

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



**Presented to the Board of Public Safety
March 14, 2025**

**Chris Hosey
Director**

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Director's Highlights

- Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SWRDEO) – On February 21, 2025, GBI's SWRDEO and the Dawson Police Department arrested and charged Brian Perry, age 38, of Terrell County, GA, with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Trafficking Marijuana, and Trafficking Powder Cocaine. These charges resulted from a 3-month-long investigation pertaining to Perry trafficking narcotics throughout Terrell County, GA. Investigators executed a search warrant at Perry's home, resulting in the seizure of 187.2 grams of suspected powder cocaine, 23.4 grams of suspected crack cocaine, 211.8 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 423.1 grams of suspected marijuana, 1 firearm, and a large amount of money. Perry was booked into the Terrell County Jail.
- Middle Georgia Gang Task Force (MGGTF) – On February 11, 2025, GBI's MGGTF arrested Neico Tomorris Sandifer, age 46, of Macon, GA, Shawanda Carswell, age 40, of Milledgeville, GA, and William Hancock, age 30, of Macon, GA, following a joint drug investigation by MGGTF, Bibb County Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol (GSP), Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS), and Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC). After a multi-month investigation, the GBI Special Enforcement Team (SET) and Bibb County SWAT executed search warrants in Macon, GA. As a result of these search warrants, GBI agents seized 168 grams of suspected marijuana, 447 grams of suspected K2/Spice, 5 grams of suspected crack cocaine, 9 grams of unknown/unpackaged pills, 3 rifles (1 stolen from Warner Robins, GA), 4 handguns, 2 vehicles, and \$1,700 of U.S. Currency.

Sandifer was charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine, 7 counts of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Crack Cocaine, and Possession of Gabapentin. Carswell was charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon and has additional charges pending. Hancock was charged with Probation Violation. Sandifer, Carswell, and Hancock were booked at the Bibb County Jail.

- Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit – "Operation Byte Down," a statewide, multi-jurisdictional child exploitation operation, has led to the arrest of 17 people charged with Sexual Exploitation of Children and other related offenses. GBI's CEACC Unit, along with 33 other agencies that are members of the Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, participated in the operation to identify and arrest those involved in technology facilitated crimes against children. "Operation Byte Down" identified 13 children that were living in households where online child sexual exploitation was occurring and one of those arrested admitted to current or prior hands-on sexual offenses against a child.

"Operation Byte Down" involved months of planning and included both proactive and reactive cases investigated by the GBI and affiliate agencies with the Georgia ICAC Task Force. The operation concluded on January 31, 2025, with 30 residential search warrants executed statewide. These search warrants and other enforcement actions resulted in the arrest of 17 people. Digital forensic investigators previewed 137 electronic devices on scene and seized 361 electronic devices, including cellular phones, tablets, computers, hard drives, and various electronic data storage devices. More arrests are possible once forensic processing of the seized electronic devices are complete. In addition to the GBI, the following agencies participated in "Operation Byte Down": Barrow Co. Sheriff's Office (SO), Bartow Co. SO, Bibb

