

Forensic Science

▶ Center

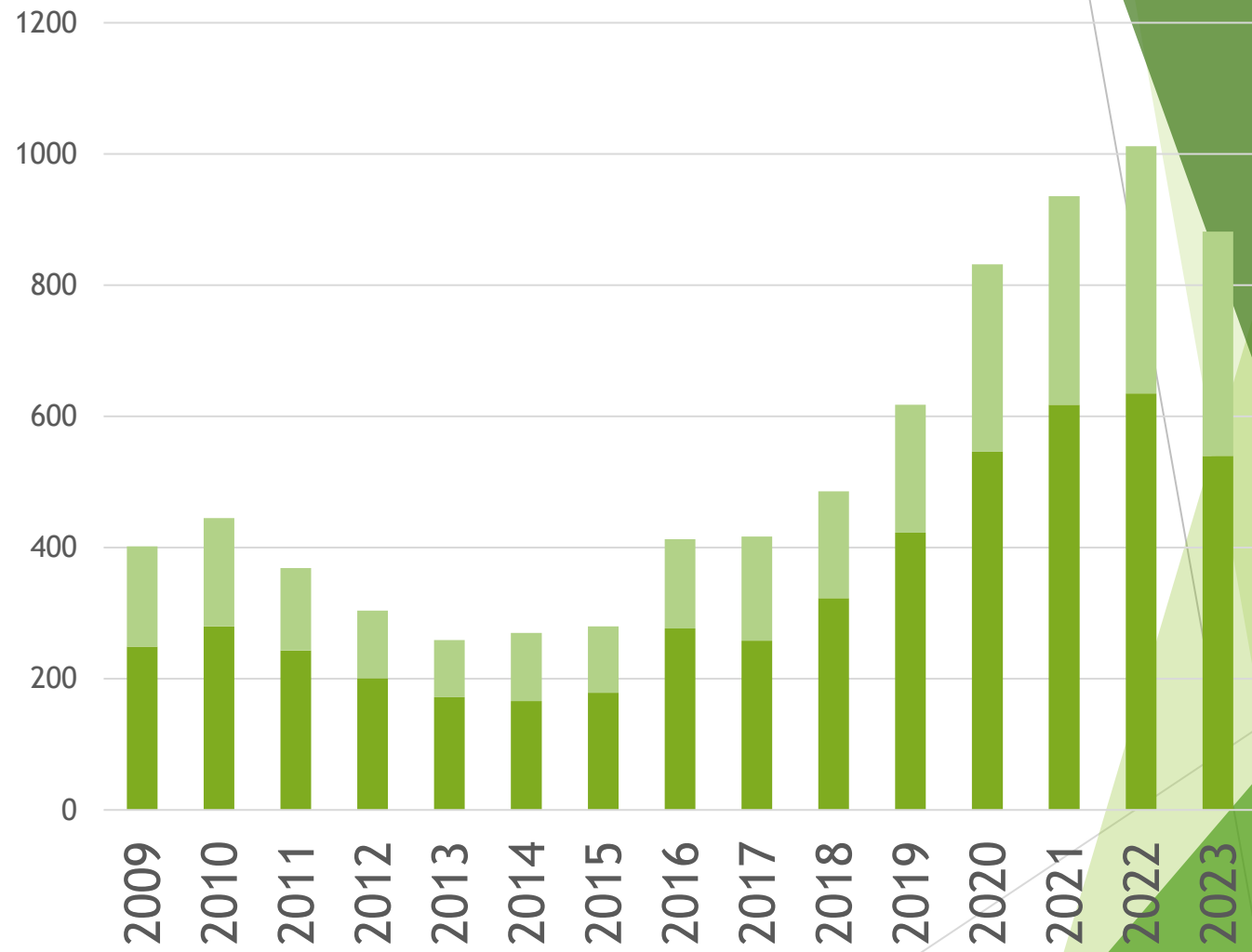
FY 24-25 Budget

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DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2009-2023

