

**Georgia Bureau of Investigation
February Monthly Report
FY2026**



**Presented to the Board of Public Safety
No meeting held in April 2026**

**Chris Hosey
Director**

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Director's Highlights

- GBI Region 4 – *March 4, 2026* – The GBI has arrested and charged Willie James Jr., age 58, of Wayne County, GA, with Malice Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault in connection to the death of Sandra Robinson that occurred almost 16 years ago. On March 17, 2010, the GBI Regional Investigative Office in Douglas, Georgia was requested by the Douglas Police Department to assist with a death investigation at the Prepaid Superstore in Douglas, Georgia. Sandra Robinson, age 32 at the time, was working at the phone store when she was stabbed and killed. James was an associate of Robinson and could often be found at the store. As a result of continued investigative efforts, James was linked to the crime through forensic evidence. On March 2, 2026, James was taken into custody and booked into the Coffee County Jail. The GBI would also like to thank the Coffee County Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol, Waycross Police Department, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, and Valdosta Police Department for their assistance during the investigation and in locating and arresting James. This investigation is still active and ongoing.
- Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) – *March 5, 2026* – Following a high-level, months-long racketeering investigation, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO), in coordination with federal and local partners, successfully executed Operation Silent Hand, leading to 16 arrests and the execution of nine search warrants. The operation targeted a major drug trafficking organization (DTO) distributing methamphetamine, fentanyl, and oxycodone across Franklin, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Stephens, and White counties. All 16 suspects are local to the area and have been charged with Violation of the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. The investigation revealed that the organization maintained contacts in metro Atlanta to facilitate the trafficking of illicit narcotics and pharmaceutical opioids. During the investigation, agents seized a substantial quantity of contraband, including 32 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine, 4 pounds of suspected fentanyl, numerous diverted pharmaceutical opioids, and multiple firearms. This complex investigation was supported by the Hall and Habersham County District Attorney's Offices and involved a massive collaborative effort from the GBI Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office, the FBI North GA Major Offenders Task Force, the Banks, Franklin, Gwinnett, Habersham, and Stephens County Sheriff's Offices, and the Toccoa Police Department. This investigation remains active, with additional charges and warrants pending.
- GBI Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit (HEAT) – *March 12, 2026* – Following a proactive, multi-agency online undercover investigation conducted from March 4 through March 6 and coordinated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit (HEAT), 24 people were arrested in an operation targeting sex traffickers and commercial sex buyers in the Houston County area. The Houston County Sheriff's Office, the GBI Middle Georgia Gang Task Force, Georgia State Patrol, and Homeland Security Investigations participated in the operation. Thirteen commercial sex workers met with victim advocates and were offered services. "Operation Rockin' Robins" involved several months of planning and the collaboration of several law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking. The arrestees, ranging in age from 17 to 61, traveled from areas around Houston County, GA, with the intent to purchase sex or sell sex commercially. The goal of "Operation Rockin' Robins" was to apprehend individuals attempting to purchase sex and to offer support and services to those being exploited. The objective was to identify and arrest pimps and human traffickers through this two-fold approach.

- GBI Office of Special Investigations (OSI) – *March 17, 2026* – GBI Agents have identified remains found in December 1976 in Seminole County as those of Curtis Lee Jones. Agents used genetic technology to identify the remains. The family of Curtis Lee Jones was notified in February 2026. On December 28, 1976, hunters discovered the skeletal remains of an unidentified man in a remote area of Seminole County, near the Chattahoochee River. Despite a lengthy investigation, the man could not be identified and became known as Seminole County John Doe. In August 2024, the GBI Regional Investigative Office in Thomasville and the GBI Cold Case Unit partnered with Othram, Inc., for the use of advanced DNA testing. Othram, based in Woodlands, Texas, is a leader in Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing used to develop comprehensive genealogical profiles. Based on the DNA, a genealogical search by the investigative team including Othram and GBI Agents, produced leads that resulted in the identification of Curtis Lee Jones. GBI Agents were also greatly assisted by relatives of Curtis Lee Jones. Jones' cause of death could not be determined.
- GBI Office of Special Investigations (OSI) – *March 18, 2026* – The GBI, in coordination with the Lawrenceville Police Department, arrested and charged Glenn Daniel Plybon Jr., age 60, of Carlton, GA, with three counts of rape in connection with the rape of three women in the summer of 1986. In 1986, there were a series of sexual assaults in and around Lawrenceville that went unsolved. In June of 2025, the GBI Cold Case Unit contacted the Lawrenceville Police Department as part of an initiative to assist local agencies with CODIS forensic matches without identified suspects. A CODIS Forensic Match identifies DNA from multiple crime scenes from the same offender. In July 2025, the GBI Cold Case Unit and the Lawrenceville Police Department partnered with Othram, Inc., for the use of advanced DNA testing. Othram, based in Woodlands, Texas, is a leader in Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing used to develop comprehensive genealogical profiles. Utilizing new advances in DNA evidence testing, a suspect, Glenn Plybon Jr., was identified. On March 18, 2026, Plybon was booked into the Gwinnett County Jail. The GBI and the Lawrenceville Police Department would like to thank the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office, the Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office, the Gwinnett County Police Department and the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office for their assistance with this case.
- From January 1 to March 31, 2026, the GBI investigated a total of twenty-three (23) Officer Involved Shootings (OIS).

