

CONNECTICUT FORENSIC LABORATORY

- Since 2005 the forensic laboratory has seen a 35.17% increase in case submissions from local, state and federal stakeholder agencies, (3,420 case submissions in 2005 and 4,623 case submissions in 2009). It assists both the State's Attorney's office and the Public Defender's office.
- Forensic staffing positions at the laboratory has actually has been reduced/eliminated by seven slots due to retirements since state budgetary issues.
- The forensic laboratory received no budgetary increases for expansion for personnel or equipment, and has been reliant on federal and OPM grants to fund capital purchases and durational employees to try to keep pace with the workload.
- 29% of the forensic staff consists of durational grant employees, (15 out of 51).
- As the salary fringe rate continues to increase, currently at 64.13%, more of the grant funding must be devoted to personnel costs at the expense of large capital investments in forensic equipment. DNA equipment range in price from \$30,000 to \$150,000.00. This equipment has life spans of approximately five years before replacement is needed. In years past, we have purchased these items from NIJ formula grants rather than from general fund purchases.
- Compounding the DNA the backlog issue in September 2010, the laboratory discovered that a DNA vendor had provided the DNA unit with sub-standard Identifiler kits used to amplify DNA samples. This will result in re-examination of over 649 laboratory cases to see if additional DNA profiles are present. Currently attempting to find a settlement between Applied Biosystems, Connecticut Attorney General's Office, and DPS.
- If grant fund positions are not sustained, (ARRA DNA positions) this will involve bumping via contractual agreement between the state and 1199 union and will result in reducing services in DNA unit , to only serious felonies, and elimination of services in the firearms section.