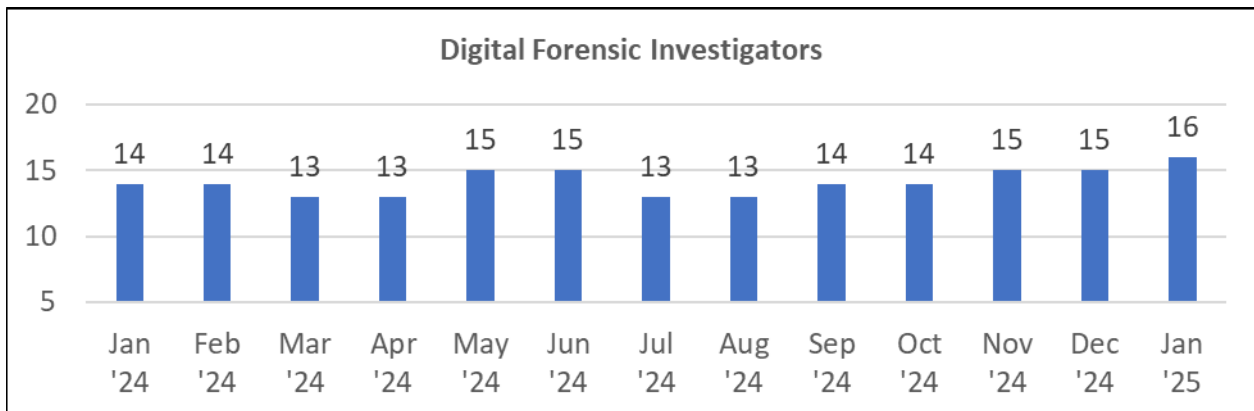
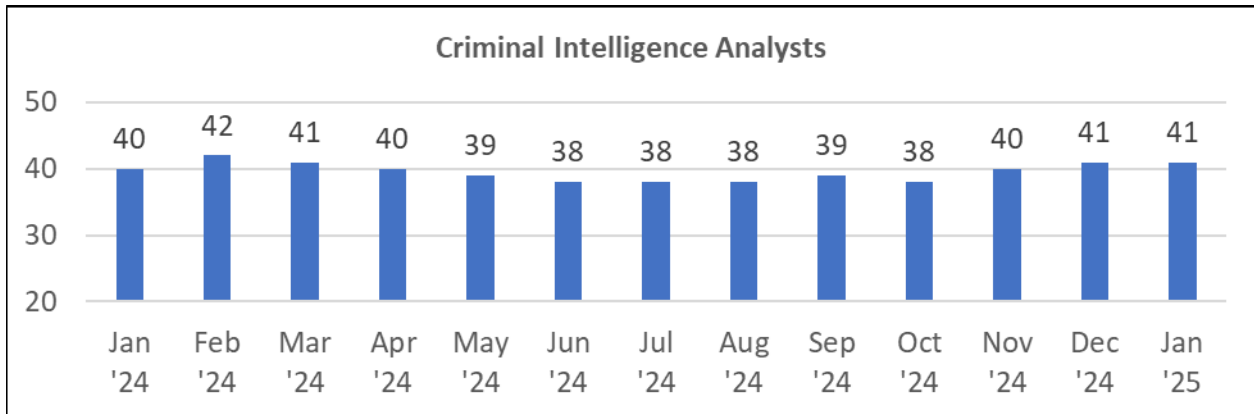
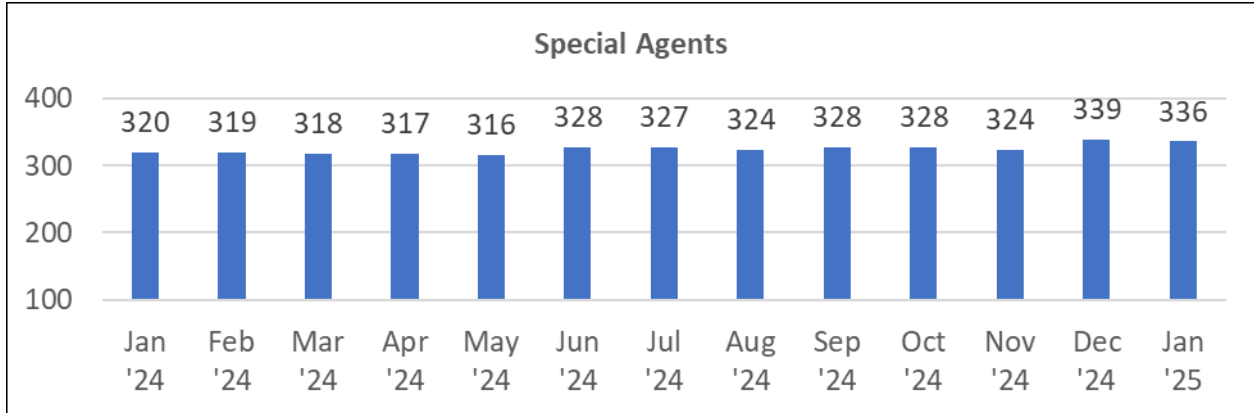
Co. SO, Blakely Police Department (PD), Brookhaven PD, Carroll Co. SO, Chatham Co. SO, Cherokee Co. SO, Clayton Co. SO, Columbia Co. SO, DeKalb Co. District Attorney's Office, Doraville PD, Effingham Co. SO, Forsyth Co. SO, Georgia State Patrol, Gwinnett Co. PD, Hall Co. SO, Henry Co. PD, Helen PD, Houston Co. SO, Jasper Co. SO, Kingsland PD, Muscogee Co. SO, Paulding Co. SO, Pooler PD, Richmond Co. SO, Roswell PD, Savannah PD, St. Mary's PD, Tifton PD, United States Secret Service, Whitfield Co. SO, and Woodstock PD.

