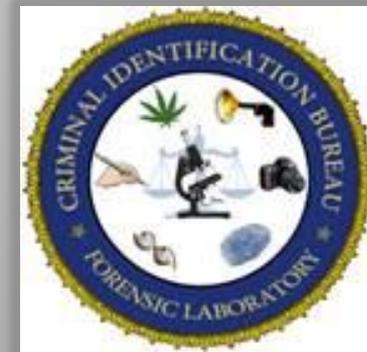


WV Sexual Assault Kit Initiative



National Issue

- Federal government has estimated hundreds of thousands of untested sexual assault kits (SAKs)
- Speculation why this backlog exists
 - Spanning from lack of funding to case prioritization
- Moving forward funding is focused on testing and prevention

The Funding Sources

Two funding sources:

1. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (**SAKI**)
 - Awarded \$35 million to 20 sites
2. New York County District Attorney (**DANY**)
Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Program
 - Awarded \$38 million to 32 sites



Purpose of the SAKI Program

1. Reduce the number of unsubmitted SAKs through **inventory, tracking** and **testing**
2. Produce protocols and policies to support improved **coordination** and **collaboration** among labs, police, prosecutors and victim service providers
3. Improve investigations and prosecutions that result from **CODIS hits** through the adoption of new protocols
4. Develop and optimize **victim notification** protocols



Purpose of the DANY Program

- Funding to permanently **eliminate SAK backlog**
- Exclusively for testing of untested or backlogged SAKs
- Partnered with BJA to ensure coordination and prevent duplication of services



WV Funding from BJA and DANY

- BJA awarded the WV Division of Criminal Justice and Community Services \$1,170,800
 - Inventory, training, protocol development, database development, staffing and overtime
- DANY awarded the WV State Police Forensic Laboratory \$1,763,281.
 - Testing, review and CODIS upload of 2,400 SAKs



Project Partners And Roles

WV Division of Criminal Justice and Community Services

- SAKI Administrator

WV State Police Forensic Laboratory

- DANY Administrator; CODIS

Marshall University Forensic Science Center

- Inventory, Testing

WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.

- Victim services

WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute

- Prosecutorial support



Project Design

Based on Cabell County SAK Project

- Federally funded pilot project through MUFSC that started in 2014
- 315 SAKs tested; 167 possible leads for LE
- Partnered with WVSP, sheriff's department and local police departments, prosecuting attorney and victim advocates



