

Program Summary
Department of Public Safety
Scientific Analysis (Crime Labs)

Program Overview

Administered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the state's Scientific Analysis (Crime Laboratory System) Program aims "to assist the Department, Arizona Criminal Justice Community, and the public in the timely investigation and adjudication of criminal cases by utilizing state-of-the-art analytical techniques; providing the most accurate scientific analysis of evidence; and presenting expert court testimony."

DPS crime labs provide: scientific analysis of evidence, crime scene assistance, secure storage of evidence, training, and expert testimony to all Arizona state, county or municipal criminal justice agencies at no charge per the DPS enabling statutes, ARS § 41-1712 and § 41-1771. DPS scientific and technical analysis services and their respective percentage of total cases in FY 2007 are provided in the following areas:

- Blood alcohol analysis (18.9%)
- Toxicology drug analysis (23.7%)
- Controlled substance analysis (34.3%)
- Latent print examinations (11.2%)
- Biology/DNA profiling (8.5%)
- Firearms/Trace evidence analysis (3.1%)
- Questioned document examinations (0.3%)

Currently, DPS operates and maintains 4 crime labs throughout the state including: the Central Regional Crime Lab - Phoenix, the Southern Regional Crime Lab-Tucson, the Northern Regional Crime-Flagstaff, and the Western Regional Crime Lab-Lake Havasu City. In FY 2009, DPS plans to open a new crime lab in Tucson that will replace the existing Southern Regional Crime Lab.

Services provided at each of the 4 crime labs vary due to size and available resources; however, each region has access to services offered by the 3 other crime labs in the state. In total, there are approximately 295 different agencies receiving the services provided by DPS' crime labs. The percentages of all agencies served are grouped into the following categories:

- Municipalities (45.8%)
- Counties (24.1%)
- Federal and Native American (3.2%)
- State (26.9%)

DPS' crime labs received accreditation in 1982 by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) and have since maintained that status through the society's reaccreditation process. This accreditation was achieved by successfully meeting and maintaining the various standards set forth by ASCLD/LAB in the following major areas:

- Laboratory Management
- Scientific Achievement and Instrumentation
- Personnel Qualifications/Scientific Expertise
- Laboratory Facilities

The next 5-year comprehensive reaccreditation inspections are anticipated to occur in February 2008. In addition to DPS' 4 accredited crime labs, the cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Tucson, and Scottsdale also operate accredited crime labs. However, DPS provides a number of services to these laboratories, such as analyzing evidence where the city crime lab does not have the necessary forensic science expertise.

Additional DPS crime lab operations include maintaining the state DNA database. Currently all convicted offenders (currently 173,000 samples plus approximately 35,000 additional per year) are placed in the database. However, beginning January 1, 2008, Laws 2007, Chapter 261 expands the database to include those arrested for certain violent crimes. This will add an estimated 12,500 samples per year or a total of 47,500 new DNA profiles each year. This database allows crime scene DNA profiles analyzed by DPS or a city crime lab to be used to identify previously unknown serial rapists, murderers, etc.

Program Funding

The Scientific Analysis Program receives funding from 6 appropriated funding sources and 5 non-appropriated funds. The appropriated funding sources include the General Fund (GF), Crime Lab Assessment Fund (CLAF), DNA Fund (DNA), Highway Patrol Fund (HPF), Parity Compensation Fund (PCF), and the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF).

Since FY 2000, monies appropriated to the crime lab system has increased 153.6%. This increase includes approximately \$5,750,100 from the DNA Fund to fund the DNA database. The program was implemented in FY 2005 and has since been the

responsibility of the DPS Crime Lab. As noted above, this program expands to include additional felony arrestees January 1, 2008; and, as a result, DPS received an additional \$1,980,000 from the DNA Fund in FY 2008 to handle an estimated 12,500 new DNA tests each year. An additional cumulative \$13,424,000 has been advance appropriated through FY 2012 to fund operating costs and expanded testing provisions to accommodate the caseload growth (FY 2009: \$2,980,000; FY 2010: 3,484,000; FY 2011: \$3,440,000; and FY 2012: 3,520,000). Included in this funding is \$2,000,000 to construct a parking garage needed due to lab expansion and current limited parking availability at the nearby DPS headquarters.

