

Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Fiscal Year 2021

**Office of Inspector General
Annual Report**



Texas Board of Criminal Justice

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Cris W. Love, Sr., Inspector General

Overview

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is the law enforcement and investigative agency for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). The OIG is an operationally independent office accountable to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ). The Inspector General reports directly to the TBCJ chairman.

All OIG investigators are certified Texas State Peace Officers, as authorized by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, Article 2.12, and licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).

Inspector General's Message

OIG, along with all public safety agencies, faced unprecedented challenges this fiscal year. The ongoing global pandemic, protests, border security, and weather events presented unique operational challenges necessitating fluid responses.

This fiscal year, OIG continued to move the organization forward while continuing to deliver law enforcement services. OIG received improvements to fleet operations, officer safety equipment, fully implemented its journeyman investigator salary, completed a thorough review, and implemented changes to the organizational command structure. With the assistance of TDCJ-ITD (Information Technology Division), the OIG public safety database "FUGINET" has undergone its first major redevelopment, which will provide all law enforcement agencies real-time results on queries relating to parole absconders, inmate releases, and other public safety information.

Looking forward to FY22, OIG is addressing staff and organizational improvements. OIG is establishing a 24/7 mental health resource for first responders providing OIG investigators with a confidential and law enforcement-specific support service. We are implementing a communication platform to improve tasks, accountability, and communication within OIG. We will be deploying advanced mobile field audio/video interview recording capabilities to increase the ability of OIG to record suspect interviews. OIG is working with the department Fusion Center to bolster criminal intelligence development and sharing. Finally, we are initiating the process to receive recognition (accreditation) by the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) for FY22 with the intent to seek national accreditation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (CALEA) in FY 23-24.

