



Central (Richmond)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

# DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Forensic Science Board

January 6, 2025





# Central Laboratory Capital Project

- On schedule for completion in Q4 2025 and move-in Q1 2026
- Major milestones:
  - Permanent electric connection was installed by Dominion Power
  - Final steps of becoming fully “weathered in” that will allow activation of HVAC equipment to provide the environmental conditions needed to install finishes and flooring





<https://skanska.app.box.com/s/580hykulrlvdl691n6yxsrqgsh1ry05z>

# Toxicology Laboratory





## 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:2020

FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories:2020

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](http://www.anab.org).

  
Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics



Expiry Date: 30 September 2026  
Certificate Numbers:  
FT-0051  
FT-0052  
FT-0053  
FT-0054  
FC-0004



# Accreditation

- Certificates and Scopes are available on the DFS website: <https://www.dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/accreditation/accreditation-documentation/>
- Current cycle expires September 30, 2026
- Working with accrediting body to determine the best option for next full assessment



# New Seized Drug Dashboard



Virginia Department of Forensic Science

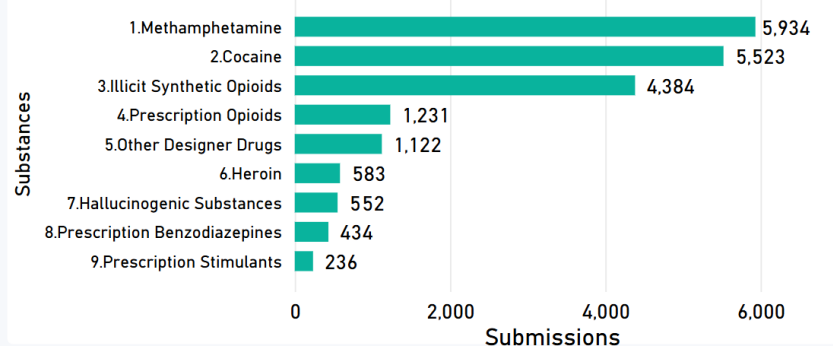
SUBSTANCE All

YEAR 2024

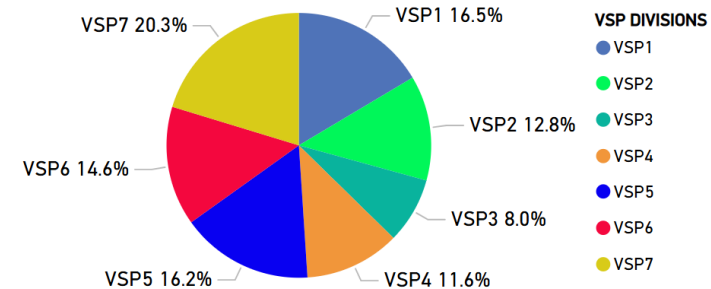
VSP Divisions Court Districts Opioids



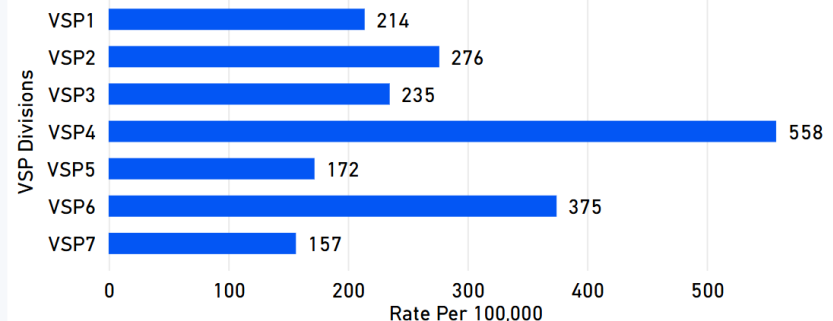
Submissions by 2024



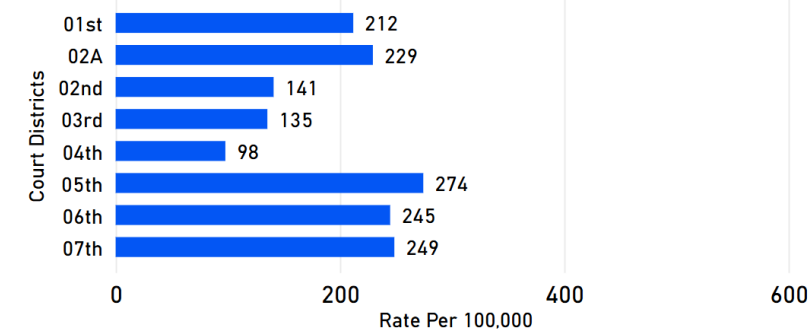
Submissions Breakdown by VSP Divisions



Submissions by VSP Divisions



Submissions by Court Districts



\*Rate = Distribution\*100,000/sum of population

\*Rate = Distribution\*100,000/sum of population

- Project with the Office of Data Governance and Analytics (ODGA)
- Using same data as in annual reports (based on NFLIS data)

<https://dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/case-statistics-dashboard/>



# Agency Outreach

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- Southwest Virginia Law Enforcement Summit, March 29, 2024 (Kevin Patrick and Dr. Trista Wright)
- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council and Spring Institute, April 14 – 16, 2024 (Linda Jackson, Amy Jenkins, and Jesse Lindmar)
- Virginia Sheriffs' Association, April 25, 2024 (Amy Jenkins)
- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Annual Summer Conference – August 2 (Amy Jenkins and Brad Jenkins)
- Virginia Chiefs of Police – August 27 (Linda Jackson and Amy Jenkins)
- Public Defenders' Conference – October 2 (Linda Jackson and Mason Byrd)
- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Executive Session – December 5 (Linda Jackson)

