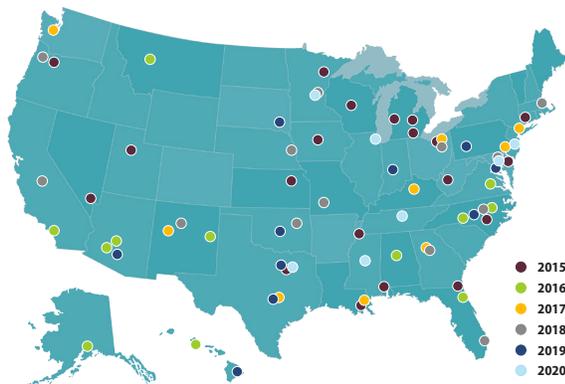


SAKI TTA: Factsheet

The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) is a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)-led program that assists jurisdictions contending with unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs). In 2015, 20 state and local jurisdictions were selected as SAKI sites; BJA funded 13 existing SAKI sites and 12 new jurisdictions in 2016, 12 existing SAKI sites and 9 new jurisdictions in 2017, 16 existing SAKI sites and 13 new jurisdictions in 2018, 19 existing SAKI sites and 10 new jurisdictions in 2019, and 28 existing SAKI sites and 7 new jurisdictions in 2020—for a 6-year total of 71 grantees. The SAKI Training and Technical Assistance (SAKI TTA) program, provided through RTI International, offers expertise and assistance to these and other jurisdictions to establish effective and sustainable practices for investigating and prosecuting violent crimes, including sexual assault cases, while supporting survivors of sexual assault.



See [long description](#) associated with this image.

The SAKI TTA Team provides targeted TTA regarding investigation and prosecution of violent, cold cases; inventorying and tracking of SAKs; and advocacy and engagement for victims and their families. Our team develops effective practices addressing violent crime and sexual assault response in communities, including those that have struggled with unsubmitted SAKs.

Project Activities

- ◆ Deliver TTA to address immediate needs
- ◆ Assess long-term needs to address strategic challenges and priorities, and implement sustainable practices

- ◆ Facilitate cross-site learning
- ◆ Develop TTA curricula and materials—on site and online—that align with policy and implementation needs
- ◆ Disseminate and assist with implementation of evidence-based practices

TTA Focus Areas

The SAKI TTA Team engages subject matter experts (SMEs) in the following areas to deliver relevant, informative content in various forms—including training materials, webinars, and briefs. These focus areas highlight some of the important work being accomplished by SAKI TTA and our SME partners.

Multidisciplinary Response: We design effective practices—including creating and maintaining a sustainable SART—and craft resources that help multidisciplinary team members seamlessly collaborate to create policies that enhance a coordinated response to sexual assault. A multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault provides a victim-centered response for survivors and is foundational for the successful investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases.

Law Enforcement: SAKI TTA identifies investigative steps to combat violent crimes and identify serial offenders. We create effective investigative practices to address Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hits, including strategies to prioritize CODIS hits; investigative standards; and guidelines for evidence collection and handling. Our work in this area also focuses on managing investigations. We provide policy and practice guidance for collecting, tracking, testing, and entering lawfully owed DNA samples into CODIS.

Prosecution: SAKI TTA and our partner organizations strive to overcome challenges associated with cold case violent crime prosecutions, including defeating common defenses and creating a trial theme for each case. We design preparation strategies for trial, including training about (1) witness preparation and questioning, (2) presenting sexual assault evidence, and (3) providing assistance to address violent crime—particularly capital litigation. We promote strategies to mitigate the risk of error and wrongful conviction through the application of forensic evidence.

Victim and Family Advocacy: SAKI TTA provides victim-centered and trauma-informed practices that improve how survivors and their families engage the criminal justice system. We offer support and training about cold case notification policy, victim and family advocacy practices, and advocate roles and responsibilities.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs): We identify needs and challenges in local SANE programs, as well as a SANE's role in sexual assault cases. We recognize the need for—and value of—a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach. Therefore, we create policies and practices emphasizing the importance of SANEs; collaboration with law enforcement agencies; and survivor healing, well-being, and care.

Forensics and Crime Analysis: We offer valuable expertise about SAK testing—including forensic genealogy, crime analysis, and other advanced forensic DNA techniques—to assist law enforcement, prosecution, and other parties with investigations.

Case Management: We offer expertise related to connecting crime laboratory information management systems and evidence tracking systems to investigations and prosecutions; we also work to increase laboratory efficiency and prioritize cold case evidence.

Partners

- ◆ AEquitas
- ◆ International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- ◆ The Joyful Heart Foundation

More Information

If you have questions or want more information about the SAKI TTA program, please contact us.

Patricia A. Melton, PhD
SAKI TTA Co-Project Director
919.541.6546
pmelton@rti.org

SAKI TTA Help Desk
sakitta@rti.org
800.957.6436

Follow SAKI on Twitter:
[@SAKInitiative](https://twitter.com/SAKInitiative)

Kevin J. Strom, PhD
SAKI TTA Co-Project Director
919.485.5729
kstrom@rti.org

SAKI TTA Website
www.sakitta.org/

Like SAKI on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SAKInitiative

To request TTA, contact the SAKI TTA Help Desk:
sakitta@rti.org or 800.957.6436

- ◆ Project: Cold Case
- ◆ The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)
- ◆ SANE-SART Resource Service—Dr. Linda Ledray, Founder
- ◆ Dr. Rebecca Campbell from Michigan State University

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I learn more about SAKI funding?

- A.** The BJA website provides information about upcoming SAKI funding opportunities. Visit www.bja.gov/funding.aspx for details.

Q. What types of activities does SAKI fund?

- A.** SAKI grantees are permitted to use grant funds to enhance or expand their ability to address the issues associated with unsubmitted SAKs, such as testing SAKs or creating an evidence tracking system. SAKI funding may also be used for training; personnel costs; collection of lawfully owed DNA; and support for cold case investigations, prosecutions, and victims of sexual assault and violent crime.

Q. How do I learn more about SAKI?

- A.** Please visit www.sakitta.org. You will find information on the goals of the SAKI and SAKI TTA programs, grantee profiles for each SAKI site, training resources, and much more. Additional information is also available on the [BJA SAKI website](#).

Q. What types of TTA are available?

- A.** The SAKI TTA Team works closely with each SAKI grantee to develop activities based on their specific needs. In addition to live training events, SAKI TTA offers online learning opportunities—including the SAKI Toolkit, Virtual Academy, webinars, and other resources. Topics include building a multidisciplinary team, providing trauma-informed and victim-centered care, submitting and testing SAK evidence, and maintaining best practices for investigating and prosecuting sexual assaults and other violent crimes.

Q. Who has access to TTA resources?

- A.** Resources available on the [SAKI TTA website](#) are freely accessible to support agencies interested in improving their response to sexual assault and violent crime.

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