

**Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR)
Performance measures for Semi-Annual Reporting
Reporting Period 07/01/21 – 12/31/21**

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	07/01/2021 – 12/31/2021
Report Term/Frequency	Semi-Annual
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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"> • Law enforcement agencies around the State, to include ongoing outreach and education on kits and providing assistance when requested. • County Attorneys around the State, to include providing a project update at the 10/20/21 County Attorneys meeting at the AG’s Office. County Attorneys were provided with an opportunity to take an exemplar kit box back to their County for training purposes (familiarization with process and paperwork and a reminder to ensure that kits are submitted to the Lab). County Attorneys were advised on the number of SAFE-ITR kits within their jurisdictions that had moved to the lab. • The NH Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Coordinator, to include information to be shared at SART meetings and making recommendations for the next edition of NH’s Sexual Assault Protocols based on what has been learned as part of this project. 	Completed and will be Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Attorney General’s Sexual Assault & Nurse Examiner (SANE) Advisory Board, to include project update 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 before a tracking system is up and running.</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.</p> <p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator continued outreach with law enforcement on the remaining unsubmitted SAEKs identified in NH’s inventory.</p> <p>Law enforcement delivered approximately 31 additional previously unsubmitted SAEKs to the lab in this 6 month reporting period, for a total of 404 previously unsubmitted kits being delivered 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>On 12/06/21, the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Lab notified the SAFE-ITR Coordinator of 140 cases they wanted resubmitted due to incomplete analysis at the time of initial lab submission. These 140 cases, predominantly from the years 2010 – 2014, 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>Ongoing</p>

<p>Anonymous Kits</p>	<p>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator then did outreach with 47 law enforcement and requested that the identified kits or kit components be returned to the Lab</p> <p>The lab file research has now been completed for 2010 – 2018 and has resulted in a total of 122 kits in the “incomplete analysis” category being resubmitted to the lab for further analysis, an increase in approximately 32 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 has and continues to request that law enforcement do the research to verify that a victim has not come forward in the time since the kit was collected anonymously. In cases where a victim subsequently came forward, those kits are being submitted to the Forensic Lab.</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 2021</p>	<p>On 1/28/22, 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"> ○ 514 SAKs have been received* ○ 220 have been outsourced ○ 220 are being reviewed and reported ○ Two batches (totaling 99 kits) are ready to go and will be outsourced in the first quarter of 2022. 	

	<p>*NH State Police Forensic Lab’s SAFE-ITR tally is slightly lower than the DOJ’s SAFE-ITR tally as the very first kits that moved to the Lab under the DOJ’s SAFE-ITR grant were processed in-house and not coded as SAFE-ITR kits by the laboratory.</p>
<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"> • Ethnic and Cross-Cultural Skill Development training for State of NH 8/11/21 • 2021 Partnering for a Future without Violence Conference hosted by the NH DOJ in September 2021 • 2021 Law Review Day hosted by the NH DOJ Office of Victim Witness Assistance and the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence • EVAWI training module on Laboratory Analysis of Biological Evidence and the Role of DNA in Sexual Assault investigations (enrolled and partially completed). <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"> • SAKI Advancing Justice with DNA Technologies webinar • SAKI DNA Testing workflow, Collaboration, and Options webinar • 5th Annual National SAKI grantees meeting recordings <p>As a result of SAKI training, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator did research on VICAP and initiated discussions on whether it could be utilized in more sexual assault cases in NH. This conversation is ongoing.</p>

<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>The SAFE-ITR Coordinator also regularly communicates with law enforcement and the NH SART Coordinator in an effort to share information learned from this project so that NH’s response to sexual assault can be enhanced.</p>
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<p>What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?</p> <p>Sexual Assault Evidence kit Tracking System</p>	<p>As it is anticipated that a large number of SAEK Lab results will be received in the next reporting period, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator will continue to collaborate with law enforcement and County Attorney Offices to share resources and best practice on cold-case victim notification when appropriate. The SAFE-ITR coordinator hopes that continued education on this topic will ensure that any cases that may still be viable are reopened and that all component of the system, to include SANE nurses, law enforcement, prosecution, and Lab personnel learn from this project.</p> <p>In this reporting period, the SAFE-ITR coordinator did outreach to learn more about the Idaho Kit tracking system and participated in a presentation to the DOJ on the Safe Storage LLC tracking system that was developed for New York State. The NH DOJ ultimately decided to continue moving forward with a vendor already used by the NH DOJ, CCVC Inc. A kit tracking scope of work and proposal from that vendor have been reviewed and NH DOIT has provided input. The paperwork is making its way through NH’s bureaucratic process. It is hoped that upon approval, the tracking system tool will then go through a prompt development phase and launch process. In preparation of this, DOJ staff recently met with Lab staff to prepare for and discuss the launch of a tracking system.</p> <p>While advancement on the computerized tracking system is pending, the SAFE-ITR Coordinator and the Forensic Laboratory have worked together to ensure current kits collected at hospitals are arriving at the lab in a timely fashion.</p>
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<p>SAFE-ITR Reporting</p>	<p>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 had not been submitted to the lab. In this 6 month reporting period, that resulted in at least 14 recent kits being submitted to the NH State Police Forensic Lab. These recent kits are not considered SAFE-ITR kits for reporting purposes.</p> <p>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 the kits had 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. Agencies with such kits were provided with kit guidance from the NH Sexual Assault protocol as well as a copy of NH Sexual Assault Survivor Rights.</p> <p>All SAFE-ITR semi-annual reports and 60-day reports to date have been 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."</p>
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NH SAFE-ITR Performance Measures through 12/31/21

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. Throughout this period, the inventory has been updated to include 140 kits that the lab requested be resubmitted due to incomplete analysis.

Number of SAKs inventoried during the reporting period:

63 kits were transferred to the NH State Police Forensic Lab during this 60-day reporting period as a result of this Initiative. 31 of these were previously unsubmitted SAEKs and 32 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, 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 estimated that 41 kits from this reporting period do not require testing. 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. 174 Anonymous kits do not require testing unless/until a victim comes forward.

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 estimates that 40% of kits received in this 6-month reporting period will need forensic testing. This data is constantly fluctuating as not all kits that have arrived at the lab have been processed to date and kits continue to arrive at the lab. The Lab provides reports to the law enforcement agencies submitting the kit and will be submitting SAFE-ITR related lab reports 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.

At this point in this Initiative, approximately 99% of previously unsubmitted SAEK's still eligible to move to the lab have been transferred to the NH State Police Forensic Lab. Requests for the resubmission of kits with incomplete analysis in the past were made throughout December 2021 and many are still pending resubmission or some other disposition.

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. Since work on this project began, approximately 42% of the SAFE-ITR kits submitted to The NH State Police Forensic Lab (220 kits), have been outsourced to DNA Labs International. 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.

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: 41 in this reporting period, per the NH State Police Forensic Lab.
- C. Were sent to the laboratory for testing: **63** in this 6 month reporting period; **525** 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 the 220 kits that were outsourced thus far and those results have not yet been disseminated.

Number of deliverables that meet expectations:

- **Deployment of an automated information system:** A contract for a kit tracking software program is making its way through New Hampshire's bureaucratic process.
- **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:** This will be dependent on the deployment of an automated information system. Limited tracking is currently being done in that the SAFE-ITR Coordinator and Lab personnel are coordinating 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 currently available beyond lab submission.

Develop website to report metrics

SAFE-ITR Reports have been 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."