

PERFORMANCE AUDIT
OF THE
FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

April 1998

EXECUTIVE DIGEST

FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

This report, issued in April 1998, contains the results of our performance audit* of the Forensic Science Division (FSD), Michigan Department of State Police.

AUDIT PURPOSE

This performance audit was conducted as part of the constitutional responsibility of the Office of the Auditor General. Performance audits are conducted on a priority basis related to the potential for improving effectiveness* and efficiency*.

BACKGROUND

The mission* of FSD is to provide leadership, development, coordination and delivery of "state of the art" forensic services to the criminal justice community.

FSD services are provided in seven regional laboratories. Services include examination, analysis, and expert testimony related to narcotics, toxicology*, latent prints*, serology*, firearms/toolmarks*, polygraph*, trace evidence*, questioned documents*, and deoxyribonucleic acid* (DNA). All services are not available at every laboratory.

FSD was appropriated \$14.0 million for fiscal year 1996-97 and had 173 employees as of November 30, 1997.

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES,
CONCLUSIONS, AND
NOTEWORTHY
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Audit Objective: To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of FSD in providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies.

Conclusion: We concluded that FSD was generally effective and efficient in providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies. However, we noted the following material condition* :

- Substantial amounts of forensic laboratory fees were not assessed and submitted to FSD as required (Finding 1).

The Department responded that it agrees with the corresponding recommendations. FSD will continue to work with applicable parties to ensure that legislated fees are assessed and submitted and will evaluate the forensic services notification process.

Noteworthy Accomplishments: FSD has continuously maintained American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board* (ASCLD/LAB) accreditation since first obtaining it in 1984. FSD's ASCLD/LAB accreditation was most recently renewed in April 1996. This accreditation is fundamental in ensuring the credibility of forensic science services.

Audit Objective: To assess the effectiveness of the State's DNA profiling system.

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

Conclusion: We concluded that the State's DNA profiling system was not effective. We noted two material conditions:

- The DNA profiling program was not effective because samples* frequently were not collected and submitted to FSD for profiling (Finding 2).

The Department responded that it agrees with the corresponding recommendation and that FSD will continue to work with affected entities to ensure increased compliance with the provisions of the DNA profiling legislation.

- The DNA data base had not been developed and implemented (Finding 3).

The Department responded that it agrees with the corresponding recommendation and that FSD has developed a plan to expedite the development and implementation of the DNA data base.

Noteworthy Accomplishments: FSD is participating in a Federal Bureau of Investigation DNA research project. FSD is one of a select number of laboratories from around the country and Canada performing experiments to validate a new DNA profiling technique for use in the Combined DNA Index System* (CODIS).

**AUDIT SCOPE AND
METHODOLOGY**

Our audit scope was to examine the program and other records of the Forensic Science Division. Our audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included such tests of the records

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

To accomplish our objectives, we examined FSD records related to proficiency testing* , productivity, forensic laboratory fees, and DNA profiles* for the period July 1, 1994 through November 30, 1997. We interviewed staff at FSD, district and circuit courts, the Department of Corrections, and local law enforcement agencies. We reviewed the FSD mission statement and applicable statutes, policies and procedures. We also reviewed procedures related to the receipt and processing of evidence. We visited nine courts to determine the process for assessing laboratory fees and contacted five sheriff departments and 19 State correctional facilities related to DNA profiling.

**AGENCY RESPONSES
AND PRIOR AUDIT
FOLLOW-UP**

Our audit report includes 3 findings and 4 corresponding recommendations. The agency preliminary response indicated that the Department agrees with all 4 recommendations.

We did not repeat any of the three recommendations included in the prior audit report.

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

Colonel Michael D. Robinson, Director
Michigan Department of State Police
714 South Harrison
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Colonel Robinson:

This is our report on the performance audit of the Forensic Science Division, Michigan Department of State Police.

This report contains our executive digest; description of agency; audit objectives, scope, and methodology and agency responses and prior audit follow-up; comments, findings, recommendations, and agency preliminary responses; supplemental information; and a glossary of acronyms and terms.

