



Central (Richmond)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

# DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Forensic Science Board

January 4, 2023





*Save the Date*

March 2, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.  
Groundbreaking Ceremony



# Central Laboratory Capital Project

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- Full funding has been approved
- Construction permit has been issued
- Groundbreaking and other pre-construction related activities are being scheduled in early March
- Project completion anticipated late 2025 / early 2026

7:30



Virginia Department of  
Forensic Science



- About DFS
- Forensic Services
- Documents
- Training
- Regional Labs
- Forensic Kits
- Oversight
- FAQ
- Contact Us

**POLICY NOTICES**  
An updated Policy Notice relating  
to the availability of Toxicology

dfs.virginia.gov



# Agency Website

- December 22 – Updated website launched
- Updated to current standards for accessibility and viewing on mobile devices



# Training for Attorneys and Judges

- Planning in-person sessions at all 4 laboratories in Spring 2023
  - Controlled Substances – Half-day
  - DNA – Full-day
- No registration fee or CLE credits





# Customer Working Group

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- Planning Customer Working Group (CWG) meeting after General Assembly
  - Seek feedback from customers on evidence submission policies and services provided
  - Meetings will be virtual

# Stress & Vicarious Trauma Training

- February – April 2023
- Virtual
- Four 45-minute sessions
- MindGen LLC





# Post-Conviction Project

- Case files identified for review as part of project to be returned to State Records Center
- To be returned to investigating agency:
  - Evidence identified in case files
  - Dried sample extracts





# Forensic Training

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- Three FSA sessions completed in 2022
  - 108<sup>th</sup> Session – starts January 30, 2023
- Two Forensic Trainer Senior positions to start in early 2023





# Division of Administration & Finance

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## New processes and systems implementation:

- **Human Resources** – Cardinal Human Capital Management (HCM) replaced TAL and Payline; CoV Learning Center (COVLC) updated in December and Recruitment Management System (RMS) to be replaced in January
- **Procurement** – New eVA
- **Finance** – Cardinal HCM integrated into the overall Cardinal system
- **IT** – Messaging migration to Microsoft 365



# Legislative Update

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- DFS has no agency bills for the upcoming General Assembly session
- DFS has provided technical information to the Virginia State Crime Commission relating to their DUI laws and enforcement policy options



# Field Test Regulation Update

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*6 VAC 40-30 Regulations for the Approval of Field Tests for Detection of Drugs* chemical field test evaluations

## **Published Lists:**

- Official version is published in the General Notices/Errata Section of the [Virginia Register of Regulations](#), Volume 32, Issue 13, February 22, 2016, pages 2057-2067.
- Additional kits were approved and published in the General Notices Section of the [Virginia Register of Regulations, Volume 39, Issue 8, December 5, 2022, pages 1190-1191](#).
- Additional kits were approved and published in the General Notices Section of the [Virginia Register of Regulations, Volume 39, Issue 9, December 19, 2022, page 1287](#).

<https://dfs.virginia.gov/field-test-kits/field-test-kit-evaluation/preliminary-hearing-drug-field-test-kits/>



# Toxicology Updates

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## Outsourcing

- OCME for outsourcing cases to private laboratory, currently Eastern and Western Districts
- Outsourcing is not utilized for implied consent DUI/DUID cases

## DUI/DUID Testing Policy - January 1, 2023

- All DUI/DUID samples will be screened for a tetrahydrocannabinol metabolite and alcohol
- Additional drug screening will be performed on samples with a BAC < 0.100%
- Updated THC method in process for confirmation and quantitation

# Budget and Resources

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# Governor's Introduced Budget

## Department of Forensic Science

### Operating Budget Summary

### Authorized Position Summary

	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	Personnel Cost	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	Total Positions
2019 Appropriation	\$45,818,010	\$2,043,270	\$33,962,401	326.00	0.00	326.00
2020 Appropriation	\$50,014,798	\$2,259,770	\$34,918,472	326.00	2.00	328.00
2021 Appropriation	\$52,605,974	\$2,447,593	\$37,320,641	328.00	3.00	331.00
2022 Appropriation	\$53,325,654	\$2,438,930	\$37,737,079	331.00	4.00	335.00
2023 Appropriation	\$56,446,890	\$2,680,488	\$40,028,270	341.00	14.00	355.00
2023 Intro Changes	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>\$56,446,890</b>	<b>\$2,680,488</b>	<b>\$40,028,270</b>	<b>341.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>355.00</b>
2024 Appropriation	\$55,639,990	\$2,680,488	\$40,125,846	341.00	14.00	355.00
2024 Intro Changes	\$634,406	\$0	\$524,336	6.00	0.00	6.00
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>\$56,274,396</b>	<b>\$2,680,488</b>	<b>\$40,650,182</b>	<b>347.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>361.00</b>

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## Operating Budget Changes

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### Introduced Budget Non-Technical Changes

