
2021 SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT TRACKING REPORT

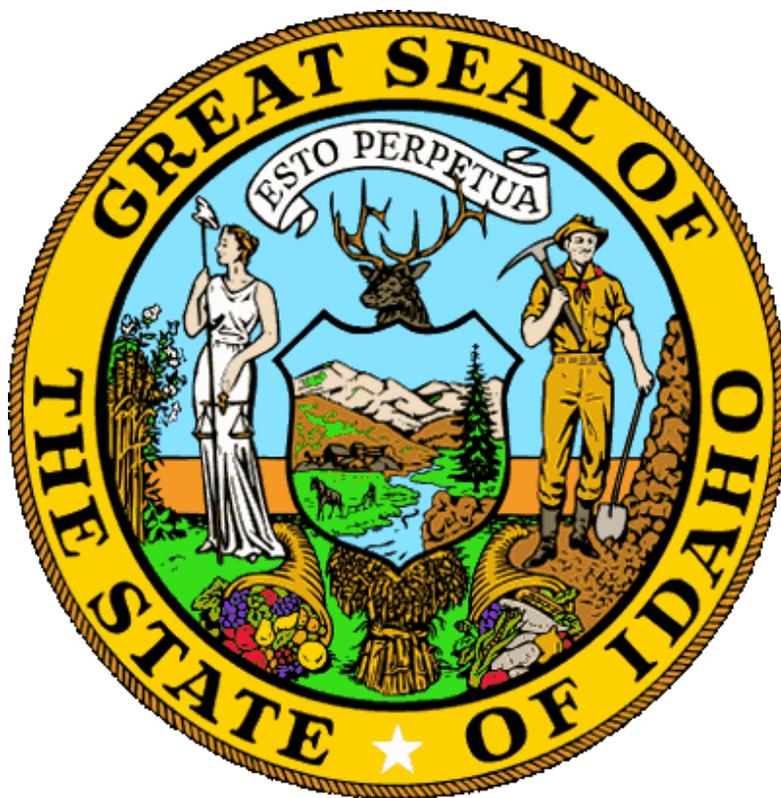


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Introduction

Idaho Code 67-2919 requires Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) to provide a legislative report regarding sexual assault kits in Idaho on or before January 20th of each year. The requirements of this annual report include, but are not limited to, the number of kits purchased and distributed by ISPFS, the number of kits collected by each law enforcement agency, the number of kits tested by ISPFS, the number of kits not submitted to ISPFS when requirements for submission were met, the number of DNA database hits from sexual assault cases, and a list of any law enforcement agencies that did not adhere to the tracking process. This report also contains updates made to the Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System (IKTS), statistics from the ISPFS crime lab, and issues related to sexual assault kit tracking and processing during the 2021 calendar year.

Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System (IKTS)

In January of 2017 Idaho became the first state to fully implement a statewide sexual assault kit tracking system. This tracking system **provides greater public accountability and transparency, allows victims to see the state taking this issue seriously, provides better direction and tools to law enforcement, provides more resources to the state forensic laboratory, improves healthcare after sexual assault, and ultimately provides a better criminal justice system.**

<https://www.isp.idaho.gov/SexualAssaultKitTracking>

In fall of 2016, ISPFS began collaborating with in-house Idaho State Police (ISP) web developers on the IKTS software. Beta products were vetted through the Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (ISAKI) working group and especially with the victim advocacy groups in Idaho. The IKTS system took four programmers approximately four months to complete the programming development. The IKTS system was designed with the end-user in mind, allowing ease of use with a minimum of time needed to enter the kits. IKTS is web-based and can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection. It is compatible with most mobile devices. Sexual assault survivors can track their kit status without having to remember a login or provide any personal information. Survivors are provided with a tracking number for their kit, allowing them to track it through the evidence examination and storage process. Survivors can see if the evidence resulted in an entry to the national DNA database (commonly known as CODIS), if a hit was obtained, and the forecast retention period for the kit when held by law enforcement. The general public can also see this information by entering a kit number in the search bar. Use of this system has resulted in several survivors asking additional questions of law enforcement, the forensic lab, and even Idaho legislators. On several occasions, problems were identified, and roadblocks were overcome by the survivors actively participating in the process. IKTS has a unique secure login for each lab, law enforcement, medical facility, and prosecutor's office user. These medical, laboratory and criminal justice users enter milestones as the kit proceeds through the collection, analysis, investigation, and retention processes. While IKTS continues to work efficiently, small changes and updates have been and will continue to be made as we become more familiar with the software and its capabilities to further improve the user experience and to more easily access kit data and statistics.

Training

In 2021, ISPFS hosted trainings and a number of interactive telephone follow-up/refresher sessions with user agencies. On-demand tutorial videos are posted for additional individuals to be able to take or refresh training at their own pace. ISPFS and the IKTS Administrator will continue to individually train new users. The legislature provided one administrative staff person at ISPFS for overseeing kit tracking and they will continue to be responsible for providing training and assistance to all IKTS users.

Sexual Assault Kit Inventory

Idaho State Police Forensic Services procures the sexual assault evidence collection kits with a legislative appropriation and per state purchasing rules and agreements. The new kits are entered into the IKTS system by ISPFs using a unique serial number on the box. The kits are then distributed to hospitals, clinics, and other collection entities in Idaho. During the 2021 calendar year, ISPFs purchased six hundred and forty (640) new sexual assault kits. Of the total unused sexual assault kits in inventory, ISPFs distributed a total of five hundred and twelve (512) total kits to collection facilities across the state throughout 2021. ISPFs tracks unused kit inventory at the medical facilities. This tracking helps avoid misuse and waste.

Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations

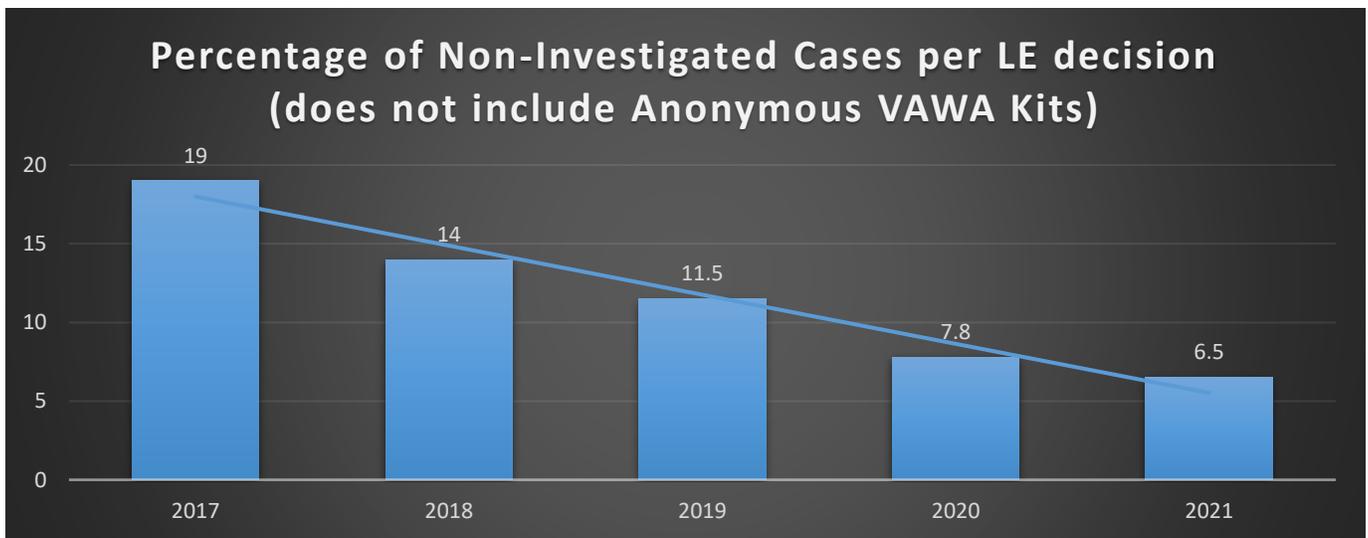
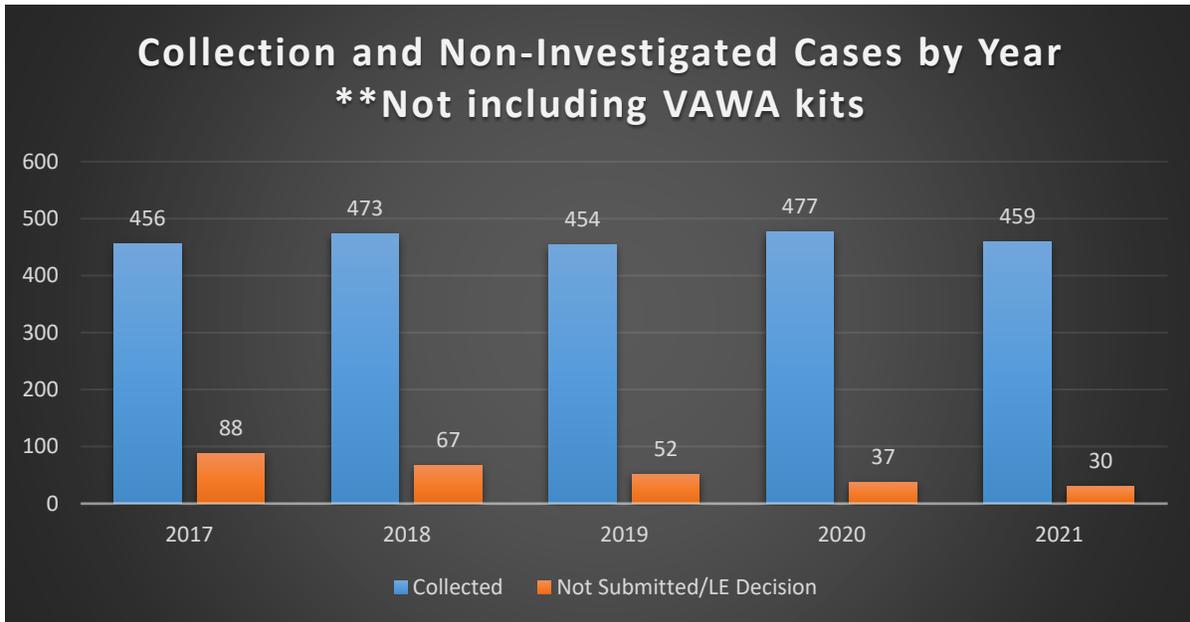
Hospitals and clinics performing sexual assault medical forensic examinations resulted in the collection of four hundred and fifty-nine (459) kits between January 1st and December 31st, 2021. By comparison, there were four hundred and seventy-seven (477) kits between January 1st and December 31st, 2020 and four hundred and fifty-four (454) kits between January 1st and December 31st, 2019. The average number of days a collected kit was at a medical facility before being transferred to a law enforcement entity in 2021 was seven (7). While the majority of these collections happened at Idaho facilities, some Idaho kits are collected at hospitals in adjoining states. Likewise, some kits collected in Idaho medical facilities are sent to law enforcement agencies in other states for investigation. There are some instances where a survivor from a crime that happened in Idaho has a medical forensic examination in a surrounding state medical facility. When a kit from another state is provided to law enforcement, it is given an Idaho serial number and tracked from that point on in the IKTS system.

Law Enforcement Decisions

Idaho Code 67-2919 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain the kit from the collection facility and either submit the kit to ISPFs for analysis or document the decision not to test the kit (per subsection 8 of the statute) within 30 days. The average time it took Idaho law enforcement agencies to submit kits to ISPFs in 2021 was twenty-four (24) days. A breakdown of the submission time for each law enforcement agency in Idaho is listed in Appendix F.

The original version of Idaho Code 67-2919 did not require submission of a kit to the lab for testing when there was no evidence to support a crime being committed, a case was no longer being investigated as a crime or when an adult victim expressly indicated that no further forensic examination or testing occur. Anonymously collected kits are not to be tested under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors had concerns with the possible interpretations of this legislative wording. ISPFs worked in concert with law enforcement to provide further clarification. ISPFs continued to work with the Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (ISAKI) working group to better understand the decision making process used by law enforcement and to help clarify state statute. During the ISAKI meetings, a change was proposed and accepted to move towards a “test all” kits legislation. The 2019 proposed legislation condensed the two options of “no evidence to support a crime being committed” and “no longer being investigated as a crime” into one option. This option now requires evidence demonstrating a crime was not committed. It also removed the option of a testing waiver for adult victims. While victims can still choose not to move forward with prosecution, the sexual assault kit will be tested by ISPFs, with the exception of anonymously collected kits per VAWA. House Bill 116, Testing and Retention of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits was approved by the legislature and went into effect July 1st, 2019. Law Enforcement throughout Idaho still struggle with when kits should and should not be tested, so the IKTS Administrator will continue to provide ongoing training and answer questions on a case-by-case basis. There was a reminder email distributed to all law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorney’s offices on December 2nd, 2021. The overall counts for each non-submission decision in 2021 is listed in Appendix C. Four hundred and fifty-nine (459) sexual assault kits were collected in calendar year 2021. Twenty-two (22) kits are awaiting a submission decision from law enforcement or the prosecutor’s office. While decisions are still being made on those kits, thirty (30) kits or (6.5%) were already ruled by law enforcement as “no

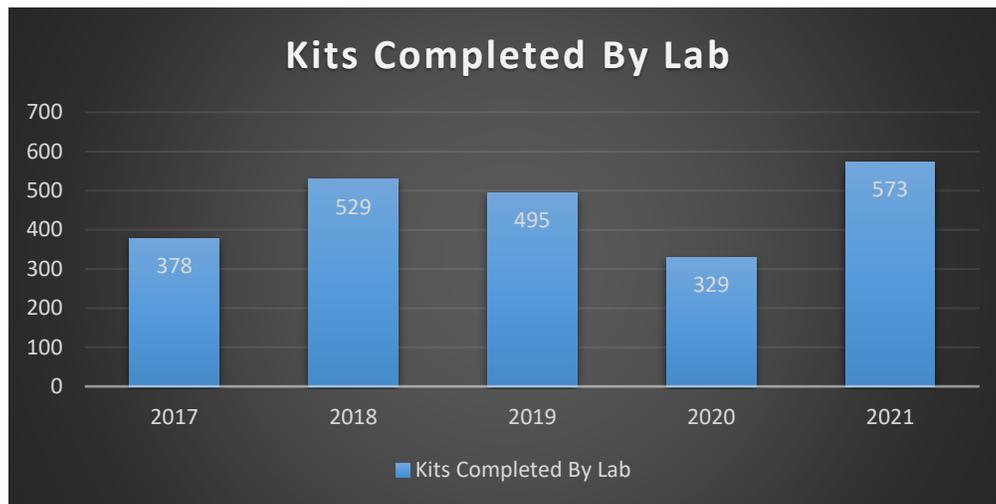
evidence to support a crime being committed” (not including VAWA kits). Excluding kits where the victim declines to proceed with testing, cases where law enforcement makes this determination not to test a kit have steadily declined since 2017 when this data started being tracked. The percentage not tested due to a law enforcement decision was 19% in 2017 and was 6.5% in 2021 (however decisions are still being made by law enforcement for some 2020 and 2021 cases so this number may rise). ISPFS addressed this in 2021 through many law enforcement training classes on this topic and will continue to address this issue with law enforcement officers and other stakeholders in 2022 with many already planned law enforcement courses on “the neurobiology of trauma” and “survivor interviewing.”



*2021 Kits are still being evaluated and the 2020 and 2021 numbers can change as these decisions become final

ISPFS Laboratory Analysis

Four hundred and fifty-nine (459) sexual assault kits were collected at medical facilities in the calendar year 2021 and three hundred and twenty-six (326) of those kits were submitted to the ISPFS lab. In 2021, ISPFS saw a decrease in biology screening cases sent to the lab as compared to 2020 and an increase in cases going forward for DNA analysis. The ISPFS laboratory staff members worked exceptionally hard, completing testing on an annual record total for ISPFS of five hundred and seventy-three (573) sexual assault kits alongside other casework in 2021.



ISPFS entered a total of two hundred forty-nine (249) DNA profiles from sexual assault kits tested in 2021 into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database. ISPFS had a total of sixty (60) CODIS hits from profiles derived from sexual assault kits during the 2021 calendar. Six (6) of these hits were forensic hits, meaning DNA profiles from two different evidence samples hit to each other. Thirty-six (36) of the hits were to the named suspect in the case. In these cases, the lab did not receive a known reference sample from the suspect initially, and the hit was to their conviction on another case or to their conviction on the case of the CODIS query (i.e., many of the previously unsubmitted kits are from already adjudicated cases where the suspect provided a DNA sample upon conviction). Eighteen (18) of these hits were to an individual not previously associated with the case or not identified by the agency as being associated with the case. In these cases, the hit may be to a true alternate suspect or potentially a consensual partner where a reference sample was not provided for elimination purposes.

