



Oregon

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Legislative Report Department of Oregon State Police Forensic Services Report on Sexual Assault Kits & Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System January 2, 2020

SB 1571 directs the Department of Oregon State Police (OSP) to submit a report describing progress made on the backlog of untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits ("SAFE kits") to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary by January 15th of each calendar year. HB 4049, passed in 2018, requires additional reporting on the progress toward development and deployment of an electronic system to track the progress of SAFE kits moving through the state system.

As of November 1, 2018, Oregon's SAFE kit backlog has been eliminated.

SAFE Kit backlog

As of December 1, 2018, OSP had no kits older than nine months, and approximately 80% of the pending inventory was less than 90 days old. In October 2019, the most recent month for which we have published data, the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division received 108 new requests for SAFE kit analysis, completed 120 requests, and ended the month with 253 requests pending. Average turnaround time in DNA (from receipt of evidence to publication of report) was 32 days. (The October, 2019 Infograph summary is attached as Figure 1).

Work on an electronic tracking program began shortly after the passage of SB 1571 in 2016, as the Department recognized that an electronic solution would be the fastest and most economical way to provide victims with prompt access to the information to which they were entitled. In the spring of 2016, after identifying suitable commercial tracking software, the Department applied for a federal grant to purchase the software and cover the cost of an employee to assist with project implementation. In the fall of 2016, OSP was informed that its grant application had been successful and approximately \$1 million dollars was being awarded. The grant money became available in January of 2017, but the Department was unable to purchase the software, due to a lack of additional specialized staffing necessary to move a software purchase through the state's new "stage-gate" business planning and procurement process. After approximately a year with little progress toward procurement, the Department looked to non-State government partners for assistance. In late 2017 and early 2018 the Department began a partnership with Portland Police Bureau which offered to develop and share a victim-centric module for their in-house Sexual Assault Management System "SAMS" Victim Portal program. That collaboration moved from initial development and testing through beta-testing in Portland in 2019. The working version of the application is currently deployed with Portland Police Bureau. The application is also ready for broader statewide deployment. A tentative deployment plan was released in early December at the annual Oregon District Attorneys Association Winter Conference, and similar introductory presentations are planned for the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, with training being rolled out to health care providers and law enforcement by region.

HB 4049 required the State Police to establish a multidisciplinary committee on the tracking of SAFE kits. The committee was intended to make recommendations about electronic tracking program development, explore the possibility of related grant funding, and track the program's progress, but most this work was completed in 2016 and 2017 under the oversight of the Legislature's Task Force on the Testing of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kits, so members of the Task Force were asked to see the project through while also serving as the State Police multidisciplinary committee under HB 4049. All members agreed to serve on both groups, effectively consolidating oversight. The SAMS tracking program should be fully deployed before December 31, 2020.



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