

# **Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking**

(FY2019 Appropriation Act - Public Act 207 of 2018)

**March 30, 2019**

**Sec. 457.** (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for the uniform statewide sexual assault evidence kit tracking system, in accordance with the final report of the Michigan sexual assault evidence kit tracking and reporting commission, \$800,000.00 is allocated from the sexual assault evidence tracking fund to contract for development and implementation of a uniform statewide sexual assault evidence kit tracking system. The system shall include the following:

(a) A uniform statewide system to track the submission and status of sexual assault evidence kits.

(b) A uniform statewide system to audit untested kits that were collected on or before March 1, 2015 and were released by victims to law enforcement.

(c) Secure electronic access for victims.

(d) The ability to accommodate concurrent data entry with kit collection through various mechanisms, including web entry through computer or smartphone, and through scanning devices.

**(2) By March 30 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office a status report on implementation and operation of the uniform statewide sexual assault evidence kit tracking system, including operational status and any known issues regarding implementation.**



# Report on Uniform Statewide Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking System

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services entered into an Interagency Agreement with the Department of the Michigan State Police in early 2018 that allowed for Michigan State Police to contract with a vendor for the acquisition and implementation of the statewide electronic tracking system for sexual assault evidence kits. After a comprehensive RFP process, Michigan State Police executed a purchase order and contract with STaCS DNA, Inc. for the acquisition, customization and use of the Track-Kit™ system in Michigan. The contract price for the first year of the five-year contract was \$746,541. This cost includes implementation costs, licensing fees, web hosting, and comprehensive phone and online user support.

Track-Kit™ is web-based and can be accessed from a desktop or mobile browser. There are portals for healthcare, law enforcement and laboratories to quickly and easily enter information about the status of the kit that they collected, that they retrieved and delivered, or that they are analyzing. No identifying information about the victim can be entered into the system. Prosecutors can access Track-Kit™ to view and print reports about the status of kits collected by law enforcement in each prosecutor's jurisdiction. Victims and survivors can log in and track the location of the sexual assault evidence kit that contains evidence gathered from their bodies during the medical forensic exam. At the time of the sexual assault medical forensic examination, victims and survivors are given a unique password associated with the kit number assigned to their kit, and they can use that information to log into the system anonymously if they choose to do so.

The Track-Kit™ system currently is being rolled out in a phased process to six regions. As of the date of this report, rollout is being completed in Region 4 and has been initiated in Region 5. Rollout to the 6<sup>th</sup> and final region (Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne county) is anticipated to be completed on June 17, 2019. Staff assigned to this project by Michigan State Police and by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services make several contacts to law enforcement and healthcare in each region to inform them about the system, how to enroll in it, and how to access online training to use the system.

Other than occasional technical errors that are expected with a rollout of a complex tracking system, there is one significant issue with implementation. Currently, healthcare and law enforcement participation in the system is voluntary. As a result, there is approximately a 50% rate of enrollment and participation in Track-Kit™. To increase participation from law enforcement, Michigan State Police has partnered with the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to do outreach to law enforcement across the state and provide information on the MCOLES website for law enforcement about Track-Kit™.

To increase participation by healthcare, DHHS staff assigned to this project is contacting healthcare facilities that have not yet participated in rolled out regions to stress the importance

of participation and help to resolve any challenges to participation that healthcare may be experiencing.

The July 2016 Report and Recommendations of the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission<sup>1</sup> recommended legislation mandating use of the tracking system by healthcare, law enforcement, and labs. This legislation did not make it through lame duck at the end of 2018. Re-introduction has been requested by the Commission and it is hoped the legislation will pass this session.

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<sup>1</sup> The report is available at  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Final\\_2016\\_Report\\_of\\_the\\_Sexual\\_Assault\\_Evidence\\_Kit\\_Tracking\\_and\\_Reporting\\_Commission\\_529844\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Final_2016_Report_of_the_Sexual_Assault_Evidence_Kit_Tracking_and_Reporting_Commission_529844_7.pdf)