



# OAG

Office of the Auditor General

## Report Summary

*Performance Audit*  
*Special Alternative Incarceration Program*  
*for Men*  
*Michigan Department of Corrections*  
*(MDOC)*

**Report Number:**  
**471-0202-19**

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MDOC's Special Alternative Incarceration Program (SAI) for men operates as an alternative prison program for selected male prisoners and probationers who were convicted of certain crimes. SAI is a 90-day intensive program that focuses on developing the offender's self-esteem and self-discipline, sense of individual responsibility, and positive work ethic. For fiscal year 2018, SAI graduated 817 trainees and incurred total expenditures of \$13.5 million, at an average cost of \$16,524 per trainee graduate.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #1: To assess the effectiveness of SAI's eligibility screening, intake, and discharge processes.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
None reported.	Not applicable.		

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #2: To assess SAI's compliance with policies and procedures related to safety and security.			Partially complied
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
SAI did not subject 16% of trainees and 6% of staff and volunteers entering the secure perimeter gate to screening by a metal detector. Also, SAI did not require 41% of staff and volunteers entering or exiting the gate and 55% of the trainees and graduates exiting the gate to show identification ( <a href="#">Finding #1</a> ).	X		Agrees
SAI did not document that it conducted 9% of the required cell searches and 7% of the required trainee shakedowns and did not search 8% of the cells. Also, SAI documented 16 (62%) cell searches that it did not conduct and conducted 6 (23%) cell searches within 6 to 84 seconds ( <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>
SAI did not conduct 13% of the base station radio checks and conducted 27% of the individual radio checks 6 to 42 minutes late ( <u>Finding #3</u> ).		X	Agrees
SAI did not properly complete at least 40% of gate manifests ( <u>Finding #4</u> ).		X	Agrees
SAI could not support that it provided safety and tool training to 30 (44%) of the 68 trainees that we selected for review. Also, SAI was not timely in training 14% of the trainees that we selected, ranging from 7 to 45 days after the trainees appeared on the May 2019, June 2019, or July 2019 work rosters ( <u>Finding #5</u> ).		X	Agrees
We identified several concerns relating to gate pass and public works assignments, including SAI consistently allowing trainees to work outside of the secure perimeter without securing the outer entrance gate and inappropriately allowing trainees to work as porters in the administration building prior to being enrolled in SAI for the minimum required period ( <u>Finding #6</u> ).		X	Agrees

<b>Audit Objective</b>			<b>Conclusion</b>
Objective #3: To assess SAI's compliance with policies and procedures related to food service.			Complied
<b>Findings Related to This Audit Objective</b>	<b>Material Condition</b>	<b>Reportable Condition</b>	<b>Agency Preliminary Response</b>
None reported.			Not applicable.

<b>Audit Objective</b>			<b>Conclusion</b>
Objective #4: To assess the sufficiency of MDOC's efforts to evaluate the benefits of SAI.			Sufficient, with exceptions
<b>Findings Related to This Audit Objective</b>	<b>Material Condition</b>	<b>Reportable Condition</b>	<b>Agency Preliminary Response</b>
Our analyses indicated that SAI offers a cost savings to the State; however, outcome measures predominantly indicated higher return to custody or supervision rates and higher abscond rates ( <u>Finding #7</u> ).		X	Agrees

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