

Directory of online resources for Connecticut's medical marijuana program (MMJ)

some especially relevant to the southeastern region of CT



Edited by Mark Mathew Braunstein
links active January 2023

- 1) The State of Connecticut's Medical Marijuana (MMJ) official portal:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Medical-Marijuana-Program/Medical-Marijuana-Program>
- 2) Statistics of numbers of CT patients registered for MMJ & of doctors who sponsor them:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Medical-Marijuana-Program/Medical-Marijuana-Statistics>
 - As of Jan 2023, there were 48,900 registered patients and 1,639 registered doctors.
 - Since recreational legalization in 2021, patient numbers have steadily decreased, while doctors numbers have slightly increased.
 - With a population of 3,700,000, 1 of every 70 Connecticut citizens is a registered patient.
- 3) CT's 18 dispensaries, all providing online "menus" viewable by anyone:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Medical-Marijuana-Program/Connecticut-Medical-Marijuana-Dispensary-Facilities>
 - The first dispensary in SE CT, Thames Valley Relief, was a family-owned business, but sold out to a multi-state cannabis corporation. Now renamed The Botanist, it is located in Montville (Uncasville) on Route 32, 7 miles north of Conn College. In Jan 2023, it began also recreational sales: <https://www.shopbotanist.com/locations/montville/>
 - The second dispensary in SE CT, opened in 2020 after an 18-month delay, was called Herbology until its corporate owner was purchased by Curaleaf, making Curaleaf the world's largest cannabis corporation. It opened in anticipation of recreational sales, but the Town of Groton banned recreational use, so proved to be a poor investment. The dispensary is located in Groton, presciently diagonally across the street from a Walmart: <https://ct.curaleaf.com/shop/groton>
 - Patients in SE CT can now choose between two mega-cannabis corporations, oh joy. Alternatively, as of Oct 2021, patients can legally grow their own.
- 4) For an incomplete listing of CT's "pot docs," doctors not approved for health insurance, so charge cash for their exorbitant fees to sponsor patients, search the internet for "Connecticut medical marijuana doctors." Even "Connecticut pot docs" will render search results.

- Among them is Canna Care Docs (CCD), with 36 offices in 11 states. Its former office in New London closed after less than three years: <https://cannacaredocs.com>
- Article in *The Day*, about Canna Care Docs with my Reader Comments of 3 corrections: www.theday.com/business/20190216/medical-cannabis-office-opens-in-new-london
- Many pot docs are equally transitory, for instance Empathy MD, formerly based in New London, closed its New London office.

5) Probably the most interesting website of all, the *Medical Marijuana Brand Registry*, CT's extensive database of its MMJ products (for photos, click: "PRODUCT-IMAGE → Photo") <https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/Medical-Marijuana-Brand-Registry/egd5-wb6r/data>

6) Recent and current legislative bills for legalizing recreational use in CT:

- 2020: Testimonies for *failed* Senate Bill SB 16: https://cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBillAllComm.asp?bill=SB-00016&doc_year=2020
- 2021: Text of the *passed SB 1201*: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ba/pdf/2021SB-01201-R00SS1-BA.pdf>
- 2021 and beyond: Summary in lay terms of CT's newly enacted law legalizing adult-use of cannabis: <https://portal.ct.gov/cannabis>

7) My most recent Opinion essays about MMJ and cannabis have been published on:

- Feb 8, 2021: in 6 of Hearst Media's CT newspapers, including the state's 2nd largest, the *Connecticut Post*: www.ctpost.com/opinion/article/Opinion-Medical-marijuana-in-Connecticut-has-15927434.php
- Feb 22, 2021: longer version with improved illustrations in the *CT Mirror*, an online newspaper written by journalists laid off from the *Hartford Courant*: <https://ctmirror.org/category/ct-viewpoints/medical-marijuana-in-connecticut-has-problems-legalizing-adult-recreational-use-can-fix-them/>
- November 12, 2021: all 19 of Hearst Media's CT newspapers, including the state's 2nd largest, the *Connecticut Post*: <https://www.ctpost.com/opinion/article/Opinion-It-s-high-time-to-grow-your-own-16612838.php>
- November 15, 2021: longer version with improved photos in the *CT Mirror*: <https://ctmirror.org/category/ct-viewpoints/its-high-time-to-grow-your-own-cannabis/>
- January 2022: updated version in glossy, glitzy, ritzy *Connecticut Magazine*: www.ctinsider.com/connecticutmagazine/health/article/I-m-a-longtime-medical-marijuana-user-and-now-17046610.php

9) My websites of my articles and videos about MMJ and recreational cannabis:

- about MMJ (with this very PDF) at: www.MarkBraunstein.Org/medical-marijuana
- about recreational cannabis at: www.MarkBraunstein.Org/cannabis
- Instagram acct at: www.instagram.com/mindful_mj_smoking/