



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION

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2023 FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION TEAM MEMBERS

Matt Abbott	Michelle Groves	Michelle Lewis	Cathy Savage
Shelly Adams	Amy Hager	Deniece Lobban	Liz Schneider
Whitley Abrams	Arnetta Haith	Katelyn Longfellow	Adonia Sedore
Kris Amspacker	Sadhana Harry	Ross Lowe	Kelly Sexton
Jose Ayala	Melissa Harvey	Roshell Mack	Rebecca Shembari
Tina Bankard	Bruce Heidebrecht	Dana Mack-Marcus	Wayne Shu
Heather Baxivanos	Debbie Heller	Argi Magers	Ed Sisco
Kevin Beardsley	Jeanine Hotchkin	Alex Mankevich	Joshua Smith
Laura Beck	Alicia Houser	Amber McConnell	Tiffany Smith
Jason Befus	David Iden	Corrie Mellott	Barbara Solomon
Delaney Berryman	Linda Idso	C.R. Miller	Angie Spessard
Jim Betts	Ikenna Ikpeama	Delroy Miller	Darby Stemple
Laurel Bobka	Maggie Iman	Jamie Miller	Zach Suber
Megan Buck	Valerie Imschweiler	Shawn Miller	Bruce Tanner
Tristan Buckley	Jenn Jeudy	Gary Moore	Mekonnen Tesfaye
Jessica Bullis	Andy Johnson	Leslie Mounkes	Dawn Trusty
Kathy Busch	Sashi Kambhampati	Haley Mulder	Natalie Wasicko
Myrna Canales	Dan Katz	Jaimie Myer	Laura Waters
Yale Caplan	Tiffany Keener	Noelle Neff	Lyndon Watkins
Michelle Cataldo	Amy Kelly	Nicholas Palmer	Rosalie Weimer
Habibah Cisse	Julie Kempton	Jim Patrick	Brooke Welsh
Theresa DeAngelo	Susan Kim	Kenedy Patterson	Michael Whitmore
Brooke Demby	Angela Kortchak	Madison Pennington	Heath Wilkins
Mitch Dinterman	Wanda Kuperus	Rita Phillips	Laura Waters
Tony Edoga	Subha Kuriakose	Ying Ren	Lyndon Watkins
Jessie Fisher	Hannah Lang	Douglas Reiner	Rosalie Weimer
Sierra Fleegle	Stephanie Laufert	Theia Rene	Stacey Wise
Christina Fraling	Diane Lawder	Tristan Rice	Lauren Wolfe
Patricia Frantz	Nicholas Lawrence	Pat Rogers	Sam Woods
Gisselle Fredericks	La Juan Lee	Richard Russell	Annie Wright
Alla Frenkil	Sara Lee	Stephanie Roberg	Carol Young
Nancy Garcia	Taylor Lentz	Stephanie Roe	Teri Zerbe
Danielle Goodnow	Rebecca Levine	Caitlin Roy	
Laura Gossard	Jennifer Lewis	Cat Rust	

FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION DESCRIPTION



The Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division (MSP-FSD) is an accredited, full-service forensic laboratory system offering analysis in the following disciplines: Crime Scene, Latent Prints/Impressions, Firearms/Toolmarks, Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS), Toxicology, Biology, Trace Evidence, and Questioned Documents. Although the MSP-FSD operates under the administration of the Maryland State Police, the laboratory is available to provide services to all law enforcement agencies in Maryland and partners outside of the state. The MSP-FSD is accredited by ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and licensed by the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Health Care Quality. As such, the laboratory utilizes generally accepted practices and procedures and conforms to *ISO/IEC 17025 - General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

The MSP-FSD employs approximately 100 personnel who work out of four laboratories located in Pikesville, Hagerstown, Hanover and Berlin, as well as 13 Crime Scene Offices located strategically throughout the state. The MSP-FSD is comprised of the Office of the Director, the Administrative Services Branch, the Field and Evidence Services Branch, and the Laboratory Services Branch. The Office of the Director consists of the Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Commander, Chief Toxicologist and Quality Assurance/ Safety Manager. This administrative unit is responsible for the overall management of the Division. The Director oversees the management of the entire Division, a Lieutenant oversees the Field and Evidence Services Branch, the Deputy Director oversees the Laboratory Services Branch, the Quality Assurance/ Safety Manager oversees the Administrative Services Branch. The Chief Toxicologist oversees the MSP Toxicology Operations that include the MSP-FSD Toxicology Units and the MSP Chemical Test for Alcohol Unit (CTAU), which work together in support of the MSP impaired driving program. The Field and Evidence Services Branch consists of the Crime Scene Section and the Forensic Support Services Section. The Laboratory Services Branch consists of the following Sections: Pattern Evidence, Chemistry, Biology, and Trace Evidence. The personnel within the Field and Evidence Services Branch and the Laboratory Services Branch provide scientific support services to the criminal justice community.

The MSP-FSD operates under the following principles:

Core Values

Our dedication to integrity, fairness, and service ensures that our clients are always provided with reports and expert testimony that are informative, ethical, impartial, reliable, and scientifically valid.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Forensic Sciences Division is to serve as the model laboratory for the analysis of forensic evidence in the State of Maryland by employing the following elements:

- Promotion of employee morale through a respectful, inclusive, equitable, unified, and safe work environment.
- Meeting the forensic science needs of Maryland and its citizens.
- Maintaining ISO 17025 accreditation and compliance with all oversight requirements.
- Minimizing backlogs and turnaround time.
- Operating in a planned, prepared, and proactive manner.

Vision Statement

- To respect, acknowledge, value, challenge, and retain our employees within a diverse workplace.
- To collaborate with other laboratories and agencies and maximize the forensic services available to Maryland and its citizens.
- To promote state of the science operations through continuing education and the routine evaluation of current procedures.
- To eliminate backlogs and initiate cases upon submission.
- To maximize the public's return on investment by ensuring that sufficient resources are always available to the FSD and that those resources are always procured in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Daniel E. Katz

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division (MSP-FSD). This is my 10th Director's Message accompanying this yearly publication (11th if you count the one I did as Acting Director). Each year I try my best to point out the highlights of the previous year, shine a spotlight on the work of our tireless staff, and philosophize about how and why we do what we do. This year's message may appear to be a little heavy on the latter, but please do not let that overshadow the incredible quality and quantity of work produced by FSD over the past year. Trust me when I say, I could not be prouder of every single member of this Division and the positive impact that they continue to have on the people of Maryland... *all* the people of Maryland.

In July of 2021, FSD took the first steps in taking on the concept of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) by establishing a DEI Committee made up of five impressive individuals. This group of volunteers included Crime Scene Technician Jenn Jeudy and Forensic Scientists Angie Spessard, Amber McConnell, Jeanine Hotchkin, and Whitley Abrams. I am indebted to these five leaders who were willing to trust me when I proposed establishing a DEI Committee as part of the new FSD Wellness Program. We all had some basic understanding about DEI, but none of us had any professional experience with it and were far from experts. Their willingness to embrace this challenging subject in an effort to better our organization and community took a lot of guts.

It was my intent to allow the new Committee the freedom to explore topics that they found to be relevant and worthy of discussion. They were told that they could seek out external resources as needed and interact with co-workers as warranted. In short, Top Management was looking to the Committee to provide guidance and recommendations on meeting the DEI needs of the Division. One of the first and most important revelations of the Committee was the need to focus on their own wellness prior to implementing any specific DEI initiatives, much in the spirit of putting on your own oxygen mask before trying to help others. In light of this, a decision was made to rebrand the Committee as the DEI/Wellness Committee and the group all took part in a comprehensive mind/body wellness program. In addition, they issued a DEI/Wellness pulse survey to the FSD staff to solicit feedback and prioritize future efforts. As a result of the survey, several wellness activities were implemented including lunch and learns, shout outs, an amazing FSD dedicated wellness website, and an unbelievable wellness room for staff rejuvenation.

In addition to these wellness-focused initiatives, the group took a major step forward when they read a book called "DEI Deconstructed: Your No-Nonsense Guide to Doing the Work and Doing it Right" by Lily Zheng. This brutally honest book offered a caution-filled guide on how to and how not to implement a DEI program. Around this time, I asked the Committee about moving forward with implementing actual DEI initiatives and was told that they were hesitant to move forward without professional guidance because they felt the risk of doing it wrong was too high. I did not understand their position and they suggested that I read the book.

At this point, I advised them that a decision had been made to break the DEI/Wellness Committee into a stand-alone DEI Committee and a stand-alone Wellness Committee and recruit additional staff members to join each of the new Committees which would be led by members of

the original Committee. I believe in the concept of DEI very strongly, which I will explain in more detail shortly; and I felt this was the step we needed to take especially as the Department's commitment to DEI became more pronounced. I told the Committee members that we were making this one of our five FSD goals for 2024 so that it would get the attention it deserved. While they all were thankful and supportive of that, some informed me that they felt they were at a crossroads and were choosing to step away. Regretfully, I had not listened well enough and this team that had given so much had nothing more to give. Not one of my finer moments.

So, I decided to read the book. What an informative book! Yes, it was honest about the shortcomings of the DEI movement and how it has not yet made the impact that it promises. And yes, it was cautionary about how not having a well-structured plan designed specific to your organization can be problematic. But it was also inspiring to know that creating a successful DEI program is possible and that its positive impact can be profound. Before I go too far, I think it is vital that I provide how the book defines the terms of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and why I think we must strive to achieve them at the Forensic Sciences Division.

- **Diversity** is the workforce composition that all stakeholders, especially underserved and marginalized populations, trust to be representative and accountable. Diversity is achieved through actions that explicitly counter present-day and historical inequities and meet the unique needs of all populations.
- **Equity** is the measured experience of individual, interpersonal, and organizational success and well-being across all stakeholder populations and the *absence* of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse for all. Equity is achieved by eliminating structural barriers resulting from historical and present-day inequities and meeting individuals', groups', and organizations' unique needs.
- **Inclusion** is the achievement of an environment that all stakeholders, especially underserved and marginalized populations, trust to be respectful and accountable. Inclusion is achieved through actions that explicitly counter present-day and historical inequities and meet the unique needs of all populations.

These are critically important concepts for any organization, but I feel they are paramount for MSP-FSD. The reason is because as forensic science practitioners, we have the responsibility of providing impartial findings to all parties within the criminal justice system. As Director of MSP-FSD, I pledge that we are and will always be committed to minimizing bias and to doing independent work that serves all citizens of Maryland fairly. Unfortunately, perception is often reality and misperception can erode trust. Therefore, promoting a diverse workforce within an inclusive work environment that operates on the principle of equity can be beneficial to FSD on multiple levels. First, ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization is essential to creating an efficient and effective workplace that is high in teamwork and low in distractions. Second, establishing a culture of fairness within our own organization will eventually transform any potential misperceptions within the community that we serve and restore trust.

Achieving a successful DEI program within FSD will be a team effort, and everyone has a role to play if they choose to do so. The book describes the following seven distinct roles essential to making lasting change.

- **Advocates** break the ice on hard-to-discuss issues and inject momentum into movements.
- **Educators** use movement-related information to increase the ability of stakeholders at different stages in their learning journeys to make change.
- **Organizers** help well-intended groups attain the critical mass required to achieve goals.
- **Strategists** equip other roles with the big picture and facilitate decision making.
- **Backers** make decisions that resource, support, and add legitimacy to movements.
- **Builders** create new policies, processes, and practices that don't yet exist.
- **Reformers** change and improve that which is already present.

I encourage all members of FSD to get involved and figure out what role or roles they can play in making this DEI initiative successful. Change only truly happens when all of these roles are filled by committed and motivated individuals working together to achieve a common vision. It is my hope that all of FSD sees the value in DEI and embraces it to the fullest extent because I think it is that important.

As will become evident in the following pages of this annual report, the efforts of the FSD team are extensive. We are very proud of the work we do and take great satisfaction knowing the positive impact that our work has each and every day on the Maryland criminal justice system. We also recognize that the impact of our work has the potential to be felt far beyond the courtroom when we commit to performing our work within an environment that promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Activity Summary - Field and Evidence Services Branch				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Crime Scene Section				
Crime Scenes Processed	625	676	678	673
Photography Unit				
Special Assignments	181	177	239	229
VeriPic Requests Processed	845	773	816	545
Color Prints	1,175	2,884	4,188	4,249
ID Cards	522	594	865	739
Central Receiving Unit				
CDS cases submitted for destruction	8,100	9,390	7,881	7,896
Forensic Cases Received	11,871	11,813	10,757	10,071

Activity Summary – Laboratory Services Branch				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Latent Prints/Impressions				
Cases Received	1,034	916	824	923
Cases Completed	1,043	984	717	903
MAFIS Latent Hits	418	368	308	584
Case Uploads to MAFIS	459	441	326	443
Latent Print Uploads to MAFIS	1,368	1,248	907	1,754
Firearms/Toolmarks				
Cases Received	925	1,291	1,233	1,114
Cases Completed	1,018	1,163	1,086	1,039
Number of Firearms for Handgun Roster Board	92	92	79	82
Exhibit Uploads to NIBIN	912	1,169	1,075	969
Number of NIBIN Leads Generated	185	263	205	226
Number of NIBIN Hits Confirmed	11	11	12	12
Operation Test Shot Samples Completed	400	1,151	752	729
Walk-In Test Fires (# of Firearms)	26	22	85	72
CDS				
Cases Received in Pikesville	2,657	3,207	2,764	2,705
Cases Received in Berlin	1,489	1,166	1,012	839
Cases Received in Hagerstown	1,486	1,956	1,335	1,247
Subtotal Cases Received	5,632	6,329	5,111	4,791
Cases Received by Allied Forensic Scientists ¹	1,921	1,792	1,722	1,206
Total Cases Received	7,553	8,121	6,833	5,997
Cases Completed in Pikesville	3,152	3,278	2,980	2,721
Cases Completed in Berlin	1,806	1,088	1,095	992
Cases Completed in Hagerstown	1,665	1,517	1,732	1,421
Subtotal Cases Completed	6,623	5,883	5,807	5,134
Cases Completed by Allied Forensic Scientists ¹	2,475	1,665	1,923	1,286
Total Cases Completed	9,098	7,548	7,730	6,420
Toxicology				
Blood Alcohol Cases Received	694	693	547	559
Blood Drug Cases Received	625	566	355	388
Total Cases Received	1,319	1,259	902	947
Blood Alcohol Cases Completed	630	713	608	598
Blood Drug Cases Completed	695	481	576	402
Total Cases Completed	1,325	1,194	1,184	1,000
Biology				
Submitted Cases Received	607	652	636	607
Directly Outsourced Cases Received	290	281	210	370
Total Cases Received	897	933	846	977
Submitted Cases Completed	657	613	651	511
Directly Outsourced Cases Completed	333	261	212	305
Total Cases Completed	990	874	864	816
Maryland Case CODIS Hits	1,128	1,170	1,107	1,279
Arrested/Charged CODIS Hits	144	141	137	449
Convicted Offender Uploads to CODIS	2,285	2,655	3,462	3,767
Arrested/Charged Uploads to CODIS	2,741	3,374	3,380	3,566
Case Uploads to CODIS	1,568	1,284	1,250	1,434

Activity Summary – Laboratory Services Branch				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Trace Evidence				
Cases Received	125	138	111	105
Cases Completed	124	137	102	88
Question Documents				
Cases Received	18	14	8	8
Cases Completed	18	16	11	8

1 - Allied Forensic Scientists = Forensic Scientists hired by allied agencies or other governmental entities who are authorized to perform CDS analysis in FSD facilities under the provisions provided for in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Unit	Cases Received²		Cases Completed	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Latent Prints/Impressions	824	923	717	903
Firearms/Toolmarks	1,233	1,114	1,086	1,039
CDS-Pikesville	2,764	2,705	2,980	2,721
CDS-Berlin	1,012	839	1,095	992
CDS-Hagerstown	1,335	1,247	1,732	1,421
CDS-Allied ¹	1,722	1,206	1,923	1,286
Toxicology	902	947	1,184	1,000
Biology- Submitted	636	607	651	511
Biology- Direct Outsourcing	210	370	212	305
Trace Evidence	111	105	102	88
Questioned Documents	8	8	11	8
Totals	10,757	10,071	11,694	10,274

1- CDS-Allied = Forensic Scientists hired by allied agencies or other governmental entities who are authorized to perform CDS analysis in FSD facilities under the provisions provided for in a Memorandum of Understanding.

2- Cases that are routed to multiple units are counted as a unique case for each unit.

Laboratory Services Branch Backlogs and Turn Around Times				
Casework Type	Pending Caseload (Cases)¹	Backlog (Cases pending >30 days)¹	2023 Turn Around Time (Calendar Days)²	4th Quarter Turn Around Time (Calendar Days)³
Latent Prints/Impressions	151	116	46	51
Firearms/Toolmarks	714	646	138	177
CDS-Pikesville	166	53	20	19
CDS-Berlin	43	8	56	33
CDS-Hagerstown	84	26	61	61
CDS-Allied	49	18	27	35
Toxicology	148	55	87	69
Biology-Submitted	277	240	104	111
Biology-Directly Outsourced	156	100	121	122
Trace Evidence	38	31	82	85
Question Documents	0	0	65	65
Totals	1,826	1,293	73*	75*

1- Number of cases as of last day of calendar year.

2- Average turnaround time for cases completed throughout the calendar year.

3- Average turnaround time for cases completed during the 4th quarter.

*- Average turnaround time for all casework types

Quantity of FSD Requests by County*						
County	2022			2023		
	Cases Submitted to Lab	Crime Scenes	Total	Cases Submitted to Lab	Crime Scenes	Total
Wicomico	749	39	788	798	66	864
Cecil	859	95	954	795	74	869
Frederick	1,212	28	1,240	785	28	813
Harford	666	24	690	636	22	658
Allegany	644	45	689	605	43	648
St. Mary's	718	16	734	600	16	616
Anne Arundel	476	39	515	589	35	624
Charles	568	4	572	573	7	580
Carroll	596	25	621	529	49	578
Worcester	698	39	737	520	15	535
Washington	456	18	474	450	66	516
Calvert	393	2	395	318	7	325
Dorchester	277	47	324	298	17	315
Baltimore	304	39	343	280	39	319
Baltimore City	262	36	298	279	51	330
Prince George's	217	24	241	238	32	270
Queen Anne's	283	21	304	234	13	247
Talbot	218	33	251	228	58	286
Howard	231	12	243	211	9	220
Caroline	236	25	261	192	22	214
Garrett	140	6	146	191	5	196
Montgomery	181	18	199	156	14	170
Somerset	140	32	172	150	32	182
Kent	119	10	129	84	3	87
Statewide/Not Determined**	99	0	100	12	0	12
Out of State	15	1	15	3	0	3
Totals	10,757	678	11,435	9,754	723	10,477

*Cases are counted more than one time when submitted to different FSD Units.

**County where offense occurred was not provided to FSD.

Quantity of Laboratory Submissions to FSD Ranked by MSP Installation*			
2023 Rank	2022 Rank	MSP Installation	Counties Served
1	1	MSP-CID/CED	Statewide
2	2	MSP-Cumberland	Allegany
3	3	MSP-Easton	Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
4	4	MSP-North East	Cecil
5	8	MSP-Bel Air	Harford
6	6	MSP-Centreville	Kent, Queen Anne's
7	5	MSP-Frederick	Frederick
8	9	MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's
9	7	MSP-Hagerstown	Washington
10	12	MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel
11	10	MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore
12	15	MSP-Westminster	Carroll
13	11	MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico
14	24	MSP-College Park	Prince George's
15	19	MSP-Rockville	Montgomery
16	16	MSP-Berlin	Worcester
17	17	MSP-La Plata	Charles
18	21	MSP-Waterloo	Howard
19	14	MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert
20	20	MSP-Forestville	Prince George's
21	23	MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset
22	25	MSP-McHenry	Garrett
23	26	Office of State Fire Marshal	Statewide
24	13	MSP- JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore
25	18	MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel
26	22	MSP-Homicide	Statewide
27	27	MSP-DED/C3I	Statewide
28	28	MSP-Crash Team	Statewide
29	29	MSP-CVED	Statewide

*This does not include Crime Scene Submissions

Quantity of Laboratory Submissions to FSD Ranked by Allied Agency County*		
2023 Rank	2022 Rank	County
1	3	Wicomico
2	5	Cecil
3	1	Frederick
4	8	Harford
5	9	Allegany
6	4	St. Mary's
7	11	Anne Arundel
8	6	Charles
9	7	Carroll
10	2	Worcester
11	12	Washington
12	10	Calvert
13	14	Dorchester
14	16	Baltimore
15	13	Baltimore City
16	20	Prince George's
17	21	Queen Anne's
18	15	Howard
19	17	Talbot
20	22	Caroline
21	19	Garrett
22	18	Montgomery
23	24	Somerset
24	23	Kent
25	25	Out of State
26	26	Statewide/Not Determined*

*This does not include Crime Scene Submissions

**County where offense occurred was not provided to FSD.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BRANCH

The Administrative Services Branch provides support throughout the MSP-FSD. The staff within the branch provide office management functions including recruiting for civilian vacancies, processing working fund expenditures, ordering laboratory supplies, conducting capital inventory, various administrative duties involving the laboratory budget, personnel inquiries, maintaining service agreement contracts, processing invoices, logging and maintaining all submitted court summonses, logging and processing training requests, and maintaining the Division's filing system. The Administrative Service Branch is essential in providing the MSP-FSD staff with what they need to do their jobs in the field and in the laboratory.

In addition to the MSP-FSD administrative staff, a contractual employee that is sub-contracted through Falcon is assigned to provide security/receptionist coverage for the MSP-FSD front lobby security desk. This individual screens and logs all visitors, including personnel delivering evidence, and also monitors laboratory security cameras and communicates with the Headquarters Duty Officer and the Baltimore County Police Department regarding security issues. This contracted employee also provides clerical assistance to various units when feasible.

FIELD AND EVIDENCE SERVICES BRANCH

The Field and Evidence Services Branch of MSP-FSD is comprised of the Crime Scene Section and the Forensic Support Services Section. The Assistant Commander of MSP-FSD is responsible for the planning, organization, direction, and control of this branch.

CRIME SCENE SECTION

The Crime Scene Section (CSS) is responsible for processing crime scene evidence to include identifying, collecting, preserving, photographing, sketching, storing and transporting evidence to the laboratory facilities. Bloodstain pattern analysis, facial composite generation and bullet trajectory analysis are also available. Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) work closely with criminal investigators, processing crime scenes and providing technical assistance, thereby allowing investigators the opportunity to conduct thorough investigations. Technicians are available to Maryland's law enforcement community twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The CSS also provides assistance to neighboring states upon request. The Section Manager oversees the overall operations of the Crime Scene Section. When fully staffed, there are four Regional Supervisors (North, East, West and South Regions) with five Crime Scene Technicians assigned to the Western and Eastern Regions and four Crime Scene Technicians assigned to the Northern and Southern Regions.

A large portion of the evidence examined by the MSP-FSD is transported by CSTs. They not only transport evidence for the majority of the Department's installations, but also for many of the local police and sheriff's departments. These transports are to and from the Pikesville Laboratory as well as the two satellite laboratories located in Hagerstown and Berlin.

The CSS is involved in the MSP-FSD Disaster Identification Team (DIT), which is available to assist the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in locating, marking, photographing, and identifying disaster victims.

The technical abilities and expertise of the CSTs are often utilized for training. They provide instruction at the Maryland State Police Academy, Natural Resources Police Academy, various in-service law enforcement agency programs, Grand juries and provide lectures during training and seminars hosted by allied police departments.

Law enforcement personnel provided valuable feedback to the CSTs and their supervisors by submitting Technician Evaluation Forms in 2023. These evaluations were consistently highly rated and praised CSS personnel for their exemplary service and performance.

CRIME SCENE REGIONAL UNITS

Western Region Unit: Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Northern Region Unit: Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, and Howard Counties as well as Baltimore City (Maryland Port Authority, Maryland Transportation Authority, DOC)

Southern Region Unit: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and St. Mary’s Counties

Eastern Region Unit: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

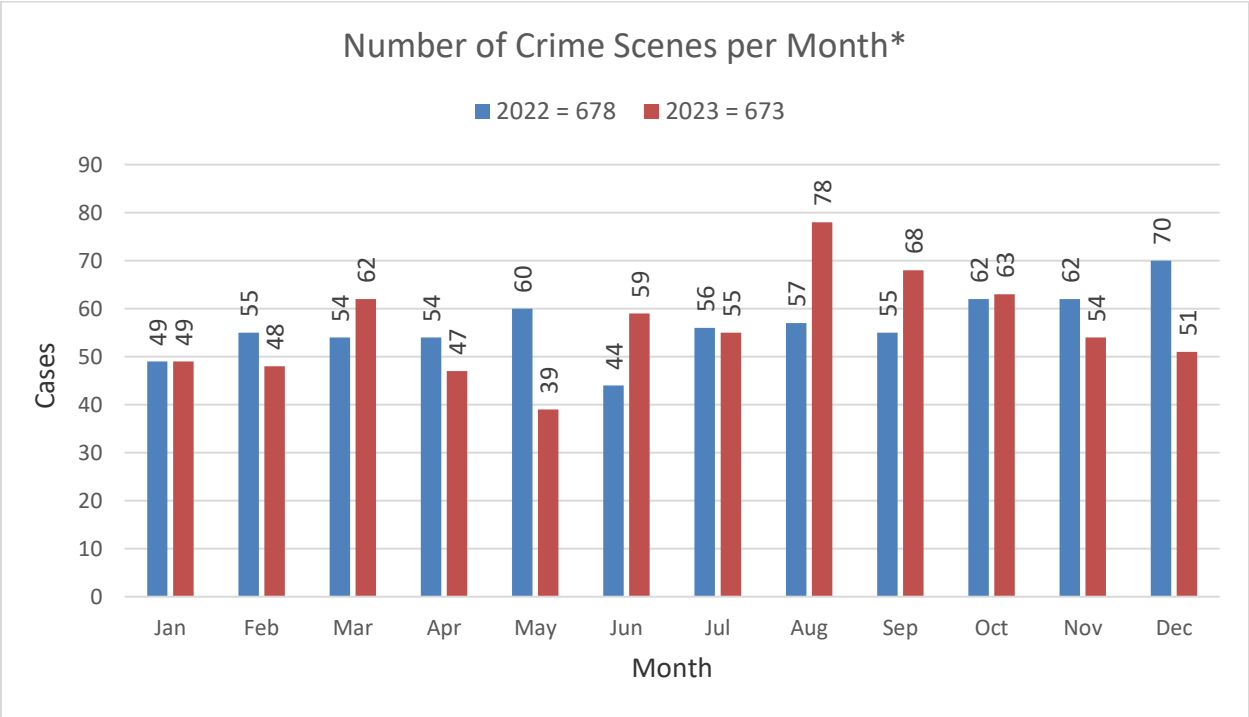
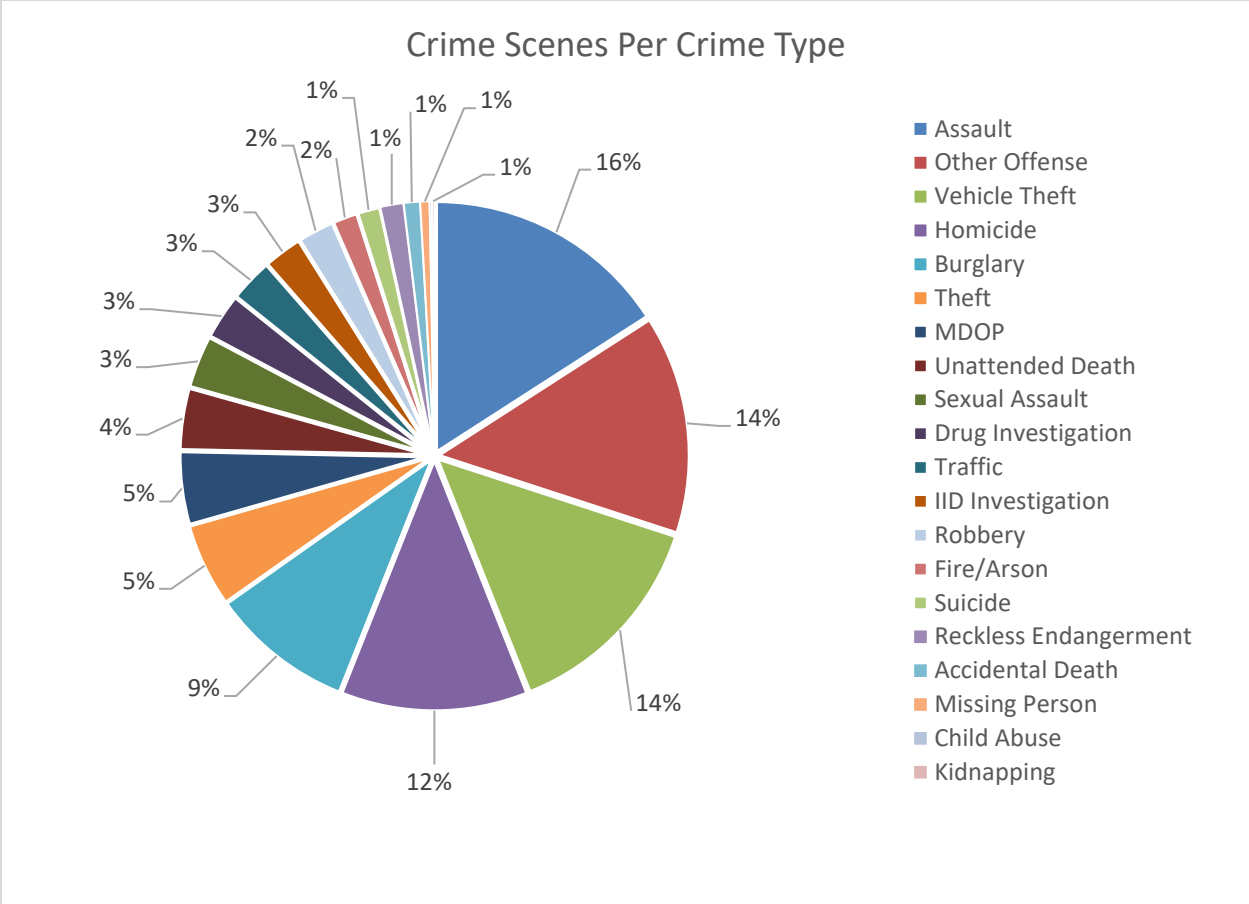
Crime Scenes Processed*		
Crime Scene Region	2022	2023
Northern	206	195
Southern	103	111
Eastern	247	226
Western	122	141
Totals	678	673

*Does not include Scene Assists

Crime Scene Summary				
Agency	2022		2023	
	Number	%	Number	%
MSP Scenes	465	69%	413	61%
Allied Agency Scenes	213	31%	260	39%
Total	678	100%	673	100%
Scene Assists	64	N/A	50	N/A

Total Number of Crime Scenes Processed per County*	
County	Total Crime Scenes
Cecil	74
Wicomico	66
Washington	66
Talbot	58
Baltimore City	51
Carroll	49
Allegany	43
Baltimore	39
Anne Arundel	35
Somerset	32
Prince George's	32
Frederick	28
Caroline	22
Harford	22
Dorchester	17
St. Mary's	16
Worcester	15
Montgomery	14
Queen Anne's	13
Howard	9
Charles	7
Calvert	7
Garrett	5
Kent	3
Out of State	0
TOTAL	723

*Includes Scene Assists



*Does not include Scene Assists

NOTEWORTHY CASES

Western Region

A CST had a DNA hit from a swab to a suspect in a 2019 Burglary in Carroll County. A swab was obtained from a pickaxe that had been left on the scene and was believed to be the tool used to force entry into the business.

On December 31, 2023, a CST responded to OCME to assist the MSP Crash Team identify a pedestrian with no identification who had been struck by a vehicle in Frederick County. The CST collected a blood card, finger and palm prints from the victim. The CST submitted the fingerprints to the FBI Special Processing Center for identification. Within a few hours the Crash Team was able to notify the family.

Northern Region

In May 2023, a MSP vehicle, AV-25, was broken into in front of the trooper's Baltimore residence. The trooper initially saw jumper cables hanging out of the trunk, but as he approached closer, he noticed the rear driver side window was shattered. An inventory of missing items were taken including an agency-issued Remington 870 shotgun, flight helmet, vest, respirator, flight suit, ball cap, spare vehicle key, Garmin GPS, and additional issued personal equipment. Numerous items, including the shotgun, were found in a neighbor's yard and inside of a stolen vehicle that had been a part of a hit-and-run incident nearby. MSP CSTs processed a lid to a plastic container in the vehicle and recovered a fingerprint. The fingerprint was identified as a 16 year old known felon with BCPD. The case was transferred the investigation to the Department of Juvenile Services for Prosecutorial screening.

On Tuesday, June 13, 2023 a CST responded to a call in Howard County for several thefts from vehicles. Numerous vehicles in the neighborhood had been ransacked overnight, including a Trooper's service weapon that had been stolen from the Trooper's unmarked SUV. The CST recovered numerous latent lifts which were submitted to the Latent Prints Unit and two possible suspects were identified. A subsequent scene response in a neighboring County by another CST led to the collection of additional latent prints, which also identified one of the two previously identified suspects.

Southern Region

On January 19, 2023, a CST responded to the OCME to collect fingerprints from a homicide victim that had been missing since December 2022. The suspect in this case led MSP Homicide Investigators to the victim's remains. The victim had been dismembered and body parts buried in two separate counties – Charles and St. Mary County, MD. At the OCME, the CST was able to collect fingerprints from the victims' degloved hands. The collected prints were then submitted to the Latent Print Unit where examiners were able to identify the victim.

On April 15, 2023, a CST responded to a crime scene for the Bowie State University Police regarding a shooting in a parking lot on campus. There was a blood trail starting at the curb of the exit continuing in the grass until it reached the road. There were multiple live cartridges and

cartridges casing laying in three different areas of the parking lot. One swab of blood, thirteen live cartridges, and seven cartridge casings were collected. A NIBIN report, from the Firearms Unit, was received informing of a NIBIN hit connecting the case to multiple homicides in Baltimore City.

Eastern Region

On March 18th , 2023, there was a shooting in Wicomico County. A residence and two vehicles were hit in the shooting. The CST collected fourteen cartridge casings at the scene. The cartridge casings were processed for latent prints with negative results. The cartridge casings were submitted to the Firearms Unit for further processing and NIBIN entry. Four NIBIN Investigative Leads were developed for the case as a result of the NIBIN entries.

