

Department of Forensic Sciences FY2023

Agency Department of Forensic Sciences

Agency Code FRO

Fiscal Year 2023

Mission The mission of the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) is to produce high quality, timely, accurate, and reliable forensic science with the use of the best available technology and practices, unbiased science, and transparency with the overall goal of enhancing public health and safety.

Strategic Objectives

Objective Number	Strategic Objective
1	Provide high-quality forensic science and public health laboratory analysis to stakeholders so they can execute their own core services to the public in a timely manner. Our three overarching core services are: crime scene evidence collection, forensic science analysis, and public health laboratory diagnostic, analytical, and emergency response testing
2	Provide administrative support, training and risk management oversight to our laboratory and technical units by ensuring compliance with the legal mandate to make analysis documents available. The science lab units will each have administrative support services to maintain operational capacity in the form of training, continuing education, safety, risk management, quality and legal support
3	Create and maintain a highly efficient, transparent, and responsive District government

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Measure	Directionality	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Target	FY2022 Actual	FY 2023 Target
1 - Provide high-quality forensic science and public health laboratory analysis to stakeholders so they can execute their own core services to the public in a timely manner. Our three overarching core services are: crime scene evidence collection, forensic science analysis, and public health laboratory diagnostic, analytical, and emergency response testing (13 Measure records)						
Percent of crime scenes responded to within 30 minutes	Up is Better	87.3%	84.9%	90%	80.6%	90%
Percent of Crime Scene Reports completed within 14 calendar days	Up is Better	95.9%	89.6%	95%	83%	95%
Percent of all firearms will be transferred to the Evidence Control Branch (ECB) within 21 days after all forensic tests are completed	Up is Better	98%	96.6%	90%	96.7%	90%
Percent of high priority biological terrorism and chemical terrorism samples analyzed and reported within 24 hours	Up is Better	100%	100%	90%	100%	90%
Percent of OCME samples ordered in microbiology will be tested and reported within 12 business days of receipt in the laboratory	Up is Better	98.9%	87.4%	90%	96.3%	90%
Percent of Core Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats (LRN-C) methods within the Clinical Toxicology Unit (CTU) that are evaluated as competent by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) LRN-C Program (competence is defined as successful score of >80% in two-out-of-three testing events, per method)	Up is Better	90.9%	75%	80%	100%	80%
Percent of all rabies STAT specimen with human exposure are tested and reported to the Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist within 24 hours or 1 business day of receipt in the laboratory	Up is Better	96.6%	100%	95%	100%	95%
Percent of samples ordered in molecular diagnostics will be tested and reported within 72 hours or three (3) business days of receipt in the laboratory	Up is Better	98.7%	97.9%	90%	99.8%	90%
Percent of all jewelry received will be transferred to Evidence Control Branch (ECB) within 14 days	Up is Better	97.9%	98.6%	90%	100%	90%
Percent of all drugs will be transferred to Evidence Control Branch (ECB) within 30 days after all forensic testing is completed	Up is Better	100%	98.4%	90%	88.4%	90%
Percent of cases received in the Forensic Chemistry Unit will be tested and reported within 60 days of receipt in the laboratory	Up is Better	98%	99.1%	90%	96.3%	90%

Measure	Directionality	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Target	FY2022 Actual	FY 2023 Target
Percent of homicide cases completed in less than 60 days	Up is Better	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023
Percent of priority cases completed in less than 60 days	Up is Better	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023
2 - Provide administrative support, training and risk management oversight to our laboratory and technical units by ensuring compliance with the legal mandate to make analysis documents available. The science lab units will each have administrative support services to maintain operational capacity in the form of training, continuing education, safety, risk management, quality and legal support (4 Measure records)						
Percent of scientists meeting technical competency requirements	Up is Better	99.3%	98.7%	95%	80.4%	95%
Percent of safety incident reports submitted to DFS Safety Officer within two (2) business days	Up is Better	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of QCAR situation and root cause analysis sections completed within 30 business days	Up is Better	78.4%	65.5%	100%	26.4%	100%
Percent of FOIA responses returned on time (15 business days)	Up is Better	100%	97.4%	100%	92%	100%

