

New Jersey
Sexual Assault
Forensic Examination
(SAFE) Kit *Survey Results*



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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New Jersey Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Kit Survey Results

Introduction

Background

As required by N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245, the Attorney General, in consultation with the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (“NJCASA”), developed a survey concerning the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (“SAFE”) kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies in New Jersey (“AG SAFE survey”). The AG SAFE survey was designed to closely follow a survey on the same topic conducted by the Office of Legislative Services (“OLS”). For the AG SAFE Survey, all law enforcement agencies, including State agencies, responsible for the collection, storage, and maintenance of SAFE kits were required to respond to the survey. In addition, survey questions were designed specifically for County Prosecutors and Forensic Nurse Examiners (“FNEs”) to answer on the procedures surrounding SAFE kits. This report details the results of the AG SAFE survey – identifying the volume of total kits, tested and untested kits, Hold kits (those not sent for testing at the request of the victim or the prosecutor), and provides an overview of the policies and procedures surrounding the handling and storage of SAFE kits.

New Jersey Sexual Assault Response Overview

Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2018-5 (“the 2018 [Directive](#)”) implemented updated procedures and protocols for sexual assault response and referrals. The purpose of the 2018 Directive was to strengthen and standardize law enforcement’s response to sexual assault crimes, reinforce law enforcement’s “victim-centered” approach¹ in such cases, and improve statewide data collection about sexual assault investigations.² At the same time, the Attorney General issued the Third Edition of the *Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault* (“the [Standards](#)”), which details 14 protocols that prioritize the needs and concerns of sexual assault victims (also referred to as “survivors”) in New Jersey.

Pursuant to the Standards, every county must have a Sexual Assault Response Team³ (hereafter “SART”) and a SART Coordinator who oversees the County’s program and ensures a response in accordance with the Standards. Additionally, the SART Coordinator ensures 24/7 on-call coverage by SART FNEs in their respective county.

The Standards require that victims of sexual assault be provided with thorough, compassionate, and objective assistance from all SART members, including law enforcement officers responding to and investigating an incident of sexual assault. A victim of sexual assault is eligible for the services of the SART when the victim is 13 years of age or older, the assault occurred within the past five days, and the victim consents to a SART activation. If a victim fits these criteria and

¹ “Victim-centered” approach refers to the systematic focus on the individuality of the victim driven by their needs and concerns, to ensure the delivery of appropriate, accessible, and culturally-responsive services, to a diverse population of victims.

² [See](#), Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2018-5, Implementing Procedures and Protocols for Sexual Assault Response and Referrals.

³ SART provides a coordinated response to victims of sexual assault. The SART is comprised of a law enforcement officer; a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (“CSVA”); and an FNE.

presents at a healthcare facility, a sexual violence service organization, or a law enforcement agency, the victim shall be personally informed about the availability of the specialized services of the SART by either a SART member or a representative of the healthcare facility, sexual violence service organization, or law enforcement agency. A SART activation occurs when the victim chooses to engage with one, two, or all three members of the SART. The requested on-call SART member(s) will be activated according to county protocol, and shall respond within one hour or less. The first responding SART member shall ensure that the coordinated response of a SART activation is properly explained to the victim.

Pursuant to the Standards, each County Prosecutor's Office is required to have at least one assistant prosecutor with specialized training in investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases. In addition, the County Prosecutor's Office is required to establish procedures to maintain custody of any forensic evidence collected during a medical forensic exam conducted within the county. If the victim is undecided about reporting an incident to law enforcement at the time of the forensic medical exam, the County Prosecutor's Office must establish a procedure for all forensic evidence to be secured for at least five years from the examination date (known as a "Hold Kit"). Where the victim is a minor, evidence must be secured for at least five years after the victim reaches the age of 18.

Survey Methodology

The scope of the AG SAFE survey included "sexual assault examination kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies in this State that have not been submitted to a laboratory approved by the Attorney General for serology or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245. The statute further indicated other areas of interest and stated that the AG SAFE survey be distributed to, and completed by, every law enforcement agency in New Jersey responsible for the collection, storage, and maintenance of SAFE kits. The AG SAFE survey intentionally used elements from the OLS survey from 2019 to ensure consistency in the data collection instrument.

The AG SAFE survey was developed to obtain information from three key groups outlined in the Standards: (1) SART Coordinators; (2) County Prosecutor's Offices (including investigation units); and (3) all law enforcement agencies.⁴ The full survey instrument is attached as Appendix "A" and included questions to capture the following:

- total number of identifiable kits⁵;
- total number of unidentifiable kits⁶;
- total number and age of Hold kits⁷;
- kits collected and submitted/not submitted for testing;

⁴ Law enforcement agencies refer to police departments, Sheriff's Offices, agencies with statewide jurisdiction, or those operating on a college or university campus

⁵ Identifiable kits are SAFE Kits where tracking or case-related information is maintained

⁶ Unidentifiable kits SAFE Kits with no records related to tracking or case information.

⁷ Hold kits or unreported kits are SAFE Kits collected where a victim chose not to report the event to law enforcement.

- storage of kits (identifiable, unidentifiable, tested, untested, and Hold);
- reasons for not submitting a kit for testing; and
- policies and procedures for County Prosecutor's Offices and law enforcement agencies.

