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2016-17 Biennial Budget – Pharmacy, Board of

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<http://mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/pharmacy/>

**AT A GLANCE**  
(All data is for FY 2013)

**Board Members and Staff**

- 7 board members (five pharmacists and two public members) appointed by the Governor
- 19 full-time employees

**Licenses & Registrations Issued**

- 7,841 Pharmacists
- 1,347 Pharmacy Interns
- 10,486 Pharmacy Technicians
- 1,792 pharmacies
- 484 drug manufacturers
- 1,158 drug wholesalers
- 101 medical gas distributors
- 23 controlled substance researchers

**Inspections**

- 530 inspections of pharmacies, wholesalers, manufacturers, medical gas distributors & controlled substance researchers

**Complaint & Discipline**

- Receipt of 118 new jurisdictional complaints
- Resolution of 76 jurisdictional complaints
- 10 disciplinary actions taken

**Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)**

- 6.9 million controlled substance prescriptions projected to be reported annually to PMP
- 10,417 enrolled PMP Users
- 402,129 database queries

**PURPOSE**

The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy was established in 1885. Its mission is to preserve and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Minnesotans by promoting the safe distribution of pharmaceuticals and the provision of quality pharmacy care.

The Board fulfills this mission through examination and licensure of pharmacists, regulation of the practice of pharmacy, inspection of licensed facilities, investigation of complaints, and the issuance of disciplinary orders and agreements for corrective action. Board staff also helps educate pharmacists and others about laws, rules and best standards of practice.

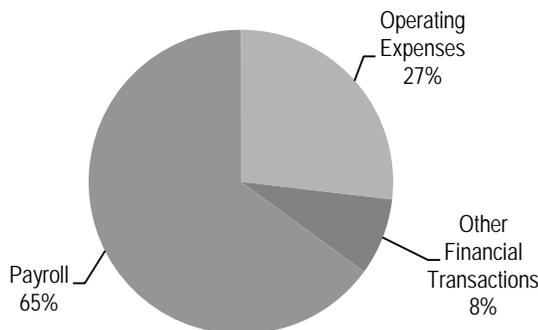
The Minnesota Prescription Monitoring Program, a tool that prescribers and pharmacists can use to help prevent prescription drug abuse, is also administered by the Board.

The Board contributes to the following state wide outcomes:

- All Minnesotans have optimal health
- People in Minnesota are safe
- Efficient and accountable government services

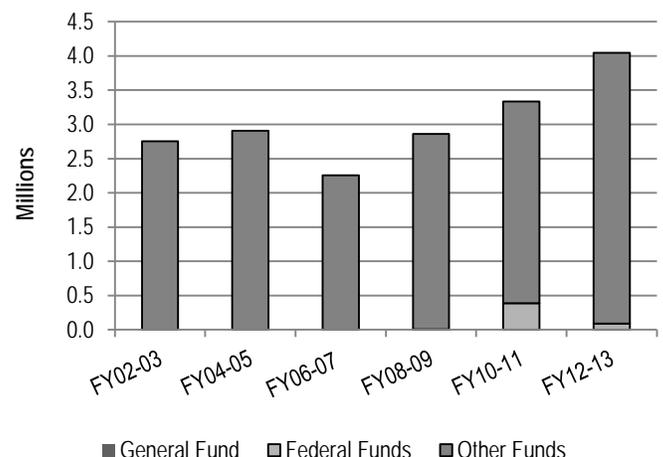
**BUDGET**

Spending by Category  
FY 13 Actual



Source: SWIFT

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The activities of the board are largely funded by license fees collected from individuals and businesses regulated by the Board. The Board has also received federal and private grants that have been used to make enhancements to the Prescription Monitoring Program. The Board does not receive any appropriations from the general fund.

The board is responsible for collecting sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures. The Board collected \$2,383,000.00 in FY 2013. This revenue was deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund.

From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency activities such as salaries, rent, costs for disciplinary/contested cases and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation. In FY 2013, total expenditures for these purposes were \$2,296,000.00.

## STRATEGIES

The Board's primary strategy is to promote adherence to state and federal laws and rules relating to the practice of pharmacy and the manufacture and distribution of drugs. Another, equally important strategy is to promote the adoption of cutting edge standards of practice that go beyond the minimum requirements specified in the statutes and rules.

