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Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. **Board of Directors Meeting**

January 13, 2023



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Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. Board of Directors Public Meeting

Friday, January 13, 2023

www.hfsctx.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the date set out above, a quorum of the board of directors (the "board") of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. ("HFSC" and/or the "corporation") will meet in the City Hall Council Annex Chamber, 900 Bagby St. (public level), Houston, Texas 77002.

In accordance with Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act) the agenda is posted for public information, at all times, for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of the meeting on the bulletin board located on the exterior wall of the City Hall building at 901 Bagby. The notice of this meeting, the agenda and the meeting packet are also posted <u>online</u> at <u>https://www.hfsctx.gov/meeting-archives/</u>.

The items listed below may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. After the meeting concludes, a recording of the meeting will be posted to HFSC <u>website</u> at <u>www.hfsctx.gov.</u>

PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLIC MEETING:

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person view the meeting through a live stream broadcast on the internet. To view the live stream meeting <u>online</u> please visit <u>https://www.houstontx.gov/htv/index.html</u>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

The public is permitted to speak in-person during the public comment agenda item and as permitted by the chair.

A speaker may address any subject relevant to the purpose of the corporation. Each speaker should limit his or her comments to three minutes. The chair may limit both the number of speakers and the time allotted for each speaker. A speaker who plans to submit a document for the board's consideration should provide at least ten copies of the document, each marked with the speaker's name. If you have questions regarding attending this meeting, please contact Ashley Henry at 713-929-6760.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.
- 2. Roll call; confirmation of presence of quorum.
- 3. Consider appointment of Mrs. Ashley Henry as interim secretary of the corporation, and possible related action.
- 4. Public Comment.
- 5. Reading of draft minutes from November 18, 2022, board meeting. Consideration of proposed corrections, if any. Approval of minutes.

- 6. Report from Dr. Stacey Mitchell, board chair including a monthly update of activities, and other announcements.
- 7. Status report from the board working group on crime scene unit findings, recommendations and improvements, and possible related action.
- 8. Report from Dr. Peter Stout, CEO and president, including an overview of 2022 operations, technical updates, outreach efforts, staffing changes, including the Quality Director position, and other corporate business items.
- 9. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement for fleet services between the City of Houston and the corporation relating to the upkeep, maintenance, repair, and service of HFSC vehicles, and possible related action.
- Consider approval of a contract for DNA outsourcing services between the corporation and Signature Science, LLC to be funded by the FY2022 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant, total budget not to exceed \$1,108,934.00.
- 11. Quarterly treasurer's report from Mr. David Leach, treasurer and CFO regarding company financials and other fiscal updates.
- **12.** Report from Ms. Erika Ziemak, quality director, including an overview of the blind quality control program, Texas Forensic Science Commission disclosures, survey responses, and testimony metrics.
- 13. Adjournment.

NOTICE REGARDING SPECIAL NEEDS:

Persons requiring accommodations for special needs may contact HFSC at 713-929-6760.

NOTICE REGARDING CLOSED MEETINGS:

As authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551.001 (the "Open Meetings Act"), if, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the board should determine that a closed or executive meeting or session of the board should be held or is required in relation to any items included in this notice, then such closed or executive meeting or session as authorized by Section 551.001 et seq. of the Texas Government Code will be held by the board at that date, hour and place given in this notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by the notice as the board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Section 551.071-551.089, inclusive, of the Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to:

551.071 - Consultation with Attorney
551.072 - Deliberation Regarding Real Property
551.073 - Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift Section
551.074 - Personnel Matters
551.076 - Deliberation Regarding Security Devices
551.084 - Exclusion of Witness
551.087 - Economic Development Negotiations

The presiding officer shall announce that the board will convene in a closed meeting; that is, in "a meeting to which the public does not have access," sometimes referred to as an "executive session." The presiding officer's announcement will identify the provision(s) of the Open Meetings Act permitted by Section 551.071-551.089 under which the closed meeting will be held. Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive meeting or session, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either:

A. The open meeting covered by this notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting, or B. At a subsequent public meeting of the board upon notice thereof, as the board shall determine

Certification of Posting of Notice of the Board of Directors of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

I, Ashley Henry, do hereby certify that a notice of this meeting was posted on Tuesday, the 10th day of January 2023, in a place convenient to the public on the bulletin board located on the exterior wall of the City Hall building at 901 Bagby Street, Houston, Texas 77002, and on the HFSC website as required by Section 551.002 et seq., Texas Government Code

Given under my hand this the 10th day of January 2023.

Ashley Henry, Manager of Client Services and Case Management

Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Chair of the Board of Directors

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item	3. Consider appointment of Mrs. Ashley Henry as interim secretary of	
No.:	the corporation, and possible related action.	
Subject:	Appointment of the corporation's secretary, as required by HFSC's bylaws.	
Background:	During the May 2022 regular meeting, the Board approved the annual appointment of HFSC's corporate officers, pursuant to the corporation's bylaws. Among the appointed officers was Ms. Amanda DeBerry, the corporation's secretary. Section 5.01 of the corporation's bylaws states, "the persons appointed shall hold the said offices until the next annual meeting of the Board, at which meeting the Board shall appoint (or reappoint) persons to hold the said offices until the next annual meeting, repeating the cycle annually." The next annual appointment of HFSC's corporate officers is scheduled for the May 2023 board meeting.	
Executive Summary:	The corporation's appointed secretary, Ms. DeBerry, has resigned from office, effective on December 30, 2022. Pursuant to the corporation's bylaws the Board shall appoint a secretary to perform the duties described therein. The Board may appoint any person who is not a director of the Board, to serve as the corporate secretary, including any corporate officer, except the President of the corporation.	
	Accordingly, the Board must appoint a secretary to fulfill the remainder of Ms. DeBerry's term or appoint a secretary to serve on an interim basis until a new secretary is named to fulfill the remainder of Ms. DeBerry's term. Mrs. Ashley Henry is currently employed by HFSC and has previous served in the interim secretary position. Her appointment will fill this vacancy on an interim basis, as the corporation begins the process of selecting a candidate for annual appointment.	
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact.	
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval.	
By:	Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Board Chair Legal review by General Counsel	



Board of Directors Public Meeting ~ Minutes ~

Friday, November 18, 2022

www.hfsctx.gov

1. CALL TO ORDER:

At 9 a.m., Board Chairwoman Stacey Mitchell called the meeting to order.

The Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. ("HFSC" and/or the "corporation") board of directors (the "board") convened this in-person meeting on Friday, November 18, 2022, in the City Hall Council Annex Chamber, 900 Bagby St. (public level), Houston, Texas 77002. In a manner permitted by the corporation's bylaws, the meeting was called by providing all directors with notice of the date, time and purpose of the meeting at least three days before the scheduled date.

In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act) a notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board located on the exterior wall of the City Hall building at 901 Bagby on November 15.

2. <u>ROLL CALL</u>:

The following board members were present in-person:

Chairwoman Stacey Mitchell
Vice-chairwoman Mary Lentschke
Anna Vasquez
Philip Hilder
Vanessa Goodwin
Ellen Cohen
Lois Moore
Vicki Huff
Tracy Calabrese

The following board member was absent: Francisco Medina

Chairwoman Mitchell declared a quorum was present noting that all members were physically present in-person.

3. <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>:

Chairwoman Mitchell gave members of the public an opportunity to address the board. No members of the public addressed the board.

4. <u>REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING</u>:

Following a motion by Director Lois Moore and seconded by Director Ellen Cohen, the board unanimously approved the September 9, 2022 meeting minutes.

5. CHAIRWOMAN MITCHELL'S REPORT:

The chairwoman first congratulated Director Moore on Harris Health's recent dedication of a building in her honor, in recognition of her contributions to the medical community – the Lois J. Moore Center for Nursing Excellence. The facility is utilized for educating nurses and student

nurses. Next, she reminded members to mark their calendars for the next meeting on Friday, January 13, 2023.

She later acknowledged the observation of Veteran's Day by expressing appreciation to the men and women who sacrificed to serve in the military and protect our country, many of them at HFSC, including Dr. Peter Stout, president, and CEO.

Chairwoman Mitchell wrapped up by informing members of the corporation's annual holiday party on December 10 at Karbach Brewery from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. She encouraged all members to attend and to make monetary donations to help pay for the party since HFSC does not use taxpayer dollars for such events.

6. <u>DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE</u> <u>CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION</u>:

Dr. Peter Stout began by explaining the need for a proposed amendment to HFSC's Certificate of Formation since the corporation is ineligible for some federal grant programs. Article 13, in its Certificate of Formation, defines the corporation as not being a political subdivision, political authority, or public instrumentality of Texas within the meaning of the constitutional laws, a statement Dr. Stout acknowledged the need for more accurate language. The article's goal centers around the laboratory not creating debt for the City of Houston without the City's input. That article creates a problem for the Department of Justice and its interpretation of HFSC. He mentioned in 2017, HFSC applied for a grant through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants program. A program that awards roughly \$30 million in grants annually to states and units of local government to help improve forensic science. The state awards range from \$10,000 to \$15,000, while the competitive awards range from \$200,000 to \$500,000. In addition, federal funding can be used for all technical disciplines. However, HFSC was deemed ineligible for the Paul Coverdell grant because it required it to be an instrumentality or political subdivision of the state. The language in article 13 says otherwise. He requested to remove that language in the article for HFSC to be eligible to apply for the Paul Coverdell program for the next grant cycle between March and April 2023. Finally, Dr. Stout discussed that if the board approves the amendment and resolution, it will then be sent to city council for consideration and approval before being filed with the Secretary of State. The chairwoman yielded the floor to Senior Assistant City Attorney Rashaad Gambrell with the city legal department to respond to any questions.

Director Vanessa Goodwin asked if the language was initially included for any purpose related to the tax-exempt status. Dr. Stout said it should not impact the tax-exempt status but that he's still determining the reason behind the initial language in the Certificate of Formation. Mr. Gambrell emphasized that the government code does not require the current language to exist in the Certificate of Formation or Articles of Incorporation and that it is not required by statute. He pointed out that removing the language does not change the entity's nature, and for clarification, HFSC is a separate legal entity from the City of Houston. Mr. Gambrell stated his extensive research did not indicate the reason behind the current language in the Certificate of Formation.

Director Moore made a motion to approve the resolution for the proposed fourth amendment to the corporation's Certificate of Formation. Director Anna Vasquez seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved the motion.

7. PRESIDENT AND CEO DR. PETER STOUT'S REPORT:

Dr. Stout began by discussing operational highlights. Dr. Stout started with noting HFSC continues to be an accredited laboratory and has recently been re-accredited. He then discussed how Latent Prints and Toxicology have downsized their case backlog to about 1000 each, for toxicology it is a review backlog not an outsourcing backlog. Dr. Stout then discussed that CSU had made progress on their backlog and they are now below 300 cases. Dr. Stout then said he was scheduled to talk with the Harris County felony judges next month on December 7th where he plans to discuss the backlog with them and how cases are prioritized at HFSC.

Dr. Stout then moved to the HFSC company goals for 2022-2023. Dr. Stout highlighted the industry-wide struggle with turnover rates. Dr. Stout gave the results of HFSC's 2021-2022 company goal ratings. Chair Mitchell asked if there was a way to incorporate continuing education training into new employee initial training so that HFSC could get better compliance on that goal, and Dr. Stout said he believed there was a way to do that and that he and Amy Castillo were working on those logistics.

8. <u>DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CORPORATION'S TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP</u>: (Item taken out of turn)

Item back on agenda for Board to continue discussion about the Technical Advisory Group ("TAG"). Chair Mitchell wanted to give the Board another opportunity to ask any comments or questions regarding the TAG's composition, eligibility requirements, potential new members, and ideas on how to identify areas where the Board can engage the TAG more. The Board will be looking for additional members in the coming months. Chair Mitchell asked that if the Board Members had any ideas for additional TAG members to let her know and reminded them of the eligibility requirements. Chair Mitchell recognized 3 former TAG members for their service to HFSC, Dr. Robin Cotton, Dr. Antonios Mikos, and Mr. Stefan Garrard. The Board will be sending them a certificate of appreciation in the mail to acknowledge the contributions and expertise. Chair Mitchell opened the floor for discussion from the Board. Dr. Stout discussed engaging a statistician could be helpful for HFSC.

Chairwoman Mitchell discussed how important the TAG was in the early years of HFSC's formation and asked how the Board can keep the TAG engaged and how they can be utilized to ensure HFSC is leading the industry and being the model lab for the nation.

Director Huff asked questions about how the TAG engages with the Board and if they attend meetings. Director Hilder posed having a zoom meeting for the Board to meet with them and understand more about their backgrounds and what they do. Chair Mitchell said she will have legal look into whether a zoom meeting can be facilitated.

Dr. Stout said that he had been having ongoing discussions regarding potential ways TAG members could be of assistance and named several other possible candidates for the TAG.

9. **<u>QUALITY DIRECTOR ERIKA ZIEMAK'S REPORT</u>**: (Item taken out of turn)

Erika Ziemak discussed metrics from the blind quality program for September and October. She started with discussing a collaboration between HFSC and Sam Houston University ("SHU") utilizing "DART" technology (which stands for "direct analysis in real time" technology). SHU wants to use the residue left on HFSC weighing vessels to analyze samples using this technology. Ms. Ziemak stated the Quality Division is appreciative of participating in this research initiative and its future benefit to the forensic community.

Ms. Ziemak then discussed how HFSC was reaccredited by ANAB until December 2026 following a lengthy accreditation assessment. The assessment found that HFSC had 5 nonconformities and those were satisfactory resolved withing the 60-day window. The Quality Division performed a risk assessment and took stock of logistical pros and cons of the assessment process. Going forward HFSC will ask ANAB for more assessors dedicated to each section and a longer assessment window to provide all the documentation that is requested. Chair Mitchell congratulated the Quality Division and HFSC for their work during the assessment process.

Ms. Ziemak then discussed the internal safety and security audit. There were 3 findings this year, 2 for safety and one for security, with no impact on case work. The security finding dealt with the process of key transfers from one staff member to another. The process was not originally designed for multiple key transfers and is now being revamped to accommodate this scenario.

Ms. Ziemak then discussed TFSC disclosures. She reminded the Board of the *Colon* disclosure that dealt with a former HFSC analyst who testified in a capital murder case associated with his previous employment at Texas DPS. The Criminal Court of Appeals found the analyst's testimony to be false and misleading. As a result, HFSC requested TFSC assist in the investigation, since multiple agencies were impacted. The Harris County DA's Office has stated they will not sponsor the former analyst's testimony and has requested a rework and rewriting of all his casework due to documented credibility issues. HFSC is working with Harris County DA's Office and the Harris County Public Defender's Office to review affected cases.

TFSC released their findings on this investigation in their October 2022 meeting and Ms. Ziemak shared the highlights with the Board. TFSC found the analyst professionally negligent, in addition to a finding of professional misconduct, and that he violated code of professional responsibility. The analyst was terminated from HFSC in May 2022, and TFSC suspended his license and stated they reserve the right to deny his application or opt for conditions on his license if the analyst attempts to renew.

In addition, in response to this incident, TFSC made recommendations to all accredited laboratories in Texas and equipped ANAB with authority to assess all accredited laboratories' compliance with TFSC's recommendations. The first recommendation deals with adequately preparing for trial and making it the analyst's responsibility to notify the court if they have not had proper time to prepare for trial. The second recommendation is that accredited labs must review their policies and exit interview documentation to determine if expectations about preparation for trial are clearly stated and acknowledged. HFSC has created a notice to departing and current employees in response to this recommendation. Lastly, TFSC recommended accredited labs review their policy documentation and ensure managers understand the importance of pre-trial meetings and provide flexibility in scheduling for analysts to attend them.

Dr. Stout discussed the economic impact of *Colon* on HFSC due to having to re-work the former analysts' cases and the need for an inter-laboratory notification system to let other labs know when

their employees are testifying for cases outside of their laboratory. Ms. Ziemak highlighted that there is a mechanism for analysts to track their testimony for the lab and that same tool can be used to report testimony for other agencies. Chair Mitchell highlighted that the onus should be on analysts and HFSC staff should be required to report all testimony in and out of the laboratory so that it can be properly tracked. Ms. Ziemak said all pertinent information should also be required so that transcripts can be pulled, and information tracked. Dr. Stout discussed the far-reaching implication of *Colon* and how the conditions analysts testify in can have far-reaching effects on their license and career. Dr. Stout emphasized how he has made this very clear to all HFSC's stakeholders. Chair Mitchell discussed how important it is for analysts to speak up early and often on the trial record when they are not prepared. Dr. Stout emphasized how years of training for each analyst is fundamental to their ability to be prepared.

Ms. Ziemak continued by discussing the Quality Division's testimony training that was held in October 2022. The training was 5 hours and held over 2 days for all staff and spanned topics such as the Michael Morton Act, *Brady v. Maryland*, and courtroom etiquette, etc. Ms. Ziemak also discussed the Quality Divisions' ethics training that was held in November 2022 and included 3 panelists and a Q&A session. Each panelist spoke for 30 minutes on how ethics intersected with their respective office's role in the criminal justice system. This exposed to HFSC staff to the broader justice system beyond trial testimony.

Ms. Ziemak concluded her presentation with a brief discussion regarding HFSC testimony in 2022. She stated HFSC has had 67 analysts testify, 62 have been monitored, and transcripts for the remaining 5 will be analyzed. The Transcript Review Project has 40 transcripts awaiting review, and the first round will review ten transcripts.

10. <u>CLOSED MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>: (Item taken out of turn)

The board convened in a closed meeting, also referred to as executive session. The executive session was held in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074(a)(1), et seq., for personnel matters, to discuss and finalize Dr. Peter Stout, president and CEO's annual evaluation.

Chairwoman Mitchell closed the open meeting at 10:30 a.m. and convened the executive session, at 10:35 a.m.

11. **<u>RECONVENE INTO OPEN MEETING</u>**: (Item taken out of turn)

At 11:38 a.m., Chairwoman Mitchell reconvened the open meeting. She announced a quorum was present.

Chairwoman Mitchell opened the floor to any discussion, action, or motions related to the closed session. Director Huff made a motion to give Dr. Stout a 2.5% increase in annual salary. Director Hilder seconded the motion. The chairwoman opened the floor for additional discussion on the motion, noting the board wanted to convey their appreciation for Dr. Stout's work and role as a great representative for the corporation and city of Houston. The chairwoman also applauded his vision for the organization and for being an inspiration to staff and the broader forensic community. Chairwoman Mitchell then called for a vote on the motion, effective the first day of the next pay period, which the board passed unanimously.

The Chair requested any additional motions related to the closed session be presented, namely motions relating to Dr. Stout's performance objectives for the next review period. Vice Chairwoman Lentschke made a motion to approve the following performance objectives for Dr.

Stout during the 2022-2023 review period: (1) lead a minimum of three outreach education sessions in Texas, related to toxicology issues; (2) begin the succession planning process for the executive team and chief executive officer position; and (3) collaborate with the Houston Police Department over the next year, to address property/ evidence management, from concept to conclusion. Director Hilder seconded the motion. Chairwoman Mitchell called for a vote on the motion, and the board unanimously passed the motion.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairwoman Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Moore made a motion to adjourn. Director Vasquez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

The undersigned secretary of the board hereby certifies the following are true and correct minutes of the November 18, 2022 public meeting of the board.