As of December 31, 2021, ISPFS had three hundred and nine (309) sexual assault kits at the Meridian ISPFS laboratory pending analysis. Some of these kits were collected in 2020. For 2021, the average turnaround time for sexual assault kits at the ISPFS laboratory was four hundred and twenty-seven (427) days. This number is artificially high due to the number of previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits being worked this year. At the end of 2021, a total of one hundred and forty-four (144) kits had been in the laboratory longer than ninety (90) days. This number is down from three hundred and sixty-three (363) kits older than ninety (90) days at the end of 2020. The oldest sexual assault kit had been in the laboratory one thousand three hundred and seventy-five (1375) days at the end of 2021.

Idaho's first Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) cases were solved in 2019. Forensic genetic genealogy is the use of a specific type of DNA testing to try to establish familial relationships between a crime scene sample and an individual(s) in a genealogy database to develop investigative leads. ISPFS is currently working on ten molecular genealogy cold cases. Results will start to become available in the middle of calendar year 2022. ISPFS will continue to perform the initial evidence analysis, provide advisement and oversight on the state FGG program, and will perform any expedited processing needed of any reference DNA samples collected as part of the genealogy investigation. In 2021, a state working group on FGG was established by ISPFS and many cases are being evaluated where molecular genealogy testing may be beneficial.

ISPFS struggled to fill open DNA positions in 2021 due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Completing interviews and background investigations was complicated with COVID travel and other restrictions. Continuing staff resignations, staffing shortages, and training new staff in 2021 frustrated the DNA section. However, ISPFS management hired another experienced grant funded contractor DNA analyst to evaluate data, write reports, and perform technical review. At the end of 2021, ISPFS had two fully trained federal grant funded contractors working remotely in other states contributing to the success of the DNA program. This strategic move allowed the laboratory to complete all the previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits in Idaho identified in the 2016 audit. While it is very difficult for ISPFS to attract experienced staff to work in Idaho due to low salaries and the increasing cost of living, we have been able to contract with two people to work remotely from their current

locations. In 2022, ISPFS will have four federal grant funded contractors (two in Idaho and two remote) working in the DNA unit to increase the productivity and work on backlog reduction. ISPFS has one open state-funded DNA position in the process of being filled. ISPFS also has many analysts in some element of training. In late 2020, ISPFS signed an MOU agreement with Ada County to host a part-time DNA analyst at ISPFS that will be funded by Ada County to help with turnaround times and case backlog. This individual completed their training at the end of September 2021 and will work primarily on Ada County cases for a very limited number of hours each week.

Law Enforcement Kit Storage and Retention

With the passage of H 146 in the Idaho legislature (2017), sexual assault kits must be retained for certain intervals by the investigating agency. IKTS has a field for agencies to document the projected destruction date of the kit. The IKTS administrator is continuing to work with law enforcement agencies to document the destruction dates of every kit in the system and to help them better understand how to apply retention dates to specific cases. The legislative intent of H 146 was for the legislation to apply to any kit currently in existence in Idaho. The IKTS Administrator has worked with each individual law enforcement agency and collection site to serialize each kit that exists in Idaho. This has been a monumental undertaking for the IKTS administrator and law enforcement evidence staff. On several occasions, the IKTS administrator visited law enforcement agencies and hospitals to help with this kit labeling and accounting process. The importance of the IKTS administrator in this process cannot be overstated.

In addition, the IKTS software has been programmed to send a reminder to the law enforcement agency when a destruction date has not been applied to the kit. The law enforcement agency is responsible for setting the appropriate date for the kit based on the legislative criteria. ISPFS will continue to provide training to law enforcement and prosecutors on this important retention topic.

There are several university research entities inside and outside Idaho currently looking at the previously unsubmitted kit project in Idaho. One Boise State University Criminal Justice Department research study was published in January 2021 and more research studies will be available later this year. Brigham Young University researchers spent a significant amount of time in 2021 in Idaho coding data from sexual assault kits and cases. Data has also been provided to researchers at Harvard University regarding sexual assault kits and tracking in Idaho.

Law Enforcement CODIS Hit Follow-up

ISPFS had a total of sixty (60) CODIS hits from profiles derived from sexual assault kits during the 2021 calendar. ISPFS issues a CODIS Hit Report to the agency regarding the CODIS hit in the case through our Laboratory Information Management (LIMS) system. Additionally, the State CODIS administrator makes a phone call to the investigator to provide additional information and remind them of the need to follow-up with the laboratory about the disposition of the CODIS hit. The laboratory documents in the IKTS system if the agency followed up on the CODIS hit by contacting the laboratory in some way. Convicted offender samples are not considered evidentiary because they lack a chain of custody. To confirm a CODIS hit, the agency must collect a new sample with chain of custody from the individual for confirmation of the hit. This is detailed in the CODIS Hit Report. This process, and the importance of this process, is outlined in the "Idaho Sexual Assault Response Guidelines" document. While these CODIS hits are not all new investigative leads, the Idaho legislature asked ISPFS to use IKTS to track how many of these hits are being followed up on by law enforcement. ISPFS has record of law enforcement providing information to the state lab on fourteen (14) of the sixty (60) 2021 CODIS hits related to sexual assault kit evidence. In two (2) of the sixty (60) hits, the law enforcement agency submitted the requested reference sample from the suspect. In one (1) of the sixty (60) hits, the law enforcement agency alerted ISPFS that the hit was from evidence entered by the FBI lab and any follow-up information would not be available to ISPFS. In one (1) of the 60 hits, the law enforcement agency notified the laboratory the suspect was deceased, and they could not obtain a reference sample. In one (1) of the sixty (60) hits the law

enforcement agency notified the laboratory the case was adjudicated, and the suspect had already been prosecuted (so they would not be providing a reference sample for the suspect).

In four (4) of these sixty (60) hits the agency stated the victim was no longer cooperating, four (4) more law enforcement stated prosecution was previously declined, and in one (1) hit the law enforcement agency stated the case was inactive for reasons unrelated to DNA. While the agencies provided information to ISPFS about the nine (9) hits identified in the previous sentence, they were documented by the laboratory as “no follow-up from the agency.”

For the remaining forty-six (46) of the sixty (60) hits, the laboratory received no information as to why a sample was not submitted. Not having this follow-up creates several problems for the laboratory. If a DNA profile hit is to a consensual partner, the FBI requires the profile to be removed from the CODIS database. Additionally, if the hit is in a case that since the completion of testing was determined to be a false report, that profile must also be pulled from CODIS for the laboratory to stay in compliance with the FBI rules governing the CODIS database. If the agency does not follow-up with the laboratory regarding the hit, ISPFS does not know if a sample is compliant with FBI CODIS database entry requirements.

[IKTS Software Development and Use Statistics](#)

IKTS is continually enhanced by Idaho State Police web programmers. Having IT programmers at ISP allows the IKTS administrator to make real time changes to the system as the process has been refined. The biggest enhancements have been creating data driven reports to track trends in sexual assault and adding additional fields for reference sample submission. Many kits arrive to the ISPFS lab without the required reference samples.

ISPFS applied a website visit “counter” tool to the IKTS public webpage so that the number of visitors to the page can be tracked. The average monthly number of unique IP visitors to the public IKTS site in 2021 was seventy-one (71). The average number of monthly public searches is two hundred and thirty-two (232). On average, thirty-four (34) medical, law enforcement, laboratory, and prosecutor user’s login each month to document and update kit events in the IKTS system. In 2021, there were 10,771 searches of the IKTS system. Of those 10,771 searches, 2,785 were made by anonymous (public) users and the remaining 7,986 were performed by logged in users. Logged in users are law enforcement, medical facilities, lab, and prosecutors that are trying to update something in the system related to that kit. Essentially, there are two times more public users than those logged in, but more searches are being done by the logged in users for updating the system. Regardless, an average of 71 unique public users of the system a month shows significant use of the IKTS system by the public.

