



NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency services
OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL

One Commerce Plaza • 99 Washington Plaza • Albany, New York

Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP) - 2012 Report

12 Month Analysis

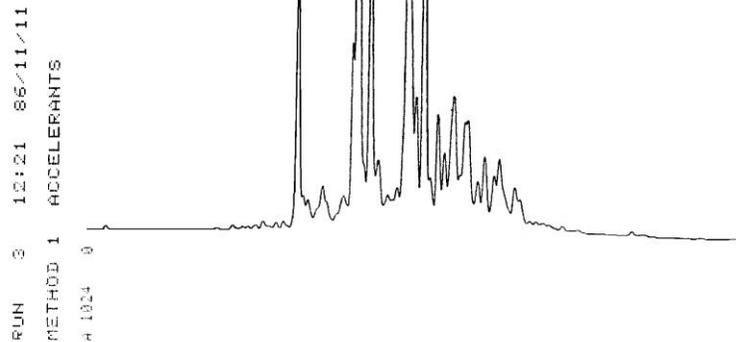


Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Section 1 | Introduction | 3 |
| | ❖ ALIP Participating Laboratories | 4 |
| Section 2 | Statistical Summaries | 5 |
| Section 3 | Individual Laboratory Data | 6 |
| | ❖ State | 7/8 |
| | ❖ City | 9 |
| | ❖ County | 10/15 |

Section 1 - INTRODUCTION

The 2012 Arson Laboratory Improvement Program [ALIP] report tracks several data elements including a five-year comparison of the total fire debris cases examined by the number of positive samples found broken down by category of ignitable liquid, the total number of samples examined, and the case processing time. An additional element of the report allows for general comments that often provide valuable feedback from the Laboratories relative to proper evidence packaging and submission by the investigation community.

The crime Laboratories participating in ALIP also receive financial support through a grant program coordinated by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control's Inspection and Investigation Branch. This program provides laboratories with annual funding specific to supporting the cost of fire debris analysis.

Arson Laboratory Improvement Project Participating Laboratories 2012

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Erie County Dept. of Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory Public Safety Campus Building 45 Elm Street Buffalo NY 14203 John Simich, Director</p> | <p>New York City Forensic Investigations Division 150-14 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica NY 11432 Dr. Scott O'Neil, Director</p> |
| <p>Monroe County Crime Lab 85 West Broad St 150 Plymouth Avenue So. Rochester NY 14614 John Clark, Administrator</p> | <p>Niagara County P.O. Box 496 5526 Niagara Extension Lockport NY 14095 Al Mack, Director</p> |
| <p>Nassau County Currently Off-Line for Fire Debris Analysis and under re-development</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 FIC Building 30 1220 Washington Avenue Albany NY 12226-3000 Major Don Faughnan, Director</p> | <p>Suffolk County Crime Laboratory 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 Lt. David Gresham, Supervisor</p> | <p>Westchester County 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 2008 - 2012

