

WHY IS IT MORE IMPORTANT TO THE POLITICIANS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN FINANCIALLY STRAPPED STATES TO PURSUE THOSE ENGAGED IN CONSENTING ADULT COMMERCIAL SEX THAN IT IS TO PURSUE ACTUAL RAPISTS WHOSE VICTIMS HAVE REPORTED CRIMES AGAINST THEM?

If they lack the resources to test the DNA evidence, or to investigate the rapes of persons who are willing to undergo the traumatic rape kit procedure, no resources to arrest, prosecute and incarcerate the rapists whose victims have reported a crime and whose DNA proves the crime, how can they possibly justify arresting, prosecuting and punishing the non violent, non abusive clients, employers and associates of consenting adult sex workers who have NOT reported ANY crime against them BY those non violent, non abusive individuals?

If ‘prostitution is like rape,’ why don’t prostitution abolitionists care that when sex workers report being raped by law enforcement officers and corrections officers, those rapists are seldom punished, or receive a sentence that is significantly less than prison sentences imposed on NON- law enforcement officers who are convicted of raping non inmates? Why the disparity in sentencing convicted rapist government agents and other convicted rapists?



Rep. Jodie Laubenberg

**Why do so many rape kits never get tested?
Perhaps because there are republican politicians who think a
rape kit is a contraceptive and induces abortions?**

Sponsor of New Texas Anti-Abortion Bill Thinks Rape Kits Are Contraceptives

According to Atlantic Wire.com, Texas Rep. Jodie Laubenberg erroneously believes that rape kits eliminate the possibility of conception through rape and incest. Laubenberg said: **“In the emergency room they have what’s called rape kits where a woman can get cleaned out ... The woman had five months to make that decision, at this point we are looking at a baby that is very far along in its development.”**

May 28, 2013: Keeping Them Honest: Rape kits go untested for decades

At least **400,000 rape kits** containing critical DNA that could help convict a criminal are sitting untested in labs around the country. **Victims who submitted evidence assumed the police were searching for their attackers using the kits, but hundreds of thousands were never processed.**

December 17, 2012 “Right now, there are over 400,000 rape kits sitting in storage not being tested. Sometimes it’s because of a lack of money; other times it’s more complicated. Some places will only test a rape kit if they have a suspect in mind, for example, but if they didn’t wait, they might find that their results match other cases in the FBI’s database, and they could prevent future crimes.”

<http://www.washingtonian.com/blogs/capitalcomment/parties/rainn-celebrates-progress-in-assault-investigation-honors-advocates-on-the-hill.php>

Testing State’s Huge Backlog of Rape Evidence Kits Comes With Hefty Price Tag

“Prostitution is like rape...”

RAPE KITS UNTESTED

“Detroit Prosecutor Kim Worthy: Testing of 11,303 rape kits rescued from Detroit Crime Lab a long way off”

By **Gus Burns** | fburns@mlive.com

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“DETROIT — After the Detroit Crime Lab closed in 2008, state police found 11,303 dusty rape kits upon the shelves... Some of them had been there for decades, their contents — and the horror stories of the women who provided them — forgotten for years.

Though raised from the oblivion of the crime lab, the kits remain far from being processed.

"I can't even speculate," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said when asked how long it may take. "A long time... It's too depressing to think about how long it's going to take."

Worthy spoke about numerous problems crippling the Detroit justice system at a Wayne State University Seminar called, "City Under Siege: A University Forum on the Crime Crisis in Detroit." Some in the crowd gasped when she spoke of the untested rape kits.

"We have usually a woman who was raped, they went to a police department to report their rape and they willingly went to a rape kit exam — so three- to four-hour extensive exam, literally every orifice of your body is looked at and scoped and examined — and hoping... we can get some DNA and hopefully that produces a trial,"
Worthy said.



Serial killer: "Shelly A. Brooks killed and raped five more women [prostitutes] after the date on this rape kit," Worthy said. "So that means if the rape kits were analyzed in a timely fashion perhaps, perhaps these five women would still be alive."

RAPE KITS UNTESTED

She said 600 of the kits have been tested. **The most recent "wave" of 200 resulted in the detection of 21 serial rapists among 153 test results.**

One of the test kits contained DNA belonging to **Shelly A. Brooks**, 43, a serial rapist and killer arrested in 2006. *[but not convicted because the rape kits had not yet been tested to reveal he was the rapist/ killer]*

Worthy said the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has received \$2 million grant, not for testing, but for a collaborative "to come up with a national model of what you do when you find... untested rape kits" and "to change the culture of how sexual assault is prosecuted from the top to the bottom."

She said, although the State Police Crime Lab handles all other forensic testing on behalf of the Detroit Police Department, **they cannot handle the rape kit backlog. "They can't do them all because they're already overwhelmed,"** Worthy said.

