



Central (Mechanicsville)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Forensic Science Board

July 15, 2026





Appointment of New Director



Governor Spanberger has
appointed

Alka B. Lohmann

Director of Technical Services

as the next Director of DFS,
effective August 1, 2026

Customer Notice: <https://dfs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/Customer-Notice-DFS-Leadership-Change.pdf>



Central Laboratory Ribbon Cutting

- Grand opening/ribbon cutting held on June 8, 2026
- All sections resumed work by June 9
- Contact information:
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Central Laboratory
8850 Times Dispatch Blvd, Suite 100
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
(804) 786-6800
 - All phone numbers remain the same
 - All FAX numbers have changed



<https://dfs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/NOTICE-Relocation-of-Central-Laboratory.pdf>



Mail Center

- Added secure mail center for DFS and OCME
- Began receiving mail on July 3



New Technology

Phase 1:
Cartridge
Cases



Phase 2:
Bullets



- Rapid DNA – ANDE
- Next Generation Sequencing (DNA) – Qiagen
- 3D Scanning Microscopy (Firearms) – Quantum



Paul B. Ferrara Training Center

- Forensic Training
 - Classroom
 - Laboratory
 - Two crime scene rooms
- Breath Alcohol
- Large classroom (able to be divided into 2-3 independent classrooms)





Forensic Training (2026)

- Forensic Science Academy - 117th Session graduated June 12
- Virtual Laboratory Capabilities and Update on June 24
- Evidence Submission at Western Laboratory on July 21
- Planning for DNA Collection Training in Southwest Virginia





CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The ANSI National Accreditation Board

Hereby attests that

**Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Central Laboratory**

8850 Times Dispatch Boulevard, Suite 100, Mechanicsville
Virginia 23116 USA

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

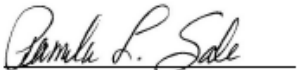
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories:2025

In the field of

Forensic Testing

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a current scope of accreditation document.

The current scope of accreditation can be verified at www.anab.org.


Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics

Expiry Date: 31 January 2030
Certificate Number: FT-0051



Accreditation

- Accreditation successfully renewed
- Certificates and Scopes are available on the DFS website: <https://dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/accreditation/>
- Current cycle expires January 31, 2030
- New Central Laboratory location was evaluated successfully in May – updated certificate and scope documents were issued



Seized Drug Report – CY 2025

- Overall drug submissions were down
- Fentanyl (94%) highest illicit synthetic opioid

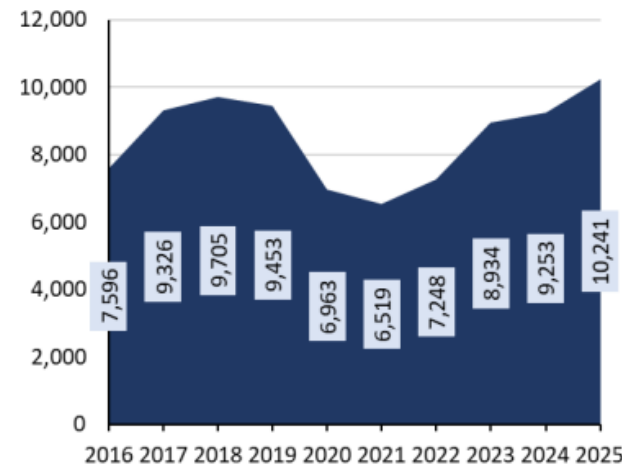
Top Ten

The ten most common substances identified in 2025 were:

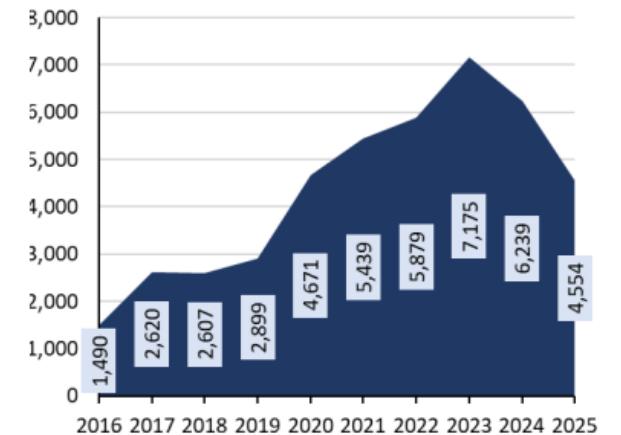
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|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cocaine | 6. Buprenorphine |
| 2. Methamphetamine | 7. Xylazine |
| 3. Fentanyl | 8. Naloxone* |
| 4. Marijuana* | 9. Oxycodone |
| 5. Heroin | 10. Psilocyn |

*Marijuana and naloxone are not included in this report

Cocaine Submissions
CY2016-2025



Illicit Synthetic Opioid Submissions
CY2016-2025



Illicit Synthetic Opioids Identified*

Substance Identified	CY2017-19	CY2020-22	CY2023-25
Fentanyl	6,866	15,645	19,621
Fentanyl Analogs			
Para-Fluorofentanyl	0	1,217	1,157
Acetyl Fentanyl	429	204	90
FIBF	594	9	0
Furanyl Fentanyl	563	1	0
Fentanyl Analog - Other**	254	42	161
Nitazenes	0	63	51
Other Illicit Synthetic Opioids**	338	115	49

https://dfs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025DfsDrugSubmissionReport_Final.pdf

Board of Pharmacy Expedited Scheduling



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

The compounds were considered at the Board's June 16th meeting and are pending final approval.

