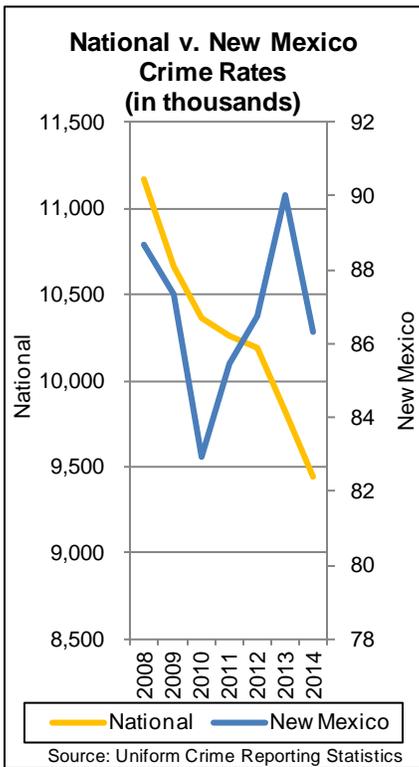




Department of Public Safety

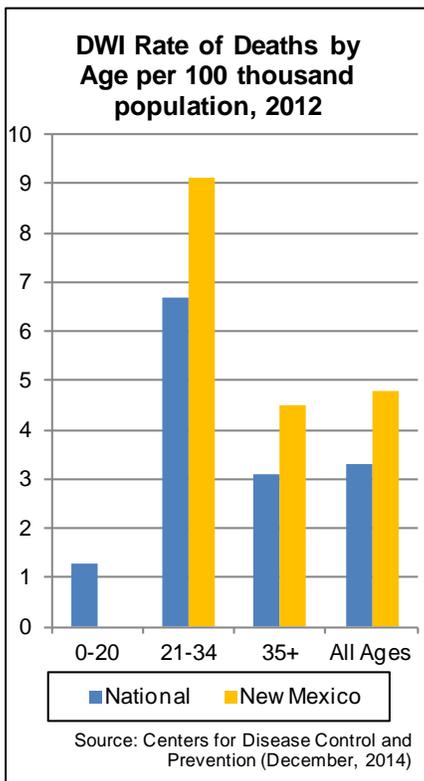


The Department of Public Safety (DPS), although not the only public safety agency in the state, has accepted the challenge of accountability for statewide public safety in recent years. To help meet the challenge, the recruitment of law enforcement officers and crime lab scientists has long been one of the top priorities for DPS. In response, the Legislature appropriated \$1.25 million during the 2016 legislative session for officer pay increases but did not fund increased pay for scientists. However, the department has taken internal initiative to improve police officer recruiting methods and has initiated compensation fixes for dispatchers and forensic scientists. After three years of the new pay plan, DPS remains the seventh highest payer in the state among competitive law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the department has committed to developing clear, explanatory performance measures to better reflect their initiatives and priorities.

The department’s goal of achieving appropriate staffing levels would help increase public safety in the state, including lowering indicators like driving-while-intoxicated (DWI) deaths. At the end of 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that New Mexico’s DWI death rates were 45 percent higher than the national average. Statistics like these spurred statewide initiatives to lower DWI death rates, efforts in which DPS plays an active role. Since 2014, New Mexico’s DWI death rate has fallen 28 percent. Measures of DWI arrests per officer are below target, but there is no definitive cause for the lower arrests.

Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement program continues to perform well, despite continuing challenges in recruiting and retaining new officers. In response, DPS changed the agency’s standard testing method to a nationally validated model and is reassessing physical training and background check practices to speed the recruitment process. All measures continue to exceed targets with the only concerns being the number of DWI arrests per patrol officer and the number of commercial motor vehicle citations issued per full-time-equivalent (FTE).



