OMB Clearance # 1117-0034
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NATIONAL FORENSIC LABORATORY INFORMATION SYSTEM

Survey of Crime Laboratory Drug Chemistry Sections

April 2013

Office of Diversion Control
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Conducted by:

Data from this survey are being collected for the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS). The purpose of this survey is to collect up-to-date information about laboratories and laboratory systems that routinely conduct analyses of drug samples submitted by State, local, and Federal law enforcement agencies as the result of seizures, purchases, or finds. This survey is administered approximately every 4 years.

The data provided by your laboratory will be used to support the operation of the NFLIS data system. Your individual survey data will be kept confidential. Analysis of the survey data will be used to enhance the NFLIS and further understand how crime laboratories operate and the issues they face. Survey data will only be presented in aggregate form with data from other laboratories.

You can complete and return the 2012 NFLIS Survey of Crime Laboratory Drug Chemistry Sections in the following ways:

- **Option 1**: By submitting online at http://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/.
- **Option 2**: By mail using the enclosed addressed stamped envelope.
- **Option 3**: By fax to the attention of Gina Geercken at 919-485-5555.
- **Option 4**: By requesting an electronic version of the survey by e-mailing nflis-survey2012@rti.org.

Please complete and return the survey by May 13, 2013.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact Ellen Causey or Gina Geercken at 1-800-285-2186.

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

A1. Please review your laboratory information below. If any of the following information is <u>incorrect</u>, please provide the updated information in the space provided.

[LABEL WITH INFORMATION PLACED HERE]

Updated Information:

Laboratory/laboratory system name: _____

Laboratory/headquarters mailing address: _____

_____

Laboratory/headquarters FedEX address
(if different from mailing address): _____

_____

Telephone number: _____ Fax number:

Laboratory Website: _____

A2. Please provide the following information:

Laboratory/laboratory system director name: _____

Laboratory/laboratory system director e-mail: _____

Drug chemistry section laboratory contact name: _____

Drug chemistry section laboratory contact e-mail: _____

A3. Which best describes the operation of the laboratory/laboratory system?

- ☐ Operated by a Federal agency
- ☐ Operated by a State agency
- ☐ Operated by a regional entity/agency/task force
- ☐ Operated by a county
- ☐ Operated by a city or municipality
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

A4. Does your laboratory/laboratory system have a laboratory information management system (LIMS)?

- ☐ Yes ➡ **CONTINUE TO A5**
- ☐ No ➡ **CONTINUE TO A6**

A5. What type of LIMS is utilized by your laboratory/laboratory system?

- ☐ BARD
- ☐ BEAST
- ☐ Forensic Advantage
- ☐ IBM AS 400 Based System
- ☐ Justice Trax
- ☐ LabVantage
- ☐ Lab Ware
- ☐ NFLIS LIMS (NIMS)
- ☐ Que-Tel
- ☐ R. J. Lee Solutions
- ☐ StarLIMS
- ☐ Other data management system (specify): _____
- ☐ No computerized LIMS (please specify process for documenting case management):

_____

A6. Does your laboratory routinely conduct drug chemistry (non-toxicology) analyses?

- ☐ Yes ➡ **CONTINUE TO A7**
- ☐ No ➡ **STOP**, thank you for completing questions A1–A6. **Please return this entire questionnaire as instructed in the information box on the front cover of this survey.**

A7. <u>For your laboratory or for each laboratory in your laboratory system</u>, please list the following:

- **Laboratory name and location**
- **Date your laboratory was last accredited (provide accrediting body/bodies for your laboratory)**
- **Type of accreditation**
- **Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) bench personnel who work in the drug chemistry section. Please use fractions of FTE equivalent if needed. For example, if a manager works half time as a supervisor and half time as a drug analyst, please report 0.5 FTE in Managerial and 0.5 FTE in Drug analysts/examiners.**

<u>NOTE</u>: IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE LABORATORY IN YOUR LABORATORY SYSTEM, PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE ROW FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY.

Drug Chemistry Section Accreditation and Staffing									
	ASCLD-LAB Accreditation		Other Accreditation		Number of FTEs as of December 31, 2012				
Laboratory Name/Location	Date last ASCLD-LAB accredited	ASCLD-LAB accreditation: Legacy or ISO	List other accreditations	Date of other accreditations	Managerial[1]	Drug analysts/ examiners[2]	Technical support[3]	Clerical support	Other: ____

1. Laboratory director, supervisor, QA manager
2. Personnel who examine evidence, etc.
3. Technician, laboratory support personnel, etc.

