



January 2023

Idaho SANE/SART Update

... improving access to standardized care
of the sexual assault patient in the state
of Idaho



Evidence Pearls

Let's talk about DNA—especially the DNA found in the SAECKs. Obviously, when we swab our patients we are hoping we will capture DNA from the assailant. The reports of DNA findings can be one of several levels:

YES—male DNA has been detected in levels adequate to create a profile

NO—no male DNA was found in the evidence samples

LOW—DNA levels very low, but MAY yield a profile if there isn't too much female DNA—sent to DNA for profiling

INCONCLUSIVE—there is *something* in the sample, but it is just below the level for detection, so it cannot be said to be male DNA

INSUFFICIENT—again, something is there, but the sample contains too much female DNA to identify the other substance

Sometimes, DNA really isn't present, sometimes, a male is a low DNA shedder so DNA may be minimal and despite best collection techniques we will not get detectable levels. DNA degrades over time, so the later after assault the collection is done the less likely it is we will find it; or perhaps the patient has bathed or showered multiple times, also decreasing the chance we will be able to capture DNA.

For the best chance of detecting DNA we need to use the proper swabs, in the proper locations according to the patient's history. All body cavities (mouth, vagina, anus) require using FOUR dry swabs with all four swabs covering the same area. All other sites, regardless of size, requires using TWO DAMP swabs, with both covering the same area.

Where are SANE exams done in Idaho today?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◇ Bear Lake Memorial Hospital | ◇ Cascade Medical Center | ◇ Minidoka Memorial Hospital |
| ◇ Bingham Memorial Hospital | ◇ FACES | ◇ North Canyon Medical Center |
| ◇ Bonner General Hospital | ◇ Ft. Hall Tribal Clinic | ◇ Portneuf Medical Center |
| ◇ Boundary Community Hospital | ◇ Rexburg Family Crisis Center | ◇ Canyon County SAFE Program |
| ◇ Caribou Memorial Hospital | ◇ Franklin County Medical Ctr | ◇ St. Joseph's Hospital |
| ◇ Cassia Regional Hospital | ◇ Gritman Medical Center | ◇ Steele Memorial Medical Ctr |
| ◇ Domestic Violence & Sexual
Assault Center—Idaho Falls | ◇ Just 4 Kids | ◇ Syringa Hospital |
| | ◇ Kootenai Health | ◇ Upper Valley CAC |
| | ◇ Magic Valley Medical Center | ◇ Weiser Memorial Hospital |

*If we're missing any-
one, please let us know!*

SAECK Analysis

When the forensic scientists analyze the SAECKs they track collection practices and those are reported back to the State Coordinator; we'd like to share what we've seen. The scientists analyzed 160 kits (those that were male kits, or the assailant was female, or where no DNA was found were not counted), the chart below summarizes the findings:

JAN-JUNE 2022	# Organizations	# Kits	Expired w/o doc.	Form missing or contradic- tory	Inadequate description of SA	Unused Envelopes returned in kit	Missing info on enve- lope	Missing swabs per hx	Incorrect # of swabs per site	Missing patient reference	DNA Found:			
											Yes	No	Low	Insufficient
16	1	78%			35%	50%			85%	28%	28%	21%	28%	14%
4	2	66%			33%	33%	33%	83%		33%	16%	50%	16%	16%
1	4					75%		25%		25%	50%		50%	
1	7			37%		37%		25%	50%		25%	38%	38%	
1	12			16%					83%		25%	18%	42%	10%
1	13	7%		14%	14%	23%		30%	15%	14%	30%	23%	33%	14%
1	15	33%		20%	40%	46%		26%	73%	13%	6%	33%	33%	26%
1	17	23%			11%		23%	11%	76%	11%	53%	6%	35%	6%
1	23	24%			17%		22%	22%	30%	8%	45%	15%	31%	10%
1	31	51%		13%	10%			13%	74%		52%	6%	32%	6%
1	35								37%		37%	11%	37%	14%

As you can see, our biggest challenge remains using the correct number of swabs per body site; four swabs for all body cavities (mouth, vagina, and anus) and only two swabs for all other sites. Using the correct number of swabs will yield the best chance of detecting DNA. Another important facet is using the patient's history to guide the collection of evidence; for example, if the patient reports penile or digital penetration of the vagina, external genitalia swabs should always be collected.

So, why do we track the unused envelopes being returned to the State Crime Lab? Idaho's lab is unusual in that ALL swabs are analyzed — so when we return swabs that have not been used the scientists are analyzing swabs for no reason ... and that is a waste of time and effort. Please keep those envelopes and use them for future exams when you need extras.