Due to a recent lawsuit settlement, \$17,700,000 has been distributed to DPS' non-appropriated Anti-Racketeering Fund for the construction of a new 40,000 square foot Southern Regional Crime lab in Tucson. This project has completed the design phase and DPS plans to award a contract for construction in fall 2007. The facility is expected to be open in FY 2009 and will replace the smaller, outdated existing crime lab in Tucson. The new facility will accommodate additional staff and will be able to provide new testing services for the rapidly growing caseload.

In FY 2008, the program's appropriated expenditures are estimated to be \$18,705,400, 25% (or \$3,745,800) above FY 2007 levels. *Table 1* includes actual FY 2000 expenditures and FY 2007 and FY 2008 appropriations by fund source.

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>
GF	\$2,455,400	\$ 3,632,300	\$ 3,782,300
CLAF	3,950,500	5,282,400	5,881,400
DNA	411,900	2,753,300	5,750,100
HPF	3,100	566,900	700,000
PCF	--	44,100	44,100
CJEF	<u>548,300</u>	<u>2,680,600</u>	<u>2,680,600</u>
Total-Appropriated	\$7,369,200	\$14,959,600	\$18,838,500
Non-Appropriated ^{1/}	<u>1,060,400</u>	<u>2,762,500</u>	<u>3,163,200</u>
Total- All Sources	\$8,429,600	\$17,722,100	\$22,001,700

^{1/} The FY 2008 non-appropriated funds total does not include the \$17.7 million in settlement monies received for the new crime lab in Tucson since this is a multi-year project.

Crime Lab Assessment Fund

In FY 2008, DPS is appropriated \$5,881,400 from the CLAF. Of this amount, the CLAF receives \$1,125,300 from 2.3% of the revenues deposited into the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (which receives its monies from a surcharge on court-ordered fines). The remaining \$4,756,100 is due to the continuation of a session law which supplements the

CLAF with 9% of CJEF revenues that would have otherwise been deposited into the General Fund.

A.R.S. § 41-2415 requires the \$1,125,300 from the 2.3% portion of CLAF be shared amongst DPS and 4 other local law enforcement agencies in the following fashion: DPS - 55% (or \$618,900); Phoenix Police Department - 22% (or \$247,600); Tucson Police Department - 12% (or \$135,000); Mesa Police Department - 7% (or \$78,800); and the Scottsdale Police Department - 4% (or \$45,000). In total, \$506,400 will be disbursed to local law enforcement agencies.

Caseload and Staffing

In recent years, the department has experienced a significant increase in the number of cases submitted for analysis. *Table 2* indicates the number of cases submitted for analysis by regional crime lab and *Table 3* shows the number of cases submitted by type of analysis for fiscal years 2000, 2006, and 2007. From FY 2000 to FY 2007, total submissions have grown from 29,425 to 52,026, an increase of 76.8%. From FY 2000 to FY 2006, the annual increase in submissions ranged from 4.8% to 13.8% and in FY 2007 the increase was 5.1%.

<u>Crime Lab</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>
Central	20,243	25,971	28,806
Southern	3,461	12,911	13,142
Northern	3,760	6,712	6,131
Western	<u>1,961</u>	<u>3,925</u>	<u>3,947</u>
Total	29,425	49,519	52,026

<u>Crime Lab</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>
Drugs	12,617	16,619	17,791
Toxicology-Alcohol	5,630	10,110	9,797
Toxicology-Drugs	4,786	11,487	12,255
Blood/DNA	2,194	4,365	4,435
Latent Prints	3,044	5,411	5,844
Firearms/Trace			
Evidence	969	1,380	1,729
Questioned			
Documents	<u>185</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>175</u>
Total	29,425	49,519	52,026

Since FY 2000, the majority of the growth the department has experienced is due to 2 factors. The number of submissions to the Southern Regional Crime Lab has almost quadrupled and there has also been a major increase in Toxicology Drug Cases.