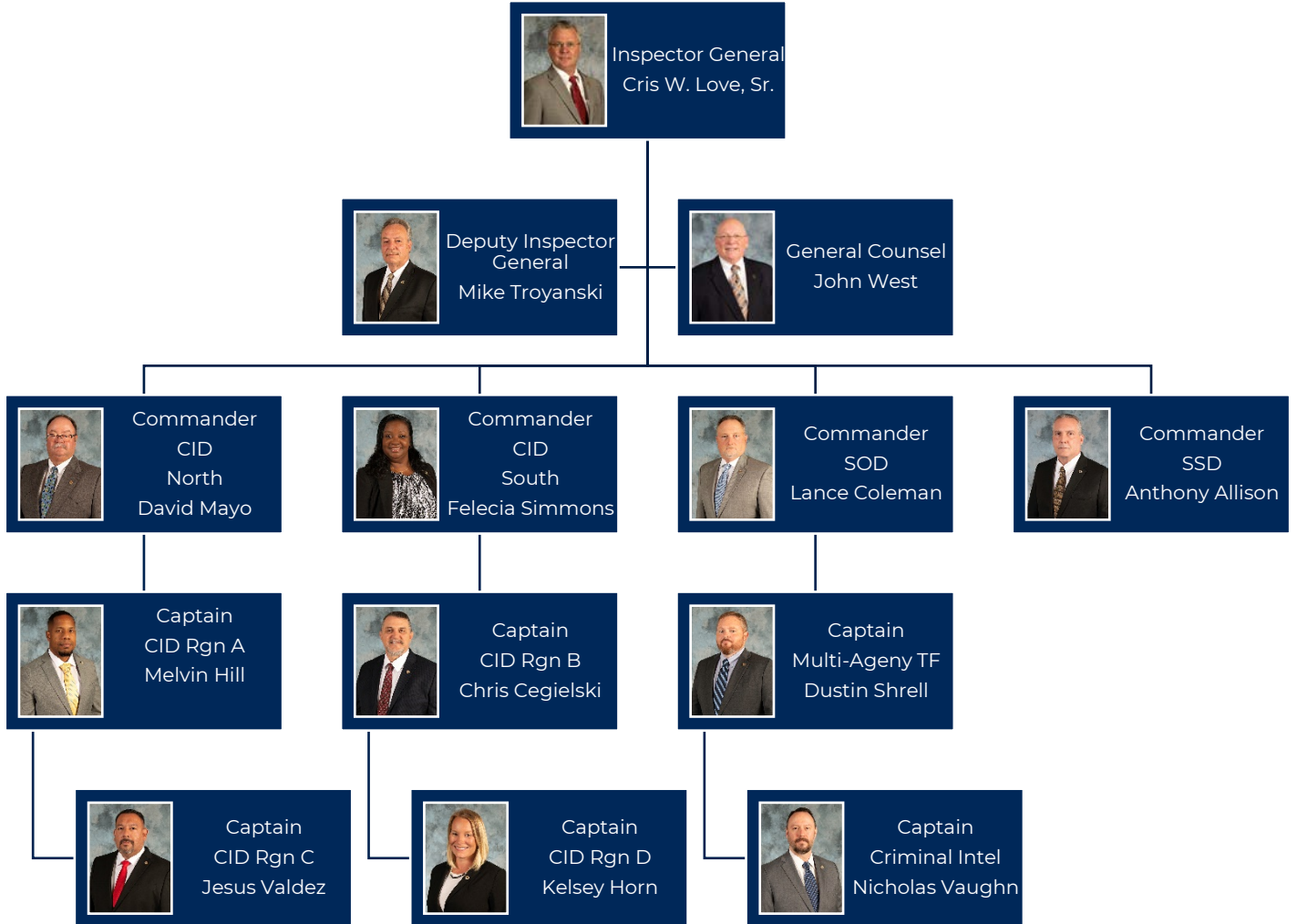
Organization

In FY21, OIG underwent an internal review process involving all the command staff. This in-depth review assessed both organizational and operational areas.

Organizational: As a result of this review, the Support Services Division (SSD) was created. This division established a unified command for various functions, including Records; Training; Professional Responsibility (Internal Affairs); Fleet and Armory; Policy and Accreditation, and Information Technology. Command staff identified the need to align OIG Regional Areas more closely to the TDCJ Correctional Institutional Division (CID). This project will be staffed and submitted with the department's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the upcoming budget submission.

Operational: Working in partnership with various stakeholders, including the Executive Director for the Special Prosecutions Unit, the TBCJ Office of the Independent Ombudsman, and the TBCJ PREA Ombudsman, OIG Command Staff reviewed the agency response and investigative practices. Updated guidance on sexual assault investigations, complaint receipt, reporting, and investigative guidance was developed and disseminated. A greater emphasis will be placed operationally on collaborative efforts and information sharing earlier in the investigative cycle to enhance the abilities of the unit Warden and OIG to reduce contraband-related crime at the prison unit level.

Leadership



Criminal Investigations Division

This division consists of two area commands, each led by a Commander. Currently, each area command consists of two regional headquarters, each led by a Captain. The Northern Area consists of Regions A and C and the Southern Area consists of Regions B and D. Each region is responsive to all TDCJ units and Parole Division offices, and outside law enforcement agencies.

Special Operations Division

This division consists of investigators assigned to multi-agency task forces focused on the anti-gang and fugitive programs; electronic surveillance and UAS flight operations; protective operations; Correctional Intelligence/Joint Terrorism Task Force, and cellular digital forensic examinations. Additionally, this division is staffed with crime analysts, who provide tactical and strategic analytical support to OIG criminal investigators as well as other law enforcement organization. OIG crime analysts support the Crime Stoppers program, Waste-Fraud-Abuse tip line, and the FUGINET public safety database programs enhancing the organization's mission and capabilities.

