



Central (Richmond)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Forensic Science Board

April 20, 2026





Central Laboratory Relocation

- Operations began moving March 9, 2026, and completion during the week of April 13th
- Contact information:
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Central Laboratory
8850 Times Dispatch Blvd, **Suite 100**
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
 - All phone numbers remain the same!
 - All FAX numbers have been changed.



Evidence Relocation

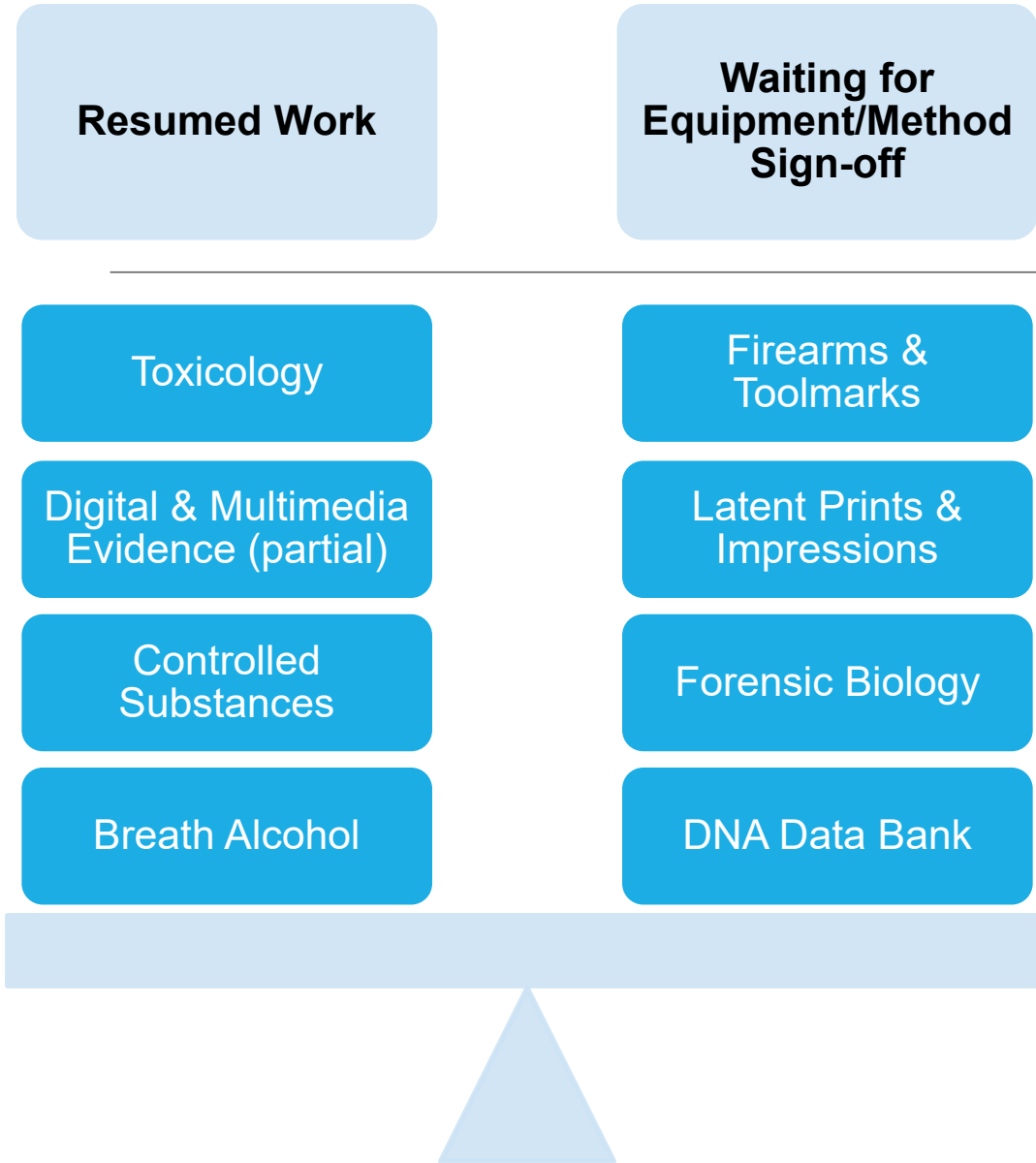


- Chain of custody documentation in Forensic Advantage (FA)
 - Sealed evidence is scanned into a batch
 - Batch Reports (manifests) are created for inventory
 - Evidence is secured in crates or job boxes
 - Evidence is transferred in FA during the move process

11/20/2025 11:05:16 AM	Submitted by Officer Barden, E. T. from Powhatan Co S O / P O Box 133, Powhatan. Received by Mertz, Kaitlin E. at Central Laboratory - Security. Delivery Method: Hand to Hand Transfer.
11/20/2025 11:05:16 AM	Placed in Storage at Security Administrative Storage - F1 by Mertz, Kaitlin E. at Central Laboratory - Security
	Removed from Storage by Cummins, Amanda at Central Laboratory - Security.
4/6/2026 2:16:53 PM	Comments: Relocation Day
	Transfer Reason: Relocate to New Central Laboratory
	Transferred Out by Cummins, Amanda.
4/6/2026 2:16:53 PM	Comments: Relocation Day
	Transfer Reason: Relocate to New Central Laboratory
	Transferred In to Calliste, Kadisha.
4/6/2026 4:07:17 PM	Comments: Relocation Complete
	Transfer Reason: Relocate to New Central Laboratory
	Placed in Storage at Security Administrative Storage - DNA Bulk by Calliste, Kadisha at Central Laboratory - Security
4/6/2026 4:07:17 PM	Comments: Relocation Complete
	Transfer Reason: Relocate to New Central Laboratory



Casework Status





Relocation Updates

- USPS delivery
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - Tentatively planned for June 3 at 10:00 AM



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The ANSI National Accreditation Board

Hereby attests that

**Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Crime Laboratory System**

Fulfills the requirements of

ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)

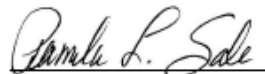
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories:2025

FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories:2025

In the field of

Forensic Testing & Calibration

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a current scope of accreditation document.
The current scopes of accreditation can be verified at www.anab.org.


Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics

Expiry Date: 31 January 2030

Certificate Numbers:

FT-0051

FT-0052

FT-0053

FT-0054

FC-0004



Accreditation

- Accreditation renewed
- Certificates and Scopes are available on the DFS website: <https://dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/accreditation/>
- Current cycle expires January 31, 2030
- Location Evaluation (remote) for new Central Laboratory will occur the week of May 11

Forensic Training



- Two short courses taught in new facility
- **Forensic Science Academy - 117th Session** began April 13th





HB680 (Zehr) - Agency Bill Passed

- Removed the requirement that meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee take place in the City of Richmond
- Provided that a member of the Forensic Science Board and a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor shall serve after expiration of his term until his successor is appointed
- Contained an emergency clause – effective April 6, 2026

Board of Pharmacy Expedited Scheduling



Seven (7) compounds were placed into Schedule I effective March 11, 2026:

- Despropionyl o-methylfentanyl
- 4-propanoyloxy DMT
- N-isobutyl methylone
- 2-bromo-Deschloroketamine
- Nitrazolam
- NMDMSB
- 5-fluoro BZO-POXIZID

Six (6) compounds were recommended to BoP on April 15, 2026:

- o-desmethyltramadol
- Chlorphine
- Cychlorphine
- 4-acetoxy-N-methyl-N-ethyltryptamine
- 4-bromo-alpha-PVP
- 3-methyl phencyclidine



Board of Pharmacy Scheduling

- Virginia Register of Regulations, Vol. 42, Iss. 13, February 9, 2026
- Effective Date: March 11, 2026
- Controls "fentanyl-related substances" by structural class
- Report wording when a compound within a defined structural modification is present, but not specifically listed:

0.254 ± 0.011 gram of powder, found to contain *{Compound}* (Schedule I). This compound was placed into Schedule I of the Drug Control Act as a "fentanyl-related substance" pursuant to a Board of Pharmacy Regulation.



Breath Alcohol Update

- Dräger Alcotest® 9510
- **First shipment of instruments received April 17, 2026**
- All breath test operators will need to be trained and licensed on the new instrument
- Will develop and offer training opportunities for attorneys and judges

