

North Carolina Department of Justice

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

North Carolina State Crime Laboratory



Director John A. Byrd

November, 2016

Senator Shirley Randleman
Senate Chair, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Representative Jamie Boles
Representative Pat Hurley
House Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

RE: Report on work of the NC State Crime Laboratory during FY 15-16

Dear Members:

Pursuant to Session Law 2013-360, Section 17.2, the Department of Justice is pleased to submit the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Annual Report for the NC State Crime Laboratory to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety. In addition to the data on evidence submissions, case completions, and other workload measures, the report provides updates on significant achievements and internal improvements that focus on quality of analysis, efficiency of analysis, and transparency of analysis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. We would be happy to respond to any questions you may have regarding this report.

Very truly yours,


Kristi Jones
Chief of Staff

KJ/jab

Cc: Kristine Leggett
Fiscal Research Division

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Executive Summary

The North Carolina State Crime Laboratory remains committed to providing quality forensic analysis in a timely manner for the state's criminal justice system and made significant progress toward this goal in Fiscal Year 2015-2106.

Working more cases more efficiently

Thanks to a reduction of turnover of certified scientists and continued improvements in methodology and efficiency, the State Crime Lab worked 68,868 submissions in FY 2015-2016. In FY 2015-2016, the State Crime Lab accepted more than 27,998 cases including nearly 51,000 items of evidence, as well as 25,554 submissions to the state's DNA Database of convicted offender and arrestee profiles.

A more efficient State Crime Lab is working more cases more quickly without sacrificing quality. Pending cases have dropped by 47.8%, case completions increased by 20% and turnaround time has been reduced on average by 150 days as compared to last fiscal year. Since January 2014 when funds were provided to raise salaries and help keep more forensic scientists on the job, pending cases have dropped 76.9%. The State Crime Lab continues to have a very effective rush program in which District Attorneys with law enforcement can request expedited analysis in cases through an automated web based system.

Continuing to meet high quality standards

The State Crime Laboratory continues to meet the highest quality standards available, through its accreditation by ANAB under strict ISO/IEC 17025 requirements. Every eligible scientist at the State Crime Lab is independently certified.

Partnering with the private sector

A significant partnership continues with a state vendor to assist with analysis of certain toxicology cases. To date, 32 of the 44 District Attorneys have agreed to have certain toxicology cases outsourced.

Making more efficient use of scientists' time in court

The State Crime Lab continues to seek help from the criminal justice system to reduce the time forensic scientists spend waiting to testify. Less time spent waiting in court or traveling to and from court for our scientists means more time in the Crime Lab working cases. Initially, the recommendations contained in the 2014 *UNC School of Government's Report of the Crime Laboratory Working Group: Administrative Solutions to Alleviate Lab Backlog* led to a concerted effort among criminal justice stakeholders to minimize the time spent in court by Crime Laboratory forensic scientists. While nearly half of all Judicial Districts in North Carolina agreed to adopt the recommendations from the School of Government report, the last fiscal year has seen a drop in attention and fervor to the goal of efficiently using scientist time for needed testimony. As a result the Lab recorded a 28% increase in court time – with lab scientists spending 1,052.44 hours waiting to testify. Assistance is still needed from our criminal justice stakeholders to minimize time forensic scientists spend in court and away from the lab.

S.L. 2016-10 introduced in March 2015 amends in part the notice-and-demand provision for introducing toxicology reports in impaired driving prosecutions, with the goal of decreasing court appearances so toxicologists can spend more of their time in the lab.

Building and planning for the future

Construction of the new Western Regional Crime Laboratory is on time and on budget and expected to be completed in mid-2017. The new facility will house more forensic scientists analyzing more types of evidence for criminal cases from Western North Carolina. A larger crime laboratory facility with more scientists means cases will be able to be worked more quickly, as scientists will spend less time on the road traveling to testify in court and more time in the laboratory working cases.

The DNA Database Section at the main State Crime Lab facility in Raleigh increased its physical footprint in FY 2015-2016 to accommodate more analysts to handle DNA samples now collected upon arrest for 35 additional felonies under G.S. 15A-266.3A.

Additional funding needs remain. The Lab lacks sufficient funding for updating scientific equipment, training and certifying scientists, and the State Crime Lab Ombudsman position is required by statute but has no authorized funding. The North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board has recommended that the General Assembly establish a special revenue reserve fund to finance non-recurring expenses such as scientific equipment. The State Crime Lab has seen a decrease in payment of court fees that fund certain positions, and three forensic scientist positions, one in DNA Database and two in Forensic Biology, are vacant due to insufficient receipts.

In short, caseloads and turnaround times at the State Crime Lab are improving but challenges remain in identifying adequate fiscal resources to meet the Lab's continuing needs as it provides quality forensic services to the criminal justice system in our growing state.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CRIME LABORATORY REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016¹

This Report is presented to the Chairs of the North Carolina General Assembly Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and to the North Carolina General Assembly Fiscal Research Division as directed by Section 17.2 of S.L. 2013-360, the Appropriations Act of 2013. Under the Section, DOJ must report annually each year on the work of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory (State Crime Lab) during the previous fiscal year.

I. Preface

State Crime Lab Director John Byrd continued his work from the first year of his tenure to ensure that all aspects of laboratory operations focus on providing the criminal justice system with quality forensic analysis in a timely manner.

II. Quality (Accreditation and Certification)

Forensic services provided by the State Crime Laboratory continue to meet the highest quality standards available. The State Crime Lab maintains accreditation under strict ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and is accredited by ANAB. ANAB is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) as required by NC General Statutes on accreditation for the State Crime Laboratory (S.L. 2011-19). During 2015 and 2016, surveillance visits were conducted by ANAB and the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for our DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit. In both visits, the State Crime Laboratory was found to be **in compliance with established standards**. All **eligible scientists** at the State Crime Lab **are independently certified**.

III. Case Submissions and Completions

1. Case Submissions

In North Carolina, the nation's ninth most populous state, more than 20,000 law enforcement officers and over 600 law enforcement agencies routinely submit evidence in criminal cases to the Crime Lab. In FY 15-16, more than 27,998 cases including nearly 51,000 items of evidence were accepted at the Crime Lab's three locations. (See Figure 1) This is a **9.9% increase in case submissions** compared to the FY 14-15. Including DNA Database submissions, the State Crime Lab system received 53,552 submissions in FY 15-16 which is a 6.8% increase compared to FY 14-15.