By: _____ Ashley Henry, Interim Secretary

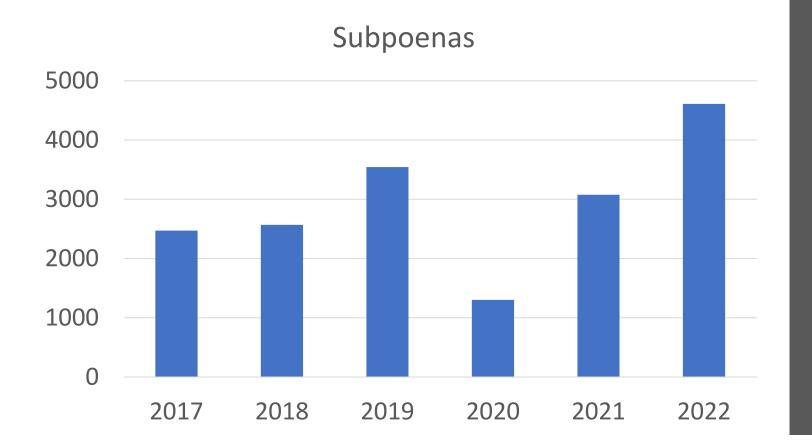
President's Report

January 13, 2023

Notable things in 2022

- *Four* published papers with HFSC authors.
- First organization wide courthouse tours. Increased visibility with CJC officials and operations. Very beneficial improvement in collaboration.
- Voluntary turnover rate 12.2%. Double past years.
- Interim Quality Director

Courts came back



Subpoenas were 84% more than prepandemic

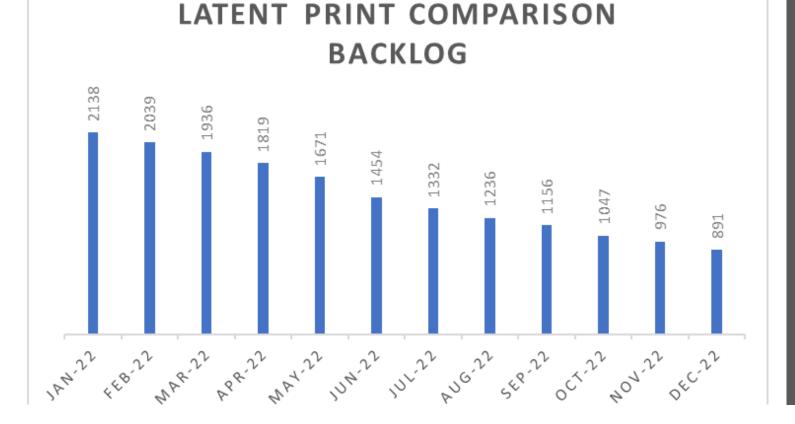
2022 Operational Highlights

• In 2022 the overall backlog at HFSC was decreased by 20%

January 2022 Total Backlog	December 2022 Total Backlog
7,166	5,730

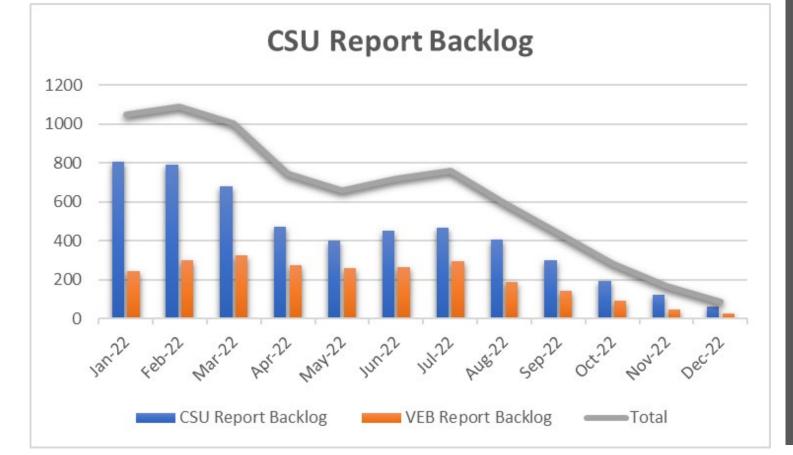
- The decrease in the backlog is attributed to progress on:
 - Latent Print Comparison Backlog
 - CSU Response and Vehicle Examination Report Backlog
 - Drug Toxicology Backlog

Latent Print Comparison Backlog



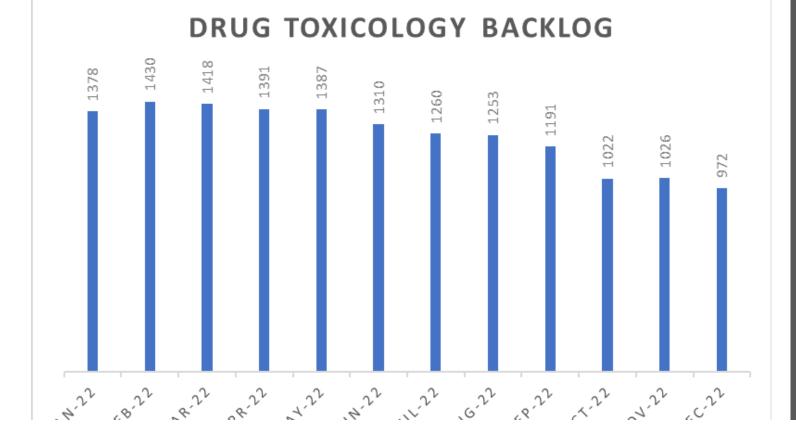
Backlog was reduced by 58% in 2022

CSU Report Backlog



Backlog was reduced by 92% in 2022

Drug Toxicology Backlog

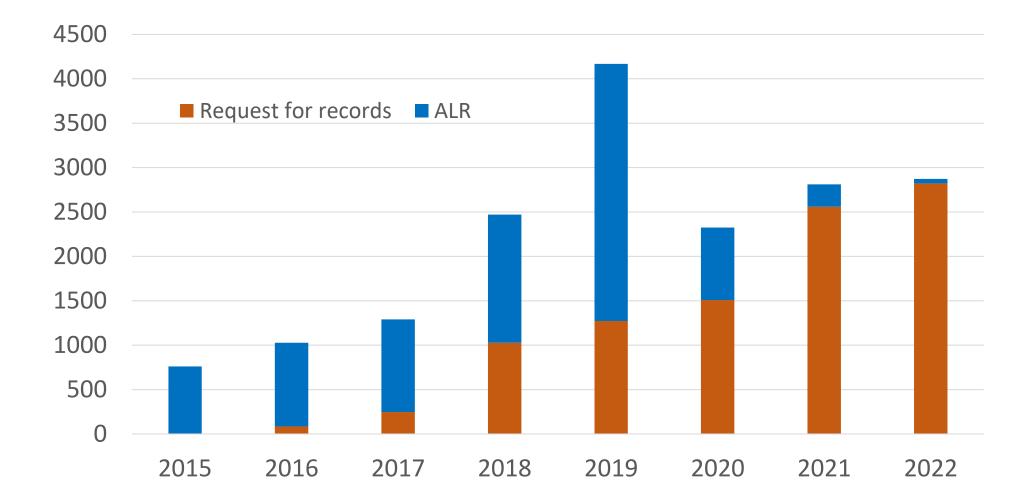


Backlog was reduced by 29% in 2022

Challenges in 2022

- Forensic Biology
 - Both the Colone and DNA Mavens issues created re-work and staffing issues in the section
 - The total backlog has increased 16% in 2022. Within that, the sexual assault kit (SAK) backlog had no significant change.
 - In 2023 the section will continue to use federal grant funds to outsource requests to assist with managing the backlog

Wide ranging impacts of Colone document requests



Challenges in 2022

- Seized Drugs
 - Staff turnover and promotions reduced the number of drug analysts to 5 in 2022 (4 analysts work non-marijuana cases, 1 analyst works marijuana cases).
 - The total backlog increased from 451 to 1,345 in 2022.
 - Training and technology review is a focus in 2023 to re-build capacity.
 - A new plan will be implemented to close requests in which the case has been dismissed to aid in prioritizing requests through the backlog.

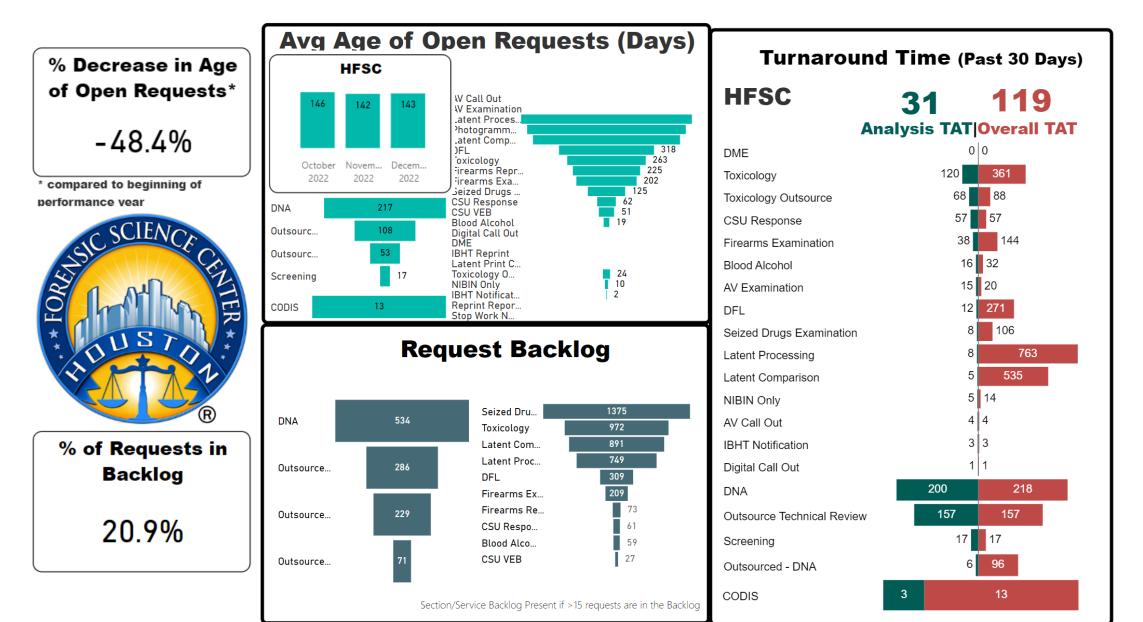
Challenges in 2022

- Digital Multimedia
 - The section lost about 50% of their staff early in 2022
 - They were able to hire and sign all of the new staff off in cell phone analysis within the year.
 - A 42% reduction in cell phone requests was seen due to HPD adding their own capacity in cell phone data retrieval.
 - We are already seeing a 21% decrease in the backlog from its highest point in 2022.

Detail data

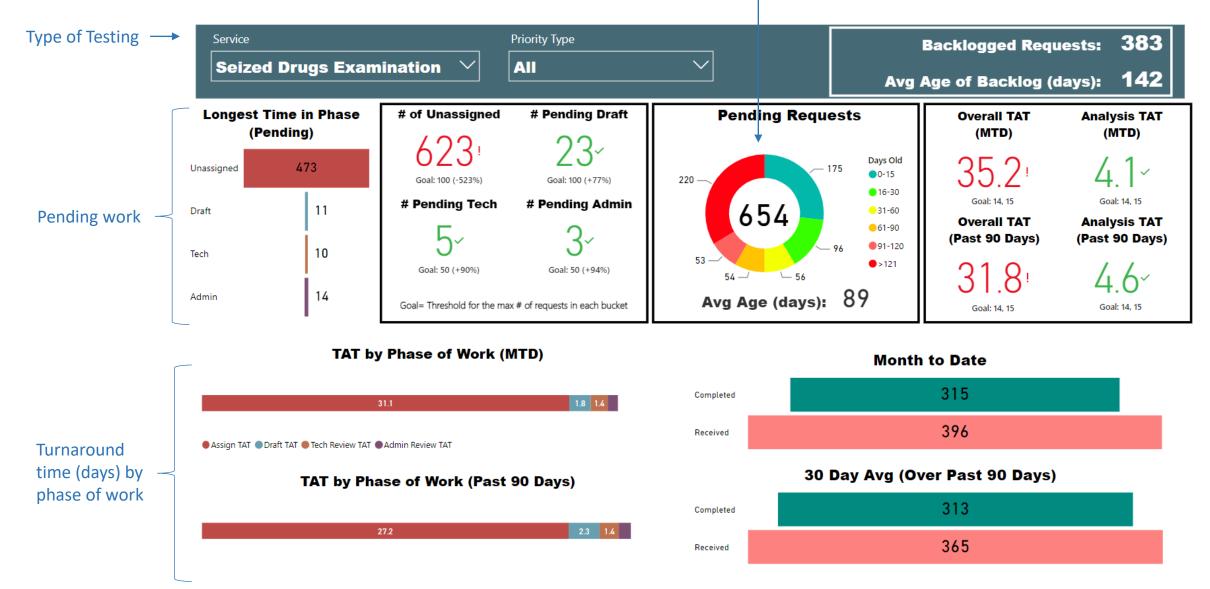
December 2022 Company Overview HFSC Turnaround Time (TAT) CIENC **TAT Date Range*** Porter Lee Justice Trax 12/31/2022 12/31/2022 12/1/2022 12/1/2022 S Analysis TAT **Overall TAT** 119 31 Both Porter Lee and Justice Trax date ranges MUST be set to the same date range **Avg Age of Open Requests** Backlog Number of Requests Backlogged Avg Age of Open Request... 5,638 % Decrease in 146 142 143 Avg Age of Open **Requests*** % of Requests in -48.4% Backlog October November December 2022 2022 2022 20.9% 13 * compared to beginning of performance year

November 2022 Company Overview



Key for Dashboard Section Pages

Center of ring=total pending cases Ring=breakdown of_lage for all pending cases



TAT= Turnaround Time MTD= Month to date Bac

Backlogged Requests = Requests open over 30 days

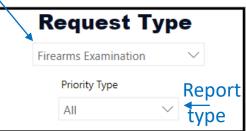
Key for Dashboard Historical Pages 1/2

Date Range

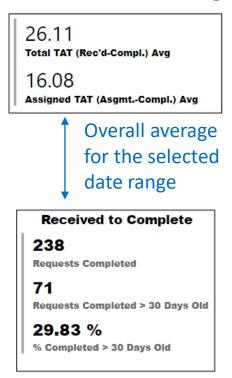


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days

Type of testing



Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

TAT= Turnaround Time

down by

month

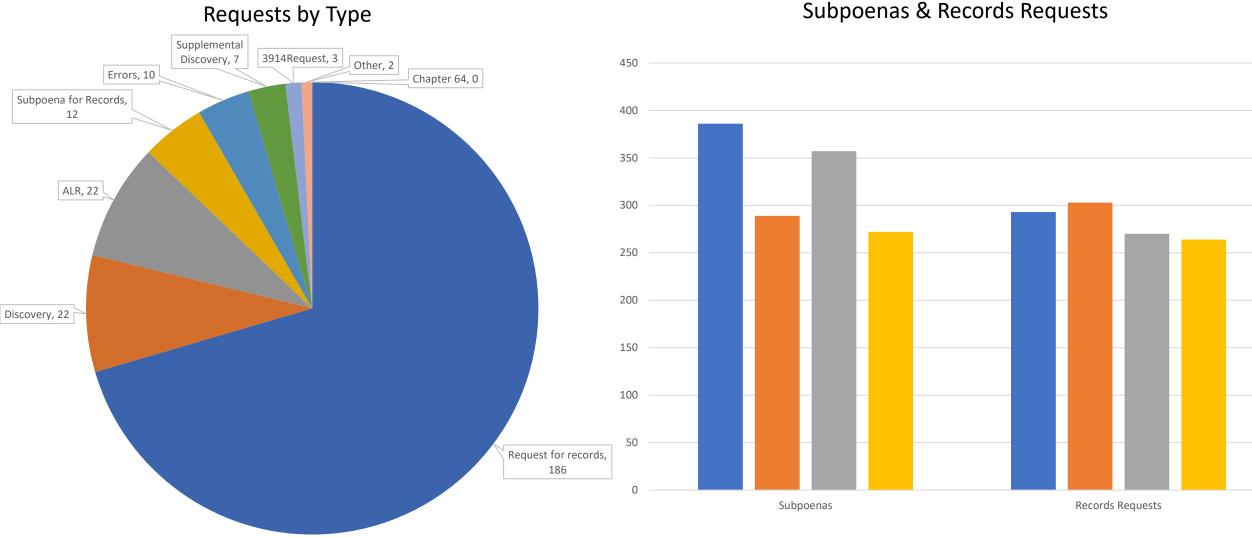
Key for Dashboard Historical Pages 2/2



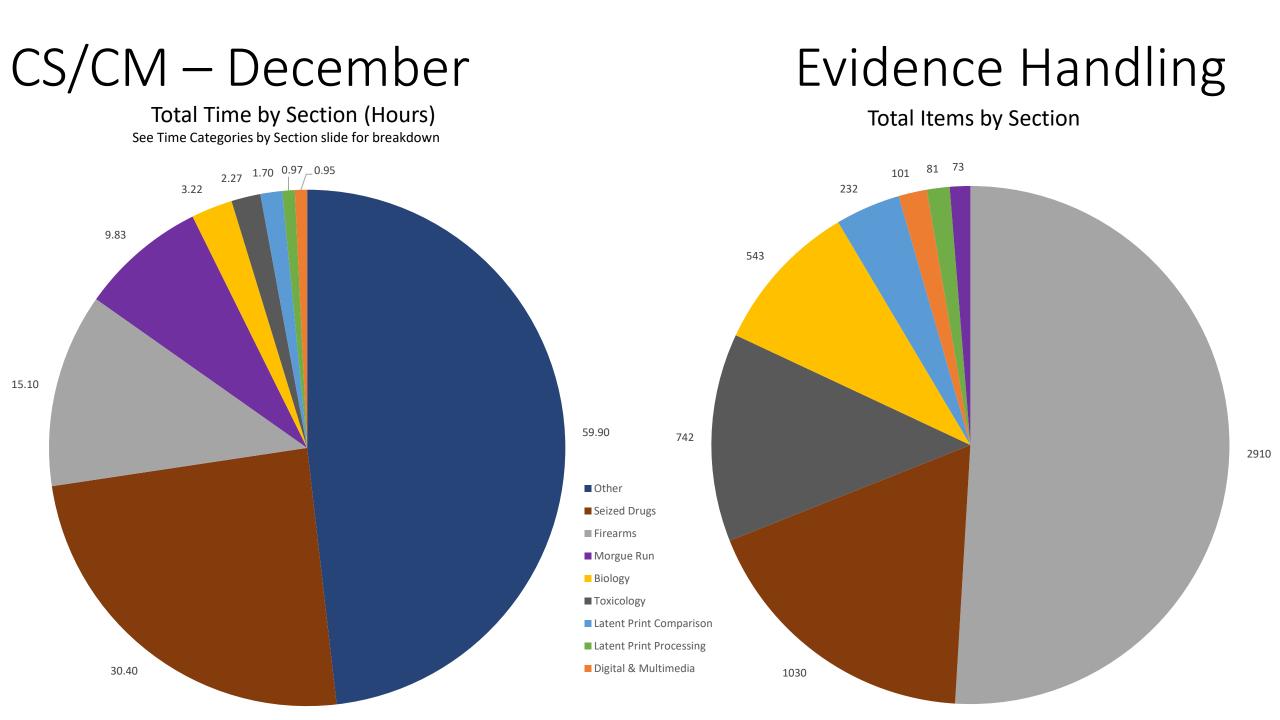
Client Services and Case Management (CS/CM)