Support Services Division

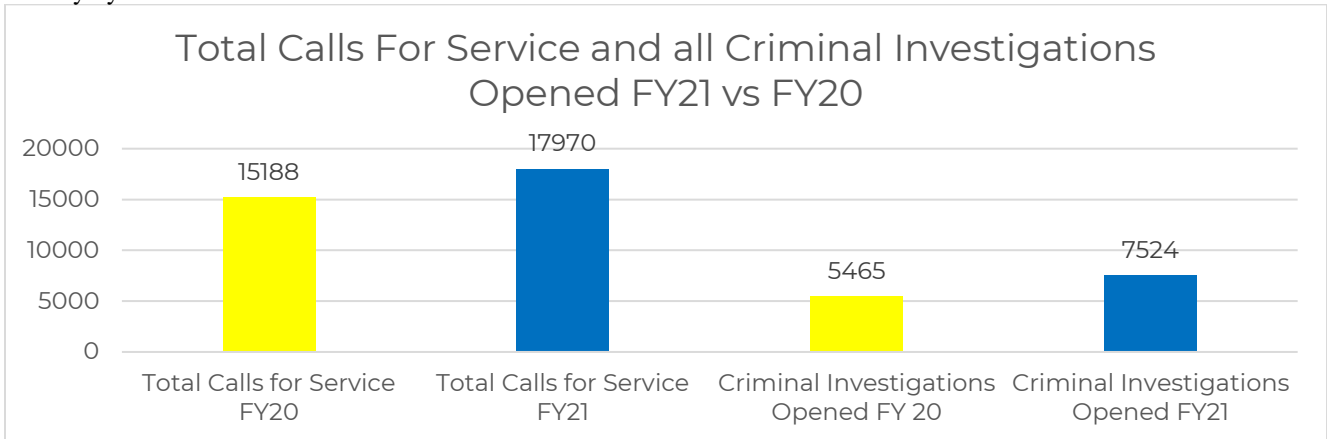
This division consists of Armory/Fleet Operations, Records Section, Information Technology, and Professional Standards. This division supports the following: agency fleet operations; firearms maintenance and repair; complaint intake and review; custodial death reporting; court-ordered expungement; warrant management; investigative case file review and retention; coordination and tracking of cases that are prosecutable investigations in information security; network and database support; hardware support; development and coordination of training; internal affairs investigations; compliance audits; policy development and accreditation.

Executive and Administrative Support Functions

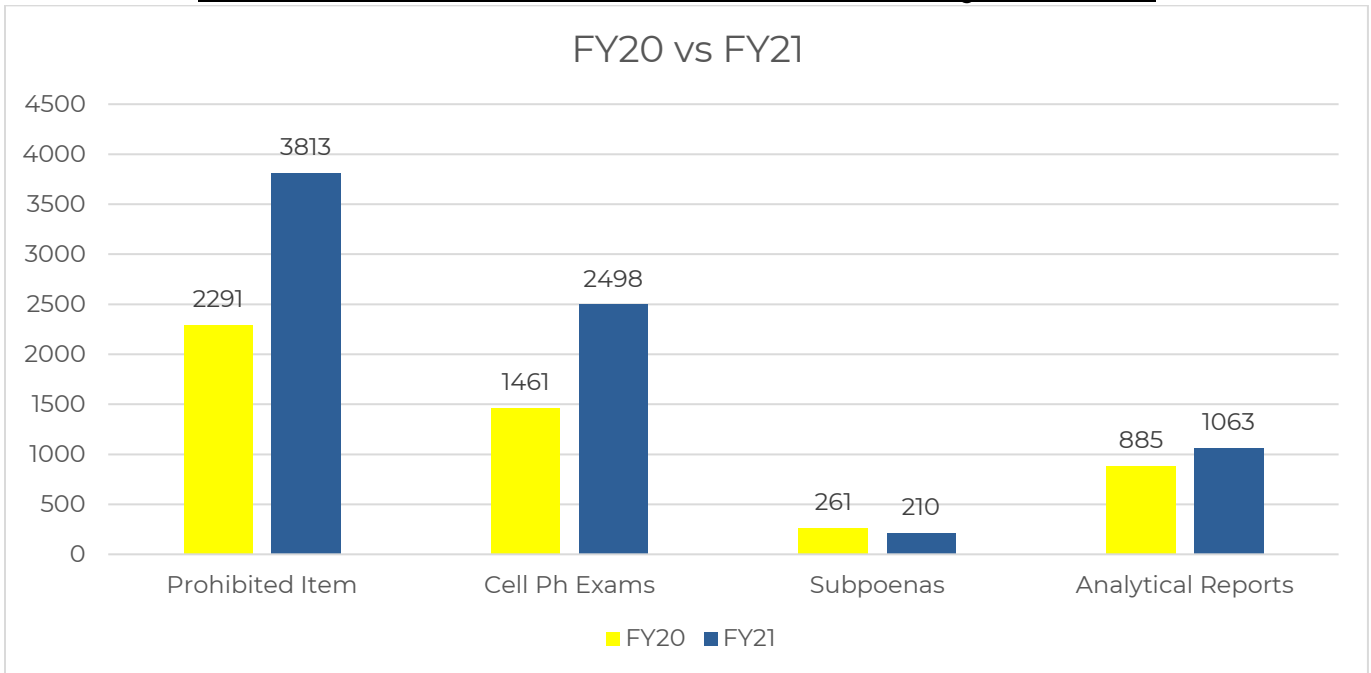
Reporting directly to the Inspector General, these sections encompass all other organizational functions, including budget management, purchasing; accountable property management; executive support services; human resources; open records requests, and litigation.