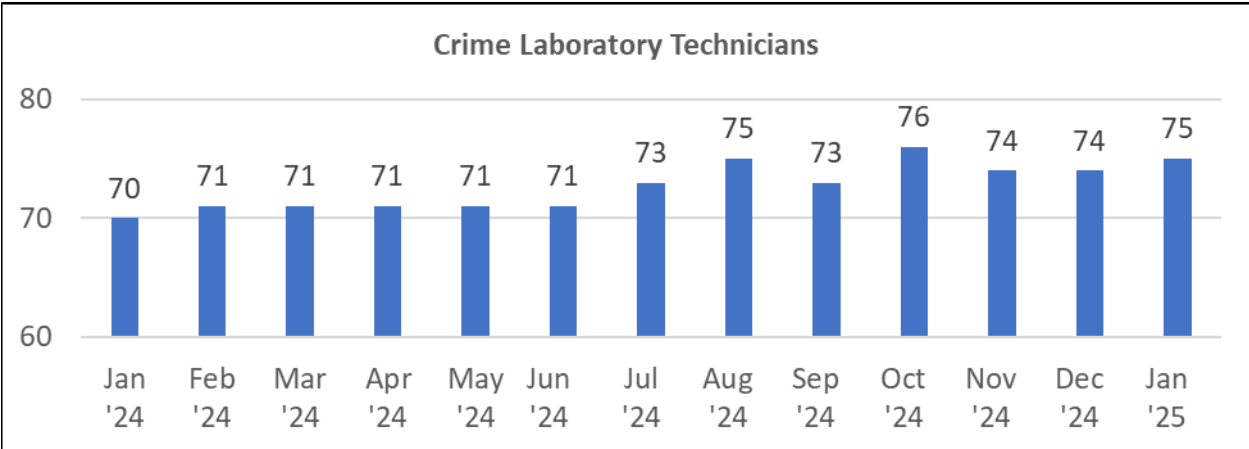
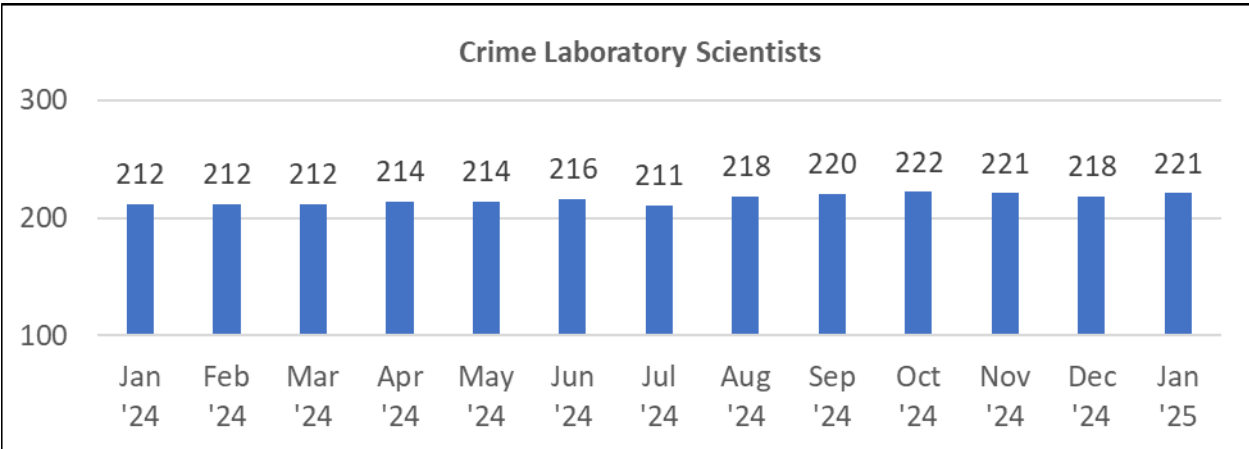
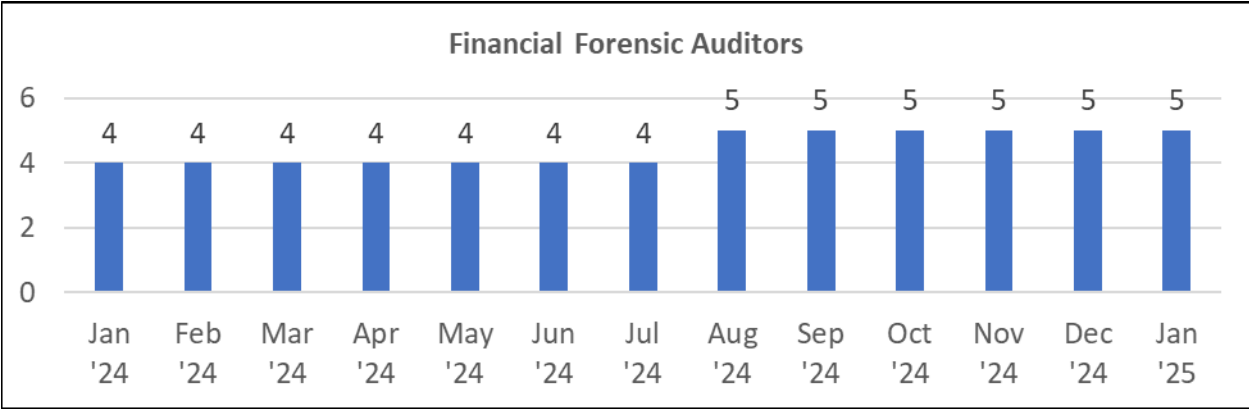
- Region 3 – GBI's Investigative Office in Americus, GA – On February 8, 2025, the GBI was requested by the Americus Police Department (PD) to assist with a death investigation. During a remembrance of life event for an individual killed the previous year, a shooting occurred where Jotavis Roshon Leverette, age 19, of Americus, GA was shot and later succumbed to his injuries. Other individuals in the crowd began shooting as well. During the shooting, Peyton Brielle Roberts, age 5, of Americus, GA, was struck by one of the gunshots and killed. A third victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The same night, the GBI arrested and charged Ricky Martin, age 19, of Americus, GA, with Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Battery. Martin was booked into the Sumter County Jail. Kwaune Clayton was also detained that night. The firearm used by Martin was located in a backpack in Clayton's possession. Clayton was charged with Tampering with Evidence and False Statements. On February 13, 2025, GBI agents arrested Ny'Tavion "NYMY" Smith, age 20, on charges of Aggravated Assault and Felony Murder in connection with the death of Peyton Roberts. Smith was taken into custody in Americus during the execution of a search warrant by the GBI SET Team, GBI Region 3 agents, and Americus PD.
- Region 10 – GBI's Atlanta Regional Office – On February 7, 2025, the GBI was requested by the Roswell Police Department to assist with a death investigation. Roswell Police Officer Jeremy Labonte was shot and killed while responding to a suspicious person reported at a shopping center. When Officer Labonte arrived at the shopping center, he encountered 23-year-old Edward Espinoza near the ACE Pickleball Club. As Officer Labonte approached Espinoza for questioning, Espinoza produced a handgun and fired multiple shots at Officer Labonte. Officers responding to the 911 call arrived quickly and took Espinoza into custody. Officer Labonte was taken to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Espinoza was arrested and charged with Malice Murder, Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer, and Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony.
- 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 thirteen (13) GBI cold case unidentified remains (UID) cases in hopes of identifying the victims with FIGG (Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy). Three (3) of the unidentified remains cases have been identified.
- From January 1 to February 28, 2025, the GBI investigated a total of twelve (12) Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). On February 5, 2025, GBI's Region 1 – Calhoun, GA, Investigative Office was requested by Georgia State Patrol (GSP) in reference to an OIS in Resaca, Gordon County, GA. GSP SWAT was assisting the Gordon County Sheriff's Office with the arrest of a murder suspect. The suspect, later identified as Christopher Lee Dixon, age 46, of Resaca, GA, was found underneath a trailer in a crawl space, and GSP troopers attempted to remove Dixon from the crawl space. The troopers deployed a Taser, but Dixon continued to fight with the troopers. Dixon was armed with a rifle. During the struggle, the troopers shot Dixon. After being shot, Dixon continued to fight the troopers and resist arrest. Dixon was eventually taken into custody and to a local hospital with minor injuries. Once treated, he was taken to the Gordon County Jail. The Gordon County Sheriff's Office issued arson and murder warrants. No officers were injured.

