Columbus Police Crime Laboratory

Drug Identification Section

The Drug Identification Section qualitatively analyzes evidence items for the presence of controlled substances and other emerging substances of interest.

Evidence items tested include powders, solid substances, liquids, plant material, pills, and residues.

Forensic scientists perform a series of tests to confirm or eliminate the presence of a controlled substance. Testing methods include weight determination, microscopic examination, chemical color tests, gas chromatography, mass spectrometry, and infrared spectroscopy.

The Drug Identification Section is a participant of the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), a program that systematically collects drug identification results analyzed by federal, state, and local forensic laboratories for the purpose of monitoring and understanding illicit drug use and trafficking in the United States.

Mass Spectrum of Cocaine