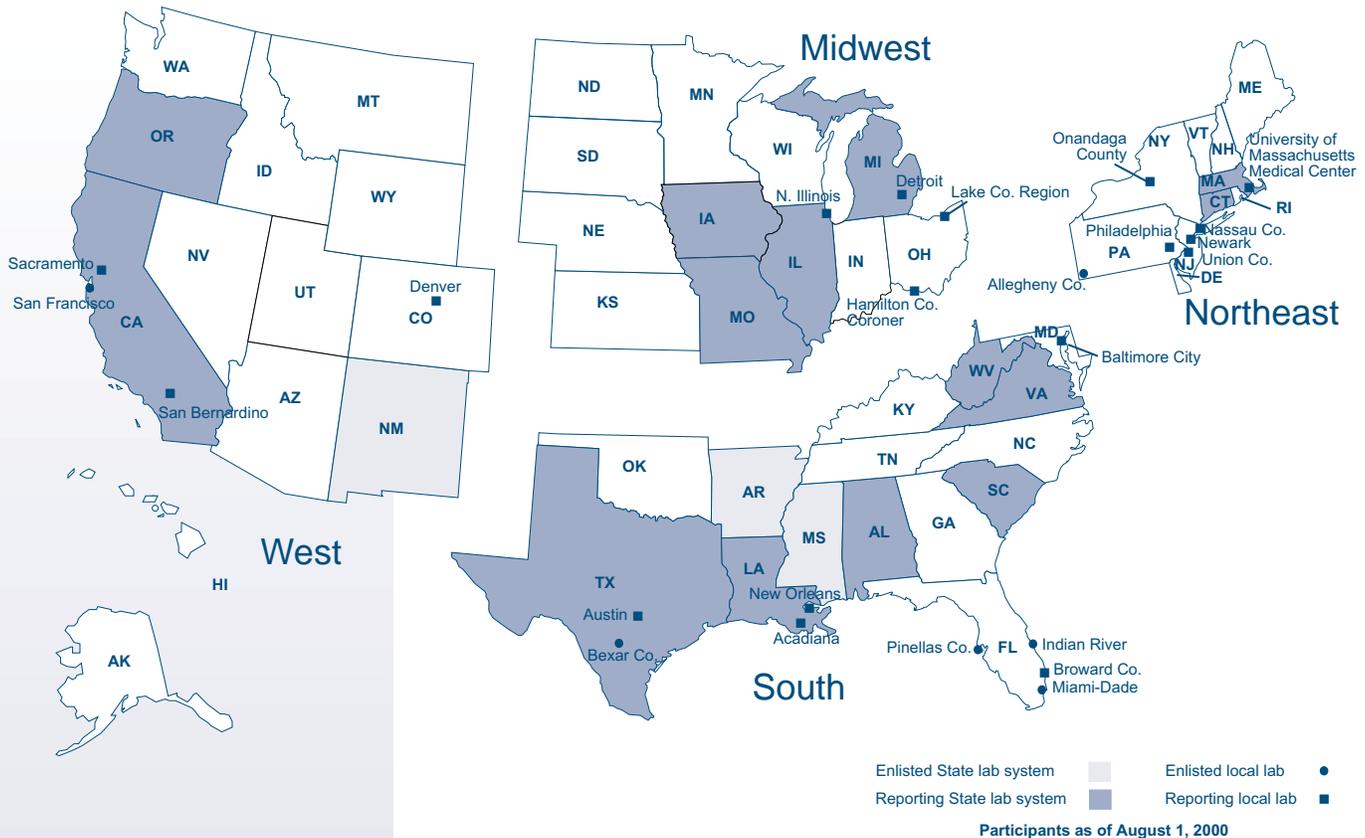




Exhibit 1 Participating labs, by census region



About the System

Approximately 300 State and local forensic labs in the United States perform several million solid dosage drug analyses each year. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the drug control community have long recognized that these analyses represent a wealth of information. The National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) is a DEA-sponsored undertaking to systematically accumulate results from these drug analyses into a centralized data system. The NFLIS data system will provide the basis for developing information for local, State, regional and national drug control and enforcement efforts. NFLIS also will assist the DEA in accomplishing its mission as our Nation's leading drug control agency.

