

## Lee Rhoades, BSc, MBA, MT (ASCP).

Chief Science Officer

Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, Oklahoma City, OK

Mr. Lee Rhoades is responsible for testing of marijuana and marijuana products. He is the Chief Science officer for OMMA, in charge of the lab department responsible for monitoring lab testing and compliance. The agency's testing process is the same for all products in Oklahoma.

Any product being sold in the state must receive a certificate of analysis. This is done by testing a sample from every batch being created. Marijuana potency has increased in the past years. Edibles, and creams, have always gotten a wide spectrum of THC potency, but the flower themselves does seem to be moving up.

OMMA was created after medicinal marijuana was legalized in 2018, so the agency is still new. They started with a new data collection system in May of last year and the closer monitoring has helped with their research.

In 2021, marijuana samples contained an average of about 18.6 percent of THC percentage but samples in December 2022 had increased around 3.3 percent overall.