

**Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
November Monthly Report  
FY2025**



**Presented to the Board of Public Safety  
No Meeting Held in January 2025**

**Chris Hosey  
Director**

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## Director's Highlights

- Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit – In December 2024, as part of ongoing efforts to identify those involved in the trade of child sexual abuse material, GBI's CEACC Unit arrested and charged the following:

On December 18, 2024, Harold Ryan, age 42, of Thomson, McDuffie County, Georgia, was arrested and charged with four counts of Sexual Exploitation of Children. An investigation into Ryan's illicit online activity began in September 2024 after receiving numerous CyberTips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) involving possession of child sexual abuse material. The investigation led to a search warrant at Ryan's home and his subsequent arrest. The Thomson Police Department aided the GBI CEACC unit in the execution of this search warrant. Ryan was booked into the McDuffie County Jail.

On December 11, 2024, Wesley Eugene Covenah, age 40, of Townsend, McIntosh County, Georgia, was arrested and charged with Sexual Exploitation of Children. GBI's CEACC Unit began an investigation into Covenah's online activity in September 2024, after receiving a Cyber Tipline Report from NCMEC regarding the possible online possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material. This investigation led to a search warrant for Covenah's home and his subsequent arrest. The McIntosh County Sheriff's Office assisted with the search warrant and arrest. Covenah was booked into the McIntosh County Jail.

On December 11, 2024, Ronald Melton, age 43, of Lithonia, DeKalb County, Georgia, was arrested and charged with Sexual Exploitation of Children. GBI's CEACC Unit began an investigation into Melton's online activity in February 2024, after receiving a Cyber Tipline Report from NCMEC regarding the possible online possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material. This investigation led to a search warrant for Melton's home and his subsequent arrest. The DeKalb County Police Department assisted with the search warrant and arrest. Melton was booked into the DeKalb County Jail.

- Region 14 – Camden County Cold Case – On December 9, 2024, the GBI arrested and charged Erik Kristensen Sparre, age 61, of Waynesville, GA, with two counts of murder and two counts of aggravated assault in the 1985 deaths of Harold and Thelma Swain. Sparre was arrested in Waynesville, Brantley County, GA without incident. Sparre was booked into the Camden County Jail.

In 1985, Harold and Thelma Swain were shot to death while at the Rising Daughter Baptist Church in Woodbine, Georgia. In 2003, nearly twenty years later, Dennis Perry was convicted of the murders. On May 13, 2020, the GBI and the Camden County Sheriff's Office reopened the death investigation because of possible new evidence. In 2021, Perry was exonerated due to DNA evidence. In December 2024, after conducting numerous investigative acts, the case was presented to the Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office regarding Sparre's involvement in the Swain's deaths. Sparre was arrested and indicted in this case.

- Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) – GBI’s ARDEO arrested and charged Kevin Wayne Oliver, age 43, of Dahlonega, GA, with Trafficking Methamphetamine and Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute. On December 6, 2024, Oliver was arrested at a home in Dahlonega, GA, for a Probation Violation warrant. During a subsequent search of his property, law enforcement found and seized more than 150 grams of suspected methamphetamine and approximately six ounces of suspected marijuana. Oliver was booked into the Lumpkin County Detention Center. The Lumpkin County Sheriff’s Office and the GBI ARDEO participated in this investigation.
- Office of Special Investigations (OSI) - Cold Case Unit (CCU) – The Coleman-Baker Act (CBA) request webform has been on the GBI website Home page since June 30, 2023. Thirty-eight (38) cold cases are being reviewed or reinvestigated at this time. Fifteen (15) were requests from designated family members and twenty-three (23) were GBI initiated. CCU has also opened twelve (12) GBI cold case unidentified remains (UID) cases in hopes of identifying the victims with FIGG (Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy).
- From January 1 to December 31, 2024, the GBI investigated a total of eighty-five (85) Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). GBI’s Region 2 – Midland, GA Field Office was requested by Georgia State Patrol (GSP) in reference to an OIS in Grantville, Coweta County, GA. On December 18, 2024, a GSP Trooper initiated a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Cruze traveling southbound on Interstate 85 (I-85). The driver, Ira Troy Williams, age 51, provided his driver’s license to the Trooper conducting the traffic stop. Williams then drove away from the scene, traveling southbound on I-85, resulting in a vehicle pursuit by GSP. During the pursuit, Williams fired a weapon several times from his car at Troopers and Coweta County Deputies who joined the chase. The Troopers returned gunfire. Troopers performed several PIT maneuvers to disable the Chevrolet Cruze. The car chase ended in Grantville. Williams got out of his car and again fired his weapon several times at the Troopers while running away. On December 19, 2024, arrest warrants were issued for Williams for Aggravated Assault against a Police Officer for shooting at Troopers during the car chase. Williams was on the run until he was taken into custody without further incident on December 20, 2024, by GSP and the Coweta County Sheriff’s Office. One GSP K-9 Officer was shot. The K-9 Officer was treated and released from a veterinary hospital. No other officers were injured during the incident.

