



North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

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February 8, 2023

Senator Danny Britt
Representative Ted Davis, Jr.
Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27601-1096

Re: State Crime Lab STIMS Report

Dear Representatives Britt and Davis,

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute 114-65 (f), please find the attached report from the North Carolina Department of Justice (DOJ) on the State Crime Laboratory's FY 20-21 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking and Inventory Management System (STIMS).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. We would be happy to respond to any questions you may have regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Martinucci
Director

cc: Mark White, Fiscal Research Division
Seth Dearmin, DOJ Chief of Staff

Creation of the NC Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking and Inventory Management System (STIMS):

The timely testing of sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAECKs or kits) is vital to solving cases, punishing offenders, bringing justice to survivors, and preventing future crimes.

In 2017, the General Assembly passed SL 2017-57, which required all law enforcement agencies to report to the State Crime Laboratory the number of untested kits in their possession. The 2017 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Law Enforcement Inventory Report, released March 1, 2018, concluded that 15,160 untested kits were in local law enforcement custody and made recommendations on how to handle these untested kits as well as all future kits.

One of the report's recommendations was to establish a statewide tracking system. As a result, the General Assembly passed SL 2018-70 (now NCGS § 114-65), which created the Statewide Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking and Inventory Management System (STIMS) which went live on October 1, 2018. With this tracking system, all new kits are trackable throughout the testing process. Previously untested kits have been barcoded and uploaded into the tracking system as well.

The certified inventory in all agencies across the State of North Carolina totals 16,209 previously untested SAECKs, which includes 1,164 Anonymous or Unreported Kits that are housed at the Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Support Services for storage and will not be tested at this time per the Survivor Act. This inventory was accomplished by temporary employees who served in the capacity of inventory technicians and were hired using grant funding from USDOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance. They travelled to each law enforcement agency housing kits to explain STIMS, how to upload the kits they have in their possession into the system, and how to submit the case information to the State Crime Laboratory for review and approval for outsourcing.

STIMS Capability and Use:

STIMS is a web-based application. No specialized software is needed by a user of the system. The system can be used on any computer or mobile device with Internet access.

The information maintained in STIMS is confidential and not a public record. It is also not intended to be a chain of custody. All medical facilities, law enforcement agencies, forensic labs, or others having custody or use of any sexual assault kit shall participate and comply with STIMS. This means they will enter data in the tracking system every time they take action with a kit (i.e. use it for an exam; transfer to law enforcement; receive it into evidence, transfer it to the crime lab; and test the kit).

A District Attorney's user group was added so that District Attorneys and their staff have visibility of all sexual assault kits within their jurisdiction, both newly submitted and previously untested, and can view them by county or agency of origin. They can monitor the flow of kits through the legislatively mandated workflow as set out in the Survivor Act. This increases the transparency and accountability of the system.

The STIMS system is accessible to survivors, law enforcement, District Attorneys, medical facilities and forensic laboratories at the following website:

<https://www.sexualassaultkittracking.ncdoj.gov/SexualAssaultKitTracking/>

Screenshot of STIMS Web Portal:

Sexual Assault Kit Tracking

serial number

Web Portal

North Carolina Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking and Information Management System (STIMS)



This website enables tracking of sexual assault evidence collection kits in the State of North Carolina in compliance with [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 114-65](#), which was enacted into law through Session Law 2018-70 (HB 945).

"Sexual assault evidence collection kit" means a set of materials, such as swabs and tools for collecting blood samples, used to gather forensic evidence from a victim of reported sexual assault and the evidence obtained with such materials.

[Resources for Survivors and System Users](#)



Instructions

Victims of sexual assault can view the history and current status of their sexual assault evidence collection kit by entering the sexual assault evidence kit tracking # in the "serial number" box above and clicking the adjacent search button with the magnifying glass icon (Q)

Authorized medical providers, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and lab personnel should select "Login" and enter their unique Username and Password to manage the status of sexual assault evidence kits under the jurisdiction of their agency.

A survivor's kit serial number is provided to them at a medical facility, which can then be tracked as shown in the example below at www.sexualassaultkittracking.ncdoj.gov.