Participating labs to date

As of August 1, 2000, 18 State lab systems (80 individual labs) and 24 local labs have joined the NFLIS partnership; that is, they have agreed to regularly report solid dosage drug analysis data to the System. This Quarterly Report summarizes data for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2000, analyzed by 14 State lab systems (70 individual labs) and 18 local labs and submitted to RTI. (Texas State system data are for the period March 1 to May 31, 2000.) Participating State lab systems and local labs are identified in Exhibit 1 and listed in the Appendix.

The State lab systems and local labs that have begun regular NFLIS reporting do not necessarily reflect their respec-

tive regions or the Nation. Because only two State systems in the West and two State systems in the Northeast have begun to report regularly, the South and Midwest regions are disproportionately represented. Although the data presented in this report represent all analyses submitted to NFLIS by the reporting labs for the quarter as of August 1, 2000, extrapolation from these data to national or regional estimates is not currently possible. Statistically representative national and regional estimates of drug analysis results are expected to be available by early 2001, when a sufficient number of labs are regularly reporting their data.

Behind the data

The Research Triangle Institute (RTI), under contract to the DEA, began the planning, design, and implementation of NFLIS in September 1997. A survey of 308 State and local forensic labs conducted in mid-1998 identified 276 individual labs that routinely perform solid dosage drug analyses.¹ Results from the survey and information from other sources were used to establish a sampling frame to identify the State lab systems and local labs that make up the NFLIS sample.

Thirty-one State lab systems and 31 local labs were sampled for NFLIS. These State systems and local labs include 165 individual labs that analyzed more than 1 million items in 1997. Some labs were considered to be important for strategic reasons, such as geographic location or caseload size, and were included in the sample with certainty. Other labs were randomly selected to generate a sample that will be used to make national and regional estimates. Geographic region, type of lab (State lab system or local lab), and estimated annual drug caseload were used in establishing the sample and sample weights.

Enlistment of labs for NFLIS began in 1998, and efforts to secure participation agreements (memoranda of understanding) are ongoing. The DEA and RTI provide modest assistance to labs to facilitate their

participation in NFLIS. This assistance includes computer hardware and software as well as the design and implementation of basic lab information management systems (LIMS) for use in establishing automated drug analysis databases.

As of August 1, 2000, 38 of the 62 sampled State lab systems and local labs (a total of 100 individual labs) have signed formal agreements to participate in NFLIS. Of the remaining sampled labs, some are in the process of upgrading their LIMS or require another specific data entry system to facilitate their reporting to NFLIS.

In addition to the sampled labs, other labs have volunteered to contribute data to NFLIS. To date, four non-sampled labs have agreed to participate. Because these labs are not part of the NFLIS sample, their data will not be used to generate the national and regional estimates. However, these labs represent an initial step toward the ultimate goal of including data for all State and local forensic labs that conduct solid dosage drug analyses. In some cases, these additional participants will provide NFLIS with the results of all drug analyses conducted in some States, adding to the ability of the system to report on drug analyses at the State and local levels. Data from these additional participants will be included in NFLIS analyses and reports, as appropriate.

The following chart presents an overview of the anticipated and current coverage of NFLIS. As shown, 32 of the State

lab systems and local labs (together totaling 89 individual labs) that have joined NFLIS have begun to regularly report their drug analysis data to the System. These reporting labs represent an annual caseload of more than 450,000. Once a sufficient number of sampled labs is reporting regularly, statistically representative national estimates will be generated and reported.

The core NFLIS data elements include lab case number (or other identifier), submission number, lab item/exhibit number, date case received, location of submitting agency, form of item/exhibit (e.g., powder), total quantity of item/exhibit, date case was completed or reported, and substance(s) identified. Optional NFLIS data elements include name of submitting agency, submitting agency case number, how the evidence was acquired (e.g., seized/purchased), origin of drug (legal or illegal manufacturer), name of legal manufacturer, unique packaging and markings, cocaine/heroin/methamphetamine/amphetamine purity, secondary active drugs (adulterants) or diluents, and non-controlled substance(s) identified. As the data are reported to NFLIS, they are recoded and reformatted into a standard format, validated and edited as necessary, and stored in a database.

