

WYOMING ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
FY08 ANNUAL REPORT

General Information

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Other Locations

Casper, Douglas, Gillette, Powell, Rock Springs; and satellite offices in Evanston, Jackson, Laramie, Pinedale, Rawlins, Riverton, Sheridan

Statutory References

WYO. STAT. §§ 1-40-102 through 119; 1-40-201 through 210; 1-40-301 through 308; 9-1-601 *et seq.*; 9-1-611 through 627; 9-1-632 through 635; 9-1-636 through 638; 9-1-701 through 709; 9-2-1513 through 1523

Clients Served

State agencies, boards and commissions, elected and appointed state officials, law enforcement agencies, legislators, prosecutors, county and district attorneys, consumers, crime victims, state and local peace officers

Budget Information

The Attorney General's Office spent \$38,106,884.62 from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

Report Period

FY08 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008)

Quality of Life Result

Wyoming state government is a responsible steward of State assets and effectively responds to the needs of residents and guests.

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life

The Attorney General's Office (AG's Office) is a service agency and contributes to the Wyoming quality of life by providing: legal services; law enforcement assistance; training and certification; and compensation to victims of crime.

Basic Facts

The AG's Office is authorized 255 employees and received for the FY 2007-2008 biennium budget, including footnotes, \$73,890,764, of which 77 percent are general funds, 12 percent are federal funds, and 11 percent are other funds.

The five primary functions of the AG's Office include:

Law Office – provides legal representation and/or services to all State agencies, boards, commissions, elected and appointed State officials, law enforcement agencies, legislators, county and district attorneys, consumers, and consumers of and providers of medical services.

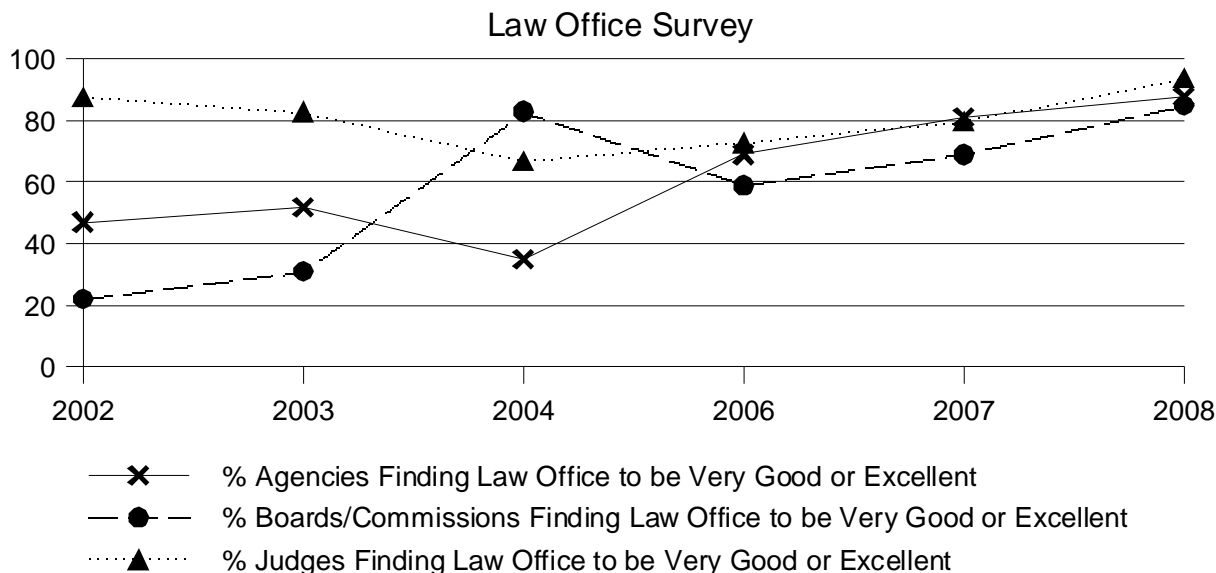
Division of Criminal Investigation – assists local and federal law enforcement agencies by investigating drug offenses, violent crimes and internet crimes against children; providing forensic evidence analysis; and providing criminal history information.

Law Enforcement Academy – provides basic training to peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers and coroners; and advanced training to law enforcement officers in the State.

Division of Victim Services – manages the Crime Victim Compensation fund which provides financial assistance to victims of violent crime, provides training, technical assistance and support to local community victim service providers, and monitors the funds that are distributed to local agencies.

