



Central (Richmond)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee

October 11, 2023





Central Laboratory Capital Project

- Building updates available online

<https://dfs.virginia.gov/regional-labs/new-central-laboratory-facility/>

Coming Q1 2026



Mobilization
January 2023



Ground
Breaking
03/02/23



Structure
Complete
Q4 2023



Exterior Skin
Complete
Q3 2024



Final
Inspections
Q4 2025

Construction Updates

Check back monthly for new video updates as the Central Laboratory takes shape.

Points of Interest

AUGUST 2023

- CMU installation of stair 5 in progress
- Completion of stair 1
- CMU installation for elevator 1 and 2 in progress
- Concrete pour on northside of building
- Structural steel started on south building on east end
- Site utilities ongoing
- Site grading activities ongoing

2023
2024
2025

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
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DSG Central Forensics Lab 2023-09-01

Skanska Creative Services

02:19



FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 17 - 24, 2023



- Service Awards were presented to 54 staff members
- Leadership Retreat in Staunton, VA
- Proclamation from Governor Youngkin



DNA Training for Attorneys and Judges

- In-person, full-day sessions for DNA:
 - September 29—Central
 - October 6—Western
 - October 20—Eastern
 - November 3—Northern
 - No registration fee or CLE credits



New Lab Directors for Eastern and Northern Laboratories



Eastern Laboratory:

David J. Koppenhaver

David.Koppenhaver@dfs.virginia.gov

Phone Number: 757.355.5914



Northern Laboratory:

Joshua Kruger

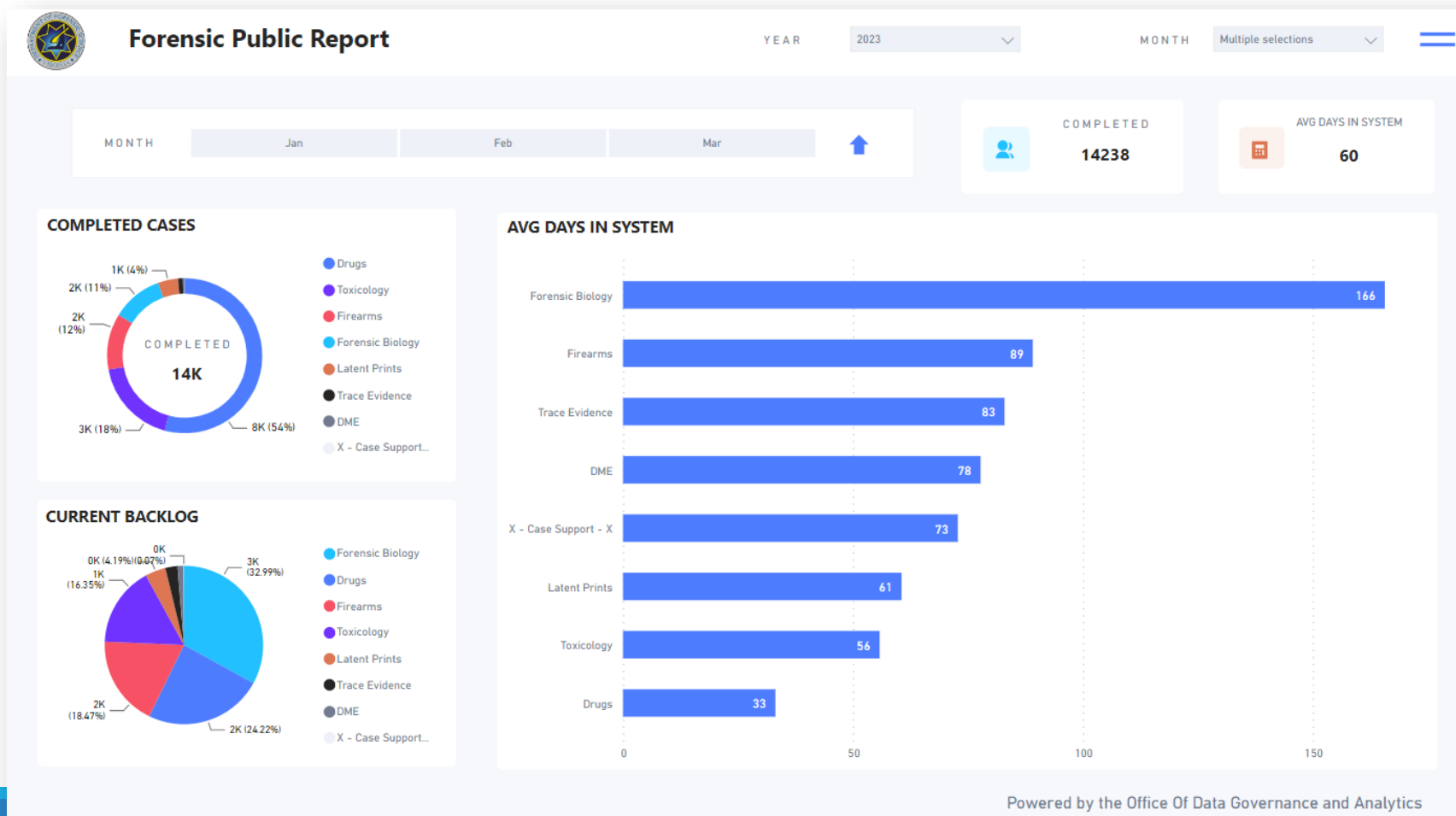
Joshua.Kruger@dfs.virginia.gov

Phone Number: 703.334.9733



Dashboards for Case Statistics

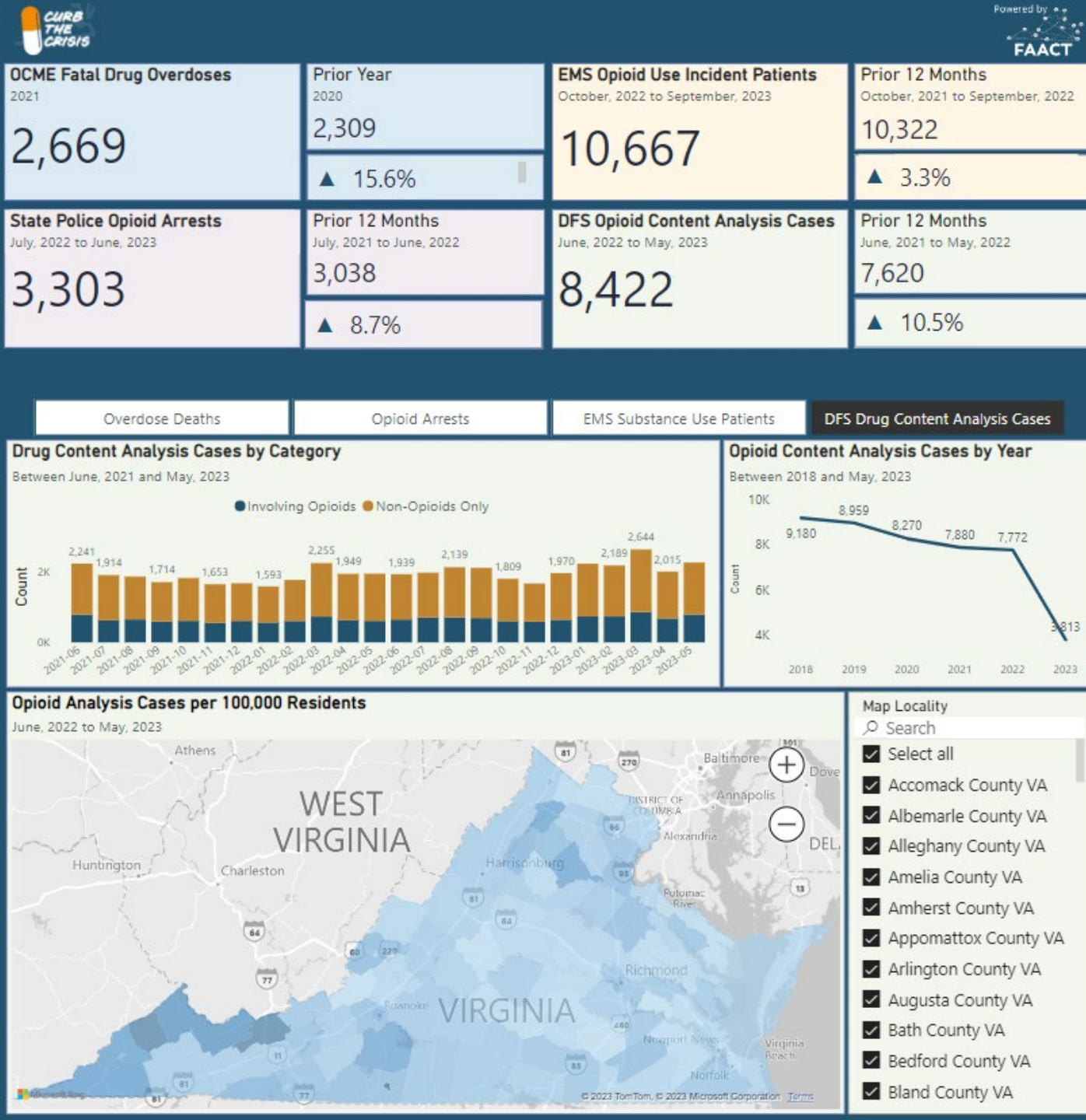
- Project with the Office of Data Governance and Analytics (ODGA)
- Draft public dashboard provided for interactive performance statistics



Curb the Crisis

- DFS is sharing aggregate data through DCJS to the Framework for Addiction Analysis and Community Transformation (FAACT) Project


<https://curbthecrisis.com/what-is-the-opioid-crisis/the-crisis-by-the-numbers-in-virginia/>





NGI Palm Print Database Searches

- Programming error for FBI Next Generation Identification (NGI) system palm print searches
- Initial search results were not impacted
- Saved latent palm prints were not being automatically searched against newly added known palm prints
- Palm print searches for approximately 250 cases will be re-launched


COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory 700 NORTH 5TH ST.
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(804) 786-2281 FAX (804) 786-6857

AGENCY NOTICE

To: All Agencies served by DFS
From: Linda C. Jackson, Department Director *Linda C. Jackson*
Date: June 12, 2023
RE: Next Generation Identification (NGI) Palm Print Database Search Results

The Latent Print Section utilizes the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Next Generation Identification (NGI) system to provide investigative information about individuals potentially associated with criminal events through the search of partial latent prints recovered from evidence against databases of known exemplars (fingerprints and palm prints).

When a print is searched in the database and not identified to a source, it is typically registered in the database and automatically searched against newly added exemplars. Due to a technical issue with the NGI software, some latent palm prints searched between 2014 and 2022 were not being searched against new exemplars added to the database.

The FBI has provided DFS a list of cases impacted by this issue (see agency list below). DFS will reenter the palm prints in these cases to search against all new exemplars added after the initial search. If a potential identification exists, the agency will be notified with a Certificate of Analysis. The original evidence will need to be resubmitted if confirmation of the potential identification is necessary. If no identification is made, the prints will continue to be searched on a regular basis.

Please contact the Latent Print Section Supervisor for your service area at the number listed if you have any questions or concerns.


Laboratory	Section Contact	Phone Number
Central (Richmond)	Amanda Lane	(804) 588-4029
Eastern (Norfolk)	Chris Claytor	(757) 355-5950
Northern (Manassas)	Jessica Davis	(703) 334-9752
Western (Roanoke)	Kate Adolf	(540) 283-5975

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PC Project Evidence Return

- All evidence and samples relating to the DNA Post-Conviction project will be returned to the originating law enforcement agency
- Begins August 2023
- Samples can be stored at room temperature



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DFS POLICY NOTICE

TO: All Agencies Served by Department of Forensic Science (DFS)
FROM: Linda C. Jackson, Department Director *LJ*
DATE: July 17, 2023
RE: Return of Evidence Relating to the Post-Conviction DNA Testing Project

During the review of a case file for possible Post-Conviction DNA testing in 2001, DFS discovered that some of its historic case files (from 1972-1987) contained portions of previously tested evidence and/or known reference samples. After this discovery, DFS retrieved and reviewed case files from the Library of Virginia State Records Center in order to identify cases containing previously tested evidence or known reference samples.