#### Convert part-time evidence receiving technician position to full-time status

Provides one position and additional funding to convert a part-time evidence receiving technician position to full-time status. These positions maintain the chain of custody for evidence samples that are submitted to the Department.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$49,167
Authorized Positions	0.00	1.00

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#### Fund software subscription fees for cell phone investigative tools

Appropriates funding to cover the cost of software used to unlock cell phones that may contain evidence related to criminal investigations.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$107,770

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<b>Provide general fund support for Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) coordinator position</b>			
Provides general fund appropriation for a position that supports the agency's PERK tracking software. This position is currently supported by a federal grant that expires on September 30, 2023.	General Fund	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
		\$0	\$77,585
<b>Provide support for four biologist positions</b>			
Funds four biologist positions to address workload issues in the forensic biology section. These positions screen evidence submitted to the Department for the presence of DNA and perform other preliminary analyses and reporting.	General Fund	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Authorized Positions	\$0	\$314,637
		0.00	4.00
<b>Provide laboratory specialist position to enable agency response to THC legislation</b>			
Provides funding for one forensic laboratory specialist position to address the analysis of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) edibles, pursuant to potential legislation that may be introduced in the 2023 Session of the General Assembly.	General Fund	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Authorized Positions	\$0	\$85,247
		0.00	1.00



# Grants

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- Both the 2021 and 2022 CEBR grant awards were reviewed by the Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Completed in December 2022

# Case Statistics

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Slides below included updated statistics for End of Quarter and End of Year.



# December Workload Statistics

Section	Ending Backlog As of 12/31/2022	Average TAT (in days) Dec. 2022
Controlled Substances	2,471	39
Digital & Multimedia Evidence	49	109
Firearms & Toolmarks	1,419	92
Forensic Biology (DNA)	2,396	150
Latent Prints & Impressions	370	70
Toxicology	1,381	55
Trace Evidence	152	54