Example Kit Tracked through STIMS:

Sexual Assault Kit Tracking

L000282

Sexual Assault Kit #L000282

Status: **Analyzed by lab**

Created
10/15/2018
Sirchie

Sent
11/20/18

Received
11/29/2018
Cone Health

Sent
01/15/19

Received
01/16/2019
Greensboro Police Department

Sent
02/21/19

Received
02/21/2019
NC State Crime Laboratory

Sent
07/11/19

Received
07/11/2019
Greensboro Police Department

Created 10/15/2018
Sirchie created the kit.
Sent 11/20/2018
Sirchie sent the kit to Cone Health.
Received 11/29/2018
Cone Health received the kit from Sirchie.
Sent 01/15/2019
Cone Health sent the kit to Greensboro Police Department.
Received 01/16/2019
Greensboro Police Department received the kit from Cone Health.
Sent 02/21/2019
Greensboro Police Department sent the kit to NC State Crime Laboratory.
Received 02/21/2019
NC State Crime Laboratory received the kit from Greensboro Police Department.
Sent 07/11/2019
NC State Crime Laboratory sent the kit to Greensboro Police Department.
Received 07/11/2019
Greensboro Police Department received the kit from NC State Crime Laboratory.

Number of SAECKS in STIMS:

N.C.G.S § 114-65 requires the State Crime Lab to report on an annual basis the following information:

- (1) The number of tracking-enabled kits shipped to medical facilities or medical providers.
- (2) The number of tracking-enabled kits used by medical facilities or medical providers to conduct forensic medical examinations of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault victims.
- (3) Of the tracking-enabled kits used by medical facilities or medical providers to conduct forensic medical examinations, the number of kits for which a sexual assault has been reported to law enforcement, sorted by law enforcement agency.
- (4) Of the tracking-enabled kits generated for reported cases, the number of kits submitted to a laboratory for forensic testing.
- (5) Of the tracking-enabled kits submitted for forensic testing, the number of kits for which forensic testing has been completed.
- (6) The number of tracking-enabled kits for which a sexual assault has not been reported, including the total submitted to local law enforcement and the total submitted to Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Support Services.
- (7) Information regarding efforts to track and test previously untested kits described in subsection (e) of this section. (2018-70, s. 1.)

During FY 21-22, the below requested information was captured via the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Inventory and Tracking System (STIMS):

	NC State Crime Laboratory STIMS Data	FY 21-22
1	The number of tracking-enabled kits shipped to medical facilities or medical providers.	2,478
2	The number of tracking-enabled kits used by medical facilities or medical providers to conduct forensic medical examinations of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault victims.	2,218
3	Of the tracking-enabled kits used by medical facilities or medical providers to conduct forensic medical examinations, the number of kits for which a sexual assault has been reported to law enforcement, sorted by law enforcement agency.	1,977
4	Of the tracking-enabled kits generated for reported cases, the number of kits submitted to a laboratory for forensic testing.	1,971
5	Of the tracking-enabled kits submitted for forensic testing, the number of kits for which forensic testing has been completed.	1,352
6	The number of tracking-enabled kits for which a sexual assault has not been reported, including the total submitted to local law enforcement and the total submitted to Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Support Services.	234
7	Information regarding efforts to track and test previously untested kits described in subsection (e) of this section.	122

As requested in N.C.G.S. § 114-65 (3), the kits reported to law enforcement are sorted by law enforcement agency below. (Attachment 1)

As requested in N.C.G.S. § 114-65 (7), 122 untested kits have been inventoried and entered into STIMS in FY 2021-2022. 16,221 untested kits have been inventoried to date.