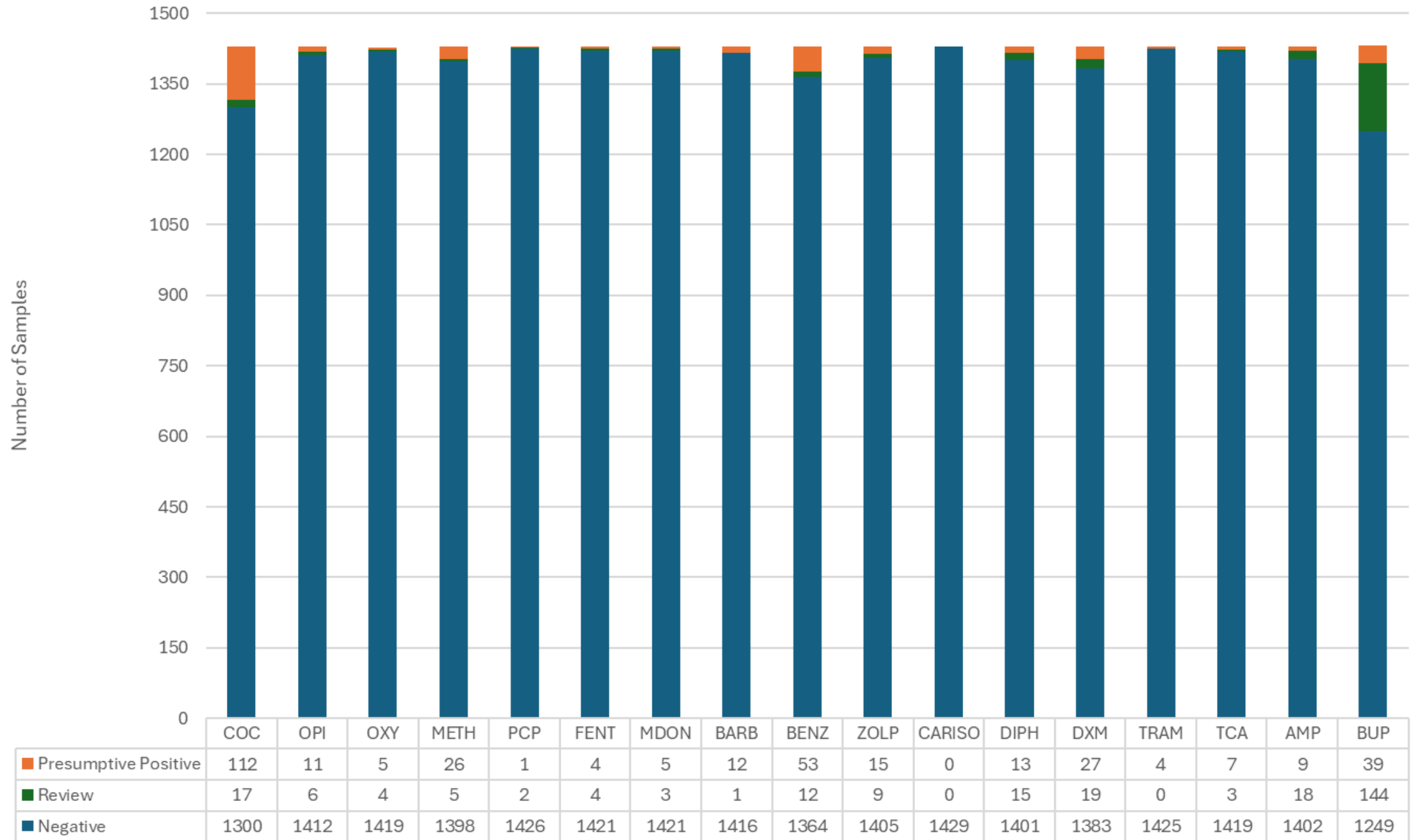


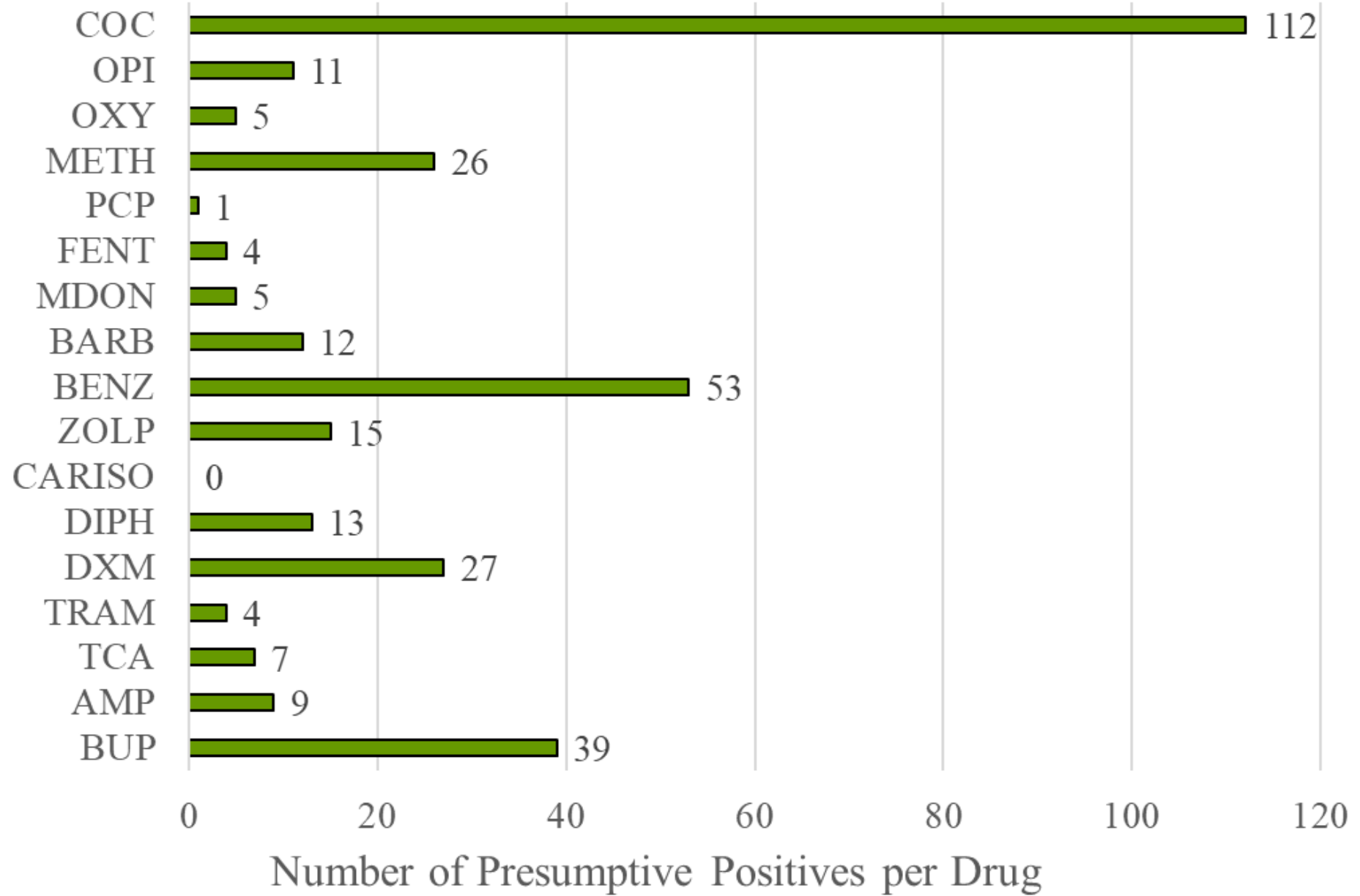


DUI Drug Screening Report to DMV

- Required by Appropriation language
- Immunoassay drug screening DUI/DUID samples with blood alcohol concentrations at or above 0.100 %w/v and have been screened for marijuana-related compounds
- 1,429 deidentified samples received between August 2024 and April 2025
- Deidentified and tested after eligible for destruction

Total Results per Tested Drug Screen







Case Transfers and Outsourcing

- Internal case transfers are continuing
 - Firearms (majority from Western)
 - Latent Prints (from Northern)
- Outsourcing
 - Non-persons cases for DNA testing – Bode Technology, Lorton, Virginia
 - OCME Toxicology cases (Western through June, Central during move)
 - Controlled Substances – THC edibles only – NMS Laboratories, Willow Creek, PA



