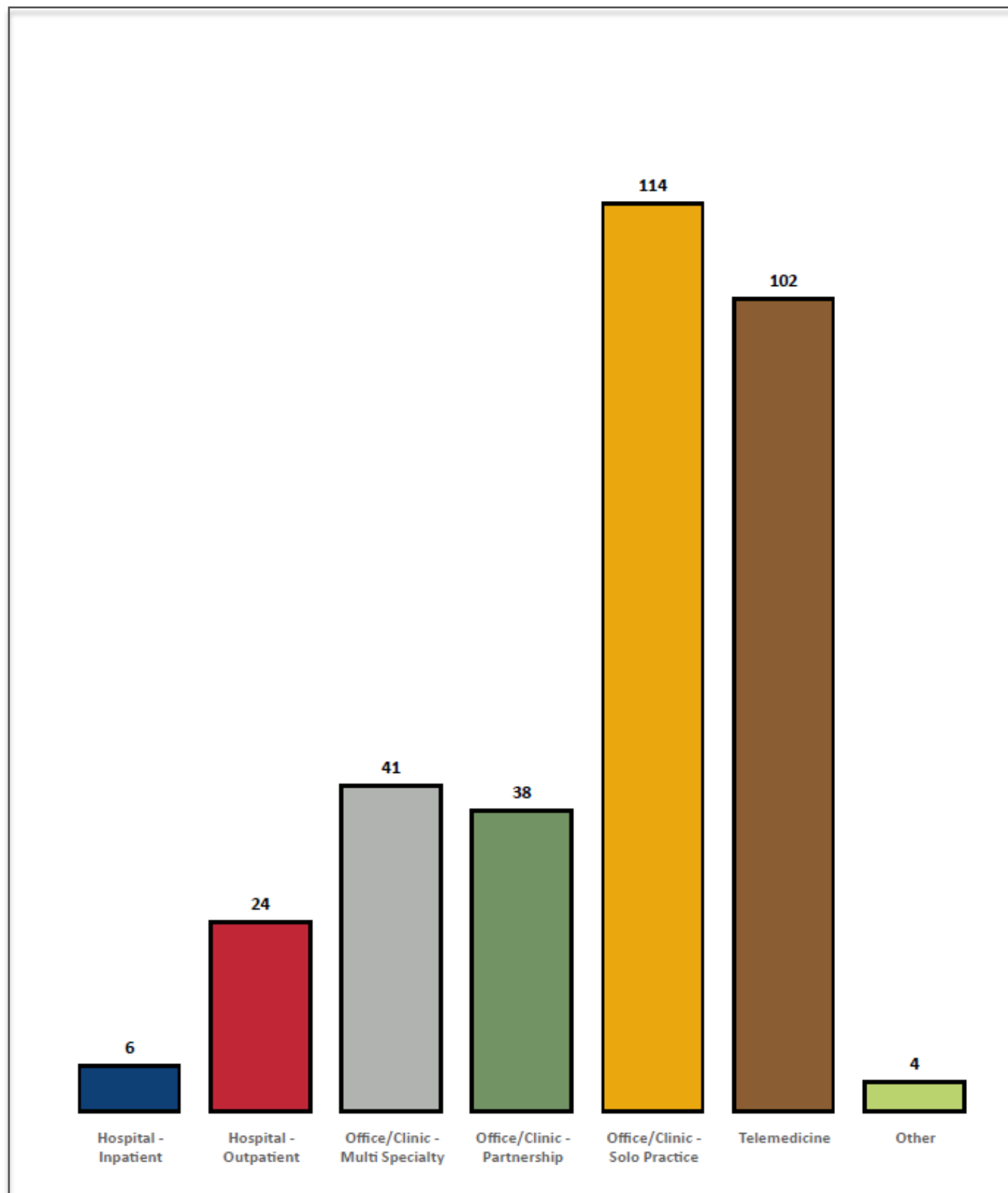
SURVEY RESULTS

What percentage of your practice consists of medical marijuana patients?