Our comments, findings, and recommendations are organized by audit objective. The agency preliminary responses were taken from the agency's written comments and oral discussions subsequent to our audit field work. The *Michigan Compiled Laws* and administrative procedures require that the audited agency develop a formal response within 60 days after release of the audit report.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us during this audit.

AUDITOR GENERAL

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Description of Agency

The mission of the Forensic Science Division (FSD) is to provide leadership, development, coordination and delivery of "state of the art" forensic services to the criminal justice community.

FSD services are provided in seven regional laboratories located in Bridgeport, East Lansing, Grand Rapids, Grayling, Marquette, Northville, and Sterling Heights. Services include examination, analysis, and expert testimony related to narcotics, toxicology, latent prints, serology, firearms/toolmarks, polygraph, trace evidence, questioned documents, and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). All services are not available at every laboratory.

FSD services are usually initiated in criminal investigations with the request for forensic assistance by investigators with law enforcement agencies largely within the State of Michigan, generally local police departments, State police posts and district offices statewide, county sheriff departments, local fire departments, and county prosecutor offices. FSD examiners also provide expert witness testimony concerning crime scene and science-based investigations at criminal proceedings.

Section 12.206 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* provides for a forensic laboratory fee assessment of \$150 for convictions when a forensic laboratory was used and for all criminal sexual conduct (CSC) convictions. Also, Section 12.205 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* requires that the investigating officer shall advise the prosecuting attorney when a forensic laboratory was used.

During fiscal year 1995-96, FSD personnel processed 58,143 cases* (see exhibits of completed casework and operating expenditures per functional area* and laboratory, presented as supplemental information). FSD also responded to 526 crime and bomb scenes and offered expert testimony in 1,069 court cases.

The FSD laboratory in East Lansing provides DNA services. Sections 28.171 - 28.176 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* (the DNA Identification Profiling System Act, being Act

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

250, P.A.1990) require the collection of DNA samples from persons convicted of CSC crimes. The investigating law enforcement agency* is responsible for sample collections within 45 days of conviction. The institution of incarceration is responsible for sample collection upon parole if a sample has not already been obtained. Samples are forwarded to FSD for DNA profiling. The DNA profiles are to be electronically stored in a national data base for use in future investigations.

In 1990, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began development of an integrated local/state/national law enforcement system of storing and comparing DNA records in the pursuit of prosecuting and deterring violent criminal behavior. This system, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), was expected to be fully implemented by January 1998. As of November 13, 1997, FSD had obtained over 7,733 DNA samples.

FSD was appropriated \$14.0 million for fiscal year 1996-97 and had 173 employees as of November 30, 1997.

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

Audit Objectives, Scope, and Methodology and Agency Responses and Prior Audit Follow-Up

Audit Objectives

Our performance audit of the Forensic Science Division (FSD), Michigan Department of State Police (MSP), had the following objectives:

1. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of FSD in providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies.
2. To assess the effectiveness of the State's deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) profiling system.

Audit Scope

Our audit scope was to examine the program and other records of the Forensic Science Division. Our audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included such tests of the records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Audit Methodology

Our audit procedures were conducted from June through November 1997 and included examining FSD records related to proficiency testing, productivity, forensic laboratory fees, and DNA profiles for the period July 1, 1994 through November 30, 1997. We interviewed staff at FSD, district and circuit courts, the Department of Corrections, and local law enforcement agencies. We reviewed the FSD mission statement; applicable statutes, policies, and procedures; FSD activity reports; and FSD revenues and expenditures. We also reviewed MSP annual reports and a recent graduate thesis that included the results of a recent survey of individuals who utilize FSD services. We searched the Internet for and obtained applicable audit reports from other states related to forensic science and DNA. In addition, we conducted procedures specific to each objective, as appropriate.

To accomplish our first objective, we obtained an understanding of FSD's internal control structure* for providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies. We reviewed procedures related to the receipt and processing of evidence. We examined FSD records related to proficiency testing, productivity, and forensic laboratory fees. We visited five district and four circuit courts in four counties (Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, and Washtenaw) to determine the process for assessing laboratory fees applicable to FSD for criminal sexual conduct convictions and other cases worked on by FSD. We judgmentally selected the counties based on the amount of forensic laboratory fees received by FSD.