[Sharing IKTS](#)

ISPFS has been highly involved in the national discussion on sexual assault kit tracking. ISPFS offers the IKTS software program free of charge to any public entity. The vision of ISPFS is to provide a free software tool that will encourage other states and agencies to also implement sexual assault kit tracking. While we cannot offer programming and ongoing software support assistance, we hope that budget strapped agencies will utilize this tool to implement kit tracking more swiftly. A full list of inquiries can be found in Appendix A. Several of these entities were provided with digital downloads of the program. The state of Nebraska went live in 2021 with a version of our IKTS software. Several organizations are implementing IKTS as it was developed, others are modifying it slightly for their use, and others are using it for ideas to develop their custom kit tracking systems. ISPFS hosted many informational seminars for various states throughout the year. The ISPFS Laboratory System Director has made many national presentations about the IKTS system, including one at the annual meeting of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors. Idaho has been featured in national blog articles regarding the success of the IKTS system and other initiatives related to sexual assault kit accountability. Many national and local media outlets published stories or ran news spots on the success of Idaho sexual assault kit initiatives such as IKTS. In 2019, Sinclair media highlighted IKTS and ISPFS in over 75 major media outlets across the country. Media outlets such as NBC Universal, the Atlantic, Chicago Tribune, Idaho Press, Idaho Statesman, Idaho State Journal, Spokesman Review, Inlander, MagicValley.com, Meridian Free

Press, Idaho Public Radio, Boise State Public Radio, KTVB, KIVI, KMVT, WFAE, WRAC and KBOI all have covered aspects of sexual assault kit tracking solutions being implemented in Idaho. In January 2022, ISPFS is presenting a two-day webinar for the US Department of Justice about sexual assault kit tracking and sexual assault response in Idaho. It is a peer-to-peer event where Idaho will be highlighted for our excellent and forward-thinking response to sexual assault issues.

The Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

The Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (ISAKI) working group was founded by ISPFS in 2014. This volunteer multidisciplinary policy advisory group consists of state and local law enforcement representing agencies of all types and sizes, the forensic laboratory personnel, prosecutors, a public defender, a judge, a court representative, several victim advocacy and resource groups, victim compensation fund administrators, sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), a physician, hospital administrators, grant experts, and a state Senator. In 2017, ISAKI added criminal justice researchers, college campus representatives, a representative from the Department of Health and Welfare, a women’s health administrator, several more law enforcement experts, and several sexual assault response team (SART) administrators.

In 2019, ISAKI added an advocate for victims with developmental disabilities and a tribal representative. In 2021, more tribal representation was added. This group has initiated policy changes and provided support for state law reforms of the sexual assault kit process. The work of this group has extended beyond Idaho as the policies set in Idaho are being noticed and studied all over the country. This group is remarkably collaborative and productive. The successes of this group include a sexual assault kit tracking statute, a state-wide sexual assault kit audit, state-wide implementation of sexual assault kit tracking software, implementation of a sexual assault kit retention law, a new “test all” legislation, patient option form for victims of sexual assault explaining their rights to medical care and law enforcement involvement, implementation of a state-wide Coordinator, and regular collaboration on sexual assault issues in Idaho.

This group met several times in 2021 to discuss a multitude of issues. This group addressed issues of assessing the level of service and care to victims, increase sexual assault training for law enforcement, mandatory reporting guidelines, and how to properly deal with anonymous sexual assault kits. Research was done by the group related to hospital medical records retention in sexual assault cases. The group was instrumental in planning a series of six trainings around Idaho by an expert in the “trauma response related to the neurobiology of trauma” and “survivor centered interviewing by law enforcement.”

In another monumental achievement, the group worked on and published the first “Idaho Sexual Assault Response Guidelines” in 2019 and have since completed three revisions to better serve the community of Idaho, including one in 2021. This publication discusses issues related to sexual assault in Idaho such as medical response, laboratory testing, law enforcement duties, prosecutorial response, confinement settings, victim needs & rights and resources. The importance of this publication to assist Idaho organizations in creating policies and protocols for response to sexual assault cannot be overstated. The publication is found on the Idaho State Police Forensic Services website. ISAKI also helped organize and carry out Idaho’s annual celebration of National Forensic Science Week. A presentation was done at Boise State University highlighting a solved sexual assault case in Idaho.

SANE/SART Coordinator and SANE Training

The ISAKI group identified a critical need for a nurse administrator to oversee and administer a training program to increase the number of SANE trained nurses, develop a sustainable training program for entry-level and continuing SANE training, to maintain the statewide sexual assault kit response guidelines, to coordinate the efforts of the ISAKI group ongoing initiatives, to ensure implementation and continual review of state sexual assault evidence collection policies and procedures, and to help coordinate resources and other operational issues in all Idaho sexual assault evidence collection facilities. With the support of ISAKI, ISPFS wrote and received approval for a federal grant funding such a position. For three years, the

SANE/SART Coordinator has trained nurses, helped set up SART programs, and helped improve evidence collection and medical care all over Idaho.

More SART programs are needed in Idaho and more sites (hospitals and clinics) in Idaho need the proper training to perform a suitable sexual assault medical forensic exam to increase fidelity and uniformity of collections statewide. There are urban areas with well-trained nurses and well-coordinated SART programs. These programs are resourced with equipment needed to do the collection and sustainable funding for their operations. However, other areas of Idaho have little to no training to collect sexual assault evidence and often send victims from their home to other areas of the state that can perform collection. The result is that victims in some areas have the collection done by non-SANE medical practitioners, or victims must endure lengthy travel periods to get to a collection facility with a SANE. Many victims refuse to travel from their area due to the inconvenience. In either case, the best evidence may not be collected from the victim. Delays in evidence collection due to victim transport to a second facility can result in biological evidence or critical toxicology samples (i.e., testing for drugs in blood or urine that may have been used to facilitate the assault) being eliminated from the victim's body.

Data from the ISP 2016 Sexual Violence in Idaho Report indicates that many court cases are dismissed due to a lack of forensic evidence. The problem in Idaho is that due to a lack of training and resources in many areas of the state, victims of sexual assault are not treated equally from a healthcare or criminal justice perspective. Part of demonstrating to victims of sexual assault, and Idaho residents in general, that Idaho takes this issue seriously is providing equal quality of services and access to justice in the state. Right now, the biggest problem is in underserved and mostly rural regions of Idaho, including collection facilities that serve Native American tribes, educational campuses, and other ethnic minority populations.

Currently, Idaho has only a handful of nurses that have been trained to a base level of competency to perform appropriate and victim centered sexual assault exams (i.e., SANE nurses). The training is time intensive, costly, hard to coordinate, and often is difficult to obtain. Because there are only a few of these trained individuals in Idaho, the stress is great on them and their facilities, and the turnover rate is very high. Hospitals are generally reticent to train SANE nurses because of the initial and ongoing costs and the high turnover rate. To curb this, ISPFs applied for and was awarded a federal grant (STOP) to provide SANE training to Idaho nurses at no cost to the hosting organization and to provide sexual assault examination collection supplies to Idaho medical facilities.

The Idaho SANE/SART Coordinator developed a 40-hour didactic for Idaho and had it certified by the Montana Nursing Association and International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). The SANE/SART Coordinator position was converted to a full-time state position funded through the federal government grant. This allows ISP to offer full state benefits to the position. The SANE/SART Coordinator will continue to train nurses in 2022, both in an introductory and continuing education capacity. At least nine (9) full SANE courses are planned in Idaho for 2022, including two sites that have not had any kind of SANE training previously. It is ISPFs' intention to continue training nurses throughout the state so that every hospital and collection site has an adequate number of SANE trained nurses. Our goal is for uniform evidence collection and patient care regardless of where a kit was collected.

The Coordinator was awarded the international certification as a SANE-A (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Adults/Adolescents) in May 2021; this is notable as it not only speaks to expertise, but certification is usually obtained after a minimum of two-to-five years' experience, and the Coordinator sat the exam after only 13 months of experience. The certification provides credibility in the role as educator and allows the Coordinator to teach our SANE courses, saving the expense and complications of contracting with non-ISP employed certified SANEs to teach the course(s).

Promoting standardized care for all victims of sexual assault remains the focus of the of the Coordinator role with various approaches used to meet that goal. Education regarding proper evidence collection techniques during a medical forensic examination was provided through six SANE-A courses in 2021, training 31 nurses.

Six new sites began offering SANE exams in 2021: Weiser, Valley County (serving six counties), Preston, Rocky Mountain Women's Clinic in Idaho Falls, American Falls, and Montpelier after staff attended the SANE-A trainings.

