

Summary of Sexual Assault Kits at GBI Crime Lab

Total Forensic Biology Cases in Lab: 4066

Total Sexual Assault kits in Lab: 2298

Sexual Assault Kits from Current Cases: 903

Sexual Assault Kits Not Previously Submitted (to be outsourced): 1395

Sexual Assault Kits in Progress: 173

Sexual Assault Kits from Current Cases in Backlog (over 30 days): 804

Sexual Assault Kits Received 1/1/15 – 11/30/15: 2923

Sexual Assault Kits Received each Month (average): 266

Sexual Assault Kits Completed 1/1/15 – 11/30/15: 1667

Sexual Assault Kits Completed each Month (average): 151

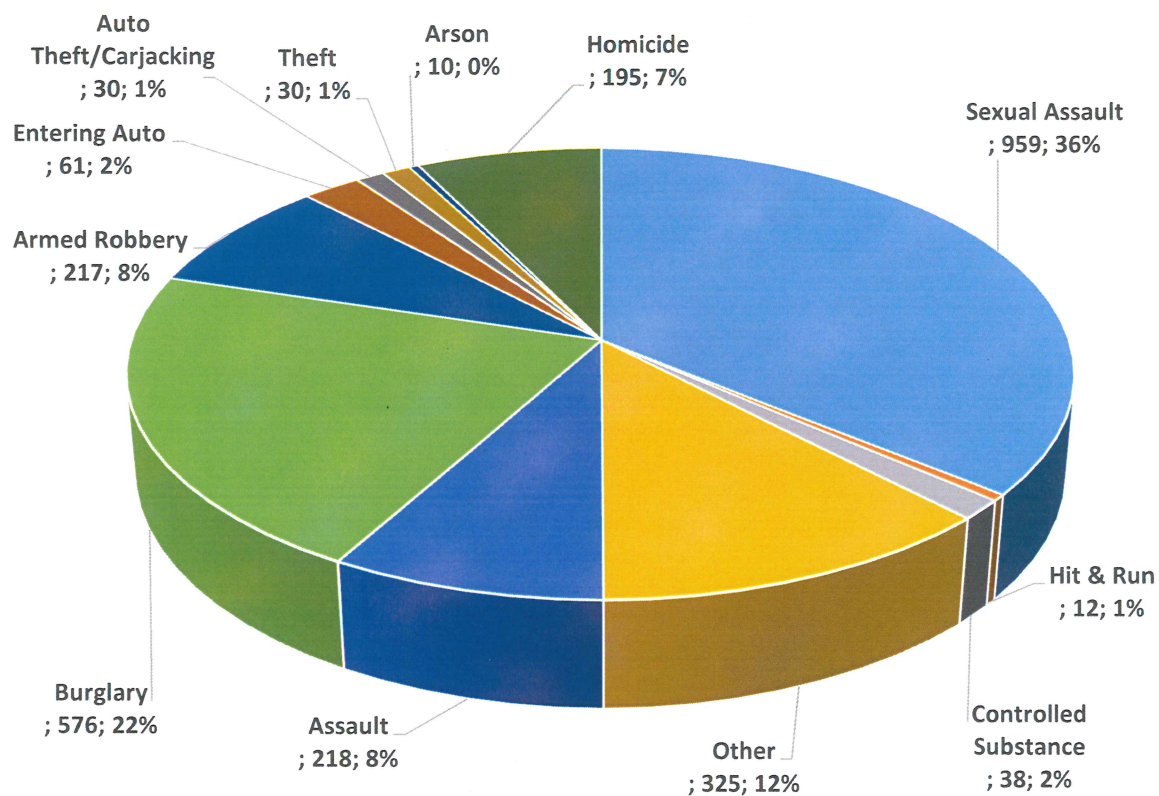
Sexual Assault Kits Average TAT from Receipt of Case: 181 days

Sexual Assault Kits Average TAT from Assignment to Scientist: 27 days

Sexual Assault Kits Received from Universities: 36

Number of staff performing DNA analysis on Sexual Assault Kits: 33

Types of Forensic Biology Cases





GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Vernon M. Keenan
Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2015-05 **December 1, 2015** **Sexual Assault Kit Initiative**

Over the last several years increased attention has been directed toward the goal of conducting DNA analysis on all sexual assault evidence kits, including those that for various reasons were not previously submitted to a forensic laboratory for analysis. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation encourages law enforcement agencies in Georgia to submit all sexual assault kits, regardless of the case circumstances.

The GBI Crime Laboratory plans to use grant funding to outsource the DNA analysis of these sexual assault kits to private, accredited laboratories. The kits which will be outsourced are those with incident dates prior to January 1, 2015. By outsourcing these older cases, analysis of current cases can remain the primary focus of GBI analysts.

The data and reports produced by the vendor from each outsourced kit will be reviewed by a GBI Crime Laboratory analyst prior to release to criminal justice agencies. In all cases, any eligible DNA profiles developed from the analysis of these kits will be uploaded to CODIS and searched on a regular basis to identify potential case-case linkages or linkages to convicted offenders.

If you have any questions regarding this Operations Bulletin, please contact the laboratory via email at kathy.lee@gbi.ga.gov or george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Herrin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D.
Deputy Director
GBI Division of Forensic Sciences



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OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2015-02 March 4, 2015 DNA Analysis Update

This bulletin is intended to inform criminal justice agencies of current operational practices related to DNA analysis at the GBI Crime Laboratory. The information in this bulletin supersedes previously issued DNA operational bulletins.

- The GBI Crime Lab accepts and will perform DNA analysis on sexual assault evidence collection kits, regardless of whether or not a suspect has been identified in the investigation. By submitting the kits to the Laboratory as investigations are initiated, the Laboratory can enter DNA profile information obtained from the kit into CODIS. These profiles are routinely searched within CODIS to determine if the donor of the DNA profile is in the system or if other cases can be linked. If your agency has sexual assault evidence collection kits that have not been submitted to the Laboratory, please contact the Laboratory for further guidance.
- Touch or contact DNA will routinely be performed on violent crimes (sexual assaults, homicides, armed robbery, etc.) and some burglaries (serial situation or extreme high dollar or value amount in theft) without prior approval from the Laboratory. In all other cases, Laboratory staff will evaluate the samples submitted and the case background to determine whether DNA analysis is the appropriate testing method or if alternative approaches such as latent prints or trace evidence may be more suitable.
- Agencies are requested to review GBI Crime Lab reports as soon as possible after they are released to the submitting agency. In many cases, the Laboratory report includes a request for known samples from victims, subjects, or other individuals whose DNA may be found on the evidence; for example, a spouse. **All samples should be submitted to the Laboratory at least 30 days prior to a scheduled court date.** Known samples from victims, subjects and other potential donors are required by the Laboratory in order to complete a thorough analysis which can be presented in court. Overall laboratory efficiency and productivity are negatively impacted when the Laboratory does not have **30 days** to complete the DNA analysis. In addition, some types of samples take longer to analyze, making a quick turnaround time difficult to achieve.

The GBI Crime Laboratory is committed to providing the highest quality forensic analyses in support of criminal justice efforts in Georgia. If there are any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact me at george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov or at 404-270-8082.

Respectfully,

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D.
Deputy Director
GBI Division of Forensic Sciences