CS/CM – December

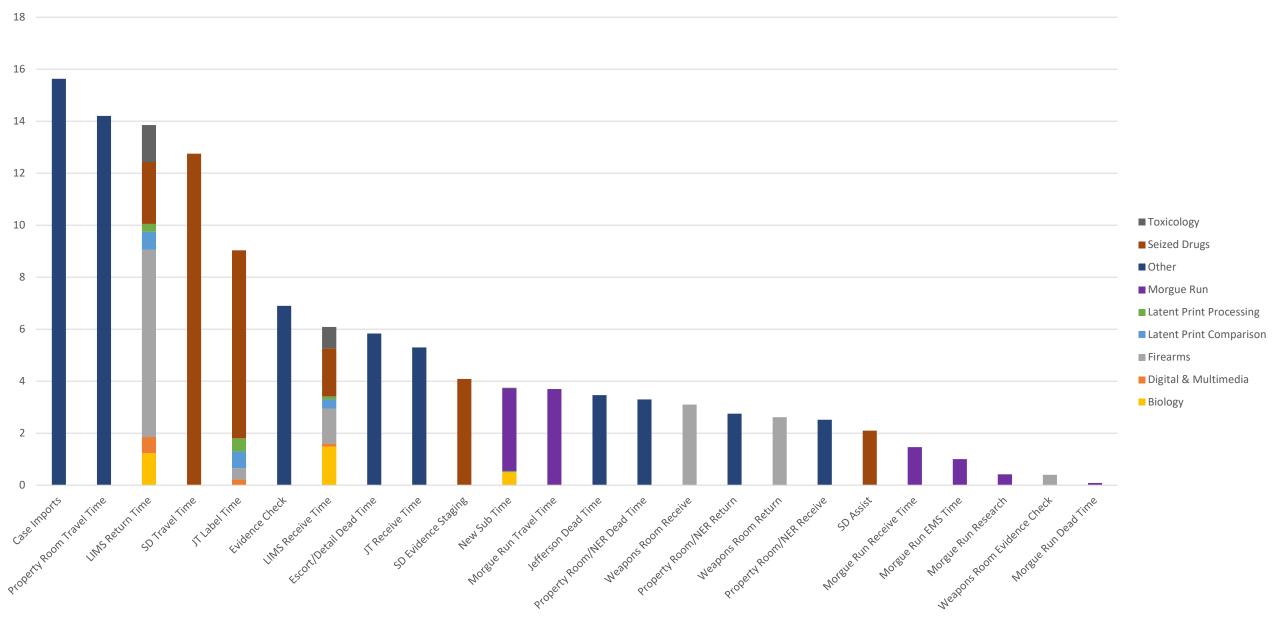
Administrative

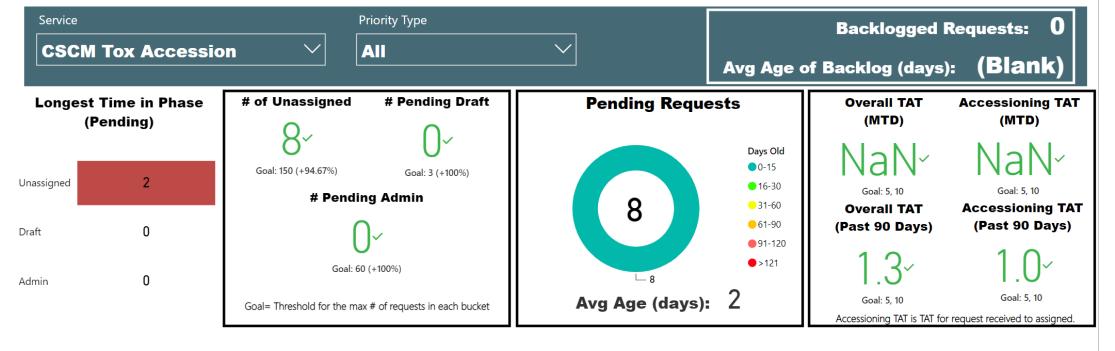


September October November December



Time Categories – December Evidence Handling





TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)



TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)

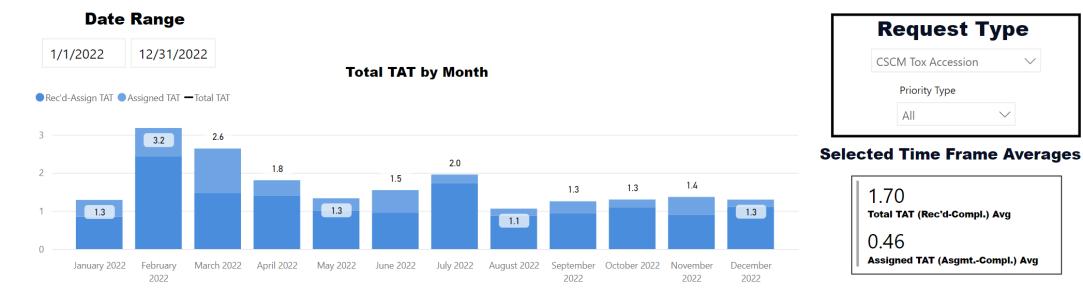


Month to Date

Completed	0
Received	0

30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days)





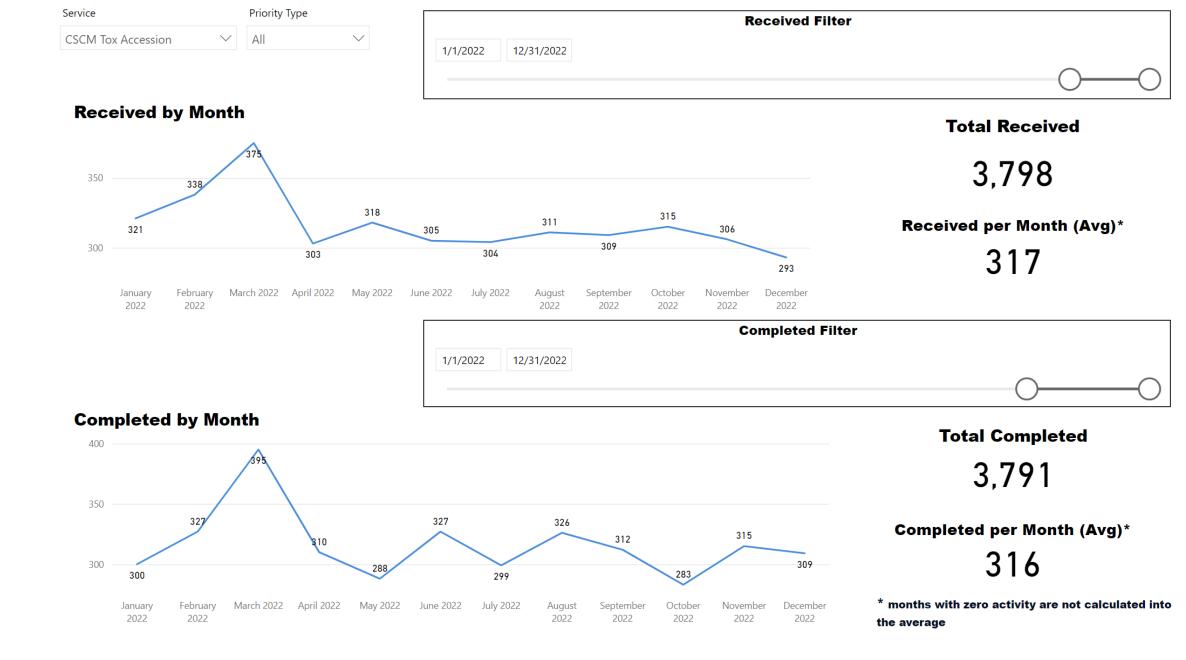
Requests Completed

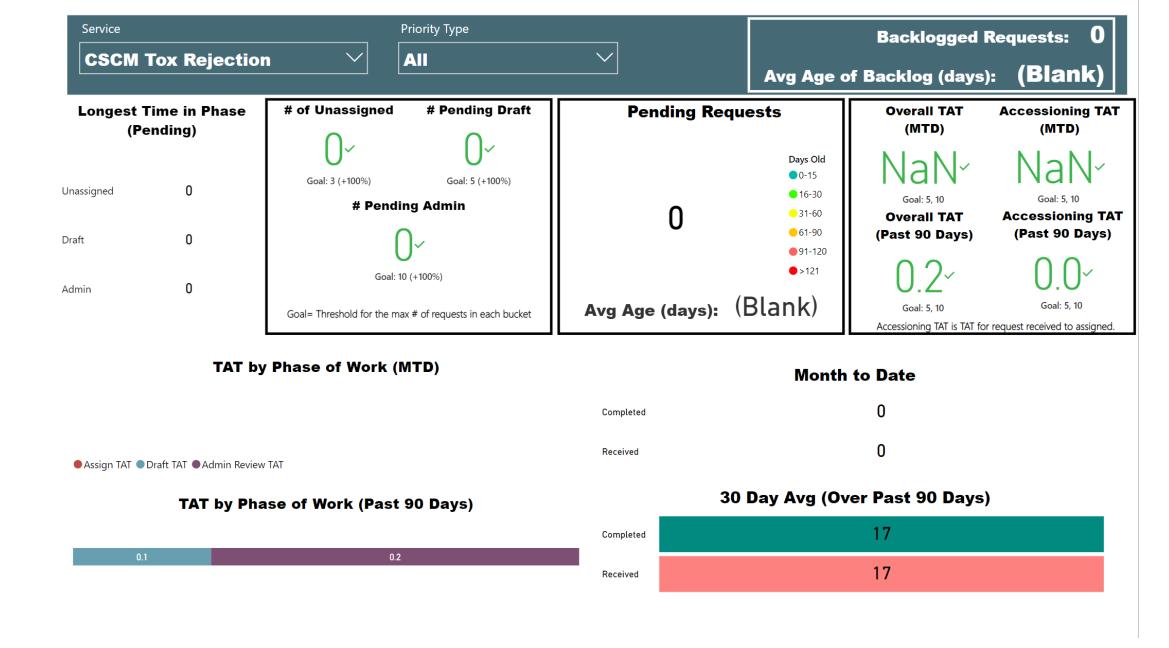




Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

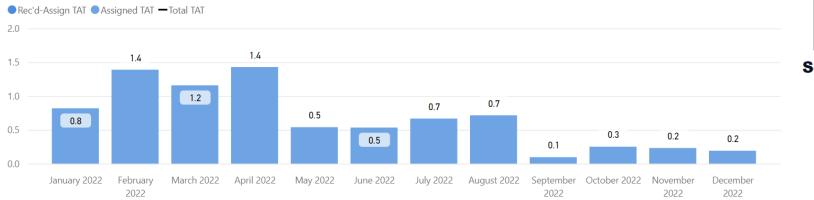
Requests Completed w/in 30 Days



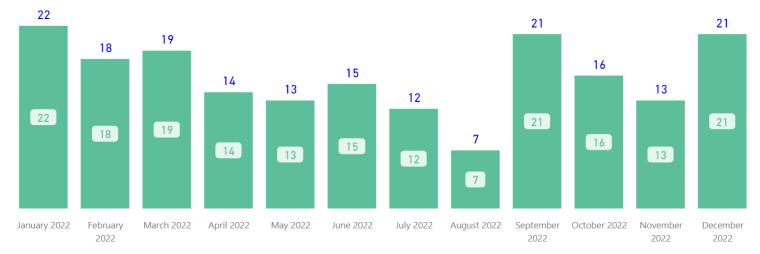




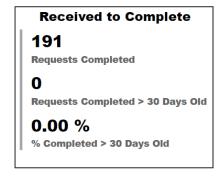
Total TAT by Month



Requests Completed



0.66 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg 0.66 Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

Requests Completed w/in 30 Days

 Request Type

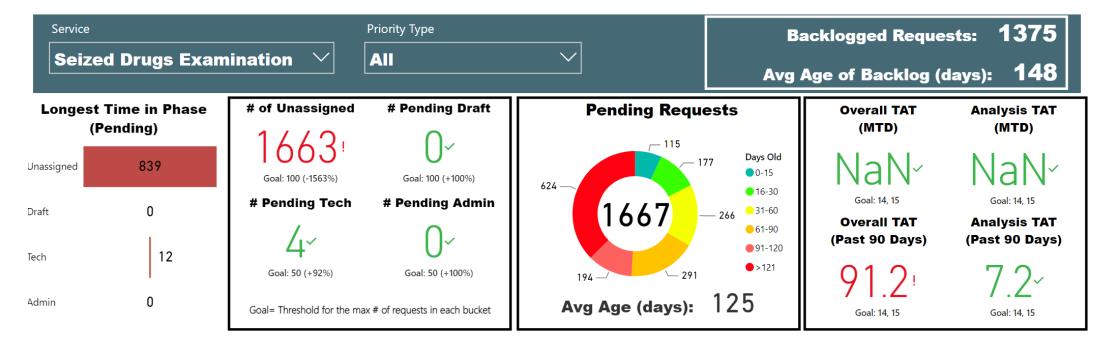
 CSCM Tox Rejection
 \scale

 Priority Type
 All
 \scale

Selected Time Frame Averages



Seized Drugs



Received

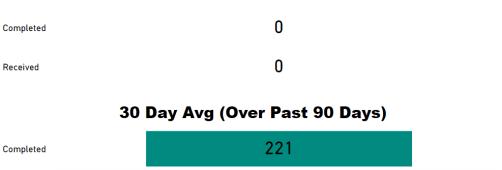
TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)



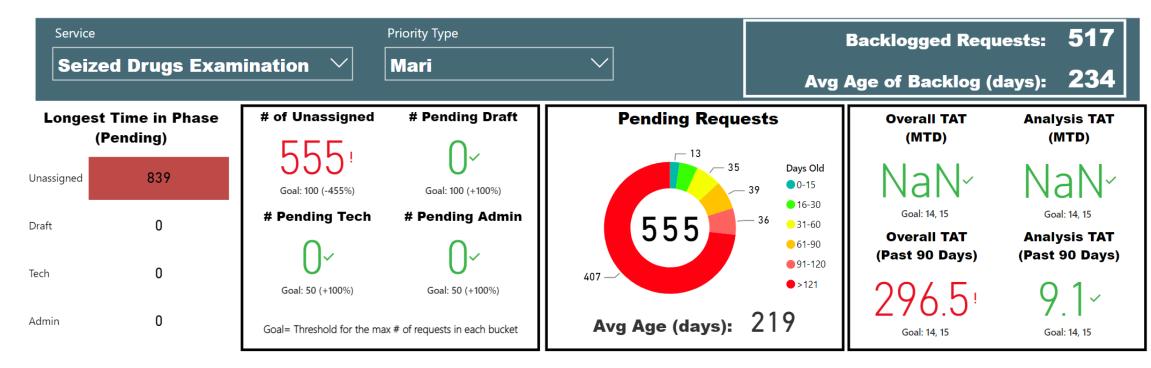
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



Month to Date



365





Month to Date Completed O Received O

30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days) 27

39



Requests Completed



3645 **Requests Completed** 1920 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 52.67 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Received to Complete

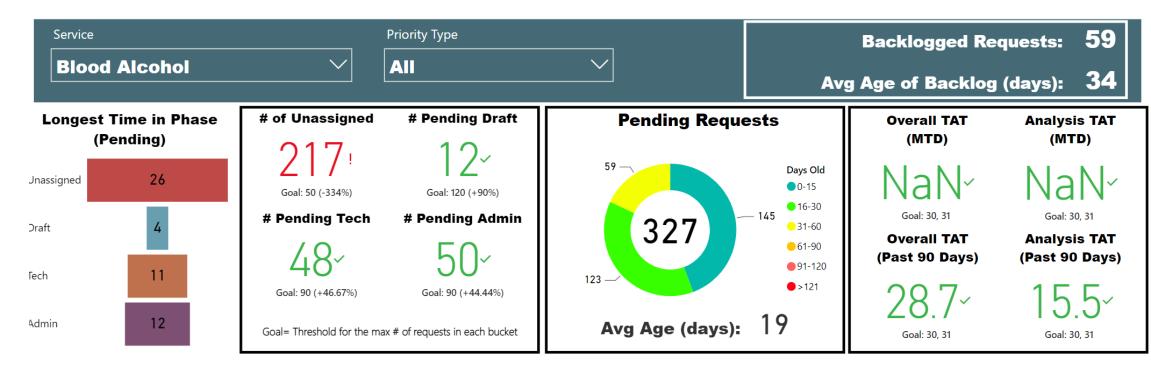
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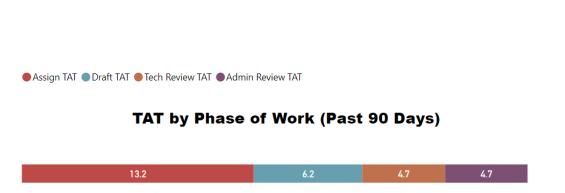
Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

● Requests Completed w/in 30 Days ● Requests Completed > 30 Days Old ● Total Completed