Some of these cases were the subject of Post-Conviction (PC) DNA testing that was ordered by Governor Warner in 2005. A summary of the testing project is available here: <http://vscc.virginia.gov/2020/DNA%20Project%20Overview.pdf>. Other cases, where a portion of evidence or reference standard was retained, were not tested because the case was not eligible, or no record of a conviction was identified. DFS has since stored all of this material at our laboratory in the event that further requests for testing were received or ordered by the courts. To be consistent with current evidence handling policies, the final aspect of this project will be to return the discovered evidence and/or reference samples to the originating law enforcement agencies.

Beginning in August 2023, previously tested evidence and/or reference samples from these historical cases will be returned to the originating law enforcement agency. Evidence batches (up to 25 cases) will be returned with an itemized list of the samples present for each case. The evidence for each case will be packaged in one or two manilla envelopes. Chain of custody forms will be used to document the evidence transfer and identify the cases in each batch by FS Lab # (and agency case #, if available), which can be matched to your agency records.

The returned evidence and/or reference samples container(s) may be stored in your evidence facilities at room temperature. An agency should contact their legal advisor regarding the appropriate retention time for this returned evidence.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Shelley Edler, Forensic Biology Group Supervisor, at (804) 588-4084.



Toxicology Updates

- Outsourcing
 - Renewed our MOU with OCME to allow for continued outsourcing
 - Currently utilizing in Eastern and Western OCME districts, with plans to reduce usage as staff complete their training
 - Using outsourcing funding in base budget
- DUI/DUID Decentralization
 - Eastern Laboratory will be fully staffed with 3 Forensic Toxicologists
 - Transitioning York County, Cities of Hampton and Newport News from Central to Eastern on January 1, 2023

Case Statistics

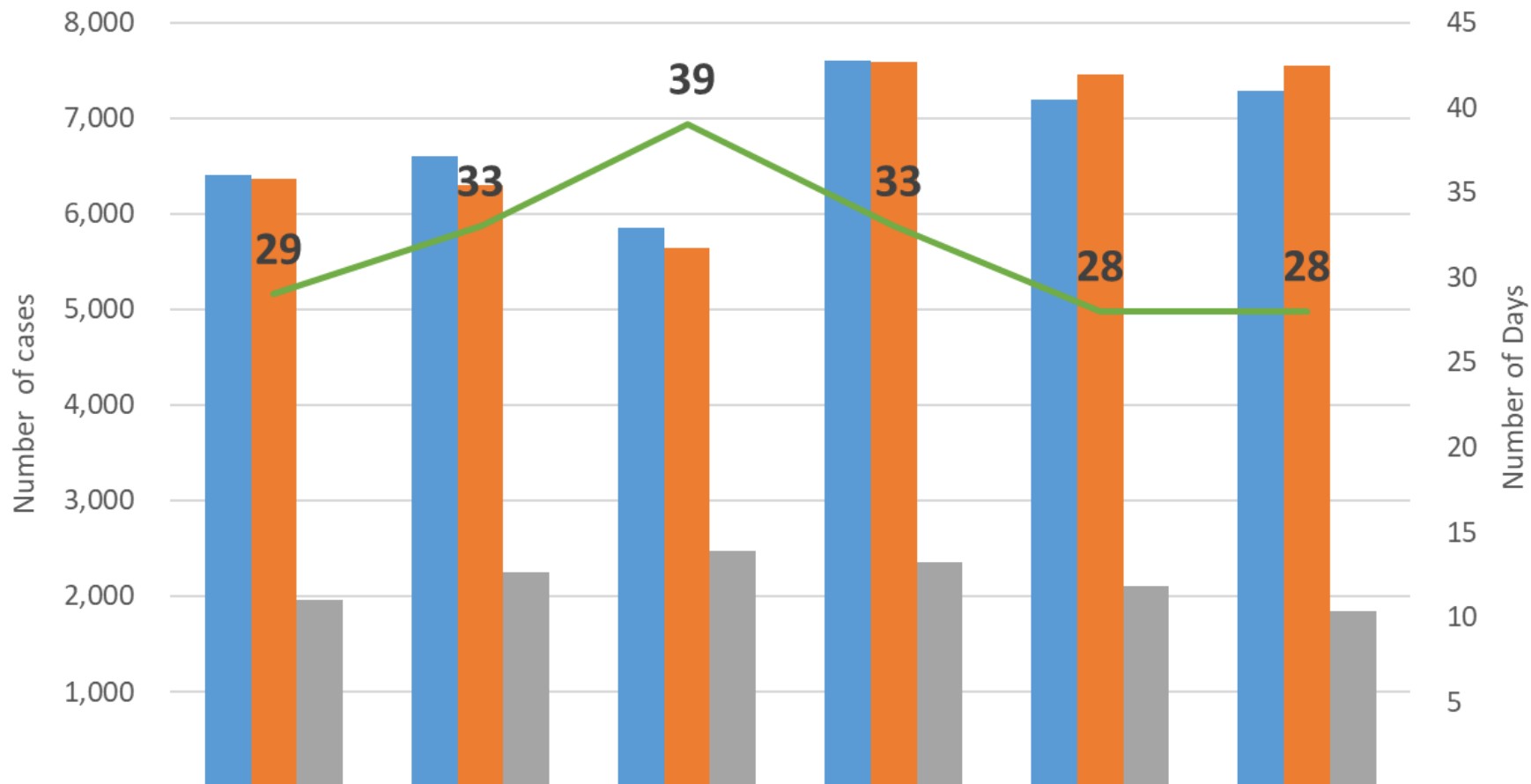
Workload Statistics – FY 22 v. FY 23

Fiscal Years	Submissions			Backlog (end of June)		
	FY 22	FY 23	% change	FY 22	FY 23	% change
Controlled Substances (CS)	23,997	27,217	+13%	1,986	2,103	+6%
Digital & Multimedia Evidence (DME)	212	254	+20%	46	108	+135%
Firearms & Toolmarks (FT)	6,314	6,450	+2%	1,798	1,573	-13%
Forensic Biology (DNA)	6,450	6,891	+7%	2,252	2,861	+27%
Latent Prints & Impressions (LP)	2,143	2,355	+10%	365	408	+12%
Toxicology (TX)**	9,883	10,642	+8%	1,300	1,694	+30%
Trace Evidence (TE)	702	725	+3%	159	223	+40%
TOTAL	49,701	54,534	+10%	7,906	8,970	+13%

