

ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS



November 30, 2021

Arizona Department of Public Safety

“Courteous Vigilance”

Annual Report of Sexual Assault Kits

November 30, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Arizona Revised Statutes §13-1426 and 13-1427 establish the procedure, time limits, and reporting requirements for the submission and analysis of sexual assault kits (SAKs) in Arizona. ARS §13-1427.A requires law enforcement agencies to report to the Department of Public Safety the following:

1. The number of sexual assault kits that the agency received.
2. The number of sexual assault kits that were submitted to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis.
3. The number of sexual assault kits that were not submitted to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis.
4. The reason or reasons for not submitting evidence from each sexual assault kit to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis.

This report includes SAKs received by agencies during FY2021 and how many of those kits were submitted or not submitted for forensic laboratory analysis.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Department of Public Safety collected information from 102 Arizona law enforcement agencies regarding their SAKs received during FY2021. SAK information was collected using the Track-Kit sexual assault kit tracking system which was fully implemented and made available to all law enforcement agencies, medical facilities and public crime laboratories by the beginning of FY2021.

SAK processing information for 100 agencies was reported from the Track-Kit system. The Phoenix Police Department and Mesa Police Department chose to track their sexual assault kits separately, and the Native American tribes have the option to use the system but are not required by the statute to report kit statistics. The Department compiled all information which is summarized in the “Results” section below.

LABORATORIES

Arizona has seven public accredited crime laboratories that perform forensic DNA analyses:

- The DPS Northern Regional Crime Laboratory in Flagstaff
- The DPS Central Regional Crime Laboratory in Phoenix
- The DPS Southern Regional Crime Laboratory in Tucson
- The Phoenix Police Department Crime Laboratory
- The Tucson Police Department Crime Laboratory
- The Mesa Police Department Crime Laboratory
- The Scottsdale Police Department Crime Laboratory

The municipal laboratories provide forensic DNA analysis of SAKs to their respective agencies (and other agencies through intergovernmental agreement), and the DPS laboratories provide analysis to all other Arizona agencies. All of the public accredited crime laboratories analyze every SAK submitted for analysis and do not decline analysis of any SAK.

RESULTS

In FY2021, the Department collected all data using Track-Kit, a web-based system for tracking all SAKs from the collection of the kit by a forensic nurse examiner, continuing through the transfer to the law enforcement agency and concluding with the laboratory forensic DNA analysis. This system offers real-time tracking of the location of each SAK and provides the status of each kit to all stakeholders in the SAK collection and analysis process.

The Department gathered information from 102 Arizona law enforcement agencies regarding the number of SAKs received by each agency in FY2021. The Track-Kit system was utilized by 100 of the 102 agencies, and the other two agencies provided SAK information directly to the Department. The information collected from each agency also includes the number of SAKs submitted to a laboratory for forensic DNA analysis and the reasons SAKs were not submitted to a laboratory. The responses from the individual agencies are included in Appendix A.

A total of 1,690 SAKs were received by these agencies in FY2021, and 1,479 (87.5%) of these kits were subsequently submitted to a laboratory for analysis. For the 211 unsubmitted kits, agencies selected reasons for not submitting the kits for analysis which included:

- The allegations were determined to be unfounded through investigation.
- The victim elected to not move forward with the analysis of the SAK.
- Other

Examples of “Other” reasons include the agency was assisting another agency (the crime occurred in another jurisdiction), the suspect confessed, and the prosecuting attorney declined prosecution.

The Track-Kit system allows survivors to log into the system anonymously to track the progress of their sexual assault kit. The system provides them with information regarding when their kit is transmitted from the medical facility to the law enforcement agency or from the law enforcement agency to the forensic laboratory. Survivors can also see when the analysis of the kit has been completed.

During FY2021, 236 survivors accessed the Track-Kit system 1,161 times to view the progress of their kits. This feature gives the survivors much more timely information regarding the progress of their kit analysis while maintaining their privacy. Given this information, survivors can inquire about delays in kit processing which provides another level of accountability for ensuring that the kit analysis is completed in a timely fashion.

