



Study Relating to the Impact of the Implementation of Adult-Use Cannabis in Rhode Island on the existing Medical Marijuana program

Presentation by: CCC

March 15 ,2024

The Rhode Island Cannabis Act

§ 21-28.11-10.4

Medical marijuana program parity

No later than April 1, 2024, the commission shall, in collaboration with the department of health and the office of management and budget, conduct and deliver to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of the senate a study relating to the impact of the implementation of adult use cannabis in Rhode Island on the existing medical marijuana program (MMP) established pursuant to chapter 28.6 of this title. This study shall examine and make recommendations relating to, without limitation, the following:

- (1) The extent to which the introduction of adult use cannabis has diminished or eliminated the availability of certain medical marijuana products or product types;
- (2) The extent to which patient cardholders in Rhode Island have experienced new or greater obstacles to obtaining medical marijuana, including on the basis of price, quantity, product type, or geographic location;
- (3) The extent to which the number of caregiver registrations and/or the number of plant tag certificates issued by the commission increases or decreases; and
- (4) The extent to which the introduction of the new adult use cannabis tax and license fee structure requires a realignment of the existing medical marijuana tax and license fee structure

Title 21

Food and Drugs

Chapter 28.11

The Rhode Island Cannabis Act

§ 21-28.11-10.4.

**Medical marijuana program
parity.**

(1) The extent to which the introduction of adult use cannabis has diminished or eliminated the availability of certain medical marijuana products or product types;

(2) The extent to which patient cardholders in Rhode Island have experienced new or greater obstacles to obtaining medical marijuana, including on the basis of price, quantity, product type, or geographic location;

Compassion Center Medical/Adult Use Product Review

There are seven Hybrid Cannabis Retailers in Rhode Island*

- ▶ Thomas C. Slater Center (Providence)
- ▶ RISE Dispensary (Warwick)
- ▶ Aura of RI (Central Falls)
- ▶ Sweetspot Dispensary (Exeter)
- ▶ Mother Earth Wellness (Pawtucket)
- ▶ Greenleaf (Portsmouth)
- ▶ Solar Therapeutics Co. (Warwick)

*There are two additional qualified Compassion Center applicants who are in the process of satisfying compassion center licensure requirements.

Compassion Center Medical/Adult Use Product Review – Week of February 26, 2024

No difference in the variety of product types available was found at any of the compassion centers.

Medical Product Types Available	Bud or flower	Concentrates	Concentrates intended for Aerosolization	Infused products
Thomas C. Slater Center	✓	✓	✓	✓
RISE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aura of RI	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sweetspot Dispensary	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mother Earth Wellness	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenleaf	✓	✓	✓	✓
Solar Therapeutics	✓	✓	✓	✓