To accomplish our second objective, we obtained an understanding of the DNA law and FSD's internal control structure related to DNA profiling. We analyzed the overall DNA process as implemented by the State, activities and responsibilities of applicable agencies, and documentation related to these activities. We contacted five sheriff departments to evaluate their process and recordkeeping related to DNA profiling. We also contacted and obtained documentation from 19 State correctional facilities related to the DNA profiling process and specific prisoner records related to DNA samples.

Agency Responses and Prior Audit Follow-Up

Our audit report includes 3 findings and 4 corresponding recommendations. The agency preliminary response indicated that the Department agrees with all 4 recommendations.

The agency preliminary response which follows each recommendation in our report was taken from the agency's written comments and oral discussion subsequent to our audit fieldwork. Section 18.1462 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* and Department of Management and Budget Administrative Guide procedure 1280.02 require the Michigan Department of State Police to develop a formal response to our audit findings and recommendations within 60 days after release of the audit report.

We did not repeat any of the three recommendations included in the prior audit report.

* See glossary on page 23 for definition.

COMMENTS, FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND AGENCY PRELIMINARY RESPONSES

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICES

COMMENT

Background: Seven laboratories across the State provide forensic science services related to narcotics, toxicology, latent prints, serology, firearms/toolmarks, polygraph, trace evidence, questioned documents, and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Results from a 1996 graduate thesis survey of individuals who utilize Forensic Science Division (FSD) services indicated that FSD services are very important to the criminal justice effort.

State statute provides for a \$150 forensic laboratory fee assessment for convictions when a forensic laboratory was used. Also, for all criminal sexual conduct (CSC) convictions, whether a forensic laboratory provided services or not, the courts are required to assess the \$150 fee. CSC cases are generally adjudicated in circuit courts.

Audit Objective: To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of FSD in providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies.

Conclusion: We concluded that FSD was generally effective and efficient in providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies. However, we noted one material condition. Substantial amounts of forensic laboratory fees were not assessed and submitted to FSD as required.

Noteworthy Accomplishments: FSD has continuously maintained American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) accreditation since first obtaining it in 1984. FSD's ASCLD/LAB accreditation was most recently renewed in April 1996. This accreditation is fundamental in ensuring the credibility of forensic science services.

FINDING

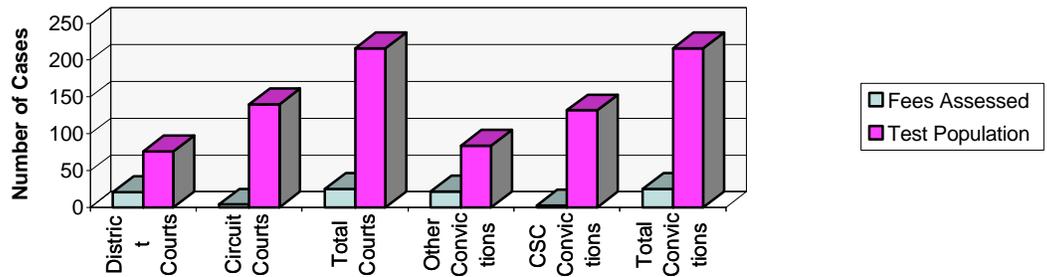
1. Forensic Laboratory Fees

Substantial amounts of forensic laboratory fees were not assessed and submitted to FSD as required.

Section 12.206 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* requires courts to assess a \$150 fee to each person convicted of one or more crimes if (a) the forensic laboratory has conducted a forensic test in the investigation of the case or (b) the person is convicted of a CSC offense. These fees can be waived by the court if the offender is unable to pay.

We visited 5 district and 4 circuit courts, in four counties, to review records related to convictions where the FSD laboratory was used and CSC convictions to determine if forensic laboratory fees were being assessed as required. Our tests disclosed that the required \$150 fee was not assessed in 191 (88%) of the 216 instances in which the fee should have been assessed. Only 1 of the 9 courts visited regularly assessed the fee.

