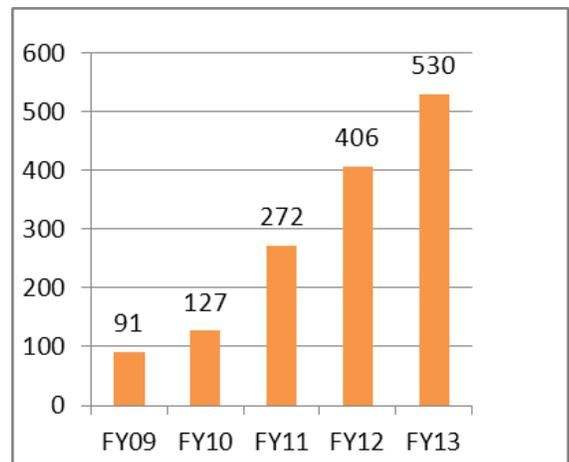


## Forensic Toxicology Capacity Building Request

Two challenges prevent the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory from providing timely and comprehensive reports to Law Enforcement and the Office of Medical Examiner:

- 1) Increased Complexity of Testing –
  - Complexity of testing refers to the number of drugs tested per case. The drugs tested per case have increased by 6% annually since 2001.
  - The complexity of testing requested from Law Enforcement has increased from one test in the late 1990s, blood alcohol, to 5-6 tests by 2013, alcohol and illicit drugs. Our cost per case has risen from \$35 to \$185.
  - The complexity of testing requested by the Office of the Medical Examiner has increased from 1-2 drugs in the 1990s to over 60 prescription and illicit drugs in 2013. Our cost has risen to \$385 on average per case.
  - When the laboratory cannot support the drugs required by our partners, we risk jeopardizing the prosecution of cases and delaying the issuance of death certificates to grieving families.
  - We are requesting one Forensic Toxicologist dedicated to new method development to evolve and expand the drugs offered for detection, both illicit and prescription.

This graph demonstrates the increase in samples that require testing beyond the laboratory's current capacity. The samples are sent out of state for additional costs.



### Quick Facts

**The Laboratory is requesting \$350,000 to cover:**

- **1 FTE to perform method development.**
- **2 FTEs to ensure reports are issued in a timely manner**
- **Funding for supplies to support method development activities**

2) Increased Volume of Cases –

- Between 2001 to 2013, the number of cases submitted to the laboratory has increased by 2% annually.
- The laboratory applied a Lean Six Sigma strategy in 2010 to handle the increased volumes with increased efficiencies.
- Reporting time was decreased from an average of 45 days to an average of 15 days with the new process.
- In FY13, toxicologists spent 956 hours in court testimony activities, reducing their ability to perform testing in the laboratory.
- Ever increasing case loads are threatening to undo efficiencies gained leading to delayed investigations and continuation of cases or worse yet, the release of guilty offenders.
- We are requesting two Forensic Toxicologists to bring performance back to the current target of releasing results to partners within 14 days. If the current trends in test requests and cases continue, we expect the two FTE's will keep us on target for 2 years. Improved capacity for method development will allow us to stay on target for 4 years.