The Board also considered scheduling of 23 drugs consistent with federal scheduling action and pending final approval, including:

- 5 fentanyl-related substances
- 5 benzimidazole-opioid substances
- 12 cannabimimetic agents
- Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC)

Breath Alcohol Update

- Dräger Alcotest® 9510
- **All instruments have been received, and initial testing completed to allow for payment**
- 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





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 (600 cases in FY26, estimating 400 cases in FY27)
 - OCME Toxicology cases (Western through August)
 - Controlled Substances – THC quantitation for 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
- We do not intend to reestablish firearms comparison capabilities in the Western Lab in the near future
- Case reviews by external provider are ongoing
- DFS reviewed the corrective action process with our Firearms & Toolmarks Subcommittee at its April 2026 meeting to solicit feedback
- Defense bar notification was sent on May 5th to supplement CA notifications
- We will provide assistance by way of evidence reexaminations or case file documentation reviews within our available resources



Firearms Comparison Training

- Training programs including Firearms & Toolmarks are approximately 24 months
- Seeking contract for external training resources
- Several options exist, including web-based, modular options

Statistics

Key Agency Statistics

Key Statistic	FY25	FY26
Cases received by all disciplines	49,072	47,177
Subpoenas received by DFS personnel	13,492	13,255
Court appearances	3,236	3,429
Expert testimony provided	677	769
Data Bank Samples Analyzed	13,393	13,320
Breath Alcohol Operators Licensed	3,366	2,815

Statewide Case Receipt and Completion Statistics

Section	FY25			FY26		
	Received	Completed	% Completed	Received	Completed	% Completed
Controlled Substances	26,382	26,497	100%	26,584	24,724	93%
DME	116	166	143%	88	87	99%
Firearms & Toolmarks	3,952	4,007	101%	3,391	3,696	109%
Forensic Biology	6,091	6,032	99%	5,545	5,937	107%
Latent Prints & Impressions	2,124	2,137	101%	1,740	1,956	112%
Toxicology*	9,771	10,059	103%	9,293	9,211	99%
Trace Evidence	620	584	94%	533	540	101%

Note: A 100% Completion rate indicates the capacity to complete what is received. It will not improve case turnaround times or reduce case backlogs.

Statewide Case Receipt, Backlog and Average Turnaround Times

Section	Case Submissions (cases)			Backlog (cases)			Average Turnaround Time (TAT) for Cases Completed (days)		
	FY25	FY26	% Change	As of 6/30/25	As of 6/30/26	% Change	FY25	FY26	% Change
Controlled Substances	26,382	26,584	1%	2,240	4,170	46%	35	48	27%
DME	116	88	-32%	85	86	1%	300	221	-36%
Firearms & Toolmarks	3,952	3,391	-17%	1,660	1,378	-20%	147	152	3%
Forensic Biology**	6,091	5,545	-10%	3,818	3,701	-3%	231	263	12%
Latent Prints & Impressions	2,124	1,740	-22%	408	232	-76%	89	76	-17%
Toxicology*	9,771	9,293	-5%	1,128	1,227	8%	52	50	-4%
Trace Evidence	620	533	-16%	380	385	1%	183	227	19%

* Toxicology case submissions do not include cases outsourced from OCME | ** Forensic Biology average TAT includes cases outsourced

