

#### [DNA Analysis Turnaround Times Grow At Wisconsin State Crime Lab](#)

In its report highlighting work done in 2019, the state Department of Justice's Division of Forensic Sciences — which includes the Wisconsin State Crime labs — reported the average time it took to process DNA analysis has increased from 76 days in 2017 to 97 days in 2019.

#### [Look inside: New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell breaks ground on long-delayed crime lab](#)

The city has been without a crime lab since Hurricane Katrina, forcing New Orleans Police Department technicians to work in temporary spaces that once included trailers.

#### [Ohio crime labs to distinguish marijuana, hemp](#)

An equipment upgrade that enables Ohio's three state crime labs in London, Richfield and Bowling Green to differentiate between hemp and marijuana is unlikely to change the way marijuana cases are enforced in the Buckeye State, defense lawyers and prosecutors say.

#### [Washington State Patrol crime lab sees increase in sexual assault kits, backlog](#)

COVID-19 has changed most aspects of life, including criminal investigations. In Washington, there are more than 8,000 sexual assault kits waiting to be tested. The Washington State Patrol Crime Lab has slowed down testing because of the pandemic and other factors.

#### [Crime Lab and Education Lab partner with Chinese American business leaders to support those on frontlines of COVID-19](#)

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab, in partnership with a group of Chinese American business leaders in Chicago led by Citadel Securities CEO Peng Zhao, are providing one million protective face masks to the city's first responders and frontline workers.

#### [KSP crime lab adapts to social distancing](#)

The labs process crime evidence for KSP investigators, and for police and sheriff's departments, so the lab was considered an essential service. The work has continued, although with staff working alternating schedules to keep the number of people in the labs below 50% at any given time.

#### [Follow-up: No convictions overturned or challenged after Wilmington crime lab incident](#)

After a chemist working at the Wilmington Police Department's crime lab was fired last year for 'untruthfulness,' the District Attorney's office announced it would review any relevant cases for possible dismissal, relief, or other measures. According to the District Attorney's office, no cases were overturned — or even contested — as a result.

#### [State Crime Lab funds OK'd: request for HSU blocked](#)

Legislative leaders have approved Gov. Asa Hutchinson's request for \$883,349 from the covid-19 rainy-day fund for the state Crime Laboratory, while two Senate leaders blocked approval of his request for \$825,000 out of the same fund for Henderson State University.

#### [Decorated WWII vet, forensics expert who examined Zodiac killer letters, dies at 100](#)

Satoru C. "John" Shimoda was an internationally recognized expert in the field of questioned document examination. The forensics specialty involves lab testing to determine if a letter or other document is forged or contains, in the penmanship, ink, typewriter key strikes, fingerprints or other elements, any evidence that a crime was committed or that could be helpful to a criminal investigation.

#### [Family Ancestry Search Connects Longtime Firefighter to Rape Investigation](#)

For nearly two decades, forensic scientists at the state's crime lab have been trying to help police identify the person responsible for a series of rapes that took place between the years 2001 and 2008.

#### [What Will Georgia's Budget Cuts Look Like?](#)

Four weeks ago, state agencies were directed to prepare proposals for budget cuts by May 20th, each with a benchmark of cutting 14% off the top. The total cuts are expected to reach \$3.8 billion and as information pertaining to how those cuts will look has started to trickle out, state employees and citizens alike are concerned about the reduction of services on a limited budget.

#### [Rachael Rollins Moves to Vacate 64 Guilty Pleas Following Drug Lab Scandal](#)

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins has asked the state's Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) to vacate guilty pleas of 64 people facing drug charges who pleaded guilty to 91 drug charges after test results revealed the substances were not illegal drugs.

#### [SDPD Estimates it Will Clear Its Rape Kit Backlog in Two Years](#)

SDPD spokesman Lt. Shawn Takeuchi said the department sent its kits to Bode Technology for analysis in batches. The last of the batches was sent on April 29. In September, SDPD committed to sending its kits to a third-party lab, after analysts in the city's crime lab revealed they had been instructed to lower testing standards for some kits to help clear the department's backlog, and District Attorney Summer Stephan blasted the practice.

#### [Murder and rape of 23-year-old newlywed 50 years ago is finally solved after killer is identified through his estranged brother's DNA and his body exhumed](#)

'Based on the evidence and DNA analysis produced through this investigation, if he were alive today, Paul Martin would be charged and prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office for the murder of Betty Jones,' the Boulder County District Attorney's Office said.

#### [State crime lab scales back operations amid coronavirus spread, leading to shelving of drug cases](#)

The Illinois State Police laboratory is cutting down drastically on the number of forensic tests it is performing, so routine testing to confirm whether any suspected drugs are, in fact, narcotics, has been put on pause.

#### [National institute awards \\$20 million in renewed funding to forensic science center](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has awarded \$20 million in renewed funding to the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence, an interdisciplinary group of more than 60 participants at the University of California, Irvine and five other U.S. institutions of higher education.

### [A 'CSI effect' is leading to more women in forensic science](#)

Indiana State Police (ISP) Sgt. Amy Gaul has been with the department for 25 years. ISP has dozens of crime scene investigators scattered throughout the state, but Gaul is the only female. She told CBS4 what led her into a law enforcement career.