Case submissions are broken down as follows:

- The **main State Crime Laboratory in Raleigh** received 16,181 casework submissions and 25,554 DNA Database submissions (comprised of 13,851 Convicted Offender and 11,703 DNA on Arrest sample submissions), for a total of 41,735 submissions. (See Figure 2)
- The **Triad Regional Crime Laboratory** received 4,297 casework submissions.
- The **Western Regional Crime Laboratory** received 7,520 casework submissions.

(Figure 1 next page)

¹This Report addresses the statutorily mandated "previous fiscal year" (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016), and thus only briefly mentions, when required by context, important Crime Lab developments occurring on or after July 1, 2015, including, for example, funding in the 2016 Appropriations Act (ratified July 14, 2016, and generally effective July 1, 2016), for Western Crime Lab Funds to equip and operate the new Western Crime Lab in Edneyville, (\$1,389,079), crime lab equipment for facilities in Raleigh and Greensboro (\$640,000), and outsourcing funds for forensic analysis including toxicology and DNA (\$2,197,114).

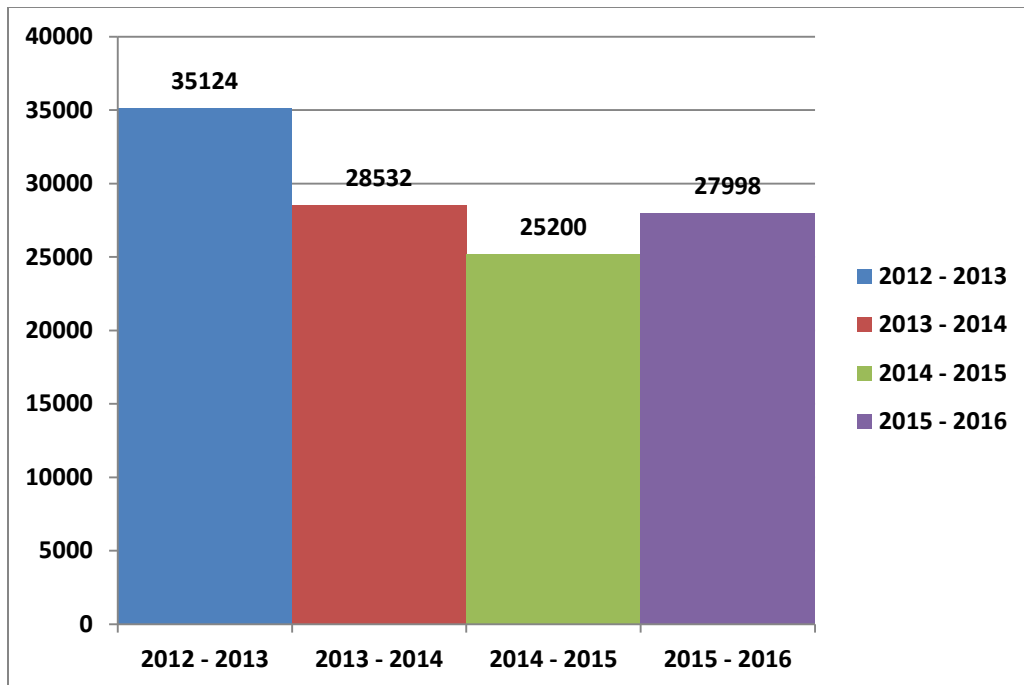


Figure 1 Annual Case Submissions

a. Case Submissions by Forensic Discipline and Lab Location

In FY 15-16, the State Crime Lab received the following cases, broken down by forensic discipline and laboratory location:

| | <u>Raleigh</u> | <u>Triad</u> | <u>Western</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Drug Chemistry | 8,216 | 2,184 | 5,955 |
| Toxicology | 3,774 | 1,794 | 1,299 ² |
| Forensic Biology | 1,559 | 156* ³ | 49* |
| DNA Database | 25,554 | 0 | 0 |
| Latent | 598 | 32 | 108 |
| Digital | 72 | 1* | 3* |
| Trace Evidence | 687 | 104* | 24* |
| Firearm & Tool Mark | 1,275 | 26* | 82 |

² The Western Regional Laboratory provides drug Chemistry analysis as well as Latent Evidence and Firearm & Tool Mark Examinations. Toxicology analysis was introduced into the Western Regional Laboratory in September 2015. The Western Lab currently does not conduct Trace Evidence, Digital Evidence and Forensic Biology analyses, Convicted Offender or DNA upon Arrest samples. Forensic Biology analyses will be added to the Western Regional Laboratory after construction is completed on the new Western Regional Laboratory.

The Triad Regional Laboratory provides Drug Chemistry and Toxicology analyses as well as Latent Evidence examinations. The Triad Lab does not perform examinations of Firearm and Tool Mark, Digital or Trace Evidence, Forensic Biology analyses, or Convicted Offender or DNA upon Arrest samples.

³ Case submissions to a Regional Laboratory for a forensic discipline not offered at that Lab (identified by the * symbol) are transferred to the appropriate Lab location for analysis. The chart reflects all cases received at each Lab location, regardless of whether the requested analysis was offered at that Lab.

b. Case Submissions by County⁴

Case work and evidence item submissions over the past four fiscal years per North Carolina County may be found in Appendix A.

2. Case Completions

For FY 15-16, scientists in the State Crime Lab system worked 68,868 submissions, broken down as follows:

- The **main State Crime Lab in Raleigh** worked 28,800 case submissions and 21,150 profiles processed for the DNA Database (including 13,103 DNA samples from convicted offenders and 8,047 DNA samples taken upon arrest).
- The **Triad Regional Crime Lab** worked 10,765 case submissions.
- The **Western Regional Crime Lab** worked 8,153 case submissions.

Improvements in efficiency and methodology mean that State Crime Lab scientists were able to complete work last year on evidence in 47,718 criminal cases submitted by law enforcement, an increase of more than 5,652 criminal cases worked compared to the previous fiscal year. (See Figure 3) Casework completions exceeded casework submissions at each of the Lab's three locations, and the number of cases worked by the Lab during FY 15-16 outnumbered the number of cases submitted during the year. Stated differently, **case completions increased by 20%** from FY 14-15 to FY 15-16.

