



Central (Richmond)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

# DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

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Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Forensic Science Board

January 6, 2021





# Meeting Materials

Virginia.gov > Department of Forensic Science > About DFS > Forensic Science Board > Meetings and Meeting Minutes

## Meetings and Meeting Minutes

Forensic Science Board

Statutes Related to Board

Meetings and Meeting Minutes

Annual Reports

### Meeting Minutes and Notices

Meeting minutes and all Upcoming Public Meeting Notices are posted on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website.

### Upcoming Meetings

<https://www.dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/forensic-science-board/meetings-and-meeting-minutes/>



# COVID-19 Updates

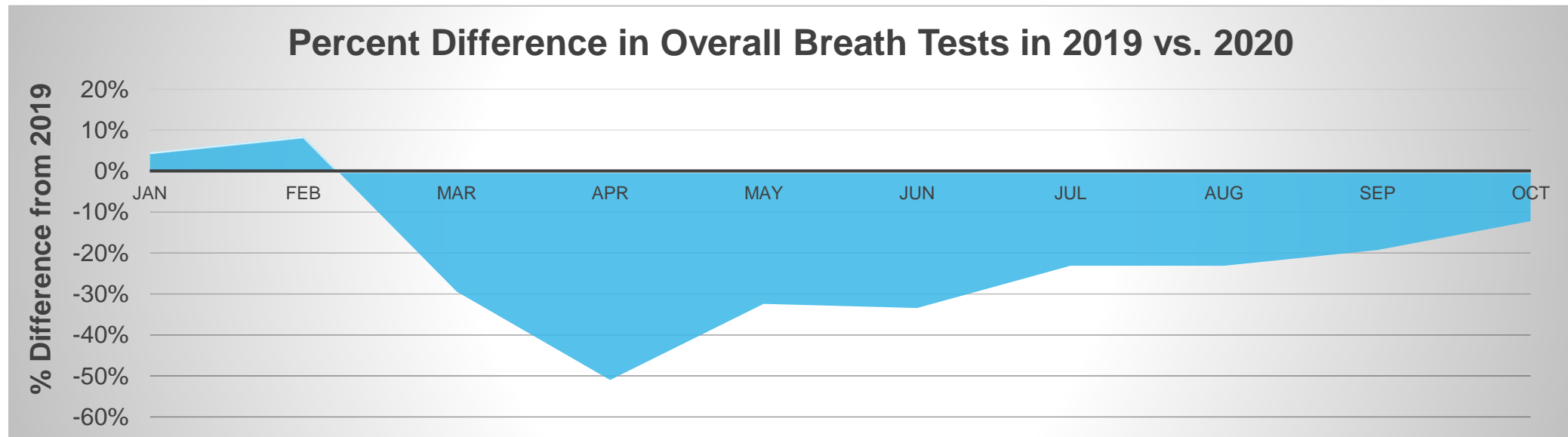
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- Notifying when staff test positive
- Developed internal disinfection capability
- Continuing to encourage alternate work schedules and teleworking, where possible



# COVID-19: Breath Alcohol

- Compared to 2019, January and February 2020 were on track to have a comparable number of breath tests
- Since March, number of breath tests have been significantly lower





# Workload Statistics - 2019 to 2020

Q4 2020	Submissions		
	2019	2020	% change
DME	42	40	-5%
Controlled Substances	8,125	6,058	-25%
Firearms & Toolmarks	1,564	2,011	29%
Forensic Biology	1,451	1,422	-2%
Latent Prints & Impressions	569	542	-5%
Toxicology	2,548	2,669	5%
Trace Evidence	157	179	14%
TOTAL	14,456	12,921	-11%

Q4 2020	Backlog (end of December)		
	2019	2020	% change
DME	150	66	-56%
Controlled Substances	11,286	2,065	-82%
Firearms & Toolmarks	1,299	2,688	107%
Forensic Biology	1,827	1,875	3%
Latent Prints & Impressions	750	704	-6%
Toxicology	1,501	1,540	3%
Trace Evidence	84	136	62%
TOTAL	16,897	9,074	-46%