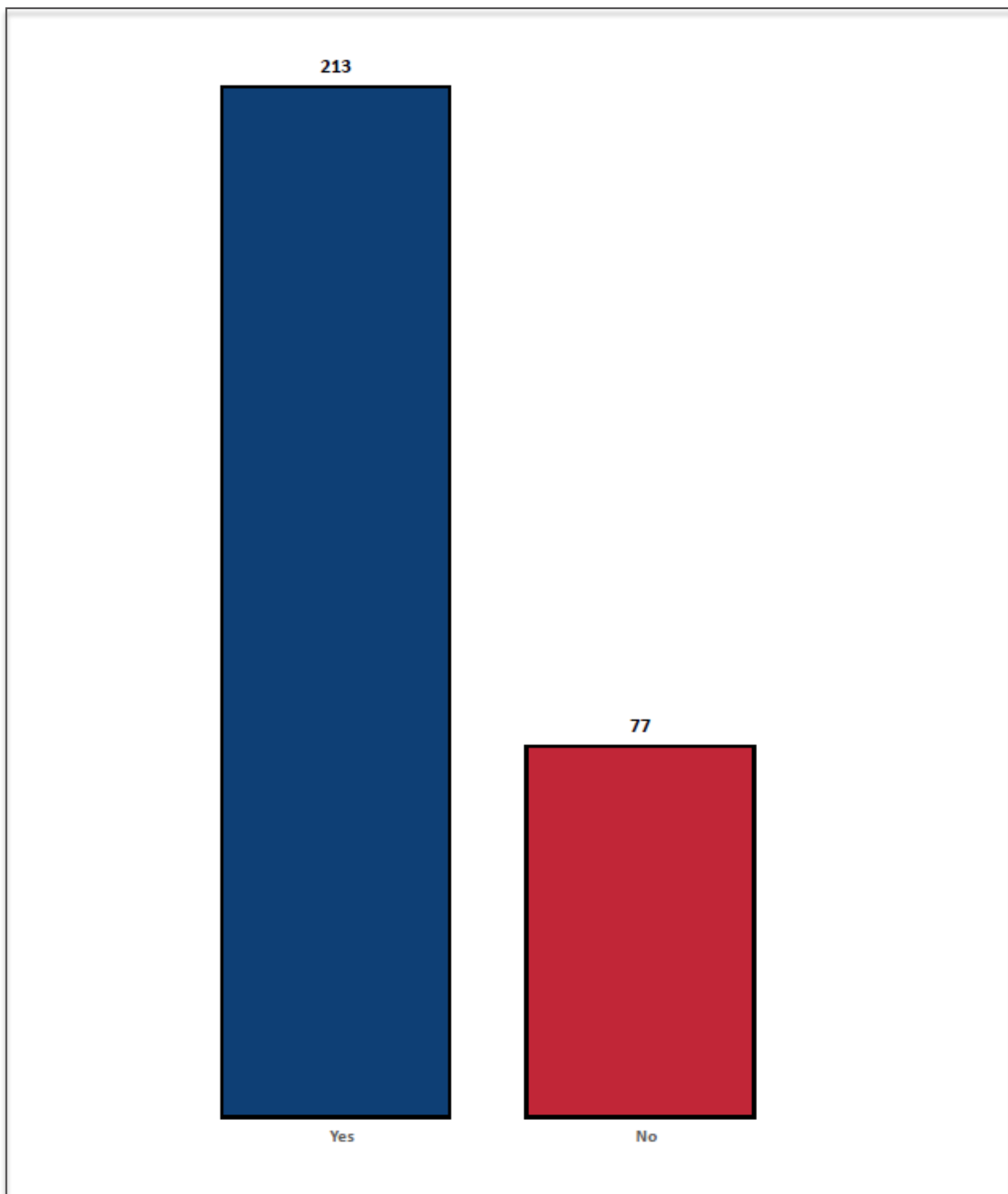
SURVEY RESULTS

What is the practice setting of the location where you treat medical marijuana patients?



