

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION

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2024 FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION TEAM MEMBERS

Matt Abbott	Danielle Goodnow	Jennifer Lewis	Cathy Savage
Shelly Adams	Laura Gossard	Michelle Lewis	Liz Schneider
Whitley Abrams	Michelle Groves	Deniece Lobban	Adonia Sedore
Kris Amspacker	Amy Hager	Ross Lowe	Kelly Sexton
Jose Ayala	Arnetta Haith	Roshell Mack	Rebecca Shembari
Tina Bankard	Sadhana Harry	Dana Mack-Marcus	Wayne Shu
Tanya Baker	Melissa Harvey	Argi Magers	Ed Sisco
Estoria Bantner	Bruce Heidebrecht	Alex Mankevich	Joshua Smith
Heather Baxivanos	Debbie Heller	Amber McConnell	Tiffany Smith
Kevin Beardsley	Jeanine Hotchkin	Corrie Mellott	Barbara Solomon
Laura Beck	Alicia Houser	C.R. Miller	Angie Spessard
Jason Befus	David Iden	Delroy Miller	Darby Stemple
Delaney Berryman	Linda Idso	Jamie Miller	Katelyn Stringfellow
Jim Betts	Ikenna Ikpeama	Shawn Miller	Zach Suber
Laurel Bobka	Maggie Iman	Gary Moore	Bruce Tanner
Megan Buck	Valerie Imschweiler	Leslie Mounkes	Dawn Trusty
Tristan Buckley	Jenn Jeudy	Haley Mulder	Natalie Wasicko
Jessica Bullis	Andy Johnson	Jaimie Myer	Laura Waters
Kathy Busch	Sashi Kambhampati	Noelle Neff	Lyndon Watkins
Myrna Canales	Dan Katz	Nicholas Palmer	Rosalie Weimer
Michelle Cataldo	Tiffany Keener	Jim Patrick	Brooke Welsh
Habibah Cisse	Amy Kelly	Kenedy Patterson	Michael Whitmore
Theresa DeAngelo	Julie Kempton	Madison Pennington	Demonte Williams
Brooke Demby	Susan Kim	Rita Phillips	Heath Wilkins
Mitch Dinterman	Angela Kortchak	Kaya Powell	Stacey Wise
Lindsey Domonoski	Wanda Kuperus	Ying Ren	Lauren Wolfe
Jason Dry	Subha Kuriakose	Theia Rene	Sam Woods
Tony Edoga	Stephanie Laufert	Tristan Rice	Annie Wright
Jessie Fisher	Diane Lawder	Pat Rogers	Carol Young
Sierra Fleegle	Nicholas Lawrence	Richard Russell	Keffene Zeleke
Christina Fraling	La Juan Lee	Stephanie Roberg	
Patricia Frantz	Sara Lee	Stephanie Roe	
Matthew Franzman	Taylor Lentz	Caitlin Roy	
Alla Frenkil	Rebecca Levine	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 Forensic Document Examination. 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 three laboratories in 2024 located in Pikesville, Hagerstown, 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 Section, 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 Section. 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 2024 Maryland State Police - Forensic Sciences Division (MSP-FSD) Annual Report. As you read this report, I hope it will become clear to you that we have a very special group of people here, doing some very noteworthy work. It is easy to gloss through it and think that this looks a lot like last year's report and not give it the thorough read it deserves, but I strongly encourage you to dive into the details. While we do keep the format similar every year for consistency's sake, the data and commentary tell the story of our operation at a specific point in time in light of a distinct set of ever-changing circumstances. Furthermore, to truly appreciate the contents of this report, it is important to remember that each of the statistics within this report represent a unique case that is being processed in an effort to find the truth behind a crime that has impacted the real lives of Maryland citizens. MSP-FSD embraces this notion that every case is important in its own right and deserves to be treated with the same sense of urgency and commitment to quality. Moreover, we are dedicated to cultivating a culture of constant improvement and never resting on our laurels.

In line with that commitment to constant improvement, several long-term projects came to fruition this past year that will have lasting benefits on MSP-FSD operations. For instance, 2024 saw us bring on STRmix software in the Biology Section and Ballistics IQ automated triaging technology in the Crime Scene Section. STRmix will transform our ability to analyze and interpret DNA mixtures resulting in our customers receiving reports that are able to provide more information about a mixture than previously possible. Ballistics IQ is a system that has been deployed to the MSP crime scene offices located throughout Maryland so that fired cartridge cases recovered from crime scenes can be triaged in the field rather than at the laboratory; in turn, expediting the process of determining how many firearms were involved in a crime and which fired cartridge cases are best for entry into the NIBIN database.

Also, the end of 2024 saw the culmination of a new laboratory in Berlin, a new Toxicology laboratory in Hagerstown, and renovations in Pikesville that will right size the facility to ensure we make the most of our space. As a result, we are able to expand new services to Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, establish redundancy of Toxicology operations, and provide options for housing additional staff needed to reduce our dependence on DNA outsourcing.

Another undertaking that was achieved in 2024 was in regard to fulfilling the pursuit of non-traditional staffing solutions. This included the hiring of contractual employees to offset bottlenecks caused by administrative demands on the laboratory and management staff; the expansion of our allied forensic scientist program that allows counties to pay for their own scientist to work at our lab; and the conversion of a participant in the Governor's service year option program to a temporary employee.

Unfortunately, 2024 also saw the loss of our long-time Assistant Commander Lt. Laura Beck due to reassignment. Lt. Beck was an integral part of the MSP-FSD Top Management Team for nine years and was heavily relied upon. While an organizational restructuring of MSP-FSD will be necessary in 2025 to account for Lt. Beck's many duties, the situation also presents a unique opportunity to establish a more efficient and productive infrastructure. Among the forthcoming changes is breaking apart the existing Pattern Evidence Section into a Latent Prints/Impressions Section and a Firearms/Toolmarks Section, creating a second Biology Section to better support the DNA Casework and DNA Database operations, aligning the Latent Prints and Biology Sections to create a focused human identification operation, aligning the Crime Scene and Firearms Sections to optimize the Ballistics IQ and NIBIN workflows, and establishing a Forensic Intelligence officer to better facilitate the use of our work products in the solving of active investigations.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for all of the MSP-FSD staff members who continue to show great resilience and work ethic no matter the challenges they face. They are truly remarkable people. I would also like to sincerely thank Lt. Beck for her many contributions to MSP-FSD over the years, but perhaps even more for her guidance, support and friendship. You will be missed LB, but rest assured that MSP-FSD will carry on and continue to succeed like we always have and always will!

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Activity Summary - Field and Evidence Services Branch				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Crime Scene Section				
Crime Scenes Processed	676	678	673	754
Photography Unit				
Special Assignments	177	239	229	202
VeriPic Requests Processed	773	816	545	489
Color Prints	2,884	4,188	4,249	2,307
ID Cards	594	865	739	702
Central Receiving Unit				
CDS cases submitted for destruction	9,390	7,881	7,896	3,859
Forensic Cases Received	11,813	10,757	10,071	9,748

Activity Summary – Laboratory Services Branch				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Latent Prints/Impressions				
Cases Received	916	824	923	707
Cases Completed	984	717	903	752
MAFIS Latent Hits	368	308	584	447
Case Uploads to MAFIS	441	326	443	391
Latent Print Uploads to MAFIS	1,248	907	1,754	1,332
Firearms/Toolmarks				
Cases Received	1,291	1,233	1,114	871
Cases Completed	1,163	1,086	1,039	1,162
Number of Firearms for Handgun Roster Board	92	79	82	77
Exhibit Uploads to NIBIN	1,169	1,075	969	1,215
Number of NIBIN Leads Generated	263	205	226	342
Number of NIBIN Hits Confirmed	11	12	12	17
Operation Test Shot Samples Completed	1,151	752	729	531
Walk-In Test Fires (# of Firearms)	22	85	72	57
CDS				
Cases Received in Pikesville	3,207	2,764	2,705	3,152
Cases Received in Berlin	1,166	1,012	839	906
Cases Received in Hagerstown	1,956	1,335	1,247	800
Subtotal Cases Received	6,329	5,111	4,791	4,858
Cases Received by Allied Forensic Scientists ¹	1,792	1,722	1,206	1,437
Total Cases Received	8,121	6,833	5,997	6,295
Cases Completed in Pikesville	3,278	2,980	2,721	2,869
Cases Completed in Berlin	1,088	1,095	992	938
Cases Completed in Hagerstown	1,517	1,732	1,421	788
Subtotal Cases Completed	5,883	5,807	5,134	4,595
Cases Completed by Allied Forensic Scientists ¹	1,665	1,923	1,286	1,306
Total Cases Completed	7,548	7,730	6,420	5,901
Toxicology				
Blood Alcohol Cases Received	693	547	559	445
Blood Drug Cases Received	566	355	388	316
Total Cases Received	1,259	902	947	761
Blood Alcohol Cases Completed	713	608	598	470
Blood Drug Cases Completed	481	576	402	326
Total Cases Completed	1,194	1,184	1,000	796
Biology				
Submitted Cases Received	652	636	607	557
Directly Outsourced Cases Received	281	210	370	360
Total Cases Received	933	846	977	917
Submitted Cases Completed	613	651	511	498
Directly Outsourced Cases Completed	261	212	305	385
Total Cases Completed	874	864	816	883
Maryland Case CODIS Hits	1,170	1,107	1,279	1,376
Arrested/Charged CODIS Hits	141	137	449	475
Convicted Offender Uploads to CODIS	2,655	3,462	3,767	4,375
Arrested/Charged Uploads to CODIS	3,374	3,380	3,566	3,734
Case Uploads to CODIS	1,284	1,250	1,434	1,726

Activity Summary – Laboratory Services Branch				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Trace Evidence				
Cases Received	138	111	105	110
Cases Completed	137	102	88	105
Question Documents				
Cases Received	14	8	8	7
Cases Completed	16	11	8	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 Received ²		Cases Completed	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Latent Prints/Impressions	923	707	903	752
Firearms/Toolmarks	1,114	871	1,039	1,162
CDS-Pikesville	2,705	3,152	2,721	2,869
CDS-Berlin	839	906	992	938
CDS-Hagerstown	1,247	800	1,421	788
CDS-Allied ¹	1,206	1,437	1,286	1,306
Toxicology	947	761	1,000	796
Biology- Submitted	607	557	511	498
Biology- Direct Outsourcing	370	360	305	385
Trace Evidence	105	110	88	105
Questioned Documents	8	7	8	8
Totals	10,071	9,668	10,274	9,607

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	2024 Turn Around Time (Calendar Days) ²	4th Quarter Turn Around Time (Calendar Days) ³
Latent Prints/Impressions	120	85	49	49
Firearms/Toolmarks	425	342	188	198
CDS-Pikesville	333	180	33	32
CDS-Berlin	35	4	18	14
CDS-Hagerstown	90	55	39	49
CDS-Allied	48	9	45	68
Toxicology	112	56	93	121
Biology-Submitted	336	308	167	306
Biology-Directly Outsourced	145	121	133	140
Trace Evidence	49	42	132	145
Question Documents	2	2	59	0
Totals	1,695	1,204	87*	102*

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	2023			2024		
	Cases Submitted to Lab	Crime Scenes	Total	Cases Submitted to Lab	Crime Scenes	Total
Cecil	795	74	869	955	100	1055
Wicomico	798	66	864	869	73	942
Frederick	785	28	813	794	23	817
Harford	636	22	658	665	22	687
Allegany	605	43	648	623	58	681
Carroll	529	49	578	592	49	641
St. Mary's	600	16	616	495	10	505
Worcester	520	15	535	477	11	488
Charles	573	7	580	472	12	484
Calvert	318	7	325	419	7	426
Anne Arundel	589	35	624	403	36	439
Washington	450	66	516	397	20	417
Baltimore	280	39	319	328	39	367
Dorchester	298	17	315	316	16	332
Howard	211	9	220	264	16	280
Caroline	192	22	214	244	6	250
Baltimore City	279	51	330	242	26	268
Queen Anne's	234	13	247	230	28	258
Prince George's	238	32	270	228	64	292
Somerset	150	32	182	168	37	205
Talbot	228	58	286	148	61	209
Garrett	191	5	196	130	6	136
Montgomery	156	14	170	122	22	144
Kent	84	3	87	118	8	126
Statewide/Not Determined**	12	0	12	48	0	48
Out of State	3	0	3	1	4	5
Totals	9,754	723	10,477	9,748	754	10,502

*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*			
2024 Rank	2023 Rank	MSP Installation	Counties Served
1	1	MSP-CED	Statewide
2	2	MSP-Cumberland	Allegany
3	3	MSP-Easton	Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
4	11	MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore
5	4	MSP-North East	Cecil
6	9	MSP-Hagerstown	Washington
7	7	MSP-Frederick	Frederick
8	6	MSP-Centreville	Kent, Queen Anne's
9	13	MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico
10	12	MSP-Westminster	Carroll
11	10	MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel
12	14	MSP-College Park	Prince George's
13	5	MSP-Bel Air	Harford
14	18	MSP-Waterloo	Howard
15	8	MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's
16	24	MSP- JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore
17	23	Office of State Fire Marshal	Statewide
18	20	MSP-Forestville	Prince George's
19	26	MSP-Homicide	Statewide
20	22	MSP-McHenry	Garrett
21	19	MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert
22	16	MSP-Berlin	Worcester
23	21	MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset
24	25	MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel
25	15	MSP-Rockville	Montgomery
26	17	MSP-La Plata	Charles
27	27	MSP-C3I	Allegany
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*		
2024 Rank	2023 Rank	County
1	2	Cecil
2	3	Frederick
3	1	Wicomico
4	4	Harford
5	9	Carroll
6	8	Charles
7	10	Worcester
8	6	St. Mary's
9	12	Calvert
10	7	Anne Arundel
11	5	Allegany
12	11	Washington
13	13	Dorchester
14	15	Baltimore City
15	18	Howard
16	17	Queen Anne's
17	14	Baltimore
18	19	Talbot
19	20	Caroline
20	23	Somerset
21	21	Garrett
22	24	Kent
23	16	Prince George's
24	22	Montgomery
25	26	Statewide/Not Determined*
26	25	Out of State

*This does not include Crime Scene Submissions

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

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

The Administrative Services Section provides support throughout the MSP-FSD. The staff within the branch provide office management functions including recruiting for civilian vacancies, coordinating expungement efforts, 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 Section 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/reception 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 scenes and all crime scene evidence to include; identifying, collecting, preserving, photographing, sketching, as well as facial composite generation and transporting evidence to and from the laboratory facilities. In an effort to better assist investigators, the Section has recently added four specialized Units to the Section to perform more advanced analyses to include; the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Unit, the Bullet Trajectory Analysis Unit, and the Shoe Print and Tire Track Classification Unit. 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 (Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern 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.

The CSS is also tasked with aiding with all Independent Investigation Division (IID) cases. Under the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, the IID is charged with investigating all alleged or potential police-involved deaths of civilians. CSTs respond to these scenes and are responsible for processing these scenes as well as the evidence from these scenes.

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 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 2024. These evaluations were consistently highly rated and praised CSS personnel for their exemplary service and performance. It should be noted that the CSS handled 12% more cases in 2024 in comparison to previous years.

In 2024, the CSS also conducted a thorough evaluation and validation of the Ballistics IQ System (BIQ), a new triaging system for firearms cartridge cases. Immediately following an incident, BIQ has the capability to initiate the analysis of evidentiary cartridge cases by a CST prior to submission of evidence to the FSD Firearms/Toolmarks Unit (FATMU). This system will be implemented for casework in 2025.

CRIME SCENE SPECIALIZED UNITS

- **Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Unit**- the examination of bloodstains in order to determine the physical events that occurred during a crime.
- **Bullet Trajectory Analysis Unit**- the examination of bullet strikes at a scene in order to determine the physical events that occurred during a crime
- **Shoe Print and Tire Track Classification Unit**- the examination of characteristics from shoe print and tire track evidence to determine shoe and tire classifications

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

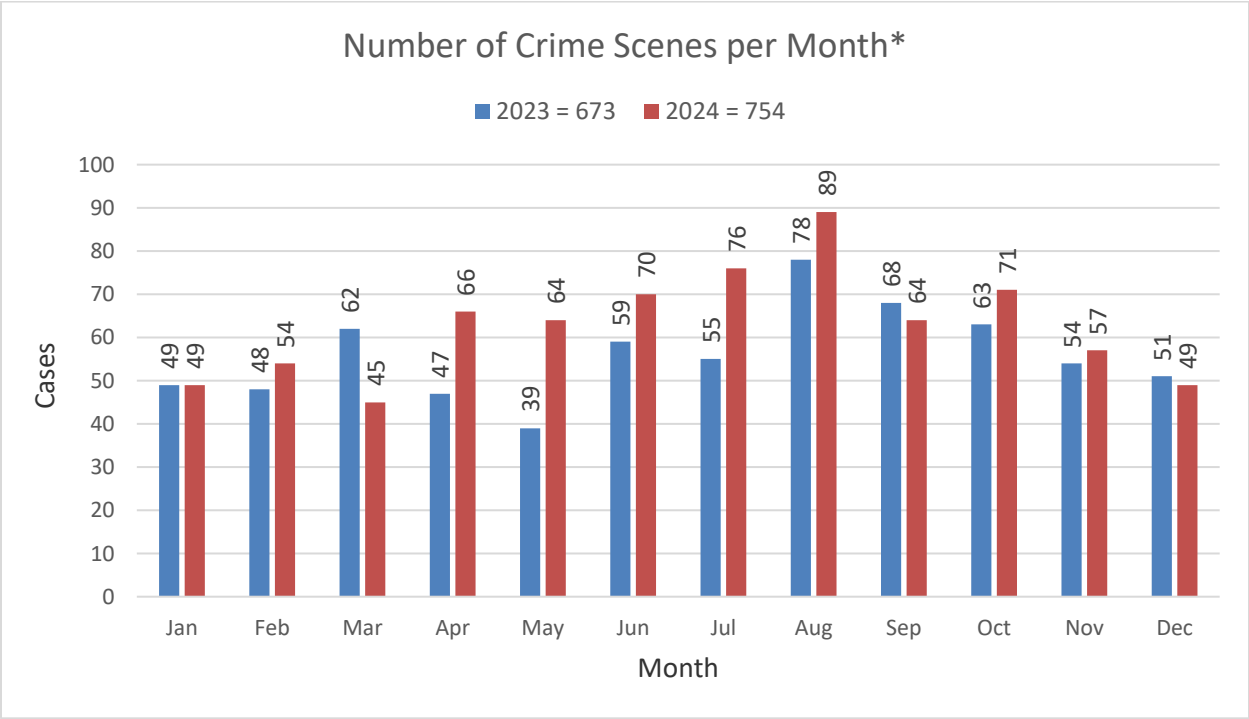
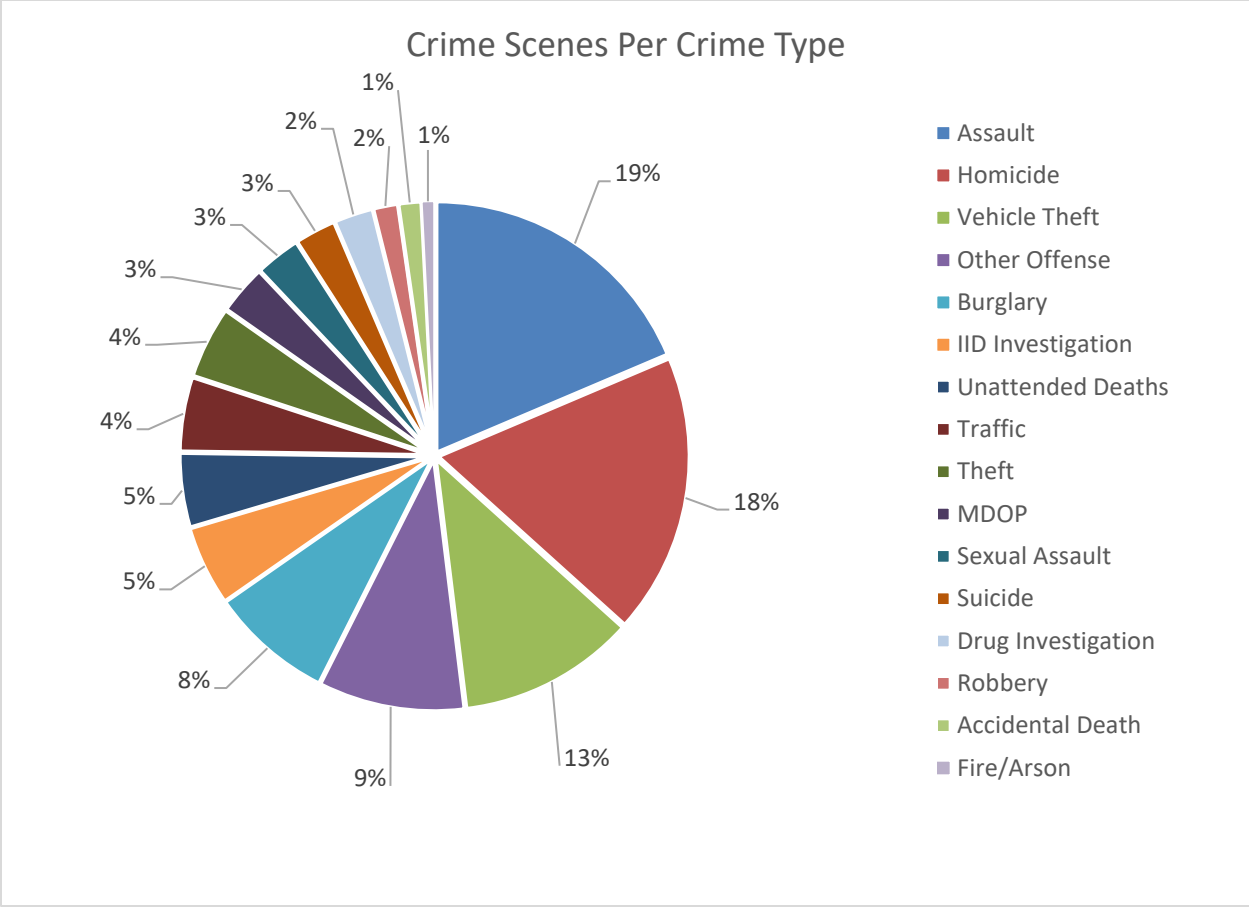
Crime Scenes Processed*		
Crime Scene Region	2023	2024
Northern	195	204
Southern	111	152
Eastern	226	241
Western	141	157
Totals	673	754

*Does not include Scene Assists or Out of State Crime Scenes

Crime Scene Summary				
Agency	2023		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
MSP Scenes	413	61%	502	67%
Allied Agency Scenes	260	39%	252	33%
Total	673	100%	754	100%
Scene Assists	50	N/A	38	N/A

Total Number of Crime Scenes Processed per County*	
County	Total Crime Scenes
Cecil	100
Wicomico	73
Prince George's	64
Talbot	61
Allegany	58
Carroll	49
Baltimore	39
Somerset	37
Anne Arundel	36
Queen Anne's	28
Baltimore City	26
Frederick	23
Harford	22
Montgomery	22
Washington	20
Dorchester	16
Howard	16
Charles	12
Worcester	11
Saint Mary's	10
Kent	8
Calvert	7
Caroline	6
Garrett	6
Out of State	4
TOTAL	754

*Does not includes Scene Assists



*Does not include Scene Assists

NOTEWORTHY CASES

Western Region

On July 6, 2024, a CST responded to the scene of a residential burglary in Westernport, MD. According to Allegany County Deputies on scene, the residence had been repeatedly burglarized in recent weeks. The Crime Scene Technician identified a suspected point of entry to the residence on a first story window. Several items of evidence were collected from the residence to include latent print lifts. One latent lift from the suspected point of entry window led to an identification and generated a suspect for the investigation.

On September 20, 2024 a CST processed evidence collected from a burglary at a sunshade manufacturer's warehouse in Hampstead, MD, to include five copper sheets and bolt cutters. On September 25, 2024 the evidence was processed utilizing the superglue chamber, and latent prints were observed on the copper sheets. The latent prints were dusted with black powder and collected on a latent lift card and turned into the Latent Print Unit in Hagerstown. The prints collected resulted in the identification of a suspect.

Northern Region

On March 24, 2024, Troopers were dispatched to a fatal Hit and Run Fatal at Jacob Tome Memorial Highway. Witnesses observed a male subject driving a white Toyota Camry with PA tags leaving the scene and followed them to a residence in Port Deposit, MD. On March 28, 2024, a CST was requested by Crash Team to meet them at that residence where the white Toyota Camry was located. She photographed the vehicle and processed it for the presence of latent prints and suspected DNA. Thirteen latent lifts were obtained from the vehicle and items within the car. On June 27, 2024, latent print identifications were made to two different individuals.

On May 17, 2024, a CST responded to the Maryland State Police North East Barrack in reference to a recovered stolen vehicle that was left at the scene of an accident. At that time, the CST processed the vehicle for latent prints and possible DNA. During the latent print processing, the CST was able to obtain latent prints from the driver door, rear driver door, rear hatch, rear passenger side door, and front passenger door. The lifted prints were submitted and a suspect was identified.

On July 8th, 2024, a shooting took place in Baltimore City. A CST was notified by Maryland Transit Administration that they needed a crime scene technician to respond to Rogers Metro Station to process the scene. Upon processing the crime scene, the CST located one cartridge case and suspected blood on the ground. A bike was also located on scene near where the shooting took place. The cartridge case and suspected blood were collected. The bike was processed for possible latent prints and DNA. Latent prints were recovered and submitted to the MSP FSD Latent Print Unit. The latent print that was lifted from the "top bar of bike" was a match to one of the listed juvenile suspects for the case.

On July 29, 2024, a CST responded to the Maryland State Police North East Barrack in reference to two burglary cases where a stolen vehicle was utilized during the crimes. At that time, the

CST processed the vehicle for latent prints and possible DNA. During the latent print processing, the CST was able to obtain latent prints from the front passenger door, rear hatch, driver door, front passenger seatbelt, driver seatbelt, steering wheel, and gear shift. The collected latent print lifts resulted in the identification of a possible suspect.

On August 13, 2024, two CSTs responded to a road rage incident that occurred on I-95 in Howard County. One CST responded to the crime scene to process the victim's vehicle that was struck by projectiles. A projectile and fragments were recovered. The second CST responded to the suspect's residence to process his home and vehicle. A firearm with ammunition was recovered along with other magazines, ammunition and orange shirts that matched the victim's description of the suspect during the incident. The CST also collected gunshot residue (GSR) from the headliner and around the driver's door window opening. On January 28, 2025, in Circuit Court in Howard County this case went to trial. The GSR evidence was submitted to a private lab for analysis, which resulted in the positive presence of gunshot residue. At the conclusion of the trial the suspect was found guilty of numerous offenses. This is the second road rage case in this region that had positive results for gunshot residue.

On August 23, 2024 a CST responded to Baltimore City Police Department Southern Precinct in reference to a recovered stolen vehicle for the Sykesville Police Department. Upon processing the vehicle several latent fingerprints were collected. Those fingerprints were submitted to the Maryland State Police Latent Print Unit in Hagerstown Maryland and a suspect was subsequently identified.

On September 9, 2024 a CST arrived at a shooting scene in Elkton. An MSP Trooper advised two individuals were walking north on E Village Road when a dark colored sedan pulled out of a turnaround area and proceeded to shoot at the two victims. Both victims were hit and then a second vehicle approached both victims and loaded them into her vehicle and transported them to the hospital. While on scene the CST collected one cartridge casing and one deformed projectile. This evidence was submitted to FSD for additional testing. Through further investigation, the Trooper was able to develop a suspect. The firearms evidence came back as a NIBIN hit and linked the gun used in this case to a firearms violation in Cecil County and an assault in Petersburg, Virginia.

On November 5, 2024, a CST responded to process a vehicle related to a death investigation from a possible overdose/vehicle crash being investigated by the Elkton Police Department in Cecil County. Family members stated that they thought the victim might have been stabbed before the crash. Upon the CST's arrival to Elkton PD, she noticed suspected bullet strikes on the rear passenger window, front passenger seat, and center console. The CST notified the investigators of the suspected bullet strikes and advised them to contact the OCME to inform them that the victim was more than likely involved in a shooting. The medical examiner decided to X-ray the victim and a projectile was located in the victim's left hip. The CST placed a trajectory rod into the bullet strikes on the vehicle and the flightpath for the bullet was demonstrated as entering the rear passenger window, continuing through the front passenger seat and exiting into the center console. The CST also processed the vehicle for fingerprints and DNA. The investigators went back out to the scene of the crash and were able to get video surveillance of where the crime occurred. After reviewing the video, they were able to locate a

cartridge case at the scene. The attention to detail and the persistence of this CST led to the cause of death being changed from suicide by stabbing to homicide.

Southern Region

On June 16, 2024, a CST was requested to respond to a burglary at US 301 S Upper Marlboro Scale House for CVED. A trooper had noticed that items had been moved and a television was removed from the wall. After photography was completed, the CST processed the scene for the presence of latent prints and suspect transfer DNA, collecting 13 latent print lifts and 4 swabs for transfer suspect DNA. On September 3, 2024, an identification of a suspect was obtained due to the evidence recovered from the scene.

Eastern Region

On February 18, 2024, a CST responded to process a vehicle involved in a missing person/homicide case in Dorchester County. The vehicle used in the incident had been taken out of state and later recovered and returned to Maryland. The vehicle was seen on surveillance with a male subject beating a female subject and later placing her body in the trunk area of the vehicle. The CST recovered several DNA swabs of suspected bloodstains from the trunk area, which the Biology Section later confirmed as the victim's DNA.

On April 25, 2024, a CST responded to Wicomico County Sheriff's Department to process a recovered stolen vehicle. Surveillance video showed an overflow lot at a dealership with three suspects entering and taking the vehicle. The CST processed the vehicle for latent prints and DNA. Latent print processing yielded 12 total latent lift cards to be analyzed- nine of those latent lifts were of value and resulted in four identifications being made and one potential identification to four new possible suspects.

In August a CST responded to an assault investigation to process two vehicles for DNA and latent prints for the MSP Princess Anne Barrack. A female victim was shot in the leg during a sale of a cell phone. Eleven latent lifts and three swabs were obtained from the victim's vehicle. Nine latent print lifts and nine swabs for DNA were collected from the suspect vehicle. A bottle was collected from inside of the suspect's vehicle that was also processed for latent lifts and DNA. Nine latent lifts and two swabs were obtained from the bottle. The Latent Print Unit identified two individuals not previously identified as suspects from the suspect's vehicle and from the bottle that was collected from inside of the suspect's vehicle.

On October 4, 2024, a CST responded to a reckless endangerment shooting at an apartment complex in Princess Anne, MD. Officers who responded located multiple cartridge cases in the complex and the adjacent street facing the apartment complex, indicating there were potentially two shooters. A vehicle and an apartment were struck with bullet holes, resulting in two projectiles being recovered and collected. The cartridge cases were collected and transported to the lab for analysis. A NIBIN Investigative lead was developed through a correlation review of the cartridge cases with high potential that the same firearm used in this incident was used in a homicide in Salisbury, an assault in Salisbury, and an assault in Princess Anne.

FORENSIC SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

This Section consists of the Photography Unit and the Central Receiving Unit. These units play important roles 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 III (CRU Supervisor) and is staffed by five MSP Forensic Inventory Control Officers (MSP-FICO's) and Temporary Employee.

PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT

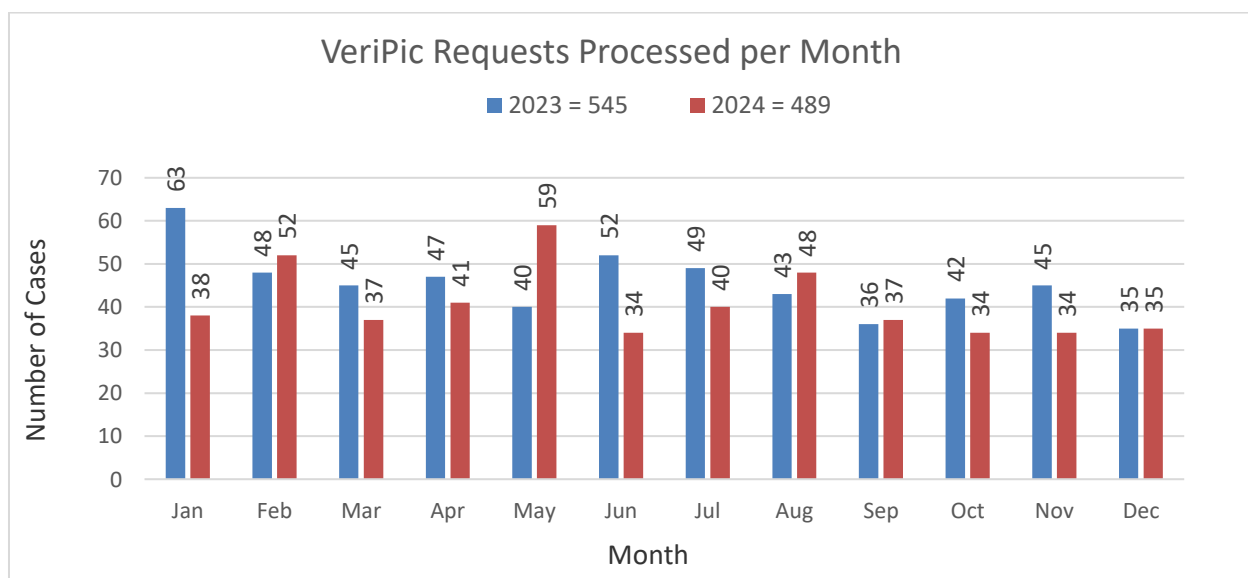
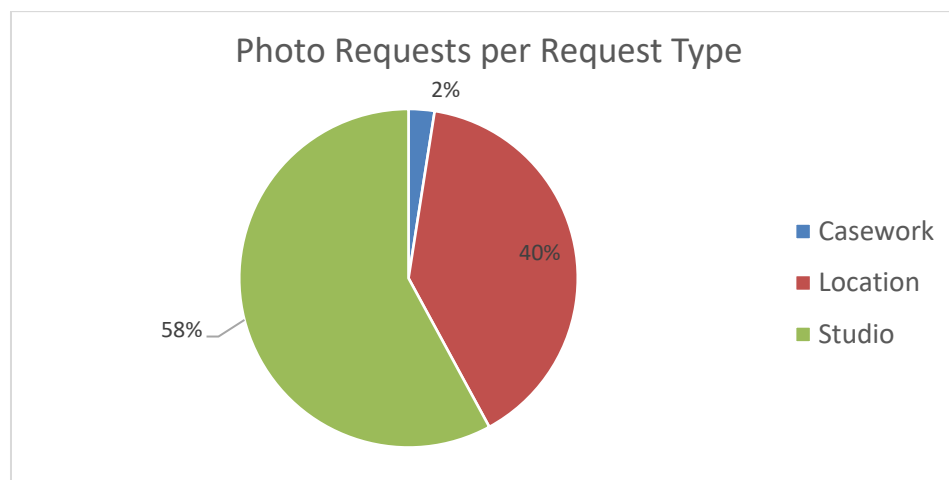
The Photography Unit provides photographic services to the Maryland State Police.

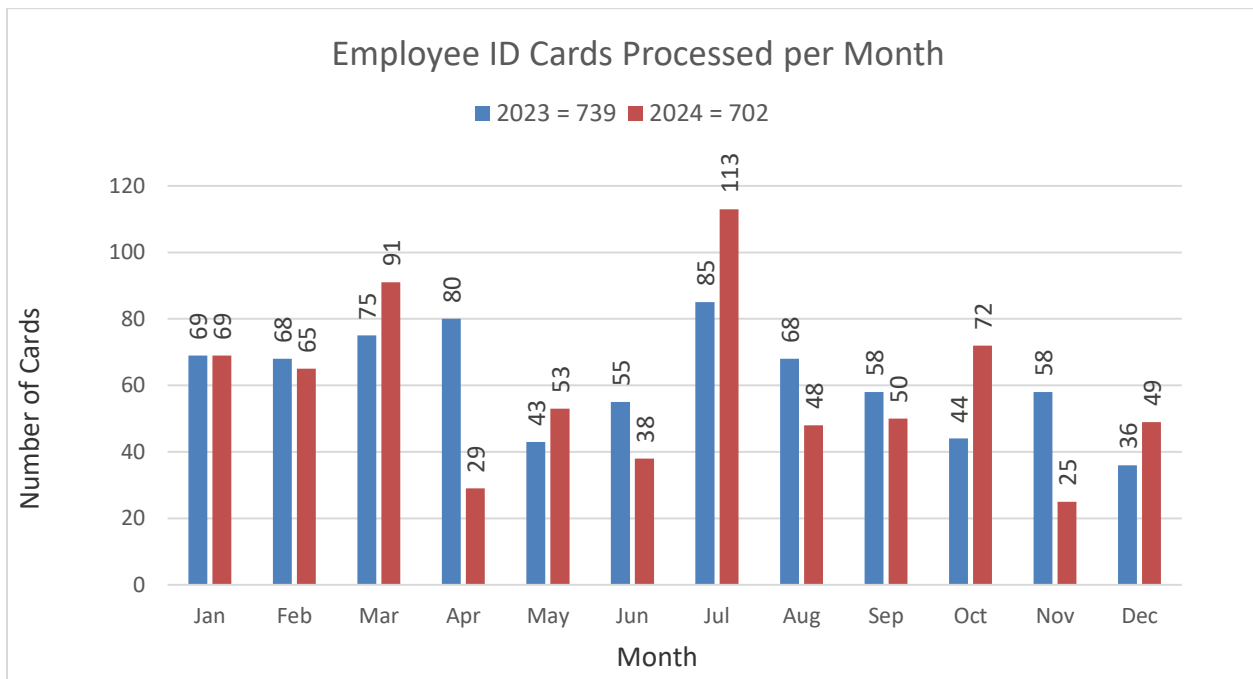
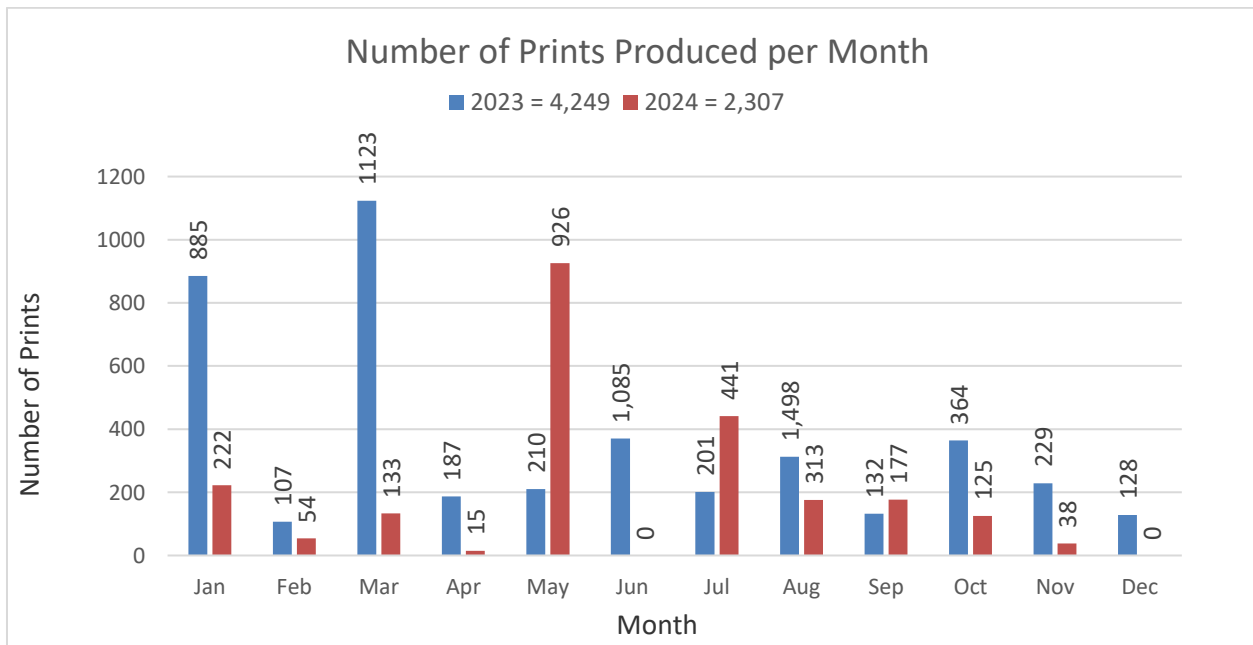
Duties within the unit include the acquiring and printing of images related to crime scenes and motor vehicle accidents for the Maryland State Police and other agencies. This unit also serves as the VeriPic system administrator. Reprints or CDs are provided to various divisions and units throughout the Department as well as State's Attorney's Offices 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 2025 MSP Safety Calendar.

In 2025, the Photography Unit will implement replacement of the ID card system in preparation for the transition of the Department to a multi-factor authentication security card that unlocks Department computers and human interface device (HID) doors. 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>)	117
Headquarters	12
SSB	36
CIB	13
FOB	19
Casework	5
TOTAL	202





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 the 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 distributes 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

This location has two MSP Forensic Inventory Control Officers (MSP-FICO) who manage evidence submissions for the CDS Unit and Latent Prints Unit at this site. Hagerstown FICOs also assist with the Department's CDS destruction process. Additionally, the MSP-FICOs at this location perform administrative tasks for the site such as logging subpoenas, completing requisitions, scheduling evidence transfer appointments and distributing mail.

In 2024, both Hagerstown FICOs became IAPE (International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc.) Certified Property and Evidence Specialists.

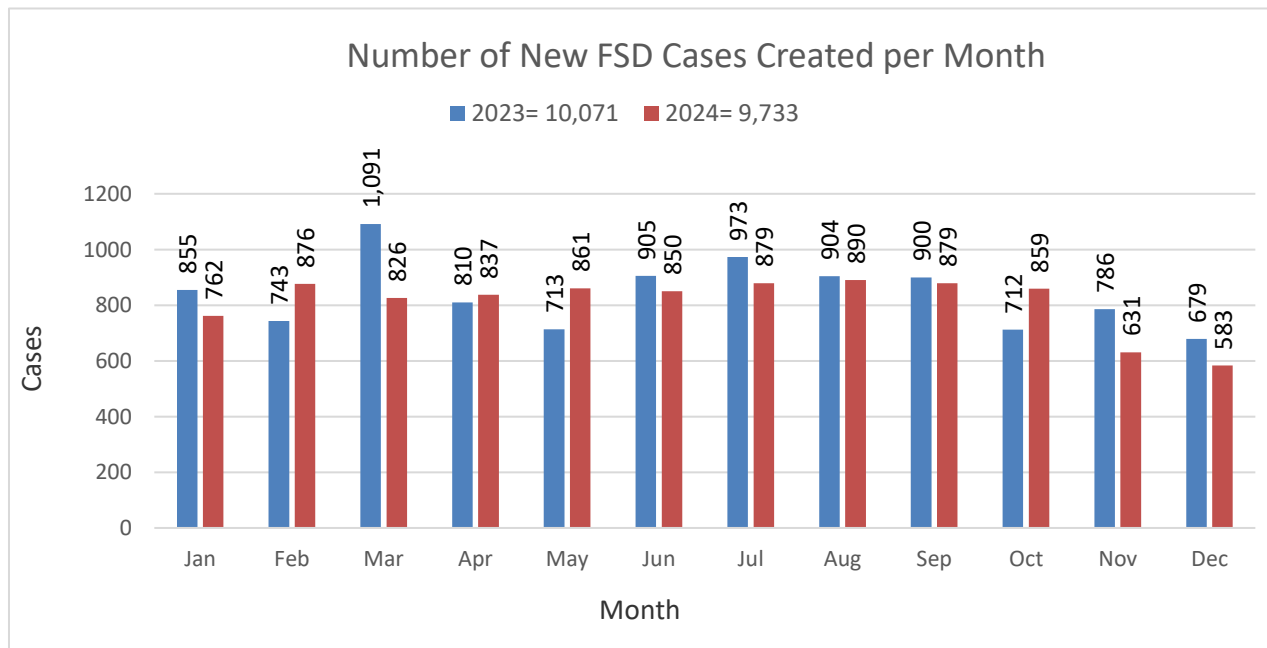
Pikesville Headquarters Location

This location has one Administrative Officer III (CRU Supervisor), two MSP-FICOs, and one Temporary Employee. The Pikesville location manages evidence submissions for the Chemistry, Toxicology, Trace Evidence, Biology, and Pattern Evidence sections. In addition to evidence handling responsibilities, the Pikesville CRU administers and carries out the Department's CDS destruction process. During this process, MSP-FICOs 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 case records and other documents 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 MSP ITD.

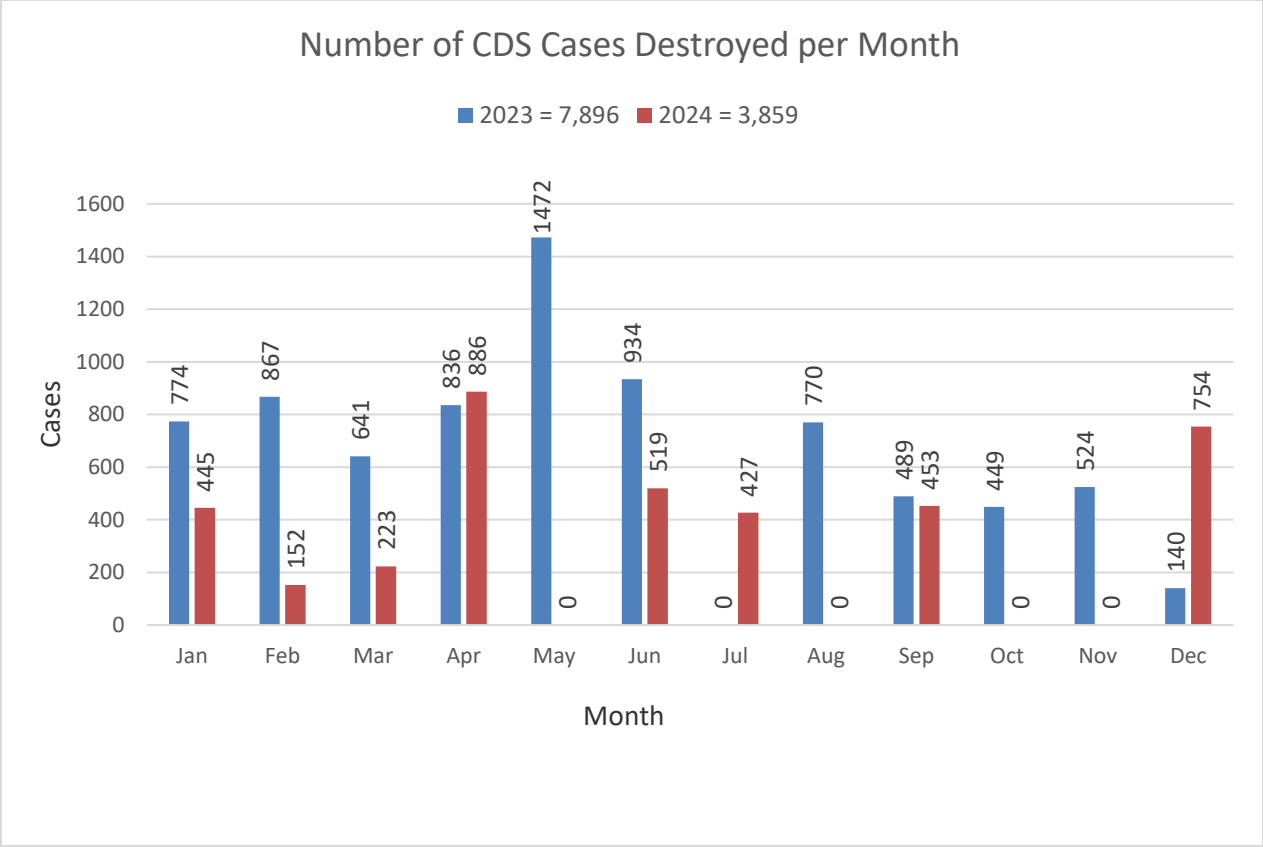
The CRU Supervisor oversees the FICOs located at the Hagerstown and Pikesville locations. In 2024, the CRU Supervisor became an IAPE (International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc.) Certified Property and Evidence Specialist.



Number of Cases Received by Lab in 2024			
	Berlin	Hagerstown	Pikesville*
Jan	105	60	597
Feb	47	108	713
Mar	58	103	665
Apr	56	60	787
May	77	87	761
Jun	94	91	665
Jul	74	88	717
Aug	82	145	728
Sep	95	67	717
Oct	107	83	669
Nov	64	61	506
Dec	71	57	455
Total	930	1,010	7,980

*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.



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 disciplines: the Latent Prints/Impressions and the Firearms/Toolmarks. Both disciplines operate out of the Pikesville laboratory and there is an additional Latent Print Impressions Unit (LPIU) in Hagerstown. The Firearms/Toolmarks Units (FAMTU) consists of three Units that perform analysis on firearms and toolmarks using comparison microscopy, conduct serial number restoration, and utilize the National Integrated Ballistics Network (NIBIN). The LPIUs perform analysis of latent friction ridge impressions, footwear, and tire track related evidence. One Forensic Scientist Manager oversees all 5 Units for both disciplines. The LPIUs consist of two supervisors (Pikesville/Hagerstown), two Forensic Scientist Advanced positions and three Forensic Scientist III's. The FATMUs consist of three supervisors, one Forensic Scientist Advanced position (vacant), one Forensic Scientist III's, two Forensic Scientist I's (one vacant), and two FICO's. One Forensic Scientist III is fully trained in LPIU and is currently being cross-trained in FATMU.

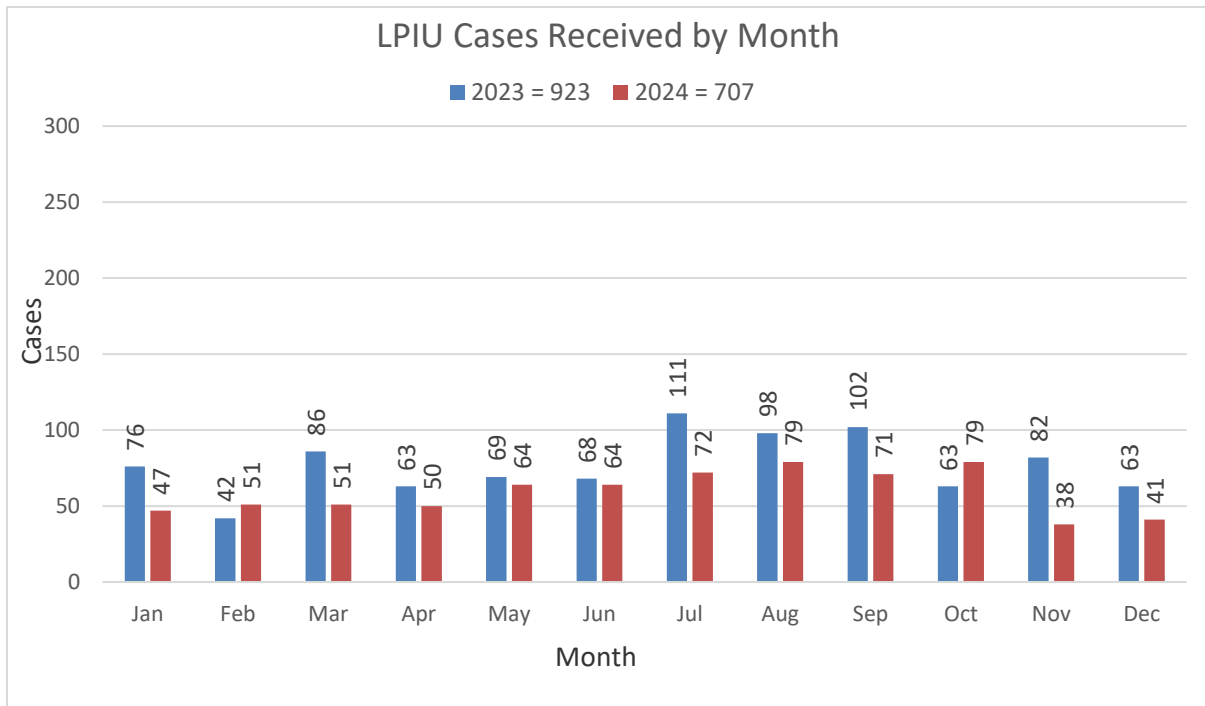
LATENT PRINTS/IMPRESSIONS UNITS

The LPIUs perform 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).

After conducting an extensive validation study, the Units implemented the Foster and Freeman Recover LFT system in late 2024. The Foster & Freeman Recover LFT is a new latent print development technique used for metal surfaces. Unlike traditional latent print development techniques, it does not require latent print residue to be present on the metal surface. The chemical fumes find areas of the metal with a difference in surface energy to indicate that latent print residue was once there and then the fumes polymerize to those areas, allowing for visualization. This new technology will allow the examiners to possibly

develop latent print evidence on surfaces such as washed metals or fired cartridge cases. Developing prints from such surfaces is highly unlikely using traditional methods.

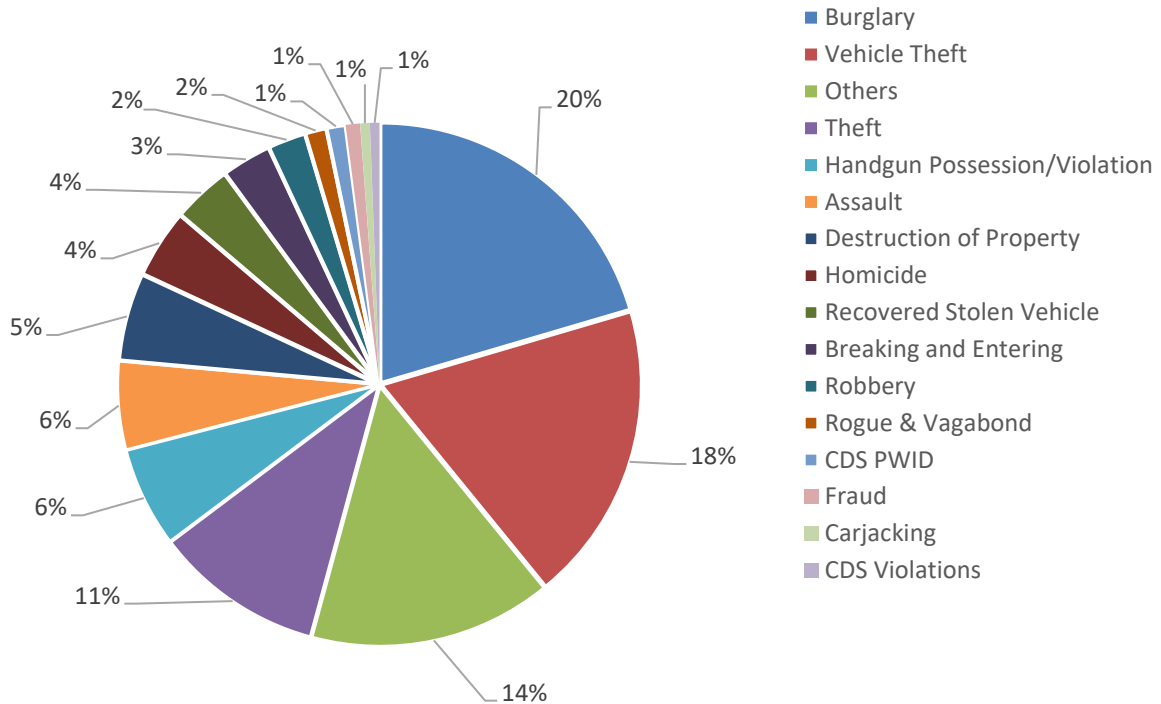
Latent Prints/Impressions Casework Statistics



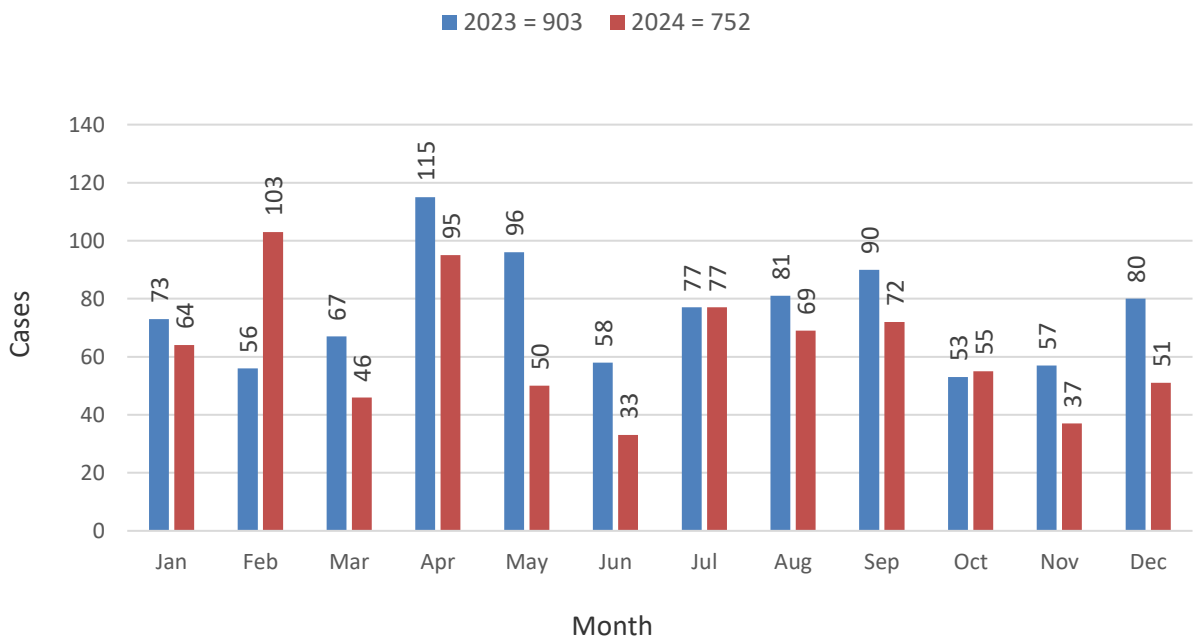
LPIU Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-North East	Cecil	25
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	14
MSP-Homicide	Statewide	13
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	11
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	10
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	6
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	6
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	6
OSFM	Statewide	6
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	5
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	5
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	4
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	4
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	4
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	4
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	3
MSP- College Park	Prince George's	3
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	3
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	2
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	2
MSP-La Plata	Charles	2
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	2
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	1
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	1
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	1
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	1
	TOTAL	144

Allied Agency Cases Received by LPIU per County	
County	Submissions
Worcester	89
Frederick	74
St. Mary's	68
Carroll	55
Wicomico	48
Washington	34
Dorchester	30
Cecil	27
Anne Arundel	24
Talbot	23
Prince George's	18
Baltimore City	14
Queen Anne's	12
Calvert	10
Kent	9
Somerset	8
Baltimore	6
Caroline	5
Allegany	4
Garrett	3
Howard	1
Harford	1
TOTAL	563

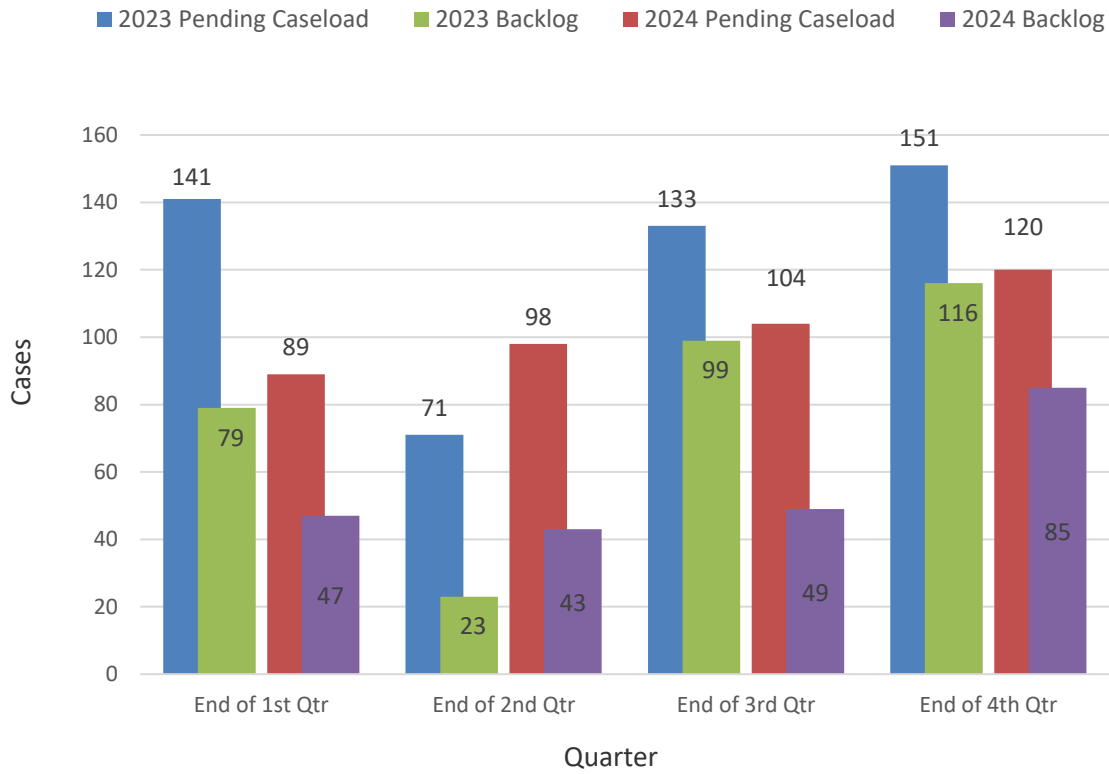
LPIU Cases Received per Crime Type



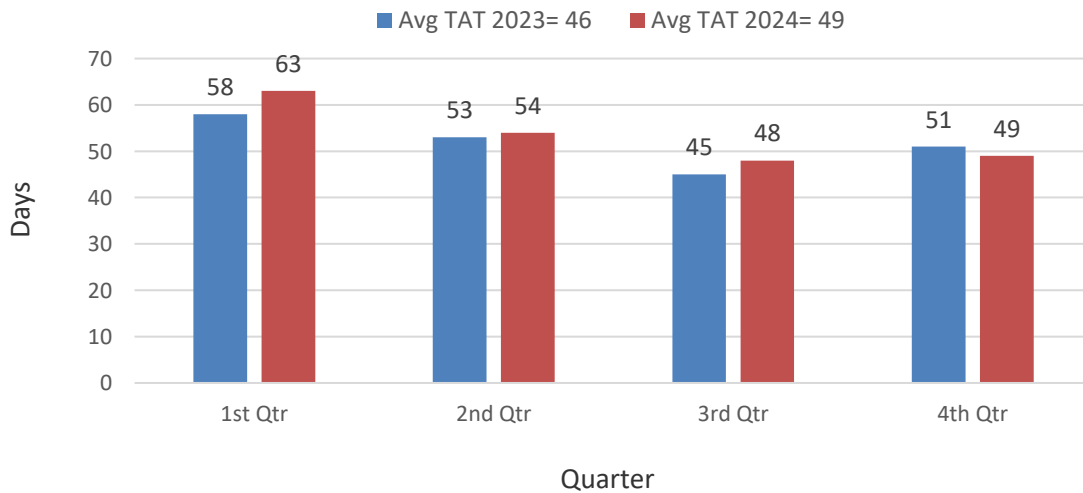
LPIU Cases Completed per Month



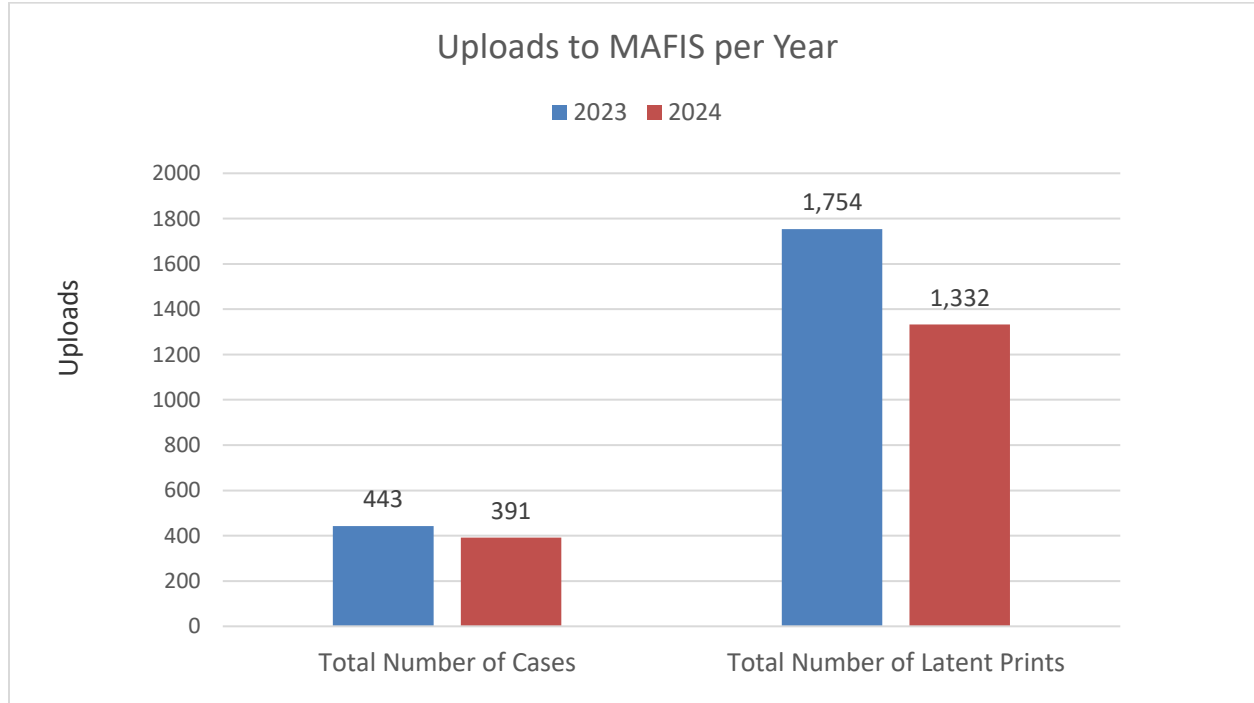
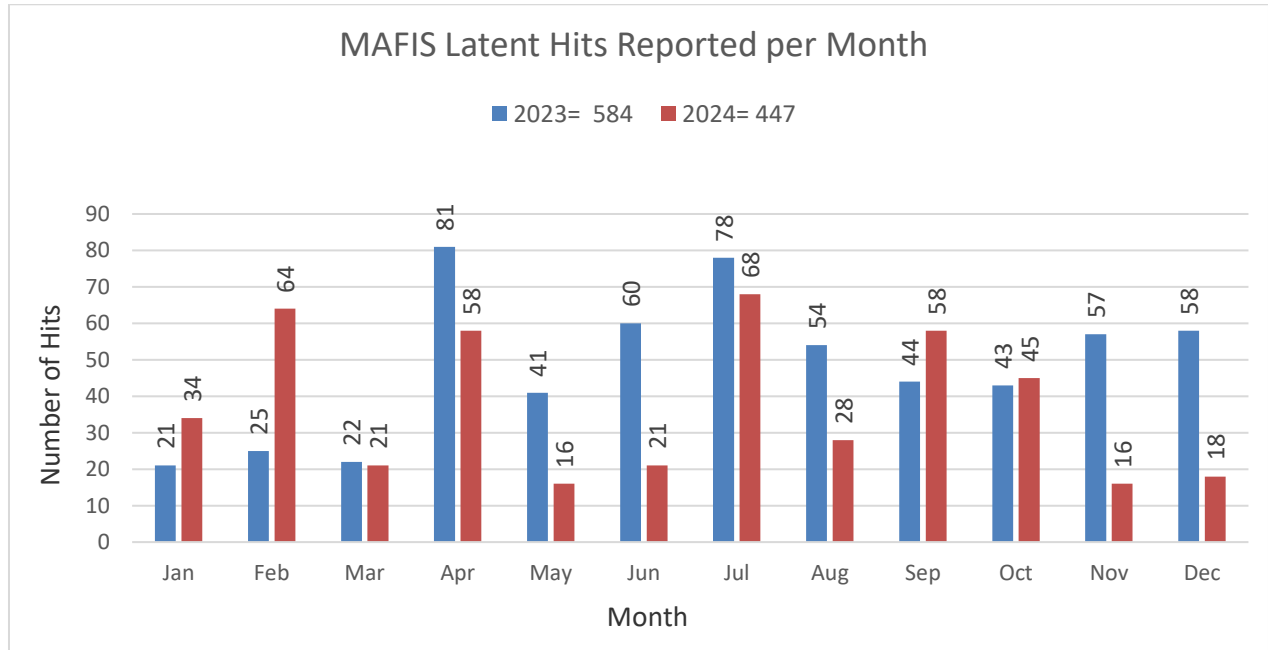
LPIU Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