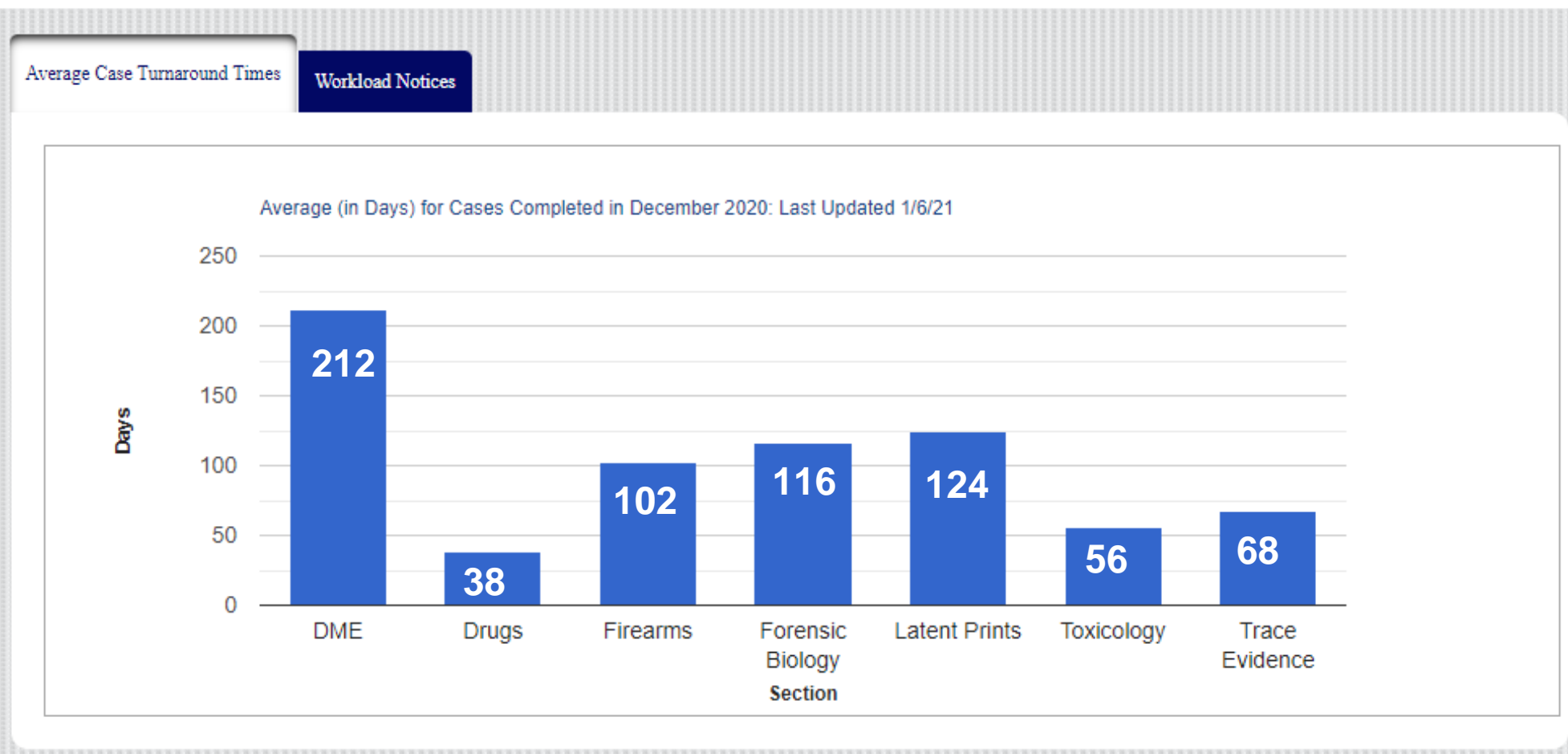
**NOTE:**  
Many factors affect the changes to backlogs.



# December 2020 Turnaround Times

Virginia.gov > Department of Forensic Science > About DFS > Average Case Turnaround Times