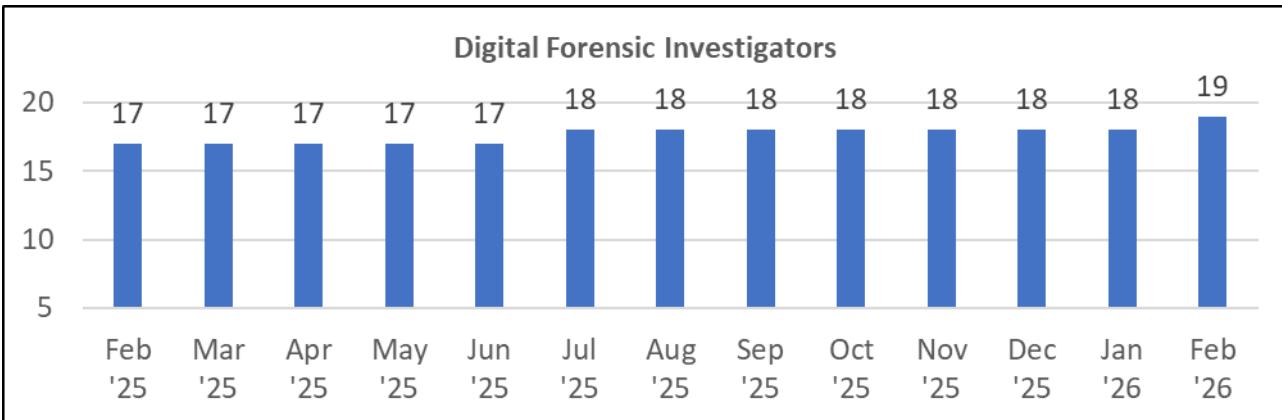
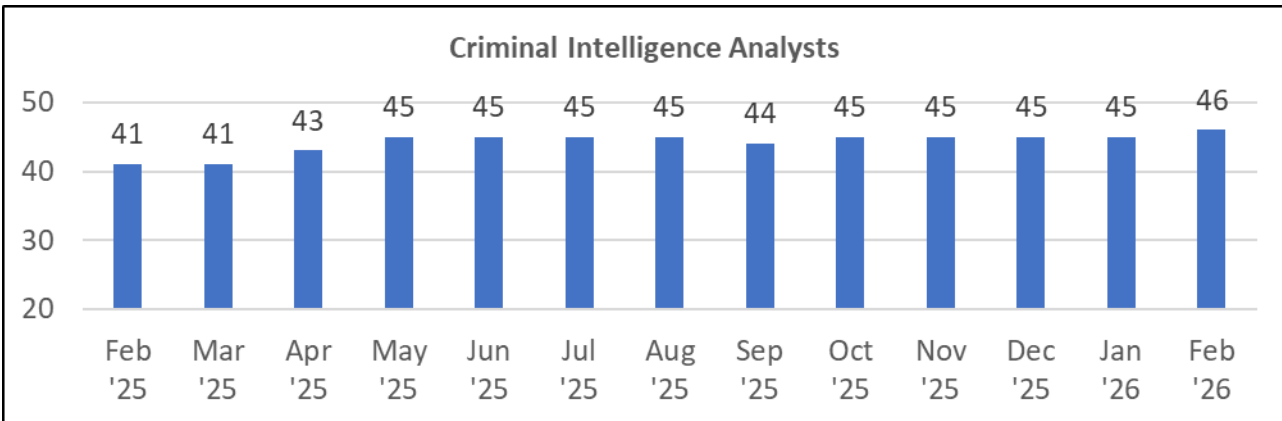
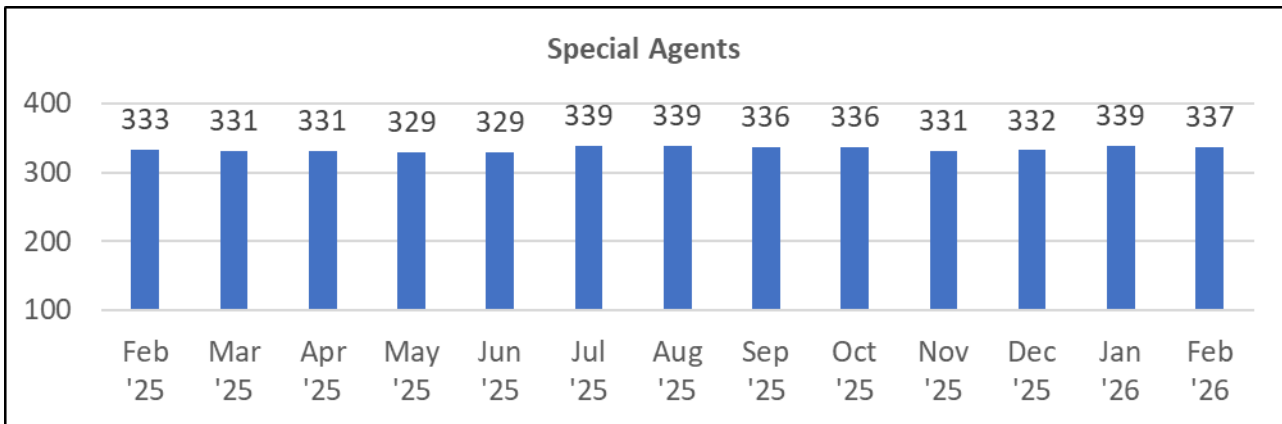
GBI Region 10 – *March 27, 2026* – At the request of the Georgia State Patrol, GBI agents are investigating an officer involved shooting in Newton County, GA. Jamari Thurman, age 20, of Covington, GA, was shot and injured in the incident. No troopers were injured.