SECTION B: DRUG CHEMISTRY CASELOAD INFORMATION

For the purposes of this survey, DRUG CASE, ANALYZED CASE, AND ITEMS/EXHIBITS are defined as follows:

- **DRUG CASE:** Evidence submitted from a single criminal investigation, assigned a unique identifying laboratory case number.
- **ANALYZED CASE:** A case in which one or more items/exhibits were analyzed for the presence of a drug and/or controlled substance.
- **ITEMS/EXHIBITS:** One or multiple specimens of a substance having the same appearance and initially believed to be the same substance. *(For example, one bottle containing multiple tablets having the same physical appearance would be considered one item/exhibit. One plastic bag containing an ounce of white powder would be one Item/exhibit.)*

B1. Please list the following information <u>for your laboratory/each individual laboratory in your system</u>:

- **Laboratory name and location.**
- **The number of drug cases submitted during calendar year 2012.**
- **The number of drug cases analyzed during calendar year 2012.**
- **The number of drug items/exhibits submitted during calendar year 2012.**
- **The number of drug items/exhibits analyzed during calendar year 2012.**

<u>NOTE</u>: IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE LABORATORY IN YOUR LABORATORY SYSTEM, PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE ROW FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY.

Laboratory Name/Location	Total Number of Drug Chemistry *<u>Cases</u>*		Total Number of Drug Chemistry *<u>Items/Exhibits</u>*		
	Submitted during 2012	Analyzed during 2012*	Submitted during 2012	Analyzed during 2012*	Items/ exhibits <u>NOT</u> tracked in LIMS
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐

* Include cases/items submitted prior to calendar year 2012 but analyzed in calendar year 2012.

B2. Does your laboratory/laboratory system have a policy for analyzing/working all drug cases submitted to the laboratory?

☐ Yes
☐ No ➡ Approximately what percentage? _____% ☐ Not Tracked

B3. What type of laboratory or laboratories were drug chemistry cases outsourced to during calendar year 2012? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

☐ Did not outsource ➡ **SKIP TO B5**
☐ Other public or not-for-profit laboratory within your State
☐ Other public or not-for-profit laboratory outside your State
☐ Commercial laboratory within your State
☐ Commercial laboratory outside your State
☐ Federal laboratory

B4. Why did your laboratory/laboratory system outsource drug chemistry cases for analysis during calendar year 2012?

☐ To reduce backlog
☐ Lacked capability to conduct the required drug chemistry analysis
☐ Not accredited
☐ Other (specify): _____

B5. At the end of calendar year 2012, how many drug chemistry cases were in backlog (cases that are unanalyzed for 30 days or more after submission to the laboratory)? Please include unassigned cases and cases currently being processed/worked on but not completed through final report.

Number: _____

B6. What were the major contributors to your backlog? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

☐ Influx of emerging drugs
☐ Need to develop testing methods
☐ Loss of staff/FTE
☐ Training responsibilities
☐ Increase in testimony time
☐ Other (specify): _____

B7. How does your current drug chemistry caseload compare to your caseload of 1 year ago?

- ☐ Greatly increased (> 20%)
- ☐ Moderately increased (10%–20%)
- ☐ Slightly increased (5%–10%)
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Slightly decreased (10%–20%)
- ☐ Moderately decreased (10%–20%)
- ☐ Greatly decreased (> 20%)

B8. What is the current average drug chemistry Turnaround Time (TaT) for your laboratory? TaT refers to the time from submission of a case to the laboratory until the report is administratively approved (measured in days or portion of days).

Number of Days: _____

Laboratory Systems Only – please provide range (low and high) for laboratories in your system: _____ (example: 71–163)

B9. How does your current drug chemistry TaT compare to 1 year ago?

- ☐ Greatly increased (> 20%)
- ☐ Moderately increased (10%–20%)
- ☐ Slightly increased (5%–10%)
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Slightly decreased (10%–20%)
- ☐ Moderately decreased (10%–20%)
- ☐ Greatly decreased (> 20%)

SECTION C: LABORATORY DRUG CHEMISTRY POLICIES

C1. What are the key reasons your laboratory does NOT analyze drug chemistry cases that have been submitted? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ All submitted cases are analyzed
- ☐ Laboratory case acceptance guidelines
- ☐ Case dismissed/no defendant
- ☐ Guilty plea/plea bargain
- ☐ Adjudicated without forensic evidence testing
- ☐ No formal or specific request for analysis is received from arresting officer, submitting agency, or prosecutor's office
- ☐ Items submitted for destruction only
- ☐ Presumptive Identification
- ☐ Insufficient sample
- ☐ Workload pressures
- ☐ Insufficient funding
- ☐ State statutory guidelines do not require analysis (e.g., only felony-generating substances are analyzed)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

C2. Are all cases involving drug seizures or drugs found by the agencies you serve submitted to the laboratory?

- ☐ Yes ➡ **SKIP TO QUESTION C4**
- ☐ Varies by agency
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know ➡ **SKIP TO QUESTION C4**

C3. What are the key reasons that a case seized or found by the agencies you serve would NOT be submitted to your laboratory? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Field tested cases not submitted unless confirmatory testing is needed
- ☐ No defendant is identified
- ☐ Defendant may plead guilty or plea bargain prior to or without submission tothe laboratory
- ☐ Case dismissed prior to submission to the laboratory
- ☐ Some drug cases are submitted to another laboratory/other laboratories
- ☐ Prosecutor has not signed off on the case
- ☐ Legislative decision, policy, or law dictates what is submitted
- ☐ Laboratory budgetary constraints
- ☐ Submitting agency budgetary constraints
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

C4. What proportion of a drug seizure is routinely submitted to your laboratory?