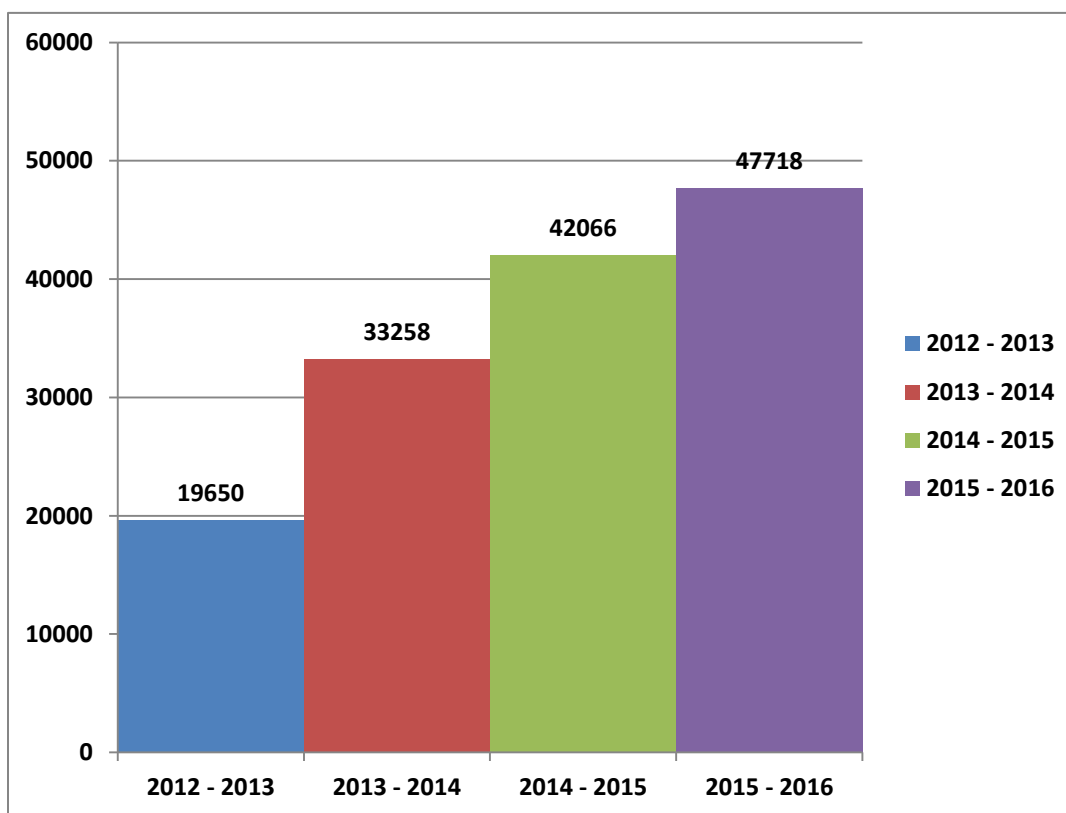


Figure 2 Annual Case Record Completions

⁴This information is provided in compliance with S.L. 2013-360 (3) which requires that the Annual Crime Lab Report contain "A breakdown by county of the number of submissions received by the Laboratory in the previous fiscal year." The numbers in these tables do not include Convicted Offender or DNA upon Arrest submissions.

a. Case Completions by Forensic Discipline and Lab Location

In FY 2015-2016, the State Crime Lab completed the following cases, broken down by discipline and lab location:

| | <u>Raleigh</u> | <u>Triad</u> | <u>Western</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Drug Chemistry | 16,081 | 4,410 | 7,078 |
| Toxicology | 7,018 | 5,858 | 623 |
| Forensic Biology | 2,795 | 296 | 53 |
| DNA Database | 21,150 | 0 | 0 |
| Latent | 834 | 53 | 305 |
| Digital | 75 | 4 | 2 |
| Trace Evidence | 784 | 123 | 22 |
| Firearm & Tool Mark | 1,213 | 21 | 70 |

Notable successes of the DNA Database unit include a **record 456 hits to the DNA database**, which now contains more than 300,000 DNA profiles. New technology now allows faster input of DNA samples into the database where it can be used to identify suspects in unsolved cases. The Lab implemented changes to G.S. 15A-266.3A that authorized the collection of DNA profiles from those arrested for 35 additional offenses, to include all violent felonies.

Total Cases Pending

Case completions have steadily increased over the last two and a half years. Though at the writing of this report there are still **multiple scientists completing their statutorily required training**, the lab system has **decreased the total inventory by over 76.9% over the last two years**. For FY 15-16, the caseload is down by 47.8%. (See Figure 3) As of the date of this report, the number of cases has decreased to 12,168 cases or 62.7% decrease since July 1, 2015. The overall pending caseload will continue to drop as additional scientists complete their training and begin working on active cases.