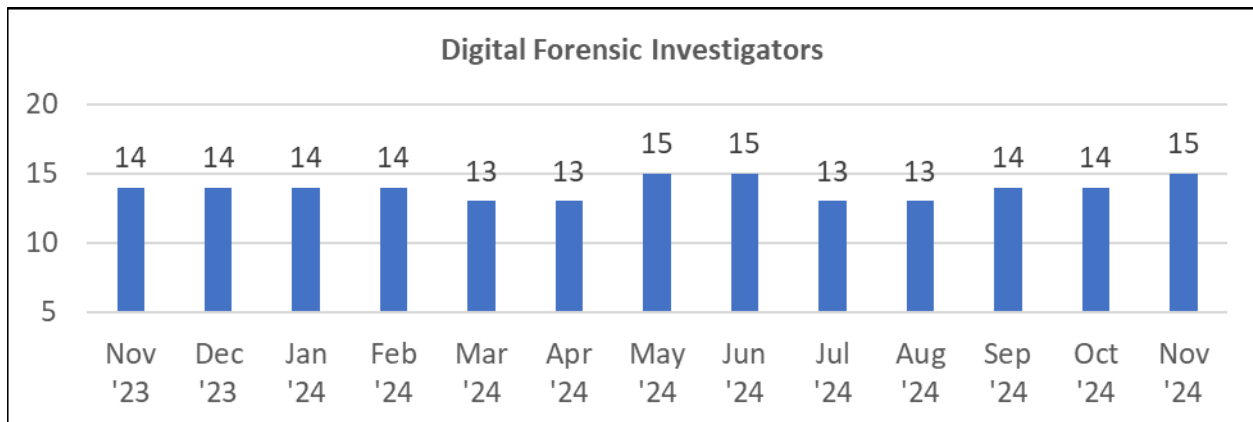
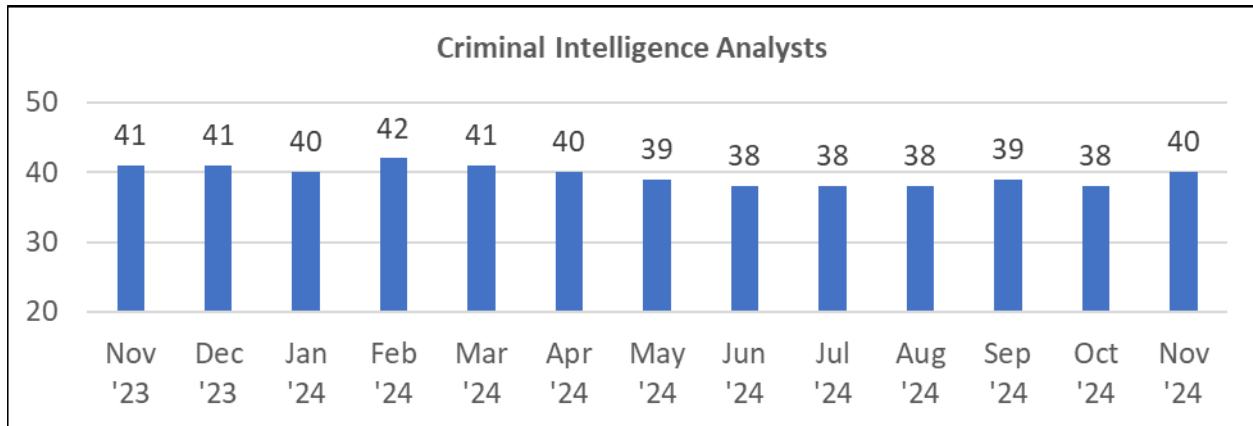
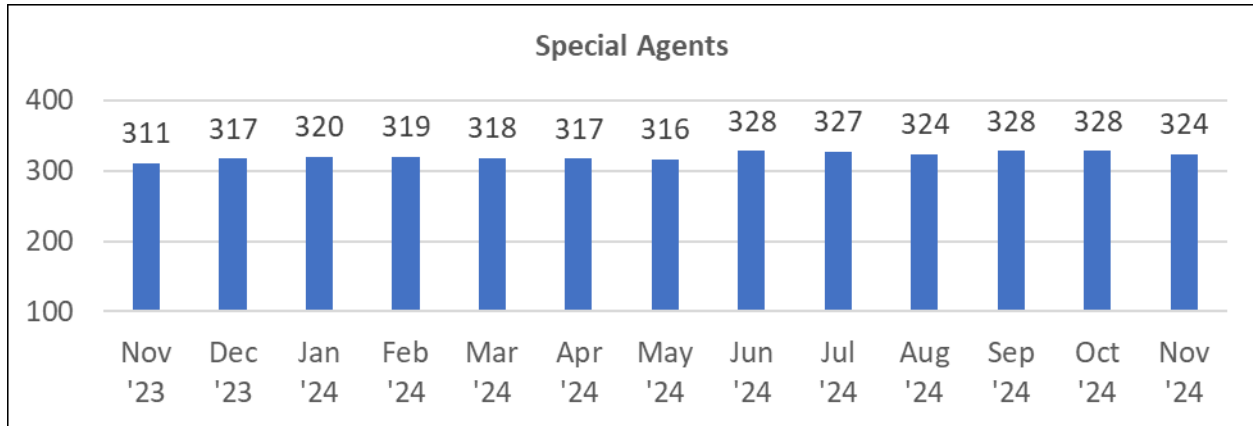
## **GBI Attains 9th Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) Accreditation**