Law Enforcement		FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Rating
Budget: \$119,993.8 FTE: 1067.7							
1	DWI arrests per patrol officer (cumulative)	9	9	2	4	6	Y
2	DWI checkpoints and saturation patrols conducted (cumulative)	1,051	1,175	346	722	1,308	G
3	Traffic related enforcement projects held (cumulative)	2,542	1,700	506	1,047	1,908	G
4	Criminal investigations conducted by commissioned personnel per full-time-equivalent assigned to patrol and investigations (cumulative)	57	15	7	13	18	G
5	Drug-related investigations conducted by commissioned personnel per full-time-equivalent assigned to investigations (cumulative)	26	12	17	32	50	G



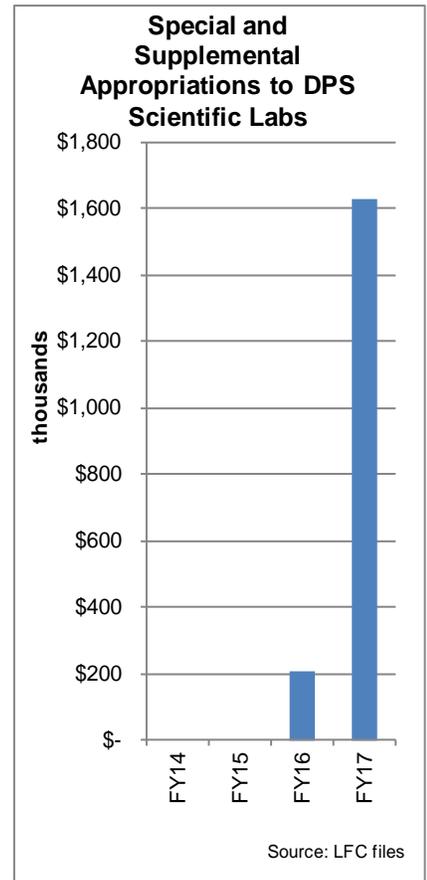
6	Commercial vehicle citations issued per filled full-time-equivalent assigned to enforcement duties (cumulative)	New	522	71	149	252	Y
7	Commercial motor vehicle safety inspections conducted per filled full-time-equivalent assigned to inspection duties (cumulative)	New	397	141	287	465	G
Program Rating		Y					G

Statewide Law Enforcement Support

As of May 1, 2016, the labs had a 16 percent vacancy rate. DPS is considering contracting with forensic scientists to assist in clearing backlogs in the latent print division. The numbers of cases received accumulate faster than staffing levels can accommodate, partially due to intense training requirements for new scientists that can take up to a year to complete. DPS received a total of 2,473 cases in the third quarter and completed 1,885, a 76 percent completion rate. Most cases have multiple samples, impacting the length of time it takes to complete a case. In recognition of these challenges, additional support for DPS labs has increased for FY17 in the past four fiscal years from no additional support to \$1.2 million in special appropriations for DNA backlogs this legislative session. Internally, DPS used \$423 thousand to provide average pay increases of 11.8 percent for dispatchers and 10 percent for forensic scientists. To help expedite cases and retain scientists, the legislature authorized the sale of \$500 thousand in severance tax bonds for the plan and design of a new evidence and records facility and crime laboratory in Santa Fe; DPS has begun planning for the use of the funds when the bonds are sold in June, 2016.

Measures reflecting the average turnaround time to issue concealed carry permits and resolve IT service requests from statewide public safety agencies are on track. Strong performance in IT measures and a clear action plan to improve forensic science measures contribute to the program's yellow overall rating.

Statewide Law Enforcement Support		FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Rating
Budget: \$22,320.3 FTE: 144							
8	Forensic biology and DNA cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	24%	50%	7%	16%	15%	R
9	Forensic latent fingerprint cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	12%	50%	20%	17%	25%	R
10	Forensic firearm and tool-mark cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	49%	50%	18%	19%	11%	R
11	Forensic chemistry cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	85%	60%	2%	2%	1%	R
12	Average turnaround time of civil applicant results posted to the New Mexico Applicant Processing Service from the date the fingerprints are taken to the date of posting, in working days	1.3	4.0	1.3	1.7	1.1	G
Program Rating		Y					Y



KEY ISSUES

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) continues to struggle recruiting police officers and scientists. However, the department received \$1.25 million in the base budget to help continue implementing the police officer pay plan for the fourth year in a row, and \$1.6 million in special and supplemental appropriations to help clear the rape kit backlog, purchase contractual services to process latent print cases, and provide operational support.

IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Submitted by agency?	Yes
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	Yes