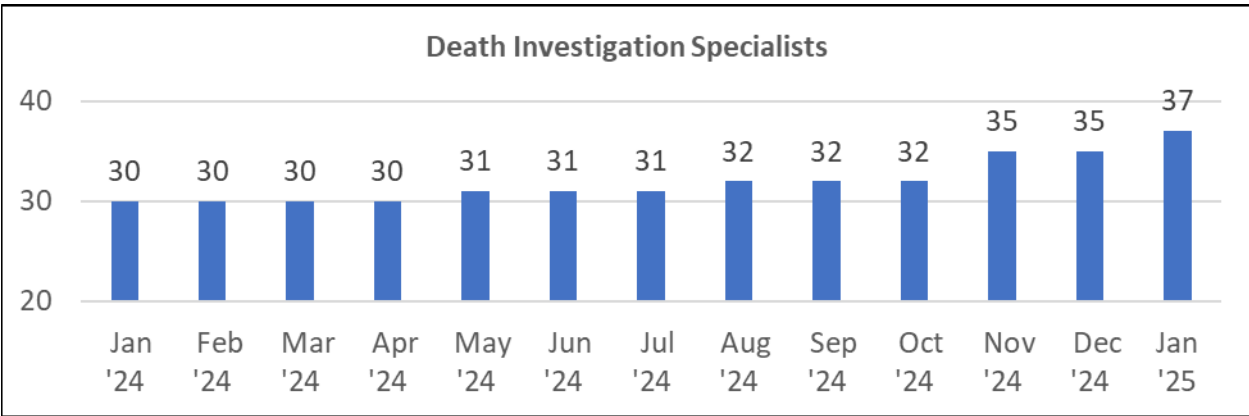
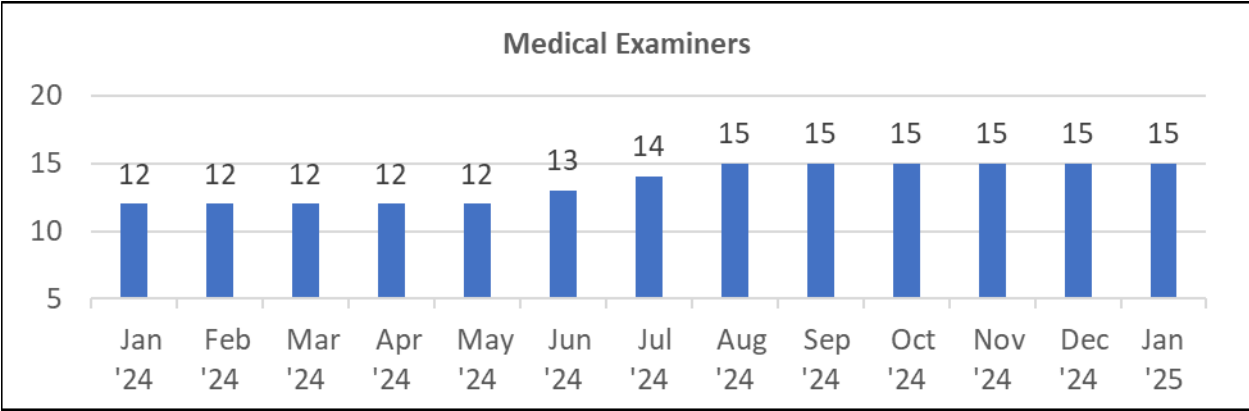