**Samples outsourced directly from Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) not included



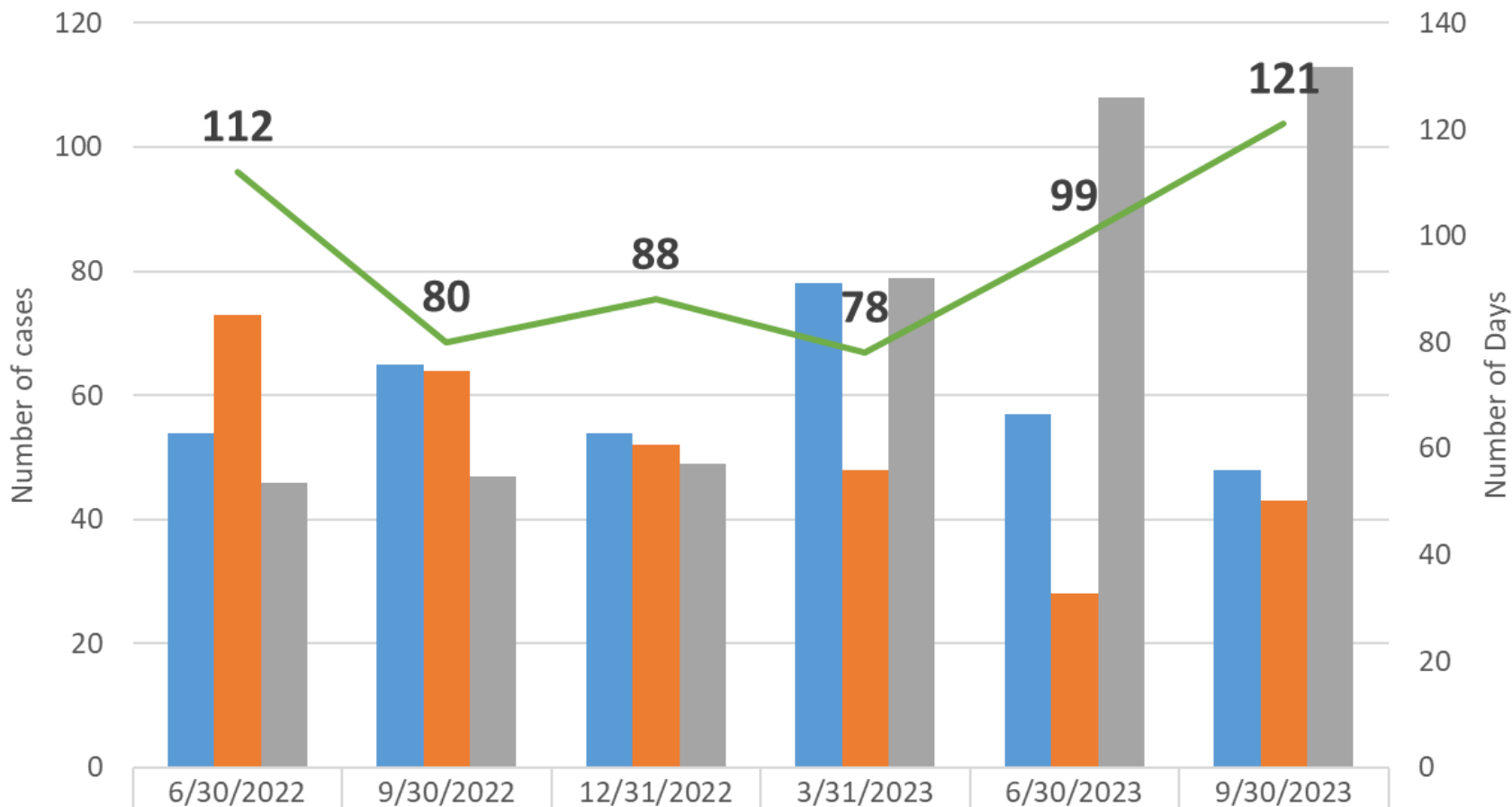
Controlled Substances



	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023	6/30/2023	9/30/2023
■ Cases Received*	6,410	6,598	5,852	7,599	7,198	7,289
■ Cases Completed	6,364	6,304	5,637	7,583	7,454	7,542
■ Caseload	1,962	2,256	2,471	2,356	2,100	1,847
— Average Days in System	29	33	39	33	28	28