# Request for Laboratory Examination

FS Lab #  Search



## Prelog Update

### Agency Information

Agency Name \*   
Jurisdiction of Offense

#### Officers

Type	Name	Phone	Fax	Email
<a href="#">Edit / Delete</a>	Investigating	Smith, M. E.		

[Add](#)

### Case Information

Agency Case #   
Offense Date \*   
Offense \*   
Court   
Court Date   
Return Method

#### Parties of Interest

Type	First	Middle	Last	DOB	GENDER	RACE	SID
<a href="#">Edit / Delete</a>	Suspect	John		Doe		Male	

[Add](#)

#### Business

Type	Name	Address
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(No Businesses)

[Add](#)

### Evidence

Agency Item #	Prelog Item #	Description	Exam	Comment
<a href="#">Edit / Delete</a>	2	1 zip lock bag	Drugs	

[Add](#)

### Statement of Facts

Found suspected drugs.

[Submit](#)

[Print](#)

[Clear Form](#)

- Currently beta testing Prelog for evidence submission
- Current RFLE form will be replaced
- § 19.2-187.01. Certificate of analysis as evidence of chain of custody of material described therein.

or of the official character of the person whose name is signed to it. The signature of the person who received the material for the laboratory on the request for laboratory examination form **or evidence submission receipt, either by hand or by electronic means,** shall be deemed prima facie evidence that the person receiving the material was an authorized agent and that such receipt constitutes proper receipt by the laboratory for purposes of this section. For purposes of this section, any laboratory that has entered into





# Evidence Receiving

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- Engaged with agency submitters, including the Chesterfield Police Department, Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office and Gloucester County Sheriff's Office, to increase understanding of practices and policies
- Hosted the Virginia Association of Property & Evidence Professionals (VAPEP) – September 27, 2024, at the Northern Laboratory in Manassas
  - 37 agencies attended
  - Covered topics such as Unclaimed Property, Records Retention, statutes related to Property and Evidence Management
  - Provided opportunities for networking and information exchange
- Six Evidence Specialists currently in training



# Audits and Reviews in 2024

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- IT Security Audit
- APA Internal Control Questionnaire
- Agency Risk Management and Internal Control Standards (ARMICS)



# Board of Pharmacy Expedited Scheduling

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DFS recommended 8 compounds in October 2024. The compounds were considered at the Board's December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and are pending final approval.