Operations

Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
1 - Provide high-quality forensic science and public health laboratory analysis to stakeholders so they can execute their own core services to the public in a timely manner. Our three overarching core services are: crime scene evidence collection, forensic science analysis, and public health laboratory diagnostic, analytical, and emergency response testing (4 Activity records)		
Improve laboratory efficiency through technological advances	DFS will continue to expand its capabilities as a top tier forensic and public health laboratory by implementing new scientific programs and investing in laboratory equipment infrastructure.	Key Project
Provide timely testing of pathogens of public health significance	The Public Health Laboratory will provide diagnostic, analytical and emergency response testing for biological pathogens and chemical agents from clinical, environmental, or food sources.	Daily Service
Conduct professional and expedient crime scene responses, collection, and storage of evidence	The Crime Scene Sciences Division will serve as stewards of evidence by maintaining custody of evidence from collection to storage at DFS.	Daily Service
Conduct timely forensic analysis	The Forensic Science Laboratory division will conduct coordinated and timely forensic analysis in accordance with industry standards and accreditation guidelines.	Daily Service
2 - Provide administrative support, training and risk management oversight to our laboratory and technical units by ensuring compliance with the legal mandate to make analysis documents available. The science lab units will each have administrative support services to maintain operational capacity in the form of training, continuing education, safety, risk management, quality and legal support (3 Activity records)		
Offer training curriculum for professional development	Provide a training curriculum to DFS employees to ensure they maintain skill sets, meet standards of excellence, and deliver high quality, accurate, and reliable services	Daily Service
Monitor quality compliance with certification requirements	Assurance that DFS produces products that are fit for stakeholders' purposes by maintaining ISO 17025 accreditation for the agency, maintains Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) certification, as well as, compliance with applicable federal regulations such as the Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT)	Daily Service
Oversee the laboratory environment is both safe and healthy for staff	Establish, manage and ensure compliance of federal, district, and local regulations and policy; and provide medical surveillance to staff, mandates safety training for all staff members, and audits laboratory facilities to ensure a safe work environment	Daily Service
3 - Create and maintain a highly efficient, transparent, and responsive District government (6 Activity records)		
Efficiently procure vital services and resources	Proactively procure the necessary services, supplies, and equipment for the laboratories to meet the daily needs of scientists and agency personnel	Daily Service
Strategically forecast, analyze, and present agency data to determine levels	Analyze raw data and present graphical visuals of real-time workload from data obtained from LIMS, and other databases to better inform strategic	Key Project

Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
of resource efficiency and goal attainment	leadership decisions to enhance laboratory services	Daily Service
Responsible for human capital management and recruitment for DFS and serves as liaison to external entities	Supports the hiring of new employees and provides employee data on residency, on-board time, and performance plan completion from data pulled from PeopleSoft	
Education and Grief Counseling Services	Education and Grief Counseling Services	Daily Service
Provide legal advice to the agency and facilitate stakeholder engagement	Facilitate stakeholder engagement, legally advise director level decision-making, train scientists for court testimony and presentation of scientific expertise, draft contracts and agreements with government and private organizations, and process discovery requests	Daily Service
Ensures all IT systems and databases are operational and secure for scientists and agency personnel to deliver reports and services to stakeholders	Promote and facilitate the effective integration of technology into the DFS divisions by developing, supporting, and maintaining a highly effective, reliable, secure, and innovative information systems to support agency needs	Daily Service

Workload Measures (WMs)

