

12/23/2016 -- ISPFs celebrated some major accomplishments this year. 2016 finished with us publishing the Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Survey, a collection of data from 118 Idaho law enforcement agencies. The legislatively mandated survey details the number and status of sexual assault kits held by each Idaho law enforcement agency. This survey is available on the ISPFs website on the tab labeled "Sexual Assault Kit Tracking." ISPFs has also developed and started training stakeholders on the new sexual assault kit tracking system software called "IKTS" (Idaho Kit Tracking System). This new system will track every sexual assault kit in Idaho from collection to storage. Detailed information will be available to stakeholders and general information will be available to victims and victim advocates regarding kit status on a secure website. This month we completed a major overhaul of the toxicology program to allow us to process more samples, do so more quickly, and get more data and information from the analysis. These improvements will continue into early 2017 when our quantitative toxicology program comes online. We completed significant validations in almost every laboratory discipline including the addition of the Draeger 9510 instrument for breath alcohol testing, being the 7th lab in the country to implement STRMix for DNA mixtures, validating the new Promega Fusion kit for DNA casework and DNA database to comply with the FBI expanded core loci project, implementing a new thermal processing method for latent prints, and deploying a new digital imaging software suite (Foray) and quality management software (Qualtrax). ISPFs provided training in every discipline we perform in every district of the state. We literally drove the information to our customers. We were able to secure \$800,000 dollars in federal funding for the purchase of two new LC/MS/MS instruments that will assist in the toxicology program. The lab worked more cases than ever with only a fraction of staff fully trained. We lowered our strategic turnaround times and even worked double the number of federal methamphetamine cases (98) in 2016. The best possible way for us to end 2016 is that we are now fully staffed with many of those individuals now fully trained. We added five new staff positions to bring our total to 44! Many more analysts are finishing training programs and will be part of our casework staff in 2017. We will continue to improve in 2017 by implementing lean six sigma in every laboratory discipline, we will continue to lead with new validations and implementation of new methods, and we will again be the most transparent laboratory system in the country with data available on our website and web portals.