Staffing Report

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
DOFS	58	46	45	39	39	42	36					
Scientist Positions	32	25	23	21	22	25	23					
Investigative Division	44	42	35	33	34	19	20					
Sworn Agent Positions	20	22	14	14	18	3	6					
GCIC	9	9	7	9	9	9	11					
Admin	5	5	4	4	5	6	6					

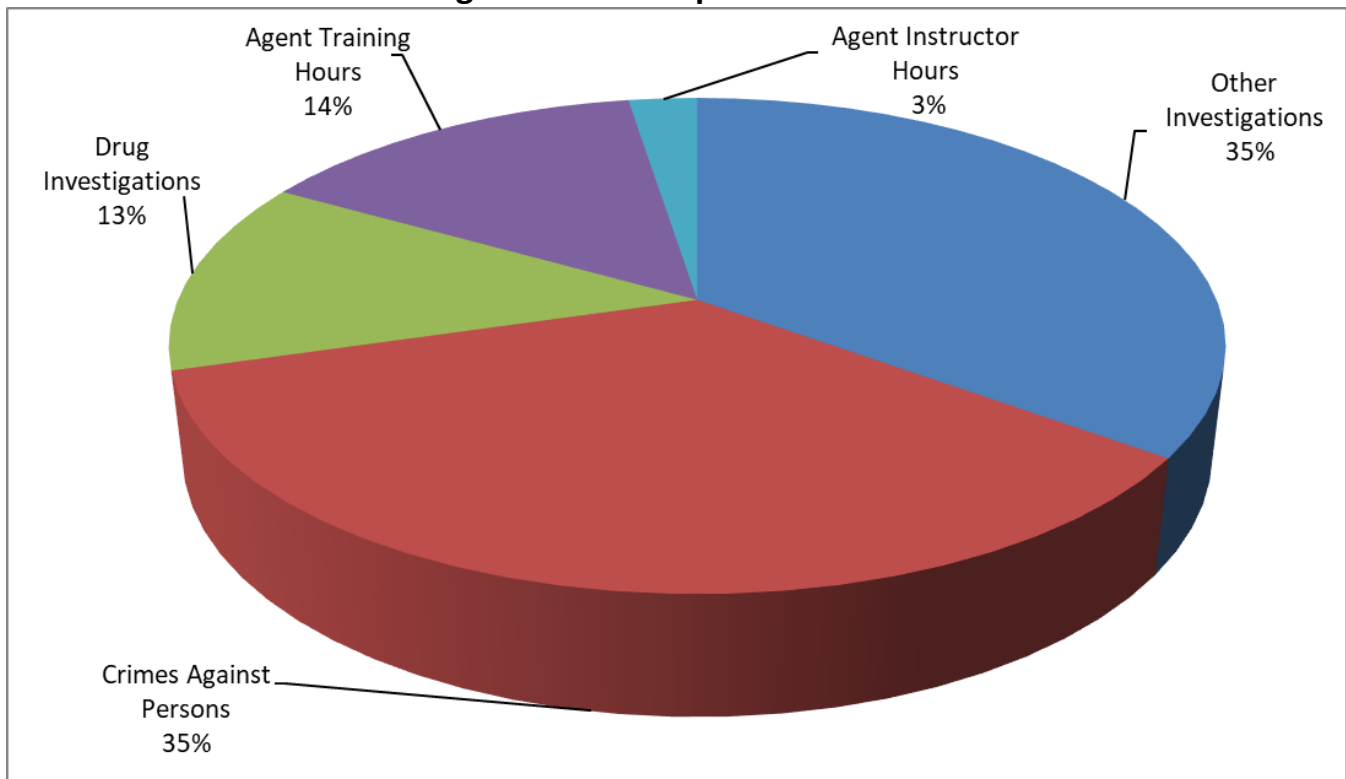


Investigative Division

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	62	87						652
**Drug Investigations	16	22	23	24	18	15	19						137
***Other Investigations	412	462	424	463	375	359	417						2,912
Total	513	590	577	597	465	436	523						3,701

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.