¹1998 Survey of State and Local Forensic Laboratories, Research Triangle Institute, August 1999.

Planned and current NFLIS coverage, by census region

	West		Midwest		Northeast		South		Total	
	No.	Caseload ^a	No.	Caseload	No.	Caseload	No.	Caseload	No.	Caseload
State Lab Systems										
Sampling Frame ^b	10	99,300	13	169,300	10	104,300	16	355,200	49	708,100
Sample ^c	6	85,500	6	153,972	6	98,588	13	331,201	31	669,261
Enlisted ^d										
Sampled	3	50,900	4	122,957	3	41,033	8	154,343	18 ^f	369,233
Non-Sampled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reporting ^e										
Sampled	2	48,000	4	122,957	2	27,033	6	124,180	14 ^g	322,170
Non-Sampled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Labs										
Sampling Frame ^b	34	152,800	31	120,300	19	216,300	32	163,900	116	653,300
Sample ^c	9	85,567	7	87,853	6	172,031	9	53,872	31	399,323
Enlisted ^d										
Sampled	4	31,159	4	19,580	5	87,488	7	68,846	20	207,073
Non-Sampled	0	0	0	0	2	15,650	2	8,139	4	23,789
Reporting ^e										
Sampled	3	20,641	4	19,580	4	27,488	5	47,401	16	115,110
Non-Sampled	0	0	0	0	2	15,650	0	0	2	15,650

^a Estimated 1997 caseloads derived from the 1998 Survey of State and Local Forensic Laboratories, Research Triangle Institute, August 1999.

^b Total number of identified State lab systems and local labs that perform solid dosage drug analyses.

^c A statistical sample of State lab systems and local labs that will allow for regional and national estimates of drug analyses results.

^d Sampled and non-sampled State lab systems and local labs that have signed memoranda of understanding agreeing to regularly contribute data to NFLIS, as of August 1, 2000.

^e Sampled and non-sampled State lab systems and local labs that submitted data for at least part of the second quarter of 2000.

^f These enlisted State lab systems represent 80 individual labs.

^g These reporting State lab systems represent 71 individual labs.

Quarterly findings

Results presented in this report are for 134,326 individual solid dosage drug items analyzed by 14 State lab systems and 18 local labs between April 1 and June 30, 2000.¹ Exhibit 2 summarizes analysis results reported to NFLIS broken down by eight drug categories. Drugs and other substances were classified by the System to Retrieve Information from Drug Evidence (STRIDE) codes.² These classifications were then combined to form the eight categories shown in Exhibit 2.

Cannabis/THC and cocaine dominate the results, although there are regional differences. Overall, 40% of the analyzed items were identified as

cannabis/THC and almost 30% as cocaine (including "crack" cocaine). Narcotics and stimulants were identified in 9% and 11%, respectively, of the items analyzed. Depressants and tranquilizers, hallucinogens, and other drugs totaled about 6%, and no drug was identified in 4% of the items.

There was some regional variation among the reporting labs, although these labs are not necessarily representative of their regions. Stimulants were much more prevalent—and cocaine much less prevalent—in the quarterly results from the reporting Western labs than in reports from labs in other regions. Narcotics, which include heroin, were reported

more frequently by the Northeastern labs than by labs from other regions.

¹Results were received for 139,894 items, including 5,313 for which the result was "No Analysis" and 255 for which the result was "missing"; these items were excluded from the analyses reported here. Additionally, some items may include multiple substances—2,288 items included results for two substances; 299 items for three. Unless otherwise specified, the results reported here are for the first substance identified in an item.

²STRIDE data report the results of analyses of drugs by DEA labs. Therefore, STRIDE data reflect mostly Federal—as opposed to State and local—enforcement activity.

