



North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

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October 1, 2019

Representative James Boles, Jr.
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 Boles 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 18-19 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: William Childs, NCGA 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 Lab 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 are in the process of being barcoded and uploaded into the tracking system as well.

To accomplish this the Department of Justice utilized state funding and applied for and received grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and Victims of Crime Act to hire temporary employees for the State Crime Lab. These temporary employees serve in the capacity of inventory technicians and travel 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.

The State Crime Lab is certifying each agency's inventory of kits using a four step "phased approach." In FY 2018-2019, specifically from March through June of 2019, the inventory technicians made contact with law enforcement agencies in 30 of North Carolina's 100 counties (Phase 1) resulting in those agencies entering their kits into STIMS for subsequent review and testing. Inventory technicians are currently working to certify the inventories of law enforcement agencies in the 50 counties which make up Phase 2 and Phase 3. (See Attachment 1)

The number of kits inventoried to date is not final and continues to grow. Currently, 7,947 kits have been inventoried and moved into STIMS while phases 2 and 3 are currently underway. The Department of Justice and State Crime Laboratory will continue to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies across the state with entering their kits into STIMS, certifying their inventories, and testing kits.

Timeline of Events for Development of STIMS:

The North Carolina State Crime Laboratory began preparations for development of a Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking and Inventory Management System (STIMS) in early 2018 with the evaluation of systems used by several different states:

- **March 2018:** The State Crime Laboratory selected the STIMS program utilized by Idaho. Idaho offered this system to North Carolina free of charge. This saved the state approximately \$2,000,000 by not having to purchase or develop a new tracking system.
- **April 2018:** The Crime Lab hired a programmer who began modifying the Idaho system to meet North Carolina's tracking needs.
- **June 2018:** NC G.S § 114-65 directed the Crime Lab to go-live with STIMS on October 1, 2018.
- **August 2018:** The Crime Lab began outreach to medical facilities for administrative contact information and the number of uncollected kits in order to provide barcode labels for those kits. At this time, the Crime Lab ordered 30,000 barcode/STIMS labels.
- **September 2018:** The STIMS system was finalized. Training videos were created and are available at: <https://ncdoj.gov/crime-lab/crime-lab-resources/>. STIMS administrators were identified from law enforcement and medical facilities and entered into the system. The Crime Lab worked with medical facilities to label all existing uncollected kits with a STIMS number.
- **October 2018:** STIMS went live and all kits moving forward are tracked by barcode.

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, meaning they will enter data in the tracking system every time they do something with the 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).

The STIMS system is accessible to survivors, law enforcement, medical facilities and forensic laboratories at the following website: <https://www.sexualassaultkittracking.ncdoj.gov/SexualAssaultKitTracking/>

Ongoing STIMS Enhancements:

Continued development of the STIMS system includes the creation of a District Attorney's user group in STIMS. When this enhancement is implemented, District Attorneys and their staff will have visibility of all sexual assault kits within their jurisdiction and can view them by county or agency of origin.

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 18-19, 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 18-19
1	The number of tracking-enabled kits shipped to medical facilities or medical providers.	3,553
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.	1,795
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.	1,615
4	Of the tracking-enabled kits generated for reported cases, the number of kits submitted to a laboratory for forensic testing.	601
5	Of the tracking-enabled kits submitted for forensic testing, the number of kits for which forensic testing has been completed.	199
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.	167
7	Information regarding efforts to track and test previously untested kits described in subsection (e) of this section.	5,620