Attachment 1

FY 21-22 tracking-enabled kits used by medical facilities for which a sexual assault has been reported to law enforcement – sorted by agency:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Out of State/Military	37
Aberdeen Police Department	4
Ahoskie Police Department	1
Alamance County Sheriff's Office	11
Albemarle Police Department	10
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	3
Angier Police Department	3
Anson County Sheriff's Office	3
Apex Police Department	3
Appalachian State University Police	4
Ashe County Sheriff's Office	5
Asheboro Police Department	5
Asheville Police Department	29
Atrium Health Special Police Department	2
Avery County Sheriff's Office	3
Ayden Police Department	2
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	3
Beech Mountain Police Department	2
Belmont Abbey College	1
Belmont Police Department	3
Bessemer City Police Department	1
Black Mountain Police Department	1
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	1
Boone Police Department	5
Brevard Police Department	1
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	17
Buncombe County Sheriff's Department	11
Burke County Sheriff's Office	10
Burlington Police Department	13
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	4
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	9
Camden County Sheriff's Office	3
Canton Police Department	1
Carolina Beach Police Department	6
Carrboro Police Department	7

Carteret County Sheriff's Office	4
Cary Police Department	6
Caswell Center-DHHS Police	1
Catawba County Sheriff's Office	15
Chapel Hill Police Department	10
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department	291
Chatham County Sheriff's Office	4
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	4
Cherokee Police Department	3
Cherryville Police Department	1
Chowan County Sheriff's Office	1
Clay County Sheriff's Office	1
Clayton Police Department	1
Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	5
Clinton Police Department	2
Columbus County Sheriff's Office	2
Concord Police Department	18
Cornelius Police Department	3
Craven County Sheriff's Office	4
Creedmoor Police Department	1
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department	16
Currituck County Sheriff's Office	2
Dallas Police Department	2
Davidson County Sheriff's Office	7
Davidson Police Department	1
Davie County Sheriff's Office	5
Duke University Police Department	11
Dunn Police Department	2
Duplin County Sheriff's Office	5
Durham County Sheriff's Office	3
Durham Police Department	55
East Carolina University Police Department	6
Eden Police Department	4
Edenton Police Department	3
Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office	2
Elizabeth City Police Department	3
Elizabethtown Police Department	1
Elon University Campus Safety and Police Department	4
Enfield Police Department	1
Erwin Police Department	1

Fairmont Police Department	1
Farmville Police Department	1
Fayetteville Police Department	62
Fletcher Police Department	3
Forest City Police Department	3
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	11
Four Oaks Police Department	1
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	2
Fremont Police Department	1
Fuquay-Varina Police Department	5
Garner Police Department	4
Gaston County Police Department	13
Gastonia Police Department	16
Goldsboro Police Department	11
Graham County Sheriff's Office	3
Graham Police Department	5
Granville County Sheriff's Office	2
Greene County Sheriff's Office	1
Greensboro Police Department	85
Greenville Police Department	35
Guilford County Sheriff's Office	16
Halifax County Sheriff's Office	2
Harnett County Sheriff's Department	11
Havelock Police Department	3
Haw River Police Department	1
Haywood County Sheriff's Office	5
Henderson County Sheriff's Office	17
Henderson Police Department	3
Hendersonville Police Department	3
Hertford County Sheriff's Office	1
Hickory Police Department	13
High Point Police Department	24
Hillsborough Police Department	2
Hoke County Sheriff's Office	17
Holly Springs Police Department	1
Hope Mills Police Department	5
Hudson Police Department	1
Huntersville Police Department	5
Hyde County Sheriff's Office	2
Iredell County Sheriff's Office	6

Jackson County Sheriff's Office	2
Jackson Police Department	1
Jacksonville Police Department	18
Johnston County Sheriff's Office	15
Jones County Sheriff's Office	1
Jonesville Police Department	2
Kannapolis Police Department	15
Kenly Police Department	1
Kernersville Police Department	1
King Police Department	1
Kinston Police Department	3
Knightdale Police Department	2
L.E.S.S.	4
Laurel Park Police Department	1
Laurinburg Police Department	4
Lee County Sheriff's Office	4
Lees-McRae College Police Department	1
Leland Police Department	4
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office	6
Lenoir Police Department	6
Lexington Police Department	3
Lillington Police Department	1
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	17
Lincolnton Police Department	2
Longview Police Department	1
Lumberton Police Department	11
Macon County Sheriff's Office	2
Madison County Sheriff's Office	2
Madison Police Department	1
Marion Police Department	2
Mars Hill Police Department	2
Martin County Sheriff's Office	1
Matthews Police Department	5
McDowell County Sheriff's Office	1
Mebane Police Department	2
Monroe Police Department	8
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	2
Moore County Sheriff's Office	11
Mooresville Police Department	13
Morehead City Police Department	1