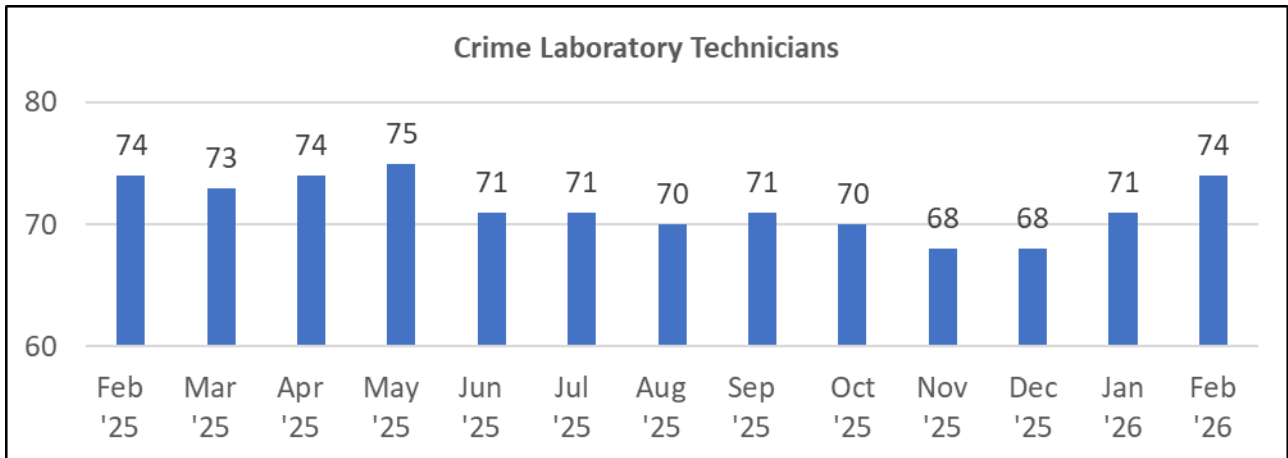
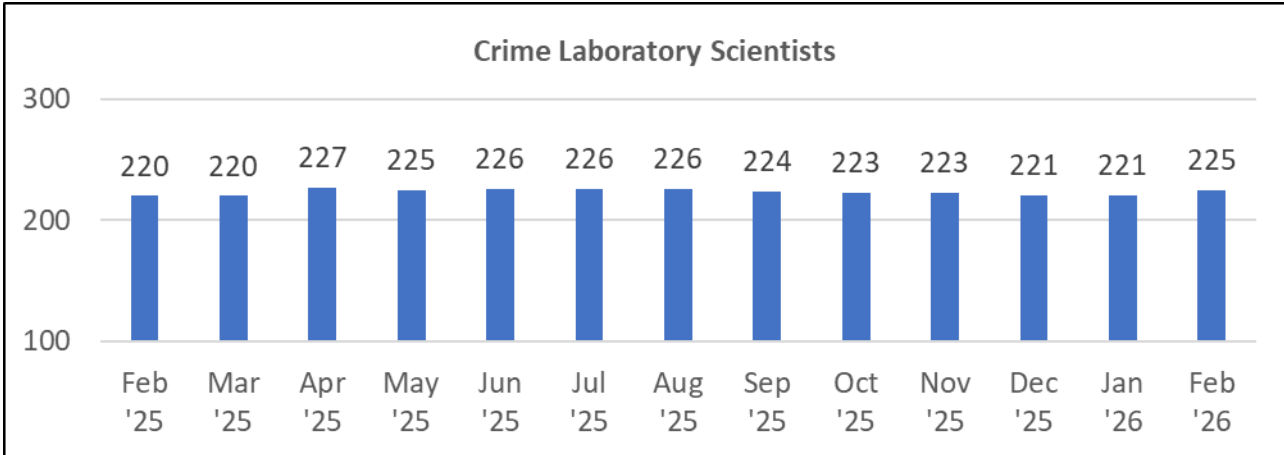
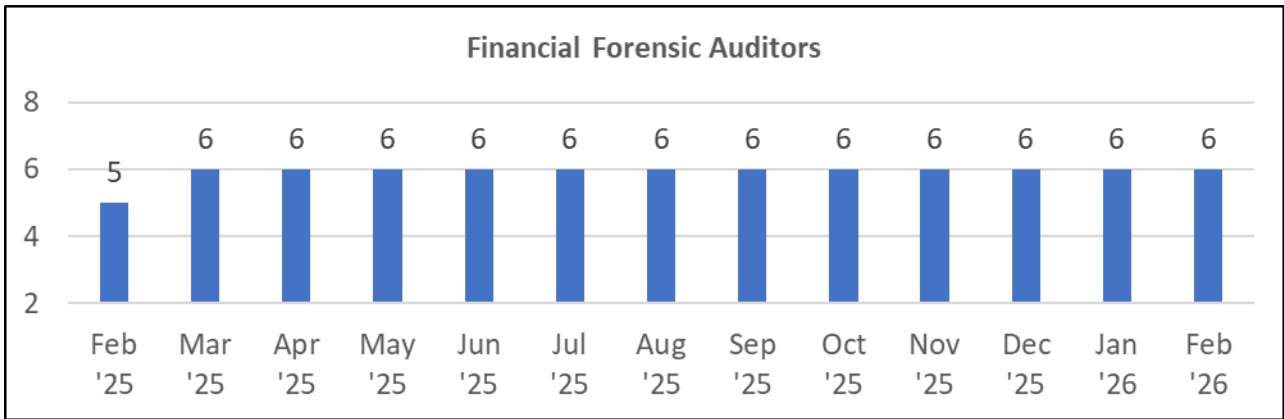
Preliminary information indicates that at about 3:30 p.m. on March 27, 2026, Georgia State Patrol (GSP) troopers attempted a traffic stop on Thurman on Old Oak Court in Covington, GA. GSP was assisting GBI Metro Gang Task Force (MGTF) agents with a traffic stop on the car driven by Thurman. Once troopers observed Thurman commit a traffic violation, they initiated the traffic stop. Thurman led troopers on a brief vehicle pursuit before turning onto a cul-de-sac. Thurman exited the car and attempted to escape on foot. Troopers saw Thurman holding a firearm. A trooper shot at Thurman, hitting him. Thurman was taken to an area hospital, where he is in stable condition