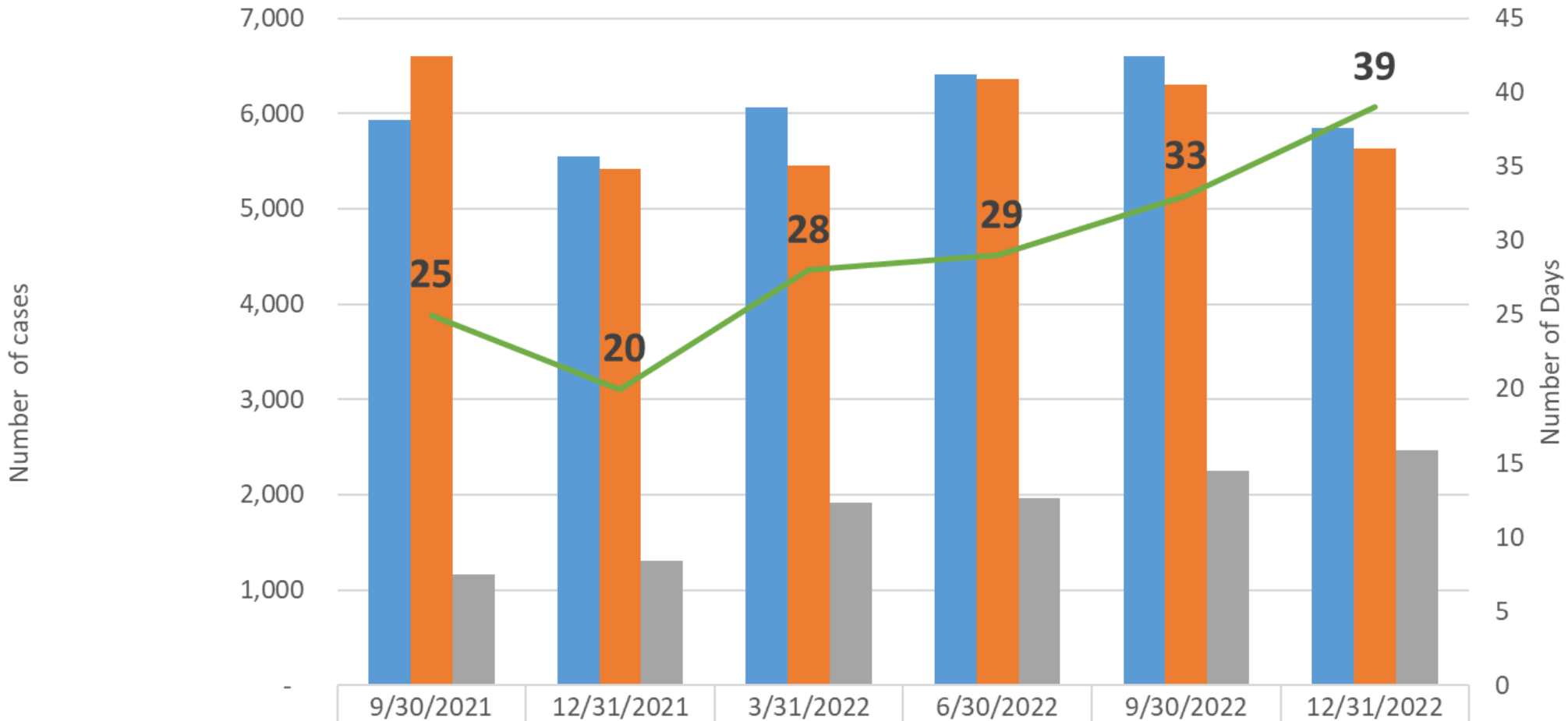


# CY Case Submission Comparison

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% change (19 to 22)</b>
Controlled Substances	35,423	29,584	25,271	24,909	-42%
Digital & Multimedia Evidence	202	177	189	237	+15%
Firearms & Toolmarks	7,017	7,919	7,249	6,116	-15%
Forensic Biology (DNA)	6,075	6,137	6,295	6,630	+8%
Latent Prints & Impressions	2,696	2,337	2,033	2,283	-18%
Toxicology	9,918	10,765	10,635*	9,907*	0%
Trace Evidence	693	707	662	730	+5%

\*2021 and 2022 Toxicology submissions are artificially low due to OCME outsourcing.

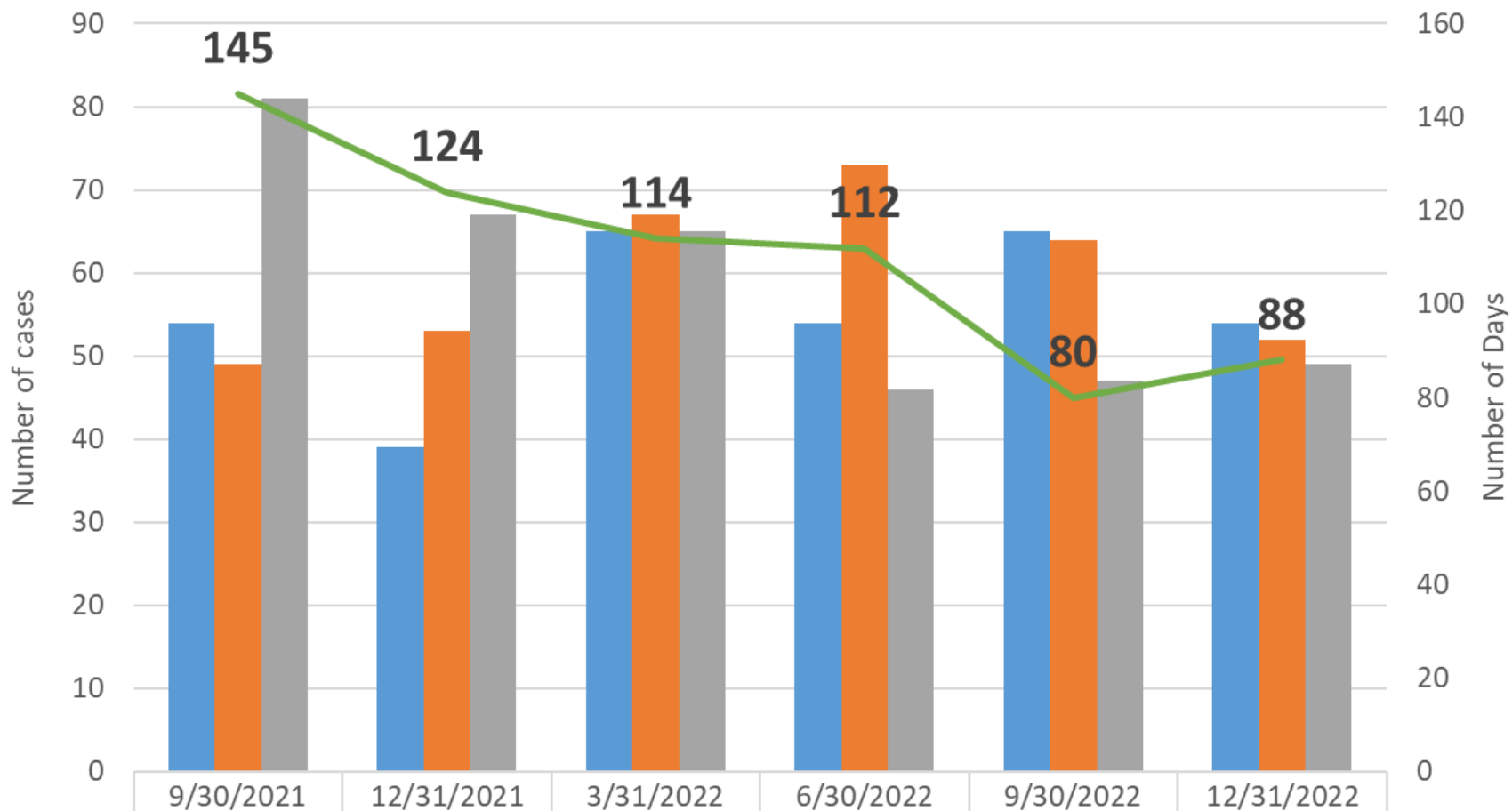
### Controlled Substances



	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022
Cases Received*	5,933	5,555	6,066	6,410	6,598	5,852
Cases Completed	6,603	5,416	5,459	6,364	6,304	5,637
Caseload	1,158	1,309	1,916	1,962	2,256	2,471
Average Days in System	25	20	28	29	33	39