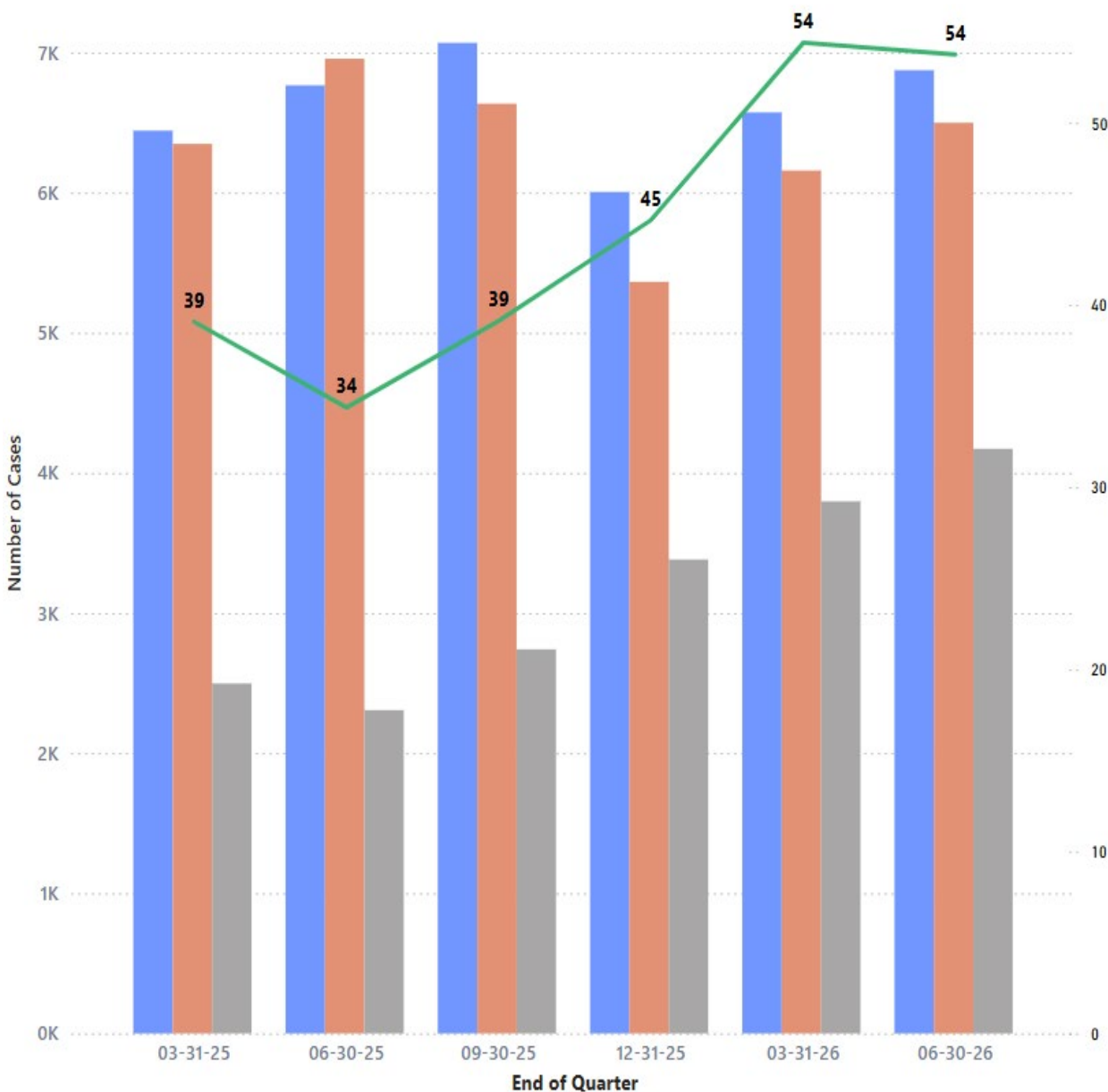


Testimony Statistics – FY26

Section	Subpoenas	Court Appearances	Times Testified	Hours out of Lab	Days out of Lab	% Testified, if Appeared
Breath Alcohol	52	25	14	159	20	56%
Controlled Substances	4,552	215	108	785	98	50%
Digital & Multimedia Evidence	35	1	1	0	0	100%
Evidence Receiving	28	4	1	0	0	25%
Firearms & Toolmarks	1,000	149	123	545	68	83%
Forensic Biology (DNA)	1,379	235	188	1,036	130	80%
Latent Prints & Impressions	143	17	9	65	8	53%
Toxicology	5,864	2754	305	3,694	462	11%
Trace Evidence	190	29	20	161	20	69%
Totals	13,243	3,429	769	6,446	806	22%