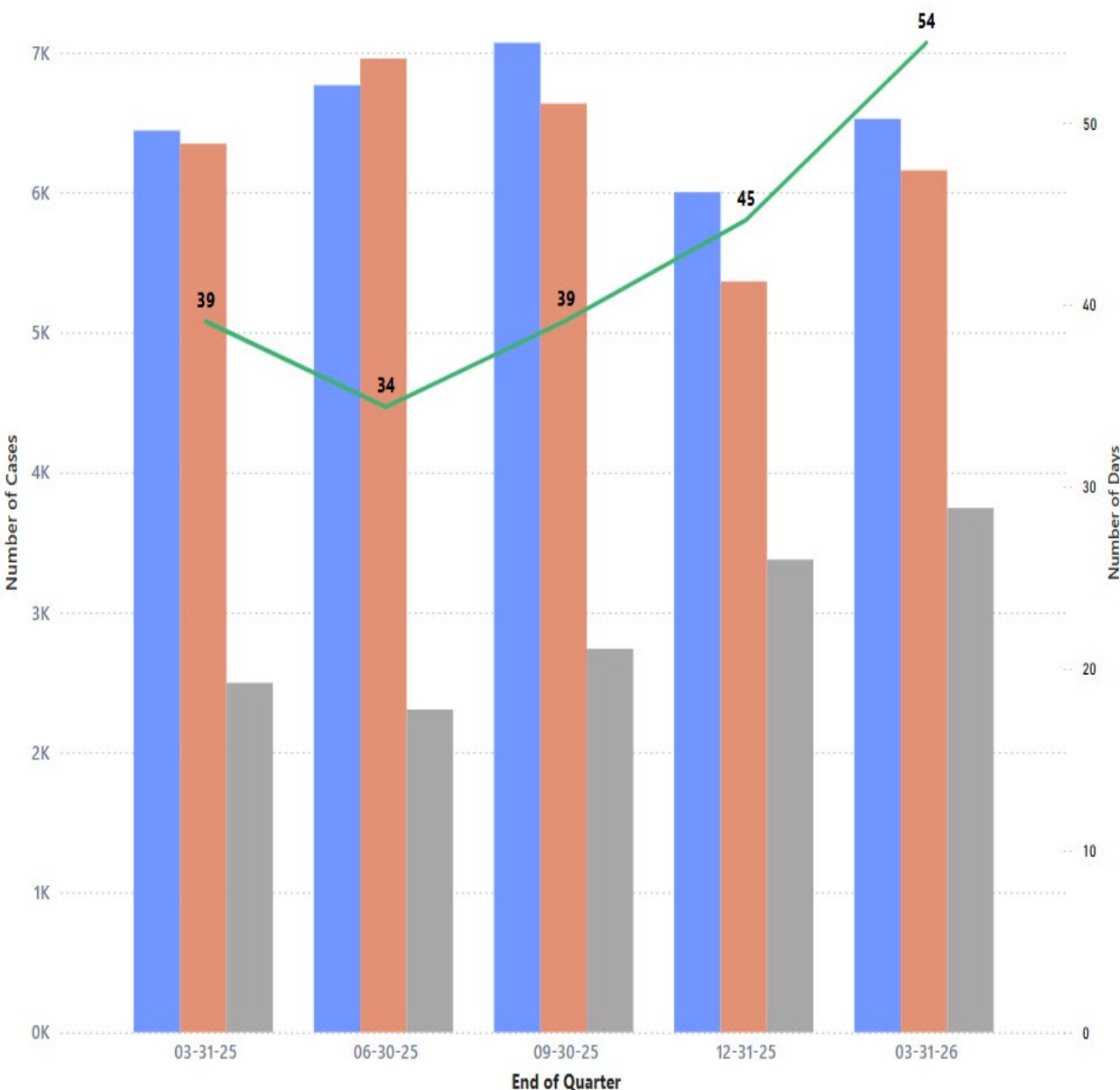
Western Firearms Review

- Firearms comparisons were halted in April 2025
- Firearms comparisons are not on the Scope of Accreditation for the Western Laboratory
- Corrective Action resulting from proficiency test
- Case reviews by external provider are ongoing
- Giglio notices, with appropriate case lists, have been issued

Case Statistics



Controlled Substances

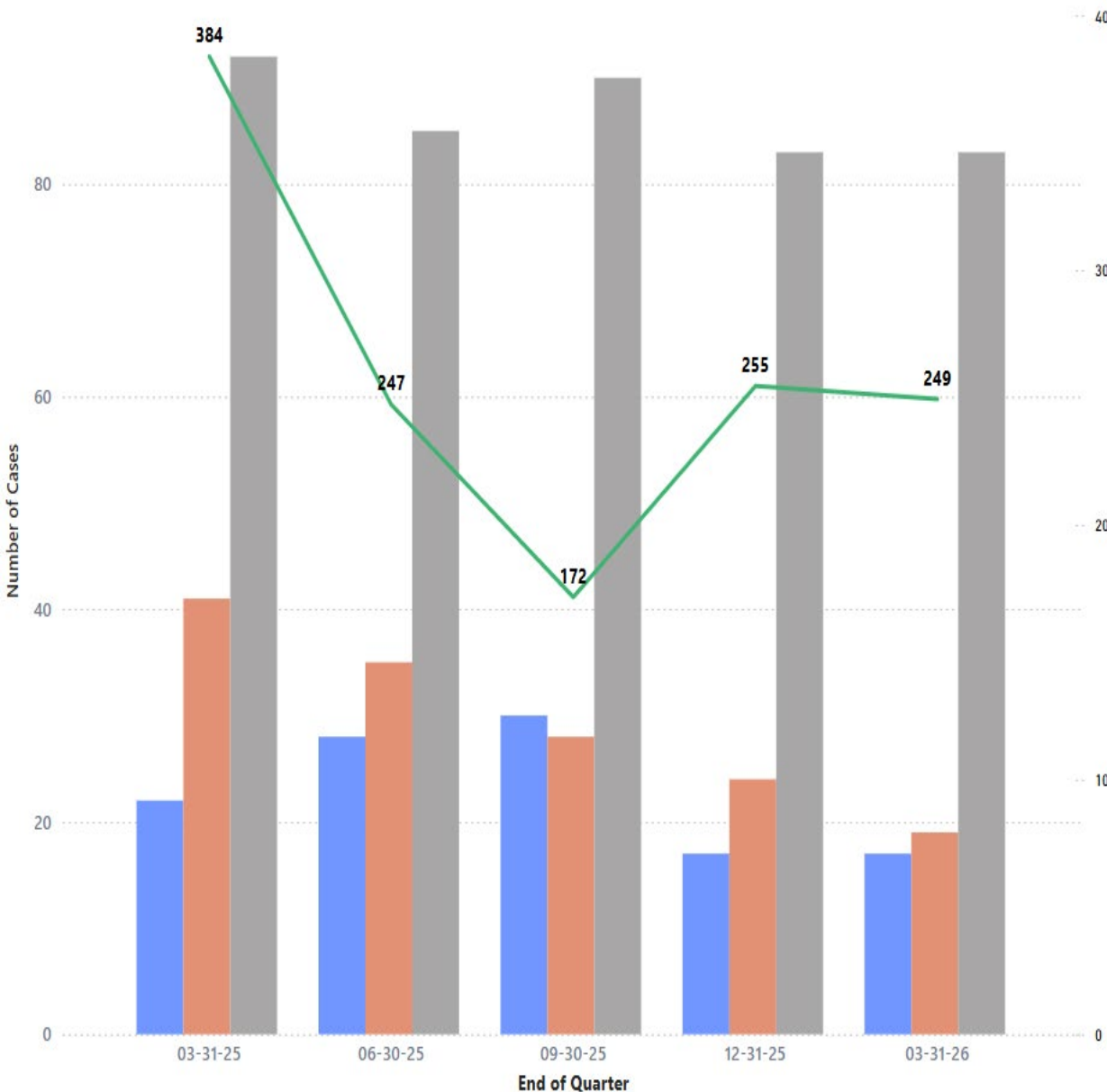


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	6,442	6,348	2,496	39
06-30-25	6,766	6,956	2,306	34
09-30-25	7,069	6,635	2,740	39
12-31-25	6,001	5,364	3,377	45
03-31-26	6,526	6,158	3,745	54

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Digital & Multimedia Evidence

