

2017 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK) Law Enforcement Inventory Report

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Background

What are the contents of a SAECK?

- o Authorization and Release
- o Sexual Assault Data Form
- o Bags for Clothing Collection
- o Other Physical Evidence
- o Known Samples of Victim
- o Toxicology Sample
- o Medical History Form
- o Sketches
- o Patient Information
- o Checklist and Disposition

Legislative Directive

Session Law 2017-57 – Appropriations Act of 2017 – required each LEA in the state of North Carolina to conduct an inventory of SAECKs in its custody and report that number to the SCL.

In its report to the SCL, each LEA was required to note how many of the kits they reported were untested because:

1. The victim wished to remain anonymous and did not report the incident to the authorities.
2. The kit was tied to a case that had been resolved in court, whether by conviction, dismissal, or any other matter.
3. The suspect admitted to the sexual act in question.
4. The allegations were determined to be unfounded as a result of further investigation.

The General Assembly directed the SCL to compile this information and report its findings to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by March 1, 2018.

State Crime Lab Efforts to Fulfill Mandate

- *July 19, 2017*: letter to Police Chiefs and Sheriffs
- *Dec. 6, 2017*: reminder email to agency contact list
- *Dec. 15, 2017*: *Forensic Update* to all criminal justice stakeholders
- *Jan. 16, 2018*: letter to all non-responding agencies
- *Jan. 17 to Feb. 28, 2018*: phone calls and/or emails to specific agencies not yet reporting; enlisted assistance from NC Sheriffs' Association, NC Association of Chiefs of Police, and other stakeholder organizations

Survey Results

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.	7,155
Total Untested Kits	15,160

92 % of the state's LEA's reported

Recommendations

- Create select committee
- Institute a statewide SAECK tracking system
- Develop a protocol to test all kits reported to law enforcement going forward



SAECK Tracking & Inventory Management System (STIMS) Demonstration

The following sexual assault kit(s) have been received successfully: 00390



Test Law Enforcement Agency Dashboard

Incoming 0

Pending Submission 6

At Lab 5

Analyzed 2

Not Meeting Criteria 4

Serial #	LE Case #	Received On	Received By	Status	
45004	2017-0002	08/14/2017	Law	Ready to send to lab	...
45008	2017-1122	08/24/2017	Law	Ready to send to lab	...
45001	5238045	09/27/2017	Law	Ready to send to lab	...
45009	231564	10/31/2017	Law	Requires law enforcement data	...
45002	17-11111	11/08/2017	Law	Requires law enforcement data	...
00390		04/09/2018	Law	Requires law enforcement data	...

SAECK Tracking & Inventory Management System (STIMS)

- Idaho gave North Carolina the use of their web based system
 - Commercial systems run as high as \$2 million
- Temporary programmer to customize for NC - \$130,990 (NR)
- Web site security and Server maintenance-annual cost \$15,275 (R)
- 1 FTE as STIMS Administrator located at the SCL \$85,038 (R)
 - Manage STIMS, phone calls, resetting passwords, training, fielding questions, generating reports
- $\$130,990 (r) + \$100,313 (nr) = \$231,303$

Outsourced Testing At-a-Glance

- Two vendors contracted in early 2017
 - Sorenson Forensics – Utah (50 cases per month)
 - Bode Cellmark Forensics – Virginia (50 cases per month)
 - 8 Agencies volunteered for testing (**248 kits tested to date**)
- Vendor average cost per kit to test: \$700
- Number of untested kits: 15,160
- Cost to test all kits: \$10.6 million

FY 2018 SAKI Grant Application

- NC DOJ and SCL SAKI Grant Goals:
 - 2017 inventory follow through by gathering additional information for kits, making each untested kit trackable, and testing all testable kits statewide; (50% of grant)
 - Bring online the statewide tracking system for all kits going forward;
 - Identifying partially-tested kits and CODIS hit follow-ups;
 - Promote a “test-all-kits” approach through training, guidelines, and SCL efficiency improvements;

FY 2018 SAKI Grant Application

- NC DOJ and SCL SAKI Grant Goals (continued):
 - Change the statewide climate to embrace holistic, victim-centric investigations through training to prosecutors, law enforcement and medical providers;
 - Foster victim outreach programs, initiatives, and models for victim notifications;
 - Maximize the investigative potential of the CODIS database and ViCAP; and,
 - Promote multi-disciplinary team approaches to sexual assault response.



Questions