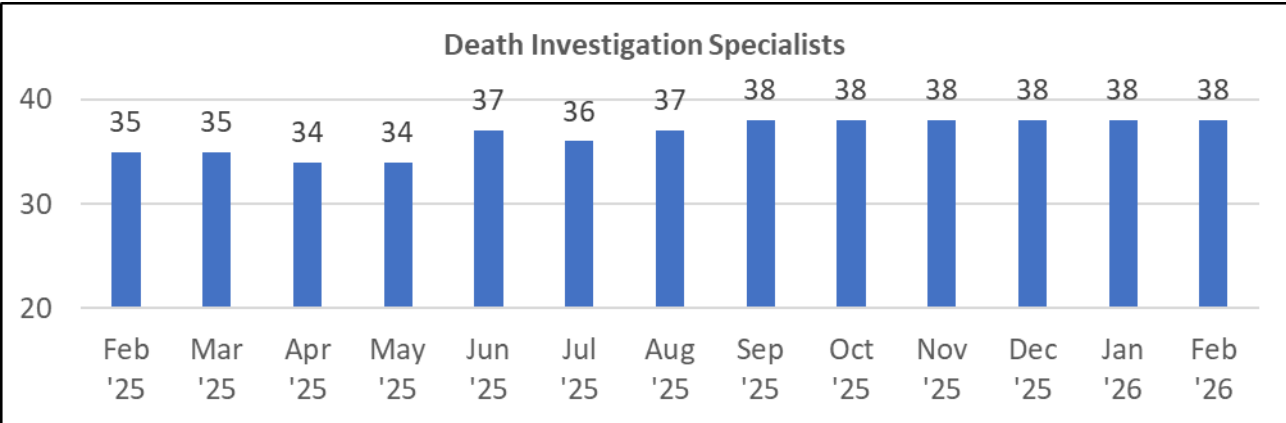
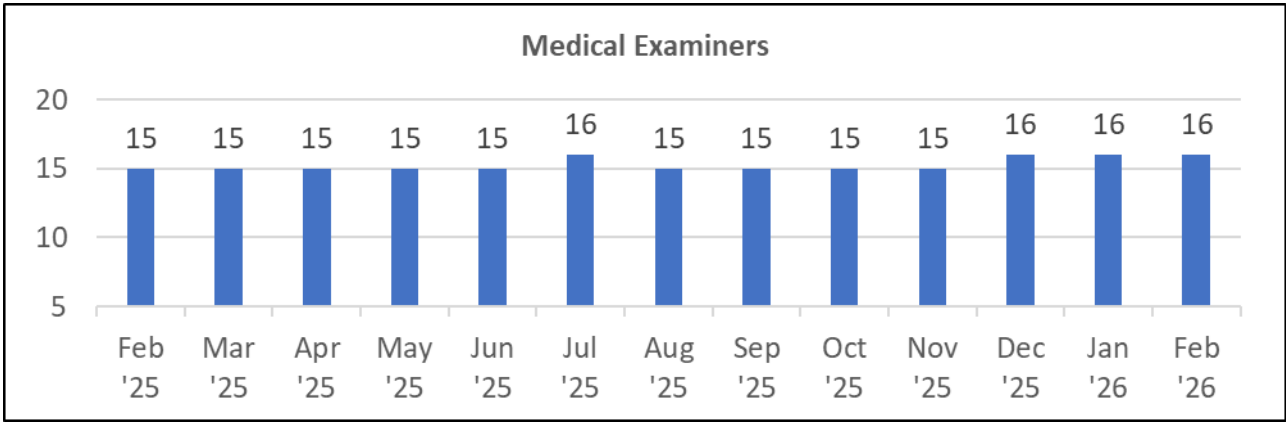


Staffing Report

Filled Positions (All Fund Sources)







GBI Vacancies – YTD FY2026 (State Funds Only)

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sept '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
DOFS	38	38	38	41	41	42	42	38				
Scientist Positions	21	21	23	22	22	22	21	21				
Investigative Division	20	20	25	26	26	25	20	19				
Sworn Agent Positions	5	5	8	9	10	14	8	10				
GCIC	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	5				
Admin	6	7	6	7	6	6	7	7				