APPENDIX A

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

AGENCY REPORT
OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT SUBMISSIONS

FISCAL YEAR 2021

SAKs Received – The number of Sexual Assault Kits received by an agency in FY2021
 SAKs Submitted – The number of SAKs received that were subsequently submitted to a forensic laboratory for DNA analysis
 SAKs Not Submitted – The number of SAKs received that were not submitted to a forensic laboratory for analysis

Reasons for SAKs Not Submitted – Reasons provided by the agency for SAKs that were not submitted for analysis. Reason options were:

- Unfounded – The allegations were unfounded as determined by the investigating agency
- VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) – The victim elected to not move forward with the analysis of the SAK as a provision of VAWA
- Other – Reasons other than Unfounded or VAWA

Law Enforcement Agency	SAKs Received	SAKs Submitted	SAKs Not Submitted	Reason for SAKs Not Submitted		
				Unfounded	VAWA	Other
Apache County Sheriff's Office	0					
Apache Junction PD	8	7	1	0	0	1
Arizona Department of Corrections	12	10	2	0	0	2
Arizona Department of Public Safety	2	2	0			
Arizona State University PD	6	3	3	0	0	3
Arizona Western College PD	0					
Avondale PD	29	24	5	0	1	4
Benson PD	0					
Bisbee PD	0					
Buckeye PD	13	11	2	0	0	2
Bullhead City PD	3	0	3	1	0	2
Camp Verde Marshal's Office	0	0	0			
Casa Grande PD	19	13	6	0	0	6
Central Arizona College PD	0					

Chandler PD	44	39	5	1	0	4
Chino Valley PD	0					
Clarkdale PD	0					
Clifton PD	1	1	0			
Cochise County Sheriff's Office	5	5	0			
Coconino County Sheriff's Office	4	3	1	0	0	1
Coolidge PD	1	1	0			
Cottonwood PD	3	2	1	1	0	0
Douglas PD	0					
Eagar PD	0					
Eastern Arizona College PD	0					
El Mirage PD	9	7	2	0	0	2
Eloy PD	14	12	2	0	0	2
Flagstaff PD	25	13	12	0	1	11
Florence PD	7	7	0			
Fredonia Marshal's Office	0					
Gila County Sheriff's Office	3	3	0			
Gilbert PD	0					
Glendale PD	64	60	4	0	0	4
Globe PD	4	3	1	0	0	1
Goodyear Police Department	12	11	1	0	0	1
Graham County Sheriff's Office	0					
Grand Canyon University PD	0					
Greenlee County Sheriff's Office	1	1	0			
Hayden PD	0					
Holbrook PD	1	1	0			
Huachuca City PD	0					
Jerome PD	0					
Kearny PD	0					
Kingman PD	5	4	1	0	0	1
Lake Havasu City PD	9	7	2	0	0	2
La Paz County Sheriff's Office	2	2	0			
Mammoth PD	0					
Marana Police Department	5	5	0			
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office	62	45	17	1	0	16
Maricopa PD	6	0	6	1	0	5
Mesa PD	130	123	7	2	2	3
Miami PD	0					
Mohave County Sheriff's Office	14	8	6	0	0	6
Navajo County Sheriff's Office	4	2	2	0	0	2
Nogales PD	2	2	0			
Northern Arizona University PD	2	2	0			

Oro Valley PD	3	2	1	0	0	1
Page PD	7	6	1	0	0	1
Paradise Valley PD	2	0	2	1	0	1
Parker PD	0					
Patagonia Marshal's Office	0					
Payson PD	1	0	1	0	0	1
Peoria PD	27	18	9	0	0	9
Phoenix PD	599	591	8	1	7	0
Pima College PD	0					
Pima County Sheriff's Department	32	25	7	1	0	6
Pima PD	0					
Pinal County Sheriff's Office	32	25	7	0	0	7
Pinetop-Lakeside PD	0					
Prescott PD	11	3	8	0	0	8
Prescott Valley PD	8	8	0			
Quartzsite PD	0					
Safford PD	2	2	0			
Sahuarita PD	2	2	0			
Saint Johns PD	0					
San Luis PD	3	3	0			
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office	4	4	0			
Scottsdale PD	69	48	21	0	0	21
Sedona PD	0	0	0			
Show Low PD	0	0	0			
Sierra Vista Police	9	5	4	0	0	4
Snowflake-Taylor PD	1	0	1	0	0	1
Somerton PD	1	0	1	0	0	1
South Tucson PD	1	1	0			
Springerville PD	0					
Superior PD	0					
Surprise PD	26	15	11	0	0	11
Tempe PD	111	104	7	0	0	7
Thatcher PD	1	1	0			
Tolleson PD	0					
Tombstone Marshal's Office	0					
Tucson PD	166	148	18	0	1	17
University of Arizona PD	2	1	1	0	0	1
Wellton PD	0					
Wickenburg PD	0					
Willcox PD	0					
Williams PD	1	1	0			
Winslow PD	2	2	0			

Yavapai College PD	0					
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office	9	6	3	0	0	3
Yuma County Sheriff's Office	6	5	1	0	0	1
Yuma PD	21	14	7	0	2	5