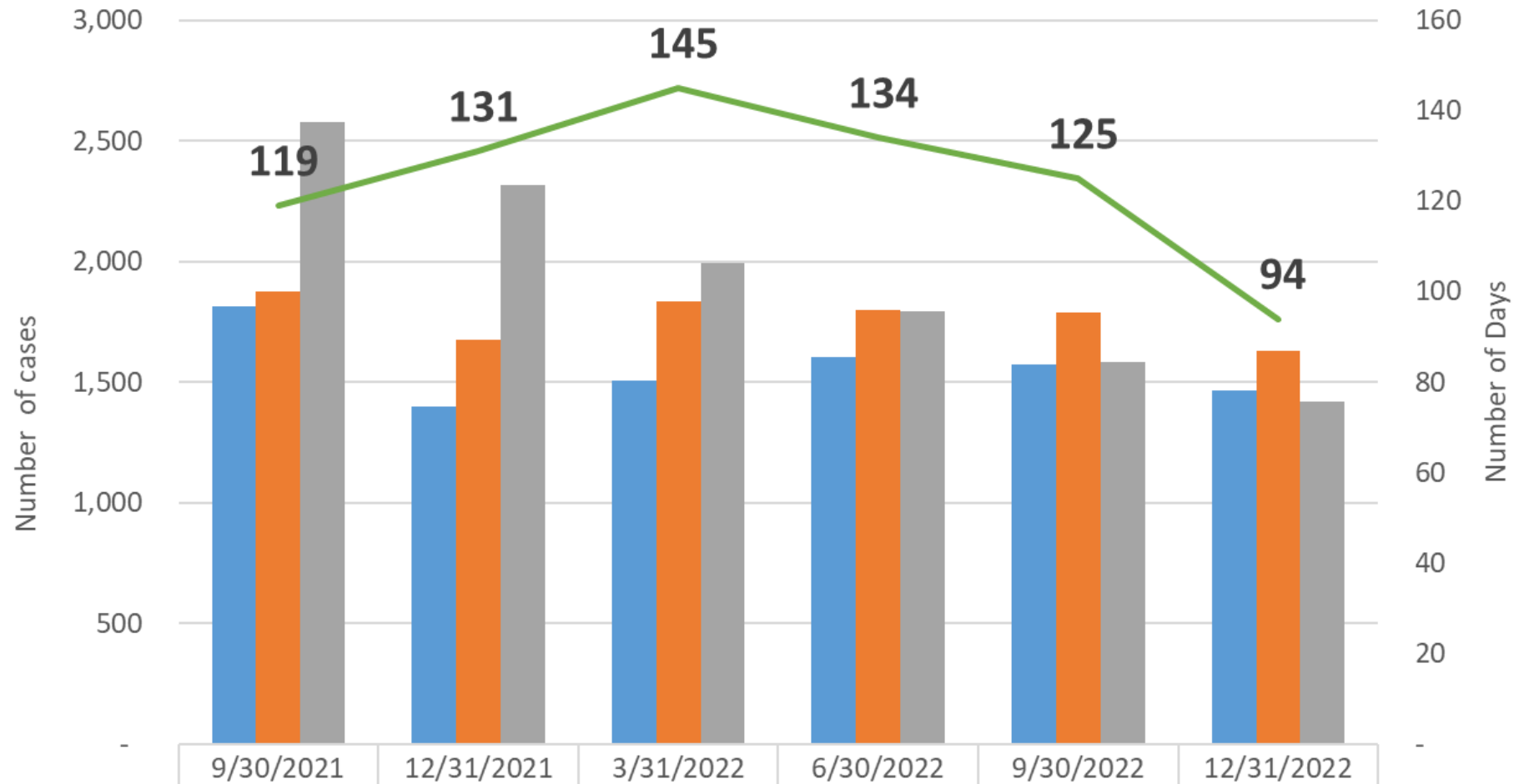


### Digital & Multimedia Evidence



	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022
Cases Received*	54	39	65	54	65	54
Cases Completed	49	53	67	73	64	52
Caseload	81	67	65	46	47	49
Average Days in System	145	124	114	112	80	88