Compassion Center Medical/Adult Use Product Review – Week of Feb 26, 2024

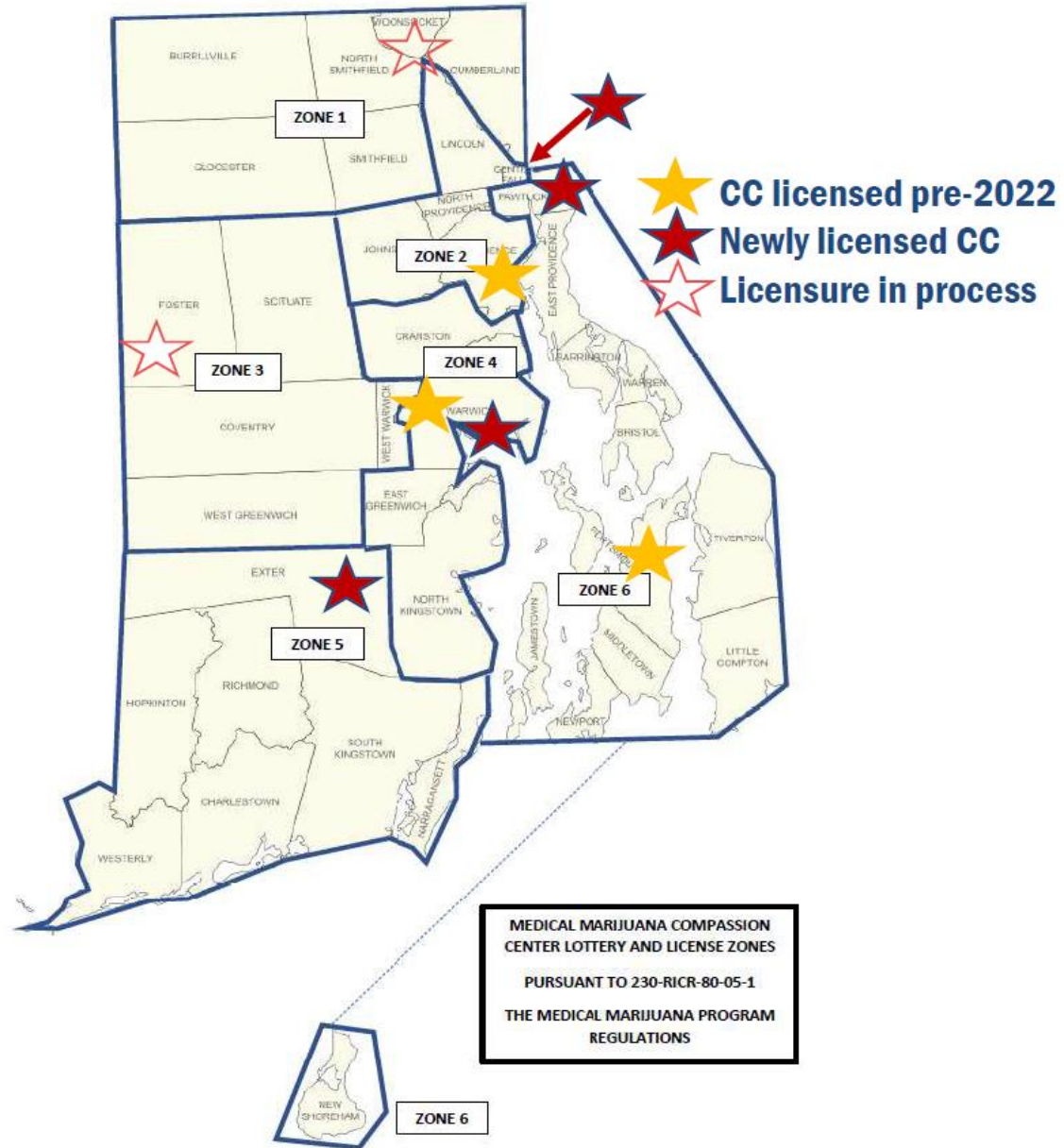
Aura of RI and Solar Therapeutics did not have any difference in type or quantity of products available for Medical or Adult Use.

Some differences in the type or quantity of certain product types available were found at the compassion centers listed below:

