North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

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December 22, 2021

Senator Warren Daniel
Senator Danny Britt
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 Chairs,

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

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 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:

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:

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 20-21, 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 20-21
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.	2,247
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.	2,007
4	Of the tracking-enabled kits generated for reported cases, the number of kits submitted to a laboratory for forensic testing.	2,197
5	Of the tracking-enabled kits submitted for forensic testing, the number of kits for which forensic testing has been completed.	984
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.	231
7	Information regarding efforts to track and test previously untested kits described in subsection (e) of this section.	391

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), 391 untested kits have been inventoried and entered into STIMS in FY 2020-2021. 16,209 untested kits have been inventoried to date.

Attachment 1

FY 20-21 tracking-enabled kits used by medical facilities for which a sexual assault has been reported to law enforcement – sorted by agency:

Agency	Number of Kits
Out of State/Military	37
Aberdeen Police Department	1
Alamance County Sheriff's Office	8
Albemarle Police Department	6
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	6
Angier Police Department	2
Anson County Sheriff's Office	3
Apex Police Department	2
Archdale Police Department	1
Ashe County Sheriff's Office	4
Asheboro Police Department	11
Asheville Police Department	43
Atrium Health Special Police Department	1
Avery County Sheriff's Office	4
Ayden Police Department	1
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	4
Beech Mountain Police Department	1
Belmont Police Department	2
Benson Police Department	2
Bertie County Sheriff's Office	1
Bessemer City Police Department	2
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	5
Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department	1
Boone Police Department	6
Brevard Police Department	2
Broadway Police Department	2
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	17
Buncombe County Sheriff's Department	24
Burke County Sheriff's Office	6
Burlington Police Department	9
Burnsville Police Department	1
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	8
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	5
Cape Carteret Police Department	1
Carolina Beach Police Department	3

Carrboro Police Department	2
Carteret County Sheriff's Office	3
Cary Police Department	9
Caswell County Sheriff's Office	5
Catawba County Sheriff's Office	16
Chapel Hill Police Department	8
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department	296
Chatham County Sheriff's Office	4
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	2
Cherokee Police Department	1
Chowan County Sheriff's Office	1
City-County Bureau of Identification	2
Clayton Police Department	4
Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	5
Clinton Police Department	1
Columbus County Sheriff's Office	11
Columbus Police Department	1
Concord Police Department	12
Conover Police Department	1
Cornelius Police Department	5
Cramerton Police Department	1
Craven County Sheriff's Office	6
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department	22
Currituck County Sheriff's Office	2
Dallas Police Department	3
Dare County Sheriff's Office	3
Davidson County Sheriff's Office	11
Davidson Police Department	1
Davie County Sheriff's Office	5
Duke University Police	11
Dunn Police Department	2
Durham County Sheriff's Office	3
Durham Police Department	56
East Carolina University Police Department	2
East Spencer Police Department	1
Eden Police Department	3
Edenton Police Department	1
Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office	2
Elon Police Department	1
Erwin Police Department	2

Fayetteville Police Department	81
Fayetteville State University Police	1
Federal Bureau of Prisons	1
Forest City Police Department	1
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	7
Four Oaks Police Department	2
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	7
Franklin Police Department	2
Fuquay-Varina Police Department	2
Gardner-Webb University Campus Police	2
Garner Police Department	4
Gaston County Police Department	10
Gastonia Police Department	19
Goldsboro Police Department	10
Graham Police Department	6
Granville County Sheriff's Office	4
Greene County Sheriff's Office	5
Greensboro Police Department	66
Greenville Police Department	31
Grifton Police Department	1
Guilford County Sheriff's Office	16
Halifax County Sheriff's Office	8
Harnett County Sheriff's Department	14
Havelock Police Department	2
Haywood County Sheriff's Office	3
Henderson County Sheriff's Office	15
Henderson Police Department	1
Hendersonville Police Department	3
Hertford County Sheriff's Office	1
Hickory Police Department	13
High Point Police Department	16
Hillsborough Police Department	2
Hoke County Sheriff's Office	6
Holly Ridge Police Department	2
Holly Springs Police Department	1
Hope Mills Police Department	2
Huntersville Police Department	6
Iredell County Sheriff's Office	3
Jackson County Sheriff's Office	7
Jacksonville Police Department	16

