



Indiana State Department of Toxicology Laboratory Testing Policy

The Indiana State Department of Toxicology (ISDT) analyzes samples of whole blood, serum, and plasma for the presence of alcohol and drugs in a wide variety of cases, including operating a vehicle while intoxicated (OVWI), serious bodily injury (SBI) crashes, fatal crashes, sexual assaults, and death investigations. The specific analytes tested for by ISDT are listed at <https://www.in.gov/isdt/screen-and-confirmation/>. Blood samples may be collected and submitted to the laboratory following the procedures and guidelines found at <https://www.in.gov/isdt/specimen-collection-and-submission/>.

The following testing policy describes the capabilities, procedures, and types of samples tested by ISDT:

- Laboratory Testing Criteria
 - Testing will only be performed if the incident/investigation occurred in Indiana. Samples from cases that will be prosecuted outside of Indiana will not be tested and will be returned to the submitting agency.
 - Testing will only be performed on whole blood, serum, or plasma.
 - A Toxicology Analysis Request (TAR) must be submitted to ISDT prior to analysis. Additional requests for testing must be in writing.
- Laboratory Testing Process
 - Non-fatal, non-SBI traffic cases (e.g., OVWI, property damage, personal injury)
 - Alcohol AND drug testing is requested.
 - Alcohol testing will be performed. If the blood alcohol concentration result is ≥ 0.10 g/100 mL blood, the request for drug analysis will be canceled. If the blood alcohol concentration result is < 0.10 g/100 mL blood, drug analysis will be performed.
 - Alcohol OR drug testing is requested.
 - Testing will be performed as requested.
 - Fatal or SBI traffic and non-traffic cases (e.g., sexual assault, neglect, death investigation)
 - Alcohol and drug testing will be performed as requested.
- Laboratory Testing and Reporting Procedures
 - Alcohol Analysis
 - Testing
 - Testing for alcohols is performed in duplicate.
 - Reporting
 - If both results for a specific analyte are ≥ 0.010 g/100 mL blood and have a relative percent difference of 10% or less, the lower of the two results will be reported.
 - If one or both results for a specific analyte are < 0.010 g/100 mL blood, the analyte will not be reported.
 - If no analytes are detected, “None Detected” will be reported.



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- Drug Analysis
 - Testing
 - Testing for drugs is first performed by a drug screen.
 - If an analyte is detected in the drug screen, confirmation testing for the analyte class will be performed.
 - Reporting
 - Analytes that are detected in the confirmation testing with results above the limit of detection for the method will be reported.
 - Analytes that are not detected in the drug screen and/or have results below the limit of detection for the confirmation testing will not be reported.
 - If no analytes are detected, “None Detected” will be reported.
 - Screening results will not be reported.
- Outsourced Analysis
 - ISDT may outsource testing for alcohol or drugs within ISDT’s testing scope to an external laboratory.
 - ISDT will pay the costs for testing, a certified toxicology report and/or chain of custody records, and testimony of up to two analysts.
 - The submitting agency or prosecutor’s office will be responsible for payment of costs for full litigation packages or testimony of more than two analysts and must make payment arrangements with the external laboratory.
- Out-of-scope Analysis
 - Requests for testing outside ISDT’s scope of analysis must be made by the submitting agency or prosecutor’s office in writing (laboratory@isdtd.in.gov).
 - Indication on the TAR of drugs suspected in a case is not a request for out-of-scope testing.
 - The ISDT forensic toxicologist will make a recommendation regarding out-of-scope analysis after review of the request and the relevant case information provided (e.g., police reports, probable cause affidavits, DRE evaluations).
 - For traffic-related cases, ISDT may pay the costs for out-of-scope analysis and a certified toxicology report and/or chain of custody records. The forensic toxicologist will advise the requestor whether ISDT will pay these costs.
 - The submitting agency or prosecutor’s office will be responsible for payment of costs for testimony and full litigation packages and must make payment arrangements with the external laboratory.
- Re-testing
 - ISDT will not re-test a case because the original analyst no longer works for ISDT and/or is unavailable for testimony.
 - Other requests for re-testing must be in writing (laboratory@isdtd.in.gov) by the submitting agency or prosecutor’s office and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.