Peace Officers Standards and Training – certifies law enforcement officers, correctional officers, dispatchers, coroners and deputy coroners.

Together, these programs serve all citizens of the State.



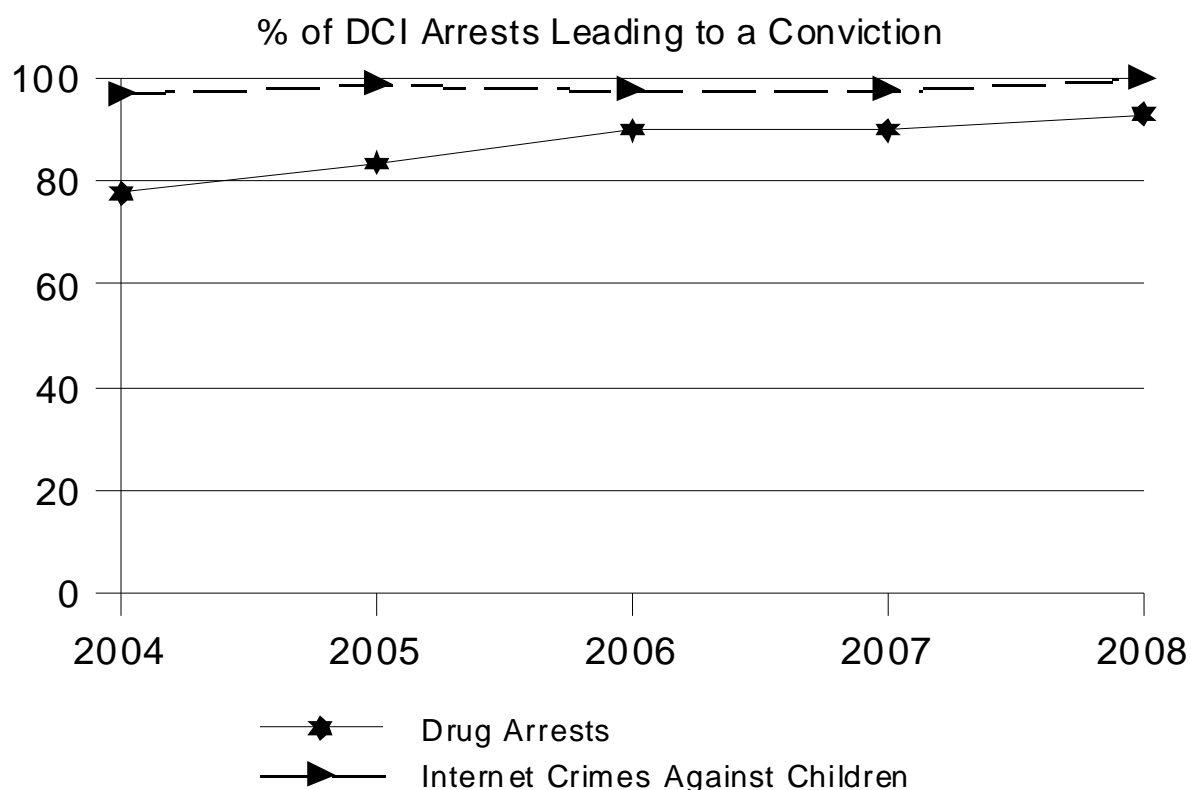
Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

The Attorney General’s Office strives to provide quality service to its customers and partners. The responses and opinions of the citizens and entities the law office serves show the law office has performed extraordinarily well. As the above graph shows, agencies, boards, commissions and judges have been more satisfied with the law office’s representation and performance than they have been since 2002. Each year since 2006, the boards and commissions have been increasingly more satisfied with their representation. In addition, each year since 2004, the agencies have been increasingly more satisfied with their legal representation.

What has been Accomplished:

Judges, agencies, boards and commissions have all been more satisfied with the law office over the past fiscal year. In FY 08, the law office assigned more attorneys to represent the boards and commissions as the volume and complexity of their work has been steadily increasing. Also in FY 08, fifteen of the sixteen trial court judges returning surveys rated the skills of the assistant attorneys general appearing in front of them to be above average.

In response to comments from client agencies, boards and commissions, the law office organized a class on assisting its clients recover money owed to them. The law office also reassigned work to allow more attorney time to be utilized for the boards and commissions.



Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) continues to have a high rate of conviction for the arrests its agents make. While identifying and apprehending a violator is essential, prosecution and ultimately a conviction is the preferred result. Although factors exist which are outside of DCI’s control which can affect the conviction percentage, the high percentage speaks to law enforcement officers doing quality law enforcement work. It shows the agents are developing and using legally valid search warrants, undercover investigations, and interviewing techniques, which are essential to a conviction. In addition, it shows that DCI makes arrests which are not hasty nor unsupportable. The extraordinary conviction rate is important not only to conserve public funds, but also to protect the public. An investigation is not considered closed until it is adjudicated by the respective prosecutor/court of jurisdiction. The trend line chart above reflects the percentage of convictions from arrests from 2003 through FY 08.

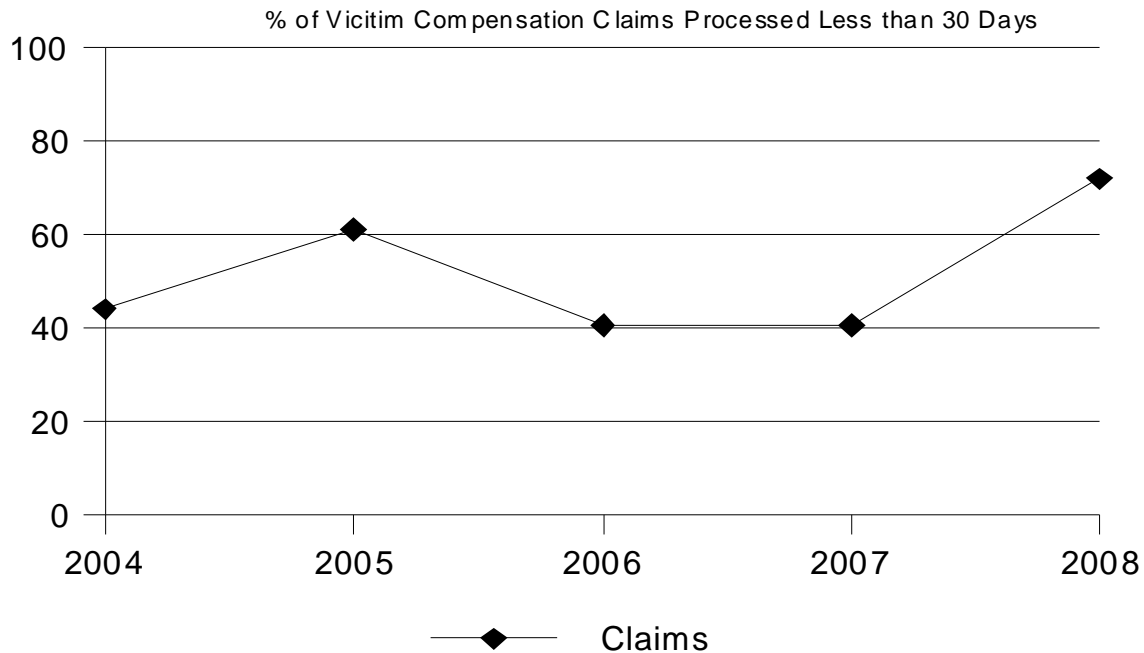
The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) team focuses on online predators who possess, distribute and make child pornography. Agents also pursue all investigations involving “travelers” who travel to physically meet with a child. These investigations evolve through a variety of means including online undercover operations,

forensic examinations, working with confidential informants, surveillance, interviews, collecting and processing evidence, documentation in case reports, meeting with prosecutors and conducting testimony during court proceedings. These investigations involve a coordinated effort with all 23 county/district attorneys' offices, for state prosecution, and two United States Attorneys' Offices, for federal prosecution. An investigation is not considered closed until it is adjudicated by the respective prosecutor/court of jurisdiction. The trend chart above reflects the percentage of convictions from arrests from 2003 through FY 08.

What has been Accomplished:

DCI is committed to quality investigations and this is best measured by the percentage of arrest to conviction ratio. From 2003 through 2006, the regional drug enforcement teams consistently averaged a 90 percent conviction rate after an arrest. During FY 08, the drug enforcement teams had a 93 percent conviction rate after an arrest. These offenses primarily involve drug trafficking. DCI will continue to cooperate, coordinate and facilitate criminal investigative efforts with local, state and federal partners. To continue this high performance DCI will effectively communicate with its partners to identify priority violators and then work together with them toward a conviction. The national average for convictions after arrest for drug trafficking is approximately 80 percent.