Controlled Substances

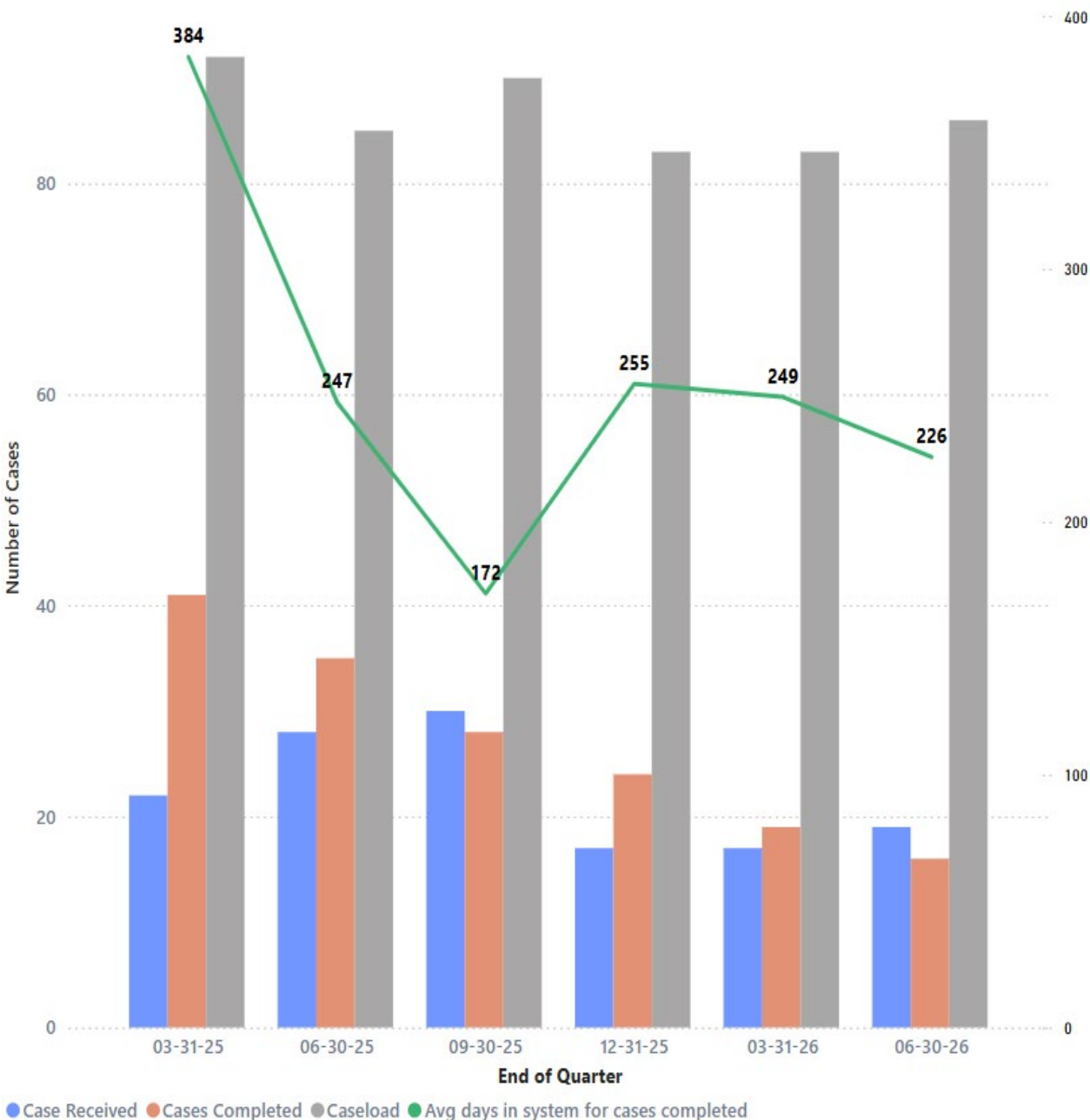


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	6,443	6,348	2,497	39
06-30-25	6,766	6,956	2,307	34
09-30-25	7,069	6,635	2,741	39
12-31-25	6,005	5,364	3,382	45
03-31-26	6,573	6,158	3,797	54
06-30-26	6,874	6,499	4,172	54