Morganton Department of Public Safety	5
Morrisville Police Department	4
Mount Airy Police Department	2
N.C. A & T University Police Department	3
N.C. State University Police	1
Nags Head Police Department	2
Nash County Sheriff's Office	6
Nashville Police Department	1
NC State Bureau of Investigation	2
New Bern Police Department	9
New Hanover County Sheriff's Office	11
Newton Police Department	3
North Topsail Beach Police Department	1
North Wilkesboro Police Department	2
Northwest Police Department	1
Oak Island Police Department	1
Ocean Isle Police Department	1
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	9
Orange County Sheriff's Office	5
Pamlico County Sheriff's Office	1
Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office	2
Pembroke Police Department	3
Pender County Sheriff's Office	6
Perquimans County Sheriff's Office	1
Person County Sheriff's Office	1
Pinehurst Police Department	6
Pineville Police Department	3
Pitt County Sheriff's Office	7
Pittsboro Police Department	1
Plymouth Police Department	1
Raeford Police Department	2
Raleigh Police Department	98
Randolph County Sheriff's Office	11
Red Springs Police Department	1
Reidsville Police Department	2
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	7
Roanoke Rapids Police Department	4
Robeson County Sheriff's Office	16
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office	7
Rockingham Police Department	2

Rocky Mount Police Department	13
Rolesville Police Department	2
Rowan County Sheriff's Office	10
Roxboro Police Department	2
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	7
Salisbury Police Department	10
Salisbury Veteran Affairs HCS Police Department	1
Sampson County Sheriff's Office	10
Sanford Police Department	6
Scotland County Sheriff's Office	2
Scotland Neck Police Department	1
Selma Police Department	5
Shelby Police Department	5
Siler City Police Department	1
Smithfield Police Department	6
Snow Hill Police Department	1
Southern Pines Police Department	6
Southern Shores Police Department	1
Spindale Police Department	1
Spring Lake Police Department	5
Stallings Police Department	1
Stanly County Sheriff's Office	8
Statesville Police Department	3
Stokes County Sheriff's Office	4
Sunset Beach Police Department	1
Surf City Police Department	2
Surry County Sheriff's Office	4
Swain County Sheriff's Office	1
Swansboro Police Department	1
Sylva Police Department	1
Tabor City Police Department	1
Tarboro Police Department	1
Taylorsville Police Department	1
Thomasville Police Department	5
Transylvania County Sheriff's Office	2
Troutman Police Department	1
Tyrrell County Sheriff's Office	1
UNC Charlotte Police & Public Safety	1
UNC Hospitals Police	40
UNC Police Department at Chapel Hill	2

UNC Wilmington Police Department	5
Union County Sheriff's Office	20
Valdese Police Department	1
Vance County Sheriff's Office	2
Vidant Medical Center Company Police	2
Wadesboro Police Department	3
Wake County Sheriff's Office	12
Wake Forest Police Department	4
WakeMed Campus Police	4
Wallace Police Department	1
Warren County Sheriff's Office	3
Warsaw Police Department	1
Washington County Sheriff's Office	2
Washington Police Department	3
Watauga County Sheriff's Office	1
Waxhaw Police Department	2
Wayne County Sheriff's Office	7
Waynesville Police Department	1
Weaverville Police Department	3
Weldon Police Department	1
Wendell Police Department	1
West Jefferson Police Department	3
Western Carolina University	5
Whiteville Police Department	2
Wilkes County Sheriff's Office	6
Williamston Police Department	3
Wilmington Police Department	44
Wilson County Sheriff's Office	6
Wilson Police Department	11
Winston-Salem Police Department	63
Winterville Police Department	1
Wrightsville Beach Police Department	3
Yadkinville Police Department	2
Yancey County Sheriff's Department	1
Zebulon Police Department	3