Forensic Laboratory Fee Assessments



	Number of Cases			Number of Cases	
	Fees Assessed	Test Population		Fees Assessed	Test Population
District Courts	21	76	Other Convictions Requiring Fees	22	84
Circuit Courts	4	140	CSC Convictions	3	132
Total Courts	25	216	Total Convictions	25	216

The investigating officer is responsible for notifying the prosecuting attorney if a forensic laboratory has provided services. The prosecuting attorney is to notify the court of these services so that the appropriate fee is assessed upon conviction.

FSD developed a notification of forensic examination form to notify the prosecuting attorney that the forensic laboratory conducted a test and that the applicable fee needs to be assessed upon conviction. This form is completed by FSD personnel and forwarded, along with the test results, to the investigating officer.

Our review disclosed that the notification form does not provide sufficient information related to the amount of the forensic laboratory fee or the circumstances when a fee should be assessed as outlined in Section 12.206 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws*. Also, our review of court files disclosed that the notification forms were not forwarded to the courts.

FSD received approximately \$336,500 in forensic laboratory fee revenue in fiscal year 1996-97 for calendar year 1996 collections. However, this amount would be significantly higher if fees were assessed as required.

FSD activities are primarily funded by the State's General Fund. However, this fee revenue was intended to help support the profiling of DNA samples. It costs approximately \$125 to \$175 to process a DNA sample. FSD had received 7,733 DNA samples as of November 13, 1997. Thus, it would cost approximately \$967,000 to \$1,353,000 to process these samples.

Improved coordination and communication between entities related to the forensic laboratory fee requirement could result in increased funding to FSD. Courts are an important part of the forensic laboratory fee process. The State Court Administrator's Office supervises and examines the administration of the courts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that FSD work with the State Court Administrator's Office and the courts to ensure that forensic laboratory fees are assessed and submitted as required.

We also recommend that FSD reevaluate the forensic services notification process.

AGENCY PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

The Department agrees with the first recommendation. FSD will continue to work with the State Court Administrator's Office, courts, prosecutors, and enforcement agencies to ensure that legislated fees are assessed and collected.

The Department also agrees with the second recommendation. FSD will evaluate the process in addition to revising the notification form to include additional information.

EFFECTIVENESS OF DNA PROFILING SYSTEM

COMMENT

Background: At the time of our audit, only FSD's DNA unit in East Lansing provided DNA services. As of December 1997, this unit had 11 staff. However, staff time is prioritized so that DNA profiling related to active criminal cases is completed before DNA profiling of convicted individuals.

State statute requires persons convicted on or after September 1, 1994 and persons released on parole on or after September 1, 1994 of CSC crimes to provide a sample for DNA profiling. The investigating law enforcement agency is responsible for sample collections within 45 days of conviction. The institution of incarceration is responsible for sample collection upon parole if a sample has not already been obtained. Samples are forwarded to FSD for DNA profiling and input into a national DNA data base. DNA information in the national data base is intended to aid law enforcement agencies in the investigation of future crimes. Act 508, P.A. 1996, effective January 9, 1997, expanded the DNA profiling law to include individuals released and paroled, juveniles, and individuals convicted of murder and kidnapping.

As of November 13, 1997, FSD had received 7,733 samples from convicted individuals for DNA profiling. Only 1,088 of these samples had been profiled. Profiles are to be

electronically stored in the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which was expected to be fully implemented by January 1998.

Audit Objective: To assess the effectiveness of the State's DNA profiling system.

Conclusion: We concluded that the State's DNA profiling system was not effective. We noted two material conditions. The DNA profiling program was not effective because samples frequently were not collected and submitted to FSD for profiling. Also, the DNA data base had not been developed and implemented.

Noteworthy Accomplishments: FSD is participating in a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) DNA research project. FSD is one of a select number of laboratories from around the country and Canada performing experiments to validate a new DNA profiling technique for use in the CODIS.

FINDING

2. **Submission of DNA Samples**

The DNA profiling program was not effective because samples frequently were not collected and submitted to FSD for profiling.

