

***INDIANA STATE POLICE
LABORATORY DIVISION***



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Laboratory Division

Since its inception in 1936, the mission of the Laboratory Division is “to provide client agencies accurate, reliable, and timely crime laboratory services within the resources provided, and to manage the evidence security system of the Indiana State Police Department.” Toward these ends, in 2023 the Laboratory Division received 24,399 laboratory cases, issued reports for 27,575 laboratory cases, completed 633 digital forensic cases, worked 704 investigations involving 1,020 crime scenes, conducted 761 polygraph examinations, and secured over 395,000 items of evidence.

The Laboratory Division is organized into five sections (Biology, Chemistry, Comparative Science, Crime Scene Investigations, and Management Support) and two Units (Digital Forensic and Polygraph). The Biology Section consists of DNA and CODIS (Combined DNA Index System). The Chemistry Section consists of the Drug Unit and the Microanalysis Unit. The Comparative Science Section consists of the Firearms Unit (including Integrated Ballistics Identification System or IBIS), the Latent Print Unit (including Automated Fingerprint Identification System or AFIS), and the Document Unit. Crime Scene Investigations Section consists of the Crime Scene Investigators and the District Evidence Specialists. Management Support Section includes the Laboratory Managers, the Regional Laboratory Evidence Specialists, and staff of the Laboratory Information Management System/Information Technology (LIMS/IT) Unit. The last two pages of this report provides the Division’s organizational structure and contact information.

The Laboratory Division accepts evidence associated with active criminal investigations for analysis at four Regional Laboratory locations in Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Lowell. The Regional Laboratories have been accredited since 1991. The Laboratory Division is accredited by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB).

INDIANA STATE POLICE LABORATORY DIVISION

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide client agencies accurate, reliable and timely crime laboratory services within the resources provided and to manage the evidence security system of the Indiana State Police Department.

Issuing Authority: Laboratory Division Commander

Version 1

Issued 10/14/2022



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The ANSI National Accreditation Board

Hereby attests that

Indiana State Police Laboratory Division

Fulfills the requirements of


ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories:2020
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories:2020

In the field of

Forensic Testing

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a current scope of accreditation document.
The current scope of accreditation can be verified at www.anab.org.


Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics
Expiry Date: 30 June 2025
Certificate Number: FT-0132



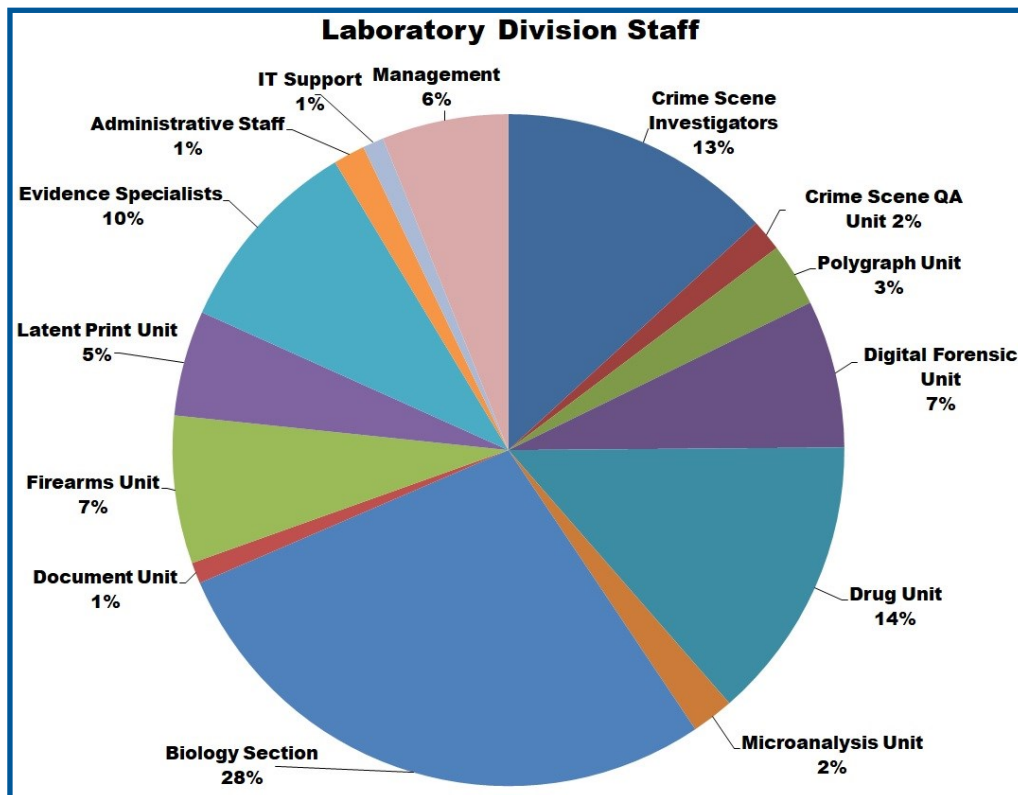
Staffing

Approximately 65% of the Forensic Scientists are certified by a forensic organization. These organizations include the American Board of Criminalists, American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners, or International Association of Identification. All the Crime Scene Investigators are certified by the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board.

The Laboratory Division's personnel are also members in forensic organizations, to include individuals holding office or working on committees. These organizations include:

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- American Association of Police Polygraphists
- American Chemical Society
- American Polygraph Association
- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
- American Society of Questioned Document Examiners
- American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners
- Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction
- Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners
- Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers
- Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists
- Indiana Division of the International Association for Identification
- Indiana Polygraph Association
- International Association for Identification
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists
- International Association of Property and Evidence Managers
- Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists
- Organization of Scientific Area Committees

At the end of 2023, the Laboratory Division employed 197 individuals providing analytical and support services. Over 90% of the Laboratory Division personnel are directly involved in collecting, maintaining, and/or analyzing evidence. The "Laboratory Division Staff" chart below details the distribution of the staff.



Types of Crimes and Requesting Agencies

The four Regional Laboratories provide forensic services at no charge to federal, state, county, and local agencies throughout Indiana.

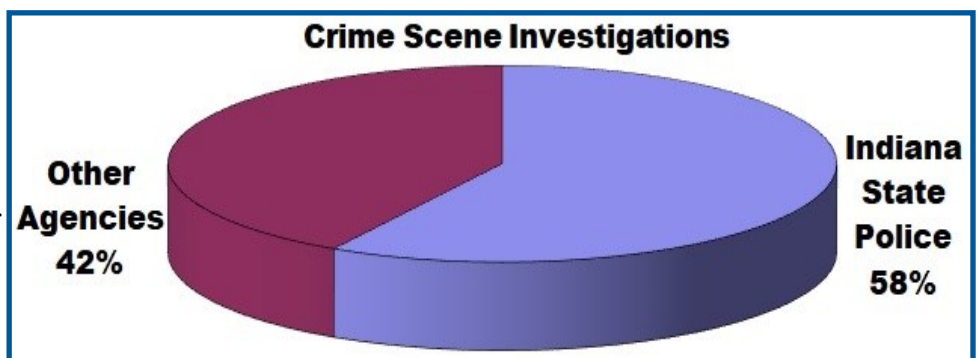
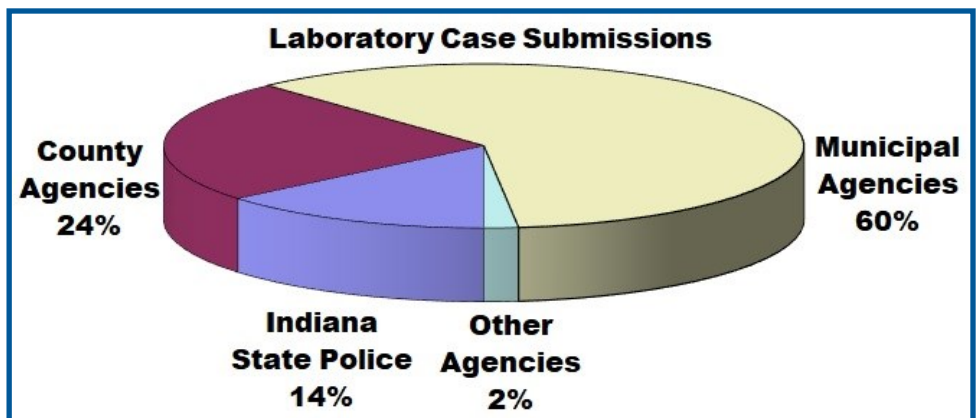
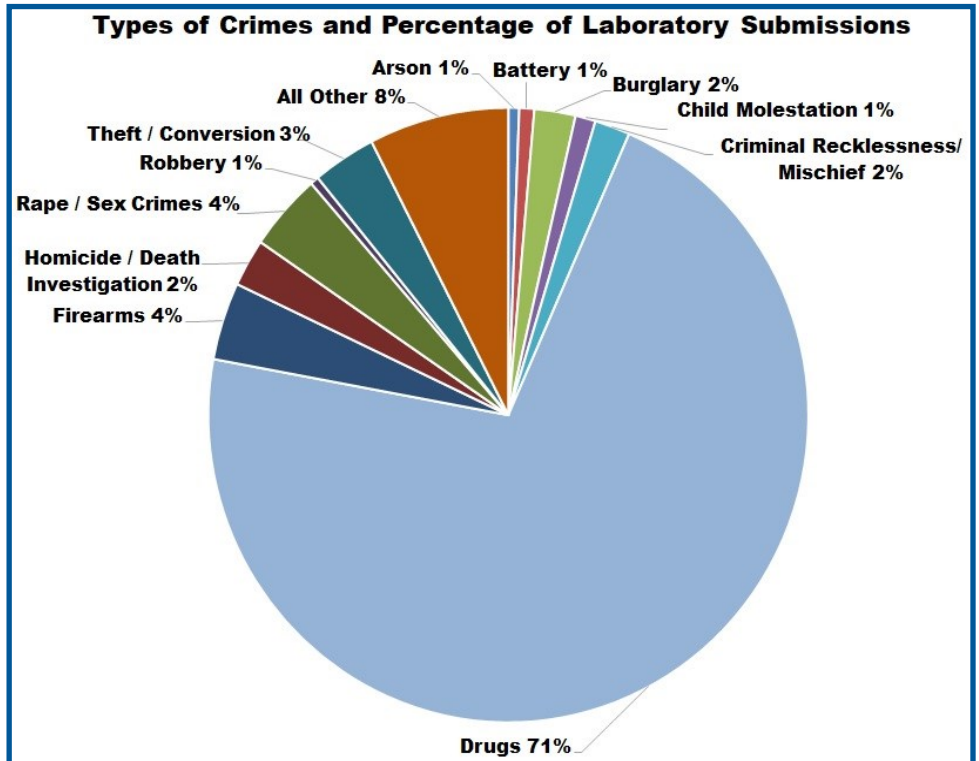
These services include tests for forensic biology/DNA and maintenance of the state’s DNA database, identification of controlled substances, digital forensic, firearms and toolmarks, latent prints, questioned documents, and trace evidence examinations. The Laboratory Division also provides polygraph examinations and crime scene investigations upon request.