Submissions of cases for Blood/DNA have grown 102.1% as DNA results are being demanded by the

public, prosecutors, and courts to solve violent crimes. Also, submissions for Toxicology Drugs (primarily DUI cases) have grown 156.1% as the state continues to toughen its DUI laws and the Supreme Court has made expedited DUI processing a top priority.

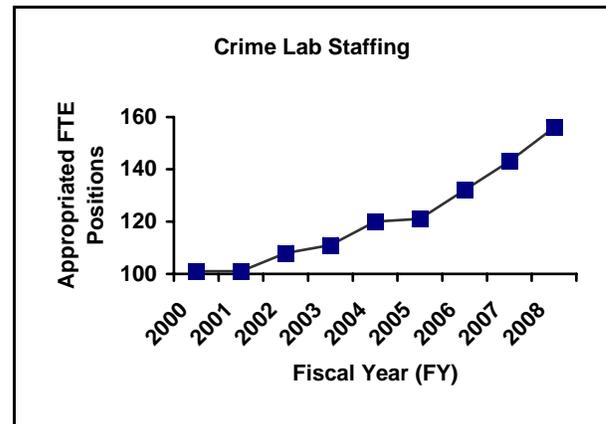
From FY 2000 to FY 2008, the number of appropriated positions allocated to the crime lab has increased by 56 positions (or 55.4%). In FY 2008, DPS was appropriated \$1,219,500 (\$437,000 from the Crime Lab Assessment Fund and \$782,500 from the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund) to fund an additional 13 FTE Positions to address the growth in crime lab cases submitted to the department.

Aside from receiving additional personnel to address the increased number of cases submitted for analysis, the department accepted the responsibility of Blood Alcohol Regulation from the Department of Health Services in FY 2006. This transfer resulted in 1 additional FTE Position to the DPS crime lab system. In FY 2004, 9 additional FTE Positions were added due to the establishment of a convicted felons DNA program. When excluding these additional positions appropriated to address new programs (Blood Alcohol Regulation and the DNA database), the department received an additional 46 FTE Positions (a 45.5% increase over FY 2000 levels), to address the growth in cases submitted for analysis. The chart titled *Crime Lab Staffing* indicates the program's total number of appropriated FTE Positions since FY 2000.

Performance Measures

Table 4 includes the performance measures DPS maintains to assess the Scientific Analysis Program. These figures reflect the performance of the entire program rather than the performance of each individual crime lab.

The FY 2008 General Appropriation Act includes only 1 crime lab related measure titled "Percent of crime lab cases over 30 days old." In FY 2007, 3.6% of cases submitted to the DPS crime lab system were in excess of 30 days old. This translates into approximately 1,873 cases. However, this amount does not include cases not processed in prior years. While knowing the quantity or percentage of cases in excess of 30 days old is helpful, it does not correspond to deficiencies within the program, given the time to complete the examination varies substantially depending on the type of analysis being done (toxicology, controlled substance, latent print, biology and serology, DNA profiling and STRs, trace evidence and questioned document). As a result, it may be useful to track case backlogs by the type of case as well as the average time to complete each type of case. This information would address issues related to staffing and caseloads as well as where existing and additional resources would be most efficiently utilized.



<u>Performance Measure</u>	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Scientific analysis cases	45,916	49,519	52,026	59,919
Percent of crime lab cases over 30 days old	6.2%	6.2%	3.6%	4%
Number of new positions added each year	0	11	11	13
Percent of obsolete scientific equipment replaced	17.5%	28.8%	29%	20%
Percent of scientific analysis employees receiving 1 training session	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of scientific analysis employees receiving 2 training sessions	50%	54%	70.8%	75%
Presentations given per regional crime laboratory	8	8	8	8