Calls for Service and Criminal Investigations

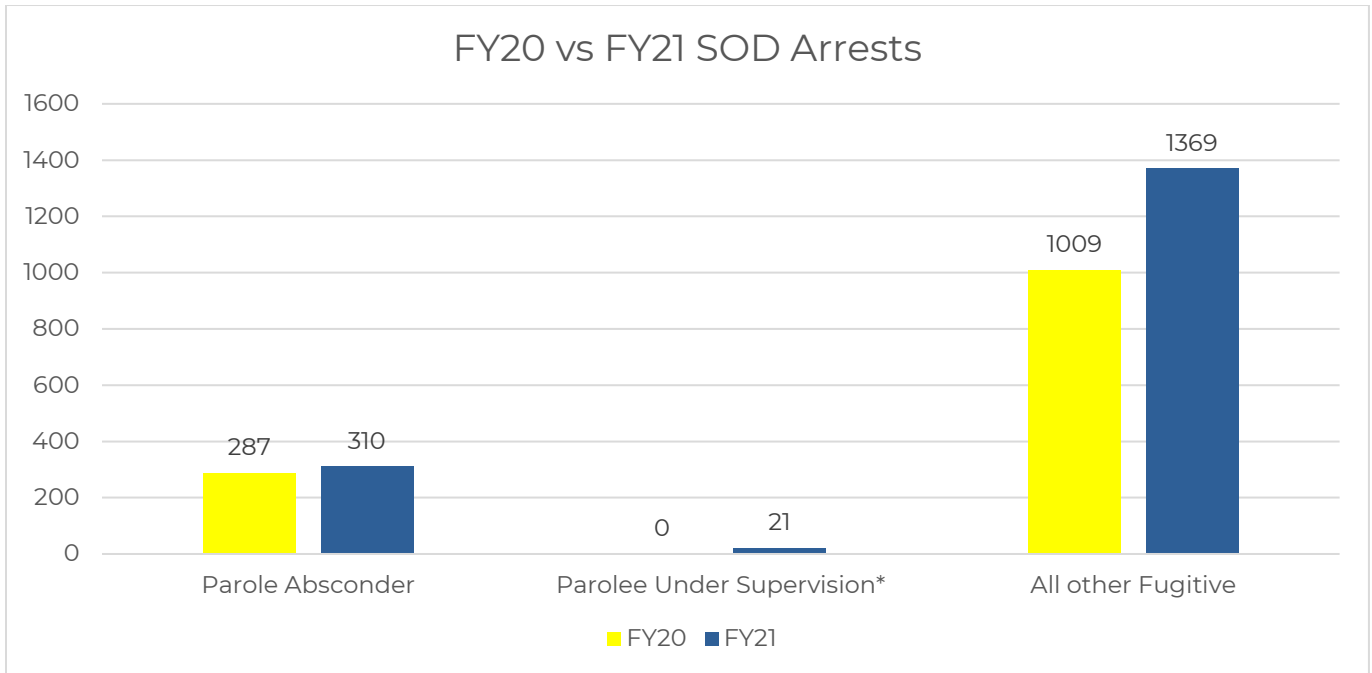
OIG serves in a first responder role for all criminal matters in addition to other calls for service. OIG receives and responds to a broad array of complaints as well as the investigator's self-initiated activity. Calls for service generally refer to assignments distributed to staff that require resolving, assisting, or investigating the matter. It also reflects self-initiated activity by OIG staff to include arrests made, criminal intelligence developed and disseminated, and investigations initiated directly by staff.