The Division received 24,399 new laboratory cases and 916 digital forensic submission for analysis in 2023. Crime Scene Investigators responded to and worked 704 investigations involving 1,020 different crime scenes, and the Polygraph Unit conducted 133 polygraph tests in criminal cases during 2023.

The chart to the upper right shows the types of crimes and percentages submitted to the Regional Laboratories in 2023.

As shown in the “Laboratory Case Submissions” chart, the majority of cases for analysis were submitted by municipal agencies.

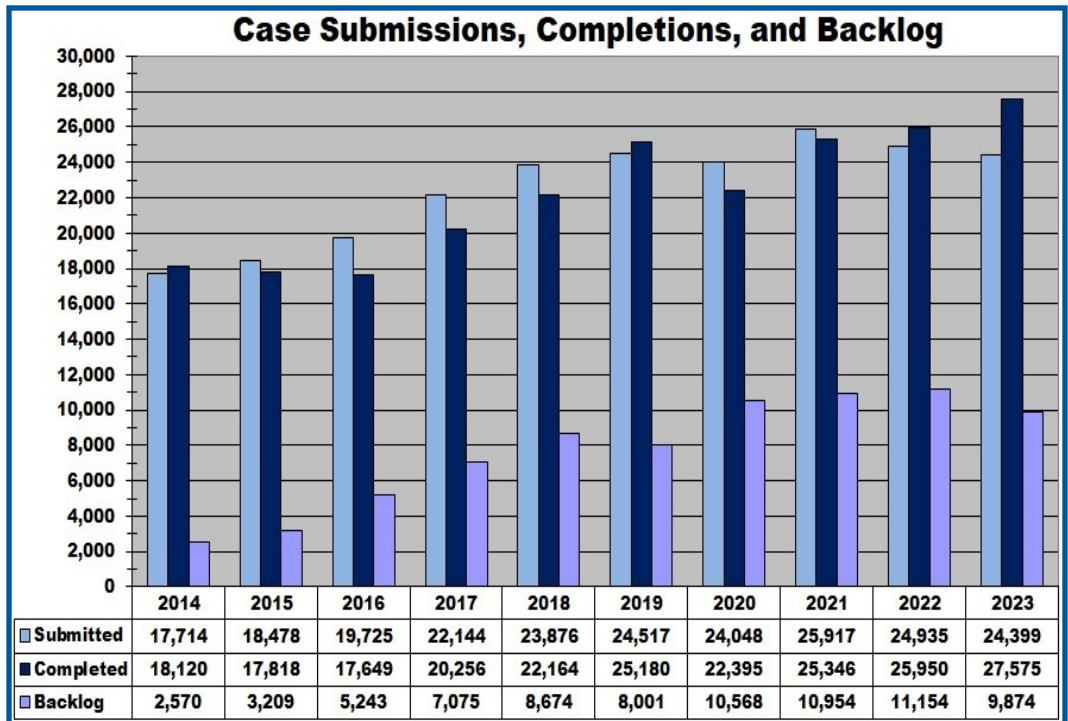
The “Crime Scene Investigations” chart shows that over half of the crime scene investigations were completed for the Indiana State Police.



Case Submissions, Completions, and Backlog

As shown in the “Case Submissions, Completions, and Backlog” graph to the right, the Laboratory Division received 24,399 cases and completed 27,575 cases in 2023. The backlog is defined as any case submitted that has not been completed.

The aging laboratory conditions of the Evansville, and Lowell facilities, as well as the continued increase in biology, drugs and firearms submissions received for analysis, continue to negatively affect the backlog and operations of the laboratory system. In 2017, the Indiana



State Police was allocated funding to be used for capital improvement projects at the Evansville, Fort Wayne, and Lowell Regional Laboratories. The new facility was completed at Fort Wayne during 2022. At the end of 2023, construction was nearly finished at Lowell (photos below). The construction at Evansville started during 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in 2024.



Drug Unit Instrumentation Laboratory



Firearms Unit Laboratory including a water recovery tank

Regional Laboratories

All four of the Regional Laboratories provide analysis in Biology, Drugs, Firearms, and Latent Prints. Microanalysis (Trace) and Document examinations are only performed at the Indianapolis Regional Laboratory. The 2023 case submissions, completions, and backlog at the four Regional Laboratories are shown in the three tables below. For operational efficiency, cases are routinely transferred among Regional Laboratories.

Submissions

	<i>Evansville</i>	<i>Fort Wayne</i>	<i>Indianapolis</i>	<i>Lowell</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Biology	423	533	2,250	897	4,103
Documents	0	0	26	0	26
Drugs	2,355	2,570	8,313	2,149	15,387
Firearms	432	1,249	1,749	458	3,888
Latent Prints	246	149	314	102	811
Trace	0	0	184	0	184
Totals	3,456	4,501	12,836	3,606	24,399

Completions

	<i>Evansville</i>	<i>Fort Wayne</i>	<i>Indianapolis</i>	<i>Lowell</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Biology	324	142	2,723	624	3,813
Documents	0	0	43	0	43
Drugs	2,766	3,004	10,497	2,357	18,624*
Firearms	468	1,328	1,858	426	4,080
Latent Prints	256	147	307	106	816
Trace	0	0	199	0	199
Totals	3,814	4,621	15,627	3,513	27,575

* The cases analyzed include 11,006 cases that were tested and 7,010 cases administratively withdrawn. An additional 608 cases were completed by outsourcing to a contracted accredited laboratory.

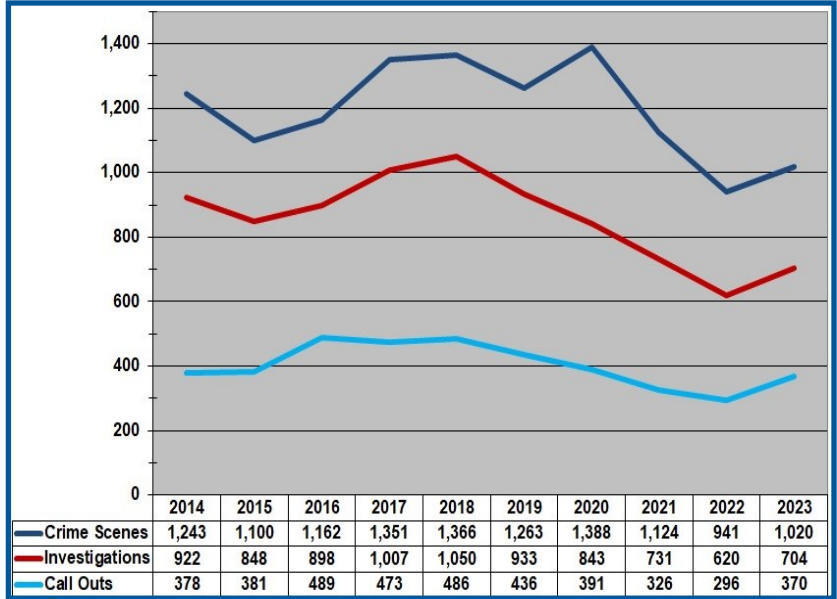
Backlog

	<i>Evansville</i>	<i>Fort Wayne</i>	<i>Indianapolis</i>	<i>Lowell</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Biology	207	404	986	352	1,949
Documents	0	0	14	0	14
Drugs	401	1,213	4,255	1,015	6,884
Firearms	75	139	429	255	898
Latent Prints	13	17	62	14	106
Trace	0	0	23	0	23
Totals	696	1,773	5,769	1,636	9,874

