DHS | OIG - Background Studies Division

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DHS Emergency Background Studies

- Early impact of pandemic on DHS background studies

  - By March 23, 2020, half of public fingerprinting site closed.

  - Agencies in other states stopped responding to DHS requests for out of state record checks.

- DHS response: Waiver CV23

  - Waived the requirements for fingerprint-based background studies.

  - Instituted a "Minnesota only" emergency background study using the individual's name and date of birth for maltreatment and criminal history.

  - Limited required background checks to Minnesota registries and databases by waiving required checks of out of state registries and databases.

Transition to Fingerprint-Based Studies

- Legislation passed during 2021 Special Session

  - Permitted the Commissioner's waiver to remain in effect for 365 days after the end of the Governor's declared state of emergency.

  - Allowed emergency studies to remain valid until July 2, 2022.

  - Provided a credit to providers who paid for emergency background studies in NETStudy 2.0.

- DHS phased-in approach

  - Transition to fully compliant studies began Sept 15, 2021.

  - Allowed for the managing and monitoring of NETStudy 2.0 system capacity and appointment volume at fingerprint sites across the state.

  - Currently, providers have resumed submitting fully compliant studies for new hires.

Current State of DHS Emergency Background Studies

- Consultation with providers resulted in adjustments to the transition timeline.

- As the timeline shifted, providers continued to submit emergency studies, increasing the number of emergency studies needing to be resubmitted.

- DHS processed emergency studies on behalf of MDH for the National Guard in mid to late November 2021.

- Governor's budget includes funding request for additional provider credits based on increase in emergency studies (200,000 estimated in 2021; 365,000 estimated for request).

Number of emergency studies received:

360,815

(4/06/20 to 3/7/22)

Thank You!