



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**DFS**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
FORENSIC SCIENCES**

Forensic Science Laboratory | Public Health Laboratory | Crime Scene Sciences

**Fiscal Year 2019**  
**Performance Oversight Hearing**  
Before the  
Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety  
Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Charles Allen, Chairperson

February 6, 2020

# FY 2019

## APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

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Description	FY2019
Budget	\$28,041,000
FTEs	218.2



Budget Component	Funding	FTEs
Local	\$26,101,000	207
Federal	460,000	5
Intra-District	1,480,000	6.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,041,000</b>	<b>218.25</b>



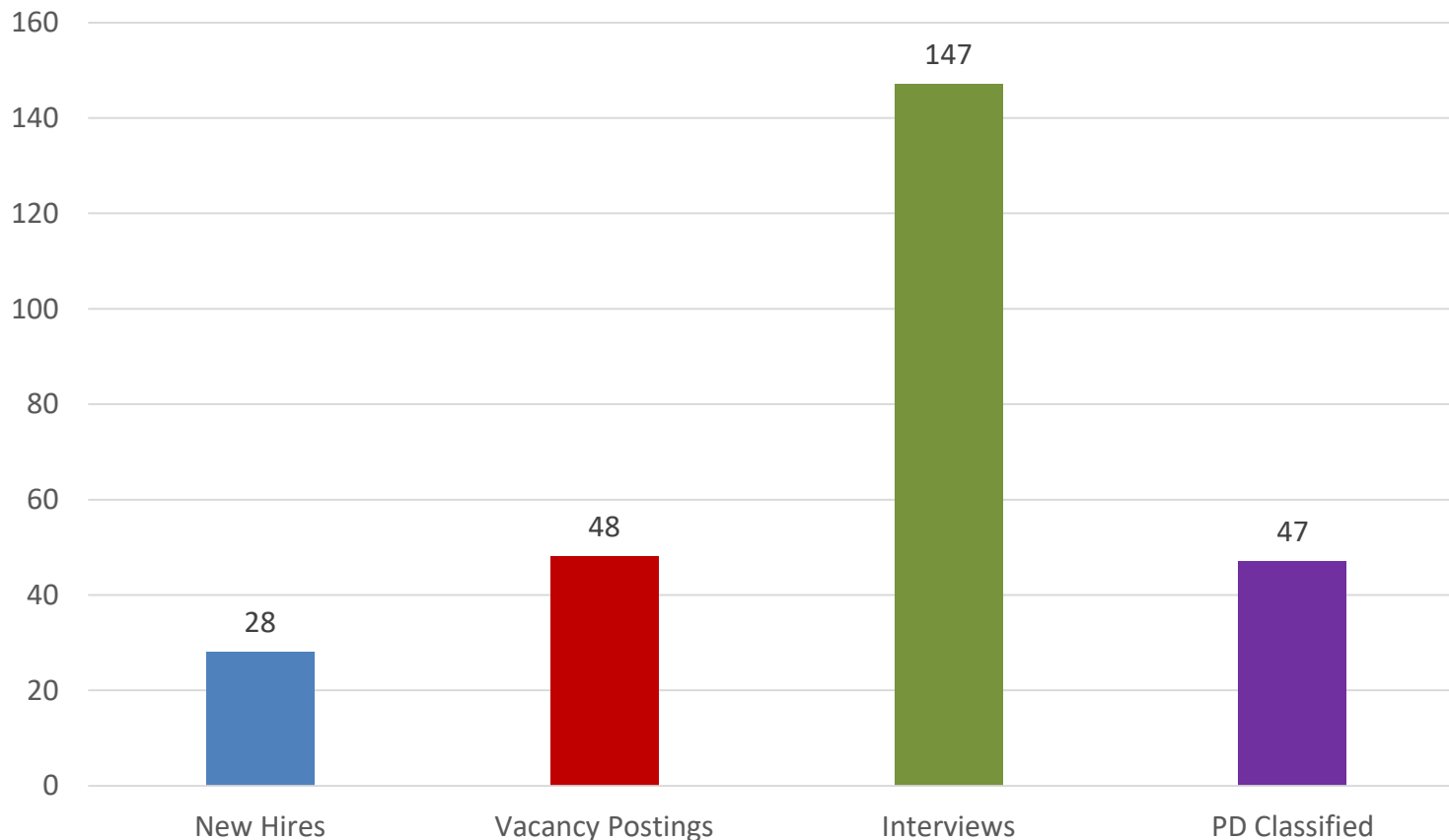
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# DFS FY19 HIRING

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Total interview hours = 441



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# FSL & PHL QUALITY

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## Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)

- Reaccreditation ISO/IEC 17025:2017
  - Firearms Examination Unit (FEU)
  - Latent Fingerprint Unit (LFU)
  - Forensic Biology Unit (FBU)
  - Digital Evidence Unit (DEU)
- Scope extension within LFU - Friction Ridge Enhancement
  - Transition from pre-assessment to scope extension in Friction Ridge Enhancement
  - No findings
- FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Testing: FBU Compliance
  - No findings of non-conformity 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row

## Public Health Laboratory (PHL)

- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA): Certification
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT): Certification

# CRIME SCENE SCIENCES

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# CRIME SCENE SCIENCES (CSS)

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Measure	FY17	FY18	FY19
Number of evidence items received (CEU)	88,683	74,360	77,253
Number of crime scene service requests (CSSU)	7,844	9,227	9,069

- CSSU processed **6,541** crime scenes – nearly 700 more than last year – with the same personpower
- In FY19, CEU received **77,253** pieces of evidence, a **3.9%** increase over FY18 totals



# CRIME SCENE SCIENCES (CSS)

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Assisted MPD to render **13,856** firearms safe from old cases in the Evidence Control Branch

Evidence backlog projects - over 10,000 items transferred



# FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY

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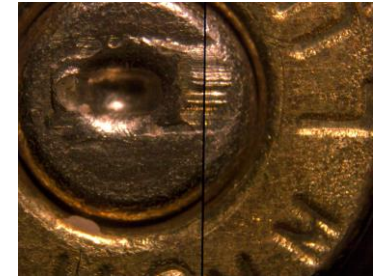
Forensic Biology Unit



