



# OAG

Office of the Auditor General

## Report Summary

### Performance Audit

#### Interstate Compact Programs (ICP): Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)

#### Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

**Report Number:**  
431-0273-15

**Released:**  
December 2017

The ICPC ensures protection and services to children placed across state lines for foster care, adoption, and residential facility placements by establishing procedures to verify that interstate placements are safe, suitable, and able to provide proper care for a child. The ICJ governs the movement of delinquent juveniles, on probation or parole, who are traveling across state lines or are placed with a parent, relative, or legal guardian in another state. The MDHHS interstate compact office administers ICPC and ICJ activities in Michigan by working with other states' central compact offices, local placement agencies, MDHHS local county offices, and Michigan courts.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #1: To assess the effectiveness of MDHHS's efforts to ensure the safe placement of children across state lines.			Moderately effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
For the cases we sampled, MDHHS did not monitor the performance of monthly face-to-face visits for Michigan children placed in other states and could not document that 1/2 of the required visits had occurred. Also, MDHHS did not obtain nearly 2/3 of the required supervision reports for Michigan children placed in other states and did not prepare over 1/3 of the required supervision reports for children placed in Michigan ( <a href="#">Finding #1</a> ).	X		Agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #2: To assess whether MDHHS complied with certain required programmatic time frames for the placement of children across state lines.			Partially complied
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MDHHS provided non-expedited home study reports to sending states an average of 100 days late in over 25% of the instances we reviewed and received over 40% of sampled reports from other states an average of more than 100 days late. MDHHS had limited procedures in place for monitoring the completion of home study report requests ( <a href="#">Finding #2</a> ).	X		Agrees

<b>Findings Related to This Audit Objective (Continued)</b>	<b>Material Condition</b>	<b>Reportable Condition</b>	<b>Agency Preliminary Response</b>
MDHHS did not provide placement decisions within 6 months to requesting states for 30% of the sampled non-expedited or non-residential facility requests for the placement of children in Michigan. Of these untimely placement decisions, 50% were for children with relatives in Michigan and were, on average, over 5 months late. MDHHS had limited procedures in place for monitoring the timeliness of placement decisions ( <u>Finding #3</u> ).	X		Agrees

<b>Audit Objective</b>			<b>Conclusion</b>
Objective #3: To assess the effectiveness of MDHHS's efforts to ensure the appropriate transfer and supervision of juveniles across state lines.			Moderately effective
<b>Findings Related to This Audit Objective</b>	<b>Material Condition</b>	<b>Reportable Condition</b>	<b>Agency Preliminary Response</b>
For the home evaluations we sampled, MDHHS did not obtain criminal history checks for over 70% of the adults residing in proposed homes for out-of-state juveniles relocating to Michigan. In addition, MDHHS could not demonstrate that nearly 90% of the home evaluations included a Central Registry check for all identified adult household members ( <u>Finding #4</u> ).	X		Agrees
For sampled juveniles, MDHHS did not conduct over 20% of the required monthly face-to-face visits or consistently conduct visits within the juveniles' homes when required ( <u>Finding #5</u> ).	X		Agrees
The ICJ compact administrator had not established a process to monitor the family divisions of the circuit courts' compliance with the ICJ, and 3 of the 4 courts that we surveyed in counties that border other states indicated some level of noncompliance. MDHHS had not fully developed an ICJ training and education plan for court officials, and a survey of court judges, probation officers, and court administrators indicated that nearly half of respondents desired additional training related to ICJ processes ( <u>Finding #6</u> ).	X		Partially agrees

**Obtain Audit Reports**

Online: [audgen.michigan.gov](http://audgen.michigan.gov)  
 Phone: (517) 334-8050

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

**Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA**  
 Auditor General

**Laura J. Hirst, CPA**  
 Deputy Auditor General