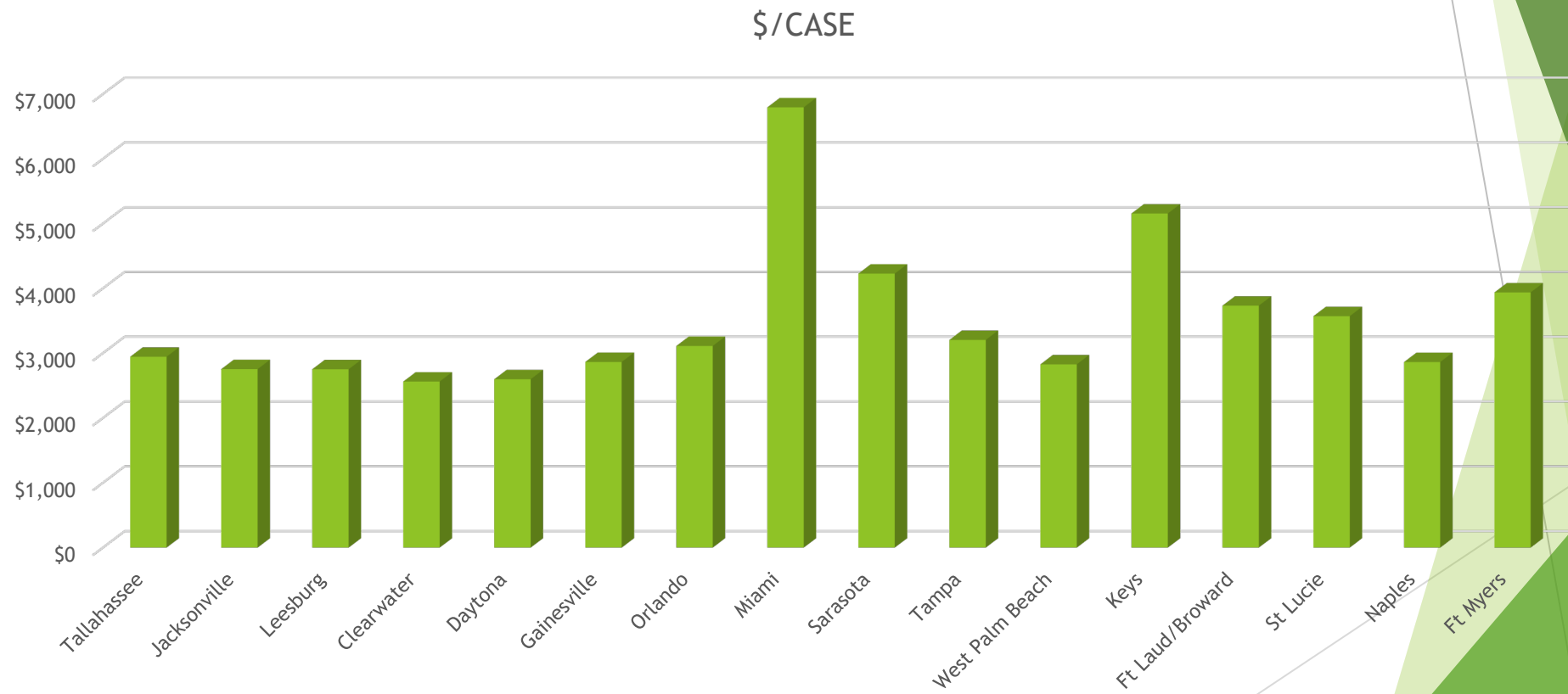


FY 24 updates

- ▶ The synthetic opioid epidemic appears to have peaked in 2022
- ▶ Continue NAME accreditation
- ▶ Maintaining staff levels is a challenge
- ▶ Turn around time remains excellent



Medical Examiner Cost Comparison



Forensic Laboratory

- ▶ Maximus Award for the fourth consecutive year
- ▶ Half of all public crime labs report (~200)
- ▶ Award given to any laboratory that operates at least 90% efficiency based on established benchmarks

FORESIGHT MAXIMUS AWARD

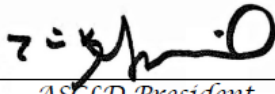
is hereby presented to

Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory, Largo, FL

in recognition of superior performance by achieving at least 90% peak efficiency for the 2022-2023 Foresight reporting year.

Presented the 1st day of May 2024.