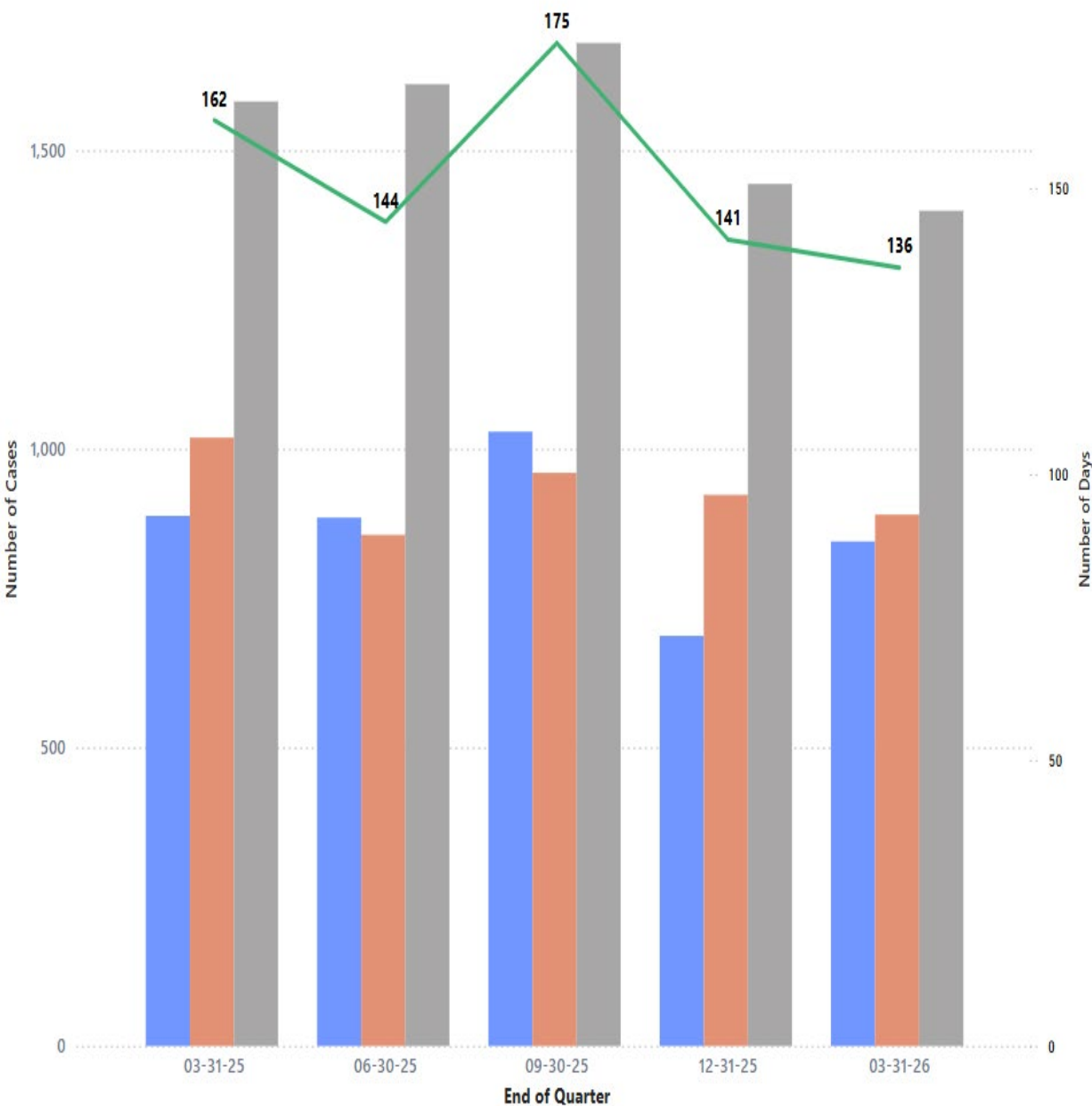


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	22	41	92	384
06-30-25	28	35	85	247
09-30-25	30	28	90	172
12-31-25	17	24	83	255
03-31-26	17	19	83	249