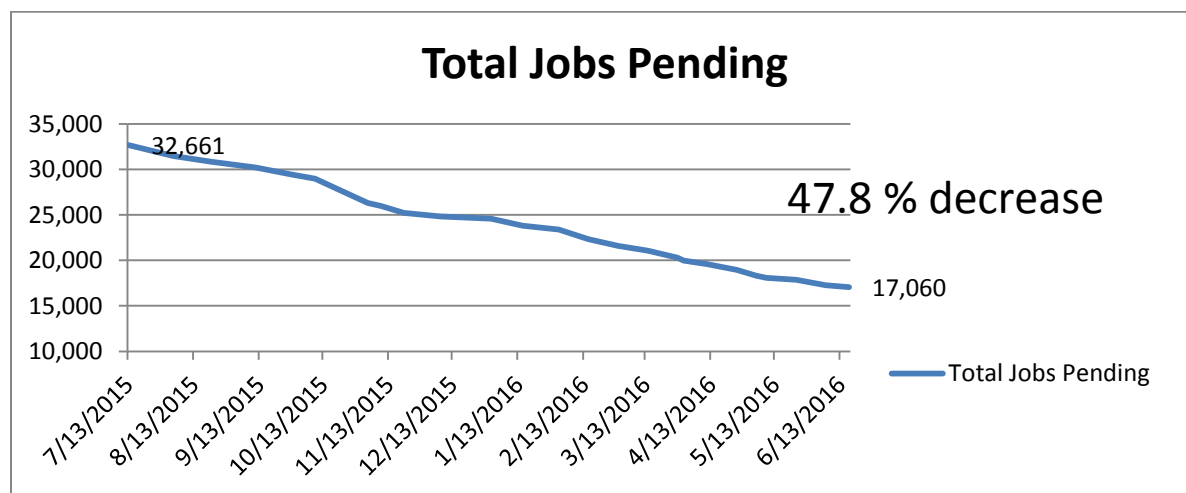


Figure 3 Total Jobs Pending as of June 30, 2016

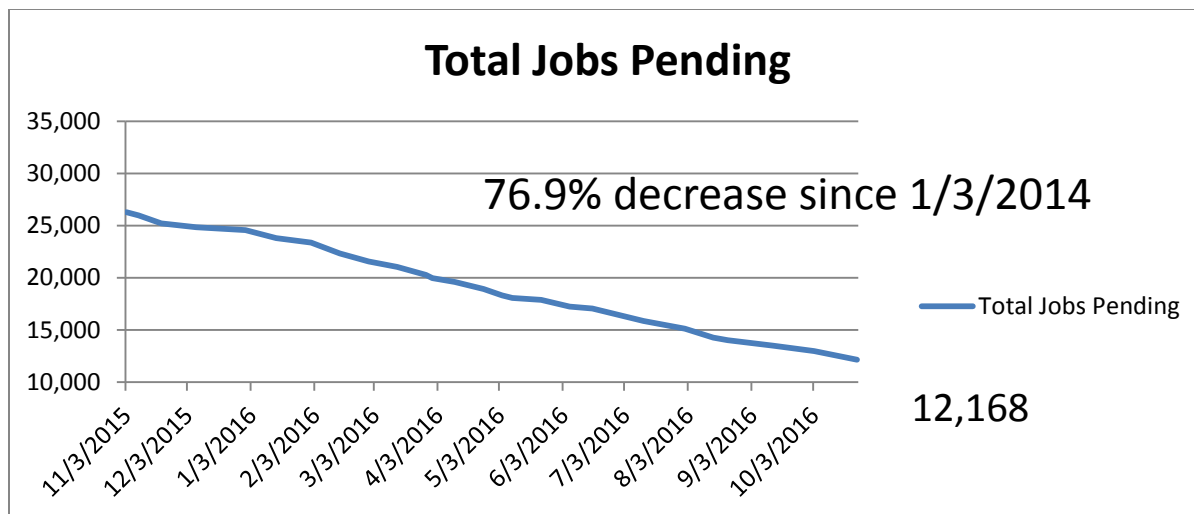


Figure 4 Total Jobs Pending as of October 24, 2016

b. Turnaround Times

Turnaround times at the State Crime Lab continue to improve as additional scientists complete their required training and begin to work on active cases. Turnaround times for individual cases vary depending on the amount of evidence submitted and the type or types of analysis requested, and certain **cases can be worked in as little as days with a rush request from a District Attorney**. For example, a DUI case submission may include a single vial of blood to be tested for alcohol while homicide case submissions typically include 75 to 150 pieces of evidence. Even a single piece of evidence can require multiple types of analysis; for example, a firearm may be submitted for ballistics, fingerprint and DNA analyses.

The State Crime Lab continues to struggle with inaccurate public perceptions of turnaround times, often due to evidence not being submitted to the Lab until weeks or months after the crime was committed. Unfortunately, public perception of turnaround time is directly tied to the date of the crime rather than the date when it was submitted to the SCL. In many cases, for a variety of reasons investigators may wait to submit evidence for analysis.

c. Rush Case Program

The State Crime Lab continues to operate a successful rush case program to give District Attorneys the option to expedite cases when appropriate. Upon the request of a District Attorney, **the Lab can rush or expedite a case for public safety or court purposes**. Depending on the evidence submitted and the type(s) of analysis requested, rush cases can be worked in a matter of days. Lab management welcomes inquiries from District Attorneys about cases where a rush request may be needed.

d. Court Testimony and Judicial Efficiencies

During FY 2015-2016, the State Crime Lab continued to feel the effects of the 2009 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts* that requires forensic scientists to provide live, in-court testimony rather than testifying by sworn affidavit. More time spent by scientists in court or traveling to court means less time in the lab working on cases.

In FY 2015-2016, Crime Lab scientists spent a total of **3,280.8** hours traveling to court, waiting to testify or testifying, an **increase of 923 hours or 28%** from FY 2014-2015. Of those hours, Crime Lab scientists spent 866.45 hours traveling to court, **1,052.44 hours waiting to testify** (an increase of over 130 hours from the previous year), and 353.41 hours testifying. See Figure 4 below) **Assistance is still needed from our criminal justice stakeholders to minimize time forensic scientists spend in court and away from the lab.** The seventeen recommendations from the *UNC School of Government's Report of the Crime Laboratory Working Group: Administrative Solutions to Alleviate Lab Backlog* specifically outlines recommendations to minimize wait time for our analysts. **General awareness and wider adoption of the recommendations could help reduce wait time and increase time spent in the Lab for forensic scientists.**