SAFE kits stored as Hold kits do not represent a backlog of cases. These kits were placed on hold at the request of the victim. A backlog would be indicated by a delay in the time period between collection and testing when testing of the kit is needed. Please note, the AG SAFE survey did not collect information on individual cases, such as the date a kit was collected and the date the kit was tested.

In total, 43 questions were included in the survey distributed in June 2021 by the Division of Criminal Justice ("DCJ") to all designated respondents in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245. At the conclusion of the data collection period, responses were collected from unique agencies and analyzed here. Unintended respondents, such as correctional agencies were removed. In total, 21 SART Coordinators,⁸ 21 County Prosecutor's Offices, and 514 unique law enforcement agencies responded.⁹

⁸ In many counties, the SART Coordinator is the Forensic Nurse Examiner.

⁹ Duplicate responses were removed. Certain state-wide agencies responded by station or barracks, but are counted here as one agency.

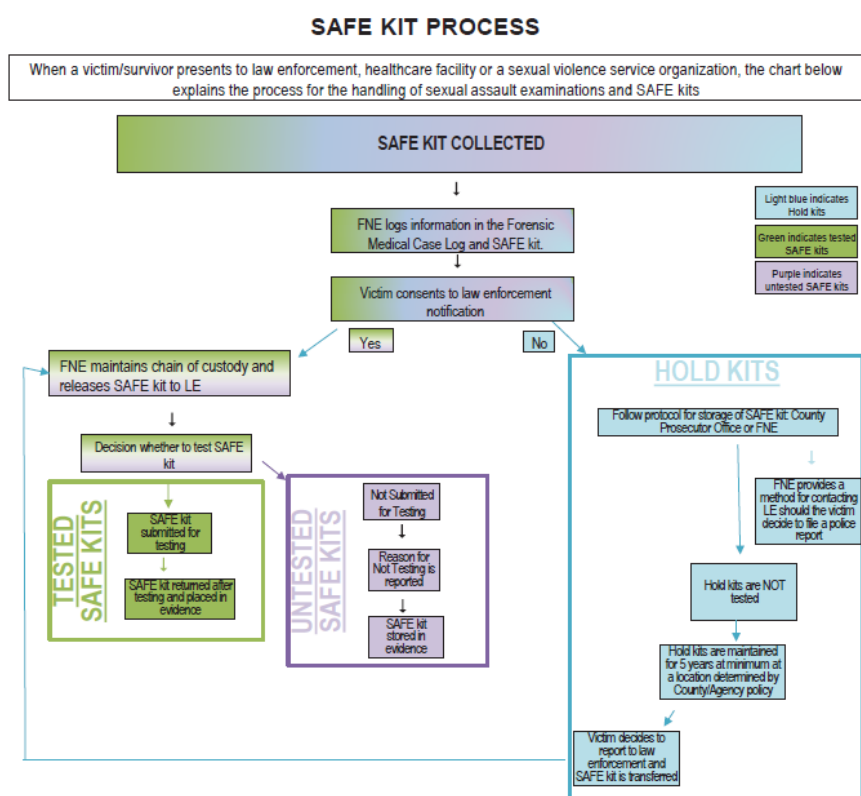
Summary of Survey Results

To provide a high-level understanding of sexual assault response, the results of the AG SAFE survey are discussed below.

SART Processing of SAFE Kits

The process for providing services to a sexual assault victim is comprehensive and multi-disciplinary, involving advocates, healthcare providers, and law enforcement. Details of this full process are contained in the [Standards](#). The AG SAFE survey and report focus on the processing of SAFE kits, and do not discuss the support and services provided prior to, or after, the collection of the SAFE kit. Survey respondents were asked to explain their chain of custody and handling of kits. Figure 1 details these responses.

Figure 1: Workflow of the SART Process



In almost all counties, immediately following the completion of the forensic medical exam, the FNE seals the SAFE kit and signs it over to law enforcement if the victim is reporting the sexual assault. If law enforcement is not present for the forensic medical exam, the FNE secures the kit until law enforcement arranges to take custody of the kit. If the victim chooses not to report the case to law enforcement, the FNE retains custody of the kit until the SART Coordinator or County Prosecutor's Office ("CPO") arranges to take custody of the kit and logs it as a Hold kit.¹⁰ The majority of responses from FNEs and CPOs indicated that all kits, including those identifiable, unidentifiable, untested, and returned, were stored in their evidence units, while law enforcement agencies most frequently specified the storage was in an evidence unit, without specifying where. Fewer than 12 law enforcement agencies indicated storage was at the CPO evidence unit.

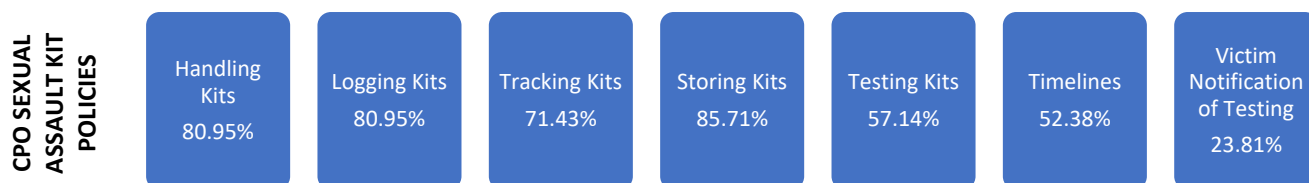
¹⁰ Hold kits are not a backlog; the victim has decided not to submit the kit to law enforcement and the kit is held in accordance with AG Directive 2011-1 in case the victim changes his/her/their mind during the retention period and decides to pursue a criminal investigation.

