



Michigan  
*Office of the Auditor General*  
**REPORT SUMMARY**

*Performance Audit*  
*Bureau of Laboratories*  
*Community Public Health Agency*  
*Department of Community Health*

Report Number:  
39-680-02

Released:  
June 2003

*The Bureau of Laboratories provides a wide range of multidisciplinary diagnostic and analytical services to support public health initiatives related to the surveillance and control of communicable diseases, to support detection of genetic and metabolic errors in newborns, and to support activities related to environmental concerns.*

**Audit Objectives:**

1. To assess the effectiveness of the Bureau's controls over samples received from local units to ensure that the receipt of the samples was properly recorded, that samples were directed to the appropriate division for testing, and that the results of the testing were accurately reported.
2. To assess the effectiveness of the Bureau's controls over laboratory tests in ensuring that the tests were performed in accordance with established procedures and within established time frames.
3. To assess the effectiveness of the Bureau's Newborn Screening Program in providing accurate testing of all Michigan newborns.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Audit Conclusions:**

1. We concluded that the Bureau's controls effectively ensured that the receipt of samples from local units was properly recorded, that samples were directed to the appropriate division for testing, and that the results of the testing were accurately reported. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.
2. We concluded that the Bureau's controls over laboratory tests were generally effective in ensuring that the tests were performed in accordance with established procedures and within established time frames. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.
3. We concluded that the Bureau's Newborn Screening Program was effective in providing accurate testing

of Michigan newborns. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Noteworthy Accomplishments:**

The Department of Community Health (DCH) has met federal requirements for clinical laboratory licensure by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services' Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) program. In addition, the laboratory voluntarily applied for and received certification by the American Industrial Hygiene Association. DCH has responded to several public health emergencies, including the anthrax issues after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America and the emergence of the West Nile virus in Michigan in 2002. Along with responding to public health emergencies, the laboratory has made significant strides developing capacity to test for biological and chemical agents of bioterrorism. The laboratory is one of five in the nation identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a chemical terrorism response laboratory.

DCH reported that the Bureau of Laboratories has an active and progressive quality assurance program and has established a Continuous Quality Improvement Committee to promote quality services, innovations, and efficiency. DCH also reported that it has provided high quality and rapid testing services while maintaining the same standards of performance for ongoing testing and attending to other public health emergencies, such as anthrax and the West Nile virus. Furthermore, DCH reported that the laboratory continues to bring technological innovations into service for the citizens of Michigan by adopting new instrumentation and providing technical training to personnel.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: [www.state.mi.us/audgen/](http://www.state.mi.us/audgen/)



Michigan Office of the Auditor General  
201 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

**Thomas H. McTavish, C.P.A.**  
Auditor General

**James S. Neubecker, C.P.A., C.I.A., D.P.A.**  
Executive Deputy Auditor General

**Scott M. Strong, C.P.A., C.I.A.**  
Director of Audit Operations