On December 9, 2023, CSTs responded to a police-involved shooting in Cambridge. Upon arrival the technicians observed a vehicle parked in front of a building at one scene. At a second scene, technicians observed a vehicle in the middle of the road and cartridge casings on the road and on the sidewalk. A handgun was collected from the ground near the suspect by law enforcement personnel. CSTs collected the cartridge casings. Latent Prints and DNA swabs were collected from the vehicle and a DNA swab was collected from the suspect's handgun. The suspect was linked to the handgun by DNA and to the vehicle by latent prints. The handgun was linked to two homicides that had occurred the day before. The two homicides were processed by other CSTs. The suspect was found guilty for both homicides in court.

FORENSIC SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

This Section consists of the Photography Unit and the Central Receiving Unit. These units play an important role in allowing the FSD to function as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Photography Unit is supervised by one Forensic Photographer Supervisor and is staffed by one Forensic Photographer II. The Central Receiving Unit is supervised by one Administrative Officer (CRU Supervisor) and is staffed by six MSP Forensic Inventory Control Officers (MSP-FICO's).

PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT

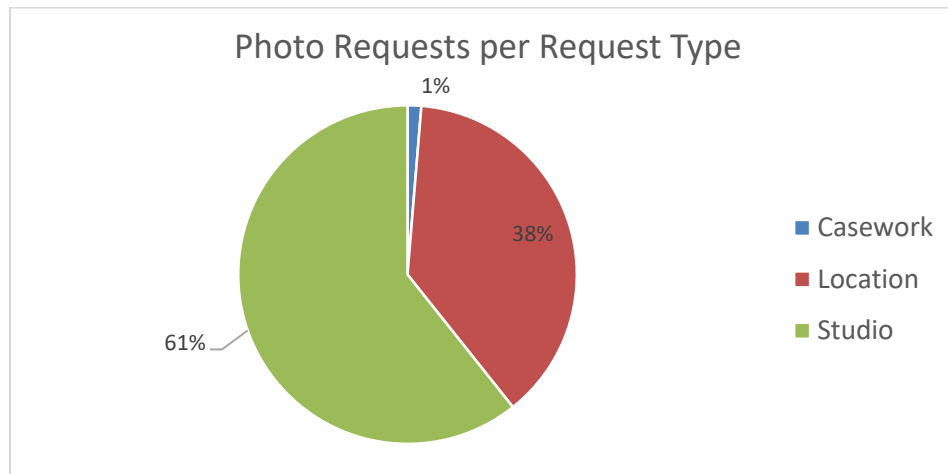
The Photography Unit provides photographic services to the Maryland State Police.

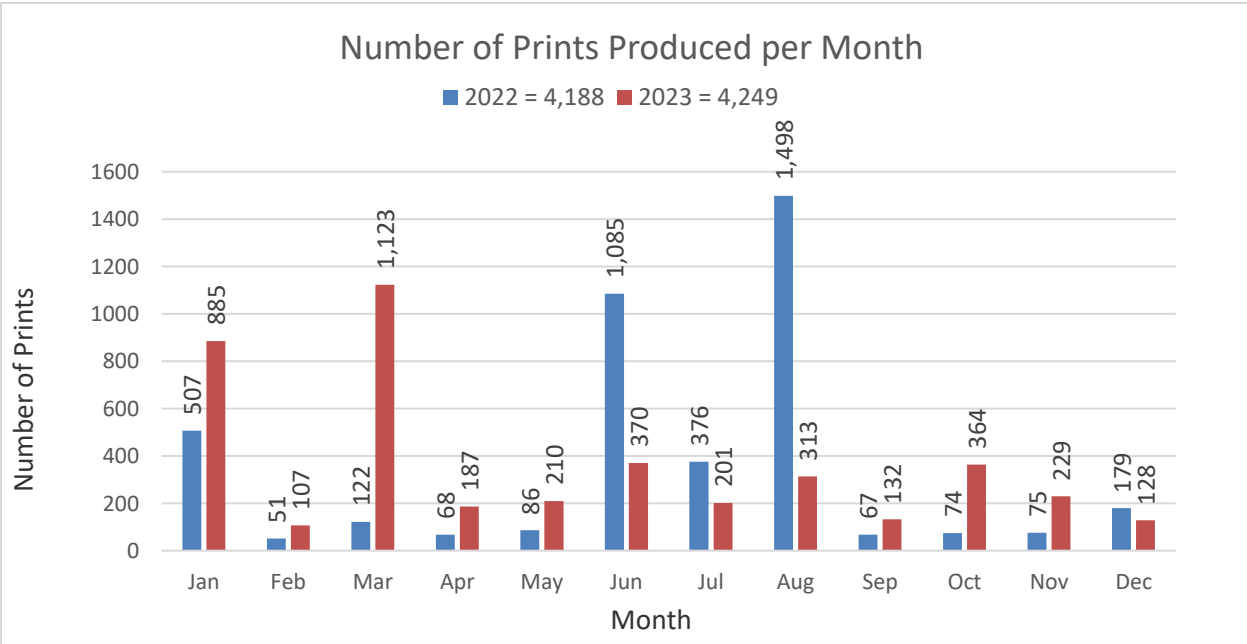
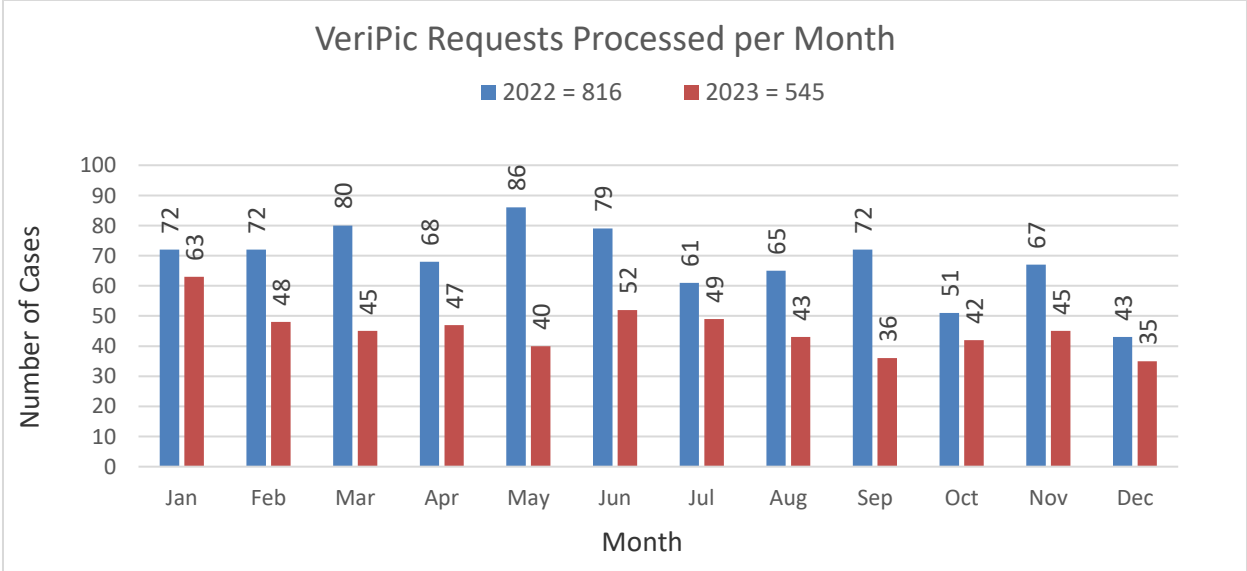
Duties within the unit include the acquiring and printing of images related to crime scenes and motor vehicle accidents for the Maryland State Police and other agencies. This unit also serves as the VeriPic system administrator. Reprints or CDs are provided to various divisions and units throughout the Department upon request. Other duties include public relations photos, expungement requests relating to the digital Barrack Identification Photo System, ID card production, and the support of other units within the Department. The Photography Unit assisted in creating the 2024 MSP Safety Calendar.

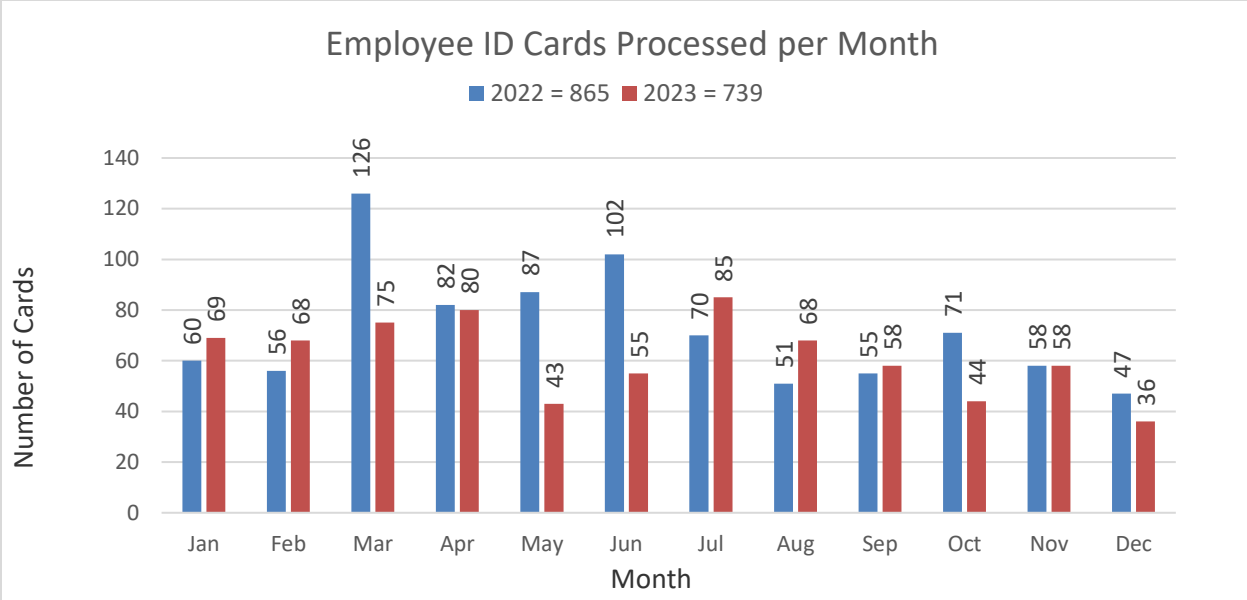
In 2024, the Photography Unit will implement replacement of the ID card system adding in iClass SEOS cards for the transition of the Department to a high security card. The goal of this change is to replace an aging system and create a more secure system for the Department.

Photography Unit personnel serve as members of the Disaster Identification Team and provide technical training and equipment recommendations in photography.

Photography Special Assignments	
MSP Requestors	Requests
Portraits (<i>by # of days, not requestors</i>)	139
Headquarters	24
SSB	37
CIB	11
FOB	15
Casework	3
TOTAL	229







CENTRAL RECEIVING UNIT

The Central Receiving Unit (CRU) functions as the liaison between the MSP-FSD and agencies that submit evidence for scientific analysis and CDS destruction. All three laboratory sites have a Central Receiving Unit that controls the security of evidence while awaiting analysis and again while pending return to the submitting agency. Personnel assigned to the unit ensure the integrity and protection of each item of evidence while in their custody. Regularly scheduled inventories of the evidence within Central Receiving and the laboratory units are coordinated through the unit. The unit reports directly to the MSP-FSD Assistant Commander.

Berlin Satellite Location

This location has an MSP Forensic Inventory Control Officer (MSP-FICO) who manages the CDS evidence submitted for analysis. The MSP-FICO assigns casework to the forensic scientists, manages rush requests, and faxes laboratory reports to the local State's Attorney's Offices. The MSP-FICO also performs administrative tasks for the site such as logging subpoenas, completing requisitions, scheduling evidence transfer appointments, and distributing mail.

Hagerstown Satellite Location

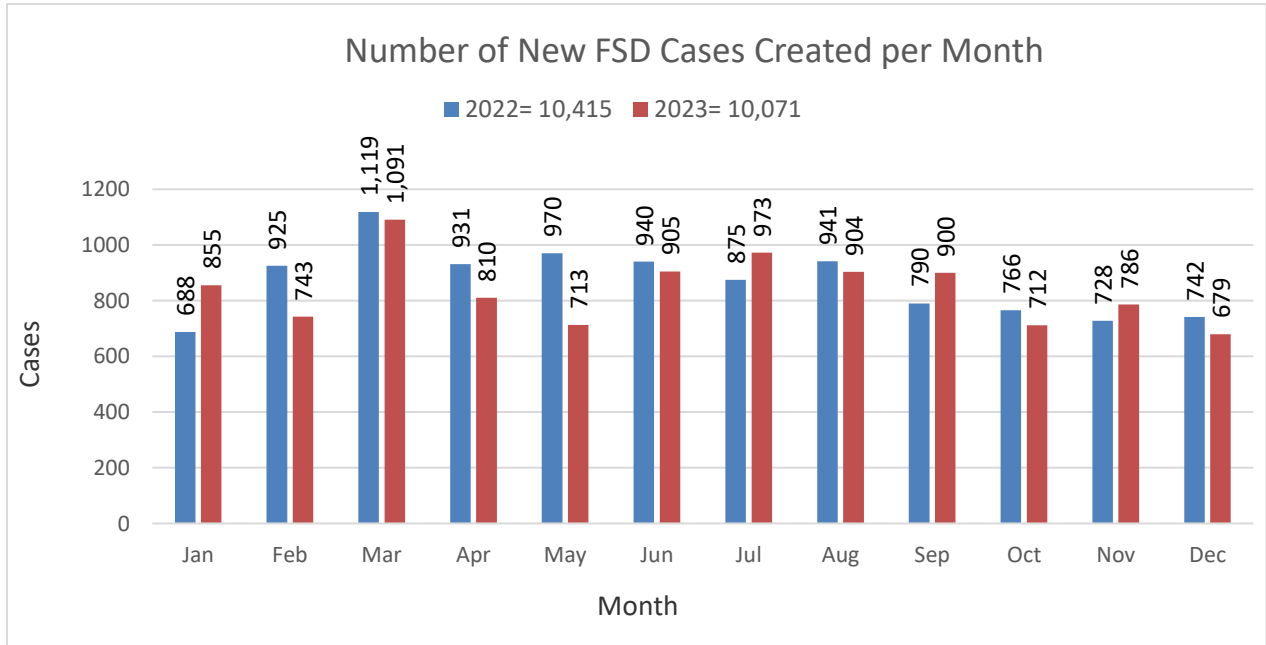
In 2023, the Hagerstown site had both FICO positions filled and staff were fully trained. Both new employees received training from the Training Coordinator and Central Receiving Unit Supervisor at Pikesville. The Hagerstown location manages evidence submissions for the CDS Unit and Latent Prints Unit as well as assist with CDS destructions.

Pikesville Headquarters Location

This location has one Administrative Officer (CRU Supervisor) and three MSP-FICO's. The Pikesville location manages evidence submissions for the Chemistry, Toxicology, Trace Evidence, Biology, and Pattern Evidence sections. These Sections are comprised of 7 scientific disciplines. In addition to evidence handling responsibilities, the Pikesville CRU administers and carries out the Department's CDS destruction process. During this process, MSP-FICO's randomly select a number of cases to be re-tested for quality control. The CRU also coordinates with various MSP Divisions for the local destruction of marijuana plants and confiscated parcels.

The Pikesville CRU is also responsible for archiving scientific analytical reports for all sections of the MSP-FSD and coordinates the transmittal of files to and from the State Records Management Center. The CRU maintains expunged records for the Division.

Additionally, the CRU plays an essential role in the use of StarLIMS, the laboratory information management system, utilized by MSP-FSD. The CRU supervisor functions as a StarLIMS Administrator and acts as the primary liaison between FSD end users and the project managers.

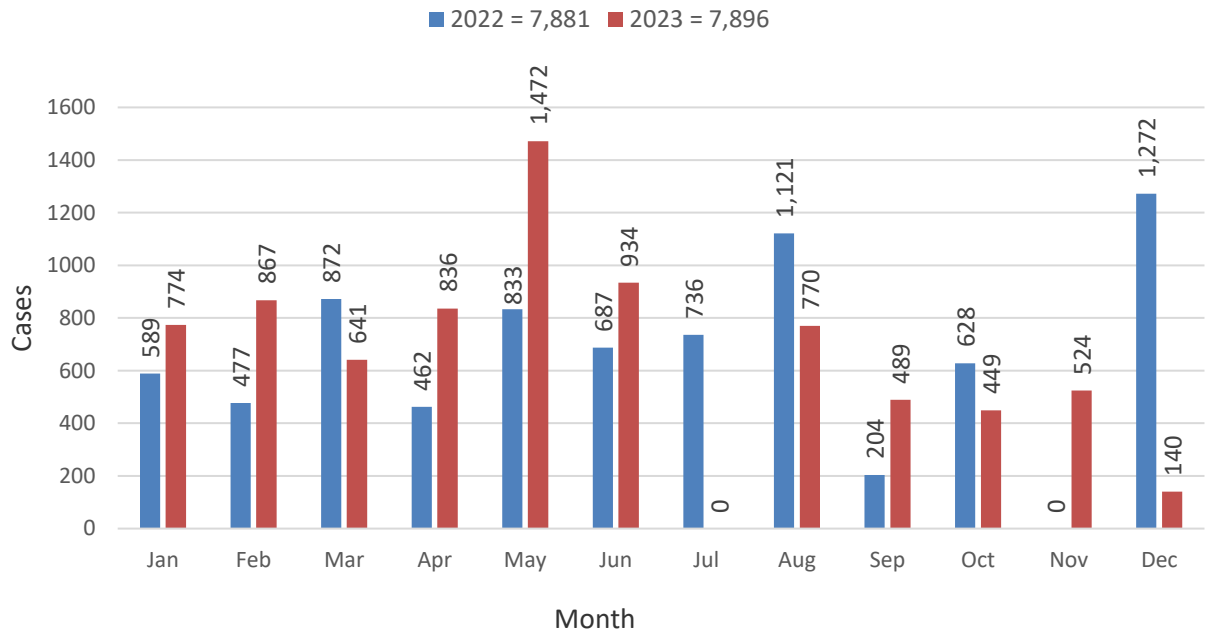


Number of Cases Received by Lab in 2023			
	Berlin	Hagerstown	Pikesville*
Jan	86	127	642
Feb	69	107	567
Mar	68	195	828
Apr	63	123	624
May	61	125	527
Jun	71	141	693
Jul	74	118	781
Aug	77	166	661
Sep	84	95	721
Oct	65	164	483
Nov	71	122	593
Dec	50	76	553
Total	839	1,559	7,673

*Includes CDS Allied Cases

Note: A case can consist of one or more containers, depending on the amount or type of evidence. Cases are counted more than one time when submitted to different FSD Units.

Number of CDS Cases Destroyed per Month



LABORATORY SERVICES BRANCH

The Laboratory Services Branch is comprised of the Pattern Evidence Section, the Chemistry Section, the Biology Section and the Trace Evidence Section of MSP-FSD. The Deputy Director of MSP-FSD is responsible for the planning, organization, direction and control of this branch.

PATTERN EVIDENCE SECTION

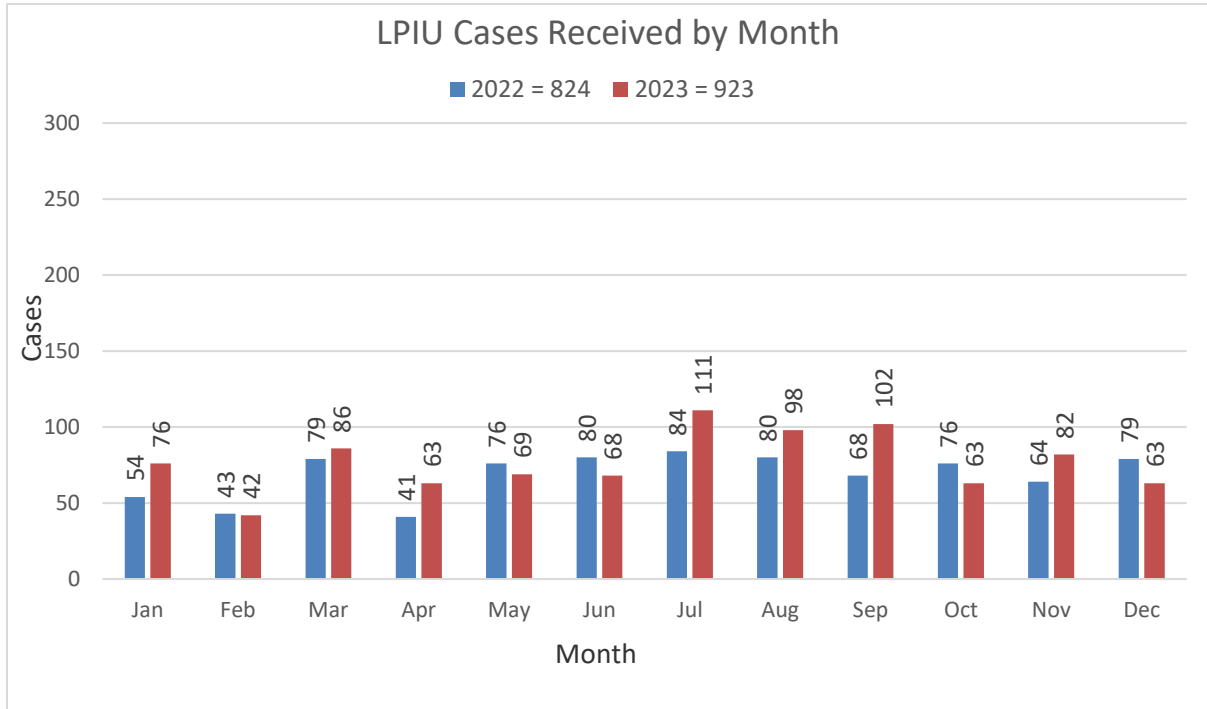
The Pattern Evidence Section is comprised of two units: the Latent Prints/Impressions Unit (LPIU) and the Firearms/Toolmarks Unit (FATMU). Both units operate out of the Pikesville laboratory and there is an additional LPIU in Hagerstown. The FATMU performs analysis on firearms and toolmarks using comparison microscopy and conducts serial number restoration. The LPIU performs analysis of latent friction ridge impression, footwear, and tire track related evidence. One Forensic Scientist Manager oversees both units. The LPIU consists of two supervisors (Pikesville/Hagerstown), two Forensic Scientist Advanced positions and three Forensic Scientist III's. The FATMU consists of three supervisors, one Forensic Scientist Advanced positions (vacant), two Forensic Scientist III's, three FICO's, and one Forensic Scientist position. One Forensic Scientist III is fully trained in LPIU and is currently being cross-trained in FATMU.

LATENT PRINTS/IMPRESSIONS UNITS

The LPIU performs examination of latent friction ridge impressions. Various methods involving chemicals, powders and illumination techniques are used for the visualization of latent prints. The unit records developed friction ridge impressions using digital capture processes as well as gel and adhesive lifts. Comparisons between latent prints and known prints are conducted to determine if they originated from the same source. In cases where an identification is made, a second examiner completes an independent verification. Any unidentified latent prints meeting the system requirements are searched through the Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS) and, when warranted, through the FBI database (NGI).

The LPIU is also responsible for the examination of footwear and tire track evidence. Various powders, chemicals and photography are used for the proper recovery of this impression evidence. Images are recorded with digital imaging devices. An analysis and comparison are performed as required for these sub-disciplines. Any footwear images that are suitable are entered and searched through the SoleMate FPX system for brand recognition. Tire images can be searched through the Tread Design Guide for brand recognition. In cases where either an "identification" or "could have been made" conclusion is reached, a second examiner performs an independent verification.

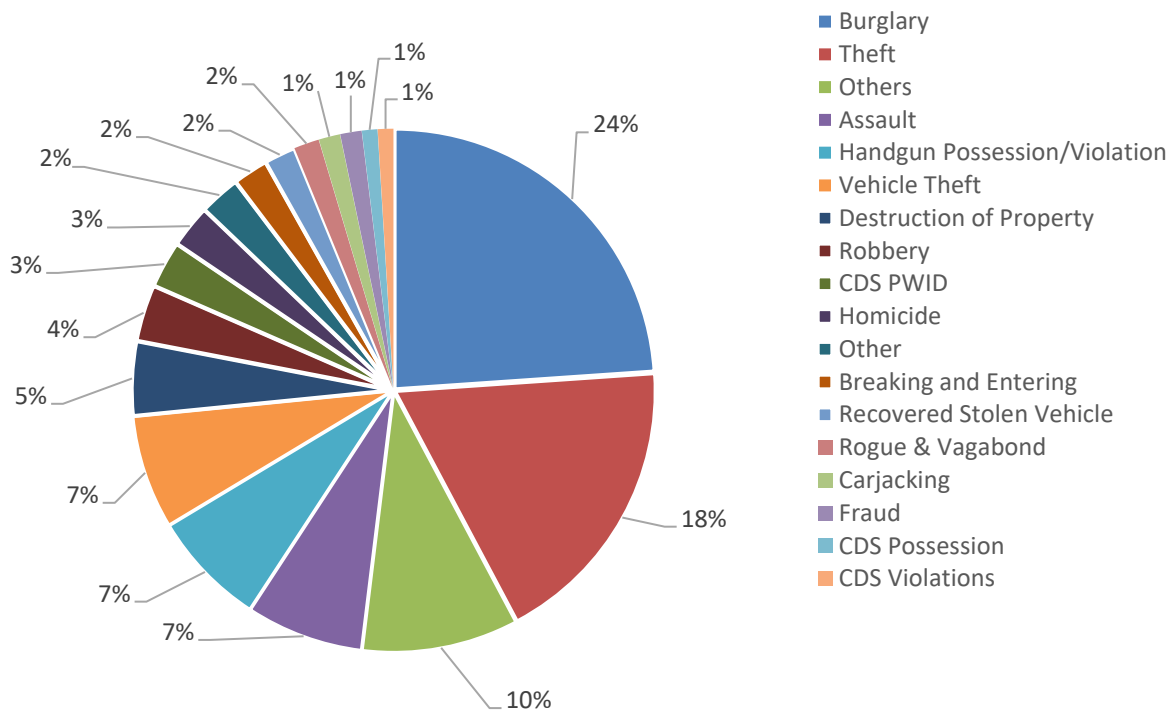
Latent Prints/Impressions Casework Statistics



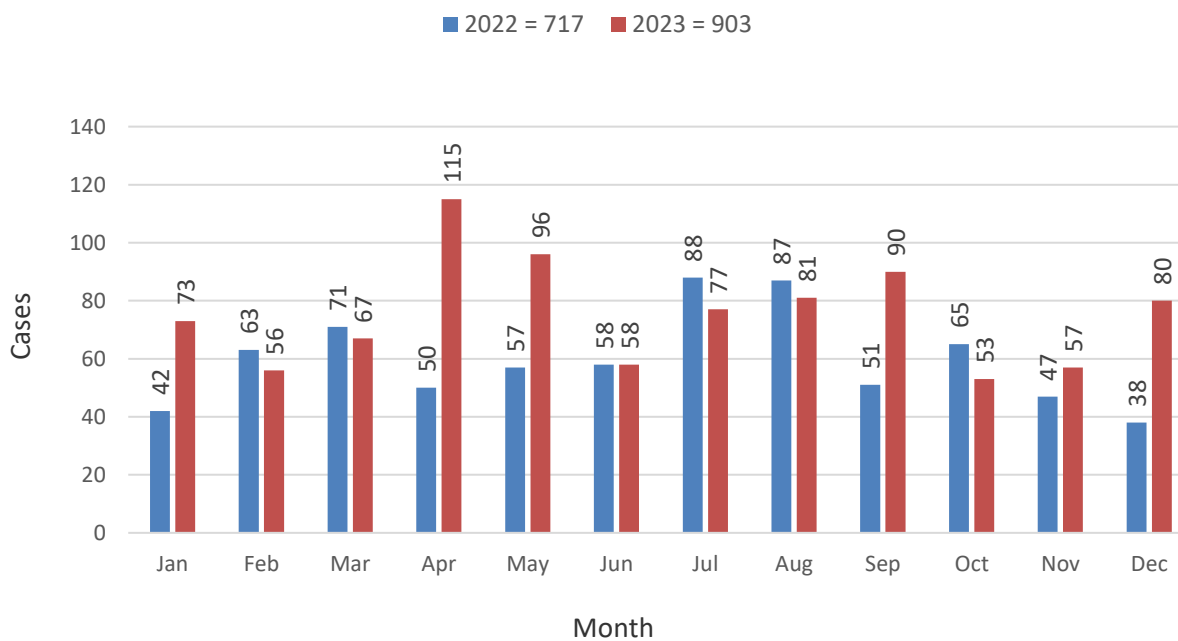
LPIU Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	36
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	15
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	14
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	12
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	12
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	10
MSP-North East	Cecil	9
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	8
MSP-Homicide	Statewide	7
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	7
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	4
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	4
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	4
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	4
MSP- College Park	Prince George's	4
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	3
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	3
OSFM	Statewide	2
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	2
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	2
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	2
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	2
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	1
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	1
MSP-La Plata	Charles	1
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	1
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	0
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	0
	TOTAL	170

Allied Agency Cases Received by LPIU per County	
County	Submissions
St. Mary's	110
Frederick	105
Worcester	98
Wicomico	78
Carroll	78
Dorchester	75
Prince George's	52
Washington	42
Cecil	40
Anne Arundel	35
Baltimore City	31
Queen Anne's	26
Baltimore	26
Somerset	21
Calvert	20
Caroline	18
Talbot	15
Harford	14
Garrett	10
Montgomery	9
Allegany	5
Kent	4
Howard	2
Charles	1
TOTAL	915

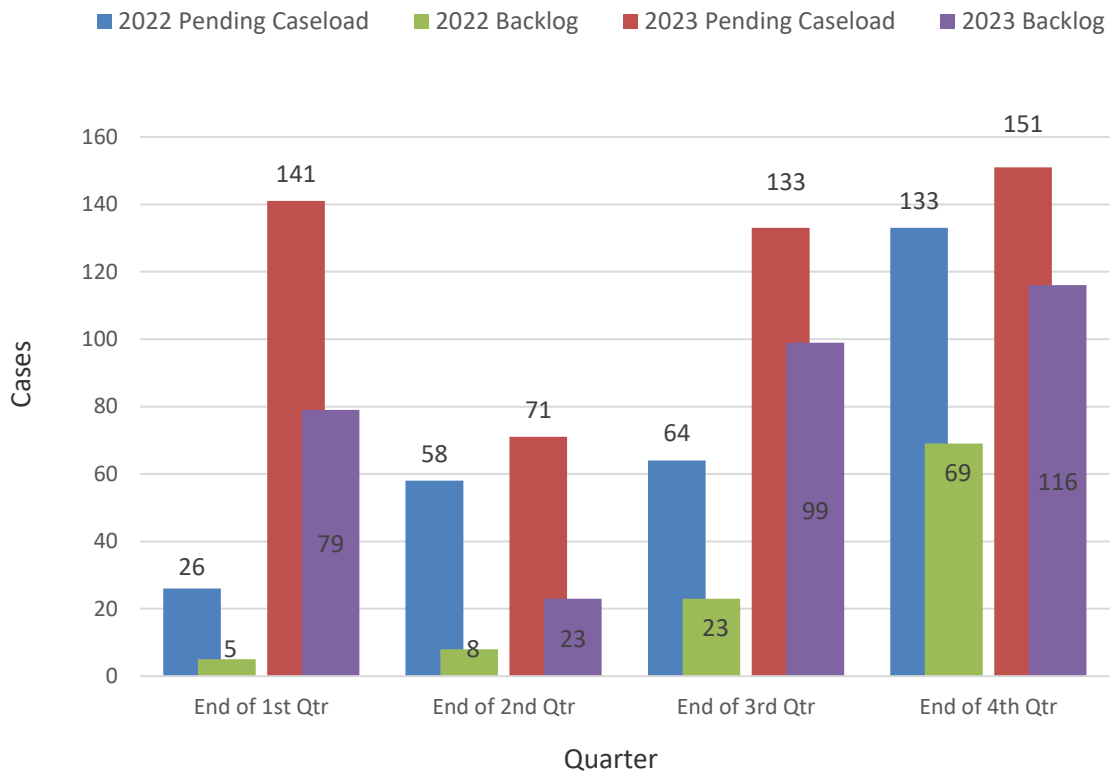
LPIU Cases Received per Crime Type



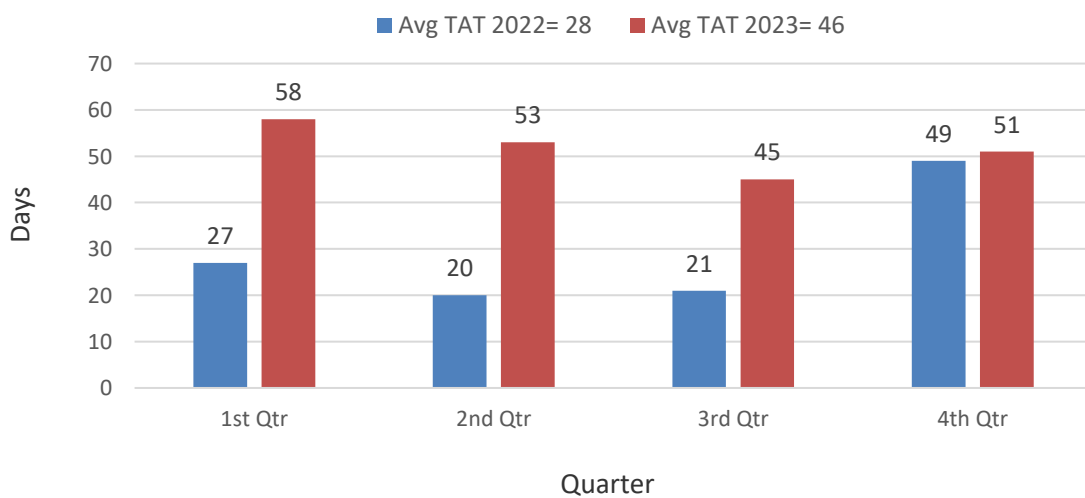
LPIU Cases Completed per Month



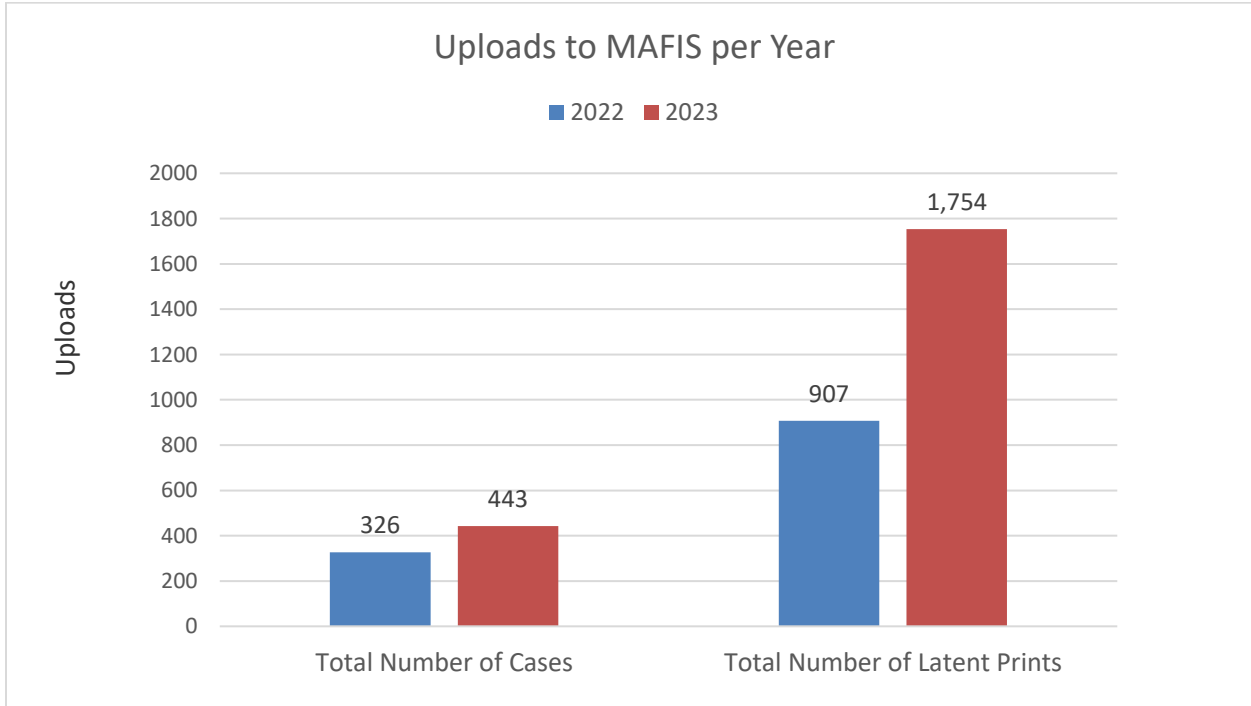
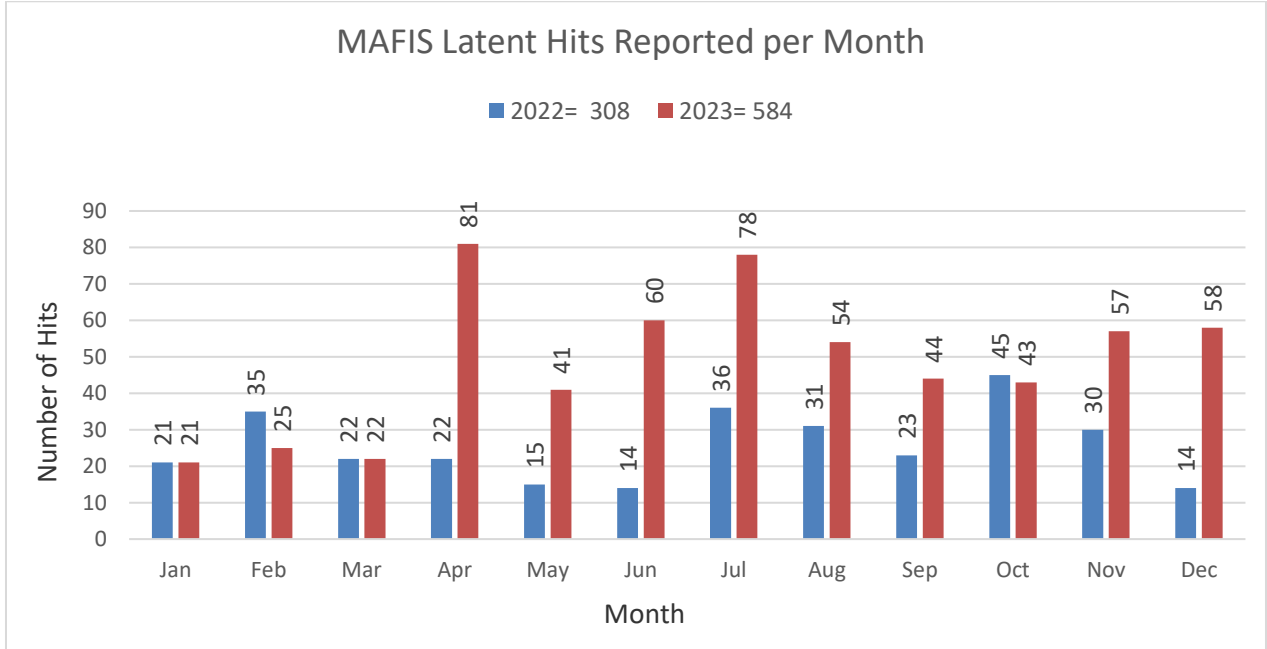
LPIU Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



LPIU Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



Latent Prints/Impressions Database Statistics



FIREARMS/TOOLMARKS UNIT

The Firearms/Toolmarks Unit (FATMU) provides microscopic and functional examination of firearms and firearm-related evidence. Examiners in this unit also perform restoration of obliterated serial numbers and toolmark examinations. Evidence and test fired cartridge cases that meet system requirements are entered into the ATF National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and searched against the regional and/or national database.

