

Iowa Department of Public Safety

FY 2026 Agency Performance Report

Stephan Bayens, Commissioner

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Agency Overview

The Iowa Department of Public Safety is an agency within the executive branch of Iowa State Government. It was established in 1939, when Iowa Code Chapter 80 was adopted.

The Department has seven divisions:

- Administrative Services,
- Criminal Investigations,
- State Fire Marshal,
- Intelligence and Fusion Center,
- Professional Development and Support Services,
- Narcotics Enforcement,
- Iowa State Patrol,

and the Office of the Commissioner, which includes the Commissioner, the Executive Officer to the Commissioner, the Department's Policy Advisor, General Counsel, the Commissioner's Executive Assistant, and six bureaus:

- Office of Drug Control Policy,
- Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau,
- Interoperable Communications Bureau,
- Governor's School Safety Bureau,
- Professional Standards Bureau, and
- Strategic Communications Bureau.

The Department's mission is "to serve the people of Iowa by providing public safety services with leadership, integrity, and professionalism." To support a vision of ensuring Iowa remains a safe and prosperous place to live and visit, the Department provides several services and programs. This report outlines the Department's progress toward achieving its goals in fiscal year 2026 (FY2026). Out of the 67 measures the Department tracks, 55 were met.



Strategic Initiative 1: Provide public safety services on Iowa's roadways.

To support this initiative, the Department aims to reduce preventable injuries and deaths on Iowa roads through education and enforcement.

Highlight: Every calendar year, the Iowa State Patrol establishes traffic safety goals. Goals for FY2026 focused on Seatbelts, Impaired driving, Distracted driving, and Excessive speeding (S.I.D.E.). By getting the public to "S.I.D.E. With Us," the State Patrol seeks to reduce preventable traffic fatalities below 300 annually. The Iowa State Patrol works with the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and local agencies in achieving its goals. Iowa fatalities decreased from 341 in FY2025 to 279 in FY2026. The Iowa State Patrol continues to partner with local and county agencies and its Midwest state police counterparts to drive crashes and fatalities down.

Performance Measure Name	FY2026 Target	FY2026 Actual	Performance Analysis
Number of motorists assisted*	15,000	12,797	The target was not met.
Number of enforcement contacts	275,000	417,249	The target was exceeded.
Number of narcotics arrests	1,200	1,638	The target was exceeded.
Number of serious injuries in traffic crashes	1,385	1,333	The target was exceeded.
Number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled	1.03	.83	The target was exceeded.
Number of unrestrained passenger vehicle fatalities, all seats*	84	86	The target was not met.

Number of fatalities involving a driver/motorcycle operator with a BAC>=.08	100	76	The target was exceeded.
Number of speeding-related fatalities	68	61	The target was exceeded.
Number of traffic fatalities	334	279	The target was exceeded.

* While it remains a goal of the Department to reduce preventable injuries and deaths on Iowa's roadways, this responsibility falls across all law enforcement and relies on public compliance with Iowa's laws and traffic safety best practices. Some variables are outside the Department's control.

Strategic Initiative 2: Provide critical aid and support to criminal justice partners through forensic science services.

Highlight: The DCI Criminalistics Laboratory provides professional forensic scientific services and support to the criminal justice community throughout Iowa. In FY2026, the DCI Lab achieved an average turnaround time for case assignments of 45 days, a 22% decrease from FY2025.

Performance Measure Name	FY2026 Target	FY2026 Actual	Performance Analysis
Average lab-wide turnaround time for closed cases (in days)	45	45	The target was achieved.
Percent applicable ANAB (laboratory accreditation) criteria met in annual inspections	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percentage of criminalists completing at least one discipline-specific training event annually (when available) to maintain expert status	90	94	The target was exceeded.
Percentage of criminalists completing proficiency testing in all analytical areas in which the lab conducts casework and for which approved proficiency samples are available	100	100	The target was achieved.
Number of forensic case assignments closed	14,400	15,351	The target was exceeded.

Strategic Initiative 3: Provide crucial and timely criminal history information to employers on prospective hires in the education, healthcare, and childcare industries.

Highlight: In FY2026, the Criminal History Dissemination Unit completed enhancements to the Single Contact Repository (SING), a web-based service managed by the Department that provides a central location for authorized agencies to connect to DPS' Iowa criminal history and sex offender registry databases, HHS' child abuse and dependent adult abuse registries, and DIAL's professional licensing databases. This upgrade completely overhauled the SING user interface, which modernized a 25-year-old process and created a more efficient, accessible, and user-friendly system. Enhancements made to the Dissemination Unit's work processes within Computerized Criminal History (CCH) during FY2024 ensured the Department continues to provide accurate and timely criminal history records and excellent customer service to agencies that serve Iowa's most vulnerable populations such as healthcare facilities, childcare centers, and schools, as well as state agencies that license those in the medical and education fields.

Performance Measure Name	FY2026 Target	FY2026 Actual	Performance Analysis
Percent of fingerprints entered within two (2) working days of receipt	99	98	The target was not met.
Number of criminal history checks fulfilled by the DCI[1]	275,000	266,063	The target was not met.
Percent of non-law enforcement criminal history requests processed within two (2) working days	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of Sex Offender Registry records validated within three (3) months of initial entry	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of existing Sex Offender Registry records revalidated within 12 months of previous validation	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of total Iowa sex offender registrants whose whereabouts are unknown	2	2	The target was achieved.

