

**Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR)
Performance measures for Semi-Annual Reporting
Reporting Period 01/01/22 – 06/30/22**

Award Number	2018-DN-BX-0163
Project/Grant Period	01/01/2019 – 12/31/2022
Recipient Organization	NH Department of Justice
DUNS Number	808591127
EIN Number	026002618
Reporting Period	01/01/2022 – 06/30/2022
Report Term/Frequency	Semi-Annual
Contact Name	Tom Kaempfer
Title	Administrator II
Phone Number	(603)315-7979
Email Address	Thomas.Kaempfer@doj.nh.gov

Accomplishments

What are the major goals of the project?	Activity/Milestone	Percentage of Completion
SAFE-ITR Outreach, Education, Prevention	<p>Program outreach and education was ongoing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement agencies around the State, to include ongoing outreach and education on kits. Several agencies requested guidance on kits, and they were advised of best practice and referred to their respective County Attorney Office. Assistance was also provided when kits needed to be shipped to/received from other states for jurisdictional reasons and an in-person transfer was not possible. • County Attorneys around the State, to include providing project updates and training resources on 02/21/22 and 5/16/22. In May, County Attorneys were provided with a news article about an indictment in our neighboring state of Massachusetts related to recent testing of a 2010 kit. County Attorneys were also advised of SAKI's webinar on <i>The Prosecutor's Role in Survivor Notification</i>. • The NH Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Coordinator, to include providing information to be shared at 	Completed and will be Ongoing

	<p>SART meetings and participating in several meetings related to updating NH's Sexual Assault Protocol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Attorney General's Sexual Assault & Nurse Examiner (SANE) Advisory Board, to include project updates and discussion on areas for ongoing education and improvement through the multiple disciplines represented on the Board. <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 (LAB) in a timely fashion and to prevent an increase in unsubmitted SAEKs from accumulating again. The outreach also stresses that the kit is one part of a complete and thorough investigation.</p>	
<p>SAFE-ITR Coordinator Partnership with NH State Police Forensic Laboratory</p> <p>Movement of previously unsubmitted SAEKs to the NH State Forensic Laboratory</p>	<p>The partnership formed with the NH State Police Forensic Lab in the previous grant periods continued during this grant period. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator regularly communicates with the lab contact on this project. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator visited the lab on 6/14/22 to speak with the Assistant Lab Director and the project contact about the launch of the tracking system.</p> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continued to do outreach to determine if there are any remaining unsubmitted SAEKs in NH that are eligible for submission to the NH State Police Forensic Lab. If any are identified, they will move to the lab.</p> <p>At least 404 previously unsubmitted kits were submitted to the Lab since work on this Initiative began.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Call-back of SAEKs with incomplete analysis to the NH State Forensic Laboratory</p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continued outreach with law enforcement agencies regarding kits the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Lab wanted resubmitted due to incomplete analysis at the time of initial lab submission. This</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Anonymous Kits</p>	<p>included both kits that were submitted but not analyzed as well as kits that were partially analyzed (ex. Serology completed but not DNA).</p> <p>At least 187 kits in the “incomplete analysis” category have been resubmitted to the lab for further analysis, an increase in approximately 65 kits in this reporting period.</p>	
	<p>Approximately 180 kits in NH’s unsubmitted kit inventory have been identified as Anonymous kits. Although NH protocol is that ALL kits, to include Anonymous kits, should be submitted to the Lab, Anonymous kits are not tested in NH. Therefore, the lab will not accept previously unsubmitted Anonymous Kits that were collected more than 60 days ago and for which a victim has not come forward. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continues to educate law enforcement that if/when a victim of an anonymous kit comes forward, the lab should be updated if the kit is still there. If the kit is not at the lab, it should be submitted/resubmitted.</p> <p>The NH DOJ recently started shipping the new 9000 series of kits to NH hospitals. These kits include an enhancement recommended as a result of this Initiative in that there is now space to indicate when an anonymous kit has been converted to a known victim case.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>NH Forensic Lab Results for first half of 2022</p>	<p>On 7/22/22, the Forensic Lab shared the following results for this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFE-ITR news: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 595 SAKs have been received ○ 436 have been outsourced ○ 221 are being reviewed and reported ○ 124 cases – no usable profile developed/no testing ○ 28 cases- pending review for CODIS ○ 51 CODIS eligible cases identified thus far ○ 14 CODIS hits ○ 18 cases need STRMix at a later date 	

