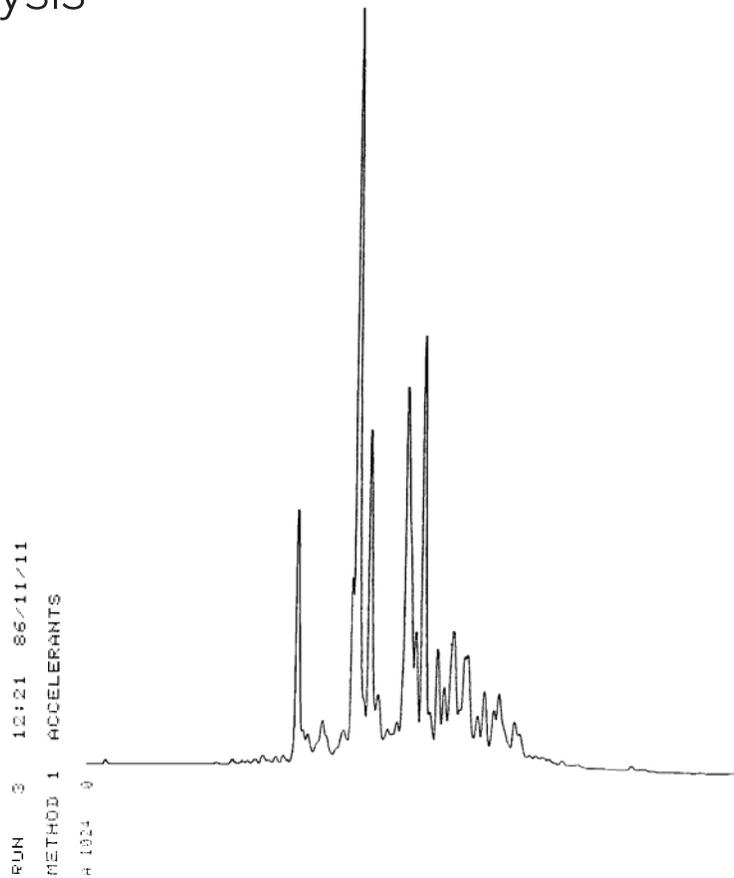




# Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP) - 2015 Report

12 Month Analysis



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## Section 1 - Introduction

New York State general Municipal Law Article 6c Section 156 empowers the Office of Fire Prevention and Control to, among many other things; advise and assist in the coordination and strengthening of activities, programs, services, and rules and regulations of agencies which have functions, powers and duties relating to arson suppression, detection, investigation and prosecution. In addition, the Office is empowered to “improve arson evidence analysis and testing at existing facilities and periodically recommend to the governor and the legislature methods to improve such services.” The Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP) was instituted as one method to accomplish those mandates.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control, through the Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP), provides financial support to participating forensics laboratories as a means to assure and improve the quality and effectiveness of fire debris analysis that each of those laboratories performs. Through this program, the Office of Fire Prevention and Control participates on the New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee’s (NYCLAC) Technical Working Group for Fire Debris. That group, consisting of personnel from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and all of the forensics laboratories that conduct fire debris analysis in New York, works to encourage consistency in laboratory reports and reporting procedures; promote uniformity in testing methods and procedures; identify technical and policy issues affecting the discipline; identify training and developmental needs of discipline personnel; share and exchange information; and serve as a resource to NYCLAC in resolving technical issues

The Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP) Report shows various data elements relating to fire debris samples analyzed by the forensics laboratories in New York State for a specific year. The specific data elements captured and referenced in this report, include; the number of samples submitted and analyzed, the number and percentage of positive samples identified, comparison samples submitted and the number of positive identifications in those comparison samples. The report also provides information on the number of samples that were identified using a canine team, those collected related to vehicle fire cases, and the duration of time from sample collection, to laboratory submission, and subsequently completion of analysis. Finally, this report provides an annual summary of samples analyzed as well as a multiple year expression at the total number of samples examined.

# Arson Laboratory Improvement Project Participating Laboratories 2015

<p>Erie County Dept. of Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory Public Safety Campus Building 45 Elm Street Buffalo NY 14203 John Simich, Ph.D., Director</p>	<p>New York City Police Department Forensic Investigations Division 150-14 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica NY 11432 Dr. Scott O'Neill, Assistant Commissioner / Director</p>
<p>Monroe County Crime Lab 85 West Broad St Rochester NY 14614 John Clark, Administrator</p>	<p>Niagara County Crime Lab P.O. Box 496 5526 Niagara Extension Lockport NY 14095 Al Mack, Director</p>
<p>Nassau County Div. of Forensic Services 2251 Hempstead Turnpike Building R East Meadow, NY 11554-1856 Pasquale Buffolino Ph.D., Director</p> <p>Currently Off-Line for Fire Debris Analysis and under re-development for 2015</p>	<p>Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences 100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street Syracuse NY 13210 Dr. Kathy Corrado, Director</p>
<p>New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center Building 30 1220 Washington Avenue Albany NY 12226-3000 Ray Wickenheiser, Director</p>	<p>Suffolk County Crime Lab Forensic Sciences Building #487 725 Veterans Memorial Highway P.O. Box 6100 Hauppauge NY 11787-0099 Robert Genna, Director</p>
<p>New York State Police Western Regional Crime Lab 722 Homer Street Olean NY 14760-1130 Jeffrey Marciano, Supervisor</p>	<p>Westchester County of Labs &amp; Research Division of Forensic Sciences 10 Dana Road Valhalla NY 10595 Robert Adamo, Director</p>

## Section 2 – Statistical Summaries

This report reflects the annual summary of the laboratories analysis of fire debris evidence.