Two educational offerings (*Medical Forensic Examination for Emergency Room Staff*) were presented to Emergency Room (ER) staff in 2021 on proper evidence collection when a SANE is not available to complete the forensic exam and evidence collection, training nine ER staff.

The Forensic Scientists at the State Crime Lab provide feedback to the Coordinator regarding each SAECK (Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit) that was submitted during the year; the Coordinator sent letters to those who collected the SAECKs offering both commendation and recommendations for improvement of evidence collection. That has resulted in improvement in the collection of evidence collection in:

- the correct number of swabs being used for body cavities and non-cavity sites
- the correct swabs being collected based on the victim's history
- proper documentation of history and evidence collection.

The Coordinator is available for technical assistance calls and has provided assistance/information regarding:

- strangulation assessment and treatment recommendations
- procurement of equipment needed for medical forensic examinations
- forensic exam criteria: collection from minors, time frames for evidence collection, etc.
- SANE practice requirements: what is required to practice as a SANE in Idaho
- use of outdated SAECKs
- PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act): defining "uniform investigation protocols" for corrections personnel
- consulted with areas ready to begin performing medical forensic examinations
- provided sample policies and documentation forms
- provided HIV referral resources
- provided treatment guidelines for sexually transmitted infections, including CDC changes in guidelines
- provided collection guidelines for toxicology when drug-facilitated sexual assault is suspected

Networking of leaders is important to promote standardized care and provide professional support; the Coordinator created and facilitates the ISPL (Idaho SANE Program Leaders) group to provide that networking and support.

The Coordinator re-wrote the medical portion of the Idaho Sexual Assault Response Guidelines and coordinated review of all other guideline sections; the revised edition was published and publicized in November 2021. The guidelines promote standardized care using best practices in forensic investigation and care.

The Joint Commission, an accrediting agency of healthcare organizations, has strict regulations regarding use of supplies; the SAECKs in those organizations were a concern due to the expiration of the vial of sterile water. ISPFs recommends organizations simply replace the outdated vial of sterile water and use the evidence swabs for collection; but the expiration date opened the organizations to a deficiency rating from The Joint Commission. The Coordinator contacted The Joint Commission and was able to negotiate an agreement that the kits are the property of the State and, as such, should not be surveyed (and therefore count against an organization) during accreditation surveys.

SANE Supplies and Resources

ISPFs notified medical facilities throughout the state of sexual assault evidence collection supplies that were available through the federal STOP grant. ISPFs had twenty-one (21) facilities request supplies to supplement their own current resources. In some cases, complete "start-up" collection packages were requested from facilities that did not offer sexual assault kit collection. Over \$77,000 of SANE supplies were provided to Idaho sexual assault kit collection sites through the STOP grant.

Items purchased for collection sites included: evidence swab dryers, locking medical carts, evidence rulers, digital cameras, alternate light sources, colposcopes, toluidine blue swabs, otoscopes, and a Cortex Flo imaging system. These supplies will have a major and continued impact on the ability of hospital to provide time sensitive care and evidence collection to victims of sexual assault throughout the state. ISPFS continues to monitor any needs of collection sites throughout Idaho with regular visits from the ISPFS SANE/SART Coordinator.

COVID-19

COVID-19 had a monumental impact again this year on Idaho's Sexual Assault response in terms of being able to hold in-person trainings and conferences for law enforcement and medical staff. ISPFS and the SANE/SART Coordinator had to cancel classes because hospital staff were completely overwhelmed with COVID related illness at the hospitals and clinics. Hospital policies also caused nurses to quit or be terminated in 2021, leaving already short SANE resources to be even more challenged. The SANE/SART Coordinator is looking for ways to mitigate these COVID related training issues related to short staffing in hospitals by driving the training to them and looking for new nurses coming into the hospitals for cross-training.

Challenges to Kit Tracking

There were a few challenges related to Idaho sexual assault kit tracking in 2021. These are outlined below:

- ISPFS has struggled to retain a Kit Tracking Coordinator. We have just hired our 5th person into the position in 5 years. Salary has proved to be challenging with this position.
- ISPFS takes many phone calls and emails about kits not moving from medical facilities to law enforcement either physically or in the kit tracking system. ISPFS is tracking on problematic locations and making phone calls and having meetings as necessary to resolve the situations.
- Supply chain issues due to COVID have made it difficult to procure sexual assault kits. ISPFS is working with state procurement experts to ensure that kits are ordered well in advance of needing more kits because of the long lead time to obtain the kits from the manufacturer.
- The IKTS Administrator has found it problematic that often organizations forget to notify the IKTS Administrator when a staff member leaves, so the Administrator is not aware that a new person may need to be trained on and added to the IKTS system. This is especially true with elected officials that may not even know that the tracking system exists or know their responsibility to perform work in it.
- The IKTS Administrator found communication with law enforcement agencies, medical facilities, and prosecutors exceedingly difficult. These entities are extremely busy and communication by email and phone was time consuming and inefficient.
- The lack of a standardized practice for IKTS entry at healthcare facilities (i.e., every healthcare provider enters their own kit collection versus having dedicated personnel entering the kit information) contributes to delayed kit entry. This requires multiple follow-up email/phone contacts by the Law enforcement agency, IKTS Administrator, Lab Manager, or SANE/SART Coordinator.

Commendations

- The ISPFS biology/DNA/DNA database team should be applauded for all their hard work screening and processing sexual assault kits. They were able to process all the previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits identified in the 2016 Idaho audit, despite staffing challenges and the need to complete processing of all non-sexual-assault evidence submissions. This is an astonishing accomplishment.

- The Idaho SANE/SART Coordinator has done an amazing job performing training all over Idaho. She obtained SANE-A certification this year by taking on-call hours in Idaho Falls multiple times during the year. She has worked to set up SART programs all over the state, and many hospitals are now collecting sexual assault kits that never had that ability before. She has networked Idaho's SANE programs so that they are communicating and sharing information. She publishes a newsletter and has many other methods of communication. Under her leadership, this position has become an integral part of addressing sexual assault issues in Idaho.
- The Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (ISAKI) working group is truly remarkable. This volunteer policy advisory group dedicates hundreds of hours to this important cause. The group is healthy, vibrant, and committed. The work of each member is vital, and this group is critical to the success of this initiative. The work of this group in researching current problems and recommending solutions is essential to address this issue in Idaho. The cultural and other changes happening in Idaho are because of their leadership.
- While all law enforcement agencies and medical facilities are critical to the success of kit accountability in Idaho, special recognition in 2021 goes to Steele Memorial Hospital in Salmon, Boise Police Department, Elevated Forensic Nursing in Cascade and Weiser, Kootenai Health, and the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (DVSAC). They have been particularly proactive and extremely helpful this year. They are responsive, clarify any questions, fix any issues, and assist with all requests. They continue to have an upbeat and positive attitude about this initiative.

Conclusions

A major cultural and systematic change related to sexual assault kit tracking was realized in Idaho in 2017 and continued to progress in 2021. The statewide sexual assault kit tracking system continued to be effective and was implemented in many other states throughout the country. This IKTS software has become nationally renowned and acclaimed. Medical facilities, law enforcement, and prosecutors were trained to use IKTS and ISPFs helped provide training to these entities in understanding state statutes related to kit testing and retention.

In 2021, six hundred and forty (640) kits were purchased, four hundred and fifty-nine (459) kits were collected, three hundred and twenty-six (326) kits were submitted to the lab for testing, and a record five hundred and seventy-three (573) kits were completed by the lab. It took law enforcement an average of twenty-four (24) days to submit kits to the lab, sixty-two (62) kits (including VAWA kits) did not meet state requirements for testing, it took the laboratory an average of four hundred and twenty-seven (427) days to test a kit, and there are one hundred and forty-four (144) kits that have been in the lab longer than ninety (90) days. All the known previously unsubmitted kits in Idaho have been completed. The oldest backlogged kits currently extend to August of 2020.

The Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Initiative working group is a highly effective multidisciplinary team that is leading Idaho and the nation to solving this issue. Idaho now has published sexual assault response guidelines and revised and improved them several times. More training and resources are needed for law enforcement and medical staff. The SANE/SART Coordinator position became a full-time state position using federal funding and the Governor has requested funding from the legislature for this position to be state funded starting in Spring of 2023 when the grant funding runs out. State funding will allow us to address our sexually assaulted pediatric population, currently a vastly underserved population in the arena of sexual assault.