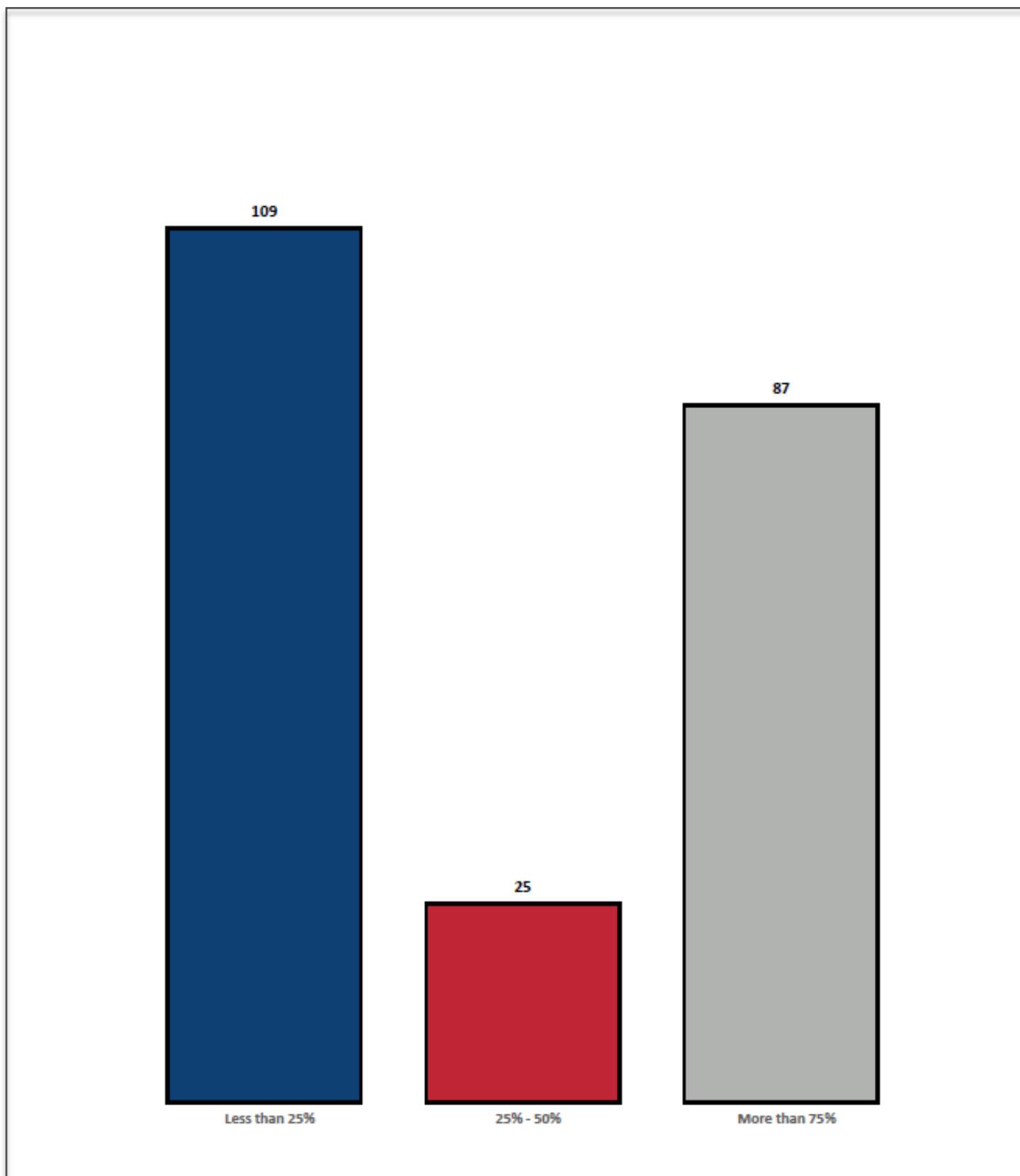
SURVEY RESULTS

Do you use telehealth for any of your patient appointments?



SURVEY RESULTS

If you answered yes to the previous question, what percentage of your patient appointments are completed with telehealth?