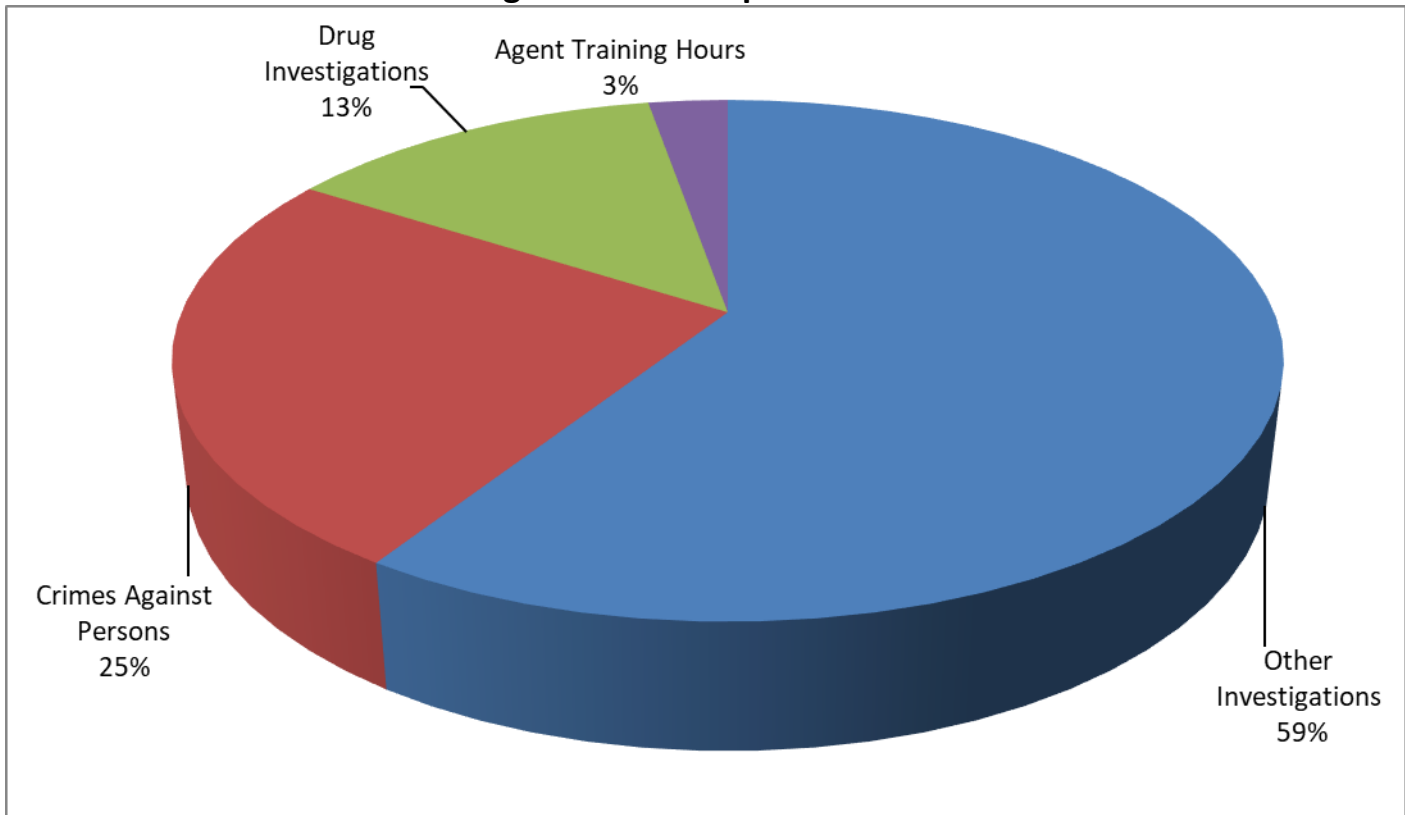


Investigative Division

Investigative Cases – YTD FY2026

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	FY 2026
* Crimes Against Persons	162	119	70	110	114	105	133	95					908
**Drug Investigations	76	60	80	69	64	65	63	80					557
***Other Investigations	650	529	692	496	548	541	656	562					4,674
Total	888	708	842	675	726	711	852	737					6,139

Investigative Hours Expended - YTD FY2026



* **Crimes Against Persons** - death investigations, assaults, kidnapping, robbery, child abuse & exploitation/trafficking, etc.

** **Drug Investigations** - felony investigations, trafficking, manufacturing, distribution, etc.

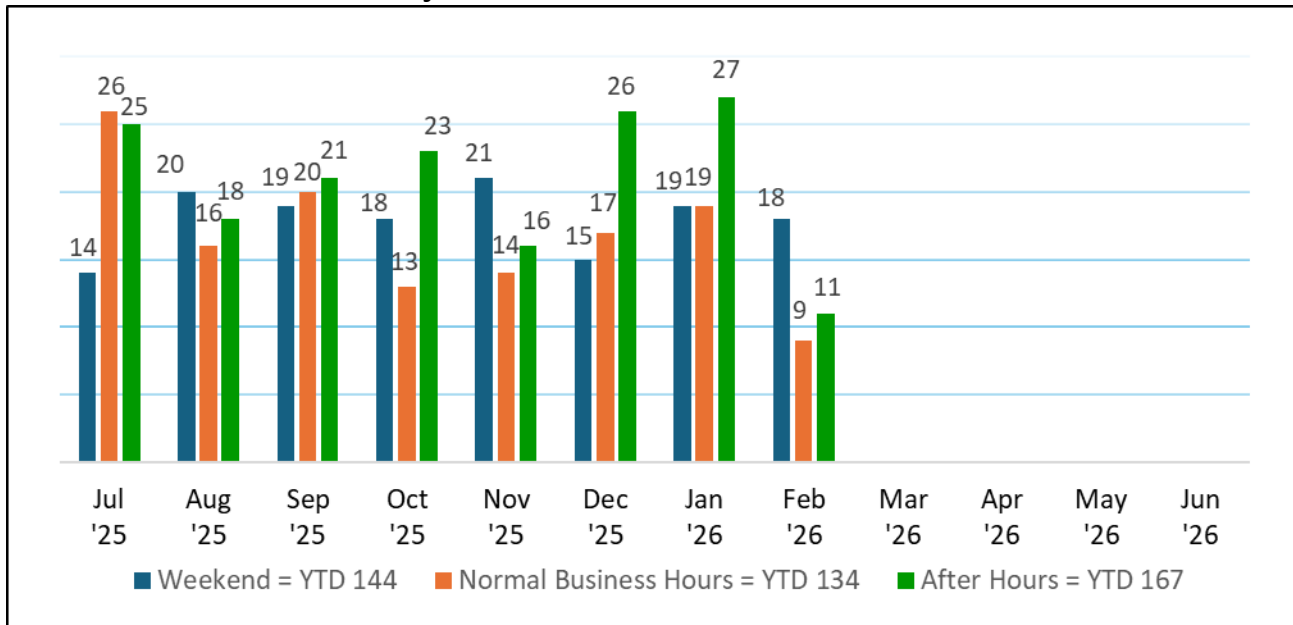
*** **Other Investigations** - corruption, cyber, bomb disposal, election, technology, cold case review, property crimes, special events, etc.

Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2026

	February 2026	YTD FY2026
Property Stolen	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Recovered	\$0.00	\$7,993,043.00
* Contraband Seized	\$11,401,957.36	\$89,453,589.21
Arrests	134	664
* Cases Closed	467	3,585

*Note: In July 2025, we began the process of transitioning to a new case management system which includes the migration of data. Reported totals may change as a result.