### STATEWIDE ANNUAL AVERAGES 2011 - 2015

Year	Samples Examined	% Samples Positive
2015	1572 ↓	51%
2014	1587 ↓	50%
2013	1362 ↓	49%
2012	1722 ↑	49%
2011	1810 ↑	46%
<b>5 Yr. Average</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>49%</b>

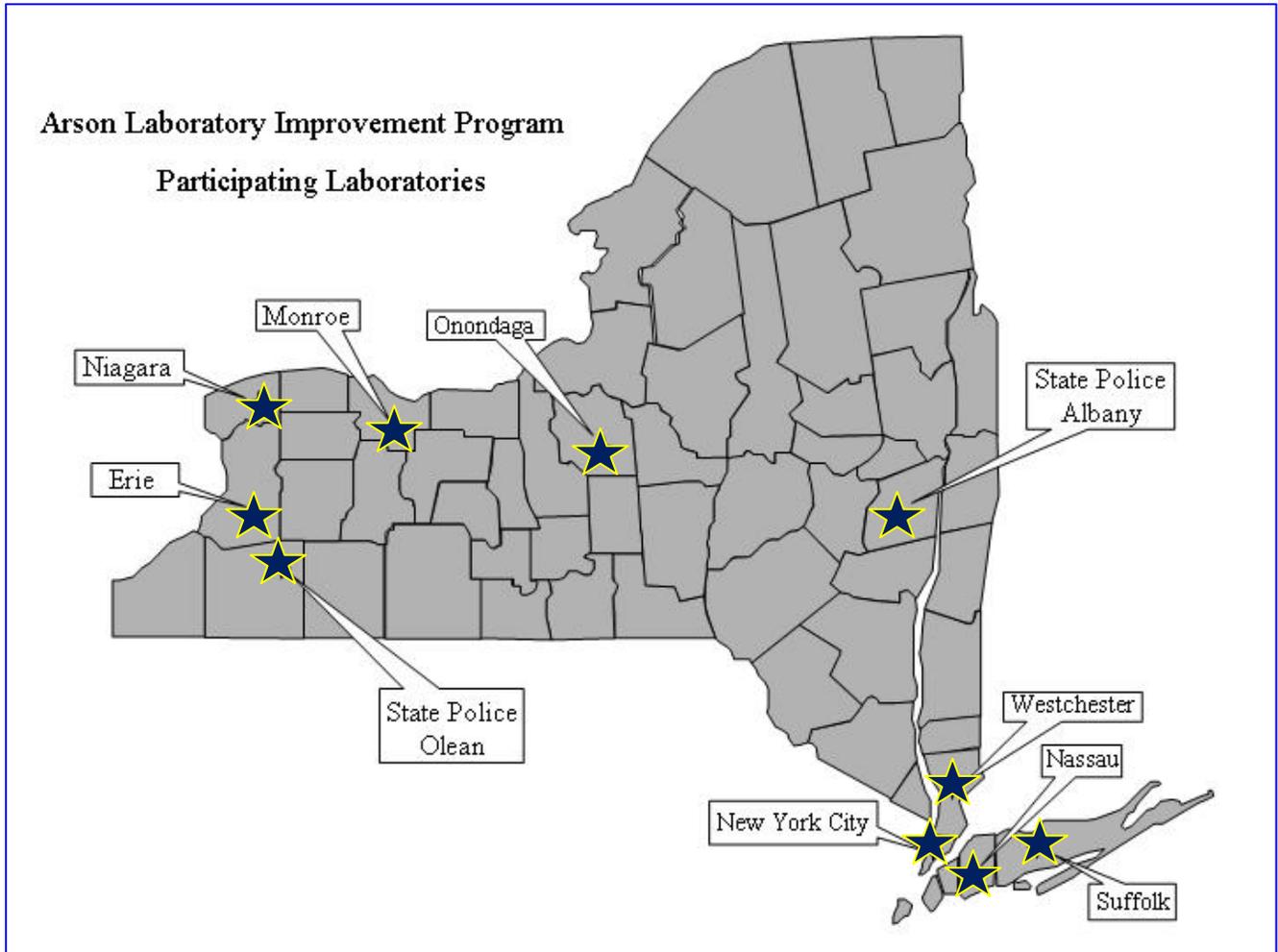
↑↓ Indicates above or below five year average