Crime Scene Investigation

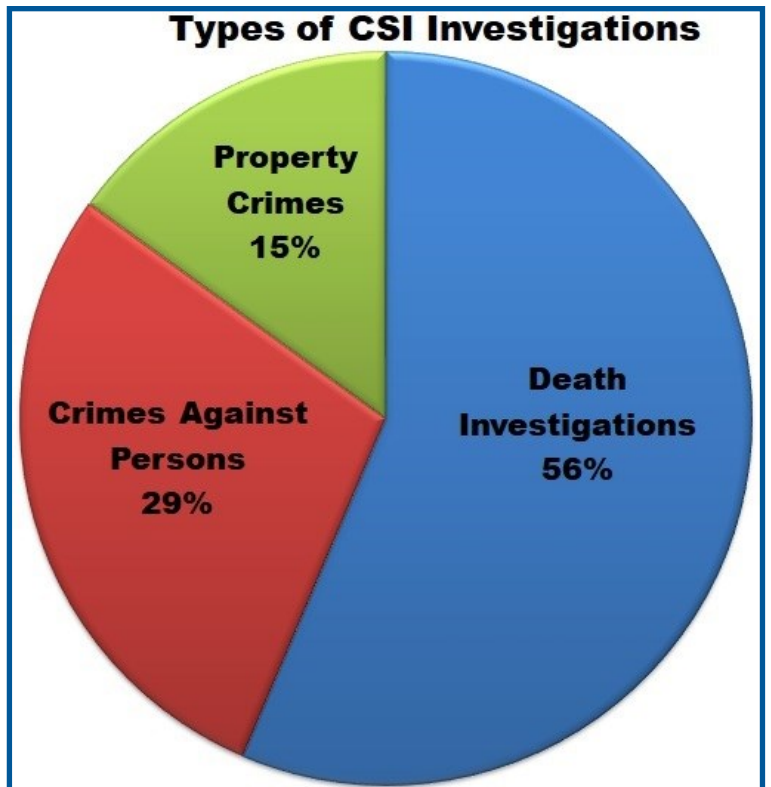
Crime Scene Investigators (29 staff), when requested by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, respond to scenes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week anywhere in Indiana. Services provided include documenting the crime scene, identification, collection, and packaging potential evidence, reconstructing the events of the crime, bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting incident reconstruction, and three-dimensional (3D) laser scanning.

In 2023, the CSIs worked 704 investigations involving 1,020 crime scenes, were called out 370 times outside of normal business hours, and testified 49 times. Sixty-three crime or crash scenes were documented using a 3D laser scanner. As shown in the chart below right, over half of the scenes worked during 2023 were death investigations.



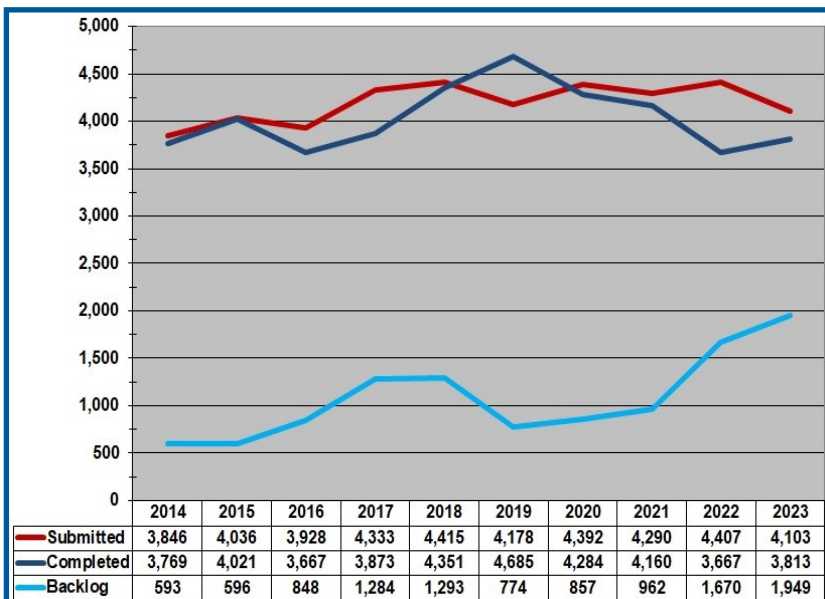
During 2023, the CSIs investigated 182 shooting incident scenes that included 60 officer involved shootings.

During 2023 the 3D laser scanners were validated to perform Bullet Trajectory Analysis at crime scenes, which increased accuracy and reproducibility over the traditional crime scene measurement devices. Below is a photo of CSIs utilizing a 3D laser scanner during a training exercise.



Biology Section

The Biology Section (57 staff) is organized into four casework units, plus the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Unit. The Section conducts analysis of biological samples including identification of body fluids (serology), nuclear and Y-STR DNA analysis, forensic relationship tests, bloodstain pattern analysis, DNA analysis of offender samples, and searches of the offender database for matching profiles. In 2023, the Section completed 3,813 cases and 4,103 cases were submitted. The backlog was 1,949 at the end of 2023.



In 2023, the four Indiana State Police Regional Laboratories plus the Indianapolis Marion County Forensic Services Agency entered approximately 1,000 crime scene profiles into CODIS. As a result of these efforts, a total of 652 separate criminal investigations were aided via CODIS during 2023 with the type of hits shown in the chart to the right. At the end of 2023, 11,069 investigations have been aided by the Indiana CODIS program, which included 303 homicides and 1,733 sexual assault cases. During 2023, more than 20,000 samples from previously untested offenders were submitted to the Laboratory Division. These samples were analyzed and entered into the database with an average turnaround time of less than 8 days from receipt to database entry.

<i>CODIS Hit Type</i>	<i>Hits</i>
National Forensic	8
National Offender	211
State Forensic	9
State Offender	470
2023 Total	698

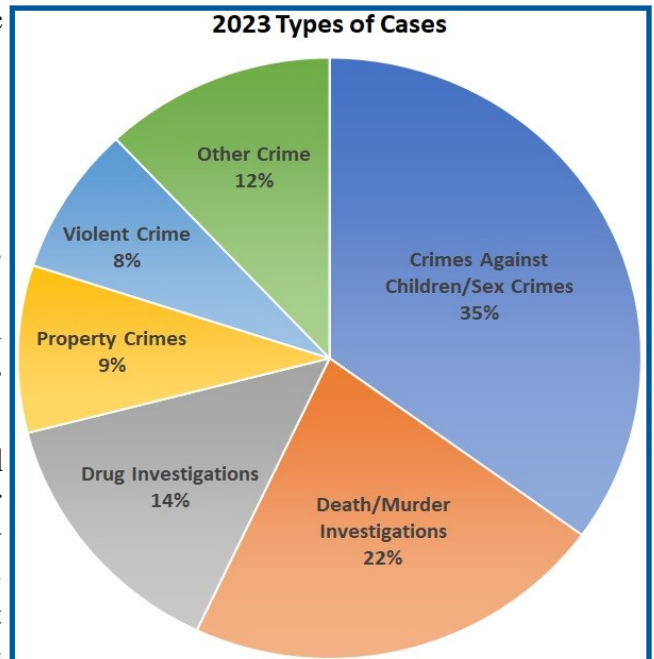
The Laboratory Division received 887 sexual assault kits for examination in 2023. A total of 903 sexual assault kits were assigned to an analyst for analysis during 2023. The average biology case turnaround time in 2023 was 147 days.

During 2023 the Biology Section completed the validation of familial searching and added the protocol to the Biology Test Methods. All eligible DNA profiles are entered into CODIS to look for a direct match. Familial searching uses a second search of the Indiana DNA Database offenders using different software settings to identify potential family members of the contributor of a crime scene sample. This search is only able to identify first order relatives such as parent/child or full siblings. After identifying a list of potentially related individuals, additional DNA testing and other techniques are used to eliminate those that are not related. Names of any remaining persons believed to be relatives will be provided as investigative leads. Due to the effort necessary to conduct a familial search, it will be implemented on a limited basis.

