

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

DNA evidence is an essential tool for the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults. Victims are often counseled to undergo a medical exam that collects DNA and other physical evidence in a sexual assault kit (SAK). Several case studies have highlighted the challenges law enforcement agencies face in routinely submitting SAKs to crime labs for DNA testing, which include limited resources and staff. As a result, some kits may sit unsubmitted in evidence storage for decades.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) implements and oversees the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) program. SAKI is making a nationwide impact by supporting jurisdictions in 35 states to systematically inventory kits in storage and to test kits as needed. Between 2015 and 2018 the SAKI program made awards to 54 grantees, totaling \$139 million in funding. Grantees used these funds towards jurisdictional capacity building as well as the investigation and prosecution of cases resulting from previously unsubmitted SAKs. This snapshot highlights data reported by SAKI grantees between October 2015 and December 2018.

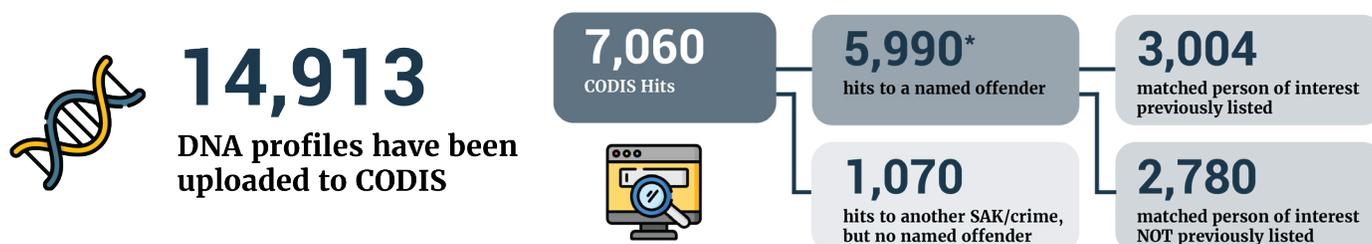
You can learn more about the program at: www.sakitta.org.

Find out more about DNA testing for SAKs at: www.sakitta.org/resources/docs/DNA-Testing-101-Sexual-Assault-Kits.pdf.

SAKI increases investigative leads in jurisdictions with backlogged SAKs



DNA profiles from tested SAKs are entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for information on potential offenders



* Information reflects data reported into PMT by grantees. For "hits to named offenders," whether they correspond to persons of interest previously listed or not is available for slightly less than 100 percent of these hits.

SAKI IN ACTION: The Samuel Little Case



The SAKI program was one of the critical investigative tools that helped authorities confirm Samuel Little as one of the worst serial killers in American history. It enabled police across the country to corroborate numerous Little confessions. Read more about this incredible investigation at:

<https://www.bja.gov/SuccessStory/feature-success-stories.html>

SAKI Investigations and Prosecutions

