

[State Crime Lab backlogged, looking at hiring](#)

Stenehjem says lawmakers approved the new DNA analyst position during the legislative session. Rewind to 2017, Stenehjem says they had to make cuts. His office had to cut several analyst positions. Now, there are six scientists and one evidence technician looking at cases from all across the state.

[Charles Co sheriff's office says Digital Crime Lab has accelerated their ability to stop predators](#)

Sheriff Troy Berry says that in the past 10 months, his detectives have examined nearly 500 devices gathering evidence for numerous criminal investigations – including investigations into crimes against children.

[Audit Finds Opportunities To Reduce Crime Lab Turnaround Time](#)

State Auditor Joshua Gallion today released an audit of the North Dakota State Crime Lab which shows the agency has experienced significant workload increases while full-time staff have decreased since a 2018 reduction-in-force. Since 2014, the State Crime Lab has seen a 55 percent increase in turnaround time (or 75 days) for DNA tests and an 84 percent increase in turnaround time (or 26 days) for drug chemistry tests.

[Sexual assault kit bill would speed up testing timeline](#)

In 2015, Wisconsin was awarded a federal grant to help move the testing along. Now, four years later, Attorney General Kaul said the backlog is gone but there's still work to be done to ensure this never happens again.

[School-to-prison pipeline must end, Foxx says after convening meeting with law enforcement, educators](#)

The meeting included 40 representatives from Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Teachers Union, the Chicago Police Department, University of Chicago Crime Lab, Cook County Public Defender's Office, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Fraternal Order of Police, the state's attorney's office said in a statement.

[Missouri rape kits being tested at low rate at crime laboratory, report says](#)

At the highway patrol's lab, numerous changes have been implemented to address the growing number of kits. Some lab workers are being moved within the division, and a new section in the lab designed to screen kits is being established, highway patrol director Brian Hoey said. Other kits will be sent to a private lab.

[Sunken car pulled from Ohio River registered to man missing since 2006](#)

The vehicle was registered to Jesse Flaugh, who was reported missing out of Brookville, Ohio, in 2006. The remains are currently at the Montgomery County Crime Lab awaiting a positive identification.

[A crime of passion or premeditated murder? How a Saginaw Township woman died at heart of court case](#)

A Saginaw Township man fatally shot his wife of 29 years in a motel room, both a prosecutor and defense attorney agree. They disagree, though, whether the death of 51-year-old Valarie Wright stemmed from a moment of passion or a premeditated action.

[Bloodstained police uniform, DNA evidence presented to jury in murder trial](#)

Kimberly James, who leads the firearms unit at the lab, said her tests detected lead residue on the tip of the shirt collar on the right side, below the place the medical examiner identified as the entrance wound on Cole's neck.

[This psychologist explains why people confess to crimes they didn't commit](#)

Another detective told Kassin that during an interrogation, he didn't actually lie about the evidence in hand, but said he expected new, potentially incriminating evidence to come in. For example, an interrogator might tell a suspect that they were waiting for lab results on DNA from the crime scene. You might think that doing so would get the innocent to deny the crime more vehemently because they expected the results to absolve them. Kassin, however, had interviewed exonerated men who said the prospect of new evidence had a surprising effect. Some confessed just to get out of the stressful situation, figuring that the evidence would later clear them. "They think their innocence is their ticket out of there," he says.

[All-female Lake County SVU team brings justice to rape victims](#)

On Jan. 18, 2019, DNA from one of the unearthed kits returned the name of Joel Williams Jr., a convicted felon, tying him to the 35-year-old crime.

[Chicago Police Dept. Launches Two-Day Mental Health Summit](#)

The Chicago Police Department teamed with the University of Chicago Crime Lab to showcase the two-day mental health summit, held Wednesday and Thursday, following the suicide deaths of seven officers over the past year.

[Trial begins for man suspected in 1987 murders](#)

This will also be the first criminal trial in the U.S. involving a powerful, controversial new forensic tool known as "genetic genealogy." Talbott's case will be a kind of proving ground — and could eventually set legal precedents — for police use of the new methodology. Talbott was among the first arrested in a national wave of breakthroughs in cold cases, propelled by genealogists and private labs applying their skills to unsolved crimes.

[Jacksonville Police Chief Weighs In on New Cannabis Legislation](#)

Jacksonville's Police Chief is weighing in on the legalization of marijuana in the State of Illinois. Jacksonville Police Chief Adam Mefford says that the department will have some changes as they undertake the legalization of cannabis in the city limits in January 2020 when the bill becomes law.

[SF DA Gascón launching tool to remove race when deciding to charge suspects](#)

Gascón, who is often cited as one of the more progressive district attorneys in the country, asked the Stanford Computational Policy Lab to build the technology to remove the potential for implicit bias when prosecutors conduct an initial review of a case. He said the district attorney's office will begin using the tool next month.

[A rape kit sat collecting dust for over 20 years. Today, a Florida man was indicted for a 1996 Wilmington rape](#)

"In 1996 we believe that Soller broke into a young woman's apartment, threatened her life and raped her while he was here in Wilmington visiting for work. A rape kit was completed, but due to regulations at that time, we were not able to submit that for analysis," Chief of Police Ralph Evangelous said during a press conference Monday.

[MSHP still testing rape kits at low rate](#)

"There remains quite a bit of work to do in Missouri," said Ilse Knecht, director of policy and advocacy for Joyful Heart, whose objective is to alter society's response to sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, and support survivors.

[Wisconsin Committee Scales Back DOJ Analyst Positions in Budget](#)

Evers' state budget would supply \$1.6 million over the next two years to fund 14 additional positions at the crime labs, including 5 DNA analysts, three crime scene examiners, three toxicologists, two firearm analysts and one evidence examiner.

[How reliable is forensic science?](#)

Sometimes, the evidence is strong enough to convict people and ultimately sentence them behind bars for years. It's one of the reasons why the "San Antonio Four" spent 15 years in prison. In 2016, the women were exonerated of the crimes.

[Police forensics contractor 'sent phones to Fone Fun Shop'](#)

It was found that the company, Sytech, had inadequate vetting procedures for new staff and police exhibits were being transported in private vehicles at a recent inspection.

[Forensic "Guess Who" Is Getting Easier](#)

Predicting what someone's face looks like based on a DNA sample remains a hard nut to crack for science. It is, however, getting easier to use such a sample to filter the right face from a face database, as an international team led by KU Leuven has shown. Their findings were published in *Nature Communications*.

[Family may receive justice for a 38-year-old cold case](#)

According to authorities, it was nearly 38 years ago when Nathaniel Dennis allegedly walked into the Northview Amoco Station on Reeves Street and robbed the store. Earnest Douglas was shot during the robbery and died from the gunshots.