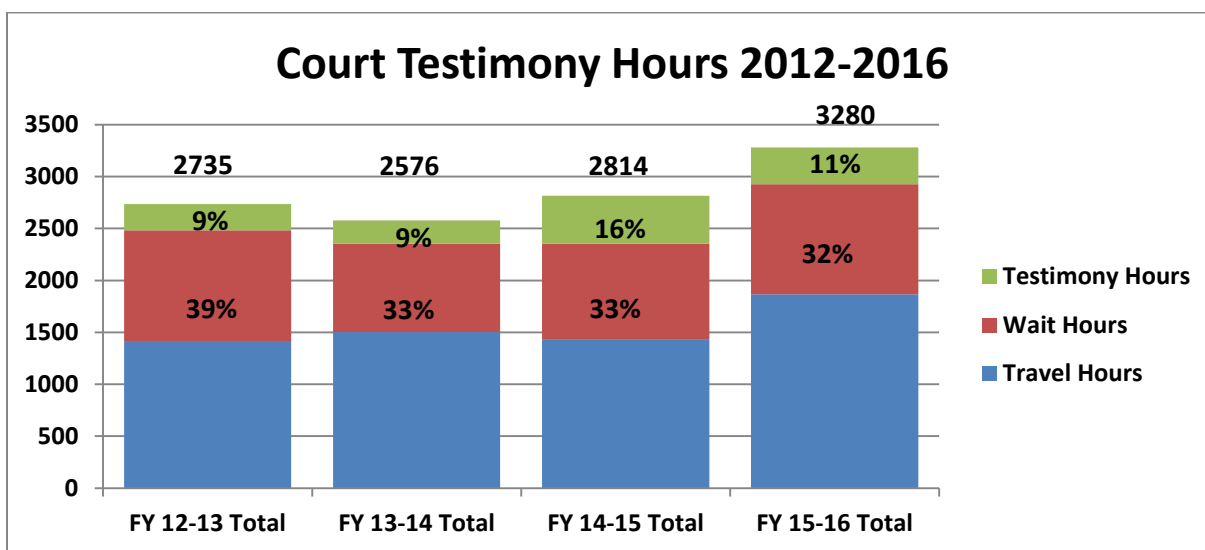


Figure 5: Court Testimony Hours 2012-2016

Less than half of the fifty judicial districts within North Carolina have voluntarily adopted the seventeen recommendations made in the School of Government report through a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the senior resident Superior Court Judge, Chief District Court Judge and the District Attorney. Twenty-four Judicial Districts have adopted the MOA, thirteen are considering implementing the MOA and thirteen have chosen not to pursue the MOA.

Session Law 2016-10/HB 357⁵ (Chemical Analysis Reports/ District Court) amends in part the notice-and-demand provision for introducing toxicology reports in impaired driving prosecutions, with the goal of decreasing time spent in court and increasing time in the lab for toxicology analysts.

⁵ House Bill 357 (entitled Chemical Analysis Reports/District Court) was ratified as S.L. 2016-10 on June 9, 2016.

e. Outsourcing

Time-limited outsourcing of certain toxicology cases to the State's vendor for toxicology analysis was implemented to help reduce the State Crime Lab case inventory and turnaround time. The Appropriations Act of 2015 provided \$750,000 in non-recurring funding for toxicology funding which was added to the recurring \$250,000. The Appropriations Act of 2016 provided \$2,197,114 in non-recurring funding.

The **Conference of District Attorneys has been a strong partner** and had helped to identify District Attorneys who are willing to participate on this project. To date, **thirty-two of the forty-four District Attorneys have outsourced some or all of their toxicology cases**. A list of participating DAs can be obtained upon request.

For fiscal year 2015-2016, the State Crime Laboratory **outsourced 2,629 toxicology cases**. To date, **4,343 toxicology cases** have been outsourced in total.

IV. Process Improvements

The State Crime Lab continues its concerted effort to identify cases that have been disposed of in court and no longer need forensic analysis, called **stop-work cases**. The State Crime Lab routinely provides prosecutors with lists of cases which appear to have cleared the court system but for which the Lab has not received a disposition notice, requesting confirmation that the case is completed and that no further Lab work is required. The NC Conference of District Attorneys has facilitated prosecutorial review of these notices and **forty-three of the forty-four District Attorneys are either fully or partially participating**. As a result, the Lab is able to focus on the cases where forensic analysis is still needed. A list of which DAs are participating is available upon request.

V. Human Capital (Salaries)

The 2015 Appropriations Act allocated **long-needed funds to pay forensic scientist competitive salaries**. This appropriation for forensic scientist market salary adjustments had an immediate impact on the attrition rate. As a result, the attrition rate of forensic scientists at the State Crime Lab has fallen below 10.5%, less than the rates for NC state employees (11%) and for forensic scientists in state crime labs across the nation (16%).

VI. Expansion

Construction began on the new Western Regional Laboratory in August 2015⁶. The new facility will be approximately twice the size of the current regional lab and serve law enforcement agencies in western North Carolina. The project, expected for completion in 2017, is currently on-time and on-budget. With the addition of forensic biologists and other scientist positions, cases will be able to be worked more quickly, as scientists will spend less time on the road traveling to testify in court and more time in the laboratory working cases.

The DNA Database Section at the main State Crime Lab facility in Raleigh increased its physical footprint in FY 2015-2016 to accommodate more analysts. Increased space and personnel were needed to handle DNA samples now collected upon arrest for 35 additional felonies under G.S. 15A-266.3A. The samples are added to the DNA Database where they can be used to solve crimes.

⁶ The NC State Construction Office issued a Certificate to Proceed on August 18, 2015 and the general contractor was on the ground the same day. A formal groundbreaking ceremony took place in Edneyville on Sept. 8, 2015.

VII. Fiscal Resources⁷

The State Crime Lab continues to face challenges in obtaining necessary fiscal resources as unfunded requirements⁸ continue to place a strain on the Lab's budget. The State Crime Lab continues to participate in Project Foresight to begin building a detailed picture of the fiscal resources required to operate a forensic laboratory and to determine the cost of each test and analysis. **Though the data for FY 15-16 is incomplete, it shows a need for greater resources for the State Crime Lab.**

During FY 15-16, the State Crime Lab had 214 full time equivalent positions, or FTEs, including 148 forensic scientist positions and 66 support staff positions to include administrative and technician positions. The FY 15-16 budget allocated approximately nine percent of the annual funding needed for the State Crime Lab to refresh critical equipment. The difference was made up using declining receipt funding, grants and lapsed salaries. As additional scientists hired for new positions complete their training and begin work on active criminal cases, the State Crime Lab's **supply costs have increased by over 45% over the last five years**. For comparison purposes, the chart below depicts the last five fiscal years for scientific supplies. Though the data shows a slight decrease from FY 14-15 to FY 15-16, scientific supply **expenditures are projected to increase in FY 16-17 to \$684,440** due to the expansion of the new Western Regional Laboratory in 2017.