## Firearms & Toolmarks

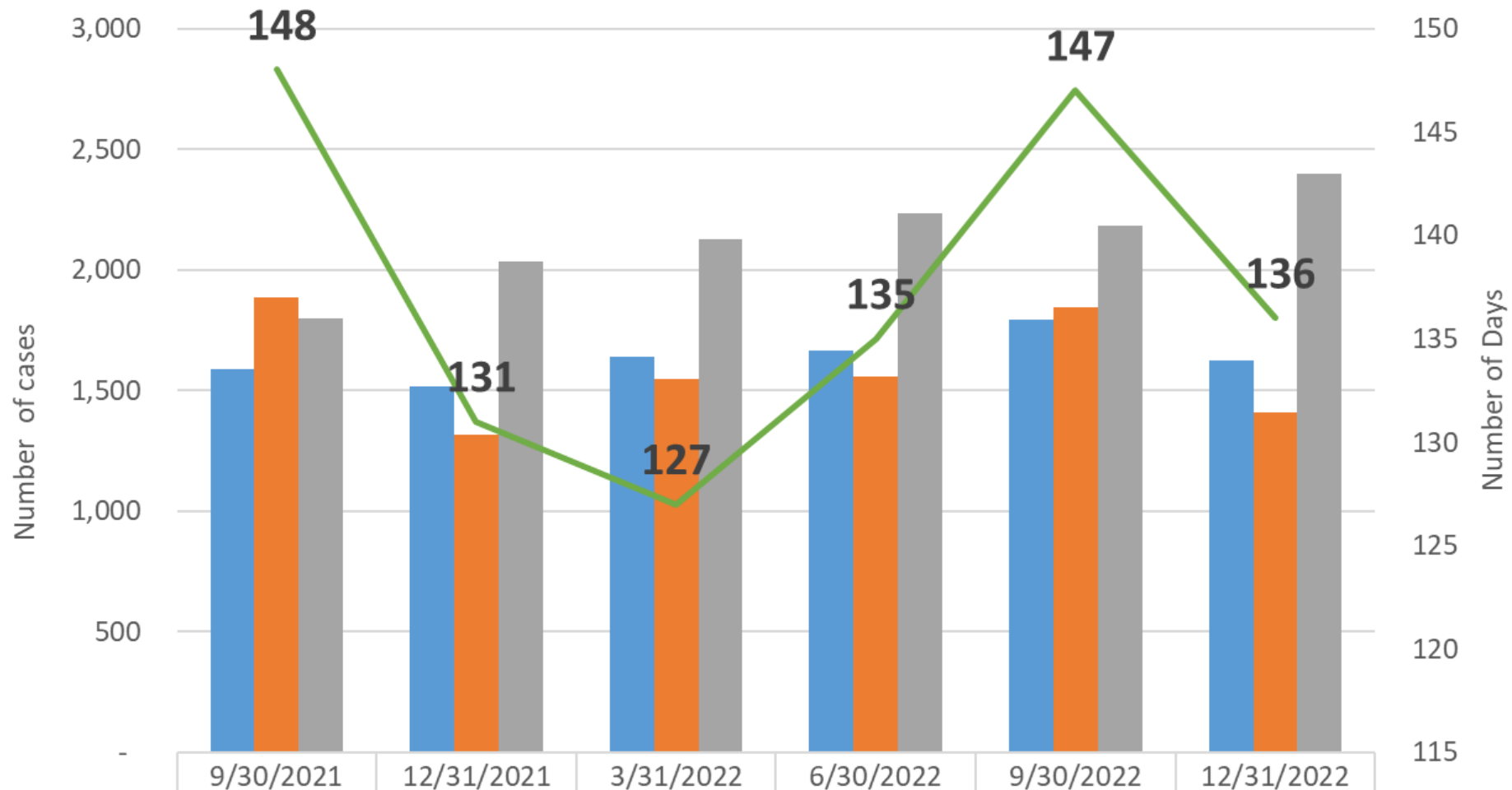


<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Cases Received*	1,812	1,401	1,509	1,603	1,575	1,467
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Cases Completed	1,875	1,674	1,834	1,799	1,789	1,630
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> Caseload	2,578	2,317	1,992	1,796	1,582	1,419
<span style="color: green;">—</span> Average Days in System	119	131	145	134	125	94