LPIU Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



Latent Prints/Impressions Database Statistics



NOTEWORTHY CASES

The LPIUs began using the Recover LFT for casework late 2024. The Pikesville LPIU ran four cartridge cases from a Charles County Sheriff's Office homicide case in the Recover LFT System. A print of value was developed on one of the cartridge cases. The print has not been identified, but it is the Unit's first success developing evidence in a case utilizing the new technology.

In September 2024, the Office of the State Fire Marshal submitted a 2-pronged "grill" fork to LPIU Hagerstown for latent print processing. The suspect in an attempted arson case had used the 2-pronged "grill" fork to pry open the gas tank of his ex-girlfriend car and tried to place materials in it to either set the car on fire or make it explode. The latent print examiner developed three prints of value on the fork, which were uploaded to AFIS. All three prints hit to the named suspect in AFIS.

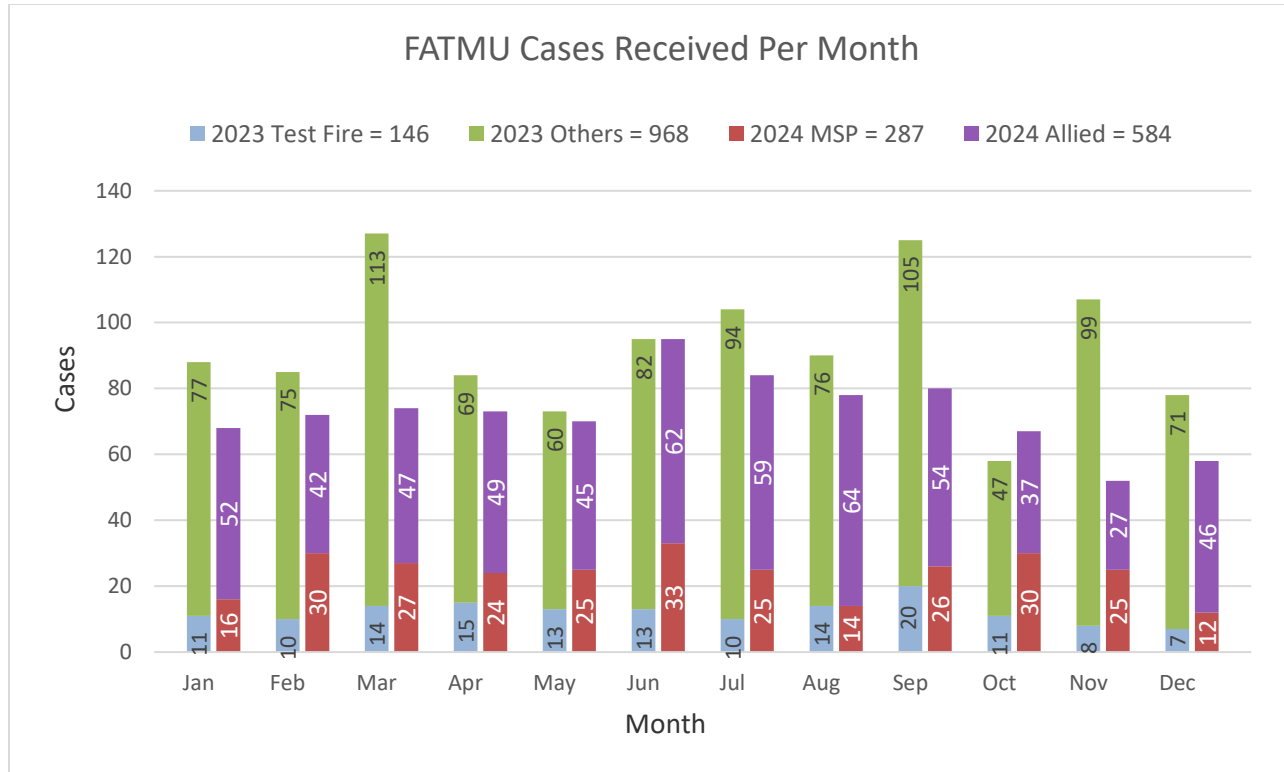
FIREARMS/TOOLMARKS UNIT

The Firearms/Toolmarks Units (FATMUs) provides microscopic and functional examination of firearms and firearm-related evidence. The firearms/toolmarks operation is sectioned into three units. These are the NIBIN, Allied and MSP units. The NIBIN Unit is tasked with triage of fired evidence, entering samples into the ATF National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), reporting NIBIN Leads, and confirming NIBIN Leads. The NIBIN Unit oversees 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. The Allied units oversees casework received from Allied Law Enforcement Agencies and the MSP unit oversees casework received from MSP including Independent Investigation Division (IID) cases. Examiners in the Allied and MSP units also perform restoration of obliterated serial numbers and toolmark examinations. Evidence from both the Allied and MSP units as well as test fired cartridge cases that meet system requirements are entered into NIBIN and searched against the regional and/or national database.

Currently, in the NIBIN unit we have one supervisor, one examiner and two Forensic Inventory Control Officers. The Allied unit has one supervisor and one examiner and the MSP unit has one supervisor and one Forensic Inventory Control Officer. In 2024, the FATMUs had two staff members resign from MSP, leaving a staffing shortage of two personnel at the conclusion.

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 Maryland. Examiners perform non-forensic examination of the petitioned firearms specifically for the qualifying criteria established in COMAR.

Firearms/Toolmarks Casework Statistics

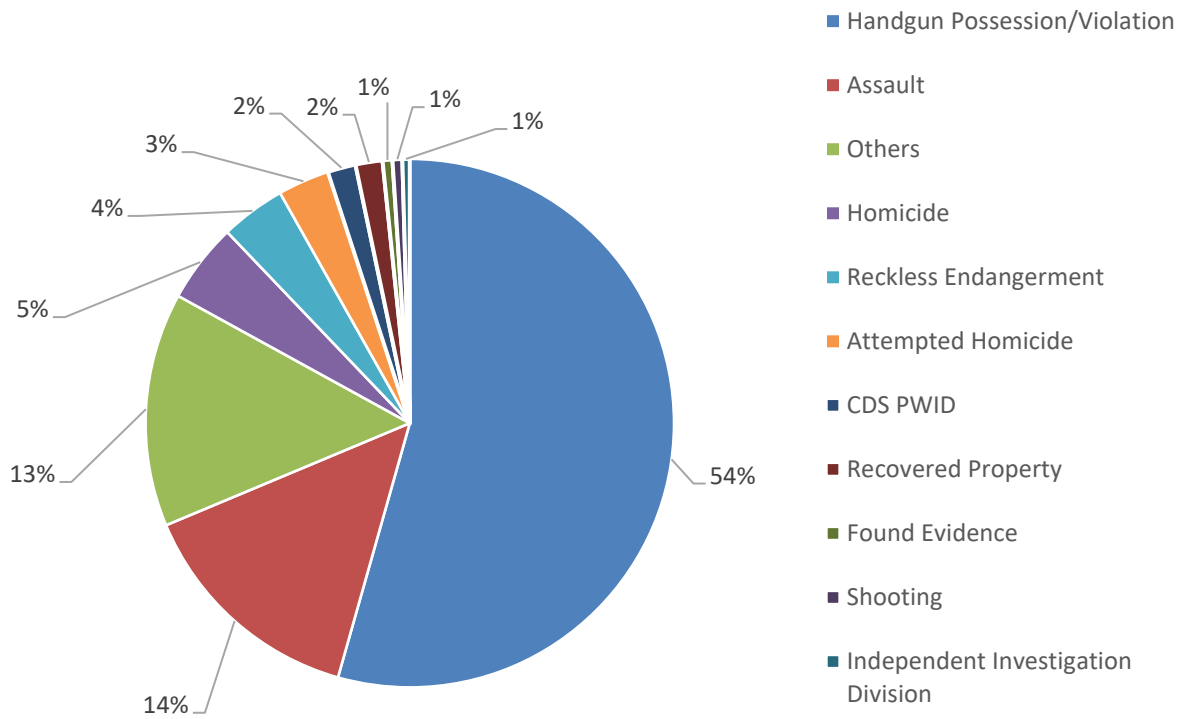


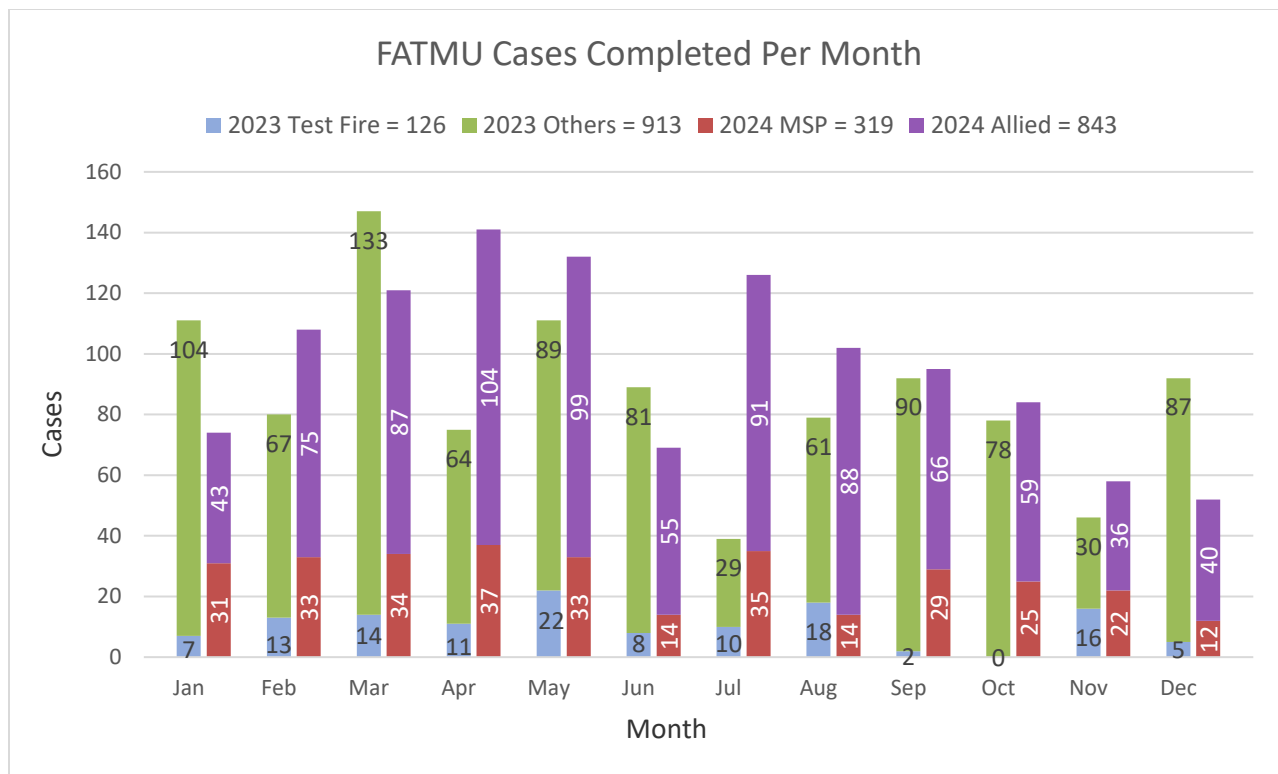
Note: For 2023, FATMU reported Test Fire cases (operability with and without serial number restoration) and Other cases (all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons). For 2024, FATMU reported statistics for MSP cases and Allied cases received by FSD.

FATMU Cases Received per MSP Installation		
Installation	Counties Served	Total
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	101
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	31
MSP-Homicide	Statewide	19
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	13
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	12
MSP-College Park	Prince George's	11
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	11
MSP-North East	Cecil	10
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	10
MSP-La Plata	Charles	9
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	9
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	8
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	8
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	7
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	5
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	4
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	4
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	3
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	3
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	3
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	2
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	1
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	1
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	1
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	1
	TOTAL	287

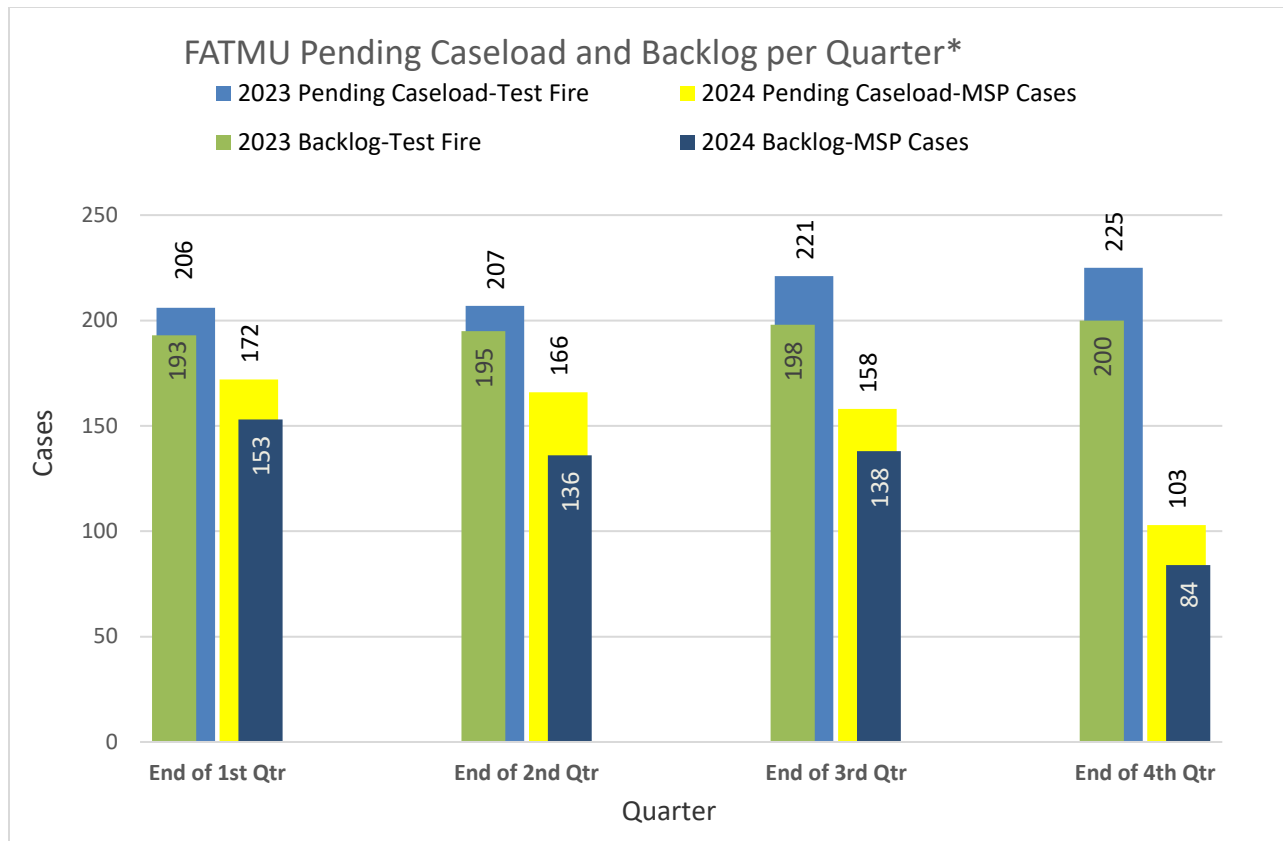
Allied Agency Cases Received by FATMU per County	
County	Total
Washington	100
Wicomico	87
Anne Arundel	72
Worcester	64
St. Mary's	49
Cecil	42
Baltimore City	38
Carroll	30
Prince George's	18
Calvert	17
Howard	16
Harford	9
Baltimore	8
Charles	7
Somerset	7
Talbot	7
Caroline	5
Frederick	4
Dorchester	1
Queen Anne's	1
Kent	1
Garrett	1
TOTAL	584

FATMU Cases Received per Crime Type

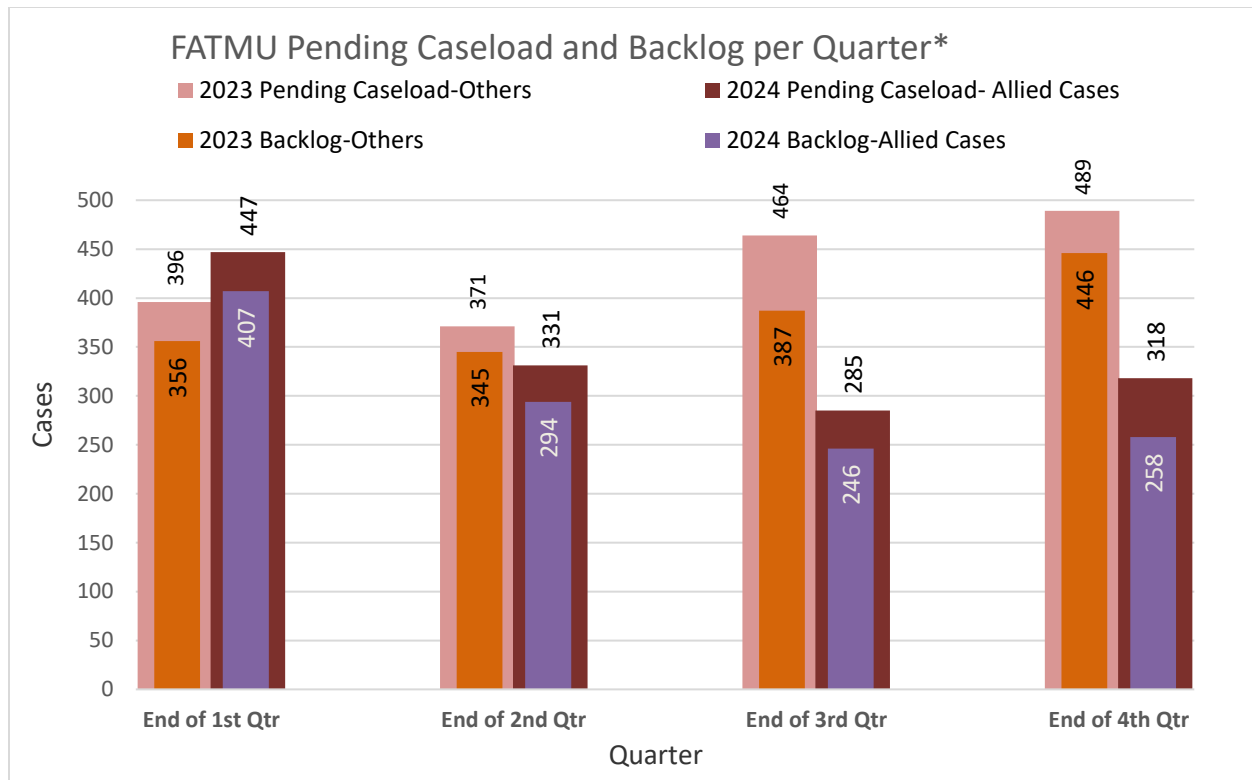




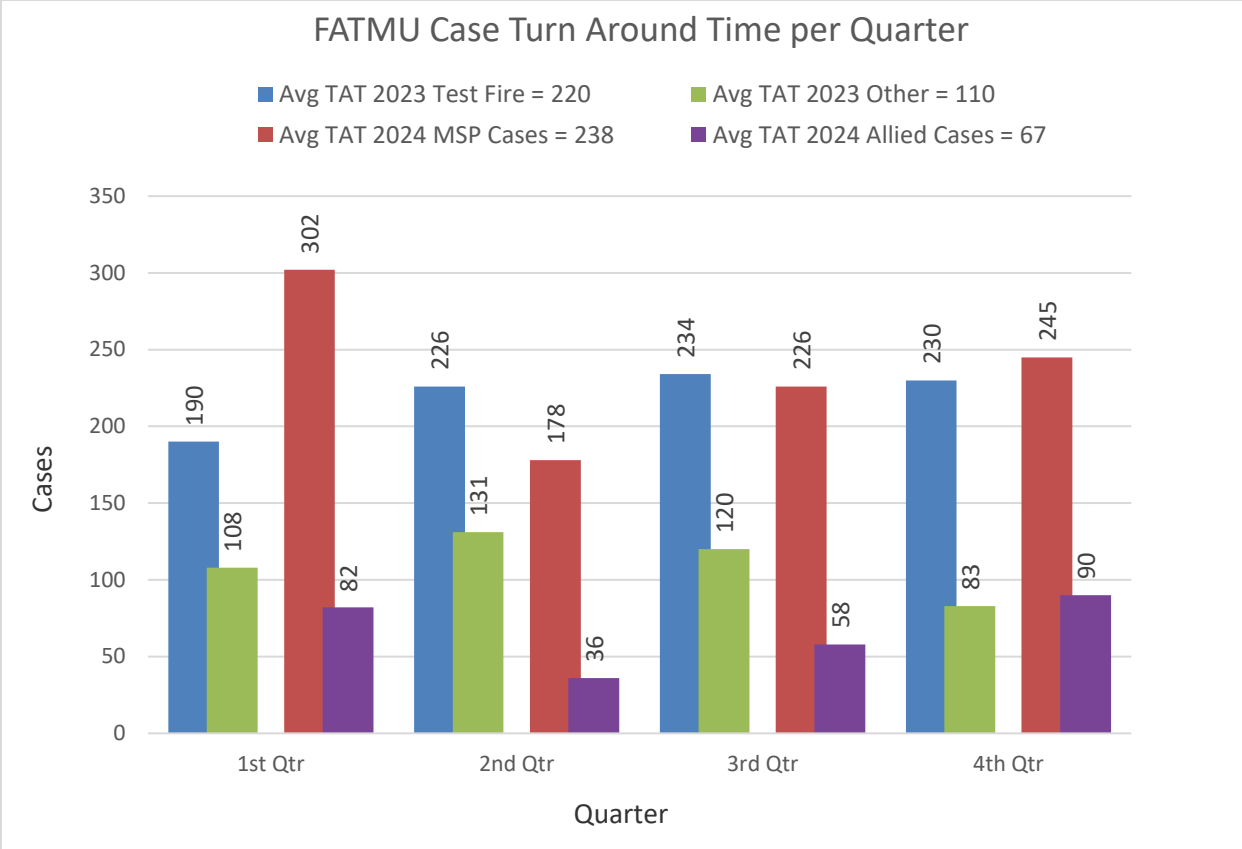
Note: For 2023, FATMU reported Test Fire cases (operability with and without serial number restoration) and Other cases (all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons). For 2024, FATMU reported statistics for MSP cases and Allied cases completed by FSD.



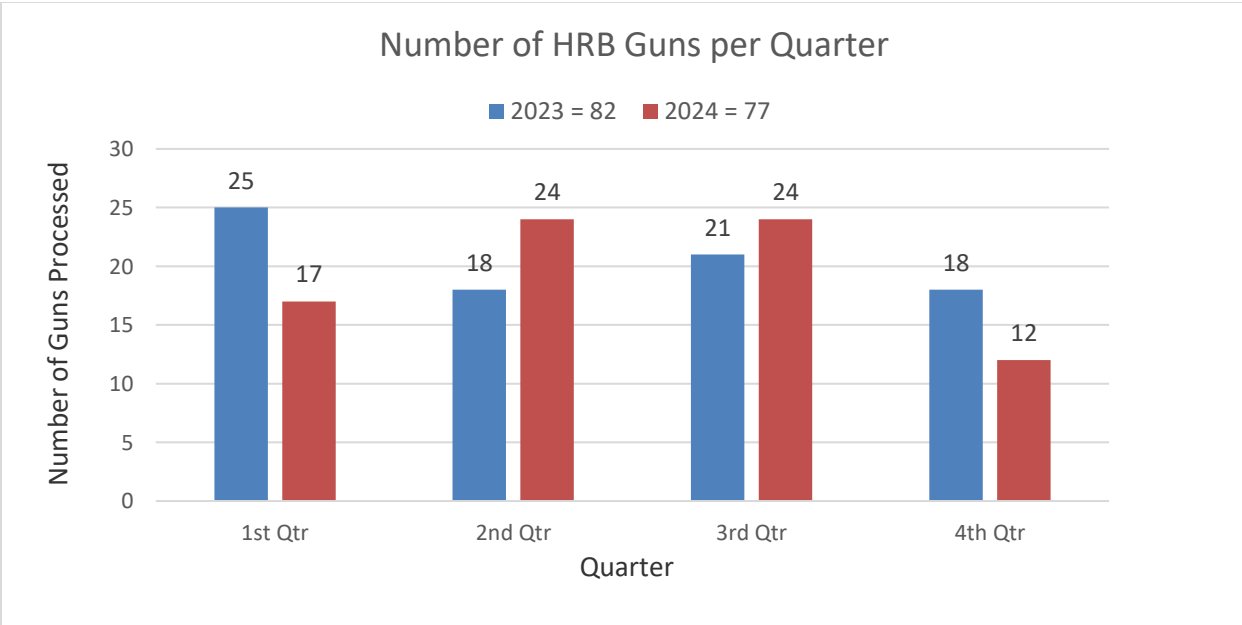
*For 2023, FATMU reported Test Fire cases (operability with and without serial number restoration). For 2024, FATMU reported statistics for MSP cases.



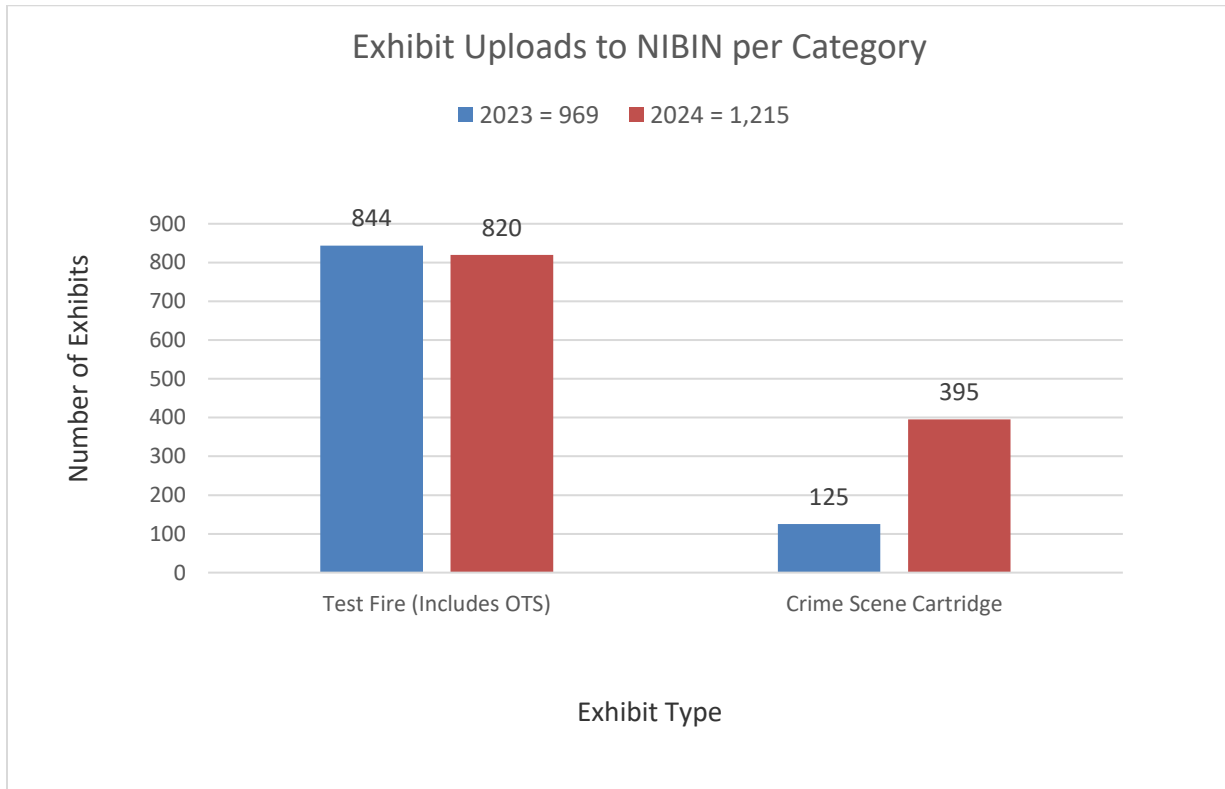
* For 2023, FATMU reported Other cases (all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons). For 2024, FATMU reported statistics for Allied cases.