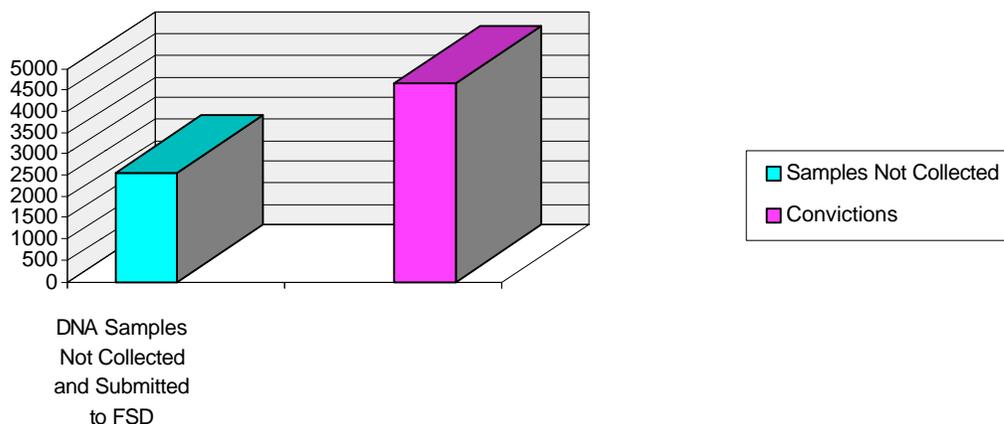
Michigan Administrative Code R 28.5053 requires investigating law enforcement agencies to collect and submit samples for DNA profiling within 45 days of conviction. The institution of incarceration is responsible for sample collection upon parole if a sample has not already been obtained.

We contacted 19 State correctional facilities and five sheriff departments to obtain data related to individuals convicted of CSC crimes who were incarcerated in their facilities to determine if the required DNA samples were submitted.

Data obtained from the Department of Corrections disclosed that there were 4,676 individuals convicted of crimes that required samples between September 1, 1994 and December 31, 1996. A comparison of these convicted individuals and FSD records related to individuals for whom DNA samples had been submitted disclosed that there were 2,574 individuals for whom DNA samples had not been collected and submitted to FSD as required. Also, we identified 428 instances in which multiple samples had been submitted to FSD.

We tested records for a sample of the individuals incarcerated in State correctional facilities whom the comparison identified as lacking submitted samples and determined that samples were obtained and had been submitted to FSD for 7 (27%) of the 26 individuals tested. FSD records did not reflect these submissions.

DNA Samples for CSC Convictions



Individuals convicted of CSC crimes	4,676
CSC offenders for whom DNA samples were not collected and submitted to FSD	2,574

Our survey of sheriff departments determined that they do not routinely maintain information related to individuals convicted of CSC crimes incarcerated in their facilities. However, 1 of the 5 sheriff departments contacted was able to provide us with a list of individuals convicted of CSC crimes who had served their sentence at that facility. A comparison of this information to FSD records related to DNA submissions disclosed that DNA samples were not submitted for any of the 18 individuals incarcerated at this facility. Also, FSD records related to DNA submissions indicated that 3 (60%) of the 5 sheriff departments contacted had never submitted DNA samples. In addition, FSD's DNA records showed that 40 (48%) of the 83 county sheriff departments in Michigan had never submitted any DNA samples.

In contrast, we tested a sample of parolees and determined that DNA samples were not submitted for only 1 (2%) of 49 persons paroled from a State correctional facility. Based on the results of testing records for parolees, it appears that the Department of Corrections is making a significant effort to ensure that individuals are sampled prior to parole.

Failure to obtain and catalogue DNA samples significantly reduces the effectiveness of what should be a key tool for helping law enforcement agencies identify repeat offenders on a timely basis.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that FSD work with applicable entities to increase compliance with DNA reporting and profiling requirements.

AGENCY PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. FSD will continue to work with affected entities to ensure increased compliance with the provisions of the DNA profiling legislation.

FINDING

3. Profiling of DNA Samples

The DNA data base had not been developed and implemented.

Sections 28.171 - 28.176 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* (the DNA Identification Profiling System Act, being Act 250, P.A. 1990) provide for the collection of DNA samples from certain convicted individuals. However, the original act required the appropriation of State funds before the law would take effect. In 1994, FSD requested that the law be amended to remove this requirement because appropriations had not been provided. Sample collections started as of September 1, 1994. These samples are to be inputted into a national data base for use in the investigation of future crimes.