Making sure you return the Patient Information and History Form (PHIF), and that it is complete, is the only way the scientists can determine best probative value of the evidence. The history detail needs to be in-depth enough that they know what body parts of the assailant touched which body parts of the patient.

If your SAECK is expired we DO want you to use it, just replace the vial of sterile water and document (on the PHIF) that you did so.

If the patient declines any part of the exam simply document that information on the PHIF; for example:

- “patient stopped anal collection after two swabs”
- “patient declined collection of the reference sample”

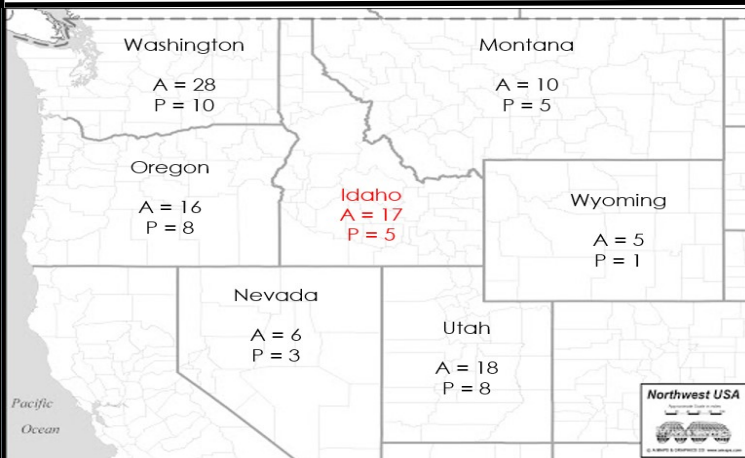
Finding DNA is tricky; it may not be present, it may be present in very small amounts (some males are low DNA shedders), it may have degraded as time passed after the assault, or the patient's DNA levels may be high — collecting based on the history, using the correct number of swabs, and drying properly ensures the best chance of finding it when it is there!

Program Spotlight: Upper Valley CAC

Submitted by Ashley Stallings

Upper Valley CAC has maintained a focus on finding innovative ways to serve the rural and underserved populations that surround our CAC since its inception. Over half of the families UVCAC currently serves have to drive over 30 miles to receive our services. Mobile advocacy is a promising method to reach rural and underserved communities and help overcome this roadblock. With this in mind, UVCAC along with St. Luke's CARES in Boise began researching mobile CAC options and in 2020 we were awarded funding to make this dream become a reality.

The Upper Valley CAC mobile unit will serve the pediatric population in southeastern Idaho's rural communities with child advocacy services including but not limited to medical evaluations, forensic interviews, mental health services and victim advocacy. The mobile unit will also be used to provide public awareness, prevention as well as education to these communities. The hope is that the use of our mobile CAC unit will drastically increase our ability to provide these crucial child advocacy services for the more rural areas in southeast Idaho, allowing access for those that cannot afford the time or money to drive to our Rigby center. For questions or inquiries about use of the UVCAC Mobile unit please contact Ashley Stallings, Executive Director of UVCAC at 208-745-2612.



Certified SANE's

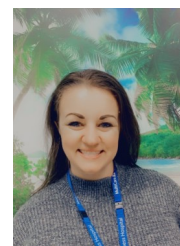
In 2022 **SEVEN** nurses in Idaho became certified, TWO of them became double certified — as both SANE-A and SANE-P! We'd like to congratulate them on this accomplishment! We're not bragging (well, maybe we ARE) but in the seven Pacific Northwest states only Washington and Utah have more SANE-As than Idaho!



Chantel Mower of Idaho Falls is double-certified as both a SANE-A and SANE-P, one of only five in Idaho! She takes call for forensics at the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center in Idaho Falls.



Brittany Ramirez of Coeur d'Alene is also double certified as a SANE-A and SANE-P. Brittany is a busy woman with FOUR jobs, working in the ER and with SANE programs at Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane and with Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene.