<p>What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?</p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator has participated in online trainings relevant to the objective of this project to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVAWI International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Reimagining Justice, April 2022 <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continues to receive SAKI TTA News and Notes, uses and shares sakitta.org as a resource, and has participated in the following SAKI trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th annual National SAKI Grantees meeting recordings • SAKI: Recognizing Vicarious Trauma and Burn-Out (June 2022)
<p>How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?</p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator regularly communicates to the NH Attorney General’s Sexual Assault and Nurse Examiner Advisory Board (SANE Board). 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>With assistance from the SANE Program Coordinators, an information sheet called <i>Working Together to Track Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits throughout NH</i> was created specifically for medical professionals and will be shipped out with new kits going forward.</p> <p>As the SAFE-ITR coordinator noted that kits collected in New Hampshire are regularly sent to out-of-state jurisdictions, mostly Massachusetts and Vermont, the SAFE-ITR coordinator has initiated contact with kit tracking coordinators in those states.</p>
<p>What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?</p>	<p>The priority of the next reporting period is to educate on the new kit tracking system and assist agencies with using it. The system has been designed to send the SAFE-ITR coordinator a usage alert when a kit is sent from hospital to law enforcement. In response to the alert, the SAFE-</p>

Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking System

ITR coordinator will do outreach and education with the law enforcement agency that picked up the kit.

The kit tracking software contract was approved by New Hampshire's Governor & Council on 3/9/22 and then moved into the development stage with the vendor, CCVC Inc.

Since then, the SAFE-ITR coordinator has been in regular contact with the vendor as the kit tracking system has been designed, reviewed, and tested. Kits with tracking capability are currently at 4 of the largest hospitals in New Hampshire. 3 out of the first 5 kits with tracking went out-of-state for jurisdictional reasons so in-state use of the tracking system has been limited.

While advancement on the computerized tracking system was pending, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator and the Forensic Laboratory continued to work together to ensure current kits collected at hospitals were arriving at the lab in a timely fashion. This will continue in that capacity until all kits in hospital supply have tracking capability.

On a monthly basis, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator did outreach with law enforcement on kits that were identified as having been picked up from hospitals but not yet submitted to the lab. In this 6-month reporting period, outreach was done related to 24+ kits.

There were several reasons that kits had not been submitted to the Lab, to include valid reasons such as some kits being transferred out of State. Without a computerized tracking system, data entry errors, such as kit serial numbers not being input, were also identified and corrected to reflect that some kits had already been submitted to the lab. Additional kits were identified that should have been delivered to the lab pursuant to NH protocol and continued education was done in those cases.

SAFE-ITR Reporting	SAFE-ITR semi-annual reports and 60-day reports will continue to be published on the NH DOJ website under the “Resources” tab. Under the “Crime Victims” tab, there is a link to the “Office of Victim/Witness Assistance” and the reports appear under “Policies, Reports, Publications.”
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NH SAFE-ITR Performance Measures through June 30, 2022

Number of SAKs that are in the possession of the applicant agency at the beginning of the award period: 0

The NH DOJ does not possess used SAEKs; SAEKs are held as evidence at individual police departments around the State. Law Enforcement agencies from around the State self-reported the four-digit kit serial numbers for unsubmitted kits. Over 1,000 individual kit serial numbers have been recorded since NH’s inventory of unsubmitted SAEKs began in 2017. The inventory has been updated to include kits that the lab requested be resubmitted due to incomplete analysis.

Number of SAKs inventoried during the reporting period:

Approximately 65 kits were transferred to the NH State Police Forensic Lab during this 6-month reporting period as a result of this Initiative. All of these kits had been requested back from the Lab for additional analysis.

Number of SAKs that do not require testing.

