

ACTION PLAN

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

Department of Public Safety

The activities of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), particularly the New Mexico State Police (NMSP), have changed significantly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. NMSP made early adjustments to operations to reduce contact with the public by decreasing proactive policing, traffic operations, and investigations. Instead, state police have focused on enforcing the governor's public health orders, responding to 970 calls related to noncompliance in the eight days between the issuance of the order closing all nonessential businesses and the end of the third quarter. While focusing on these critical activities, NMSP has not curtailed its participation in task forces or its efforts to combat violent crime, and DPS is still providing assistance to local law enforcement agencies.

The New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy (NMLEA) closed on March 27 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and both the ongoing NMLEA class and the state police recruit school were suspended until restrictions related to the pandemic have been eased. NMLEA cadets were returned to those agencies for assignment and NMSP cadets were sent to the patrol districts in which they currently reside for on-the-job training. NMSP anticipates holding two recruit classes in the fall and spring of FY21.

Law Enforcement

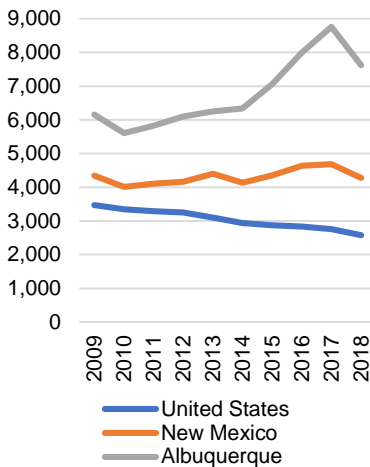
The department surpassed its FY20 target for DWI saturation patrols last quarter and this quarter achieved its target for data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects; however, with proactive policing and traffic enforcement operations suspended or curtailed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this measure will likely drop significantly next quarter. Historically, DPS's performance on these measures has far exceeded its targets, indicating the targets did not accurately reflect the department's capacity and goals, and as a result the targets have been revised upward for FY21 to better align to the department's actual results during normal operations.

To date, DPS has completed 70.8 percent of its targeted commercial vehicle inspections for FY20; however, with staffing at ports of entry reduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPS is unlikely to achieve its target. Commercial vehicle inspections dropped 10.4 percent between the second and third quarters of FY20 and are down 21.5 percent compared with the third quarter of FY19. Next quarter will likely also see declines as a result of the pandemic.

Drunk driving rates appear to continue to decline, with alcohol-involved fatalities for the first three quarters of FY20 down 18.8 percent compared with the same period during FY19. Year-to-date DWI arrests are down 12 percent compared with the first three quarters of FY19, likely reflecting reduced drunk driving rates. However, with DWI saturation patrols declining 42.3 percent compared with the first three quarters of FY19, it is worth considering if maintaining higher levels of enforcement could further reduce drunk driving rates and resulting fatalities.

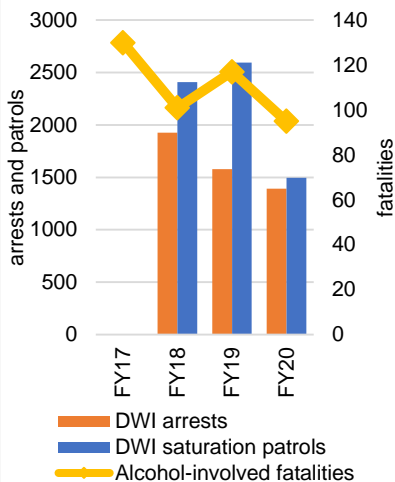
Vacancy rates among commissioned state police officers remained steady this quarter, averaging 9.5 percent over the first three quarters of FY20. A targeted pay increase of 8.5 percent in FY19 has likely helped improve vacancy rates from 11.3 percent in FY18 and 10.8 percent in FY19. However, in the fall of 2019, the executive instructed the department to end the practice of "lateral" hires from other law enforcement agencies. NMSP's ability to grow its force without such hires remains to be seen.

