



# PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

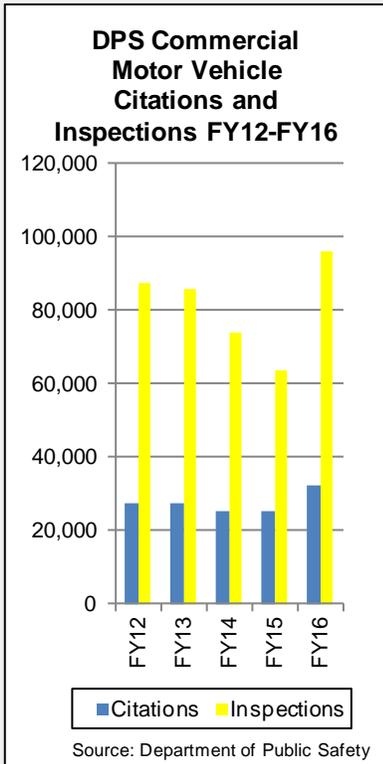
Department of Public Safety  
Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2016

## KEY ISSUES

The Department of Public Safety excelled in many performance measures but struggled with forensic science measures. However, in FY16 the department took initiative and implemented internal compensation increases for forensic scientists to aid in retention. Forensic scientist retention is critical: vacant positions can take more than a year to fill and require up to two years of training to become fully proficient.

## AGENCY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Submitted by agency? Yes  
Timeline assigned by agency? Yes  
Responsibility assigned by agency? Yes



The New Mexico State Police (NMSP) has a strong focus on commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety. In August 2016 NMSP officers conducted a CMV saturation patrol in Eddy and Lea counties in response to high rates of commercial motor vehicle crashes. Officers issued 220 citations and conducted 145 inspections. Almost half of the CMVs inspected were placed out of service due to violations. NMSP pledged to continue monitoring roadways to ensure safety.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) devoted significant resources compared with FY15 levels towards improving officer recruitment and retention. However, the agency added only 15 new officers over the year. DPS benefited from historically low retirement rates and improved retention, evidence that funds dedicated to improving salary standing in the market may be having a positive effect. However, the department still lacks many forensic scientists within the labs and struggles with an average 21 percent vacancy rate. DPS received no new funding to increase scientist pay, but reprioritized \$258 thousand to boost both starting pay and incumbent employee pay by 10 percent.

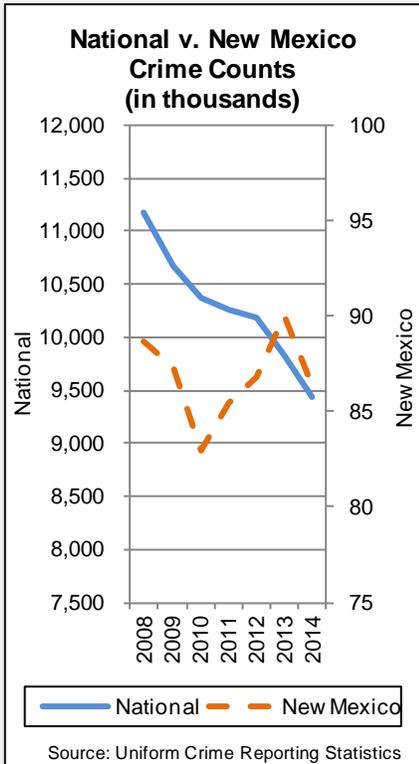
Among other priorities, the agency also received a \$1.2 million special appropriation to begin work on the untested sexual assault kit backlog, including hiring DNA scientists, overtime costs, DNA casework supplies, and modification of the Santa Fe laboratory. DPS submitted an application to the Department of Justice to fund the remaining \$600 thousand to \$800 thousand needed to complete the three year project.

**Law Enforcement.** The New Mexico State Police had 668 officers on staff at the end of FY16, 10 more than the same time last year, but still maintained an average vacancy rate of 10 percent. Despite vacancies, the agency excelled on measures within the Law Enforcement program, most notably the DWI measures the agency missed last fiscal year.

Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 Actual	Rating
DWI arrests per patrol officer (cumulative)	8	9	9	9	G
DWI checkpoints and saturation patrols conducted (cumulative)	915	1,051	1,175	2,421	G
Traffic related enforcement projects held (cumulative)	1,692	2,542	1,700	3,293	G
Criminal investigations conducted by commissioned personnel per full-time-equivalent assigned to patrol and investigations (cumulative)	New	57	15	24	G
Drug-related investigations conducted by commissioned personnel per full-time-equivalent assigned to investigations (cumulative)	New	26	12	63	G
Commercial vehicle citations issued per filled full-time-equivalent assigned to enforcement duties (cumulative)	New	New	522	342	Y
Commercial motor vehicle safety inspections conducted per filled full-time-equivalent assigned to inspection duties (cumulative)	New	New	397	622	G

Program Rating **G**

Crime rates, encompassing both violent and property crimes, are influenced by many factors such as economic conditions, education levels, policing practices, and judicial environments. There are no clear cut causes of crime rate movement.



The department invested \$425 thousand in a dispatcher pay plan, to take effect in FY17, to move starting pay from the bottom of the market to the middle of the market. Starting pay will increase 14.4 percent, and average pay will increase 12.5 percent.

**Statewide Law Enforcement Support.** Although DPS did not meet targets for forensic science cases completed per full-time-equivalent, looking at gross case clearance rate tells a different story. On average, the department cleared 93 percent of cases received this year. In some areas, all cases received within the year were completed and the backlog was reduced, as seen by the 130 percent completion rate in the latent fingerprint area.

Department of Public Safety FY16 Forensic Cases Received and Completed			
Case Type:	Cases received:	Case completed:	Completion rate:
Biology and DNA:	3,372	2,203	65%
Latent Fingerprint:	954	1,244	130%
Firearm and Toolmark:	533	472	89%
Chemistry:	4,522	3,962	88%

Source: Department of Public Safety

Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 Actual	Rating
Forensic biology and DNA cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	34%	24%	50%	13%	R
Forensic latent fingerprint cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	12%	12%	50%	22%	R
Forensic firearm and tool-mark cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	46%	49%	50%	15%	R
Forensic chemistry cases completed per filled full-time-equivalent within thirty working days	49%	85%	60%	5%	R
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	New	1.3	4.0	1.3	G
<b>Program Rating</b>					<b>Y</b>