## **Synthetic Opioids:**

- Metonitazepyne
- N-desethyl etonitazene
- ortho-methylfentanyl

## **Hallucinogenic Properties:**

- 4-acetoxy-N,N-diethyltryptamine
- 4-hydroxy-N,N-diethyltryptamine
- 3-methylmethcathinone

## **Cannabimimetic Agents:**

- ADB-INACA
- Cyclohexyl-PIATA

# National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB)

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- Applied for and was accepted as a Level I member of NAFSB representing the Virginia FSB, as requested
- Attended the meeting in Albany, NY in November 2024
- Presented with Ms. Jenkins and Dr. Corrado (SAC Chair) on a Virginia Spotlight Panel



# Workload Statistics – 2024 Q4

Section	Cases Submitted	Cases Completed	Average Case Turnaround Times (in days)
Controlled Substances	6,078	6,081	35
Digital & Multimedia Evidence	26	33	282
Firearms & Toolmarks	939	1,007	139
Forensic Biology (DNA)	1,385	1,331	212
Latent Prints & Impressions	469	511	82
Toxicology	2,505	2,512	56
Trace Evidence	144	146	189

# Plans for Additional DNA Capacity Update



- PERK Processing Unit in Central Laboratory
  - One Biologist online
  - Four in training, completion expected March
- Fill and train two Forensic Scientist positions received in FY25 budget (1 in Northern and 1 in Western)
- Plan to outsource “non-persons” cases from all locations to a private laboratory



# Budget and Resources

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# Staffing and Budget

- Maximum Employment Limit: 369 (342 GF + 27 NGF)
- Current Staffing: 320 GF + 15 NGF
- Compensation Study in 2025

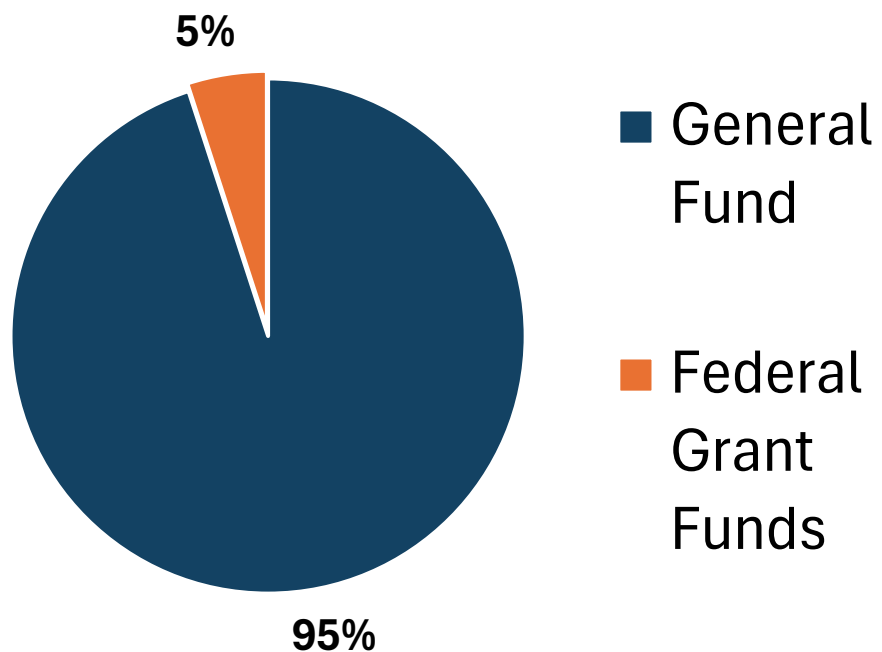
	Item Details(\$)		Appropriations(\$)	
	First Year FY2025	Second Year FY2026	First Year FY2025	Second Year FY2026
Total for Department of Forensic Science.....			\$64,075,932	\$64,153,890
General Fund Positions.....	342.00	342.00		
Nongeneral Fund Positions.....	27.00	27.00		
Position Level.....	369.00	369.00		
Fund Sources: General.....	\$61,295,876	\$61,373,834		
Federal Trust.....	\$2,780,056	\$2,780,056		