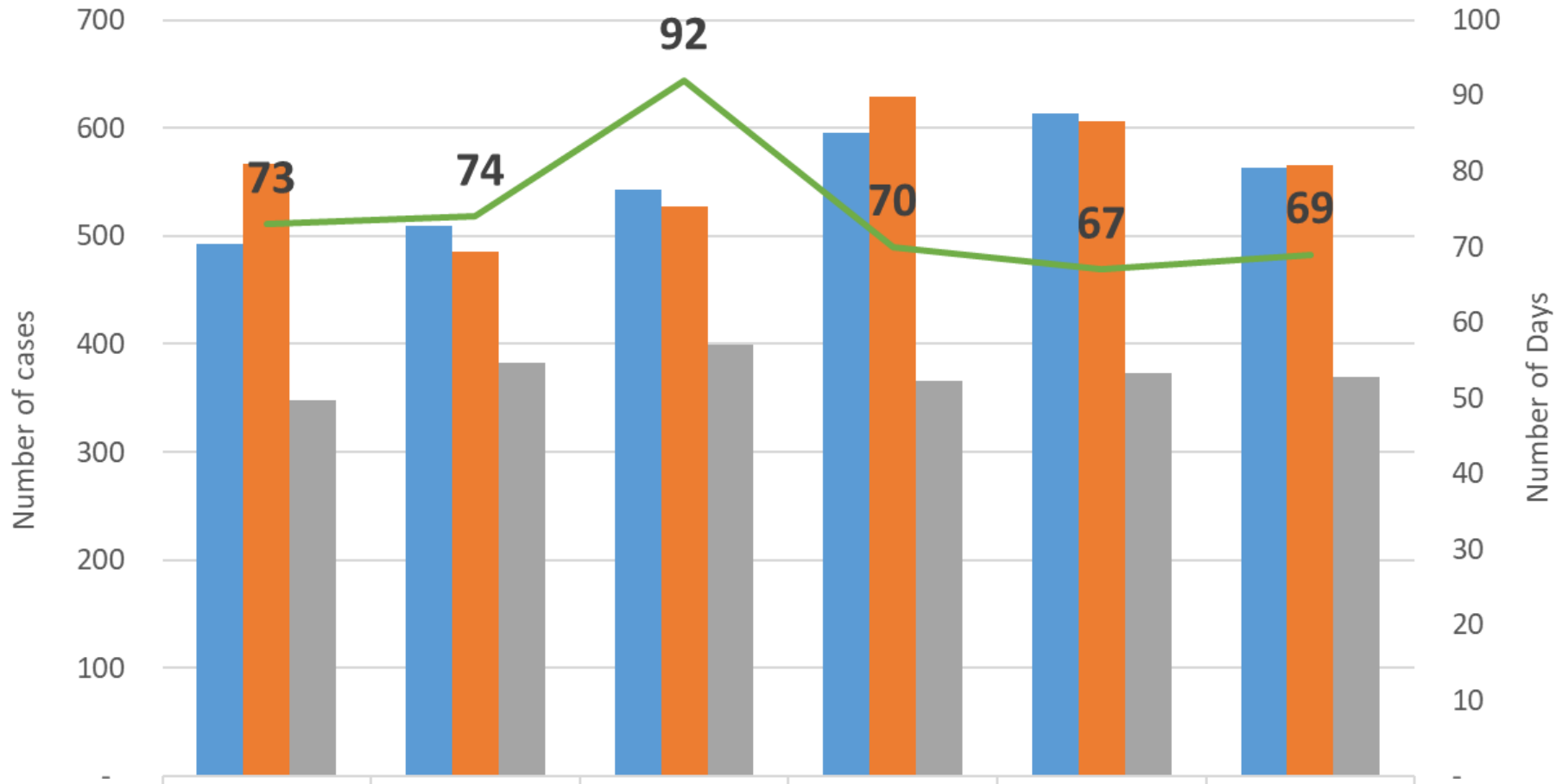


### Forensic Biology (DNA)



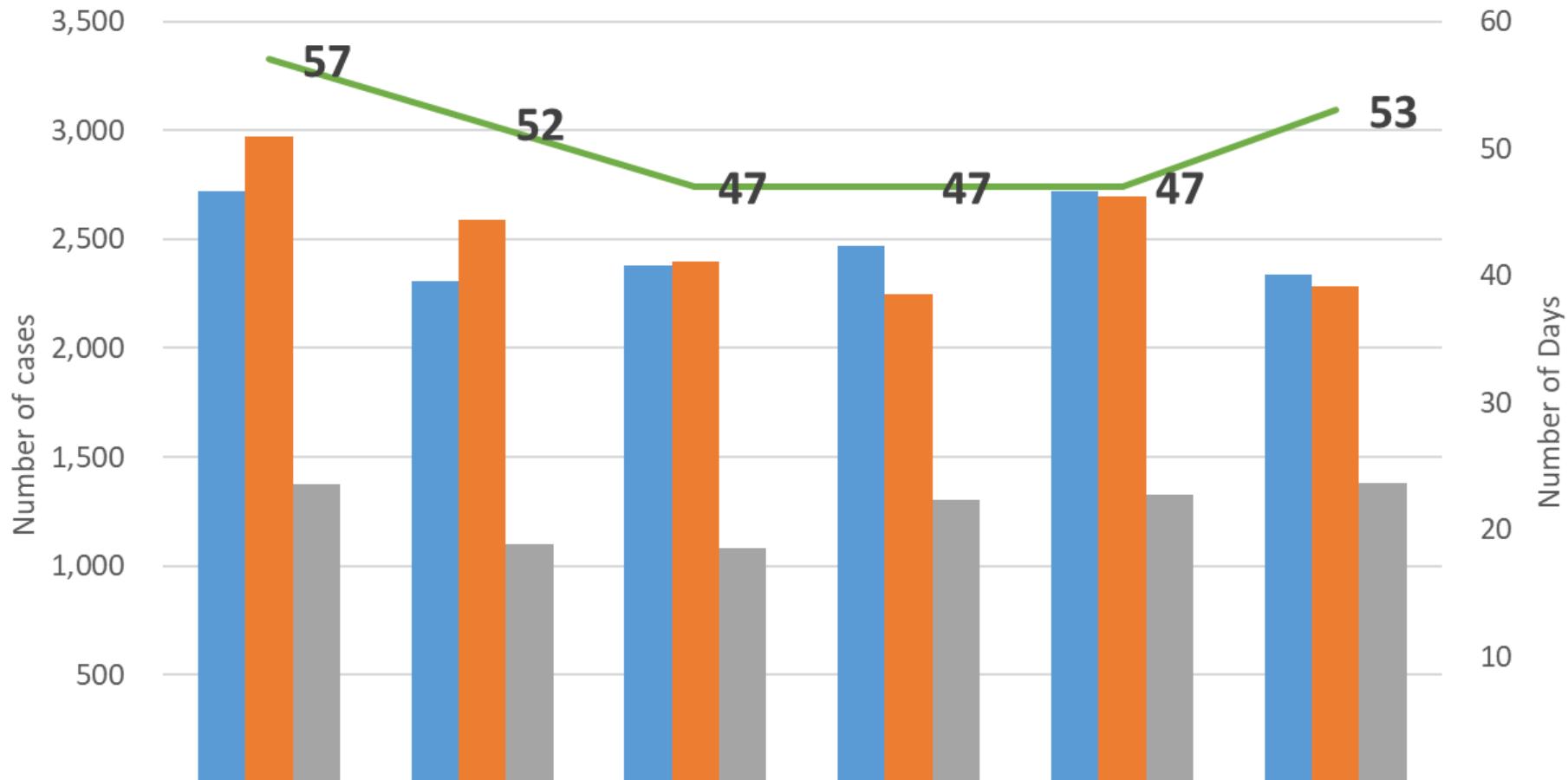
	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022
Cases Received*	1,589	1,519	1,641	1,664	1,795	1,622
Cases Completed	1,885	1,318	1,547	1,557	1,844	1,411
Caseload	1,799	2,033	2,127	2,234	2,185	2,396
Average Days in System	148	131	127	135	147	136

