



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.

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ASCLD Position Statement

Today the National Institute of Justice released a report, National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach. This report focuses on the accurate, timely and effective collection, and processing of DNA evidence. Links to the report are as follows:

Link: <https://nij.gov/safer-report>

The PDF file also is live: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf>

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) applauds this initiative and release of this instructive document. This report is an exemplary model of cooperative work between a large body of diverse and committed professionals, representing the full spectrum of expertise required to develop best practices for treatment of survivors, collection of evidence through investigation, and forensic analysis and reporting.

ASCLD supports the recommendations of this report, including the following additional comments:

- Development of a National Standardized Sexual Assault Kit would provide for a more effective application of uniform best practices and facilitate forensic analysis across jurisdictions.
- Many of the recommendations involving crime labs, such as incorporating robotics and automation, implementation of high throughput processing, and the use of specialized software, require additional resources which are beyond the direct control of crime laboratory leadership. With acquisition of those resources, the proposed timelines mentioned in the report are achievable; however, cannot or very likely will not be achieved without those additional resources
- Heads of agencies housing crime laboratories, legislators, and community leaders seeking to improve forensic science analysis turnaround time to meet the report recommendations should work directly with their crime laboratory leaders and scientists to achieve these goals.

ASCLD looks forward to working with agency leaders and colleagues in partner agencies to implement best practices to ensure timely and quality analysis of all cases of sexual assault.