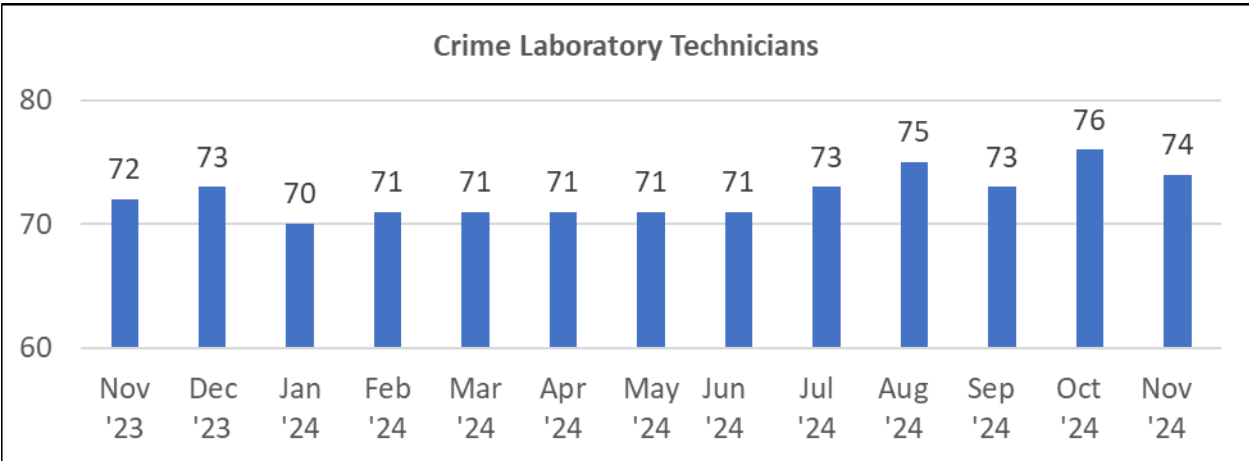
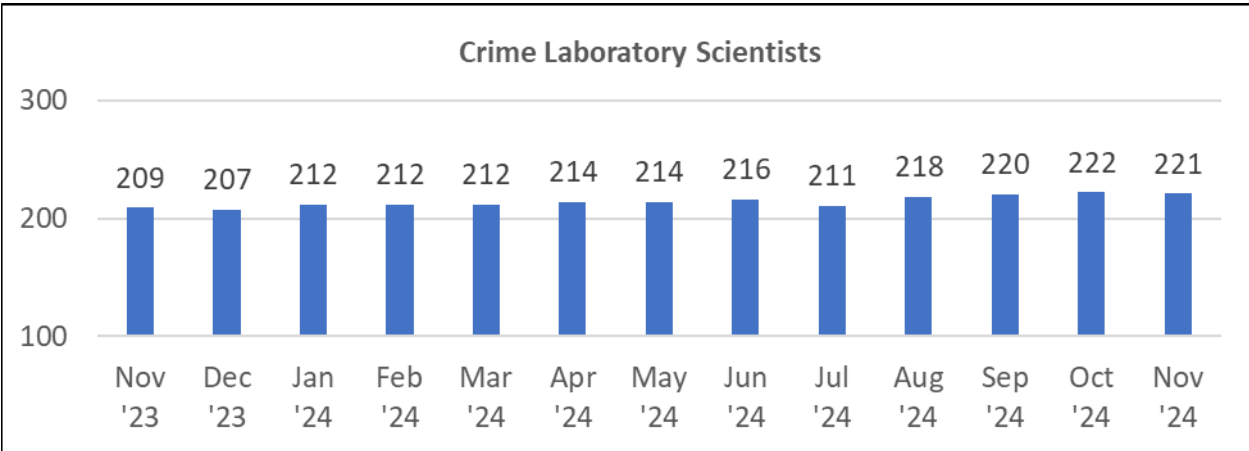
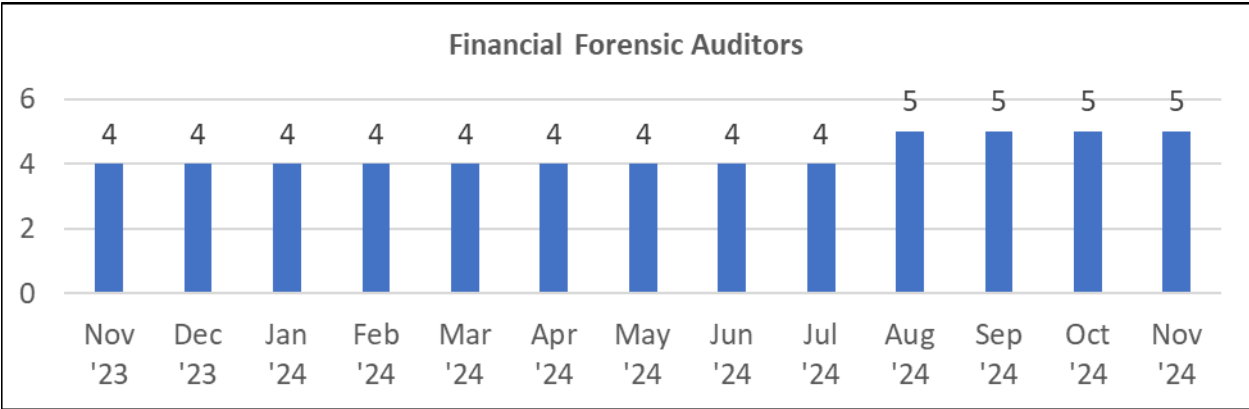
- On November 15, 2024, the GBI successfully attained its 9th accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). Attaining accreditation from CALEA represents a commitment to excellence, professionalism, and accountability. It ensures that an agency not only meets but exceeds the highest standards in law enforcement, building trust and confidence within the community. CALEA is an independent nationally accrediting authority formed in 1979 by four major law enforcement membership associations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the National Sheriff's Association (NSA), and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). For more information, visit [www.calea.org](http://www.calea.org).