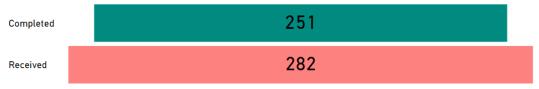
Toxicology

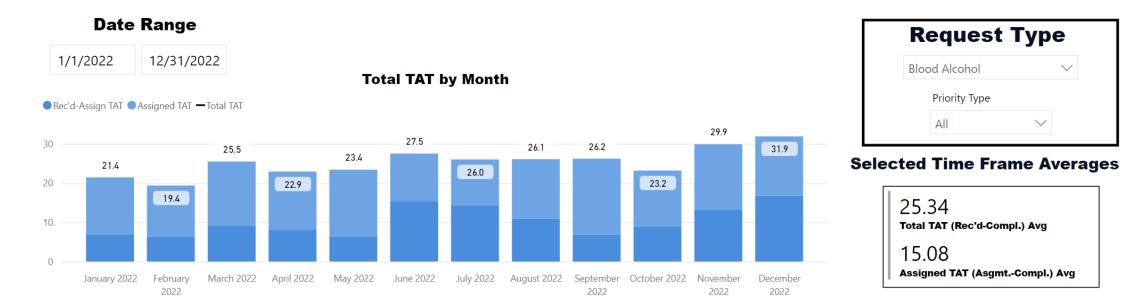




Month to Date







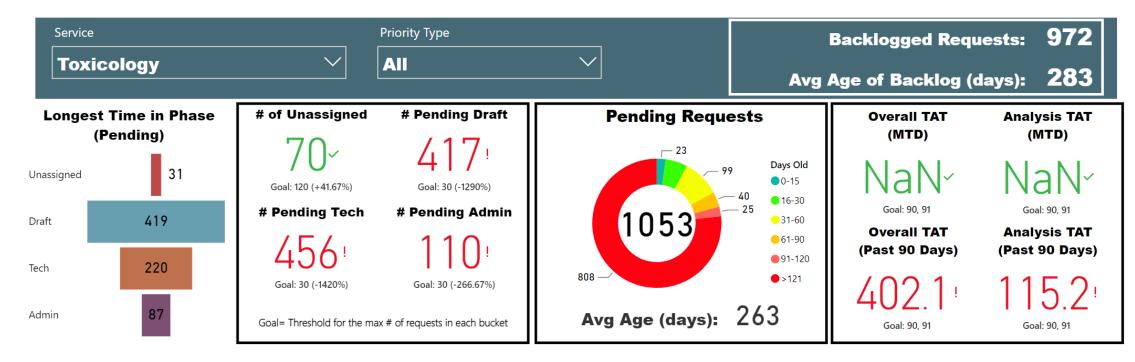
Requests Completed





Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



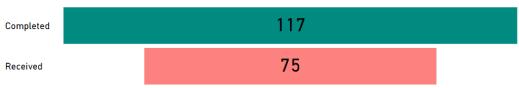


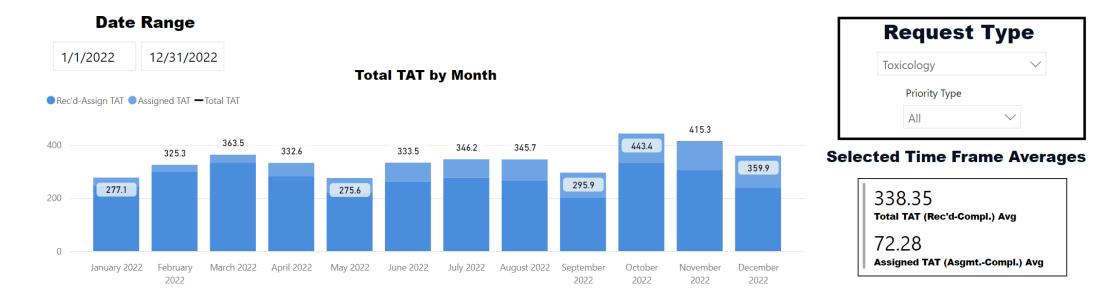




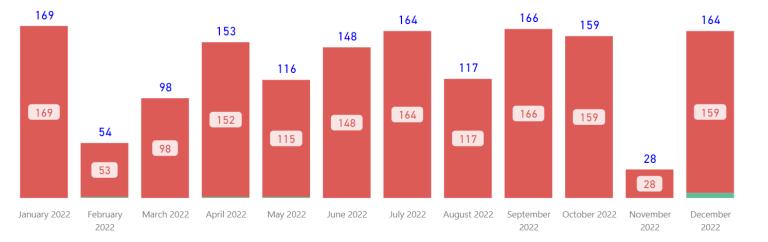
Month to Date







Requests Completed

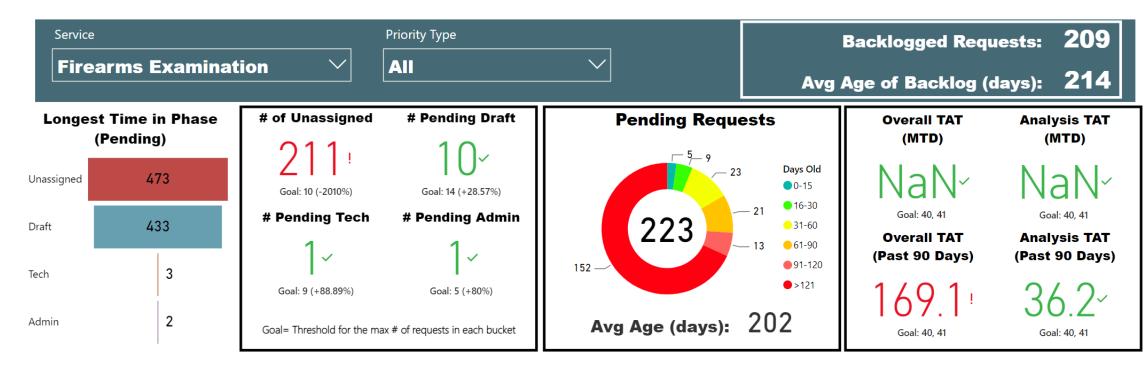




Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



Firearms



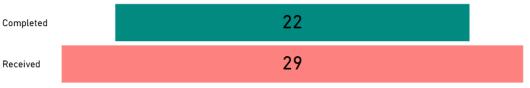


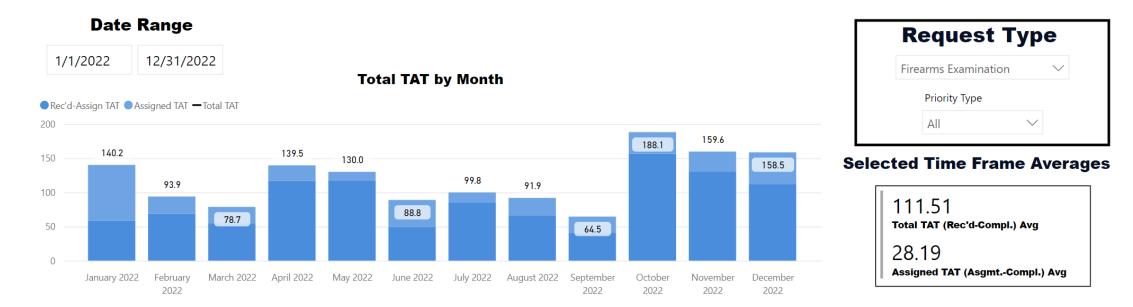
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



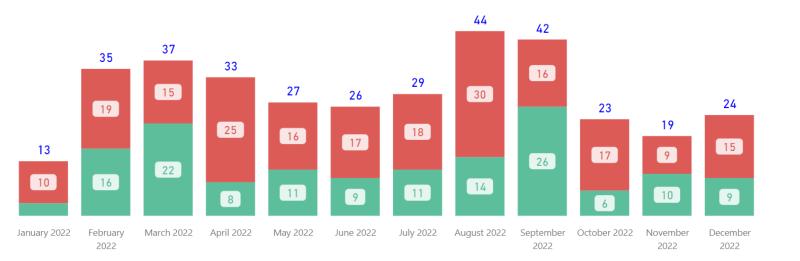
Month to Date







Requests Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

Received to Complete

Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

% Completed > 30 Days Old

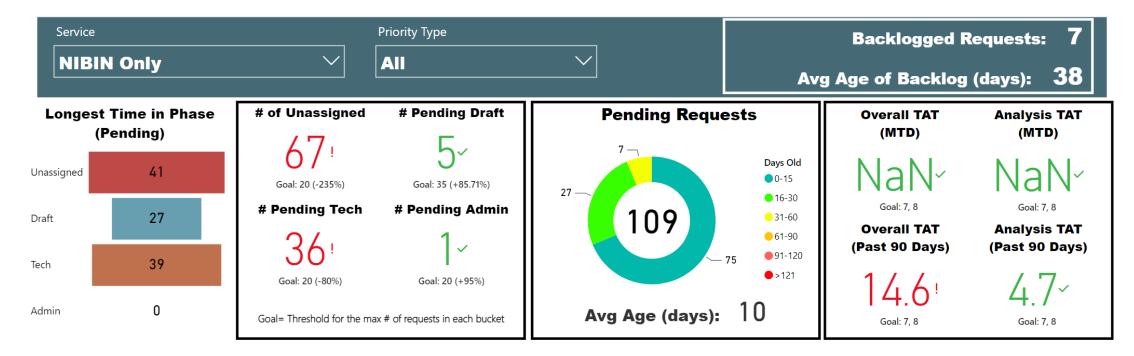
352

207

58.81 %

Requests Completed





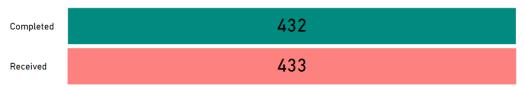


TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



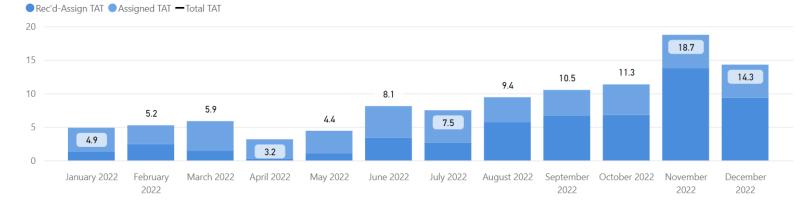
Month to Date

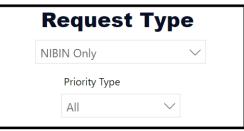




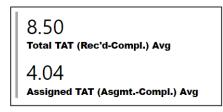
1/1/2022	12/31/2022
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Total TAT by Month





Selected Time Frame Averages

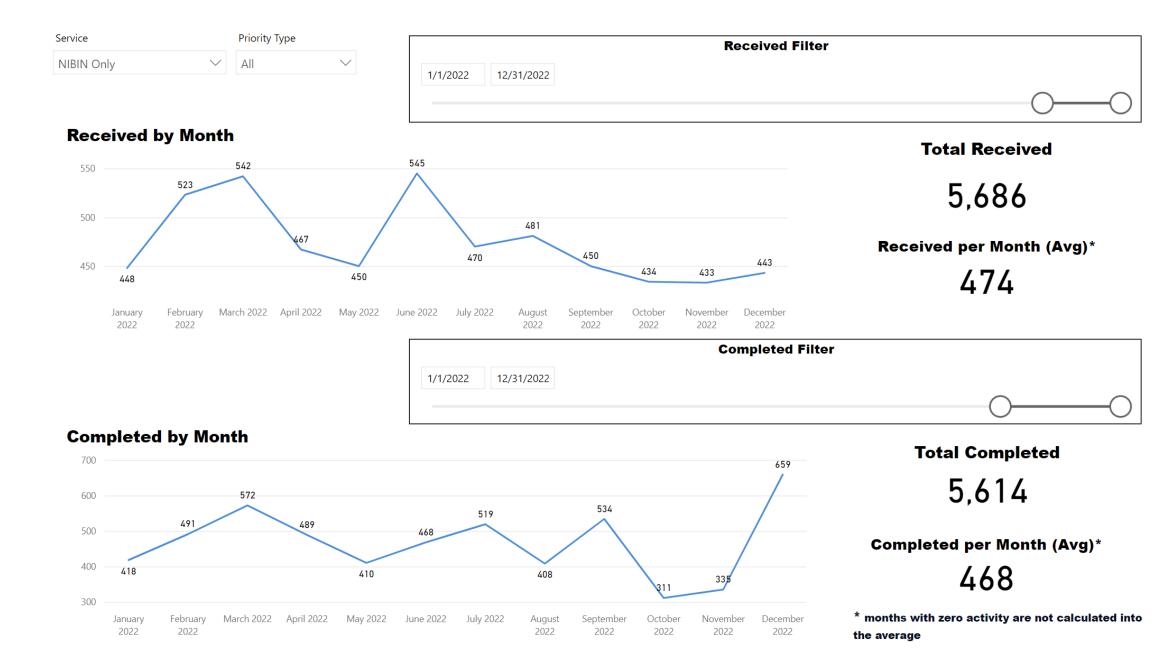


Requests Completed

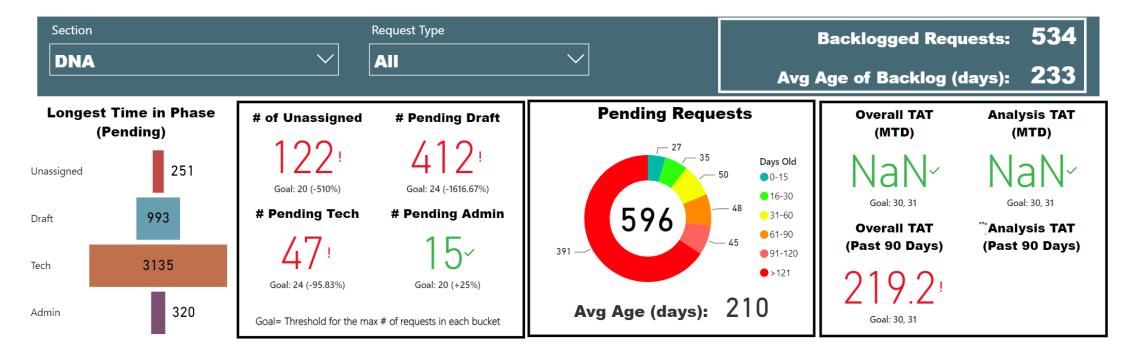


Received to Complete 5614 Requests Completed 97 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 1.73 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



Forensic Biology





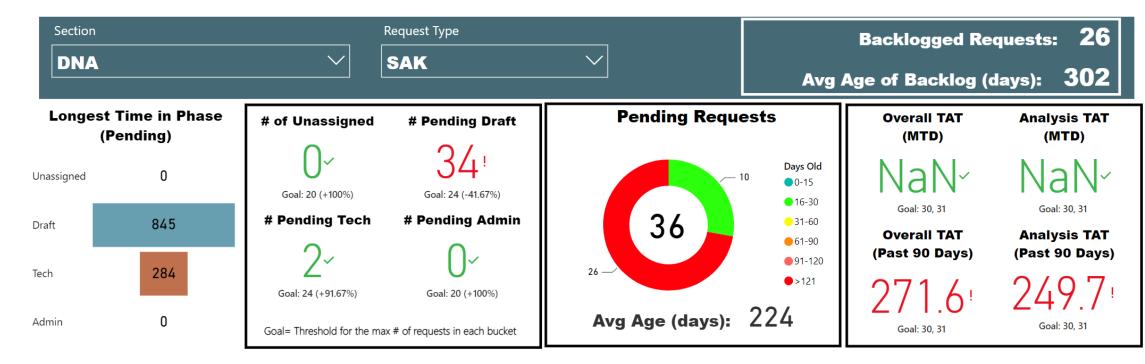
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



Month to Date





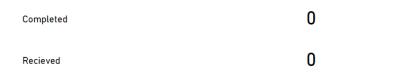




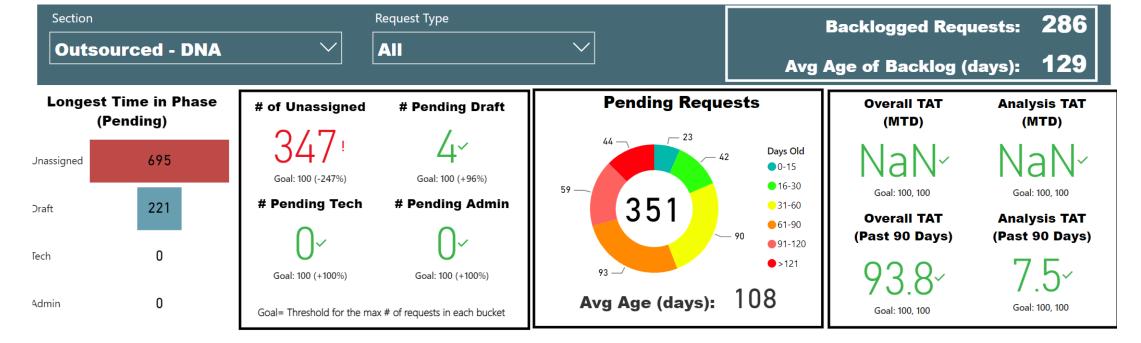
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



Month to Date





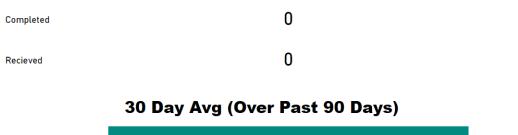


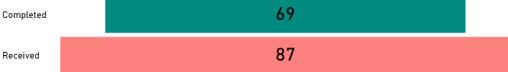
●Assign TAT ●Draft TAT ●Tech Review TAT ●Admin Review TAT

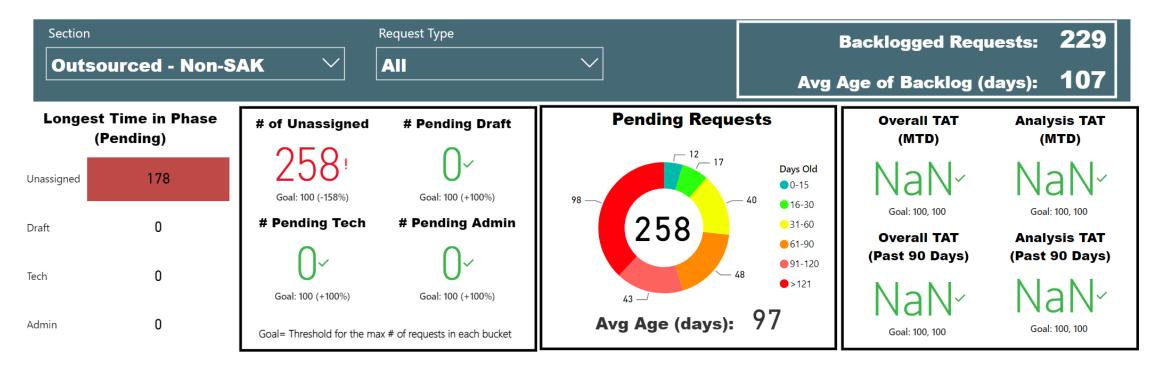
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)

86.3

Month to Date

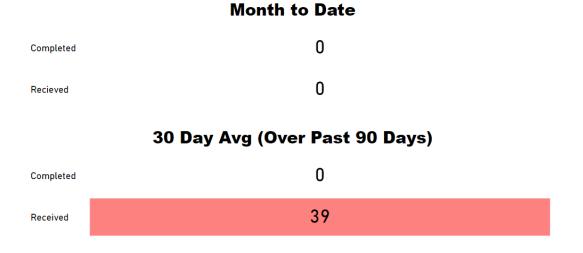


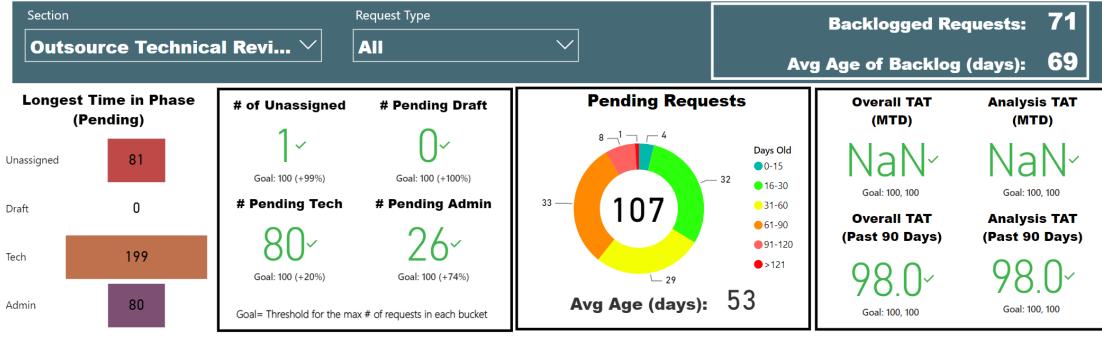






TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)





Received

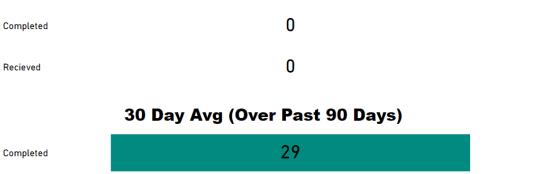
TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)



TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



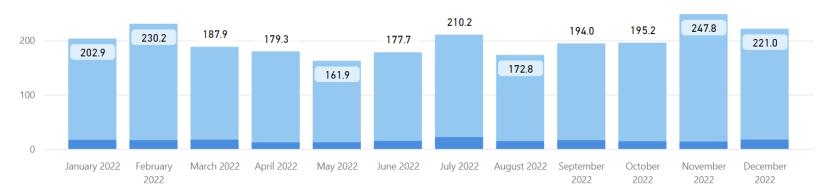
Month to Date



37

1/1/2022 12/31/2022

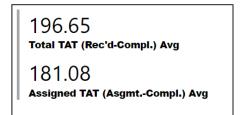
Total TAT by Month



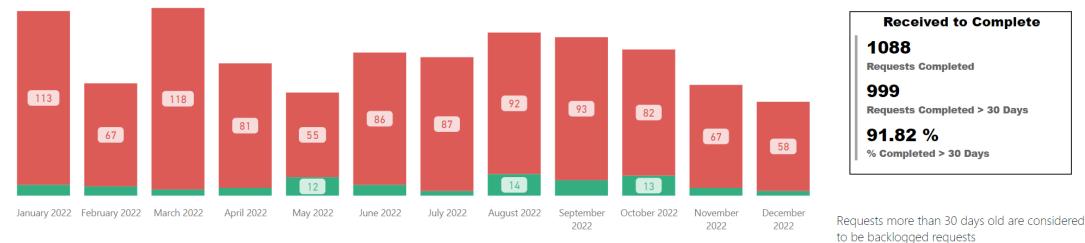




Selected Time Frame Averages

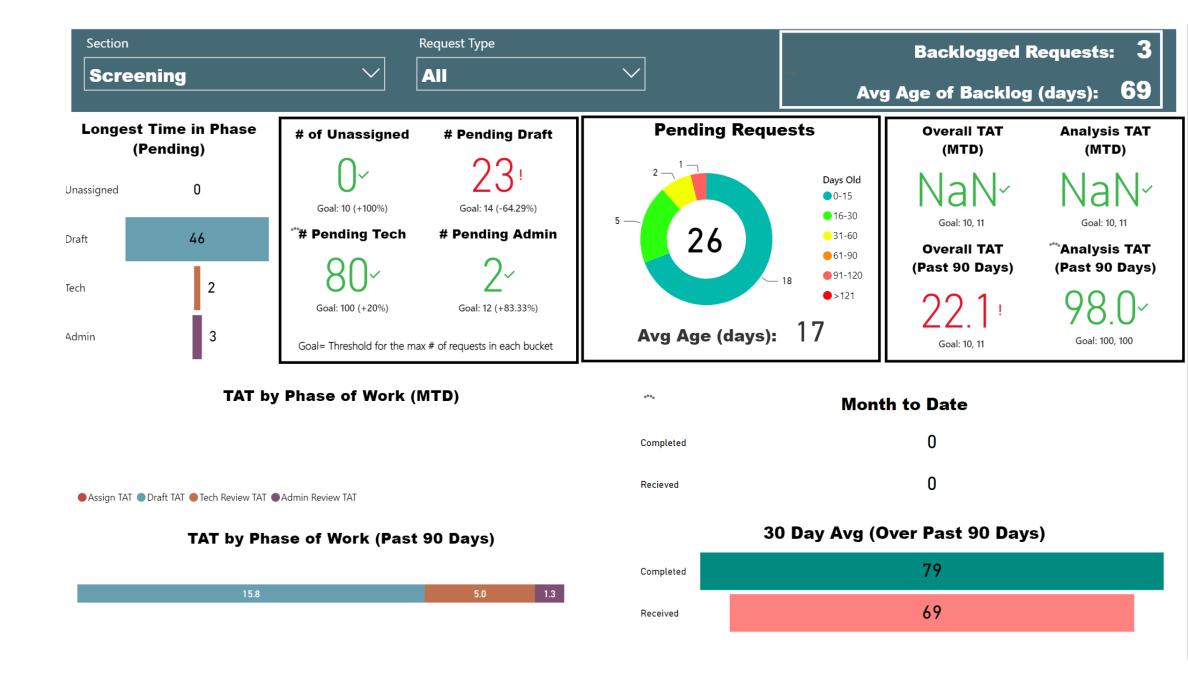


Requests Completed



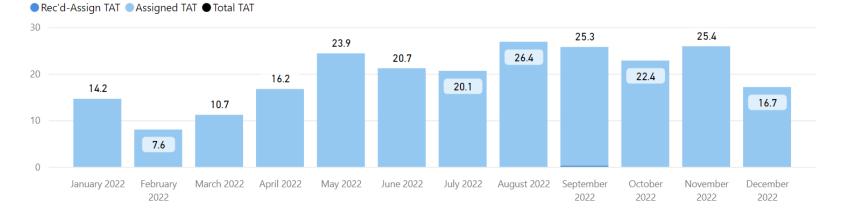
● Requests Completed w/in 30 Days ● Requests Completed > 30 Days Old ● Total Completed





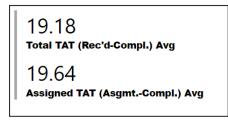
1/1/2022 12	2/31/2022
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Total TAT by Month



Request Type

Selected Time Frame Averages

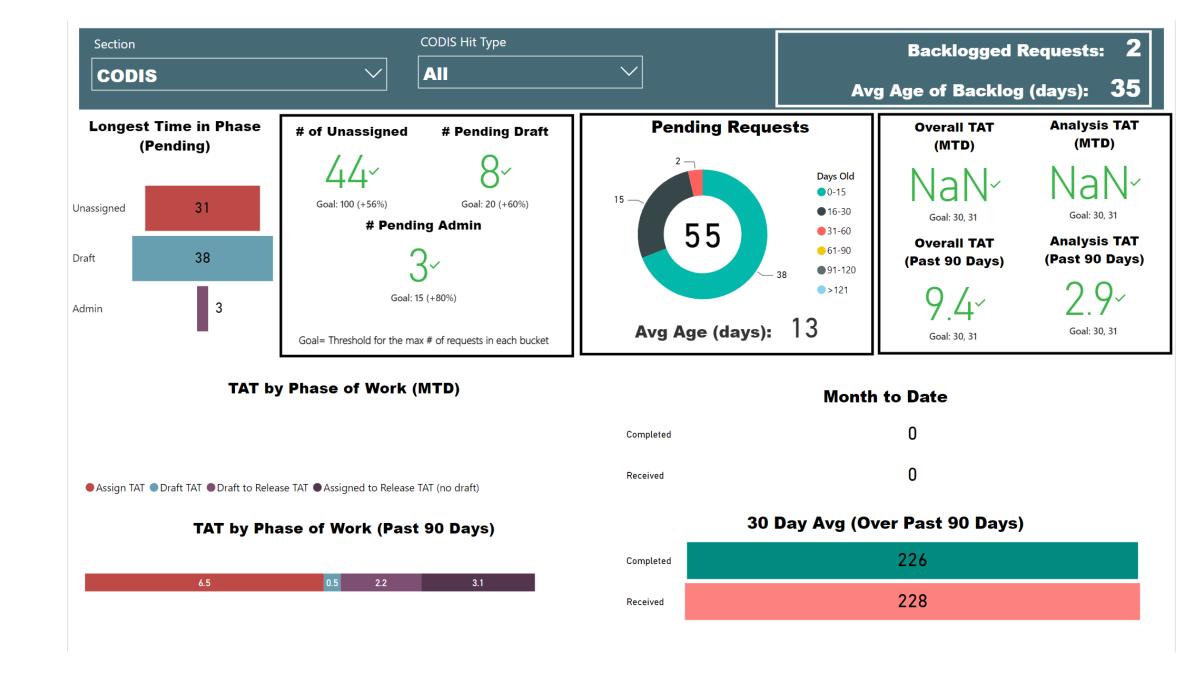


Requests Completed



● Requests Completed w/in 30 Days ● Requests Completed > 30 Days Old ● Total Completed

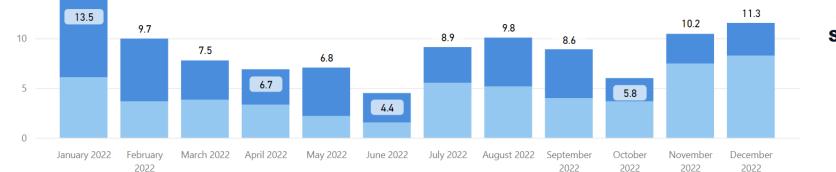




1/1/2022	12/31/2022
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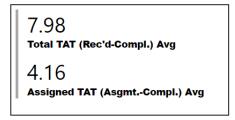
● Rec'd-Assign TAT ● Assigned TAT ● Total TAT

Total TAT by Month

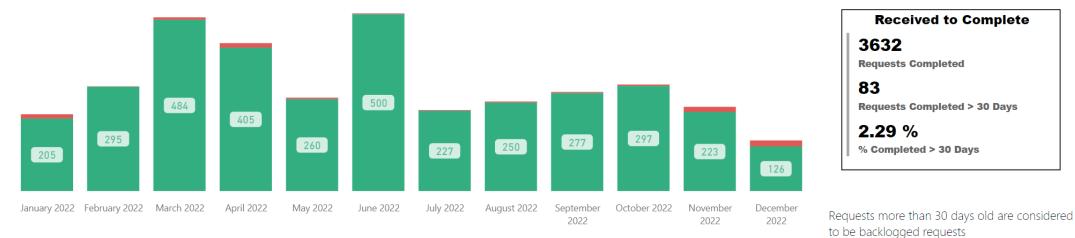


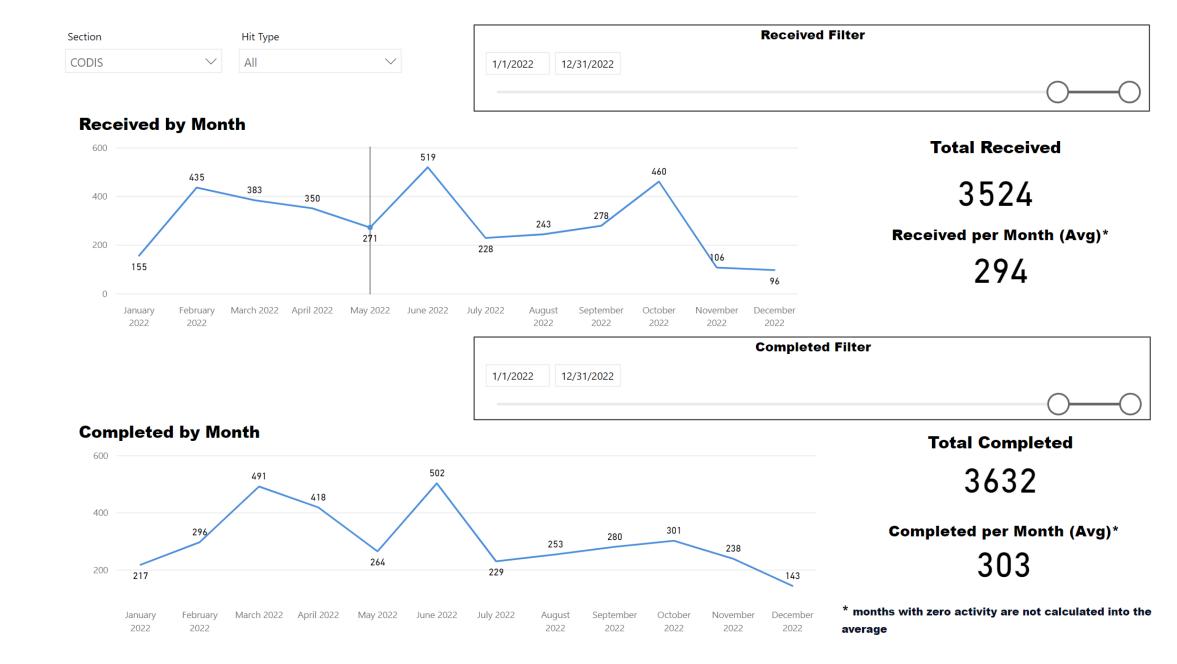
Request Type

Selected Time Frame Averages

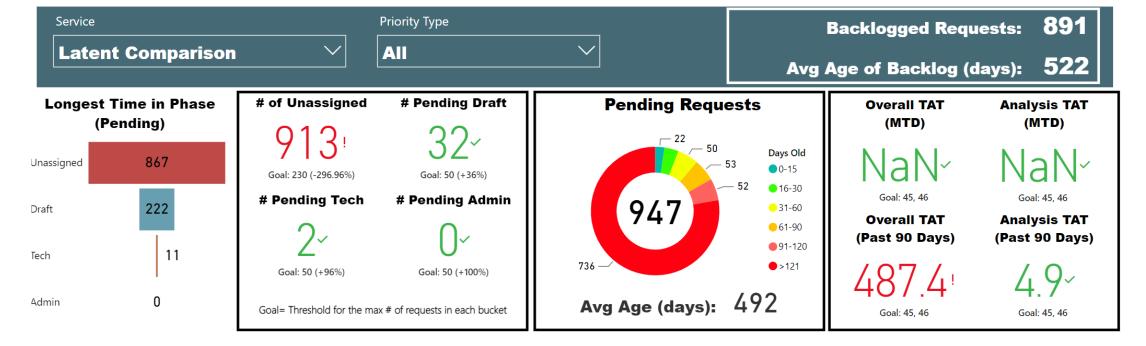


Requests Completed





Latent Prints



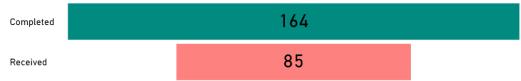
● Assign TAT ● Draft TAT ● Tech Review TAT ● Admin Review TAT

TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



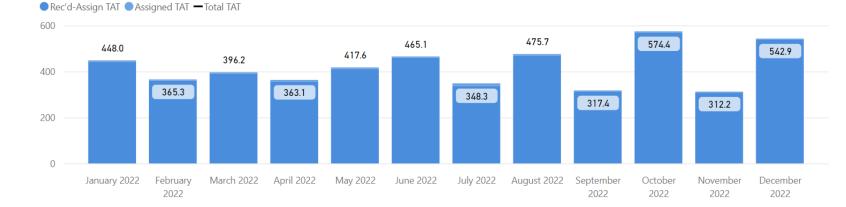
Month to Date





Date Range

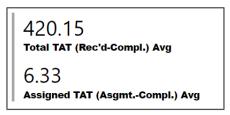




Total TAT by Month

Request TypeLatent Comparison✓Priority Type✓All✓

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed

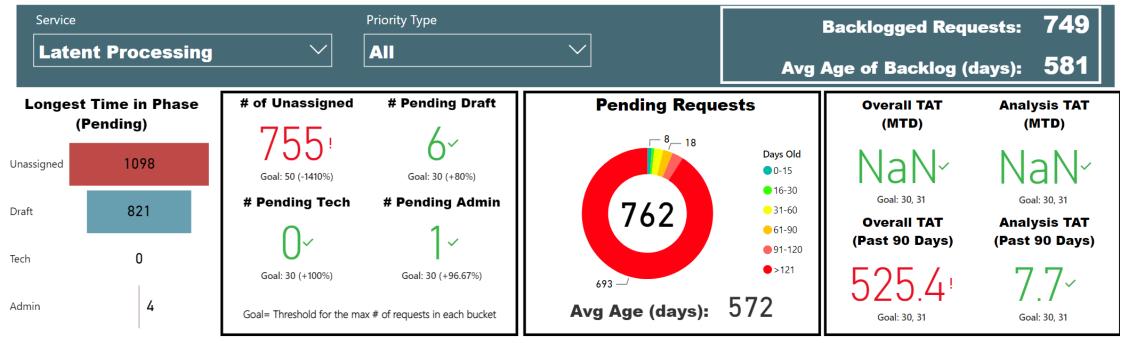


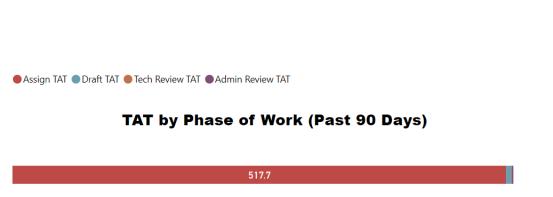
2461 Requests Completed 2029 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 82.45 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Received to Complete

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

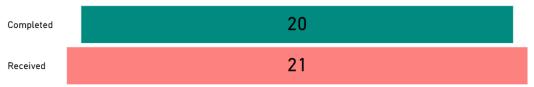


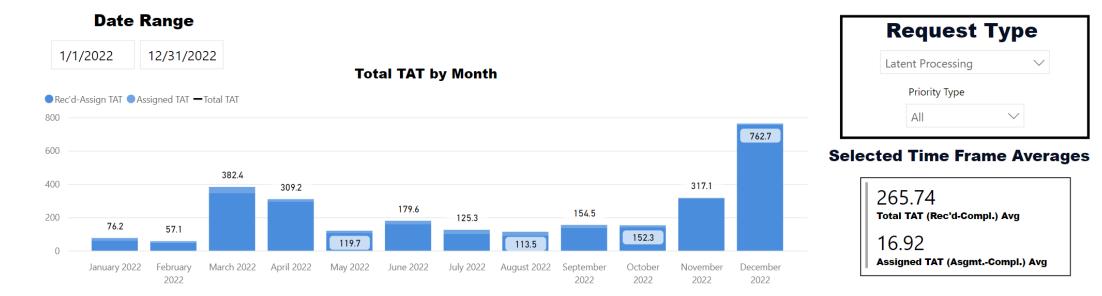




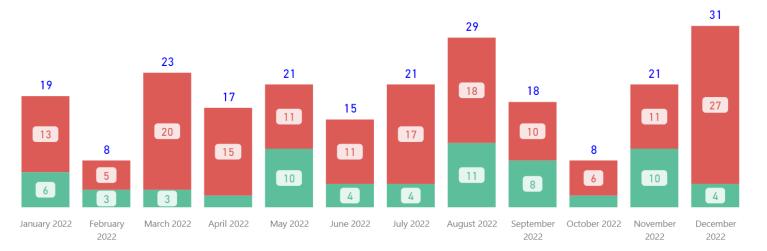
Month to Date







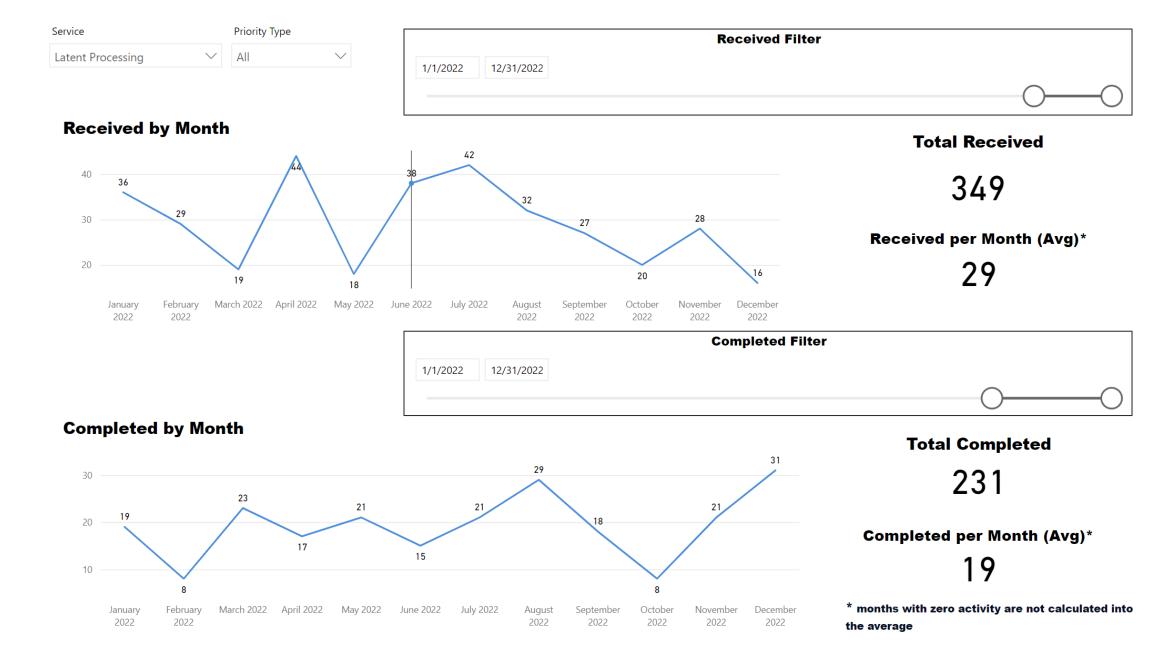
Requests Completed



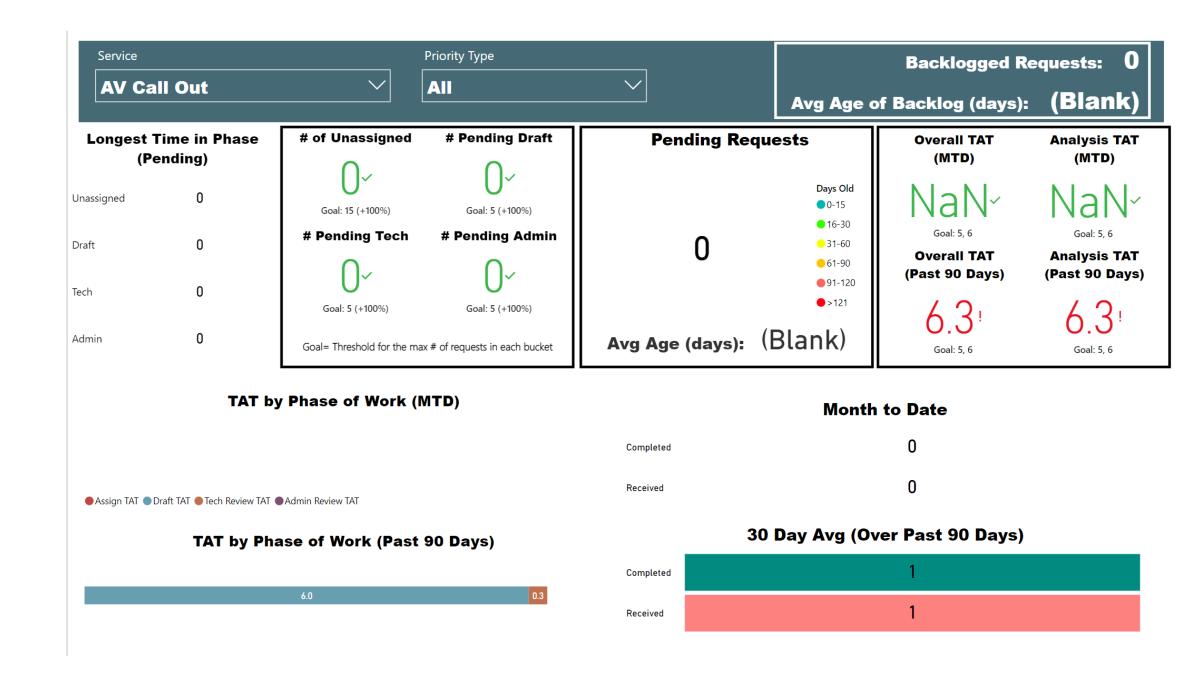
Received to Complete 231 Requests Completed 164 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 71.00 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