Major Case Call Outs - YTD FY2026



Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC)

Watch Desk Activity YTD FY2026

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	FY 2026
Threats to Life	15	30	31	29	12	17	20	15					169
See Send App Tips	954	1,225	1,461	1,236	1,189	939	746	701					8,451
Suspicious Activity	3	2	1	0	2	1	3	5					17
*Requests for Info.	1,351	1,552	1,456	1,324	1,186	1,046	1,452	1,395					10,762

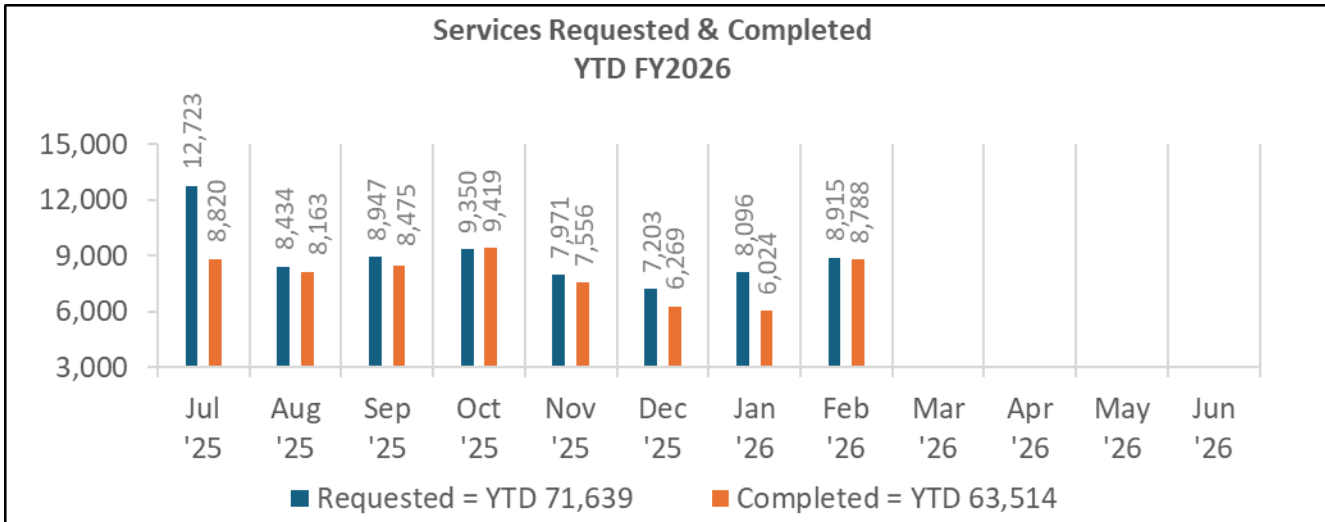
* Note: In July 2025, we began the process of transitioning to a new case management system which includes the migration of data. The GISAC Requests for Information (RFI) totals may change due to pending updates and modifications within the reporting system.

Investigative Division Notes:

- Update: Special Agent applicants started polygraphs on February 23rd and will be conducted for approximately 3 weeks and then backgrounds will begin.