[1] The DCI fulfills criminal history checks upon request. Factors such as outside vendor competition may contribute to the decrease in checks submitted to the DCI.

All other measures

Performance Measure Name	FY2026 Target	FY2026 Actual	Performance Analysis
Number of local agencies supported by Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) funding	175	182	The target was exceeded.
Number of hours spent training fire fighters[2]	200,000	131,302	The target was not met.
Number of fire fighter certification exams administered	1,000	4,654	The target was exceeded.
Number of field training props delivered to local fire departments	230	258	The target was exceeded.
Percent of arson and explosive cases resolved	35	47	The target was exceeded.
Percent of burn ban alerts posted to website and social media within 12 hours	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of fire departments reporting to the National Fire Incident Reporting System	75	75	The target was achieved.
Number of educational programs provided related to traffic safety and public safety	1,300	1,802	The target was exceeded.
Percent of abandoned vehicles processed for reimbursement within 20 days	98	99	The target was exceeded.
Percent of callouts where the Air Wing was mission ready	100	100	The target was achieved.
Number of commercial motor vehicles inspected	42,380	44,190	The target was exceeded.
Number of commercial vehicles weighed	800,000	1,234,984	The target was exceeded.
Number of educational carrier safety programs provided	70	220	The target was exceeded.
Percent of the time Crisis Negotiators were mission ready	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of the time Police Service Dog Unit personnel were mission ready	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of the time Tactical Teams were mission ready	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of the time the Vehicle Theft Unit responded to assist local agencies	100	100	The target was achieved.
Average turnaround time to complete technical collisions investigated (in days)	180	82	The target was exceeded.

[2] The collection method for this measure migrated to a different data tracking system mid-FY2026, accounting for the difference between the target and actual.

Number of drug trafficking organizations disrupted and dismantled	80	118	The target was exceeded.
Number of drug identification, awareness, and education programs provided[3]	20	13	The target was not met.
Percent of time Special Agents were mission ready	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of new CyberTips vetted for investigation within one (1) business day	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of internet crime cases against children referred for prosecution	90	90	The target was achieved.
Percent of low level (Class C) background investigations completed within 75 calendar days of submission	90	99	The target was exceeded.
Percent of high level (Class A) background investigations completed within 150 calendar days of submission[4]	90	74	The target was not met.
Percent of personnel investigations closed within 60 days or the written exemption limits[5]	100	87	The target was not met.
Percent of radio network availability statewide	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of AMBER Alert broadcasts issued within 60 minutes of receipt of required information	100	100	The target was achieved.
Number of IOWA Systems messages transmitted to/from law enforcement agency/officer annually	69,000,000	136,312,676	The target was exceeded.
Percent of Iowa population in jurisdictions reporting Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Data	96	98	The target was exceeded.
Number of private security, private investigative, and bail enforcement ID cards Issued	3,500	3,974	The target was exceeded.
Number of Requests for Information (RFI)	12,000	18,450	The target was exceeded.
Number of intelligence briefings for high-level executives	10	12	The target was exceeded.
Percent of hotels that passed the Office to Combat Human Trafficking training audit	100	100	The target was achieved.

[3] A data capture error contributed to the difference between the target and actual, which has been rectified for next reporting period.
[4] High level background investigations often require out-of-state and international travel. Extensive travel time and coordinating schedules with executives can cause delays.
[5] Deficiencies were identified in the tracking and documentation of timeline requirements, which have been rectified for next reporting period.

Number of officers trained - DPS Intelligence Course[6]	40	35	The target was not met.
Percent of employees receiving annual privacy training	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of National Crime Information Center Missing Persons reports posted to the Missing Person Information Clearinghouse website within four (4) hours	100	100	The target was achieved.
Number of people trained by the Governor's School Safety Bureau[7]	4,000	3,181	The target was not met.
Percent of required Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards met for highest level accreditation	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of agencies audited as required by the FBI	33	61	The target was exceeded.
Percent of IOWA System users completing required IOWA/NCIC Test	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of officers receiving police liability training annually	100	100	The target was achieved.
Number of audit exceptions contained in annual audit report[8]	0	1	The target was not met.
Number of no-report and report comments as it relates to capital assets[9]	0	1	The target was not met.
Average number of days to process Public Safety Survivor Program benefits after November 1st[10]	30	33	The target was not met.
Average fleet turn-in mileage	130,000	126,062	The target was achieved.
Percent of personnel receiving annual ethics training	100	100	The target was achieved.
Percent of requests for public information processed within one (1) working day	90	89	The target was not met.

[6] Law enforcement agencies across Iowa continue to face recruitment challenges. As such, agencies are sometimes unable to dedicate personnel to optional training.
[7] The target was not met due to a slight decrease in statewide demand and availability of trainers.
[8] There was one report audit comment from the State Auditor's Office that has been addressed for FY2027.
[9] There was one non-report audit comment from the State Auditor's Office that has been addressed for FY2027.
[10] Existing procedures resulted in delayed processing that has been rectified for next reporting period.