Digital Forensic Unit

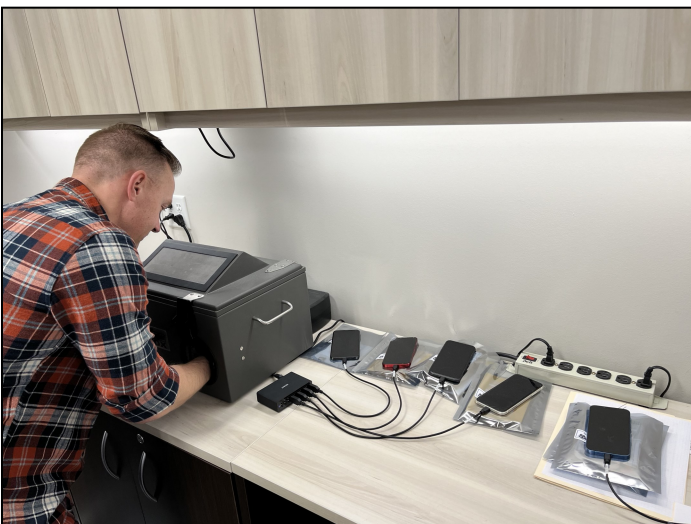
During 2023, the Indiana State Police Digital Forensic Unit (DFU) was transferred into the Laboratory Division. DFU (14 staff) assists investigations by forensically examining electronic evidence from various devices: computers (servers, desktops, laptops, etc.), mobile phones, tablets, storage devices (hard drives, flash drives, memory cards, etc.), vehicle infotainment systems, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices. DFU also examine DVR recording systems, enhancements of audio/video media to include police action incidents. In 2023 DFU completed 633 cases and 916 cases were submitted. The backlog was 426 at the end of 2023.

During 2023 DFU assisted on 124 search warrants all over the state of Indiana supporting ISP Detectives and other Indiana agencies. During each warrant they assisted by triaging digital devices on scene which helped identify victims of Child Sexual Abuse Material, eliminate items that are not probative and/or by providing real time intelligence to investigators while suspects were being interviewed. The photo below left is a Digital Forensic Examiner performing casework.



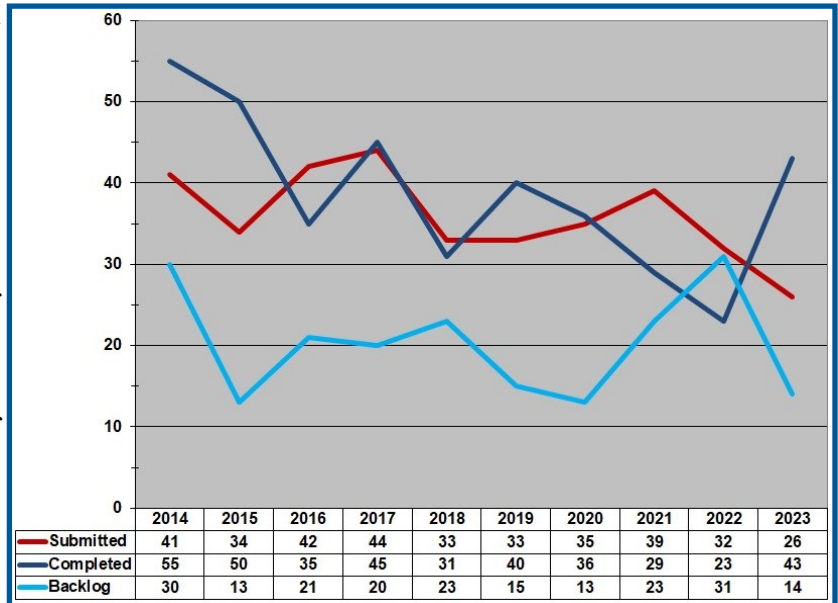
In November 2023, DFU received a new mobile forensics vehicle to support the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force with search warrants. This vehicle is customized with an interview room and digital forensic evidence triage area for on-site response and expert analysis in cases of child exploitation.

In 2023, Digital Forensic Examiners received two of the 20 awards given out nationwide by the United States Secret Service (USSS) for their use of training received at the National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI) in aiding in their complex and highly technical investigations (photo below right). These cases involved the exploitation of underage children, infants, and interstate trafficking and were escalated in federal court with multiple suspects indicted.



Document Unit

The Document Unit (2 staff) performs a range of examinations in order to answer questions about the authorship, authenticity, and background of documents. Examinations include: the comparison of handwriting, hand printing, and signatures to known writing in order to identify or eliminate a subject as the writer; the development and decipherment of indented writing impressions; physical match examinations of torn, cut, or shredded documents; the classification and comparison of inks and writing instruments; the examination of printing processes to determine source or authenticity; detection of alterations, additions, deletions, or substitutions; decipherments of altered, erased, obliterated, charred, or water soaked documents; and the determination of the sequence of events in the creation of a document. The Unit also maintains a Robbery Note Reference Collection to search for similarities to other robbery notes.



The Document Unit completed 43 cases in 2023 and received 26 cases. 24 of these cases included electronic evidence submissions. At the end of 2023, the Unit’s backlog was 14, down from 31 in 2022.

Members of the Document Unit are active in the forensic community by participating in the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE) and the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS).

During 2023 for the Document Unit implemented multiple proficiencies to become more efficient in case productivity with a staff of two. The Unit received training focused on decreasing the amount of time needed for the in-processing of evidence, such as capturing images of documentary evidence, making handwriting comparison charts, and adding images and associating writing within a handwriting comparison software.

A high-speed scanner was purchased to capture images of known writing and non-original questioned documents. Image capture time decreased from about three minutes per document to less than 30 minutes per case. The new scanner has the ability to capture up to 90 pages per minute at 600 dpi. A new camera with a 50mm lens and 85 mm Macro lens and a copy stand were obtained to be able to more rapidly capture images of journals, books, and three-dimensional (3D) items.

Additional efficiencies implemented during 2023 included three new software programs to create handwriting comparison charts more quickly and two new touchscreen monitors to decrease the time it takes in the digital notetaking process.

As a result of all these efficiencies, completed cases increased by 86% and the backlog decreased by 55% in 2023 compared to 2022.

Drug Unit

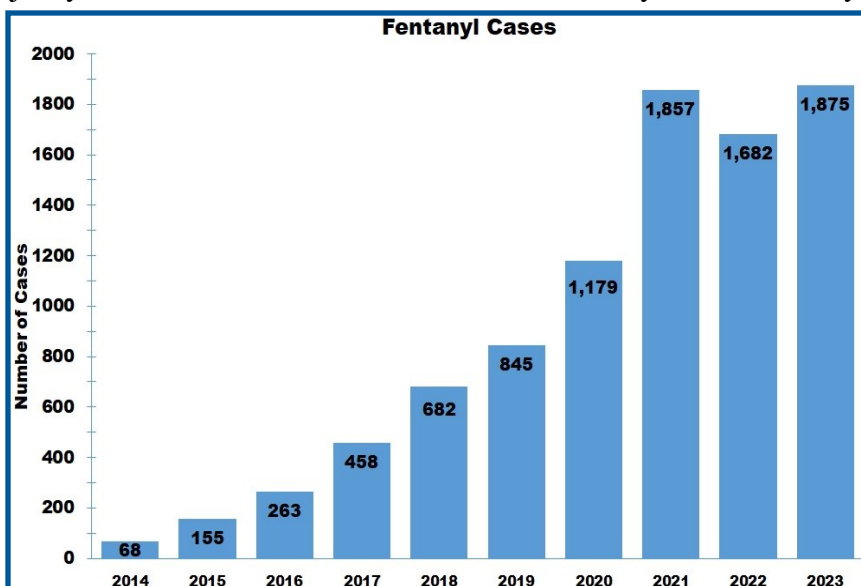
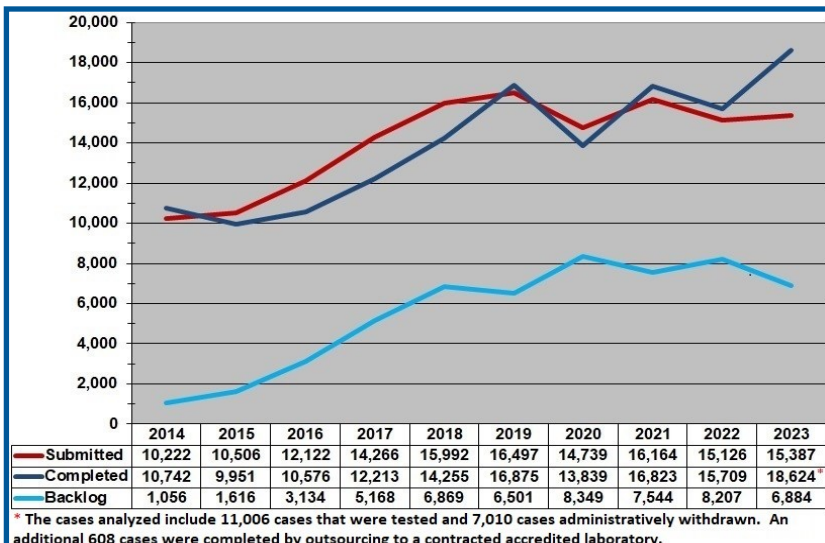
The Drug Unit (27 staff) identifies controlled substances, non-controlled drugs of abuse, clandestine laboratory samples, and diluent materials found in seized drug samples. During 2023, the Unit completed analysis of 11,006 cases and 7,010 cases were administratively withdrawn because those cases were adjudicated prior to testing. In addition, 608 cases were completed by outsourcing to a contracted accredited laboratory, which increased the total number of cases with a completion designation within the laboratory to 18,624 cases.