Training DNA analysts at ISPFs is the highest priority for ISPFs in 2022. While new analysts and process improvements are helping, more analysts are needed at the state lab to deal with the ever-increasing number of biology/DNA case submissions. The current staffing need would be met by converting all the federally funded DNA contract positions to state funded full-time employment positions.

Overall, Idaho is taking a very proactive and aggressive approach to accounting for and processing of sexual assault kits.

Appendix A

Inquiries about obtaining information or software download for IKTS

- Colorado
- New York
- Kentucky
- Arizona
- Utah
- Nevada
- Illinois
- Georgia
- Washington State
- Montana
- North Carolina – Went live in 2018 with our software
- Nebraska –Went live in 2021 with our software
- Texas
- City of Houston, Texas
- Oklahoma
- City of Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Vermont
- New Mexico – Went live in 2020 with our software
- Arkansas
- California
- Wisconsin
- Virginia
- Ohio – Went live in 2019 with our software
- Indiana
- Puerto Rico – Went live in 2019 with our software
- Connecticut
- Maryland – May implement our software
- Iowa
- South Dakota
- Missouri
- Massachusetts
- Arkansas
- City of Cleveland, Ohio
- City of Portland, Oregon
- City of Baltimore, Maryland
- City of Chattanooga, Tennessee
- NIJ/DOJ
- RTI Forensic Technology Center of Excellence
- Association of State Criminal Investigating Agencies (ASCIA)
- Joyful Heart Foundation
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- IAFN State/Territory/Tribal Coordinators

Appendix B

2021 Statistics by Idaho Law Enforcement Agency

Law Enforcement Agency	# of Kits Tested 2021*	Total # of In-Process Kits at lab over 90 days*	Total # Awaiting LE/Prosecutor Decision
Aberdeen Police Department	0	1	0
Ada County Sheriff's Office	17	8	0
Adams County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0
Air Force OSI	5	0	2
American Falls Police Department	2	0	0
Ashton Police Department	0	0	0
Bannock County Sheriff's Office	4	2	0
Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office	4	0	0
Bellevue Marshal's Office	0	0	0
Benewah County Sheriff's Office	0	2	1
Bingham County Sheriff's Office	5	0	0
Blackfoot Police Department	6	2	0
Blaine County Sheriff's Office	1	1	0
Boise County Sheriff's Office	4	0	0
Boise Police Department	76	24	0
Bonner County Sheriff's Office	9	0	0
Bonnors Ferry Police Department	0	2	0
Bonneville County Sheriff's Office	9	5	0
Boundary County Sheriff's Office	11	0	0
Buhl Police Department	1	2	0
Butte County Sheriff's Office	0	0	5
Caldwell Police Department	21	13	2
Camas County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Canyon County Sheriff's Office	22	1	0
Caribou County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Cascade Police Department	0	0	0
Cassia County Sheriff's Office	4	1	0
Chubbuck Police Department	5	2	1
Clark County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Clearwater County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0
Coeur d'Alene Police Department	14	6	0
Cottonwood Police Department	0	0	0
Custer County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Elmore County Sheriff's Office	8	0	0
Emmett Police Department	1	6	0
Filer Police Department	1	0	0
Fort Hall Tribal Police Department	0	0	3
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Fremont County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0

Fruitland Police Department	1	0	0
Garden City Police Department	21	1	0
Gem County Sheriff's Office	8	1	0
Gooding County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Gooding Police Department	0	1	4
Grangeville Police Department	0	0	0
Hailey Police Department	0	0	0
Hayden Lake Police Department	0	0	0
Heyburn Police Department	1	0	0
Homedale Police Department	0	0	0
Idaho City Police Department	0	0	0
Idaho County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0
Idaho Falls Police Department	13	2	0
Idaho State Police	3	0	0
Iona Police Department	0	0	0
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office	13	1	0
Jerome County Sheriff's Department	1	0	0
Jerome Police Department	3	1	0
Kellogg Police Department	1	0	0
Ketchum Police Department	0	0	0
Kimberly-Hansen Police Department	1	1	0
Kootenai County Sheriff's Office	42	2	0
Kootenai Tribal Police Department	0	0	0
Latah County Sheriff's Office	1	1	0
Lemhi County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0
Lewis County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Lewiston Police Department	8	5	0
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Madison County Sheriff's Office	10	0	0
McCall Police Department	1	0	0
Meridian Police Department	21	6	0
Middleton Police Department	1	0	0
Minidoka County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Montpelier Police Department	0	1	0
Moscow Police Department	7	1	0
Mountain Home Police Department	1	0	0
Nampa Police Department	50	9	0
Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office	12	2	0
Nez Perce Tribal Police Department	1	0	0
Oneida County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
Orofino Police Department	0	0	0
Osburn Police Department	0	0	0
Owyhee County Sheriff's Office	2	1	1
Parma Police Department	0	0	0
Payette County Sheriff's Office	1	1	0
Payette Police Department	1	0	0

Pinehurst Police Department	0	0	0
Plummer Police Department	0	0	0
Pocatello Police Department	32	3	0
Ponderay Police Department	0	0	0
Post Falls Police Department	8	4	0
Power County Sheriff's Office	4	0	0
Preston Police Department	4	0	0
Priest River Police Department	0	0	0
Rathdrum Police Department	0	0	0
Rexburg Police Department	2	3	0
Rigby Police Department	0	0	0
Rupert Police Department	0	0	0
Salmon Police Department	0	0	0
Sandpoint Police Department	12	0	0
Shelley Police Department	0	0	0
Shoshone County Sheriff's Office	9	0	0
Shoshone Police Department	1	0	0
Soda Springs Police Department	0	1	2
Spirit Lake Police Department	0	0	0
St. Anthony Police Department	0	0	0
Sun Valley Police Department	0	0	0
Teton County Sheriff's Office	1	1	0
Troy Police Department	0	0	0
Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0
Twin Falls Police Department	26	11	1
Ucon Police Department	0	0	0
Valley County Sheriff's Office	6	0	0
Washington County Sheriff's Office	0	2	0
Weiser Police Department	6	1	0
Wilder Police Department	0	0	0
Total	573	141	22
†Data included is a snapshot in time as data is fluid and constantly updated			
*Includes previously unsubmitted kits			
€Only includes kits collected that will be processed in Idaho			

Appendix C

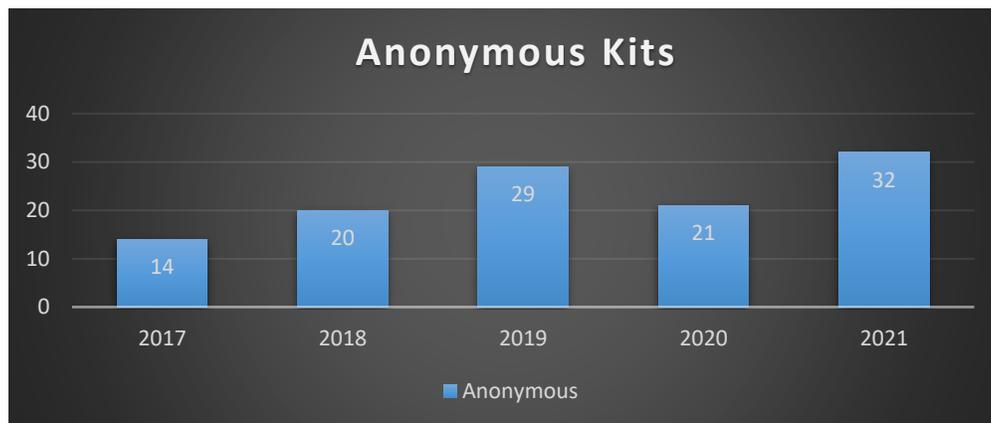
2021 Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits by Agency

Agency	Total	1	2
Ada CSO	3	3	0
Bingham CSO	1	0	1
Boise PD	20	1	19
Bonner CSO	1	1	0
Bonneville CSO	5	1	4
Buhl PD	1	1	0
Caldwell PD	1	1	0
Canyon CSO	4	4	0
Chubbuck PD	1	1	0
Coeur d'Alene PD	1	1	0
Elmore CSO	1	1	0
Fruitland PD	1	1	0
Gooding CSO	1	1	0
Idaho Falls PD	1	1	0
Idaho CSO	1	0	1
Jefferson CSO	1	0	1
Madison County SO	2	2	0
Meridian PD	4	2	2
Nampa PD	3	3	0
Payette PD	1	1	0
Pocatello PD	2	0	2
Rexburg PD	2	1	1
Sandpoint PD	2	2	0
Valley CSO	1	0	1
Weiser PD	1	1	0
TOTAL	62	30*	32

(Column "1") No evidence to support a crime being committed

(Column "2") Anonymous or Jane/John Doe Kit (victim chooses not to report a crime to LE per VAWA)

*Decisions still being made on many cases from the year.