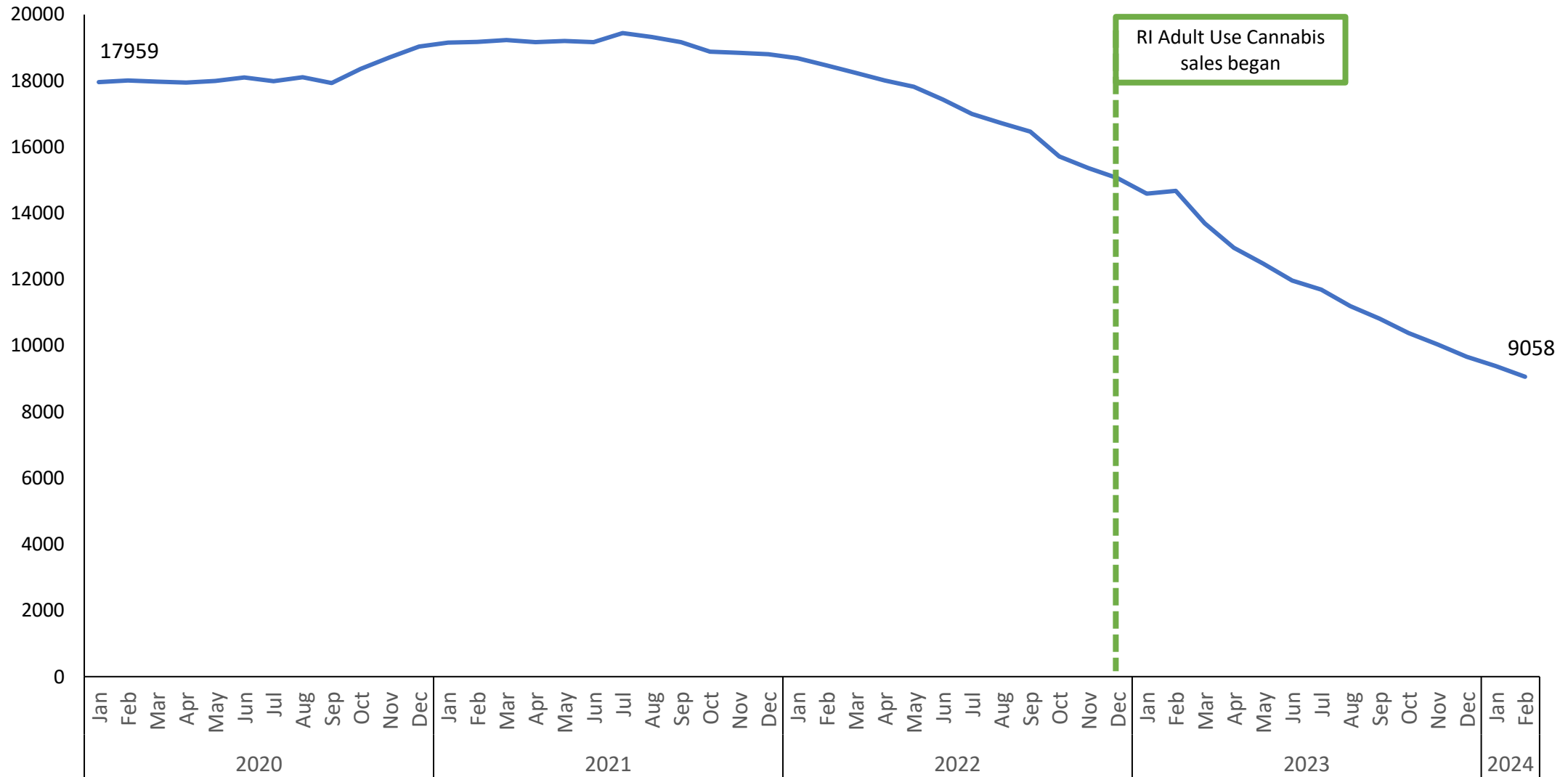
Differences in Product Types Available by M/AU	Bud/flower	Concentrates	Infused products
Thomas C. Slater Center	AU: 1 additional strain of flower		M: 1 additional topical
RISE			M: Tinctures
Sweetspot Dispensary	AU: 11 strains of flower and 1 additional pre-roll	M: 15 vapes AU-only: 9 types of extract	AU: 9 types of edibles, 7 topicals, 3 tinctures
Mother Earth Wellness	Certain products are M or AU only, no difference in quantity	Certain products are M or AU only, no difference in quantity	
Greenleaf			AU: 1 edible, 1 topical