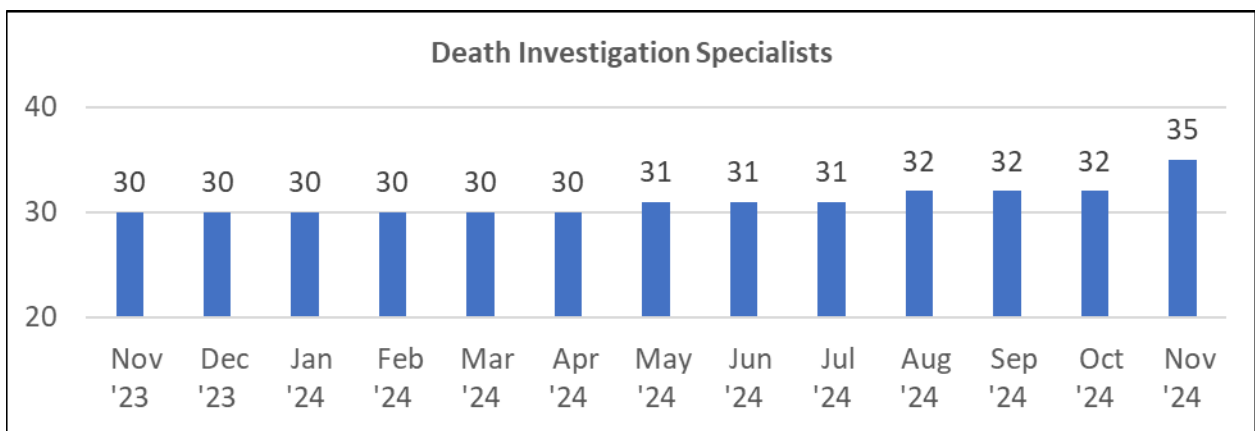
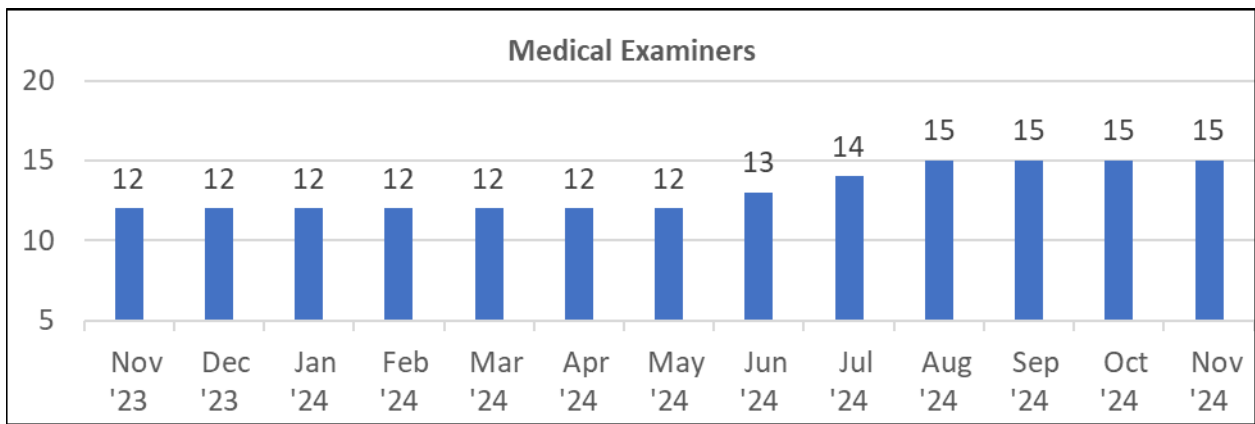


# Staffing Report

## Filled Positions (All Fund Sources)







### GBI Vacancies -- FY2025

*(State Funds Only)*

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
<b>DOFS</b>	58	46	45	39	39							
<b>Scientist Positions</b>	32	25	23	21	22							
<b>Investigative Division</b>	44	42	35	33	34							
<b>Sworn Agent Positions</b>	20	22	14	14	18							
<b>GCIC</b>	9	9	7	9	9							
<b>Admin</b>	5	5	4	4	5							

