



**WTSC COMMISSION MEETING**

# Toxicology Laboratory Division

**Dr. Brianna Peterson, Toxicology Laboratory Manager**



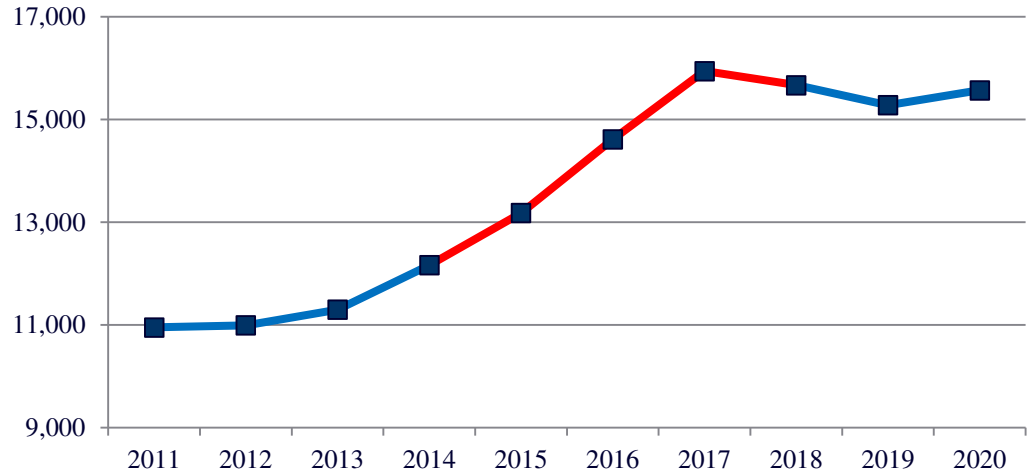
## Centralized laboratory

- Servicing the whole state
- Provide alcohol and comprehensive drug testing
  - Death investigation cases
  - Suspected impaired driving cases
  - Suspected drug-facilitated crimes/drug-involved cases
    - Sexual assaults
    - Child endangerment
    - Homicides
    - LCB cases