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



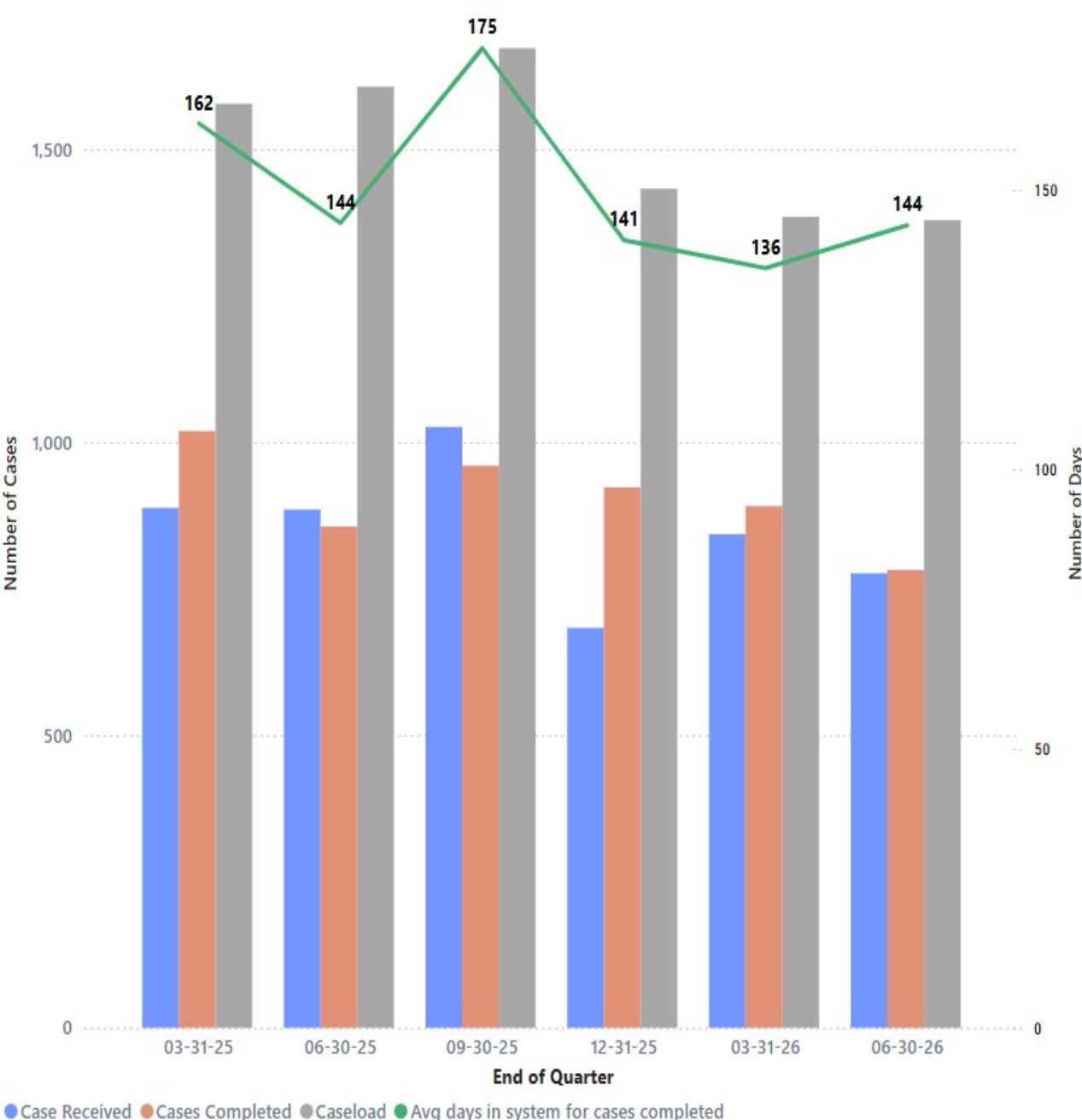
Digital & Multimedia Evidence



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
06-30-26	19	16	86	226



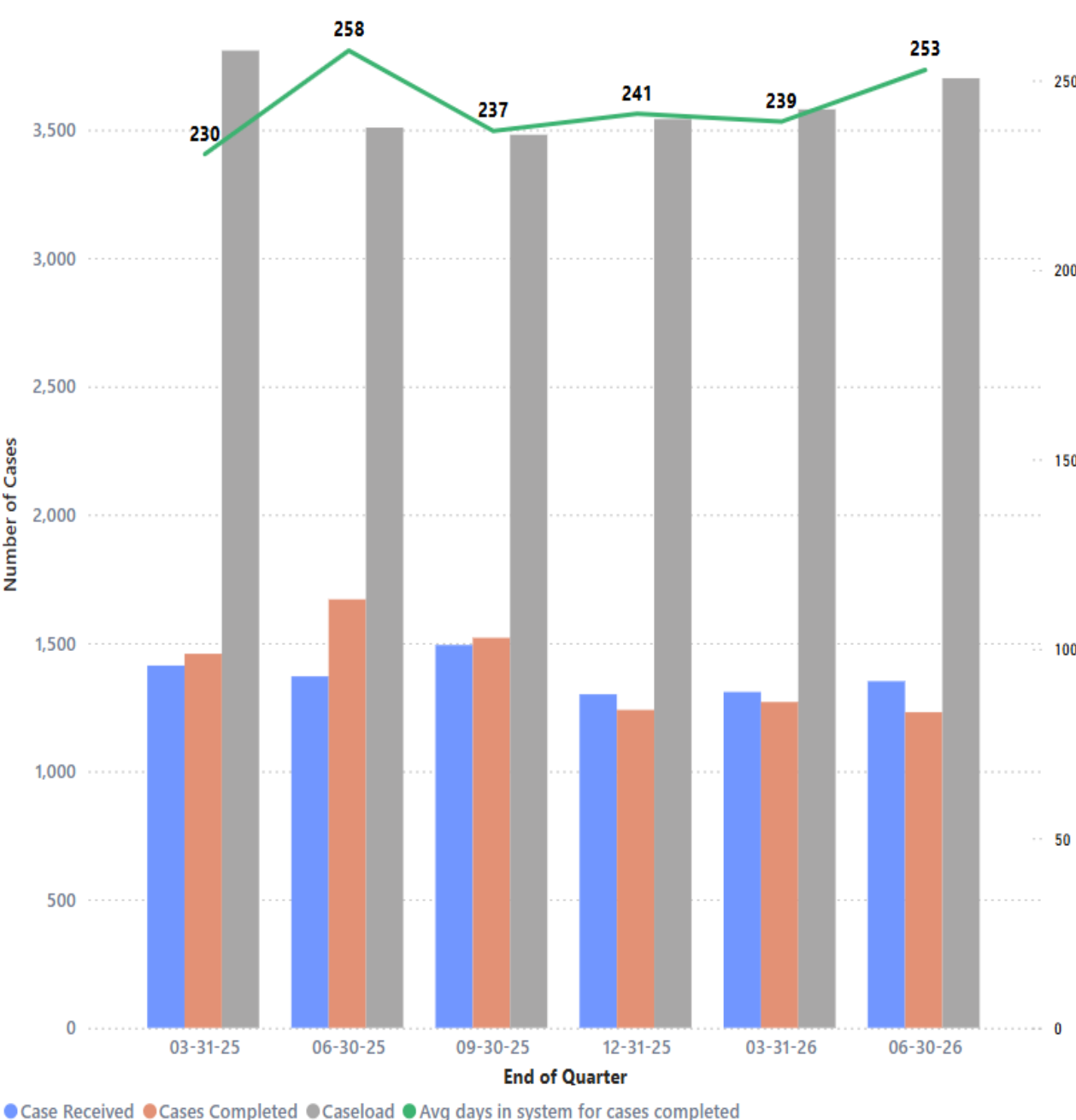
Firearms & Toolmarks



End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	888	1,019	1,578	162
06-30-25	885	856	1,607	144
09-30-25	1,026	960	1,673	175
12-31-25	683	923	1,433	141
03-31-26	843	891	1,385	136
06-30-26	776	782	1,379	144