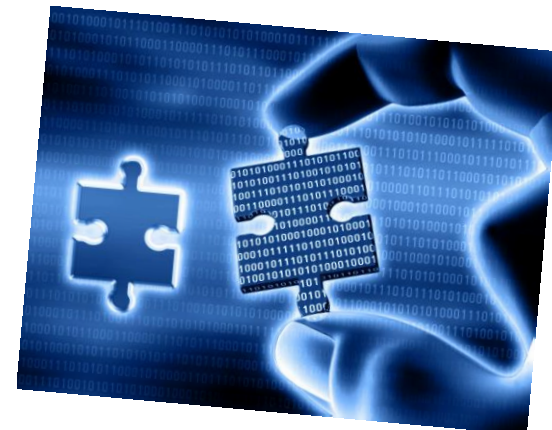
Latent Fingerprint Unit



Forensic Intelligence Unit



Firearms Examination Unit



Digital Evidence Unit



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# FY19 FSL

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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KPI	Program Responsible	FY19 Q1	FY19 Q2	FY19 Q3	FY19 Q4	Target
Percentage of <u>priority cases</u> as designated by the contributor and marked in LIMS completed within 60 days from the date the analyst was assigned the case	FSL - <b>FBU</b>	98%	99%	100%	100%	90%
	FSL - <b>DEU</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
	FSL - <b>FEU</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
	FSL - <b>LFU</b>	100%	97%	100%	100%	90%
Percentage of <u>homicide cases</u> completed within 60 days from the date the analyst was assigned the case	FSL - <b>FBU</b>	100%	100%	96%	100%	90%
	FSL - <b>DEU</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
	FSL - <b>FEU</b>	98%	96%	98%	98%	90%
	FSL - <b>LFU</b>	100%	98%	98%	100%	90%

# DIGITAL EVIDENCE UNIT (DEU)

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DEU **nearly doubled its caseload** in FY19

Year	Caseload	TAT
2017	394	4.59
2018	636	5.2
2019	1,147	2.28

DEU purchased new digital storage:

- Dell Isilon system added 148 TB of storage
- Digital storage will continue to be a need that must be met as more systems come online and HIPPA & BioWatch requirements do not permit cloud storage

# NEW DIGITAL CAPABILITIES

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DEU acquired the capability to unlock iPhones and Androids

iPhones Received	iPhones Unlocked	iPhones Processing
482	322	166

Expansion of Crash Data Recovery Technology allowing DEU to extract event data such as the speed during impact, deployment of seatbelts, and navigation, in addition to the existing capabilities of infotainment and telematics information.



# FIREARMS EXAMINATION UNIT (FEU)

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- Completed 980 cases with an average turnaround time of 37 days
- Average backlog of 253 cases in FY19 from 701 in FY18
- Conducted 2,229 test fires of weapons received

In FY19, FEU recruited two firearms examiners and a supervisor.

In FY20, FEU will validate the Evofinder Automated Ballistic Identification system to use as a virtual comparison microscope. This system is a scanning device that generates 3D images of bullets and cartridge cases used for comparison purposes.



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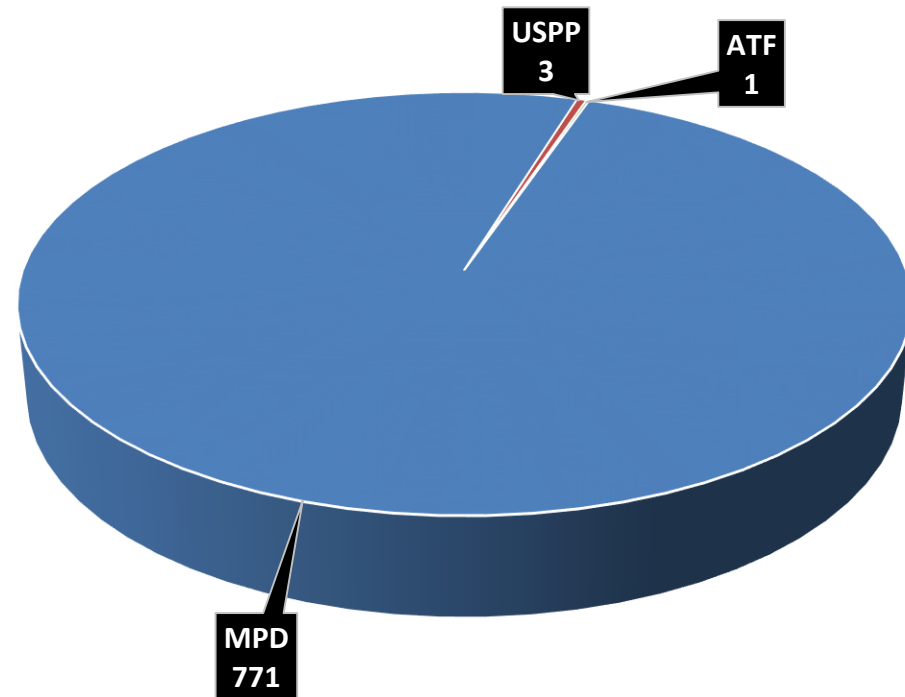


# FORENSIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT (FIU)

## FY19 NIBIN IMPACT

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Agency	Hits
MPD	771
USPP	3
ATF	1
Total	775



More than **97%** of the hits linked Agencies Cases (MPD, USPP and ATF) to each others (755 hits)

Less than **3%** of hits link Agencies Cases (MPD, USPP and ATF) to Other Jurisdictions Cases (20 hits) (Montgomery County, PG County, and US Park Police)



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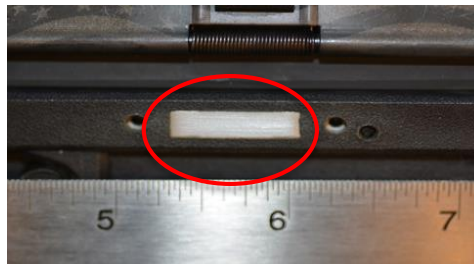
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# GHOST GUNS

FEU has seen a spike in Ghost Guns used in crimes

<b>2019</b>	<b>116</b>
2018	25
2017	3
Jan 1 – Feb 5, 2020	22



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# GHOST GUNS

## Most Common Offenses involving Ghost Guns:

- Carrying a Pistol Without a License
- Possession with Intent to Distribute
- Unregistered Firearms
- Used in **three homicides**



### Jan 2019: DFS issued Officer Awareness Bulletin

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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
THREAT INTELLIGENCE CONSORTIUM  
Officer Awareness Bulletin

January 11, 2019  
Product No. 2019-01-017  
ISSUE: 2019-01-01

(U//FOUO) Ghost Guns Identified in the District

(U) Scope  
(U//FOUO) The National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium and the District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) Forensic Intelligence Unit (FIU) have created this bulletin to inform law enforcement in the National Capital Region (NCR) of an increase in identified ghost guns in the District. The findings in this bulletin have been confirmed by laboratory testing, information sharing with other fusion centers, and open source research.