In 2023, the Drug Unit received 15,387 cases, which is over 63% of the total cases

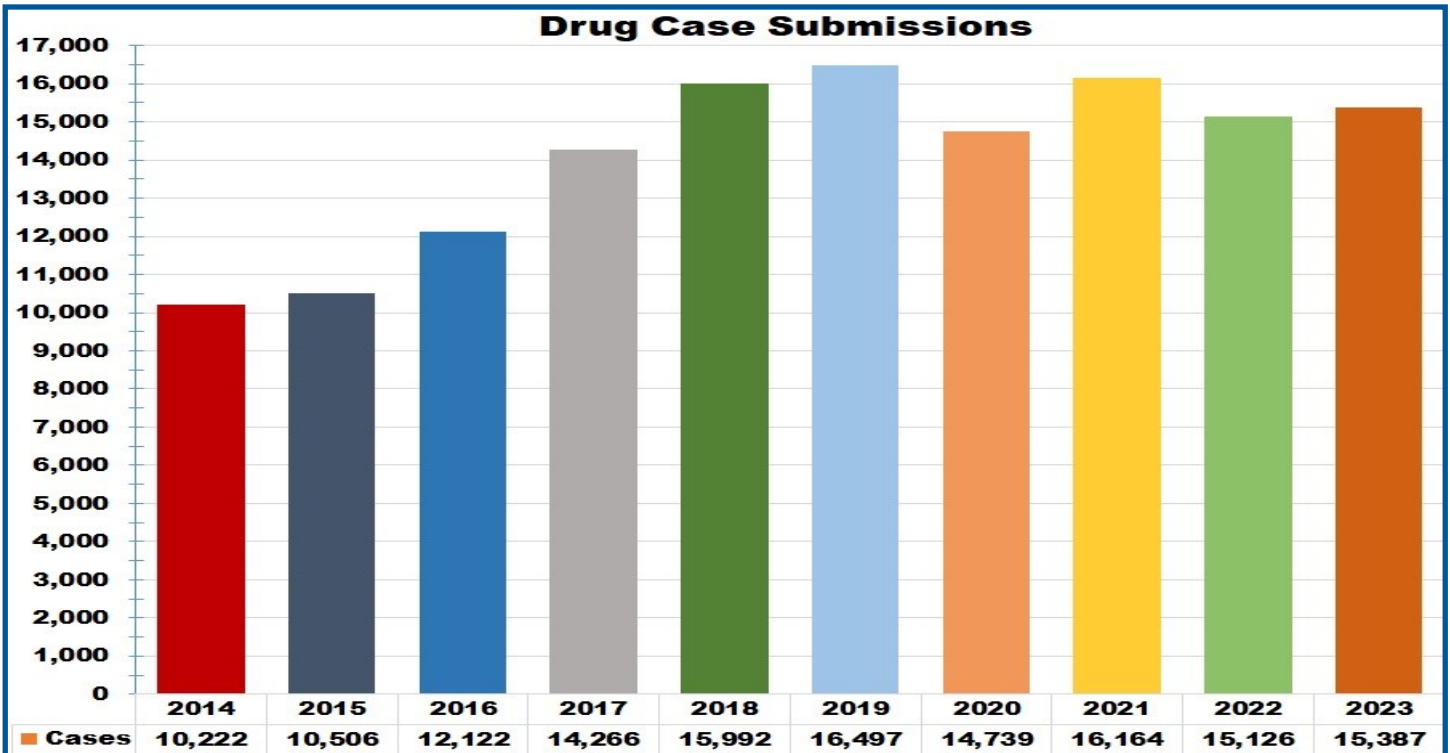
submitted to the Laboratory Division. The drug backlog situation caused the Drug Unit turnaround time to an average of over six months and a significant number of rush cases in order to meet court dates. In response, the Laboratory Division continued a multifaceted approach to address the backlog and to ensure the increasing turnaround times for completions do not hinder the criminal justice system. First, the Indiana State Police (ISP) is moving forward with construction of new laboratory facilities in Fort Wayne, Lowell, and Evansville, as described on page 5. These new facilities will allow for the hiring of additional forensic scientists. The current buildings lack adequate space to support additional staff and necessary instrumentation, which significantly limits case production capabilities. Second, beginning in January 2020, the ISP contracted with the an accredited laboratory to outsource a portion of the backlogged drug cases.

During 2023, the Drug Unit analyzed many items that looked like legitimate manufactured controlled pharmaceutical tablets, but were found to contain a different compound than published in reference material based the markings found on the tablets. The many tablets marked to contain Alprazolam actually contained a different drug or a combination of drugs. The majority of tablets that were marked to contain Oxycodone actually contained Fentanyl. The number of Fentanyl related compounds submitted increased from 68 in 2014 to 1,875 cases during 2023 (as shown in graph to the right).

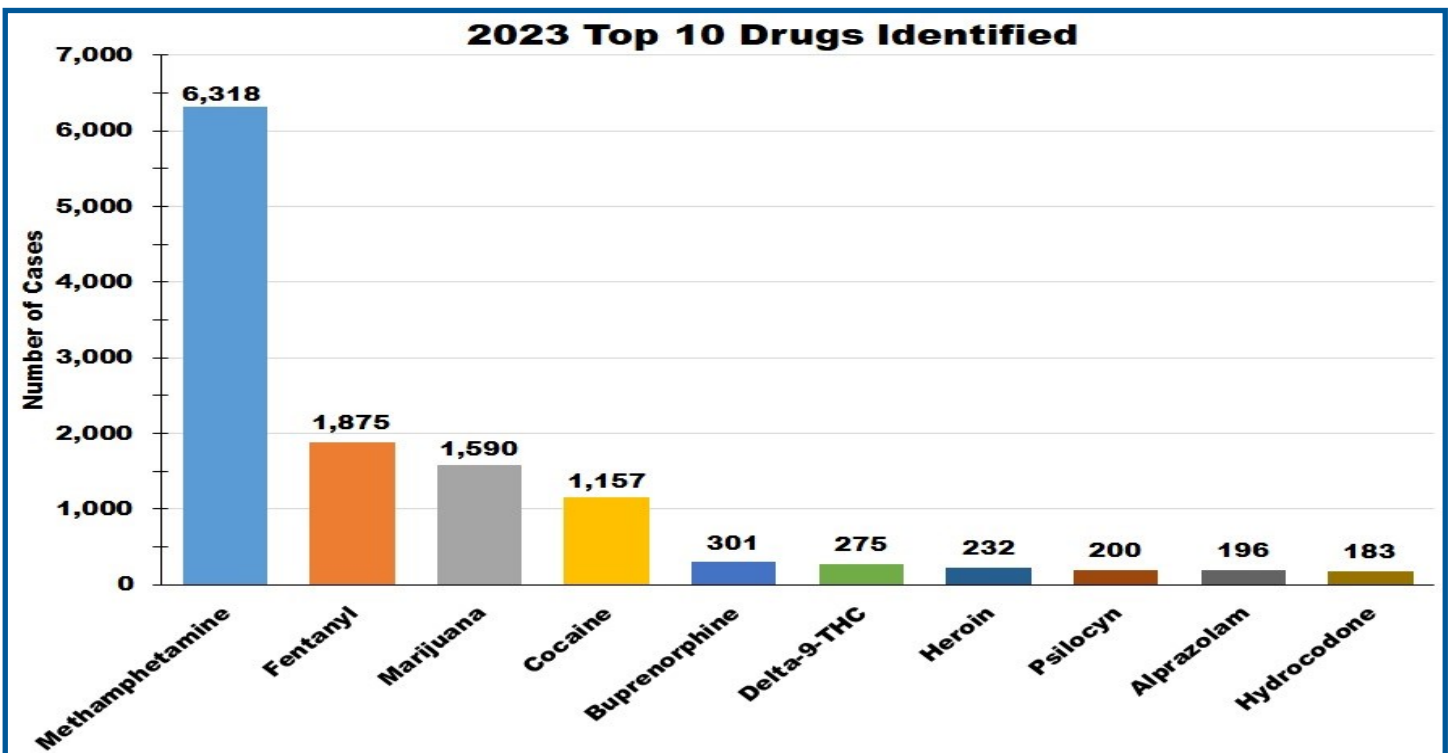
The Drug Unit has also analyzed many types of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products including vapes, waxes, and edibles, such as, chocolate bars. The Unit performs semi-quantitation of the delta-9 THC content in plant material items to identify samples as either marijuana or hemp. When compared to a 1% delta-9 THC reference material, samples greater than 1% are marijuana. Samples that fall beneath this threshold are either hemp or marijuana with a very low THC concentration.