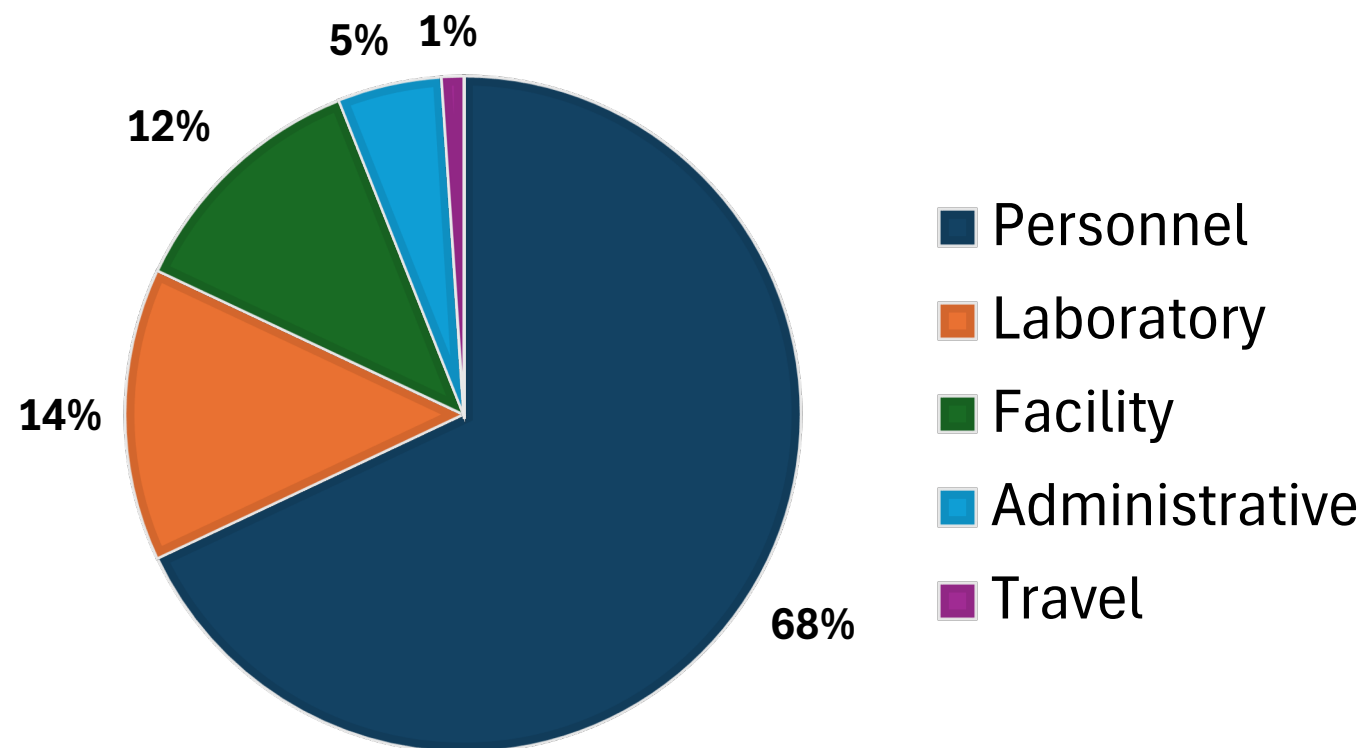


# Funding

## FUNDING SOURCES



## AGENCY EXPENSES



# Governor's Introduced Budget – FY26



## Operating Budget Changes

### Introduced Budget Non-Technical Changes

#### **Increase staffing for new Central Laboratory facility maintenance**

Provides funding for two building operations specialist positions to perform ongoing preventative maintenance and repairs at the new Central Laboratory facility.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$235,309
Authorized Positions	0.00	2.00