The ICAC Team is committed to quality investigations and this is best measured by the percentage of convictions after an arrest is made. From 2003 through 2006, the ICAC Team consistently averaged a 98 percent conviction rate after an arrest. For FY 08, this percentage was 100 percent.

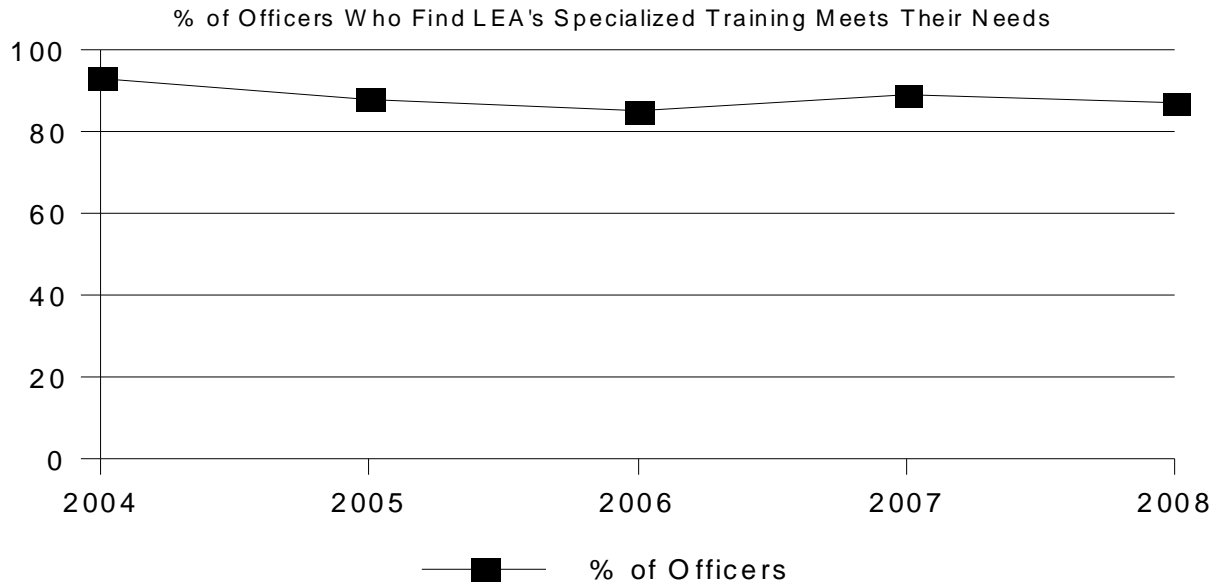


Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

Decreasing the time it takes the Division of Victim Services (DVS) to process compensation claims enables funds to reach victims of crime more timely. Getting funds to victims of crime quickly means they are able to meet their financial obligations on time and does not strain other local community resources and adds to the restoration of the crime victim.

What has been Accomplished:

Over the past year, DVS has provided training to local advocates regarding how to accurately complete claim forms for victims. Also, DVS has continued to educate clerks of court, Probation and Parole, Department of Corrections, and prosecuting attorneys on the value of these funds to crime victims and the need to increase tracking and collection of funds. The percentage of victim claims which have been processed in less than thirty days dramatically increased in FY 08 – from 40 percent to over 70 percent.



Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy (WLEA) provides officers an avenue to maintain the training requirements set forth by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. In order to gauge the effectiveness of this training, the Academy has developed a comprehensive course assessment and evaluation system to assess if the student is “better off” or “better equipped” after attending the training session. This evaluation system, converted to a 100 point percentage scale, rates 80 percent as very good and 100 percent as excellent.

What has been Accomplished:

The WLEA provided 67 advanced or specialized training courses. These courses were attended by 1,138 officers throughout the State resulting in 25,954 training hours. An increase of 22 training courses or a 49 percent increase from FY 07.

As an avenue for law enforcement to become more self-reliant and to assist them in obtaining required training hours not obtained through Academy-provided training, the WLEA presented seven train-the-trainer courses which resulted in 6,716 total training hours. Attending these courses were 178 officers representing 50 agencies.

As of September 23, 2003, the WLEA established a partnership with the Office of Homeland Security, housing two instructors and a secretary to handle the training needs of the State. The Homeland Security division presented and coordinated a total of 47 specialized training courses to 902 students, resulting in 7,701 hours of training, an overall increase of 51 percent in this program area.

Office of the Attorney General