ASCLD President



Cost per Case

All Labs - Foresight Project

Cost Per Case (USD)	Pinellas County	25th Percentile	Mean	75th Percentile
Toxicology: Blood Alcohol	116	126	220	336
Biology: DNA	719	1154	1482	2333
Chemistry: Seized Drugs	145	288	407	502
Chemistry: Fire Debris Analysis	157	1972	3064	5013
Biology: Serology	516	840	1172	1946
Toxicology: DUI Drugs	491	589	798	997
Toxicology: Post Mortem	422	636	899	1017

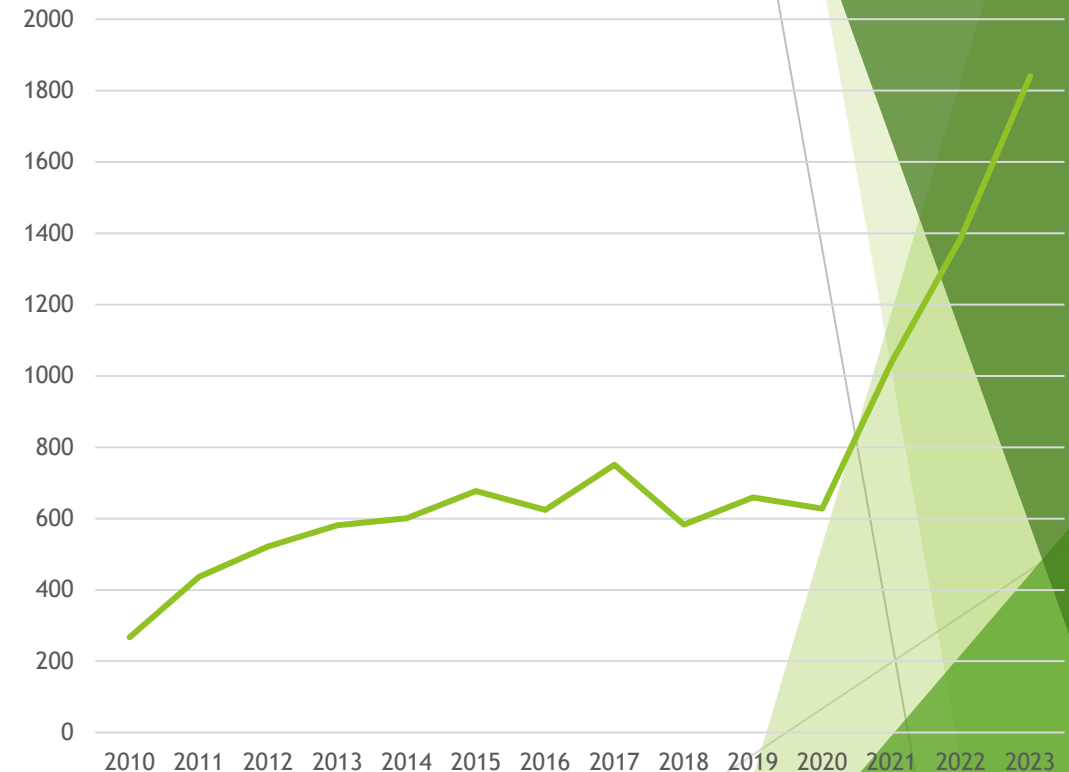
Turn around time

All Labs - Foresight Project				
Average Turn Around Time (days)	Pinellas County	25th Percentile	Mean	75th Percentile
Toxicology: Blood Alcohol	19	22	29	40
Biology: DNA	35	99	133	160
Chemistry: Seized Drugs	20	50	71	93
Chemistry: Fire Debris Analysis	17	36	99	130
Biology: Serology	11	55	67	85
Toxicology: DUI Drugs	25	49	70	82
Toxicology: Post Mortem	26	45	70	83

Decision Package 1

- ▶ Add additional CODIS DNA Analysts (county employee)
 - ▶ Note: FBI requires CODIS operators must be direct government employees
- ▶ Currently 2 positions (minimum required by FBI)
 - ▶ No redundancy
- ▶ PCSO Rapid DNA at booking stations will increase CODIS workload
- ▶ ~700% increase in CODIS profile developed per year since 2010
- ▶ ~340% increase since implementation of STRMIX (advanced mixture interpretation)