M = Medical use only
AU: Adult Use only

Regulatory Zones + Compassion Center Locations



Total Number of Medical Marijuana Patients in RI, Jan 2020 – Feb 2024



Title 21
Food and Drugs
Chapter 28.11
The Rhode Island
Cannabis Act

R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.11-10.4

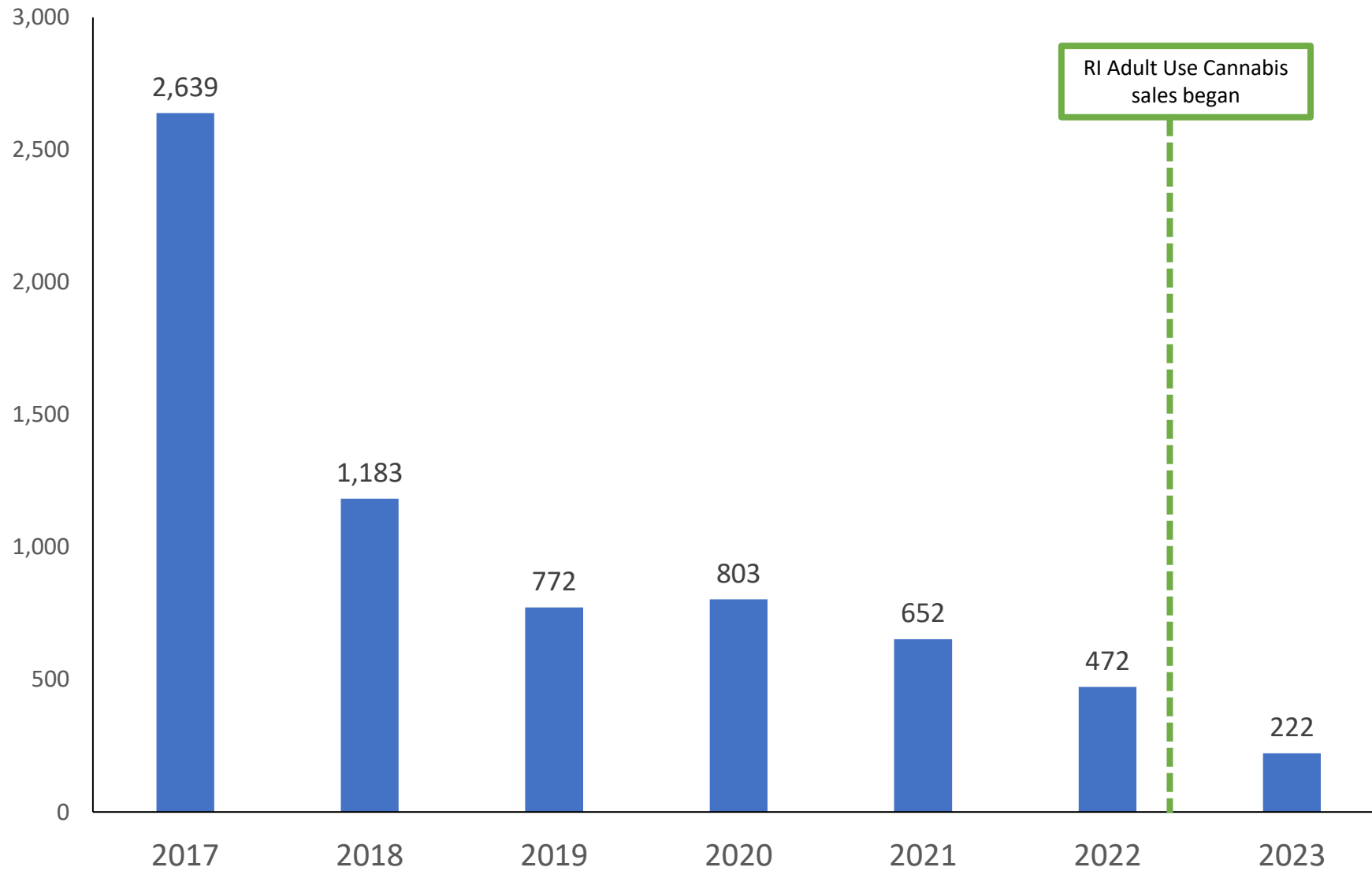
**§ 21-28.11-10.4. Medical marijuana
program parity.**

(3) The extent to which the number of caregiver registrations and/or the number of plant tag certificates issued by the commission increases or decreases; and

