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Colorado's Marijuana Enforcement Division Released 2020 Annual Update

DENVER, Colo. October 1, 2021 -- Colorado Department of Revenue's Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) released its 2020 annual update today, which includes sought-after data about how Colorado's legal marijuana industry fared during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report is unique in that it uses data taken from the state's seed-to-sale tracking system which is analyzed by the MED's data analysis team.

"Colorado is continually committed to providing the public with these data sets to understand the landscape of the marijuana industry state-wide," said Dominique Mendiola, MED Senior Director.

Some key findings in this year's update include:

- 74% of the 176 new business licenses issued in 2020 were adult-use business licenses.
- The total number of medical marijuana business licenses declined in 2020, from a high of 1,141 in January to a low of 1,108 in October.
- The total number of adult-use marijuana business licenses increased slightly from 2,706 in January to 2,727 in December.
- The number of occupational licenses increased from 36,574 in January to 39,679 in December across the state.
- The percentage of occupational employee licenses that renewed mostly hovered in the low 30s, with a high of 35.0% in December and a low of 29.8% in August. Those licenses are valid for two years.
- The average life cycle of a marijuana plant harvested in 2020 was 126 days.
- Adult-use plants accounted for approximately 72% of the total plants cultivated in Colorado at the end of 2020, which included 1,256,310 total plants cultivated in December 2020.
- Once again, Denver, Pueblo, El Paso and Boulder Counties had the highest number of plants cultivated each month, except in August when Saguache and Las Animas counties exceeded the Boulder County number.
- Adult-use marijuana continues to outpace medical marijuana in terms of volume sold to consumers. Specifically:
 - 70% of the pounds of flower/bud sold
 - 89% of the units of edibles sold
 - 87% of the units of non-edible infused products sold
 - 66% of the pounds of concentrate sold
 - 85% of the units of concentrates sold
- Percentage of non-qualified sales check investigations (including underage compliance checks) where licensees passed was 97%, which stayed consistent from the mid-year report.

To view MED's 2020 annual report and all previous mid-year and annual reports, please visit:
<https://sbg.colorado.gov/med-updates>.

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