SURVEY RESULTS

In your observations, how satisfied are you with the effectiveness of medical marijuana in treating your patients with [qualifying condition]? ⁶

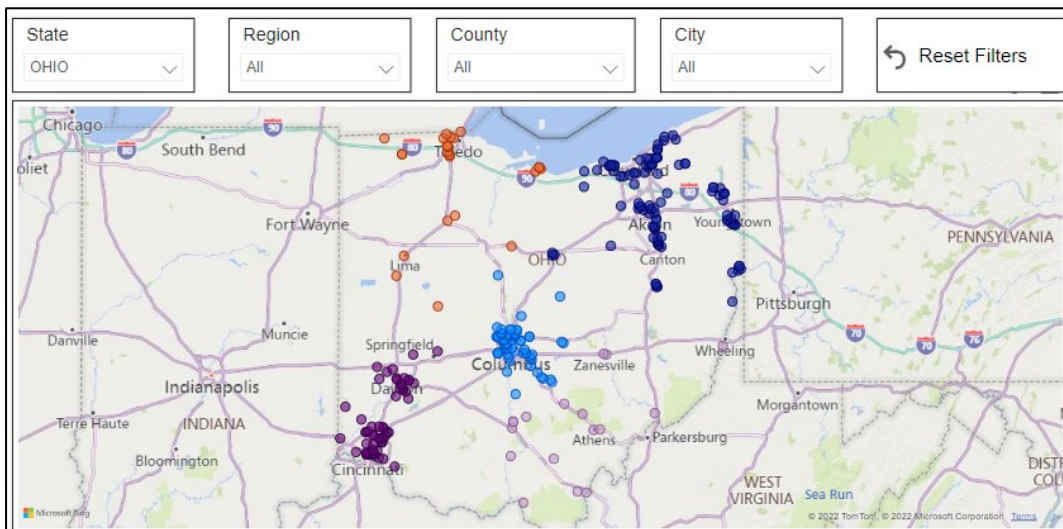
Qualifying Condition	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied
AIDS	87.77%	12.23%	0.00%
Alzheimer's disease	78.52%	20.13%	1.34%
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	83.02%	16.04%	0.94%
Cachexia	94.05%	5.95%	0.00%
Cancer	95.88%	4.12%	0.00%
Chronic traumatic encephalopathy	84.68%	15.32%	0.00%
Crohn's disease	94.00%	5.50%	0.50%
Epilepsy or another seizure disorder	94.68%	5.23%	0.00%
Fibromyalgia	94.78%	5.22%	0.00%
Glaucoma	87.88%	10.30%	1.82%
Hepatitis C	81.63%	17.69%	0.68%
Huntington's disease	78.95%	19.74%	1.32%
Inflammatory bowel disease	92.96%	7.04%	0.00%
Irritable bowel syndrome	91.28%	8.21%	0.51%
Multiple sclerosis	97.38%	2.62%	0.00%
Pain that is either chronic and severe or intractable	95.73%	2.85%	1.42%
Parkinson's disease	91.48%	8.52%	0.00%
Positive status for HIV	90.71%	8.57%	0.71%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	96.65%	3.35%	0.00%
Sickle cell anemia	85.44%	14.56%	0.56%
Spasticity	89.44%	10.00%	0.56%
Spinal cord disease or injury	95.48%	3.95%	0.56%
Terminal illness	92.61%	7.39%	0.00%
Tourette syndrome	89.76%	8.66%	1.57%
Traumatic brain injury	93.26%	6.74%	0.00%
Ulcerative colitis	93.19%	6.81%	0.00%

⁶ The data in the table is representative of the responses received. It does not include the questions left blank in the survey. The board recognizes some physicians with a CTR are not actively practicing. Additionally, physicians often practice within a specialty and may not treat patients with many of the qualifying conditions.

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 med.ohio.gov/for-the-public/medical-marijuana/ctr-map-search.



Petition Period

The next petition submission period to add qualifying conditions will be November 1 - December 31, 2025. 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 page dedicated to medical marijuana resources for physicians and patients is available at med.ohio.gov. 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: com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/cannabis-control.

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).