

[Thousands of rape kits nationwide never sent to crime labs](#)

To try and understand how often this happens, we submitted open records requests to more than 100 law enforcement agencies. What we discovered was troubling: thousands of rape kits nationwide never sent to a crime lab.

[Convicted killer denied new trial despite Fort Worth crime lab investigation](#)

Hours after the March 14 plea hearing was completed, Strickland said he was informed that Amanda Schaffner, a forensic scientist in the crime lab's serology and DNA unit who had had some kind of involvement in Page's case, was under investigation and had been on administrative leave since March 5.

[Report: Rape kit tests delayed hundreds of active cases](#)

The Wisconsin crime labs' efforts to review tests of unanalyzed rape kits delayed DNA testing in more than 300 other active cases over the last three years, according to estimates released Wednesday that illustrate the effect the project has had on analysts' workload.

[Law enforcement: Eastern Montana Crime Lab will speed up investigations](#)

The public and media were allowed to tour the new facility last week to see what it can do. Montana Attorney General Tim Fox was on hand with leaders from Yellowstone County to usher in the new lab.

[New Billings crime lab, morgue can hold 20 bodies, meeting growing Eastern Montana need](#)

In a given year the coroner's office handles between 500 to 600 death investigations, and for years those investigations have involved navigating a logistically convoluted system that Yellowstone County Coroner Cliff Mahoney can now say is a thing of the past.

[Valley crime lab seeing an escalation of fentanyl in street drugs](#)

At a north Phoenix McDonalds earlier in May, a Phoenix police undercover detective said Anthony Hicks sold him 'five suspected oxycodone.' It was the first of three undercover buys from Hicks. Those pills, though, 'tested positive for fentanyl.'

[Mom's agonizing 18-month wait for arrests in baby's death tied to crime lab backlog](#)

The challenges facing the Crime Lab — a division of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety charged with examining any physical evidence collected for criminal investigations across the state — are well documented.

[Possible DNA sample mix-up impacts trio's trial for Warren murder](#)

Forensic scientist Jennifer Jones testified the illogical results of DNA collected from two handguns — one of them the suspected murder weapon — caused her to believe a mistake occurred, although there is no way to prove or disprove whether one was made.

[Jussie Smollett update: Chicago police could release records in 'Empire' actor's case Thursday](#)

Smollett had also reported a threatening letter sent to him on the "Empire" set containing a white powder, a week before the alleged attack. The letter is currently in the FBI crime lab for analysis, sources said, and experts believe Smollett could face federal charges for allegedly sending the letter.

[Mobile PD backlog of untested rape kits all submitted to state lab](#)

The Mobile County District Attorney's Office told NBC 15 that MPD has now submitted its entire backlog of untested rape kits to the state crime lab.

[189 weapons seized in High Point since the start of the year](#)

"We quickly work to obtain fingerprints, the latent prints as well as DNA samples off these weapons, a lot of times that's critical to identify the person who was in possession of it, or to prove cases in court," Shultz said.

[159 murdered birds: Here's how wildlife crime sleuths solved one of California's most baffling poaching cases](#)

When the results matched two rifles seized from Parker's house, the state Attorney General's office knew it had a case. Repeated calls to Parker's Susanville defense attorney Eugene Chittock were not returned.

[The M-Vac device, which discovers DNA missed by traditional methods, is helping police solve tough murder cases](#)

As Jenny Carrieri pressed for progress in the homicide of her twin sister, most recently posting billboards in Baltimore seeking clues, she learned of the M-Vac: a wet-vacuum machine that can extract DNA from rough or porous surfaces and lead investigators to previously unknown suspects. The M-Vac has identified killers and other suspects in crimes across the country, helped free one man who had been wrongly imprisoned for 20 years for murder, and is being used in Florida to find DNA evidence on boats authorities think were used in human trafficking. Carrieri wants the Baltimore County police to use it on the clothes or vehicle of her sister, Jody LeCornu, who was shot to death inside her car 23 years ago.

[Uncle Sam surrenders to growing backlog of crime lab DNA tests](#)

One paragraph in an 111-page Government Accountability Office report on the growing backlog describes the capitulation with these troubling lines: Justice Department officials "reported that eliminating the nationwide backlog is not a program goal. Officials stated they believe the goal of eliminating backlogs is unachievable in the foreseeable future because increases in demand for DNA analysis are driven by factors outside of NIJ's (the department's National Institute of Justice) control. Thus, officials said they are not comfortable setting an unachievable goal. ..."

[Hair Analysis in Forensic Science](#)

Examination of hair by microscopy can help to establish whether a hair was forcibly removed, diseased or treated with an artificial substance such as a hair dye. Forensic analysts use an instrument called a comparison microscope to view a known hair sample and an unknown sample alongside one another to see if they share similar characteristics and could have come from the same source.

[Mass Spectrometry as a Tool in Forensic Science](#)

In the case of EI, once the sample components are separated, ion beams then enter a detector, which generates an electric signal proportional to the number of ions hitting it. This creates a mass spectrum that shows the mass-to-charge (m/z) ratio of the individual component ions that were in the sample. This spectrum enables a forensic analyst to determine exactly which compounds the sample is composed of, using a combination of mass spectral libraries and their own expertise.

[University researchers look for ways to trace 3D firearms](#)

A chemistry professor and graduate student at the University of Mississippi have spent the past two years researching 3-D printed firearms, and their study has led to findings that could lead to new tools for law enforcement to trace the weapons in the future.

[Virginia Warns Police and Prosecutors of Potential for Misidentifying CBD as Marijuana](#)

Linda Jackson sent a letter to "all agencies serviced by the DFS laboratories" warning that the state labs' testing capabilities are not sufficient to comply with a new state law.

[Forensic examiners are in danger of missing evidence in low-light environments, according to new research](#)

Researchers at Loughborough University have found that people misread letters and numbers and missed other pieces of information when asked to identify fluorescent marks (mimicking fingerprints) in a dark room.

[Exonerated Men Discuss Wrongful Convictions, Justice](#)

Maher was a U.S. Army sergeant when he was misidentified by 5 witnesses in rape investigations in Lowell and Ayers, Massachusetts. When a law student found 2 boxes of new evidence in a courthouse basement, lawyers were able to use DNA analysis to prove his innocence. He was released in 2003. Maher always maintained his innocence but, by that time, had not planned to leave prison.

[‘Negative. Negative. Negative.’ Then, a DNA match. Here’s how science cracked Angie’s case](#)

But two decades of DNA and genetic genealogy technological advancements, as well as a police department that would not give up, finally led to that one crucial connection that had eluded them — the name of the person to whom the DNA belonged: Brian Leigh Dripps.

[CBD Laws Need to Be Fixed to Protect Innocent People, Lawmaker Says](#)

Before the law changed, the labs only had to determine whether products contained the presence of THC. Now, hemp-derived products, like CBD, are not considered marijuana if they contain "no greater than 0.3 percent" THC, so the labs must be able to determine the exact amount. No one checked to make sure that was possible before state law changed.