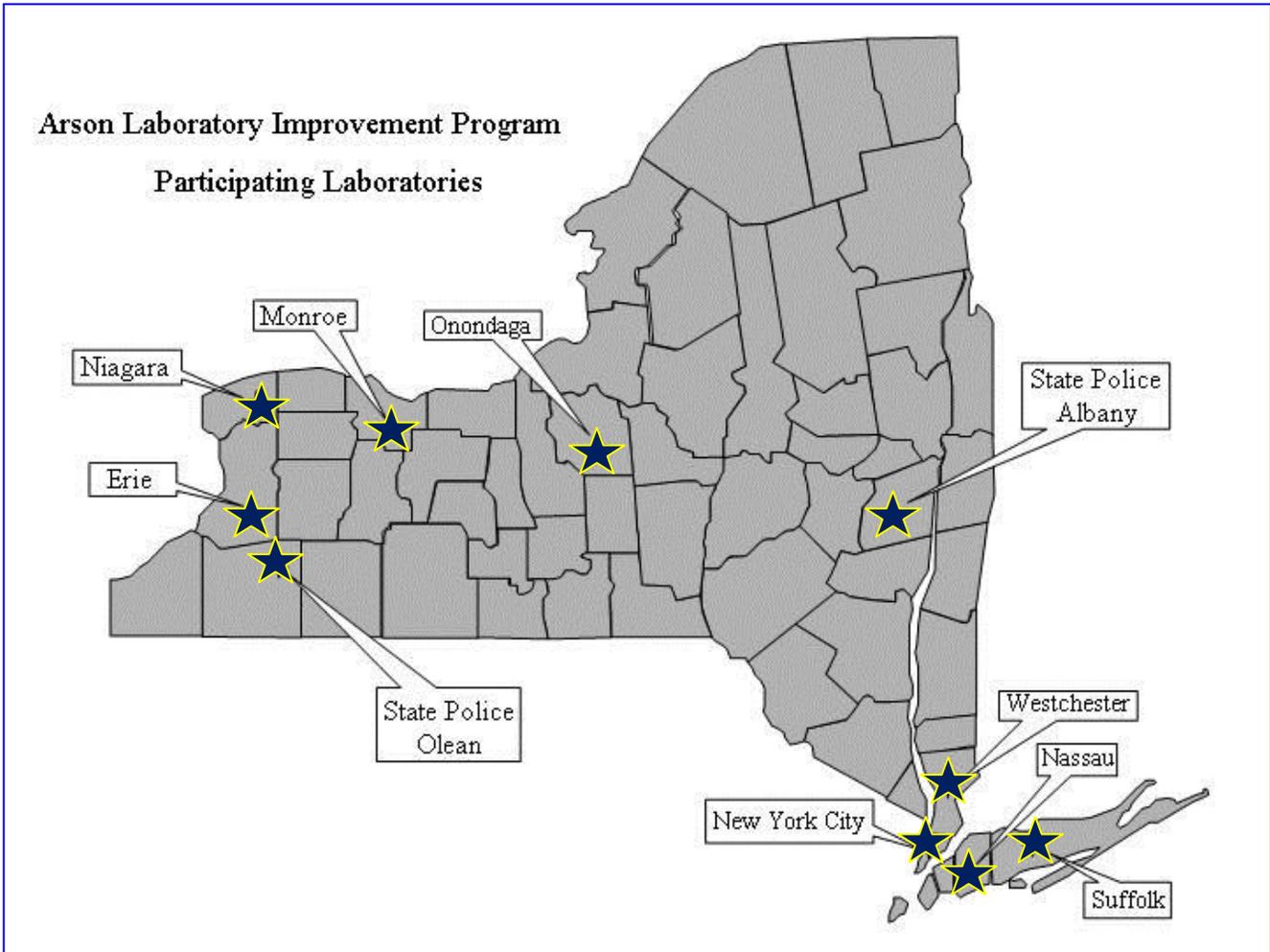
| Year | Cases Completed | % Cases Positive | Samples Examined | % Samples Positive |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2012 | 790 ↓ | 57.7% | 1722 ↓ | 49.3% |
| 2011 | 836 ↓ | 57.1% | 1810 ↓ | 49.0% |
| 2010 | 1228 ↑ | 59.7% | 2535 ↑ | 46.0% |
| 2009 | 1228 ↑ | 62.4% | 1870 ↓ | 48.3% |
| 2008 | 870 ↓ | 53.0% | 2432 ↑ | 44.8% |
| 5 Yr. Average | 986 | 57.8% | 2075 | 47.5% |