As of November 13, 1997, FSD had received 7,733 DNA samples for convicted individuals over the last three years. However, only 1,088 of the samples had been profiled. Profiling the samples consists of performing lengthy tests and

analysis on the samples to extract the DNA molecules in a form that will be compatible with CODIS.

FSD informed us that it has not been profiling the DNA samples on a timely basis because it is awaiting the results of the FBI study related to DNA profiling techniques. Upon implementation of these techniques, FSD anticipates that it will be able to profile about 200 DNA samples a week. Thus, the current backlog, not considering future DNA sample submissions and additional submissions because of the increase in types of crimes requiring DNA samples, would be resolved in approximately 33 weeks.

Untimely profiling of DNA samples could result in untimely identification and apprehension of repeat offenders in future crimes. In mid-January 1998, subsequent to our audit fieldwork, results of the FBI study were announced.

RECOMMENDATION

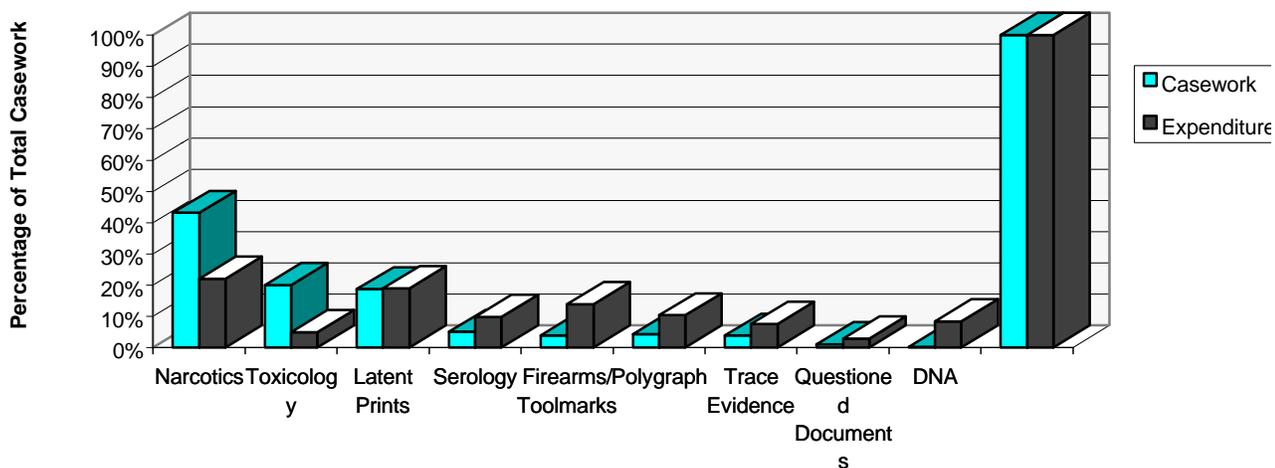
We recommend that FSD expedite the development and implementation of the DNA data base.

AGENCY PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. FSD informed us that it has developed a plan to expedite the development and implementation of the DNA data base. The plan focuses on emerging technology now available to the forensic community. Plan progress includes current validation efforts by the East Lansing DNA laboratory of profiling techniques announced by the FBI, evaluation of available robotics equipment, upgrades to the CODIS computer system and related software, a new DNA facility at the Northville laboratory, and the scheduled addition of a DNA facility at the Grand Rapids laboratory in January 1999.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
 Forensic Science Division
 Total Completed Casework and Operating Expenditures per Functional Area
 For Fiscal Year 1995-96



	<u>Completed Casework</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>	<u>Operating Expenditures</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Narcotics	25,077	43%	\$ 2,341,809	22%
Toxicology	11,600	20%	584,476	5%
Latent Prints	10,863	19%	2,028,179	19%
Serology	2,943	5%	1,053,084	10%
Firearms/Toolmarks	2,238	4%	1,478,065	14%
Polygraph	2,565	4%	1,101,450	10%
Trace Evidence	2,223	4%	814,068	8%
Questioned Documents	520	1%	352,902	3%
DNA	114	0%	896,952	8%
Total	<u>58,143</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$10,650,985 *</u>	<u>100%</u>

* Total operating expenditures exclude amounts for administration, training, and health and safety.