DNA Profiles Uploaded to CODIS
2010-2023



Rapid DNA -Lab Impact

- ▶ Booking Stations
 - ▶ BCC approved 2 Rapid DNA Booking station instruments for the PCSO in FY24
 - ▶ Anticipated to go live in FY25
- ▶ Crime Scene
 - ▶ Next year, FBI expected to authorize the use of Rapid DNA for crime scenes by LE agencies
 - ▶ The CODIS rules will LE agencies use of Rapid DNA at scenes a function of the LABORATORY's accreditation
 - ▶ All profile developed will have to be evaluated at PCFL
 - ▶ CODIS eligibility and processing will be done at PCFL

Decision Package 2

- ▶ Two year process to increase pay rates of non-executive forensic technician and analysts to align with other state and local laboratories to mitigate risk of loss of key staff with the establishment of new local laboratories in the Tampa Bay area.
 - ▶ \$175,000 in FY25
 - ▶ \$150,000 in FY26
- ▶ This initiative is strongly supported by both State Attorney Bartlett and Sheriff Gualtieri

Risks

- ▶ Staffing Risks
 - ▶ Efficiency based on continual long term staffing
 - ▶ Training for forensic staff for start date to independent casework
 - ▶ Experienced: 12-18 months
 - ▶ Recent College Graduate: 18-24 months
 - ▶ End of CSI effect
 - ▶ Fewer college graduates pursue forensic science careers
 - ▶ Competition for qualified graduates and experienced analysts
 - ▶ Housing costs are making PC/Tampa Bay Area MUCH less desirable
 - ▶ New forensic laboratories being established in the region
 - ▶ Hillsborough
 - ▶ Manatee
 - ▶ Sarasota
 - ▶ Pasco (potentially)
 - ▶ Salaries not competitive with National or other Florida county laboratories

Salary/Benefits - National Comparison

All Labs - Foresight Project

Average Compensation (USD)	Pinellas County	25th Percentile	Mean	75th Percentile
Toxicology: Blood Alcohol	63,347	75,473	90,521	107,254
Biology: DNA	80,299	108,614	127,810	140,473
Chemistry: Seized Drugs	73,263	101,091	115,455	127,503
Chemistry: Fire Debris Analysis	73,248	102,254	114,586	127,673
Biology: Serology	80,299	90,580	102,152	113,666
Toxicology: DUI Drugs	63,349	95,066	105,011	116,727
Toxicology: Post Mortem	63,349	98,248	105,816	113,229

Salary - Florida County Labs (2024)

Entry Level

County Labs	Evidence Technician			Forensic Technician			Analyst Trainee			Analyst II (Casework)		
	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High
Pinellas	35000	42500	50000	42500	51250	60000	51500	63250	75000	56000	69000	82000
Palm Beach	60360	75078	89796	63084	78462	93840				72012	89556	107100
Broward County	43338	53685	64031	47063	58298	69533	61878	81336	100793	68151	90112	112073
Hillsborough	42598	56503	70408				57533	76523	95514	64896	86424	107952
Sarasota	55619	59779	63939							100401	102897	105393
Miami Dade County	35855	49316	62776	47030	64938	82846	55040	75913	96786	64195	87203	112912
Mean	47554	58872	70190	52392	67233	82073	58150	77924	97698	73931	91508	109086
PC % diff from Mean	(26.4)	(27.8)	(28.8)	(18.9)	(23.8)	(26.9)	(11.4)	(18.8)	(23.2)	(24.3)	(21.8)	(24.8)

Salary - Florida County Labs (2024)

Mid Level

County Labs	Analyst III (Certified)			Analyst IV(Senior)			Technical Leader			Disipline Manager			Quality Manager		
	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High	Start	Mid	High
Pinellas	62000	83500	105000	72000	91000	110000	75000	97500	120000	80000	105000	130000	70000	91000	112000
Palm Beach				85920	106830	127740	90936	113082	135228	93840	116676	139512	98064	121932	145800
Broward County	75101	98716	122331				78999	103841	128682	85410	112268	139125	85410	112268	139125
Hillsborough										84295	109584	134873			
Miami Dade County	67405	90158	112912				70775	91843	112912	76770	104441	132111	76770	104441	132111
Mean	71253	94437	117622	85920	106830	127740	80237	102922	125607	85079	110742	136405	86748	112880	139012
PC % diff from Mean	(13.0)	(11.6)	(10.7)	(16.2)	(14.8)	(13.9)	(6.5)	(5.3)	(4.5)	(6.0)	(5.2)	(4.7)	(19.3)	(19.4)	(19.4)