Contraband Offenses – Forensic Exams – Analytical Work

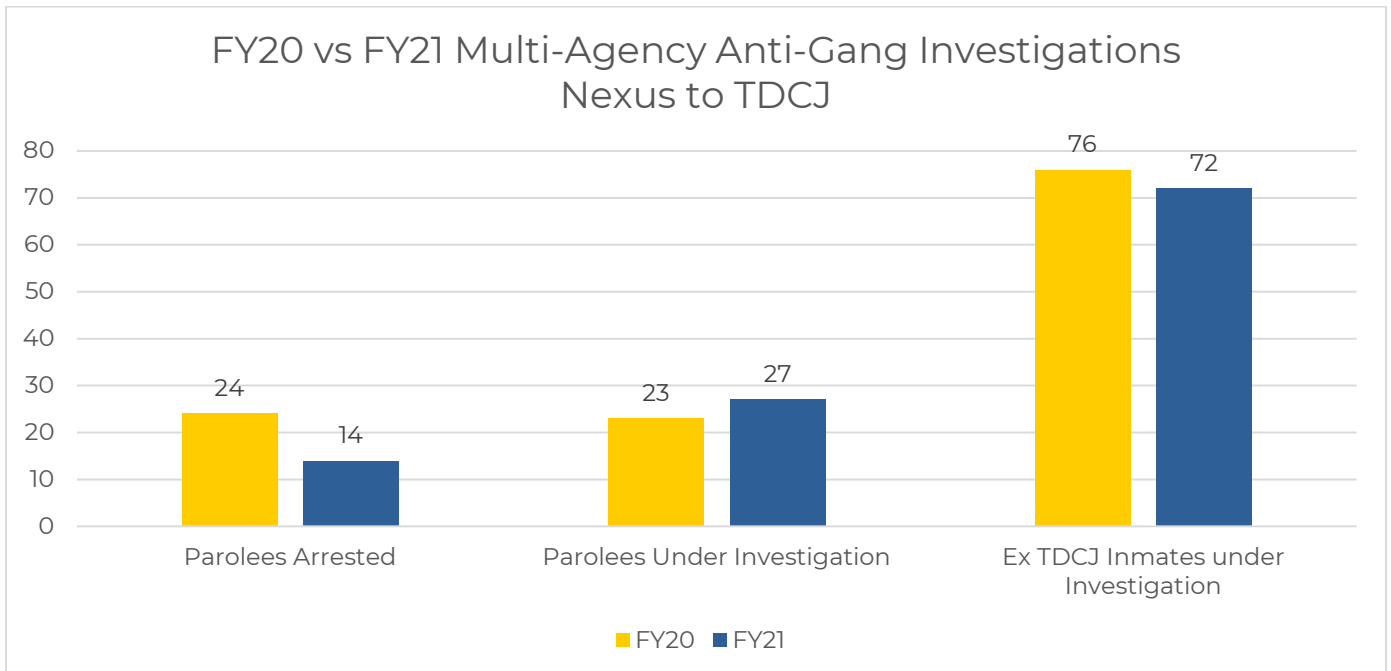


SOD Fugitive Apprehensions

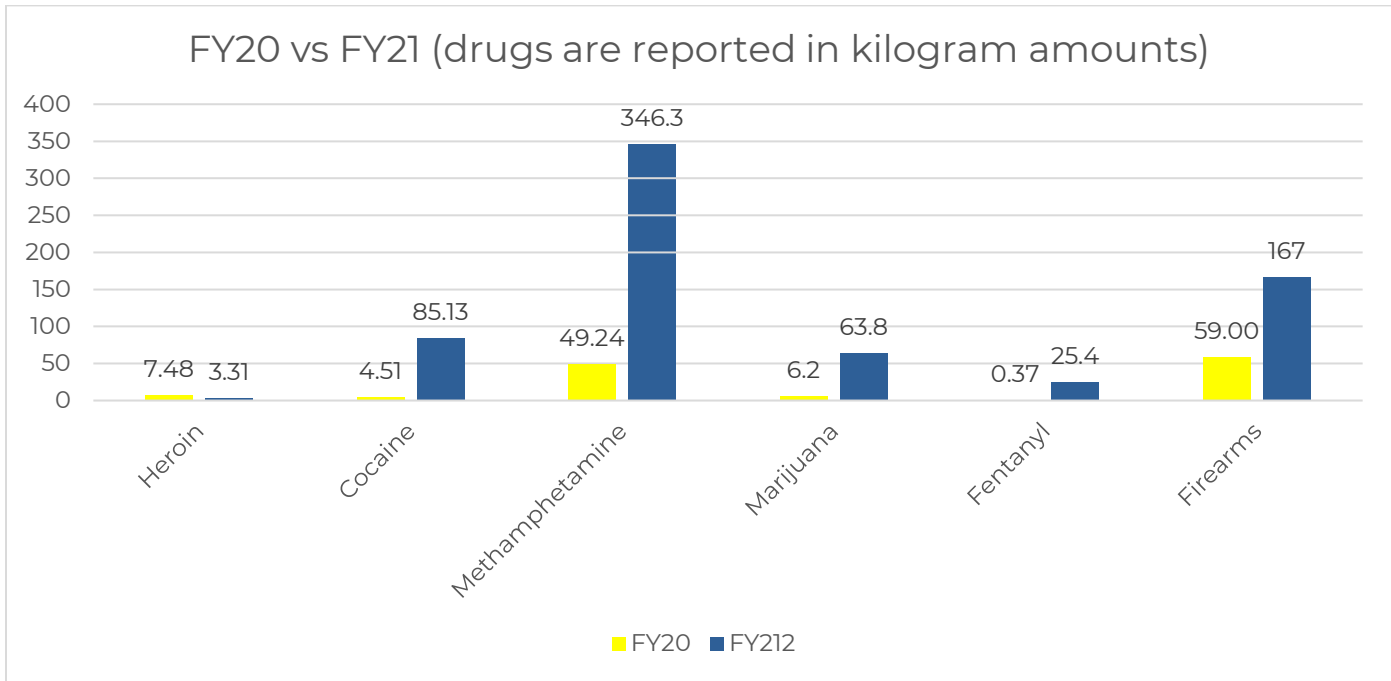


*Parolee under Supervision is a new category to reflect arrests made by OIG for new crimes while under supervision. The total number of arrests for parole absconder only includes those made directly by OIG investigators. The task force concept serves as a force multiplier and results in additional targeted arrests of parole absconders.