#### **Increase staffing for the Forensic Biology Section (DNA)**

Provides funding for 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>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$292,801
Authorized Positions	0.00	2.00



# Year End Balances

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FY24 Year End Balance: \$2,894,013

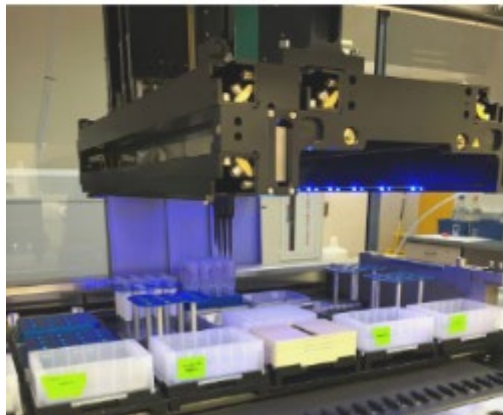
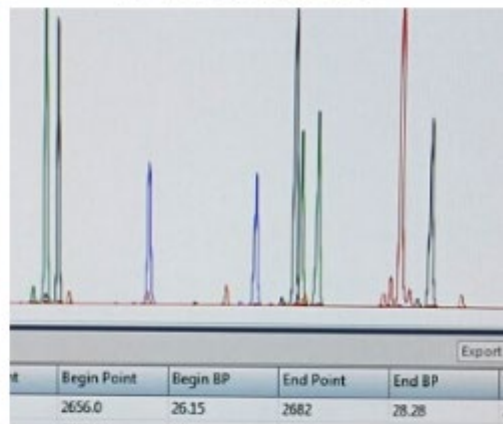
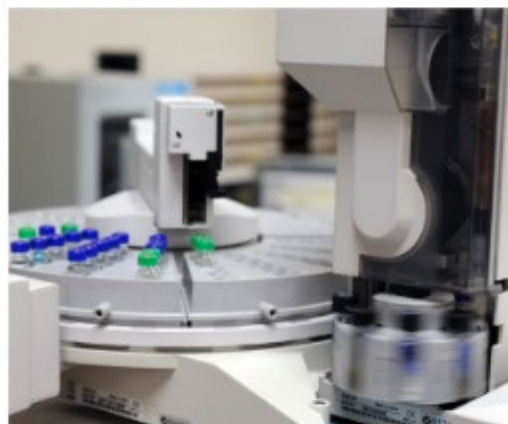
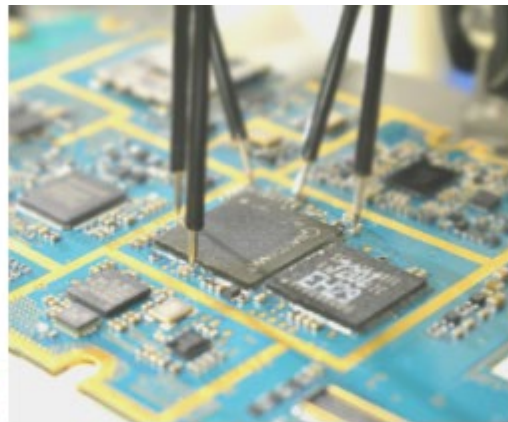
- Included the \$2,365,142 that was carried over from FY23 to pay for new evidential Breath Alcohol instruments
- Due to the anticipated dates of delivery for the new instruments, DFS requested and was approved to carryover the balance to FY25



# Recent Grants Received

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- FY 2025 DMV Highway Safety Grant Program – \$780,033 (combined; requires a 25% match)
- FY 2024 BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) - \$2,033,717
- FY 2024 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant - \$252,443
- Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) Funding through Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) - \$107,730 over two years



Thank you!