Policies and Procedures

The AG SAFE survey included specific questions on the implementation of policies and procedures governing sexual assault cases. While the Standards and the 2018 Directive specify much of the process for these cases, N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245 specifically required agencies to indicate the existence of their own policies and procedures.

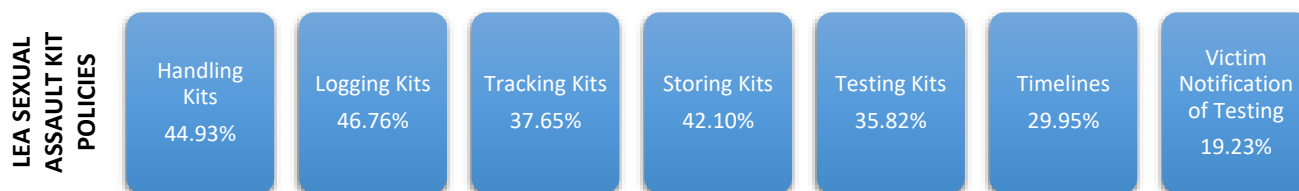
County Prosecutor's Offices

To ensure compliance with the Standards, and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245, County Prosecutors were asked about specific procedural elements “governing the submission of sexual assault examination kits to an approved forensic laboratory for testing, including specific submission criteria, timelines, and victim notifications; agency policies and procedures for logging, tracking, and storing sexual assault examination kits[.]” The majority of County Prosecutors indicated the existence of policies regarding handling, logging, tracking kits, storing kits, test kits, and submission criteria and timelines.



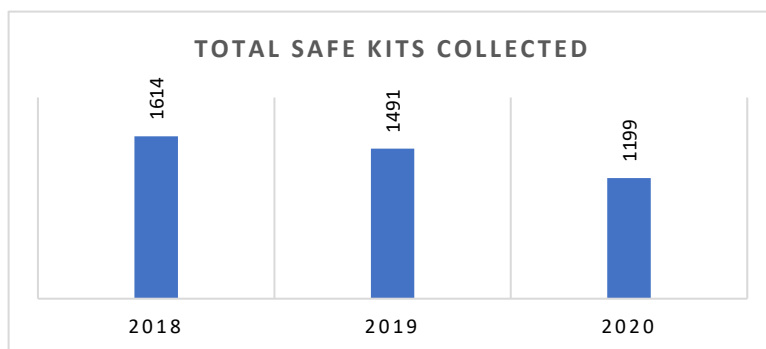
Law Enforcement Agencies

In addition to County Prosecutors' policies, law enforcement agencies were asked to indicate the presence of their own policies regarding SAFE kits. The proportion of agencies indicating their own specific agency policy on SAFE kits was considerably smaller than that of the County Prosecutors. Because these agencies operate under the purview of the County Prosecutor, the agencies must comply with the guidelines and/or directives identified at the county level regardless of their own policy.



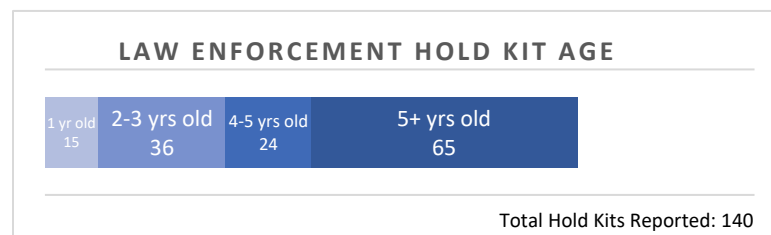
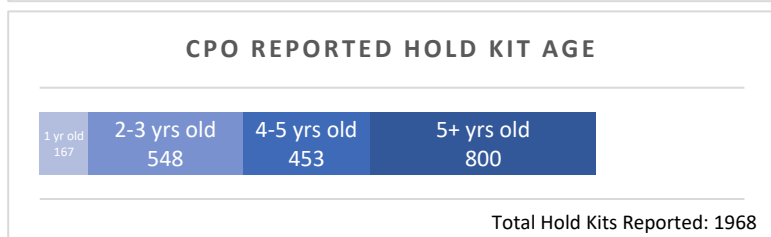
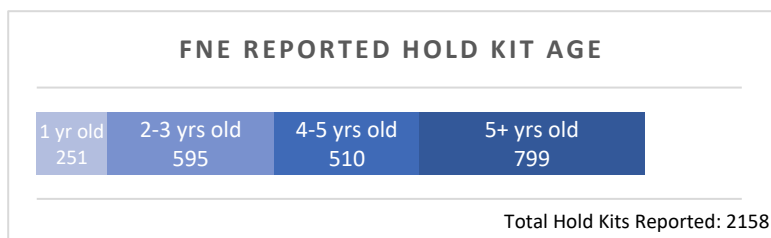
SAFE Kit Volume

County FNE's reported the total volume of SAFE kits collected from 2018 to 2020, which indicate decreasing volumes over time. The reported total volume includes kits that may have been tested, untested, Hold kits, identifiable, and unidentifiable kits.