Source: Forensic Science Division.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
Forensic Science Division
Total Completed Casework and Operating Expenditures per Laboratory
For Fiscal Year 1995-96

	<u>Completed Casework</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>	<u>Operating Expenditures</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Bridgeport	6,720	12%	\$ 1,889,262	15%
East Lansing	19,551	34%	3,449,334	27%
Grand Rapids	8,820	15%	1,941,928	15%
Grayling	4,075	7%	822,220	6%
Marquette	2,163	4%	774,742	6%
Northville	8,360	14%	2,062,150	16%
Sterling Heights	8,454	15%	1,851,398	14%
Total	<u>58,143</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 12,791,034</u> *	<u>100%</u>

* Total operating expenditures exclude division expenditures.

Source: Forensic Science Division.

Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)	ASCLD/LAB is responsible for accreditation of crime laboratories which demonstrate that their management, operations, personnel, procedures, equipment, physical plant, security, and health and safety procedures meet established standards.
case	Each instance in which law enforcement agencies submit evidence to be tested.
Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)	A national computer-based system of storing and comparing DNA records.
CSC	criminal sexual conduct.
deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)	A component of human body cells.
DNA profiles	Patterns of fragments of DNA used both to identify individuals and to study the relatedness of individuals.
effectiveness	Program success in achieving mission and goals.
efficiency	Achieving the most outputs and outcomes practical for the amount of resources applied or minimizing the amount of resources required to attain certain level of outputs or outcomes.
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation.
firearms/toolmarks	Examination and comparison of evidence resulting from discharge and/or use of firearms; comparison of marks made by various tools.

forensic laboratory	A laboratory which employs one or more full-time scientists whose principal function is the examination of physical evidence for law enforcement agencies in criminal matters and who provide opinion testimony with respect to such physical evidence to the criminal justice system.
FSD	Forensic Science Division.
functional area	A major area of casework for which a laboratory may seek accreditation.
internal control structure	The management control environment, management information system, and control policies and procedures established by management to provide reasonable assurance that goals are met; that resources are used in compliance with laws and regulations; and that valid and reliable performance related information is obtained and reported.
investigating law enforcement agency	The law enforcement agency responsible for the investigation of the offense for which the person is convicted.
latent prints	Comparison of latent print impressions regardless of method of development.
material condition	A serious reportable condition which could impair the ability of management to operate a program in an effective and efficient manner and/or could adversely affect the opinion of an interested person concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of the program.
Mission	The agency's main purpose or the reason the agency was established.
performance audit	An economy and efficiency audit or a program audit that is designed to provide an independent assessment of the performance of a governmental entity, program, activity, or

function to improve public accountability and to facilitate decision making by parties responsible for overseeing or initiating corrective action.

polygraph	An instrument that simultaneously records changes in such physiological processes as heart beat, blood pressure, and respiration; often referred to as a "lie detector".
proficiency testing	Testing to evaluate the competence of analysts and the quality performance of a laboratory.
questioned documents	Examination of any type of printed, typed or written material for the purpose of identifying the source, determining alterations or other means of gaining information about the item or the circumstances surrounding its production.
reportable condition	A matter coming to the auditor's attention that, in his/her judgment, should be communicated because it represents either an opportunity for improvement or a significant deficiency in management's ability to operate a program in an effective and efficient manner.
sample	A portion of an individual's blood, saliva, or tissue collected from the individual.
serology	The identification and/or comparison of genetic markers in body fluids (or stains) with those from "known" and/or "questioned" samples.
toxicology	Analysis of biological samples for the presence of drugs and other potentially toxic materials (i.e., alcohol in blood).
trace evidence	Any analytical procedure utilizing either chemical or instrumental techniques not specifically covered in other functional areas, including but not limited to fire debris, paint, glass, hair, fibers and other varieties of trace evidence.

