

## FACT SHEET: Spotlight on Cities Addressing the Rape Kit Backlog Updated September 2015

### Cleveland

Law enforcement agencies across Cuyahoga County, including the Cleveland Police Department, have submitted a total of **4,825** untested sexual assault kits to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) for testing in accordance with Ohio's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative. **4,375** of those kits were submitted by the Cleveland Police Department. As of September 2015, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation has completed testing on **4,127** of Cuyahoga County's submitted kits, yielding **1,625** matches in the national DNA database and resulting in **1,182** completed investigations, of which **412** resulted in prosecution. To date, **384** defendants have been indicted, and **272** potential serial offenders have been identified. The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office anticipates indicting 1,000 cases over the next few years—a third of them serial rapists—as a result of clearing the backlog.



In greater Ohio, over **175** law enforcement agencies have submitted over **10,134** rape kits for testing as part of the statewide SAK Testing Initiative, and forensic scientists at BCI have completed testing on **7,814** of those kits. The DNA testing has led to **2,887** hits in CODIS, the national DNA database, and all investigative lead information

associated with those hits has been returned to the investigating agencies.

More information at [endthebacklog.org/cleveland](http://endthebacklog.org/cleveland).

### Memphis

In 2013, the City of Memphis announced a backlog of **12,164** untested rape kits. That fall, Mayor AC Wharton issued an executive order instructing the police to develop a plan for clearing the backlog as quickly as possible and to provide monthly progress reports. The city is working to pull together resources and estimates it will cost approximately \$6.5 million to clear the backlog entirely through testing at a private lab.

As of September 2015, there are **7,507** kits that have been analyzed or are currently at the laboratory awaiting testing. As a result, MPD has opened **720** investigations and **125** requests for indictment have been issued.

More information at [endthebacklog.org/memphis](http://endthebacklog.org/memphis).

## Detroit

In 2009, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office discovered **11,341** untested rape kits in a Detroit Police Department storage facility. With funding from the National Institute of Justice, a collaborative team of law enforcement, prosecutors, researchers and advocates studied the causes of the backlog and developed and implemented a plan for testing. In June 2013, the State of Michigan granted the city \$4 million toward testing the kits remaining in the backlog. In January 2015, a new coalition, Enough SAID (Sexual Assault in Detroit), was unveiled as an independent fundraising body to advocate for additional public monies and raise private sector funding to address Detroit's backlog.

As of September 2015, Detroit has tested approximately 10,000 kits, resulting in **2,478** DNA matches and the identification of **487** potential serial rapists, and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has obtained **21** convictions. DNA from the kits tested linked to crimes committed in **39** states and Washington DC.



More information at [endthebacklog.org/detroit](http://endthebacklog.org/detroit).

## Houston

In February 2015, Houston officials reported that they have completed testing of **6,663** previously untested rape kits. Using \$4.4 million in federal grant money and city funding, the Houston Police Department outsourced all of the kits to two private labs for testing, along with **1,450** more recently collected kits and **1,020** samples of DNA evidence from other crimes. Testing has yielded **850** matches in CODIS, resulting in the prosecution of **29** offenders.

More information at [endthebacklog.org/houston](http://endthebacklog.org/houston).

*ENDTHEBACKLOG is a program of the Joyful Heart Foundation that focuses on shining a light on the backlog of untested rape kits throughout the United States. Our goal is to end this injustice by conducting groundbreaking research identifying the extent of the nation's backlog and best practices for eliminating it, expanding the national dialogue on rape kit testing through increased public awareness, engaging communities and government agencies and officials and advocating for comprehensive rape kit reform legislation and policies at the local, state and federal levels. We urge you to learn more about the backlog, where it exists and why it matters. We invite you to take action and support efforts to test rape kits. Help send the message that we must take rape seriously.*