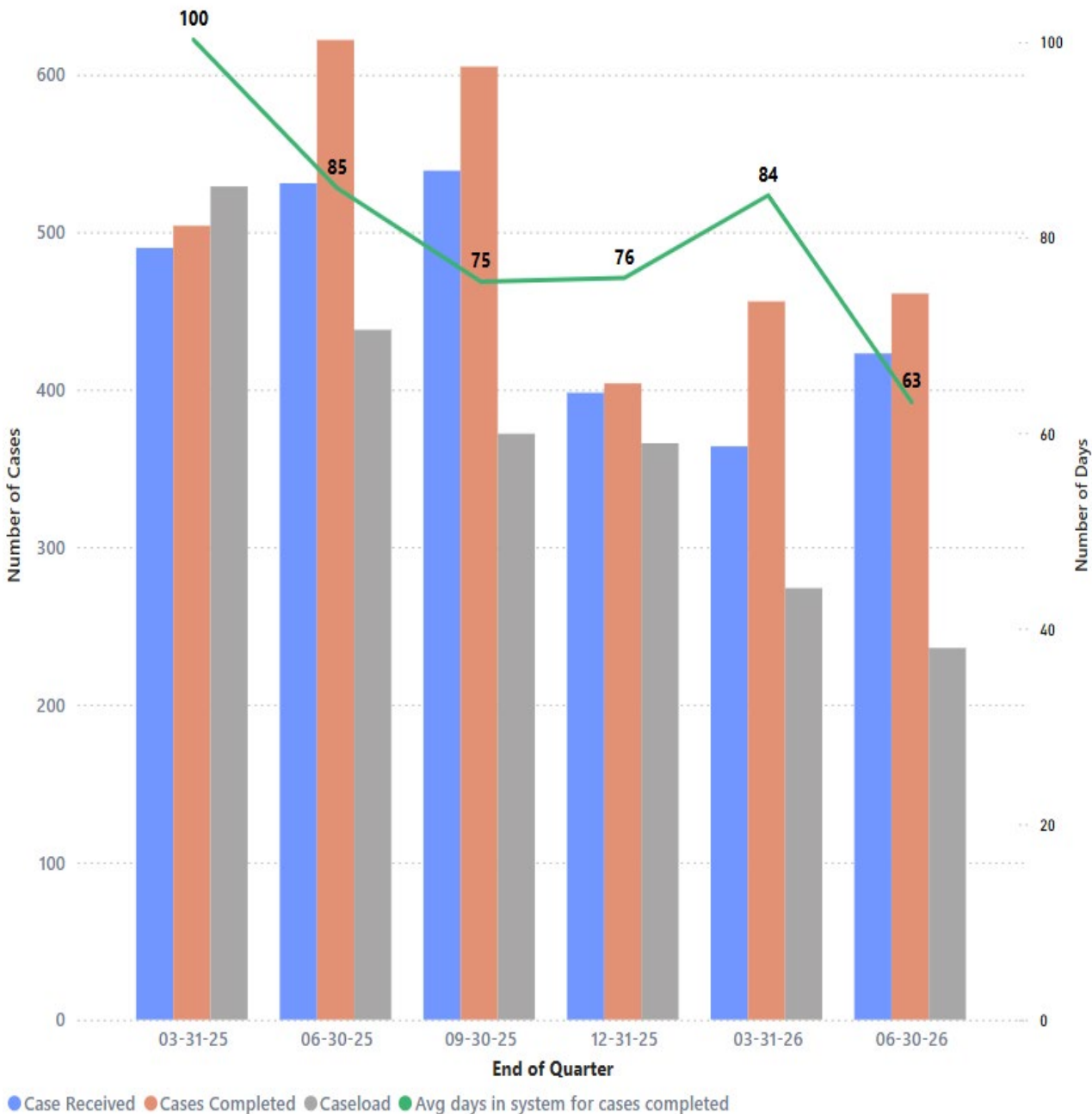
Forensic Biology (DNA)



End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	1,412	1,458	3,809	230
06-30-25	1,370	1,670	3,509	258
09-30-25	1,492	1,520	3,481	237
12-31-25	1,300	1,239	3,542	241
03-31-26	1,309	1,270	3,580	239
06-30-26	1,351	1,230	3,701	253