The kits are being sent to **private labs at a cost of \$1,200 to \$1,500 per kit**, which equates to a total cost of more than \$13.5 million to test all 11,303.

Worthy said the county is seeking grants and other funding options to complete the testing.

Prosecutors have convicted one man based on the results of the kits tested so far, and another is set to go to trial soon, Worthy said.”

“Prostitution is like rape...”

RAPE KITS UNTESTED

Cost of prostitution arrests vs. lab testing of rape kits:

In 2011, Michigan citizens reported **4,347 violent rapes** (not including sexual assaults). Police officers arrested a mere **589 alleged rapists- or 14%**. They also arrested **320 persons for prostitution**, and an additional **8,563 persons for ‘disorderly conduct.’** Perhaps not all or even most of the disorderly conduct arrests were related to prostitution, but surely some of them were. Let’s say that 1,000 of them were arrests of sex workers when cops could not make a solicitation arrest. That’s at least **1,320 persons arrested for non violent, consenting adult commercial sex** (until the 2011 arrests by gender and age are available, we will count all those arrests as adults).

In 1987, the Hastings Law Journal published the research of Julie Pearl entitled **“The Highest Paying Customers: America's Cities and the Costs of Prostitution Control”** in which the author’s research revealed that the cost of arresting a single prostitute was about **\$2,000**. In 2011’s currency, adjusted for inflation, that would be **\$3,967.04 per arrest**.

So, the cost for arresting the 1,320 alleged prostitutes and their clients would be **around \$5,236,440**. If the cost of sending the rape kits to a private lab ranges from **\$1,200 to \$1,500 per kit**, the money spent arresting those prostitutes and clients could have paid for **3,490 rape kits @ \$1,500 per kit or 4,363 rape kits @ \$1,200 per kit**.

There was a backlog of **11,303 untested kits** in Detroit alone, so while the money spent arresting people for commercial sex wouldn’t have covered the testing of ALL the rape kits, it would have helped.

Nationwide (in 2011), there were **243,800 reported violent rapes and sexual assaults** and **14,943 arrests** for rape and sexual assault, although the FBI Bureau of Criminal Statistics also states in some reports that there were **16,206 alleged rapists arrested**.

That same year, there were **48,658 prostitution arrests** and **453,470 arrests for disorderly conduct**. Let’s say that 10% of the disorderly conduct arrests were instead of prostitution arrests- or **45,000-** plus the prostitution arrests **= 93,658** arrests for NON violent commercial sex... which cost an estimated **\$371,541,286**. If the cost of testing rape kits in private labs is consistent nationwide, then **theoretically, 247,694 rape kits could have been tested**. Some reports claim that there are between **400,000 to 500,000 untested rape kits sitting in police evidence lockers nationwide**.

\$ DollarTimes

Calculators | BU

Inflation Calculator

The Changing Value of a Dollar

Click on image to go to Dollar Times

A dollar just ain't what it used to be.

Our inflation calculator will tell you the relative buying power of a dollar in the United States between any two years from 1914-2013.

It will also calculate the rate of inflation during the time period you choose.

We determine the value of a dollar using the Consumer Price Index from December of the previous year. All calculations are approximate.

Fun fact: In 2007, the inflation rate was 4.08%. This was higher than any year since 1990. In 2008, the inflation rate was 0.09%, the lowest rate since 1954.

\$2,000.00 in 1987 had the same buying power as \$3,967.04 in 2011.

Annual inflation over this period was 2.89%.

More from DollarTimes:

RAPE KITS UNTESTED

Resources and more articles about untested rape kits:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/21/opinion/untested-rape-kits-delay-justice.html?_r=0

<http://www.endthebacklog.org/whatisthebacklog.htm>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/04/us/hefty-cost-to-testing-texas-huge-backlog-of-rape-evidence-kits.html>

<http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2013/05/28/keeping-them-honest-rape-kits-go-untested-for-decades/>

<http://www.marieclaire.com/sex-love/rise-in-untested-rape-kits-2>

[http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/dna-resource-center-documents/-i-used-to-think-the-law-would-protect-me-illinois-s-failure-to-test-rape-kits-\(2010\).pdf?sfvrsn=10](http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/dna-resource-center-documents/-i-used-to-think-the-law-would-protect-me-illinois-s-failure-to-test-rape-kits-(2010).pdf?sfvrsn=10)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/20/robbins-rape-kits-shocker_n_2725534.html

<http://news.msn.com/crime-justice/cleveland-tackles-decades-old-rape-kit-backlog>

<http://www.saveservices.org/2013/06/more-work-needed-to-eliminate-the-backlog-of-rape-kits/>

<http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/eliminating-rape-kit-backlog>

<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/rape-kit-roundtable-summary-10262010.pdf>

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/232197.pdf>

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/rapekit0309web.pdf>

For more resources and articles, search for “rape kits untested”