



Cost Saving and Efficiency Measures
2008 – Present

On our own initiative, ADFS has taken the following *Proactive* cost saving measures:

- Fall of 2008 - Closed the Huntsville Firearms section and consolidated it within the Hoover laboratory
- January 2009 - ADFS discontinued transporting decedents to and from our Morgue facilities
- June 2009 - Closed the Tuscaloosa Drug Chemistry section – now a drop off site only for drug evidence
- June 2010 - Closed the Mobile Toxicology section and consolidated the statewide Toxicology service into our Hoover laboratory
- July 2011 - Closed the Florence, Jacksonville & Dothan laboratories and consolidated their functions into the closest Regional laboratories
- July 2011 - Ceased regular crime scene assistance and clandestine lab examinations. Now only assist with specialty crime scene exams – i.e. blood spatter and bullet trajectory
- 2015 - Ceased mailing thousands of reports per year to District Attorney's in Mobile and Jefferson counties and transitioned to secure Web based delivery, thereby improving efficiency and eliminating postage and administrative costs saving approx. \$6,000 last year.
- 2015 – Implemented in-house building maintenance and IT monitoring service to improve HVAC & Building Security and reduce operating costs for the Mobile, Huntsville & Hoover laboratories by approx. \$326,000 last year.
- 2015 – Removed the Draeger (DUI) breath testing instrument from five (5) law enforcement test sites, consolidating service delivery and reducing operational costs by approx. \$18,000 per year.

Efficiency measures that have also been recently implemented by ADFS include:

- Utilized ADFS Ph.D. level scientists to conduct research into validating new methodologies for Toxicology and Drug Chemistry (i.e. spice, fentanyl/heroin), thereby eliminating the need for ADFS to outsource specialty forensic services to a private laboratory, saving ~\$350,000/yr.
- Shifted all state travel for required continuing education activities to being funded by Federal grants, saving ~\$77,000/yr.
- Through attrition and where possible, began utilizing lab technicians in lieu of replacing scientists, as these positions are more cost effective and can also be used for routine laboratory duties.
- Utilized Federal grant dollars to purchase robotics to improve laboratory efficiency in specialty areas (DNA, Toxicology), thereby improving capacity and efficiency and eliminating need for routine laboratory tasks previously conducted by scientists.
- Shifted to statewide re-allocation of forensic casework model among ADFS laboratories to assign cases to the laboratory able to deliver the most efficient turnaround time for laboratory reports.
- Drastically reduced in-state travel for all personnel by limiting travel to only Court appearances and similarly mandated functions.
- Implemented a seven (7) day work schedule for Toxicology & Chemistry employees resulting in increased productivity, improved efficiency and reduced backlogs.



ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

Headquarters
1051 WIRE ROAD
AUBURN, ALABAMA 36832

Director: Michael F. Sparks
OFFICE PHONE: 334.821-6254
OFFICE FAX: 334.887.7531

Cost per case by Disc	Ave FY 2014	Ave FY 2015	Ave FY 2016	Difference/case	# of cases FY 2016	Savings
Pathology	\$1,732	\$1,365	\$1,611	increase by \$246/case	2,553	-\$628,038
Toxicology	\$431	\$457	\$392	savings \$65/case	5,087	\$330,655
Implied Consent	\$382	\$196	\$192	savings \$4/test	5,865	\$23,460
Chemistry	\$170	\$150	\$97	savings \$53/case	29,947	\$1,587,191
Firearms	\$1,223	\$1,087	\$1,050	savings \$37/case	670	\$24,790
Forensic Biology	\$1,399	\$900	\$790	savings \$110/case	2,710	\$298,100
						\$1,636,158



ALABAMA
Department of Forensic Sciences
HEADQUARTERS
1051 WIRE ROAD
AUBURN, ALABAMA 36832

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL F. SPARKS
TELEPHONE: 334.821-6254
FACSIMILE: 334.887.7531

The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS) is the only accredited crime laboratory system within the State of Alabama and is the sole provider of seven (7) forensic science disciplines (Pathology, Toxicology, Drug Chemistry, Fire Debris, Forensic Biology/CODIS, Firearms/Toolmarks and Breath Alcohol Testing) to Alabama's citizens and the criminal justice system.

ADFS receives less than 0.5% of the total State General Fund. With this small percentage, ADFS performs analyses on physical evidence generated during criminal investigations by over 450 law enforcement agencies in Alabama. The reported results of these analyses impacts over 400 Alabama courts, 64 coroners, life insurance companies and the citizens of Alabama. The number of cases analyzed annually by ADFS is in excess of 50,000.

ADFS embraces the concepts of efficient, cost effective government. ADFS provides an internationally accredited statewide full service forensic laboratory and medical examiner system at a General Fund cost of ~\$2.10/year per citizen. Comparatively, Mississippi's cost per citizen is ~\$3.11/year and Tennessee's is ~\$2.34/year.

Since October 1, 2009 (FY 2010) to the present, ADFS Drug Chemistry has completed **79.0%** of received cases. This is a high percentage when compared against a 40% (\$14.3 million to \$8.5 million) reduction in General Fund appropriation which resulted in the loss of 60% (42 to 17) of trained, testifying drug chemists during the same period. Also in 2009, with a staff of 223 and a General Fund Budget of \$14.3 million, ADFS was under 90 days in total backlog statewide in all disciplines.

The current completed percentage of drug cases is also increasing. Since October 1, 2015, the drug case backlog has been reduced by more than 6500 cases. FY 2016 drug chemistry productivity has also increased by 25%.

Alabama's Forensic Science System and 23 other states' forensic science providers serve a population base of less than 5 million citizens. In the other 23 states, there are a total of 58 laboratories (avg. 2.52 per state). Alabama currently has 6 laboratories (greater than 2 times avg. of similar populated states). For states serving populations between 4 - 5 million (Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, and South Carolina), the laboratory breakdown is as follows:

- Alabama = 6 laboratories, 52,419 square miles or 1 laboratory for every 8,737 square miles
- Kentucky = 3 laboratories, 40,409 square miles or 1 laboratory for every 13,469 square miles
- Louisiana = 5 laboratories, 51,843 square miles or 1 laboratory for every 10,368 square miles
- South Carolina = 3 laboratories, 32,020 square miles or 1 laboratory for every 10,673 square miles