

## ACTION PLAN

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

## Department of Public Safety

In 2019, New Mexico had the highest overall crime rate of any state in the country and ranked second for its violent and property crime rates behind Alaska and Louisiana, respectively. After three years of increases, the state's overall crime rate began dropping over the past two years, and violent crime decreased slightly in the past year. However, homicide rates rose 18 percent, with 28 more reported in 2019 than 2018. Homicide rates in New Mexico increased in every year between 2014 and 2019, diverging from national trends (national and statewide data for 2020 are not yet available). Albuquerque drives these high rates, with the number of homicides reported to the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) rising 167 percent between 2014 and 2019, from 30 to 80. While APD reported a slight decrease in homicides in 2020 (76), the department reports 48 homicides year-to-date as of May 2021, a 50 percent increase compared with this time in 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic depressed New Mexico State Police (NMSP) activity over FY20 and FY21 because the agency has not required officers to engage in proactive citizen encounters during this time. This quarter, NMSP misdemeanor and felony arrests (totaling 1,073 arrests) fell 60 percent compared with the second quarter (2,672 arrests) and are down 50 percent compared with quarterly average arrests in FY20 (2,151 arrests). NMSP anticipates it will gradually resume normal proactive operations beginning in June.

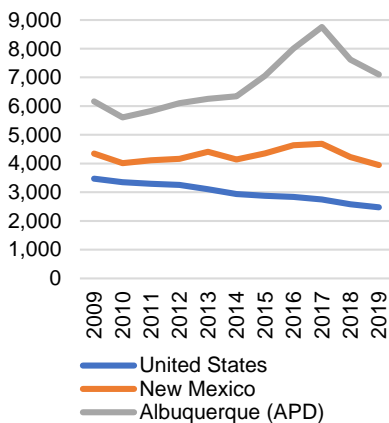
### Law Enforcement

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) appears unlikely to meet its targets for any of its key measures of law enforcement activity for FY21. While the number of data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects did increase this quarter compared with the prior two quarters, the agency has only reached 62 percent of its FY21 target and would need to conduct over 1,300 operations in the fourth quarter to meet that target. Commercial vehicle inspections were up in the first quarter of FY21 but reduced in the next two quarters, resulting in the department only reaching 58 percent of its FY21 target by the end of the third quarter.

The number of DWI saturation patrols conducted by NMSP fell by almost half between the first and second quarters of FY21 and by another 39 percent between the second and third quarters. DPS explains that traffic safety bureau grants, which fund these operations, were opened to NMSP districts statewide in the first quarter, leading to increased operations, but were limited or stopped in the second or third quarter due to increased Covid-19 cases in the state.

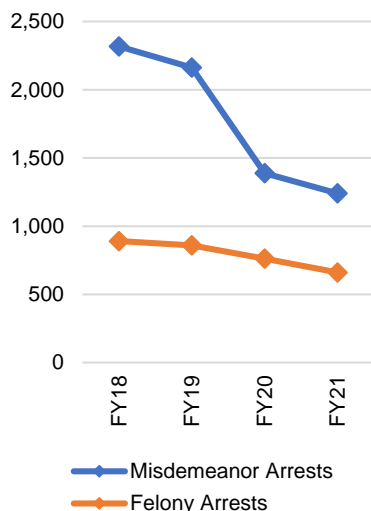
DWI arrests are down 32.2 percent in FY21 compared with the first three quarters of FY20, continuing a downward trend in DWI arrests since DPS began reporting this performance measure in FY18. Data from the New Mexico Department of Transportation suggest there has been some reduction in drunk driving in FY21 due to the pandemic, but alcohol-involved traffic fatalities previously increased every year between FY18 and FY20 while DWI arrests fell, suggesting reduced FY21 DWI arrests are likely driven largely by decreased enforcement rather than fewer drunk drivers.

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



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

**Average Quarterly NMSP Arrests**  
FY18 to FY21\*



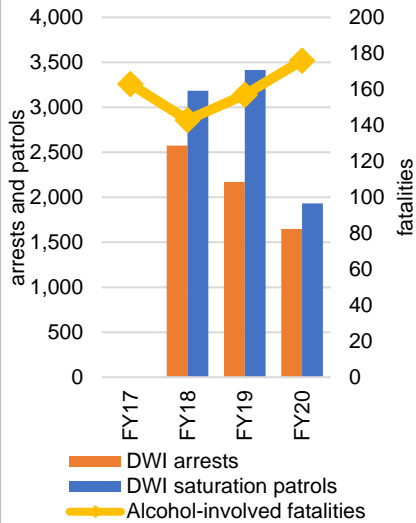
\*FY21 average through Q3.

Source: DPS

## PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Department of Public Safety  
Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2021

### DWI Enforcement Actions and Alcohol- Involved Traffic Fatalities



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

Source: DPS, NMDOT

Of NMSP's 732 officers, 683 positions were filled at the end of the third quarter of FY21, a 9 percent overall vacancy rate and an 8 percent vacancy rate among positions supported by the general fund. NMSP experienced an unusually high number of retirements this quarter, with 12 commissioned officers retiring from the force. DPS's most recent state police force strength projection anticipates an average of 673 commissioned officers will be employed in FY21.