Drug Unit

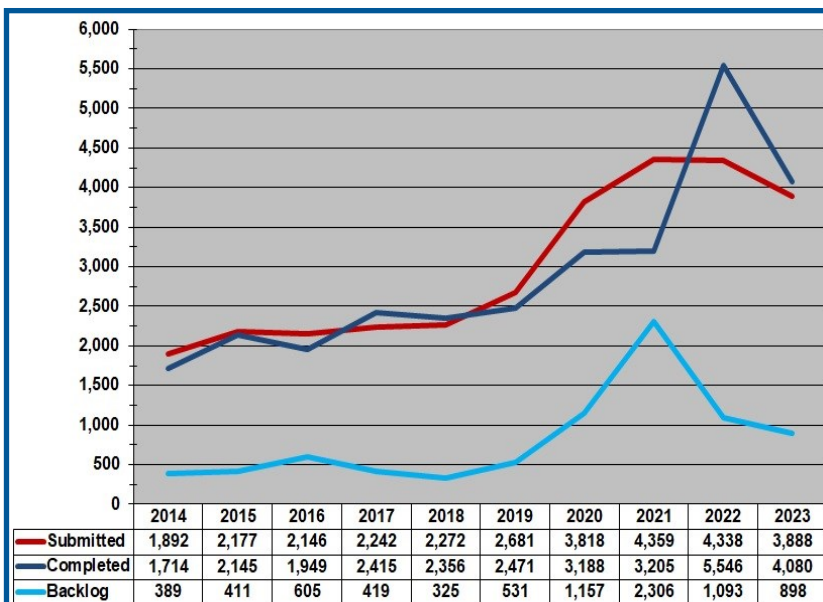


The top five drugs identified in 2023 were Methamphetamine, Fentanyl, Marijuana, Cocaine, and Buprenorphine as shown in the “2023 Top 10 Drugs Identified” chart below. Psilocyn, present in psychedelic mushrooms, is new to this year’s top 10 list with a 60% increase from 2022.



Firearms Unit

The Firearms Unit (14 ISP staff and 1 ATF contractor) conducts comparison and identification of fired bullets and cartridge cases. The Unit also performs characterization of recovered ammunition components, function testing of firearms, examination and comparison of toolmark evidence, Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) database entry and inquiry for firearms related cases, muzzle to target distance determination, and serial number restoration. Members of the Unit also participate on the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Firearms and Ammunition Selection by evaluating new firearms and ammunition for future procurement by the Indiana State Police Department.



In 2023, the Firearms Unit received 3,888 cases and completed 4,080 cases. At the end of 2023, the Unit’s backlog was 898. The Firearms Unit assisted law enforcement agencies by linking firearms related cases with 952 IBIS leads in 2023 (as shown in the chart to the right), an 22% increase from 2022.

The Firearms Unit is active in the forensic firearms community with members participating in the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE), Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee, and the NIBIN Users Conference.

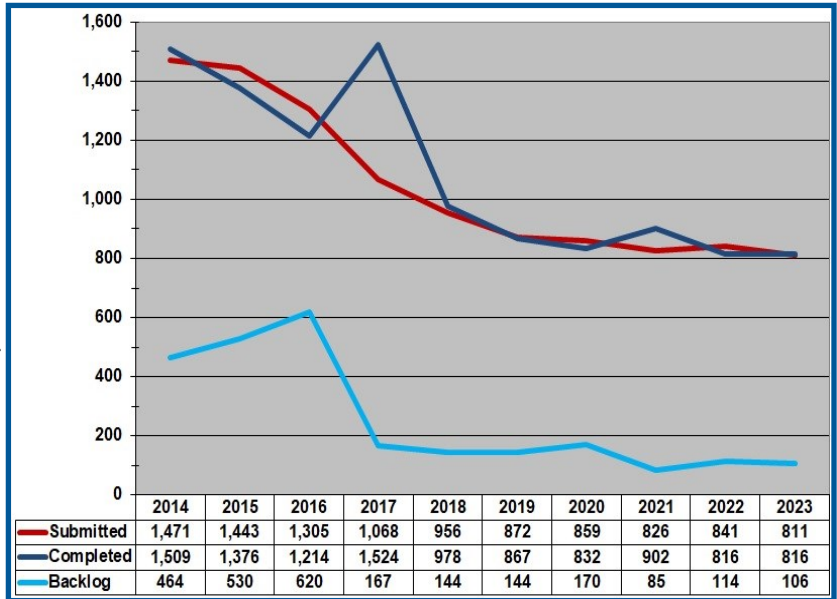
<i>Regional Laboratory</i>	<i>Leads</i>
Evansville	19
Fort Wayne	408
Indianapolis	520
Lowell	5
2023 Total	952

During 2023, the Laboratory Division purchased two new IBIS instruments for the Evansville and Lowell Regional Laboratories. The installation of instruments was completed and both are fully operational. These new IBIS instruments increase the Unit’s efficiency since Firearms Examiners are no longer required to travel to make IBIS entries. Also in 2023, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) began funding a contract IBIS Technician position for the Indianapolis Regional Laboratory. This position is responsible for entries into the IBIS Instrument and assists with the IBIS shoots program, in which law enforcement agencies from surrounding counties bring in crime guns to generate the test fires.

The Firearms Unit continued to outsource National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) correlations to the ATF NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC). Under this agreement, the Firearms Unit enter digital images of evidence from crime scene shootings and test fires from crime guns into the NIBIN through a local IBIS terminal. The database is searched for possible matches, that is, other ammunition that have similar tool marks and thus may have been fired from the same gun. A trained NIBIN user at NNCTC will review (correlates) the possible matches and generates a notification memorandum when a “High Probability IBIS Hit” is identified as an investigative lead. These correlations typically take about 30 minutes each to complete. The investigating agency is responsible for returning the evidence to the Laboratory Division for confirmation of the hit. An examiner in the Firearms Unit will microscopically compare the evidence submitted to determine if, in fact, they were fired in the same firearm to confirm the match.

Latent Print Unit

The Latent Print Unit (10 staff) examines and compares unknown to known dermal friction ridge detail, which is found on fingers, palms, and soles of feet. Processing techniques include physical, chemical, and fluorescent development of latent print evidence. When a case is submitted without a suspect, the unknown fingerprints are entered into the state's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Next Generation Identification (NGI) databases. Potential candidates are generated by the system, but the comparison, identification, and verification processes are performed by forensic scientists. The Unit can access all friction ridge archive files from AFIS/NGI for comparison purposes. This access streamlines the process and allows the examiners to acquire the exact exemplar needed for comparison.

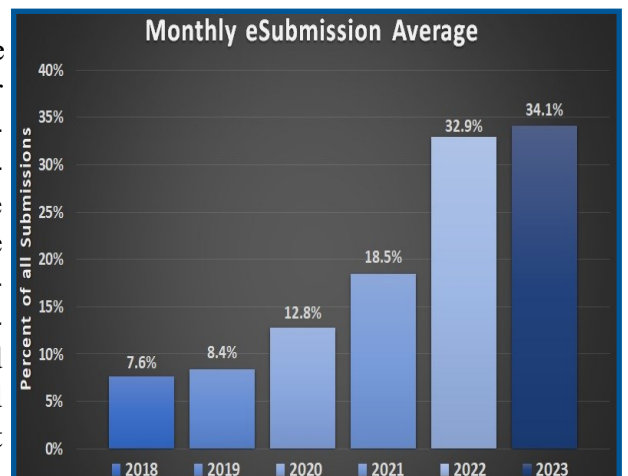


During 2023, the Unit received 811 cases that included 283 electronic evidence submissions, worked 816 cases, and entered 605 prints into AFIS and NGI with the number of hits shown in the table to the right. The Unit assisted with 250 print identifications to confirm Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hits.

2023	Hits
AFIS	56
NGI	131
Total	187

The Laboratory Division accepts electronic evidence submissions of digital images for latent print, document, or trace examinations with 308 total submissions in 2023. Electronic evidence for examination can be submitted at esubmission@isp.in.gov with a completed Request for Laboratory Examination Form, and for files too large to be emailed, a secure file sharing website is available by the Laboratory Division. It is anticipated that electronic submissions will continue to rise as awareness increases. The graph below shows the increase in electronic evidence submissions from the year the Laboratory Division began accepting these submissions in 2018 to 2023.

A significant portion of these electronic submissions are for the identification of deceased individuals. Previously, for identification, inked impressions would be taken during an autopsy. These would then be packaged, transported, and submitted to the laboratory for examination with the turnaround time being a few days to weeks. With electronic evidence, a simple photograph or scan of the inked impressions or an actual photograph of the skin itself can be submitted, which can be identified within a couple hours. Through outreach, training, and presenting at annual conferences over the years, coroners and investigators across the state have turned to the Latent Print Unit for the rapid identification of deceased individuals.