The NH State Police Forensic Lab determines which kits are not eligible for testing pursuant to their protocol and standards. The Lab provides reports to the law enforcement agencies submitting the kit and the respective County Attorney Office, therefore the DOJ and the SAFE-ITR Coordinator do not have access to individual lab reports or data generated as a result of this Initiative. The lab has generally advised that factors such as kit collection outside collection timeframes, digital penetration, penetration by an object and cases in which sample collection was incomplete resulted in select kits not being tested. Approximately 35 additional kits initially identified as unsubmitted in the NH inventory of kits will not move to the lab as they have been destroyed, were utilized for reasons other than sexual assault evidence, or were determined to be associated with substantiated false reports. Additionally, 25 past (SAFE-ITR) kits to date have been transferred out-of-state for jurisdictional reasons. 180 Anonymous kits do not require testing unless/until a victim comes forward. Please refer to the NHSP Forensic Lab Update section.

Percentage of unsubmitted SAKs identified as needing forensic testing:

This is determined by the NH State Police Forensic Lab pursuant to their protocols and standards. This data is constantly fluctuating as kits have continued to arrive at the lab and not all kits have been processed. The Lab provides reports to the law enforcement agencies submitting the kit and SAFE-ITR related lab reports are also being sent to the respective County Attorney Office. The NH DOJ and the SAFE-ITR Coordinator do not have access to individual lab reports or data generated as a result of this Initiative. Please refer to NHSP Forensic Lab update section.

Percentage of unsubmitted SAKs sent to the laboratory for testing.

At this point in this Initiative, approximately 99% of previously unsubmitted SAEKs still eligible to move to the lab have been transferred to the NH State Police Forensic Lab. Follow-up requests for the resubmission of kits with incomplete analysis in the past were made throughout June 2022 and a small number are still pending resubmission or some other disposition. Please refer to NHSP Forensic Lab update section.

Percent reduction in the number of unsubmitted SAKs requiring DNA testing.

This metric was not available from the NH State Police Forensic Lab at the time of previous reporting so there is no previous data to compute the reduction in this reporting period. The NH State Police Forensic Lab continues to work with the vendor lab to outsource kits and has sought additional funding to continue analysis of SAEKs. Please refer to NHSP Forensic Lab update section.

Number of SAEKs inventoried and reported that:

- A. Were identified as previously tested: 77 total since SAFE-ITR work began.
- B. Do not require testing: Exact number not currently available. Lab data provided for this report indicates that 124 of the SAFE-ITR kits either had no testing or no usable profile but the exact number in each category is not available to the SAFE-ITR Coordinator at the time of this report.
- C. Were sent to the laboratory for testing: Approx. **65** in this 6-month reporting period; Approx. **595** since SAFE-ITR work began.
- D. Had a final disposition (e.g., were adjudicated): **Unknown**. Without access to an automated tracking system, there is currently no way to track this. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator previously requested feedback from County Attorneys around the State on any cases that are re-opened or adjudicated as a result of this project, when available. However, at this point, the NH State Police Forensic Lab is still in the process of reviewing and reporting on results for kits that were outsourced thus far and hundreds of results have not yet been disseminated.

Number of deliverables that meet expectations:

- **Deployment of an automated information system:** On 06/23/22 the first kits with kit tracking capability was used in New Hampshire. Kits with tracking capability are currently in 4 of the larger hospitals in New Hampshire. 30 additional kit tracking labels are available to be affixed to kits when hospitals request additional kit supply. Additional kits tracking labels from the vendor and expected to be delivered soon so that all kit shipments to hospitals going forward will have tracking capability. Current hospital supply will also be assessed so that tracking labels can be generated for those kit serial numbers and labels can be affixed to kits shipped to hospitals prior to the launch of the kit tracking system.
- **Commencement and completion of inventory:** The inventory was completed previously and continues to be updated as additional data becomes available.
- **Commencement of tracking and reporting on SAEK movement:** Limited tracking by the SAFE-ITR Coordinator and Lab personnel continues to be done to ensure that current kits collected at hospitals around the State are

arriving at the Lab in a timely fashion. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator is following up on kits when necessary to prevent an accumulation of unsubmitted kits in NH going forward. Tracking data is not available beyond lab submission for kits utilized prior to the launch of the kit tracking system. The SAFE-ITR coordinator is working with the kit tracking vendor to ensure that the system's reporting features will identify kits that are not progressing through the system.

Develop website to report metrics

SAFE-ITR Reports will continue to be posted on the NH DOJ website (www.doj.nh.gov) and can be found under the "Resources" tab. Under the "Crime Victims" tab, there is a link to the "Office of Victim/Witness Assistance" and the reports appear under "Policies, Reports, Publications."