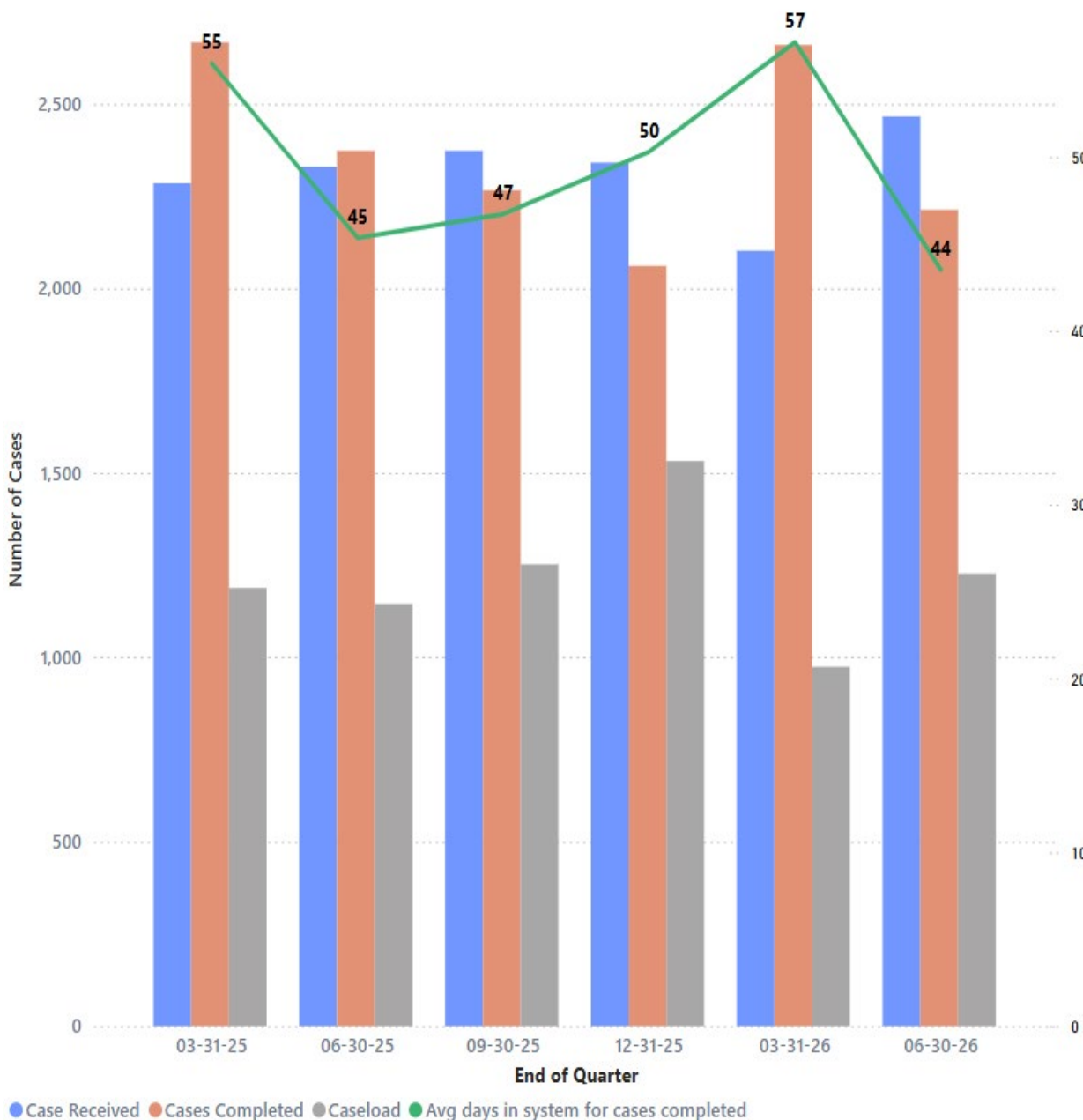
Latent Prints & Impressions



End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	490	504	529	100
06-30-25	531	622	438	85
09-30-25	539	605	372	75
12-31-25	398	404	366	76
03-31-26	364	456	274	84
06-30-26	423	461	236	63



Toxicology

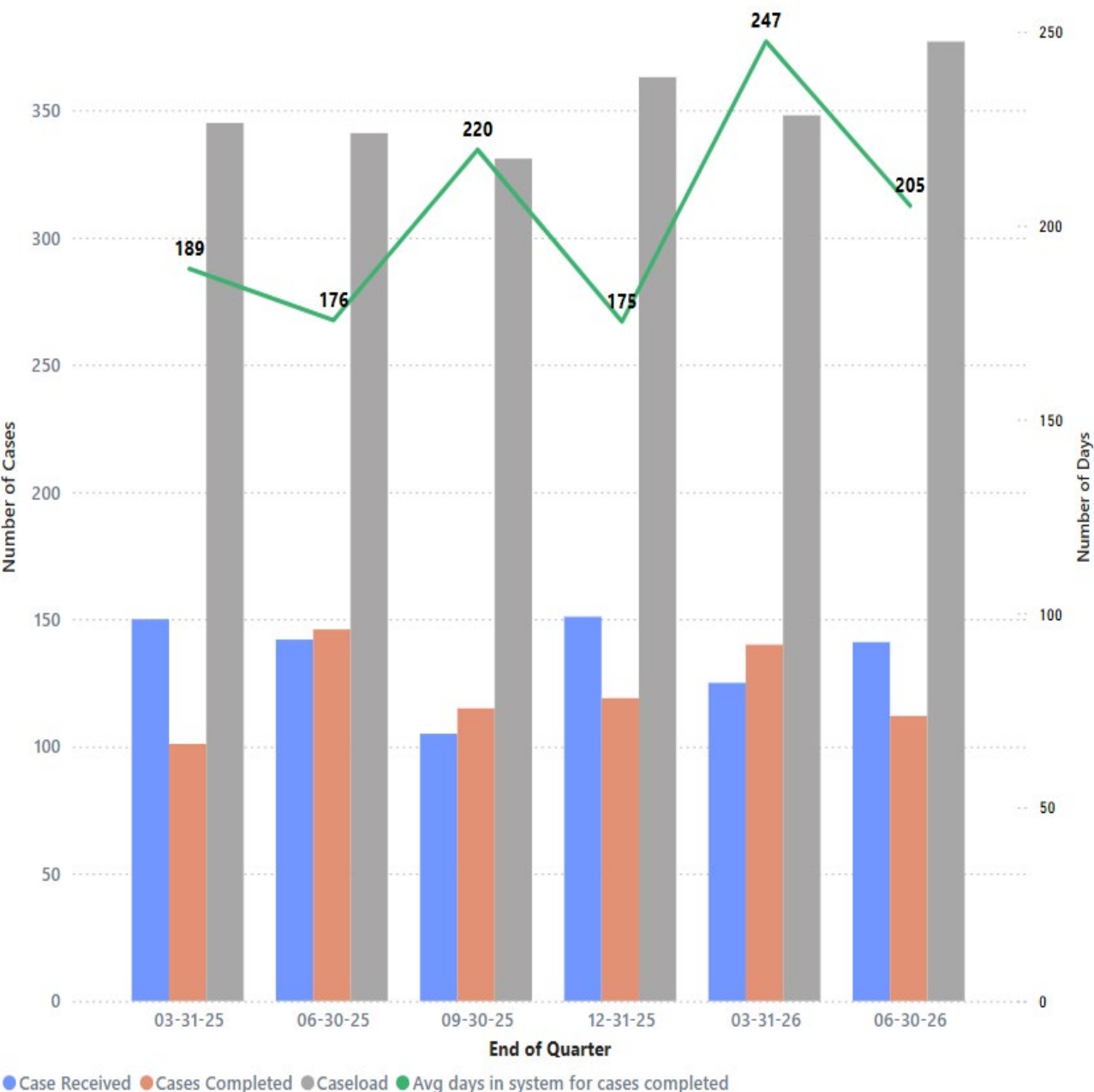


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	2,285	2,667	1,188	55
06-30-25	2,330	2,373	1,145	45
09-30-25	2,373	2,266	1,252	47
12-31-25	2,341	2,061	1,532	50
03-31-26	2,102	2,660	974	57
06-30-26	2,466	2,213	1,227	44