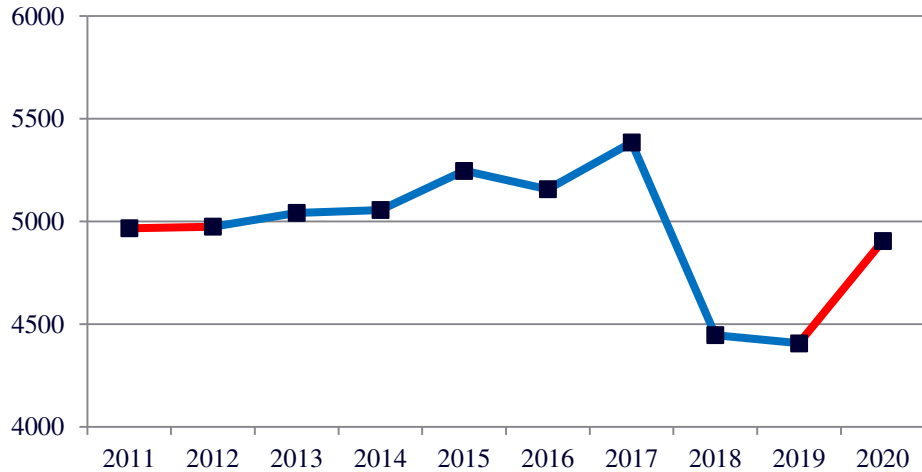


# Toxicology Case Submissions

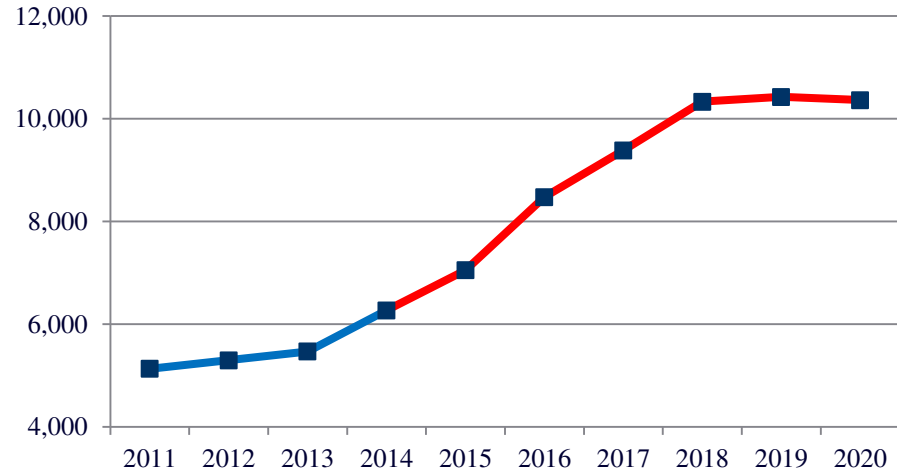
Number of case submissions per year



# Death Investigation cases



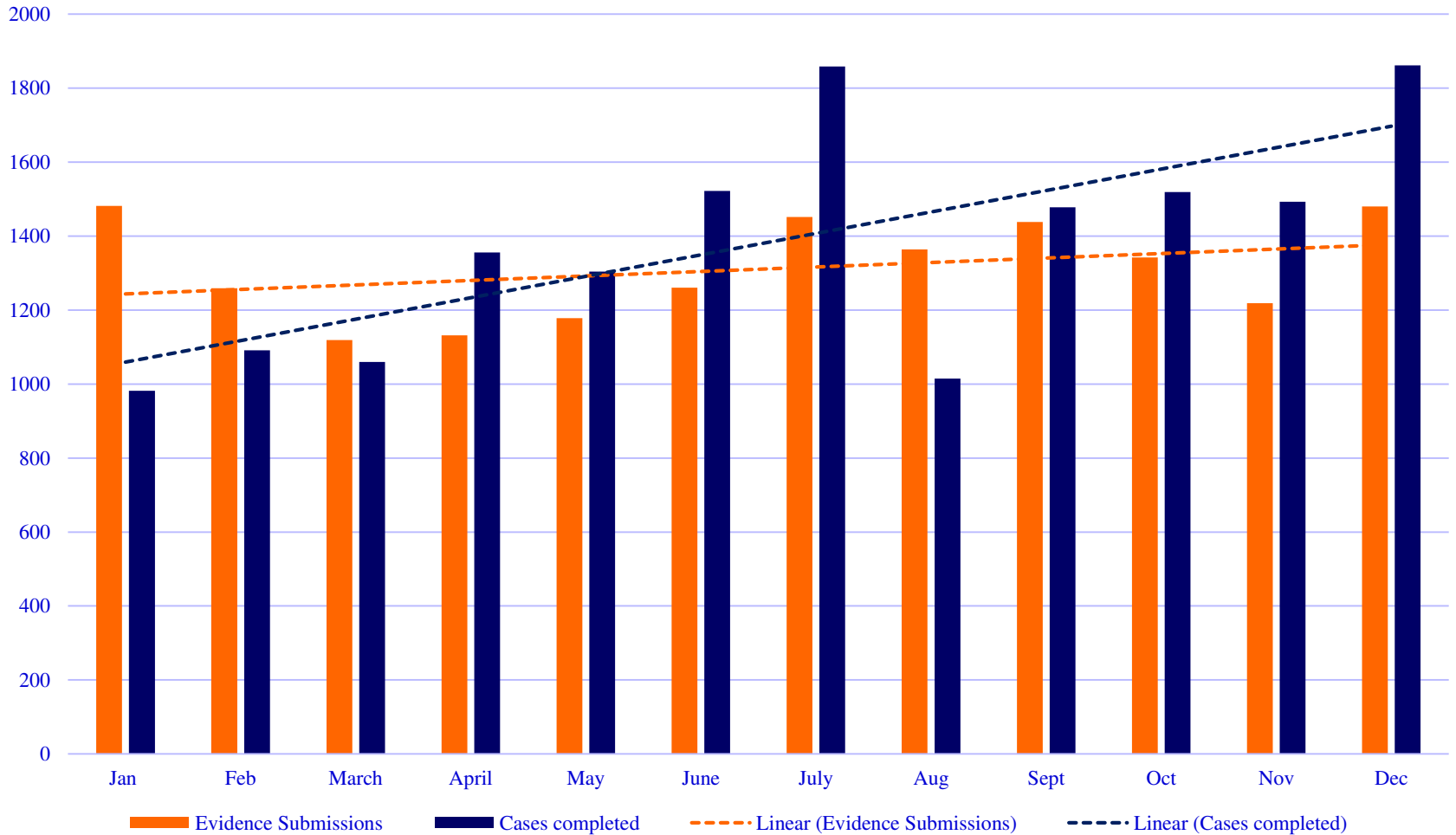
# WA State DUI cases





# TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY DIVISION

## 2020 in Review





**Number of cases in backlog:**  
decreased by 2,000 cases

**Median turnaround time for DUI cases:**  
decreased from 303 to 200 days



## 2020 Supplemental Budget

**Overall Request:**     \$3.597 M Operational budget     \$1.828 M Transportation budget

**Permanent Personnel (x 7):**

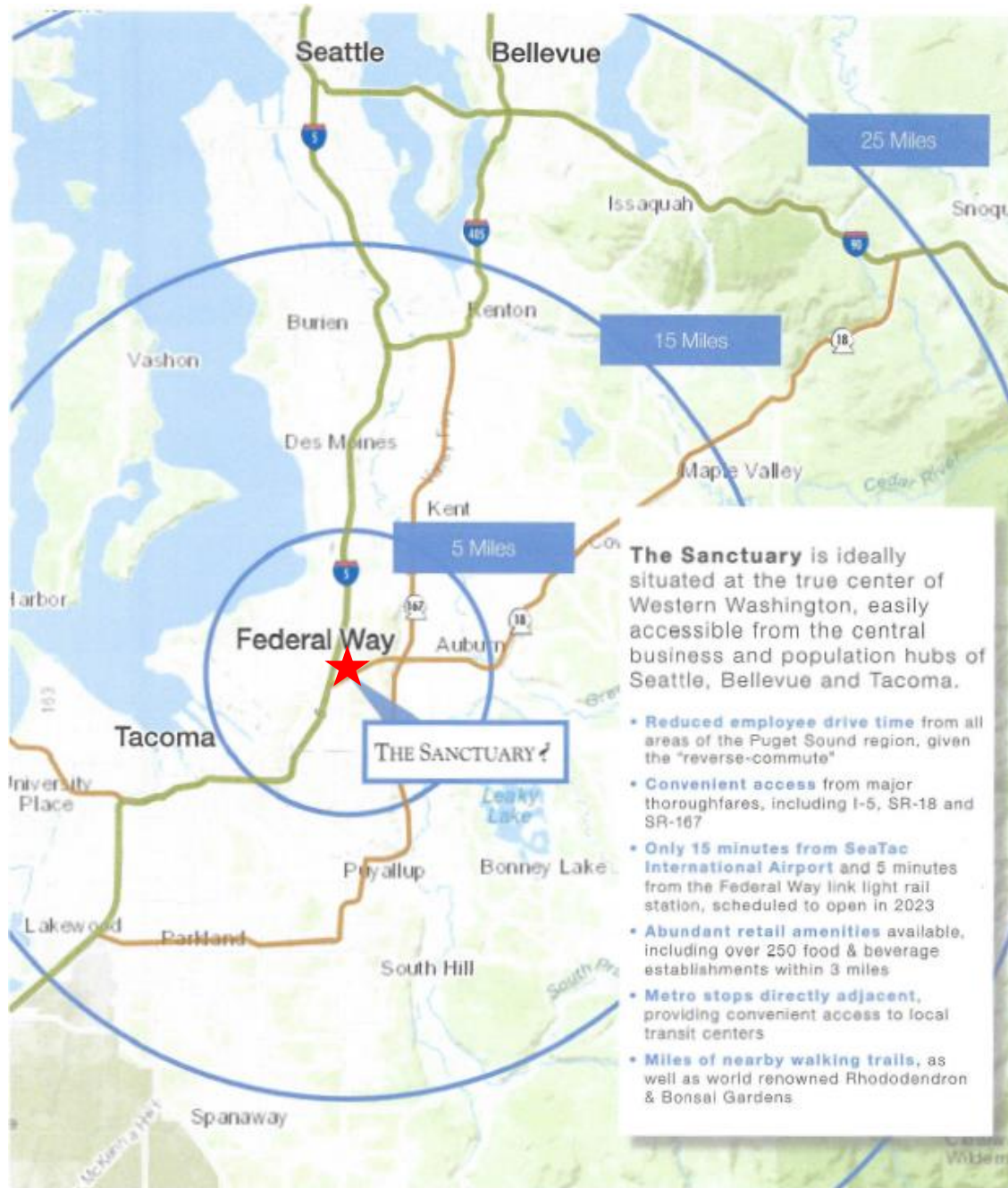
- 3 forensic scientists     (*transferred 3 project FTE's*)
- 1 laboratory technician     (*transferred 1 project FTE*)
- 2 technical lead scientists
- 1 office assistant

**Temporary Outsourcing (18 months):**

- 85% of death investigation cases (~ 5,550 cases)
- 1 forensic scientist (FS2)     (*will not fill*)

**Secondary facility:**

- ~ 10 year lease in south King County     (*"The Sanctuary", Federal Way*)
- ~ 4 instruments     (*purchase early 2021*)



**The Sanctuary** is ideally situated at the true center of Western Washington, easily accessible from the central business and population hubs of Seattle, Bellevue and Tacoma.

- **Reduced employee drive time** from all areas of the Puget Sound region, given the "reverse-commute"
- **Convenient access** from major thoroughfares, including I-5, SR-18 and SR-167
- **Only 15 minutes from SeaTac International Airport** and 5 minutes from the Federal Way link light rail station, scheduled to open in 2023
- **Abundant retail amenities** available, including over 250 food & beverage establishments within 3 miles
- **Metro stops directly adjacent**, providing convenient access to local transit centers
- **Miles of nearby walking trails**, as well as world renowned Rhododendron & Bonsai Gardens







## Grant funding

### Continue to rely on grant funding:

- WSTC
  - Instrumentation (*TOF-MS, LCMSMS, 3 x HSGC for second lab*)
  - Scientist position (*FS2*)
  - Outsourcing specialty testing for DUI cases
  - Blood evidence kits for DUI investigations
- Coverdell
  - Blood evidence kits for death investigations

## Changing scope of drugs

### Designer Benzodiazepines

Illicit formulations based on the structure of FDA approved drugs

**Flualprazolam** – first reported instance in 2017

Began appearing in WSP Tox case work in 2019

2020: Fifth most prevalent drug in DUI case work

Developed and Validated a new method to detect 31 new designer benzos