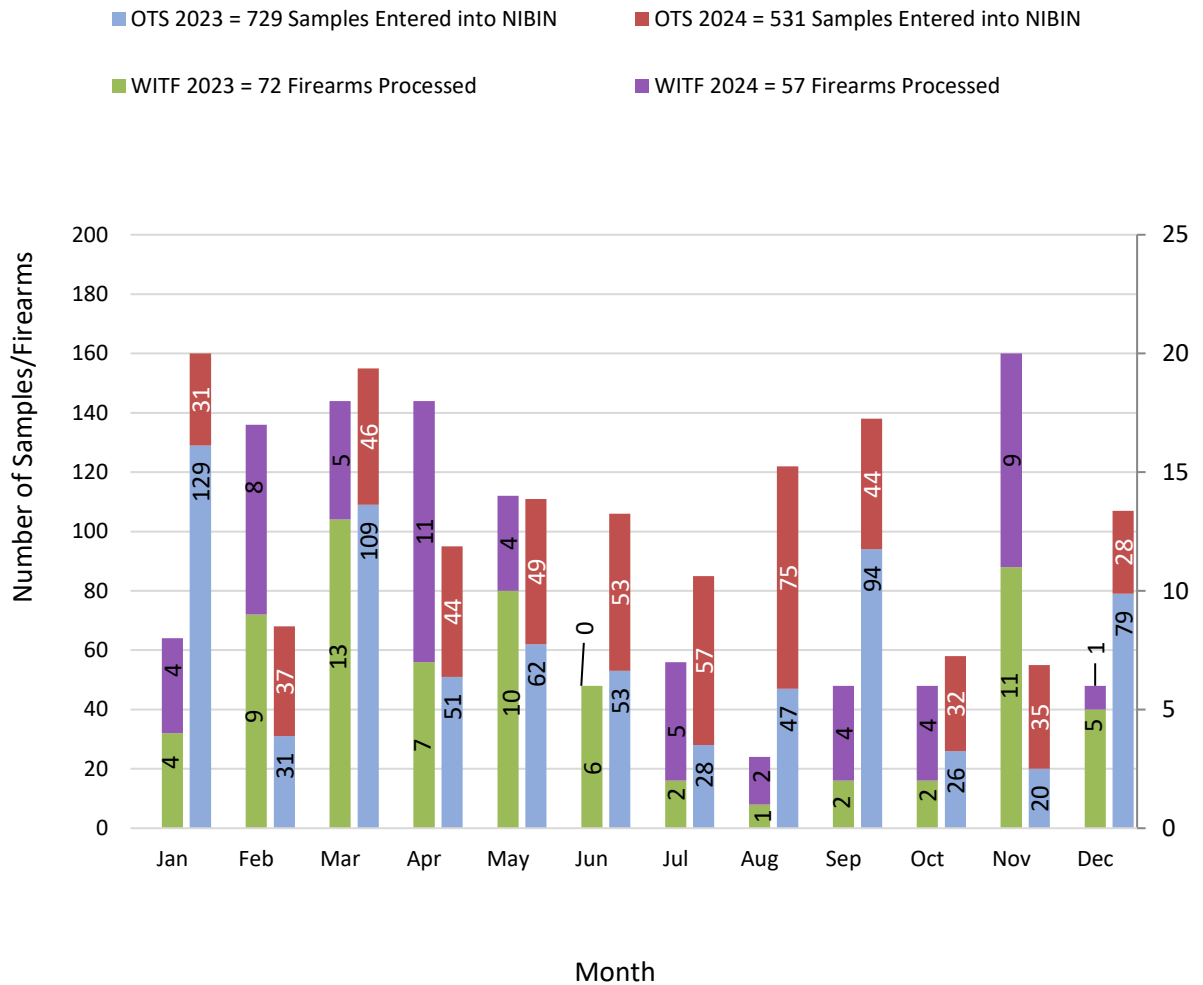
Note: For 2023, FATMU reported Test Fire cases (operability with and without serial number restoration) and Other cases (all other types including OTS and microscopic comparisons). For 2024, FATMU reported statistics for MSP cases and Allied cases.



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
Bel Air PD	Bel Air PD	1	1
C3I	C3I	1	0
Calvert County SO	Calvert County SO	4	0
Calvert County SO	DC Metropolitan PD	1	0
Calvert County SO	VA - Hopewell PD	1	0
Caroline County SO	Cambridge PD	3	0
Caroline County SO	Caroline County SO	3	0
Carroll County SO	Baltimore City PD	1	0
Cecil County SO	DE - State Police Headquarters Dover	2	0
Cecil County SO	DE - Wilmington City PD	1	0
Charles County SO	Charles County SO	0	1
Easton PD	Prince George's County PD	1	0
Elkton PD	Cecil County SO	1	0
Elkton PD	DE - New Castle County PD	2	0
Elkton PD	DE - State Police Headquarters Dover	2	0
Elkton PD	Elkton PD	6	0
Elkton PD	MSP CED	1	0
Elkton PD	MSP North East	1	0
Elkton PD	VA - Petersburg PD	1	0
Frederick PD	Frederick PD	0	1
Frederick PD	Hagerstown PD	0	1
Hagerstown PD	Baltimore City PD	5	0
Hagerstown PD	DC Metropolitan PD	1	0
Hagerstown PD	Frederick County SO	2	0
Hagerstown PD	Hagerstown PD	27	2
Hagerstown PD	Montgomery County PD	6	0
Hagerstown PD	NY - Troy City PD	2	0
Hagerstown PD	Prince George's County PD	1	0
Hagerstown PD	Washington County SO	2	0
Howard County PD	Howard County PD	0	5
Howard County PD	Baltimore County PD	0	1
Howard County PD	Laurel PD	0	2
Laurel PD	DC Metropolitan PD	7	0
Laurel PD	Laurel PD	1	0
Bel Air PD	Bel Air PD	1	1

NIBIN Associations			
Associated Agencies		Number of Leads	Number of Confirmed Hits
Laurel PD	VA - Old Dominion	1	0
Marlow Heights PD	DC Metropolitan PD	3	0
Maryland Transit Administration PD	Baltimore City PD	3	0
Maryland Transportation Authority PD	Anne Arundel County PD	1	0
Maryland Transportation Authority PD	Baltimore City PD	9	0
Maryland Transportation Authority PD	Maryland Transportation Authority PD	2	0
Metro Transit PD	Prince George's County PD	1	0
MSP CED	Baltimore City PD	6	0
MSP CED	Cambridge PD	1	0
MSP CED	Cecil County SO	1	0
MSP CED	DC Metropolitan PD	1	0
MSP CED	DE - Dover PD	3	0
MSP CED	DE - Laurel PD	1	0
MSP CED	DE - State Police Headquarters Dover	3	0
MSP CED	DE - Wilmington City PD	1	0
MSP CED	Harford County SO	1	0
MSP CED	MSP CED	1	0
MSP CED	MSP Princess Anne	2	0
MSP CED	Prince George's County PD	5	0
MSP CED	Princess Anne PD	1	0
MSP CED	Salisbury PD	4	0
MSP CED	Somerset County SO	1	0
MSP CED	VA - Petersburg PD	1	0
MSP College Park	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MSP Forestville	MSP Forestville	1	0
MSP Frederick	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MSP Frederick	MSP Frederick	1	0
MSP Glen Burnie	Baltimore City PD	1	0
MSP Golden Ring	Baltimore City PD	8	0
MSP Golden Ring	Baltimore County PD	1	0
MSP Homicide	Baltimore City PD	1	1
MSP Homicide	DC Metropolitan PD	2	0
MSP Homicide	KY - Louisville Metro PD	1	0
MSP North East	DE - Wilmington City PD	1	0

NIBIN Associations			
Associated Agencies		Number of Leads	Number of Leads
MSP North East	Elkton PD	3	0
MSP North East	Harford County SO	1	0
MSP North East	Maryland State Police	1	0
MSP Pikesville	Baltimore City PD	3	0
MSP Pikesville	Baltimore County PD	1	0
MSP Salisbury	Baltimore City PD	3	0
MSP Waterloo	Baltimore County PD	1	0
Ocean City PD	Baltimore City PD	2	0
Ocean City PD	DE - Dover PD	1	0
Ocean City PD	DE - State Police Headquarters Dover	1	0
Ocean City PD	DE - Wilmington City PD	2	0
Ocean City PD	MSP Berlin	1	0
Ocean City PD	Ocean City PD	2	0
Ocean City PD	VA - Accomack County SO	2	0
Ocean City PD	Berlin PD	0	1
Pocomoke City PD	Pocomoke City PD	5	0
Princess Anne PD	DE - Wilmington City PD	1	0
Princess Anne PD	Princess Anne PD	5	0
Princess Anne PD	VA - Hampton PD	2	0
Princess Anne PD	VA - Manassas Park PD	2	0
Princess Anne PD	VA - Newport News PD	5	0
Princess Anne PD	Wicomico County SO	1	0
Salisbury PD	Baltimore City PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	Cambridge PD	14	0
Salisbury PD	DE - Dover PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	DE - Laurel PD	2	0
Salisbury PD	DE - State Police Headquarters Dover	2	0
Salisbury PD	Frederick County SO	1	0
Salisbury PD	Laurel PD	1	0
Salisbury PD	MSP CED	2	0
Salisbury PD	MSP Salisbury	1	0
Salisbury PD	Prince George's County PD	2	0
Salisbury PD	Princess Anne PD	2	0
Salisbury PD	Salisbury PD	28	0
Salisbury PD	VA - Bureau of ATF Norfolk	2	0
Salisbury PD	Wicomico County SO	3	0

NIBIN Associations			
Associated Agencies		Number of Leads	Number of Confirmed Hits
Somerset County SO	MSP CED	1	0
Somerset County SO	MSP Princess Anne	1	0
St. Mary's County SO	Annapolis PD	1	0
St. Mary's County SO	Baltimore City PD	1	0
St. Mary's County SO	Charles County SO	1	0
St. Mary's County SO	DC Metropolitan PD	4	0
St. Mary's County SO	MSP CED	4	0
St. Mary's County SO	MSP Leonardtown	2	0
St. Mary's County SO	MSP Prince Frederick	1	0
St. Mary's County SO	St. Mary's County SO	45	0
St. Mary's County SO	VA - Alexandria PD	1	0
St. Mary's County SO	VA - Fairfax County PD	1	0
Washington County SO	DE - Wilmington City PD	1	0
Washington County SO	Frederick County SO	1	0
Washington County SO	Hagerstown PD	4	0
Washington County SO	Washington County SO	5	1
Wicomico County SO	Baltimore County PD	1	0
Wicomico County SO	Salisbury PD	1	0
TOTAL		343	18

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

NOTEWORTHY CASES

In 2024, a Wicomico Narcotics task force investigated and ultimately indicted 39 people in a large-scale drug trafficking operation throughout Wicomico, Dorchester, and Baltimore counties. The group was selling and distributing large amounts of cocaine and fentanyl. Several firearms were submitted to FATMU as a part of this task force investigation. A FATMU FICO test fired 13 firearms recovered from various suspects and another FICO entered the cartridge casings into NIBIN to search against other cases in the region.

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, one Forensic Scientist Advanced, three Forensic Scientist III's, and one contractual Forensic Scientist. 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. The Allied Forensic Scientists are employed by the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office, the St. Mary's State's Attorney's Office, the Howard County Police Department, and the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

The CDS-Berlin Unit consists of one Forensic Scientist Supervisor and two Forensic Scientist III. The CDS-Berlin Unit operates out of the Berlin Regional Laboratory located at the MSP-Berlin Barrack. The new Barrack, to include a new CDS lab, was under construction during 2024 and is due to open in 2025.

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 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), Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy, and Direct Analysis in Real Time-Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer (DART-TOF MS). The DART-TOF-MS is an emerging analysis tool and the CDS staff spent much of 2024 incorporating it into their workflow. This includes using it as a screening tool in case analysis and learning to review the data in case files. In 2024, the Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS) was used in casework for the semi-quantitative analysis of suspected Cannabis samples by the Contractual Forensic Scientist, and the Allied Chemist from Charles County. 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.

In an effort to prioritize our time and resources to better serve our customers' needs and to make Maryland a safer place to work and live, the CDS unit updated their case management scheme. Cases that are charged as Possession with the Intent to Distribute were given higher priority over Possession only cases. This should contribute positively to society overall in Maryland.

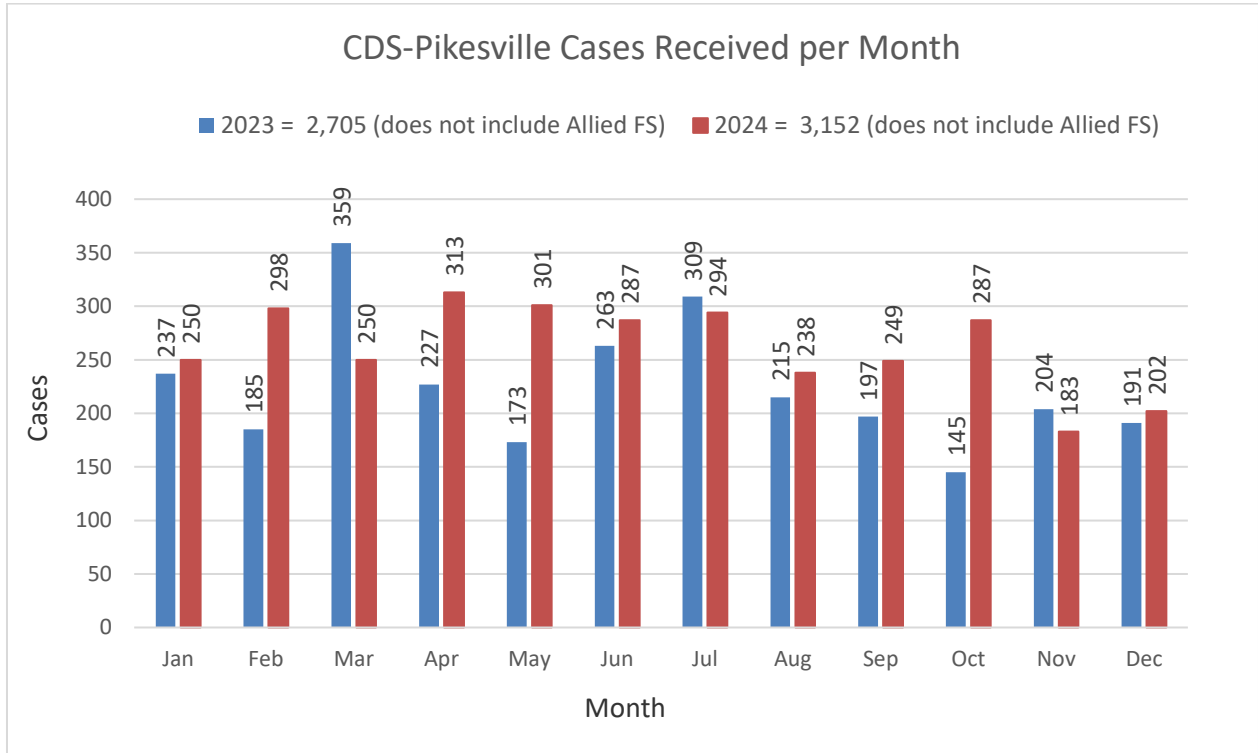
The CDS unit also continues to work with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to produce a sampling app that can be used to make statistical inferences in cases where a

large number of containers, bags, tablets, etc. are submitted. Representatives from the CDS Unit and NIST will be offering a workshop at the AAFS meeting in Baltimore, MD in February 2025 regarding this app and its use in the analysis of Seized Drugs.

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, Carroll County, Charles County, Kent County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, Caroline County, Dorchester County, and Talbot County.

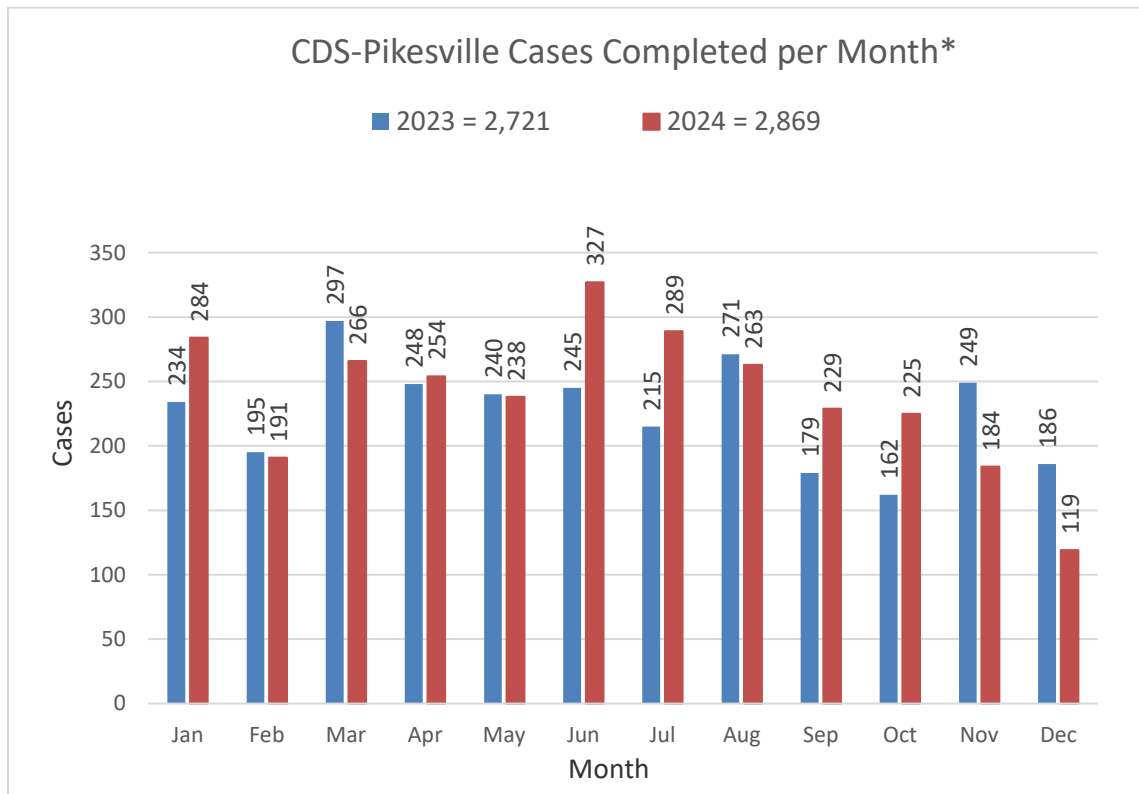


CDS-Pikesville Cases Received per MSP Installation*		
	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	216
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	183
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	73
MSP-North East	Cecil	61
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	54
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	50
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	42
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	42
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	40
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	39
MSP- Waterloo	Howard	34
MSP-College Park	Prince George's	33
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	24
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	15
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	14
MSP-La Plata	Charles	8
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	1
	TOTAL	929

* Does not include Allied FS except Charles County

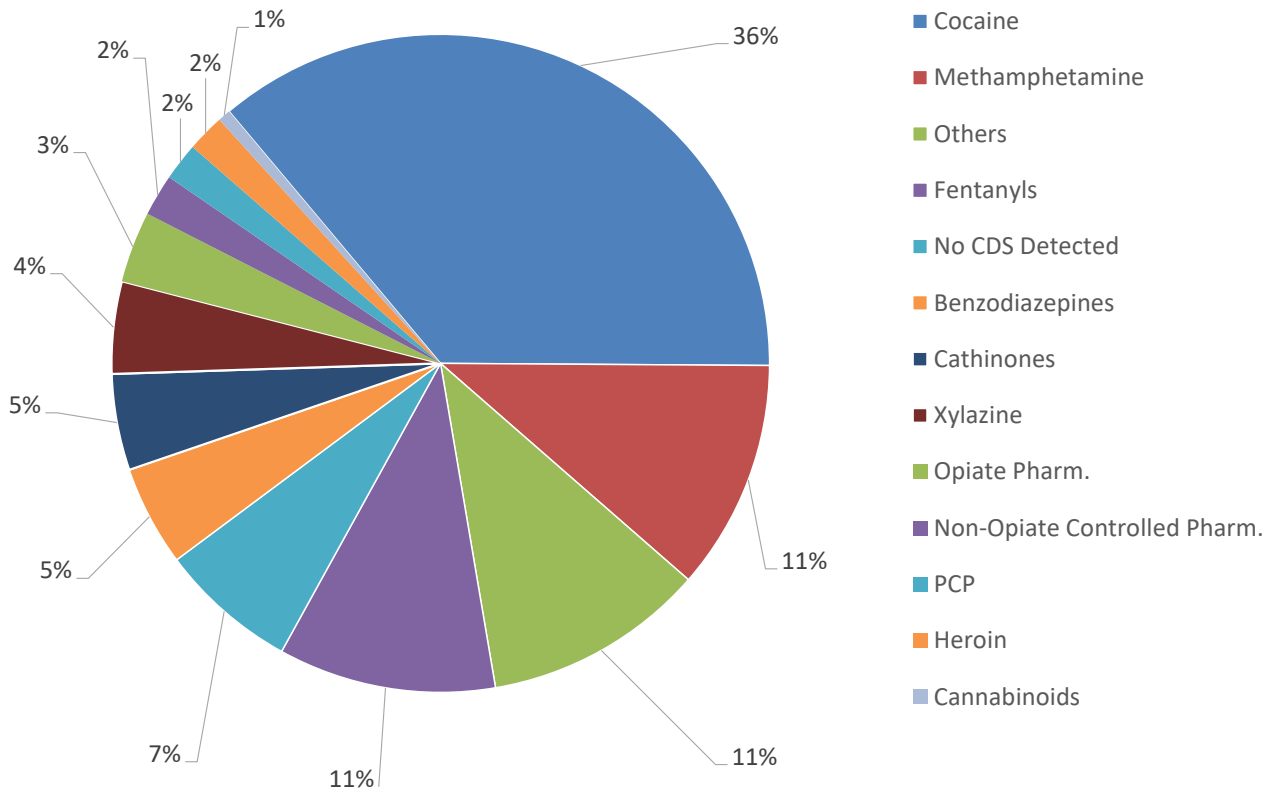
Allied Agency Cases Received by CDS- Pikesville per County*	
County	Submissions
Harford	431
Charles	371
Carroll	353
Calvert	319
Dorchester	162
Baltimore City	105
Queen Anne's	92
Anne Arundel	87
Caroline	72
Cecil	65
Kent	51
Talbot	48
Howard	22
Baltimore	17
Prince George's	14
Allegany	6
Washington	2
Somerset	2
Montgomery	1
Frederick	1
Wicomico	1
Out of State	1
TOTAL	2,223

* Does not include Allied FS except Charles County

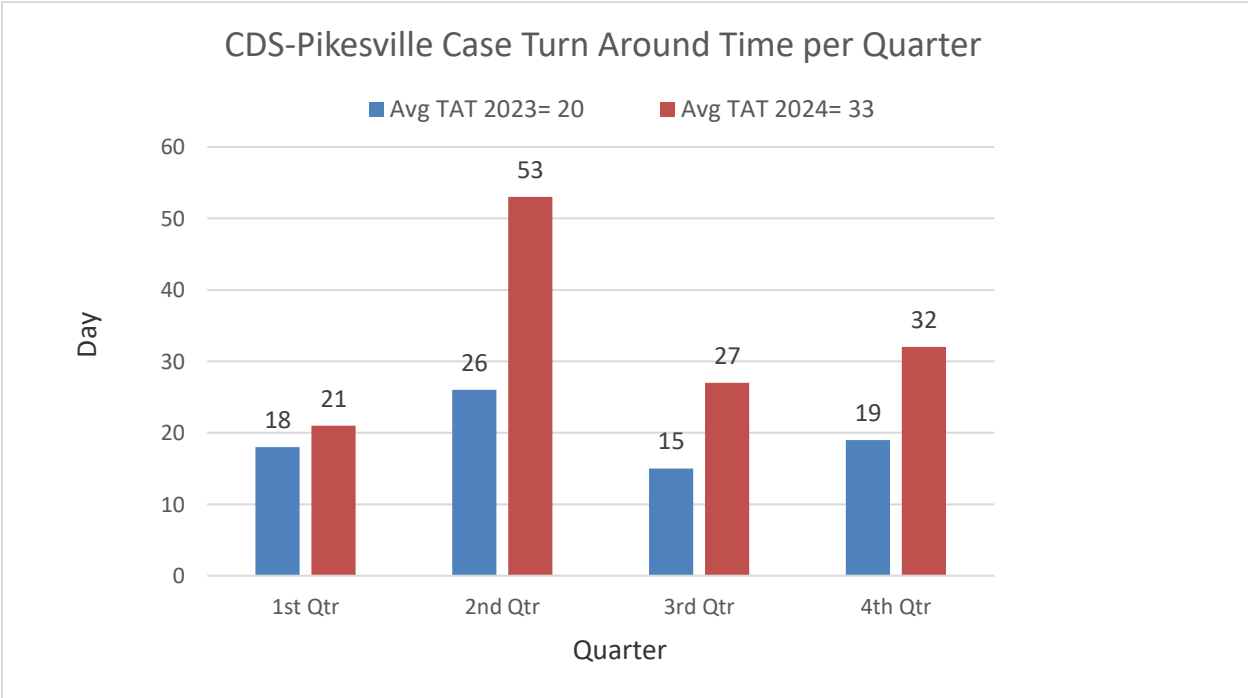
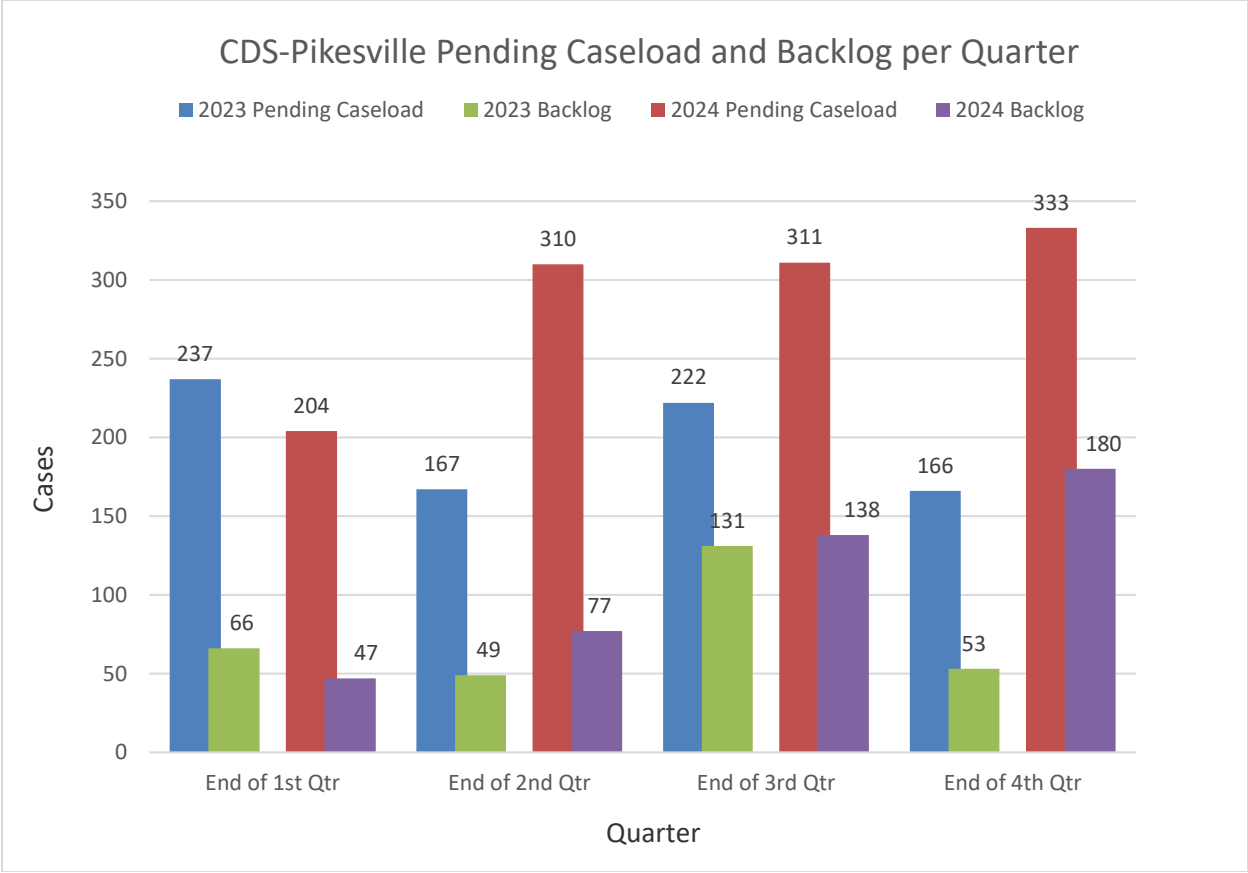