### [Statisticians win \\$20 million to address shoddy forensic science methods](#)

In 2015, a team of statisticians set out to help rehabilitate forensic science, a field with a reputation for flimsy methods and dubious conclusions. The Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE), based at Iowa State University, has grown to include more than 60 researchers at six universities working on new ways to analyze fingerprints, shoeprints, bullet marks, and other crime scene evidence.

### [McDonald becomes a heavy hitter for state Crime Lab](#)

"Coming from a sports background, entering college I initially planned to become a math teacher and coach basketball," she said. "My freshman chemistry instructor really turned me onto chemistry, and I loved it. I realized during my first couple of years in college that teaching was a true calling, and I didn't feel the call. So, I declared chemistry as my major and vowed to figure the rest out later.

### [How law enforcement uses forensic algorithms](#)

In the 1960s the FBI, in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, began researching ways to automate comparisons of fingerprints, DNA samples and other forensic evidence. Prior to these developments, GAO said, these comparisons were made manually by experts and were subject to errors and resource constraints.

### [NHCSO took over WPD crime lab, increased staff and funding, but hasn't tested any drugs. Here's why.](#)

According to NHCSO, there are good reasons for the stark decrease in testing productivity, including a lengthy accreditation process and, of course, Covid-19. Officials say the lab has been far from idle, touting the efforts of staff to get the lab re-accredited and up and running for blood alcohol earlier this year.

### [NYS Comptroller audit finds NYSP crime lab failed to process sex assault evidence in a timely manner](#)

According to the audit, from November 28, 2017-October 31, 2019, the Forensic Investigation Center (FIC) processed 1,656 kits. Only 356 of those kits were completed within the time frame the law allows.

### [WCSO Crime Lab makes strides to eliminate DNA backlog](#)

"Having a few less cases coming in and the ability to work different schedules that the sheriff has allowed us to do has helped us make great strides moving ahead and get some of those cases completed," David Jackson, supervising criminalist and DNA technical leader, said.

### [Report shows delays in testing at state crime labs](#)

A DOJ Division of Forensic Sciences report released Tuesday outlining crime lab performance showed it took longer last year to process evidence related to DNA, major crime scenes, firearms, and forensic video and image analysis, even as the total number of cases submitted to the crime labs decreased.

### [Probable cause established for Grand Forks man accused of assaulting, robbing a man in his home](#)

Jacob Ryan Henry, 29, is connected to the crime by a partial DNA match of a half-eaten candy bar left at the scene. A judge said questions about the DNA connection could be raised at trial, but found that there was enough probable cause that Henry committed the crime to send the case to arraignment.

### [Target's history of working with police is not a good look right now](#)

"Target's Lake St. store is not, nor has it ever been an experimental site for loss prevention and surveillance," Target spokesperson Jessica Carlson told Recode. "We use the same technology and tools in this location as we do across our stores. It's a combination of technology, including cameras, as well as team members with extensive training to support guest and team members safety and store security."

### [Moultrie Police Department new hub for digital forensics lab](#)

"My training so far has consisted of social networking, investigations, basic computer evidence recovery training, advanced forensics training and also basic mobile device examiner training," said Anderson.

### [Phoenix police arrest man in connection to a 33-year-old cold case](#)

On Feb. 21, 1987, Marilyn Jones was found beaten, sexually assaulted and set on fire in an alley in downtown Phoenix. She was taken to Maricopa County Hospital Burn Unit for third-degree burns to 85% of her body.

### [Authorities investigate fatal shooting of Ark. officer](#)

Arkansas State Police said Alexander Police Officer Scott Hutton died at a Little Rock area hospital after he was found shot Wednesday night outside a residence in Alexander. State Police said Saline County Sheriff's deputies found Hutton, 36, wounded by a gunshot and lying outside the residence.

### [DOJ investigating after Watertown police fatally shoot man during traffic stop](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Justice has launched an investigation after Watertown Police Officers apparently shot and killed a man during a high-tension traffic stop last Sunday.

### [Alberta to set up forensic testing lab for gun crimes](#)

The province is developing a firearms advisory committee as well as a special forensic testing unit to speed up the prosecution of gun crimes.

### [New study puts unusual forensic investigation technique to the test](#)

Could household slime become a tool to help solve crimes? That's the question U of T Mississauga forensic science graduate Leanne Byrne (H. BSc, 2020) sought to answer in a recent study that tested a popular children's "slime" recipe as a technique to enhance the appearance of hard-to-see fingerprints in forensic investigations.

### [World-Renowned Forensic Scientist Dr. Henry C. Lee Announces Retirement from the University of New Haven](#)

"Few individuals have had such a lasting influence on the trajectory of a field as significant and groundbreaking as forensic science or on the reputation and success of an institution as Dr. Lee has had."

### [NIST Seeks Participants for Digital Forensics Exercise](#)

In the study, to be conducted online, participants will examine simulated digital evidence, then answer questions that might arise in a real criminal investigation. The exercise should take about two hours, and participation is voluntary. The online test will be available for approximately three months.