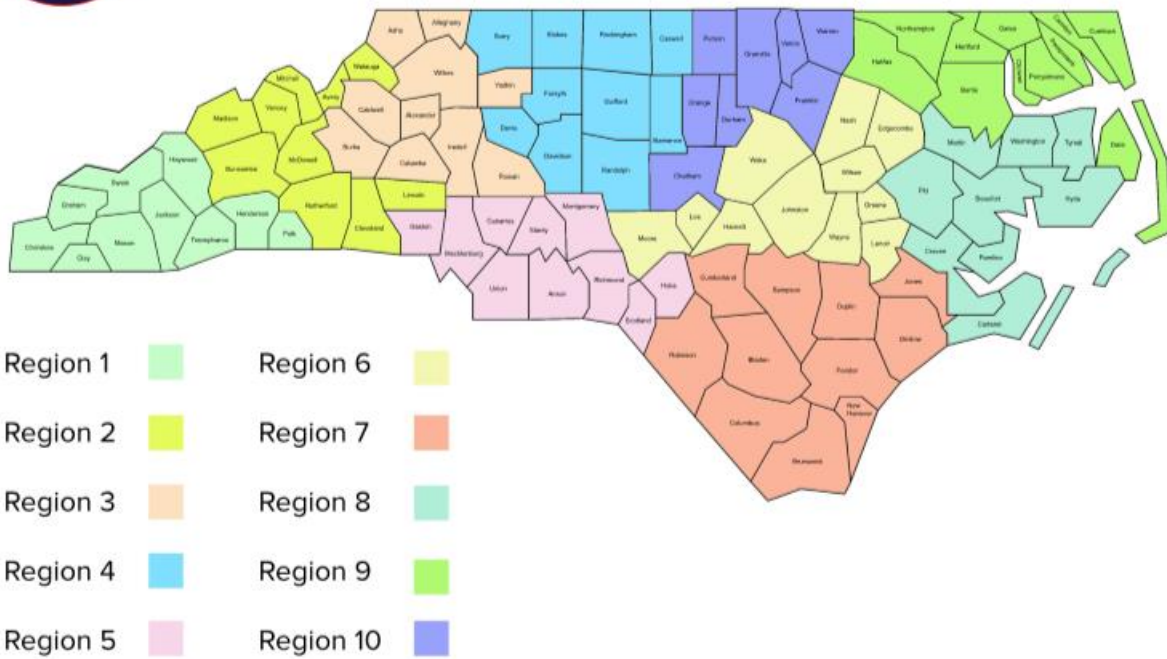
As requested in N.C.G.S. § 114-65 (3), the 1,615 kits reported to law enforcement are sorted by law enforcement agency below. (Attachment 2)

As requested in N.C.G.S. § 114-65 (7), 5,620 untested kits have been inventoried and entered into STIMS in FY 18-19.

Attachment 1



SAKI Inventory & Tracking Map



Phase 1: Regions 2, 4 and 6

Phase 2: Regions 1, 3 and 10

Phase 3: Regions 5 and 9

Phase 4: Regions 7 and 8

Attachment 2

FY 18-19 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	30
Alamance County Sheriff's Office	9
Albemarle Police Department	4
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	4
Alleghany County Sheriff's Office	1
Angier Police Department	2
Anson County Sheriff's Office	2
Apex Police Department	4
Appalachian Regional Healthcare System Police Department	1
Archdale Police Department	1
Asheboro Police Department	3
Asheville Police Department	23
Atlantic Beach Police Department	1
Avery County Sheriff's Office	3
Ayden Police Department	2
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	4
Beaufort Police Department	1
Bertie County Sheriff's Office	1
Beulaville Police Department	1
Black Mountain Police Department	1
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	1
Boiling Springs Police Department	1
Boone Police Department	2
Brevard Police Department	2
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	17
Buncombe County Sheriff's Department	15
Burke County Sheriff's Office	1
Burlington Police Department	16
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	5
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	5
Candor Police Department	1
Canton Police Department	1
Capitol Special Police	1
Carolina Beach Police Department	2

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Carteret County Sheriff's Office	1
Cary Police Department	8
Catawba County Sheriff's Office	8
Chapel Hill Police Department	4
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department	241
Chatham County Sheriff's Office	6
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	1
Cherokee Police Department	6
Chowan College Campus Police	1
City-County Bureau of Investigation	1
Clay County Sheriff's Office	1
Clayton Police Department	3
Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	9
Clinton Police Department	1
Columbus County Sheriff's Office	1
Concord Police Department	9
Conover Police Department	1
Cornelius Police Department	1
Craven County Sheriff's Office	10
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department	19
Currituck County Sheriff's Office	1
Dallas Police Department	1
Dare County Sheriff's Office	2
Davidson County Sheriff's Office	10
Davidson Police Department	1
Davie County Sheriff's Office	4
Denton Police Department	1
Drexel Police Department	1
Duke University Police	14
Dunn Police Department	1
Duplin County Sheriff's Office	8
Durham Police Department	38
East Carolina University Campus Police	1
Eden Police Department	5
Elizabeth City Police Department	3
Elizabethtown Police Department	1
Erwin Police Department	1
Fairmont Police Department	2
Farmville Police Department	1
Fayetteville Police Department	57
Forest City Police Department	2
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	9