Johnston County Sheriff's Office	14
Kannapolis Police Department	8
Kenly Police Department	1
Kernersville Police Department	6
Kill Devil Hills Police Department	1
King Police Department	1
Kings Mountain Police Department	3
Kinston Police Department	6
Kitty Hawk Police Department	1
Knightdale Police Department	2
Kure Beach Police Department	2
L.E.S.S.	10
Laurinburg Police Department	3
Lee County Sheriff's Office	1
Leland Police Department	3
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office	4
Lenoir Police Department	10
Lexington Police Department	5
Lillington Police Department	2
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	14
Lincolnton Police Department	5
Longview Police Department	1
Louisburg Police Department	1
Lowell Police Department	2
Lumberton Police Department	8
Macon County Sheriff's Office	5
Madison County Sheriff's Office	3
Madison Police Department	1
Marion Police Department	2
Marshville Police Department	1
Martin County Sheriff's Office	1
Matthews Police Department	6
Mayodan Police Department	1
McDowell County Sheriff's Office	7
Mebane Police Department	1
Mint Hill Police Department	1
Misenheimer Police Department	1
Mitchell County Sheriff's Office	2
Monroe Police Department	19
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	3

Moore County Sheriff's Office	8
Mooresville Police Department	5
Morehead City Police Department	4
Morganton Department of Public Safety	7
Morrisville Police Department	3
Mount Airy Police Department	3
Mount Gilead Police Department	1
Mount Holly Police Department	7
Mount Olive Police Department	1
Murphy Police Department	1
N.C. A & T University Police Department	1
N.C. State University Police	2
Nags Head Police Department	1
Nash County Sheriff's Office	4
Nashville Police Department	1
NC State Bureau of Investigation	3
New Bern Police Department	9
New Hanover County Sheriff's Office	21
Oak Island Police Department	1
Oakboro Police Department	2
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	19
Orange County Sheriff's Office	7
Oxford Police Department	2
Pamlico County Sheriff's Office	3
Pembroke Police Department	3
Pender County Sheriff's Office	7
Perquimans County Sheriff's Office	2
Person County Sheriff's Office	4
Pikeville Police Department	1
Pilot Mountain Police Department	1
Pine Level Police Department	1
Pineville Police Department	2
Pink Hill Police Department	1
Pitt County Sheriff's Office	4
Plymouth Police Department	3
Polk County Sheriff's Office	1
Polkton Police Department	1
Raeford Police Department	1
Raleigh Police Department	96
Randleman Police Department	3

Randolph County Sheriff's Office	7
Ranlo Police Department	1
Red Springs Police Department	1
Reidsville Police Department	1
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	3
Roanoke Rapids Police Department	5
Robersonville Police Department	1
Robeson County Sheriff's Office	23
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office	1
Rockingham Police Department	3
Rockwell Police Department	1
Rocky Mount Police Department	16
Rowan County Sheriff's Office	9
Roxboro Fire Department	1
Roxboro Police Department	1
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	9
Rutherfordton Police Department	1
Saint Augustine's University Campus	1
Salisbury Police Department	12
Sampson County Sheriff's Office	11
Sanford Police Department	1
Scotland County Sheriff's Office	6
Selma Police Department	2
Shelby Police Department	6
Siler City Police Department	2
Smithfield Police Department	3
Southern Pines Police Department	3
Southern Shores Police Department	1
Southport Police Department	1
Sparta Police Department	1
Spencer Police Department	3
Spindale Police Department	1
Spring Lake Police Department	3
St. Pauls Police Department	1
Stanly County Sheriff's Office	5
Stantonsburg Police Department	1
State Capitol Police	1
Statesville Police Department	5
Stokes County Sheriff's Office	5
Stoneville Police Department	1

Sunset Beach Police Department	1
Surry County Sheriff's Office	7
Swain County Sheriff's Office	4
Tabor City Police Department	3
Tarboro Police Department	3
Thomasville Police Department	9
Topsail Beach Police Department	1
Transylvania County Sheriff's Office	2
Troutman Police Department	1
Tyrrell County Sheriff's Office	1
UNC Greensboro Police Department	1
UNC Hospitals Police	28
UNC Wilmington Police Department	1
Union County Sheriff's Office	14
Vance County Sheriff's Office	1
Vanceboro Police Department	1
Wadesboro Police Department	3
Wake County Sheriff's Office	14
Wake Forest Police Department	6
WakeMed Campus Police	1
Washington County Sheriff's Office	1
Washington Police Department	2
Watauga County Sheriff's Office	3
Waxhaw Police Department	1
Wayne County Sheriff's Office	9
Waynesville Police Department	1
Weaverville Police Department	1
Wendell Police Department	1
West Jefferson Police Department	1
Western Carolina University	1
Whiteville Police Department	3
Wilkes County Sheriff's Office	5
Williamston Police Department	1
Wilmington Police Department	48
Wilson County Sheriff's Office	4
Wilson Police Department	10
Windsor Police Department	2
Winston-Salem Police Department	71
Wrightsville Beach Police Department	1
Yadkin County Sheriff's Office	3

| Yadkinville Police Department | 1 |
| Yancey County Sheriff's Department | 2 |