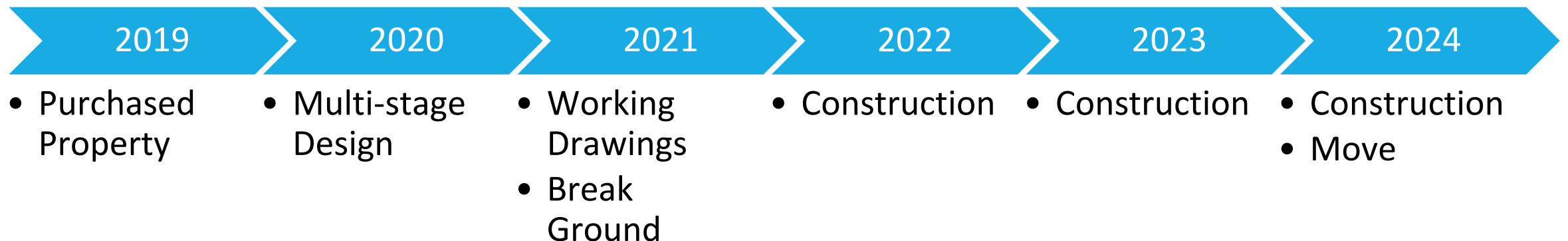
## Average Case Turnaround Times





# Central Laboratory Capital Project

- Preliminary design phase in progress
  - Preliminary drawings to be submitted to Division of Engineering and Buildings (DEB) - January 2021
  - Once comments from DEB adjudicated, final budget will be determined
- Seeking Green Globes certification





# Accreditation

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- Notified on September 25, 2020 of our successful completion of the ISO/IEC 17025 surveillance assessment for Testing & Calibration
- Accreditation Certificates and Scopes are posted on the website (<https://www.dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/accreditation/accreditation-documentation/>)
- Scopes of Accreditation
  - Trigger Pull
  - Y-STR analysis in Eastern and Western – Remote Scope Extension successfully completed December 28-30, 2020
- Completed DNA onsite QAS Audits in early December



# Report on Seized Drugs - 2019



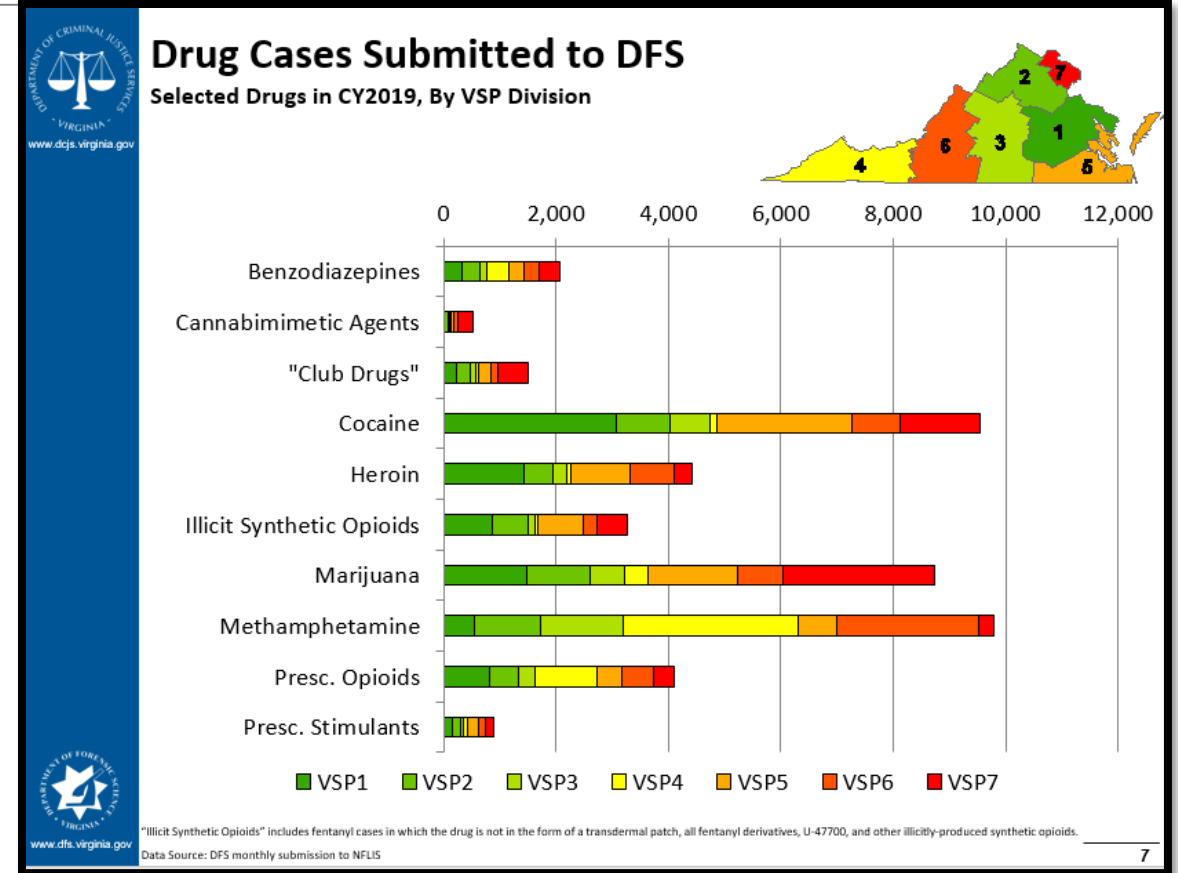
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES  
VIRGINIA  
www.dcs.virginia.gov

