



# GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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## OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2001-06 NOVEMBER 2001

Milton E. Nix, Jr.  
*Director*

Forensic Science has come a long way since the days of Sherlock Holmes. Today's modern forensic laboratory can analyze materials that were unthinkable just a decade ago. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Division of Forensic Sciences is a leader in the forensic science community. As new developments in science are added to the tools available to the forensic lab, other tools are retired. One area that this is happening in is in the analysis of hairs. Twenty years ago, the only method of hair analysis was microscopic comparison between a known sample and the unknown sample recovered from the crime scene.

One of the Crime Laboratory's goals is to provide law enforcement with reliable results with reasonable scientific certainty that can be supported by the current scientific community. The public and the courts are demanding a much higher level of scientific certainty than in the past. Today, techniques such as DNA testing provide more objective results that better withstand the scrutiny encountered in the legal system. Nationwide, there have been 81 convictions overturned by re-testing evidence utilizing DNA techniques. Of these, 28 convictions involved hair comparison analysis. Because of these factors many forensic laboratories have reconsidered their hair comparison operations and are discontinuing these services.

Effective December 1, 2001, the laboratory will no longer accept hair samples for comparison purposes. The laboratory will perform STR DNA analysis on those questioned hairs that are suitable. DOFS will continue to perform microscopical testing on questioned hairs to provide investigative leads. This will include cases where it is necessary to know one or more of the following:

- 1) Is a questioned hair of animal or human origin?
- 2) What is the race of the donor?
- 3) What area of the body did the hair originate from?
- 4) Was the hair forcefully removed or naturally shed?

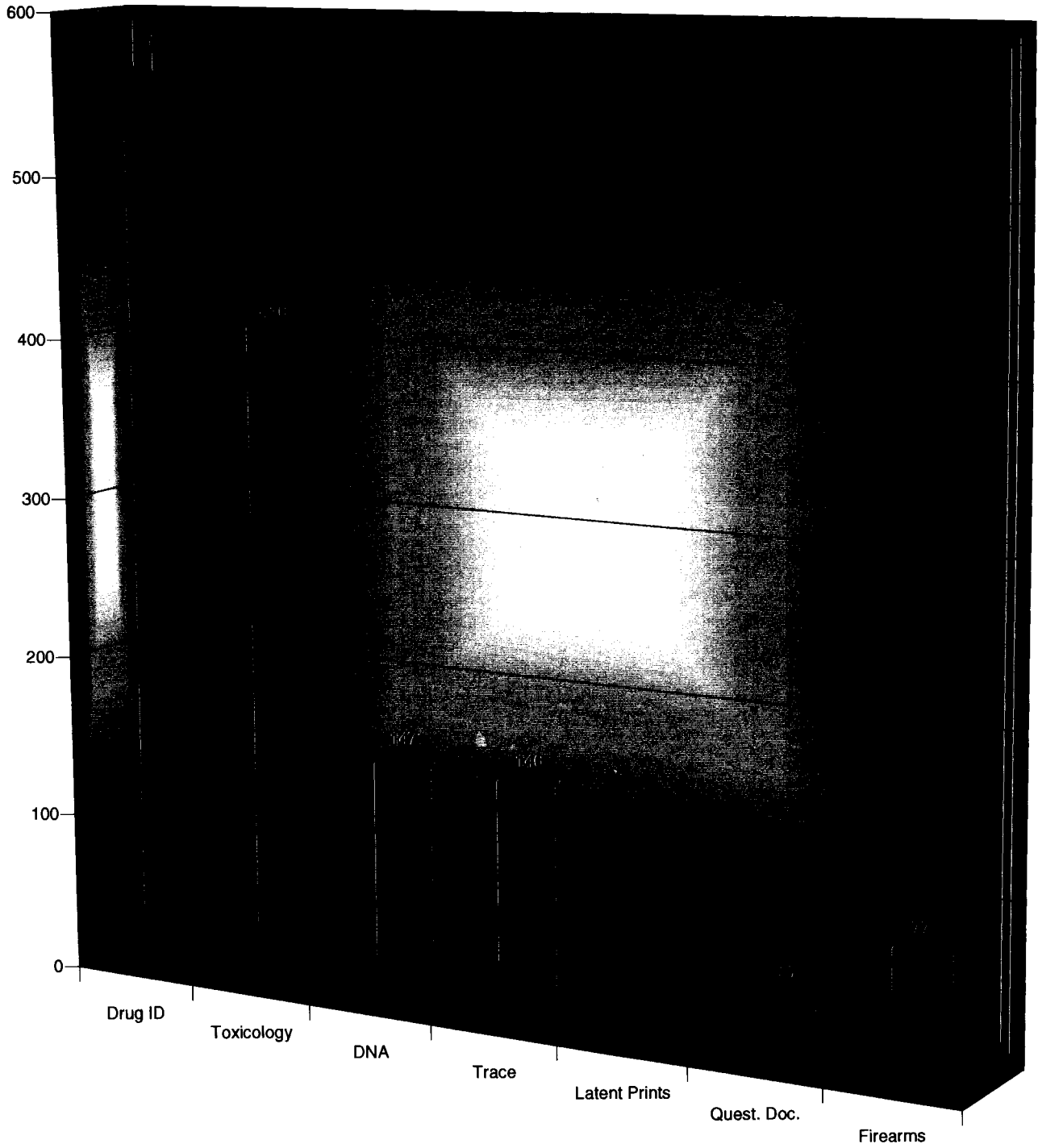
The following criteria will be utilized to determine whether or not hair evidence will be accepted for analysis in the crime laboratory:

- 1) The Trace Evidence Section as outlined above will accept cases that require microscopic examination for investigative lead purposes.
- 2) The Forensic Biology Section for DNA analysis will accept hair evidence only if there is **no** other meaningful forensic evidence available for that case.

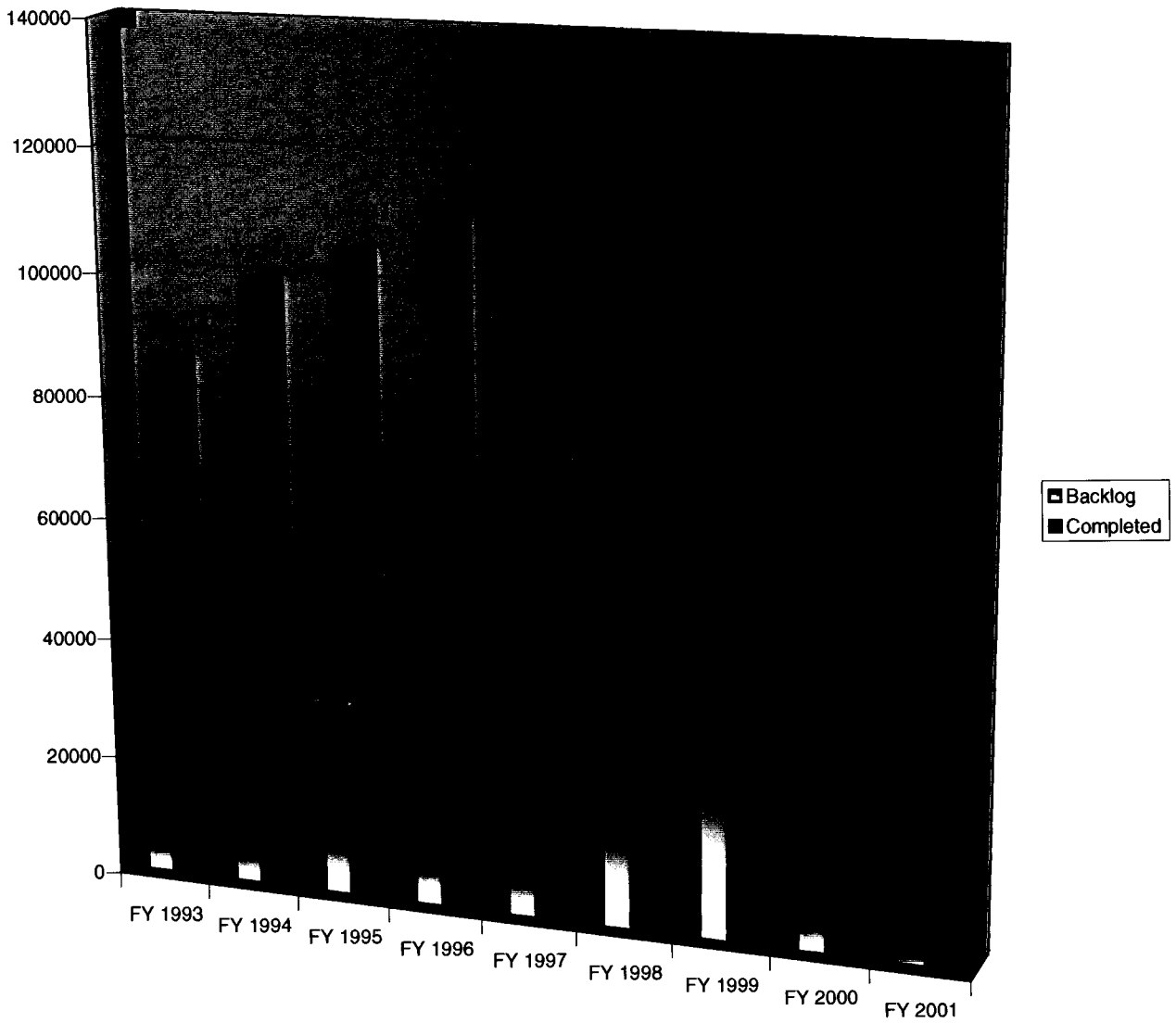
Hair evidence already in possession of DOFS will be checked for suitability for DNA testing and/or investigative leads.