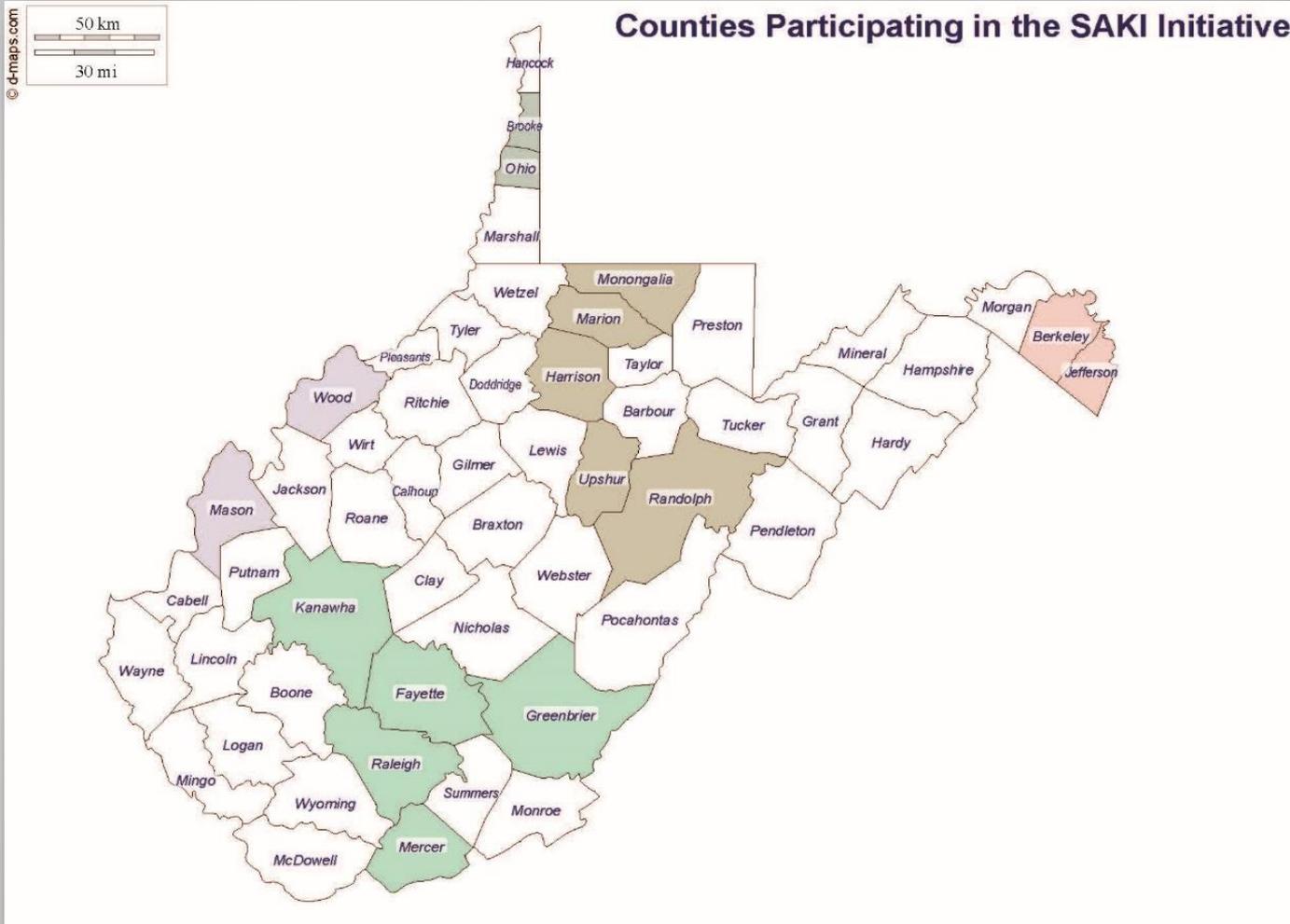
Project Design

Through these partnerships:

- Development of matrices to inventory and test SAKs
- Coordination of a multi-disciplinary team
- Development of victim notification protocols

Served as the template for the project design for the funding





Counties selected based on available funding and population/crime rate, 16 counties selected



Overview of the Project

- Point of contact established at each agency
- **Inventory of SAKs**
- Transport of SAKs to MUFSC
- Testing of SAKs at MUFSC
- Submission of reports to LE agencies
- Transfer of data to WVSPFL - CODIS upload
- Retrieval of evidence

Inventory

Complete inventory must be submitted to BJA for release of funds for testing

ALL sexual assault kits (eligible and not eligible) need to be included on the inventory

Kits **not** eligible for testing

- Victim recant cases
- Kits previously DNA tested by the WVSPFL



Inventory Spreadsheet

Grants and crime labs require certain information to be collected during inventory

Categories of information

- Incident information
- Physical evidence information
- Eligibility

Incident Information									Physical Evidence Info				Eligibility	
County	Agency Name	Agency Case ID	Date of Assault	Victim Name	Victim Gender	Victim Age at time of assault	Number of Assailant(s)	Victim-Assailant Relationship	Total Boxes/Packages to be submitted	Date SAK Collected	Police Report Present	SAK Previously Submitted to WVSPFL	Reason SAK Not Submitted	SAK Eligible for Testing at MUFSC?

Inventory Spreadsheet

Incident Information								
County	Agency Name	Agency Case ID	Date of Assault	Victim Name	Victim Gender	Victim Age at time of assault	Number of Assailant(s)	Victim-Assailant Relationship
								Intimate partner Acquaintance Stranger Unsure

Physical Evidence and Eligibility

Victim- Assailant Relationship	Physical Evidence Info			Eligibility		
	# of Total Boxes/ Packages to be submitted	Date SAK Collected	Police Report Present	SAK Previously Submitted to WVSPFL	Reason SAK Not Submitted	SAK Eligible for Testing at MUFSC?
		Yes No Unsure	No Yes (pink envelope present) Yes (no pink envelope present)		YES NO: Victim recanted NO: SAK previously DNA tested	

Unknown suspect(s)
 Prosecutorial discretion
 DNA Identification not needed
 Victim not cooperative/ unavailable
 Case was adjudicated
 Victim recanted
 Other:
 N/A: (SAK was submitted to WVSP)



What do we need you to do?

- **Identify** an individual who will be responsible for conducting the inventory of SAKs at your facility and local hospitals
- **Complete the inventory** spreadsheet
 - Release of funding is dependent on this step
- **Contact us** if you have any questions or concerns



Submission of Inventory

Please email your inventory spreadsheet to:

Misty Marra, MSFS

MUFSC Forensic DNA Analyst

marra2@marshall.edu

(304) 691-8952

Deadline for having our inventory complete is

May 16, 2016



Resources Available

- On site visit/assistance by MUFSC
- Provide contact with Cabell County law enforcement and prosecutors, if desired



What if our agency does not have any untested SAKs?

- Submit signed documentation of this on your agency letterhead

- Example wording:

In response to the request by the BJA Sexual Assault Kit Initiative partners, we have conducted a thorough inventory of our evidence storage facility and the local hospitals (listed below). We do not have sexual assault kits collected on or before January 2015 in our possession.



THANK YOU
for your participation!

Misty Marra, MSFS

MUFSC Forensic DNA Analyst

marra2@marshall.edu

(304) 691-8952