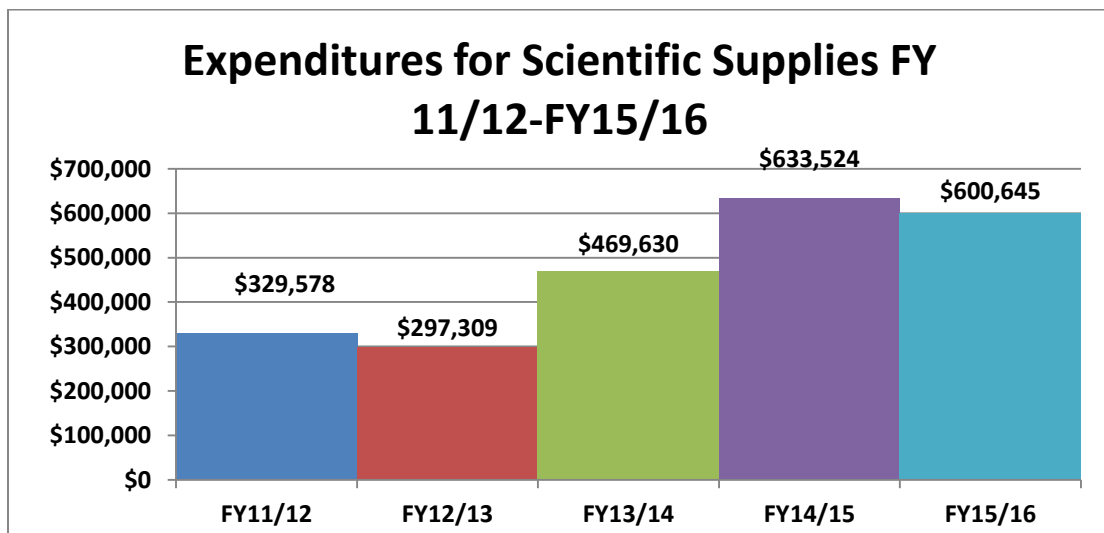


Figure 6 Expenditures for Scientific Supplies - Last Five Fiscal Years

⁷S.L. 2013-360 (4) also provides that the Annual Crime Lab Report contain "[a]n average estimate of the dollar and time cost to perform each type of procedure and analysis performed by the Laboratory." The Crime Lab has not had the capability in the past to calculate this data. However, late in the 2013/2014 fiscal year, the Lab initiated participation in "Project Foresight," operating out of West Virginia University, which compiles such information for forensic laboratories. The data collection deadline for the Project Foresight Annual Report published the next May is Dec.1. Because the Crime Lab's data for the May, 2015, report will not represent a full year and will thus be incomplete, the first full year data reflecting a comparative breakdown of analysis costs will be issued May, 2016. Therefore, category 2013-360 (4) will be addressed in the FY 2016-17 State Crime Laboratory Annual Report.

⁸S.L. 2011-19 also known as "The Forensic Sciences Act of 2011" required the Crime Laboratory to absorb recurring costs associated with individual forensic scientist certification, facility accreditation by ISO 17025 standards, a fulltime ombudsman (Attorney III) and travel support for the Forensic Science Advisory Board which is required to meet multiple times each year. This unfunded mandate has impacted the Lab's ability to allow overtime and make critical equipment purchases.

The State Crime Lab is utilizing available grants to refresh scientific equipment, purchase DNA supplies and pay for training to meet unfunded and mandated certification and accreditation requirements. During the last twelve months, the Lab secured four grants for FY 15-16 through various federal programs. The grant awards include: \$211,815 for scientific instrumentation and equipment for Toxicology, Latent Evidence and Digital Evidence; \$1,601,270 for DNA supplies, scientific instruments and training for Forensic Biology and DNA Database; \$66,640 for a DNA training conference for all Forensic Biology and DNA Database scientists; and \$160,000 for a Toxicology scientific instrument. The HERO grant was originally noted as a FY 15-16 grant but was not released to the Lab until FY 16-17.

The North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board, composed of 15 renowned national forensic experts, reported in a letter to the North Carolina General Assembly the “*tremendous progress by the State Crime Laboratory over the past 36 months...*” as well as “*...an urgent need for more Laboratory resources.*” The **Board unanimously supported and strongly recommended that the General Assembly establish a special revenue reserve fund that would be appropriated annually to finance non-recurring expenses such as updating scientific equipment.** To remain a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory, scientific instrumentation and equipment must be replaced and updated based on current industry standards. A special revenue reserve fund would provide contingency funding to offset periodic reductions in crime lab court fees authorized pursuant to NCGS 7A-304(a)(7).

The 2016 Budget allocated equipment funding of **\$640,000 non-recurring for equipment needs in Raleigh and Greensboro and \$1,087,803 for equipment at the new Western Crime Lab in Edneyville.** The majority of that money was used for DNA scientific instrumentation in preparation for expansion of Forensic Biology in the new WRL. **The State Crime Laboratory wishes to acknowledge the members of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety for their support.**

The Lab faces a significant decline in dedicated receipts generated from court fees.⁹ For FY15-16, fees paid to the Lab decreased by 36 percent to \$899,834 as compared to FY11-12. The rapid decline in receipts has resulted in significant cash flow and unstable funding challenges. (See Figure 5) The recurring budget for these dedicated Laboratory receipts is \$1.4 million a year. Approximately 40% of the receipts (\$565,300) funds eight forensic scientist positions. The remaining balance of \$835,000 supports non-salary operating costs such as scientific supplies, utilities, and telecommunications. Three forensic scientist positions are currently vacant due to insufficient receipts to support these positions.

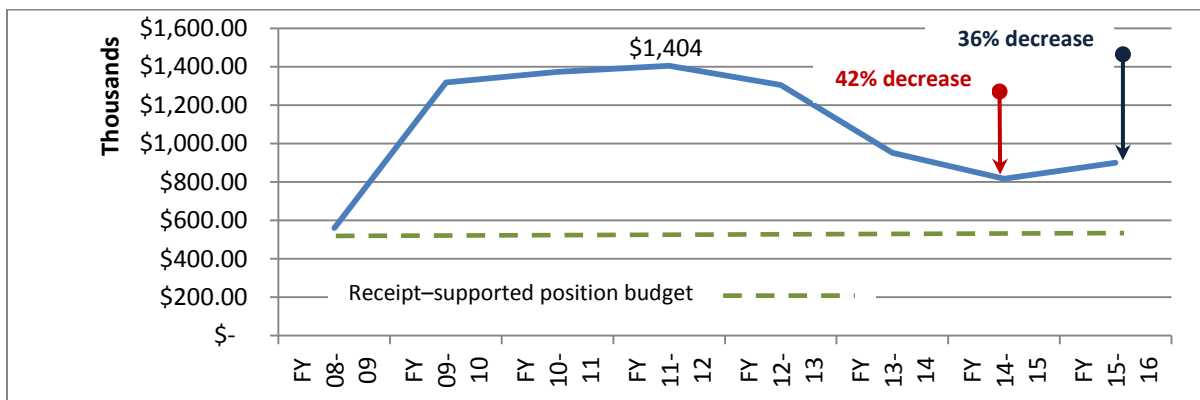


Figure 7 DOJ Receipts for \$600 Statutory Court Fees

⁹ See Performance Audit of NC State Crime Laboratory \$600 Fee Collections & Associated Operation; NC DOJ Office of Internal Audit, July 21, 2015.

