North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

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Senator Danny Britt
Representative Ted Davis, Jr.
Representative Carson Smith
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, Davis, and Smith,

Pursuant to North Carolina 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 23-24 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,

Amanda Thompson
Director
North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

cc: Mark White, Fiscal Research Division
        Morgan Weiss, Fiscal Research Division
        Meredith Randolph, 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 16,265 previously untested SAECKs, which includes 1,413 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/
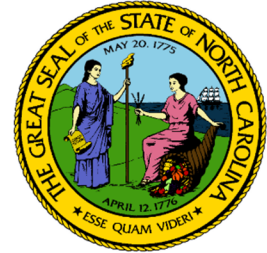
Screenshot of STIMS Web Portal:

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.
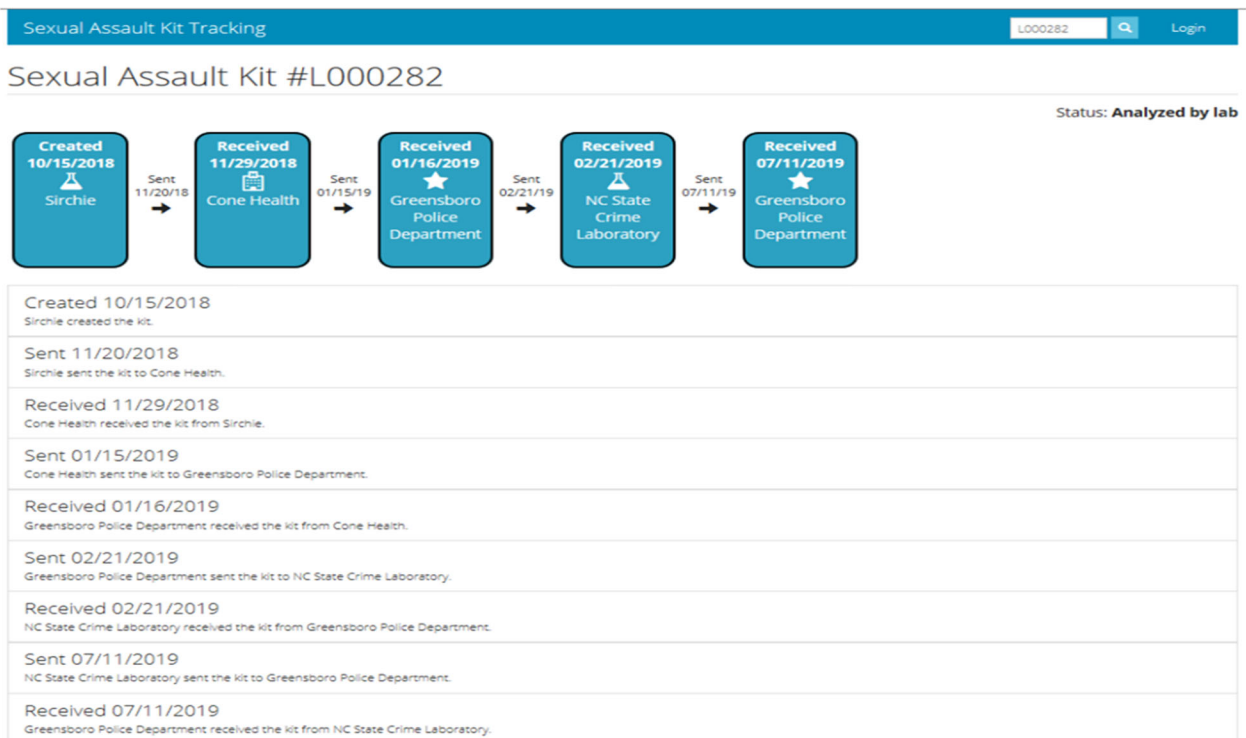
Resources for Survivors and System Users

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 (🔍)

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:

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 23-24, 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 23-24
1	The number of tracking-enabled kits shipped to medical facilities or medical providers.	2,699
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.	2,437
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.	2,113
4	Of the tracking-enabled kits generated for reported cases, the number of kits submitted to a laboratory for forensic testing.[1]	2,783
5	Of the tracking-enabled kits submitted for forensic testing, the number of kits for which forensic testing has been completed.	1,170
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.	315
7	Information regarding efforts to track and test previously untested kits described in subsection (e) of this section.	16

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[1] *The number of kits submitted to the lab in 4 above may be higher due to fiscal year crossover.*

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), 16 untested kits have been inventoried and entered into STIMS in FY 2023-2024. **16,265** untested kits have been inventoried to date.