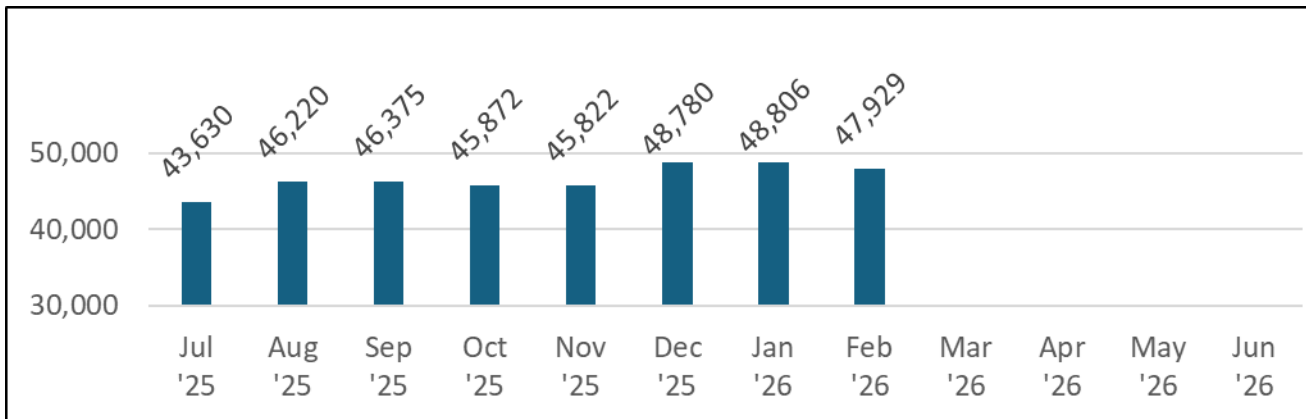


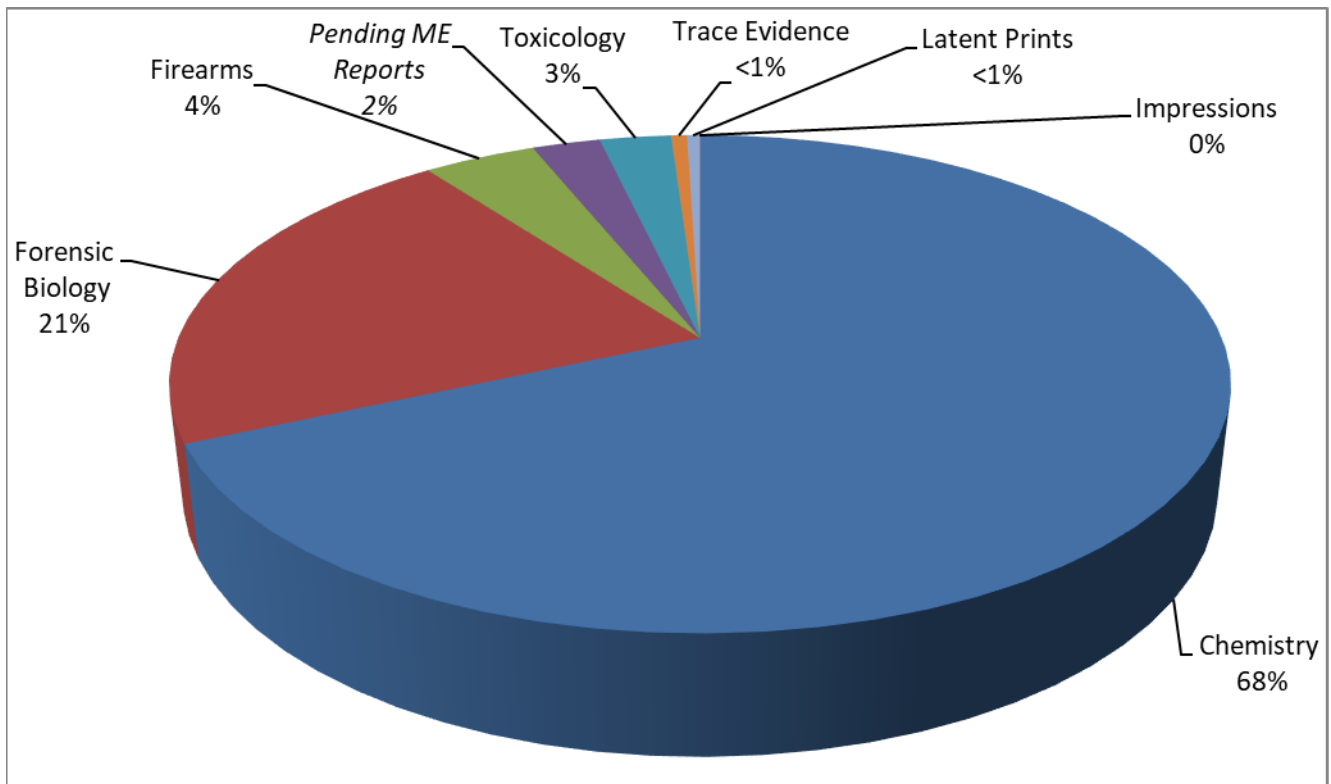
Crime Laboratory



Backlog Report – YTD FY2026

Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old





Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

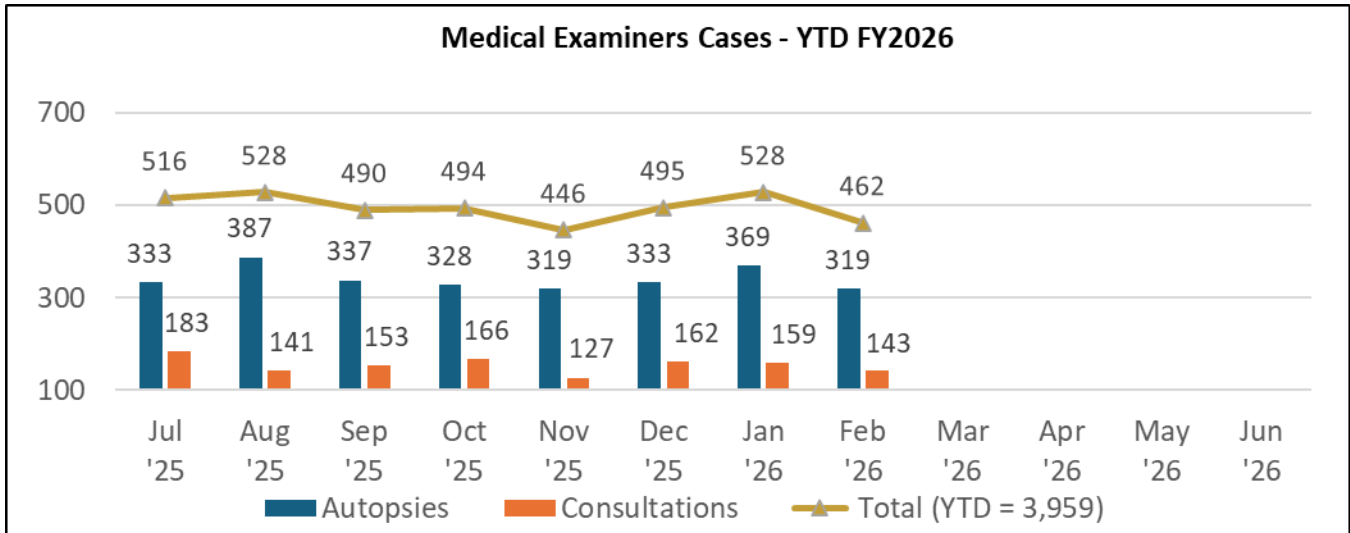
	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	YTD FY2026
Samples Entered	1,923	2,477	2,295	2,907	2,308	29	36	1,866					13,841
Confirmed Hits	37	43	48	47	69	29	28	20					321

Crime Laboratory Notes:

- The Crime Laboratory has 20 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.



Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)



MEO Backlog – YTD FY2026

Medical Examiner data is calculated as >90 days from the date of examination in accordance with National Association of Medical Examiner accreditation standards.