↑ Indicates above or below five year average

2012 ALIP Summary Data by Laboratory

| Laboratory | Cases Completed | % of Positive Cases | Suspect Samples Examined | % of Samples Positive | Comparison Samples Examined | % Comparison Samples Positive |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| State Police | | | | | | |
| Headquarters - Albany | 84 | 50% | 214 | 36% | 30 | 17% |
| Western Region - Olean | 113 | 55% | 309 | 55% | 45 | 11% |
| City Labs | | | | | | |
| New York City | 170 | 79% | 320 | 72% | 0 | 0% |
| Counties | | | | | | |
| Erie | 163 | 42% | 305 | 42% | 22 | 9% |
| Monroe | 142 | 53% | 332 | 37% | 33 | 3% |
| Niagara | 27 | 59% | 54 | 45% | 5 | 20% |
| Onondaga | 22 | 64% | 44 | 43% | 8 | 25% |
| Suffolk | 57 | 68% | 125 | 67% | 5 | 60% |
| Westchester | 12 | 50% | 19 | 47% | 1 | 0% |

Section 3 – INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY DATA



State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Headquarters, Albany

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 35% | 2 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 83 | 84 | 42 | 50% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 224 | 214 | 77 | 36% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 30 | 30 | 5 | 17% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 10 | 70% | 15 | 67% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 67.51% | 17.63% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 0.0% | 0.0% | 15% | |

| Case Submission From Time Of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 23.08% | Completed in 7 days | 17.32% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 24.28% | Completed in 8-14 days | 12.62% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 38.58% | Completed in 15-21 days | 26.92% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 12.38% | Completed in 22-28 days | 15.02% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 5.52% | Completed in more than 28 days | 28.12% |
| Average days for case submission | 14.24 | Average days for case return | 19.01 |

Comment Section

State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Western Regional Crime lab, Olean

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 693 | 1 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 110 | 113 | 62 | 55% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 311 | 309 | 169 | 55% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 45 | 45 | 5 | 11% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 38 | 63% | 23 | 70% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 47.55% | 14.79% | 3.42% | 5.42% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 1.42% | 6.17% | 20.42% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 47.8% | Completed in 7 days | 47.96% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 8.8% | Completed in 8-14 days | 47.96% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 8.0% | Completed in 15-21 days | 2.06% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 8.0% | Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 27.4% | Completed in more than 28 days | 0.0% |
| Average days for case submission | 14.34 | Average days for case return | 7.20 |

Comment Section

City Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: New York City

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 73 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 212 | 170 | 135 | 79% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 459 | 320 | 229 | 72% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
| 76.11% | 14.41% | 1.0% | 1.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 1.0% | 2.3% | 5% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 0.0% | Completed in 7 days | 4.1% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 0.0% | Completed in 8-14 days | 4.1% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 0.0% | Completed in 15-21 days | 1.2% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% | Completed in 22-28 days | 12.4% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 0.0% | Completed in more than 28 days | 77.5% |
| Average days for case submission | 0.0 | Average days for case return | 28.10 |

Comment Section

Lab is experiencing a carry-over from 2011 and 2012. This causes some reported categories to be unbalanced.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Erie

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 978 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 164 | 163 | 68 | 42% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 313 | 305 | 130 | 42% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 23 | 22 | 2 | 9% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 6 | 0.0% | 23 | 78% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
| 58.0% | 34.85% | 3.0% | 2.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 0.0% | 3.03% | 1.0% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 68.1% | Completed in 7 days | 3.44% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 12.9% | Completed in 8-14 days | 26.14% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 9.8% | Completed in 15-21 days | 35.94% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 3.1% | Completed in 22-28 days | 23.64% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 6.1% | Completed in more than 28 days | 6.54% |
| Average days for case submission | 7.90 | Average days for case return | 18.14 |

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Monroe

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 1508 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 140 | 142 | 75 | 53% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 332 | 332 | 123 | 37% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 29 | 33 | 1 | 3% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 65.2% | 23.2% | 0.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 0.0% | 6.5% | 5.0% | |

| Case Submission From Time Of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 93.7% | Completed in 7 days | 61.74% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 3.5% | Completed in 8-14 days | 27.94% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 0.0% | Completed in 15-21 days | 8.94% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% | Completed in 22-28 days | 0.7% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 2.8% | Completed in more than 28 days | 0.7% |
| Average days for case submission | 3.88 | Average days for case return | 6.95 |