Hold Kits¹¹

Once a SAFE kit is collected, it is left up to the victim as to whether an FNE will refer the kit to law enforcement or hold it. A collected kit becomes a Hold kit when the victim chooses not to report the incident to law enforcement for investigation, opting to instead hold their kit, for a minimum of five years.¹² These Hold kits do not demonstrate a backlog. County Prosecutors, FNEs, and law enforcement reported their volume of Hold kits separately, as the possession of these kits may be unknown to the other.¹³ Results indicated that the bulk of Hold kits reside with the FNE. In total, FNEs reported 2,158 Hold kits and CPOs reported 1,968 Hold kits. Thirty-three (33) law enforcement agencies reported a total of 140¹⁴ Hold kits. These Hold kits may represent those kits initially referred to law enforcement, but where the victim chose not to continue the investigation.



¹¹ Agencies responded to the survey between June 2021 and June 2022, with most agencies responding in 2021. As such, Hold kit ages may now be nearly two years older than first reported.

¹² In July 2014, the retention period for Hold kits was extended from 90 days to 5 years.

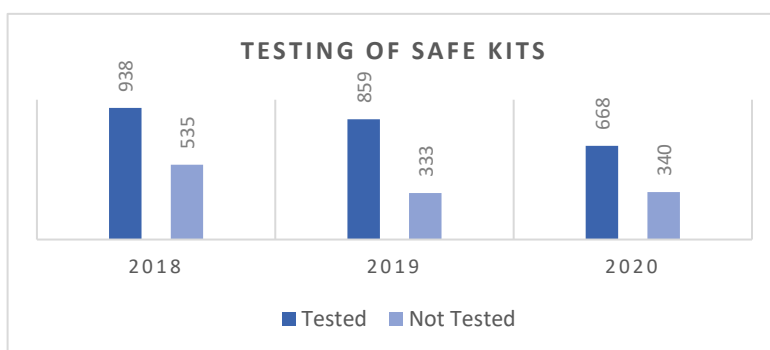
¹³ The volume of Hold kits is not summed together by responded type because responses were provided separately by respondents. It is unknown whether the volume of Hold kits reported by one respondent is included in the volume reported by any other respondent.

¹⁴ Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 139 Hold kits. However, when reporting by the age of the Hold kit, the total for law enforcement equals 140 Hold kits.

Hold kits ranged in age from 1 year old to over 5 years old.¹⁵ Regardless of storage location, between a third to a half of all Hold kits in New Jersey were past the 5-year retention period for each group of respondents.¹⁶ As of survey completion, approximately 37% of kits held by FNEs were reported as over 5 years old (799 or 37.08%); over 40% of CPO Hold kits were reported as over 5 years old (800 or 40.54%); and over 45% of LEA Hold kits were reported as over 5 years old (65 or 46.43%).¹⁷ Responding agencies indicated that Hold kits were most frequently stored in evidence facilities, typically within the County Prosecutor’s Office. Victims wishing to pursue a case once a kit has been placed on hold, have the option to do so. FNE’s reported that since 2014, a total of 97 victims/survivors have come forward to move the Hold kit to law enforcement after placing the kit on hold at the time of collection.

Testing Kits

Those kits not initially held by the FNE and referred to law enforcement may be subject to DNA testing. The decision to test a kit for DNA evidence is rooted in the victim’s preferences and prosecutorial/law enforcement decisions on the case. Should the prosecutor or law enforcement decide not to submit the kit for testing, the majority of responding law enforcement agencies (290 of 512) indicated the decision is made by someone of a specified rank – from the detective/investigator on the case to the Chief.¹⁸ For 76 agencies, the decision is made at the County Prosecutor’s Office. Further, 15 agencies indicated that there is no decision-maker as all reported kits are tested.



When a kit is not tested, agencies most frequently indicated the untested kits were stored in unspecified evidence facilities (175 of 205 agencies that provided a response to this question), an additional 16 agencies indicated storage with the county (county prosecutor, sheriff, or SANE).

¹⁵ See, Revision of Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2011-1 (July 2014), revising procedures for retaining Hold kits and extending the time for victims to decide whether to report the crime and release collected forensic evidence to law enforcement authorities.

