

**Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR)  
Performance measures for Quarterly Reporting  
Reporting Period 07/01/20 – 12/31/20**

<b>Award Number</b>	2018-DN-BX-0163
<b>Project/Grant Period</b>	01/01/2019 – 12/31/2021
<b>Recipient Organization</b>	NH Department of Justice
<b>DUNS Number</b>	808591127
<b>EIN Number</b>	026002618
<b>Reporting Period</b>	07/01/2020 – 12/31/2020
<b>Report Term/Frequency</b>	Semi-Annual
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**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>With the challenges of 2020, particularly those related to COVID-19, the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK) tracking system could not be implemented as anticipated. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator had to pivot and focus on outreach, education, and prevention. Program outreach and education was ongoing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all 10 county attorneys’ offices</li> <li>• Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners</li> <li>• law enforcement agencies</li> <li>• Sexual Assault Resource Teams (SART)</li> <li>• Multi-disciplinary teams from Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) around the State</li> <li>• the Granite State Children’s Alliance</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 in a timely fashion and to prevent an increase in unsubmitted SAEKs before a tracking system is up and running.</p>	Approx. 90% and ongoing
	<p>The partnership formed with the NH State Police Forensic Lab in the previous grant period continued during this grant period. There is an ongoing concerted effort to identify and triage unsubmitted SAEKs for submission to the Lab, as lab capacity allows.</p>	Ongoing
<b>SAFE-ITR Coordinator Partnerships with Law Enforcement and NH State Police Forensic Laboratory</b>		

	<p>It is recognized that inventory data is only a snapshot in time therefore the SAEK inventory is an ongoing process. The number of SAEKs constantly fluctuates as additional unsubmitted SAEKs in evidence rooms at law enforcement agencies throughout the state are identified and as it is learned that other kits previously reported as unsubmitted were in fact submitted to the Forensic Lab after the initial data was collected. As they become available, Forensic laboratory case numbers are being paired with SAEK serial numbers, to mark those SAEKs as resolved in the unsubmitted kit inventory.</p>	
	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator and the Forensic Lab are also working together to identify SAEKs that were submitted to the lab but were not tested according to today's standards. 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). As SAEKs in this "incomplete analysis" category have been identified by the lab or law enforcement, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator has asked law enforcement to return the kits, or their lab-created sub-exhibits, to the lab so an analysis can be completed.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Although previously unsubmitted Anonymous Kits will not move to the Forensic Lab as part of this project, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator is requesting that law enforcement verify that a victim has not come forward since the kit was collected anonymously. In cases were a victim subsequently came forward, those kits are also being triaged and submitted to the Forensic Lab.</p> <p>To more easily identify SAEKs in this category going forward, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator proposed that the next edition of SAEKs being manufactured will have a check box to indicate when an anonymous kit is converted to a known victim case.</p>	Ongoing
<p><b>What was accomplished under these goals?</b></p>	<p>After SAEK triaging, over 50 previously unsubmitted kits were moved to the Forensic Lab in 2020. More than 10 previously submitted but incomplete SAEKs from 2015 were returned to the</p>	

<p><b>Movement of previously unsubmitted SAEKs and SAEKs with incomplete analysis from law enforcement to NH State Forensic Laboratory</b></p>	<p>lab. Forensic Lab capacity was a challenge in 2020 however the Forensic Lab recently shipped the first batch of SAEKs to an outsourcing lab, which has opened up lab capacity for 2021.</p> <p>More than 50 additional SAEKs from 2015 and 2016 have been identified as having incomplete analysis. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator will be notifying Law enforcement and requesting that the SAEK be returned to the Forensic Lab.</p>
<p><b>NH Forensic Lab Results for 2020</b></p>	<p>On 1/25/21, the Forensic Lab shared the following results for 2020:</p> <p><i>13 SAFE-ITR SAK cases were tested at the lab during this grant period, 7 were negative in Serology or could not be tested due to the details provided (such as time between assault and kit collection), 5 did not contain enough DNA to develop a CODIS eligible profile, 1 had a CODIS profile entered.</i></p> <p><i>89 additional cases have arrived at the lab and are being batched for outsourcing to an external vendor lab starting in January 2021.</i></p>
<p><b>Resource for SANE Nurses and Law Enforcement facing challenges with SAEKs</b></p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator has also become a resource for SANE Nurses facing challenges with SAEK pick-up from hospitals and for law enforcement facing challenges with SAEK transfer to the correct agency of jurisdiction, particularly with SAEKs that involve other states. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator strives to identify, resolve, and prevent future issues related to SAEKs.</p>
<p><b>Improvements to NH’s response to Sexual Assault</b></p>	<p>Another enhancement being made to the next batch of SAEK being manufactured is a space on the kit box to identify case jurisdiction, specifically city and state. This will hopefully ensure that all kits are transferred to the correct jurisdiction and that SAEK collected in NH for crimes committed in other states are transferred to the correct jurisdiction in a timely fashion.</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 webinars on:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How Law Enforcement leaders can Build a Trauma Informed Culture at Their Agency</li> <li>• Cold Case: Learning from the Ghosts of Investigations Past</li> <li>• SAKI Meeting the Experts Series</li> <li>• Foundations for Investigation: Cold Case Sexual Assault</li> <li>• Implicit Bias training for the State of NH</li> </ul> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator has signed up for the 2021 EVAWI Virtual Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Resilience, which has courses on SAEK issues.</p>
<p><b>How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?</b></p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator regularly communicates to the NH Attorney General’s Sexual Assault and Nurse Examiner Advisory Board (SAB). This multi-disciplinary 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 has regularly communicated with law enforcement, the NH SART Coordinator, SART Teams and CAC multi-disciplinary Teams around the State, 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 to accomplish the goals?</b></p>	<p>As Forensic Lab capacity allows, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator will continue having law enforcement deliver previously unsubmitted SAEKs to the lab. It is anticipated that during the next reporting period, all SAEKs still within statute of limitations (SOL) will have been delivered to the lab. This includes SAEKs associated with cases that may potentially have an extended SOL due to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the SAEK being collected on a juvenile</li> <li>• the offender having left the State of NH</li> </ul> <p>In addition to SAEKs still within SOL, it is anticipated that all SAEKs that may be related to a repeat or serial offender as well as all kits that a law enforcement agency believes should be prioritized under this project, will also move to the lab during the next reporting period.</p> <p>As the lab continues to identify previously submitted kits that need to be returned to the lab due to incomplete analysis, the SAFE-ITR</p>

<p><b>Sexual Assault Evidence kit Tracking System</b></p>	<p>Coordinator will continue to coordinate with law enforcement.</p> <p>As a large number of SAEK lab results will be received in the next reporting period, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator will be collaborating with law enforcement and County Attorney Offices to share resources and best practice on cold-case victim notification of lab results when appropriate. The SAFE-ITR coordinator hopes that continued education on this topic will ensure that the lab results are considered, cases that may still be viable are reopened, and that the system learns from this project.</p> <p>A proposed tracking system is currently pending review by DOJ Director of Law Office Infrastructure and the NH Department of Information Technology. The DOJ Office has an ongoing relationship with the proposed vendor for Victim Compensation software and it is anticipated there will soon be progress in implementing NH's SAEK tracking system. This tracking system will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A victim portal so that victims can track the location status of their kit</li><li>• An updater portal so that medical professionals, law enforcement, and the lab can update the status of the SAEK</li><li>• An administrative portal. Once a tracking system for current kits is up and running, reports can be run so that the additional goal of a website to report metrics can be pursued.</li></ul>
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