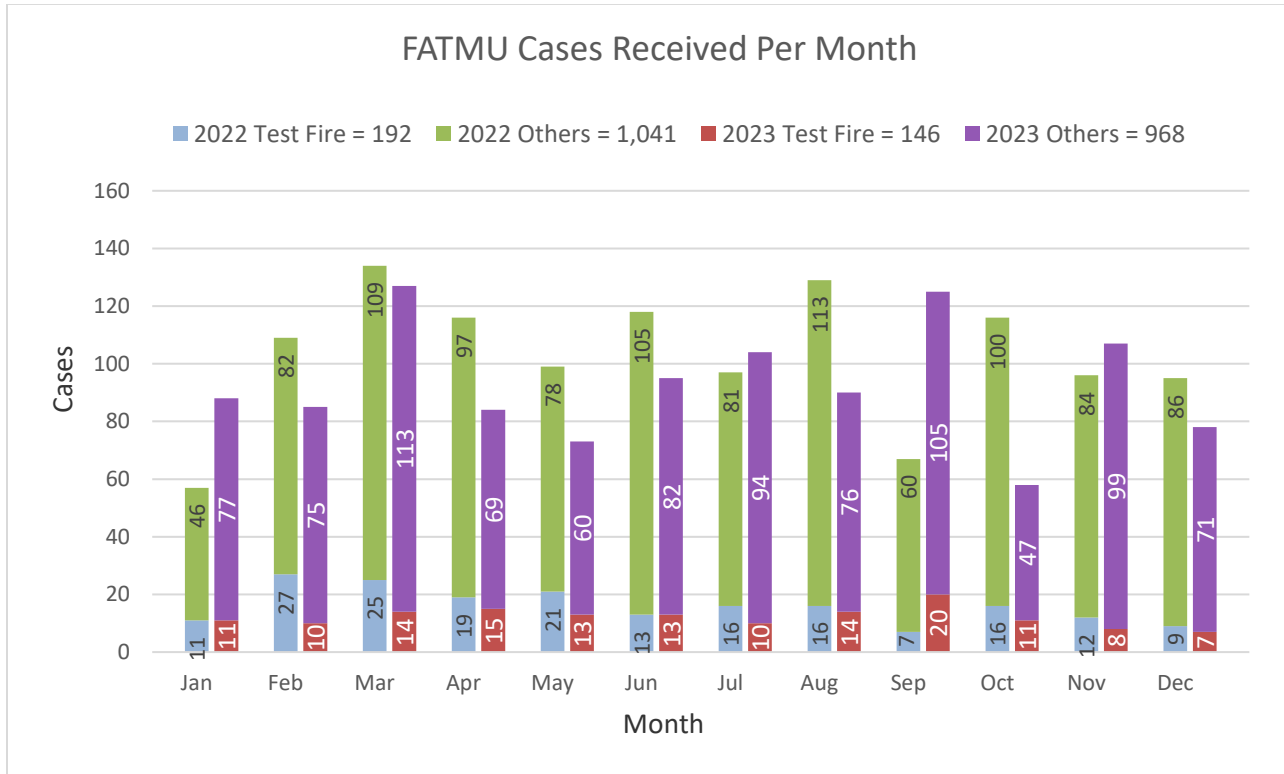
The unit has been restructured to assist with decreasing the turnaround time for firearms examinations, firearm function testing and NIBIN entries. FATMU has now locations in Pikesville and Hanover where Forensic Scientists examine firearms, bullets, cartridge cases, shot shells and ammunition for the purpose of comparisons and making associations of the item or reference standards with the crime scene. They also can examine toolmarks in order to determine class of tool and direct association with a specific tool at these locations.

The FATM NIBIN Unit is located within the Pikesville lab where staff is tasked with triage of fired evidence, entering samples into NIBIN, reporting NIBIN Leads, and verifying NIBIN Leads. In addition, the NIBIN Unit focuses on Operation Test Shot and Walk-In Test Fires, which are programs designed to expedite the collection of cartridge casings from firearms test-fired for the purpose of entry into NIBIN.

FATMU has noticed a significant increase in the submission of privately made firearms (PMF) or “ghost guns” as well as auto sears that can allow for fully automatic firing.

The FATMU also provides a service to the Maryland Handgun Roster Board (HRB), which is responsible for evaluating new firearms for compliance with Maryland regulations and determining if they should be approved for sale in the State. FATMU performs non-forensic examination of the petitioned firearms specifically for the qualifying criteria established in COMAR.

Firearms/Toolmarks Casework Statistics

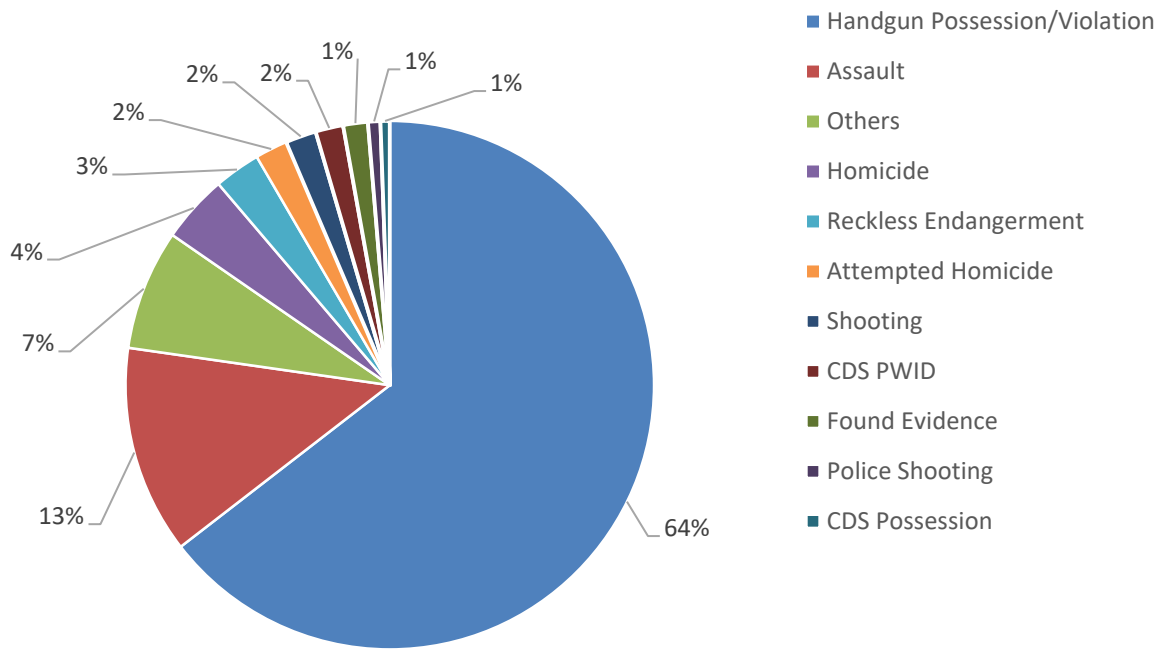


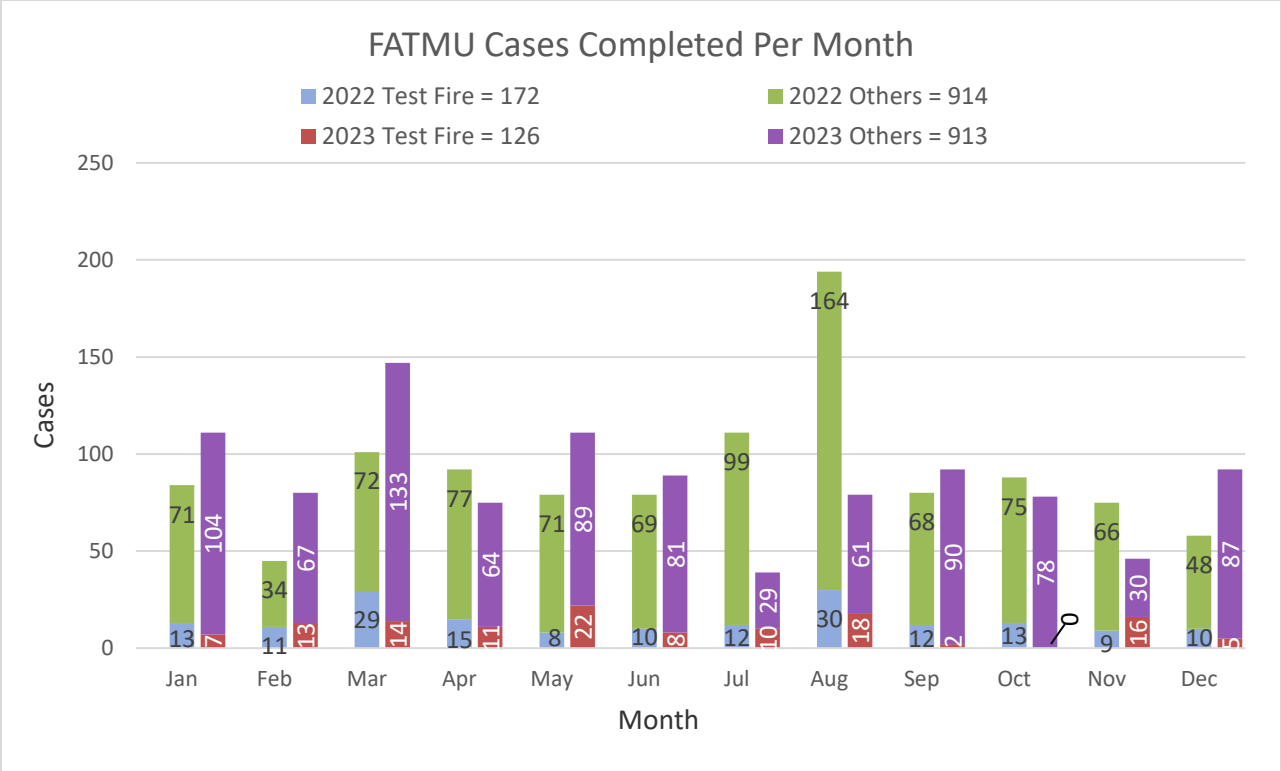
Note: Test fire = operability with and without serial number restoration. Others = all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons.

FATMU Cases Received per MSP Installation		
Installation	Counties Served	Total
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	126
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	25
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	25
MSP-North East	Cecil	22
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	18
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	17
MSP-College Park	Prince George's	16
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	15
MSP-Homicide	Statewide	15
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	15
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	14
MSP-La Plata	Charles	11
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	11
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	10
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	9
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	8
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	7
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	7
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	6
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	5
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	3
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	2
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	2
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	1
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	1
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	0
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	0
OSFM	Statewide	0
	TOTAL	391

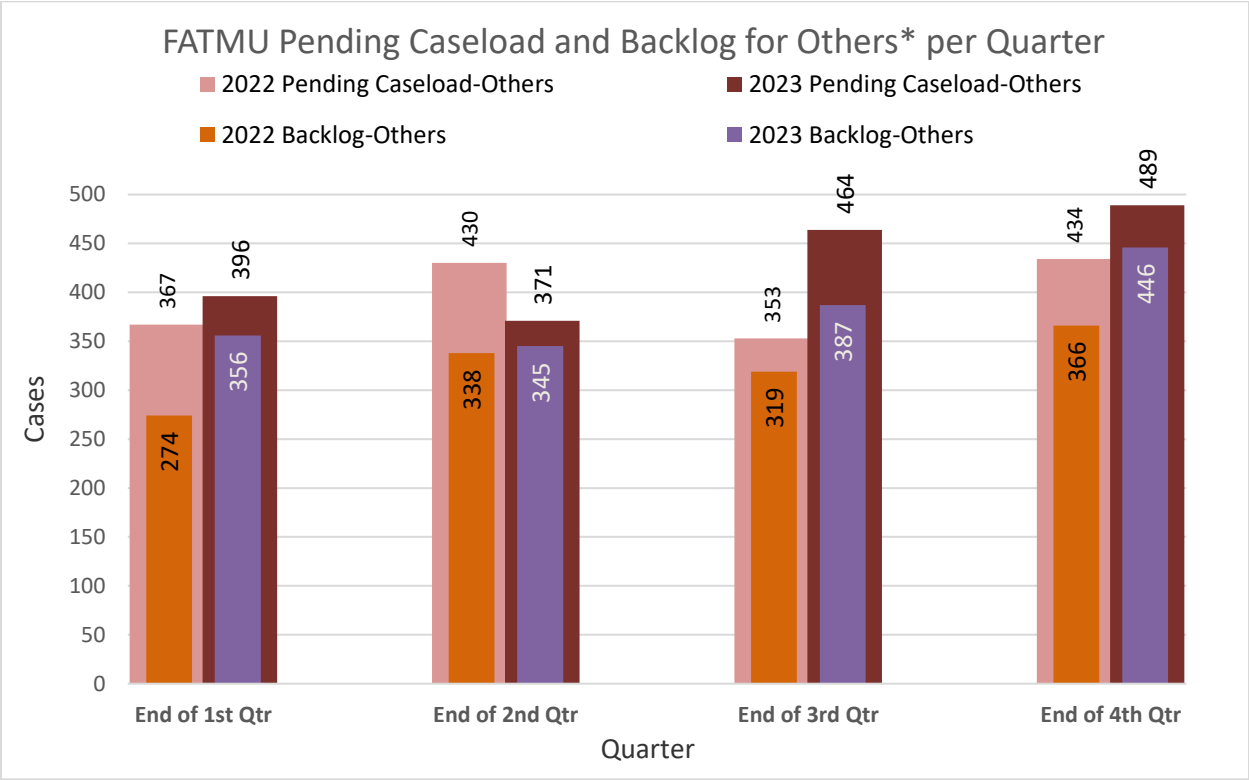
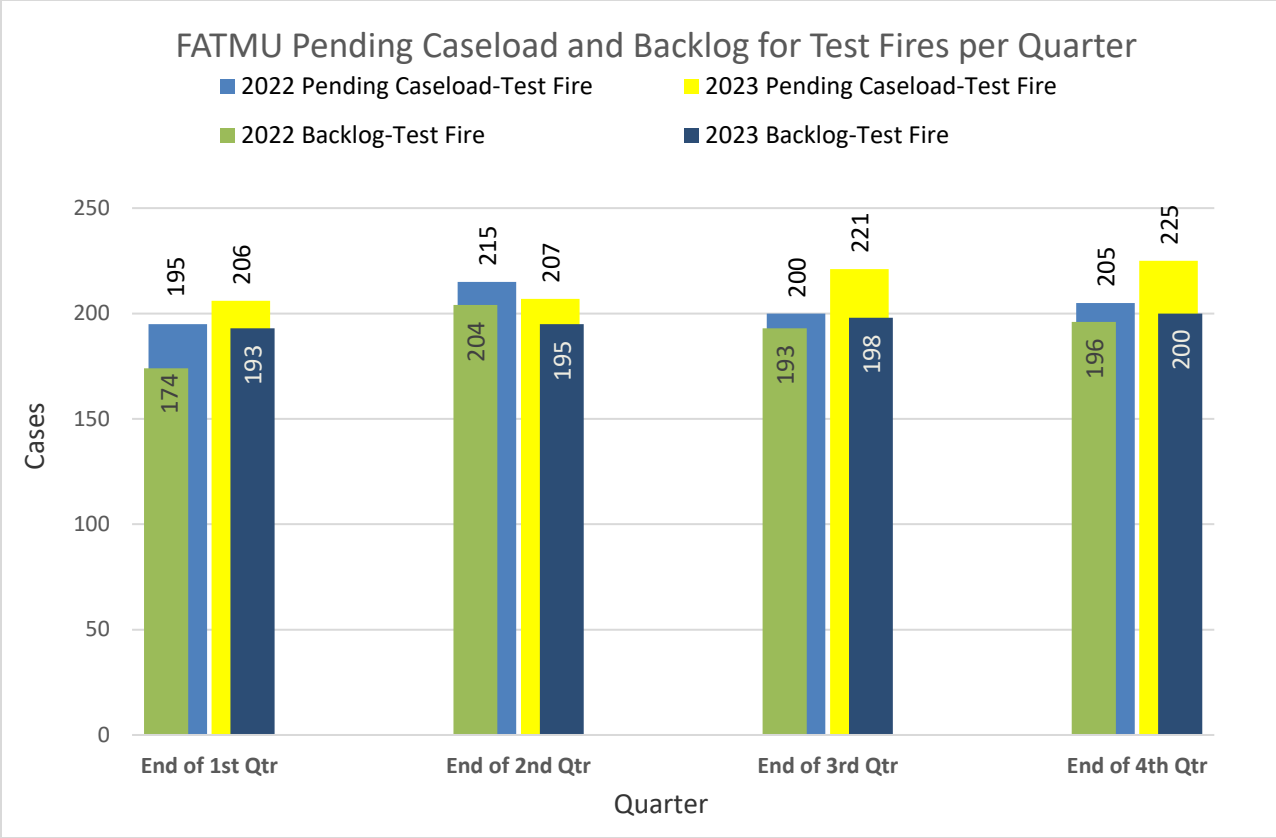
Allied Agency Cases Received by FATMU per County	
County	Total
Washington	150
Wicomico	102
St. Mary's	86
Cecil	59
Worcester	56
Charles	21
Calvert	20
Somerset	11
Howard	10
Talbot	9
Harford	6
Dorchester	6
Prince George's	6
Frederick	5
Carroll	4
Caroline	4
Queen Anne's	2
Kent	2
Anne Arundel	1
Baltimore	1
Garrett	1
Baltimore City	0
Montgomery	0
TOTAL	562

FATMU Cases Received per Crime Type

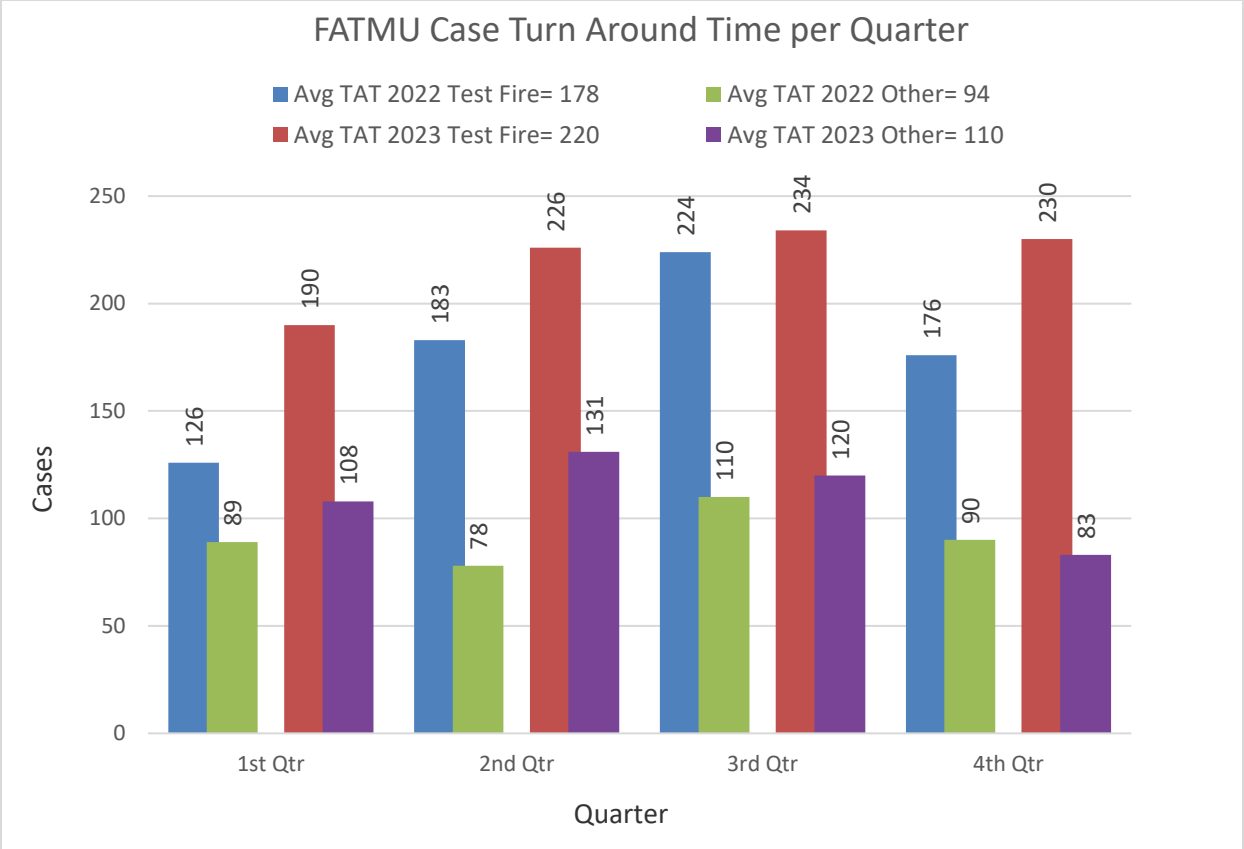




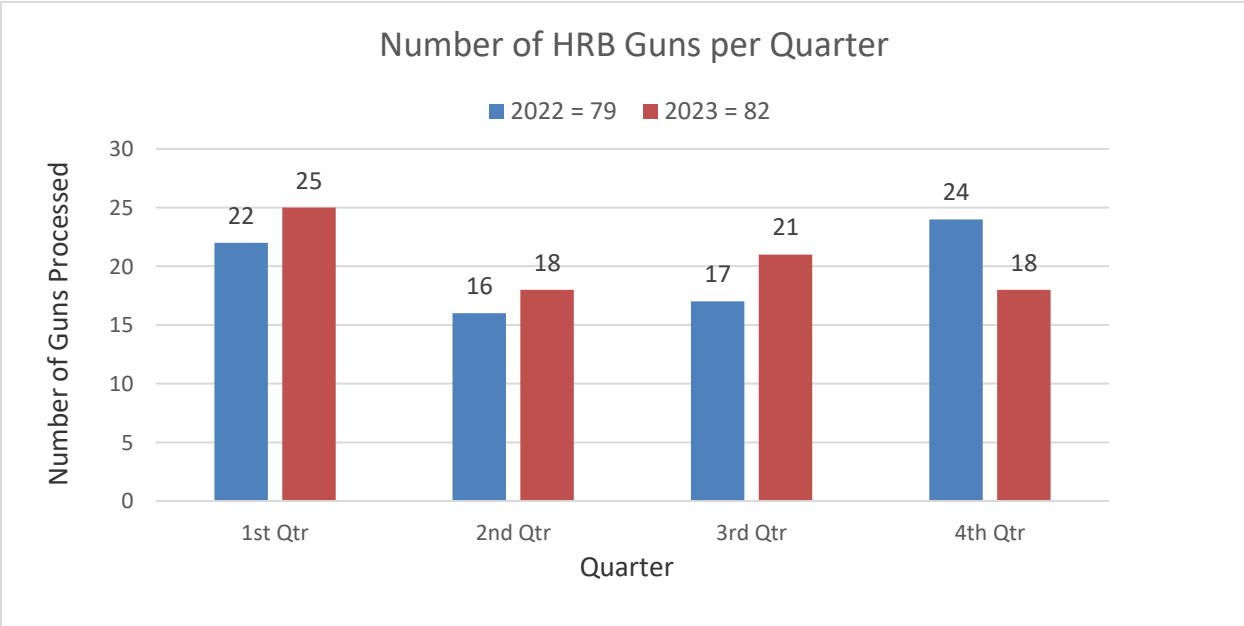
Note: Test fire = operability with and without serial number restoration. Others = all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons.



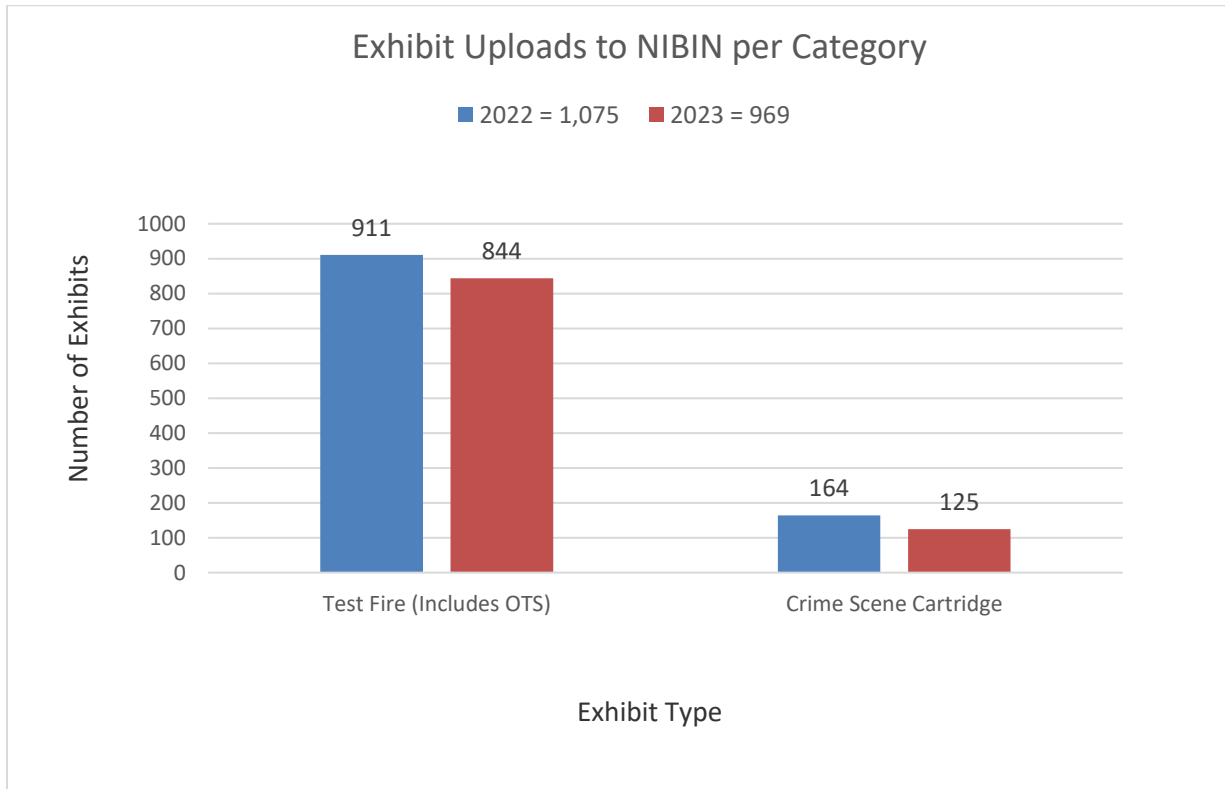
*Others = all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons.



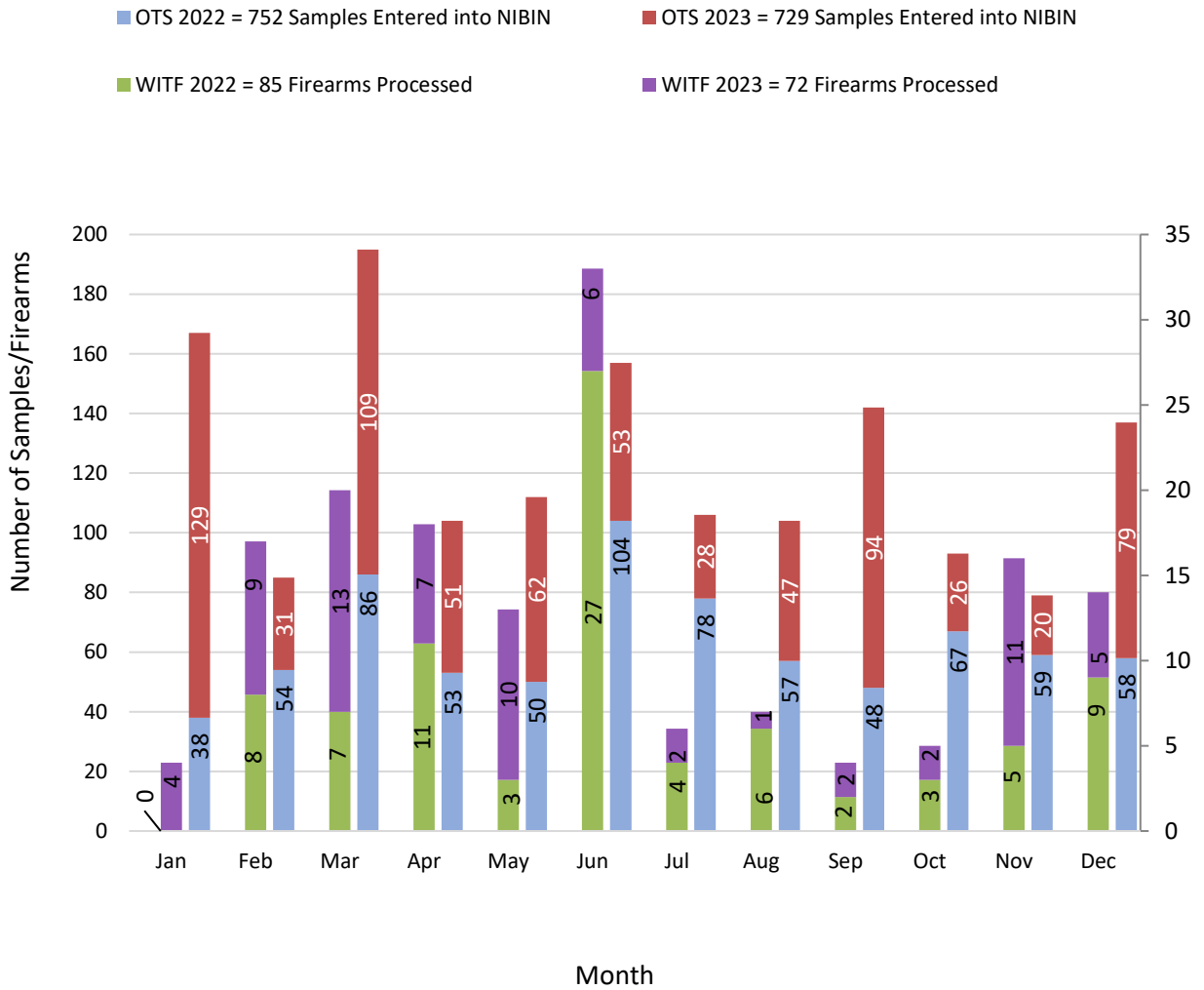
Note: Test fire = operability with and without serial number restoration. Others = all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons.



