

**Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR)
Performance measures for Semi-Annual Reporting
Reporting Period 07/01/22 – 12/31/22**

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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"> • The NH SANE Program and SANE Nurses to educate and train on NH’s new kit tracking system. • Law enforcement agencies around the State, to include ongoing outreach and education on kits and NH’s new kit tracking system. 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 on the launch of the kit tracking system as well as monthly kit reports specific to each county starting in November 2022. • The NH Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Coordinator, to include providing information to be shared at SART meetings and participating in 	Completed and will be Ongoing

	<p>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 on this project. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator visited the lab on 10/12/22 to meet with the Assistant Lab Director and Criminalist assigned to this project and to deliver 167 kit tracking labels to be retrofit on kits currently at the Lab. As the Lab is the most frequent user of NH’s new kit tracking system, the SAFE-ITR coordinator and Lab communicate regularly.</p> <p>In coordination with the Lab, a process was implemented to ensure the tracking of any out-of-state kits coming to NH for jurisdictional reasons in the future. The lab was provided with a supply of labels specifically for the use of out-of-state kits submitted to the lab. 22 out-of-state kits have been incorporated into NH’s kit tracking system to date.</p> <p>At least 404 previously unsubmitted kits were submitted to the Lab since work on this Initiative began. In an effort to determine if NH had any additional unsubmitted kits, as part of a 9/1/22 Law Enforcement Memorandum sent out by the NH DOJ on the launch of the kit tracking system, agencies were asked to contact the SAFE-ITR Coordinator if they still had any unsubmitted</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>kits. At this point, based on the information available to the NH DOJ, NH has cleared its inventory of unsubmitted SAEKs that are eligible to move to the NHSPFL.</p>	
<p>Call-back of SAEKs with incomplete analysis to the NH State Forensic Laboratory</p>	<p>At the request of the Lab, 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 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 were resubmitted to the lab for further analysis since work on this Initiative began.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Anonymous Kits</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 second half of 2022</p>	<p>On 1/24/23, the Forensic Lab shared the following results for this report:</p> <p>At this time, all sexual assault kits have had results released to the submitting agencies, are in review, or are pending results from the outside laboratory performing the testing. In summary:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 kits were returned to the submitting agencies after confirming they were still anonymous submissions • 10 kits were returned to the submitting agency with report of no DNA evidence exhibits collected in the kit (e.g. buccals only) • 64 kits have had CODIS eligible profiles uploaded into the national database resulting in 24 CODIS hits, • 1 profile was developed that was not CODIS eligible • 51 cases are being reviewed for CODIS entry • 142 cases are pending results from the vendor laboratory. • 314 cases produced no probative results due to a variety of circumstances including: insufficient DNA, complex mixtures that are not interpretable, negative serology results, and case circumstances with no DNA results such as use of a foreign object. • 3 cases were determined to be duplicate entries
<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"> • NH AG’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect: Partnering for a Future Without Violence Conference, September 7 – 8, 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"> • 7th annual National SAKI Grantees meeting recordings
<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>

NH SAFE-ITR Performance Measures July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

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

The NH DOJ issues SAEKs to hospitals, now with kit tracking labels affixed to them, but does not possess used SAEKs. SAEKs are held as evidence at individual police departments around the State until and after lab submission.

Number of SAKs inventoried during the reporting period:

Utilizing the new tracking system, 129 kits were submitted to the NH State Police Forensic Lab (NHSPFL) for analysis during this reporting period. An additional 38 anonymous kits were submitted to the lab but will not be analyzed unless/until a victim comes forward to law enforcement and authorizes analysis.

Number of SAKs that do not require testing.

The NH State Police Forensic Lab determines which kits are not eligible for testing. The Lab provides reports to the law enforcement agencies submitting the kit, 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. Over the course of the Program, reasons that some kits were not tested include the kit being collected outside collection timeframes, cases involving digital penetration and cases in which sample collection was incomplete.

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. The Lab provides reports to the law enforcement agencies submitting the kit and SAFE-ITR related lab reports also go 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.

Percentage of unsubmitted SAKs sent to the laboratory for testing.

Based on the data available, approximately 99 - 100% of previously unsubmitted SAEK's still eligible to move to the lab have been transferred to the NH State Police Forensic Lab. In an effort to determine if NH had any additional unsubmitted kits, as part of a 9/1/22 Law Enforcement Memorandum sent out by the NH DOJ about the launch of the kit tracking system, law enforcement agencies were asked to contact the SAFE-ITR Coordinator if they still had any unsubmitted kits.

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

Based on NHSPFL data, approximately 75% of SAFE-ITR kits have been processed to date.

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.
- C. Were sent to the laboratory for testing: Approx. **592** previously unsubmitted or "incomplete analysis" kits since Program work began. *This number was previously reported as 595 however in this reporting period, the NHSPFL lab reported finding three duplicate entries.
- D. Had a final disposition (e.g., were adjudicated): Unknown. 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.

Number of deliverables that meet expectations:

- **Deployment of an automated information system:** With NH’s kit tracking system now in a full statewide launch, the focus of this reporting period was ensuring that the kit tracking system was being used and educating when it was discovered that it was not. 13 different medical facilities have used the tracking system to date. Tracking labels are available at the NH DOJ for when hospitals request additional kit supply. In addition to tracking kits within our state, the tracking system tracked 20 kits that were transferred out-of-state for jurisdictional reasons during this 6-month reporting period. 44 law enforcement agencies, to include local, county and state agencies, have used the new kit tracking system to date. As use of the tracking system has not been necessary in all hospitals or by all law enforcement agencies, outreach and training will continue as kits are collected in other areas of New Hampshire. A usage alert continues to be sent to the SAFE-ITR Coordinator when kit tracking is initiated by a medical facility; this allows for timely outreach to law enforcement agencies who are receiving a kit and will be using the kit tracking system for the first time. The NH Attorney General sent out a Law Enforcement Memorandum to all NH County Attorneys and Law Enforcement Agencies on 9/1/22 which explained the system and the expectation that it will be utilized.

- **Commencement and completion of inventory:** NH’s Tracking System is now functional and inventory reports can be generated. As of 01/30/23:
 - **235** trackable kits are available for use in hospital supply across the State. Hundreds more are available for distribution by the NH DOJ
 - **90** trackable kits are at NH police departments, this includes contemporary kits pending lab submission, pending transfer to another agency for jurisdictional reasons, or received back from the Lab for retention pursuant to NH RSA 21-M:18
 - **202** trackable kits are in-house at the NH State Police Forensic Lab. *This does not include kits from past years that were outsourced as part of the SAFE-ITR Program
 - **20** trackable kits were sent out of State for jurisdictional reasons since the launch of the kit tracking system.
 - **22** out-of-state kits received in New Hampshire for jurisdictional reasons have been incorporated into NH’s tracking system.

- **Commencement of tracking and reporting on SAEK movement:** The tracking system is now capable of identifying kits in the system that have not been submitted to the NH State Police Forensic Lab. The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continues to follow up on kits when necessary to prevent an accumulation of unsubmitted kits in NH going forward. Starting in November 2022, the 10 County Attorneys around the State have received a monthly status report of kits in their respective County. Additional tracking and reporting data will become available as the system is used more in the months to come.

- **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.”