Differences between Patients, Caregivers, and Authorized Purchasers

	<u>Qualifying Patients</u>	<u>Caregivers</u>	<u>Authorized Purchasers</u>
Can Grow Plants:	Yes	Yes	No
Can Purchase at Compassion Center:	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can Sell:	No	No	No
	230-RICR-80-05-1.1.1(A)(36)	230-RICR-80-05-1.1.1(A)(11)	230-RICR-80-05-1.1.1(A)(4)

Total Number of Active Caregivers in Rhode Island End of Fiscal Year 2017 – 2023

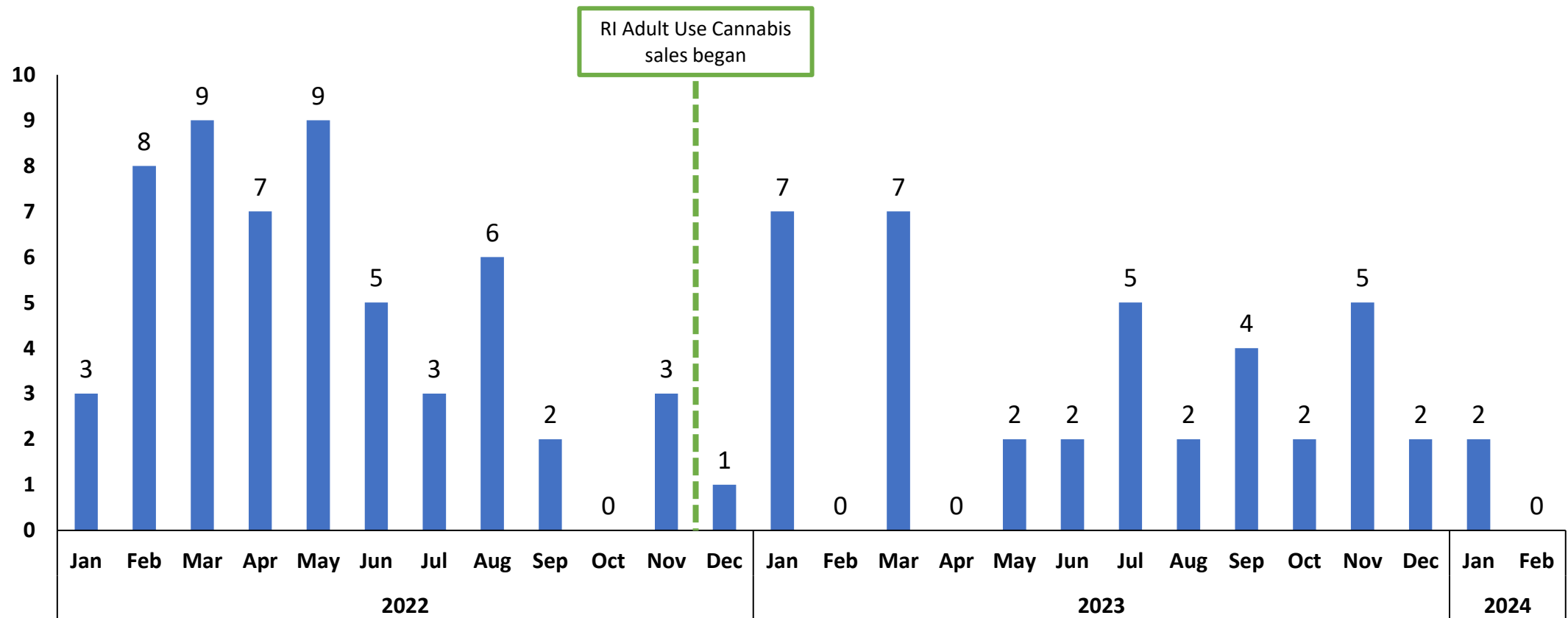


RI Adult Use Cannabis
sales began

Number of New Caregiver Registrations in RI, Jan 2022 – Feb 2024

Factors affecting number of Caregiver registrations:

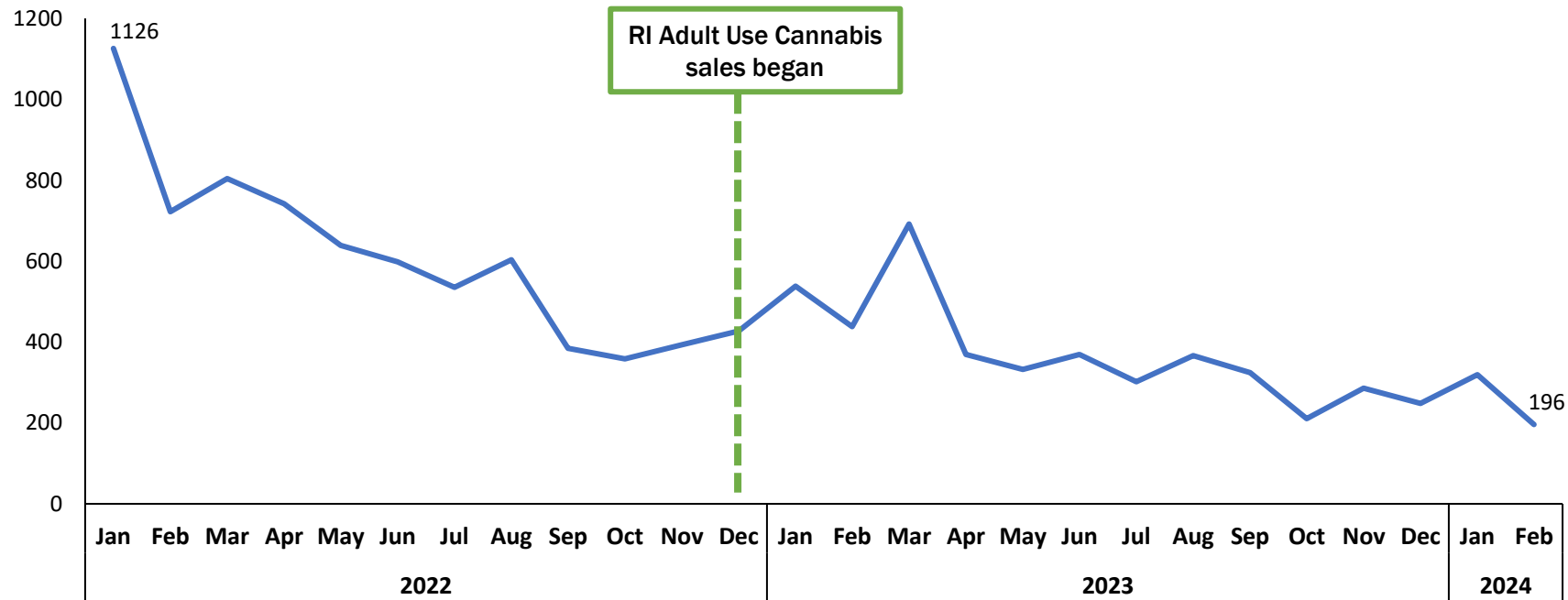
- Increased enforcement of the plant tag rule that requires caregivers to procure at least one set of plant tags. 230-RICR-80-05-1.12.
- Drop offs in medical patients naturally means a drop in caregiver registrations