Firearms/Toolmarks Database Statistics



Operation Test Shot & Walk In Test Fire Activity



Note: The y-axis on the left side is for OTS numbers and the y-axis on the right side is for WITF numbers

NIBIN Associations			
Associated Agencies		Number of Leads	Number of Confirmed Hits
Bowie State PD	National Capital Park Police	1	0
Calvert Co. SO	St. Mary's Co. SO	1	0
Cambridge PD	Cambridge PD	2	2
Cecil County SO	DE-SP HDQ Dover	1	0
Cecil County SO	DE – Wilmington City PD	1	0
Cecil County SO	Elkton PD	1	0
Charles County SO	Charles County SO	0	1
Delmar PD	DE-SP HDQ Dover	1	0
Elkton PD	DE-New Castle County PD	1	0
Elkton PD	DE-SP HDQ Dover	3	0
Elkton PD	DE-Wilmington City PD	13	0
Elkton PD	Elkton PD	4	0
Elkton PD	MSP North East	3	0
Fruitland PD	Baltimore City PD	1	0
Hagerstown PD	Baltimore City PD	1	0
Hagerstown PD	Frederick County SO	2	0
Hagerstown PD	Frederick PD	1	0
Hagerstown PD	Hagerstown PD	1	2
Hagerstown PD	Prince George's County PD	1	0
Harford County SO	DC Metro PD	0	1
Howard County PD	ATF Baltimore	0	2
Marlow Heights	TN-Metro Nashville PD	2	0
MTA	Baltimore City PD	3	0
MDTAP	Baltimore City PD	6	0
MDTAP	Baltimore County PD	1	0
MDTAP	Charles County SO	1	0
MDTAP	Prince George's County PD	1	0
MDTAP	VA-Henrico County PD	1	0
MDTAP/BWI	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MDTAP/HQ	DC Metropolitan PD	1	0
MDTAP/HQ	NC-Charlotte Mecklenburg	1	0
MDTAP/PORT	VA-Old Dominion	1	0
MSP Annapolis	MD National Capital Police	1	0
MSP CED	Anne Arundel County PD	1	0
MSP CED	Baltimore City PD	4	0

*MDTAP = Maryland Transportation Authority PD

NIBIN Associations			
Associated Agencies		Number of Leads	Number of Confirmed Hits
MSP CED	Charles County SO	1	0
MSP CED	DC Metropolitan PD	4	0
MSP CED	Howard County PD	2	0
MSP CED	MSP North East	0	1
MSP CED	Prince George's County PD	1	0
MSP CED	Salisbury PD	2	0
MSP CED	St. Mary's County SO	1	0
MSP CED	VA-Norfolk PD	1	0
MSP CED	VA-Portsmouth PD	2	0
MSP CED/Homicide	Cambridge PD	1	1
MSP CED/Homicide	Frederick County SO	1	0
MSP CED/Homicide	MSP Pikesville	1	0
MSP CED/SIS	Anne Arundel County PD	1	0
MSP CED/SIS	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MSP CED/SIS	Baltimore County PD	1	0
MSP CED/SIS	Prince George's County PD	2	0
MSP College Park	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MSP College Park	Prince George's County PD	4	0
MSP Easton	DE-Wilmington City PD	4	0
MSP Frederick	Frederick County SO	1	0
MSP Frederick	VA-Fairfax County PD	1	0
MSP Forestville	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MSP Forestville	Baltimore County PD	1	0
MSP Forestville	DC Metropolitan PD	3	0
MSP Forestville	Prince George's County PD	5	0
MSP Golden Ring	Baltimore City PD	2	0
MSP Leonardtown	DC Metropolitan PD	1	0
MSP North East	Cecil County SO	2	0
MSP North East	DE-Wilmington City PD	1	0
MSP North East	MSP North East	1	0
MSP Princess Anne	MSP Homicide	1	0
MSP Rockville	DC Metropolitan PD	1	0
Natural Resources Police	Baltimore City PD	5	0
Natural Resources Police	Baltimore County PD	1	0
Natural Resources Police	Natural Resources Police	1	0
Ocean City PD	Anne Arundel County PD	1	0

NIBIN Associations			
Associated Agencies		Number of Leads	Number of Confirmed Hits
Ocean City PD	Berlin PD	1	0
Ocean City PD	DE-SP HDQ Dover	1	0
Ocean City PD	MSP Salisbury	1	0
Ocean City PD	VA-Norfolk PD	2	0
Princess Anne Police	Princess Anne Police	4	2
Salisbury PD	Baltimore City PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	DE-SP HDQ Dover	3	0
Salisbury PD	MSP Pikesville	1	0
Salisbury PD	Prince George's County PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	Salisbury PD	6	0
Salisbury PD	Somerset County SO	1	0
Salisbury PD	VA-Accomack County SO	3	0
Salisbury PD	VA-Exmore PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	VA-Northampton County SO	4	0
Salisbury PD	VA-Virginia Beach PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	Wicomico County SO	1	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	ATF Hyattsville	1	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	Baltimore City PD	1	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	Baltimore County SO	1	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	Charles County SO	2	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	DC Metropolitan PD	5	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	MSP Leonardtown	6	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	St. Mary's County SO	44	0
St. Mary's Co. SO	VA-Newport News PD	2	0
Washington Co SO	Hagerstown PD	2	0
Wicomico County SO	Baltimore City PD	2	0
Wicomico County SO	Baltimore County PD	1	0
Wicomico County SO	Salisbury PD	2	0
Wicomico County SO	Somerset County SO	1	0
	TOTAL	226	12

*Confirmed Non-MSP Leads

Note: NIBIN leads are developed through a correlation review of NIBIN data. Confirmed hits have been verified microscopically by an examiner.

NOTEWORTHY CASES

In April 2023, 53-year-old Christopher Heinrich Beitzel was arrested and charged with multiple felonies after investigators found two improvised explosive devices in his home. Bomb technicians responded when homeowners found a suspicious device on their property, which was concluded to be “M-80” covered in several dozen BB’s and wrapped in duct tape. Evidence was sent to FSD’s LPIU for further analysis where two valued prints were obtained from the sticky side of the duct tape, later identifying Beitzel. Deputy State Fire Marshals and the MSP McHenry Barrack, conducted a search warrant finding two similar explosive devices. Beitzel was charged with three counts of manufacturing a destructive device, three counts of possessing a destructive device with intent, and reckless endangerment. Bomb technicians described that “if these devices had been used, the shrapnel would have caused physical injury or even death to anyone in the area.”

In August 2023, a pedestrian was fatally struck in a hit-and-run by a vehicle in Prince George’s County. Crime Scene Technicians advise that they would be submitting deceased fingerprints later that day to LPIU for comparison purposes. At the OCME, Crime Scene obtained postmortem prints from the victim’s left hand. Known information for the suspected victim, Kevin L. Russell, was provided to FSD’s LPIU to assist in latent print comparison. The prints were of good quality, therefore submitted to MAFIS where two hits were returned. LPIU utilized that information to compare the postmortem prints and the known prints of Russell on file, which then resulted in a positive identification of the victim being Kevin L. Russell. The identified subject had several records in Maryland Webarchive. This case remains under investigation.

In October 2023, MSP College Park Sgt. Whitmate recovered more firearm evidence possibly connected to a shooting at Bowie State University. Two people were injured in the shooting that occurred during the university’s homecoming weekend. FATMU was notified that this evidence was going to arrive in the afternoon and needed to be entered immediately to NIBIN. Evidence was taken directly to FATMU, entered into StarLims, and into NIBIN. The MSP FSD FICO was able to have results provided within 3 hours. There are no further leads at this time.

CHEMISTRY SECTION

The Chemistry Section is responsible for performing Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) analysis on submitted evidence. The Chemistry Section consists of the following three units: CDS-Pikesville, CDS-Berlin, and CDS-Hagerstown. The CDS Units focus on identifying submitted evidence as being a specific type of drug. The Chemistry Section Manager oversees the work of all three units.

The CDS-Pikesville Unit consists of one Forensic Scientist Supervisor, and four Forensic Scientist III's. In addition, four Allied Forensic Scientists work in the CDS-Pikesville laboratory. Allied Forensic Scientists follow the same procedures as MSP Chemists, but they are employees of specific counties and work on cases submitted from those counties. One Allied Forensic Scientist is employed by the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office. One Allied Forensic Scientist is employed by the St. Mary's State's Attorney's Office. One Allied Forensic Scientist is employed by the Howard County Police Department. One Allied Forensic Scientist is in training for the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The CDS-Berlin Unit consists of one Forensic Scientist Supervisor, one Forensic Scientist III, and one Forensic Scientist II. The CDS-Berlin Unit operates out of the Berlin Regional Laboratory located at the MSP-Berlin Barrack.

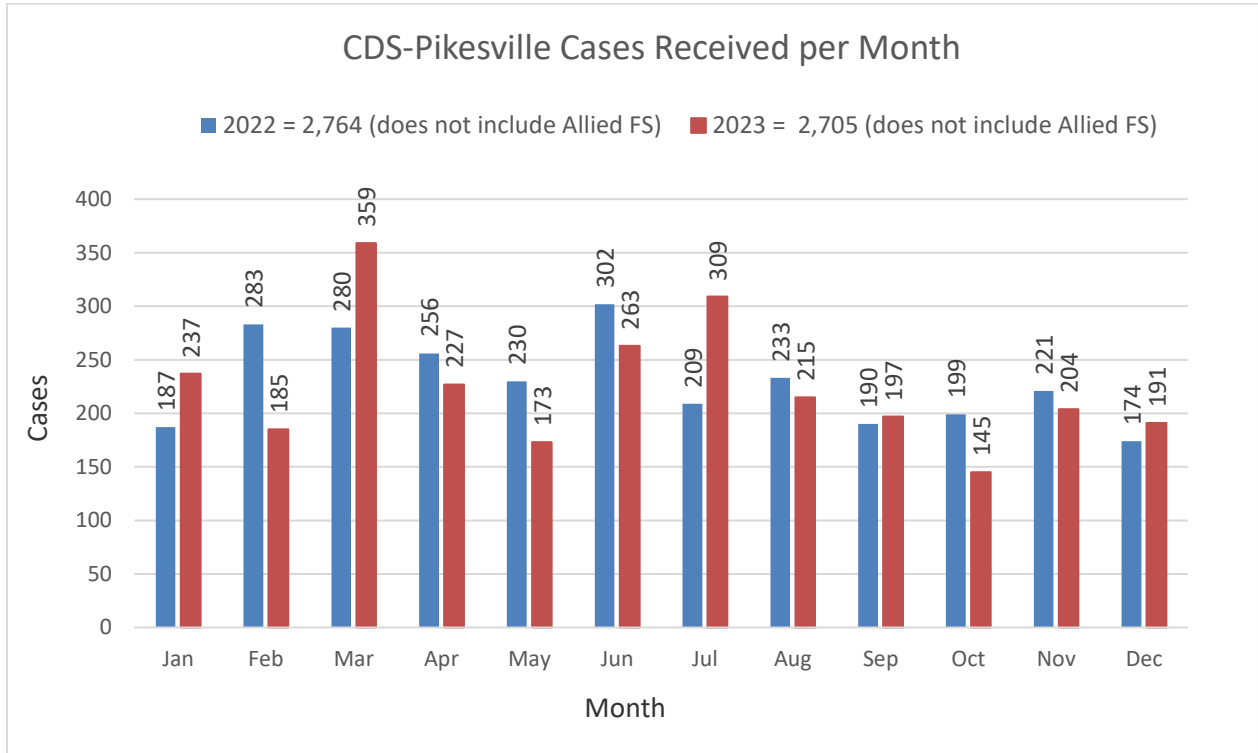
The CDS-Hagerstown Unit consists of one Forensic Scientist Supervisor, one Forensic Scientist Advanced, and one Forensic Scientist III. In addition, one Allied Forensic Scientist is employed by the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office. The CDS-Hagerstown Unit operates out of the Hagerstown Regional Laboratory located at the MSP-Hagerstown Barrack.

In order to confirm the presence of Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) in a sample, several different types of analyses are performed in the CDS Units, including microscopy, color tests, microcrystalline tests, gas chromatography (GC), gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS), and Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. In 2022, the Direct Analysis in Real Time-Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer (DART-TOF MS) was validated for use in casework, and chemists are currently training to be competent to use this instrument for screening purposes. In 2023, the Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS) was validated for use in casework for the semi-quantitative analysis of suspected Cannabis samples, and chemists are currently training to be competent to use this instrument. Another important component of CDS analysis is obtaining accurate net and gross weights of the suspected CDS material through the use of analytical balances, precision balances, bench top balances, and bulk scales.

The CDS Units submit monthly reports to the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) that document the type and number of drugs detected in casework. These reports provide the DEA with current and accurate trends that can be used by law enforcement and policy makers to address the nation's drug problem. This data is also shared with the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program to track trends of which drugs are being identified in casework throughout the state and region.

CDS-PIKESVILLE UNIT

The Pikesville CDS laboratory services primarily the Central Maryland counties including Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil County, Anne Arundel County, Prince George’s County, St. Mary’s County, Calvert County, Charles County, Kent County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne’s County, Caroline County, Dorchester County, and Talbot County.



CDS-Pikesville Cases Received per MSP Installation*		
	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	161
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	130
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	93
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	90
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	64
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	57
MSP-La Plata	Charles	37
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	34
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	33
MSP-College Park	Prince George's	26
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	23
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	11
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	10
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	1
MSP-North East	Cecil	0
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	0
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	0
	TOTAL	770

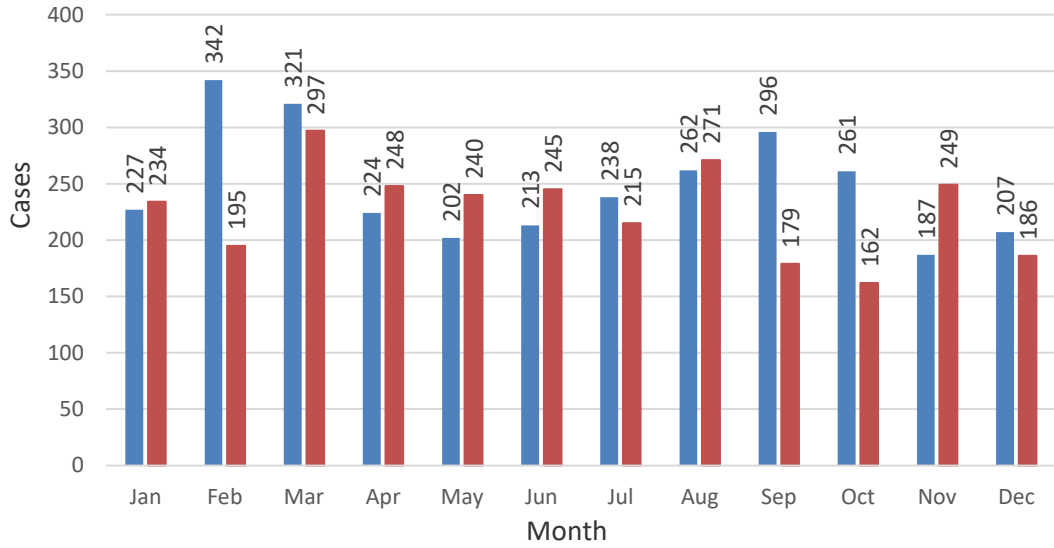
* Does not include Allied FS

Allied Agency Cases Received by CDS-Pikesville per County*	
County	Submissions
Charles	416
Harford	405
St. Mary's	234
Calvert	206
Anne Arundel	202
Dorchester	114
Talbot	80
Baltimore City	76
Caroline	57
Queen Anne's	54
Kent	48
Baltimore	22
Prince George's	9
Washington	6
Allegany	2
Montgomery	1
Somerset	1
Wicomico	1
Worcester	1
Statewide	0
Out of State	0
Cecil	0
TOTAL	1,935

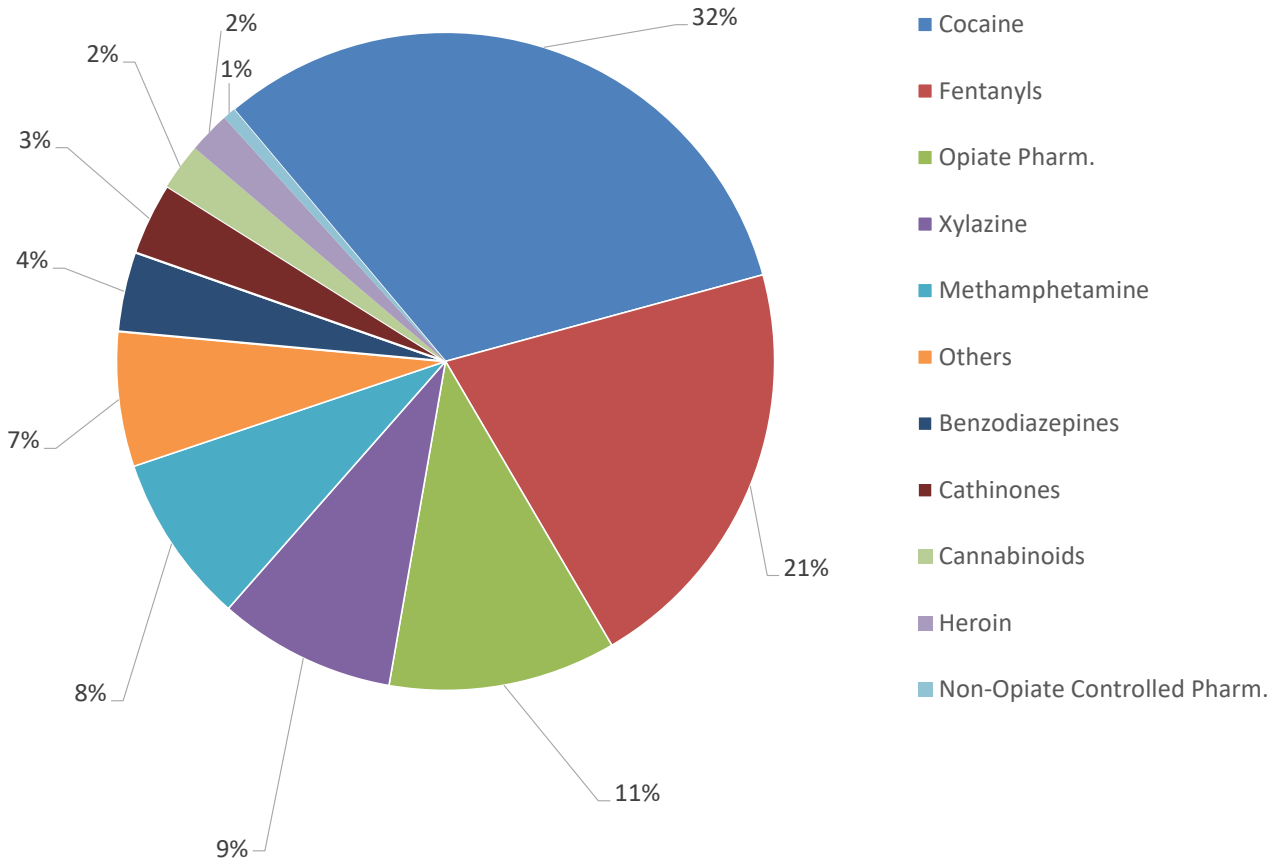
* Does not include Allied FS

CDS-Pikesville Cases Completed per Month

■ 2022 = 2,980 ■ 2023 = 2,721

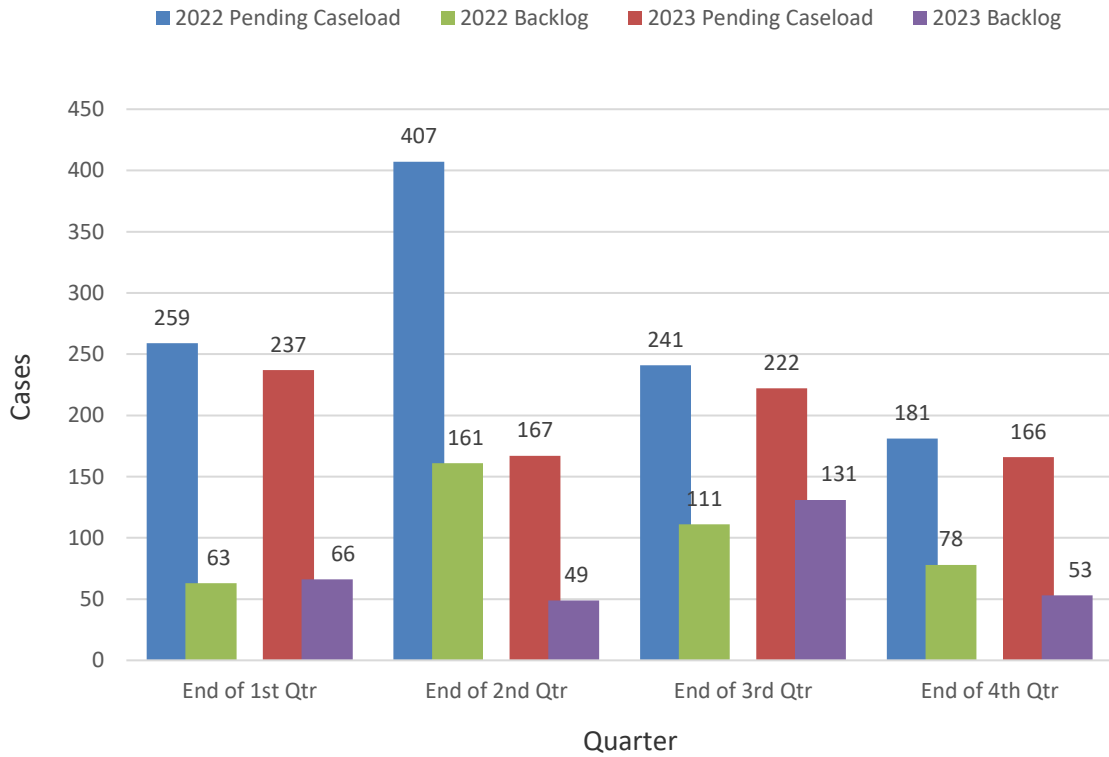


CDS-Pikesville Analyses Reported per Drug Type
(Includes Allied FS)

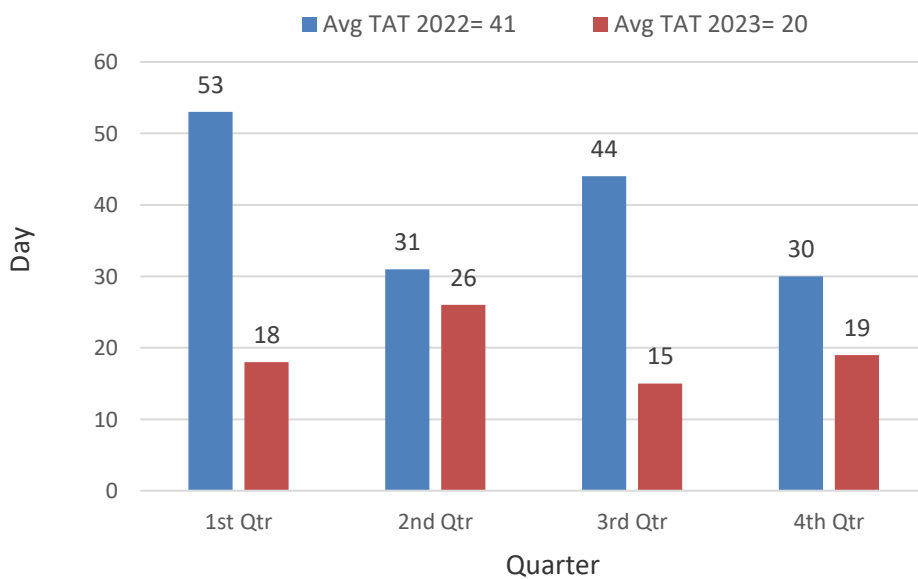


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CDS-Pikesville Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter

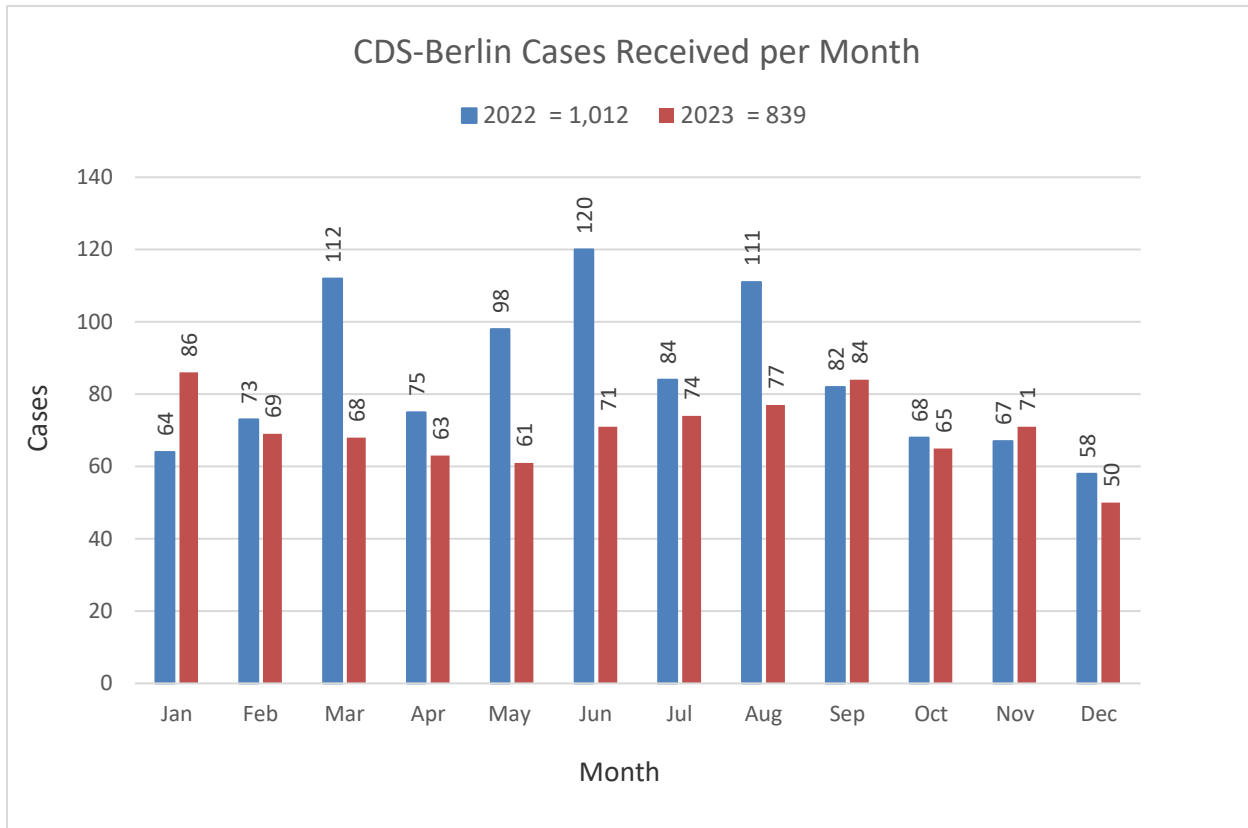


CDS-Pikesville Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



CDS-BERLIN UNIT

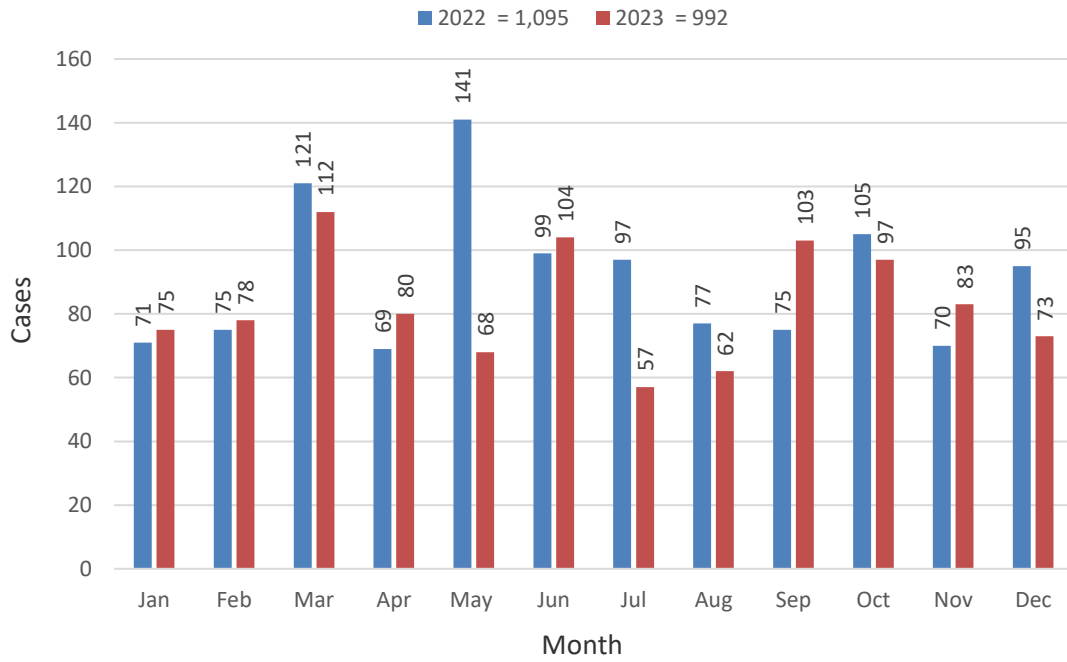
The CDS-Berlin laboratory services primarily the Eastern Maryland counties including Somerset County, Wicomico County and Worcester County.