The current statute authorizes the courts to assess fees for the following laboratory analyses: forensic DNA analysis; bodily fluid tests for the presence of alcohol or controlled substances; and the analysis of controlled substances. Fees are not currently permitted for the following laboratory analyses: firearms & tool marks; latent; trace; and digital evidence. The General Assembly should consider a base budget correction and reconciliation of budgeted receipt levels to ensure operational stability for SCL operations.

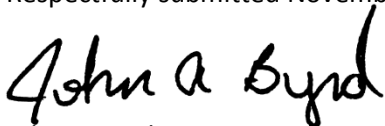
VIII. Conclusion

The State Crime Lab continues to provide high-quality forensic science while improving efficiencies and turnaround times. The Crime Lab will continue to seek increased efficiencies through the use of Lean Six Sigma methodology, streamlined evidence management processes, advanced instrumentation, strategic redistribution of casework, and improved coordination with the courts and our partners in the criminal justice system.

The construction of a larger Western Regional Laboratory will speed analysis of cases by providing more types of forensic analysis in the region, and it will help the entire state by relieving the main State Crime Lab in Raleigh of some of its workload. The hiring and training of additional State Crime Lab employees¹⁰ has provided additional technical and administrative support to allow forensic scientists to focus on the analytical portion of case work.

However, the Crime Lab continues to face challenges, particularly a stable funding source for unfunded mandates, scientific instrumentation and equipment updates, and scientific supplies, as well as the requirement that lab scientists provide in-person court testimony.

Respectfully submitted November, 2016,



John A. Byrd

Director, North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

¹⁰ The 2015 Appropriations Act included funding for the State Crime Lab to hire six chemistry technicians, three information processing technicians and one DNA Database forensic scientist. The 2016 Appropriations Act included funding for the new Western Regional Laboratory in Edneyville to hire one HVAC Technician.

Appendix A - Submissions by County

| County | 7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013 | | 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014 | | 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2015 | | 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016 | |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Submissions | Items Submitted | Submissions | Items Submitted | Submissions | Items Submitted | Submissions | Items Submitted |
| Alamance | 520 | 893 | 420 | 689 | 267 | 445 | 278 | 446 |
| Alexander | 135 | 282 | 66 | 108 | 46 | 93 | 72 | 142 |
| Alleghany | 32 | 50 | 21 | 22 | 34 | 42 | 30 | 55 |
| Anson | 102 | 280 | 89 | 326 | 63 | 153 | 65 | 129 |
| Ashe | 77 | 132 | 61 | 115 | 29 | 69 | 42 | 70 |
| Avery | 84 | 143 | 83 | 136 | 76 | 113 | 53 | 78 |
| Beaufort | 514 | 656 | 432 | 616 | 371 | 507 | 372 | 508 |
| Bertie | 73 | 105 | 61 | 86 | 33 | 51 | 24 | 70 |
| Bladen | 145 | 249 | 67 | 118 | 110 | 149 | 84 | 185 |
| Brunswick | 494 | 634 | 521 | 660 | 437 | 614 | 550 | 785 |
| Buncombe | 1213 | 2061 | 985 | 1745 | 897 | 1416 | 1046 | 1839 |
| Burke | 370 | 547 | 327 | 547 | 258 | 459 | 335 | 519 |
| Cabarrus | 901 | 1460 | 615 | 1113 | 571 | 789 | 609 | 841 |
| Caldwell | 366 | 743 | 376 | 638 | 325 | 529 | 325 | 650 |
| Camden | 18 | 26 | 26 | 53 | 21 | 29 | 17 | 25 |
| Carteret | 409 | 549 | 397 | 544 | 320 | 464 | 447 | 623 |
| Caswell | 52 | 125 | 127 | 146 | 47 | 62 | 68 | 151 |
| Catawba | 663 | 1315 | 573 | 1066 | 652 | 1133 | 988 | 1430 |
| Chatham | 200 | 493 | 135 | 235 | 133 | 233 | 126 | 212 |
| Cherokee | 97 | 264 | 66 | 106 | 55 | 113 | 81 | 133 |
| Chowan | 48 | 79 | 27 | 49 | 53 | 81 | 32 | 56 |
| Clay | 27 | 37 | 25 | 50 | 40 | 72 | 50 | 75 |
| Cleveland | 430 | 978 | 322 | 607 | 330 | 477 | 468 | 744 |
| Columbus | 229 | 401 | 247 | 388 | 203 | 336 | 204 | 391 |
| Craven | 324 | 632 | 316 | 511 | 268 | 590 | 347 | 675 |
| Cumberland | 1465 | 2299 | 916 | 1532 | 497 | 1023 | 247 | 1155 |
| Currituck | 79 | 179 | 80 | 133 | 50 | 99 | 80 | 102 |
| Dare | 304 | 595 | 220 | 339 | 240 | 385 | 223 | 309 |
| Davidson | 1112 | 1793 | 650 | 972 | 326 | 441 | 330 | 486 |
| Davie | 55 | 76 | 58 | 77 | 99 | 135 | 85 | 117 |
| Duplin | 376 | 782 | 262 | 408 | 180 | 338 | 222 | 399 |
| Durham | 1859 | 4434 | 1706 | 3822 | 1299 | 3806 | 1376 | 4624 |
| Edgecombe | 455 | 834 | 358 | 492 | 328 | 442 | 253 | 377 |
| Forsyth | 696 | 1292 | 471 | 852 | 501 | 980 | 925 | 604 |
| Franklin | 129 | 414 | 141 | 313 | 144 | 364 | 203 | 569 |
| Gaston | 1094 | 1656 | 859 | 1170 | 751 | 1151 | 857 | 1287 |
| Gates | 13 | 29 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 10 | 16 |