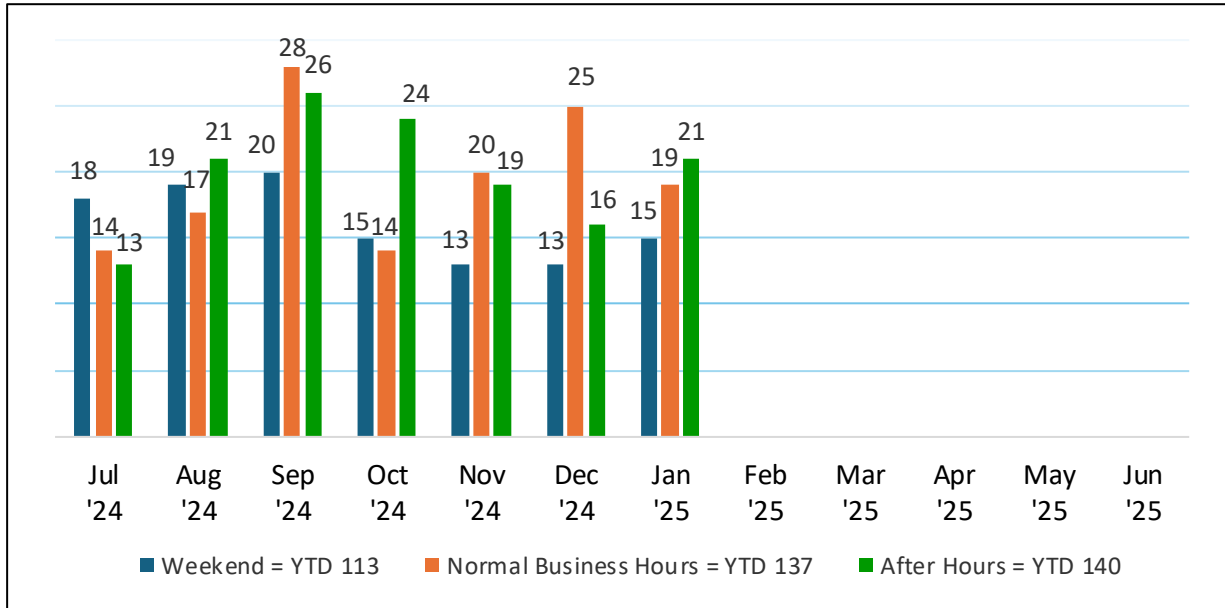
*** **Other Investigations** - corruption, cyber, bomb disposal, election, technology, cold case review, property crimes, special events, etc.

Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2025

	January 2025	YTD FY2025
Property Stolen	\$0.00	\$140,449.52
Property Recovered	\$0.00	\$237,690.30
Contraband Seized	\$14,531,206.00	\$119,403,987.96
Arrests	108	626
Cases Closed	475	3,635

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
Threats to Life	34	42	62	36	41	27	49						291
See Send App Tips	2,352	628	803	571	630	744	653						6,381
Suspicious Activity	0	1	0	1	4	1	0						7
*Requests for Info.	1,936	1,978	1,659	1,816	1,516	1,441	1,741						12,087

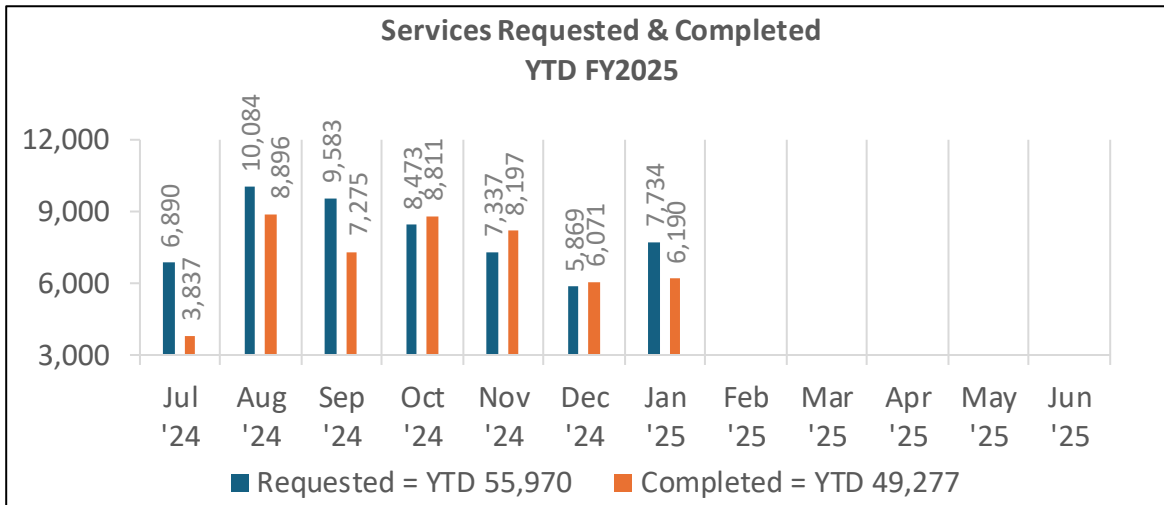
** The GISAC Requests for Information (RFI) totals are accurate at the time of this report. However, the numbers may change due to pending updates and modifications within the reporting system.*

Investigative Division Notes:

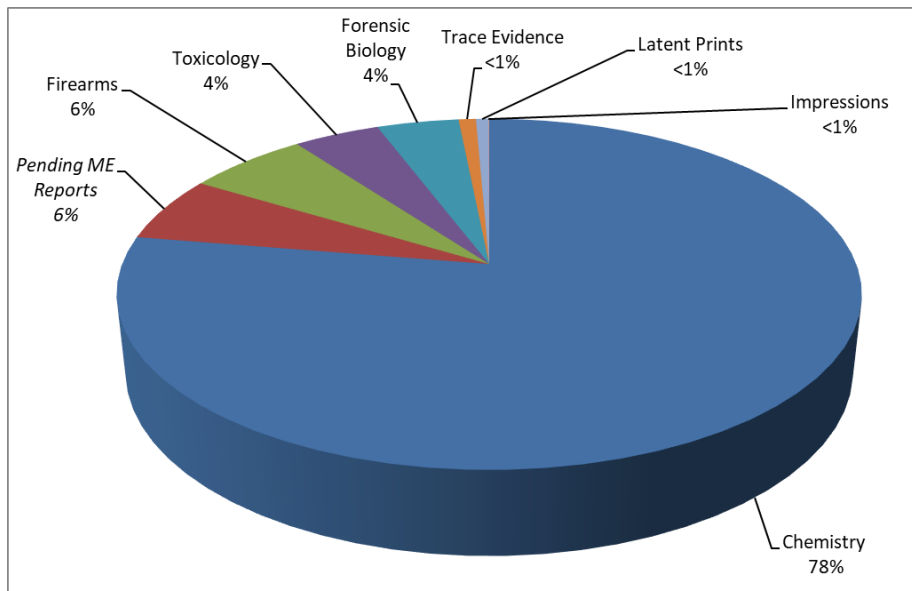
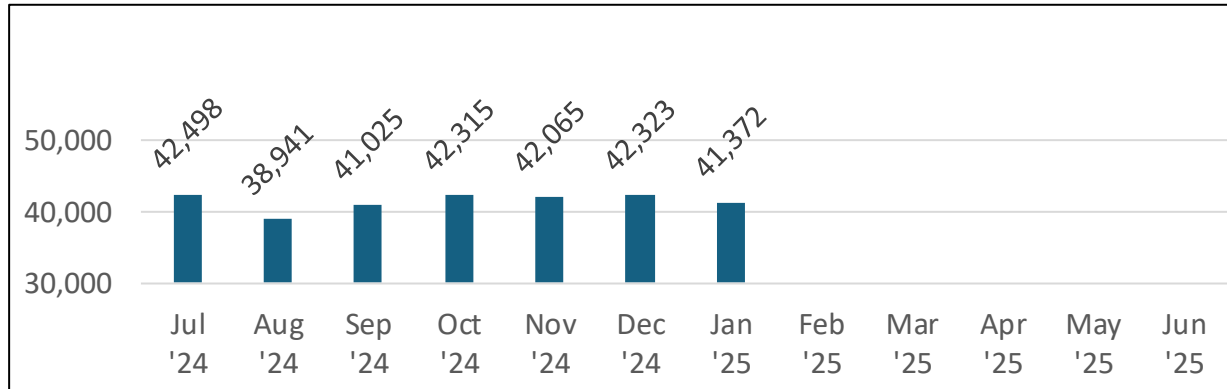
- Thirty-five (35) Special Agent applicants passed the Special Agent applicant assessments. Twenty-nine (29) Special Agent applicants successfully completed the polygraph phase and moved forward in the hiring process to the background phase.



Crime Laboratory



Backlog Report – YTD FY2025 Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old



Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

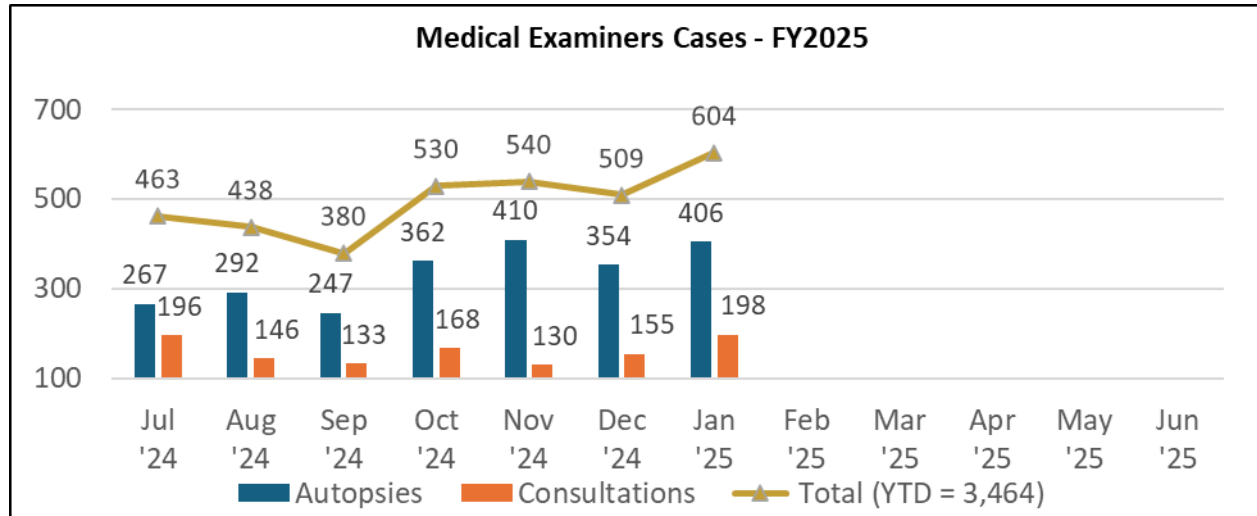
	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	YTD FY2025
Samples Entered	1,710	1,926	1,301	1,366	1,331	1,315	671						9,620
Confirmed Hits	65	35	49	55	45	37	38						324

Crime Laboratory Notes:

- The Crime Laboratory has 24 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.
- In February, the Crime Laboratory’s accrediting body, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), approved a scope extension to our organization’s accreditation to include Rapid DNA at Headquarters and Coastal Regional laboratories. This achievement positions the lab to begin testing evidence using Rapid DNA technology.



