



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

BJA Training Initiatives

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BJA National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)

- BJA's NTTAC provides state, local, and tribal law enforcement and justice agencies with no-cost, short term, customized training and technical assistance.
- Assistance is offered both in-person and virtually with local or national experts based on identified needs, resulting in recommendations and strategy implementation for the requesting agency.
- NTTAC supports hundreds of criminal justice agencies annually on issues such as law enforcement leadership, crime analysis strategies, and the development of crime fighting strategies.



BJA NTTAC Resources

- The **BJA NTTAC web site** (www.bjatraining.org) features additional resources for criminal justice professionals in the effort to promote public safety.
- The **Tools and Resources** page provides quick access to information that will help users understand and engage with BJA NTTAC. The documents, forms, and links provided will help users understand how to receive or provide TTA services.
- The **Online TTA Catalog** provides information on upcoming webinars and training opportunities for the justice community.



BJA's Homicide Investigations Enhancement Training & TA Project

- BJA/PERF are providing comprehensive assessments of the homicide investigation policies and practices within a number of police departments across the country, and are assisting each site with implementing strategies to strengthen its homicide investigation function.
- The project sites were chosen based on criteria that included:
 - a recent rise in homicide rates,
 - homicide clearance rates that are decreasing and/or below the national average,
 - and a commitment of police department leaders to improving homicide investigation procedures.



BJA's Homicide Investigations Enhancement Training & TA Project

- PERF/BJA has established a consortium of experts comprised of practitioners, trainers, researchers, and others experienced in homicide investigations, to provide training and technical assistance.
- PERF/BJA also connects police department leaders with other police agencies that can provide peer-to-peer assistance with training, policy development, and the implementation of effective homicide investigation strategies.



BJA's Homicide Investigations Enhancement Training & TA Project

- **Jan 2017 Training event for current sites**
 - Improving Homicide Clearance Rates
 - Tools for Building an Effective Homicide Unit
 - Engaging Families and Communities
 - Utilizing Technology in Homicide Investigations
 - Forensics and Physical Evidence
 - Building an Effective Cold Case Unit



The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Overview

- SAKI, administered by BJA, provides funding through a competitive grant program to support multidisciplinary community response teams engaged in the comprehensive reform of jurisdictions' approaches to sexual assault cases resulting from evidence found in previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs).



The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Overview

- This holistic program provides jurisdictions with resources to address their unsubmitted SAK issue, including support to:
 - inventory, test, and track SAKs;
 - create and report performance metrics;
 - access necessary **training** to increase effectiveness in addressing the complex issues associated with these cases and engage in multidisciplinary policy development, implementation, and coordination;
 - and improve practices related to investigation, prosecution, and victim engagement and support in connection with evidence and cases resulting from the testing process.



SAKI Grantees

- In FY2015, 20 jurisdictions were selected to receive SAKI funding.
- In FY2016, 12 additional jurisdictions were selected.
- Of the 32 jurisdictions, there are:
 - **13 statewide sites**
 - **1 multi-county site**
 - **7 county level sites**
 - **11 city level sites**
 - **1 county level site** was funded for an additional purpose of the collection of lawfully owed DNA from convicted offenders.
 - Total funding awarded to date : ~\$80 million
- *BJA anticipates awarding ~\$40 million to an additional 20 sites in 2017.*





SAKI Training

- The SAKI National Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) provider, Research Triangle International (RTI), provides direct assistance to jurisdictions that receive funding through SAKI as well as other jurisdictions engaged in reform efforts.
- Technical assistance activities provided by the SAKI TTA team are developed based on the needs of each jurisdiction.
- The SAKI TTA program offers live and archived webinars and training events that address the most pressing and emerging issues jurisdictions face when tackling unsubmitted SAKs.
- www.sakitta.org



SAKI Training Topics

- **Multidisciplinary response:**
 - Effective practices, including creating and maintaining a sustainable SART.
- **Law enforcement:**
 - Guidance on investigative steps after a CODIS hit,
 - prioritizing multiple CODIS hits,
 - writing policy and procedure on investigative standards,
 - collecting and handling evidence,
 - managing investigations and case information.



SAKI Training Topics

- **Prosecution:**
 - Overcoming challenges associated with cold case prosecutions,
 - training on witness preparation and questioning,
 - and presenting sexual assault evidence at trial.
- **Sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE):**
 - Identifying needs, gaps, and challenges in the local SANE program
 - and identifying the role of a SANE in sexual assault cases.



SAKI Training Topics

- **Crime laboratory:**
 - Linking crime laboratory information management systems with investigations and prosecutions,
 - understanding DNA analysis,
 - and prioritizing cold case evidence.
- **Victim advocacy:**
 - Support and training regarding cold case notification policy,
 - advocacy training programs,
 - and the roles and responsibilities of the victim advocate.



Selection of Trainings Delivered to Date

- DNA 101 for Law Enforcement Agencies
- Utilizing CODIS for Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits
- Conducting a Large-Scale, Multi-Jurisdictional Inventory
- Research in the SAKI - the Cuyahoga County Experience
- Strategies for Victim Notification
- Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Evidence Tracking: Features & Key Considerations
- Introduction to Investigation of Cold Sexual Assault Cases
- Introduction to Neurobiology of Trauma: Considerations for Victim Notification Policy and Procedure



Contact Information

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