



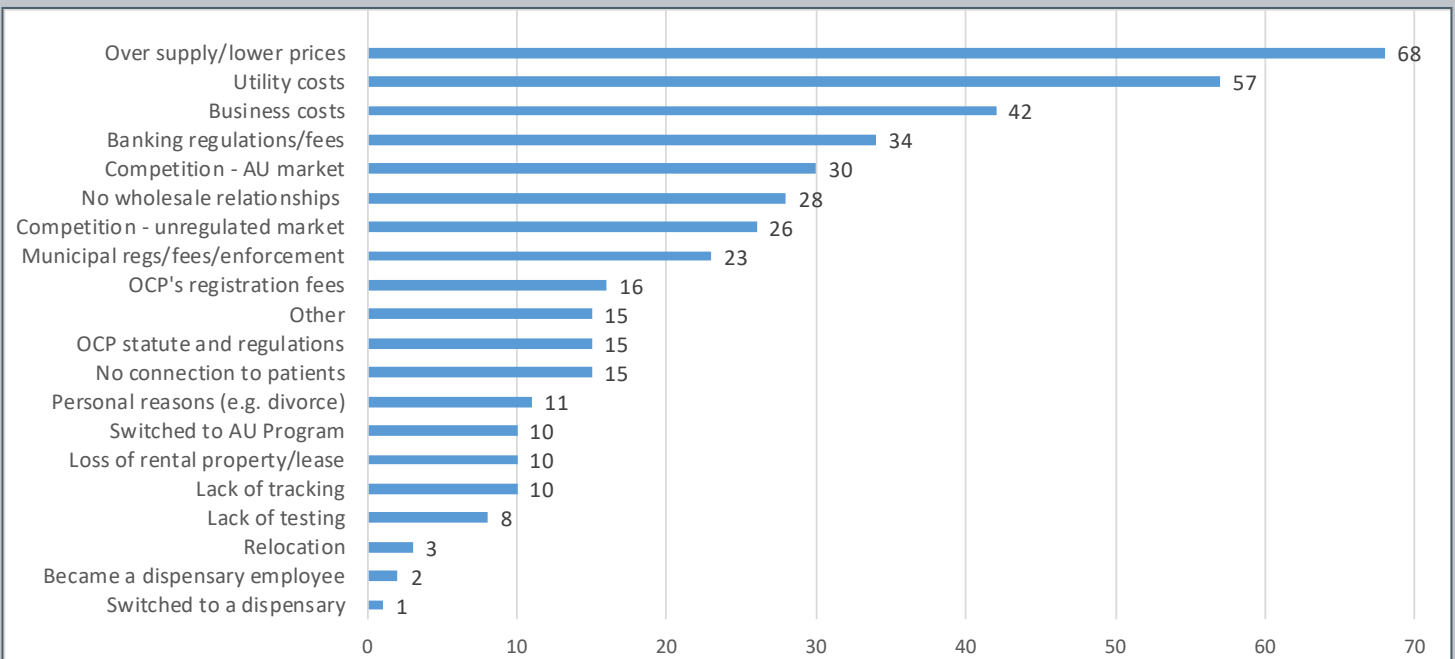
Introduction

The Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program (MMCP) saw a net loss of over 800 caregivers from the end of 2021 to the end of January 2023. Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence, in early 2023, the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) surveyed former caregivers to gain a better understanding of why so many registrants exited the program.

The survey was sent to every caregiver who exited the program between 1/1/2022 and 1/31/2023, a group of **1,339 individuals**. OCP received **117 responses**, a response rate of **8.7%**.

Reasons Caregiver Registrations Were Not Renewed

Question 2 asked respondents to select the top five reasons that most closely represented why they did not renew their caregiver registration. The results can be seen in the chart below.



Regulatory Impact

Question 3 asked respondents if changes in regulations would have better protected their caregiver business.

45.9% said that regulation did not impact their decision to exit the MMCP

21.1% said that more regulation would have better protected their caregiver business

17.4% said less regulation would have better protected the caregiver business

Conclusion

The former caregiver survey provides a clearer understanding of the forces weighing on operators in the MMCP. Notably, business and market conditions were the central drivers of program exits. In an industry in which overproduction has led to massive drops in price, the effects of these variable costs has been insurmountable for many caregivers.