● Requests Completed w/in 30 Days ● Requests Completed > 30 Days Old ● Total Completed

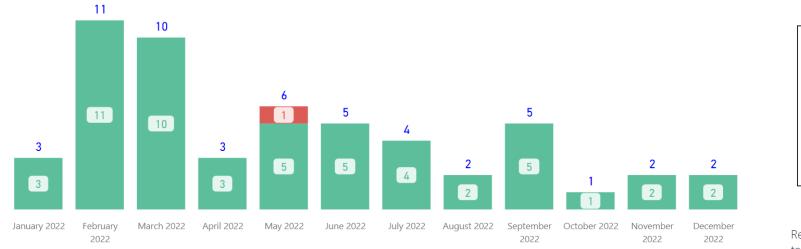


Digital Multi-Media





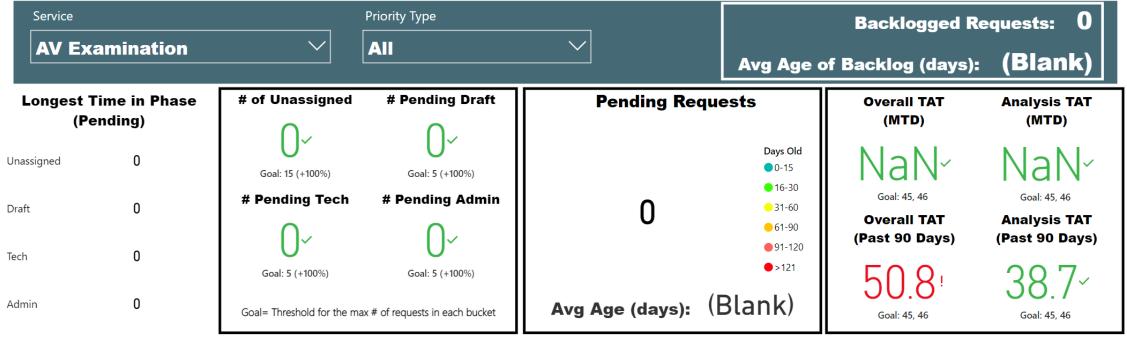
Requests Completed





Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

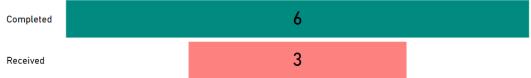






Month to Date

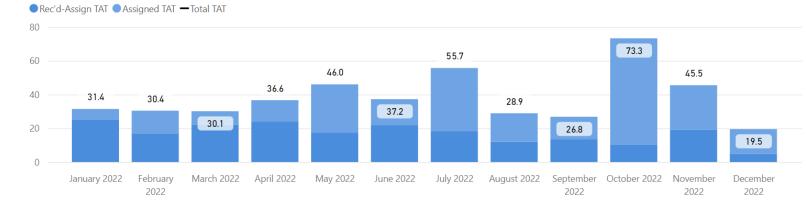




Date Range

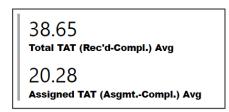
1/1/2022	12/31/2022
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Total TAT by Month

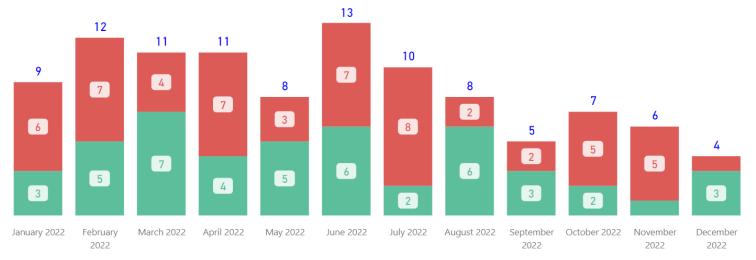


Request TypeAV Examination~Priority TypeAllAll~

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed



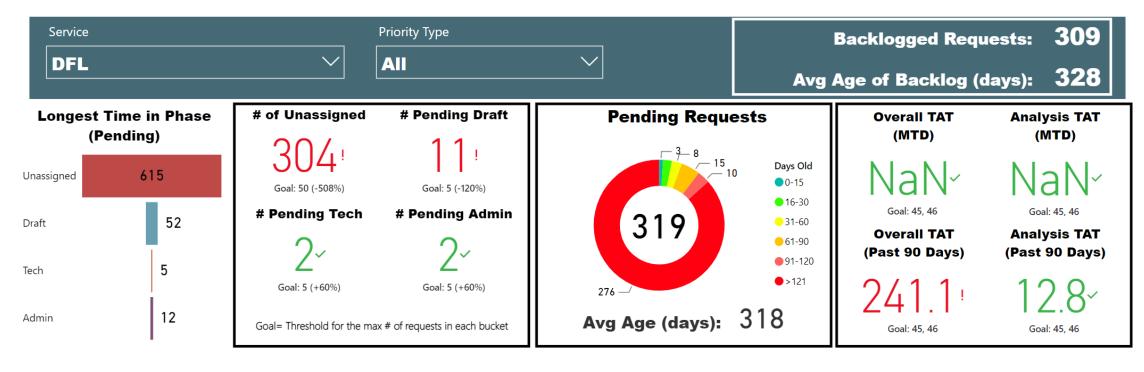
104 Requests Completed 57 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 54.81 %

Received to Complete

% Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



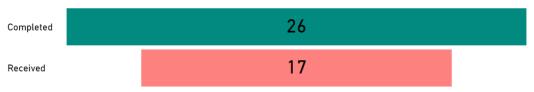






Month to Date

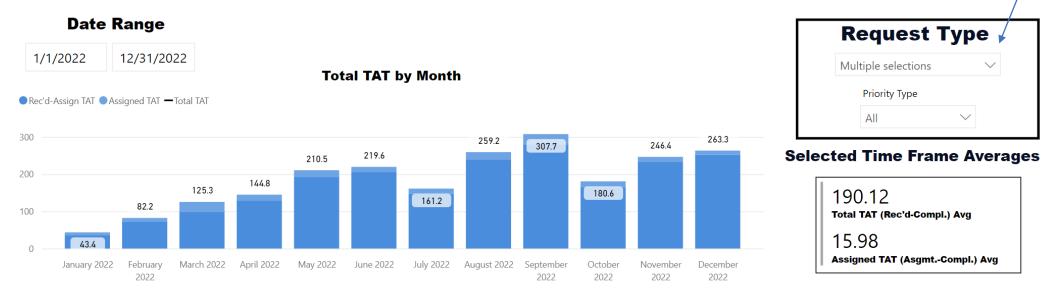




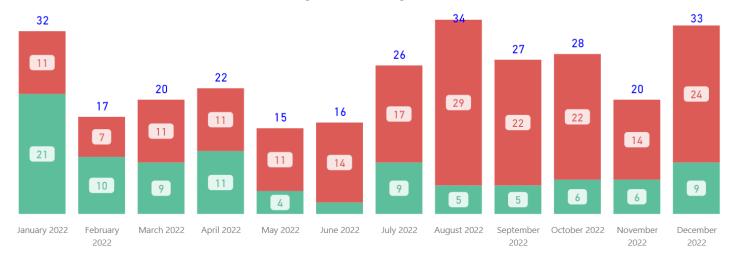
DFL and DME

 \sim

 \checkmark



Requests Completed



Received to Complete 290 **Requests Completed** 193

Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

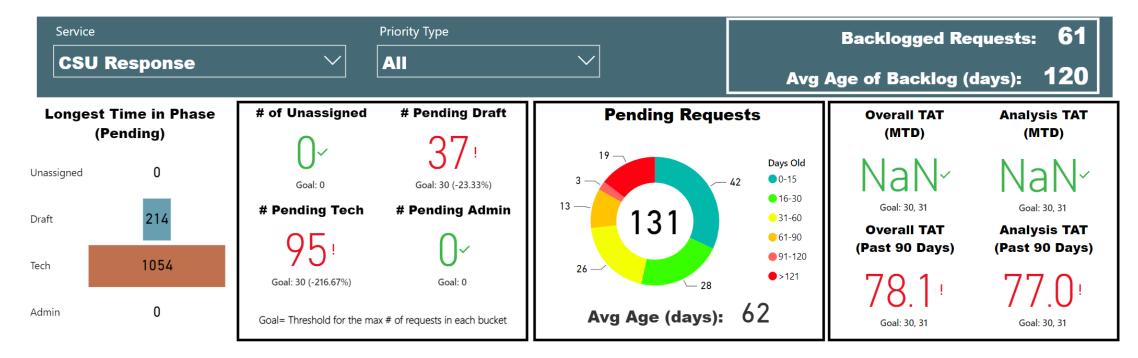
66.55 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

Requests Completed w/in 30 Days



Crime Scene Unit

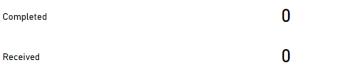


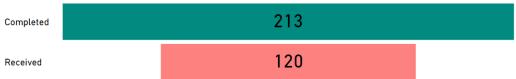


TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



Month to Date

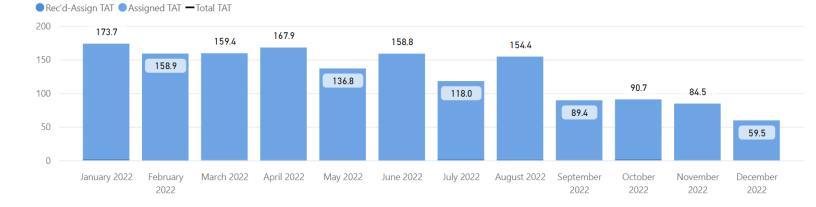




Date Range

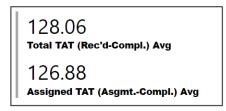
1/1/2022	12/31/2022
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Total TAT by Month

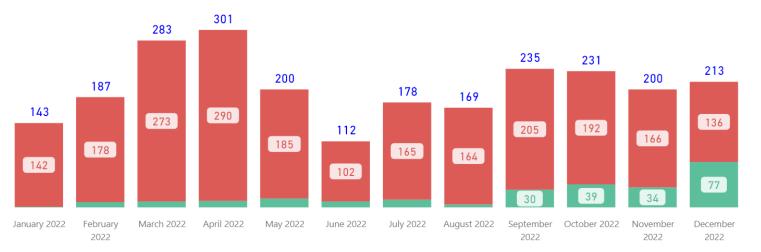


Request Type CSU Response ✓ Priority Type ✓

Selected Time Frame Averages



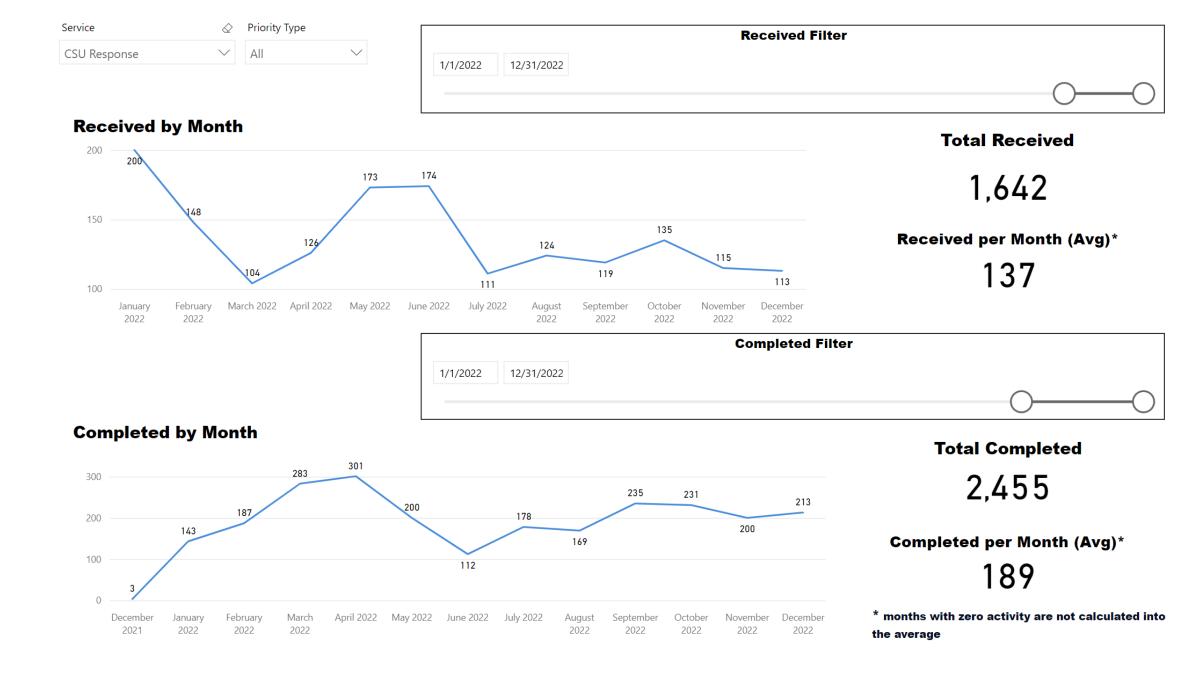
Requests Completed

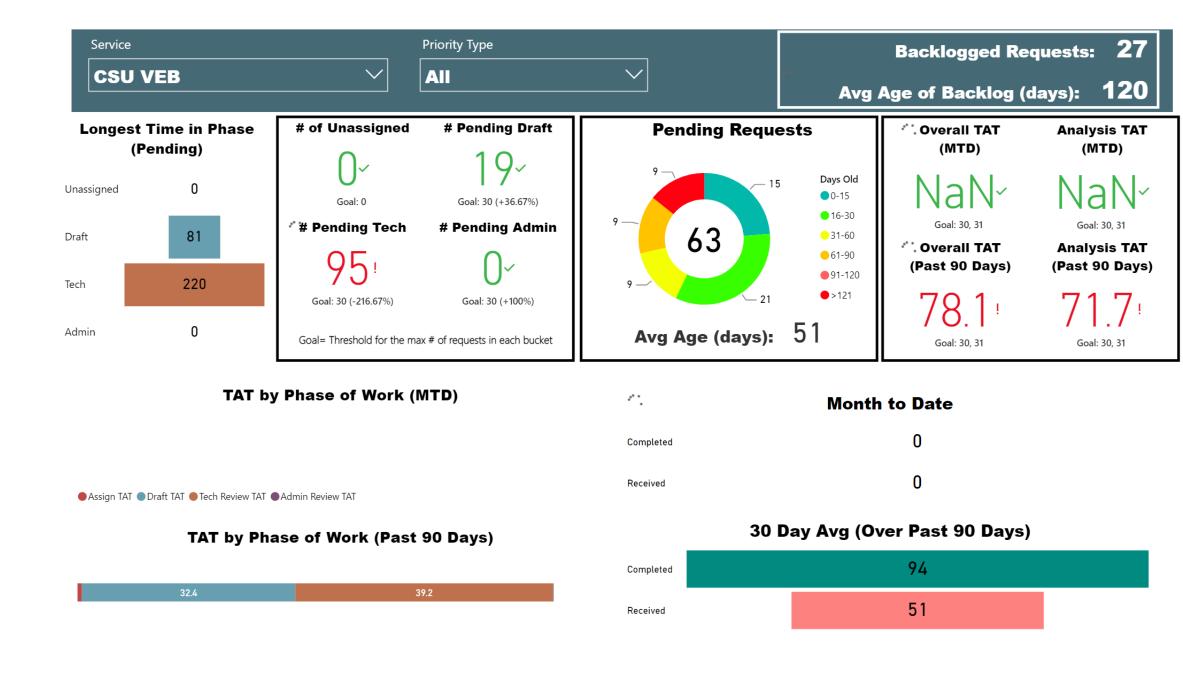


2452 Requests Completed 2198 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 89.64 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Received to Complete

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

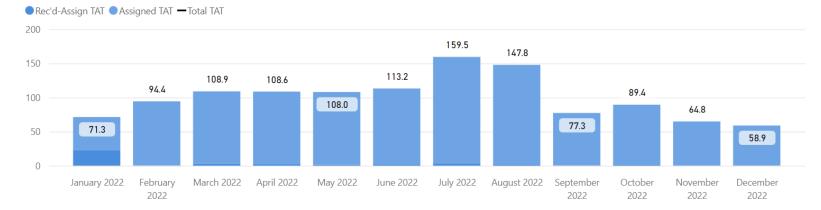




Date Range

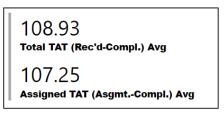
1/1/2022	12/31/2022
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Total TAT by Month

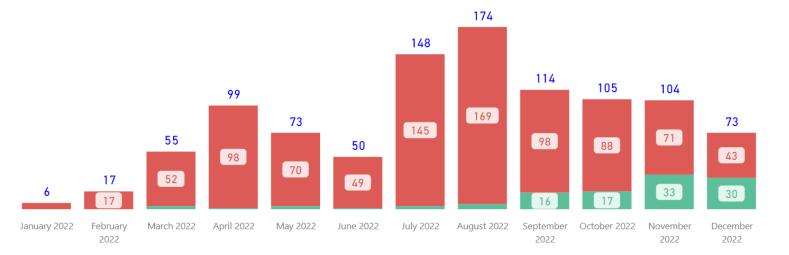


Request TypeCSU VEB \checkmark Priority Type \land All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