(U) Summary  
(U//FOUO) From January 2019 through November 2018, DFS's Firearms Examination Unit (FEU) has received and processed 21 ghost guns in the District, an increase from only three located in 2017. Ghost guns analyzed by FEU were involved in a diverse set of offenses, however the majority stem from two categories: Carrying a Pistol without a License (CPWL) and Possession with Intent to Distribute (PWID) – a drug related offense. Additionally, FEU determined the caliber of the ghost guns identified to be five separate "Firearm Calibers".

(U//FOUO) Ghost Guns are defined as firearms created outside a licensed manufacturer that lack serial numbers or other registration identifiers. Typically ghost guns begin with an unfinished receiver. Using further unmarked parts, the resulting completed firearm is not federally mandated to be registered and thus difficult for law enforcement to trace. The acquisition and accessibility of receivers and subsequent components has become relatively simple through online marketplaces. Some components can even be created using a 3-D printer. Various states, as well as the District, have begun to implement laws in an attempt to regulate ghost guns but their legality remains largely undefined throughout the country.

(U) Implications  
(U//FOUO) Officers should be aware of the presence of these ghost guns in the District. DC law requires that all firearms must be registered, and possession illegal.<sup>1</sup> Legislation in the District may deter individuals from possessing or creating ghost guns, however it is likely that law enforcement and DFS will continue to identify these weapons throughout 2019.

<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. 6202 (b) (1) (A) (i) (I) (U//FOUO) Ghost Gun Prohibition Emergency Amendment Act of 2018, September 17, 2018, Government of the District of Columbia, Retrieved on January 6, 2019. <https://www.dcregistry.org/legislation/2018-09-17-ghost-gun-prohibition-emergency-amendment-act-of-2018>

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(U) Firearm Calibers

Caliber	Percentage
308 Win	20%
300 Blackout	20%
300 Rem	20%
300 Win	20%
300 Rem	20%



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# FSL DIVISION INITIATIVE

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DFS and Trinity University established an Educational Partnership to incorporate DFS led Forensic Pattern Recognition (latent fingerprints and firearms examination) courses into Trinity's Forensic Science Program. The course will include a "hands on" apprenticeship opportunity at DFS for Trinity students.



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# LATENT FINGERPRINT UNIT (LFU)

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Completed **2,724** cases with an average TAT of **13** days

- Homicides and Priority Cases: 97% within 60 days
- LFU has no current backlog

LFU Evidence Processing completed **2016** cases with an average TAT of **9** days.

Mideo LatentWorks Implementation:

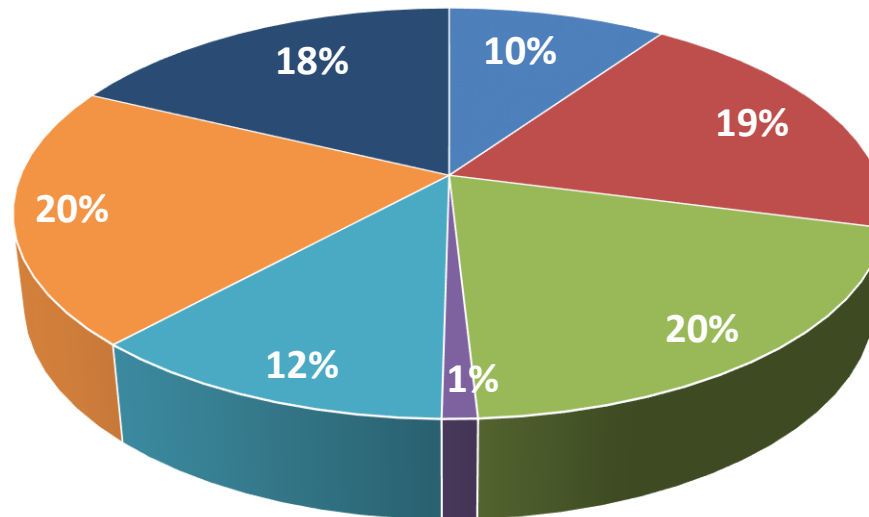
- Successful transition of current image management (DCS4 and DIMS) to Mideo
- Incorporation in training program
- Use of GYRO in LOV and identification cases
- Customer training/notification

# FORENSIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT (FIU)

## FY19 AFIS IMPACT

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FY19 AFIS Identifications by Offense Type



- Death (HO/DI/10-50 F)
- Assaults (AWIK/ADW/10-50 Hit and Run/Injury)
- Property Crimes (BI, BII, UE, DOP, Thefts, SOG)
- Sexual Assaults, Kidnapping
- Firearm Possession (CPWL, FIP, UF/UA)
- Carjacking (RSA I/L,UUV)
- Robberies (Uttering)

Of LFU's **1,087** latent identifications, **67%** had a criminal justice impact leading to an arrest, confirming identification or providing an investigative lead



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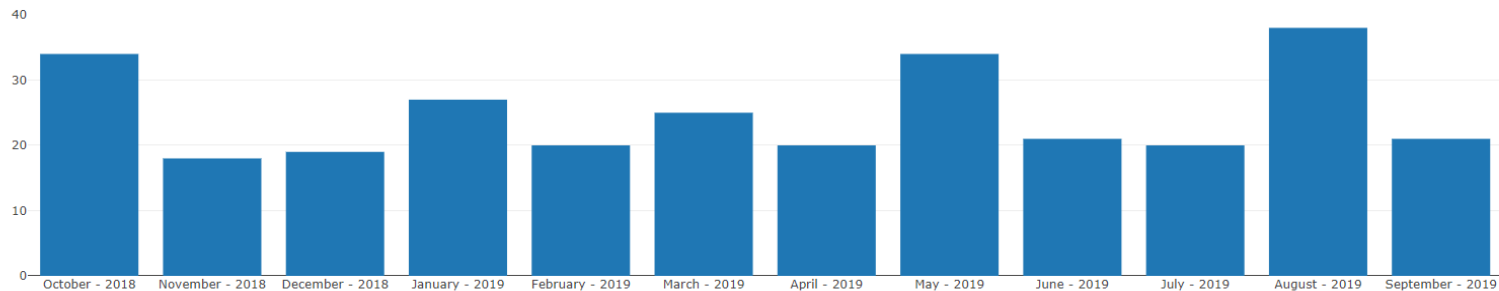
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# FORENSIC BIOLOGY UNIT (FBU)