	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY21 Q1	FY21 Q2	FY21 Q3	Rating
<b>Budget:</b> \$128,755.9 <b>FTE:</b> 1093.3							
Data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects held	3,308	2,851	3,500	663	654	864	Y
Driving-while-intoxicated saturation patrols conducted	3,416	1,933	3,350	803	436	268	R
Driving-while-intoxicated arrests	2,171	1,647	2,000	356	289	298	R
Commercial motor vehicle safety inspections conducted	95,041	68,378	95,000	23,170	15,627	16,518	R
Commissioned state police officer vacancy rate*	N/A	8.9%	N/A	8.7%	6.7%	9.2%	
Commissioned state police officer turnover rate*	N/A	5.4%	N/A	0.9%	1%	3.2%	
Graduation rate of the New Mexico State Police recruit school*	68%	73.3%	N/A	N/A <sup>1</sup>	71%	N/A <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Program Rating</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>					<b>R</b>

\*Measures are classified as explanatory and do not have targets.

1. No recruit school graduation this quarter; generally, there are two recruit schools held each year, but only one recruit school was able to be held in FY21 due to budget constraints.

### Statewide Law Enforcement Support

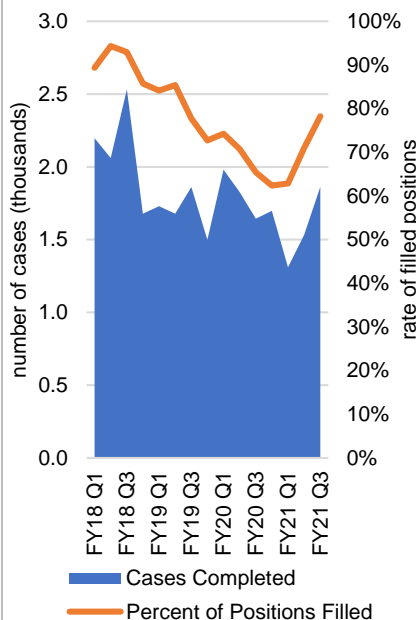
Two of the forensic laboratory units with measured case types (the Latent Print Unit and the Biology Unit) made progress on backlogged cases this quarter. It is notable that the Biology Unit saw significant improvement this quarter after several quarters of poor performance, completing 52 percent more cases in the third quarter of FY21 than in the second. Both vacancy rates and the number of cases received by the laboratory impact its performance.

The forensic laboratory has lost over 20 percent of its forensic scientists and technicians since FY18 and averaged a 22 percent vacancy rate among those positions this quarter. In FY21, DPS implemented 3 percent pay increases for forensic scientists and technicians (the first targeted pay increase for these positions in five years), which may help reduce these high vacancies.

The average number of latent fingerprint and biology and DNA cases received by the laboratory each quarter this year are down 34 percent and 29 percent, respectively, compared with FY20, while firearm and toolmark cases are up 38 percent. This difference likely accounts for the much lower rate of completion for firearm and toolmark cases compared with latent fingerprint cases over the past two quarters, despite the two units having similar staffing levels during that period.

The Firearms and Toolmark Unit has struggled to meet its target for case completions since FY19, and FY21 has seen its lowest numbers of case completions in that time. However, this quarter the unit hired two fully trained forensic scientists with considerable experience, and is now fully staffed. DPS reports these scientists will be

### Forensic Lab Case Completions vs. Percent of Positions Filled

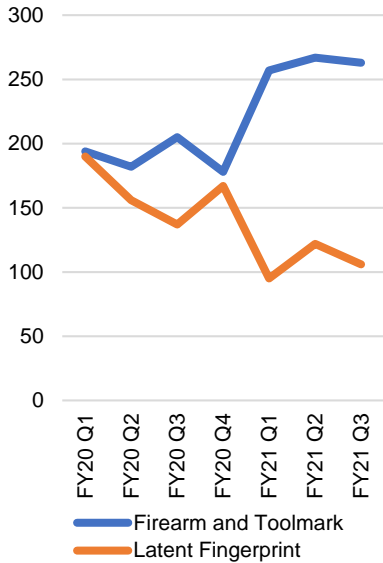


Source: DPS, LFC files

## PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Department of Public Safety  
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### Firearm and Toolmark and Latent Fingerprint Cases Received by the Forensic Laboratory



Source: DPS

able to work independently within six months, so case completions from this unit should rise significantly over the next three quarters.

### Department of Public Safety FY21 Q3 Forensic Cases Received and Completed

Case Type	Cases Received	Cases Completed	Completion Rate	Pending Cases	Scientist/Technician Vacancy Rate
Firearm and Toolmark	263	86	33%	1,547	22%
Latent Fingerprint	106	180	170%	341	22%
Chemistry	1,301	1,196	92%	3,881	28%
Biology and DNA	387	401	104%	1,623	18%

Source: Department of Public Safety

	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY21 Q1	FY21 Q2	FY21 Q3	Rating
<b>Budget:</b> \$21,488.1 <b>FTE:</b> 161							
Forensic firearm and toolmark cases completed	67%	80%	90%	21%	29%	33%	R
Forensic latent fingerprint cases completed	118%	65%	100%	125%	124%	170%	G
Forensic chemistry cases completed	65%	93%	90%	92%	96%	92%	G
Forensic biology and DNA cases completed	87%	73%	95%	64%	66%	104%	G
<b>Program Rating</b>	G	Y					G