Measure	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual
1 - Conduct professional and expedient crime scene responses, collection, and storage of evidence (2 Measure records)			
Number of evidence items received	83,529	74,902	55,898
Number of crime scenes processed	6194	6005	4539
1 - Conduct timely forensic analysis (7 Measure records)			
Number of samples processed (Drug Analysis of Syringe Kits)	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023
Number of samples processed (Syringe Surveillance)	New in 2023	New in 2023	New in 2023
Number of AFIS database hits	1828	931	461
Number of service requests from stakeholders	4387	4037	5119
Number of CODIS database entries	770	402	0
Number of AFIS database entries	7990	3847	1302
Number of CODIS database hits	260	185	42
1 - Provide timely testing of pathogens of public health significance (3 Measure records)			
Number of Proficiency Tests performed	62	86	119
Number of validation efforts performed	24	31	19
Number of tests performed for each recieved public health sample	85,377	229,770	79,937
2 - Monitor quality compliance with certification requirements (3 Measure records)			
Number of Quality Corrective Action Requests opened	74	93	52
Number of internal audits	12	17	9
Number of stakeholder complaints received	1	0	0
2 - Offer training curriculum for professional development (1 Measure)			
Number of training hours completed by employees	4440	4790	3470.8
2 - Oversee the laboratory environment is both safe and healthy for staff (1 Measure)			
Number of safety incidents reported	27	15	3
3 - Efficiently procure vital services and resources (1 Measure)			
Number of requisitions submitted into PASS	296	283	229
3 - Ensures all IT systems and databases are operational and secure for scientists and agency personnel to deliver reports and services to stakeholders (1 Measure)			

Measure	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual
Number of IT service requests received	2013	1348	939
3 - Provide legal advice to the agency and facilitate stakeholder engagement (3 Measure records)			
Number of discovery requests received	964	439	398
Number of FOIA requests received	34	37	15
Number of MOA/MOUs the agency enters into with other agencies	8	21	12
3 - Responsible for human capital management and recruitment for DFS and serves as liaison to external entities (1 Measure)			
Number of employees on-boarded	25	50	32

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiative Title	Strategic Initiative Description	Proposed Completion Date
Education and Grief Counseling Services (1 Strategic Initiative)		
Communications/Outreach	As part of the agency's efforts to promote inclusion in scientific disciplines, DFS will complete and publish an augmented reality book for utilization during outreach activities to engage, inform, and inspire the community to consider exploring the various forensic and public health career paths performed at DFS.	09-30-2023
Monitor quality compliance with certification requirements (1 Strategic Initiative)		
Quality Management System	In the agency's pursuit of re-accreditation and improvement of the quality management system, the agency will increase its efforts in promoting transparency and accuracy with the development of an online portal for sharing of documentation with stakeholders while also establishing a portal specific to the public to review documents relative to the agency's quality assurance protocols.	09-30-2023
Offer training curriculum for professional development (2 Strategic Initiative records)		
Training and Development	With the agency's \$600,000 budget enhancement in training funds for Fiscal Year 2023, the agency will continue to monitor and track the number of trainings, number of staff trained, and the various training opportunities incorporated to help enhance and improve employee knowledge, skills, and abilities within the various disciplines performed within the agency.	09-30-2023
Training and Development	In the agency's pursuit of re-accreditation, the agency will develop a training program dedicated to courtroom testimony that includes a collaborative component with prosecutors and defense attorneys.	09-30-2023
Responsible for human capital management and recruitment for DFS and serves as liaison to external entities (2 Strategic Initiative records)		
Recruitment	To ensure timely critical forensic and public health services to the residents of the District of Columbia, the agency will increase staffing levels by driving down the vacancy rate through recruitment efforts that effectively attract highly skilled talent and incorporate retention efforts that focuses on maintaining employee longevity.	09-30-2023
Recruitment	In the agency's efforts to grow its cohort, the agency will seek out partnerships with local universities to inform and recruit rising professionals of the work and opportunities available with DFS to help expand a pool of skilled talent for wider recruitment selection as job opportunities become available.	09-30-2023