

[State crime lab kept up in 2020 despite pandemic](#)

The Wisconsin State Crime Lab (WSCL), like workplaces across the state, was forced to adjust in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But because of the nature of the lab's work, many tasks and analyses still needed to be done in person, leading to staggered shifts and adjustments to allow for social distancing.

[State crime lab has some progress](#)

The data represents a mixed bag for Attorney General Josh Kaul as he heads into campaign season. Kaul ran in 2018 on a pledge to improve the labs' efficiency and last year promised dramatically improved turnarounds. Kaul said during a news conference he was pleased with the labs' performance, especially since analysts spent 2020 juggling a mix of staggered at-home and in-lab shifts because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Wisconsin crime labs improve DNA turnaround, tool mark cases taking 3 years](#)

Wisconsin's beleaguered crime labs improved their turnaround times on DNA and ballistics testing last year but took longer to complete drug and tool mark analysis, according to a state Justice Department report released Thursday.

[Decatur man to receive certificate of innocence following Illinois Supreme Court ruling](#)

Decatur police had testified they collected Palmer's tennis shoes, which were worn in an interview with law enforcement. Initial crime lab testing showed the shoes had no human blood on them, but police ordered crime lab technicians to take the shoes apart and three blood stains were discovered in a second test. The blood was Helmbacher's, DNA testing showed.

[Wisconsin Department of Justice plans to launch tracking system for sexual assault kits by end of 2021](#)

The system will give survivors of sexual assault and others — police, prosecutors or health care professionals, for instance — the ability to monitor the amount of time kits spend at different points in the system, including hospitals, police departments and crime laboratories.

[House passes 'Gail's Law' to establish rape kit database](#)

The database, as established in Rep. Emily Slosberg's legislation (HB 673), would be open to the victims, so they can track what is going on with their kits as law enforcement processes them.

[Police arrest woman in shooting incident](#)

The shell casings found in the truck and the projectile were sent to the DPS crime lab where it was determined the shell casings were fired from the same gun that the projectile was. Warrants were issued and police arrested Williams on Wednesday.

[North Dakota doesn't know what happens to all its rape kits. Lawmakers just voted for a tracking system](#)

The House voted unanimously in favor of Senate Bill 2281 on Monday, April 12. The vote comes about two months after the Senate backed the proposed legislation that would allow the state crime lab to develop and manage an electronic tracking system that would keep tabs on the kits used to collect sexual assault evidence.

[Montgomery County continues cold case efforts including unsolved killings in The Woodlands area](#)

On Feb. 2, the sheriff's office launched a new regional initiative known as Cold Case Warm Up to solicit leads for other unsolved county crimes through a partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor. Billboards throughout the Greater Houston area will display details to solicit tips on local cold cases, beginning with the 1995 murders of Jon and Pansy Stewart in Conroe.

[Cold Case Rape Case Closed In Stanton, 1,600+ OC Rape Kits Remain](#)

A large grant is funding the Orange County crime labs with inventorying thousands of rape kits taken after sexual assaults, Orange County District Attorney's Office reported. One processed kit has led to a conviction in a cold-case kidnapping from 1993, a District Attorney's Office spokesperson reported Monday.

[Authorities in Georgia investigating after hunters discover human remains](#)

The remains have been sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime lab to determine the identity of the person and cause of death.

[Self-Inflicted Wound Questioned by Forensic Experts in Lena Fletcher Death](#)

The conclusions reached by a number of forensic experts show that Lena Fletcher most likely did not commit suicide on the night of June 29, 2020.

[D.C. Forensics Lab 'Deliberately Concealed Information,' Accreditation Board Says](#)

The ANSI National Accreditation Board suspended the D.C. Department of Forensic Science's accreditation over the weekend, and details of the suspension letter now state that the board has "credible evidence" that the lab has "deliberately concealed information from the ANAB assessment team, violated accreditation requirements, engaged in misrepresentations and fraudulent behavior, and engaged in conduct that brings ANAB into disrepute."

[Chardon High School teachers create Forensic Science and Literary Crime Drama class](#)

Students in Chardon High School's Forensic Science and Literary Crime Drama class are learning more than just 'whodunit' — they are learning the how, the why, and the ways technology and science are put to use in the pursuit of catching violent criminals.

[They used to do forensic science for the Michigan State Police. Now they test cannabis](#)

Todd Welch, Greg Michaud and Michele Glinn are all retired from the Michigan State Police..

[State Crime Lab faces additional challenges during pandemic, seeks funding to keep up with demand](#)

Wisconsin's State Crime Lab has faced additional challenges during the pandemic, including a decrease in the money needed to fund different aspects of its work. Thursday, Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul released the 2020 report from the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Forensic Sciences (DFS) crime laboratories. He says the crime lab met the challenges of the pandemic, keeping staff safe, upgrading technology for remote work, and adding new services.

[Researchers have created embryos that are part-human and part-monkey](#)

Not all chimeras are mythological. To biologists, the term describes organisms whose bodies consist of cells from two distinct lineages. In twin pregnancies, for example, one twin can occasionally absorb the other. The resulting individual is built from cells with separate genomes. A 2019 forensic-science conference discussed the case of a man who had received a bone-marrow transplant.

[Mom suspected in children's deaths pleads in carjacking case](#)

From the beginning, the death of George Floyd disrupted the field of forensic pathology in much the way it challenged policing. Days after Floyd's death on May 25, prosecutors said it was caused not just by the police officer kneeling on his neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds but also by his underlying health conditions and drug use. Critics protested that the finding reflected racial bias — and served as a prime example of how forensic pathology has failed to do enough to counter its own subjectivity in decisions such as whether to classify a death in police custody as a homicide.

[New Evidence Leads to Arrest of Prime Suspect in 1996 Disappearance of Kristin Smart](#)

Paul Flores, 44, who was the last person seen with Smart on the California Polytechnic State University campus in San Luis Obispo before she vanished in 1996, was taken into custody in the Los Angeles area. His father, Ruben Flores, 80, was arrested at his Arroyo Grande home, where sheriff's investigators conducted their latest search for evidence.

[Michigan Governor Establishes Forensic Science Task Force](#)

Saying the "misapplication of forensic science is the second most common contributing factor in wrongful convictions in the United States," Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) has established a task force to strengthen the use of forensic science in her state.