

IDAHO STATE POLICE NEWS RELEASE
Forensic Services 700 S. Stratford Dr., Meridian 83642

Idaho Sexual Assault Kit Update

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Today, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors released national survey results of the number of sexual assault kits in the United States that still need testing in a forensic science laboratory.

Idaho has led the national discussion and response to sexual assault kit issues. The Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) was the first in the country to implement a fully functional statewide kit tracking system. Idaho has performed a statewide audit of all kits and can account for the kits currently in existence in Idaho. Idaho has also implemented a statewide protocol for handling sexual assault kits and has implemented an aggressive sexual assault kit collection training program for forensic nurses. Idaho has also passed some of the most forward thinking, aggressive, and comprehensive laws in the country regarding handling and retention of sexual assault kits. In addition, ISPFS is working to complete testing of all “previously unsubmitted” sexual assault kits identified in audits of law enforcement agencies.

Some key points:

--Idaho State Police Forensic Services has worked with law enforcement throughout Idaho and identified 996 “previously unsubmitted” kits that needed to be submitted to a forensic lab. Law enforcement agencies in Idaho submitted all the identified kits prior to November 2018 ([Statement](#)). ISPFS is responsible for working 375 of these kits. ISPFS screened all 375 kits for the presence or absence of biological material prior to July 2019. As of today, ISPFS has completed testing on 174 of the 375 “previously unsubmitted” kits sent to the lab. ISPFS will continue DNA testing on the remaining “previously unsubmitted” kits until all kits are completed. We estimate completion of DNA testing for all “previously unsubmitted kits to be in 2020.

--Idaho State Police Forensic Services collaborated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) laboratory for examination of the additional 621 “previously unsubmitted” sexual assault kits from around Idaho. The FBI laboratory announced the completion of these 621 kits in April 2019. Idaho thanks the United State Department of Justice and the FBI laboratory for their assistance with this important project.

--ISPFS is working the “previously unsubmitted” kits at the same time as new cases are being worked in the lab. This has created a submission increase of over 100% to the DNA lab. The current turnaround time for sexual assault kits at the ISPFS lab (as shown on the ISPFS website) is 108 days. ISPFS is currently screening all incoming sexual assault kits in approximately 30 days. ISPFS hopes to have all DNA analysis under a 30-day turnaround time by the end of December 2020. Essential to this plan is the recruitment and retention of senior DNA examiners and hiring and training of new examiners.

--The “test all” kit legislation, championed by Representative Melissa Wintrow and passed by the Idaho legislature, was implemented in July 2019. The legislation has increased the number of kits being tested by the ISPFS lab. ISPFS is using a combination of process improvements to improve efficiency and additional staffing to meet the needs of investigators and officers of the court. ISPFS appreciates the support of the Idaho legislature in providing additional staff over the last few years.

Additional information on ISP Forensic Services is located at www.isp.idaho.gov/forensics

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