- For move, outsourced from the Central District from March 1 – April 17, 2026.
- Western OCME to outsource suspected overdose cases to private laboratory through August 30, 2026



Trace Evidence



End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	150	101	345	189
06-30-25	142	146	341	176
09-30-25	105	115	331	220
12-31-25	151	119	363	175
03-31-26	125	140	348	247
06-30-26	141	112	377	205

Budget and Resources



Staffing and Budget – FY27

- Maximum Employment Limit: 376 (349 GF + 27 NGF)
- Current Staffing: 325 GF + 20 NGF (all GF positions are in-recruit)
- All FY2026 funds were expended, including the FY2025 carryover funds that paid for the Breath Alcohol equipment

	Item Details(\$)		Appropriations(\$)	
	First Year FY2027	Second Year FY2028	First Year FY2027	Second Year FY2028
Total for Department of Forensic Science.....			\$67,823,555	\$67,874,591
General Fund Positions.....	349.00	349.00		
Nongeneral Fund Positions.....	27.00	27.00		
Position Level.....	376.00	376.00		
Fund Sources: General.....	\$64,966,190	\$65,017,226		
Federal Trust.....	\$2,857,365	\$2,857,365		



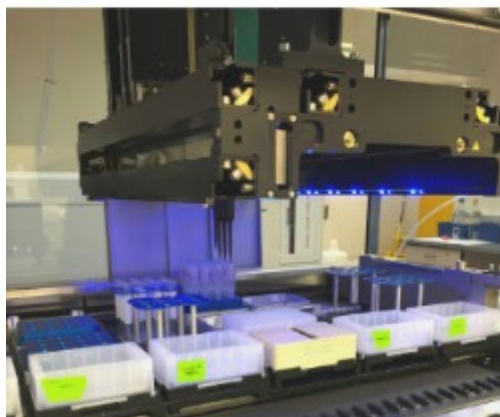
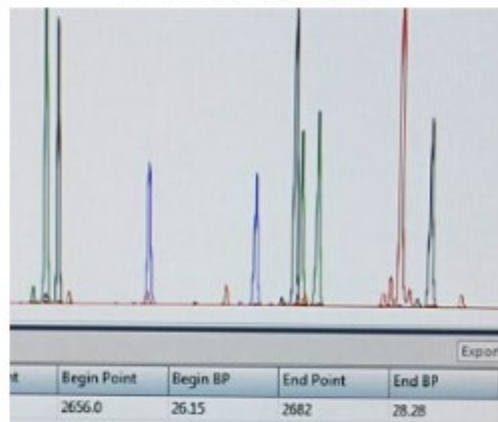
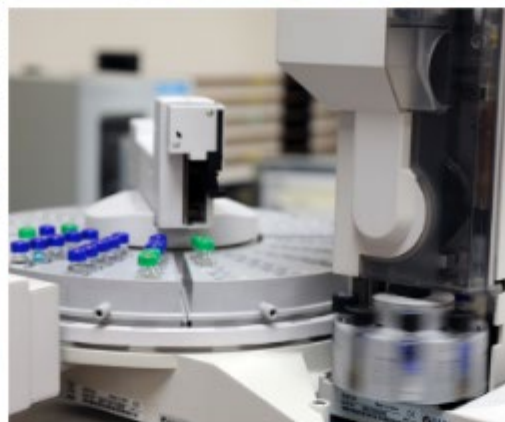
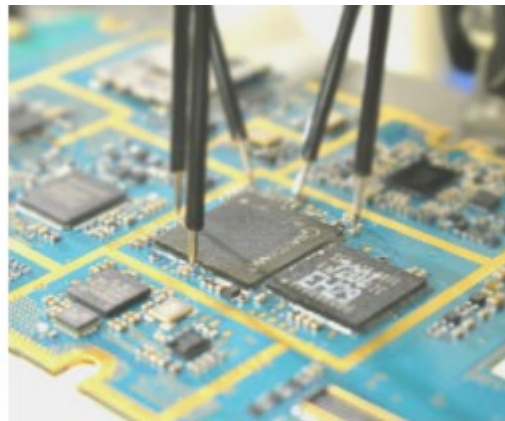
Facility Update

- Paul B. Ferarra Building at 700 N. 5th Street – completed the paperwork to release building to DGS for disposal
- Biotech 8 leased space – fully vacated prior to end of lease (April 22)
- Eastern Laboratory roof replacement maintenance reserve project – design complete and in procurement process



Grant Approval Request – NIBIN Modernization Program

- FY2026 National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Modernization Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Grant would fund equipment upgrades for the purchase of updated, NIBIN-compatible ballistic imaging technology and maintenance and service costs for up to 5 years (up to \$300,000 per system)
- DFS would seek to replace the six systems listed in the solicitation invitation
- Total Budget = \$1.8 million



Thank you!