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Firearms & Toolmarks

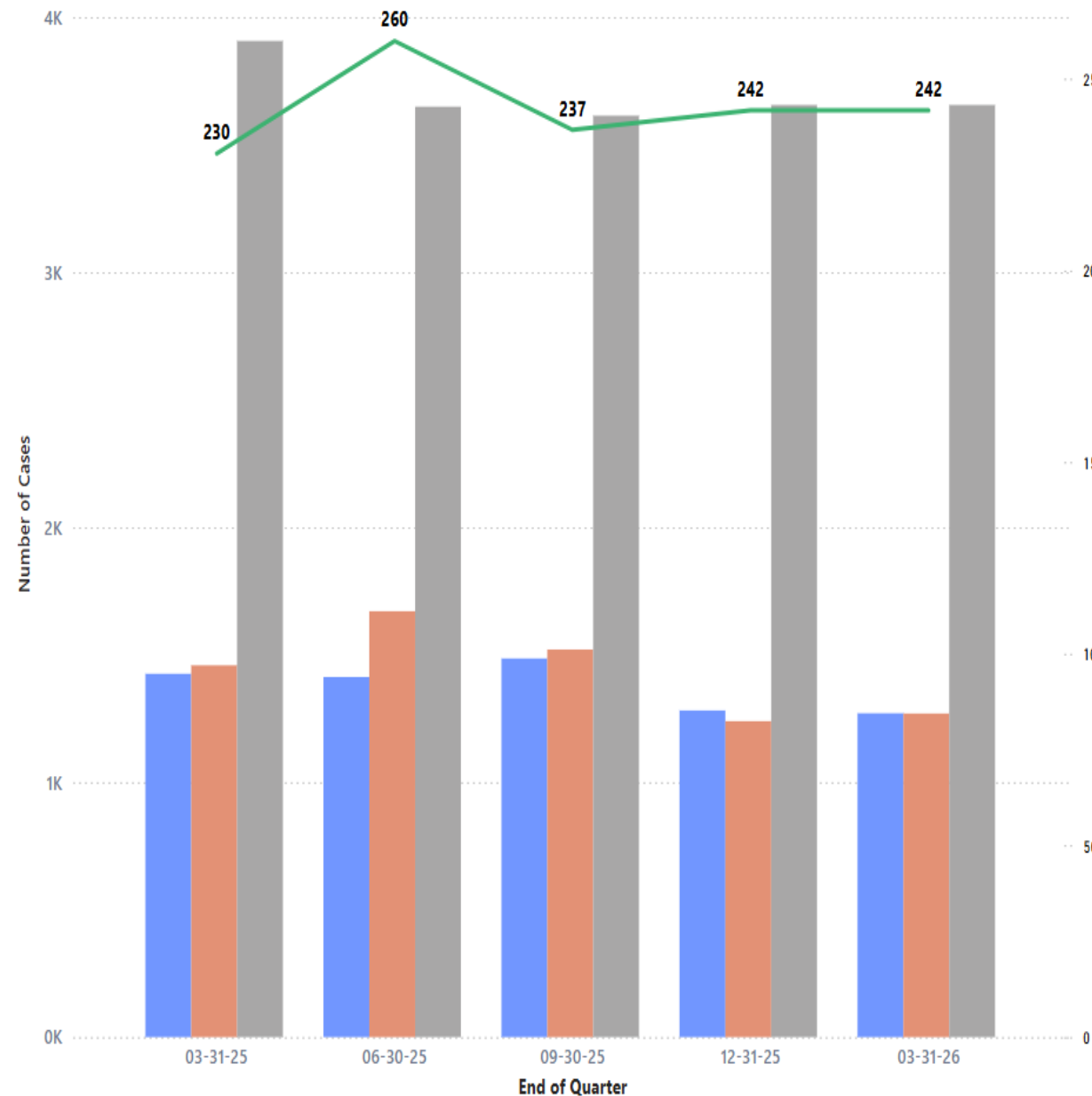


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	888	1,019	1,582	162
06-30-25	885	856	1,611	144
09-30-25	1,029	960	1,680	175
12-31-25	687	923	1,444	141
03-31-26	845	890	1,399	136

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Forensic Biology (DNA)

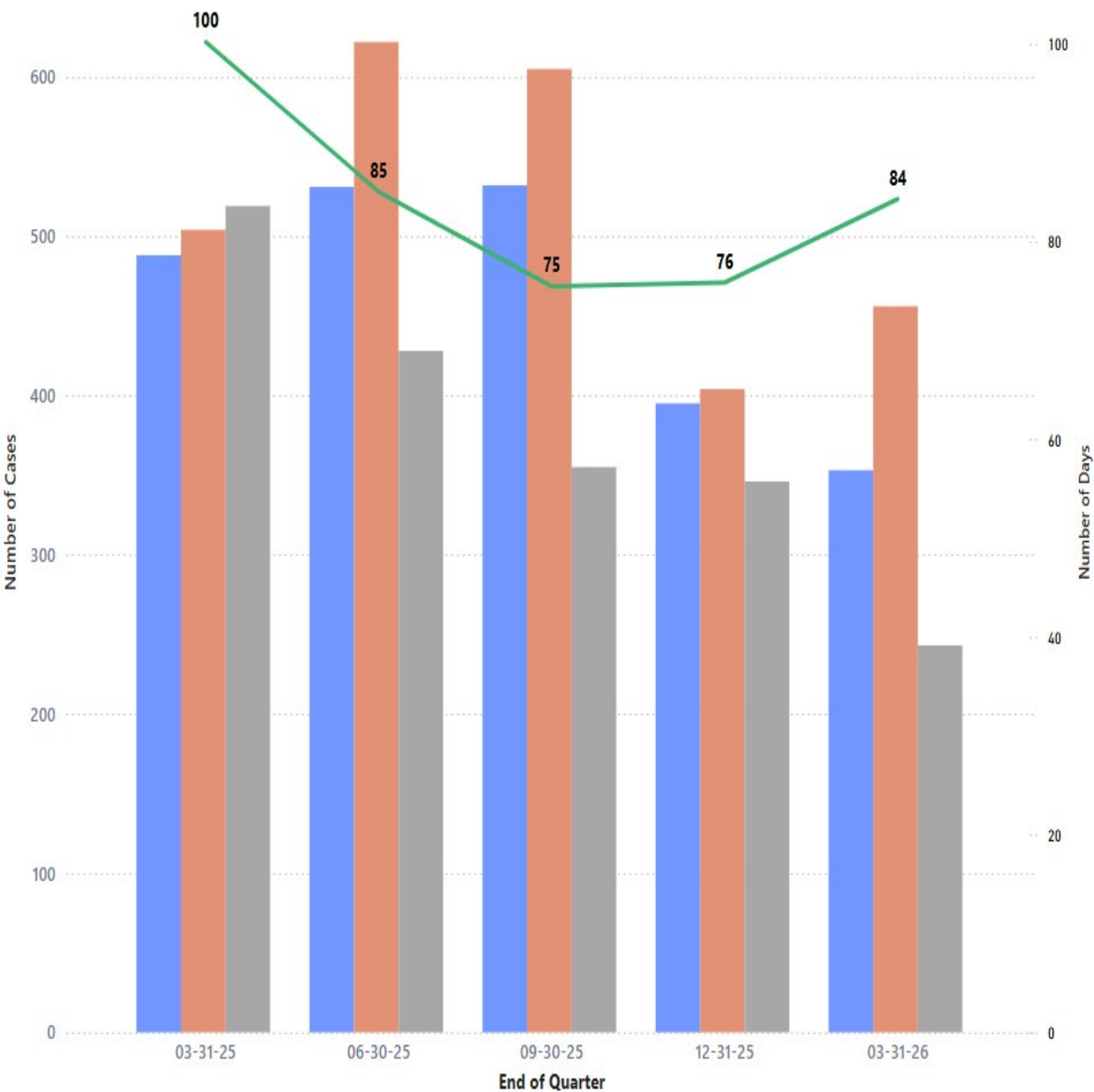


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	1,425	1,458	3,907	230
06-30-25	1,412	1,670	3,649	260
09-30-25	1,485	1,520	3,614	237
12-31-25	1,281	1,239	3,656	242
03-31-26	1,270	1,269	3,656	242