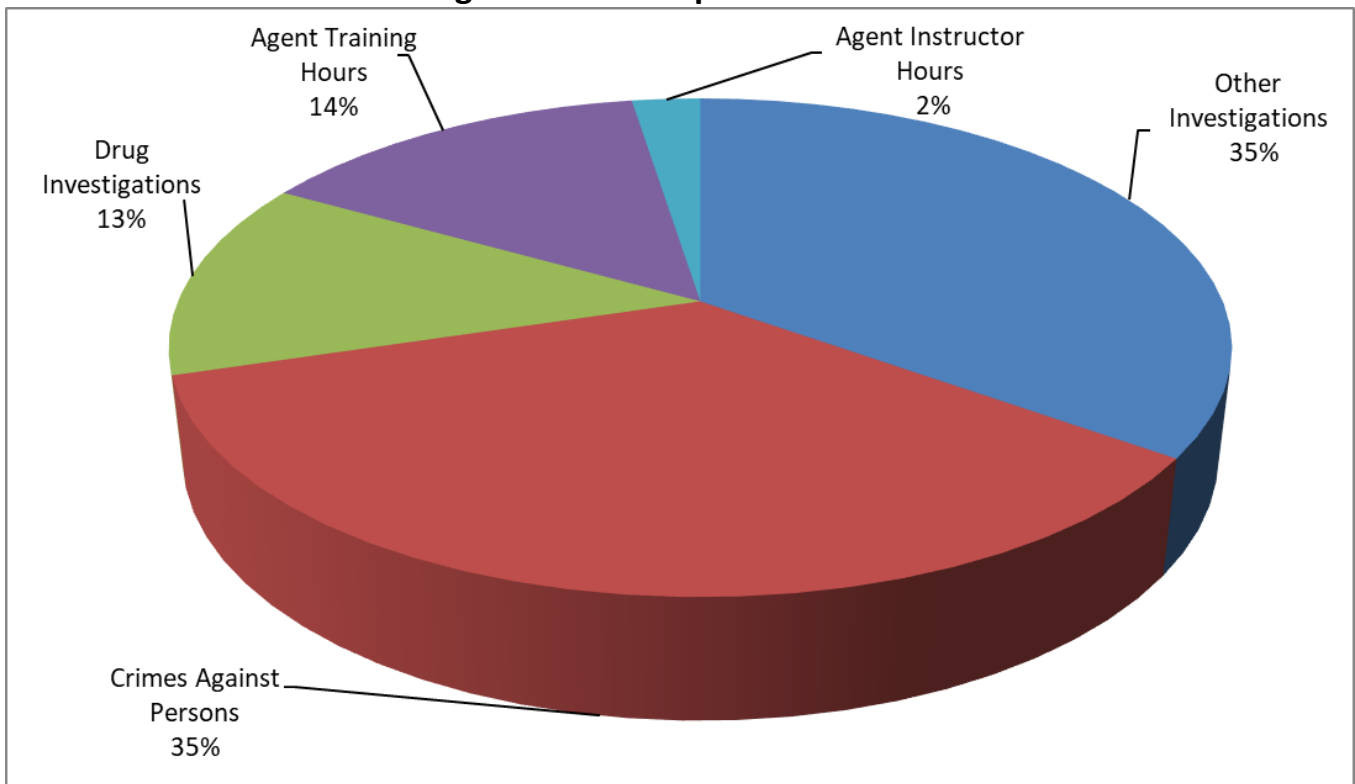


# Investigative Division

## Investigative Cases – YTD FY2025

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	FY 2025
* Crimes Against Persons	85	106	130	110	72								503
**Drug Investigations	16	22	23	24	18								103
***Other Investigations	412	462	424	463	375								2,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>465</b>								<b>2,742</b>

## Investigative Hours Expended - YTD FY2025



\* **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.