Attachment 1

FY 23-24 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	42
Alamance County Sheriff's Office	5
Albemarle Police Department	10
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	1
Alleghany County Sheriff's Office	1
Angier Police Department	2
Anson County Sheriff's Office	1
Apex Police Department	3
Appalachian Regional Healthcare System Police Department	1
Appalachian State University Police	2
Archdale Police Department	1
Ashe County Sheriff's Office	2
Asheboro Police Department	2
Asheville Police Department	39
Atlantic Beach Police Department	1
Avery County Sheriff's Office	2
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	8
Beaufort Police Department	1
Beech Mountain Police Department	1
Benson Police Department	1
Bertie County Sheriff's Office	4
Beulaville Police Department	3
Black Mountain Police Department	1
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	1
Bladenboro Police Department	1
Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department	2
Boiling Springs Police Department	1
Boone Police Department	4
Brevard Police Department	1
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	14
Buncombe County Sheriff's Department	22
Burgaw Police Department	2
Burke County Sheriff's Office	3
Burlington Police Department	19
Butner Public Safety Department	2
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	6

Agency	Number of Kits
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	11
Candor Police Department	1
Canton Police Department	1
Cape Carteret Police Department	1
Carolina Beach Police Department	2
Carrboro Police Department	1
Carteret County Sheriff's Office	3
Cary Police Department	7
Caswell County Sheriff's Office	3
Catawba County Sheriff's Office	11
Catawba Police Department	1
Chapel Hill Police Department	11
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department	328
Chatham County Sheriff's Office	8
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	3
Cherokee Police Department	5
Cherry-O'Berry Hospital Police	1
Chowan County Sheriff's Office	2
City-County Bureau of Identification	2
Clay County Sheriff's Office	3
Clayton Police Department	7
Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	9
Cleveland Police Department	1
Columbus County Sheriff's Office	4
Concord Police Department	30
Conover Police Department	1
Cornelius Police Department	4
Craven County Sheriff's Office	7
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department	27
Currituck County Sheriff's Office	3
Dallas Police Department	1
Dare County Sheriff's Office	2
Davidson College Public Safety	1
Davidson County Sheriff's Office	9
Davie County Sheriff's Office	8
Dobson Police Department	1
Duke University Police Department	13
Dunn Police Department	4
Duplin County Sheriff's Office	4
Durham County Sheriff's Office	7

Agency	Number of Kits
Durham Police Department	60
East Carolina University Police Department	3
Eden Police Department	6
Edenton Police Department	2
Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office	1
Elizabeth City Police Department	2
Elizabeth City State University Police	1
Elon Police Department	1
Elon University Campus Safety and Police Department	2
Fair Bluff Police Department	1
Fayetteville Police Department	76
Federal Bureau of Prisons	4
Fletcher Police Department	1
Forest City Police Department	4
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	17
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	7
Franklin Police Department	1
Fuquay-Varina Police Department	6
Gardner-Webb University Campus Police	2
Garner Police Department	3
Gaston County Police Department	19
Gaston County Sheriff's Office	2
Gaston Police Department	1
Gastonia Police Department	23
Gibsonville Police Department	3
Goldsboro Police Department	12
Graham County Sheriff's Office	2
Graham Police Department	2
Granville County Sheriff's Office	2
Greene County Sheriff's Office	2
Greensboro Police Department	70
Greenville Police Department	23
Guilford County Sheriff's Office	16
Halifax County Sheriff's Office	7
Harnett County Sheriff's Department	18
Havelock Police Department	2
Haw River Police Department	2
Haywood County Sheriff's Office	8
Henderson County Sheriff's Office	5
Hendersonville Police Department	4

Agency	Number of Kits
Hertford County Sheriff's Office	1
Hickory Police Department	13
High Point Police Department	21
High Point University Police Department	1
Hillsborough Police Department	1
Hoke County Sheriff's Office	5
Holly Ridge Police Department	1
Holly Springs Police Department	6
Huntersville Police Department	8
Hyde County Sheriff's Office	1
Iredell County Sheriff's Office	9
Jackson County Sheriff's Office	3
Jackson Police Department	1
Jacksonville Police Department	16
Johnson C. Smith University Police Department	1
Johnston County Sheriff's Office	19
Jones County Sheriff's Office	1
Kannapolis Police Department	10
Kenly Police Department	3
Kernersville Police Department	3
Kings Mountain Police Department	2
Kinston Police Department	4
L.E.S.S.	2
Laurinburg Police Department	5
Lee County Sheriff's Office	2
Leland Police Department	4
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office	2
Lenoir Police Department	3
Lexington Police Department	3
Lillington Police Department	3
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	15
Lincolnton Police Department	4
Locust Police Department	1
Longview Police Department	2
Louisburg Police Department	1
Lumberton Police Department	13
Macon County Sheriff's Office	6
Marion Police Department	2
Marshville Police Department	1
Matthews Police Department	7