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Latent Prints & Impressions

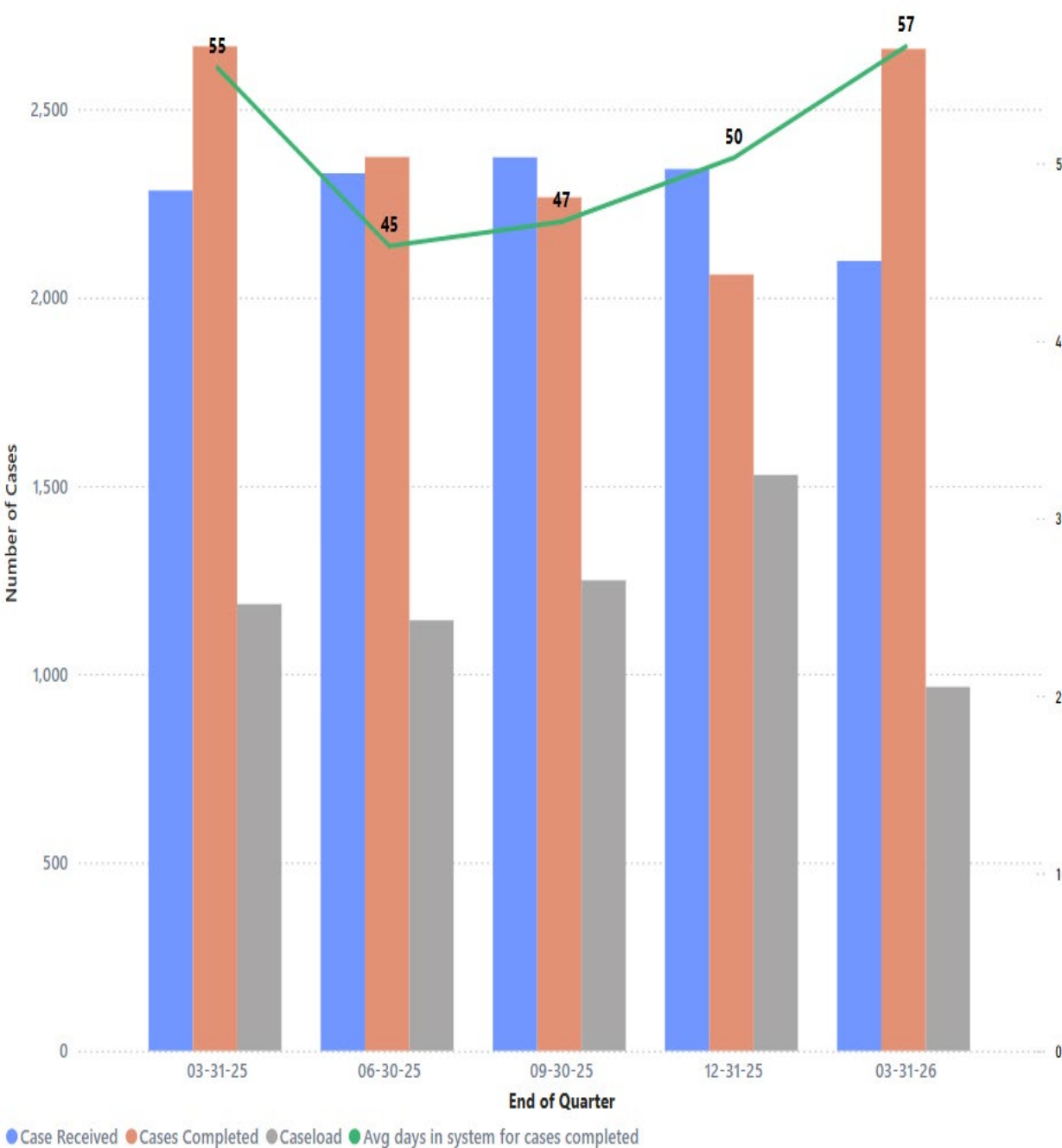


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	488	504	519	100
06-30-25	531	622	428	85
09-30-25	532	605	355	75
12-31-25	395	404	346	76
03-31-26	353	456	243	84

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Toxicology

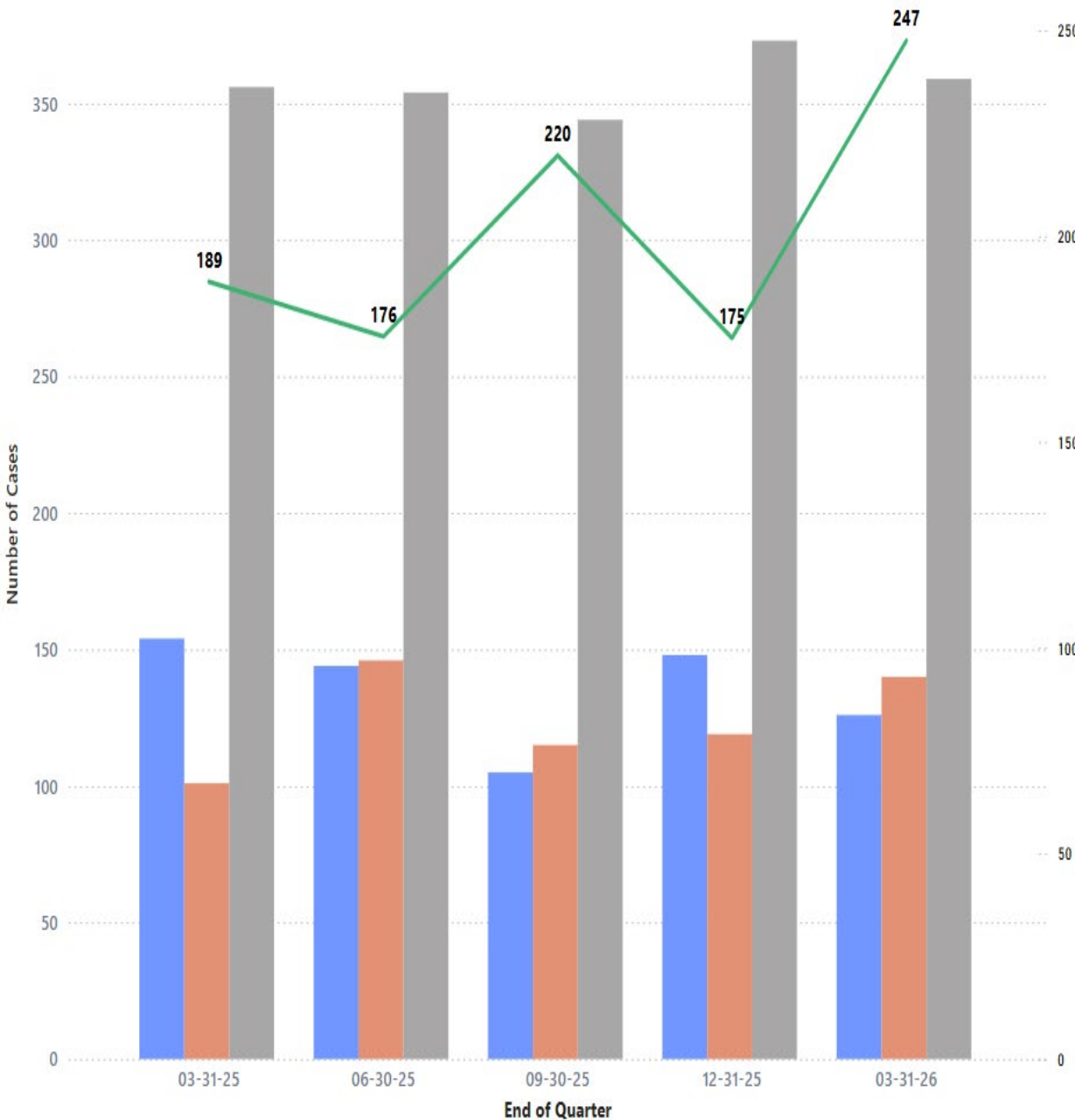


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	2,284	2,667	1,186	55
06-30-25	2,330	2,373	1,143	45
09-30-25	2,372	2,266	1,249	47
12-31-25	2,341	2,061	1,529	50
03-31-26	2,097	2,660	966	57