Microanalysis Unit

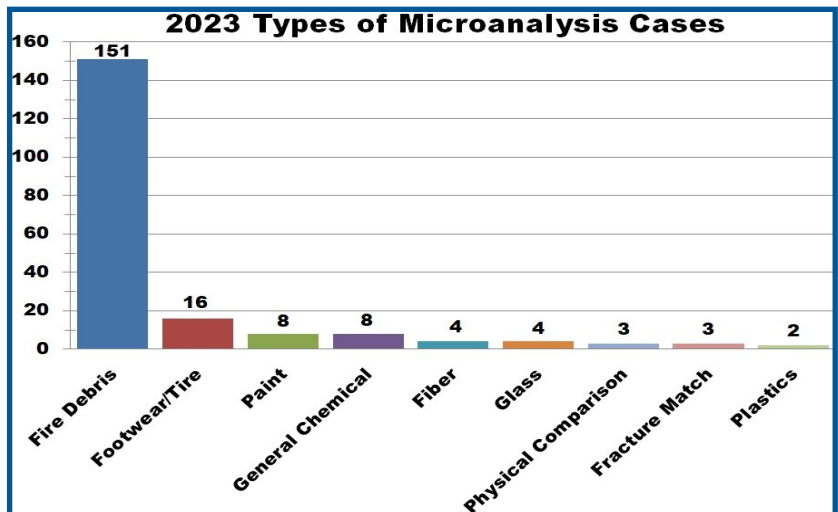
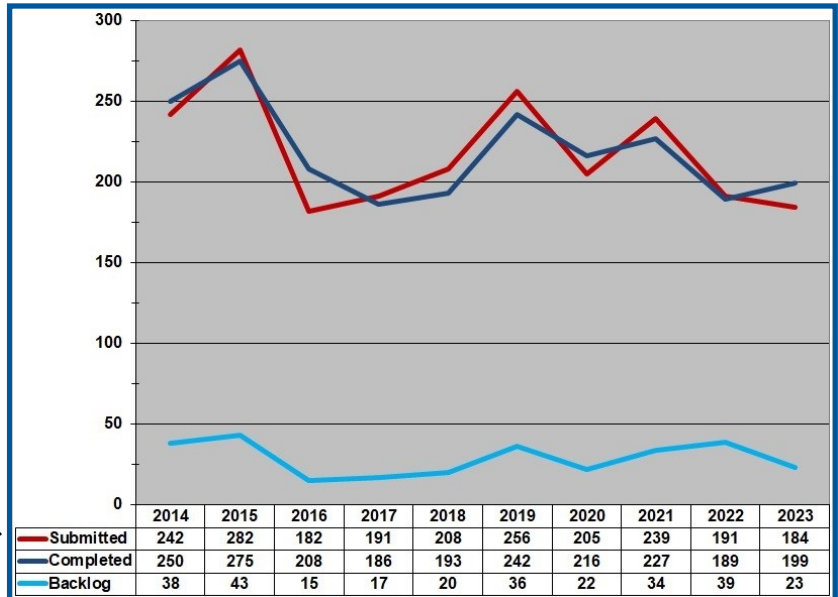
The Microanalysis (Trace) Unit (4 staff) performs analysis, comparison, and identification of automotive lamps, clandestine laboratory reagents, fibers, fire debris, footwear and tire impressions, glass, paints, plastics, safe insulation, tapes, and unknown materials. The Unit uses many different types of microscopes as well as analytical instrumentation to conduct examinations and comparisons in an effort to provide associative evidence.

The Microanalysis Unit utilizes the Sole-Mate Footwear Print Identification System Footwear Print Expert (FPX). This system stores characteristics in the tread design of footwear impressions of known shoeprint sole, such as shapes, patterns, texts, and logos, in a reference database that can be searched against footwear impressions recovered from crime scenes to potentially identify a manufacturer of a shoe.

In 2023, the Microanalysis Unit completed 199 cases and received 184 submissions. The backlog was 23 cases at the end of the year. The majority of cases worked during the year by the Unit were fire debris cases as shown in the graph to the right.

The Microanalysis Unit participates in the American Board Criminalist (ABC), American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners (ASTEE), Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) including as the President, and Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC).

The photo to right is a new Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) installed during 2023, which replaced two nearly 20-years old instruments. The GC/MS is an analytical instrument capable of separating mixtures into identifiable component compounds. It is used to analyze ignitable liquid residues in fire debris cases.



Polygraph Unit

The Polygraph Unit (6 staff) provides polygraph examinations in criminal investigations to the Indiana State Police (ISP) and other state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. The Unit also conducts pre-employment testing for Indiana State Police positions including Capitol Police, Evidence Specialist, Fusion Center employees, Motor Carrier Inspector, and Trooper. In addition to these tests, the Polygraph Unit also performs pre-employment polygraph examinations for the Indiana Gaming Commission Enforcement Division and the Indiana State Excise Police.

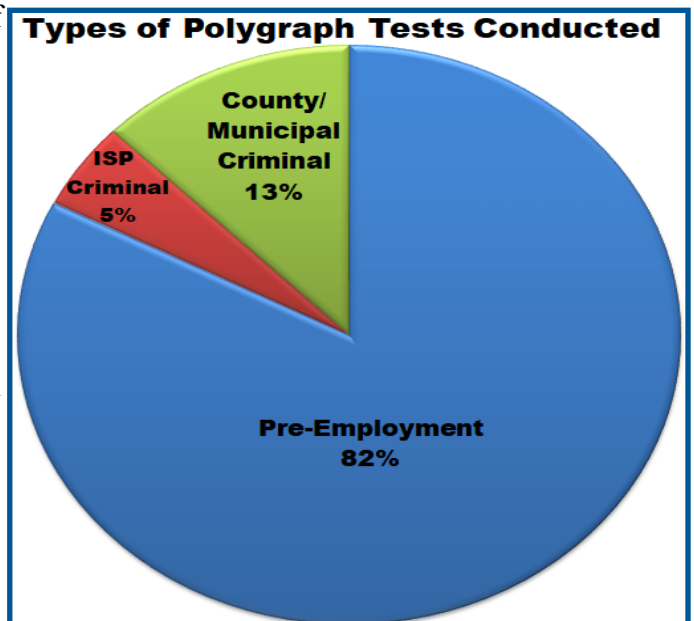
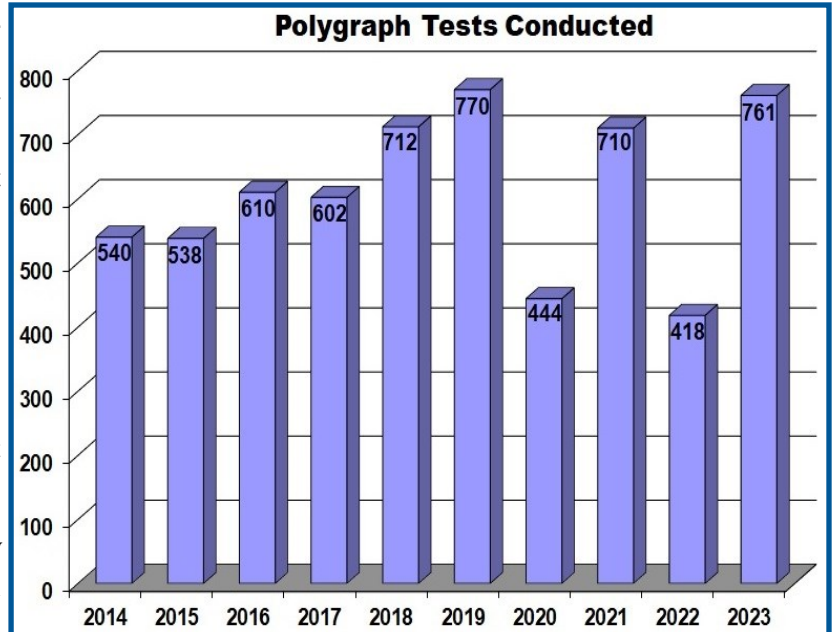
The term polygraph literally means many writings. The name refers to the manner in which selected physiological activities are

simultaneously measured and recorded by computerized instruments. A polygraph examiner interprets the charts of the physiological changes to determine deception and non-deception.

In 2023, the Polygraph Unit conducted a total of 761 polygraph examinations, which included 133 polygraph tests in criminal cases that resulted in five cleared cases, 14 additional leads developed, and 44 confessions/significant admissions obtained. The Unit conducted 628 pre-employment polygraphs. The proportions of the tests conducted for pre-employment applicants, ISP criminal, and county/municipal agencies criminal are shown in the chart to the right.

In 2023, the Polygraph Unit began a transition from sworn police positions to civilian Forensic Scientist positions, with three civilian Polygraph Examiner positions filled during the year. The Polygraph Unit is active in the forensic community by participating in the American Association of Police Polygraphists (AAPP), American Polygraph Association (APA), and Indiana Polygraph Association (IPA).

The Polygraph Unit worked behind the scenes in many investigations and helped conclude several unique, as well as high profile cases. During 2023, two polygraphs were conducted on a case where an infant had several confirmed broken bones, additional suspected broken bones, and a brain hemorrhage. A polygraph examination cleared the mother of any wrongdoing. The Polygraph Examiner conducted another polygraph on the father who failed it and confessed to causing the injuries to the infant.



Evidence Management

Evidence Specialists (19 staff) are responsible for tracking the chain of custody of evidence upon receipt into the Laboratory Division's possession, organizing storage of the evidence so it can be retrieved when needed, and the release or destruction of evidence as necessary. The Evidence Specialists securely maintain evidence at the 14 Indiana State Police (ISP) Districts and the Indianapolis Regional Laboratory. The three Districts located at Evansville, Fort Wayne, and Lowell also have a Regional Laboratory. The Evidence Specialists receive evidence at the Regional Laboratories from law enforcement agencies for forensic analysis and return it when testing is complete.