## Latent Prints & Impressions



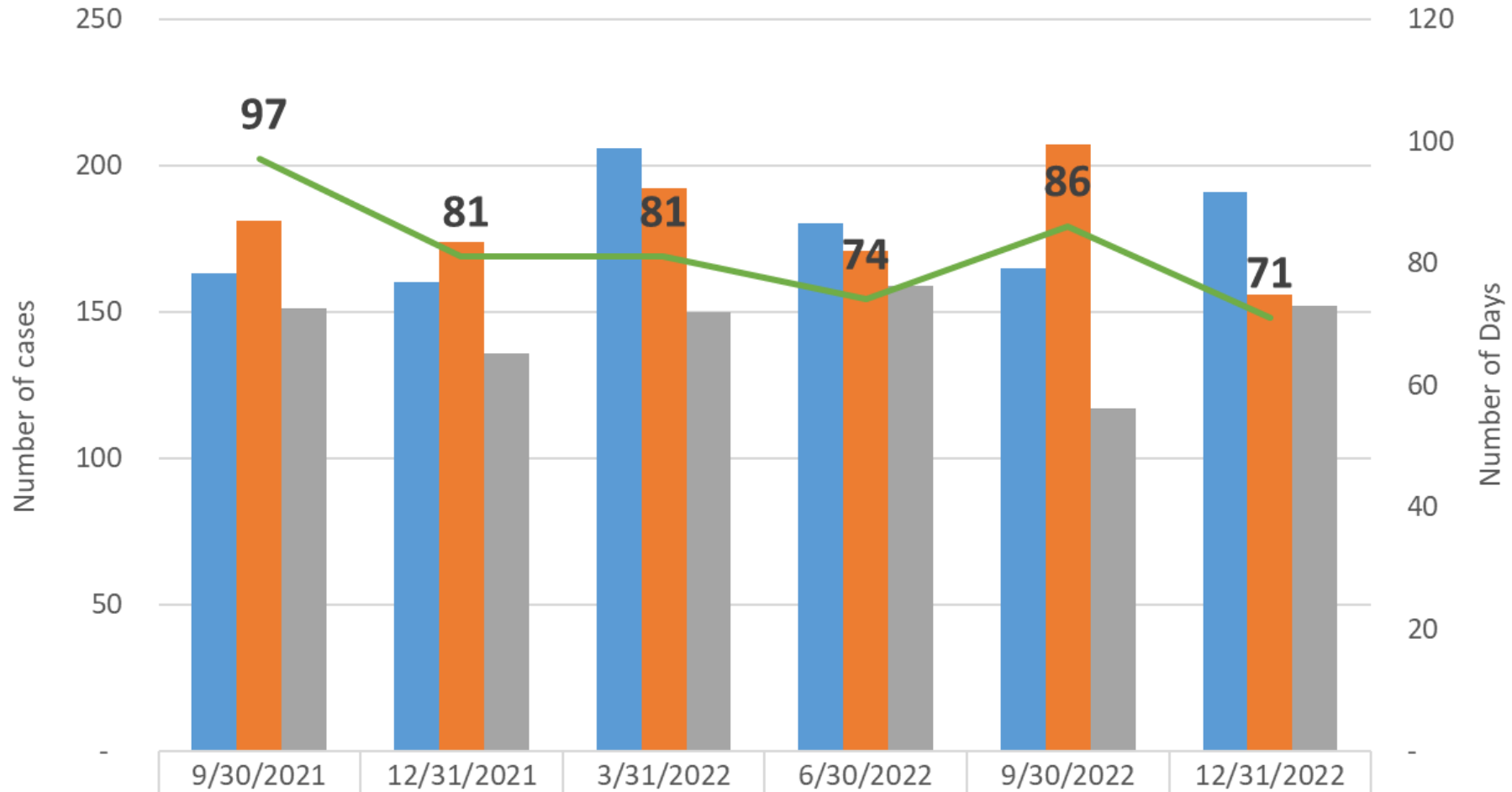
	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Cases Received*	493	509	543	596	613	563
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Cases Completed	567	486	527	629	606	566
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> Caseload	348	383	399	366	373	370
<span style="color: green;">—</span> Average Days in System	73	74	92	70	67	69