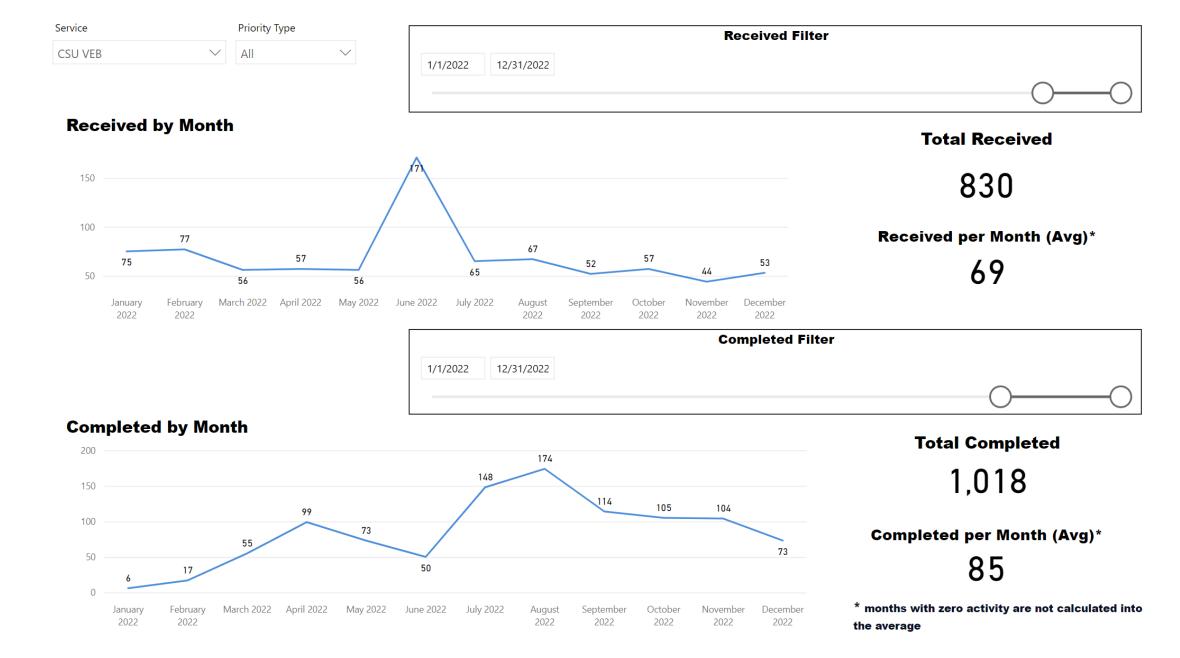
Requests Completed



1018 Requests Completed 906 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 89.00 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

Received to Complete

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	9. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement for fleet services between the City of Houston and the corporation relating to the upkeep, maintenance, repair, and service of HFSC vehicles, and possible related action.
Subject:	Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Houston (the City) to provide services relating to the upkeep, maintenance, repair, and service of HFSC vehicles.
Background:	The First Interlocal Agreement between HFSC and the City, approved by City Council on February 26, 2014, provided for HFSC's use of provisional assets, including a designated list of certain HPD vehicles. The agreement provided that the City would maintain and replace the provisional assets in keeping with standards no less stringent that the maintenance and replacement standards observed by the City for the same or similar items of personal property. On February 20, 2019, the Houston City Council and HFSC executed the First Amendment to First Interlocal Agreement, whereby the City and HFSC amended and extended the relationship between the parties. Subsequently, on April 16, 2020, the corporation and the Houston Police Department entered into an Interagency Cooperation Agreement (ICA), to reflect HFSC's move to 500 Jefferson, clarify their respective responsibilities, and address the relevant expired provisions of the First Interlocal Agreement. Among the provisions of the ICA, HFSC agreed to return all HPD vehicles described as provisional assets, on or before June 30, 2021.
Executive Summary:	Since the return of HPD's vehicles, HFSC has independently acquired vehicles for use by its personnel, primarily the Crime Scene Unit. HFSC now finds it must obtain comprehensive fleet services to maintain, repair, and upkeep its vehicles. HFSC has determined these services can be most efficiently provided by the City. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 791, Subchapter B, a local government may contract or agree with another local government to perform governmental functions and services. HFSC and the City find it necessary enter into an ILA to accomplish the necessary upkeep, maintenance, repair, and service of HFSC vehicles. The proposed agreement allows HFSC to utilize the City fleet services, in accordance with Government Code Chapter 791.
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact within the current budget cycle.
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval.
By:	Dr. Peter Stout, President and CEO Legal review and approved by General Counsel

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

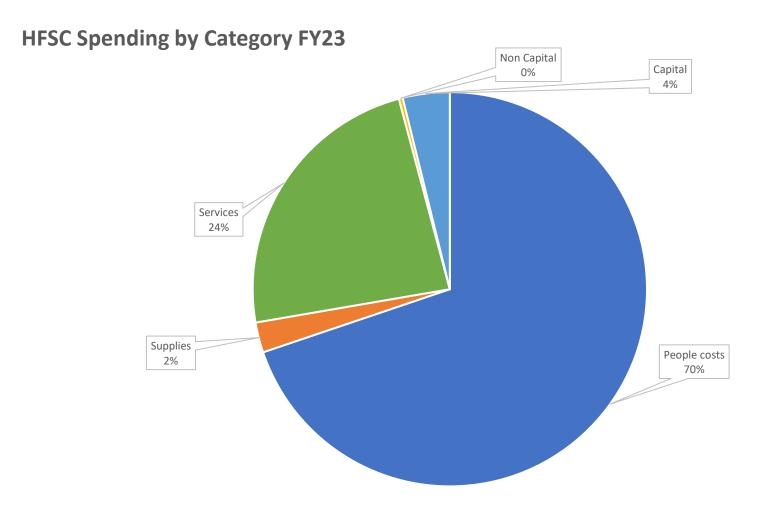
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	10. Consider approval of a contract for DNA outsourcing services between the corporation and Signature Science, LLC to be funded by the FY2022 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) federal grant, total budget not to exceed \$1,108,934.00.
Subject:	Consider approval of a grant funded contract with Signature Science, LLC to provide DNA services for HFSC forensic biology cases.
Background:	HFSC was awarded the FY 2022- BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant to help address HFSC's current backlog of forensic biology cases. HFSC has consistently utilized outsourcing in the forensic biology section to assist with various operational needs over the years. This grant will specifically assist HFSC in working through its backlog, which is a priority for the Corporation and its stakeholders. Without the use of federal funds, HFSC would not be able to complete this important project at this time.
Executive Summary:	In October 2022, HFSC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for DNA outsourcing services to be funded by FY 2022- BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant, award 15-PBJA-22-GG- 01692-DNAX. After consideration of the stated selection criteria, Signature Science was selected as the successful respondent. The proposed contract anticipates the total project budget for Signature Science LLC's services will not exceed the total grant budget for outsourcing, \$1,108,934.00. HFSC will be responsible for ensuring the total expenditure for services obtained from the vendor does not exceed the total grant budget. This project will include the anticipated testing of a total of approximately 1,000 untested SAK and non-SAK cases. The successful respondent will receive monthly shipments of cases over approximately 5-6 months.
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact to HFSC.
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval
By:	Dr. Peter Stout, President and CEO Legal review and approved as to form by General Counsel

HFSC – Treasurer's Report

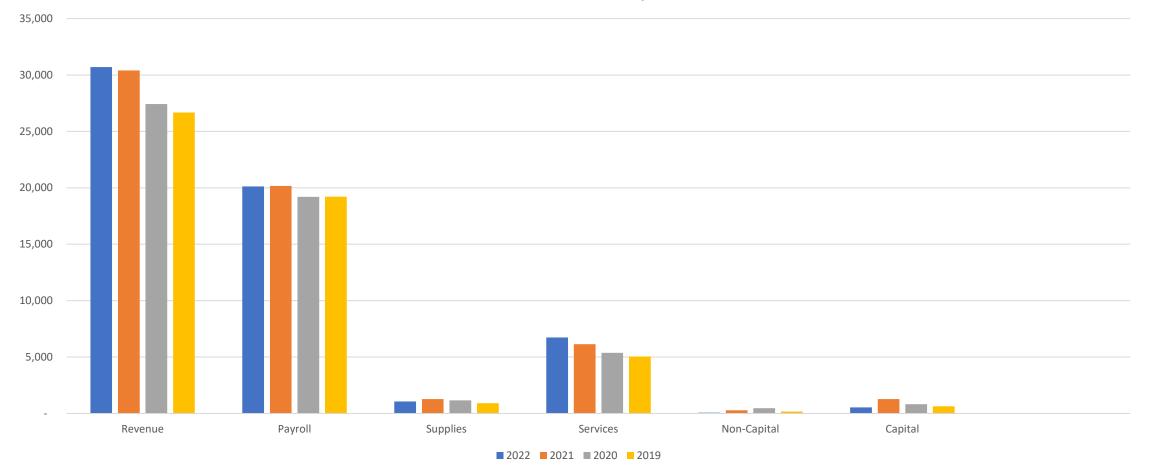
Jan. 13, 2023



HFSC – Treasurer's Report

Jan. 13, 2023

Financial Summary

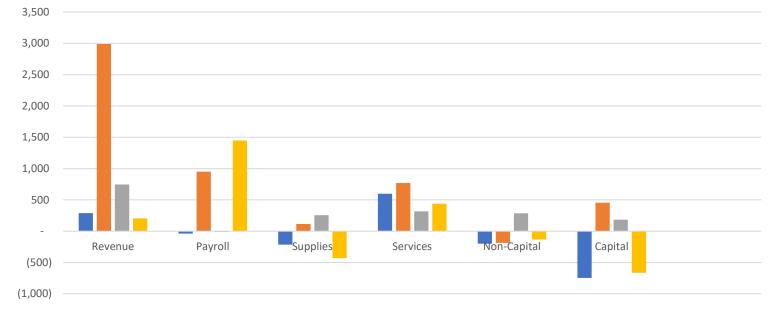


Year over Year Change

2021 Budget increase of \$1.6M for Tox.

2021 CARES \$1.3M

2022 Budget increase of \$1.3M replaces loss of \$1.3M in CARES



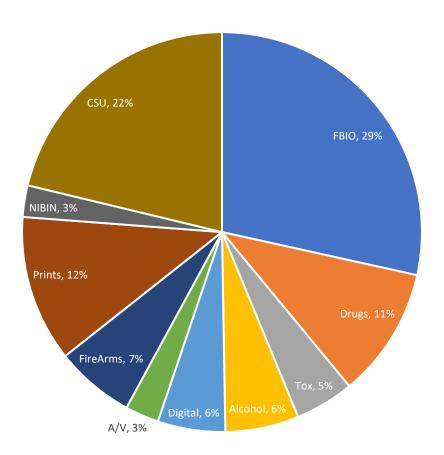
■ 2022 ■ 2021 ■ 2020 **■** 2019

Yea	r over Year	Change		
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenue	288	2,989	747	205
Payroll	(39)	952	(11)	1,448
Supplies	(214)	116	256	(430)
Services	599	768	316	441
Non-Capital	(200)	(186)	286	(132)
Capital	(747)	455	185	(663)

HFSC – Treasurer's Report

Jan. 13, 2023

Total Cost by Department



HOUSTON	FORENSIC SCIENCE	CENTER, I	NC.								
COMPARA	ATIVE STATEMENT OF	ACTIVITIE	ES - ACCRI	JAL BASIS							
For the Peri	od July 1, 2022 through De	ec. 31, 2022									
				Y	/TD					FY	23
		FY23	FY23	FY22		Var	iance			FY23	% Year
		July 1-Dec. 31, 2022	Budget	July 1- Dec. 31, 2021	Vs. Budget	%	Vs. FY22	%	в	udget V1	Completed
			# of Months 6						-		
Revenues:											
411000	City of Houston-Appropriations	\$ 26,535	\$ 14,254	\$ 26,317	\$ 12,281	86%	\$ 218	1%	\$	28,508	93%
417000	COH - COVID Funds	-	1,500	-	(1,500)	0%	-	0%		3,000	0%
440000	Grants	444	800	302	(356)	-45%	141	47%		1,600	28%
450000	Forensic Services	6	10	20	(4)	-42%	(14)	-70%		20	29%
443000	Other	26	-	2	26	0%	24	1328%		-	0%
450002	Interest Income	18	13	17	5	40%	0	3%		25	70%
Total Income		28,085	16,577	27,754	11,508	69%	330	1%		33,153	85%
Expenses:											
Pe	rsonnel:										
500010	Salary Base - Civilian	7,909	9,007	8,069	1,098	12%	160	2%		18,015	44%
501070	Pension - Civilian	467	548	490	81	15%	22	5%		1,097	43%
502010	FICA - Civilian	572	644	579	72	11%	7	1%		1,289	44%
503010	Health Insurance - Active Civil	669	788	680	118	15%	11	2%		1,575	43%
503015	Basic Life Ins - Active Civil	14	14	10	(1)	-4%	(5)	-47%		28	52%
503090	Workers Comp - Civilian Adm	19	26	27	7	27%	8	29%		52	36%
504031	Unemployment Taxes - Admin	1	3	(0)	3	82%	(1)	6332%		6	9%
500000	Personnel - Other	-	-	-	-	0%	-	0%		-	0%
		9,652	11,030	9,855	1,378	12%	202	2%		22,061	44%

	FORENSIC SCIENCE C	•								
_	TIVE STATEMENT OF		S - ACCRU	JAL BASIS						
or the Peri	od July 1, 2022 through De	c. 31, 2022								
				Y	/TD				FY	23
		FY23	FY23	FY22		Vari	ance		FY23	% Year
		July 1-Dec. 31, 2022	Budget	July 1- Dec. 31, 2021	Vs. Budget	%	Vs. FY22	%	Budget V1	Completed
			# of Months							
			6							
	pplies:				(-)					
511010	Chemical Gases & Special Fluids	14	9	10	(5)	-59%	(4)	-37%	18	809
511040	Audio Visual Supplies	-	-	-	-	0%	-	0%		0
511045	Computer Supplies	22	3	1	(19)	-595%	(21)		6	348
511050	Paper & Printing Supplies	2	7	9	5	70%	7	78%	13	15
511055	Publications & Printed Material	7	7	2	(1)	-10%	(5)	-325%	13	55
511060	Postage	0	0	0	0	82%	0	87%	0	9
511070	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	28	38	42	10	27%	14	34%	77	36
511080	General Laboratory Supply	248	398	346	150	38%	97	28%	797	319
511090	Medical & Surgical Supplies	0	-	-	(0)		(0)	0%	-	
511095	Small Technical & Scientific Eq	1	9	16	8	87%	15	93%	18	70
511110	Fuel	0	0	-	(0)	0%	(0)	0%	0	
511120	Clothing	14	10	12	(4)	-42%	(2)	-13%	20	719
511125	Food/Event Supplies	3	6	9	3	52%	6	68%	12	249
511130	Weapons Munitions & Supplies	7	8	8	1	11%	1	10%	16	45
511145	Small Tools & Minor Equipment	-	6	7	6	100%	7	100%	13	0
511150	Miscellaneous Parts & Supplies	0	6	1	6	98%	1	91%	13	1
		348	508	464	160	32%	116	25%	1,015	349

HOUSTON	I FORENSIC SCIENCE C	ENTER, I	NC.							
	TIVE STATEMENT OF	ACTIVITIE	S - ACCRI	JAL BASIS						
	od July 1, 2022 through Dec									
										12
					/TD				FY2	23
		FY23	FY23	FY22		Vari	ance		FY23	% Year
		July 1-Dec. 31, 2022	Budget	July 1- Dec. 31, 2021	Vs. Budget	%	Vs. FY22	%	Budget V1	Completed
			# of Months							
			6							
	rvices:	30		30	(3)	440/	(0)	4.0/		E 50/
520105	Accounting & Auditing Svcs		27		(3)	-11%	(0)	-1%	55	55%
520107 520109	Computer Info/Contracting Svcs Medical Dental & Laboratory Ser	639	- 551	814	(88)	-16%	175	22%	- 1,101	58%
520109	Management Consulting Services	179	68	126	(111)	-164%	(53)	-42%	135	132%
520112	Banking Services	3	2	2	(1)	-42%	(1)	-42 %	4	71%
520113	Photographic Services	-	- 1	1	1	42.70	1	0%	2	1170
520114	Misc Support Serv Recruit Relo	24	27	23	3	11%	(1)	-4%	53	45%
520115	Real Estate Rental	415	415	415	(0)	0%	(1)	0%	830	50%
520118	Refuse Disposal	9	16	17	7	42%	8	47%	31	29%
520119	Computer Equip/Software Maint.	875	718	809	(157)	-22%	(66)	-8%	1,435	61%
520121	IT Application Services	18	33	1	15	46%	(16)	0%	65	27%
520124	Other Equipment Services	181	166	215	(15)	-9%	35	16%	333	54%
520145	Criminal Intelligence Services	-	-	-	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%
520520	Printing & Reproduction Serv.	-	1	0	1	100%	0	100%	2	0%
520605	Public Information Svcs	-	0	0	0	100%	0	100%	1	0%
520705	Insurance (Non-Medical)	115	68	112	(47)	-68%	(3)	-3%	136	84%
520765	Membership & Prof. Fees	20	17	13	(3)	-18%	(7)	-52%	35	59%
520805	Education & Training	218	215	142	(3)	-1%	(76)	-54%	429	51%
520815	Tuition Reimbursement	3	17	11	14	82%	8	71%	34	9%
520905	Travel - Training Related	85	-	82	(85)		(3)	-4%	-	
520910	Travel - Non-training Related	6	12	6	6	50%	0	1%	23	25%
521405	Building Maintenance Services	27	33	40	7	20%	14	34%	67	40%
521505	Utilities	103	130	149	26	20%	46	31%	260	40%
521605	Data Services	79	89	134	10	11%	55	41%	178	44%
521610	Voice Services, Equip & Labor	47	36	36	(11)	-30%	(11)	-30%	72	65%

	TIVE STATEMENT OF	ACTIVITIE	S - ACCRL	JAL BASIS						
the Perio	od July 1, 2022 through De	c. 31, 2022								
				Y	'TD				FY2	23
		FY23	FY23	FY22		Varia	ance		FY23	% Year
		July 1-Dec. 31, 2022	Budget	July 1- Dec. 31, 2021	Vs. Budget	%	Vs. FY22	%	Budget V1	Complete
			# of Months 6							
Ser	vices:		0							
521725	Other Rental Fees	42	27	21	(15)	-57%	(21)	-102%	54	78
521730	Parking Space Rental	116	97	93	(19)	-19%	(23)	-25%	194	60
521905	Legal Services	-	5	1	5	100%	1	0%	10	
522205	Metro Commuter Passes	(0)	0	(0)	0	157%	0	-170%	1	-2
522305	Shipping and Freight	11	13	14	2	15%	2	18%	26	4
522430	Misc. Other Services & Chrgs	61	54	83	(7)	-13%	22	27%	107	5
523100	Civilian Payroll	155	248	306	93	0%	151	49%	496	3
523400	Services	3	3	1	(0)	-5%	(2)	-257%	5	5
523000	Sub-Contractor (COH-HPD) Total	158	250	306	93	37%	149	49%	-	
529000	Subrecipient Expense - Grants	-	-	-	-		-		-	
	Total Services	3,462	3,087	3,697	(375)	-12%	235	6%	6,175	50
Νοι	n-Capital Expenditures									
551010	Furniture and Fixtures	-	13	16	13	100%	16	100%	25	
551015	Computer Hardware/SW	39	30	-	(9)	-30%	(39)		60	6
551025	Scientific/Foren Eqmt	6	5	-	(1)	-15%	(6)		10	5
	Total Non-Capital Expenditures	45	48	16	3	6%	(29)	-184%	95	47