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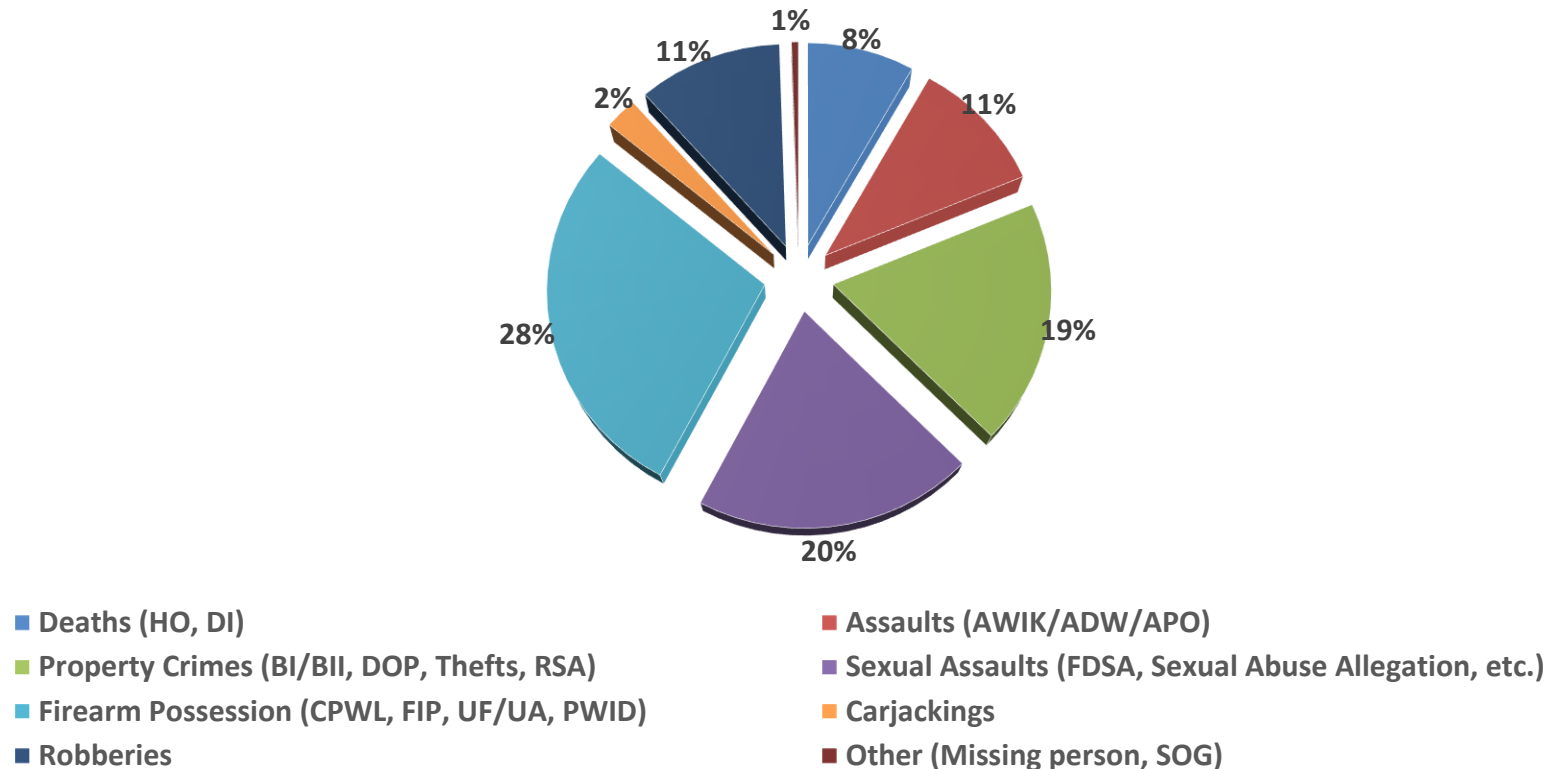
FBU received **294** Sexual Assault Kits for testing with an average turnaround time was **73** days



- All testing on sexual assault kits was completed within 90 days outlined in the Sexual Assault Victim's Rights Amendment Act (SAVRAA), with the exception of four kits due to judicial delays associated with Permission to Consume
- FBU has no current backlog

# FORENSIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT (FIU) FY19 CODIS IMPACT

## FY19 CODIS Hits/Matches by Offense (560)



Of **560** CODIS Hits/Matches, almost **95%** had a criminal justice impact by leading to an arrest or providing an investigative lead.



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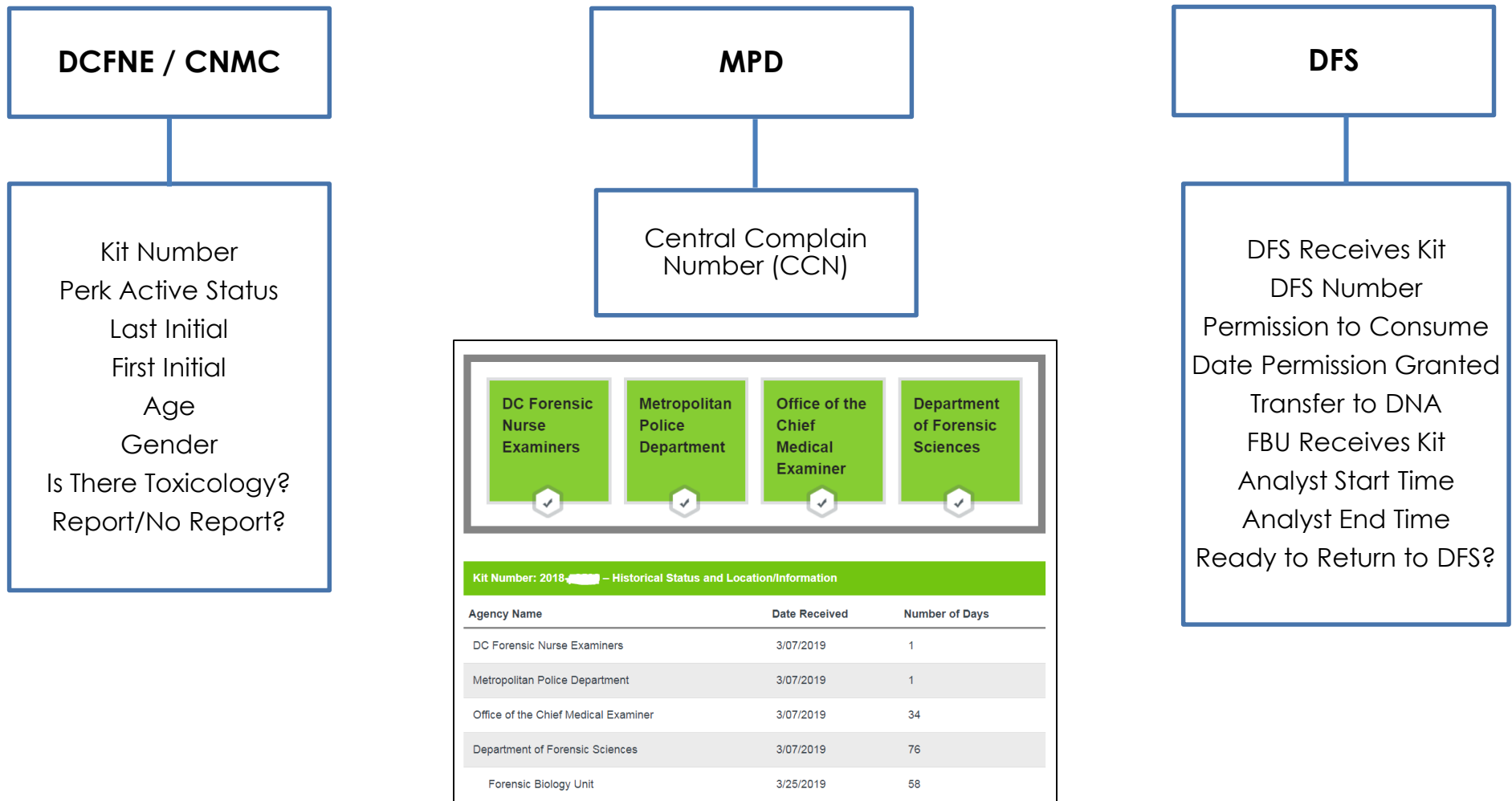
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# PERK TRACKING DATABASE

