

Overview of Personal Criminal History Reviews Cannabis Licensing January 2021

The Licensing Division has reviewed approximately 16,500 personal criminal history records to determine license eligibility for cannabis licenses.

Licensing currently reviews criminal history using a point system outlined in [WAC 314-55-040](#). When an applicant receives eight points or more, the application is elevated to a manager for further review. During this review, the applicant has the opportunity to provide a statement on their behalf to explain their criminal history. A manager reviews the criminal history information and the applicant's personal statement to determine if the criminal history presents a current public safety concern and if there is a pattern of disregard for laws and rules. Anyone who is denied a license for criminal history (or other reasons) is entitled to an appeal through the administrative appeals process.

Of all the personal criminal records received, 171 exceeded the eight-point threshold, requiring further review by a manager. Of all 171 applications that required a manager review, 43 individuals were denied a license because of their criminal history.

As the Licensing Division considers changes to the criminal history requirements to address racial disparity in the cannabis industry, the division has reviewed the self-identified race for the 43 applicants who were denied a license. The following chart is the self-identified race of the applicants who were denied a cannabis license due to their criminal history:

