

**Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR)  
Performance measures for semi-annual Reporting  
Reporting Period 01/01/21 – 06/30/21**

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<b>Project/Grant Period</b>	01/01/2019 – 12/31/2021
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<b>Report Term/Frequency</b>	Semi-Annual
<b>Contact Name</b>	Tom Kaempfer
<b>Title</b>	Administrator II
<b>Phone Number</b>	(603)315-7979
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:Thomas.Kaempfer@doj.nh.gov">Thomas.Kaempfer@doj.nh.gov</a>

**Accomplishments**

<b>What are the major goals of the project?</b>	<b>Activity/Milestone</b>	<b>Percentage of Completion</b>
<b>SAFE-ITR Outreach, Education, Prevention</b>	<p>Program outreach and education was ongoing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• law enforcement agencies around the State, to include attending a meeting with the NH Association of Chiefs of Police on 4/13/21 to discuss this Initiative and next steps</li> <li>• County Attorneys around the State, to include attending a 2/21/21 meeting with the NH Attorney General’s Office and all County Attorneys around the State to discuss this Initiative and next steps</li> <li>• the NH Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Coordinator</li> <li>• the Attorney General’s Sexual Assault &amp; Nurse Examiner (SANE) Advisory Board</li> </ul> <p>This proactive outreach strives to ensure that all sexual assault evidence kits throughout the State are being delivered to the NH State Police Forensic Laboratory (Lab) in a timely fashion and to prevent an increase in unsubmitted sexual assault evidence kits (SAEKs) before a tracking system is up and running.</p>	Completed and will be Ongoing

	<p>Following the County Attorney meeting, on 2/22/21, Deputy Attorney General Jane Young sent a Memorandum to all County Attorneys and Law Enforcement Agencies to ensure that they are prepared to receive the influx of Reports of Laboratory Examination associated with the testing of kits and ensure that those reports are properly assessed and acted upon.</p> <p>Agencies were encouraged to contact the SAFE-ITR Coordinator with any questions. Agencies were thanked for their anticipated cooperation as NH strives to provide all sexual assault victims with the most complete investigation possible.</p>	
<p><b>Continued Partnership with NH State Police Forensic Laboratory</b></p> <p><b>Movement of previously unsubmitted SAEKs to the NH State Forensic Laboratory</b></p>	<p>The partnership formed with the NH State Police Forensic Lab (Lab) in the previous grant periods continued during this grant period. The Lab worked through their capacity issues so they could accept more unsubmitted SAEKs.</p> <p>On 4/13/21, the Lab informed the NH DOJ SAFE-ITR Coordinator that this Initiative could move from triaging unsubmitted SAEKs for submission to the Lab to having agencies deliver the remainder of their previously unsubmitted SAEKs at once.</p> <p>The increased lab capacity resulted in law enforcement delivering approximately <b>324 additional previously unsubmitted SAEKs</b> to the lab in this reporting period, for a total of <b>374 kits</b> in the past 18 months of work on this Initiative.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Approx. 90% Complete and Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Return of SAEKs with incomplete analysis to the NH State Forensic Laboratory</b></p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator and the Forensic Lab continued working together to identify SAEKs that were previously submitted to the lab but were not tested according to today’s standards.</p> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator did outreach with law enforcement requesting kit in the “incomplete analysis” category be returned to the Lab. This includes kits that were submitted but not analyzed at all as well as kits that were partially analyzed (ex. Serology completed but not DNA).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<b>Education on Anonymous Kits</b>	<p>A total of 79 additional kits in this category, all from 2015 – 2017, were resubmitted to the lab for further analysis during this reporting period, for a total of 89 kits since work began on this Initiative.</p>	
	<p>Approximately 174 kits in NH’s previously unsubmitted kit inventory have been identified as Anonymous kits. Although NH protocol is that ALL kits, to include Anonymous kits, should be submitted to the Lab, Anonymous kits are not tested in NH. Instead, they are held for 60 days and then returned to law enforcement unanalyzed. Therefore, the Lab will not accept previously unsubmitted Anonymous Kits that were collected more than 60 days ago and for which a victim has not come forward.</p> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continues to request that law enforcement research and verify that a victim has not come forward in the time since the kit was collected anonymously. In cases where a victim subsequently came forward, those kits are being submitted to the Lab.</p> <p>The Anonymous kit process has been identified as in need of clarification and this is being discussed with the SANE Advisory Board and with the SART Coordinator, in anticipation of being able to enhance the statewide protocols.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<b>NH State Police Forensic Lab SAFE-ITR Results</b>	<p>On 7/23/21, the Lab shared the following SAFE-ITR Results for this report:</p> <p><i>175 SAFE-ITR SAK cases have been outsourced by the lab to a private vendor during this grant period, 60 case results have been received from the private vendor during this reporting period. Eligible profiles are being reviewed, will be uploaded to CODIS, and reported to the appropriate agencies in the next reporting period. It is estimated that about 50% of the sexual assault kits will have a CODIS eligible profile.</i></p> <p><i>441 cases have arrived at the lab. One hundred and fifty more will be batched for outsourcing to an external vendor lab starting in July 2021.</i></p>	

<p><b>What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?</b></p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator has participated in online trainings relevant to the objective of this project to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 2021 End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) Virtual Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Resilience in April 2021. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator focused on courses relevant to SAEK issues</li> <li>• the 2021 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Assembly of Cities in April 2021</li> </ul> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continues to receive training announcements from the SAKI TTA and signs up for relevant training and uses and shares <a href="http://sakitta.org">sakitta.org</a> as a resource.</p>
<p><b>How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?</b></p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator regularly communicates with the NH Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Office of Victim and Witness Assistance and with the Sexual Assault and Nurse Examiner Advisory Board (SANE Board). This multi-disciplinary SANE Board has quarterly meetings but the SAFE-ITR Coordinator communicates and consults with Board Members on a regular and as needed basis.</p> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator also regularly communicates with law enforcement and the NH SART Coordinator in an effort to share information learned from this project so that NH’s response to sexual assault can be enhanced.</p>
<p><b>What do you plan to do during the next reporting period during to accomplish the goals?</b></p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator will follow up on approximately 30 additional unsubmitted SAEKs identified in NH’s inventory that have not yet been delivered to the lab.</p> <p>The Lab plans to do further research to identify previously submitted kits from past years that should be resubmitted due to “incomplete analysis.” Once a list of kits is received from the Lab, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator will continue to coordinate with law enforcement.</p> <p>As it is anticipated that a large number of SAEK Lab results will be received in the next reporting period, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator will continue to collaborate with law enforcement and County Attorney Offices to share resources and best</p>



## **NH SAFE-ITR Performance Measures through 6/30/21**

### **Number of SAEKs that are in the possession of the applicant agency at the beginning of the award period: 0**

The NH DOJ does not possess SAEKs; SAEKs are held as evidence at individual police departments around the State. Law Enforcement agencies from around the State self-reported the four digit kit serial numbers for unsubmitted kits. 772 individual kit serial numbers have been accounted for since NH's inventory of unsubmitted SAEKs began in 2017 and throughout this period that it has been updated.

### **Number of SAEKs inventoried during the reporting period:**

463 SAEK's have moved to the NH State Police Forensic Lab to date and that number is expected to increase.

### **Number of SAEKs that do not require testing.**

Of the 463 kits, the NH State Police Forensic Lab will determine which kits are not eligible for testing pursuant to their protocol and standards. Approximately 35 additional kits initially identified as unsubmitted in the NH inventory of kits will not move to the lab as they have been destroyed, were utilized for reasons other than sexual assault evidence, or were determined to be associated with false reports. Additionally, 25 kits to date have been transferred out-of-state for jurisdictional reasons. 174 Anonymous kits do not require testing unless/until a victim comes forward.

### **Percentage of unsubmitted SAEKs identified as needing forensic testing:**

This will be determined by the NH State Police Forensic Lab pursuant to their protocols and standards. The Lab provides reports to the law enforcement agencies submitting the kit and the respective County Attorney Office, therefore the NH DOJ and the SAFE-ITR Coordinator do not have access to individual lab reports or data generated as a result of this Initiative. Please see aggregate data provided by the Lab in the section titled NH State Police Forensic Lab SAFE-ITR Results.

### **Percentage of unsubmitted SAEKs sent to the laboratory for testing.**

Approximately 90% of unsubmitted SAEK's have been sent to the Lab for testing.

### **Percent reduction in the number of unsubmitted SAEKs requiring DNA testing.**

This metric will need to be provided by the NH State Police Forensic Lab when available. The Lab continues to work with a vendor lab to outsource kits and has sought additional funding to continue analysis of SAEKs.

### **Number of SAEKs inventoried and reported that:**

- A. Were identified as previously tested: **77**
- B. Do not require testing. **35**
- C. Were sent to the laboratory for testing: **463**

D. Had a final disposition (e.g., were adjudicated): **Unknown. Without access to an automated tracking system, there is currently no way to track this. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator and Lab personnel have discussed ways to achieve this, and also reviewed the "CODIS Hit Follow-UP" link on North Carolina DOJ's website. This asks agencies to input dispositions such as arrests and convictions if there was a change in investigation status due to a CODIS hit.**

**Number of deliverables that meet expectations.**

- Deployment of an automated information system: **This is incomplete and requires the assistance of the NH Department of Information Technology (DOIT).**
- Commencement and completion of inventory: **The inventory was completed previously and continues to be updated as additional data becomes available.**
- Commencement of tracking and reporting on SAEK movement: **This will be dependent on the deployment of an automated information system with the assistance of the NH Department of Information Technology (DOIT).**

**Develop website to report metrics**

- Development of a public website to report metrics as listed in Task 3: Reporting.
- Maintain website that reports metrics
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- Number of reports submitted on time.
- Number of reports posted publicly on the website developed for Task 3: Reporting.

**The website and posting of reports will be a priority in the next reporting period.**