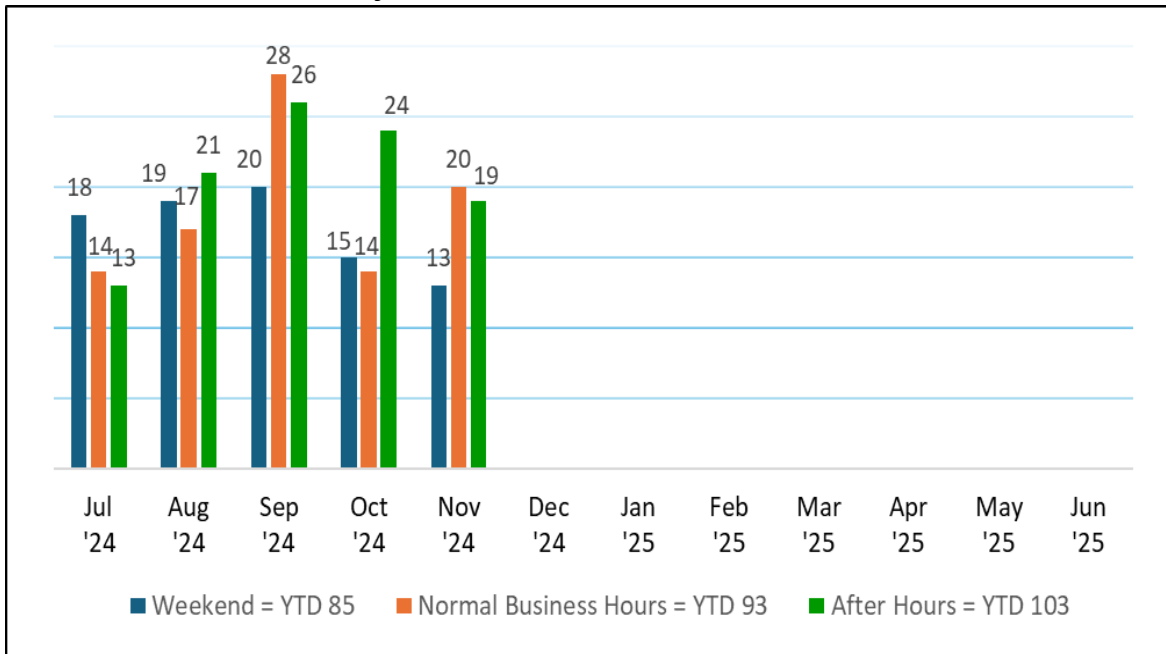


## Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2025

	November 2024	YTD FY2025
Property Stolen	\$2,000.00	\$136,490.78
Property Recovered	\$2,550.00	\$237,690.30
Contraband Seized	\$2,709,360.00	\$104,663,249.66
Arrests	73	440
Cases Closed	461	2,586

*Note: Monthly totals are accurate at the time of this report. However, the totals may change due to late reporting and pending updates.*

## Major Case Call Outs - YTD FY2025



## Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) Watch Desk Activity YTD FY2025

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	FY 2025
<b>Threats to Life</b>	34	42	62	36	41								215
<b>See Send App Tips</b>	2,352	628	803	571	630								4,984
<b>Suspicious Activity</b>	0	1	0	1	4								6
<b>*Requests for Info.</b>	1,936	1,978	1,659	1,816	1,516								8,905

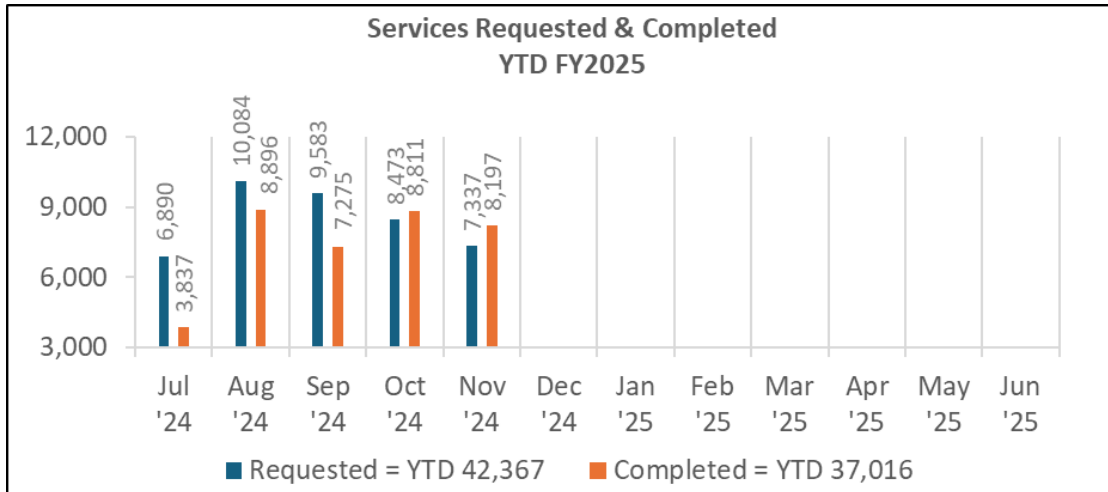
*\* The GISAC Requests for Information (RFI) totals are accurate at the time of this report. However, the numbers may change due to pending updates and modifications within the reporting system.*

