

## ACTION PLAN

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

## Department of Public Safety

After three years of increases, New Mexico's crime rates dropped 8.8 percent between 2017 and 2018. This decline was driven by reduced property crime rates, which dropped 12.6 percent, while violent crime rates rose 10 percent, according to the most recent data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The rise in violent crime was caused by increased rates of homicide, rape, and aggravated assault, which rose between 8.7 percent and 21.5 percent, while robbery rates dropped 24.2 percent. These trends set New Mexico apart from the rest of the country, where violent crime rates declined 4 percent between 2017 and 2018.

Crime in Albuquerque drives overall state crime rates, with crimes reported to the Albuquerque Police Department comprising 47.6 percent of crimes statewide in 2018 despite the city making up just 26.7 percent of the population. However, data indicate crime in other parts of the state may play a larger part in overall crime trends this year. According to data from the FBI's unified crime reporting program, Albuquerque's share of statewide crimes decreased 2.3 percent between 2017 and 2018, while its overall crime rate dropped 13 percent, greater than the change in the statewide rate. Similarly, Albuquerque's property crime rate decreased more than state's overall rate decrease, by 16.1 percent, and its violent crime rate increased less (3.6 percent).

To help combat crime, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has joint operations with police departments and other agencies across the state to more effectively utilize manpower and resources. In October 2019, the governor issued an executive order creating a special law enforcement unit, comprised of state police officers and staff from the Corrections Department, to arrest fugitives charged with violent crimes who have failed to appear for judicial proceedings or have outstanding bench warrants. According to the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys, over 1,600 individuals charged with violent crimes have outstanding bench warrants. DPS reports it has assigned 10 officers to the new Fugitive Apprehension Unit.

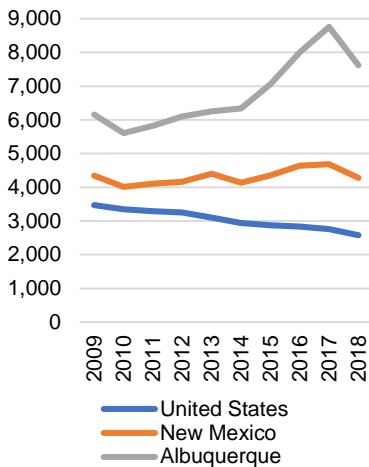
## Law Enforcement

The department is on track to achieve its targets for strategic law enforcement, DWI saturation patrols, and commercial vehicle inspections. In particular, DPS has already completed 31.8 percent of its FY20 target for data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects and 63.8 percent of its target for DWI saturation patrols. While commendable, these results indicate performance targets for those measures do not accurately reflect the department's capacity and goals; for FY21, DPS requested targets of 3,500 data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects and 2,500 DWI saturation patrols, which better align to the department's actual results.

DWI arrests are up 14.8 percent compared with the first quarter of FY19, despite a slight decrease of 5.2 percent in the number of DWI saturation patrols conducted in the first quarter. However, drunk driving rates appear to be continuing to decrease, as alcohol-involved traffic fatalities in the first quarter of FY20 are 46.2 percent lower than the first quarter of FY19, indicating education efforts and resources dedicated to preventing drunk driving are succeeding.

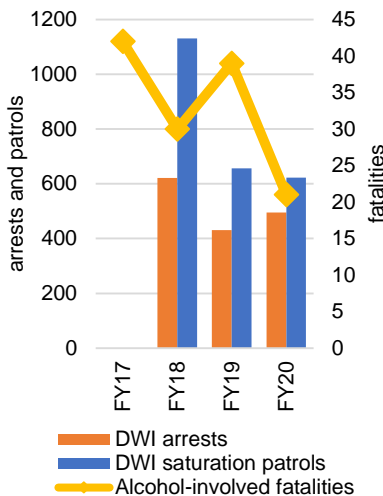
To help address persistent vacancies, the executive and the Legislature collaborated to increase manpower through a targeted 8.5 percent pay increase in FY19. In FY19,

**U.S., New Mexico, and Albuquerque Crime Rates**  
(per 100 thousand residents)



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Census Bureau

**FY20 Q1 DWI Enforcement Actions and Alcohol-Involved Traffic Fatalities**



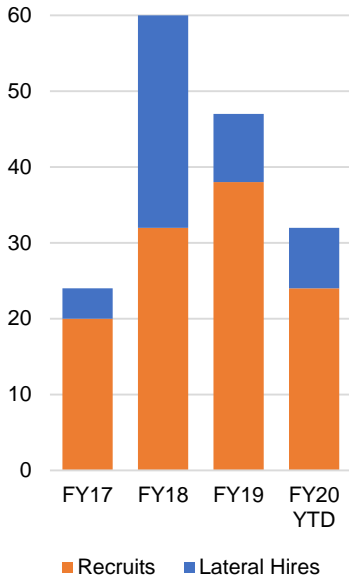
Note: DWI arrest and saturation patrol measures were new in FY18.

Source: DPS

## PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Department of Public Safety  
First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2020

**Impact of Lateral Hires on State Police Force Growth**



vacancy rates for state police officers averaged 10.8 percent, a decrease from an average of 11.3 percent in FY18, perhaps as a result of these efforts. In FY19, state police added 47 new recruits and lateral hires to the force.

The department has not produced a forecast of officer strength within the last year; however, LFC estimates the department is unlikely to grow the total strength of the state police force over the next two fiscal years. This fall, the executive instructed the department to end the practice of “lateral” hires from other law enforcement agencies, which will likely lead force strength to decline in FY21.

**Budget:** \$125,691.2 **FTE:** 1,084.2

Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Target	FY20 Q1	Rating
Data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects held	1,926	3,308	1,900	605	G
Driving-while-intoxicated saturation patrols conducted	3,184	3,416	975	622	G
Commercial motor vehicle safety inspections conducted	88,078	95,041	88,000	22,738	G
Driving-while-intoxicated arrests	2,574	2,171	2,250	495	G
<b>Program Rating</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>			<b>G</b>

### Statewide Law Enforcement Support

DPS surpassed targets for firearm/toolmark and forensic chemistry cases completed but missed targets for latent fingerprint and biology/DNA cases as the forensic laboratory bureau struggled with an average vacancy rate of 27.7 percent among forensic scientists and technicians this quarter, a 3.7 percentage point increase compared with FY19’s average and an 11.5 percentage point increase compared with FY18. Notably, forensic scientists have not received a targeted pay increase since FY16. High turnover rates increase the number of nonproductive hours while the training of forensic scientists can take anywhere from six months to over two years before they become fully productive.

The number of cases and items received by the laboratory for analysis increased each year between FY17 and FY19. DPS had greater than 100 percent case completion rates in latent print and chemistry cases because scientists completed backlogged cases in addition to cases received this quarter.

**Budget:** \$20,475.4 **FTE:** 162

Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Target	FY20 Q1	Rating
Forensic firearm/toolmark cases completed	96%	67%	100%	110%	G
Forensic latent fingerprint cases completed	105%	118%	100%	77%	Y
Forensic chemistry cases completed	91%	65%	100%	101%	G
Forensic biology and DNA cases completed	116%	87%	100%	83%	Y
<b>Program Rating</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Y</b>			<b>Y</b>

**FY20 Q1 Forensic Cases Completed and Pending (in thousands)**