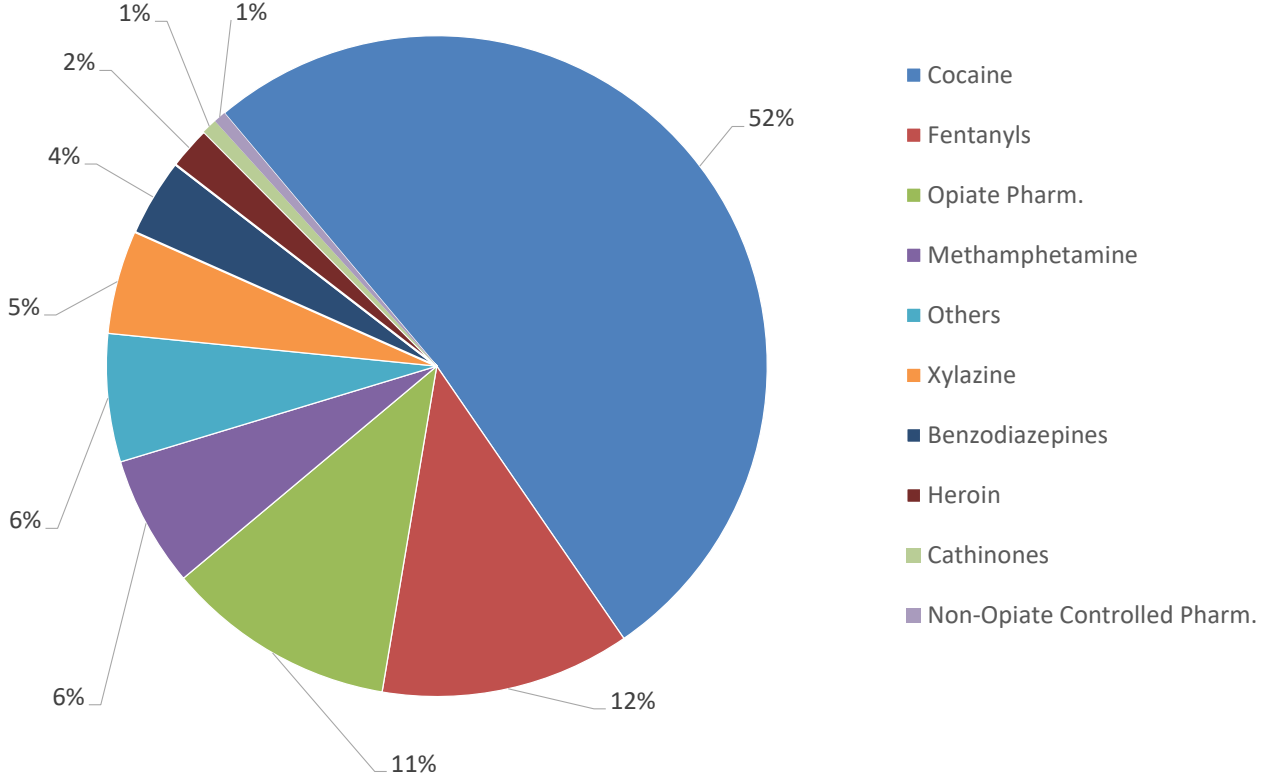
CDS-Berlin Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	45
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	43
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	34
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	29
	TOTAL	151

Allied Agency Cases Received by CDS-Berlin per County	
County	Submissions
Wicomico	384
Worcester	265
Somerset	39
TOTAL	688

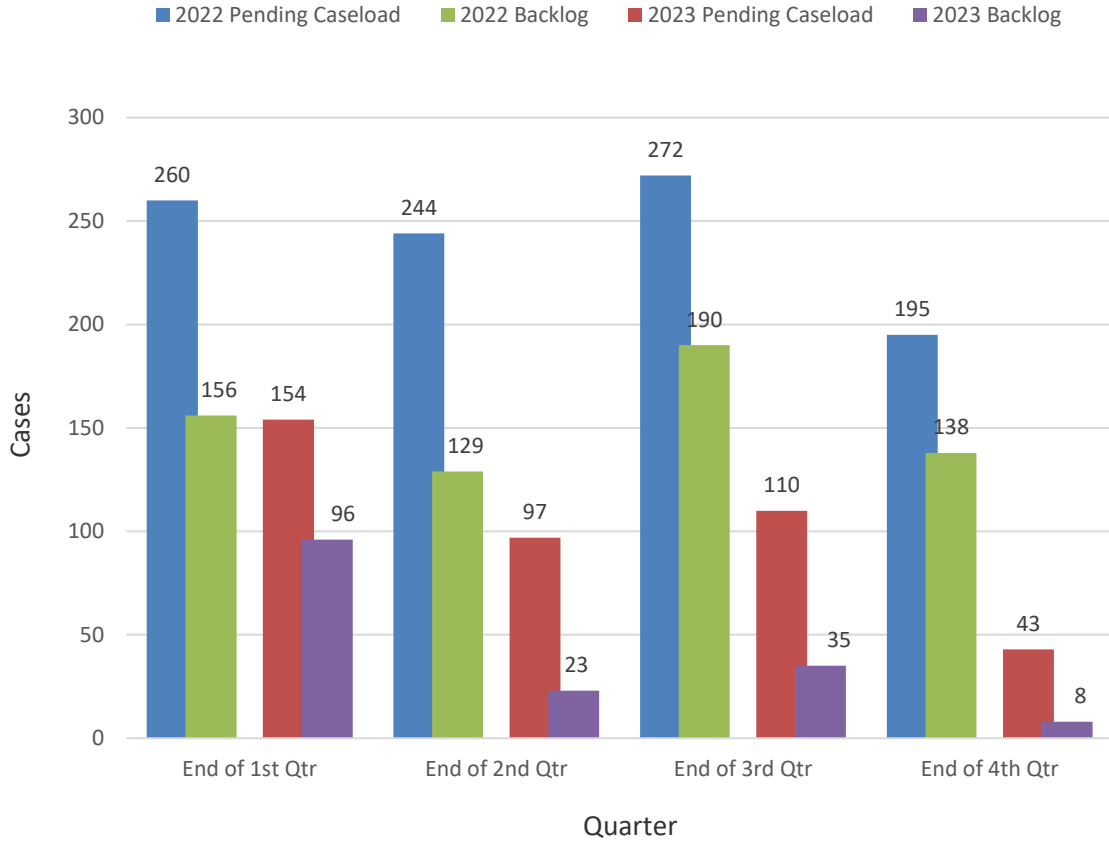
CDS-Berlin Cases Completed per Month



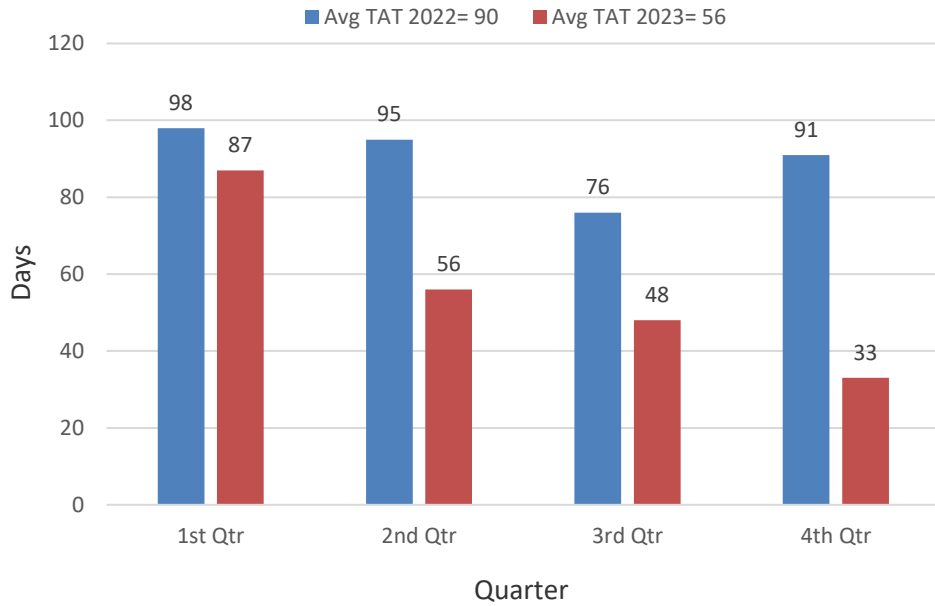
CDS-Berlin Analyses Reported per Drug Type



CDS-Berlin Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



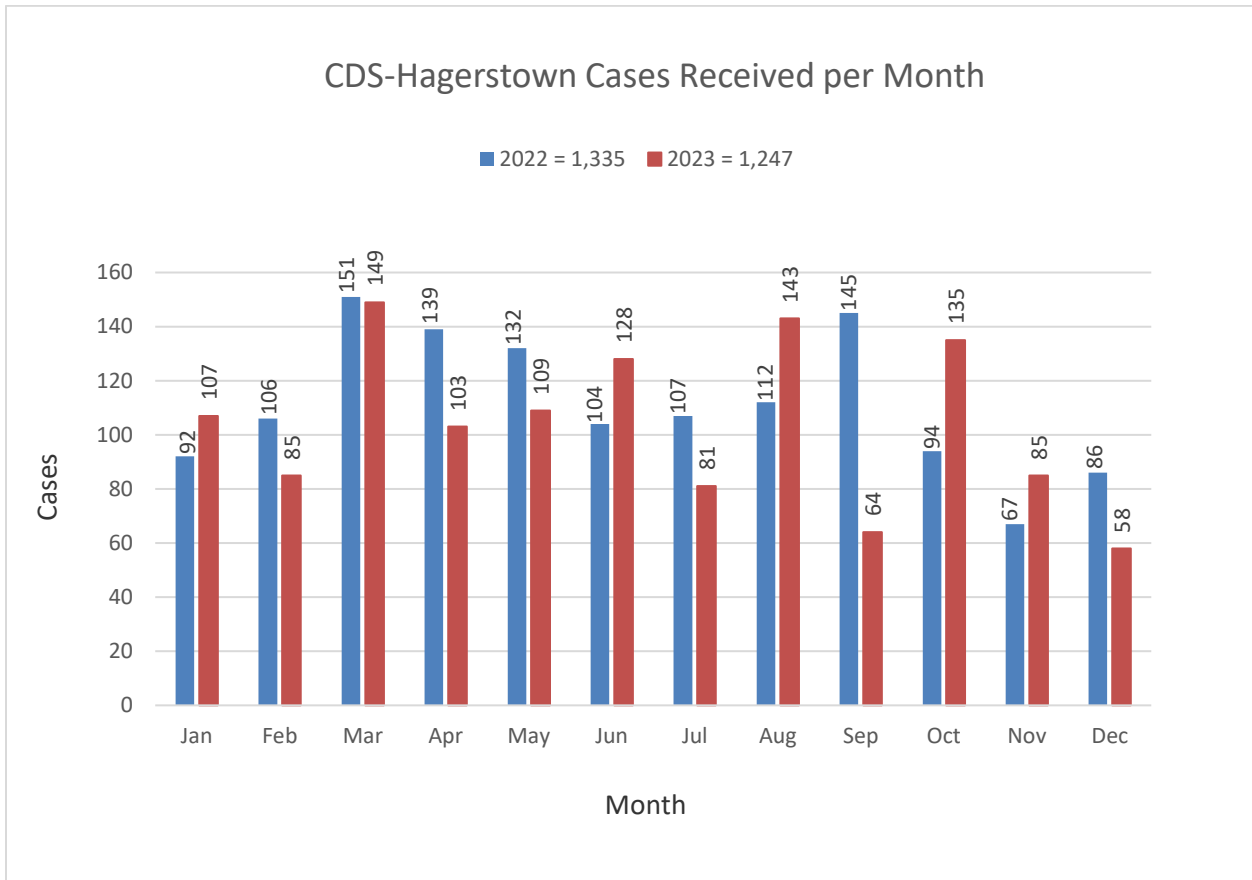
CDS-Berlin Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



CDS-HAGERSTOWN UNIT

The Hagerstown CDS laboratory services primarily the Western Maryland counties including Washington County, Allegany County, Carroll County, Garrett County, Montgomery County and Frederick County.

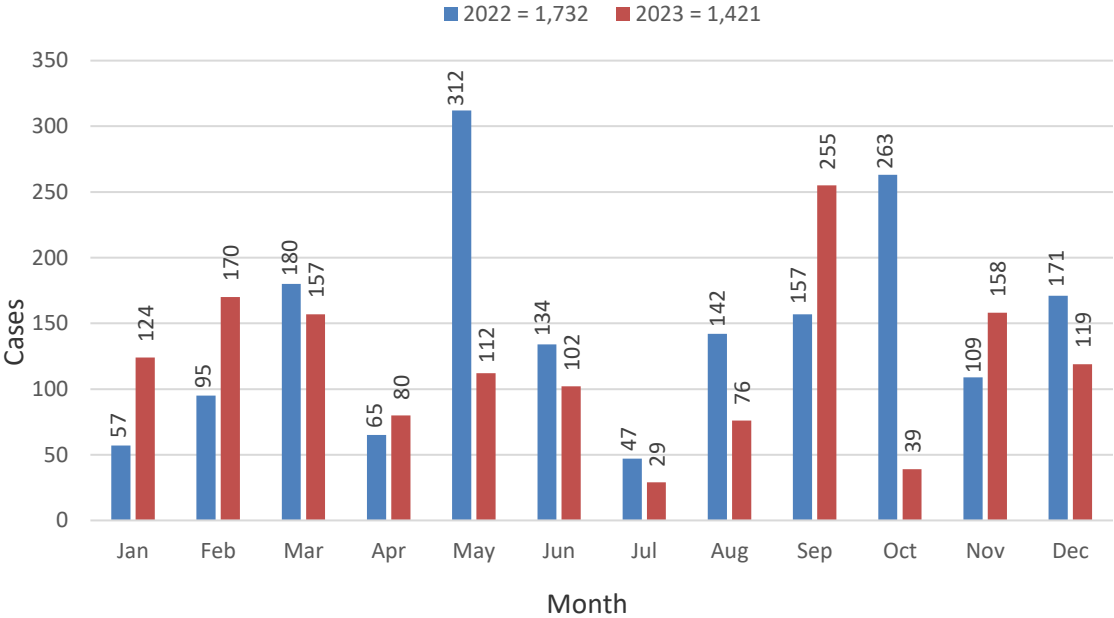
Where indicated, the data shown below does not include cases which were assigned to the Allied Forensic Scientist (Allied FS).



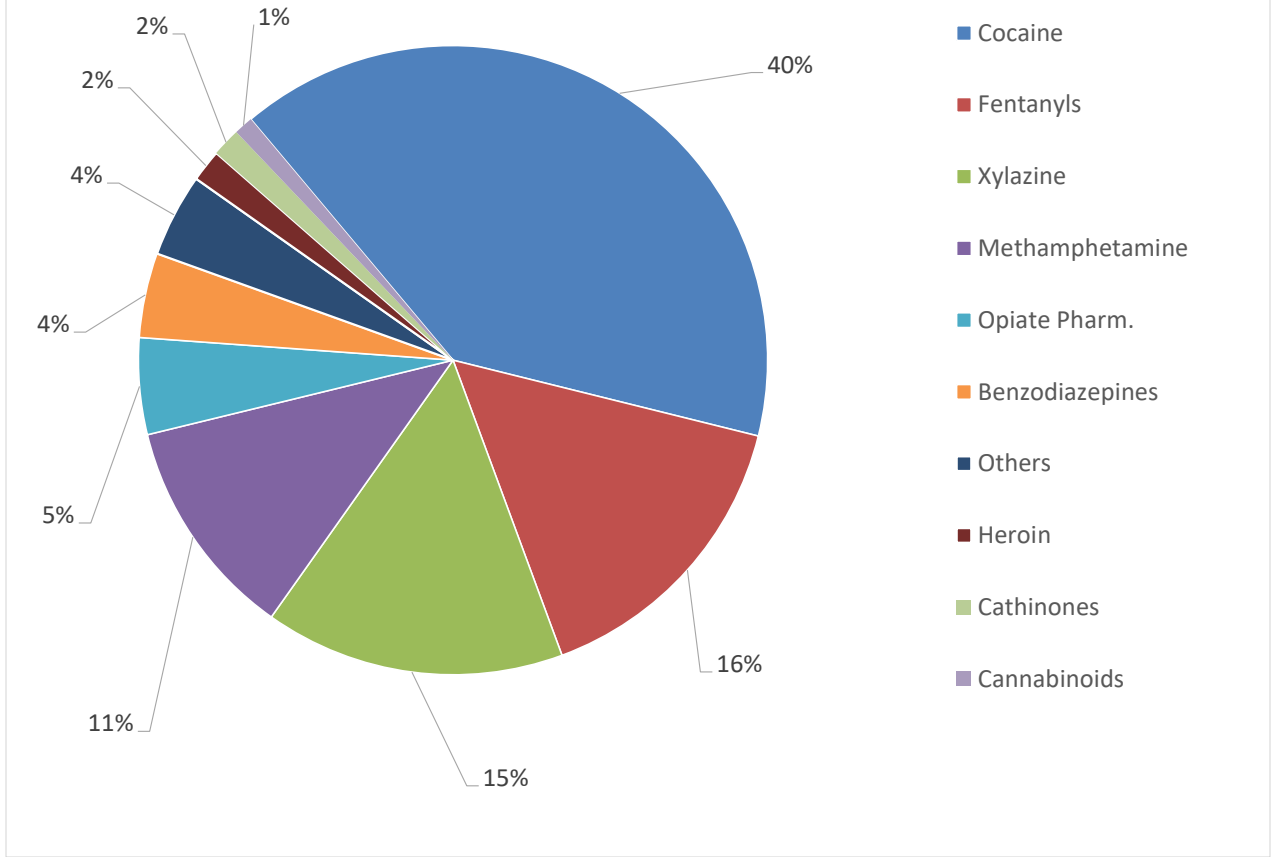
CDS-Hagerstown Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	280
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	76
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	68
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	39
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	32
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	23
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	2
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	1
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	0
	TOTAL	521

Allied Agency Cases Received by CDS-Hagerstown per County	
County	Submissions
Carroll	307
Allegany	249
Garrett	137
Washington	31
Baltimore City	1
Dorchester	1
TOTAL	726

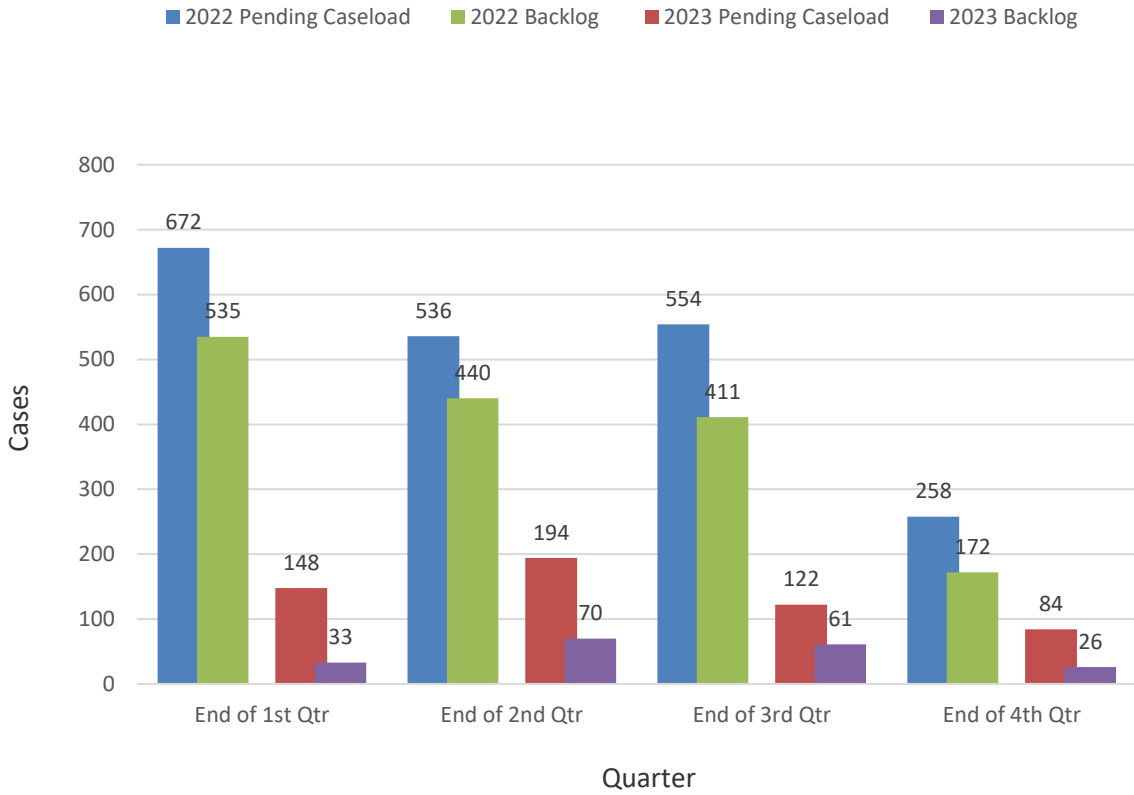
CDS-Hagerstown Cases Completed per Month



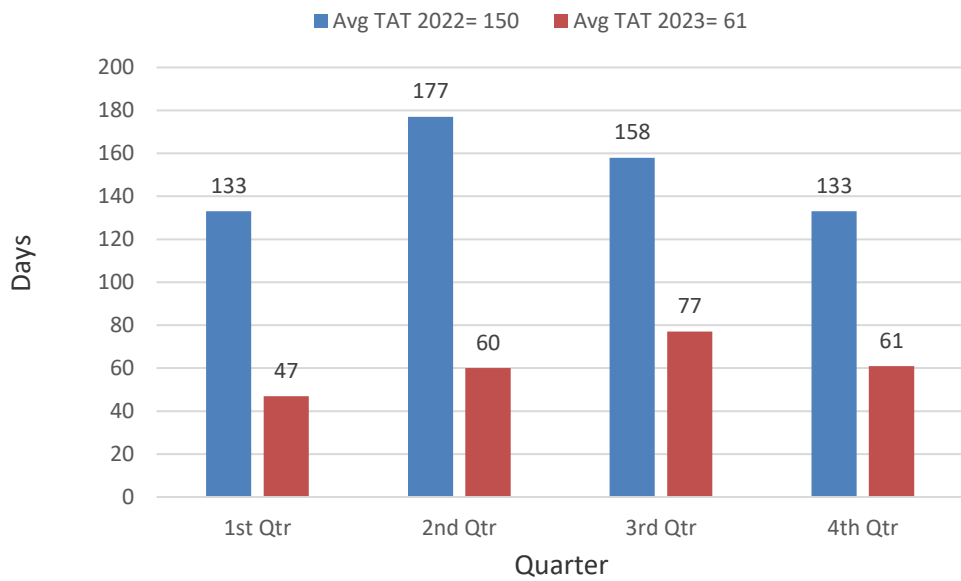
CDS-Hagerstown Analyses Reported per Drug Type
(Includes Allied FS)



CDS-Hagerstown Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



CDS-Hagerstown Case Turn Around Time per Quarter

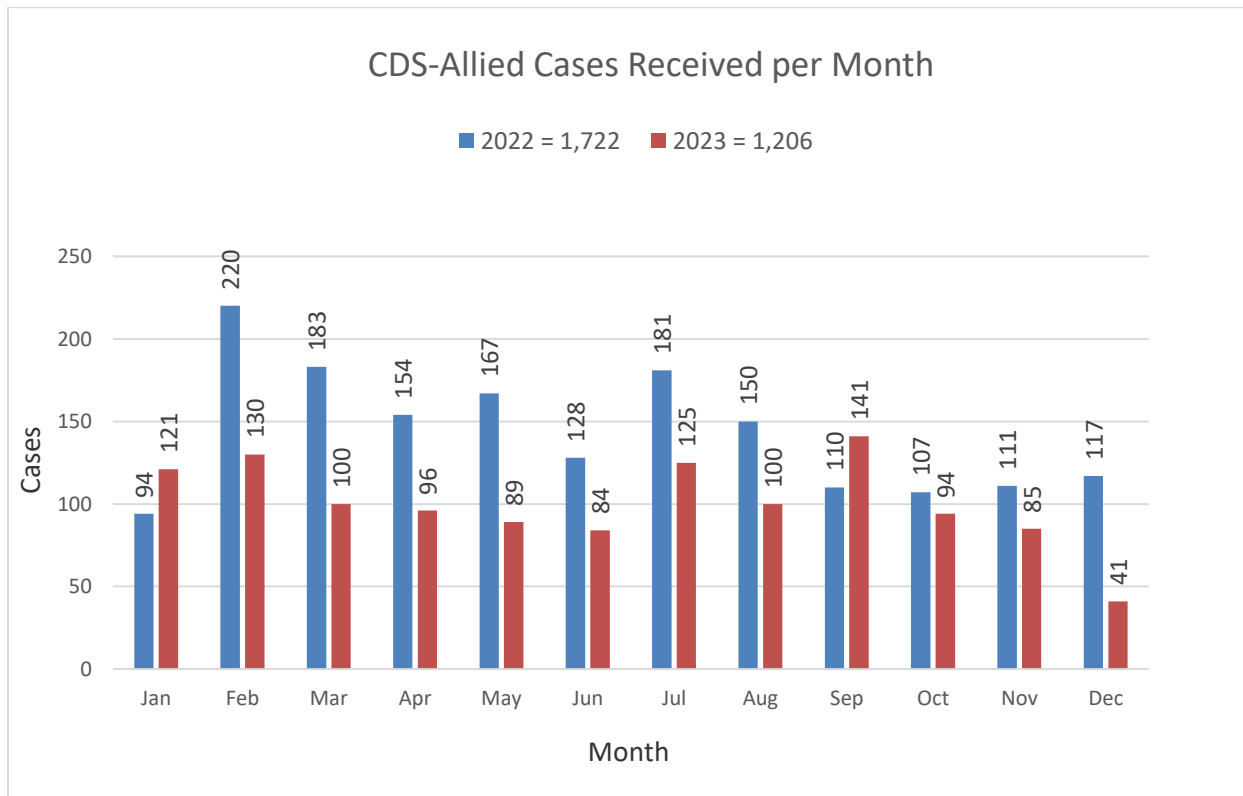


CDS-ALLIED FORENSIC SCIENTIST PROGRAM

The Allied Forensic Scientists working in the CDS Units are employees of allied agencies or other governmental entities. These scientists are authorized to perform CDS analysis in MSP-FSD facilities under the provisions provided for in a Memorandum of Understanding. Even though these scientists are not MSP employees, they perform forensic testing in accordance with the MSP-FSD management system by complying with the MSP-FSD Quality Assurance Manual and following the MSP-FSD standard operating procedures.

Five Allied Forensic Scientists, representing the following agencies, work in the CDS Units: Howard County Police Department, Cecil County State’s Attorney’s Office, Frederick County State’s Attorney’s Office, Charles County Sherriff’s Office, and St. Mary’s County State’s Attorney’s Office.

The St. Mary’s County and Howard County Allied Chemists completed their training in 2023 and began analyzing cases independently. The Charles County Allied Chemist is still in training. In this report casework statistics for those counties is included under the CDS-Pikesville Unit for 2023.

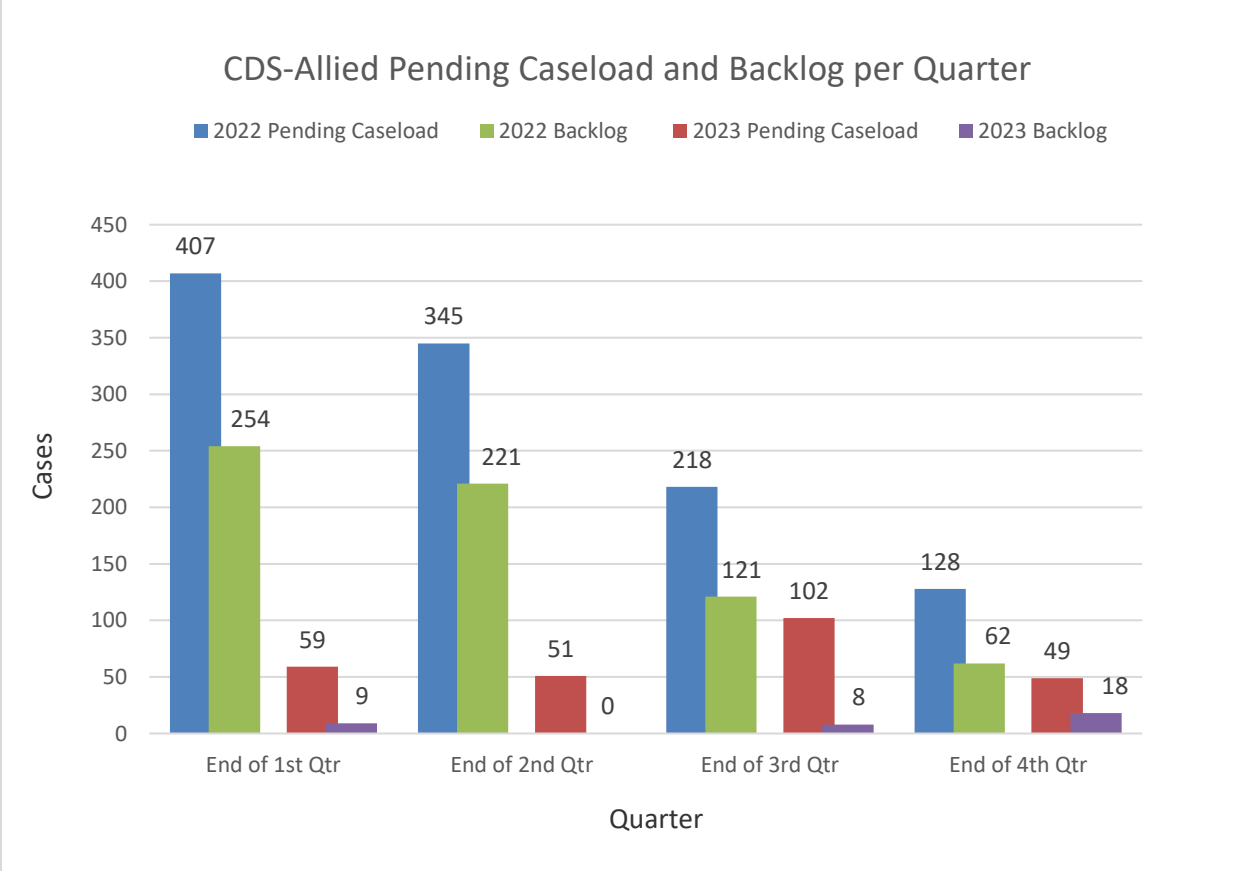
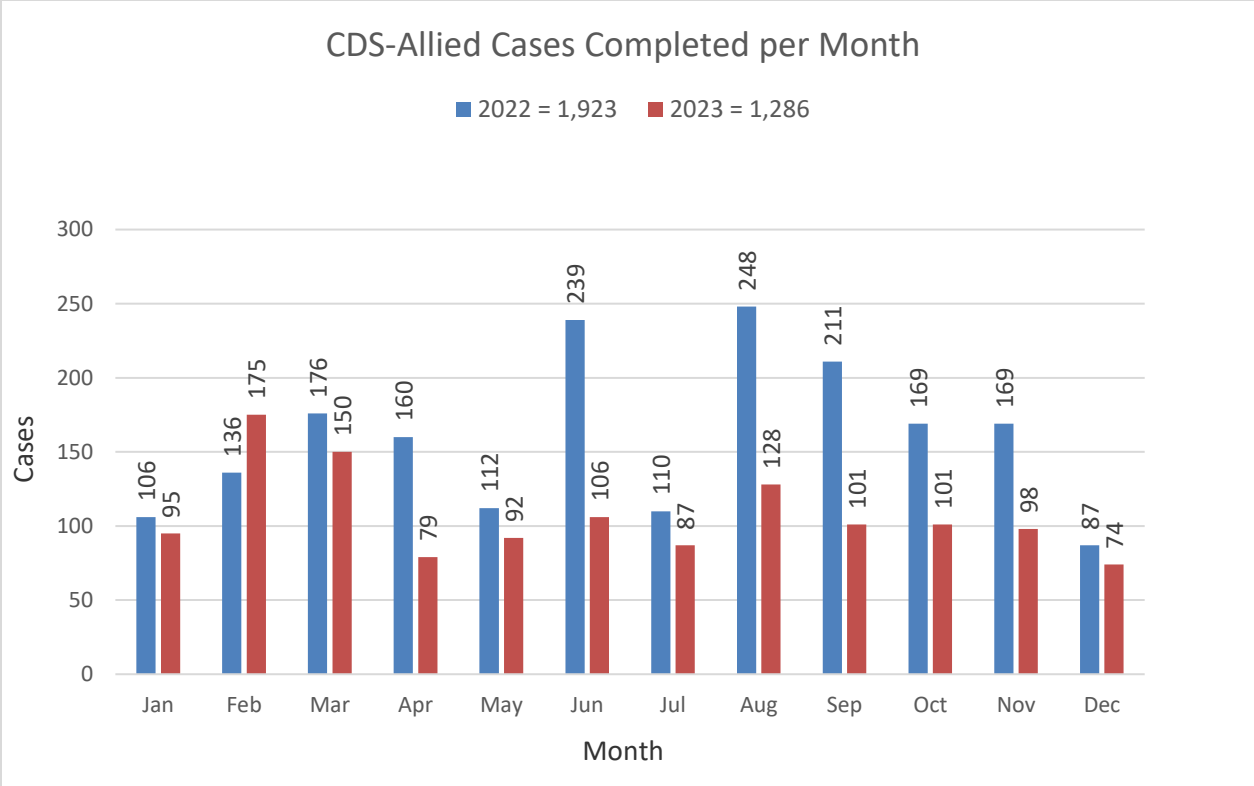


CDS Cases Received by Allied Forensic Scientists per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-North East	Cecil	103
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	56
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	50
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	34
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	6
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	2
	TOTAL	251

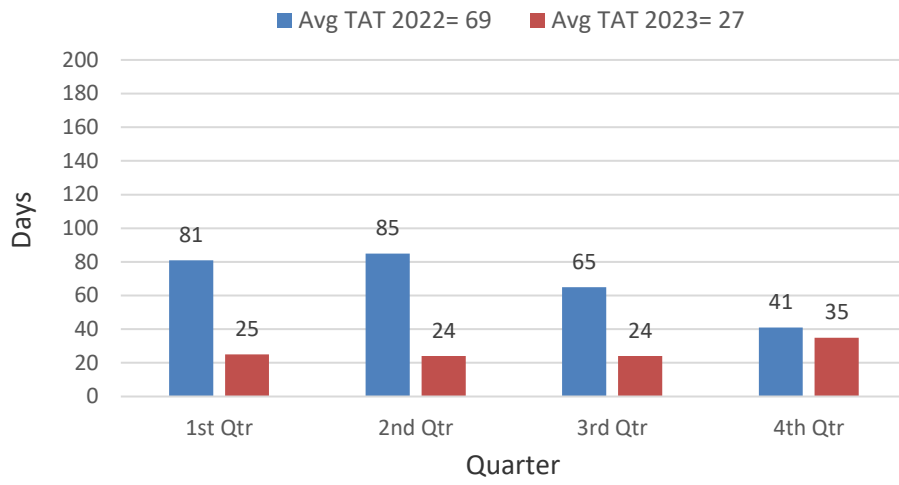
Note: Cases designated above are received by FSD from an Allied Forensic Scientist's County, but cases may be completed by FSD staff or Outsourced.

CDS Cases Received by Forensic Scientists from Allied Agencies per County	
County	Submissions
Frederick	432
Cecil	420
Howard	103
TOTAL	955

Note: Cases designated above are received by FSD from an Allied Forensic Scientist's County, but cases may be completed by FSD staff or Outsourced.



CDS-Allied Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



CDS UNIT/ HIDTA DATA ANALYSIS

Drug Categories Identified in 2023*

Quarter	Cocaine	Cannabis	Heroin	Fentanyl	Fentanyl Analogs	Other Opioids**	Methamphetamine	Phenethylamine***	Synthetic Cannabinoid	Non-Opioid Controlled Rx	Non-Controlled Rx	Over-the-Counter	PCP/Analog	Psychedelic	Cathinones	Designer Benzodiazepines	Xylazine	Other	Drug Positive Total
Total 1Q	1092	401	84	701	128	482	277	72	20	190	92	45	32	62	72	19	254	37	4060
%	26.9	9.9	2.1	17.3	3.2	11.9	6.8	1.8	0.5	4.7	2.3	1.1	0.8	1.5	1.8	0.5	6.3	0.9	
Total 2Q	997	264	59	611	37	363	236	67	5	133	75	86	26	54	53	27	191	14	3298
%	30.2	8	1.8	18.5	1.1	11	7.2	2	0.2	4	2.3	2.6	0.8	1.6	1.6	0.8	5.8	0.4	
Total 3Q	985	541	95	571	72	448	272	47	36	114	63	81	32	60	93	30	224	20	3784
%	26	14.3	2.5	15.1	1.9	11.8	7.2	1.2	1	3	1.7	2.1	0.9	1.6	2.5	0.8	5.9	0.5	
Total 4Q	861	421	52	488	22	280	249	48	13	101	34	47	33	37	51	27	224	30	3018
%	28.5	14	1.7	16.2	0.7	9.3	8.4	1.6	0.4	3.4	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.7	0.9	7.4	1	

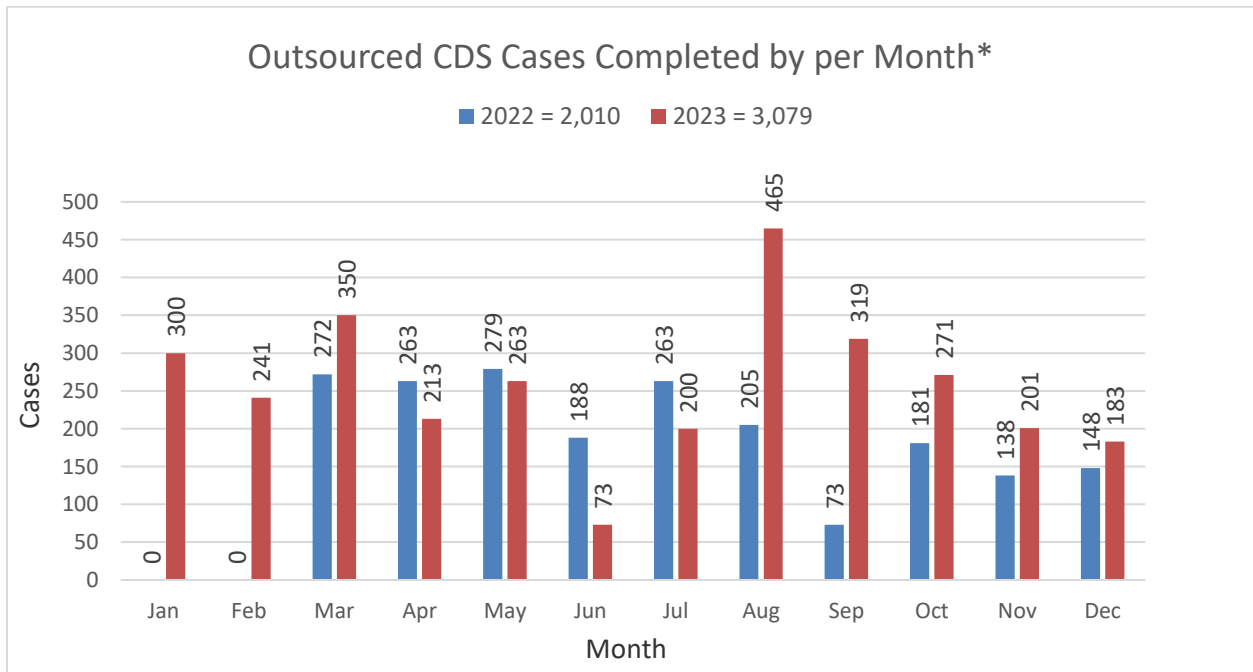
*This is an overview of samples submitted to the MSP labs only, and does not represent all drugs seized in the State of Maryland.