- ☐ Only a sample of the total amount seized
- ☐ Varying amounts
- ☐ The entire seizure ➡ **SKIP TO SECTION D**

C5. What are the key reason(s) that law enforcement agencies submit only a sample of the amount seized? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Submitting agency has a policy to retain the evidence
- ☐ Laboratory does not have room to store entire seizure
- ☐ Laboratory has policy on evidence submission amounts
- ☐ Security reasons concerning the laboratory storing the seizure
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

SECTION D: DRUG CHEMISTRY TECHNICAL PROCEDURES

D1. Does your drug chemistry section use the following presumptive identification methods? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Visual ID with reference source
- ☐ Chemical analysis (color tests)
- ☐ TLC

D2. Does your drug chemistry section use the following analytical instruments? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ FTIR
- ☐ GC/FID
- ☐ GC/IRD
- ☐ GC/MS
- ☐ GC/MS-MS
- ☐ HPLC
- ☐ LC/MS
- ☐ LC/MS-MS or LC-HRMS
- ☐ Microscopic examination
- ☐ Spectrophotometer – UV, visible, fluorescence or Raman
- ☐ TOF-DART
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

D3. Does your laboratory perform quantitative analyses?

- ☐ Yes, the laboratory/entire laboratory system performs quantitative analyses
- ☐ Yes, select laboratories in the laboratory system perform quantitative analyses
- ☐ No ➡ **SKIP TO SECTION E**

D4. Under what circumstances does your laboratory/laboratories perform quantitative analyses for the following drugs? Amphetamine type stimulants are synthetic stimulants including amphetamine, methamphetamine, methcathinone, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, MDMA, methylphenidate, other phenethylamines, and ecstasy-group substances. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

Circumstances	Cannabis/THC	Cocaine	Heroin	Amphetamine Type Stimulants	Narcotic Analgesics	Other Pharmaceuticals	Other (specify):	Other (specify):
Special request from funding agency	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
State, municipal, or Federal Statutory Requirement	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Laboratory routinely quantitates this drug	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Request from prosecutor(s)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION E: ANALYSTS' NOTES, EMERGING DRUGS, AND NFLIS ACTIVITIES

E1. Are your drug analysts' notes recorded?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No ➡ **SKIP TO E3**

E2. How are your drug analysts' notes stored? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Analyst notes (electronic)
- ☐ Analyst notes (hardcopy)
- ☐ LIMS/Data management system
- ☐ Case report to prosecutor (hardcopy)
- ☐ Case report to prosecutor (electronic)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

E3. Under what circumstances does your laboratory identify non-controlled drugs? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Do not identify non-controlled drugs ➡ **SKIP TO E5**
- ☐ Clandestine laboratories
- ☐ Criminal Investigations
- ☐ Special requests, by, e.g., a local official; Federal government
- ☐ Drug of interest (not yet controlled): _____
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

E4. If a non-controlled drug is identified, how is the information recorded? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Analyst notes (electronic)
- ☐ Analyst notes (hardcopy)
- ☐ LIMS/Data management system
- ☐ Case report to prosecutor (hardcopy)
- ☐ Case report to prosecutor (electronic)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

E5. Does your laboratory routinely test for emerging drugs? For this survey, emerging drugs refer to substances, both controlled and non-controlled, that appeared in your laboratory within the last 5 years.

- ☐ Yes, in-house only
- ☐ Yes, sent to outside laboratory
- ☐ Yes, combination of in-house and reference laboratory testing
- ☐ No, do not test for emerging drugs at this time
- ☐ Depends on the details

E6. If an emerging drug is identified, how is the information recorded? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Information is not recorded
- ☐ LIMS/Data management system
- ☐ Other electronic system
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

E7. Please rate the importance of the following issues associated with the testing of controlled and non-controlled emerging drugs (drugs that appeared in your laboratory within the last 5 years).

Aspects of Emerging Drug Testing	Very Important	Fairly Important	Slightly Important	Not at all Important	No Opinion
Procurement of standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expense associated with custom synthesis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Identification of appropriate target analytes for metabolites	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Testing based on case history and information insufficient	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limited analytical/instrumental methodology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limited specimen available for testing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Validation of the procedures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limited staffing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limited budget	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Time commitments	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

E8. Please rate the value of the following NFLIS activities contribute to your laboratory.

NFLIS Activities	A Lot	Some	A Little	None	No Opinion
Midyear and Annual Reports	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Special Reports	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Web-based Data Query System	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Web-based DEA Emerging Drug Forum (Bulletin Board)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

E9. Briefly describe any additional services you would like to see DEA provide through the NFLIS program that you think would bring value to your laboratory.

Thank You for Completing this Survey!

Please Return the Survey as Instructed on the Front Cover.