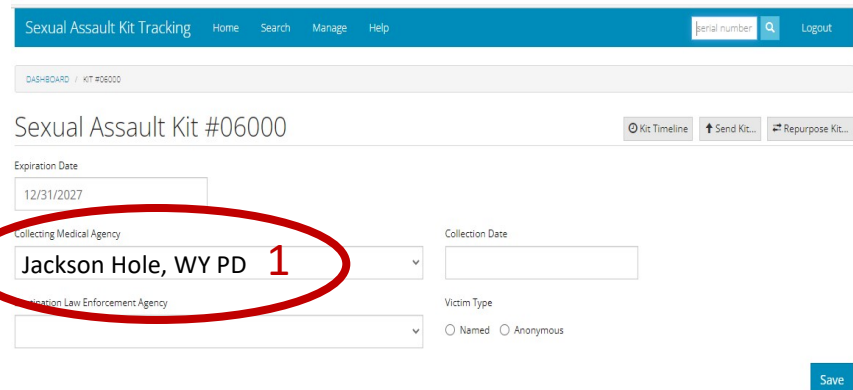


Jennifer Cantrell is the NPD Specialist in the Emergency Department at the Multi-care hospitals in Spokane and works with their forensic programs.

Sending SAECKs in IKTs

It is not uncommon that we see a patient for a SANE exam that comes from outside our area - we need to be sure we 'send' the kit to the correct law enforcement (LE) agency — this can be a bit confusing if we physically hand the kit to an officer that is not from the destination LE agency. For example, if you are doing an exam in Idaho Falls but the patient's assault happened in Jackson Hole, WY the Wyoming LE may ask Idaho Falls PD to pick up the kit and get it to them.

When you enter the kit into IKTS the first screen asks for the Destination LE Agency — that's the LE of jurisdiction in the county the assault occurred, that is what you will enter on the first screen. When you select "send kit" and the second screen pops up you will enter the LE agency you physically handed the kit to; in this example, Idaho Falls PD.

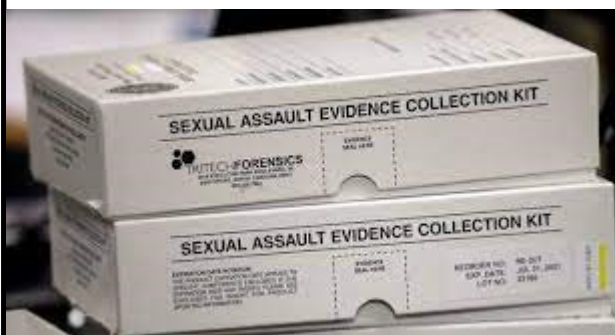
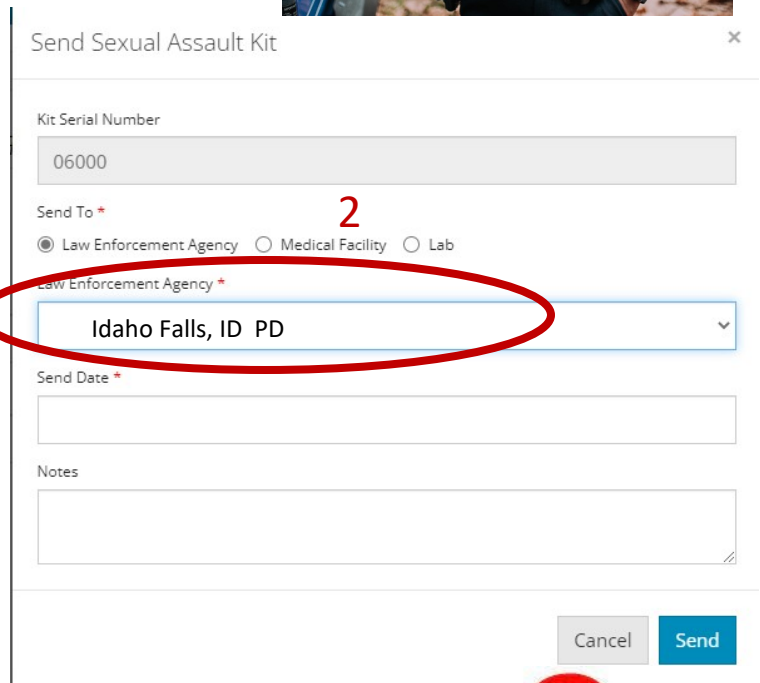


The first screen: enter the LE Agency of Jurisdiction (the county where the assault occurred).

The second screen: enter the LE Agency that you physically handed the kit to.

This ensures accurate tracking of the kit, as required by law.

If your LE agency has any questions about this, please have them contact Deb Wetherelt, Rylene Nowlin, or Matthew Gamette at the Idaho State Police Crime Lab.



How Many Swabs Again???

Body cavities (mouth, vagina, anus):

4 dry swabs

Non-cavity sites: 2 damp swabs