## Drug Cases Submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Calendar Year 2019

A Joint Report by the Virginia Departments of  
Forensic Science  
&  
Criminal Justice Services

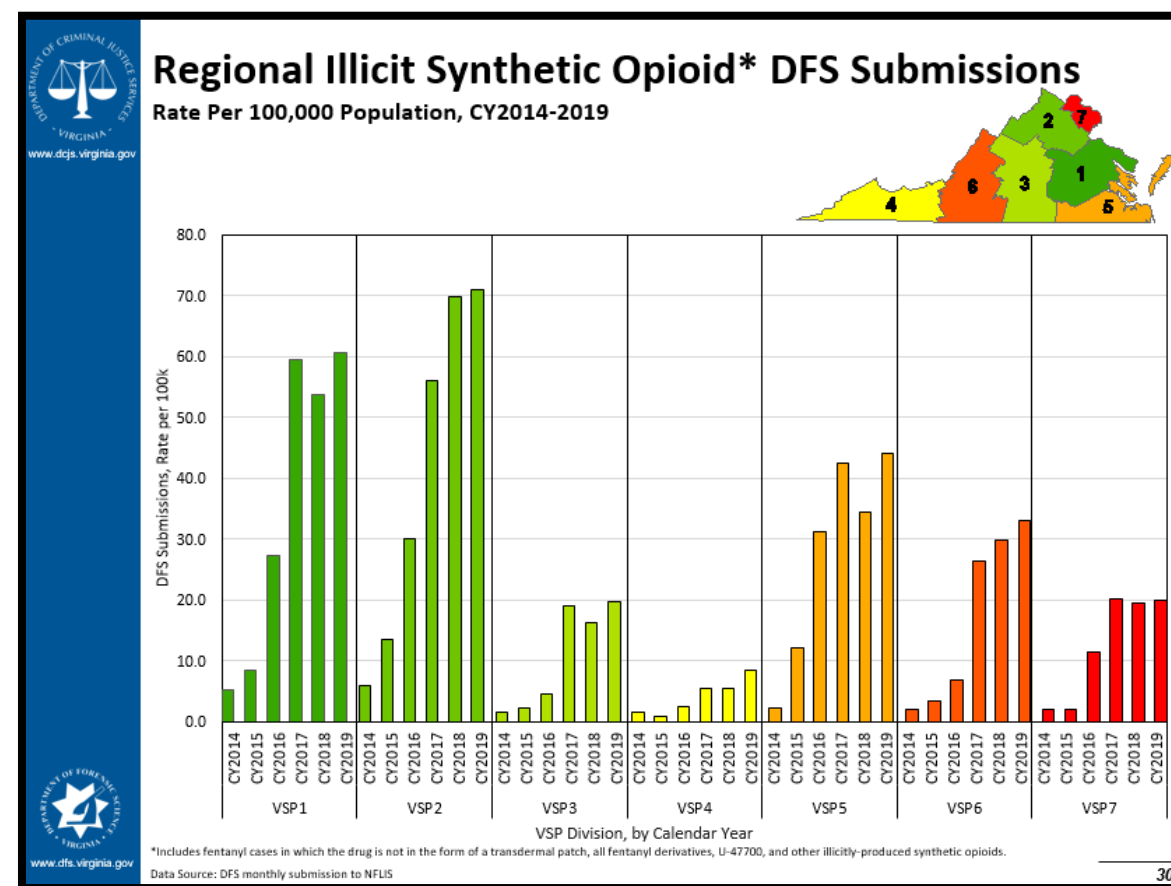
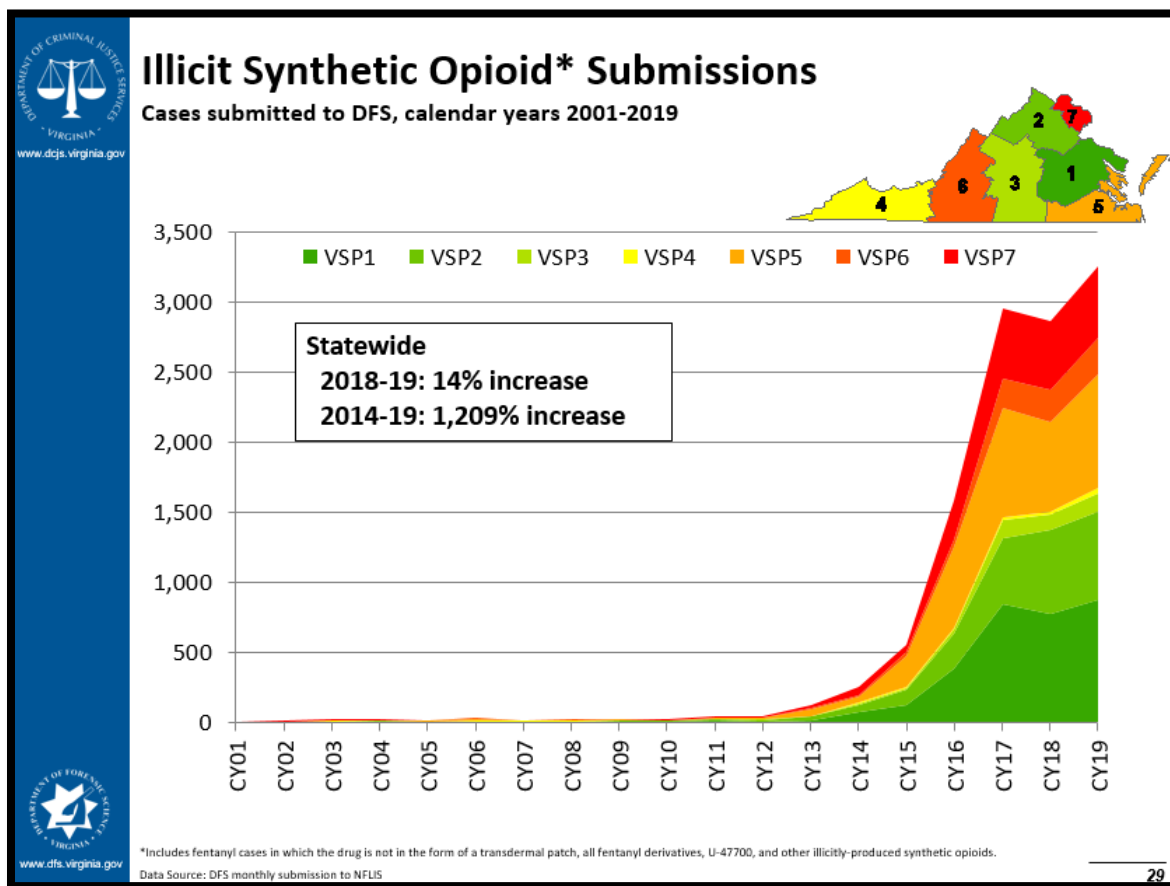
DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE  
VIRGINIA  
www.dfs.virginia.gov



