

History of the NC Sexual Assault Kit Initiative



Attorney General
Josh Stein

1



BACKLOG AUDIT BEGINS

The legislature worked with NCDOJ to enact Session Law 2017-57, which required every law enforcement agency to report to the State Crime Lab how many untested kits were in its possession.

2



INVENTORY OF UNTESTED KITS COMPLETED

Attorney General Stein announced that the audit found a backlog of ~16,000 untested sexual assault kits located across the state. He obtained legislative approval to begin tracking the kits and to create a working group to develop a strategic plan to test the older kits.

3



KIT TRACKING LAUNCHED

Attorney General Stein launched a new statewide sexual assault kit tracking system that barcodes all new sexual assault evidence collection kits. Survivors and actors in the criminal justice system can now track these kits.

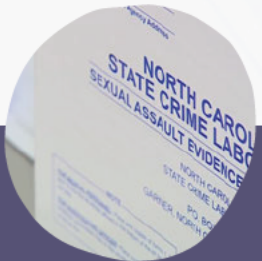
4



SAKI GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

Attorney General Stein announced that NCDOJ received \$2 million to test untested kits through a grant from the USDOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) to test untested kits.

5



WORKING GROUP SUBMITS REPORT

The working group submitted a report to the legislature with recommendations that would later become the Survivor Act. These recommendations included the creation of multi-disciplinary review teams to determine the testing protocol of older kits and resources to test untested kits.

6



SURVIVOR ACT ANNOUNCED

Attorney General Stein and members of the NCGA unveiled the Standing Up for Rape Victims Act, or SURVIVOR Act, to test older kits and prevent future backlogs.

7



SURVIVOR ACT BECOMES LAW

Gov. Roy Cooper signed the SURVIVOR Act into law. The law appropriates \$6 million to outsource kit testing and institutes reforms of the rape kit testing process. The General Assembly later appropriated an additional \$9 million.

8



TESTING KITS

Law enforcement agencies across the state engage in renewed efforts to review and submit untested kits. The eligible older kits have all been submitted for testing. Law enforcement is solving cold cases and making arrests.