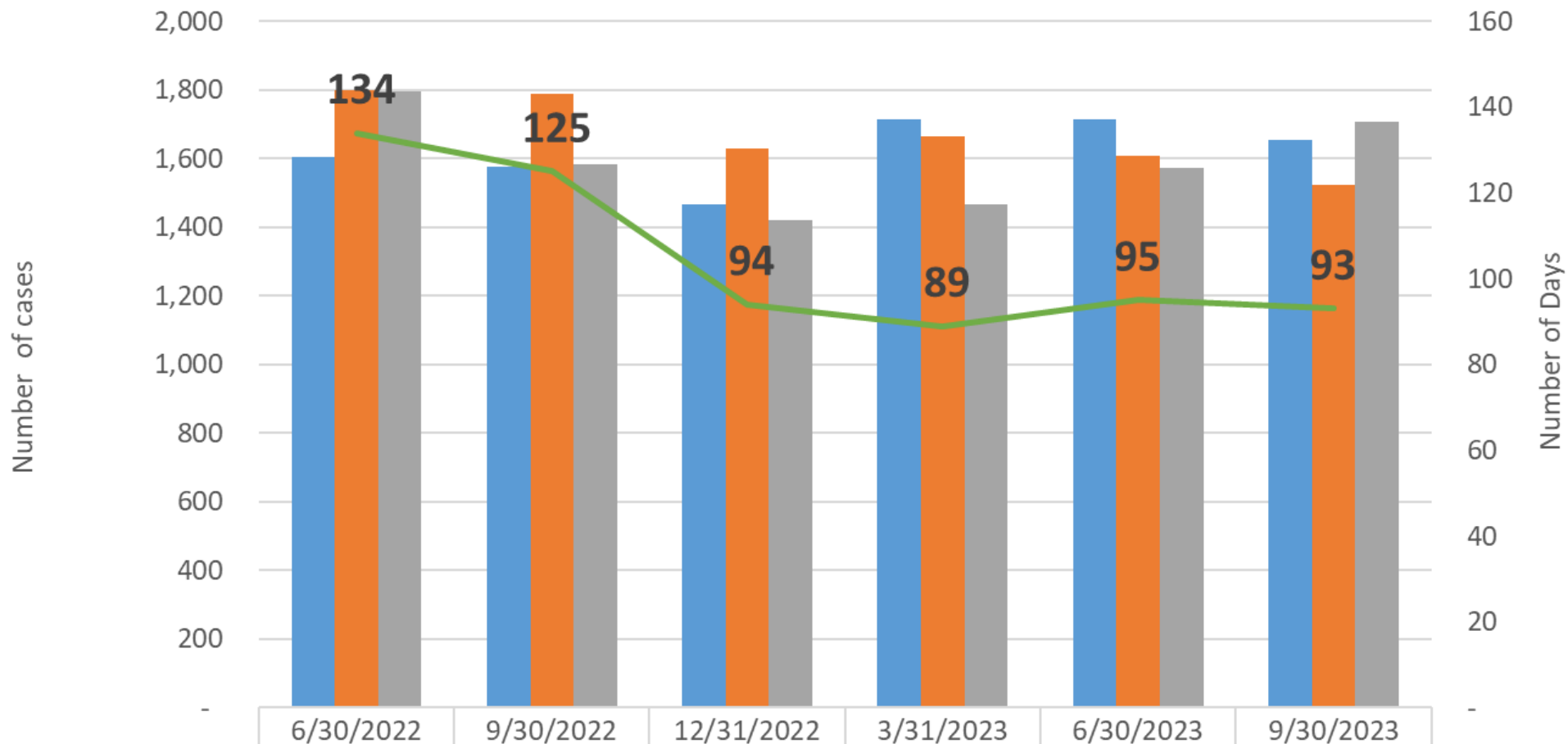
Digital & Multimedia Evidence



	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023	6/30/2023	9/30/2023
Cases Received*	54	65	54	78	57	48
Cases Completed	73	64	52	48	28	43
Caseload	46	47	49	79	108	113
Average Days in System	112	80	88	78	99	121

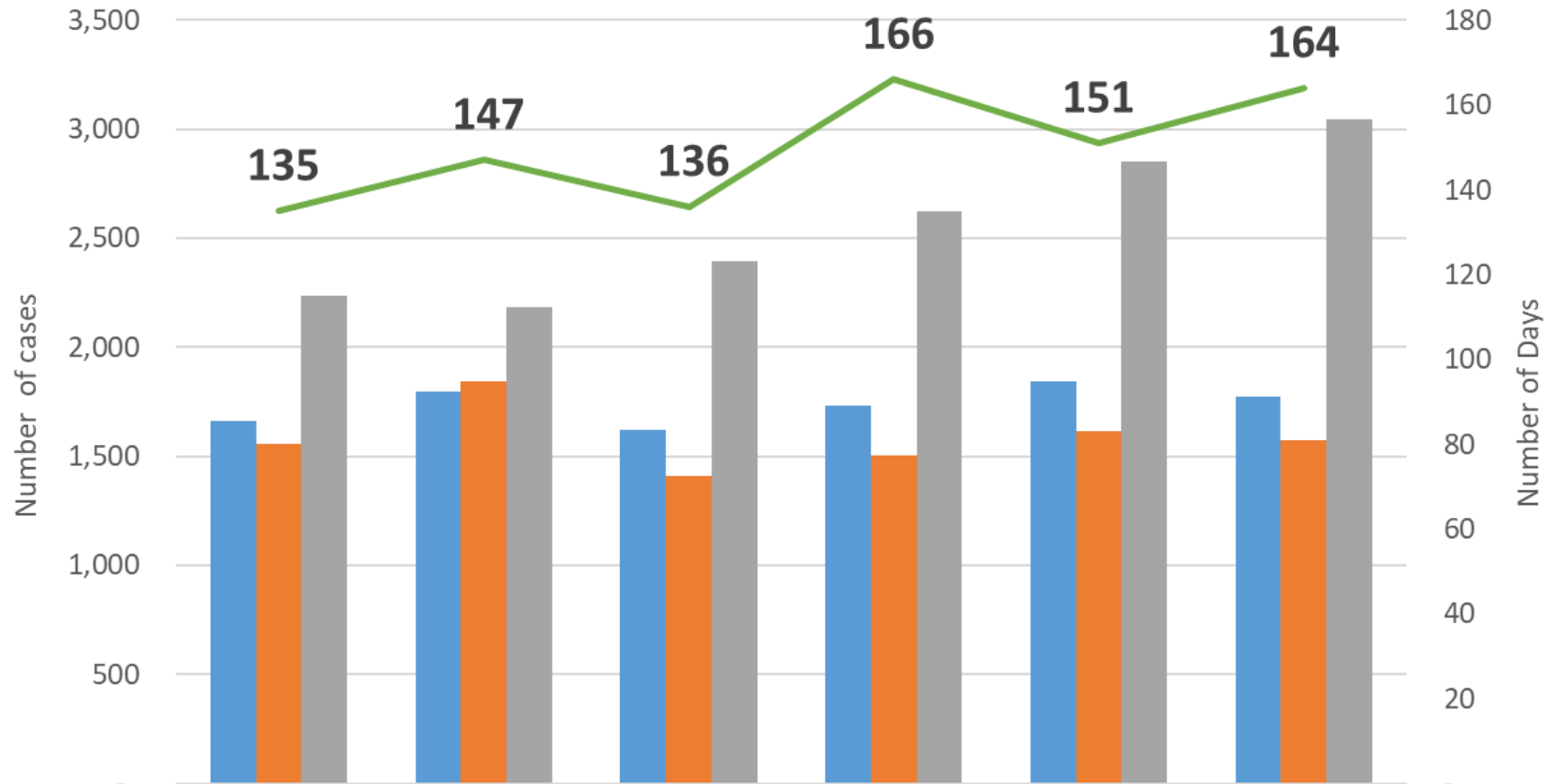


Firearms & Toolmarks



Cases Received*	1,603	1,575	1,467	1,713	1,715	1,656
Cases Completed	1,799	1,789	1,630	1,666	1,608	1,522
Caseload	1,796	1,582	1,419	1,466	1,573	1,707
Average Days in System	134	125	94	89	95	93

