

#### [Starting May the Washington Crime Lab will test sexual assault kits within 45 days](#)

The laws regarding test kits changed in 2015, after House Bill 1068 passed. This law was intended to help reduce the backlog of sexual assault kits in the state. It requires all sexual assault kits to be tested. This law also provided funds to help do so.

#### [Arkansas Crime Lab gets \\$250,000 to speed up autopsies related to opioid deaths](#)

Rutledge said in a news release Wednesday the allocation will help the State Crime Lab transport victims of opioid overdose to the crime lab for an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death.

#### [Officials now expect DC crime lab to remain sidelined until next spring](#)

Under a best-case scenario, D.C.'s crime lab might not be cleared to handle DNA and seized drugs until next spring — nearly two years after a national board pulled the lab's accreditation to perform forensic casework amid allegations lab managers concealed information.

#### [Ballistics services added to WA crime lab, DNA lab still on track to open this year](#)

"We've added a full size water tank for test firing weapons in order to collect the cartridge casings. That way the cartridge casings can be compared to firearms that are collected or from cartridge casings that were collected from another crime scene," Gorton said.

#### [D.C. mayor proposes more local funding to support troubled crime lab](#)

Bowser's plan would allow the department to hire an external consultant tasked with improving quality assurance and pay for contracts outsourcing crime scene and evidence analysis to federal and private labs, among other additions.

#### [Faulty Police Field Tests Said This Trucker Was Carrying 700 Gallons of Meth. It Was Diesel.](#)

Police and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents in Pharr, Texas, thought they had intercepted a massive meth smuggling operation this February. Juan Carlos Toscano Guzman, a Mexican national, spent nearly six weeks in jail accused of transporting roughly 700 gallons of liquid methamphetamine. But it turned out not to be illicit drugs at all, just the result of unreliable drug field tests that have led to hundreds of other wrongful arrests.

#### [New initiative looks to decrease number of gun violence, deaths in Ohio](#)

When it comes to gun violence, the Ohio Department of Health's numbers show that gun violence killed more Ohioans last year than almost any other year on record. The state is spending millions of dollars to help fight this trend and give police easier access to technology that can help them solve gun crimes.

#### [Late Iowa man linked to 1980s killings in Indiana, Kentucky](#)

The Indiana State Police said Tuesday that they used genealogical data and crime scene evidence to link an Iowa man who died in 2013 to the killings of three female motel clerks and sexual assault of a fourth in Indiana and Kentucky from 1987 through 1990.

#### [169 Law Enforcement agencies cleared backlog of kits, 3 prosecutions underway](#)

In total, 3,298 untested, reported kits have been sent to the lab to be tested. Further, because of the relentless work of the SAFE Kit Initiative State Coordinator Judge M. Keithley Williams and her team, there are currently three active prosecutions that are a direct result of CODIS hits from kits that were tested through the SAFE Kit Initiative.

#### [Cyber crime lab in Vanderburgh County gathers data for law enforcement](#)

“We’ve actually found out with the technology that we have existing here in Vanderburgh County, we are one of a few labs across the country that has this technology,” said Powers. “One of the best labs in the country is placed here in Vanderburgh County, and not many people know it.”

#### [Ohio using federal COVID money to bolster crime lab capabilities](#)

The Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Service will award \$10.5 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds with the idea of providing more opportunities for law enforcement to submit firearm evidence for scientific analysis while decreasing the turnaround time for results.

#### [With DC crime lab still sidelined, prosecutors say DEA to test drugs in local cases](#)

Federal prosecutors say the Drug Enforcement Administration has agreed to perform drug testing in criminal cases in D.C. Superior Court, aiming to clear a backlog created after the D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences lost its accreditation last year and was forced to halt forensic casework.

#### [GHOST GUN BUSTERS: How the NYPD crime lab works to trace the untraceable](#)

According to the NYPD, this past weekend alone saw 24 shootings that occurred from March 18 to March 20, resulting in 29 individuals shot. The lab’s efforts are crucial in not only solving those crimes, but helping police get “ghost guns” — illegal, untraceable weapons made of plastic, modeled after authentic firearms and just as deadly as the real things — off the streets.

#### [OFFICIALS SEEK PARISH SUPPORT FOR NEW CRIME LAB](#)

For now, Bo Duhé, the 16th Judicial District attorney, and Crime Lab Director Kevin Ardoin are looking only for moral support. A request for financial support is likely to come later as officials seek \$15 million in state capital outlay funding and the 25% local match that would be required from the eight parishes served by the lab.

#### [Krasner stumps for multi-million dollar forensics lab to help thwart gun crimes](#)

Philadelphia's district attorney is calling for a multi-million dollar forensics lab after President Joe Biden offered billions to pay for state and local governments to hire more police.

#### [FIREARMS SUPERVISOR LEADS TEAM OF CRIME-SOLVING EXPERTS](#)

“It’s quite the significant amount of guns that are coming in,” Lalli states. “There are tons of cases happening. The volume of evidence coming in is more than what the average Joe knows.”

#### ['I-65 Killer': Police to discuss long-unsolved Indiana, Kentucky serial killer case](#)

The “I-65 Killer,” also known as the “The Days Inn Killer,” raped and killed at least three women — Jeanne Gilbert, Mary “Peggy” Gill, and Vicki Heath — in Indiana and Kentucky in the 1980s. All three were clerks at motels along the I-65 corridor.

#### [Better Crime Scene Testing Flinders forensic scientists improve touch DNA collection methods](#)

The South Australian forensic science researchers are building a suite of new insights into crime scene investigation—including the difference between high, intermediate, and low skin “shedders” that will help understanding of trace or “touch DNA.”

#### [The True Crime-Obsessed Philanthropists Paying to Catch Killers](#)

When the police can’t afford to solve cold cases using DNA databases, deep-pocketed donors can.

#### [A Century of Ballistics Comparison Giving Way to Virtual 3D Methods](#)

The forensic science community has responded to the challenges with research, much of it supported by the National Institute of Justice. Over the past decade the Institute has supported efforts to establish a statistical basis for firearm toolmark comparisons and move from 2D to 3D comparisons. Much of the research has been in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which in 2016 created the NIST Ballistics Toolmark Research Database (NBTRD).

#### [Kansas Attorney General met with voters in Pittsburg](#)

“We fixed a lot of problems in the Attorney General’s office. For example we got the new crime lab built and seriously reduced nearly eliminated many of the backlogs in the Kansas Bureau of Investigation in terms of evidence processing. We beefed up our elder abuse and elder fraud prosecutions in a way that’s never been done before in the Attorney Generals office,” said Derek Schmidt, Republican Candidate for Governor.

#### [ISP Forensic Services Improvements Continue as New Commission Meets for the First Time](#)

Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Brendan F. Kelly today kicked off the first meeting of the Forensic Science Commission (Commission) charged with ensuring the efficient delivery of forensic science to help ensure swift justice for victims as well as to exonerate the wrongly accused. The Commission builds on the work ISP has done over the past several years to improve forensic services, including reducing the total forensic backlog by 72% in two years.

#### [Illinois State Police celebrates 100 years](#)

ISP has worked tens of thousands of crime scenes, performed hundreds of thousands of forensic analyses, conducted thousands of background checks, processed more than 2 million FOID cards, responded to millions of calls for service, and performed countless acts of enforcement, assistance, and protection across Illinois over the 100 years.