Allows survivors to track their sexual assault kit



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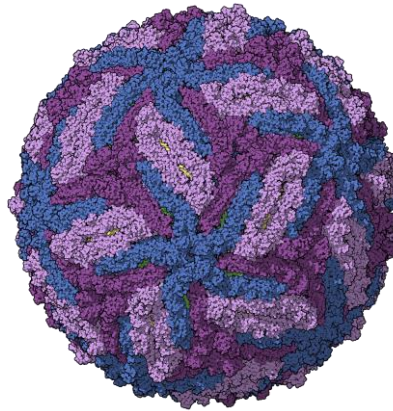
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# PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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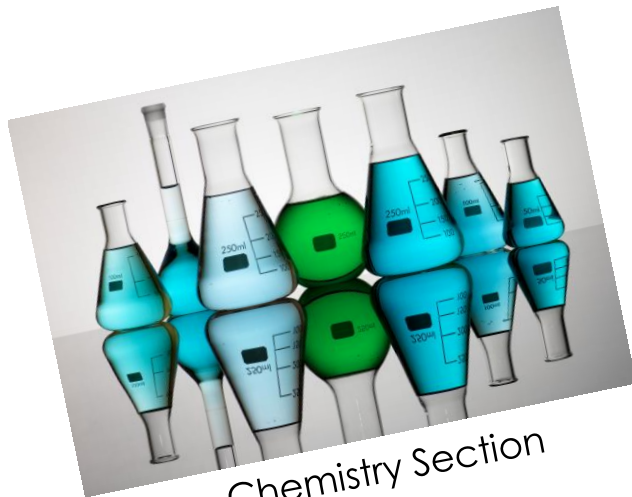
Microbiology Unit



Immunology & Virology Unit



Tier 1 BT Lab and Tier 2 CT Lab



Chemistry Section



Molecular Diagnostics Unit



Accessioning Unit

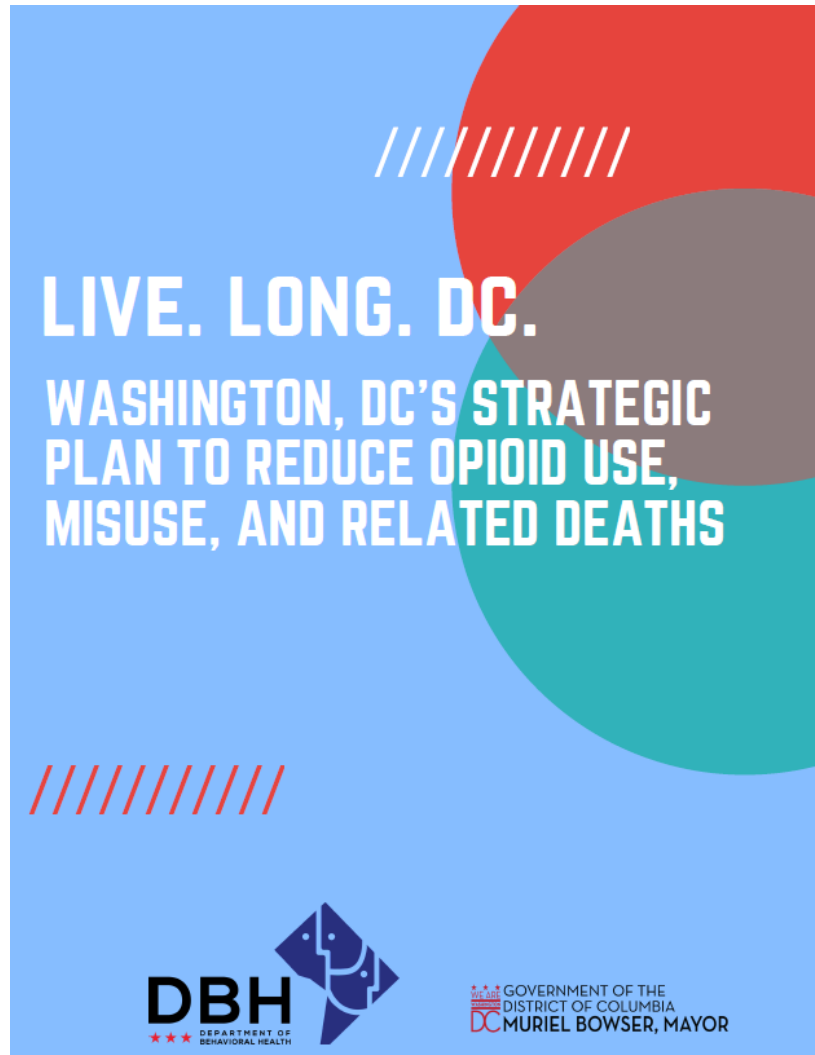


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# LIVE LONG DC



- DFS has been involved in DC's Strategic Plan to Reduce Opioid Use, Misuse, and Related Deaths
- Placing our controlled substances testing in the PHL allow our Forensic Chemistry Unit (FCU) to conduct surveillance of all suspected opioids submitted to DFS to determine the composition of illicit drugs
- FCU can determine:
  - Presence and prevalence of drugs of interest
  - New synthetic opioids
  - Distribution patterns