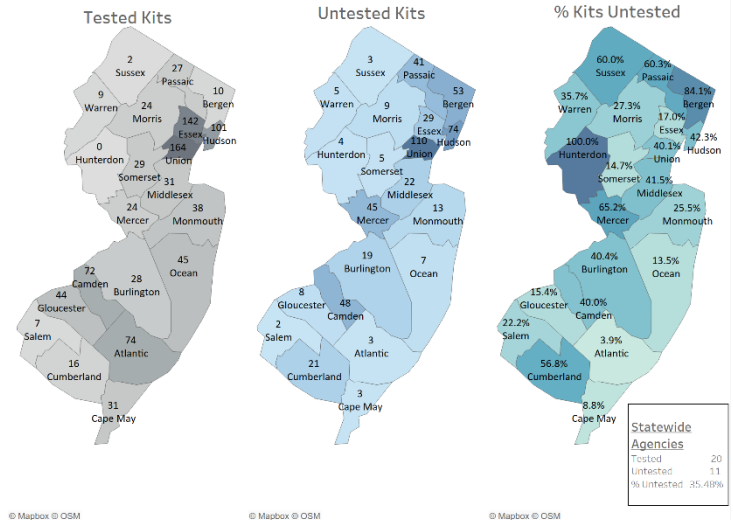
¹⁶ As a result of the OLS survey of SAFE kits in 2018, the Division of Criminal Justice did not accept requests to take possession of 5- year Hold kits scheduled for destruction. Thereafter, the Covid-19 pandemic ensued, followed by the AG SAFE survey, placing a pause on requests for destruction until further guidance could be promulgated.

¹⁷ Age of kit is rounded up. Kits under 1-year old are represented in the “1-year old” category.

¹⁸ Multiple response options were permissible on this question.

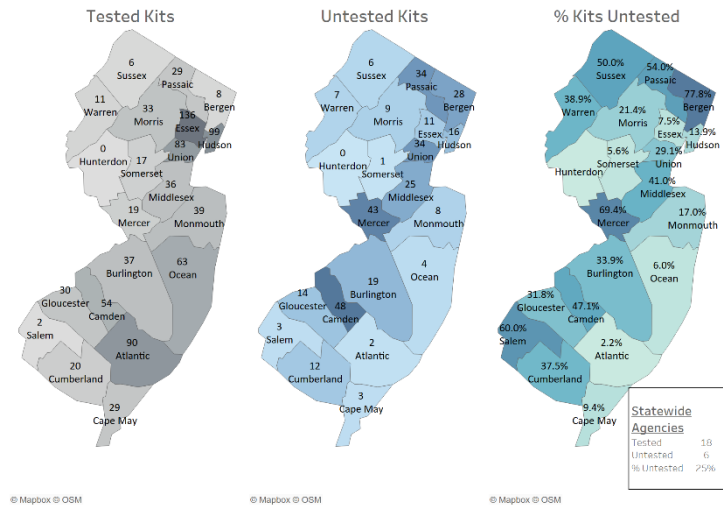
After a kit is tested, 273 agencies require the test to be returned to the agency and/or county for storage while 64 agencies do not require the test to be returned, and 241 agencies responded not applicable or did not respond to this question. Returned kits were most frequently stored in evidence.

2018 SAFE Kits

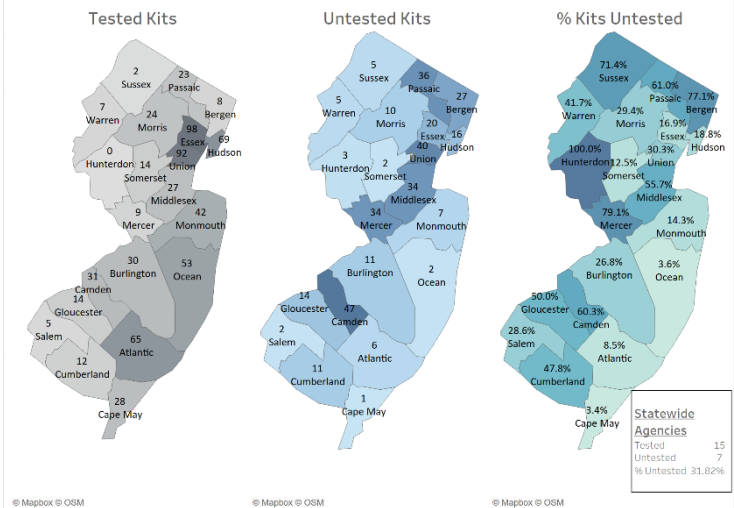


Law enforcement and County Prosecutors reported their volume of tested and untested SAFE kits. From 2018 to 2020, less than 40% of all SAFE kits collected were not tested in each year – 36.24% in 2018, 27.91% in 2019, and 33.66% in 2020.

2019 SAFE Kits



2020 SAFE Kits



When the decision is made not to test a kit, 180 agencies indicated that a documented reason is required, most frequently recorded in a police officer's report. When asked to specify reasons for why a SAFE kit would not be tested, 146 agencies provided a response.¹⁹ Most frequently, reasons for not testing reflected the victim's preference or the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

