



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.

139 A Technology Drive Garner, NC 27529

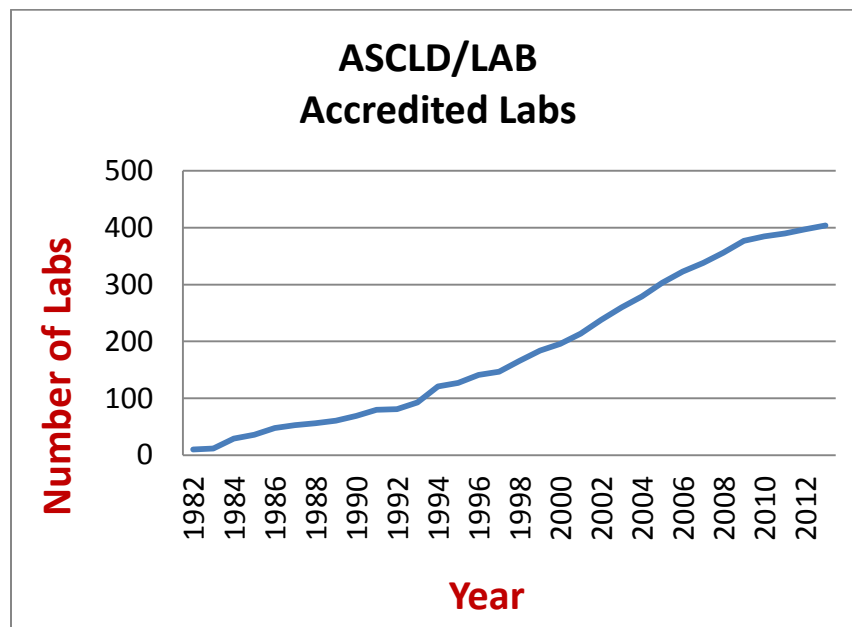
Board Position Statement

Accreditation

ASCLD believes all forensic science providers need to seek, obtain, and maintain accreditation in all applicable testing or collecting activities. Accreditation of forensic science providers is an essential quality component due to the critical role forensic evidence frequently plays in determining guilt or innocence. Accreditation to either the ISO/IEC 17025 or 17020 based international standards provides confidence and assurance to a parent organization, its employees, the criminal justice community, and the public that the operation can meet the most comprehensive forensic quality and management system requirements.

ASCLD further believes the accreditation of forensic providers must be conducted by qualified accrediting entities with expertise developing, utilizing, and enforcing standardized supplemental requirements that are relevant to forensic science providers. Those accrediting entities themselves should be recognized by relevant international accrediting organizations.

ASCLD recognizes that while over 400 U.S. forensic science providers have obtained accreditation from qualified and competent accrediting bodies, including more than 83% of all publicly funded forensic science providers,¹ the associated costs of accreditation itself and implementation of required programs such as external proficiency testing have prevented the goal of universal accreditation. In order to achieve universal accreditation, appropriate funding must be dedicated to this endeavor.



¹ 2009 Census of Publicly Funded Crime Laboratories; <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4412>

ASCLD encourages lawmakers, policymakers, and stakeholders to strengthen forensic science by developing effective and sustainable accreditation funding and support mechanisms for the wide array of forensic science providers of all sizes in all units of government. This recommendation includes those organizations and agencies that may be located outside of the traditional crime laboratory structure but provide service in crime scene processing, digital evidence, impression evidence and other related forensic science disciplines. Furthermore, any accreditation requirements that apply to public forensic science practitioners must also apply to private laboratories and scientists who engage in forensic activity by performing examinations or reviews, writing reports or providing testimony in court, whether on behalf of the prosecution or the defense.

ASCLD Board of Directors

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