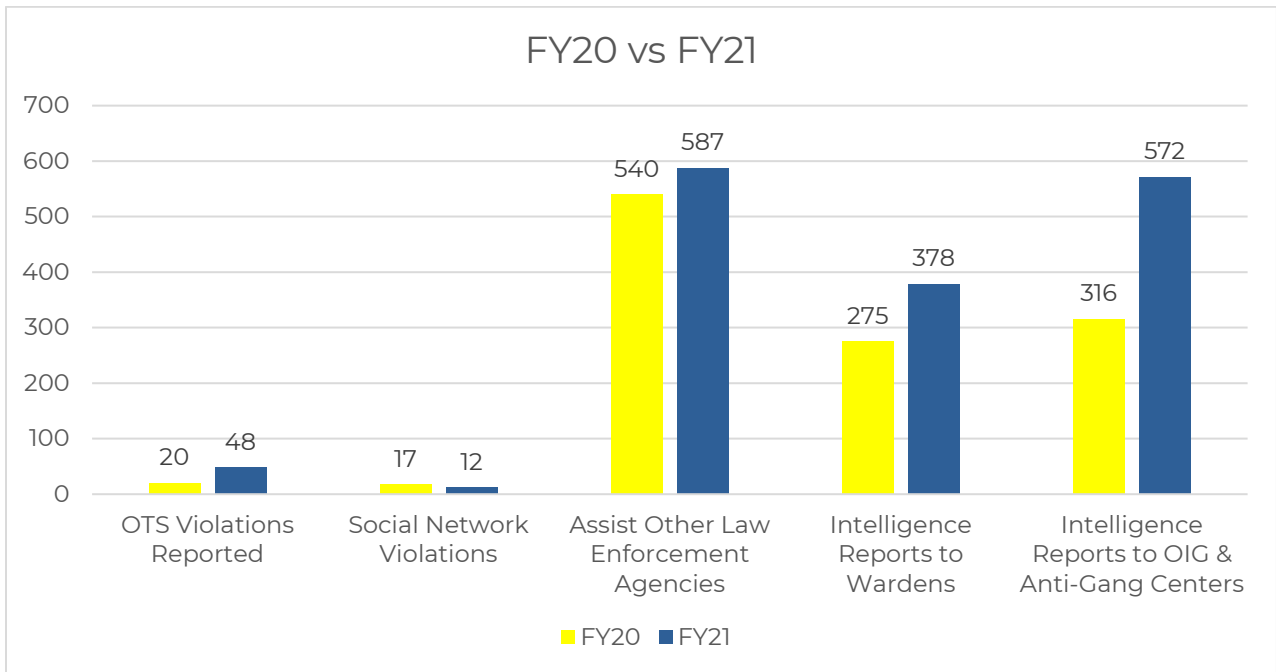
SOD Anti-Gang Program



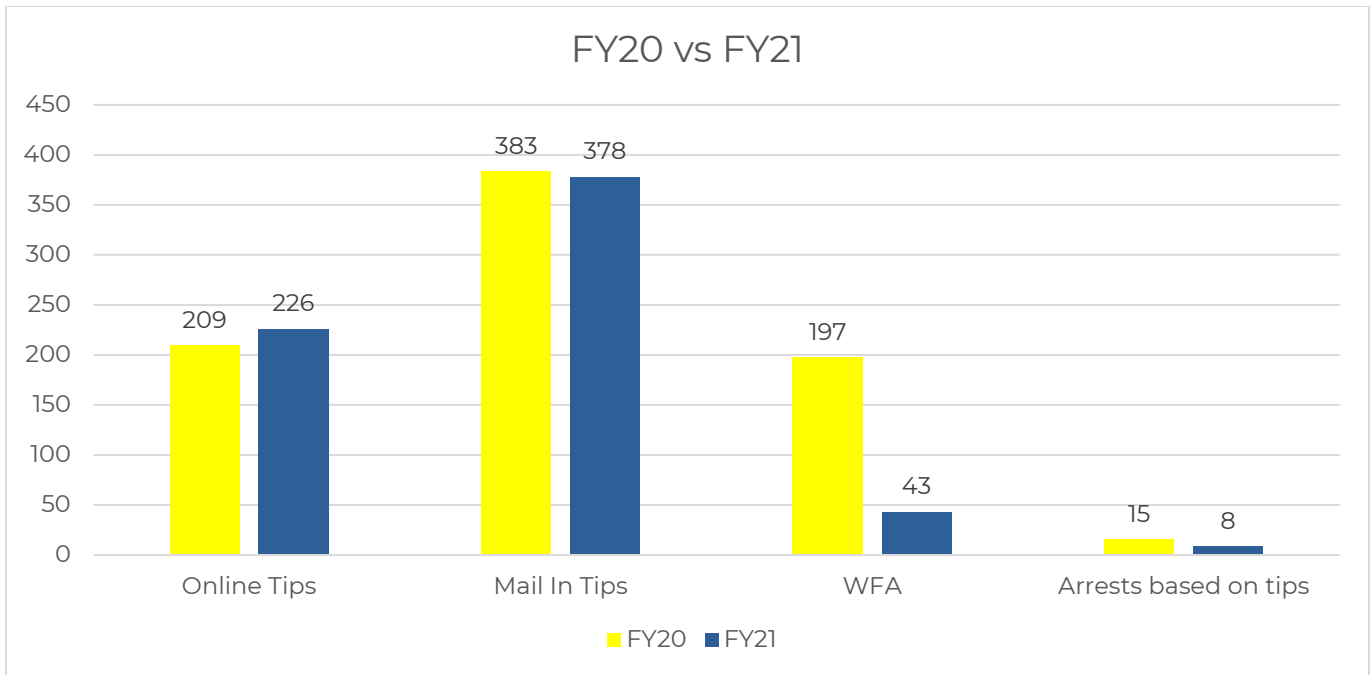
SOD GANG INVESTIGATION SEIZURES



CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS



Crime Stoppers and Waste-Fraud-Abuse Tip Line



Conclusion

Despite a significant increase in criminal investigations, OIG proactive investigative activity increased. Regardless of the demands, OIG will continue to be responsive to the needs of the TBCJ, the TDCJ, other law enforcement agencies, and the people of Texas.