



Fact Sheet: State Crime Lab Inventory on Sexual Assault Kits

Background

- Sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAECKs) are crucial to hold criminals accountable, secure justice for victims of sexual assault, exonerate the innocent and prevent future crimes.
- Session Law 2017-57 required every law enforcement agency to report to the State Crime Lab (SCL) the number of untested kits it has in its custody.

Results

- 92 percent of law enforcement agencies responded to the SCL's inventory request.
- Based on the numbers law enforcement reported, at the end of 2017 there were 15,160 untested sexual assault kits in North Carolina in law enforcement custody.

| Type of Kit | Number Untested |
|--|-----------------|
| The victim wished to remain anonymous and did not report the incident to the authorities. | 390 |
| The kit was tied to a case that had been resolved in court, whether by conviction, dismissal, or any other matter. | 2,741 |
| The suspect admitted to the sexual act in question. | 1,054 |
| The allegations were determined to be unfounded as a result of further investigation. | 3,820 |
| Kits law enforcement agencies did not place in the above categories. | 7,545 |
| Total Untested Kits | 15,160 |

Recommendations

- The DOJ makes three main recommendations as a result of this process:
 - Test all reported kits currently in law enforcement custody
 - Institute a statewide SAECK tracking system
 - Develop a protocol to test all kits reported to law enforcement going forward

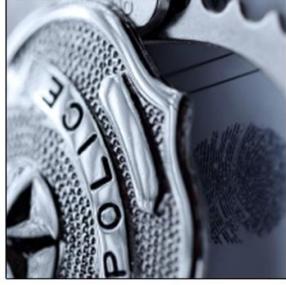
Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking System



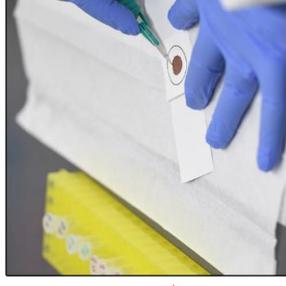
Vendor produces kit with barcode



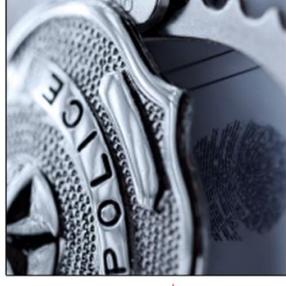
Medical provider conducts the victim examination



Law enforcement agency receives kit and submits for forensic testing



Forensic laboratory receives and tests kit



Law enforcement agency receives kit and forensic laboratory report

Authorized users such as medical professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, laboratory personnel and victims will be able to view the history and status of a sexual assault evidence collection kit.