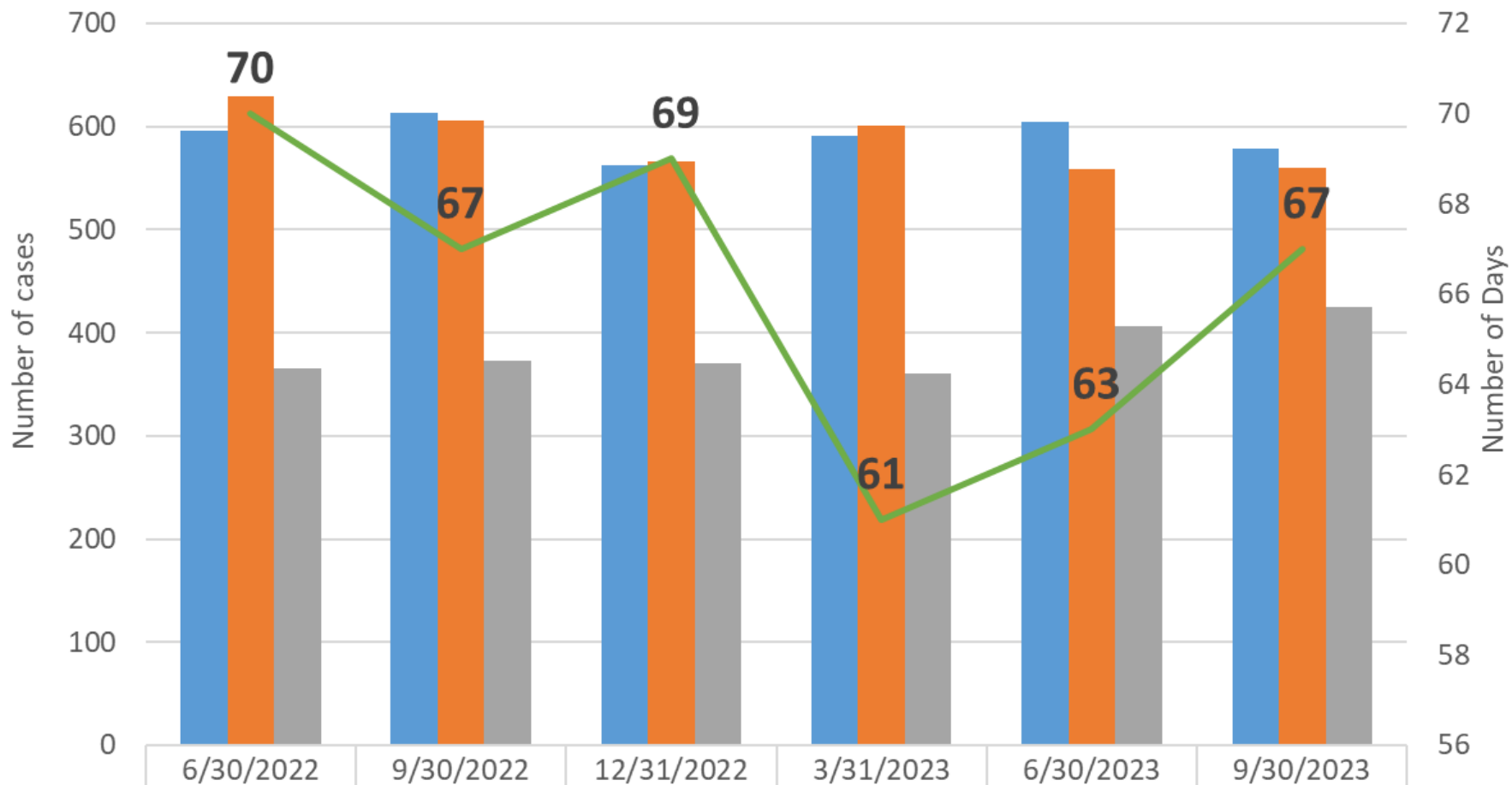
Forensic Biology (DNA)



	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023	6/30/2023	9/30/2023
Cases Received*	1,664	1,795	1,622	1,733	1,845	1,772
Cases Completed	1,557	1,844	1,411	1,506	1,618	1,575
Caseload	2,234	2,185	2,396	2,623	2,850	3,047
Average Days in System	135	147	136	166	151	164