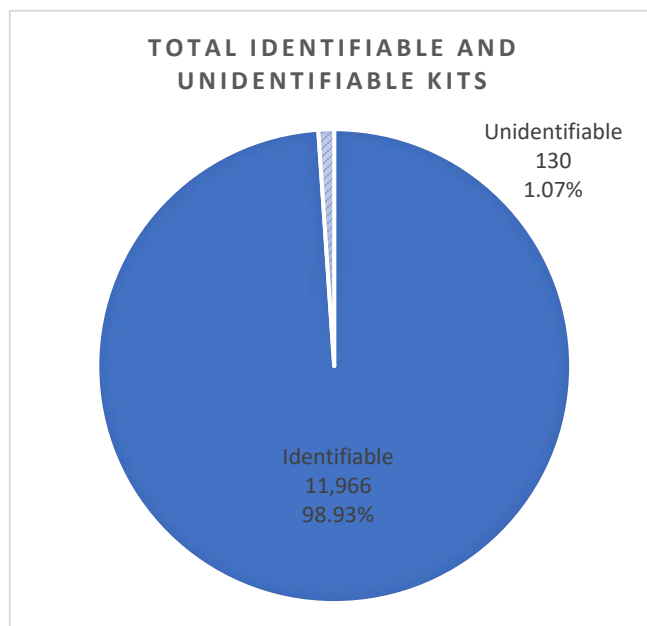
REASONS NOT TESTED	# OF AGENCIES
<i>Victim declined to file a complaint</i>	95
<i>Prosecutor advised it was not necessary</i>	44
<i>Victim informed police the crime did not occur</i>	40
<i>Investigator suspected the act was consensual</i>	35
<i>DNA evidence was not needed to convict</i>	20
<i>Investigator had no suspects</i>	19
<i>Unknown due to age of SAFE Kit</i>	15
<i>The SAFE Kit is scheduled to be sent to the lab</i>	10
<i>Victim filed complaint against spouse/partner, former spouse/partner</i>	9
<i>Other</i>	40

¹⁹ The reasons for not testing a SAFE kit were taken from the OLS survey, which included a list of pre-defined reasons for responding agencies to select from. The list used in the AG SAFE survey used only those reasons that were selected by participants in the OLS survey.

Identifiable Kits

The AG SAFE survey required agencies to indicate the volume of identifiable and unidentifiable kits in their possession, collected at any time. Statewide, there were a total of 11,966 identifiable kits and 130 unidentifiable kits in the possession of law enforcement. The 130 unidentifiable kits were reported by 17 unique agencies. These agencies provided reasons that the kits were not identifiable which included:

- Age of the kit pre-dates electronic records;
- Kit contains illegible markings or is unmarked;
- Kit was damaged;
- Kit appeared to belong to another law enforcement agency.



The small number of unidentifiable kits may be the result of two specific implementations in the processing of SAFE kits: standardized kit labels and the Forensic Medical Examination case log.

SAFE Kit Labels

According to responses from FNEs, the physical SAFE kits purchased have standardized information recorded on each kit. SAFE kit vendors include labels on each kit. The label provides all kits with a standardized location for FNEs and law enforcement to record information including: subject name, gender, exam number, collection date, examiner name, collection location, kit sealed by, as well as a section for chain of custody. Upon collecting kits, FNEs complete the label on the front of the kit, helping to ensure the kit is identifiable.

Image 1: NJ SAFE Kit Label

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE KIT**
(Print in ink)
MEDICAL PERSONNEL

SUBJECT NAME: _____ U/M (F)
EXAM NUMBER: _____ COLLECTION DATE: _____
EXAMINER NAME: _____
COLLECTION LOCATION: _____
KIT SEALED BY: (print) _____
(sign) _____
(date) _____

TREAT SEALED KIT AND CLOTHING AS EVIDENCE. STORE IN SECURE LOCATION.

— DO NOT REFRIGERATE —

CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF SEALED EVIDENCE KIT

PRINT NAME	SIGN NAME	AGENCY	DATE

BIOHAZARD

Forensic Medical Examination Case Log

Should the label not be completed or become illegible, all FNEs indicated the presence of a separate log of information on SAFE kits. Specifically, 80.95% of FNEs indicated this is an electronic log and 19.05% indicated a manual log or filing system. While some county variation was evident in responses, most FNEs recorded similar information on the case log. Most frequently, these logs include information such as date, case number, patient's name/demographic information, SART/FNE name, site location,²⁰ kit information/comments,²¹ type of assault/examination, case information/documents,²² and investigation information/disposition,²³ and this is consistent in all counties.

Survey Limitations

Inherent in any survey are limitations that can impact data collection, interpretation, and analyses. The AG SAFE survey closely followed the OLS survey on the same topic administered in 2019. Some of the questions and response options were intentional duplicates of those used in the OLS survey. However, the OLS survey and AG SAFE survey differ in several key ways. First, the OLS survey focused on the number of kits and cases. While some questions in the AG SAFE survey requested this information, the majority of the survey focused on policies and procedures governing the SART process. This key distinction is why the results depicted within this report do not indicate evidence of a backlog. While agencies reported the number of untested kits in their possession, this survey did not request the collection dates of kits, case status of those kits, or how soon after collection kits were or were not tested. Second, the AG SAFE survey requested information from County Prosecutor's Offices and all other law enforcement agencies, encompassing a larger respondent pool. This larger number of respondents provides results that are indicative of practice in all jurisdictions. However, this also resulted in potential inconsistency in survey responses that was dependent on the subject matter expertise of the person completing the survey.

For the AG SAFE survey, time was the biggest limitation. The initial survey was disseminated in June 2021. However, it took agencies a full year to respond to this survey. Any references to case volume are indicative of the point in time the survey was completed. This means that an agency's volume of tested, untested, and Hold kits in responses, were not necessarily contemporaneous to other agencies.

Finally, there was variation in the completion rates for each question. For some questions, responding agencies skipped or failed to provide an answer. Throughout the results above, we

²⁰ Site information refers to the location the forensic medical examination took place.