* Does not include Allied FS except Charles County

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

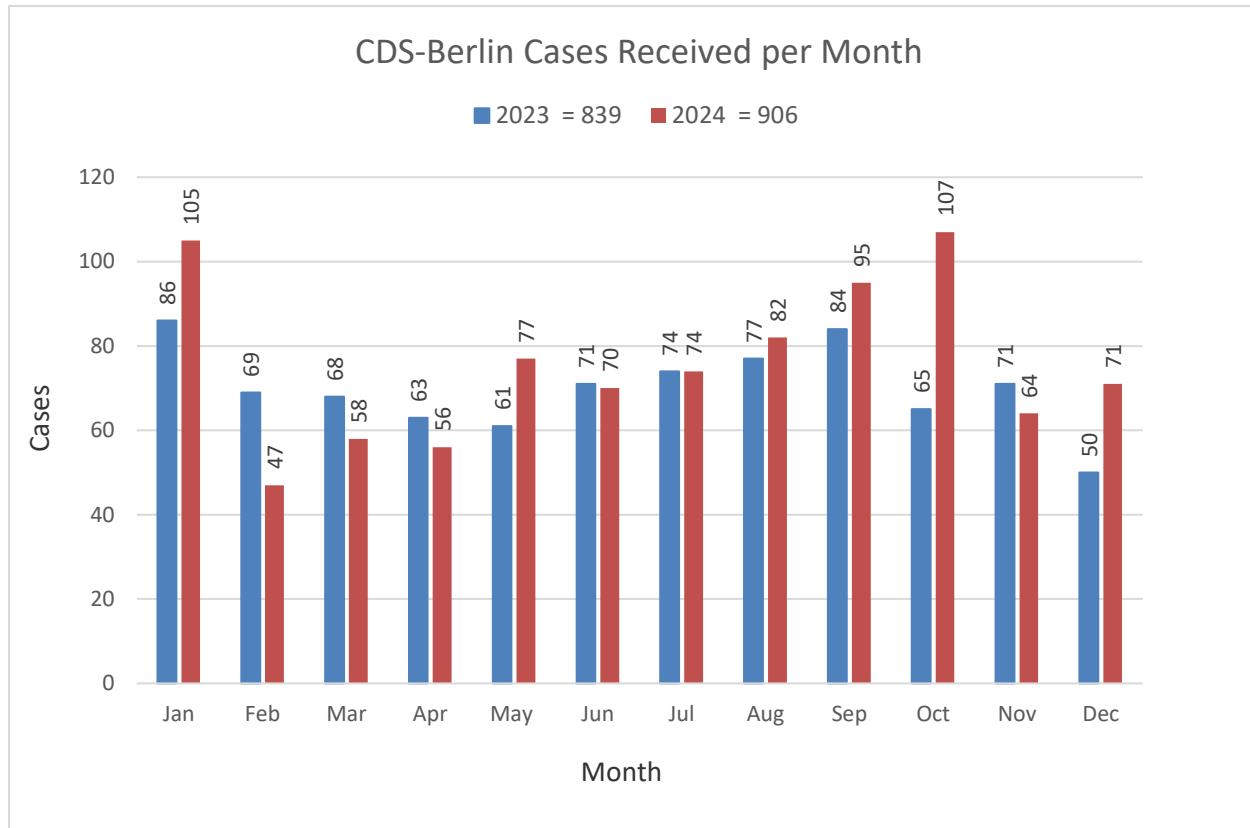


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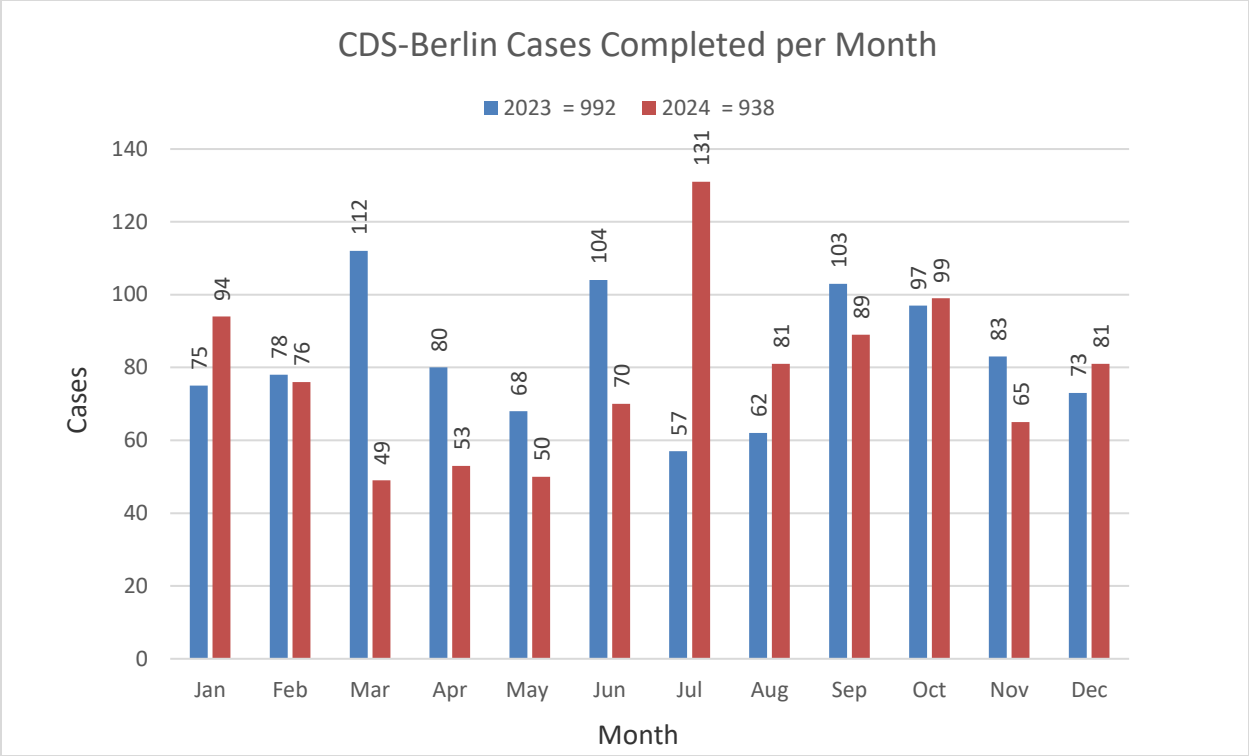
CDS-BERLIN UNIT

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

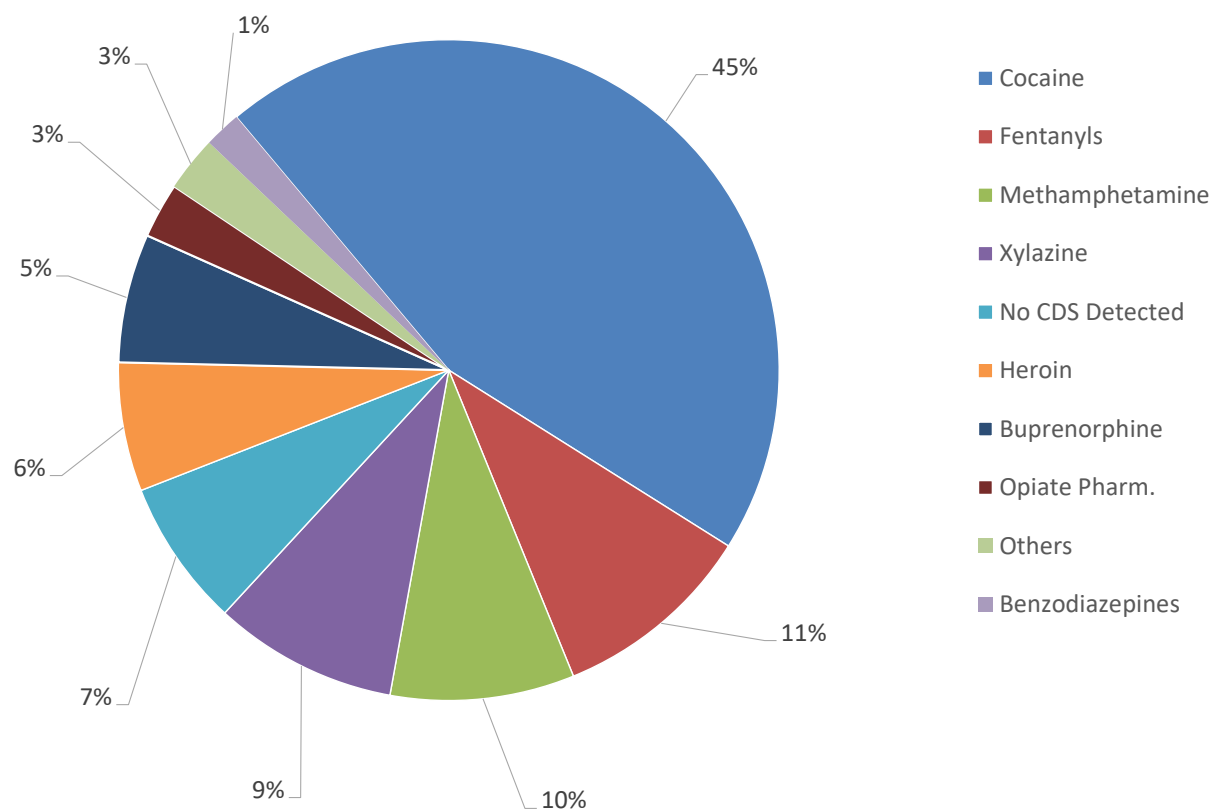


CDS-Berlin Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	60
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	52
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	22
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	14
	TOTAL	148

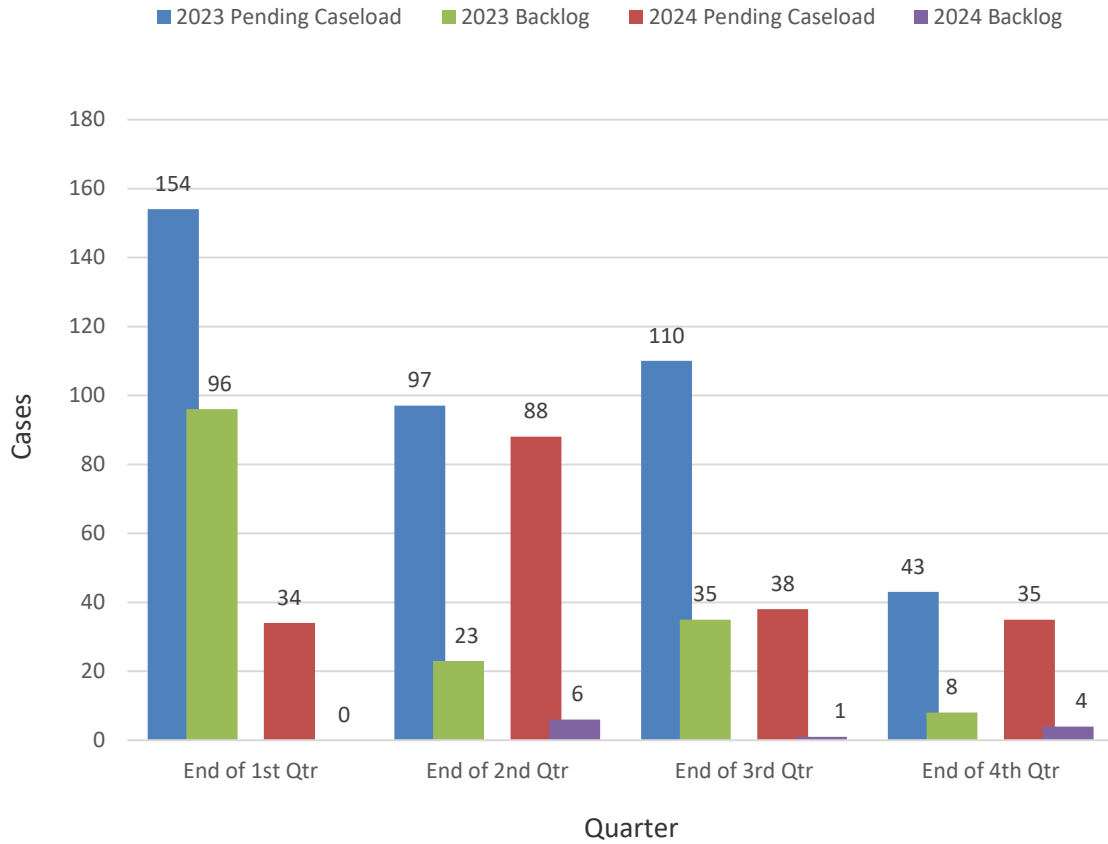
Allied Agency Cases Received by CDS-Berlin per County	
County	Submissions
Wicomico	464
Worcester	241
Somerset	53
TOTAL	758



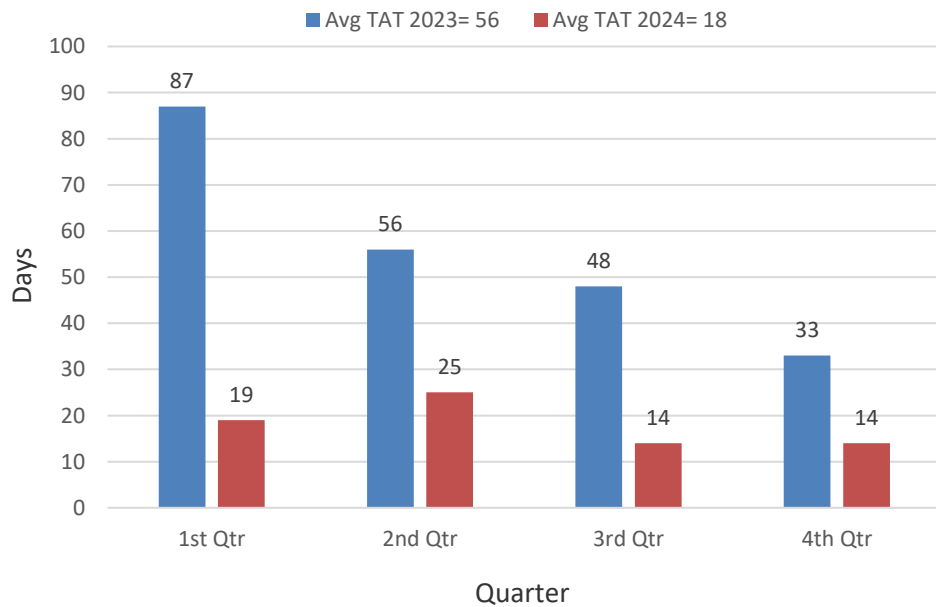
CDS-Berlin Analyses Reported per Drug Type



CDS-Berlin Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



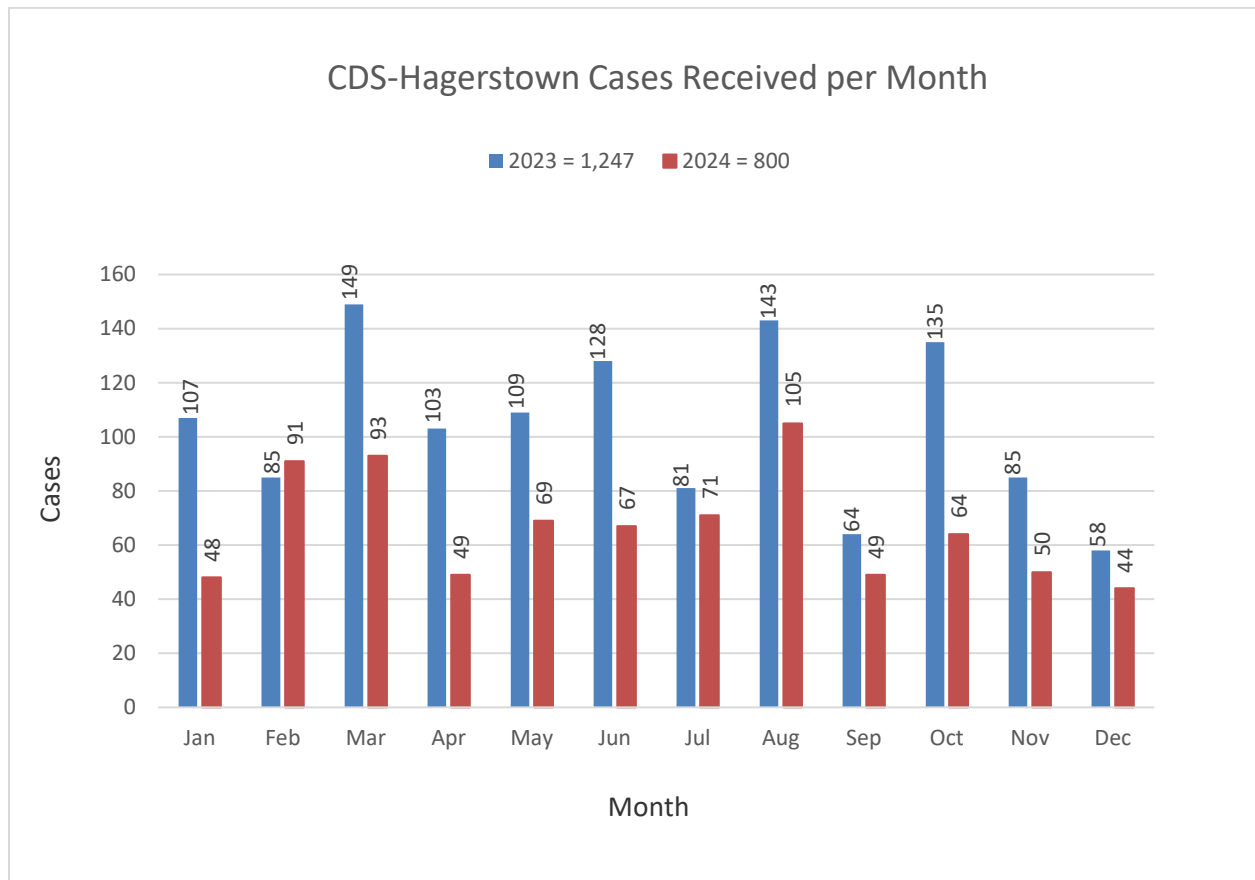
CDS-Berlin Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



CDS-HAGERSTOWN UNIT

The Hagerstown CDS laboratory services primarily the Western Maryland counties including Washington County, Allegany County, 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).

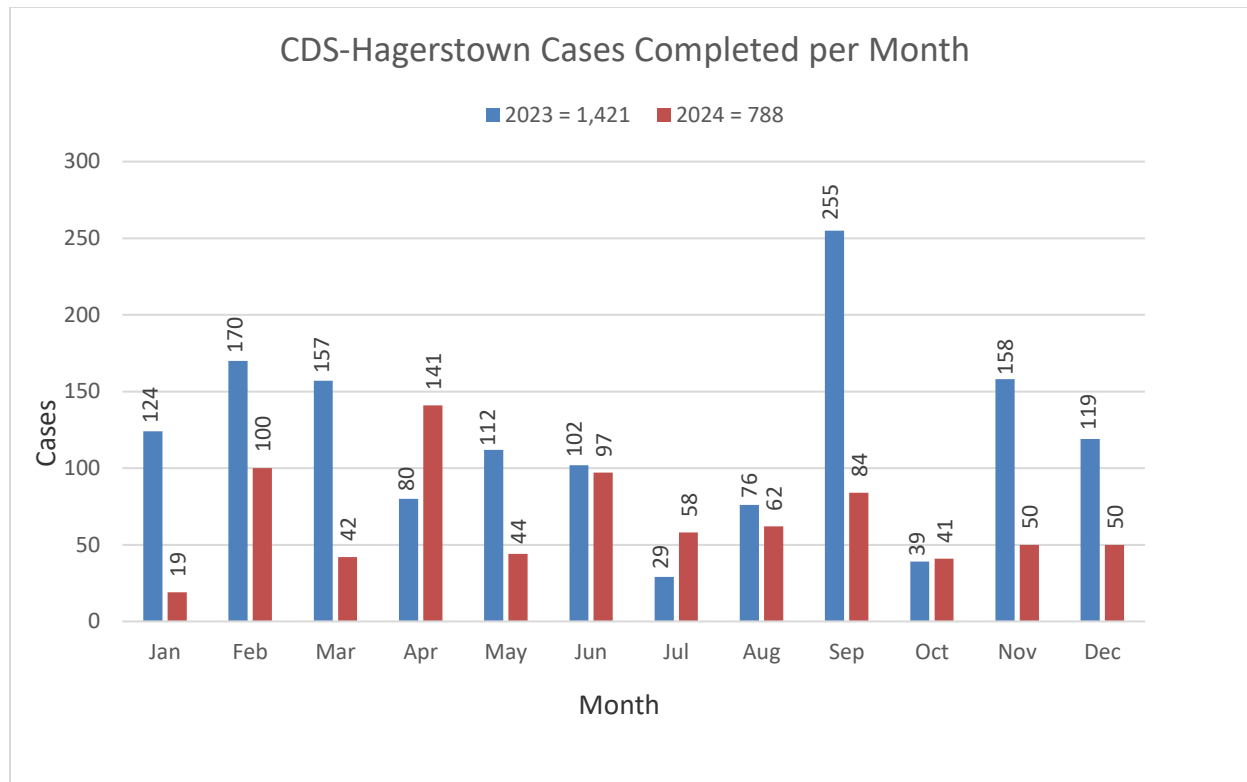


CDS-Hagerstown Cases Received per MSP Installation*		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	272
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	82
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	73
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	30
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	10
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	7
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	5
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	1
	TOTAL	480

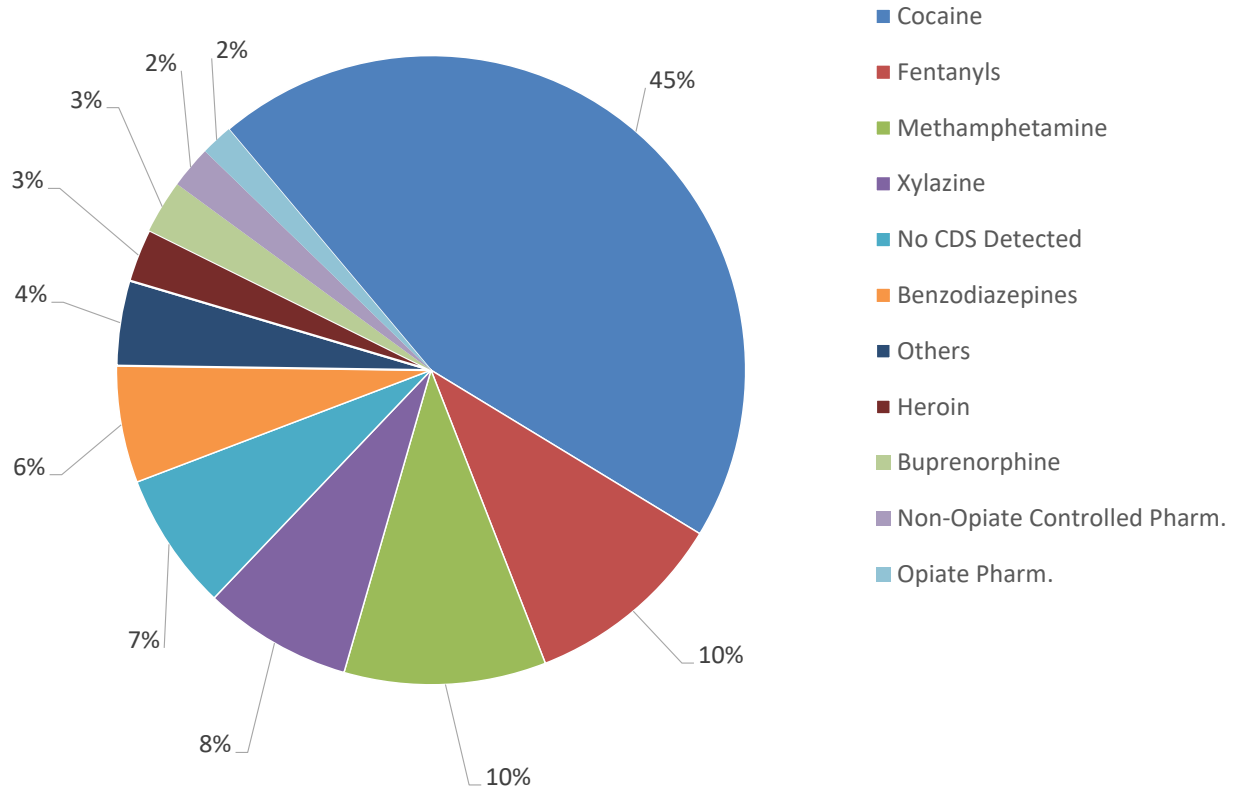
* Does not include Allied FS

Allied Agency Cases Received by CDS-Hagerstown per County*	
County	Submissions
Allegany	237
Garrett	63
Washington	19
Carroll	1
TOTAL	320

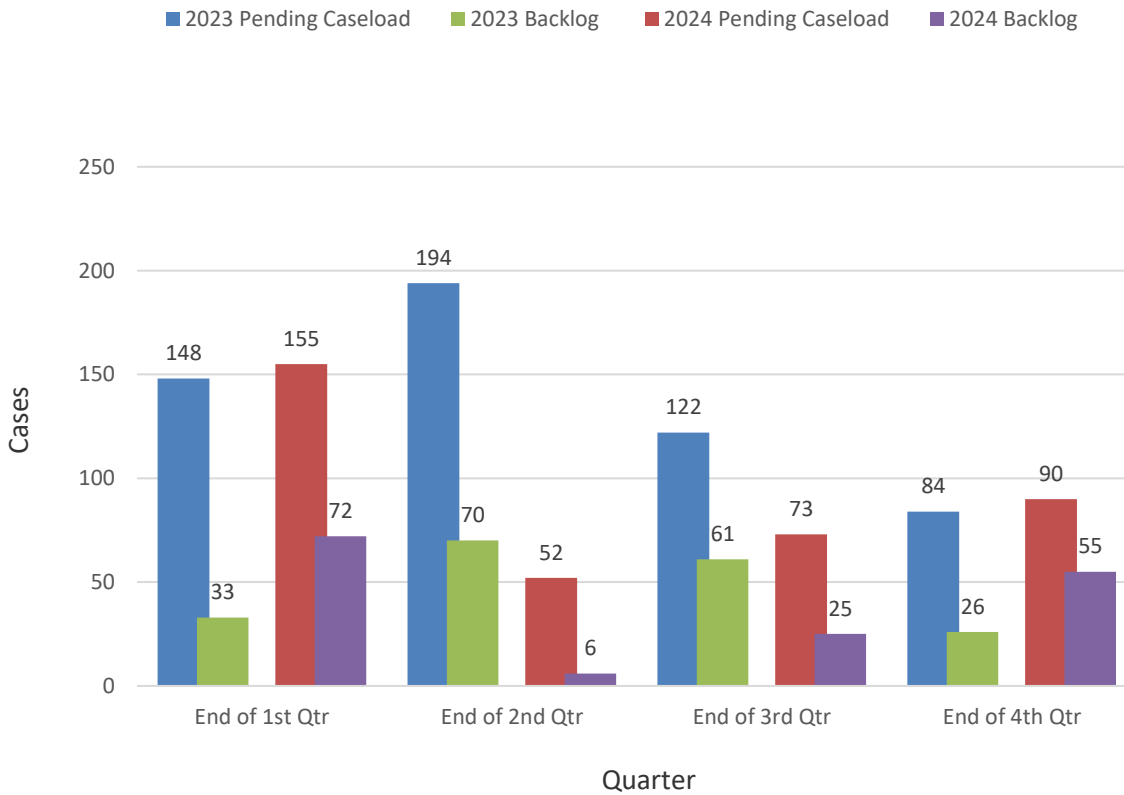
* Does not include Allied FS



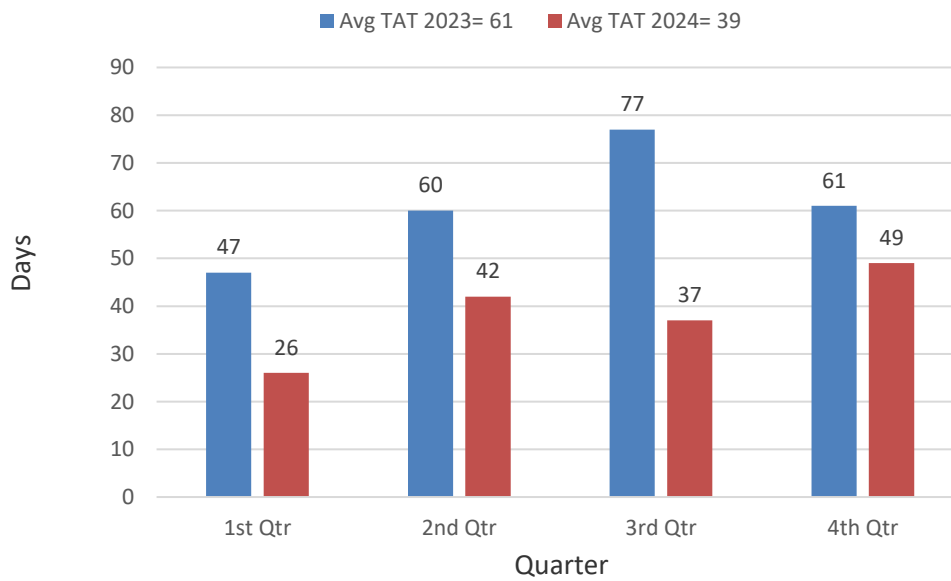
CDS-Hagerstown Analyses Reported per Drug Type
(Includes Allied FS)



CDS-Hagerstown Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



CDS-Hagerstown Case Turn Around Time per Quarter

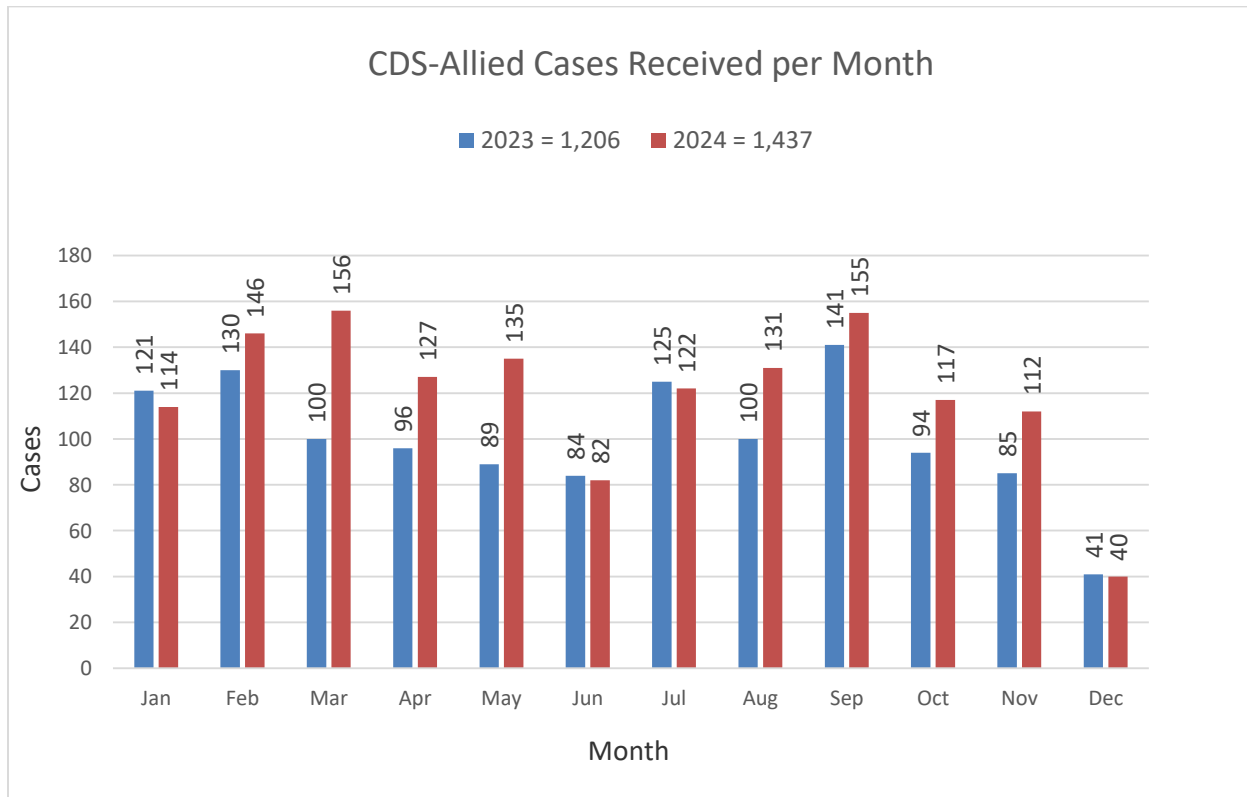


CDS-ALLIED FORENSIC SCIENTIST PROGRAM

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 Charles County Allied Chemist completed his training in 2024 and began analyzing cases independently in October 2024. In this report casework statistics for Charles County is included under the CDS-Pikesville Unit for 2024.



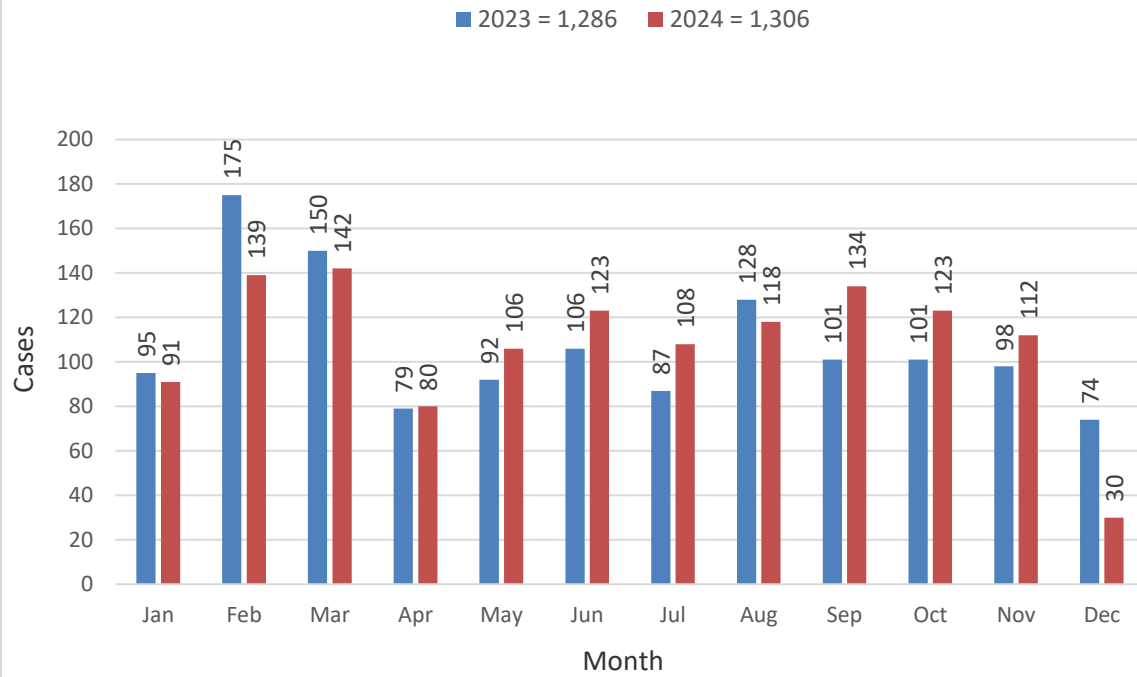
CDS Cases Received by Allied Forensic Scientists per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-North East	Cecil	42
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	32
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	18
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	16
	TOTAL	108

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.