### Investigative Division Notes:

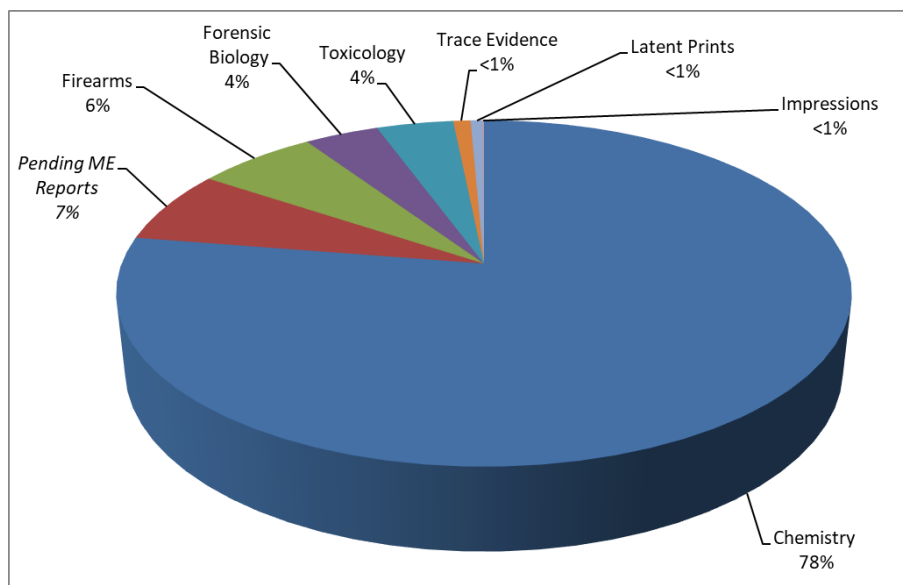
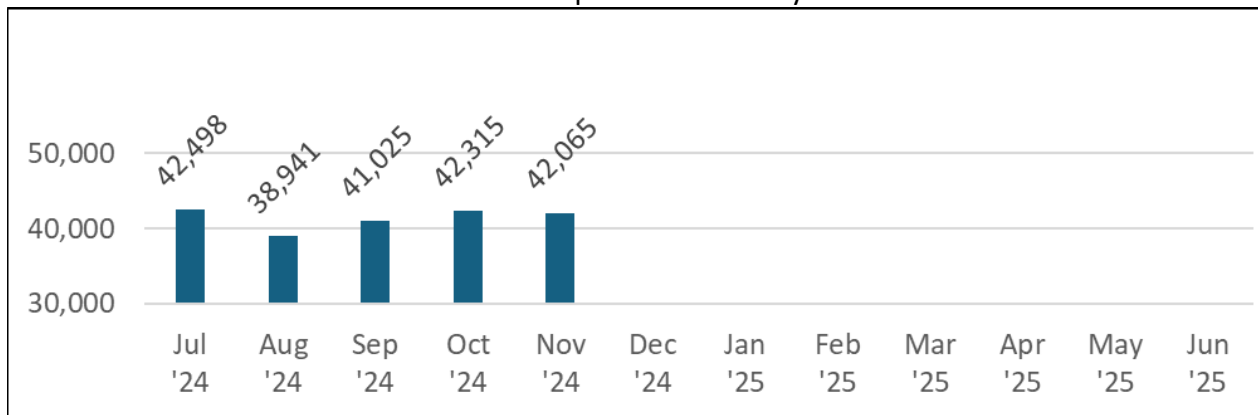
- One hundred and twenty-five (125) Special Agent applicants are scheduled to participate in the Special Agent applicant assessment in February 2025.



# Crime Laboratory



### Backlog Report – YTD FY2025 Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old



### Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

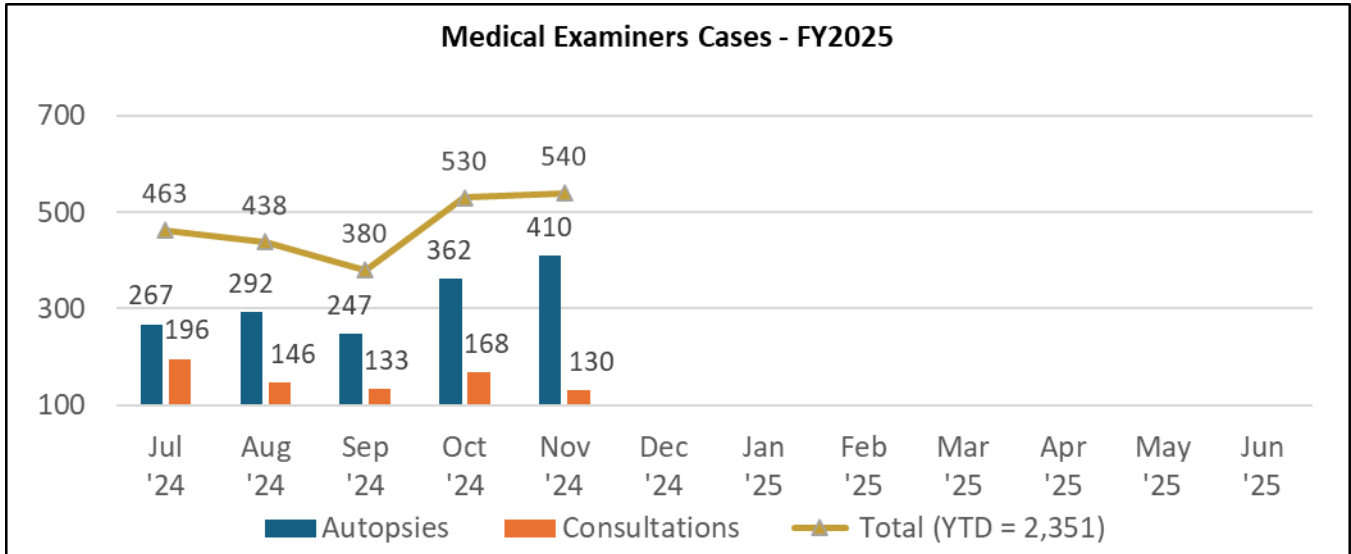
	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	YTD FY2025
<b>Samples Entered</b>	1,710	1,926	1,301	1,366	1,331								7,634
<b>Confirmed Hits</b>	65	35	49	55	45								249

**Crime Laboratory Notes:**

- The Crime Laboratory has 26 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.



## Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)



### MEO Backlog - FY2025

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

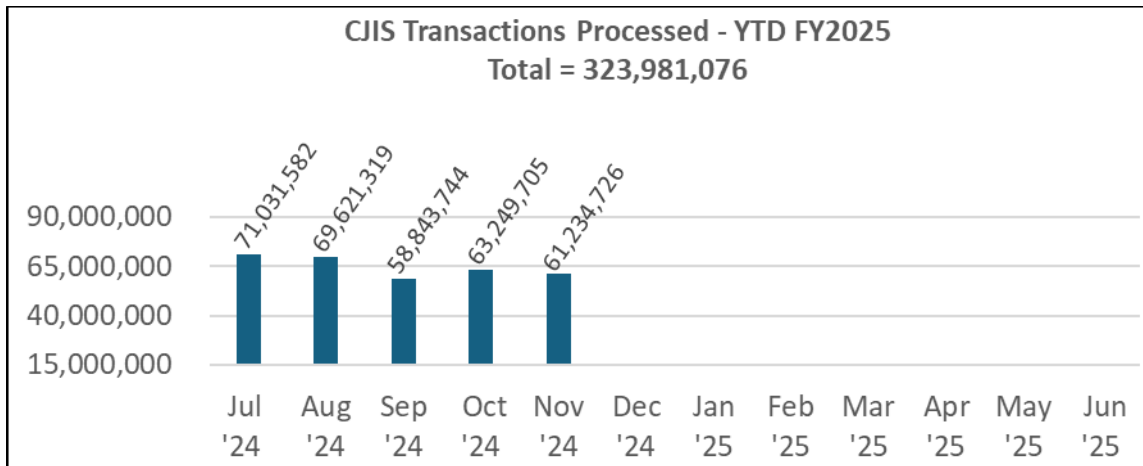
	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
<b>Reports Pending</b>	1,938	2,110	2,113	2,436	2,863							
<b>Released w/in 90 Days</b>	68.9%	53.0%	67.8%	61.7%	53.1%							

#### MEO Notes:

- During December 2-6, 2024, GBI's Division of Forensic Sciences Firearms and Toolmark Section hosted the GBI's Medical Examiner Fellows.



# Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC)



## AFIS, CCH, and Applicant Activity Report

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
<b>Criminal Fingerprint Submissions</b>												
Submissions	44,936	45,969	43,645	46,204	41,533							
Submissions w/Palms	15,948	16,590	14,953	15,873	15,157							
Submissions w/Photos	11,132	11,617	10,231	10,937	10,625							
Latent Print AFIS HITS	19	44	40	27	18							
<b>Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)</b>												
Submissions	48,959	52,249	38,524	41,219	34,648							
Submissions through Rap Back	6,157	6,245	5,099	5,554	4,582							
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	1,107	1,122	1,062	1,044	977							
<b>Final Disposition Submissions</b>												
Local Agencies	71,469	71,214	61,447	69,512	60,994							
GCIC	326	287	285	260	222							
<b>Rapid ID Transactions</b>												
Transactions	1,893	2,128	1,592	1,296	1,769							
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	49%	52%	49%	45%	45%							
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	52%	55%	51%	47%	50%							
**Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS	14%	15%	15%	14%	13%							

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

## GCIC Activity Report

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
<b>Off-Line Search Requests</b>	17	14	10	15	11							
<b>Sex Offender Registry</b> <i>(Database Total 39,189)</i>												
<b>Records Added</b>	106	145	138	125	113							
<b>Protection Order Registry</b> <i>(Database Total 197,047)</i>												
<b>Records Added</b>	2,854	3,190	2,621	2,962	2,553							
<b>Criminal Justice Agencies</b> <i>(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)</i>												
<b>Audited</b>	20	36	38	19	23							
<b>In Compliance</b>	4	5	5	7	5							
<b>Out of Compliance</b>	16	31	33	12	18							
<b>Trained</b>	10	4	4	19	5							
<b>Non-Criminal Justice</b> <i>(e.g. Civil Courts, City, County and Charter Schools, Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), Department of Community Health (DCH), etc.)</i>												
<b>Audited</b>	63	32	41	33	39							
<b>In Compliance</b>	32	25	32	18	26							
<b>Out of Compliance</b>	31	7	9	15	13							
<b>Trained</b>	12	57	16	57	6							
<b>Learning Management System (LMS)</b> <i>An on-line system for criminal justice and non-criminal justice staff to enroll and attend e-learning courses.</i>												
<b>Georgia Criminal Street Gang Database</b>	11	12	29	5	4							
<b>CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)</b>	3,058	3,078	3,018	2,532	2,345							
<b>CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement</b>	5,538	6,878	7,064	5,389	4,730							

### GCIC Notes:

- Effective January 6, 2025, the GAPS (Georgia Applicant Processing Services) vendor will officially change from Fieldprint to IDEMIA, also known as Identogo by IDEMIA. Fees associated with the GAPS program will increase by 24 cents for all users. Visit the GAPS website at <https://ga.state.identogo.com/> for complete details and progress of the GAPS background check process, fingerprint locations and to enroll your agency.



# Administration

## Office of Privacy and Compliance / Open Records Unit

### Open Records/Archives Requests - YTD FY2025

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	FY 2025
<b>Open Records Requests</b>	694	573	573	586	681								3,107

## Facilities – Major Projects Status

- Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) Storage Building was completed in December 2024.
- HQ MEO Expansion design services were completed in December 2024.
- Region 1 - Calhoun Office new construction is scheduled for completion in January 2025.