²¹ Kit Information and Comments include toxicology kit marker, SAFE marker, DFSA marker, adult or pediatric marker, laboratory submission form/information, 5-year hold and expiration date, time examination began and completed, who took possession of kit and date, and status of kit.

²² Case Information/Documents includes waiver; advocate name, case number, notes, physical case folders, cases received as evidence, statistics, photographs, translation needed, and markers (such as DCP&P, SARC, HIV, college student, or feedback form).

²³ Investigation Information/Disposition includes chain of custody, investigating agency (including name of law enforcement and SART team members), markers (such as stranger case or strangulation case), activation alert to victim witness, location of incident, and items collected, found, and collected by.

included the number of responding agencies to each question, especially when the question was not answered by all.

Conclusion

The AG SAFE survey was designed to assess the number of “sexual assault examination kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies in this State that have not been submitted to a laboratory approved by the Attorney General for serology or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing” and to assess the current policies and procedures governing the sexual assault examination kit process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245.

Overall, the results indicated the following: decreasing volumes of SAFE kits collected from 2018 to 2020; Hold kits residing primarily with the FNE, the largest proportion of which were over 5 years old; the majority of SAFE kits were tested; and less than 1% of SAFE kits were unidentifiable. The results also indicated county-level policies that governed the SART process and handling of SAFE kits despite a lack of individual law enforcement agency-level policies. Reasons for untested kits were frequently rooted in prosecutorial discretion and the victim’s preferences of whether to proceed with the case. Finally, responses indicated consistent and thorough record keeping on the SAFE kits using a standard label on kits and a standard log.

The AG SAFE survey results highlight the need for standardized policies that codify best practices in the area of testing, tracking storage, retention, and destruction of SAFE kits. The results of the AG SAFE survey, as well as recommendations from advocates, service providers, and law enforcement professionals, were considered by subject matter experts from the leadership of the Division of Criminal Justice, the Office of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance, and the Office of the Attorney General, in developing new policies and procedures for law enforcement statewide. Contemporaneously to the release of this report, the Attorney General is issuing Law Enforcement Directive 2023-1, which will, among other things, do the following:

- Extend the required retention period of unreported SAFE kits²⁴ from 5 years to 20 years.
- Restrict the decision not to test a reported SAFE kit to the discretion of the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice, the County Prosecutors, or their attorney designees.
- Eliminates the following from ever being reasons not to test a reported SAFE kit:
 - The belief by a member of the investigative or prosecutorial team that the act was consensual;
 - No suspects were identified; or
 - The allegation was filed against a spouse, partner, or former spouse/partner of the victim.

²⁴ The Attorney General’s Directive addresses SAFE kits, as well as Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault kits, though the survey focused specifically on SAFE kits.

- Require county-wide procedures for tracking kits – whether they be reported or unreported, with careful attention to being able to protect the anonymity of victims associated with unreported kits.
- Establish best practices for the collection and storage of kits.

While the Office of the Attorney General will continue to work with partners and stakeholders in a shared commitment to eradicate sexual assault, until that goal is achieved, this Office will strive to do all it can to ensure that victims are heard and perpetrators are held accountable. The Attorney General Directive issued today implements changes that help further that mission.

Appendix A: Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Kit 2021 Survey

The full text of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit 2021 Survey as designed by the Division of Criminal Justice and the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault appears below.

As required by N.J.S.A. 52:17B-245, the Attorney General, in consultation with the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA), has developed this survey concerning the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies in New Jersey. The survey is being distributed to capture data from every law enforcement agency in the State, which is responsible for the collection, storage, and maintenance of SAFE Kits. All law enforcement agencies, including State agencies, that possess SAFE Kits are required to respond to this survey. This survey will help inform future guidance to best collect, track, store, and retain SAFE Kits.

Please answer "N/A" in the required fields that do not pertain to you.

SART/FNE Coordinator

The following questions should be completed by the County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)/Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) Coordinator.

SART/FNE Coordinator Providing Response:

County:

Date of Survey Response:

Address:

City/Town:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

1. How many SAFE Kits were collected in your County in calendar years:
2018
2019
2020
2. Do you maintain a log of all SAFE Kits that have been collected?
Response/If yes, please explain system used
3. What information do you include on your Forensic Medical Examination case log?
Open-Ended Response
4. What information is recorded on the SAFE Kit itself?
Open-Ended Response
5. How many SAFE Kits do you possess that are on "hold"? "Hold" kits refer to SAFE Kits that have not yet been provided to law enforcement pending the victim's decision to report the crime.
Open-Ended Response

6. Where are they stored?

Open-Ended Response

7. Since July 2014, in which “hold” times were extended from 90 days to 5 years, how many victims/survivors have come forward to move SAFE Kits to law enforcement?

Open-Ended Response

8. For your “hold” kits, how many are:

1 year old

2-3 years old

4-5 years old

Over 5 years old

9. Where are SAFE Kits kept after collection until law enforcement retrieve the kit when victims report to law enforcement?

Open-Ended Response

10. Explain the chain of custody and method used to secure the kit.

Open-Ended Response

County Prosecutor

The following questions should be completed by a representative from the County Prosecutor’s Office.