Unlike larger agencies that are divided into administrative areas or divisions, the Board functions as a single operational unit. Nevertheless, the Board's activities can be divided into several areas of focus:

- **Licensing.** Licensing is the Board's "foundation", on which most activities ultimately rest. The ability to license and register individuals and businesses empowers the Board to inspect facilities, investigate complaints, and take disciplinary action when necessary. In addition, the Board is primarily funded by the licensing and registration fees that it collects. Most of the Board's staff members are involved in some aspect of the licensing process. Administrative staff members process applications and work with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy to make sure that applicants for a pharmacist license have passed the required examinations. Compliance staff members conduct initial inspections of facilities before they are allowed to be licensed.
- **Compliance.** Activities in this area can be further divided as follows:
  - **Inspections.** The Board licenses or registers 1,839 in-state pharmacies, drug wholesalers, drug manufacturers, medical gas distributors and controlled substance researchers. Each in-state facility is inspected by a Board Surveyor before it is allowed to open. Subsequent inspections, which are unannounced, are also periodically conducted.
  - **Complaint Investigations.** The Board investigates every jurisdictional complaint it receives. Most often, a Board Surveyor visits the pharmacy in question, meets with pharmacy staff, reviews the policies and procedures of the pharmacy, and directs pharmacy staff to make necessary changes to policies and procedures. The Surveyor then files a report which is reviewed by the Board's Complaint Review Panel (CRP). The CRP may dismiss the complaint if it determines that the allegations are without merit or if it is satisfied that the pharmacy will make any changes necessary to minimize the risk of future errors. The CRP sometimes determines that offenses were committed that are serious enough to warrant discipline. For cases involving certain issues, such as alleged physical or mental impairment of a licensee, the Board refers the matter to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) for investigation. In such cases, the AGO also issues a report that is reviewed by the CRP.
  - **Discipline.** If either the CRP or the Board's Executive Director (ED) determines that the evidence substantiates a serious violation of statutes or rules, the matter is turned into a disciplinary case. The ED works with the AGO to initiate the due process procedures that the Board must follow. The licensee or registrant is directed to appear before a Committee on Professional Standards, which weighs the available evidence. In most cases, if the Committee determines that discipline is warranted, it reaches a settlement agreement with the licensee or registrant. Such agreements, which must be approved by the full Board, usually involve the issuance of a disciplinary order which places limitations and conditions on the license or registration of the person or business that was investigated.
  - **Consultations.** The Executive Director, Deputy Director and Board Surveyors are licensed pharmacists with, collectively, nearly 200 years of experience working in a variety of pharmacy settings. As such, their advice is sought on a daily basis by pharmacists and other licensees and registrants. The ED, DD and Surveyors provide consultations on issues that are often extremely technical and complex. The goal of all consultations is to promote both adherence to laws and rules and the adoption of cutting edge standards of practice and technology that help protect the health, welfare and safety of citizens.

- **Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Activities.** As new standards of practice emerge and new technologies are developed, the Board and its staff work to update guidances, rules and statutes. Guidances help licensees and registrants use new technologies and procedures in a way that best promotes the health, welfare and safety of citizens. As new technologies and standards of practice become more broadly accepted, the Board will promulgate rules, as necessary, to replace the guidances. For certain issues, it is necessary to ask the Legislature and Governor to enact new statutory language. In addition, Board staff very frequently provides technical assistance to legislators and their staff on a variety of issues concerning pharmacy and drugs. The Board also works on policy issues with other local, state and federal agencies, including local law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, the state Departments of Human Services and Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- **Services for the General Public.** In addition to the benefits that the public derives from the activities described above, Board staff provides direct services to the public as well. Staff provides information to members of the public in response to inquiries concerning the legal requirements and standards for pharmacy practice. Members of the public can use the Board's online license verification system to verify that individuals and businesses are licensed by the Board and to determine if any disciplinary action has been taken against a licensee or registrant. The Board provides copies of disciplinary orders to the public upon request - at no charge.
- **Prescription Monitoring Program.** The purpose of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is to promote public health, safety and welfare by detecting the abuse or misuse of controlled substances. Controlled substances are drugs that have a high potential for abuse and addiction, such as narcotics and stimulants. The PMP collects information concerning almost all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed for people residing in Minnesota. Prescribers, pharmacists and certain Medicaid staff can access this data through a secure online system. The PMP is a tool that these authorized users can employ in order to detect possible "doctor-shopping" behavior. (Obtaining prescriptions from multiple prescribers and having them filled by multiple pharmacies). The Board encourages prescribers and pharmacists who identify individuals who appear to be engaged in "doctor-shopping" to refer them for appropriate care – either chemical dependency treatment or pain management. Law enforcement officials can obtain data from the system as well, but only after obtaining a court-issued search warrant and serving it on the Board. Recent legislation requires the Board to begin providing prescribers and pharmacies with unsolicited reports, derived from the PMP database, concerning individuals who may be doctor-shopping.

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Percentage of in-state facility inspections completed annually	27.7%	28.8%	FY 2011 FY 2013
Quantity	Percentage of complaints investigated and resolved within 12 months	89.4%	67.5%	FY 2012 FY 2013
Result	Number of individuals who receive prescriptions from five or more prescribers and have them filled at five or more pharmacies within a six month period of time	2,881	2,667	7/1/2011 – 12/31/2011 7/1/2012 – 12/31/2012

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Sections of MN Statutes Chapters 151 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=151>), 152 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=152>) and 214 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=214>) provide the Board of Pharmacy with legal authority to carry out its duties.