
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF THE **AUDITOR GENERAL** FACT SHEET



Medical Marijuana Program Performance Audit Fact Sheet

Background

We [audited the Pennsylvania Department of Health's \(DOH\) Medical Marijuana Program](#) to review the inspection practices, complaint handling, and enforcement activities designed to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. The audit covered the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

The audit had two objectives:

- Evaluate DOH's monitoring processes for grower/processors, including conducting inspections, responding to complaints, and taking timely enforcement actions when warranted; and
- Evaluate DOH's monitoring processes for dispensaries, including conducting inspections, responding to complaints, and taking timely enforcement actions when warranted.

What did the audit find?

The audit had 2 findings.

- In finding 1, auditors found that DOH lacked adequate controls to ensure inspections, enforcement actions, and related procedures were performed consistently. More specifically, DOH did not consistently retain inspection documentation or document supervisory review, notice of deficiencies were not sent or were not sent timely if deficiencies were noted on the inspection checklists, and plans of correction submitted by the medical marijuana organizations were either not approved by DOH staff or were not approved timely.
- In finding 2, we found that inadequate approval processes for complaint conclusions and plans of corrections reduced the effectiveness of DOH's oversight.

In both findings, we further found that standard operating procedures regarding inspections and complaints have not been finalized and approved.

What did the auditors recommend to fix these issues?

Auditors provided 9 recommendations to DOH for improving internal controls of facility inspections and responding to complaints, including requiring supervisory review and finalizing and approving standard operating procedures. These recommendations would improve the monitoring of the medical marijuana organizations, enhance the complaint process and support the effectiveness of the inspection process.

What is DOH's role in administering the Medical Marijuana Program?

DOH is responsible for implementing and administering the program according to Act 16 of 2016. DOH oversees multiple aspects of the program, such as issuing permits to medical marijuana organizations, registering practitioners, maintaining a registry of patients and caregivers approved to use or assist in

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the administration of medical marijuana, and conducting announced or unannounced inspections of medical marijuana organizations.

What is Act 16 of 2016?

Act 16 of 2016, also known as the Medical Marijuana Act, established the Medical Marijuana Program in Pennsylvania. It also imposed taxes on medical marijuana gross sales, created the Medical Marijuana Program Fund, and imposed responsibilities on DOH to oversee and regulate the program.

What is a performance audit?

A [performance audit](#) looks at whether state-funded programs and activities are meeting their goals and objectives, and if tax dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

Where can I see the full audit report?

[Read the entire audit report.](#)

Where can I find more information about the audits you perform and how to read an audit?

Learn more about this audit and the types of audits we perform on the [Be Audit Smart](#) section of our website.