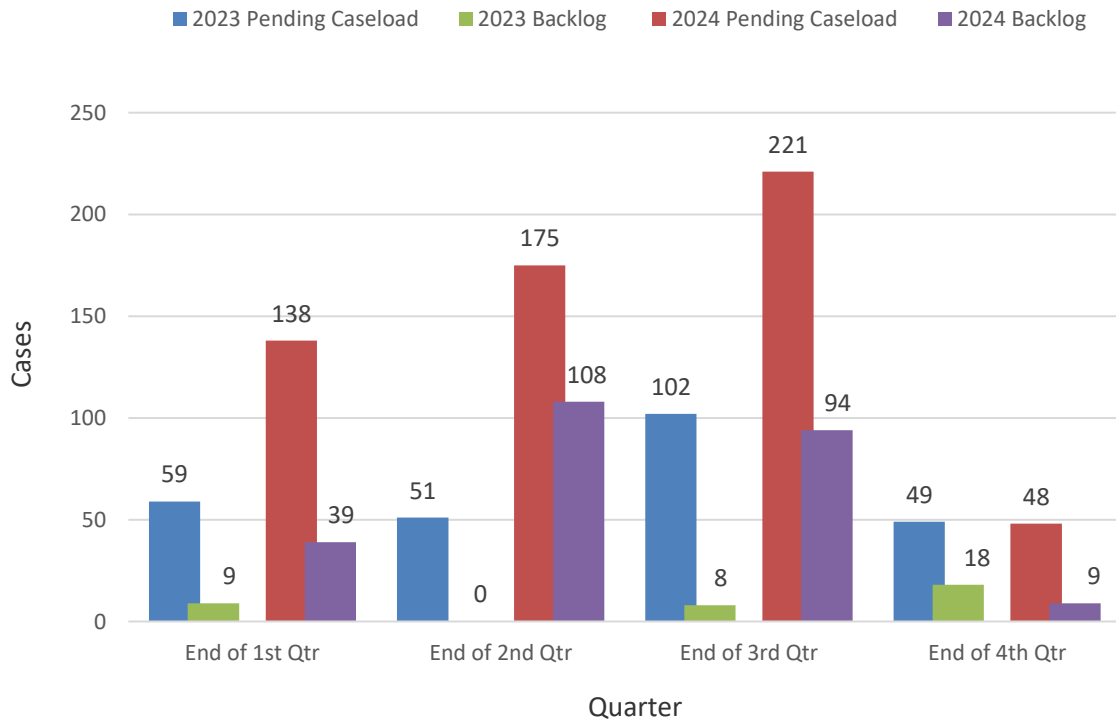
CDS Cases Received by Forensic Scientists from Allied Agencies per County	
County	Submissions
Cecil	519
Frederick	463
St. Mary's	243
Howard	104
TOTAL	1,329

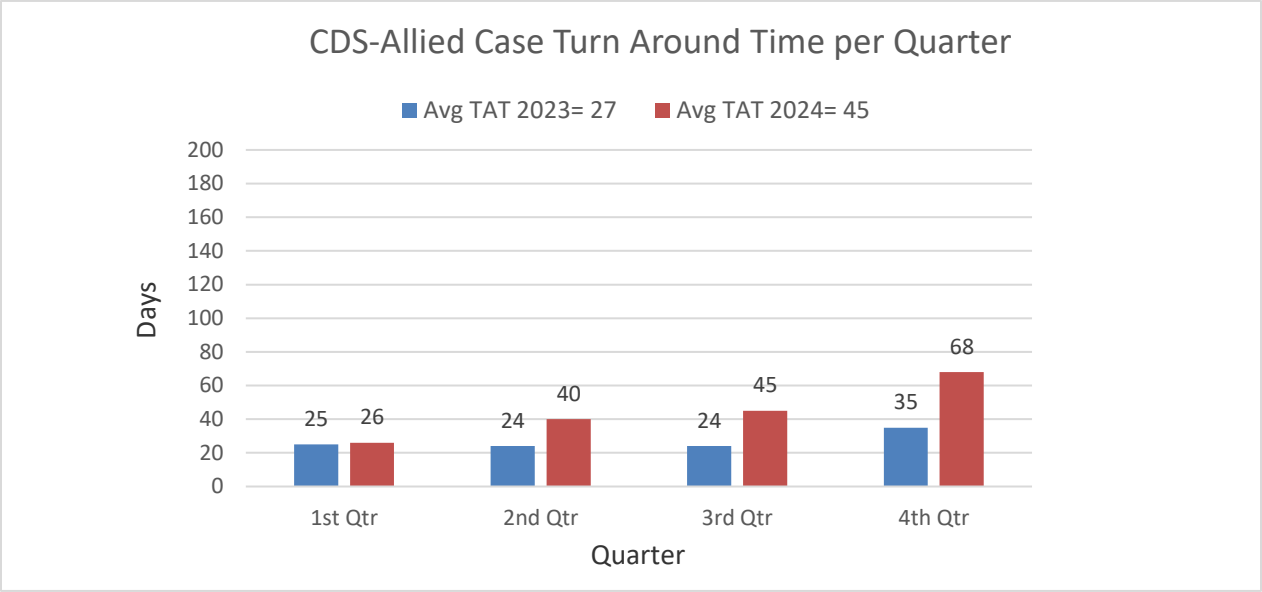
Note: Cases designated above are received by FSD from an Allied Forensic Scientist's County, but cases may be completed by FSD staff or outsourced.

CDS-Allied Cases Completed per Month



CDS-Allied Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter





CDS UNIT/ HIDTA DATA ANALYSIS

Drug Categories Identified in 2024*

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	1058	493	56	583	45	304	232	77	9	118	63	56	27	41	76	32	345	24	3639
%	29.1	13.6	1.5	16	1.2	8.4	6.4	2.1	0.3	3.2	1.7	1.5	0.7	1.1	2.1	0.9	9.5	0.7	
Total 2Q	1041	280	88	468	40	338	298	43	30	107	52	97	24	26	39	33	264	10	3278
%	31.7	8.5	2.7	14.3	1.2	10.3	9.1	1.3	0.9	3.3	1.6	3	0.7	0.8	1.2	1	8.1	0.3	
Total 3Q	1179	201	85	432	42	267	292	62	26	109	49	48	18	44	29	44	245	17	3189
%	37	6.3	2.7	13.6	1.3	8.4	9.2	1.9	0.8	3.4	1.5	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.9	1.4	7.7	0.5	
Total 4Q	953	207	116	342	55	204	235	50	7	80	44	47	13	19	12	40	153	10	2587
%	36.8	8	4.5	13.2	2.1	7.9	9.1	1.9	0.3	3.1	1.7	1.8	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.6	5.9	0.4	

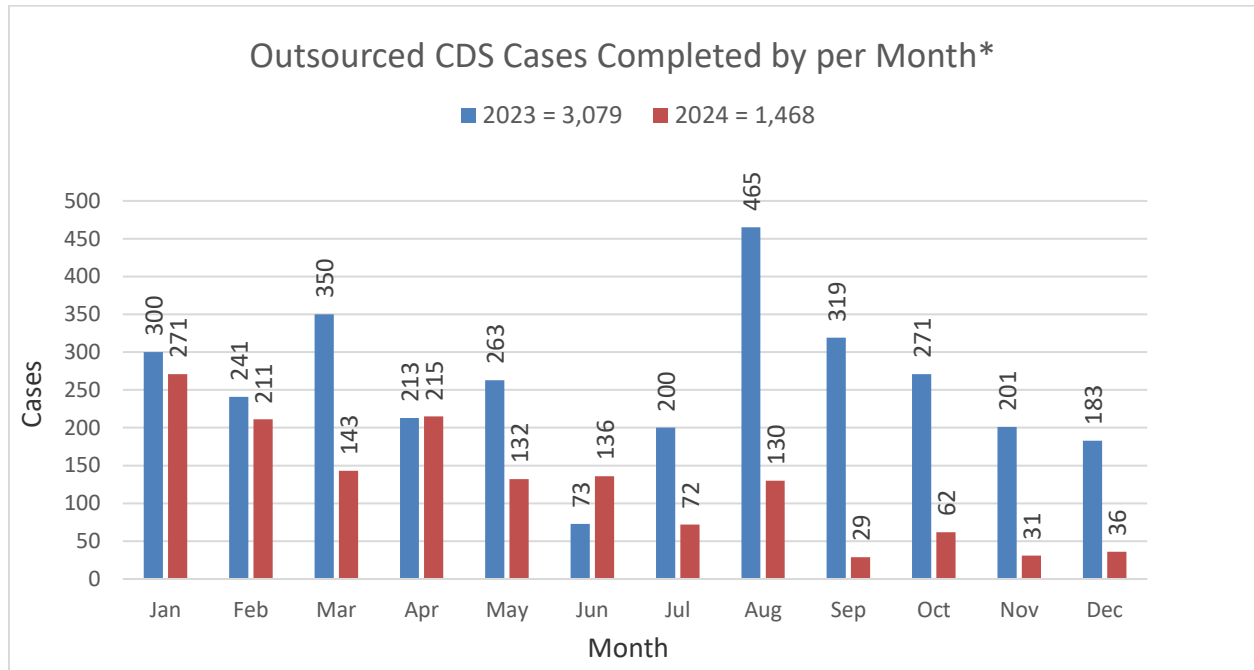
*This is an overview of samples submitted to the MSP labs only, and does not represent all drugs seized in the State of Maryland.

**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.

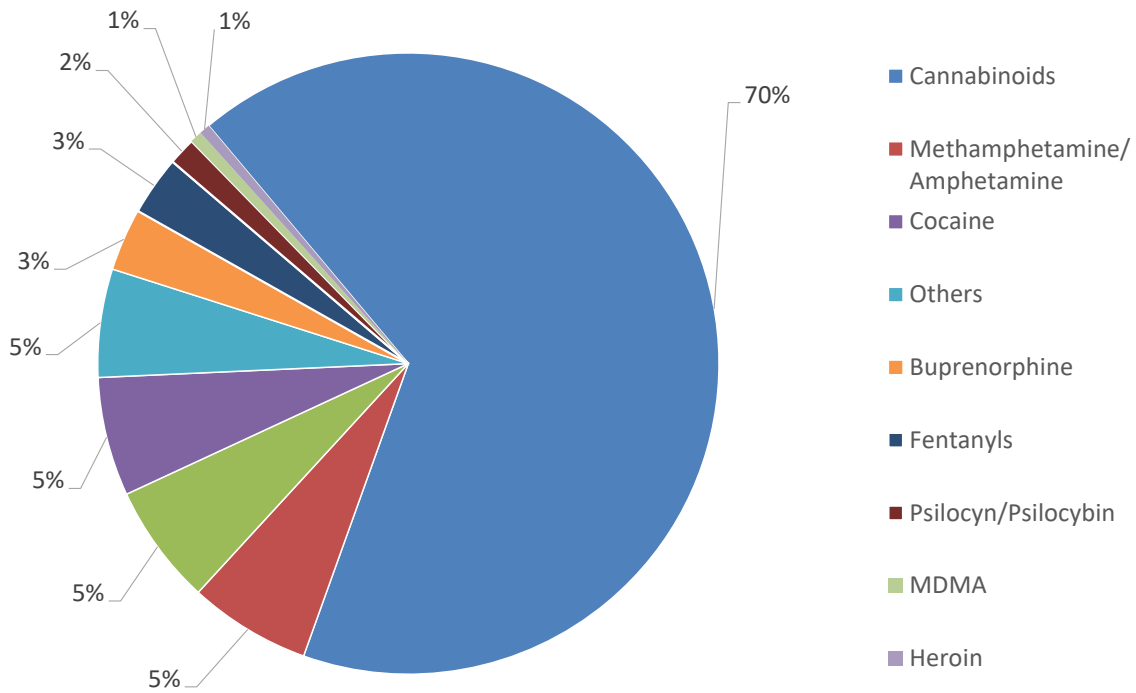
CDS OUTSOURCING

In an effort to eliminate the CDS case backlog and allow for MSP scientists to bring on new technologies, FSD continued outsourcing CDS cases for analysis to accredited private laboratories. 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 minimize backlogs in 2024.



*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

There were four cases submitted to the CDS-Pikesville Unit for four different suspects associated with one Howard County PD case. One of these cases contained 25 KAPAKS of evidence. This large case included the identification of heroin, fentanyl, para-Fluorofentanyl, cocaine, tramadol, xylazine (not a CDS, but a very common cutting agent that is of concern), synthetic cannabinoids, and methamphetamine. These cases have not been adjudicated.

There were 17 cases submitted for multiple suspects to the CDS-Berlin Unit. The cases submissions included cocaine, cocaine hydrochloride (determined by FT-IR), methamphetamine, THC, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and tramadol. The analysis of these cases took down a large CDS ring.

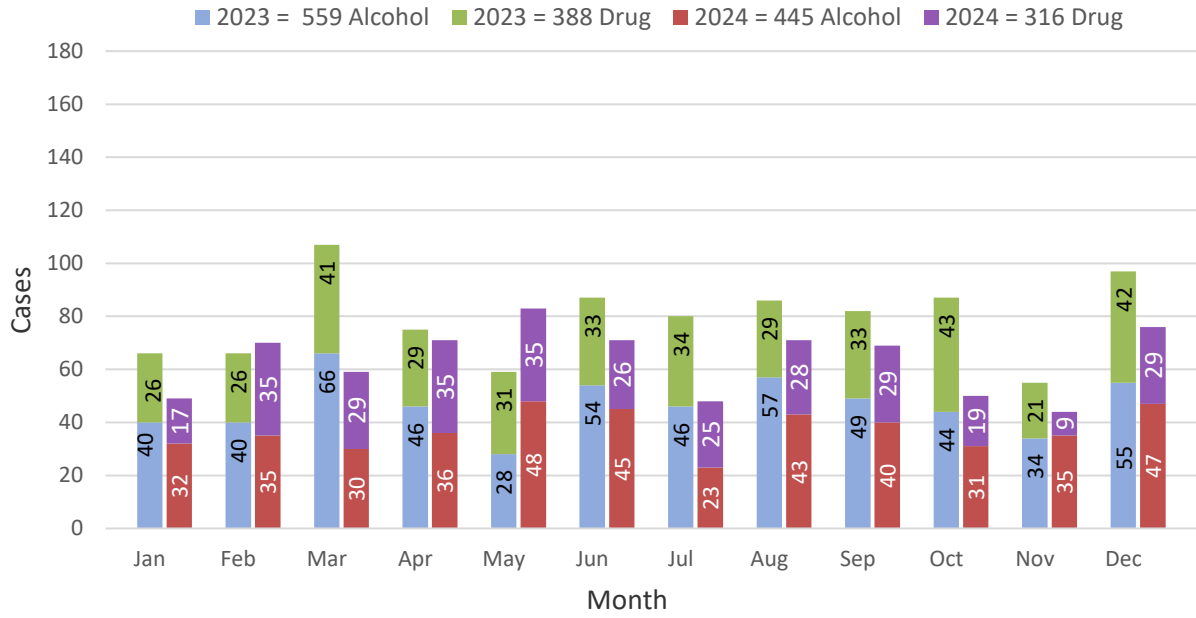
TOXICOLOGY UNITS

The Toxicology Unit is 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 Unit 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 Unit continues to grow. The Forensic Scientist I vacancy in Pikesville was filled with the new scientist starting in early December of 2024. There are currently three fully trained Forensic Scientists at the Pikesville location and a Unit Supervisor in the Hagerstown location. The remaining vacancy in Hagerstown is in the middle of the hiring process. Hagerstown is nearly ready to accept Blood Alcohol casework. The Berlin laboratory is nearly completed and awaiting instruments for installation.

The unit had another successful year of managing caseload and reporting. For the entirety of 2024, there was no need for outsourcing to reduce the toxicology backlog. While the unit received fewer cases in 2024 compared to 2023, the blood alcohol turn-around-time stayed consistently under 30 days, and most months, the blood alcohol backlog was at zero. The unit made a humongous effort with reporting blood drug cases, which cover 20+ drugs over 7 assays. The turn-around-time for blood drug analysis is now under 100 days, with the average TAT at 90 days. The average TAT for alcohol and drugs is within the average range for toxicology laboratories based on a 2024 survey conducted by the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education.

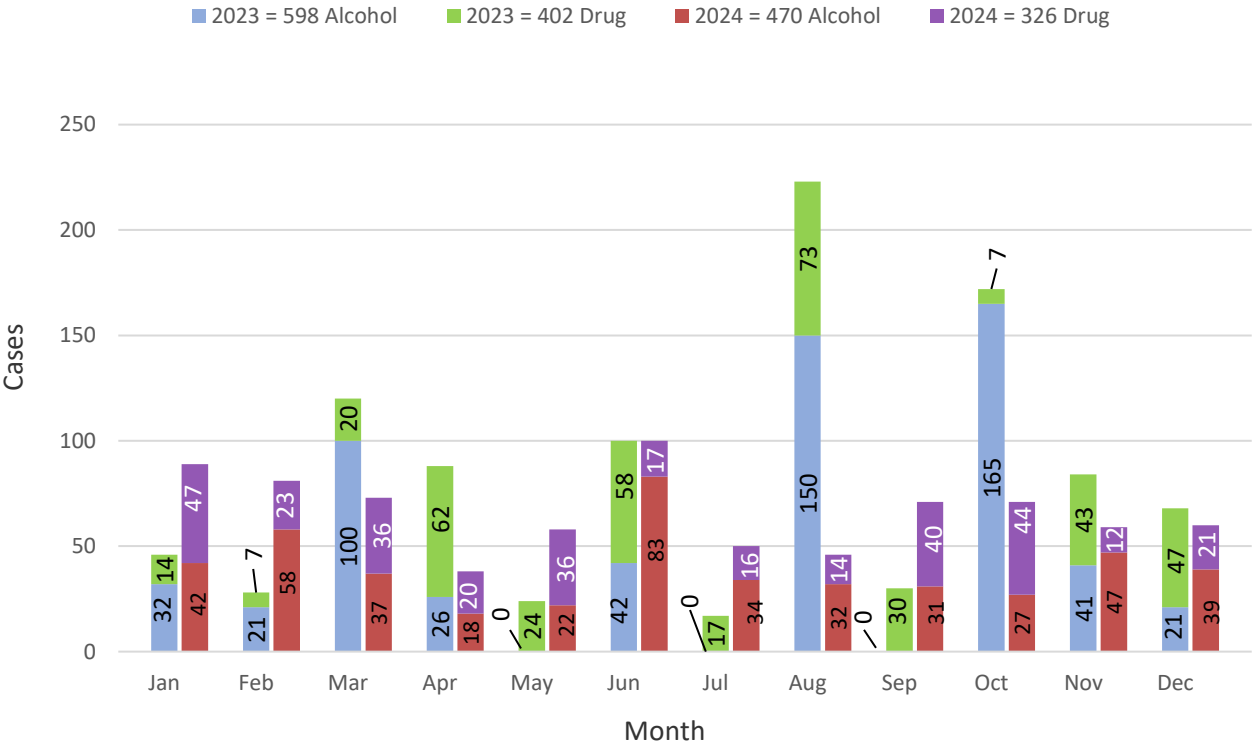
Toxicology Cases Received Per Month



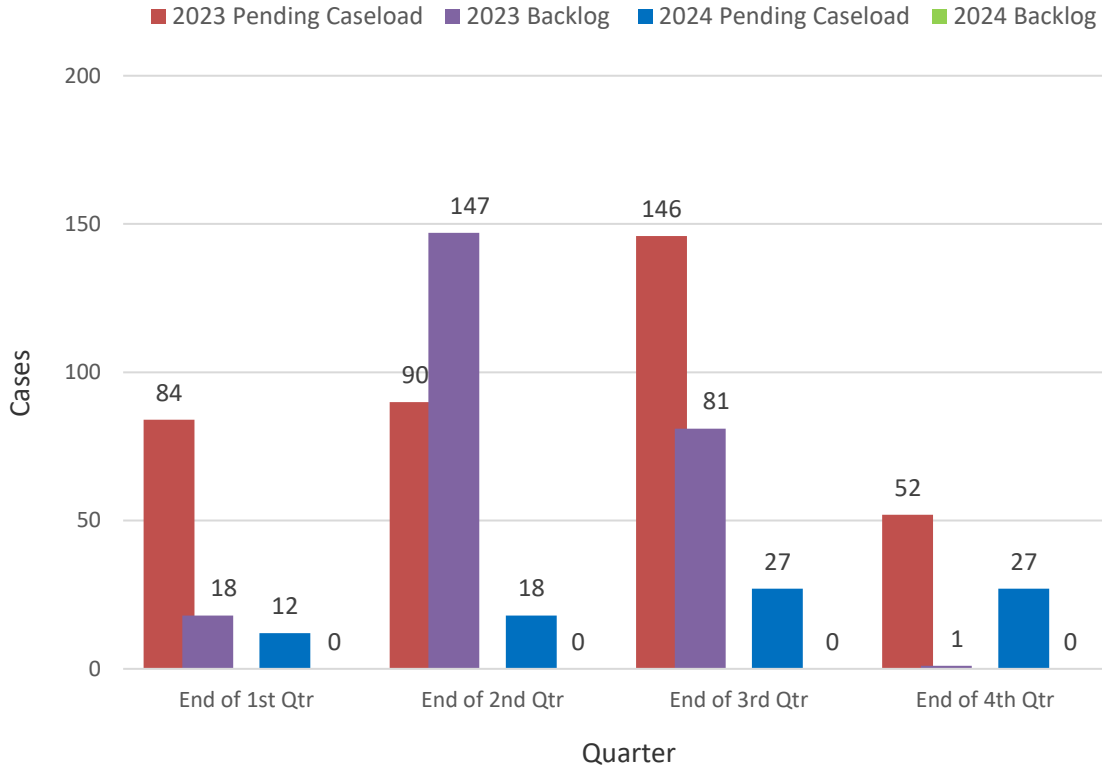
Toxicology Cases Received per MSP Installation		
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore	29
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	27
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	24
MSP-College Park	Prince George's	22
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	19
MSP-Easton	Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot	18
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	16
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	14
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	12
MSP-Annapolis	Anne Arundel	12
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	11
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	10
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	9
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	9
MSP-North East	Cecil	8
MSP-JFK Highway	Cecil, Harford, Baltimore	8
MSP-La Plata	Charles	7
MSP-Glen Burnie	Anne Arundel	6
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	6
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	5
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	4
MSP-McHenry	Garett	3
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	3
	TOTAL	282

Toxicology Cases Received from Allied Agencies by County	
County	Submissions
Baltimore	67
Anne Arundel	65
Montgomery	57
Harford	39
Frederick	36
Carroll	29
Washington	27
Howard	25
Baltimore City	19
Worcester	17
St. Mary's	15
Prince George's	13
Allegany	11
Wicomico	10
Charles	9
Calvert	8
Garrett	7
Dorchester	6
Queen Anne's	6
Cecil	5
Talbot	3
Somerset	3
Kent	2
TOTAL	479

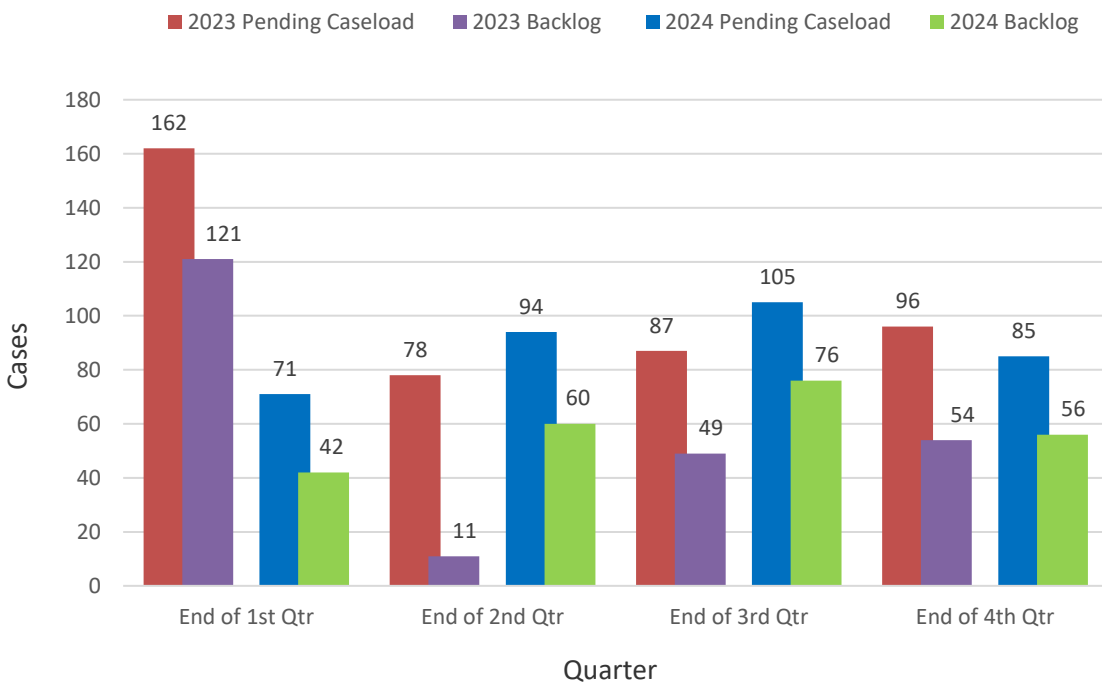
Toxicology Cases Completed Per Month



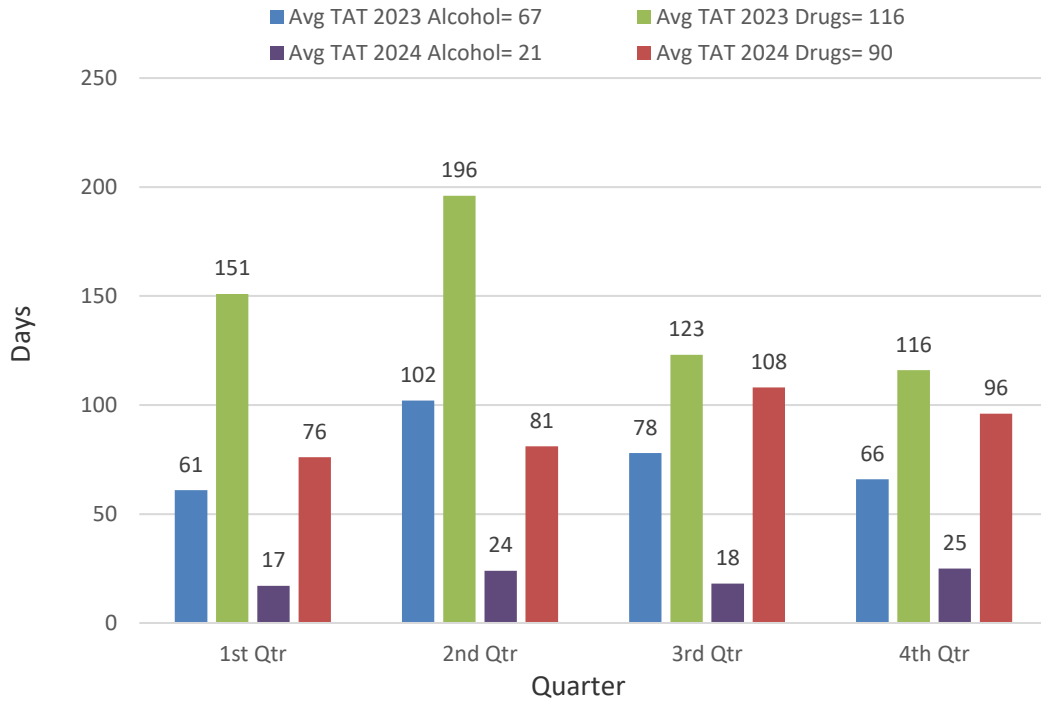
Blood Alcohol Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



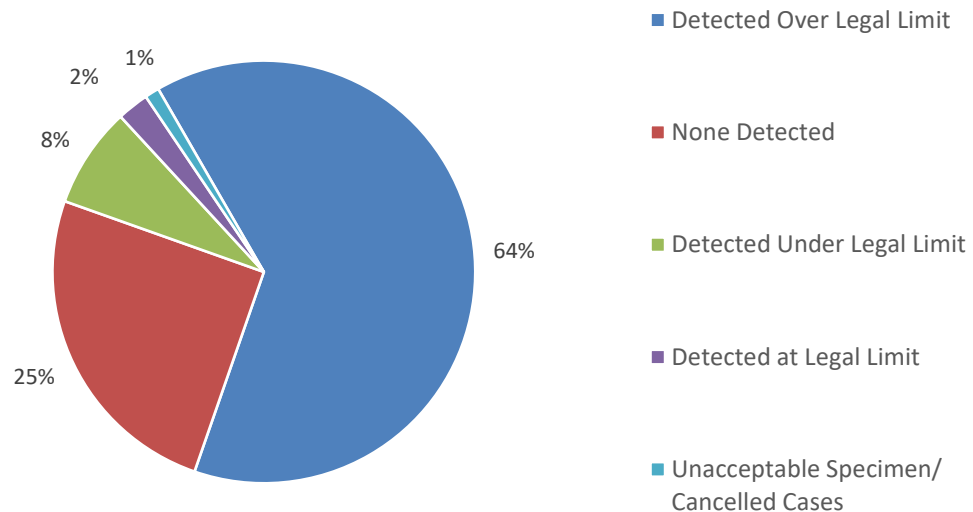
Blood Drug Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter



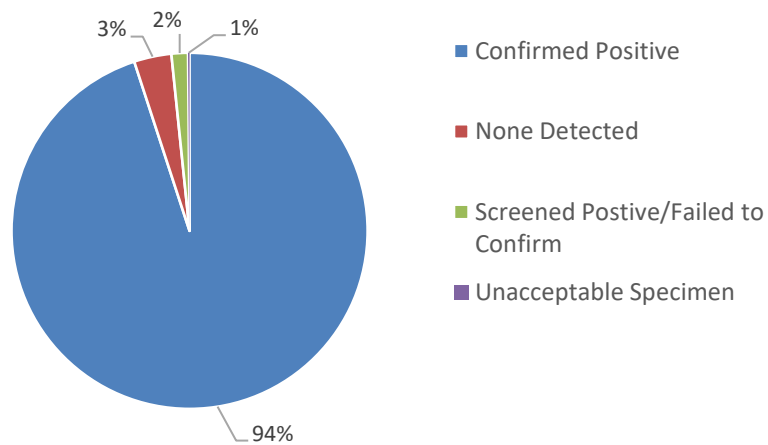
Toxicology Case Turn Around Time



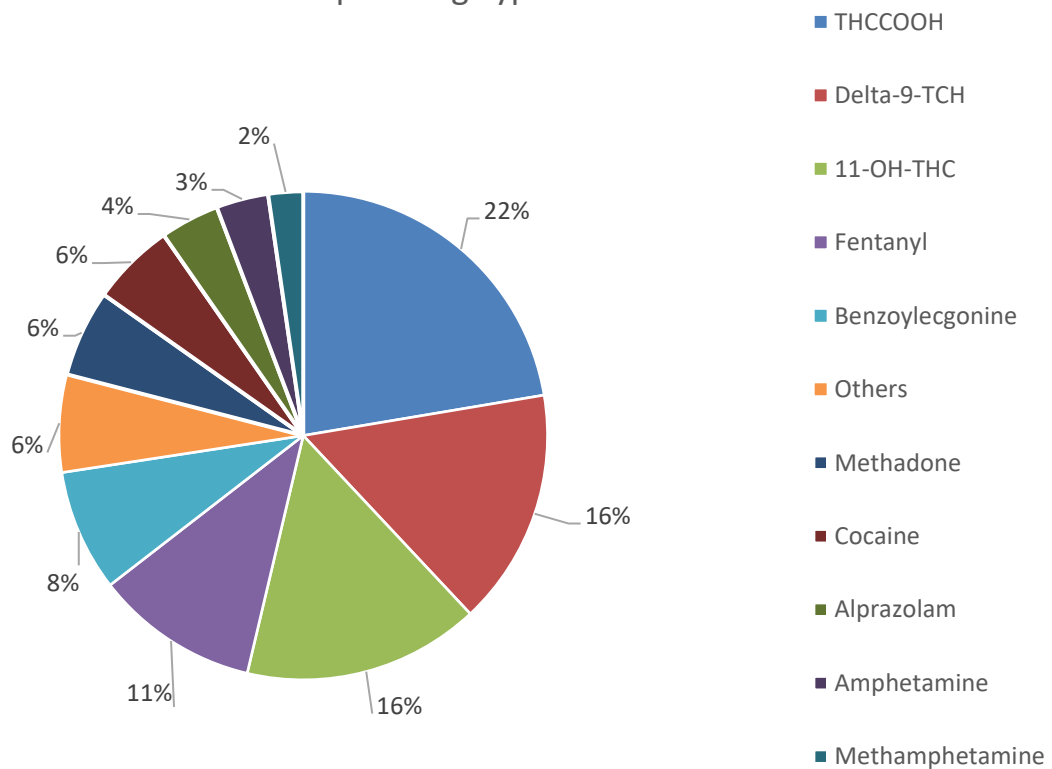
Blood Alcohol Cases Reported per Detection Level -In house



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



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



NOTEWORTHY CASES

In October of 2024, an individual from Catonsville was struck and killed by an impaired driver after his vehicle became disabled on Interstate 695. The driver of the vehicle was arrested at the scene and her blood kit was submitted to the Toxicology Unit for alcohol testing. The driver had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.14 g/100 mL and was found guilty on all charges, including Negligent Manslaughter and Attempting to Drive a Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol.

On July 6, 2024 a 3-car accident in Prince George's County resulted in the death of three young male individuals. All three were high school friends and college football players, with one individual that had been drafted to the Minnesota Vikings in April of that year. The driver of the vehicle that collided with them was identified and their blood was collected. Testing revealed that driver had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 g/100 mL and is scheduled to stand trial in June of 2025.

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 consists of five units 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 are two units 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 two contractual paralegal II's.

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.

In addition to the Forensic Scientists, the Biology Section has one Research Statistician IV and one Contractual Administrative Specialist II to aid with statistical and administrative duties.

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.

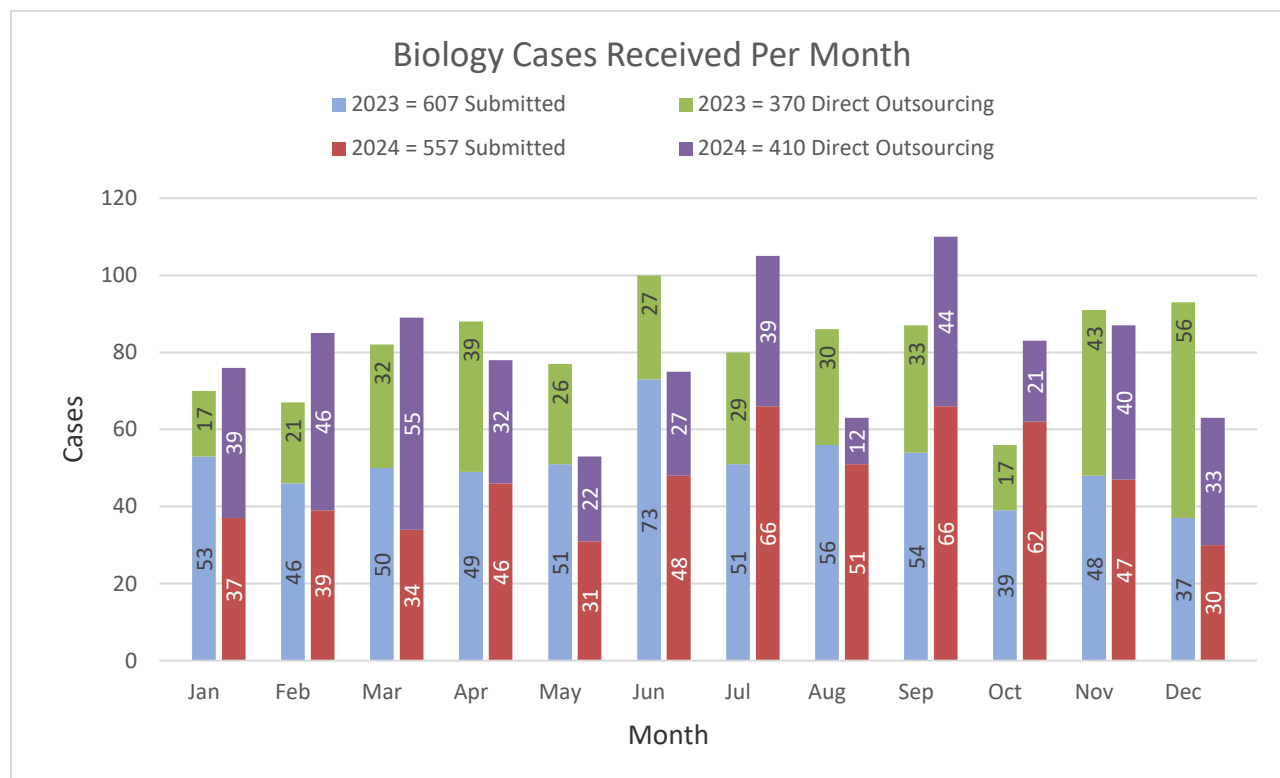
The overall number of case submissions to the Biology Section decreased in 2024. There were 557 cases received in the Biology Section, which is approximately an 8.3% decrease from 2023. There was a 3% increase in the number of cases that were directly outsourced in 2024. Between in-house outsourcing and direct outsourcing 52.4% of total cases received in 2024 were outsourced. Even though directly outsourced cases are directly sent for outsourcing 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 increased by 10% in 2024. 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.

The Biology Section is also committed to continuous progress in regards to new technologies and methodologies, which are constantly being evaluated and implemented as applicable. To that end, after a multi-year validation, the Biology Section will be implementing STRmix DNA analysis software starting in 2025. STRmix software can resolve mixed DNA profiles by combining sophisticated biological modelling and standard mathematical processes to interpret a wide range of complex DNA profiles. The software allows for the analysis of DNA mixtures that were previously too complex to analyze using manual interpretation procedures.

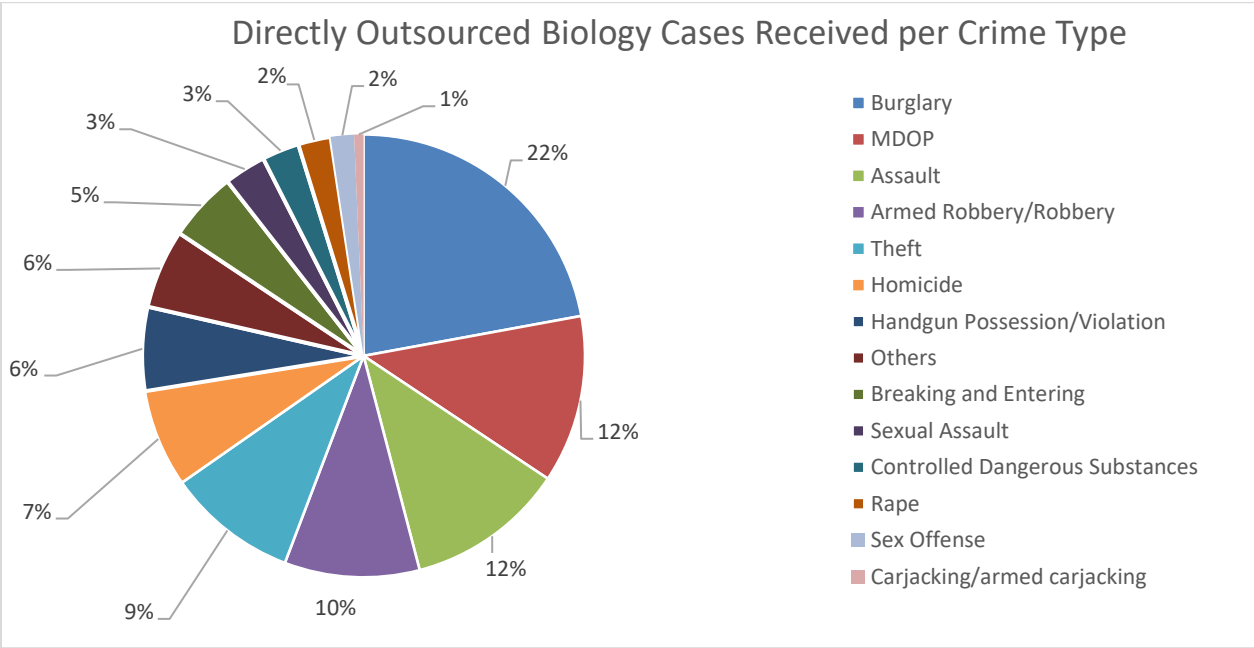
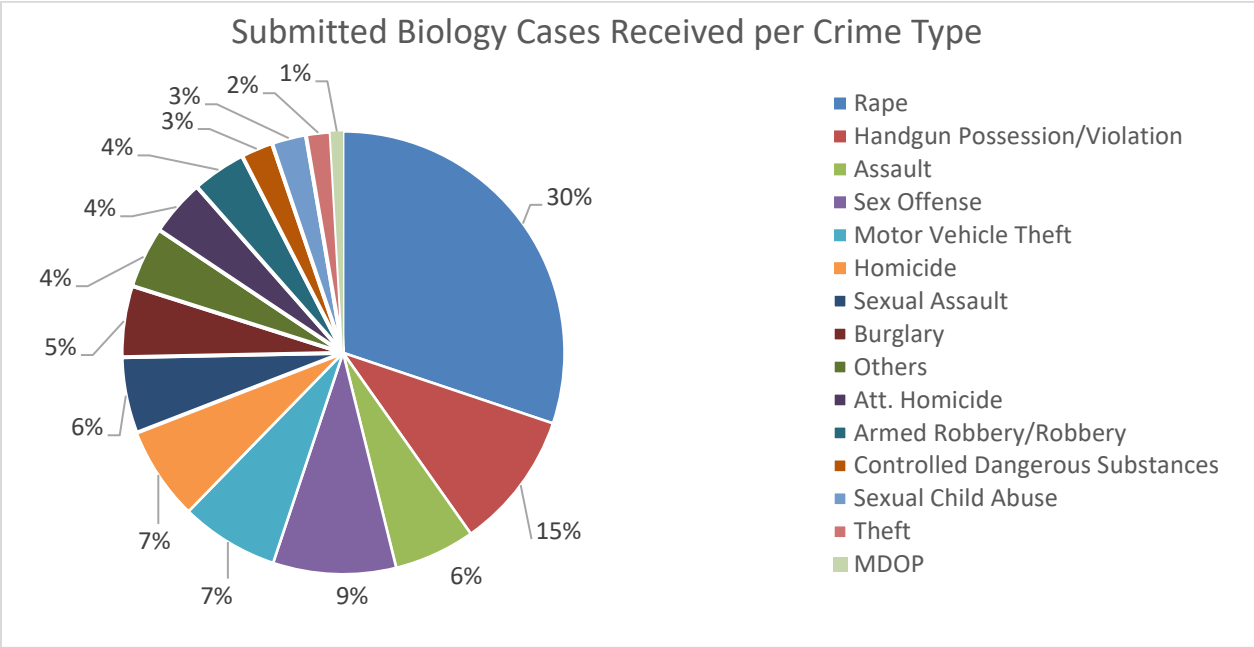
Another future project for the Biology Section is validating and implementing the RapidHIT instrument, which is a Rapid DNA System that allows for the fully automated processing and analysis of database reference samples in under two hours. This instrument will be able to be used by the Database Units to confirm CODIS hits within hours of receipt of a reference sample,

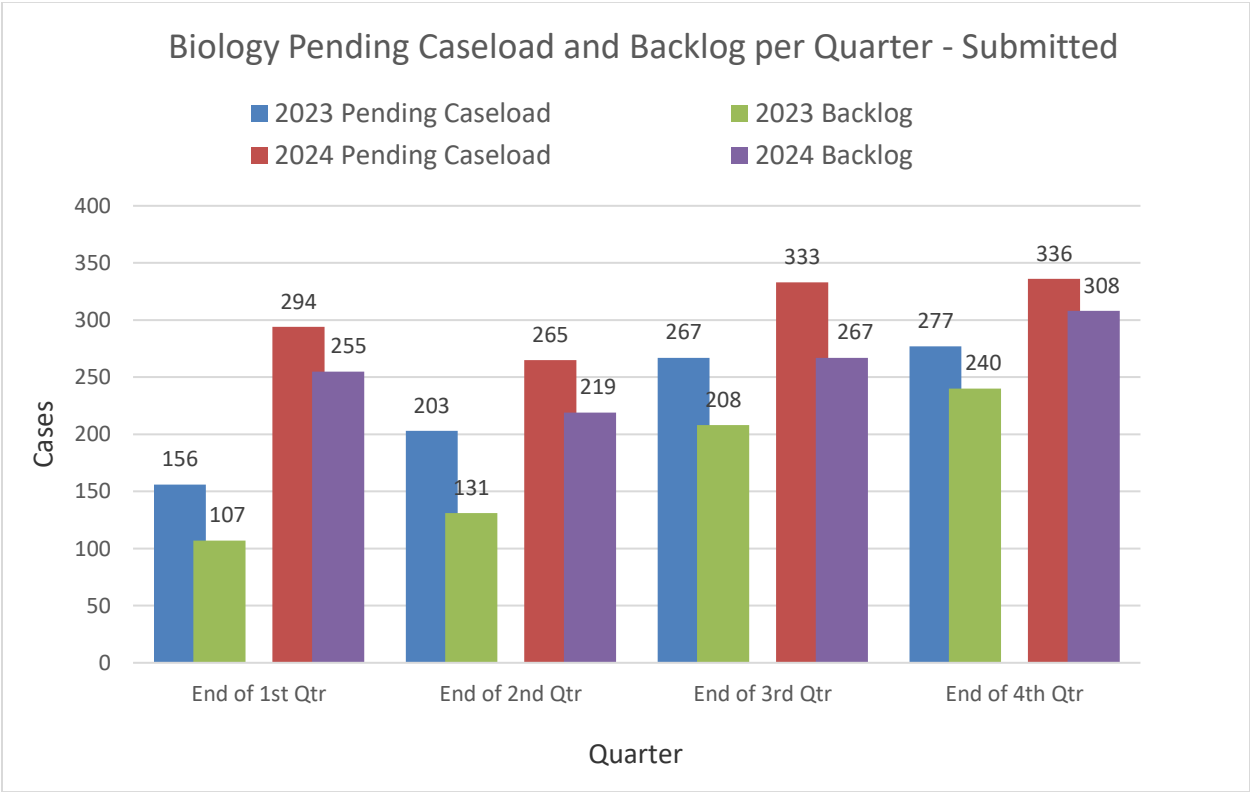
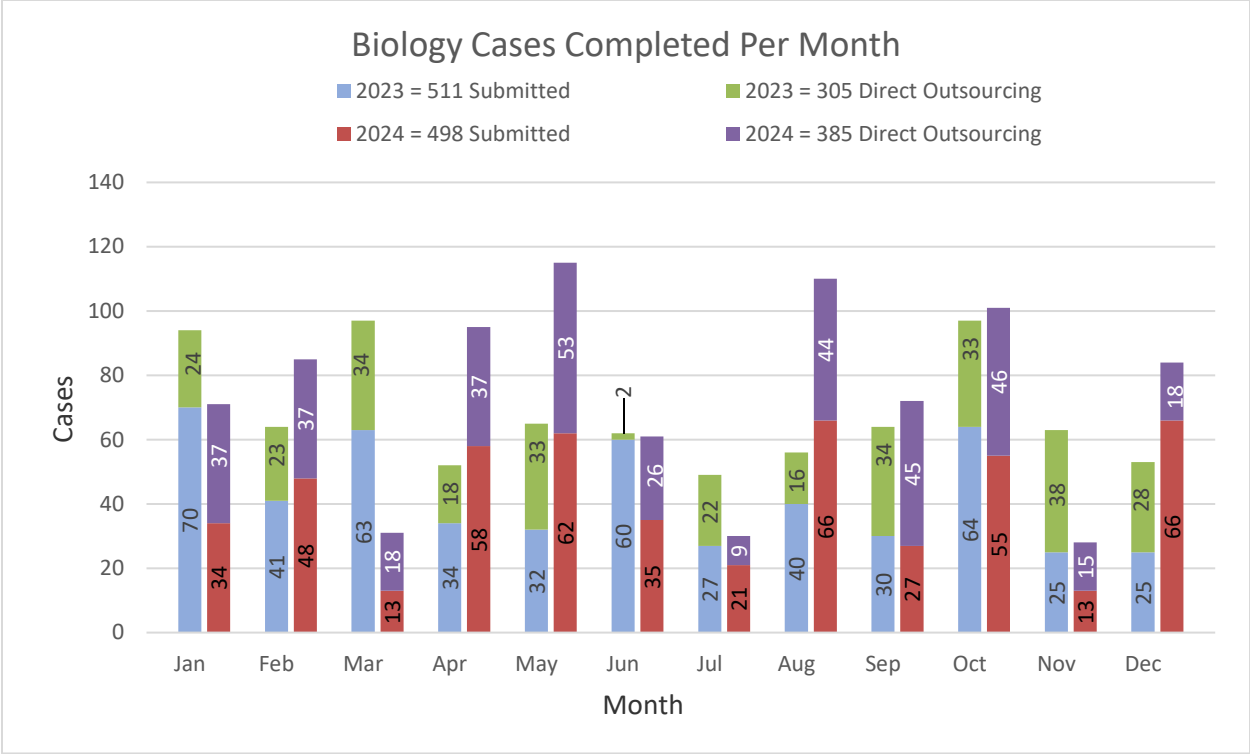
providing police agencies nearly immediate feedback to their investigations. The Section plans to implement the RapidHIT instrument in 2025.



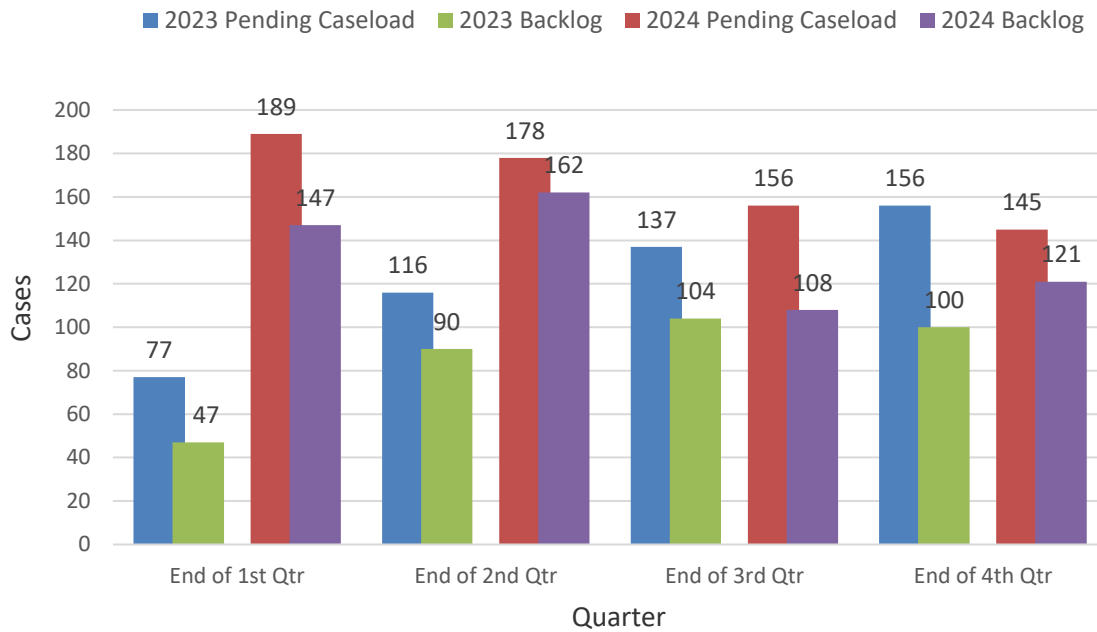
Biology Cases Received per MSP Installation				
MSP Installation	Counties Served	Case Type		
		Submitted	Directly Outsourced	Combined
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	37	3	40
MSP-Homicide	Statewide	11	3	14
MSP-DED/C3I	Allegany	9	0	9
MSP-North East	Cecil	6	1	7
MSP-Westminster	Carroll	5	1	6
MSP-Crash Team	Statewide	2	0	2
MSP-Centerville	Kent, Queen Anne's	2	0	2
MSP-La Plata	Charles	2	0	2
MSP-Easton	Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester	2	1	3
MSP-Salisbury	Wicomico	1	1	2
MSP-Cumberland	Allegany	1	1	2
MSP-Prince Frederick	Calvert	1	0	1
MSP-Frederick	Frederick	1	0	1
MSP-Golden Ring	Baltimore, Baltimore City	0	0	0
MSP-Princess Anne	Somerset	0	0	0
MSP-McHenry	Garrett	0	1	1
OSFM	Statewide	0	1	1
MSP-Leonardtown	St. Mary's	0	0	0
MSP-Berlin	Worcester	0	0	0
MSP-Hagerstown	Washington	0	0	0
MSP-Bel Air	Harford	0	0	0
MSP-Rockville	Montgomery	0	0	0
MSP-Waterloo	Howard	0	0	0
MSP-Forestville	Prince George's	0	0	0
	TOTAL	80	13	93

Allied Agency Cases Received by Biology per County			
County	Case Type		
	Submitted	Directly Outsourced	Combined
Wicomico	77	4	81
Harford	61	4	65
Frederick	56	8	64
Cecil	49	0	49
Charles	41	232	273
Talbot	28	0	28
Washington	27	12	39
Carroll	24	12	36
St. Mary's	23	87	110
Statewide/Not Determined*	23	0	23
Dorchester	15	1	16
Queen Anne's	13	1	14
Caroline	9	0	9
Kent	8	0	8
Worcester	7	20	27
Somerset	5	0	5
Calvert	5	5	10
Prince George's	3	1	4
Garrett	3	0	3
Out of State	0	0	0
Baltimore City	0	1	1
Anne Arundel	0	8	8
Baltimore	0	1	1
Howard	0	0	0
TOTAL	477	397	874

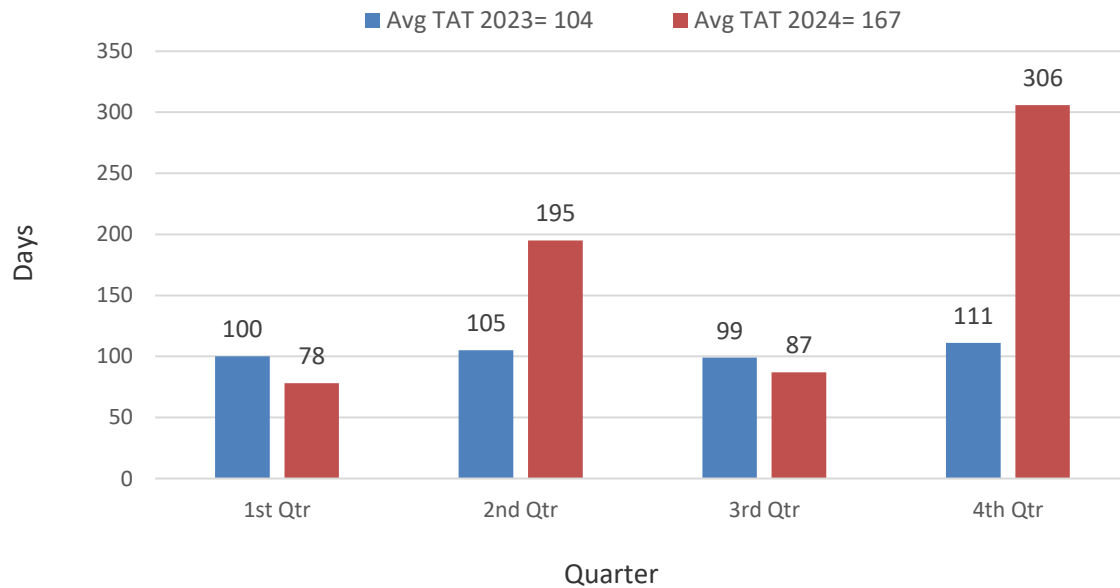




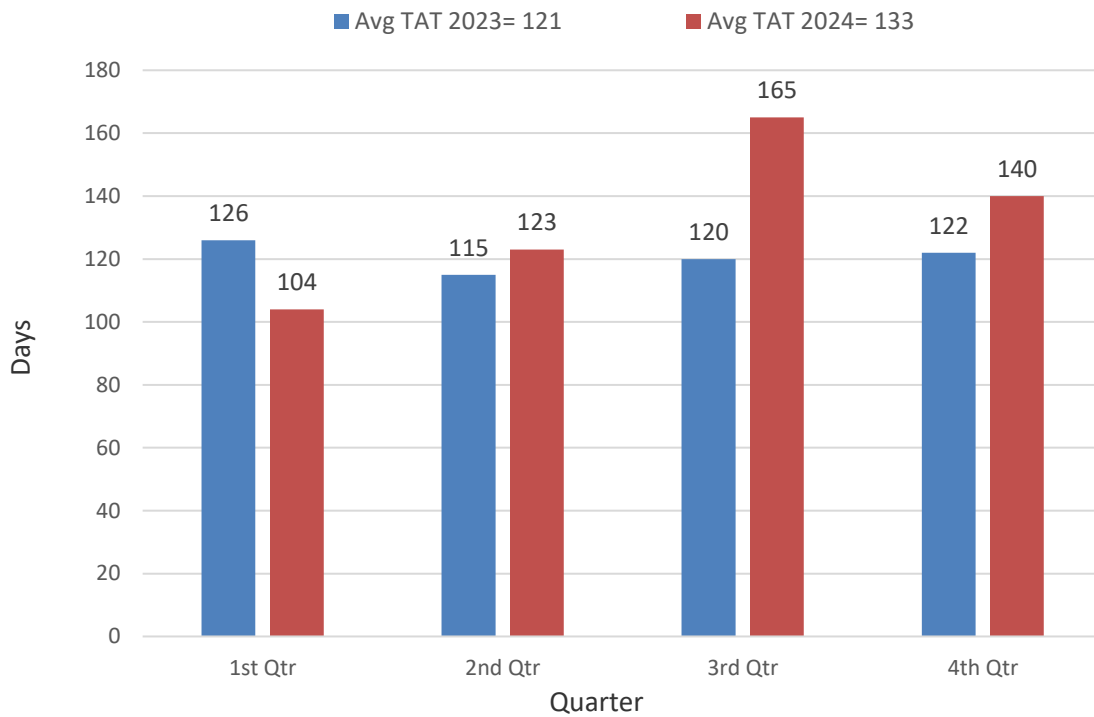
Biology Pending Caseload and Backlog per Quarter - Directly Outsourced



Biology Case Turn Around Time per Quarter - Submitted

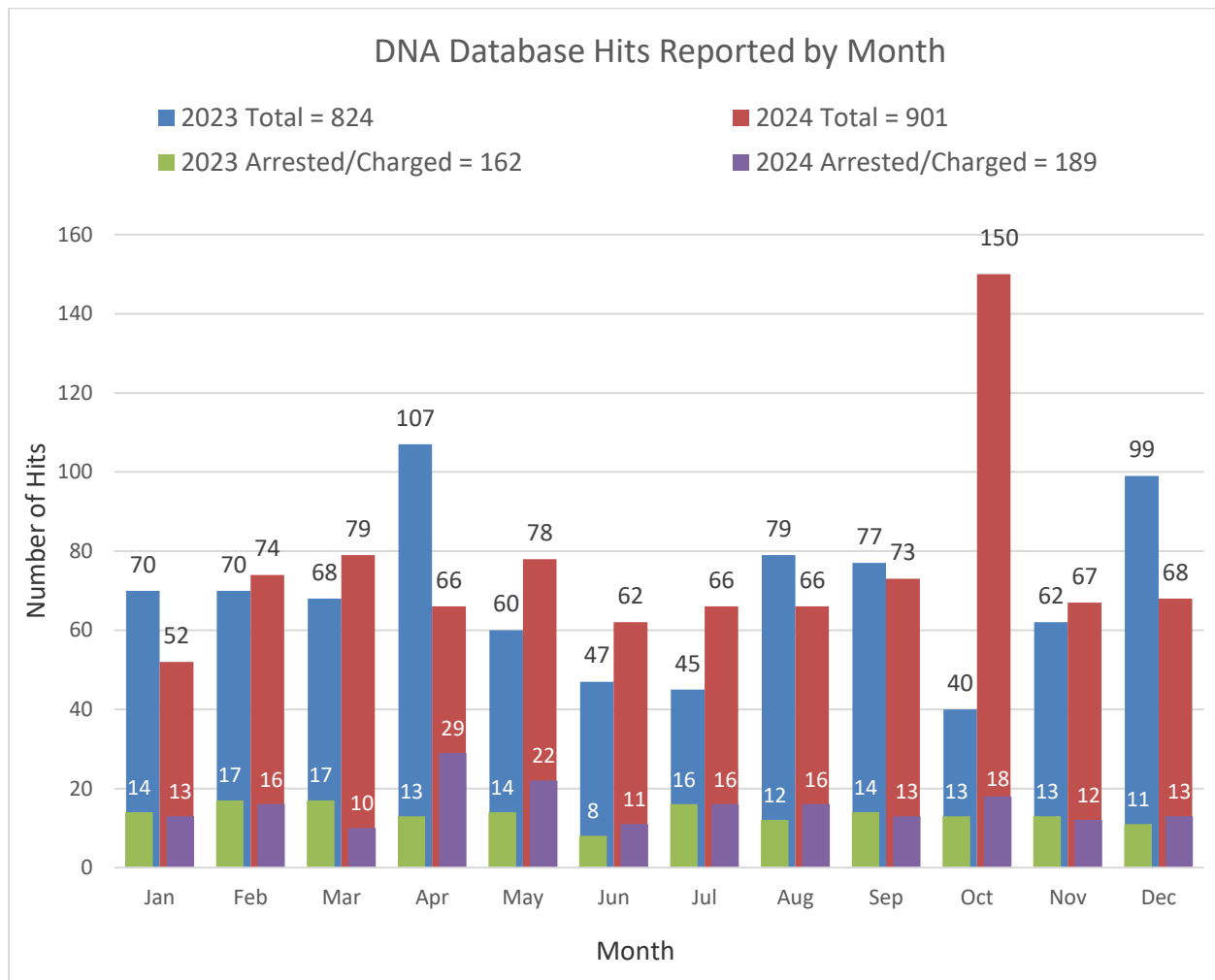


Biology Case Turn Around Time per Quarter - Directly Outsourced



BIOLOGY DATABASE UNITS

The Biology Database Units are 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 Units are responsible for ensuring that all samples that were collected are received. The Biology Database Units are 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 Units also oversee the entry of DNA profiles from casework evidence into the database.