Appendix D

2021 SA Kits Collected at Medical Facility--Not Marked Received in IKTS by LE

Law Enforcement Agency	Collected
Air Force OSI	1
Buhl PD	1
Butte CSO	1
Caldwell PD	3
Cassia CSO	2
Coeur d'Alene Police Department	1
Fort Hall Tribal Police Department	2
Fremont CSO	1
Gooding County Sheriff's Office	1
Idaho City PD	3
Idaho Falls PD	1
Idaho State Police	1
Jefferson CSO	1
Lewiston PD	1
Lincoln CSO	1
Madison CSO	1
Minidoka CSO	3
Moscow PD	1
Nampa PD	2
Rupert PD	1
Sandpoint PD	1
Shoshone PD	1
Wilder PD	1
Total	32

Appendix E

2021 Laboratory Submission Time by Law Enforcement Agency

Law Enforcement Agency	Average Lab Submission Days
Aberdeen Police Department	29
Ada County Sheriff's Office	16
Adams County Sheriff's Office	*
Air Force OSI	z
American Falls Police Department	*
Ashton Police Department	*
Bannock County Sheriff's Office	25
Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office	*
Bellevue Marshal's Office	*
Benewah County Sheriff's Office	18
Bingham County Sheriff's Office	5
Blackfoot Police Department	13
Blaine County Sheriff's Office	13
Boise County Sheriff's Office	32
Boise Police Department	20
Bonner County Sheriff's Office	27
Bonnars Ferry Police Department	5
Bonneville County Sheriff's Office	17
Boundary County Sheriff's Office	*
Buhl Police Department	21
Butte County Sheriff's Office	†
Caldwell Police Department	24
Camas County Sheriff's Office	*
Canyon County Sheriff's Office	31
Caribou County Sheriff's Office	*
Cascade Police Department	*
Cassia County Sheriff's Office	5
Chubbuck Police Department	19
Clark County Sheriff's Office	*
Clearwater County Sheriff's Office	*
Coeur d'Alene Police Department	39
Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police	16
Cottonwood Police Department	*
Custer County Sheriff's Office	*
Elmore County Sheriff's Office	30
Emmett Police Department	16
Flier Police Department	*
Fort Hall Tribal Police Department	11
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	*
Fremont County Sheriff's Office	16
Fruitland Police Department	1
Garden City Police Department	9
Gem County Sheriff's Office	2
Gooding County Sheriff's Office	13
Gooding Police Department	36
Grangeville Police Department	*
Hailey Police Department	*
Hayden Lake Police Department	*

Heyburn Police Department	*
Homedale Police Department	*
Idaho City Police Department	*
Idaho County Sheriff's Office	*
Idaho Falls Police Department	58
Iona Police Department	*
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office	65
Jerome County Sheriff's Office	19
Jerome Police Department	9
Kamiah Marshal's Office	*
Kellogg Police Department†	*
Ketchum Police Department	*
Kimberly-Hansen Police Department	40
Kootenai County Sheriff's Office	34
Kootenai Tribal Police Department	*
Latah County Sheriff's Office	*
Lemhi County Sheriff's Office	*
Lewis County Sheriff's Office	*
Lewiston Police Department	42
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	11
Madison County Sheriff's Office	47
McCall Police Department	*
Meridian Police Department	35
Middleton Police Department	150
Minidoka County Sheriff's Office	†
Montpelier Police Department	9
Moscow Police Department	9
Mountain Home Police Department	29
Nampa Police Department	38
Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office	6
Nez Perce Tribal Police Department	*
Oneida County Sheriff's Office	*
Orofino Police Department	*
Osburn Police Department	*
Owyhee County Sheriff's Office	19
Parma Police Department	*
Payette County Sheriff's Office	*
Payette Police Department	*
Pinehurst Police Department	*
Plummer Police Department	*
Pocatello Police Department	27
Ponderay Police Department	*
Post Falls Police Department	12
Power County Sheriff's Office	*
Preston Police Department	*
Priest River Police Department	*
Rathdrum Police Department	*
Rexburg Police Department	9
Rigby Police Department	*
Rupert Police Department	†
Salmon Police Department	*
Sandpoint Police Department	2
Shelley Police Department	11
Shoshone County Sheriff's Office	9

Shoshone Police Department	19
Soda Springs Police Department	†
Spirit Lake Police Department	*
St. Anthony Police Department	*
Sun Valley Police Department	*
Teton County Sheriff's Office	5
Troy Police Department	*
Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office	60
Twin Falls Police Department	35
Ucon Police Department	*
Valley County Sheriff's Office	14
Washington County Sheriff's Office	2
Weiser Police Department	46
Wilder Police Department	†
Average	24

* Agency had no sexual assault kits collected in 2021

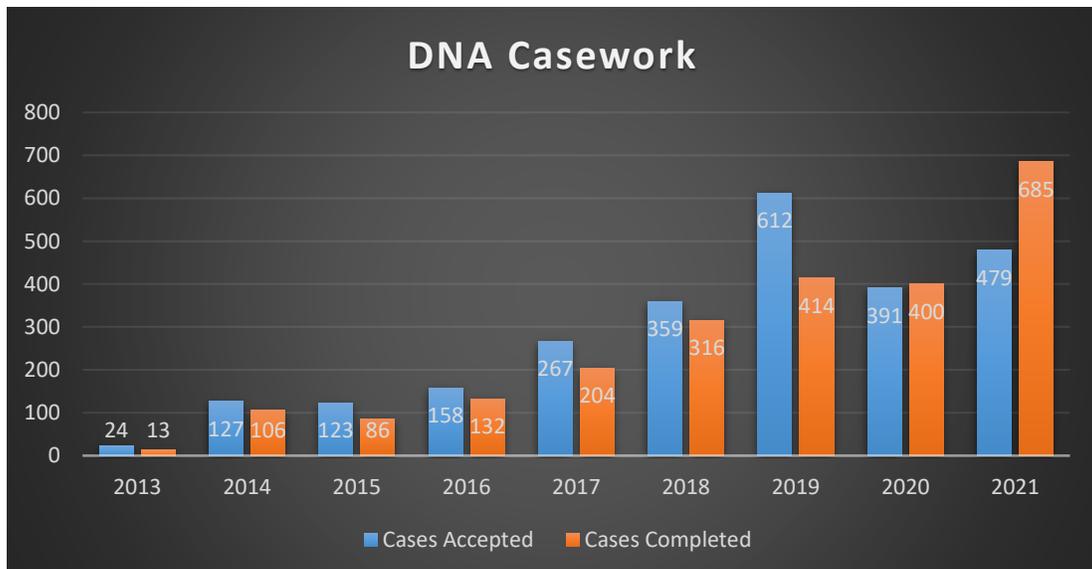
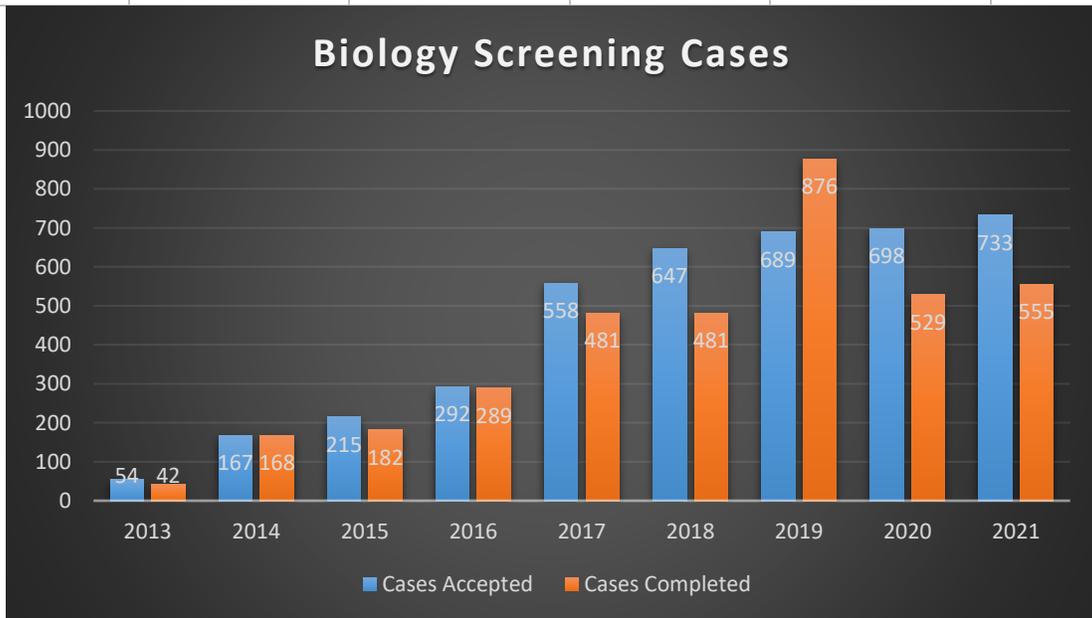
† Agency had sexual assault kits collected in 2021 but has not yet submitted kits to the lab

Z Agency submits to FBI

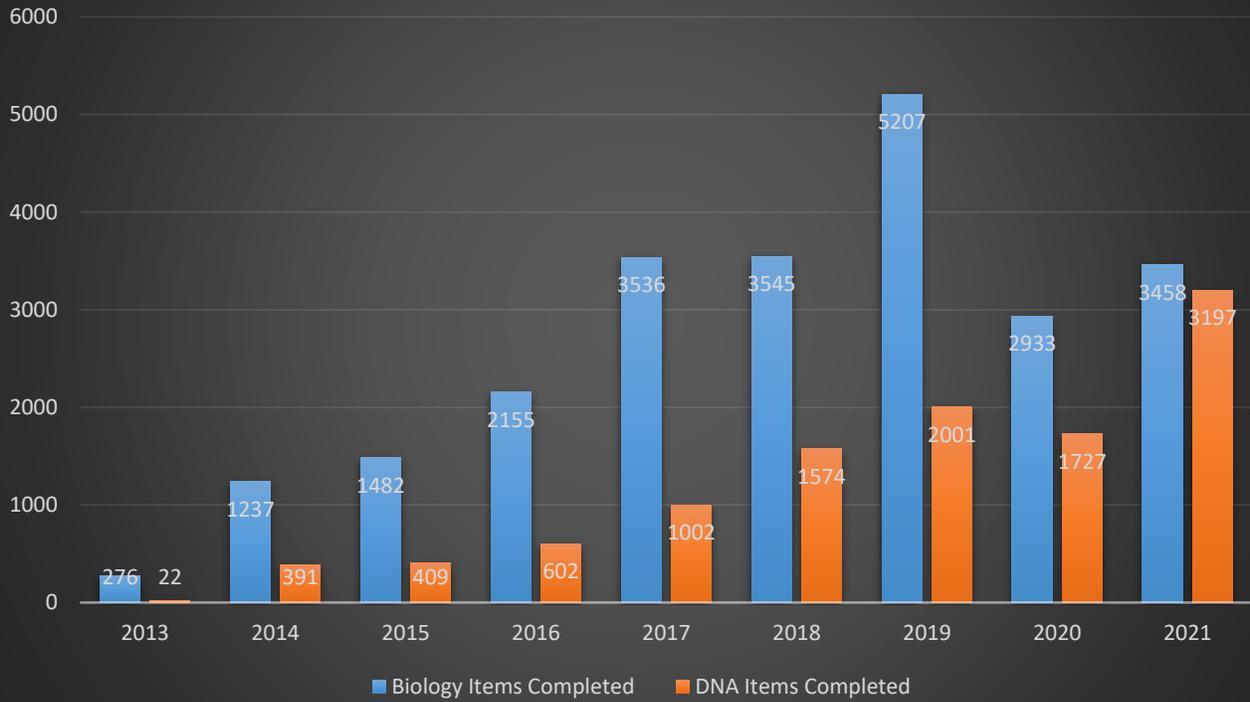
Appendix F

ISPFS DNA Laboratory Productivity (total cases-not just SAKs)

Year	Screening			DNA		
	Cases Accepted	Cases Completed	Number of Items	Cases Accepted	Cases Completed	Number of Items
2013	54	42	276	24	13	22
2014	167	168	1237	127	106	391
2015	215	182	1482	123	86	409
2016	292	289	2155	158	132	602
2017	558	481	3536	267	204	1002
2018	647	481	3545	359	316	1574
2019	689	876	5207	612	414	2001
2020	698	529	2933	391	400	1727
2021	733	555	3458	479	685	3197

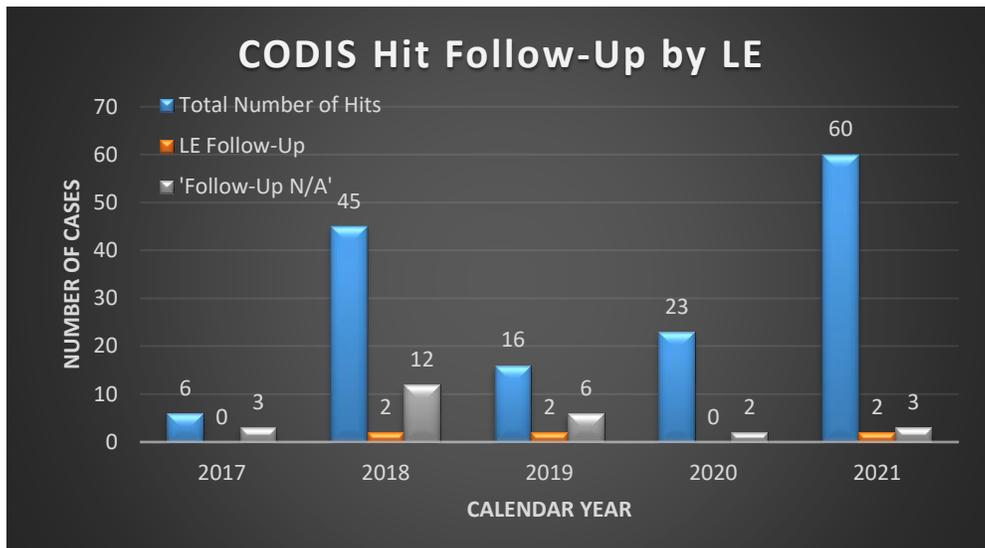


Items Completed



Appendix G

Idaho Law Enforcement Follow-up on CODIS Hits



2021 Statistics by Idaho Law Enforcement Agency

Law Enforcement Agency	# of CODIS Hits	# of CODIS Hits with Follow-Up	# of CODIS Hits with no Follow-Up	# of CODIS Hits N/A for Follow-Up
Ada County Sheriff's Office	1	0	1	0
Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office	1	0	1	0
Boise Police Department	8	0	5	3
Bonner County Sheriff's Office	1	0	1	0
Boundary County Sheriff's Office	2	0	2	0
Caldwell Police Department	1	0	1	0
Canyon County Sheriff's Office	4	0	4	0
Chubbuck Police Department	1	0	1	0
Coeur d'Alene Police Department	1	0	1	0
Garden City Police Department	4	0	4	0
Gem County Sheriff's Office	2	0	2	0
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office	5	0	5	0
Kootenai County Sheriff's Office	3	0	3	0
Madison County Sheriff's Office	3	0	3	0
Meridian Police Department	1	0	1	0
Moscow Police Department	3	0	3	0
Nampa Police Department	7	1	6	0
Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office	3	0	3	0
Pocatello Police Department	6	1	5	0
Post Falls Police Department	1	0	1	0
Twin Falls Police Department	1	0	1	0
Weiser Police Department	1	0	1	0
Total	60	2	55	3

Follow-Up = a confirmation sample from the suspect was submitted to the laboratory

N/A = profile entered by the FBI lab, or agency notified ISPFs the suspect is deceased, or agency notified ISPFs the case is adjudicated, and the suspect was already prosecuted.

No Follow-Up = a sample was not submitted, or laboratory was notified victim no longer cooperating, or laboratory was notified prosecution was previously declined, or the laboratory received no notification from the LE