(continued on page 4)

Exhibit 2 Frequency of analyzed items, by census region and drug category

Number and percentage of total analyzed items

Drug Category	Census Region				Total
	West	Midwest	Northeast	South	
Cannabis/THC^a	3,150 (16.6%)	25,104 (49.6%)	3,467 (26.6%)	22,041 (43.4%)	53,771 (40.3%)
Cocaine	3,539 (18.6%)	14,749 (29.1%)	5,963 (45.7%)	15,363 (30.2%)	39,614 (29.7%)
Narcotics	1,559 (8.4%)	4,567 (9.0%)	1,959 (15.0%)	4,407 (8.7%)	12,532 (9.4%)
Stimulants	9,054 (47.7%)	2,529 (5.0%)	50 (0.4%)	2,790 (5.5%)	14,423 (10.8%)
Depressants & tranquilizers	48 (0.3%)	435 (0.9%)	219 (1.7%)	1,209 (2.4%)	1,911 (1.4%)
Hallucinogens	229 (1.2%)	674 (1.3%)	123 (0.9%)	676 (1.3%)	1,702 (1.3%)
Other drugs	274 (1.4%)	1,712 (3.4%)	915 (7.0%)	1,103 (2.2%)	4,004 (3.0%)
No drug identified	1,098 (5.8%)	880 (1.7%)	356 (2.7%)	3,220 (6.3%)	5,554 (4.2%)
Total	18,991 (100%)	50,650 (100%)	13,061 (100%)	50,809^b (100%)	133,511^c (100%)

^aIncludes items identified as "Cannabis with Phencyclidine (PCP)."

^bResults for Texas State labs are for the period March 1 - May 31, 2000.

^cSome items were excluded from this table because they could not be classified within a drug category.

Quarterly findings

(continued from page 3)

Nearly 350 substances were identified among the analyzed items submitted by all reporting labs. The 25 most frequently identified substances are listed in Exhibit 3.³ As shown, the distribution is highly skewed. Cannabis and cocaine make up almost 70% of the reported results. Four illegal drugs, cannabis and cocaine plus methamphetamines and heroin, make up 87% of the results. A variety of other illegal substances is also shown, but none of these substances represents more than 1% of the total number of analyzed items.

Differences among the reporting labs' most prevalent drugs are evident in Exhibit 4. This table shows the drugs identified in 1% or more of analyzed items in any region. As can be seen, cannabis/THC is the most prevalent substance identified in the Midwest and South, while cocaine is the most prevalent drug identified by the reporting labs in the Northeast. Methamphetamine is the most common drug reported by the Western labs. The prevalence of heroin among these reported results also varies substantially—from about 6% in the Southern results to nearly 14% of the results for the Northeastern labs.

(continued on page 5)

³Totals differ slightly between Exhibits 2 and 3 because some items could not be classified using the codes established for Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 3 25 Most frequently identified drugs

Number and percentage of total analyzed items

Drug ^a	Number	Percentage
Cannabis/THC	53,770	40.03%
Cocaine	39,613	29.49%
Methamphetamine	13,630	10.15%
Heroin	10,554	7.86%
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	976	0.73%
Non-controlled non-narcotic drug	818	0.61%
Alprazolam	762	0.57%
Hydrocodone	732	0.54%
Diazepam	608	0.45%
Pseudoephedrine/Ephedrine	459	0.34%
Oxycodone	455	0.34%
Phencyclidine (PCP)	447	0.33%
Amphetamine	404	0.30%
Anabolic Steroids	342	0.25%
LSD	309	0.23%
Clonazepam	268	0.20%
Codeine	256	0.19%
Psilocin	231	0.17%
Acetaminophen	228	0.17%
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	165	0.12%
Propoxyphene	142	0.11%
Morphine	125	0.09%
Ketamine	117	0.09%
Carisoprodol	115	0.09%
Doxycycline	90	0.07%
Total	125,616	93.52%
Total analyzed items	134,326	

^aSome of the substances listed include more than one variant of a drug.

^bResults for Texas State labs are for the period March 1 - May 31, 2000.

Exhibit 4 Most frequently identified drugs, by census region^a

Percentage of total analyzed items

Drug ^b	West	Midwest	Northeast	South	Total
Cannabis/THC	16.22%	49.37%	27.05%	43.05%	40.03%
Cocaine	18.22%	29.01%	46.40%	30.00%	29.49%
Methamphetamine	46.23%	4.50%	0.05%	4.60%	10.15%
Heroin	7.46%	8.10%	13.56%	6.23%	7.82%
Hydrocodone	0.33%	0.27%	0.23%	1.08%	0.58%
Alprazolam	0.04%	0.32%	1.01%	0.90%	0.57%
Total analyzed items	19,426	50,849	12,849	51,502^c	134,326

^aIncludes drugs representing at least 1% of analyses conducted in any region.