HOUSTON	N FORENSIC SCIENCE	CENTER, I	NC.							
	ATIVE STATEMENT OF			JAL BASIS						
For the Per	riod July 1, 2022 through De	ec. 31, 2022								
				Y	/TD			, Internet	F١	/23
		FY23	FY23	FY22		Vari	ance		FY23	% Year
		July 1-Dec. 31, 2022	Budget	July 1- Dec. 31, 2021	Vs. Budget	%	Vs. FY22	%	Budget V1	Completed
			# of Months 6							
C	apital Expenditures									
170210	Furniture & Fixtures	-	-	(16)	-	0%	(16)	0%		0%
170230	Computer Hardware/SW	34	-	199	(34)	0%	164	0%	-	0%
170240	Scientific/Foren Eqmt	244	353	(598)	109	31%	(842)	141%	706	35%
170980	Const in Progress	(97)	-	22	97	0%	119	532%		
	Total Capital Expenditures	540	418	177	(123)	-29%	(363)	-204%	835	65%
Total Expense ar	nd Capital Before Depreciation	14,047	15,090	14,209	1,043	7%	162	1%	30,181	47%
561230	Depreciation	966	1,013	1,005	47	5%	39	4%	2,026	48%
531085	Interest Expense	535	533	-	(1)	0%	6	1%	1,067	50%
	Grant and Training Expense	-	-	-	-		-	0%		
Total Expense ar	nd Capital After Depreciation	15,547	16,637	15,755	1,089	7%	208	1%	33,274	47%

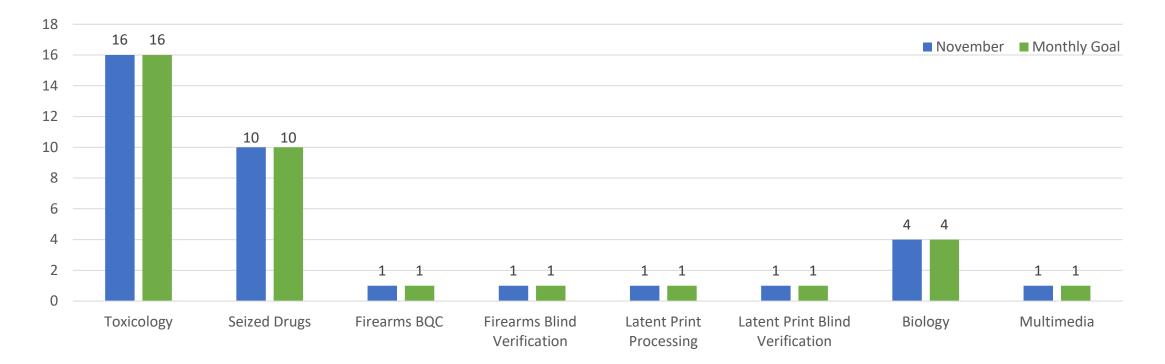
Houston Forensic Scie	nce Center, Inc.					
Finance Division						
List of Grant Contracts	5					
As of Jan. 2023						
Awarded						
Awarding Agency:	USDOJ-OJP-NIJ					
Name of Project:	NIJ FY 21 DNA Capacity Enhancement					
Name of Project.	and Backlog Reduction Program					
Start and End Dates:	10/01/2021 to 09/30/2023					
Contact:						
Award Number:	15PBJA-21-GG-03193-DNAX	F	ward Bal.	-	penditure eported	Current eceivable
Contact:						
	Amount of Award:	\$	1,806,581		-	\$ -
	Grant Inception to date:	\$	(687,049)	\$	375,232	\$ (311,818)
	Grant Balance:	\$	1,119,532			
Status:	Active					

Awarding Agency:	USDOJ-OJP-NIJ						
	2021 Reasearch & Evaluation for the						
Nome of Droject	Testig & Interpretation of Physical						
Name of Project:	Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic						
	Labs						
Start and End Dates:	01/01/2022 to 12/31/2023						
Contact:							
Award Number:	15PNIJ-21-GG-02714-MUMU	А	Award Bal. Expenditure Reported		е	Current Receivable	
Contact:							
	Amount of Award:	\$	303,471	-		\$-	
	Grant Inception to date:	\$	-	\$-		\$-	
	Grant Balance:	\$	303,471				
Status:	Active						
Awarding Agency:	USDOJ-OJP-NIJ						
Name of Project:	NIJ FY 22 DNA Capacity Enhancement						
Name of Project.	and Backlog Reduction Program						
Start and End Dates:	10/01/2022 to 09/30/2024						
Contact:							
		Award Bal.		Expenditure		Current	
Award Number:	15PBJA-22-GG-01692-DNAX			Reported		Receivab	le
Contact:							
	Amount of Award:	\$	2,472,393	-		\$-	
	Grant Inception to date:					\$-	
	Grant Balance:	\$	2,472,393				
Status:	Active						

Quality Division Report January 13, 2023

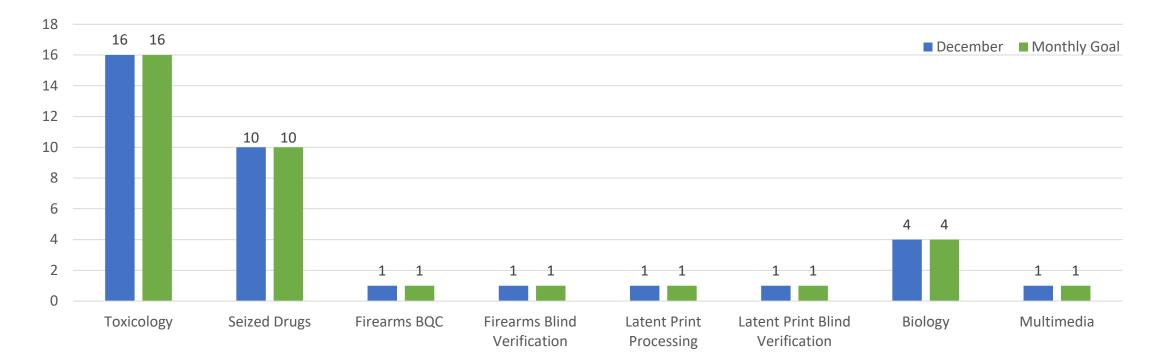


Blind Quality Controls Submitted in November





Blind Quality Controls Submitted in December





Blind Quality: Completed Cases

Latent Print Black Box Study

- Study designed with CSAFE to measure error rate in HFSC's Latent Print Comparison section
- Required participation for all examiners
- Latent Print Comparison blind program unsustainable with new LSS-developed workflow due to latent print database

Foroncia Disciplina	Cases Completed in	Cases Completed in December		
Forensic Discipline	November			
Toxicology	20 (BAC)	9 (BAC)		
loxicology	0 (Drugs)	0 (Drugs)		
Seized Drugs	50 8			
Biology	0 (DNA)	0 (DNA)		
2101087	5 (screening)	4 (screening)		
Firearms	0	1		
Firearms	1	2		
Blind Verification	T			
Latent Print	1	1		
Processing	1	-		
Latent Print	7	9		
Comparison		C SCI		
Latent Print Blind	3	0		
Verification	J	* 0115		
Multimedia	0	0		

Disclosures/Corrective Actions

Disclosure to the Texas Forensic Science Commission regarding misidentification of alprazolam in a May 2022 Seized Drugs case

- Substance now identified as an isomer of alprazolam that has the same molecular weight but structural differences
- Isomer is an emerging designer benzodiazepine
- First reported case in Australia in June 2022
- Seized Drugs report amended in December 2022
- Review of all Seized Drugs cases with alprazolam reported in 2021-2022 confirmed no further affected cases
- Harris County District Attorney's Office notified



Disclosures/Corrective Actions

Disclosures Made to the Texas Forensic Science Commission in 2022:

- Forensic Biology: incorrect CODIS entries for partial and mixture profiles
- Firearms: sample switch of NIBIN test fires
- Forensic Biology: inadvertent consumption of evidence
- Forensic Biology/Quality: accidental upload of three blind quality control profiles into the CODIS database
- Forensic Biology: concerns about analyst's testimony which the trial court characterized as evasive, false, and misleading
 - TFSC found the analyst has committed professional negligence and professional misconduct. His license was revoked for 60 days.

Pending Disclosures Made to the Texas Forensic Science Commission in 2022:

 Forensic Biology: concerns about analyst's explanation of statistics in response to questions by the prosecutor identified through transcript review project



2022 Survey Responses

Help us improve! We would like to ask you a few questions about HFSC and our services. Please take this short survey.

Survey link added to email taglines in February 2020

- 11 responses received in 2022:
 - Satisfied or very satisfied
 - 10 responses
 - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 - 0 responses
 - Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
 - 1 response



Q1

Investigator

For the purpose of this survey, how you would define yourself?

Q2

Latent Print

What section are you giving feedback on?

Q3

Very Dissatisfied

How satisfied are you with HFSC services?

Q4

This space can be used for all feedback. If your feedback is case specific, please include all relevant information, including agency case number and your contact information so we can directly address your feedback.

I has taken me three tries so far to submit a request for latent print analysis. The requests are rejected for reasons that could have been explained to be beforehand. There is no reason that the requests portal is so difficult to use and reuquires multiple requests and multiple follow up emails to get the evidence processed. In another case recently, by the time I got my print results, the statute of limitations had expired on the case.

Q5

If you would like to be contacted regarding your feedback, please include your contact information

Name

Mark Holbrook

Email Address

mark.holbrook@houstonpolice.org

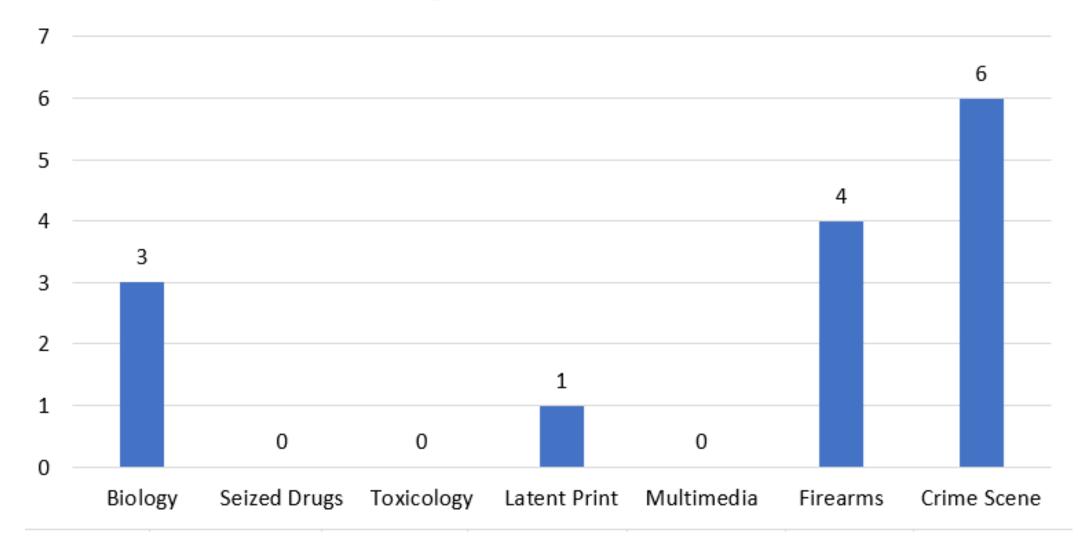


2022 Testimony Data

- 69 analysts have testified this year
 - 67 were monitored
 - 2 not monitored transcripts requested
- Transcript review project
 - Second round: 10 transcripts reviewed in process to discuss the final evaluation with the analysts

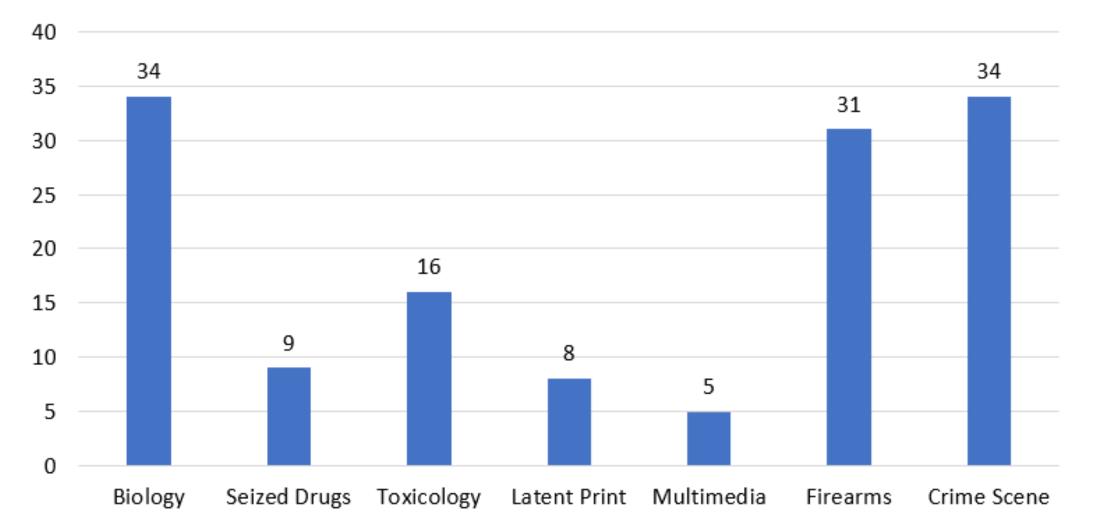


Transcripts Reviewed in 2022



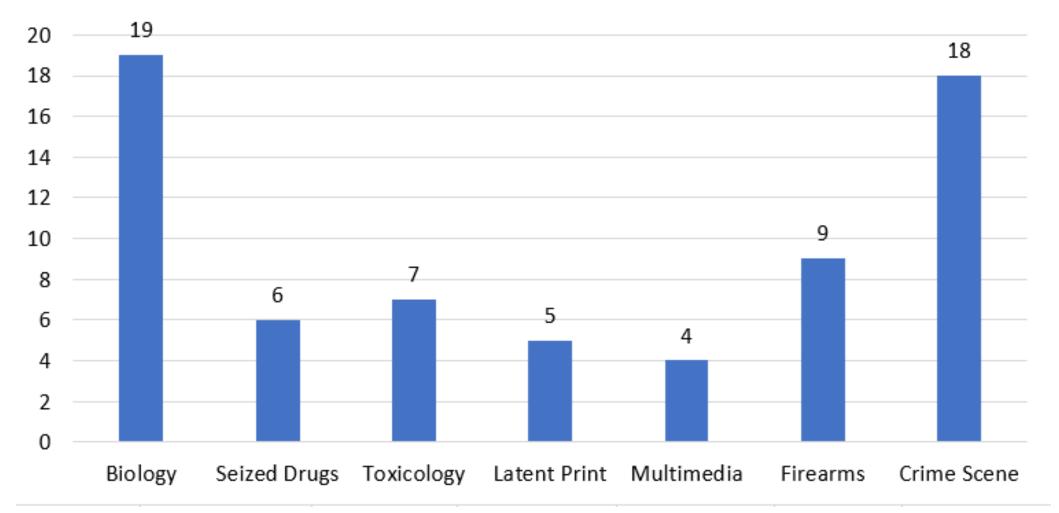


Number of Testimonies in 2022





Number of Testifying Analysts in 2022





Detailed Data



2022 Proficiency Testing

Discipline		Tests in Progress	Tests Completed	Comments	
Seized Drugs		0	11		
Toxicology		8	28		
Firearms		8	6		
Crime Scene		0	24		
Latent Prints		7	9		
Multimedia	Audio/Video	0	2		
multimedia	Digital	0	4		
Forensic Biology		12	35		





Quality Division Notifications

Corrective Actions, Incidents, and Preventive Actions

Quality Tracking Number	Section	Classification	Notification Date	Summary of Notification
2022-061	Biology/DNA	Incident	11/29/2022	During a differential extraction procedure, a tube slipped out of an analyst's hand and fell inside the instrument causing a small amount of liquid to be spilled on the inside of the instrument.
2022-063	Biology/DNA	Incident	11/9/2022	A Forensic Biology casefile was missing worksheets and data associated with additional analysis performed on a reference sample. A second casefile was also discovered that did not contain the worksheets and data associated with additional analysis on a reagent blank. In both instances the data was not used for interpretation or reporting purposes but should have been contained in each respective casefile.
2022-PAR17	Client Services & Case Management	Preventative Action	11/1/2022	CS/CM has updated their request for records process to more accurately reflect their turn around times if there are pending forensic analyses in the case.
2022-059	Crime Scene	Corrective Action	11/2/2022	While a CSI was packaging evidence from a scene, she discovered that one of the cigarette butts that she collected was not able to be located.
2022-060	Crime Scene	Incident	11/10/2022	During a casefile review, a CSU Supervisor noted that a cartridge case was not collected from a vehicle when it was processed by a CSI. At the time of discovery, the Houston Police Department had already released the vehicle.
2022-069	Crime Scene	Incident	11/10/2022	Latent Print analysts observed that latent lift cards submitted by the Crime Scene Unit (CSU) were missing the case number on each card as required by the CSU SOP.
2022-IA-14	Finance	Incident	11/10/2022	The controlled key log workflow in Qualtrax was not completed for the key transfers that occurred after April 2022.
2022-IA-12	Human Resources	Incident	11/10/2022	Upon interview, a Latent Print examiner explained that he was not clean shaven when HFSC's vendor conducted respirator fit testing. This is a violation of HFSC's Health and Safety Manual which requires all staff being fit tested to be clean shaven.
2022-I A-1 3	Human Resources	Incident	11/10/2022	The safety showers in the Latent Print section and Crime Scene Unit did not have a documented monthly safety check for every month in 2022.

HFSC'S Quality Division investigates nonconforming work and helps develop solutions in compliance with accreditation and legal standards. For the purposes of this board report, Quality tracking numbers associated to nonconformances are subject to re-assignment based upon further investigation and/or risk assessment.



Quality Division Notifications

Corrective Actions, Incidents, and Preventive Actions

Quality Tracking Number	Section	Classification	Notification Date	Summary of Notification	
2022-064	Latent Print Section	Corrective Action	12/7/2022	A Latent Print processor followed the incorrect sequential processing workflow while attempting to develop/enhance possible latent prints on a Styrofoam cup. Styrofoam cups should be processed as non-porous items however the processor followed the workflow for porous items.	
2022-062	Multimedia	Incident	12/6/2022	Two Multimedia staff members did not have the required authorization prior to conducting a validation.	
2022-065	Seized Drugs	Correcti v e Action	12/13/2022	An item analyzed by the Seized drugs section was incorrectly identified and reported as a controlled substance.	
2022-068	Seized Drugs	Incident	11/29/2022	The temperatures for two Seized Drugs freezers were not manually recorded the week of November 21, 2022.	
2022-066	Toxicology	Incident	12/6/2022	A blood tube was accidently broken by a toxicology analyst prior to analysis. The remaining blood was transferred to a new labeled glass container. There was sufficient sample available for analysis and for future additional testing.	
2022-067	Toxicology	Corrective Action	12/7/2022	A Toxicology analyst inadvertently left a rack of blood tubes at room temperature for approximately one hour after blood alcohol analysis. The tubes should have been placed back in a refrigerated condition after analysis.	

HFSC'S Quality Division investigates nonconforming work and helps develop solutions in compliance with accreditation and legal standards. For the purposes of this board report, Quality tracking numbers associated to nonconformances are subject to re-assignment based upon further investigation and/or risk assessment.