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	3
Franklin Police Department	2
Garner Police Department	3
Garysburg Police Department	1
Gaston County Police Department	7
Gaston Police Department	2
Gastonia Police Department	28
Gibsonville Police Department	1
Glen Alpine Police Department	1
Goldsboro Police Department	9
Graham County Sheriff's Office	1
Graham Police Department	5
Granville County Sheriff's Office	1
Greene County Sheriff's Office	2
Greensboro Police Department	62
Greenville Police Department	27
Guilford County Sheriff's Office	13
Harnett County Sheriff's Department	13
Havelock Police Department	6
Haywood County Sheriff's Office	5
Henderson County Sheriff's Office	9
Henderson Police Department	2
Hendersonville Police Department	2
Hickory Police Department	9
High Point Police Department	26
Hillsborough Police Department	1
Hoke County Sheriff's Office	9
Holly Springs Police Department	3
Hope Mills Police Department	3
Huntersville Police Department	6
Iredell County Sheriff's Office	5
Jackson County Sheriff's Office	3
Jacksonville Police Department	15
Jefferson Police Department	1
Johnston County Sheriff's Office	13
Jones County Sheriff's Office	1
Kannapolis Police Department	12
Kernersville Police Department	9
Kill Devil Hills Police Department	2
King Police Department	1
Kinston Police Department	7

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Knightdale Police Department	3
L.E.S.S	4
Laurinburg Police Department	6
Lee County Sheriff's Office	3
Leland Police Department	1
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office	2
Lenoir Police Department	2
Lexington Police Department	5
Lillington Police Department	2
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	12
Lincolnton Police Department	3
Louisburg Police Department	1
Lowell Police Department	1
Lumberton Police Department	16
Macon County Sheriff's Office	4
Madison County Sheriff's Office	1
Madison Police Department	1
Matthews Police Department	3
Maysville Police Department	2
Mebane Police Department	1
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office	3
Middlesex Police Department	1
Mint Hill Police Department	1
Misenheimer Police Department	1
Mocksville Police Department	3
Monroe Police Department	10
Moore County Sheriff's Office	6
Mooresville Police Department	7
Morehead City Police Department	1
Morganton Department of Public Safety	1
Morrisville Police Department	3
Mount Gilead Police Department	1
Mount Holly Police Department	1
Mount Olive Police Department	2
Murfreesboro Police Department	2
Murphy Police Department	1
N.C. A&T University Campus Police	1
N.C. Central University	2
N.C. Department of Correction	1
N.C. State University Police	1
Nags Head Police Department	1

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Nash County Sheriff's Office	1
New Bern Police Department	7
New Hanover County Sheriff's Office	12
New Hanover Regional Special Police	3
Newton Police Department	1
North Wilkesboro Police Department	1
Northampton County Sheriff's Office	3
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	11
Orange County Sheriff's Office	6
Oxford Police Department	1
Pamlico County Sheriff's Office	2
Pembroke Police Department	3
Pender County Sheriff's Office	5
Perquimans County Sheriff's Office	1
Person County Sheriff's Office	3
Pineville Police Department	2
Pitt County Sheriff's Office	6
Pittsboro Police Department	1
Raleigh Police Department	79
Randolph County Sheriff's Office	8
Red Springs Police Department	1
Reidsville Police Department	2
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	5
Roanoke Rapids Police Department	4
Robeson County Sheriff's Office	17
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office	2
Rockingham Police Department	5
Rocky Mount Police Department	13
Rolesville Police Department	1
Rowan County Sheriff's Office	10
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	3
Salisbury Police Department	10
Sampson County Sheriff's Office	7
Sanford Police Department	1
Scotland County Sheriff's Office	3
Selma Police Department	2
Sharpsburg Police Department	1
Shelby Police Department	5
Siler City Police Department	2
Smithfield Police Department	2
Southern Pines Police Department	2

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Southport Police Department	1
Sparta Police Department	1
Spencer Police Department	1
Spindale Police Department	2
Spring Lake Police Department	2
Spruce Pine Police Department	1
St. Pauls Police Department	1
Stallings Police Department	1
Stanley Police Department	1
Stanly County Sheriff's Office	2
Star Police Department	1
Statesville Police Department	10
Stokes County Sheriff's Office	5
Surry County Sheriff's Office	5
Tarboro Police Department	4
Thomasville Police Department	8
Topsail Beach Police Department	1
UNC Hospital Police	20
UNC- Asheville Public Safety	1
UNC-CH Public Safety	3
UNC-Greensboro Public Safety	3
UNC-Pembroke Public Safety	1
Union County Sheriff's Office	16
Vance County Sheriff's Office	2
Wake County Sheriff's Office	12
Warsaw Police Department	2
Washington Police Department	2
Watauga County Sheriff's Office	2
Waxhaw Police Department	1
Wayne County Sheriff's Office	6
Waynesville Police Department	1
Weaverville Police Department	2
Weldon Police Department	1
Wendell Police Department	1
Wilkes County Sheriff's Office	4
Wilmington Police Department	31
Wilson County Sheriff's Office	3
Wilson Police Department	7
Wingate Police Department	3
Winston-Salem Police Department	64
Woodfin Police Department	1

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of Kits</u>
Wrightsville Beach Police Department	3
Yadkin County Sheriff's Office	4
TOTAL	1615