**The Other Opioids group includes oxycodone, tramadol, methadone, hydrocodone, morphine, oxymorphone, codeine mixtures, tarpentadol, a fentanyl precursor 4-Anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP) and other less common opioids. The Designer Benzodiazepines group may include Etizolam, Deschloroetizolam, Bromazolam, Clobromazolam, Clonazolam, Flualprazolam, or Flubromazolam, if any of the listed drugs are identified as positive.

***The Phenethylamines group includes amphetamine and MDMA.

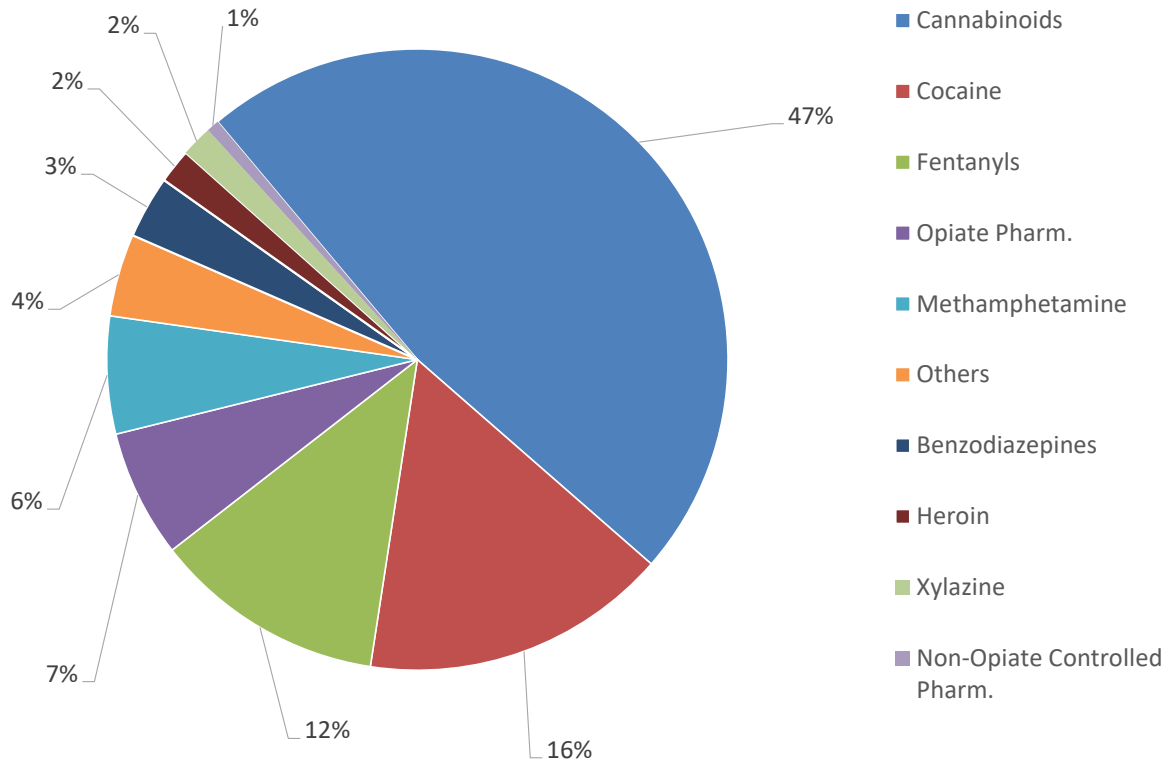
CDS OUTSOURCING

In an effort to eliminate the CDS case backlog, FSD continued outsourcing CDS cases for analysis to an accredited private laboratory. Using multiple US DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants under the Anti-Heroin Task Force Program to fund CDS cases, the three Units were able to successfully reduce their backlogs in 2023.



*These numbers are also counted in the individual Unit totals for completed cases per month

Outsourced CDS Analyses Reported per Drug Type (Includes all three labs)



NOTEWORTHY CASES

In June 2023, Kyle Dylan Dishner was sentenced to 8 years in prison due to possession with the intent to distribute. MSP FSD confirmed that the 296 seized capsules from Dishner tested positive for fentanyl and xylazine. Fentanyl is known to be the number one controlled dangerous substance to cause death in the state of Maryland and its impact on citizens is significantly increasing, surpassing homicide and motor vehicle fatalities.

In October 2023, MSP in Allegany County recovered a clear baggie containing what seemed to be a green plant-like substance that was submitted to Hagerstown CDS Unit. A color test was performed and presented a strong purple color which indicated the presence of an opioid, heroin. The chemist determined the substance was not plant material as there were no macro or microscopic features observed, but the results were heroin (Schedule I), and fentanyl (Schedule II).

TOXICOLOGY UNITS

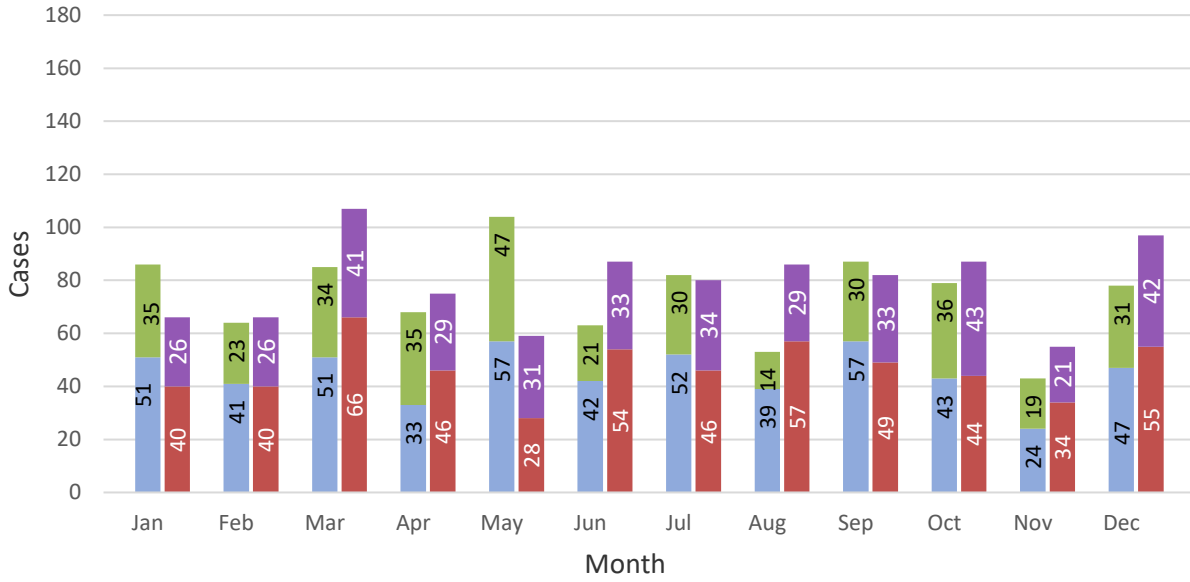
The Toxicology Units are the only public laboratory within the state approved to analyze blood samples for alcohol and drugs in cases related to Driving While Impaired (DWI) arrests. Blood specimens submitted to the Toxicology Units for testing are collected by qualified medical personnel when requested by police. Blood is collected from suspected impaired drivers after being taken to hospital for injury, or at the request of a Drug Recognition Expert Officer when drug impairment is suspected. Many cases, therefore, involve serious personal injury and manslaughter/vehicle homicide charges that require the Forensic Scientist's expert testimony at trial. Testing for alcohol and drugs is performed for both the Maryland State Police and allied law enforcement agencies requiring laboratory support for impaired driving programs.

The Toxicology Units continue to grow. Dr. Haley Mulder was hired in September 2023 as the Chief Toxicologist. There are currently three fully trained Forensic Scientists at the Pikesville location and a Unit Supervisor in the Hagerstown location. There are two remaining vacancies: A Forensic Scientist III in Hagerstown and a Forensic Scientist I in Pikesville. The Hagerstown laboratory underwent renovations in 2022 to accommodate the new Hagerstown Toxicology Unit. Instruments were installed in the Fall of 2023 and the laboratory is in preparation to be ready for casework by the end of 2024. A new Berlin laboratory is currently being built that will fully support an additional Toxicology Unit. Completion of the renovations are expected to be completed in late 2024.

The units had a momentous year in terms of caseload and reporting. The units received more cases in 2023 than in 2022 and completed a total of 1,000 cases while also validating three instruments for casework, completing the training of its FS II, and participating in the Hagerstown expansion. By the end of 2023, the unit backlog was under 100 cases. The success of the units is largely in part of the excellent coordination of the unit supervisors and the work performed by the forensic scientists in the units.

Toxicology Cases Received Per Month

■ 2022 = 547 Alcohol ■ 2022 = 355 Drug ■ 2023 = 559 Alcohol ■ 2023 = 388 Drug

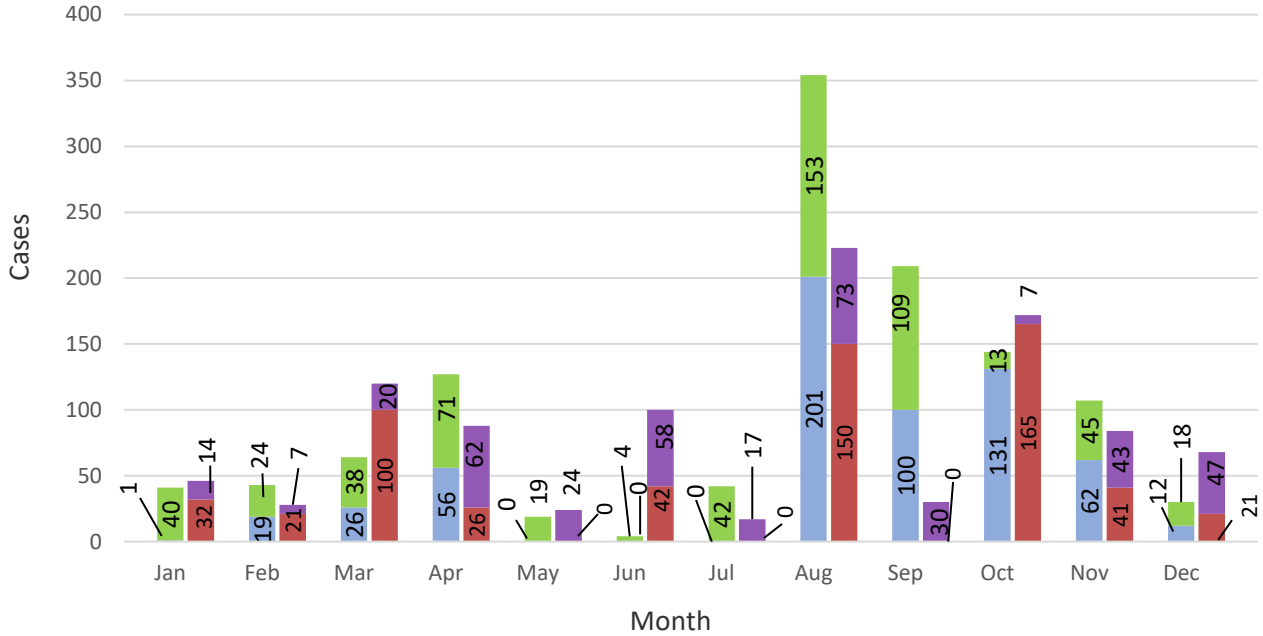


Toxicology Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	34
MSP-Easton	Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot	28
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	28
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	27
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	24
MSP-College Park	Prince George's	18
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	18
MSP-North East	Cecil	18
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	15
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	15
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	13
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	12
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	11
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	11
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	9
MSP-La Plata	Charles	9
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	8
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	7
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	7
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	6
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	6
MSP-McHenry	Garett	4
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	1
	TOTAL	329

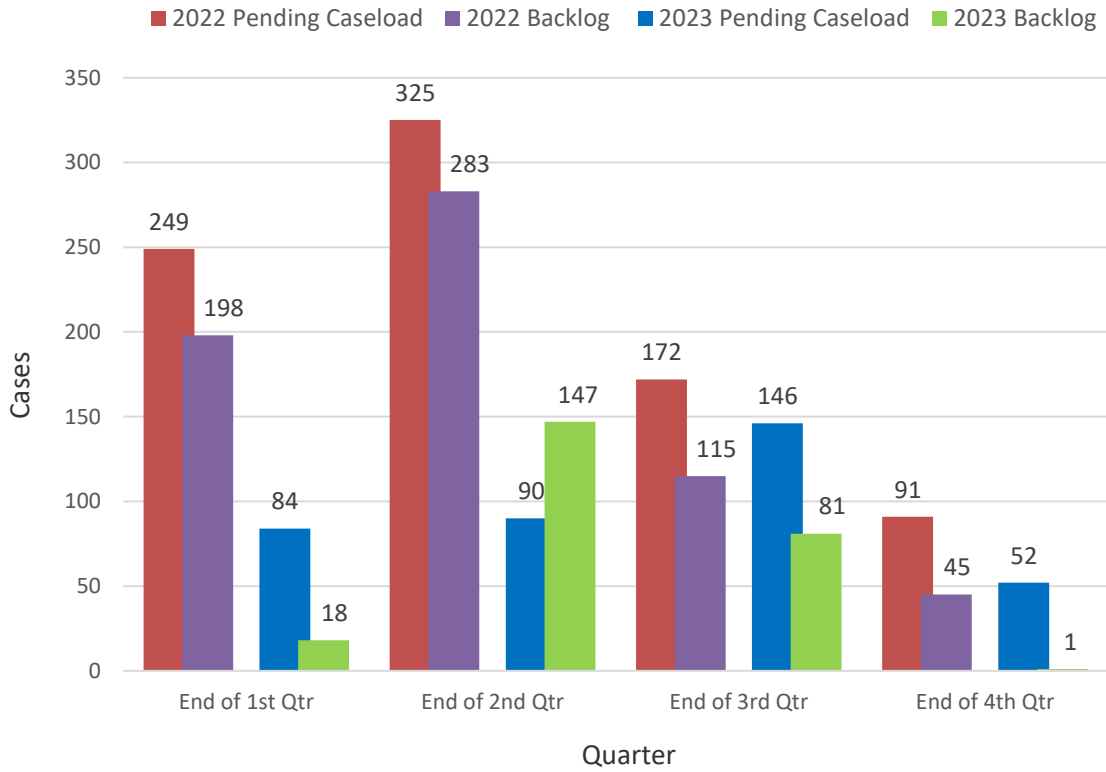
Toxicology Cases Received from Allied Agencies by County	
County	Submissions
Anne Arundel	116
Baltimore	101
Frederick	60
Montgomery	55
Harford	51
Washington	36
Carroll	34
Baltimore City	25
Howard	18
Allegany	18
St. Mary's	15
Calvert	13
Kent	13
Worcester	12
Prince George's	10
Wicomico	10
Charles	9
Talbot	5
Dorchester	5
Queen Anne's	4
Cecil	4
Somerset	3
Garrett	1
TOTAL	618

Toxicology Cases Completed Per Month

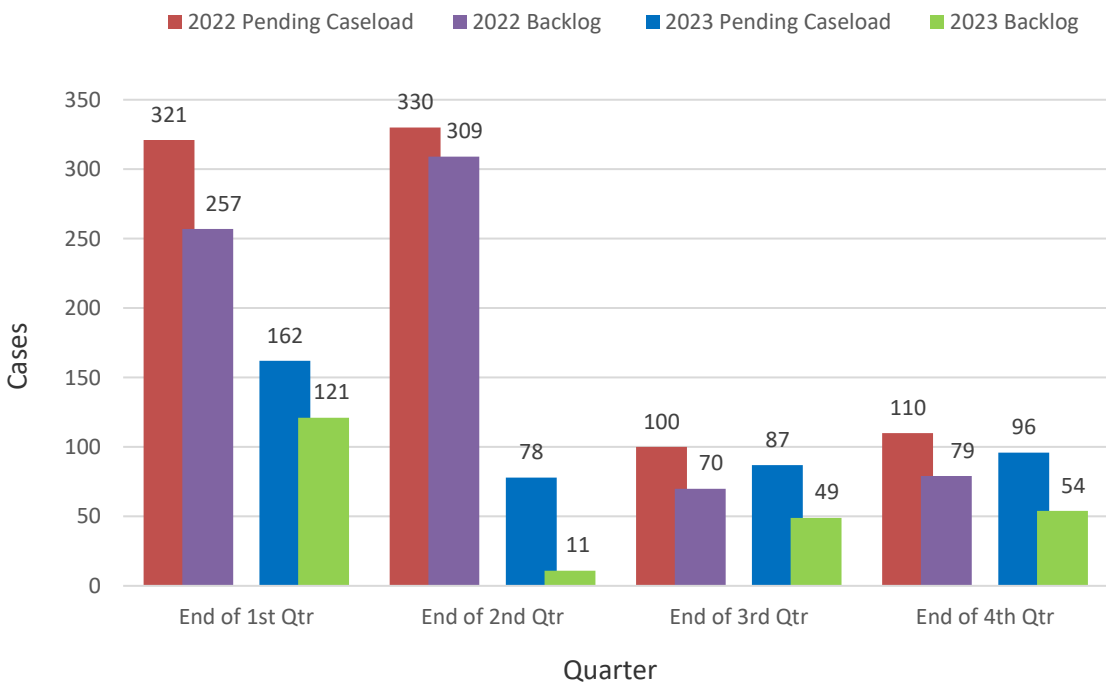
■ 2022 = 608 Alcohol ■ 2022 = 576 Drug ■ 2023 = 598 Alcohol ■ 2023 = 402 Drug



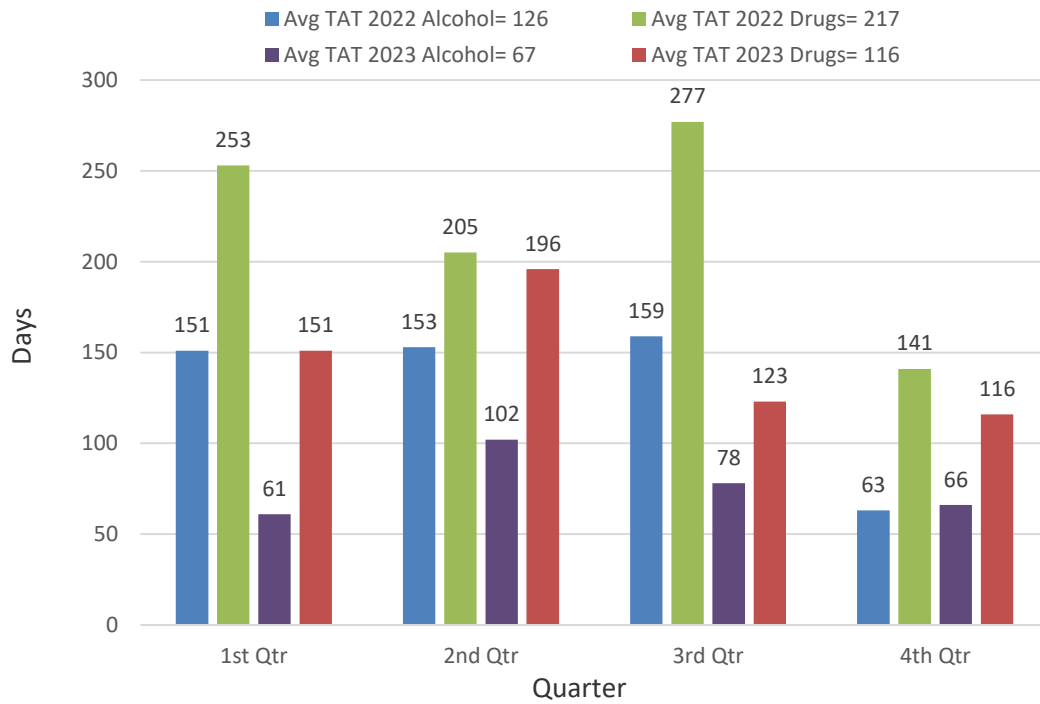
Blood Alcohol Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



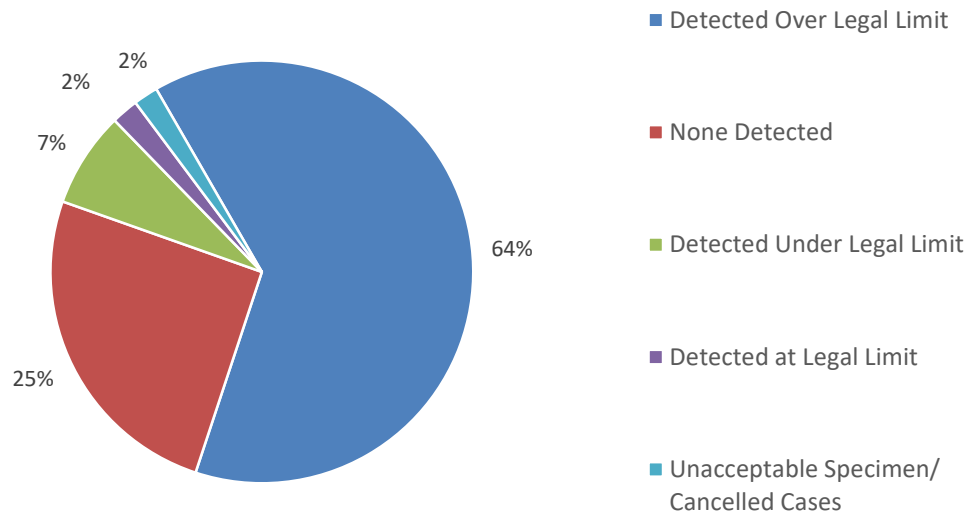
Blood Drug Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



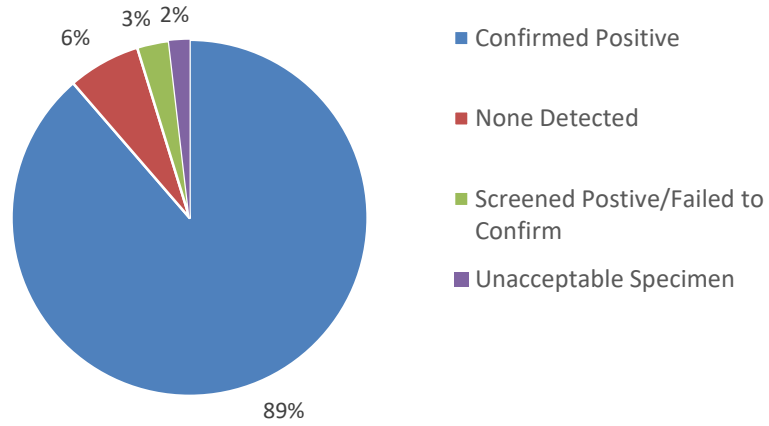
Toxicology Case Turn Around Time



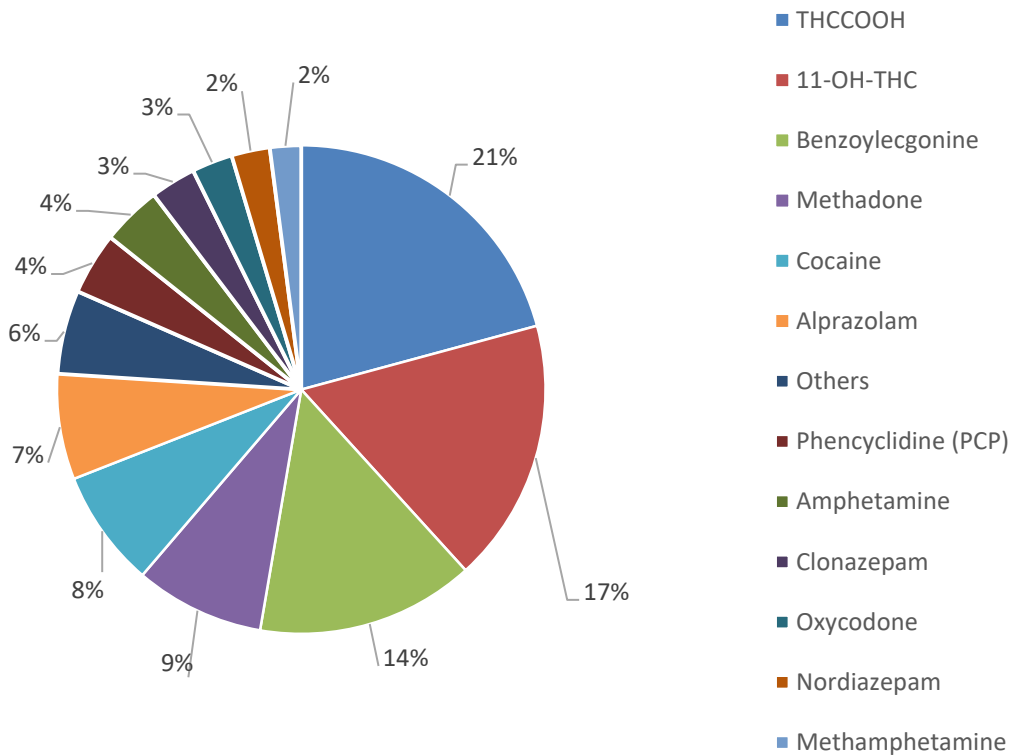
Blood Alcohol Cases Reported per Detection Level -In house



Blood Drug Cases Reported per Result Type
(excludes cancelled cases)

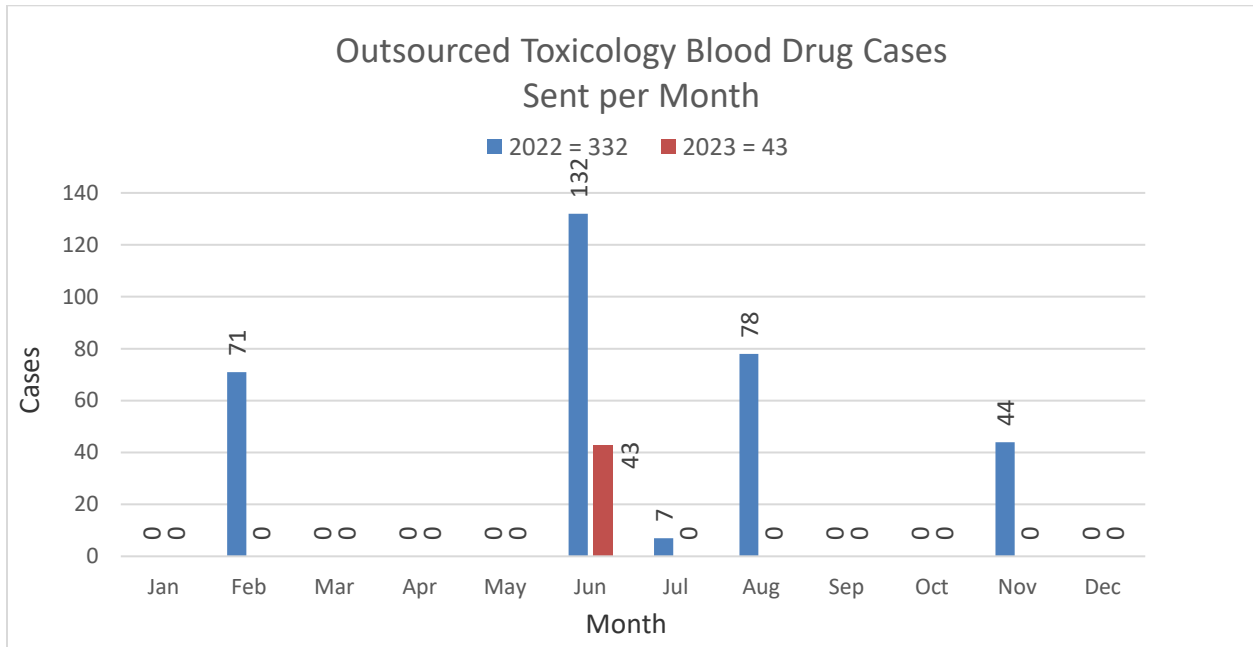


Confirmed Results of Blood Drug In-House Cases
per Drug Type

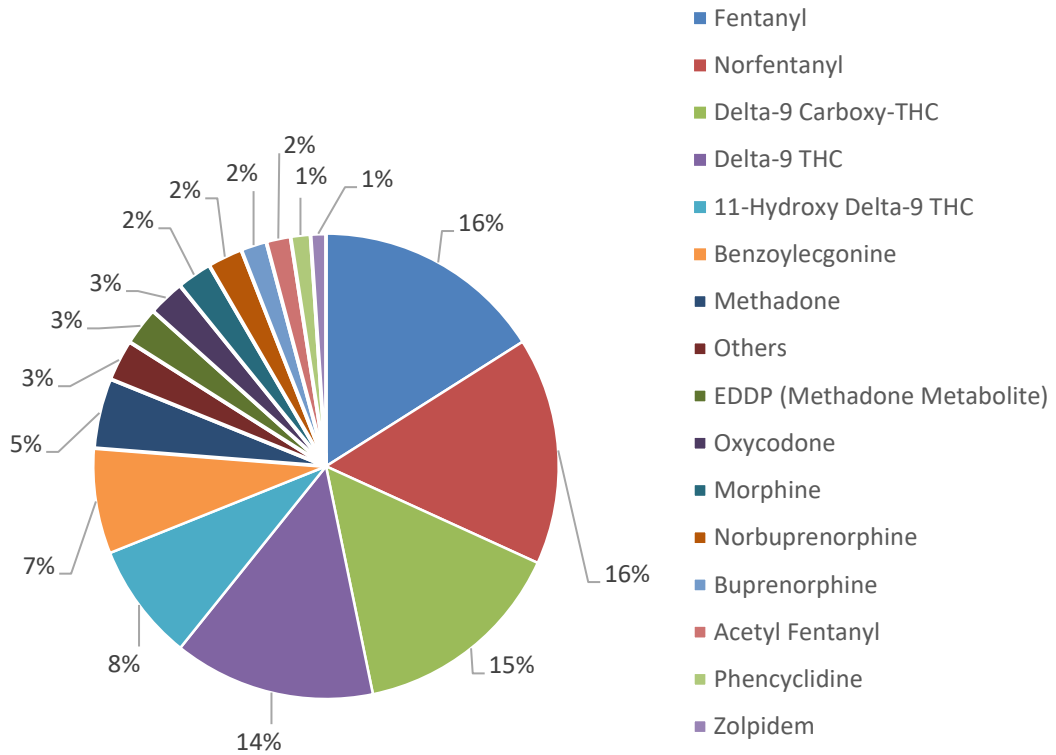


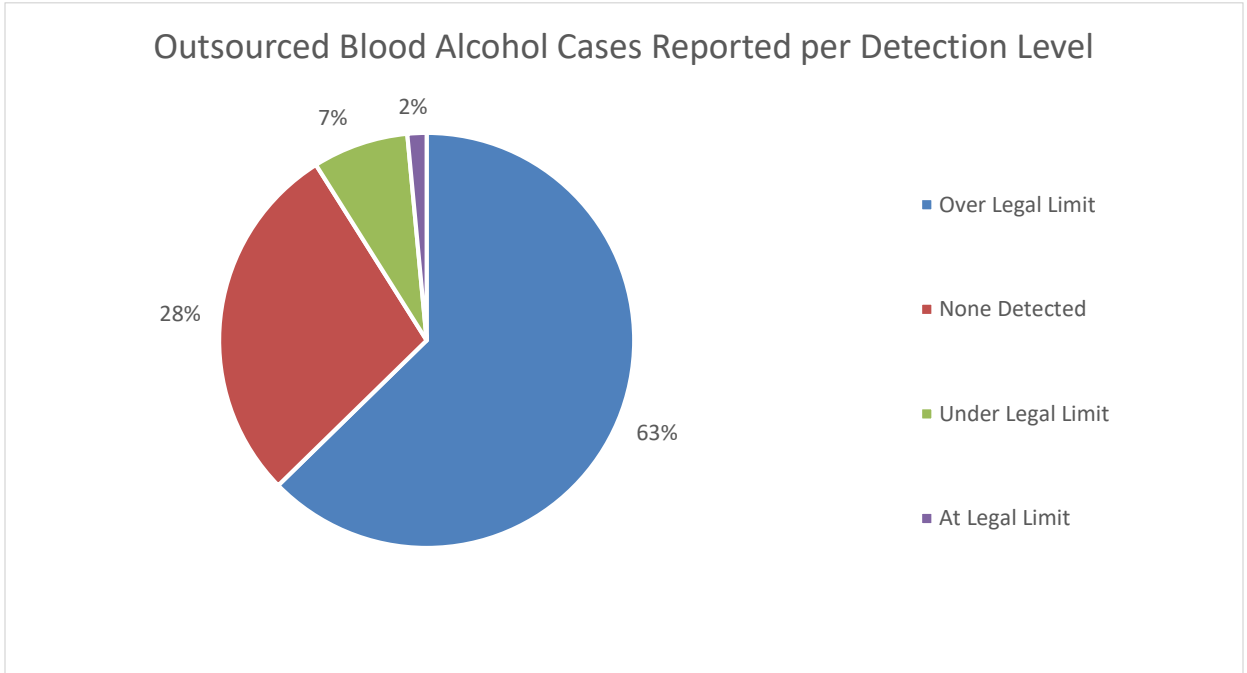
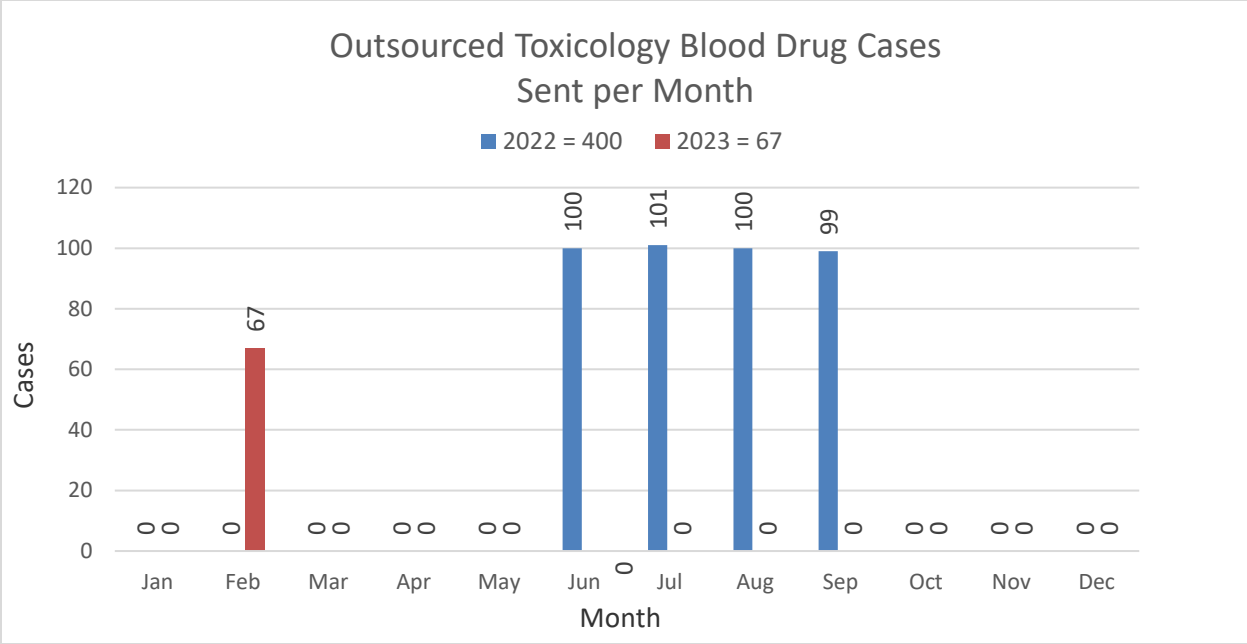
TOXICOLOGY UNIT OUTSOURCING

In an effort to eliminate the Toxicology case backlog, FSD has outsourced some Toxicology Blood Drug cases for analysis to two accredited private laboratories. Using multiple US DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants under the Anti-Heroin Task Force Program to fund Toxicology, the Unit was able to successfully reduce their backlogs in 2023. The Toxicology Unit also used grant funding from the Maryland Highway Safety Office for outsourcing in 2023. These grants cover the outsourcing costs of both the analysis and courtroom testimony for casework.