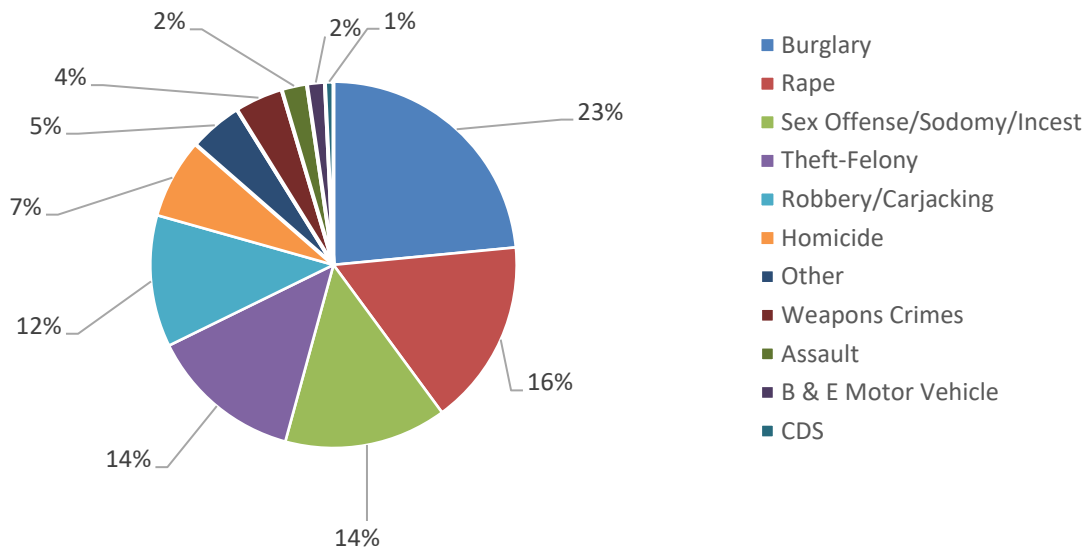
Maryland Case DNA Database Hits	
	Hits
Hits to Offenders/Arrestees (MD or National)	475
Hits to Cases (MD or National)	901
Total	1,376

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	281
Prince George's County	221
Anne Arundel County	209
Montgomery County	206
Charles County	130
Baltimore County	95
Howard County	39
Wicomico County	36
Harford County	27
Somerset County	22
Frederick County	18
Dorchester County	16
Statewide	16
Saint Mary's County	14
Carroll County	10
Cecil County	8
Talbot County	7
Washington County	5
Worcester County	5
Allegany County	4
Caroline County	3
Calvert County	2
Kent County	1
Not Provided	1
TOTAL	1,376

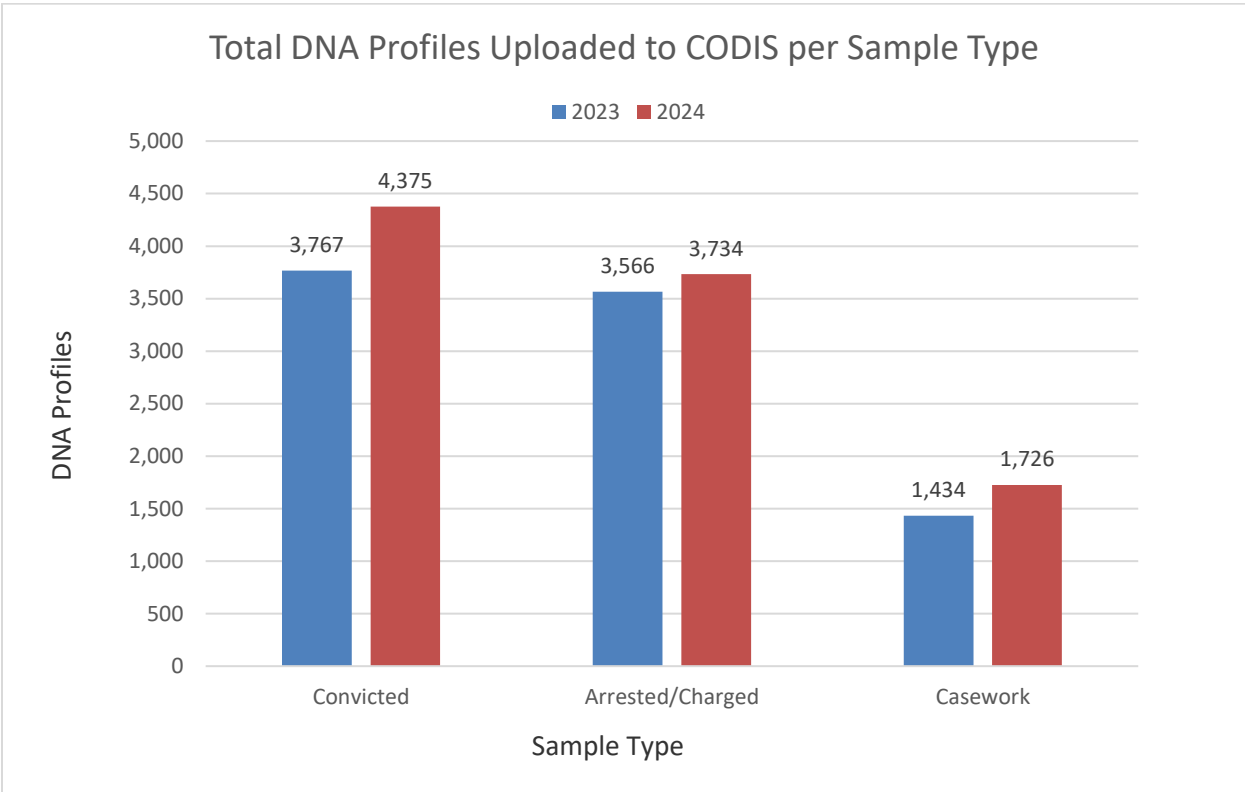
Maryland DNA Database Case Hits by Crime Year	
Crime Year	Hits
1977	2
1980	2
1981	2
1982	2
1986	1
1989	3
1990	3
1991	1
1992	1
1993	2
1994	1
1995	12
1996	16
1997	13
1998	18
1999	17
2000	26
2001	11
2002	5
2003	3
2004	11
2005	6
2006	9
2007	7
2008	11
2009	24
2010	23
2011	8
2012	32
2013	18
2014	11
2015	27
2016	16
2017	23
2018	44
2019	36
2020	59
2021	66
2022	126
2023	491
2024	162
Unknown	25
Total	1,376

Maryland Case DNA Database Hits per Crime Type



Maryland Offender/Arrestee DNA Database Hits per Crime Jurisdiction*	
Jurisdiction	Number of Hits
Maryland	360
FBI	55
Virginia	13
Pennsylvania	7
Texas	5
District of Columbia (Metro PD)	4
Delaware	4
New York	4
Florida	4
Louisiana	4
West Virginia	2
North Carolina	2
California	2
New Jersey	2
US Army - Georgia	2
Illinois	2
Connecticut	1
Mississippi	1
Michigan	1
Total	475

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



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 2024, the Technical Unit:

- Completed the validation of the STRmix probabilistic genotyping software, wrote the SOP for the software's use in the laboratory, updated the Report Writing Guidelines, updated other SOPs as needed, and trained all applicable staff;
- Completed the validation of COSTaR for CODIS entries of STRmix data;
- Modification of the Infferrinator Excel-based workbook for the estimation of number of contributors to a mixture to include 5-person mixtures;
- Created and validated Excel-based tools to generate reference profiles for comparison to STRmix data;
- Brought the BSD-A2 instrument for punching database samples online, including updating the existing Database SOP, modification of the TBPHBP macro workbook used in the QC process, and training all applicable staff;
- Brought the EZ2 instrument for purification of casework samples online, including updating the existing casework SOP, and training all applicable staff;
- Completed the performance check of the RHID Rapid DNA System for database samples, and created an Excel-based macro workbook to extract data from the instrument's software;
- Initiated validation of the QIAcube Connect instruments;
- Completed supplemental mixture validation for Y-STR mixtures;
- Participated in the mock trial of a casework analyst completing their training;
- Worked with the CODIS Administrator to assist the Howard County Police Department in outsourcing over 150 DNA analysis cases to a vendor laboratory, while maintaining compliance with the FBI Quality Assurance Standards;
- Prepared for and participated in an internal audit against the FBI Quality Assurance Standards with no findings.

NOTEWORTHY CASES

In June of 2024, Harford County Sheriff's Office announced an arrest of the suspect in the 2023 Homicide of an individual. The victim was tragically killed while on the Ma & Pa Trail in Bel Air, Maryland and their body was found on August 6, 2023. DNA evidence was recovered at the crime scene shortly after the victim's body was found. CODIS linked this evidence to a 2023 home invasion in Los Angeles, where a suspect's DNA had been found. Although they had the DNA evidence and video from that break-in, Harford County Sheriff's Office did not have an identity on the suspect until May. Extensive DNA evidence testing was performed by FSD Biologists which contributed to the suspect identification and eventual arrest in 2024.

In October 2024, FSD had a CODIS Hit milestone, our 12,000 CODIS hit. The hit involved a 2019 Allegheny County, PA Medical Examiner's Office rape case hitting to a Maryland arrestee. The case is a sexual assault of a 23-year-old female with multiple assailants known to the victim. DNA evidence entered into CODIS matched one of the named assailants.

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, and two Forensic Scientist III's.

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.

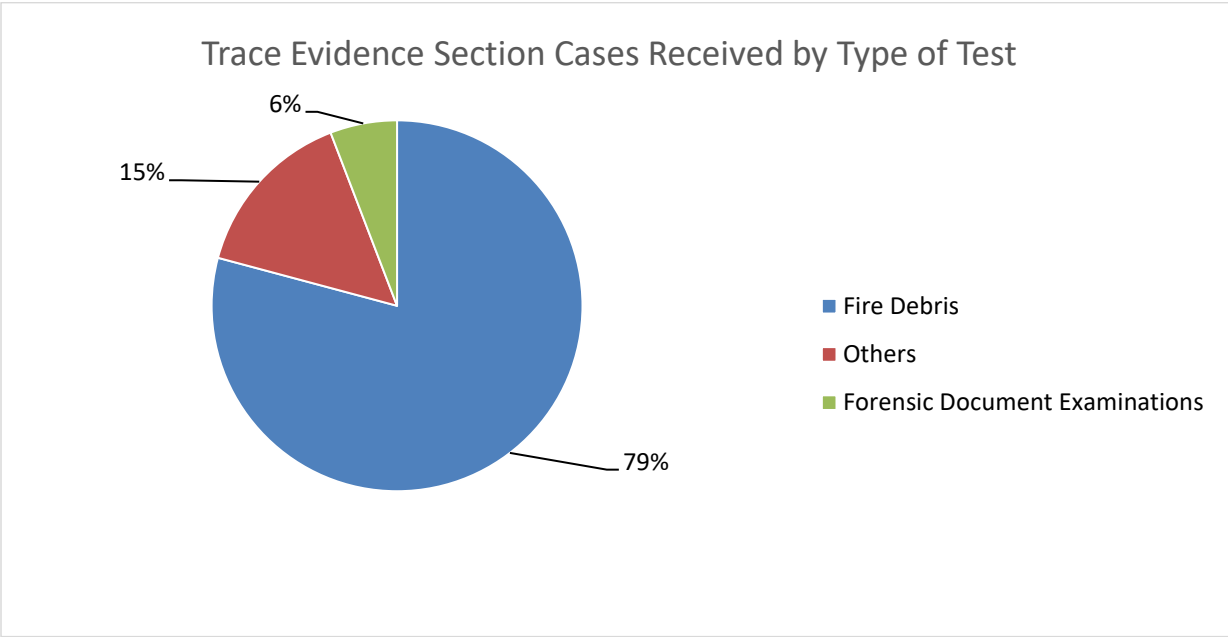
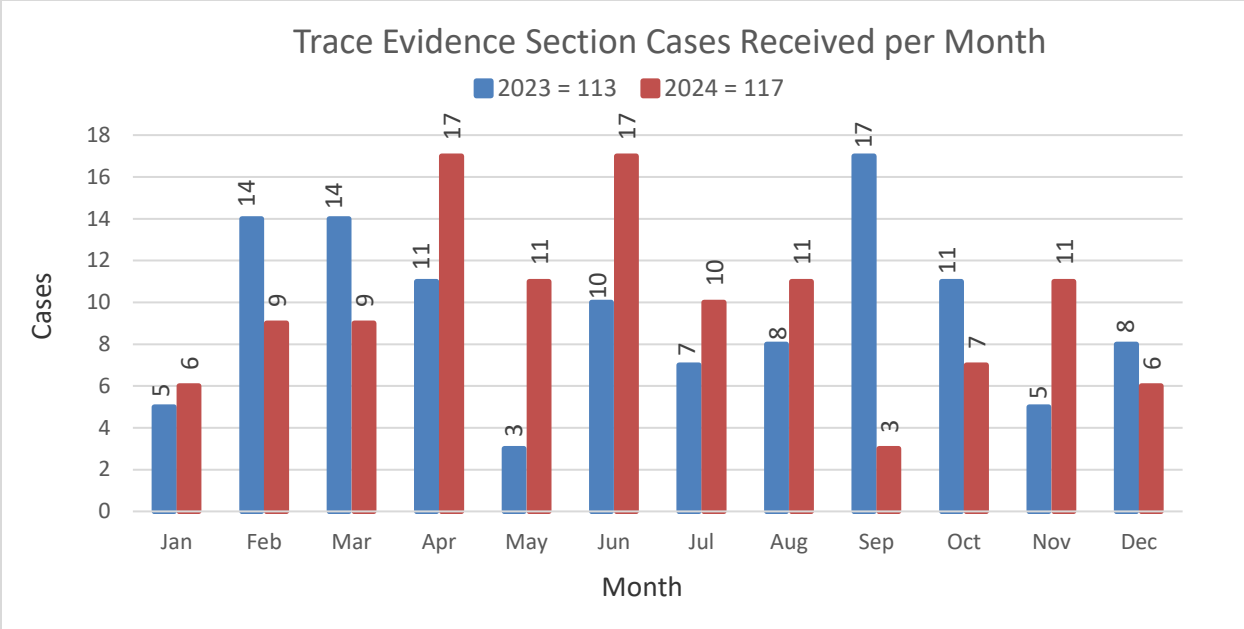
The TES has purchased a new FTIR instrument for fiber, paint, tapes and adhesives and general chemical unknowns casework. In addition, a Keyence Microscope was also purchased for the examination of hair and physical fit cases. In 2024, the Section also received a new detector for the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), which is used to generate high-resolution, three-dimensional images of the surface of solid trace evidence objects for identification purposes.

TRACE EVIDENCE UNIT

The Trace Evidence Unit performs analyses on evidence that either contains or produces unique characteristics that provide 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

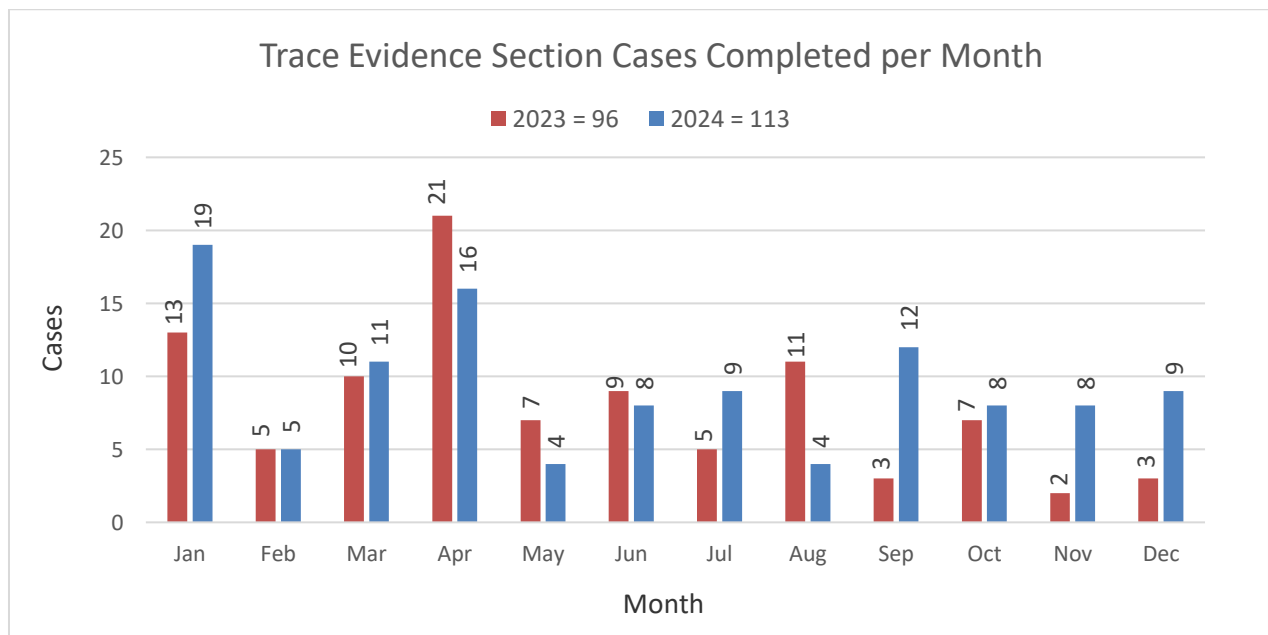
The Forensic Documents Unit performs analyses and comparisons of handwriting as well as hand-printed and machine-printed materials. This unit also performs examinations of obliterated and indented writing. The MSP-FSD has two Forensic Document examiners within the Unit.

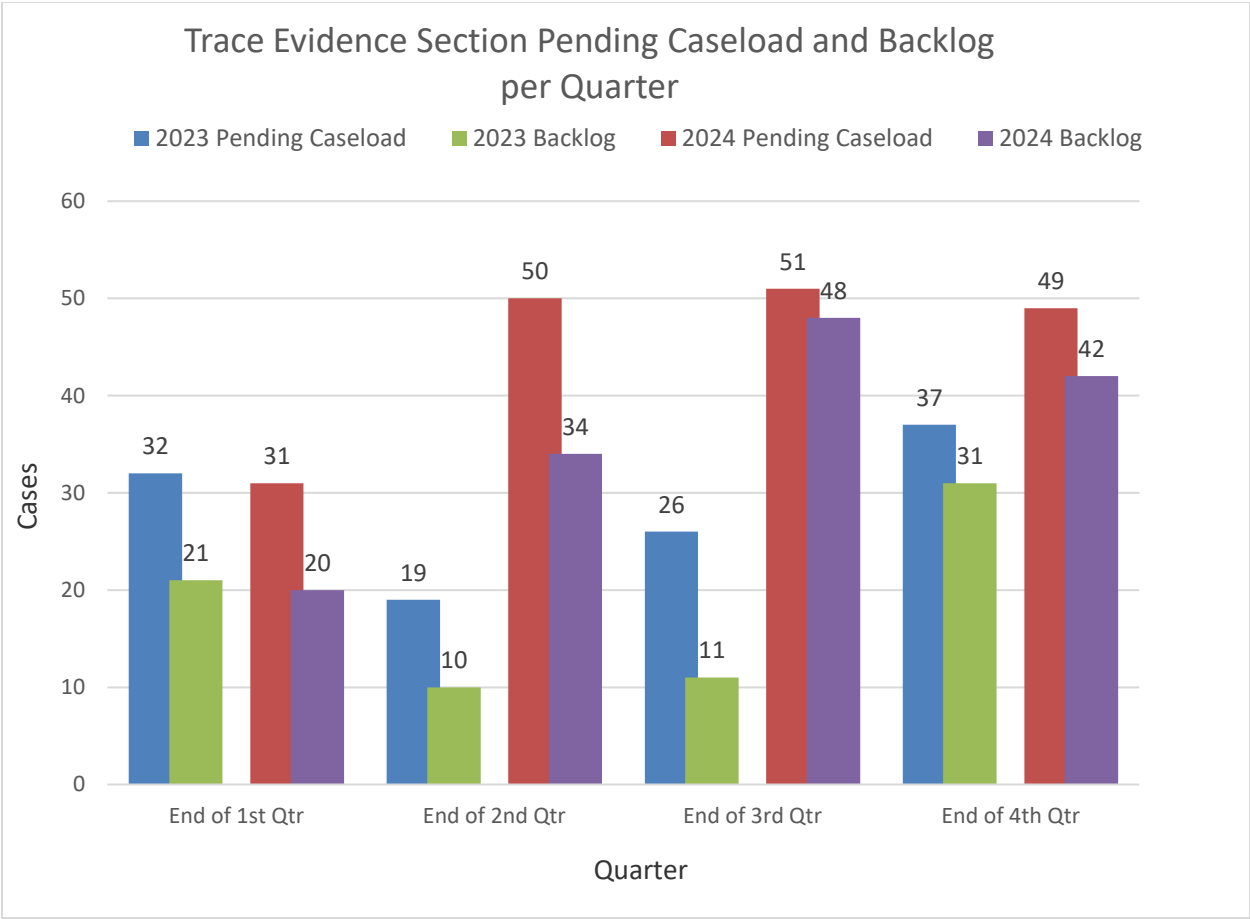


Trace Evidence Section Cases Received per MSP Installation		
Installation	Counties Served	Submissions
MSP-CID/CED	Statewide	1
MSP-Homicide Unit	Statewide	1
MSP- College Park	Prince George's	1
OSFM	Statewide	39
	TOTAL	42

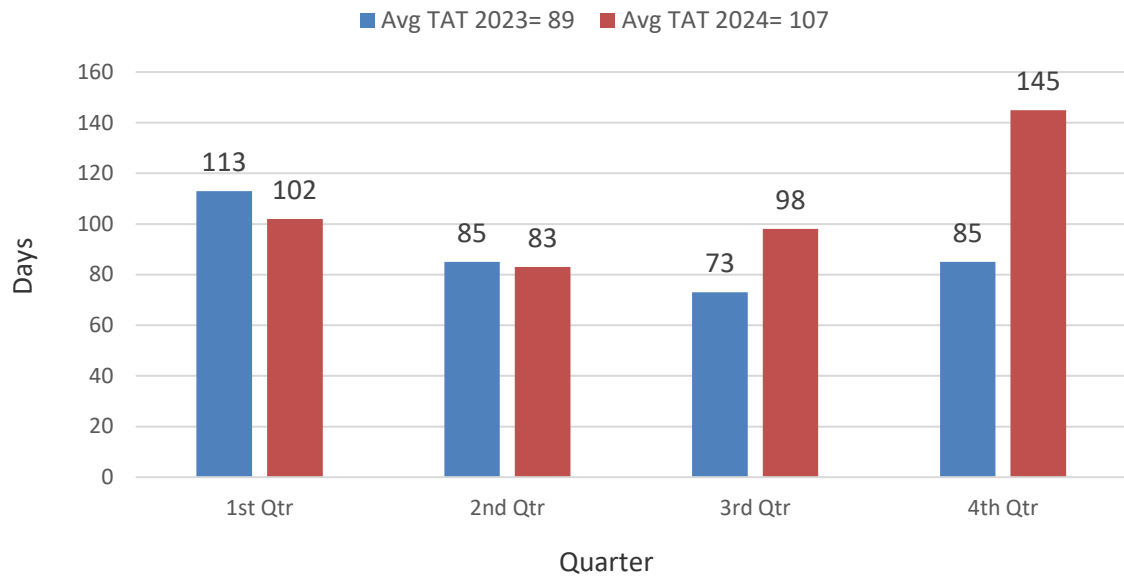
OSFM Cases Received by the Trace Evidence Section per OSFM Region		
Region	Counties Served	Submissions
OSFM – Lower Shore	Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester	13
OSFM – North East	Baltimore, Harford, Cecil	12
OSFM – Western	Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Washington	7
OSFM – Southern	Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's	5
OSFM – Upper Shore	Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot	2
	TOTAL	39

Allied Agency Cases Received by TES per County	
County	Submissions
Baltimore	19
Anne Arundel	17
Baltimore City	10
Montgomery	10
Howard	6
Frederick	2
Prince George's	1
Calvert	1
Harford	1
Washington	1
Wicomico	1
Queen Anne's	1
Talbot	1
TOTAL	71





Trace Evidence Section Case Turn Around Time per Quarter



NOTEWORTHY CASE

In October of 2024, the Trace Evidence Section received evidence from an OAG IID case that stemmed from a police-involved shooting in Frederick. A SWAT Team ballistic shield was submitted to the section for microscopic examination.

The shield was examined in house to examine the layering structure and to document any damage that may have occurred. The manufacturer was contacted to help determine the structure of the shield as well as how to disassemble the item. A Trace Examiner also recovered several types of fibers from the shield and mushroomed bullet. The metallic fibers that were collected from the ballistic shield were outsourced to an accredited laboratory due to the unit's instrumentation being out of service.

Through microscopy, the other fibers were examined and photographed. The Trace Evidence Section was able to differentiate between the fiber samples collected from the mushroomed bullet and the samples collected from the ballistic shield. Also, the report obtained from the outsourced lab determined that the metallic sample collected from the shield was not similar to that of a bullet. The Trace Evidence Section was able to provide investigators with a conclusion that the ballistic shield had not been contacted by the bullet.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Highlighted FSD Teamwork Cases

In October 2024, William Pruitt pleaded guilty to the first-degree murder of Dequan Fields. The victim, of Princess Anne, Maryland, was reported missing to the Maryland State Police Princess Anne Barrack on Jan. 12, 2023, after attempts by family to reach him were unsuccessful. A 2004 gold Dodge Durango belonging to Fields was located not long after his disappearance at the Deal Island Wildlife Nature Preserve in Somerset County, and FSD crime scene technicians located blood inside the vehicle. The blood was then tested by the FSD Biology Section and that blood matched the DNA profile of Dequan Fields. William Pruitt was arrested on an unrelated matter and gave statements implicating himself in the robbery and murder of Dequan Fields. Pruitt gave statements which led investigators to the discovery of human remains and clothing which matched the last clothing Fields was wearing when he disappeared. Evidence collected from the scene was tested for DNA by the FSD Biology Section and ultimately matched the DNA profile of Dequan Fields. FSD's Crime Scene Section, Central Receiving Unit, Trace Section, Biology Section and Pattern Evidence Section all processed evidence for this case.

Also in October 2024, several FSD staff members testified in a Homicide trial from a July 2023 case. The defendant for this Wicomico County homicide case was in a brief altercation with the victim on July 31, 2023 in Salisbury, Maryland. The victim then began to drive away from the area, and the defendant chased after the car with a handgun. Once the car was out of sight, the defendant ran across a parking lot and hid in a corner, waiting for the victim to return. A few moments later, the victim drove back and exited their car, and the defendant came from around the corner and shot the victim six times. A FSD Crime Scene Technician processed the crime scene in July 2023. DNA, trace, and firearms evidence was collected as a part of the scene processing. During the trial, the CST testified to her crime scene processing and evidence collection and a Firearms FS Supervisor testified to the firearms evidence. The evidence in this case included nineteen (19) fired cartridge cases and six (6) projectiles- five (5) of which were fired bullets and one (1) fragment. The conclusions were that there are two (2) unknown firearms based on the cartridge cases. Two of the bullets were identified to each other. A Biology FS Advanced (the DNA analyst) received a touch swab and a clump of hair (which was also examined by Trace), but didn't obtain any interpretable DNA profiles. The defendant was convicted of Murder in the First Degree, Firearm Use in a Crime of Violence, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm, and related charges.

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 2024.

Mitchell Dinterman, Crime Scene Section Manager, continued to serve on Loyola University's Forensic Studies Advisory Board in 2024.

Michelle Groves, Forensic Scientist Supervisor and CODIS State Administrator, continued to serve on the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee for 2024.

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 2024.

Daniel Katz, Director, a founding member of the National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB), was a member of their Executive Committee for 2024. Dan was elected to the American Society of Crime Laboratory Director (ASCLD) Board of Directors in 2024. 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 2024.

Amy Kelly served on the Mid-Atlantic Cold Case Homicide Investigators Association (MACCHIA) Executive Board in 2024.

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 2024.

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 2024. She also became a member of the Forensic Nursing Consensus Body (CB) of the American Academy Forensic Sciences Standards Board (ASB).

Catherine Savage, Forensic Scientist Supervisor in CDS-Pikesville, served as the ABC Representative for MAAFS in 2024.

Angela Spessard, Forensic Scientist III in the Biology Section, served on the NIJ/NIST Expert Working Group on Human Factors in DNA Interpretation in 2024.

Promotions

Several MSP-FSD staff members were promoted in 2024. Michael Whitmore and Tiffany Keener were promoted from Forensic Scientist III to Forensic Scientist Advanced within the Biology Section. Dawn Trusty and Madison Pennington were promoted from Laboratory Technician to FICO within the Firearms/Toolmarks Unit. Michelle Cataldo and Lauren Wolfe were promoted from Forensic Scientist II to Forensic Scientist III. Natalie Wasicko and Delaney Berryman were promoted from Forensic Scientist I to Forensic Scientist II. Crime Scene Technician Jaimie Myer was promoted from CST II to CST III.

Presentations at Regional/National Conferences

In February 2024, Angela Spessard was co-presenter for the workshop on Recommendation for the NIJ/NIST Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Forensic DNA Interpretation for The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Conference in Denver, CO.

In February 2024, Amber McConnell was a co-presenter for the workshop on “Evolving Approaches and Technologies to Address Existing Challenges in Seized Drug Analysis” in collaborating with NIST, NIJ, George Washington University and the DEA for AAFS Annual Conference in Denver, CO.

In March 2024, Theresa DeAngelo presented “Ethics and new legislation- the impact of ethics once a new law takes effect” for the American Chemical Society (ACS) Spring Symposium in New Orleans, LA.

Also in March 2024, CST Jennifer Jeudy presented Wellness in Forensics "Behind the Scenes" to the CBD-IAI Spring Conference in Ocean City, MD.

In May 2024, Wanda Kuperus presented “Bullet Proof No Longer Bulletproof” for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Symposium held in Birmingham, AL.

Also in May 2024, Daniel Katz presented a Fireside Chat at ASCLD in Birmingham, AL on educating other Crime Lab Directors on National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB) and encouraging their participation.

In August 2024, Theresa DeAngelo presented “It is legal, but is it ethical? (The ethical challenges that forensic scientists face in court)” virtually for the American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall Symposium.

In November 2024, Daniel Katz participated in a panel discussion on Leadership and Legislation addressing the importance of stakeholder collaboration and the legislative process at the NAFSB Conference in Albany, NY.

Also in November 2024, Amber McConnell was a co-presenter for the workshop “Analytical Challenges in Seized Drug Analysis” for the Forensics@NIST Conference.

Commander's Award for Outstanding Performance

Forensic Scientist Delaney Berryman

Director Katz awarded the FSD Commander's Award in December 2024 to Forensic Scientist II, Delaney Berryman. Ms. Berryman has five years of experience working at MSP-FSD and during that time has established herself as a very special employee. Delaney worked for three years as a Laboratory Technician I within the Biology Section demonstrating strong organizational skills and a high level of dependability performing critical duties in support of the DNA laboratory. She became a Forensic Scientist I in 2022 and approached her training with a strong work ethic and desire to succeed. Director Katz stated the "her training culminated in the most impressive testimony that I have ever personally observed. The confidence and technical expertise displayed by Delaney that day rivaled that of the most seasoned expert witnesses". Her conscientious nature, professional demeanor, and scientific prowess serves as an example for all of MSP-FSD.



FSD Director Dan Katz with Delaney Berryman

FSD's Civilian of the Year Award

Crime Scene Technician Jaimie Myer

In 2024, Crime Scene Technician II, Jaimie Myer was nominated by the Forensic Sciences Division as the Agency and Division Civilian of the Year. This is due to CST Myer's several qualities that made her an excellent candidate for this nomination. CST Myer was acting supervisor while a Crime Scene Technician Supervisor was off on leave for three months from mid-August to mid-November. She did administrative Starlims reports under the supervision of CST-S Amspacker and answered daily questions for the Southern region.

In early November, Jaimie was called by Elkton PD to process a vehicle related to an overdose that had occurred several days before. The family of the deceased was pushing back on the determination that the victim had been stabbed. The OCME said that it was a possible stabbing due to the deceased improperly carrying a knife in his pocket. When CST Myer arrived to process the vehicle, she noticed a semi-circle in the back window that was partially missing along with other bullet holes inside the vehicle. Due to Jaimie's keen eye, Elkton PD realized that they had a shooting/homicide versus the overdose with a possible collateral self-stabbing that they had originally thought. They looked back at one of their officer's body camera footage and noticed that prior to transport, the back window was mostly intact and one hole could be seen that lined up with the semi-circle that Jaimie saw. Based on this information, the OCME then x-rayed the deceased and found one projectile. CST Myer changed the course of this case due to her discerning eye and her training and skills as an experienced Crime Scene Technician.

CST Myer handled 52 cases in 2024 for MSP and other agencies along with doing transports and helping her fellow technicians whenever they asked. Jaimie also completed her mentorship in Bullet Trajectory in 2024. She pushed to attend training for bullet trajectory and was in constant contact with her mentor to better herself with the techniques and report writing. Jaimie completed her competency test and courtroom testimony so that she can now perform independent casework.

CST Myer has a great attitude at all times, always maintaining her composure and being the best version of herself, no matter how challenging the crime scene. Jaimie would do anything for anyone in the Crime Scene Section and would do it willing without complaint.



MSP Superintendent Colonel Butler with Jaimie Myer



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