

LABORATORY SELF AUDIT REVIEW

2024 Participation Data & Trend Analysis

The Laboratory Self-Audit (LSA) is an annual self-inspection designed to foster a strong safety culture and resilience within FIU’s laboratory community. The LSA helps enforce regulatory compliance and enhance safety initiatives. The Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) utilizes data from the audit to identify trends, develop safety campaigns, and implement educational seminars aimed at improving workplace safety. A detailed breakdown of participation, hazard analysis, and key compliance trends is provided below.

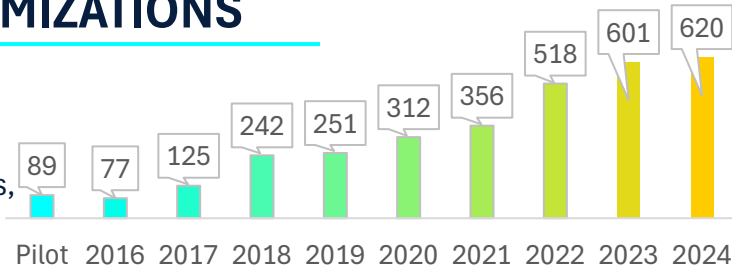
For more information, please visit the EH&S website at ehs.fiu.edu.

EXPERIENCE OPTIMIZATIONS

EH&S continues to optimize the LSA experience. In 2024 the Pre-Survey Tool was further developed, allowing participants to determine if they need to complete the LSA based on their space classification, improving efficiency from the start. Lab classifications were expanded broadening the options of space classification. Additionally, based on space type and other selections, two meaningful drop-off points were placed to ensure only necessary questions were asked. The General and Administrative Sections were merged into a single Safety Controls Section, and questions were reordered for a more intuitive flow. Various questions were condensed, such as those on waste-related topics and industrial tool reporting, to speed up responses. Other questions were added to better capture hazard classifications, while some were removed if covered by other EH&S systems or inspections. Electrical safety questions were expanded into three categories: daisy chaining, cord condition, and unobstructed electrical panels/shutoffs. Single Sign-On (SSO) remains for easy access, and student participation is restricted in compliance with the FERPA Act. These changes ensure a more efficient, streamlined process for participants.

PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS AND OPTIMIZATIONS

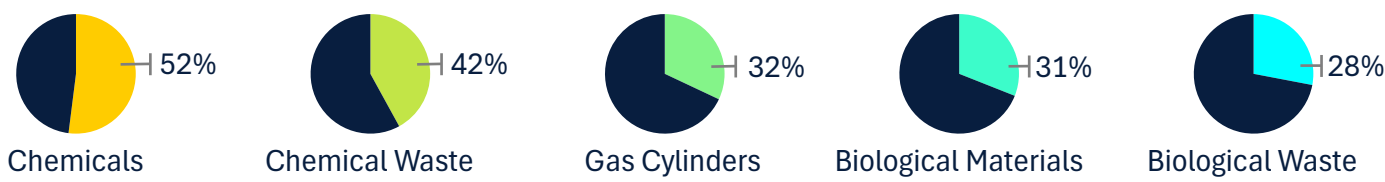
In 2024, 620 Laboratory Self Audits (LSAs) were submitted, reflecting a 3.2% increase from the previous year (601 in 2023). 76% of the spaces are used for research, 16% are for academics, and 8% are for both research and academics.



Data was collected across 7 of FIU's campuses and satellite sites.

HAZARD ANALYSIS

The top five hazards identified in the 2024 LSA that are handled, used, stored, or processed at FIU are represented below.



THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS

The EH&S team is crucial in maintaining a safe working environment. We thoroughly review the LSA to identify emerging trends and take proactive steps to educate the community. Our efforts include implementing initiatives, campaigns, newsletters, safety moments, and Safety Seminars to raise awareness about safety. Below are the top five with the highest and lowest scores. Below are the top five with the highest and lowest scores.

The top five scored answers discovered in the 2024 LSA:

- 99% of participants indicated the outlets in the space were in good condition and face plates were properly in place.
- 99% of participants confirmed that all electrical/power cords were in good condition and away from the path of egress.
- 98% of participants reported that access to their space was limited or restricted to authorized personnel only.
- 97% of participants ensured that extension cords and surge protectors were plugged directly into the wall outlet, without daisy-chaining.
- 96% of participants confirmed their space was free of evidence of food and drink consumption.

The top five compliance gaps discovered in the 2024 LSA.

- 33% of participants indicated that Shutdown Procedures were NOT displayed in the space.
- 33% of participants confirmed that Shutdown Procedures had NOT been annually reviewed and provided to all space occupants.
- 29% of participants reported that the Shutdown Procedures were NOT current and reflected all hazards and operations in the space.
- 22% of participants indicated that Emergency Spill Procedures were NOT displayed in the space.
- 20% of participants confirmed that Emergency Evacuation Procedures were NOT displayed in the space.

Visit the EH&S Laboratory Safety webpage for more information, found <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/laboratory>.

Reach out with any questions or concerns: ehs@fiu.edu.