Confirmed Results from Outsourced Toxicology Blood Drug Cases per Drug Type





NOTEWORTHY CASES

In March 2023, MSP arrested two individuals following a fatal pedestrian crash where 6 highway construction workers were struck and killed. Lisa Lea was attempting to change lanes when police believe her vehicle struck the front corner passenger side of the vehicle driven by Melachi Brown, causing Lea to lose control of the vehicle that then overturned through the barrier of the active work zone. Lisa Lea was charged with six counts of manslaughter, six counts of negligent homicide, six counts of causing the death of a vulnerable individual while operating a motor vehicle, driving under the influence, conducting an unsafe lane change, speeding, failure to control speed to avoid a collision, following a vehicle too closely, negligent driving and aggressive driving. She surrendered to MSP Golden Ring in June of 2023. Her blood kit was submitted to the MSP Tox unit and swift results were provided. Her trial is set for April of 2024.

In September 2022, former Carroll County school bus driver, Tammy Frock, was arrested for driving while impaired. The school bus was traveling southbound near Liberty High School and began to move off to the right side of the road, striking multiple telephone lines in its path. There were no children on the bus. Troopers stated they observed signs of impairment while speaking to Frock, which led to a blood test being ordered. In March 2023, the Maryland State Police Forensic Science Division-Toxicology Unit performed tests on the blood specimen taken from Frock which tested positive for Amphetamine & Alprazolam. Tammy was sentenced to 10 days in Carroll County Detention Center, 20 days at home detention, and 18 months of supervised probation.

In October of 2023, a Montgomery County Police Sergeant was struck by Raphael Mayorga on interstate 270 while attempting to stop Mayorga during a police chase. The officer survived with life threatening injuries. Mayorga was charged with attempted first-degree murder and his blood kit was sent to MSP Tox for testing of blood alcohol and drug contents. The Tox unit coordinated for further testing with a private laboratory based on evidence that was reported at the scene. The investigation is still ongoing.

BIOLOGY SECTION

The Biology Section is responsible for performing Serological and DNA analyses associated with criminal casework as well as maintaining and operating the State's DNA Database in conjunction with the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). In order to efficiently address these functions, the Biology Section is structured on a four-unit basis overseen by one Forensic Scientist Manager.

There are two casework units: the Investigative Casework Unit and the Trial Casework Unit. The Investigative Casework Unit is staffed by six individuals, including one Forensic Scientist Supervisor, one Forensic Scientist Advanced, one Forensic Scientist III, two Forensic Scientist I's, and one Forensic Inventory Control Officer. The Trial Casework Unit is staffed by five forensic scientists, including one Forensic Scientist Supervisor, one Forensic Scientist Advanced, one Contractual Forensic Scientist Advanced, one Forensic Scientist III, and one vacant Forensic Scientist I position.

The Database Unit is staffed by nine individuals, including two Forensic Scientist Supervisors (CODIS Administrator and Alternate CODIS Administrator), three Forensic Scientists Advanced, two Forensic Scientist III's, one Forensic Scientist I, and one contractual paralegal II.

The Technical/Validation Unit is staffed by five individuals, including one Forensic Scientist Supervisor (Technical Leader), one Forensic Scientist Advanced, and two Forensic Scientist III's, and a Forensic Laboratory Technician I.

BIOLOGY CASEWORK UNITS

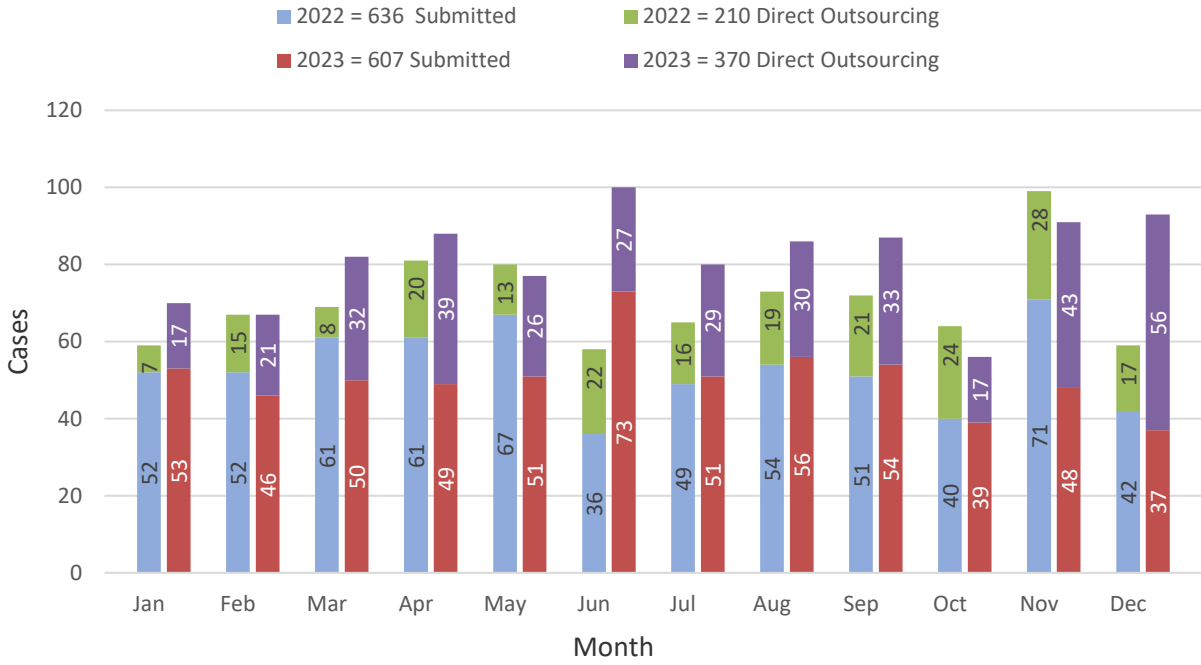
The Trial Casework Unit performs serology and/or DNA testing on cases that have resulted in an arrest and are being tested in support of the adjudication of the arrestee. While the primary responsibility of this unit is cases with pending trial dates, it also assists with the analysis of investigative and cold cases, the preparation and review of outsourced casework, and training of new analysts, as necessary.

The Investigative Casework Unit performs serology and/or DNA testing on cases without pending court dates, which have not resulted in an arrest but are being tested in support of an investigation or making an arrest. This unit is responsible for handling high-priority/high-profile investigative cases, routine investigative cases, cold cases, and Independent Investigation Division (IID) cases. The Investigative Casework Unit is also responsible for the management and processing of outsourced casework to the contract vendor laboratory and training of new analysts, as necessary.

The overall number of case submissions to the Biology Section slightly decreased in 2023. There were 607 cases received in the Biology Section, which is approximately a 4.6% decrease from 2022. There was a 76.2% increase in the number of cases that were directly outsourced in 2023. Even though these cases were directly outsourced from the investigating agency to the contract lab, they were still monitored and tracked by Biology Section staff.

Upon completion of all outsourced cases, the data is reviewed and suitable profiles are uploaded to the CODIS database. When considering both in-house cases and directly outsourced cases, the total number of cases completed within the Biology Section decreased by 5.4% in 2023. By utilizing a combination of direct outsourcing, in-house outsourcing (evidence is received at MSP-FSD and then either the entire case or a portion of it is forwarded to a contracted laboratory for analysis), and in-house casework, the casework units have been able to continue to monitor and address an increasing backlog.

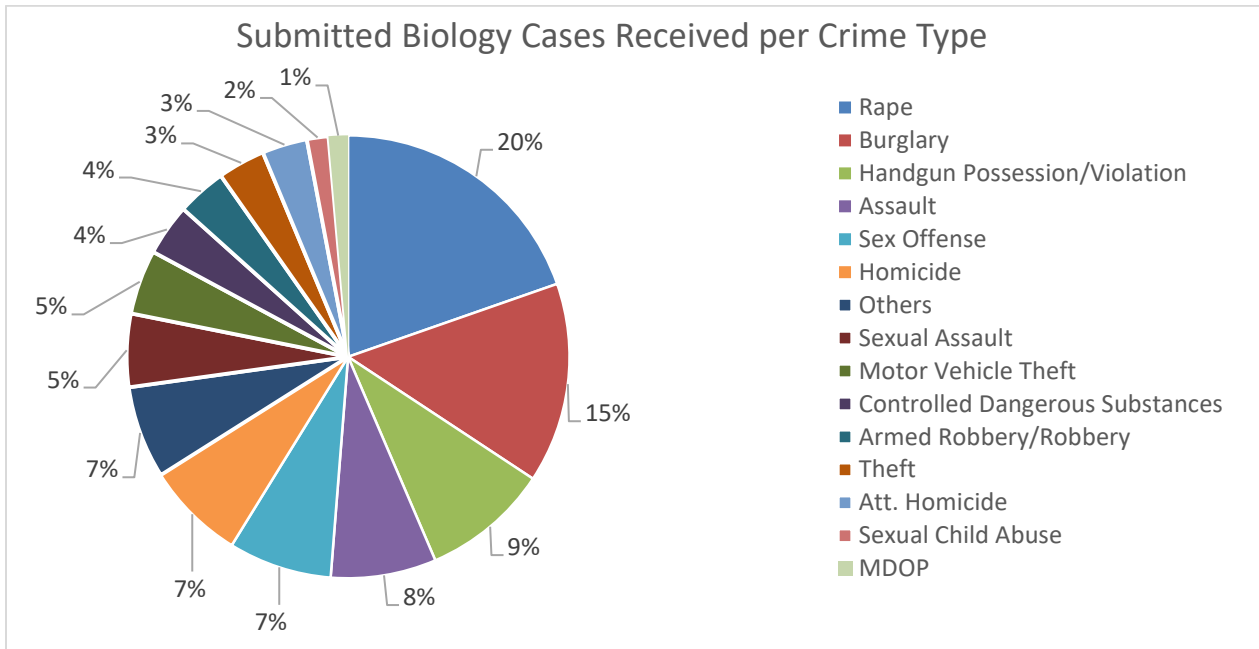
Biology Cases Received Per Month



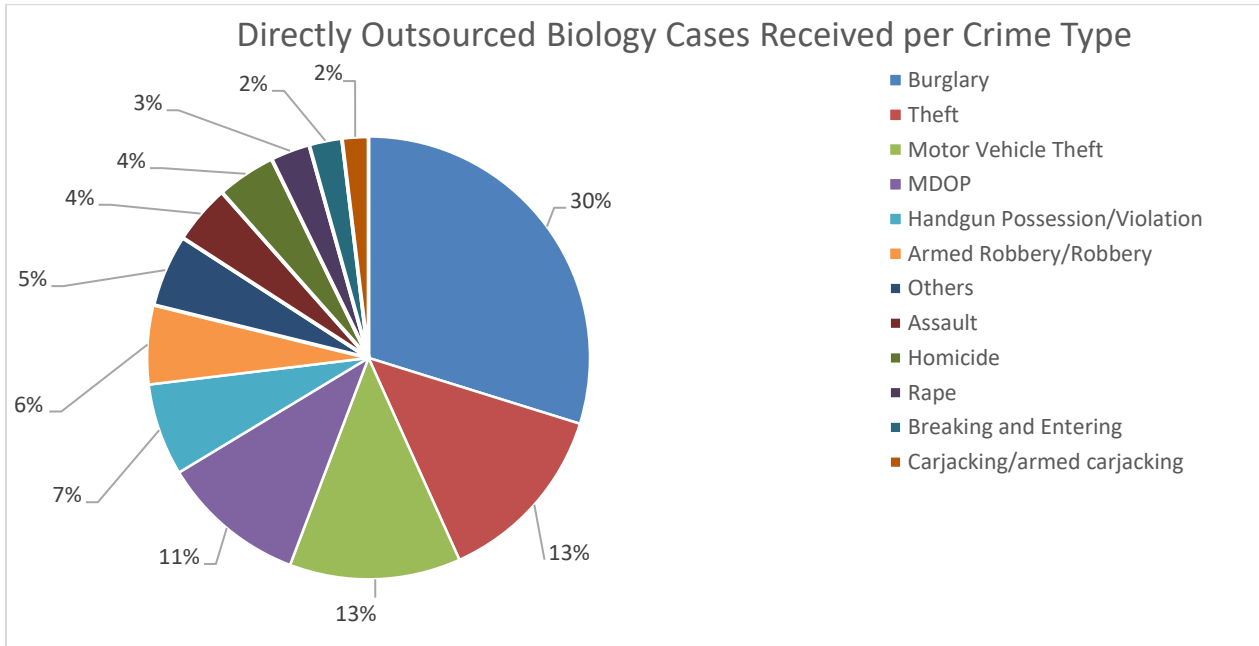
Biology Cases Received per MSP Installation				
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Case Type		
		Submitted	Directly Outsourced	Combined
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	37	41	78
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	10	7	17
MSP-North East	Cecil	7	11	18
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	5	2	7
MSP-Homicide	Statewide	4	2	6
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	4	0	4
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	4	0	4
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	4	0	4
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	3	5	8
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	3	4	7
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore, Baltimore City	3	0	3
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	2	0	2
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	2	0	2
OSFM	Statewide	2	2	4
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	2	0	2
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	2	0	2
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	2	0	2
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	1	2	3
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	1	0	1
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	1	0	1
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	1	0	1
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	0	0	0
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	0	0	0
	TOTAL	100	76	176

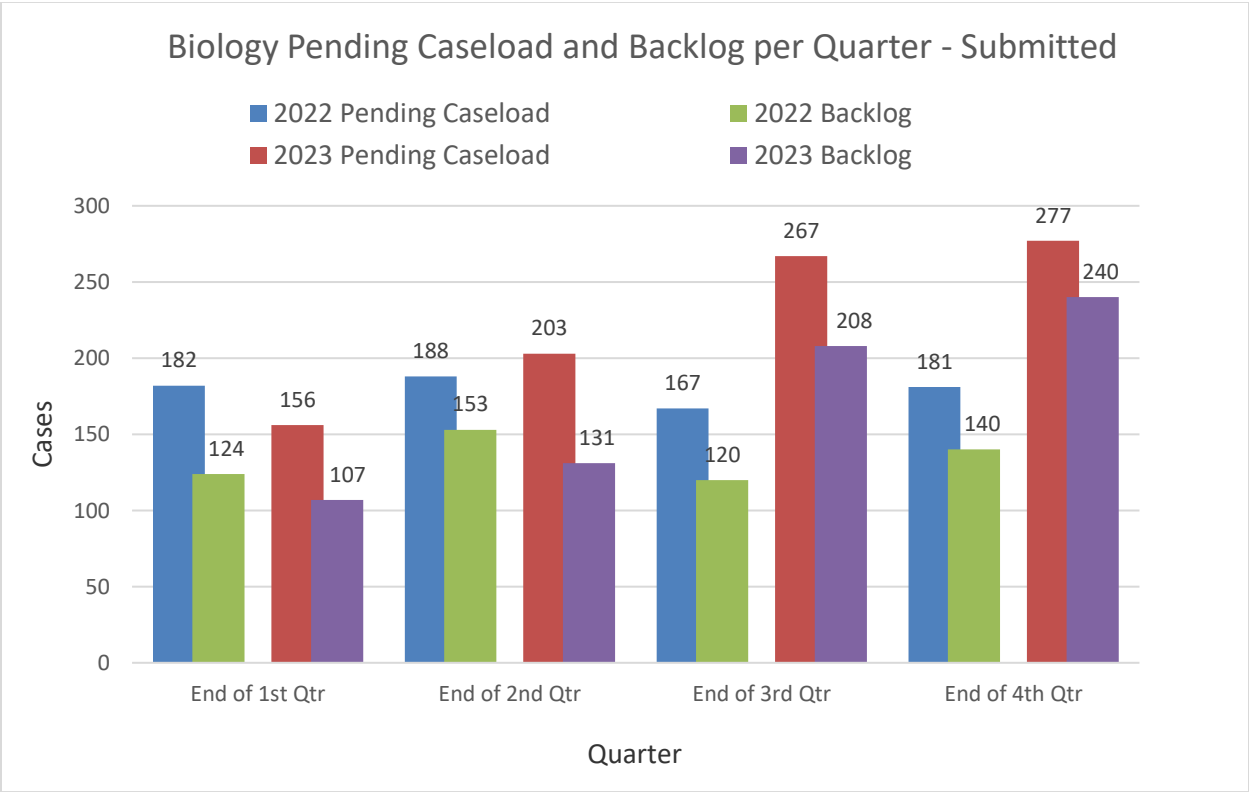
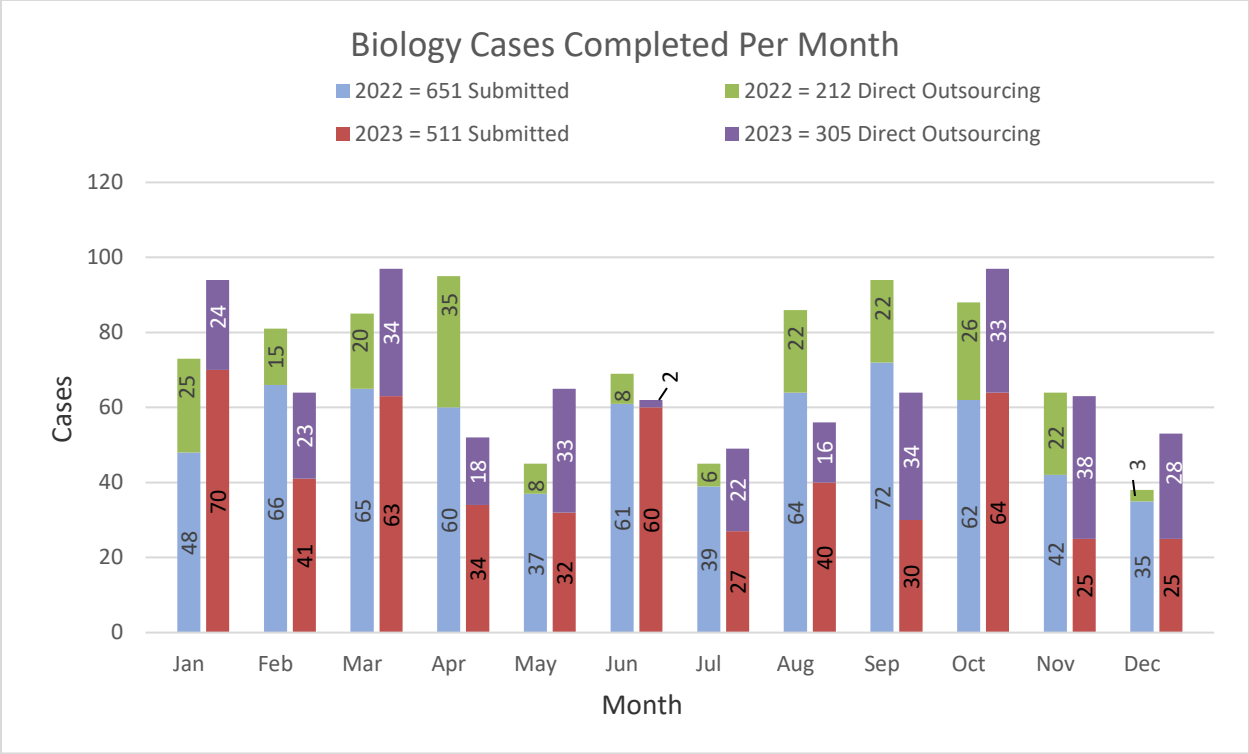
Allied Agency Cases Received by Biology per County			
County	Case Type		
	Submitted	Directly Outsourced	Combined
Charles	82	104	186
St. Mary's	68	31	99
Wicomico	53	47	100
Frederick	44	11	55
Harford	41	35	76
Cecil	32	5	37
Carroll	24	2	26
Dorchester	22	3	25
Washington	21	8	29
Worcester	20	2	22
Talbot	20	16	36
Anne Arundel	15	0	15
Calvert	14	0	14
Prince George's	13	15	28
Statewide/Not Determined*	8	9	17
Caroline	6	6	12
Baltimore City	5	0	5
Somerset	5	0	5
Allegany	4	0	4
Kent	4	0	4
Queen Anne's	3	0	3
Baltimore	2	0	2
Out of State	1	0	1
TOTAL	507	294	801

Submitted Biology Cases Received per Crime Type

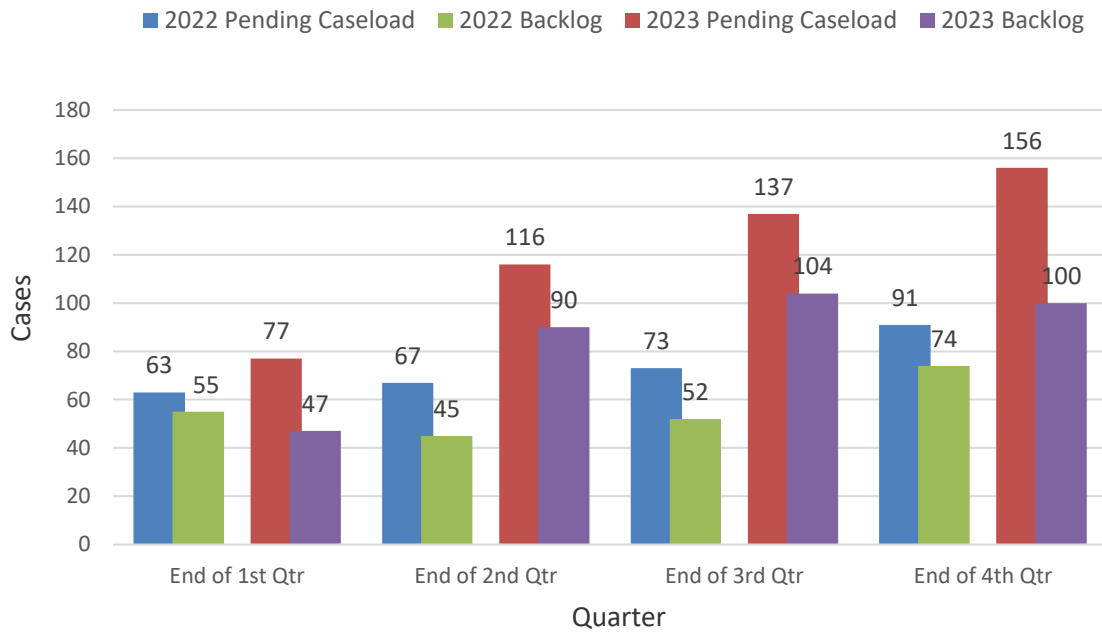


Directly Outsourced Biology Cases Received per Crime Type

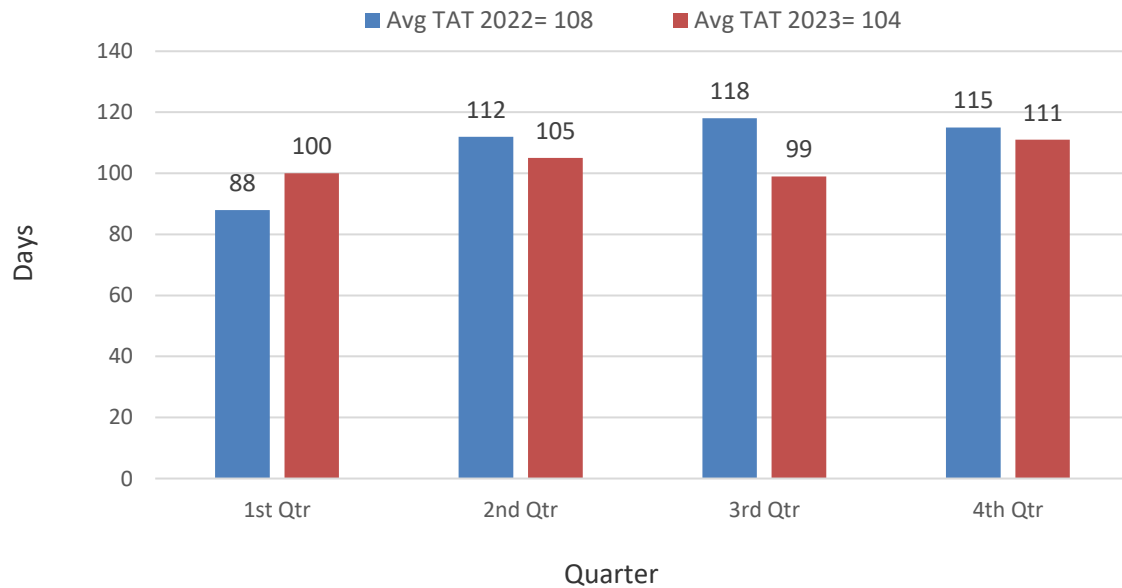




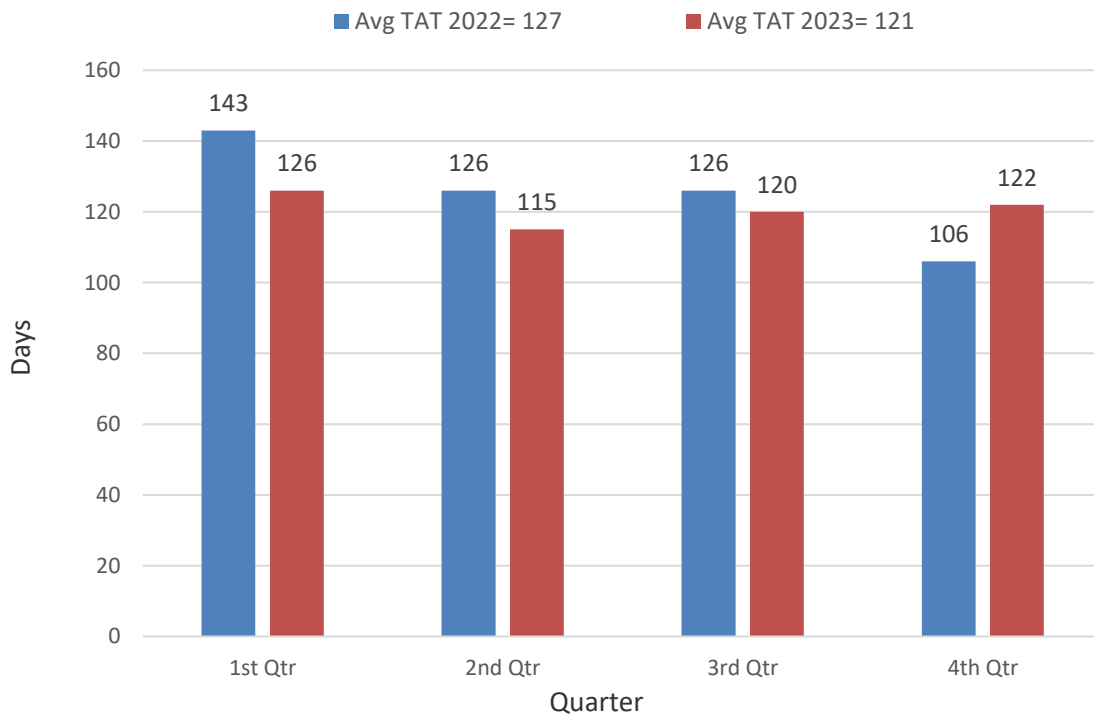
Biology Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter - Directly Outsourced



Biology Case Turn Around Time per Quarter - Submitted

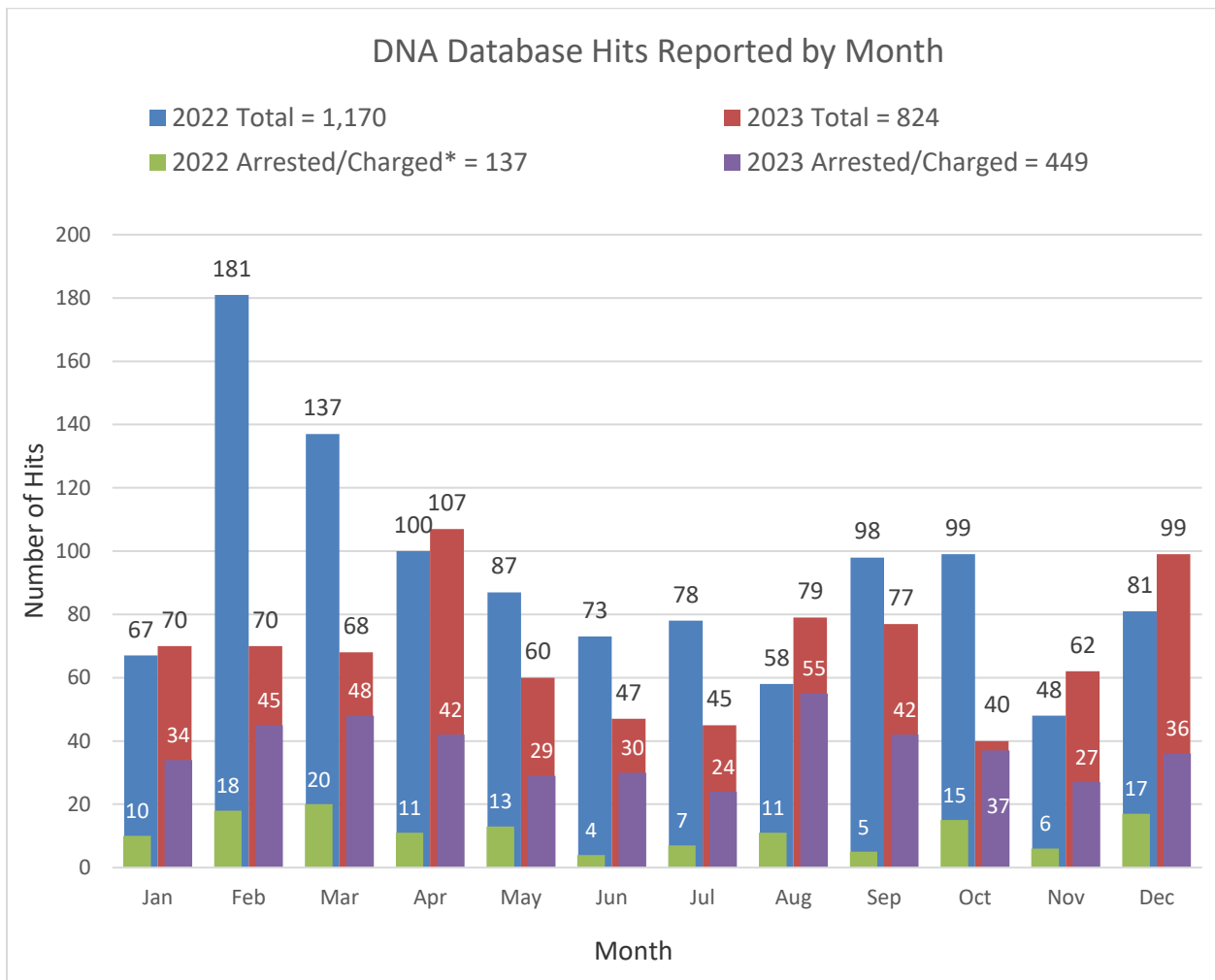


Biology Case Turn Around Time per Quarter - Directly Outsourced



BIOLOGY DATABASE UNIT

The Biology Database Unit is responsible for processing DNA Database samples from individuals required under Maryland law to provide a sample. The law was expanded in 2009 to include individuals arrested and charged with crimes of violence, burglary, and attempts of these crimes. While the majority of samples are collected by Allied Agencies, the Biology Database Unit is responsible for ensuring that all samples that were collected are received. The Biology Database Unit is also responsible for analyzing the DNA database samples received (as per Maryland law), entering DNA profiles from DNA database samples into the database, searching the database for hits, and reporting database hits. The Biology Database Unit also oversees the entry of DNA profiles from casework evidence into the database.