^bSome of the substances listed include more than one variant of a drug.

^cResults for Texas State labs are for the period March 1 - May 31, 2000.

Quarterly findings

(continued from page 4)

Selected drugs of interest

NFLIS captures the results of all drugs identified and reported by the participating labs. The database, therefore, provides a window into the prevalence of emerging and other drugs of interest to the drug control community and of drugs that are rarely encountered. Drugs such as ketamine and gamma hydroxy butyrate (GHB) can be traced by their frequency of appearance in labs across the country.

Exhibit 5 provides an example of the potential power of the NFLIS database to highlight emerging trends in infrequently found—but potentially important—drugs.

The table shows the number of times a selected drug of interest was identified by the reporting labs. Results for up to three substances per analyzed item are included in these totals.

MDMA (Ecstasy) was identified 976 times, while ketamine and GHB were identified 118 and 108 times, respectively.

Drug combinations

For the majority of analyzed items, only one drug or substance was identified. In 2,288 analyzed items, two different substances were identified. While many combinations

occurred only once, four represented nearly 50% of all of the combinations. The most common combinations and their percentages of all combinations were:

- Cocaine (either powder or "crack") and heroin, 15.3%
- Cocaine and crack cocaine, 11.8%
- Amphetamine and methamphetamine, 14.4%
- Cocaine (either powder or "crack") and cannabis, 8.0%

Exhibit 5 Selected drugs of interest, by census region

Number of analytic results^a

Drug	Census Region				Total
	West	Midwest	Northeast	South ^b	
Carisoprodol	5	13	0	97	115
Dextromethorphan	0	9	3	13	25
Gamma hydroxy butyrate (GHB)	3	38	2	65	108
Hydrocodone	65	76	42	551	734
Ketamine	1	50	26	41	118
Lysergic acid	2	0	3	0	5
Methcathinone	0	0	0	0	0
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	1	31	2	14	48
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	93	381	68	434	976
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	4	70	9	84	167
Paramethoxyamphetamine (PMA)	0	1	0	1	2
Tramadol	0	3	1	12	16

^aIncludes up to three substances per item.

^bResults for Texas State labs are for the period March 1 - May 31, 2000.

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Benefits & Limitations of NFLIS data

Benefits

NFLIS will provide a key national-level source of "supply side" drug data. As such, it will provide information on the frequency with which illegal and controlled drugs and other substances are encountered by State and local law enforcement and analyzed by the Nation's forensic labs.

The systematic collection and analysis of solid dosage drug analysis data from State and local labs will improve our knowledge and understanding of the changes and trends in the Nation's drug problem. Additionally, it will be a major resource for supporting drug enforcement and drug policy initiatives at the national level and in communities throughout the country. NFLIS will assist the drug control community in achieving its mission by:

- highlighting variations of controlled substances across geographic areas and over time,
- improving access to recent estimates of drug availability by local, State, and national agencies,
- bringing attention to emerging drug problems, and
- providing current information about the diversion of licit drugs into illicit channels.

The DEA, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and other Federal agencies will be served by the NFLIS database. The data will benefit State, regional, and local task forces and single agency operations as well.

NFLIS is an opportunity for State and local labs and their staff to participate in an important effort that will have high national visibility. Participating labs will receive regular reports summarizing data from their specific lab, as well as regional and national data. Additionally, participating labs will have access to the NFLIS database that will provide important information about local, regional, and national trends in drug seizures, purchases, and recoveries by law enforcement agencies and in drug analysis results. Participating labs will be able to run specific and customized queries on their own data as well as on aggregated data from other reporting labs. Labs will be able to use NFLIS data to plan and manage future workloads and needs.

Limitations

As with all database systems, NFLIS has limitations that should be kept in mind when interpreting the findings presented in this report:

- NFLIS includes results from completed lab analyses only. Evidence secured by law enforcement but not analyzed is not included.
- Lab policies and procedures with respect to the handling of drug evidence vary. Some labs analyze all evidence, while others analyze selected items—for example, a lab may analyze only the items that are likely to contain substances associated with higher legal penalties (e.g., cocaine versus marijuana).