| County | 7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013 | | 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014 | | 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2015 | | 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016 | |
|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> |
| Graham | 56 | 222 | 95 | 236 | 36 | 107 | 41 | 71 |
| Granville | 336 | 495 | 322 | 449 | 267 | 408 | 257 | 334 |
| Greene | 189 | 331 | 75 | 162 | 73 | 139 | 76 | 122 |
| Guilford | 1857 | 2967 | 1494 | 2197 | 1301 | 1993 | 1294 | 1965 |
| Halifax | 314 | 956 | 220 | 590 | 222 | 405 | 181 | 313 |
| Harnett | 336 | 604 | 349 | 500 | 339 | 514 | 204 | 402 |
| Haywood | 235 | 352 | 203 | 299 | 292 | 404 | 250 | 384 |
| Henderson | 376 | 626 | 353 | 536 | 275 | 443 | 350 | 526 |
| Hertford | 102 | 151 | 71 | 124 | 73 | 97 | 54 | 98 |
| Hoke | 267 | 844 | 212 | 574 | 195 | 652 | 234 | 635 |
| Hyde | 32 | 44 | 22 | 54 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 20 |
| Iredell | 528 | 730 | 382 | 503 | 302 | 507 | 341 | 560 |
| Jackson | 139 | 301 | 164 | 333 | 145 | 332 | 152 | 381 |
| Johnston | 693 | 1374 | 672 | 1048 | 647 | 1110 | 706 | 1098 |
| Jones | 57 | 73 | 62 | 95 | 56 | 73 | 52 | 66 |
| Lee | 433 | 586 | 265 | 409 | 218 | 462 | 217 | 405 |
| Lenoir | 214 | 373 | 392 | 613 | 394 | 661 | 413 | 783 |
| Lincoln | 110 | 225 | 76 | 137 | 221 | 367 | 566 | 745 |
| Macon | 112 | 187 | 124 | 168 | 127 | 196 | 128 | 205 |
| Madison | 88 | 139 | 71 | 141 | 48 | 80 | 38 | 67 |
| Martin | 151 | 241 | 67 | 88 | 172 | 294 | 188 | 276 |
| McDowell | 158 | 215 | 141 | 200 | 124 | 213 | 137 | 182 |
| Mecklenburg | 402 | 535 | 406 | 573 | 354 | 499 | 444 | 754 |
| Mitchell | 50 | 88 | 46 | 84 | 31 | 53 | 86 | 132 |
| Montgomery | 157 | 206 | 89 | 150 | 38 | 76 | 38 | 98 |
| Moore | 443 | 749 | 466 | 672 | 228 | 340 | 264 | 421 |
| Nash | 378 | 645 | 367 | 561 | 420 | 616 | 455 | 669 |
| New Hanover | 565 | 1164 | 437 | 827 | 537 | 1247 | 666 | 1689 |
| Northampton | 20 | 37 | 45 | 106 | 38 | 101 | 121 | 235 |
| Onslow | 675 | 1264 | 603 | 958 | 449 | 698 | 513 | 835 |
| Orange | 453 | 843 | 520 | 811 | 384 | 755 | 322 | 593 |
| Pamlico | 39 | 40 | 25 | 49 | 79 | 108 | 126 | 183 |
| Pasquotank | 190 | 386 | 175 | 249 | 113 | 192 | 122 | 216 |
| Pender | 118 | 167 | 110 | 149 | 70 | 105 | 76 | 115 |
| Perquimans | 29 | 58 | 38 | 78 | 43 | 74 | 15 | 20 |
| Person | 182 | 218 | 173 | 229 | 162 | 218 | 130 | 166 |
| Pitt | 644 | 1032 | 346 | 525 | 237 | 394 | 211 | 456 |
| Polk | 77 | 109 | 48 | 60 | 79 | 125 | 87 | 163 |

| County | 7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013 | | 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014 | | 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2015 | | 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016 | |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> | <u>Submissions</u> | <u>Items Submitted</u> |
| Randolph | 607 | 968 | 567 | 798 | 338 | 546 | 442 | 691 |
| Richmond | 344 | 624 | 384 | 648 | 214 | 354 | 241 | 447 |
| Robeson | 496 | 1189 | 371 | 908 | 281 | 588 | 311 | 592 |
| Rockingham | 391 | 790 | 340 | 691 | 254 | 392 | 247 | 369 |
| Rowan | 315 | 576 | 220 | 396 | 385 | 616 | 578 | 823 |
| Rutherford | 199 | 321 | 120 | 173 | 121 | 204 | 169 | 290 |
| Sampson | 261 | 613 | 359 | 567 | 272 | 424 | 302 | 463 |
| Scotland | 264 | 642 | 167 | 382 | 119 | 270 | 179 | 444 |
| Stanly | 145 | 302 | 135 | 253 | 192 | 319 | 187 | 322 |
| Stokes | 174 | 347 | 142 | 248 | 108 | 166 | 139 | 228 |
| Surry | 422 | 779 | 327 | 504 | 312 | 462 | 289 | 486 |
| Swain | 84 | 293 | 83 | 142 | 60 | 110 | 105 | 156 |
| Transylvania | 106 | 176 | 69 | 110 | 76 | 144 | 128 | 248 |
| Tyrrell | 24 | 67 | 44 | 45 | 31 | 34 | 15 | 18 |
| Union | 438 | 747 | 436 | 684 | 349 | 498 | 455 | 702 |
| Vance | 187 | 498 | 163 | 291 | 147 | 279 | 189 | 340 |
| Wake | 490 | 1524 | 228 | 802 | 263 | 921 | 485 | 1954 |
| Warren | 27 | 88 | 32 | 73 | 37 | 98 | 22 | 34 |
| Washington | 106 | 120 | 32 | 57 | 21 | 55 | 30 | 40 |
| Watauga | 273 | 586 | 200 | 290 | 148 | 243 | 133 | 207 |
| Wayne | 482 | 1272 | 404 | 837 | 377 | 675 | 488 | 908 |
| Wilkes | 256 | 592 | 282 | 508 | 257 | 381 | 320 | 525 |
| Wilson | 614 | 1322 | 488 | 835 | 413 | 807 | 435 | 702 |
| Yadkin | 99 | 147 | 152 | 237 | 88 | 138 | 207 | 307 |
| Yancey | 95 | 158 | 58 | 111 | 60 | 101 | 99 | 148 |
| TOTAL | 33264 | 61835 | 27642 | 46920 | 23785 | 42090 | 27284 | 48704 |