



Evaluation of Digital Evidence Processing Efficiencies in Publicly Funded Crime Laboratories

In early 2022, funded by the National Institute of Justice, RTI International fielded a survey for publicly funded crime laboratories to obtain data with respect to caseload and processing of digital evidence. In an effort to understand specific testing needs of crime laboratories and investigative needs of their respective law enforcement agencies, this survey was distributed to 80 local and statewide laboratories across the United States. This survey is just the first step of a 3-phase effort conducted through 2023.



40%

32 Responding Laboratories

84%

27 Laboratories Serve Populations >500,000

91%

29 Laboratories Have a DE Testing Protocol

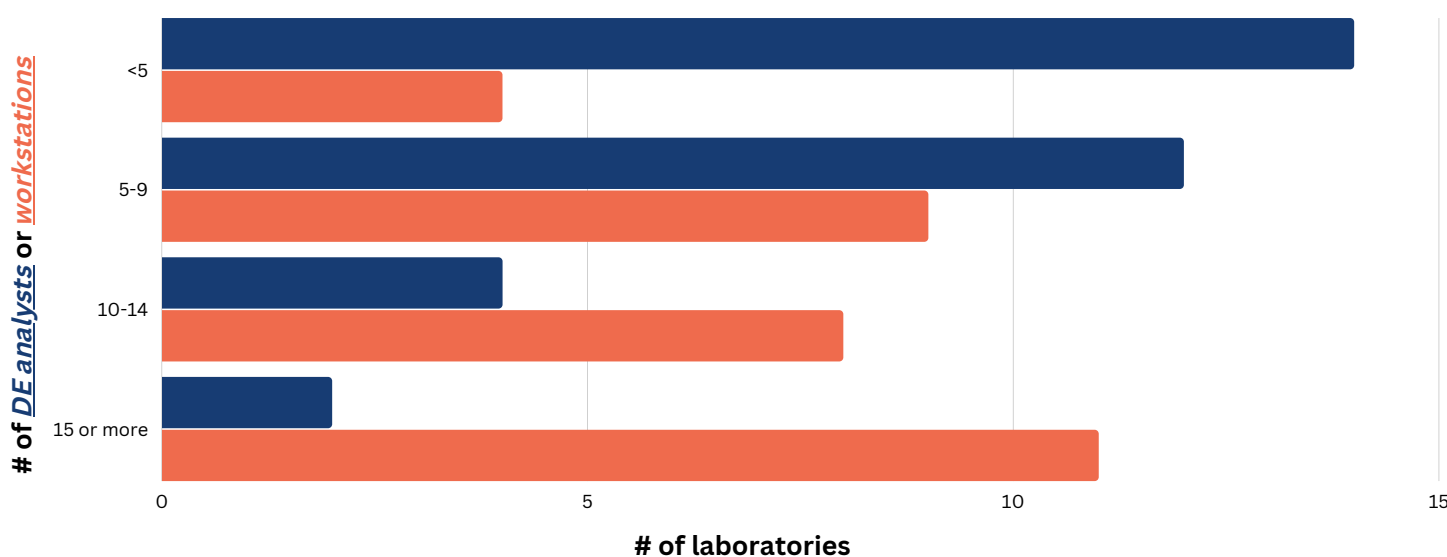
Top 5 Digital Evidence Sources Processed in 2020

Digital Evidence Source	Avg. # of Completed Requests for Analysis
Smartphones	459
Laptop, tablet, and desktop computers	130
Thumb and external hard drives	60
Cloud and server data (including social media)	59
CDs, DVDs, and other storage mediums	57



14 out of 32 laboratories surveyed have less than 5 DE analysts

Distribution of DE Analysts vs. Forensic Workstations (n=32)



NIJ National Institute of Justice
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If you have questions or interest in learning more about this project, please reach out to the RTI International team at DEsurveyhelp@rti.org.