Evidence Specialists handled thousands of items of evidence throughout the year that included accepting 41,742 items from contributors at the Regional Laboratories for analysis. The Evidence Specialists received 26,881 additional items from ISP personnel for storage. In 2023, the Evidence Specialists were responsible for the storage of over 395,000 individual items of evidence and upon receiving disposition orders destroyed 14,611 items and released 2,455 items.

The Laboratory Division utilizes an electronic Request for Laboratory Examination Form. This form is dynamic with additional fields and/or pages appearing depending upon the information entered. The form is tailored to obtain only the information needed by each Unit, which reduces unnecessary, potentially contextually biasing information. The flexibility of the form allows each Unit to receive only the information needed. The Request for Laboratory Examination Form and an instructional PowerPoint® are available on the Laboratory Division's website (<http://www.in.gov/isp/labs/2332.htm>). The form is updated annually and includes an expiration date. Once expired, the form will lock to prevent the use of an obsolete version, and contributors are directed to the website to download the current version.

LIMS/IT Unit

The Laboratory LIMS/IT Unit (2 staff) has the primary duty of maintaining and administrating the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). The LIMS Unit tracks all evidence currently held by the ISP Laboratory Division and stores analytical results, records, and reports. This system is integrated with the web based reporting system iResults, which provides the Certificates of Analysis (reports) to law enforcement agencies and county prosecutors.

The LIMS/IT Unit supports Laboratory Division personnel at the four Regional Laboratories and 14 District locations. The Unit provides assistance with maintaining and troubleshooting other systems used by Laboratory Division personnel, that include Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS), SoleMate Footwear Print Identification System Footwear Print Expert (FPX), analytical instrumentation, camera surveillance, door access/security, and phone systems. The LIMS/IT Unit also maintains and supports a digital workflow system (Mideo®) utilized by the Document, Latent Print, and Microanalysis Units.

CSI Quality Assurance Unit

The Crime Scene Investigations Quality Assurance Unit (4 staff) administers training in crime scene investigation to local law enforcement agencies as well as Indiana State Police (ISP) Crime Scene Investigators (CSI). The Unit assists the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in certification of CSIs from departments throughout Indiana. The Crime Scene Investigations Section Commander is a member of the ILEA CSI Certification Board. The Unit also provides specialized training to other agencies upon request. Members of the Unit regularly provide instruction at both the ISP Recruit Academy and the ILEA Basic Courses.

The ISP Evidence Management System Quality Assurance Program annually audits each of the 14 ISP Districts, as well as the Indianapolis Regional Laboratory. The three Districts located at Evansville, Fort Wayne, and Lowell also have a Regional Laboratory. A complete inventory/audit is conducted every two years at each of the Laboratory Division's evidence storage facilities. These audits are a comprehensive review to account for every item stored at the facilities. The Unit is also occasionally requested to audit a local law enforcement agency's evidence system. These audits are completed only when there is a criminal investigation involving internal issues with the physical evidence stored at the location.

As part of the quality assurance program to ensure competency and properly functioning equipment, the Unit semi-annually assesses the work of all ISP CSIs. In addition, each CSI is given a proficiency test annually under the supervision of the Unit. In 2023, the Crime Scene Investigations Quality Assurance Unit made significant contributions in maintaining crime scene accreditation including reviewing and updating procedures, and monitoring to ensure compliance with accreditation requirements.

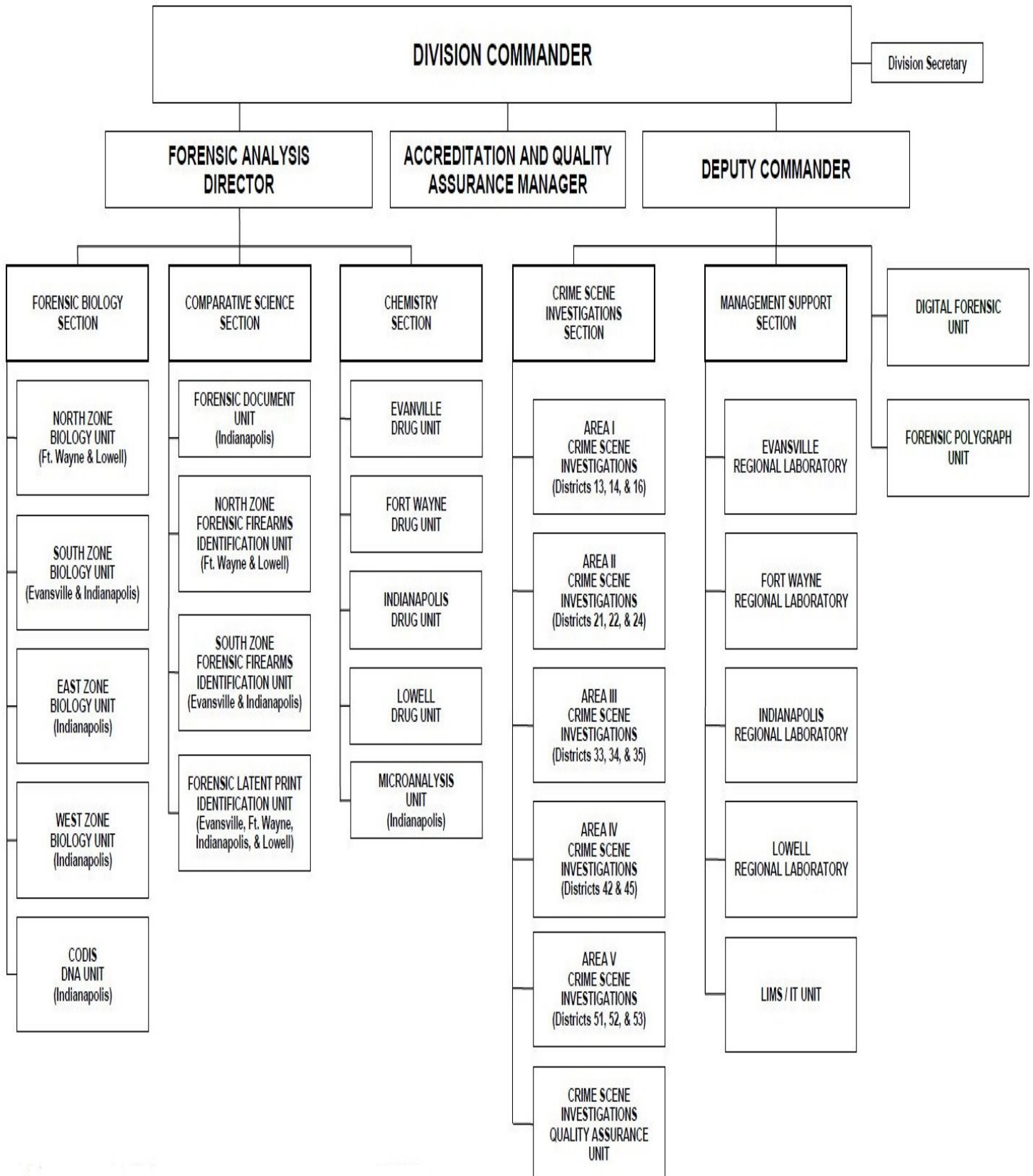
Quality Assurance

The Laboratory Division's Quality Assurance Unit (1 staff) ensures compliance to the Division's and accreditation quality assurance standards. The Unit collects and maintains quality assurance documentation, oversees the implementation and monitoring of corrective actions, ensures laboratory adherence to proficiency testing and witness critique requirements, and develops and conducts quality assurance related training for Laboratory Division staff. The Unit also assisted the Crime Scene Investigations Quality Assurance Unit with maintaining accreditation of crime scene services and the District evidence storage facilities.

The Laboratory Division is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB). Accreditation is a voluntary program in which a crime laboratory that participates must demonstrate that its management, personnel, operational and technical procedures, equipment, and physical facilities meet established international quality requirements.



Organizational Chart



Contact Information

Evansville Regional Laboratory

19411 Highway 41 North
Evansville, IN 47725

Laboratory Manager: Daniel Colbert

DColbert@isp.IN.gov

812-867-3157
800-852-3970

Fort Wayne Regional Laboratory

5811 Ellison Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Acting Laboratory Manager: Stacey Hartman

SHartman@isp.IN.gov

260-436-7522
800-552-0976

Indianapolis Regional Laboratory

550 West 16th Street, Suite C
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Laboratory Manager: Andrew Koeling

AKoeling@isp.IN.gov

317-921-5300
866-855-2840

Lowell Regional Laboratory

1550 East 181st Avenue
Lowell, IN 46356

Laboratory Manager: Daun Powers

DPowers@isp.IN.gov

219-696-1835
877-874-0009

Laboratory Division Commander

Major Sidney Newton

SNewton@isp.IN.gov

317-921-5303

Crime Scene Investigations Commander

Lt. James Cody

JCody@isp.IN.gov

317-921-5309

**Visit the Laboratory Division's website
for Evidence Protocols and Forms,
Test Methods, CODIS and Drug Stats
and Information, Training Opportunities,
and many more resources.**

<https://www.in.gov/isp/labs/>