- For move, outsourcing from the Central District from March 1 – April 17, 2026.
- Will continue allowing Western OCME to outsource suspected overdose cases to private laboratory through June 30, 2026



Trace Evidence



End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	154	101	356	189
06-30-25	144	146	354	176
09-30-25	105	115	344	220
12-31-25	148	119	373	175
03-31-26	126	140	359	247

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed

Budget and Resources



Staffing and Budget

- Maximum Employment Limit: 374 (347 GF + 27 NGF)
- Current Staffing: 325 GF + 20 NGF (all GF positions are in-recruit)
- ~\$5,453,000 remained at the end of FY2025
- DFS approved to carryforward \$5,452,192 for the following purposes:
 - \$3,299,455 for the purchase of replacement Breath Alcohol equipment
 - \$2,152,737 to cover transition costs for the new Central Lab

Governor's Introduced Budget - FY27/FY28



Department of Forensic Science

	Operating Budget Summary			Authorized Position Summary		
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	Personnel Cost	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	Total Positions
2023 Appropriation	\$56,446,890	\$2,680,488	\$40,028,270	341.00	14.00	355.00
2024 Appropriation	\$55,888,025	\$2,680,488	\$40,373,881	345.00	14.00	359.00
2025 Appropriation	\$61,295,876	\$2,780,056	\$44,896,847	342.00	27.00	369.00
2026 Appropriation	\$62,009,944	\$2,780,056	\$45,570,381	347.00	27.00	374.00
2027 Base Budget	\$62,009,944	\$2,780,056	\$45,570,381	347.00	27.00	374.00
2027 Intro Changes	\$2,956,246	\$77,309	\$2,794,224	2.00	0.00	2.00
2027 Total	\$64,966,190	\$2,857,365	\$48,364,605	349.00	27.00	376.00
2028 Base Budget	\$62,009,944	\$2,780,056	\$45,570,381	347.00	27.00	374.00
2028 Intro Changes	\$3,007,282	\$77,309	\$2,844,674	2.00	0.00	2.00
2028 Total	\$65,017,226	\$2,857,365	\$48,415,055	349.00	27.00	376.00



Governor's Introduced Budget

Introduced Budget Non-Technical Changes

Increase staffing for the Forensic Biology Section (DNA)
Provides funding and two forensic scientist positions to address workload issues in the Forensic Biology Section. These positions routinely examine items of evidence for the presence of biological material and are qualified to perform the full range of testing provided by the section.

	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
General Fund	\$255,187	\$306,223
Authorized Positions	2.00	2.00

Grant Approval Request – DMV TRENDS



- DMV TRENDS – (10/1/26 through 9/30/27)
- GOAL: to provide faster toxicological results in OCME traffic fatality cases.
- Funds six full-time and two part-time Forensic Laboratory Specialists in the Toxicology section, including VITA costs for the full-time employees
- Total Budget = \$725,491
 - Direct costs = \$527,630
 - De-minimus indirect costs of 10% = \$52,763
 - 25% DFS State match requirement = \$145,098

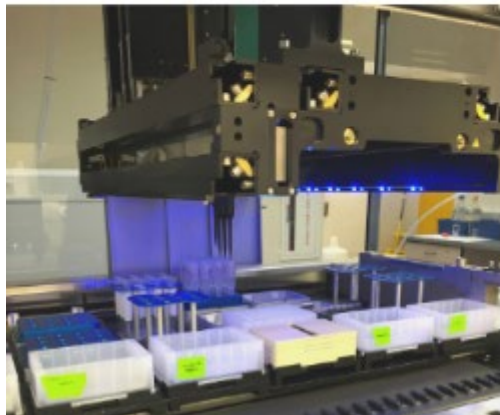
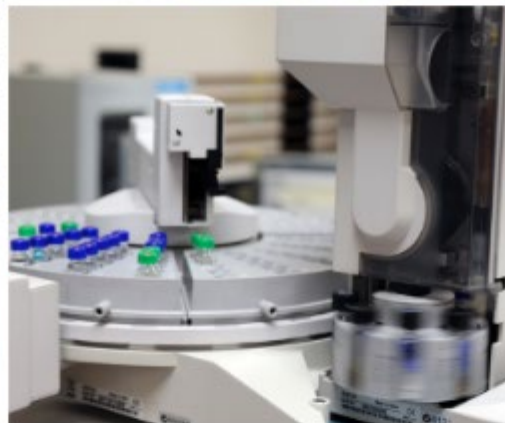
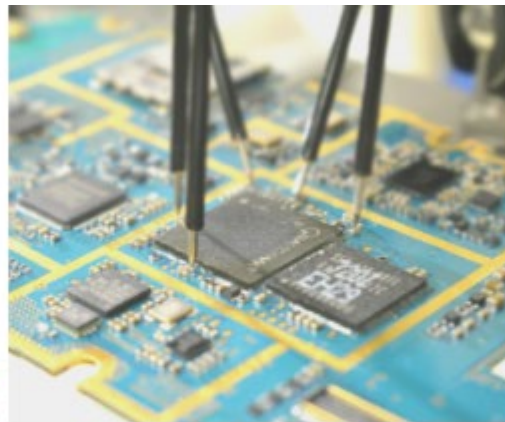


Grant Approval Request - DMV

- DMV Breath Alcohol (BA) - (10/1/26 through 9/30/27)
- GOALS: to provide BA training at little to no cost to law enforcement agencies; support continuing education; maintain capacity in the BA section; and maintain continuity of operations.
- Total Budget = \$455,043.
 - Total Direct costs = \$330,940;
 - De-minimus Indirect costs of 10% = \$33,094;
 - 25% State Match = \$91,009.

Funding includes:

- full-time BA Forensic Scientist in the Breath Alcohol section, including VITA costs;
- hotel and per diem expenses for law enforcement officers attending Basic Operator training, new instructor training, and instructor recertification training;
- continuing education for Breath Alcohol scientists;
- classroom supplies;
- monthly smartphone charges; and
- cases for new instruments



Thank you!