### 2015 ALIP SUMMARY DATA BY LABORATORY

Laboratory	Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive
<b>State Police</b>				
Headquarters - Albany	143	143	9	2
Western Region - Olean	308	317	42	9
<b>City Labs</b>				
New York City	352	346	14	4
<b>Counties</b>				
Erie	167	197	5	1
Monroe	221	232	21	9
Niagara	39	39	1	0
Onondaga	76	74	8	1
Suffolk	193	172	9	1
Westchester	45	52	11	1

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## Section 3 – Individual Laboratory Data



# State Police Laboratory Summary

## Laboratory: Headquarters, Albany

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	2	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
143	143	67	50%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
9		2	4
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
16	15	4	3

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	70.6%	Completed 1-15 days	57.3%
Completed 16-30 days	14.7%	Completed 16-30 days	23.8%
Completed > 30 days	14.7%	Completed > 30 days	18.9%

### Comment Section

## Laboratory: Western Regional Crime Lab, Olean

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	1	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
308	317*	120	44%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
42		9	4
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
80	48	45	21

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	68.8%	Completed 1-15 days	91.2%
Completed 16-30 days	8.4%	Completed 16-30 days	8.8%
Completed > 30 days	22.7%	Completed > 30 days	00.0%

**Comment Section**

Laboratory data submitted for annual report includes back log.

# City Laboratory Summary

## Laboratory: New York City

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	1	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
352	346	228	69%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
14		4	2
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
0	0	31	29

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	95.7%	Completed 1-15 days	75.4%
Completed 16-30 days	0.3%	Completed 16-30 days	16.5%
Completed > 30 days	4.0%	Completed > 30 days	4.9%

**Comment Section**

# County Laboratory Summary

## Laboratory: Erie

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	0	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
167	197*	99	52%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
5		1	11
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
10	4	34	23

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	88.0%	Completed 1-15 days	15.2%
Completed 16-30 days	9.0%	Completed 16-30 days	65.5%
Completed > 30 days	3.0%	Completed > 30 days	19.3%

### Comment Section

Laboratory data submitted for annual report includes back log.

## Laboratory: Monroe

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	1	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
221	223*	115	55%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
21		9	1
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
2	2	20	10

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	99.5%	Completed 1-15 days	94.8%
Completed 16-30 days	00.0%	Completed 16-30 days	5.2%
Completed > 30 days	00.5%	Completed > 30 days	00.0%

### Comment Section

Laboratory data submitted for annual report includes back log.

## Laboratory: Niagara

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	0	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
39	39	21	55%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
1		0	3
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
0	0	2	2

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	97.4%	Completed 1-15 days	84.6%
Completed 16-30 days	00.0%	Completed 16-30 days	15.4%
Completed > 30 days	02.6%	Completed > 30 days	00.0%

### Comment Section

## Laboratory: Onondaga

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	0	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
76	74	36	55%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
8		1	0
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
13	11	4	4

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	80.3%	Completed 1-15 days	54.1%
Completed 16-30 days	5.3%	Completed 16-30 days	33.8%
Completed > 30 days	14.5%	Completed > 30 days	12.2%

**Comment Section**

## Laboratory: Suffolk

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	0	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
193	172	86	53%
Comparison Samples Examined		Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container
9		1	6
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	# of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
10	3	54	30

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	89.1%	Completed 1-15 days	25.6%
Completed 16-30 days	5.7%	Completed 16-30 days	18.0%
Completed > 30 days	5.2%	Completed > 30 days	56.4%

### Comment Section

## Laboratory: Westchester

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Grand Jury or Trial Testimony	Deposition Testimony
2015	12	1	0

Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
45	52*	11	27%
Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	Total # Improper Container, Improper Packaging or Failed Container	
11	1	1	
K9 Suspect Samples	# of Positive K9 Suspect Samples	Vehicle Suspect Samples	% of Positive Vehicle Suspect Samples
12	5	7	6

Case Submission Time From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed 1-15 days	93.3%	Completed 1-15 days	0.0%
Completed 16-30 days	0.0%	Completed 16-30 days	0.0%
Completed > 30 days	6.7%	Completed > 30 days	100.0%

### Comment Section

Laboratory data submitted for annual report includes back log.



**Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee**  
Technical Working Group for Fire Debris

**Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services -  
Office of Fire Prevention and Control**  
Arson Laboratory Improvement Program

**Division of Criminal Justice Services - Office of Forensic Services**

“Committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of fire debris  
evidence analysis and combating the crime of arson.”

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor  
State of New York

**John Melville**  
Commissioner  
Division of Homeland  
Security & Emergency Services

**Bryant Stevens**  
State Fire Administrator

**Paul D. Martin**  
Deputy State Fire Administrator

**Guy Swartwout**  
Inspection and Investigation  
Branch Chief

**William J. McGovern, Jr.**  
Inspection and Investigation  
Deputy Chief