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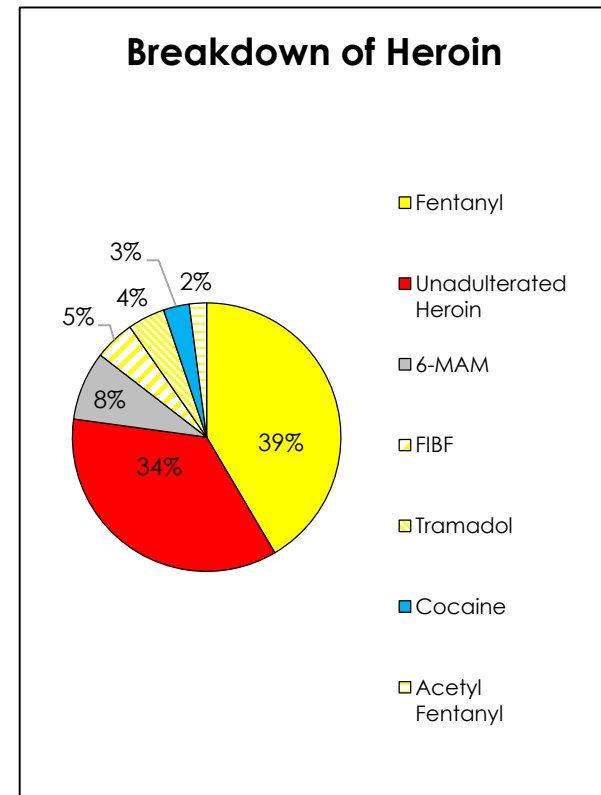
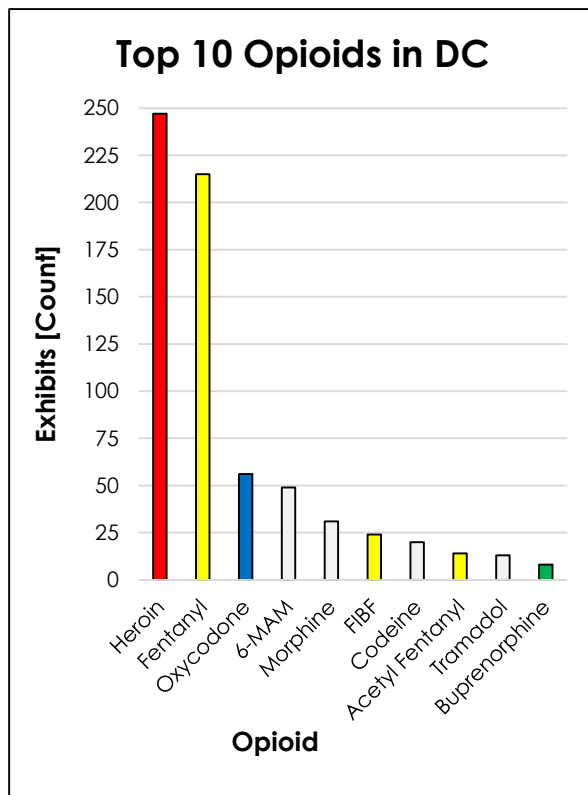
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# DRUG SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

## SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

Synthetic Opioid monitoring began at peak of opioid fatalities (2017)

Ten new synthetic opioids have been discovered



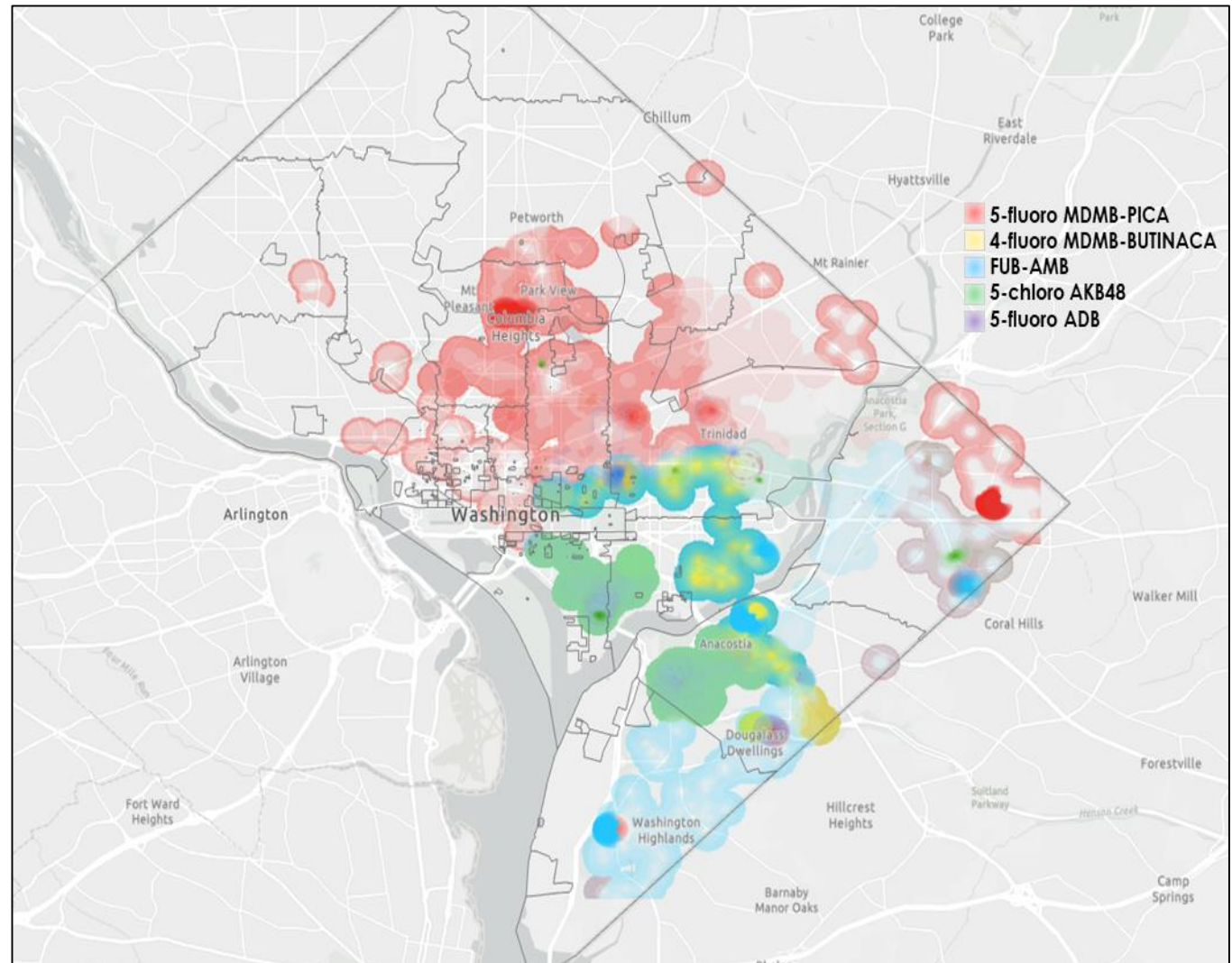
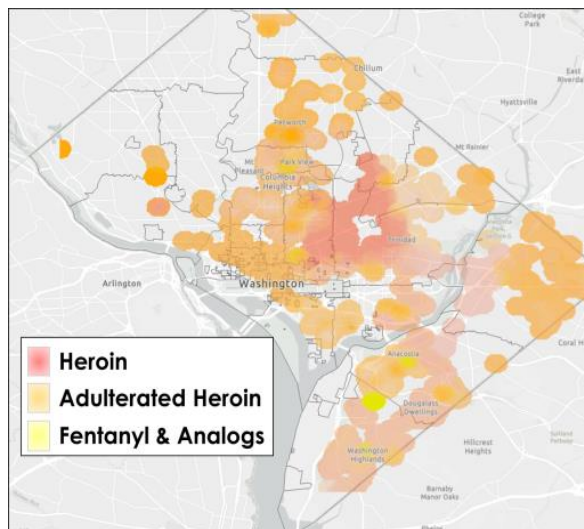
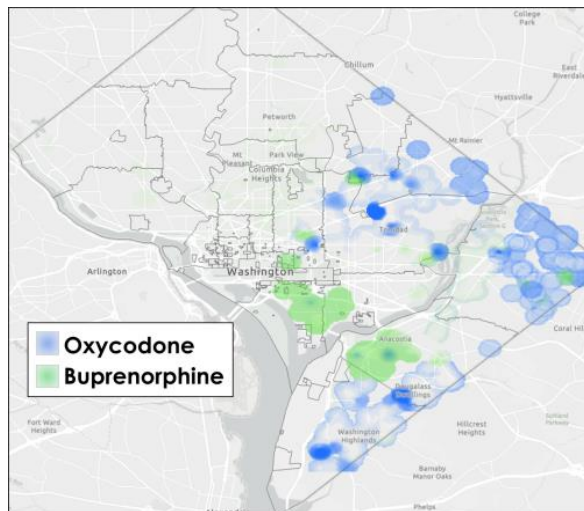
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# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