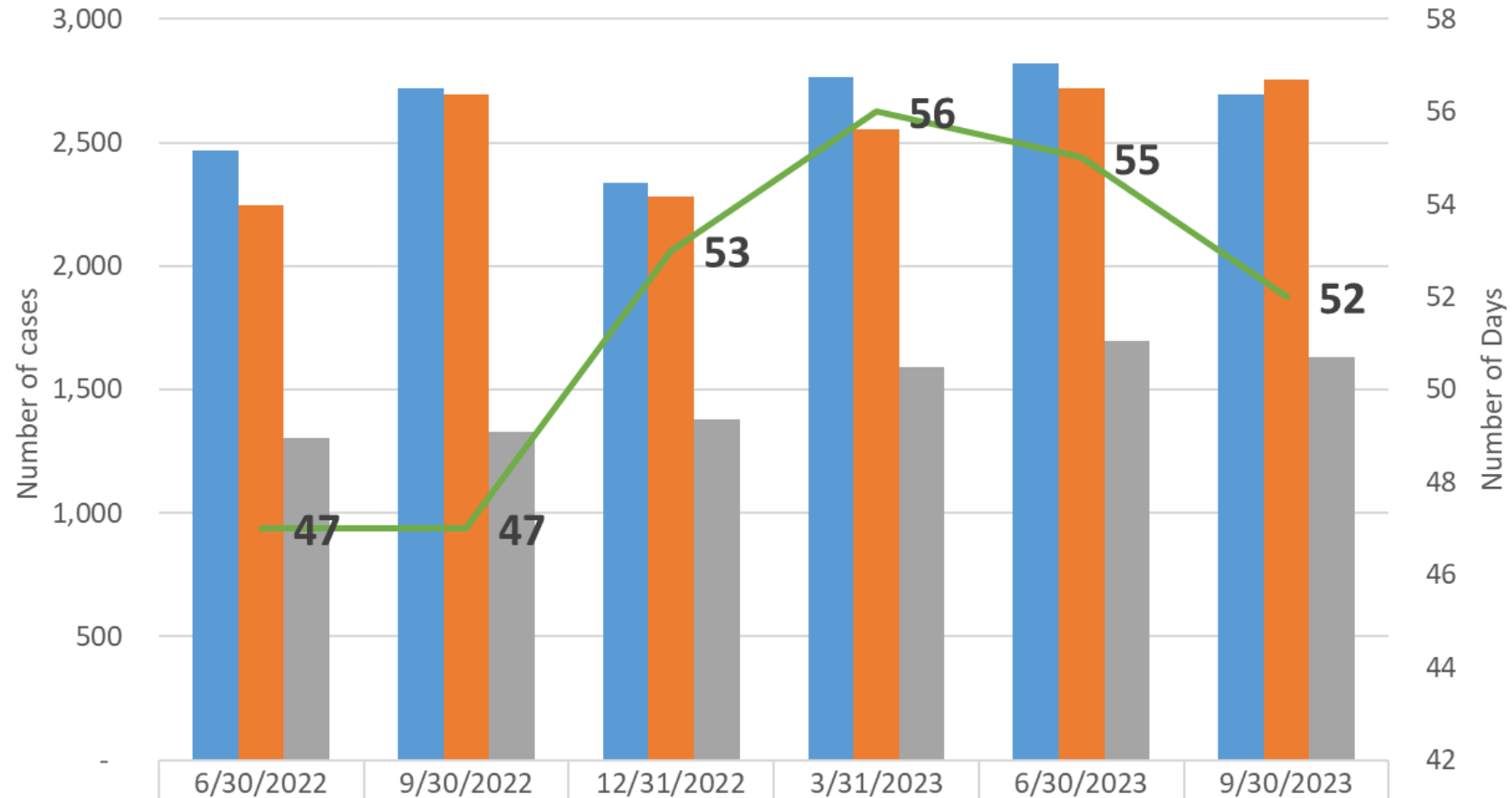


Latent Prints & Impressions



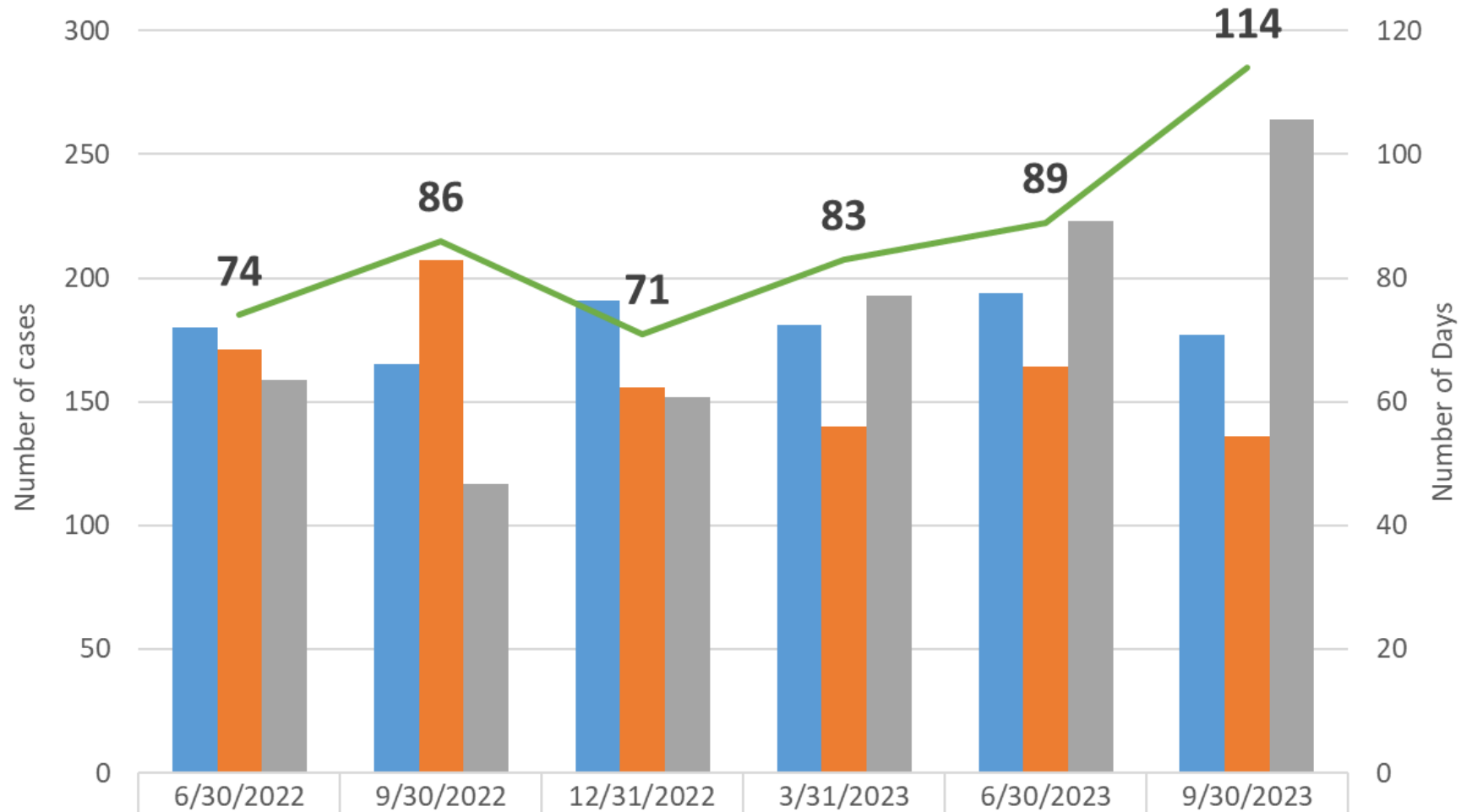
Cases Received*	596	613	563	591	605	579
Cases Completed	629	606	566	601	559	560
Caseload	366	373	370	360	406	425
Average Days in System	70	67	69	61	63	67