[https://www.dfs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FINAL\\_DFS2019DrugSubmissionDataReport.pdf](https://www.dfs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FINAL_DFS2019DrugSubmissionDataReport.pdf)



# Illicit Synthetic Opioids Continue to Rise



# Board of Pharmacy - Expedited Scheduling



DFS recommended twelve (12) compounds in October 2020. The compounds were considered at the Board's December meeting and are pending final approval.

## Hallucinogens:

- 4-fluoro-3-methyl- $\alpha$ -PVP
- 4-fluoropentedrone
- N-(1,4-dimethylpentyl)-3,4-DMA
- 4,5-MDO-DIPT
- alpha-PCYP
- MDPV8

## Synthetic Opioids:

- Metodesnitazene

## Cannabimimetic Agents:

- 4-fluoro-MDMB-BUTICA
- 5-fluoro-EMB-PICA

## Depressants:

- Bromazolam
- Deschloroetizolam
- Norfludiazepam

# Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

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- PreLog for Casework
  - COVID-19 has highlighted need for PreLog
- PreLog for Data Bank
  - Grant funded project with TCSC
  - Legislation required for implementation
- PERK Tracking
  - Mandatory Use - July 1, 2020
  - Integrated with LIMS



# Agency Outreach Initiatives

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- Sent satisfaction surveys for PERK Tracking System
- Published Legal Resources webpage
  - [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) Requests](#)
  - [Subpoenas \*Duces Tecum\* \(SDTs\)](#)
  - [§9.1-1104 Requests for Results](#)
  - [§9.1-1104 Orders for Scientific Investigations](#)
  - [Long-Term Storage Orders](#)
  - [Post-Conviction Testing](#)
  - [Witness Subpoenas for Civil Cases](#)
  - [Records Custodians](#)

# Budget and Resources

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# Budget and Resources - COVID

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- Hiring Freeze (lifted October 26, 2020)
  - Exemptions for positions directly related to public safety
- Pledged Savings for FY20

Savings from stopping case outsourcing in April	\$100,000
Personnel cost savings from vacant positions	\$75,000
Delay of replacing video equipment	\$80,000
Reduced travel and training expenses	\$45,000
<b>Total Savings to Pledge</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>



# Biennial FY21/FY22 Budget

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	FY21	FY22	MEL*
General Fund	\$53,039,134	\$53,220,854	328
Non-general Fund	\$2,414,280	\$2,358,980	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,453,414</b>	<b>\$55,579,834</b>	<b>331</b>

\*Maximum Employment Level





# New Budget Items - FY21/FY22

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## DNA Research postdoctoral grant position

- Authorization to spend non-general funds and for 1 FTE
- FY21 \$125,000 / FY22 \$70,000

*(Two IT positions – Unallocated then Removed)*

- *FY21 \$185,160 / FY22 \$246,880 and 2 FTE*

*(Increased maintenance cost of lab equipment – Unallocated then Removed)*

- *FY21 \$248,000 / FY22 \$368,000*



# Governor's Introduced Budget - FY22

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Toxicology Research grant position - 1 FTE

- Authorization to spend non-general funds
- FY22 \$79,950

Two Information Technology positions - 2 FTE

- FY22 \$246,880

Increased maintenance cost of lab equipment

- FY22 \$368,000

One Financial Management position - 1 FTE

- FY22 \$104,800



# COVID-19 Funding

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## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT - \$34,374

- Funds became available for use on June 22, 2020
- Paid out \$31,745 of approved expenses in FY20
- Requested remaining \$2,629 to be carried over to FY21 for remaining expenses

## CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING (CESF) - \$26,334

- Received grant funding through DCJS
- Grant funding period is retroactive to 1/20/20 through 9/30/21
- For continuity of operations projects for the Breath Alcohol and Forensic Training Sections



# Recent Grant Awards

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Current Grants	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
<b>CDC Opioid Joint Project (OCME and DFS) – 2020</b> Continuation - Overdose Data to Action Project	\$164,807	\$0	9/1/20 – 8/31/21
<b>FY21 DMV Highway Safety Grant Program</b>	\$264,510 (Federal)	\$66,128 (In-Kind)	10/1/20 – 9/30/21
<b>FY21 DMV Highway Safety TREDIS Project</b>	\$84,290	\$0	10/1/20 – 9/30/21



# Recent Grant Awards

Current Grants	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
<b>National Institute of Justice (NIJ) FY20 Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories</b> - to conduct toxicology research related to testing of cannabinoids in biological matrices.	\$290,353	\$0	1/1/21 - 12/31/22
<b>JAG Funding from DCJS via MOU</b> – to fund part-time Forensic Trainer position for an additional year	\$45,407	\$0	10/1/20 - 9/30/21



# Recent Grant Awards

Grant Program	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
<b>FY20 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program - Formula</b>	\$225,923	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2022
<b>BJA FY20 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program - Formula</b>	\$1,588,369	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2022
<b>FY20 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) - through OAG</b> - for conducting technical reviews and CODIS upload of eligible DNA profiles resulting from sexual assault kit testing, conducting familial searches in 20 cases, and continued employment of the full-time PERK Tracking System Coordinator.	\$340,619	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2023



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Thank you!