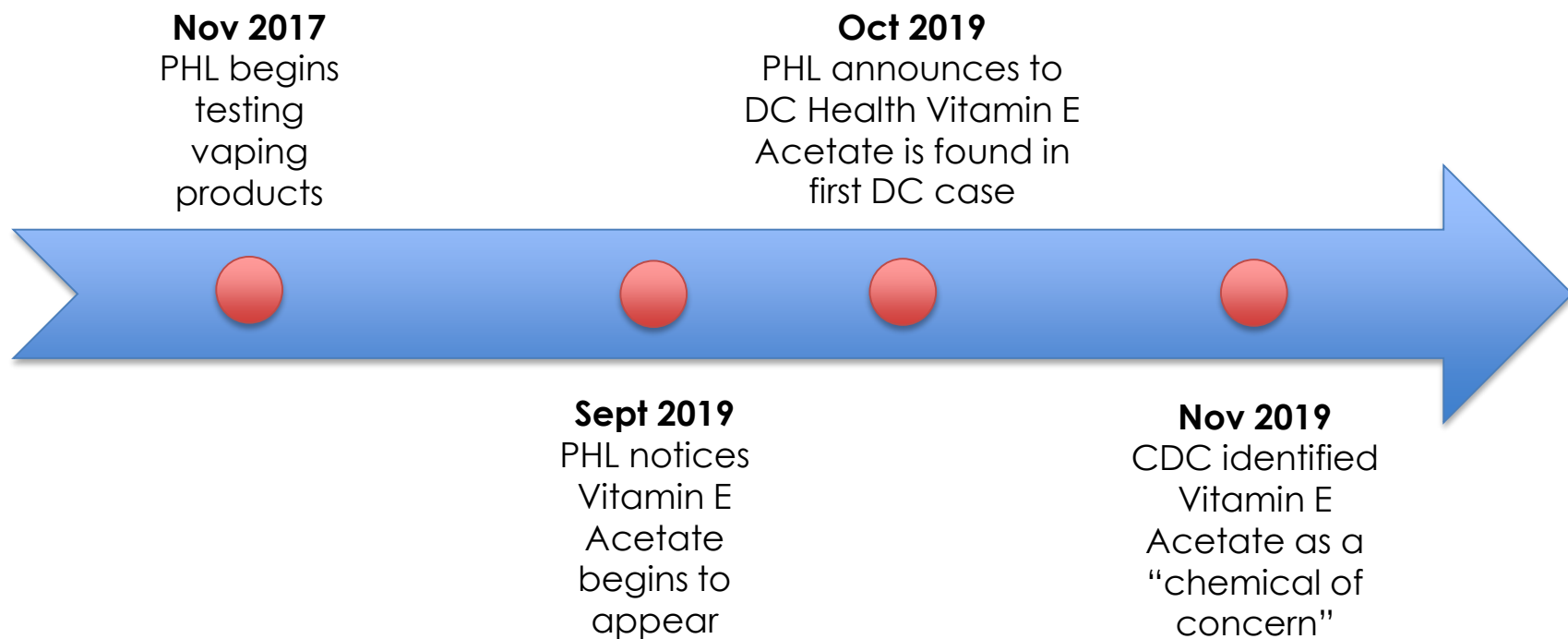
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# PHL RESPONDS TO VAPING

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DC Health submitted items from six vaping-cases to PHL:

- 5 out of 6 cases were found to contain THC
- In each of the five cases, at least one cartridge contained Vitamin E Acetate