Point of Contact Providing Response:

County:

Date of Response:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State/Province:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

1. Does your County maintain written policies or procedures for handling SAFE Kits?

N/A

Yes

No

Other (please specify)

2. Does your County maintain written policies or procedures for logging SAFE Kits?

N/A

Yes

No

Other (please specify)

3. Does your County have written policies or procedures that list specific criteria for submitting SAFE Kits to an approved forensic laboratory for testing?

N/A

Yes

No

4. Does your County have policies or procedures that specify timelines within which your agency should send SAFE Kits to an approved forensic laboratory for testing?
N/A
Yes
No
5. Does your County maintain written policies or procedures for tracking SAFE Kits?
N/A
Yes
No
6. Does your County maintain written policies or procedures for storing SAFE Kits?
N/A
Yes
No

Law Enforcement

The following questions should be completed by each law enforcement agency (Municipal/County/State Law Enforcement Agency).

Municipal/County/State Law Enforcement Agency:

Point of Contact Providing Response:

Date of Response:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State/Province:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

1. How many identifiable SAFE Kits does your agency have in its possession (defining "identifiable" as SAFE Kits where you maintain tracking or case related information)?
Open-Ended Response
2. Where are these SAFE Kits stored?
Open-Ended Response
3. Do you have SAFE Kits that are unidentifiable (no records related to tracking or case information)?
Open-Ended Response
4. Do you know the exact number that are unidentifiable?
N/A
Yes
No
5. Unidentifiable Kits
If you answered YES above - how many unidentified kits are there?
If you answered NO above, approximately how many unidentified kits are there?
6. Where are these SAFE Kits stored?
Open-Ended Response
7. What is the main reason these SAFE Kits are unidentifiable?
Response

Other, please explain

8. How many SAFE Kits were submitted by your agency to an approved forensic lab for testing in:

2018**2019****2020**

9. How many SAFE Kits did your agency collect and now possess, but were not submitted for testing in: (*This does not include “hold” kits, which refer to SAFE Kits that have not yet been provided to law enforcement pending the victim’s decision to report the crime. However, your agency may have “hold” kits you are storing anonymously/without identifiers of the victim.)

2018**2019****2020**

10. Where are your agency’s untested SAFE Kits stored?

Open-Ended

11. Does your agency possess any “hold” kits? * “Hold” kits refer to SAFE Kits that have not yet been provided to law enforcement pending the victim’s decision to report the crime. However, your agency may have “hold” kits you are storing anonymously/without identifiers of the victim.

N/A**Yes****No**

12. Where are your agency’s “hold” kits stored?

Open-Ended

13. For your “hold” kits, how many are:

1 year old**2-3 years old****4-5 years old****Over 5 years old**

14. Below is a list of the most commonly reported reasons for not submitting a SAFE Kit for testing. Please select all that apply for untested SAFE Kits maintained by your agency and add any reason that may not be listed: (*This does not include “hold” kits, which refer to SAFE Kits that have not yet been provided to law enforcement pending the victim’s decision to report the crime. However, your agency may have “hold” kits you are storing anonymously/without identifiers of the victim.)

N/A**Victim declined to file a complaint****Victim informed police the crime did not occur****DNA evidence was not needed to convict****The SAFE Kit is scheduled to be sent to the lab****Investigator had no suspects****Investigator suspected the act was consensual****Victim filed complaint against spouse/partner, former spouse/partner****Prosecutor advised it was not necessary****Unknown due to age of SAFE Kit****Other, please provide all additional reasons:**

15. Does your agency require the reason why SAFE Kits are not submitted to an authorized lab for testing to be documented? If so, where is this recorded?

Open-Ended

16. Who in your agency decides whether a SAFE Kit is sent to the lab for testing? Please specify title/rank of authorizing party.

Open-Ended

17. Once a SAFE Kit is tested, is it returned to your agency?

N/A

Yes

No

If returned, where are they stored?

18. Does your agency maintain written policies or procedures for handling SAFE Kits?

N/A

Yes

No

19. Does your agency maintain written policies or procedures for logging SAFE Kits?

N/A

Yes

No

20. Does your agency have written policies or procedures that list specific criteria for submitting SAFE Kits to an approved forensic laboratory for testing?

N/A

Yes

No

21. Does your agency have policies or procedures that specify timelines within which your agency should send SAFE Kits to an approved forensic laboratory for testing?

N/A

Yes

No

22. Does your agency maintain written policies or procedures for tracking SAFE Kits?

N/A

Yes

No

23. Does your agency maintain written policies or procedures for storing SAFE Kits?

N/A

Yes

No

24. Does your agency maintain written policies or procedures for notifying victims when a SAFE Kit is submitted to the lab for testing, and if it is not submitted to the lab?

N/A

Yes

No

Appendix B: SAFE Survey Data

The link below includes survey responses received during the SAFE Survey period. Duplicate submissions have been removed from the responses.

County Prosecutor's answered two surveys – one focusing on policies surrounding the SART Process, and the law enforcement survey which asks questions about case volumes in addition to policies. Because the policy questions were identical on both submissions, County Prosecutor responses are included in the law enforcement survey.

[SAFE Survey Data](#)