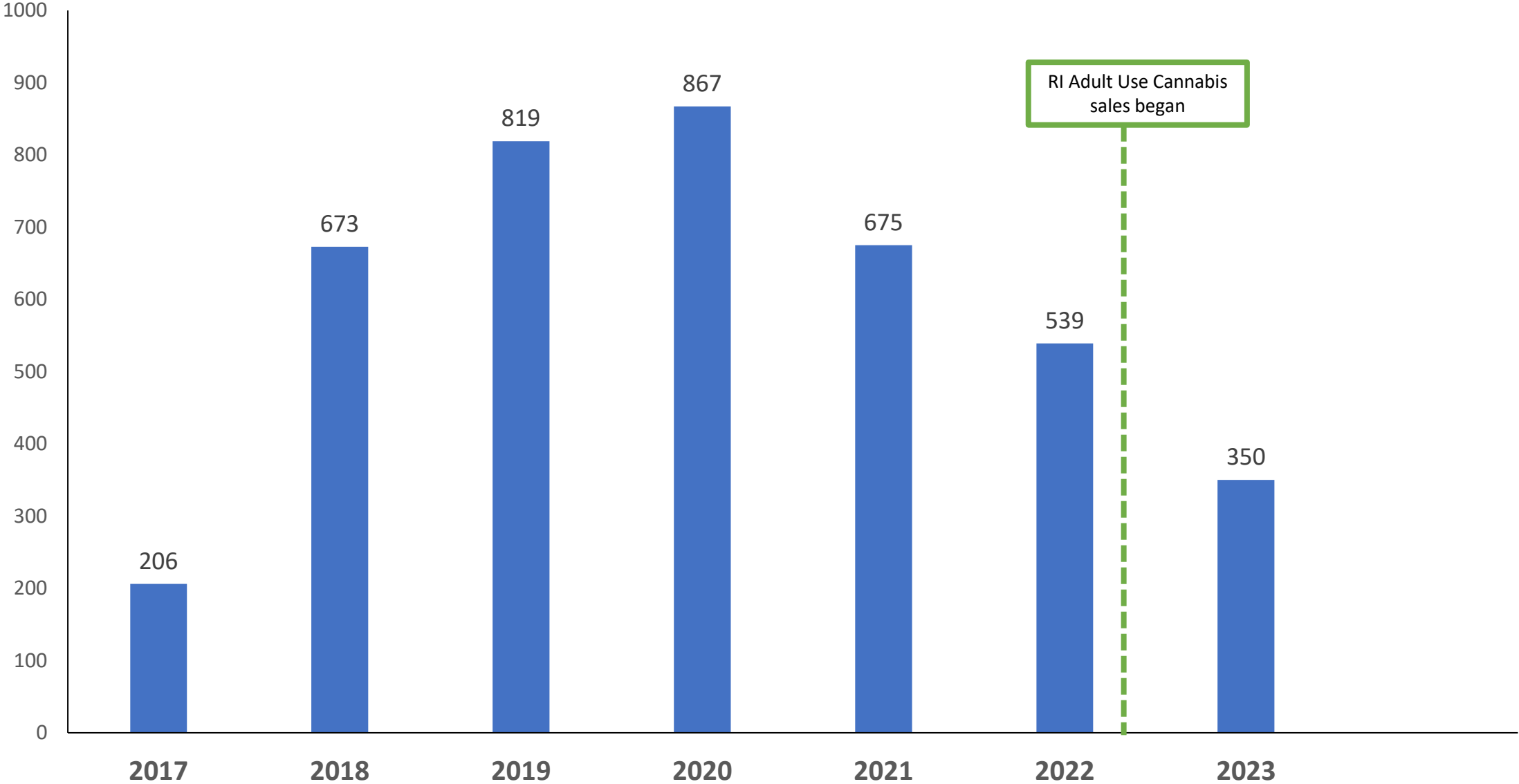
Total Number of Plant Tags Issued to Patients and Caregivers in RI, Jan 2022 – Feb 2024

Factors affecting Plant Tag Issuance:

- Ability to grow up to 6 total plants (3 mature/3 immature) recreationally under the Cannabis Act has reduced the drive to obtain plant tags required by patients and/or caregivers
- Cannabis Act permits home-grow for AU, but confusion exists as to the difference in allowable amounts between medical and AU
- Patient numbers and Caregiver numbers are decreasing.
- Lower costs, diversified products, and mandated testing may help to explain the downward trend in plant tags and upward trend in sales at CCs.



Total Number of Active Authorized Purchasers in Rhode Island End of Fiscal Year 2017 – 2023



Number of New Authorized Purchasers in Rhode Island March 2023 – February 2024