*2022 Arrested/Charged DNA Database Hits did not include Convicted Offender DNA Database Hits

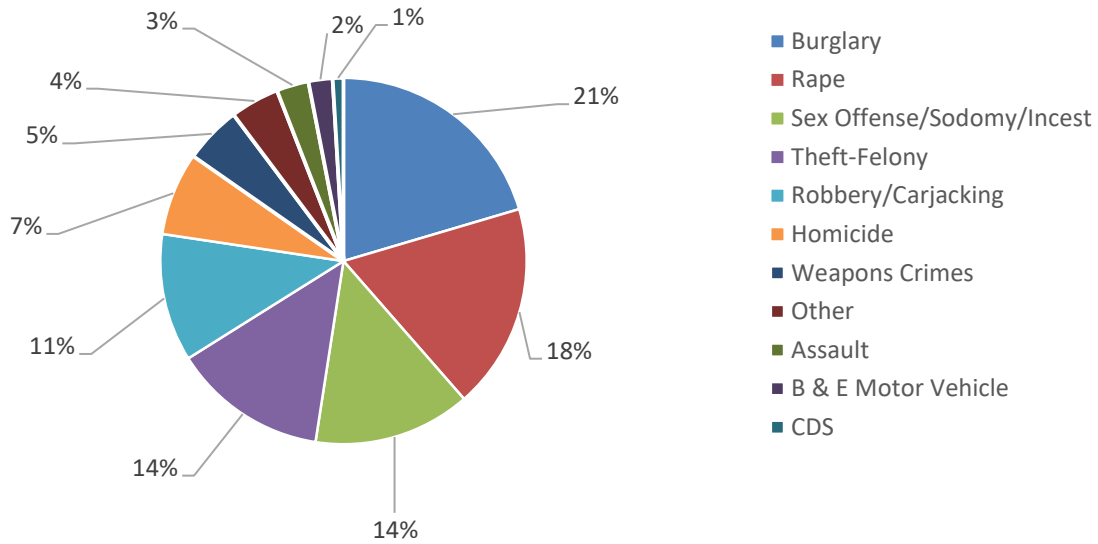
Maryland Case DNA Database Hits	
	Hits
Hits to Offenders/Arrestees (MD or National)	449
Hits to Cases (MD or National)	824
Total	1,279

Note: Maryland case hits include a Maryland case hitting to a Maryland offender/arrestee, a Maryland case hitting a National offender/arrestee, a Maryland case hitting a Maryland case, and a Maryland case hitting a National case. A Maryland case hitting a Maryland case is considered as two Maryland case hits (this is not consistent with how hits are reported for the National DNA Index System (NDIS)). A Maryland case hitting to a Maryland offender/arrestee is counted as both a Maryland offender/arrestee hit and a Maryland case hit.

Maryland Case DNA Database Hits by County	
County	Hits
Baltimore City	171
Prince George's	143
Montgomery	136
Anne Arundel	103
Charles	81
Howard	50
Baltimore	25
St. Mary's	23
Wicomico	20
Dorchester	18
Cecil	13
Frederick	13
Harford	7
Carroll	5
Talbot	4
Calvert	3
Worcester	2
Somerset	2
Caroline	2
Washington	1
Allegany	1
Garrett	1
TOTAL	824

Maryland DNA Database Case Hits by Crime Year	
Crime Year	Hits
1991	14
1992	1
1993	8
1994	0
1995	3
1996	5
1997	23
1998	6
1999	9
2000	8
2001	2
2002	7
2003	2
2004	4
2005	5
2006	7
2007	5
2008	7
2009	11
2010	15
2011	15
2012	10
2013	11
2014	15
2015	17
2016	15
2017	28
2018	24
2019	37
2020	37
2021	109
2022	234
2023	121
Unknown	9
Total	824

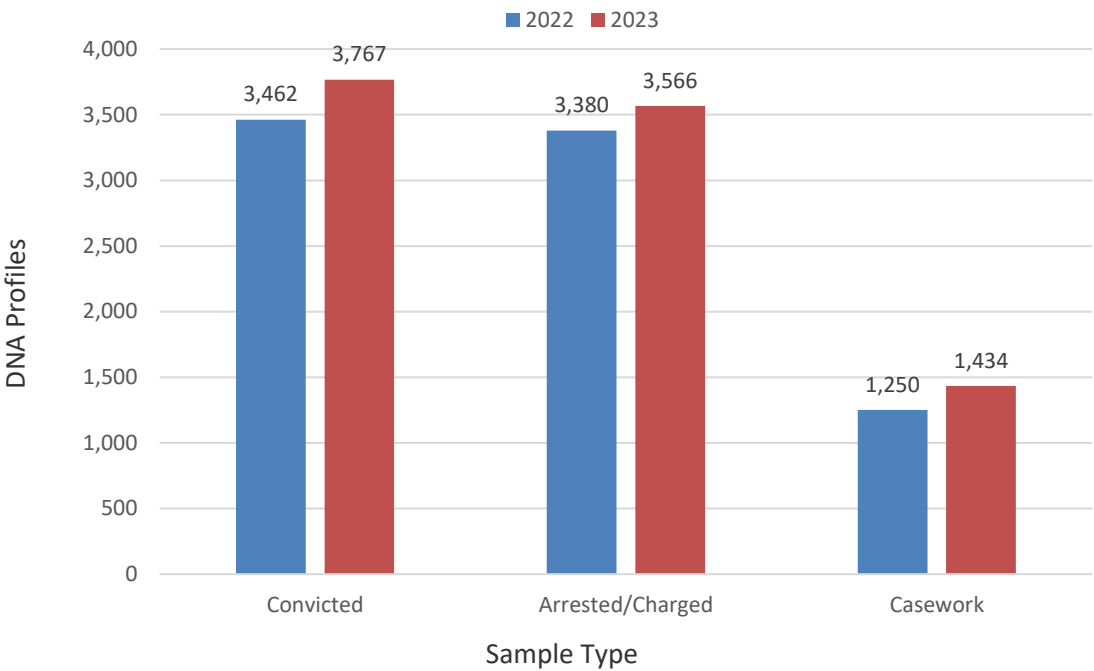
Maryland Case DNA Database Hits per Crime Type



Maryland Offender/Arrestee DNA Database Hits per Crime Jurisdiction*	
Jurisdiction	Number of Hits
Maryland	361
District of Columbia (Metro PD)	17
FBI	12
Virginia	11
Pennsylvania	9
West Virginia	7
Delaware	6
New York	5
North Carolina	5
Ohio	3
ATF	2
California	2
Texas	2
New Jersey	1
Florida	1
US Army - Georgia	1
Colorado	1
South Carolina	1
Missouri	1
Oklahoma	1
Total	449

*Includes both Convicted Offender and Arrestee/Charged DNA Database Hits

Total DNA Profiles Uploaded to CODIS per Sample Type



BIOLOGY TECHNICAL UNIT

The Technical Unit of the Biology Section is responsible for the evaluation of new technologies to determine if they are appropriate to implement into the Section, validation of new technologies, training of personnel on new and current technologies, and quality assurance / quality control aspects of the Biology Section.

In 2023, the Technical Unit:

- Reviewed the OSAC Registry to determine which published standards related to Biology that the Section currently complies with, which standards the Section should work towards compliance, and which standards are not applicable.
- Performed a validation of the BSD-A2 instrument for punching database samples,
- Performed a validation of the EZ2 instrument for purification of extracted DNA samples,
- Performance checked the updated CODIS software (version 11),
- Performance checked the updated software used for YSTR statistics (YHRD R69),
- Continued validation on the STRmix probabilistic genotyping software,
- Participated in the mock trial of a Database analyst completing their training,
- Worked with the CODIS Administrator to assist the Howard County Police Department in outsourcing over 160 DNA analysis cases to a vendor laboratory, while maintaining compliance with the FBI Quality Assurance Standards,
- Prepared for and participated in the external audit against the FBI Quality Assurance Standards and ANAB with only minimal findings.

NOTEWORTHY CASES

In June 2023, a 44 year old cold case, the murder of Vickie Lynn Belk, was resolved with the help of MSP FSD. Belk was found murdered in a wooded area in Bryans Road, MD after being reported missing by her boyfriend. A teenager riding his bike in the wooded area observed what appeared to be a body on the ground where he then went home and called 911. The Chief Medical Examiner ruled this to be a homicide with cause of death being a gunshot wound. Investigators continued to recover, process, and maintain evidence until eventually the case went cold. In 2022, CCSO forensics re-evaluated clothing evidence and sent the evidence to an outsourced laboratory to evaluate using new DNA technology. The outsourced laboratory develop a DNA profile and sent the data to FSD evaluated and confirm that profile. FSD was then able to submit the suitable profile to CODIS. A DNA match was found as now 62 year old Andre Taylor from Washington, D.C. Taylor's DNA was entered in the national database after his arrest from violent crimes. There were no addresses found for him since 2019, therefore detectives, US Homeland Security, DC MPD, etc. all collaborated in finding Taylor in D.C. On June 16 2023, the Charles County State's Attorney's Office presented the case to a Charles County Grand Jury which indicted Taylor on charges of first-degree murder, first-degree rape, and second-degree rape. On June 22, Taylor, who was living in Washington, D.C., was arrested by detectives assigned to the CCSO's Criminal Investigations Division, CCSO's Warrant / Fugitive Unit the United States Marshals Service Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, and members of the Metropolitan Police Department. He was taken to a detention facility in Washington D.C. On June 27, Taylor waived extradition and was transported to the Charles County Detention Center where he was charged. Taylor is currently being held without bond.

In August 2023, Rachel Morin was reported missing after not returning from her walk in the Ma & Pa trail located in Bel Air, MD. Her vehicle was located unoccupied in the parking lot of the trail. A search was conducted that evening with no result. The next day, Rachel was found deceased off of the trail nude and with what seemed to be severe trauma to the head. Her phone and smartwatch were located a distance from the body, and appeared to be intentionally damaged. A water bottle was recovered near the body with fresh blood and fingerprints. A profile was developed from neck swabs and mouth area of the water bottle which was then reviewed by a Biologist and submitted to CODIS by another Biologist. A state search was conducted resulting in no findings. A National search revealed a hit to an LAPD unsolved burglary case. A hit report was sent to Harford County Sheriff's Office with the provided information from LAPD's lab. This case is an open ongoing investigation.

TRACE EVIDENCE SECTION

The Trace Evidence Section (TES) consists of two units, the Trace Evidence Unit and the Forensic Documents Unit. The Trace Evidence Section consists of one Forensic Scientist Supervisor, one Forensic Scientist Advanced, one Forensic Scientist III and a vacant Forensic Scientist III position.

Being the only laboratory in Maryland to provide trace evidence and forensic document examinations, the TES works closely with our allied agencies so that the various types of examinations included in this discipline are available to the citizens of Maryland.

The TES has purchased a new FTIR for fiber, paint, tapes and adhesives and general chemical unknown's casework. In addition, a Keyence Microscope was also purchased for the examination of hair and physical fit cases. In 2023, the Section obtained access to the Paint Database Query and "Know-It-All" software, which will provide important information about paint samples submitted and allow us to identify a source.

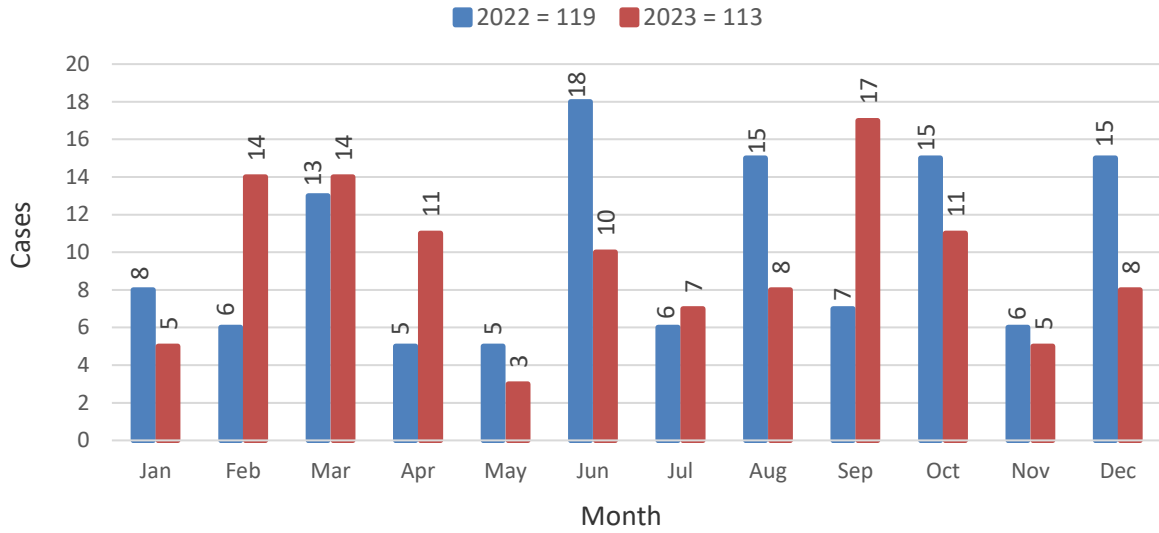
TRACE EVIDENCE UNIT

The Trace Evidence Unit performs analyses on evidence that either contain or produce unique characteristics that provides beneficial information to the investigators of the case. These include analyses in the areas of Fire Debris, Paint, Fibers/Textiles, Tapes and Adhesives, Physical Matches/Fracture Matches, Hair to determine suitability for DNA analysis and the identification of miscellaneous liquids, powders and solids.

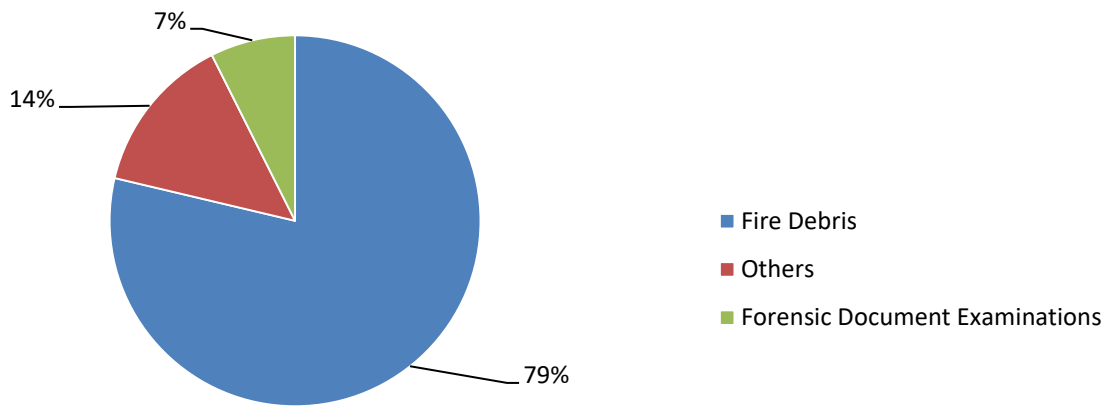
FORENSIC DOCUMENTS UNIT

The Forensic Documents Unit performs analyses and comparisons of handwriting as well as hand-printed and machine-printed materials. This unit also performs examinations of obliterated and indented writing. The MSP-FSD has two Forensic Document examiners within the Unit.

Trace Evidence Section Cases Received per Month



Trace Evidence Section Cases Received by Type of Test

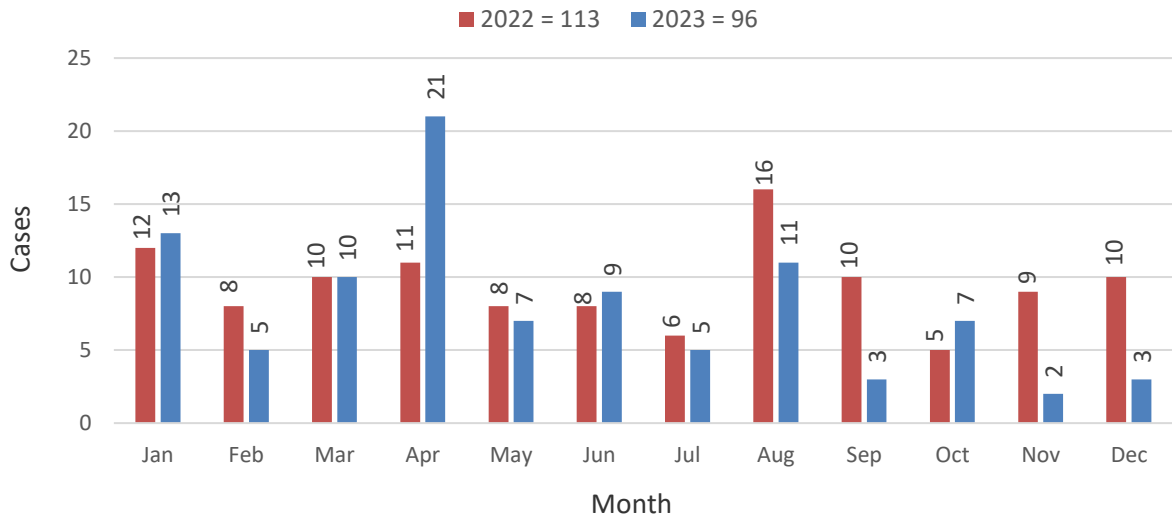


Trace Evidence Section Cases Received per MSP Installation		
Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	5
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	2
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	0
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	0
MSP-Homicide Unit	Statewide	1
MSP -Frederick	Frederick	1
MSP- Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	1
MSP- North East	Cecil	1
OSFM	Statewide	27
	TOTAL	38

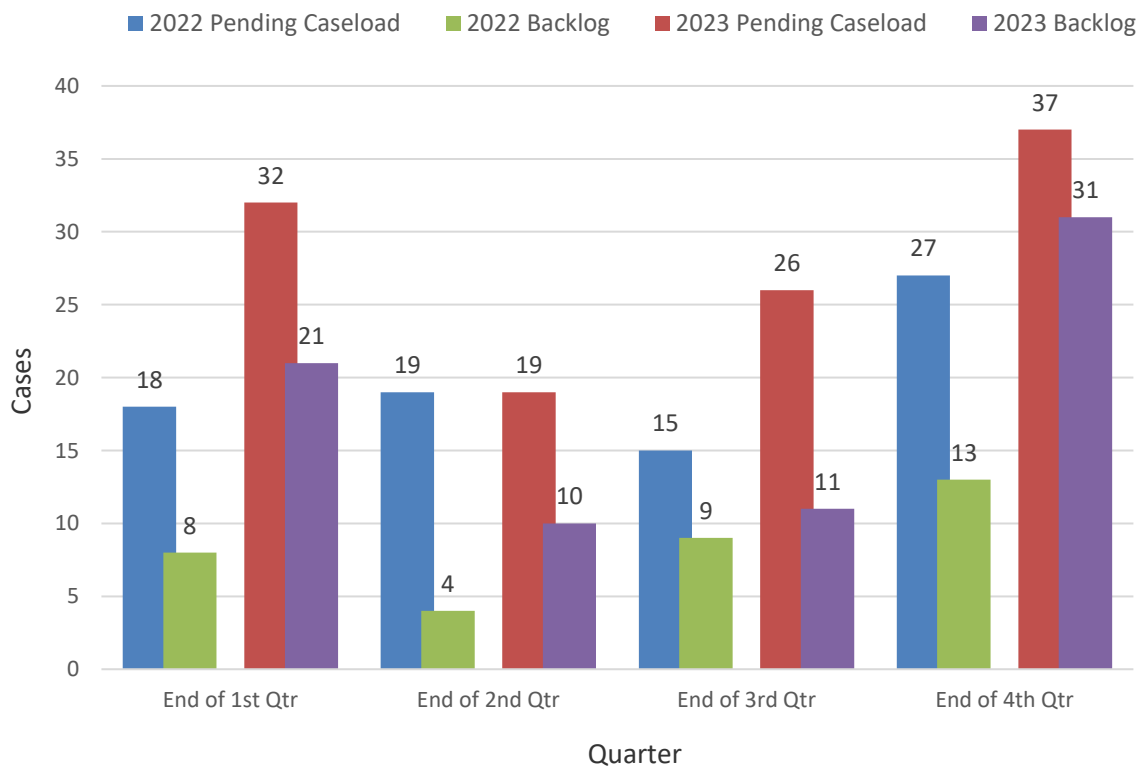
OSFM Cases Received by the Trace Evidence Section per OSFM Region		
Region	Counties Served	Submissions
OSFM – North East	Baltimore, Harford, Cecil	14
OSFM – Lower Shore	Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester	6
OSFM – Western	Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Washington	4
OSFM – Upper Shore	Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot	2
OSFM – Southern	Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's	1
	TOTAL	27

Allied Agency Cases Received by TES per County	
County	Submissions
Anne Arundel	17
Baltimore	17
Baltimore City	11
Montgomery	11
Howard	8
Frederick	3
Charles	2
Kent	2
Worcester	2
Cecil	1
Prince George's	1
Calvert	0
Caroline	0
Carroll	0
Garrett	0
Harford	0
Washington	0
Dorchester	0
St. Mary's	0
Somerset	0
Wicomico	0
Talbot	0
TOTAL	75

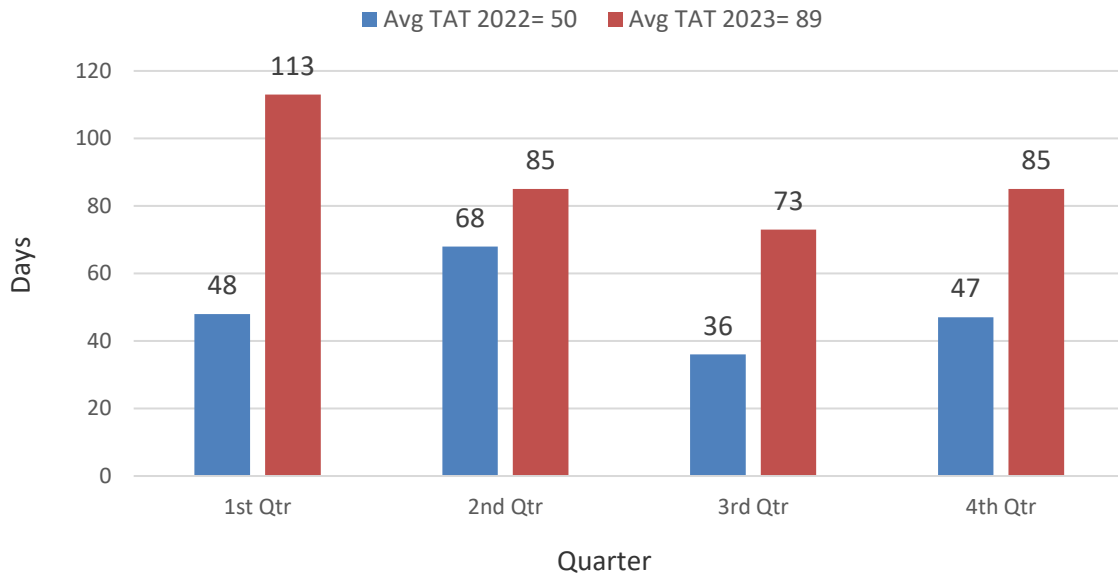
Trace Evidence Section Cases Completed per Month



Trace Evidence Section Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



Trace Evidence Section Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



NOTEWORTHY CASE

In April of 2023, the Trace Evidence Section received a submittal request for a hair examination. This case involved a fatal hit and run that occurred in Worcester County on October 6, 2022. Police responded to a fatal hit and run and determined the deceased subject made contact with the passenger side mirror. Police recovered the vehicle a short time later and were able to collect what appeared to be hair from that side mirror. The hair was submitted to the Trace Evidence Section and was examined. The analyst in the case was able to determine that one hair was human and was suitable for mitochondrial DNA. The analyst also found an animal hair and glass that was submitted with the items. The human hair was sent to DNA for examination. The DNA evidence eventually linked the deceased to the striking vehicle.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Highlighted FSD Teamwork Cases

In April 2023, MSP charged a Delaware man with 23 counts following a felony drug and firearm investigation from October 2022 in Cecil County. In October 2022, Maryland State Police Investigation Section were conducting a crime suppression patrol in Elkton, MD where they observed a group of people playing loud music around a vehicle. When investigators approached the vehicle, the group fled and left the vehicle behind, running. A K9 scan resulted in a positive alert for CDS, which was then discovered to be 222 bags of suspected heroin/fentanyl, 35 grams of cocaine, 32 grams of suspected crack cocaine and 291 grams of suspected crystal meth, along with drug packaging material, digital scales, a loaded glock model 26 9mm semi-automatic pistol with a 15-round extended magazine. Investigators received a NIBIN lead from FSD's Firearms/Toolmarks Unit related to the firearm recovered that was involved in a shooting in New Castle County, DE which led to the arrest of William Ferguson by detectives of New Castle County. DNA samples from Ferguson were sent to MSP FSD's Biology Section for analysis. Additional evidence including latent prints, CDS, firearms, and trace evidence were sent to FSD for analysis. All of FSD's laboratory work resulted in sufficient evidence to charge Ferguson with multiple crimes.

Tramelle Lamar Williams fatally shot two individuals in Cambridge, MD in December 2022. Investigators believe Williams fatally shot 24 year old Taijay Daniels during the course of an armed robbery, and later that night, fatally shot 69 year old Lory Fields. While Williams attempted to break into Fields' car, officers approached him and he then attempted to flee the scene, Williams then displayed a handgun where the Cambridge Police officer then fired their duty-issued firearm in response and struck the suspect. Tramelle was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. FSD's crime scene section responded to both scenes including processing of vehicles, collection of DNA evidence, firearms evidence, latent print evidence, and other items for further examination by the lab. In 2023, the Biology Section received swabs from a key ring and fob which apparently belonged to one of the victims, and swabs from the Glock firearm and magazine Williams had when apprehended. Williams could not be excluded from the DNA significant contributor found on the Glock. The Firearms/Toolmarks Unit examination results were that casings recovered from the scene were consistent with being fired from a firearm recovered from Williams. The Latent Print/Impressions Unit examined 4 latent lift cards with 2 prints of value, 1 of the prints was identified to Tramelle Williams. The trial for Williams was held in December 2023, where the jury reached a verdict and found Williams guilty on all counts, to include Murder - 1st degree and other charges. The jury trial for the murder of Lory Fields is scheduled for 2024.

Special Appointments

Theresa DeAngelo, Quality Assurance/Safety Manager, served as the Chair for the Ethics Subdivision of the American Chemical Society's Division of Professional Relations and also served on Stevenson University's Forensic Advisory Board for 2023.

Mitchell Dinterman, Crime Scene Section Manager, continued to serve on Loyola University's Forensic Studies Advisory Board in 2023.

Michelle Groves, Forensic Scientist Supervisor and CODIS State Administrator, continued to serve on the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee for 2023.

Bruce Heidebrecht, Forensic Scientist Supervisor in the Biology Section, continued to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods, Autosomal STR Interpretation Committee in 2023.

Daniel Katz, Director, was a founding member of the National Association of Forensic Science Boards for 2023. He also is a member of the North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board as well as the ASCLD Membership Resource Committee. Dan also continued to serve on the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee as well as the Maryland Forensic Laboratory Advisory Committee for 2023.

Amy Kelly served on the Mid-Atlantic Cold Case Homicide Investigators Association (MACCHIA) Executive Board in 2023.

Dr. Wanda Kuperus, Deputy Director, continued to serve on Towson University's MSFS Academic Advisory Board and Loyola University's Forensic Studies Advisory Board for 2023.

Argi Magers, Forensic Scientist Manager for the Biology Section, continued to serve on the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee, the Mid-Atlantic Cold Case Homicide Investigators Association (MACCHIA) Executive Board, as well as the FBI Rapid DNA Task Force for 2023.

Amber McConnell, Forensic Scientist Manager for the Chemistry Section, served as a NIST Visiting Scientist for 2023.

Catherine Savage, Forensic Scientist Supervisor in CDS-Pikesville, served as the Chemistry Section Chair and Communications Officer for MAAFS in 2023.

Angela Spessard, Forensic Scientist III in the Biology Section, served on the NIJ/NIST Human Factors Group in 2023.

Promotions

Several MSP-FSD staff members were promoted in 2023. Jessie Fisher was promoted from Forensic Scientist Advanced to Forensic Scientist Supervisor for FATMU and Whitley Abrams was promoted from Forensic Scientist III to Forensic Scientist Supervisor for FATMU. Sara Lee was promoted from Forensic Scientist Advanced to Forensic Scientist Supervisor within the Biology Section. Ying Ren was promoted from Forensic Scientist III to Forensic Scientist Advanced and became the Technical Leader as well as Training Coordinator for the Toxicology Units. Michelle Cataldo and Lauren Wolfe were promoted from Forensic Scientist I to Forensic Scientist II. Crime Scene Technicians Brooke Demby, Deniece Lobban, Nicholas Palmer, and Kenedy Patterson were promoted from CST I to CST II positions. Rita Phillips was promoted from Administrative Specialist II to Administrative Specialist III.

Publication of Scientific Papers

[“Targeted Fentanyl Screening Utilizing Electrochemical Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy \(EC-SERS\) Applied to Authentic Seized Drug Casework Samples”](#) Colby Ott, Amber Burns, Edward Sisco, Luis E. Arroyo, Forensic Chemistry, July 2023(34)100492.

[“Evolving Approaches and Technologies for Seized Drug Analysis.”](#) Jeri Roper-Miller, Danielle McLeod-Henning, Edward Sisco, Amber Burns, et. al. Forensic Laboratory Needs Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG), December 2023.

[“Technical Note Direct Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry \(DART MS\).”](#) J. Tyler Davidson, Edward Sisco, Amber Burns, Forensic Laboratory Needs Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG), December 2023.

Presentations at Regional/National Conferences

In February 2023, Angela Spessard co-presented a workshop at AAFS in Orlando, FL entitled “A First Look at the Draft Recommendations in the Report of the National Institute of Standards and Technology/ National Institute of Justice (NIST/NIJ) Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Forensic DNA Interpretation”.

In May 2023, several FSD staff members presented workshops, posters and talks for the MAAFS Annual Meeting held in Pikesville, MD.

- Theresa DeAngelo co-hosted a workshop with Dr. Kelly Elkins (Towson University) entitled “The Impact of Ethics in Forensic Sciences”.
- Michelle Groves presented “MD CODIS Success: It’s About Time, Cold Case and More”
- Amber McConnell presented during the workshop “Statistical Sampling for Seized-Drug Forensic Analysis” with Jack Prothero and Will Guthrie from NIST and Sandra E. Rodriguez-Cruz from the DEA.
- Ying Ren presented a poster entitled “Relationship between DRE Conclusions (DRE Categories) and Laboratory Results in State of Maryland Cases”

Also in May 2023, Daniel Katz presented a workshop entitled “The Next Phase of Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Establishing Safeguards and Standards - Implementing Legislation” and a presentation during the Plenary Session entitled “The Disconnect Between Accreditation and the OSAC Registry Process” at the ASCLD Annual Symposium in Austin, TX.

In August 2023, several FSD staff members presented at the IAI Annual Conference held in National Harbor, MD.

- Mitch Dinterman presented “The Importance of Pay Parity” during the conference.
- Jeanine Hotchkin and Stephanie Roberg presented information in a talk titled “Validating New Technology: Recover LFT”.

In September 2023, Angela Spessard co-presented a workshop entitled “A Summary of the Recommendations made by the NIST/NIJ Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Forensic DNA Interpretation” at ISHI in Denver, CO.

In October 2023, Theresa DeAngelo presented “So you think you’re ethical? Ethics and forensic science” virtually for the Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE).

In November 2023, Angela Spessard co-presented a workshop “Bias, Error and other Human Factors: Lessons from an Expert Working Group Series on Latent Print Comparison, Handwriting Examination, and Forensic DNA Interpretation” for IAFS in Sydney, Australia.

Commander's Award for Outstanding Performance

Forensic Scientist Advanced Laurel Bobka

Director Katz awarded the FSD Commander's Award in December 2023 to Forensic Scientist Advanced Laurel Bobka. Laurel has excelled in her role as the CDS Section Training Coordinator. In 2023 she oversaw the training of four recent hires. Three of those individuals are now released to perform independent casework and the fourth is not far behind. In addition, she successfully completed her own training on the new DART-MS and LC-MS-MS technologies. By doing so she was able to then lead efforts to train eleven of the chemists in DART-MS as well as three in LC-MS-MS. In large part to Laurel's efforts, the CDS Section finds itself fully staffed and nearly fully trained. Her organizational skills, technical expertise, and commitment to mentorship serves as an example for all of MSP-FSD.



FSD Director Dan Katz with Laurel Hardy

FSD's Civilian of the Year Award

In 2023, Forensic Inventory Control Officer, Tina M. Bankard was nominated by the Forensic Sciences Division as the Agency and Division Employee of the Year. This is due to her courage and resilience in the face of a major health crisis, along with her determination and positivity upon her return to work.

Tina began her journey with the Maryland State Police in January 2016 working as an Administrative Assistant where she was assigned to the front desk of the Forensic Sciences Division Laboratory. In this position she excelled and her cheerfulness and enthusiasm for all tasks was appreciated by all. At a later time in her position, even though she was hired as a subcontractor employee, she was recognized as employee of the month for the Forensic Sciences Division in January 2017. She actively planned and participated in lab events throughout her tenure working at the front desk.

In March of 2019 a contractual Office Secretary III position within the Pikesville lab became available and Tina was hired as a Maryland State Police contractual employee. Her enthusiasm and positivity continued in her new position for 1.5 years. Later in June 2021, the division was hiring for a permanent Forensic Inventory Control Officer position. Tina was interested in this position and soon came on board and was assigned to work in the Central Receiving Unit in Pikesville.

Tina started working in this position when there were major changes in the unit. There were days when it was only Tina and her supervisor working. It was difficult, but Tina put her best foot forward. She completed training and did very well as a Forensic Inventory Control Officer. It is a position that interacts with everyone in the lab and with many external customers. Tina loved the customer service part of her job the most. Cheerful is the word most often used when both internal and external customers described Tina. She endured through the pandemic and continued to learn and grow in her new role.

In early 2023, Tina was diagnosed with late-stage four breast cancer. Despite this devastating diagnosis and life uncertainties that no one should have to face, Tina remained positive. She valiantly battled her cancer throughout the spring and summer. As a newer employee, she did not have the extensive amount of leave that she needed; however when it was communicated among lab staff, this led to an avalanche of donated hours. When she learned that her cancer was in remission, she immediately requested to return to work at the laboratory. Tina returned to work 3 days a week in October of 2023. She increased this to 4 days a week in late November and is now back full-time while maintaining a weekly chemotherapy regimen.

Her work product speaks for itself both before and after her diagnosis. Since her return in October, Tina has completed at least 100 case uploads for attachments. Due to health concerns, Tina could not be in the Central Receiving Unit area while evidence was being brought in, so uploading Chain of Custodies was a task that she easily performed in an office environment. This took a huge burden off of the remaining Forensic Inventory Control Officers in the unit, allowing them to help more customers. Tina began entering cases on November 7, 2023 and has since completed approximately 1,055 case entries into the Laboratory Information

Management System. She started by entering mostly latent print and firearms evidence but as of November 29th, she has ventured into entering Controlled Dangerous Substance cases again. You can find Tina in the back area of her unit, as to try and keep her safer, but Tina is very active and involved in the unit's happenings and is always looking to find a way to improve upon or suggest new ideas. Tina remains in remission as of today while maintaining a weekly chemotherapy regimen

In spite of the challenges Tina faced throughout 2023, she remained dedicated to her job at the Forensic Sciences Division. She worked tirelessly to return work so that she could meet the forensic science needs of Maryland and its citizens. Her presence and attitude helped staff morale and was an example to many of what resiliency looks like. She is an employee that is dedicated to service and does so with integrity and fairness.



MSP Superintendent Colonel Butler with Tina Bankard



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