



SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT PROCESSING

Annual Report

HB200

2017 GENERAL SESSION

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee
Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Utah Bureau of Forensic Services Forensic Biology

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. *The timelines set for testing all sexual assault kits submitted to the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services*
 2. *The goals established in Section 76-5-603*
 3. *The status of meeting those goals*
 4. *The number of sexual assault kits that are sent to the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services for testing*
 5. *The number of restricted kits held by law enforcement*
 6. *The number of sexual assault kits that are not processed in accordance with the timelines established in this part*
 7. *Future appropriations requests that will ensure that all DNA cases can be processed according to the timelines established by this part*
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This report contains information for reporting period July 2017 – June 2018.

As of July 31, 2018, the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services has a backlog of 1880 sexual assault cases.

1. & 2. TIMELINES / GOALS

The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services classifies sexual assault kits as follows:

- First Priority – if an immediate threat to public safety exists
- Second Priority – if a court date is scheduled and imminent
- Third Priority – all other cases

The goals* for completion of analysis of sexual assault kit submissions is as follows:

- First Priority – within 30 days from the date of submission
- Second Priority – within 60 days from the date of submission

- Third Priority – within 180 days from the date of submission
* the timelines/goals for completion of testing for sexual assault kits were established by administrative rule and were based on previous laboratory resources and the new funding from HB200.

3. STATUS

The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services analyzed 373 sexual assault cases from July 2017-June 2018 and fall within the different classifications specified in the table below. The number of cases completed, the overall biology section turnaround time, and the median time the analyst spent working the case for each classification is as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF CASES COMPLETED	MEDIAN TOTAL TURNAROUND TIME (Total in the Lab)	MEDIAN ANALYST WORKING TURNAROUND TIME (Time working DNA)
First Priority	35	49	14
Second Priority	45	92	16
Third Priority	293	595	29

Note – A communication to the laboratory in regards to the prioritization of a case may not have occurred until **after the case had already been submitted. This situation results in a “waiting period gap” that could be significant and cause the “total turnaround time” to be higher than the desired goal.*

The “median total turnaround time” per case was greater than the goals established by the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services. However, the “median analyst working turnaround time” is encouraging because this metric does meet the goals established, indicating that our DNA processes are becoming more efficient and streamlined. The “analyst working turnaround time” is the time it takes once a case is assigned for a DNA analyst to complete the DNA testing and issue a report to the submitting agency.

One final point of discussion is the 595 day “median total turnaround time” for third priority cases. This is mainly a result of sexual assault kit submission volume and those cases having to wait in cue to be tested.

4. SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT SUBMISSIONS

The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services continues to track the number of sexual assault kits submitted to the laboratory. The table below shows the number of sexual assault kits submitted to the Crime Lab for this reporting period:

TIME PERIOD	NUMBER OF SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS
July – December 2017	634
January – June 2018	562

5. RESTRICTED KITS

A *Restricted Kit* was defined in HB119 in the 2018 General Legislative Session as: “A sexual assault kit that is collected by a collecting facility, and for which the victim who is 18 years of age or older at the time of the sexual assault kit evidence collection declines to have his or her

sexual assault kit processed; and to have the sexual assault examination form shared with any entity outside of the collection facility.”

From July 2017 to April 2018, the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services coordinated the development and implementation of the Sexual Assault Tracking System. The crime lab is pleased to report that the beta version was completed in December 2017 and tested for several months. The system went live April 2018 and as of July 1, 2018, all agencies have access to the tracking system for **all** sexual assault kits.

The crime lab is able to use the newly developed Sexual Assault Tracking System to determine how many RESTRICTED kits are held by law enforcement agencies. There have been 5 restricted kits entered into the tracking system from April through June 2018

6. SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS NOT PROCESSED WITHIN THE TIMELINE

The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services is working diligently on casework flow throughout the laboratory. By identifying and reducing constraints, the laboratory is able to implement improvements and make adjustments to maximize the efficiency of the biology section. However, there is currently a backlog of sexual assault cases and many will not be processed within the timelines established.

The following represents the case prioritization and the number of cases within each designation that met and did not meet the goal.

Priority 1 cases:

- 13 cases were completed within 30 days
- 22 cases were NOT completed within 30 days

Priority 2 cases:

- 19 cases were completed within 60 days
- 26 cases were NOT completed within 60 days

Priority 3 cases:

- 8 cases were completed within 180 days
- 285 cases were NOT completed within 180 days
- 1880 backlogged cases that either have not been upgraded in priority (neither #1 nor #2) or will remain a priority 3 case and NOT be completed within 180 days.

7. FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

The fiscal note associated with HB200 included **\$2,206,693** for the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services to fund 17 forensic scientist positions within the biology section of the laboratory. When HB200 passed, UBFS was appropriated **\$989,090** which was used to hire 9 of the 17 requested positions. To date, six of those nine new employees are trained and three will complete training in December 2018.

Funding for the remaining 8 forensic scientist positions is still needed in order to process sexual assault kits in a timely manner.