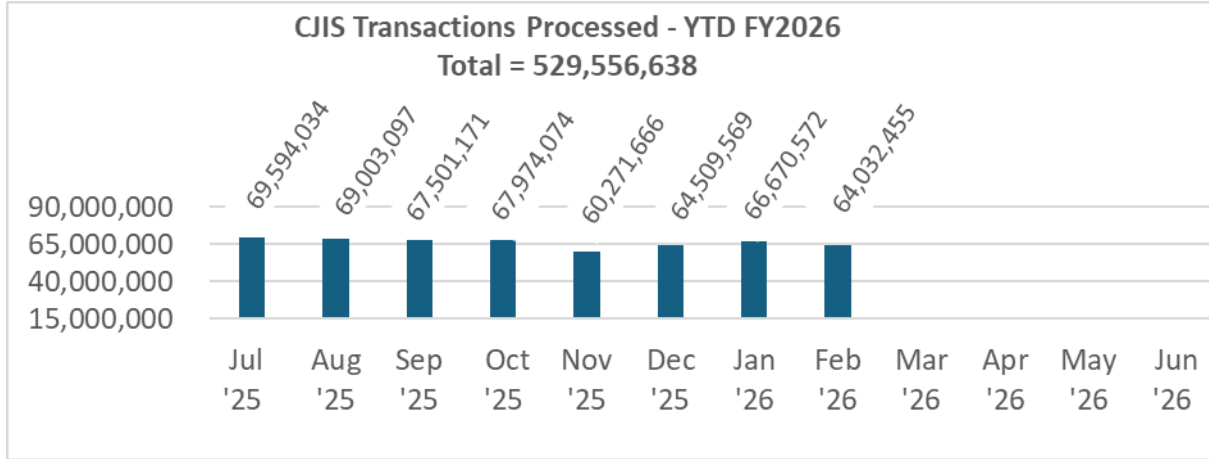
	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
Reports Pending	1,779	1,401	1,250	1,269	1,260	1,280	1,282	1,189				
*Released w/in 90 Days	75.6%	63.6%	63.1%	61.4%	58.2%	62.6%	54.4%	49.5%				

MEO Notes:

- Emory Medical Student starting special elective rotation in Medical Examiner’s Office.
- Two (2) Emory Medical Students rotating through the Medical Examiner’s Office.
- One (1) UGA student shadowing on March 16th in the Medical Examiner’s Office.
- Fellowship Director provided lecture to Emory Medical residents.



Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC)



AFIS/MBIS, CCH, and Applicant Activity Report

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
Criminal Fingerprint Submissions												
Submissions	45,867	30,989	37,054	36,880	33,884	34,722	36,093	*Not Avail.				
Submissions w/Palms	16,806	11,778	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.				
Submissions w/Photos	10,629	7,590	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.				
Latent Print AFIS HITS	16	24	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.	40	*Not Avail.	54	*Not Avail.				
Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)												
Submissions	47,314	37,097	43,735	42,604	31,424	33,139	42,815	*Not Avail.				
Submissions through Rap Back	5,522	4,136	5,680	5,628	4,077	4,346	6,001	5,167				
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	1,440	1,099	1,286	1,407	1,179	1,322	1,378	1,535				
Final Disposition Submissions												
Local Agencies	81,109	72,924	74,570	80,573	57,658	71,621	63,656	72,138				
GCIC	267	278	178	309	192	170	249	312				
Rapid ID Transactions												
Transactions	2,017	1,868	1,852	2,068	1,810	1,607	1,836	1,874				
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	58%	60%	56%	60%	59%	61%	56%	54%				
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	52%	52%	54%	56%	50%	50%	52%	53%				
Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS	14%	15%	17%	18%	14%	14%	17%	18%				

* NEC continues to work on providing criminal fingerprint submission monthly data.

GCIC Activity Report

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
Off-Line Search Requests	19	20	16	12	12	19	24	30				
Sex Offender Registry <i>(Database Total 40,719)</i>												
Records Added	125	130	132	122	113	113	115	99				
Protection Order Registry <i>(Database Total 187,372)</i>												
Records Added	2,952	3,149	3,146	3,171	2,440	2,729	2,545	2,531				
Criminal Justice Agencies <i>(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)</i>												
Audited	0	0	13	32	37	20	21	46				
In Compliance	0	0	3	1	8	1	4	3				
Out of Compliance	0	0	10	31	29	19	17	43				
Trained	5	6	4	**19	4	0	1	4				
Non-Criminal Justice <i>(e.g. Civil Courts, City, County and Charter Schools, Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), Department of Community Health (DCH), etc.)</i>												
Audited	39	51	30	51	36	11	44	73				
In Compliance	21	31	19	27	19	11	28	44				
Out of Compliance	18	20	11	24	17	0	16	29				
Trained	10	21	51	12	11	1	8	12				
Learning Management System (LMS) <i>An on-line system for criminal justice and non-criminal justice staff to enroll and attend e-learning courses.</i>												
Georgia Criminal Street Gang Database	9	5	3	3	1	8	11	1				
CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)	3,637	2,941	2,781	3,159	2,769	3,128	5,976	4,226				
CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement	7,165	6,231	5,630	6,550	5,454	5,543	15,037	8,312				

** FBI RISC HITS - Repository for individuals of Special Concerns (RISC). This group includes Wanted Persons including the Immigration Violator File, National Sex Offenders, known or appropriately Suspected Terrorists and other persons of special interest groups defined by the FBI.

The percentage of electronically received fingerprint cards vs. mailed/manual fingerprint cards = 99.9%



Office of Privacy and Compliance / Open Records Unit

Open Records/Archives Requests - YTD FY2026

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	FY 2026
	721	750	720	732	588	590	782	858					5741

Facilities – Major Projects Status

- GBI Headquarters’ new Medical Examiner’s Office construction is currently in sitework and footing installation phase.
- The new Central Medical Examiner’s Building is in the schematic design phase.
- The new Region 11 Investigative Office is scheduled to begin construction in April 2026
- GBI-Region 10/Gang Task Force Building is in the Space Programming Phase.