Agency	Number of Kits
McDowell County Sheriff's Office	8
Mebane Police Department	5
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office	4
Mint Hill Police Department	3
Mitchell County Sheriff's Office	3
Monroe Police Department	11
Moore County Sheriff's Office	16
Mooresville Police Department	8
Morehead City Police Department	3
Morganton Department of Public Safety	7
Morrisville Police Department	4
Mount Airy Police Department	3
Mount Holly Police Department	3
Mount Olive Police Department	1
Murphy Police Department	2
N.C. Central University	4
N.C. Department of Correction	1
N.C. DOC-Goldsboro	1
N.C. State University Police	3
Nash County Sheriff's Office	7
Nashville Police Department	1
NC State Bureau of Investigation	2
New Bern Police Department	7
New Hanover County Sheriff's Office	29
New Hanover Regional Special Police	1
Newport Police Department	1
Newton Police Department	1
North Carolina Highway Patrol	1
North Wilkesboro Police Department	2
Northampton County Sheriff's Office	1
Oak Island Police Department	1
Ocean Isle Police Department	1
Old Fort Police Department	1
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	17
Orange County Sheriff's Office	5
Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office	2
Pembroke Police Department	3
Pender County Sheriff's Office	11
Perquimans County Sheriff's Office	2
Person County Sheriff's Office	1

Agency	Number of Kits
Pinehurst Police Department	1
Pineville Police Department	2
Pitt County Sheriff's Office	9
Polk County Sheriff's Office	3
Polkton Police Department	1
Princeton Police Department	1
Raeford Police Department	3
Raleigh Police Department	93
Randleman Police Department	2
Randolph County Sheriff's Office	4
Ranlo Police Department	2
Red Springs Police Department	2
Reidsville Police Department	2
Richlands Police Department	1
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	4
Roanoke Rapids Police Department	2
Robeson County Sheriff's Office	16
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office	6
Rockingham Police Department	6
Rockwell Police Department	1
Rocky Mount Police Department	16
Rowan County Sheriff's Office	5
Roxboro Police Department	1
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	4
Rutherfordton Police Department	1
Salisbury Police Department	12
Saluda Police Department	1
Sampson County Sheriff's Office	10
Sanford Police Department	10
Scotland County Sheriff's Office	6
Selma Police Department	3
Shallotte Police Department	2
Sharpsburg Police Department	1
Shelby Police Department	11
Smithfield Police Department	4
Southern Pines Police Department	3
Spring Lake Police Department	2
Spruce Pine Police Department	1
St. Pauls Police Department	1
Stanly County Sheriff's Office	6

Agency	Number of Kits
State Capitol Police	1
Statesville Police Department	10
Stokes County Sheriff's Office	3
Surf City Police Department	1
Surry County Sheriff's Office	4
Sylva Police Department	1
Tarboro Police Department	3
Thomasville Police Department	4
Transylvania County Sheriff's Office	6
Trent Woods Police Department	1
Troy Police Department	2
UNC Greensboro Police Department	1
UNC Hospitals Police	31
UNC Wilmington Police Department	4
Union County Sheriff's Office	16
Veterans Affairs Medical - Durham	1
Vidant Medical Center Company Police	5
Wadesboro Police Department	2
Wake County Sheriff's Office	10
Wake Forest Police Department	5
Wake Med Campus Police	2
Warren County Sheriff's Office	5
Washington Police Department	2
Watauga County Sheriff's Office	4
Wayne County Sheriff's Office	11
Waynesville Police Department	3
Weaverville Police Department	2
Wendell Police Department	3
Western Carolina University	3
Whiteville Police Department	4
Wilkes County Sheriff's Office	11
Wilkesboro Police Department	2
Wilmington Police Department	27
Wilson Police Department	11
Winston-Salem Police Department	68
Winterville Police Department	2
Woodfin Police Department	1
Wrightsville Beach Police Department	1
Yadkin County Sheriff's Office	2
Yancey County Sheriff's Department	1