■ Lab policies and procedures vary with respect to record keeping. Therefore, what is reported to NFLIS also varies. For example, some labs' automated records include the weight of the sample selected for analysis (e.g., one of five bags of powder), while others record total weight.

■ Chemical analysis practices differ among labs. For example, an unusual substance may be explicitly identified by one lab, while another lab may indicate "no drug found." Although these differences in practice are unlikely to affect findings for common drugs such as cocaine or methamphetamine, they may affect the reported prevalence of unusual or emerging substances such as GHB, ketamine, or other drugs of interest.

■ Currently, NFLIS includes only State and local labs. Drug analyses conducted by Federal forensic labs are not included.

■ Evidence submitted for analysis reflects not only the "drugs on the street" but also local law enforcement practices that target specific types of drug trafficking.

In the coming months, RTI, with DEA support, plans to conduct special studies that will increase our understanding of these limitations. Information from these studies will enhance our ability to link the reported analytic findings with the true scope of the Nation's illegal and illicit drug markets.

Appendix

Enlisted NFLIS State lab systems (sampled and non-sampled)

As of August 1, 2000

State	State System Name
AL	Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (9 sites)
AR	Arkansas State Crime Laboratory (Little Rock)
CA	California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services (10 sites)
CT	Connecticut Department of Public Safety Controlled Substances/Toxicology Laboratory (Hartford)
IA	Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Des Moines)
IL	Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services (8 sites)
LA	Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory (Baton Rouge)
MA	Massachusetts Department of Public Health Drug Analysis Laboratory (2 sites)
MA	Massachusetts Department of State Police Crime Laboratory (Sudbury)
MI	Michigan Department of State Police Forensic Science Division (7 sites)
MO	Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory Division (6 sites)
MS	Mississippi Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory (4 sites)
NM	New Mexico Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory (2 sites)
OR	Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division (8 sites)
SC	South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Crime Laboratory (Columbia)
TX	Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Service (13 sites)
VA	Virginia Division of Forensic Sciences (4 sites)
WV	West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory (South Charleston)

Enlisted NFLIS local labs (sampled and non-sampled)

As of August 1, 2000

State	Lab Name
CA	Sacramento County Laboratory of Forensic Services (Sacramento)
CA	San Bernardino Sheriff's Office (San Bernardino)
CA	San Francisco Police Department Crime Laboratory (San Francisco)
CO	Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory Bureau (Denver)
FL	Broward County Sheriff's Crime Laboratory (Ft. Lauderdale)
FL	Regional Crime Laboratory at Indian River Community College (Ft. Pierce)
FL	Miami-Dade Police Department Crime Laboratory Bureau (Miami)
FL	Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory (Largo)
IL	Northern Illinois Police Crime Lab (Chicago)
LA	Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory (New Iberia)
LA	New Orleans Department of Police Scientific Criminal Investigations Division (New Orleans)
MA	University of Massachusetts Medical Center Drugs of Abuse Laboratory (Worcester)
MD	Baltimore City Police Crime Laboratory (Baltimore)
MI	Detroit Police Department Crime Laboratory (Detroit)
NJ	Newark Department of Police Forensic Laboratory (Newark)
NJ	Union County Prosecutor's Office Laboratory (Westfield)
NY	Nassau County Police Department Scientific Investigation Bureau (Mineola) ^a
NY	Onandaga County Center for Forensic Sciences (Syracuse)
OH	Hamilton County Coroner's Laboratory (Cincinnati)
OH	Lake County Regional Forensic Laboratory (Painesville)
PA	Allegheny County Division of Laboratories (Pittsburgh)
PA	Philadelphia Police Department Crime Laboratory (Philadelphia)
TX	Austin Police Department Crime Laboratory (Austin)
TX	Bexar County Forensic Science Center Criminal Investigation Laboratory (San Antonio)

^aThe Nassau County laboratory was incorrectly identified as "not reporting" in the first Quarterly Report (January - March 2000). Data for the full quarter had been reported to NFLIS by the lab, but was not available for analysis because of internal processing problems that were later resolved with the assistance of the lab staff.

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