Comment Section

Difference in cases received and cases completed is a result of carry-over from 2011.
 Difference in comparison samples examined is a result of carry-over from 2011.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Niagara

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 27 | 27 | 16 | 59% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 54 | 54 | 23 | 43% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 20% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 0 | 0.0% | 7 | 100% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 51.81% | 36.99% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10.66% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 93.5% | Completed in 7 days | 58.7% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 0.0% | Completed in 8-14 days | 37.0% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 5.2% | Completed in 15-21 days | 4.3% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% | Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 1.05% | Completed in more than 28 days | 0.0% |
| Average days for case submission | 5.23 | Average days for case return | 6.65 |

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Onondaga

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 21 | 22 | 14 | 64% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 41 | 44 | 17 | 39% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 8 | 8 | 2 | 25% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 100% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 27.57% | 48.62% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 0.0% | 11.78% | 12.25% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 84.84% | Completed in 7 days | 23.78% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 12.54% | Completed in 8-14 days | 50.88% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 2.7% | Completed in 15-21 days | 14.58% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% | Completed in 22-28 days | .78% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 0.0% | Completed in more than 28 days | 9.98% |
| Average days for case submission | 5.38 | Average days for case return | 13.11 |

Comment Section

Difference in cases received and cases completed is a result of carry-over from 2011.
 Difference in samples received and samples examined is a result of carry-over from 2011.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Suffolk

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 1190 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 53 | 57 | 39 | 68% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 126 | 125 | 84 | 67% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | 60% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 5 | 0.0% | 14 | 86% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
| 64.37% | 4.60% | 1.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 8.0% | 9.20% | 12% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 49.46% | Completed in 7 days | 5.64% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 19.66% | Completed in 8-14 days | 17.84% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 19.66% | Completed in 15-21 days | 24.94% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 7.36% | Completed in 22-28 days | 12.64% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 3.86% | Completed in more than 28 days | 38.94% |
| Average days for case submission | 10.9 | Average days for case return | 21.93 |

Comment Section

Difference in cases received and cases completed is a result of carry-over from 2011.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Westchester

| Reporting Year | Number of Months Reported | Total Work Hours or % | Yearly Testimony |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012 | 12 | 13% | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cases Received | Cases Completed | Cases Positive | % of Positive Cases |
| 34 | 12 | 6 | 50% |
| Suspect Samples Received | Suspect Samples Examined | Suspect Samples Positive | % of Positive Suspect Samples |
| 84 | 19 | 9 | 47% |
| Comparison Samples Received | Comparison Samples Examined | Comparison Samples Positive | % of Positive Comparison Samples |
| 15 | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| K9 Cases | K9 Cases % Positive | Vehicle Cases | Vehicle Cases % Positive |
| 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 100% |

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

| Gasoline All Brands | Petroleum Distillates | Isoparaffinic Products | Aromatic Products | Napthenic Paraffinic |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 47.19% | 13.86% | 24.75% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | N-Alkanes | Oxygenated Solvents | Other | |
| | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13.75% | |

| Case Submission From Time of Collection | | Case Turn Around Time | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Completed in 7 days | 53.22% | Completed in 7 days | 0.0% |
| Completed in 8-14 days | 6.74% | Completed in 8-14 days | 0.0% |
| Completed in 15-21 days | 8.3% | Completed in 15-21 days | 0.0% |
| Completed in 22-28 days | 8.3% | Completed in 22-28 days | 0.0% |
| Completed in more than 28 days | 23.44% | Completed in more than 28 days | 100% |
| Average days for case submission | 10.73 | Average days for case return | unknown |

Comment Section

New York State Executive Law Article 6 C Section 156 directs the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control to advise and assists in the coordination and strengthening of activities, programs, services, rules and regulations relating to arson suppression, detection, investigation to include matters to improve arson evidence analysis and testing.

Through the continued implemental of the Arson Laboratory Improvement Program the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control remains committed to supporting arson evidence analysis and testing and working with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee to maintain and improve such services aimed at combating the crime of arson.

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State of New York

Jerome M. Hauer
Commissioner
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