



CITY OF TUCSON



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Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

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TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDED \$1 MILLION GRANT TO TEST UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS

The Tucson Police Department Crime Lab, DNA Unit has been selected as an awardee of the 2015 Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Grant Program to begin on October 1, 2015. The Tucson Police Department will receive \$1,038,000.00 over two years to test previously untested sexual assault kits.

Although the Tucson Police Department does not have any untested sexual assaults kits where the suspect is "unknown" to the victim, we do have 800 to 1000 untested kits that will be tested where the suspect is "known" to the victim. Our goal is to gain investigative leads to solve cases with unmatched DNA.

Sexual assault evidence kits, commonly known as "rape kits," are collections of evidence taken during an invasive, lengthy examination conducted at a hospital or rape crisis center following a sexual assault. The DNA evidence contained in rape kits is a powerful tool for identifying suspects, convicting perpetrators, preventing future offenses, and even exonerating the innocent.

We look forward to working with the Department of Justice over the next two years to bring closure to victims and make our community a safer place.

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