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
Reports Pending	1,938	2,110	2,113	2,436	2,863	2,712	2,494					
*Released w/in 90 Days	68.9%	53.0%	67.8%	61.7%	53.1%	58.0%	30.0%					

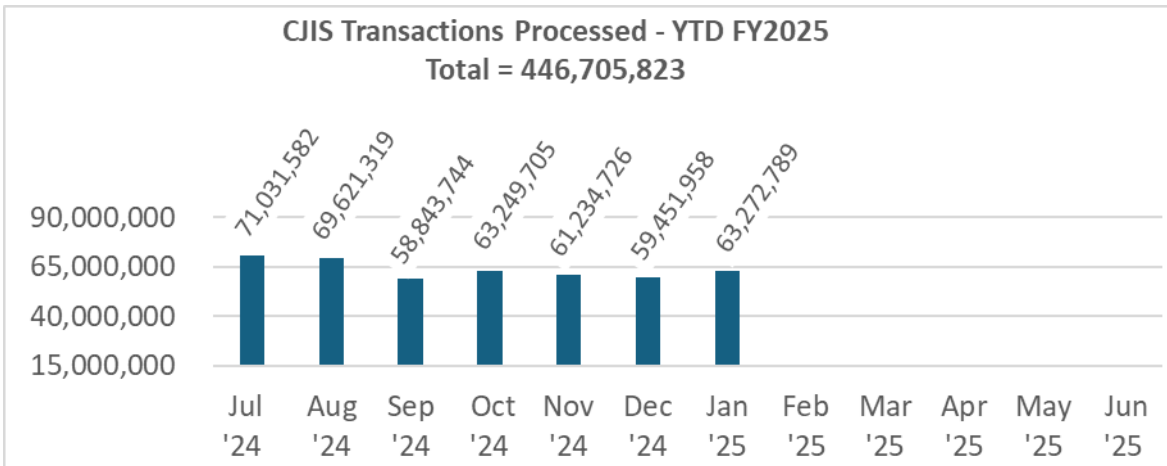
* Due to the number of old case reports released in January 2025 (including a 2022 case), an overall decrease is shown in the Percentage of Cases Released within 90 Days during January.

MEO Notes:

- GBI's Medical Examiner's Fellows completed their mock trials.



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
Criminal Fingerprint Submissions												
Submissions	44,936	45,969	43,645	46,204	41,533	41,768	40,370					
Submissions w/Palms	15,948	16,590	14,953	15,873	15,157	14,742	15,336					
Submissions w/Photos	11,132	11,617	10,231	10,937	10,625	10,259	10,509					
Latent Print AFIS HITS	19	44	40	27	18	5	18					
Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)												
Submissions	48,959	52,249	38,524	41,219	34,648	32,310	36,078					
Submissions through Rap Back	6,157	6,245	5,099	5,554	4,582	3,962	3,657					
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	1,107	1,122	1,062	1,044	977	1,082	1,102					
Final Disposition Submissions												
Local Agencies	71,469	71,214	61,447	69,512	60,994	61,691	61,025					
GCIC	326	287	285	260	222	266	328					
Rapid ID Transactions												
Transactions	1,893	2,128	1,592	1,296	1,769	1,478	1,649					
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	49%	52%	49%	45%	45%	45%	47%					
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	52%	55%	51%	47%	50%	53%	52%					
**Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS	14%	15%	15%	14%	13%	13%	14%					

** 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
Off-Line Search Requests	17	14	10	15	11	19	18					
Sex Offender Registry <i>(Database Total 39,395)</i>												
Records Added	106	145	138	125	113	136	110					
Protection Order Registry <i>(Database Total 174,947)</i>												
Records Added	2,854	3,190	2,621	2,962	2,553	2,496	2,554					
Criminal Justice Agencies <i>(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)</i>												
Audited	20	36	38	19	23	45	45					
In Compliance	4	5	5	7	5	14	14					
Out of Compliance	16	31	33	12	18	31	31					
Trained	10	4	4	19	5	2	1					
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	63	32	41	33	39	19	39					
In Compliance	32	25	32	18	26	11	24					
Out of Compliance	31	7	9	15	13	8	15					
Trained	12	57	16	57	6	349	16					
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	11	12	29	5	4	6	14					
CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)	3,058	3,078	3,018	2,532	2,345	2,732	4,039					
CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement	5,538	6,878	7,064	5,389	4,730	6,303	7,972					

GCIC Notes:

- The percentage of electronically received fingerprint cards vs. mailed/manual fingerprint cards is 99.4%
- The GAPS system started a soft launch of processing transactions via Idemia on December 2, 2024. The transition/Go-Live of processing transactions was implemented in two phases, January 6, 2025 and February 3, 2025.



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
Open Records Requests	694	573	573	586	681	576	544						4,227

Facilities – Major Projects Status

- Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) Storage Building was completed in February 2025.
- Region 1 - Calhoun Office new construction completion date was rescheduled to April 2025.