

Shorter Rape Kit Testing Timelines Are Important

Prevent future backlogs. Expeditious and clear testing timelines prevents untested kits from accumulating in law enforcement evidence rooms or in forensic labs across a state.

Support survivors. Swift testing shows survivors that their case matters, brings them answers and a path to justice. Quickly testing a kit shows survivors that the state is taking the case and sexual assault in general, seriously, and doing everything in their power to bring them justice.

Better cases. Expeditious testing of a rape kit can prevent cases from going cold. Investigating cold cases is challenging as witnesses can't be found or memories fade.

Crime prevention. Prevents offenders from offending again, as the two case studies below will prove. [Research](#) has shown that many rapists are serial offenders, not only committing rape but other crimes as well, including murder.

Case studies:

1. Massachusetts: [Marlene Rose Case](#)- Marlene Rose was murdered on the evening of July 6, 2002, her case went unsolved for more than 8 years. A rape kit collected five years before Rose's killing, in 1997, contained DNA that matched the saliva collected from Rose's body. That rape kit was never tested. Had this kit been tested expeditiously, authorities would have been able to match it to the kit collected from Rose, and arrest the perpetrator within days, instead of 8 years.
2. California: [Randhir Kaur Case](#) -In March 2015, Randhir Kuar was raped and shot in her home, by Keith Kenard Asberry Jr. Eight years before that, two young women were kidnapped and raped at knifepoint, however, the Berkeley police department had failed to test the kits from this attack. Had they done so, investigators could have matched DNA from the assailant with Asberry's DNA, which had been in a national database since he was convicted of a felony gun crime in 2005. This case shows how speedy testing of kits can prevent future crimes.