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



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

DWI Enforcement Actions and Alcohol-Involved Traffic Fatalities through Q3



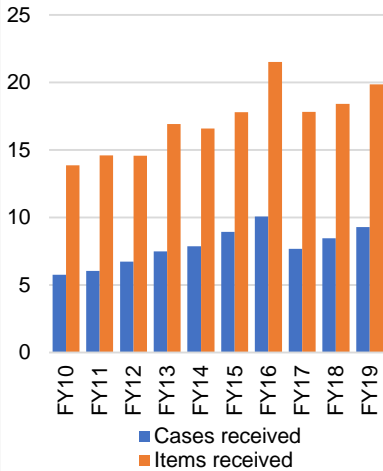
Note: DWI arrest and saturation patrol measures were new in FY18.

Source: DPS

PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

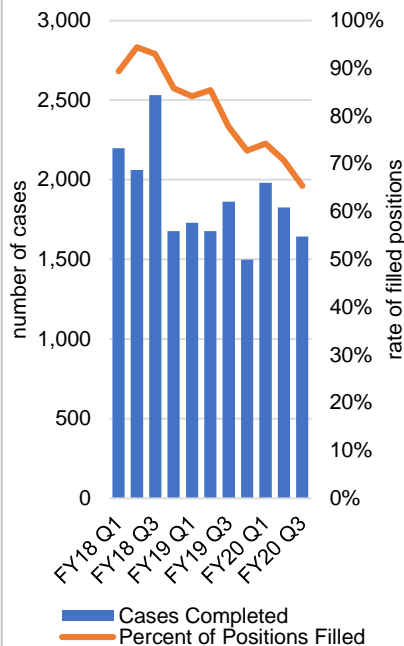
Department of Public Safety
Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2020

Forensic Laboratory Workload (in thousands)



Source: DPS

Forensic Lab Case Completions vs. Percent of Positions Filled



Note: only includes positions specifically assigned to firearm and toolmark, latent print, chemistry, and DNA units.

Source: DPS, LFC files

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

Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Target	FY20 Q1	FY20 Q2	FY20 Q3	Rating
Data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects held	1,926	3,308	1,900	605	755	868	G
Driving-while-intoxicated saturation patrols conducted	3,184	3,416	975	622	468	406	G
Commercial motor vehicle safety inspections conducted	88,078	95,041	88,000	23,837*	20,263*	18,163	Y
Driving-while-intoxicated arrests	2,574	2,171	2,250	505*	467*	419	G
Program Rating	G	G					G

*Measure was corrected on the FY20 Q3 report.

Statewide Law Enforcement Support

It is unlikely DPS will meet the FY20 targets for the forensic laboratory's key performance measures, and the lab faces a backlog of 6,288 of the measured case types at the end of the third quarter. In the third quarter, the lab's productivity dropped across three of the four measured case types compared to the second quarter, with completion rates dropping 24.3 percentage points for biology and DNA cases, 26 percentage points for latent print cases, and 55.9 percentage points for firearm and toolmark cases. Both the DNA and latent print units saw increased vacancies this quarter, and the latent print unit lost a highly productive scientist. Vacancies in the firearm and toolmark unit remained steady compared with last quarter, but one of its four filled positions is a trainee. High turnover rates in the lab directly impact productivity as international accreditation standards require new scientists complete six to 24 months of on-the-job training before they can work independently. The forensic chemistry unit has maintained consistent staffing levels this year, and this quarter increased its completion rate by 1.6 percentage points over last quarter. To date in FY20, the unit has completed 614 more cases than it had by the third quarter of FY19.

FY20 Q3 Forensic Cases Received and Completed

Case Type	Cases Received	Cases Completed	Completion Rate	Pending Cases	Vacancy Rate
Firearm and Toolmark	205	87	42%	931	33%
Latent Fingerprint	137	97	71%	330	50%
Chemistry	1,315	1,107	84%	3,831	31%
Biology and DNA	601	353	59%	1,196	24%

Source: Department of Public Safety

Budget: \$20,475.4 FTE: 162

Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Target	FY20 Q1*	FY20 Q2	FY20 Q3	Rating
Forensic firearm/toolmark cases completed	96%	67%	100%	107%	98%	42%	R
Forensic latent fingerprint cases completed	105%	118%	100%	77%	97%	71%	Y
Forensic chemistry cases completed	91%	65%	90%	92%	83%	84%	Y
Forensic biology and DNA cases completed	116%	87%	100%	81%	83%	59%	R
Program Rating	G	Y					Y

*FY20 Q1 measures were corrected on the FY20 Q2 report.