Toxicology



	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023	6/30/2023	9/30/2023
■ Cases Received*	2,468	2,721	2,336	2,765	2,820	2,695
■ Cases Completed	2,248	2,694	2,283	2,554	2,717	2,757
■ Caseload	1,301	1,328	1,381	1,592	1,695	1,633
— Average Days in System	47	47	53	56	55	52

Trace Evidence



Cases Received*	180	165	191	181	194	177
Cases Completed	171	207	156	140	164	136
Caseload	159	117	152	193	223	264
Average Days in System	74	86	71	83	89	114



FY23 Court Statistics Summary

FY23 - July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Section	Subpoenas	Court Appearances	Times Testified	Hours out of Lab	Days out of Lab	% Testified, if Appeared
Administration	112	11	9	93	12	82%
Breath Alcohol	79	30	13	144	18	43%
Digital & Multimedia Evidence	67	8	3	17	2	38%
Controlled Substances	5,613	299	134	1,016	127	45%
Firearms & Toolmarks	1,515	214	166	680	85	78%
Forensic Biology (DNA)	1,533	236	185	920	115	78%
Latent Prints & Impressions	233	45	30	161	20	67%
Evidence Receiving	33	6	-	29	4	0%
Toxicology	6,258	3,545	347	3,831	479	10%
Trace Evidence	254	44	32	234	29	73%
Totals:	15,697	4,438	919	7,125	891	21%

Budget and Resources



FY2023 Year End

- DFS ended FY23 with a General Fund balance of \$2,365,142
 - Scientific equipment purchases (\$646,300)
 - Outsourcing funding (\$260,200)
 - Turnover and vacancy (\$856,717)
 - Turnover and vacancy from positions added in FY23 (\$601,925)



FY24 Budget, as Amended

	Item Description		Appropriations (\$)	
	First Year FY2023	Second Year FY2024	First Year FY2023	Second Year FY2024
Total for DFS			\$59,127,378	\$58,320,478 \$58,568,513
• General Fund Positions	341.00	341.00 345.00		
• NGF Positions	14.00	14.00		
• Position Level	355.00	355.00 359.00		
• Fund Sources: General	\$56,446,890	\$55,639,990 \$55,888,025		
• Fund Sources: Federal Trust	\$2,680,488	\$2,680,488		



FY 24 Budget Amendments

- DFS received \$248,035 and 4.00 FTE for the following positions (salaries prorated to begin January 1, 2024):
 - Full-time Technician (transition part-time to full-time Evidence Receiving) = \$58,271 per year
 - Forensic Scientist Biologists (2) = \$194,416 per year
 - PERK Coordinator = \$109,353 per year
 - Laboratory Specialist (THC legislation response) = \$94,705 per year



Not Included in FY24 Budget

- Items that were included in Governors FY24 Introduced Budget but were modified or not included in the signed budget

Provide support for four biologist positions

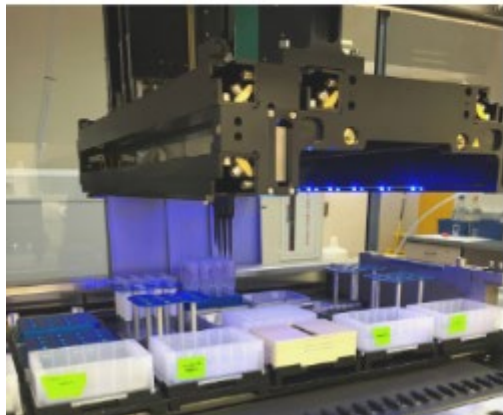
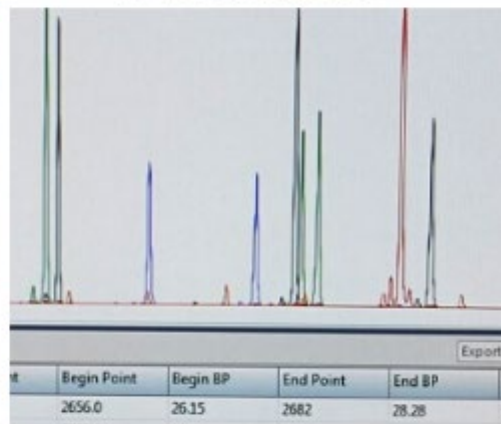
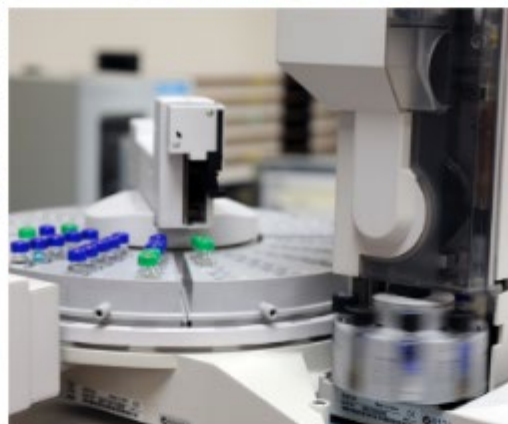
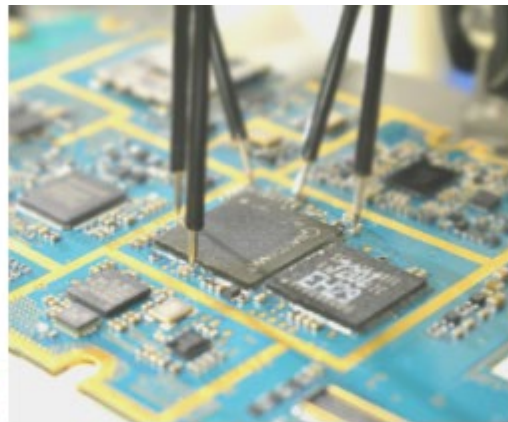
Funds four biologist positions to address workload issues in the forensic biology section. These positions screen evidence submitted to the Department for the presence of DNA and perform other preliminary analyses and reporting.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$314,637
Authorized Positions	0.00	4.00

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



Thank you!