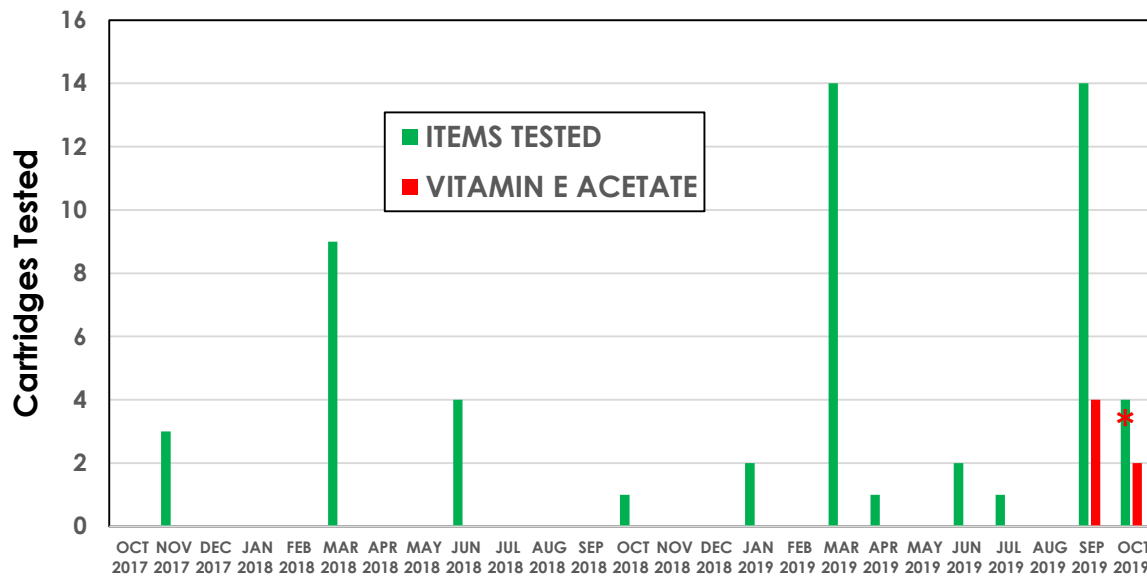
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# EMERGENCE OF VITAMIN E ACETATE

THC Cartridges Tested at DC DFS PHL



MONTH YEAR (DATE SEIZED/SUBMITTED)

YEAR	SCREENED	TESTED
2017	23	3
2018	284	14
2019	874	38



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# SUPPORTING OUTBREAKS

## **Norovirus confirmed at elementary school in DC: health officials**

Published November 22 | Health | FOX 5 DC



**WASHINGTON (FOX 5 DC)** - D.C. health officials have confirmed several cases of the Norovirus at Beauvoir — an independent, coeducational elementary school housed on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral.

### Just in...

'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker' is almost here, but a dark side looms



Hallmark pulls Zola commercial of same-sex couple after pressure from conservative group



Arizona dad accused of killing man who tried to enter teen daughter's restroom stall gets 8-year prison term



Girl chokes on zipper in Walmart pie, mom claims: 'Good thing I was trained'



5-year-old boy diagnosed with brain cancer rides off to treatment on a magical



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# NOROVIRUS IN DC SCHOOLS

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**Nov 19, 2019**

PHL alerted by DC Health of a potential Norovirus outbreak in a NW school

**Nov 22, 2019**

PHL tests additional sample from a parent that is also positive for Norovirus GII

**Dec 5, 2019**

Norovirus samples were sequenced and found to all be related to the same exposure

**Nov 20, 2019**

PHL receives 3 samples for testing and reports results to DC Health same day – positive for Norovirus GII

**Nov 25, 2019**

School decides to close due to the outbreak



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# MEASLES & MUMPS TESTING

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- **1,282** Measles cases in the US in 2019
- PHL brought online RNA based and serological based testing for Measles to identify cases in the District
- DFS can confirm a case **within 48 hours** to DC Health and drastically shortens the turnaround time for results from the CDC (typically one week)
- To date, DFS has received several requests for testing - all results were negative
- PHL also validated Mumps DNA based testing in 2019 (DC had a Mumps outbreak in 2017)



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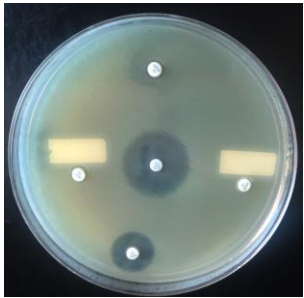
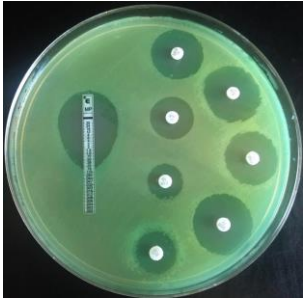
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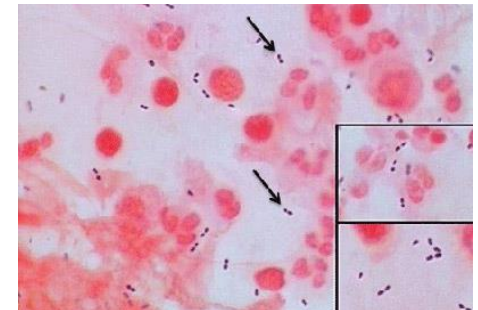


# MICROBIOLOGY UNIT

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- Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN)
  - Includes identification, susceptibility testing, phenotypic detection and genotypic characterization of carbapenemases
- Improved support to OCME
  - Testing and report within 12 days of receipt for organisms that cause meningitis
- Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Program (GISP)
  - Partnership developed with HAHSTA Health and Wellness Clinic
    - Clinic perform cultures



# INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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DFS had **46** interns during the 2018-2019 school year

McKinley Tech High School: **10** PHL Interns to date



Ranked #1 in Forensics Colleges “*Top 25 Cool Forensic Science Internships*”



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# SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## (BEGAN AS A DLP INTERN AT DFS)

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**Abdel Maliky**

- Chief Operating Officer of a non-profit organization
- Financial, Operation and Quality Auditor: ISO 9002, 17025 and 15189
- Appointed as Commissioner on African Affairs by Mayor Bowser, served as Vice-Chair
- 25 years of experience with expertise in quality management, process improvement, risk management, due diligence and actuarial projections and forecasting
- Actuarial Consultant for Fidelity Investments and advised CFOs, CIOs and HROs on financial and Operational issues
- Bachelor Degree in Mathematics, MBA and MS in Actuarial Sciences
- Quality Specialist for Public Health Laboratory
- Forensic Intelligence Manager
- Acting as Quality Manager and Training Manager since June 2019



# OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Special Projects include Peace Rally, National Forensic Science Week, Men in STEM program, Beat the Streets



## Educational Events

61

## Laboratory Tours

40



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**MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**

# THE PEOPLE'S LAB



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**DFS**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FORENSIC SCIENCES

DC Department of Forensic Sciences  
Forensic Science Laboratory | Public Health Laboratory | Crime Scene Sciences



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# RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE

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## Karen A. Wiggins Room

- First African American trained at the FBI in firearms examination
- First Woman trained at the FBI in firearms examination
- Dedicated DC Public Servant for 32 years



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# DFS MANAGEMENT TEAM

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# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVE

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- Reyarp Strategies Group interviewed 197 employees within all levels of DFS (executive team, unit managers, supervisors & staff)
- A final assessment report was provided to staff in November
- Next steps will identify & implement tools to enhance, improve, & develop skills such as:
  - a stronger communications pipeline
  - vicarious trauma counseling
  - Mid-management development
  - team building
  - conflict resolution



# THANK YOU

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The Women and Men at DFS  
Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor Donahue  
and the DC Council