## Toxicology

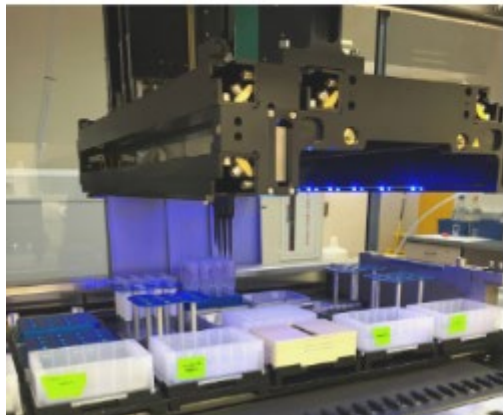
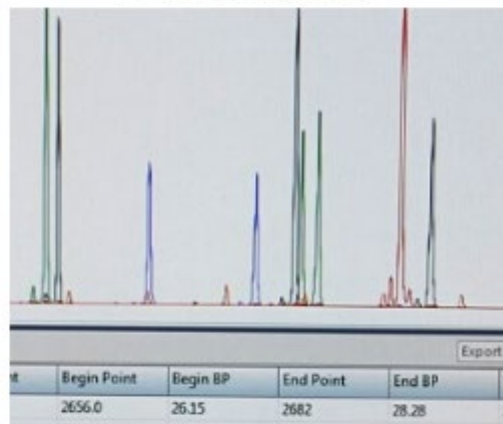
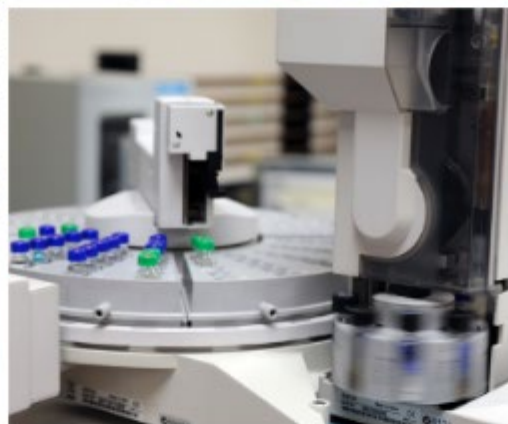
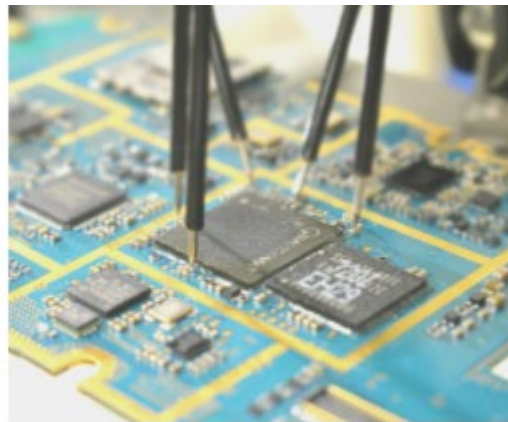


	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022
Cases Received*	2,723	2,306	2,379	2,468	2,721	2,336
Cases Completed	2,974	2,587	2,398	2,248	2,694	2,283
Caseload	1,377	1,100	1,081	1,301	1,328	1,381
Average Days in System	57	52	47	47	47	53

## Trace Evidence



Cases Received*	163	160	206	180	165	191
Cases Completed	181	174	192	171	207	156
Caseload	151	136	150	159	117	152
Average Days in System	97	81	81	74	86	71



Thank you!