



Reinventing Performance in Michigan



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Michigan sexual assault victims to receive DNA test results more quickly

The Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division is responsible for testing evidence collected in sexual assault evidence kits. These tests attempt to identify the presence of male DNA and identify the perpetrator by name when possible.

In an attempt to reduce turnaround time, the Forensic Science Division reviewed their testing process to identify ways to speed up the process and improve customer service.

Processing time: Reduced turnaround time from 106 days to 43 days

With the improved process, prosecutors and detectives investigating sexual assault cases receive results 59 percent faster. Previously it took approximately 106 days to process a sexual assault evidence kit for male DNA. Now it takes approximately 43 days.

Other changes included::

- Testing for male DNA first instead of doing all possible tests - Moves priority samples through testing quicker and eliminates a bottleneck.
- Reducing the size of batches of DNA samples - The smaller batch size allows for less hang-ups in the process

- Using Cryo boxes – Adds to safety/security of samples and eliminates excessive steps and labeling
- Using standard language in their repository – reduces errors or misinterpretations
- Cross training scientists – Adds to process efficiency
- Daily huddles – Improves communication and information sharing between management and scientists
- Using a whiteboard – Visual tracking aid that also creates a sense of teamwork

Future goals:

- Continuing to refine the process
- Implementing new software
- Eliminating the backlog



The DNA samples are stored in a Cryo box.

**VICTIMS WILL RECEIVE RESULTS
59% FASTER**