Thank you for your support of the Division of Forensic Sciences. If you have any questions, please contact the Deputy Director's office at 404-244-2787.

# Backlog Profile July 2001

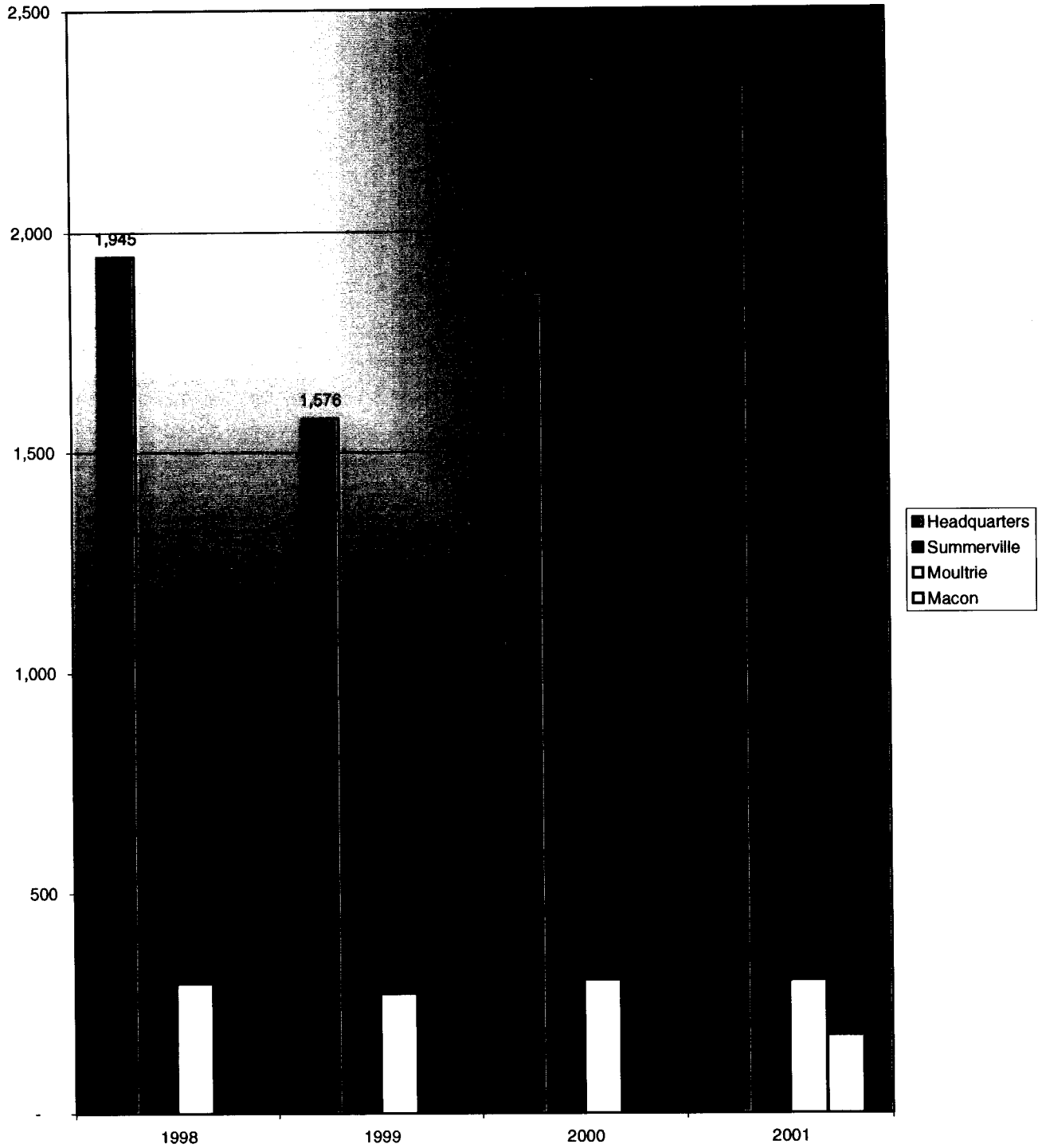


**DOFS SERVICES**  
**Backlog vs. Total Completed Services**  
**FY 1992 - FY 2001**



# Pathology

## Number of Cases Completed 1998 - 2001



**Turnaround Completion**  
**% of Services Completed in 30 Days**  
1995 - 2001

