

SAFE Act Overview

SANE-ready hospitals webinar
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What is KASAP?

Statewide coalition of the 13 rape crisis centers in Kentucky

Provides technical assistance to member programs and other professionals; advocates for improvements in public policy; fosters

coalition-building among members and those with common concerns and promotes prevention and public awareness regarding sexual violence and related issues.



What is SART-AC?

Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee

Empowered by state statute; co-chaired by KASAP and KSP


Make recommendations regarding protocols for performance of Sexual Assault Forensic-Medical Exams (SAFE exams) and operation of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), licensure of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), changes in laws, policies, and trainings related to sexual assault and sexual assault response.


SAFE Act
Comprehensive Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reform


After a 2015 report by the state Auditor found more than 3,000 untested sexual assault kits in the Commonwealth, the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly passed a law that seeks to prevent a backlog of untested kits from ever happening again.


Key Elements of the New Law

Requires Kits be Submitted and Tested

 **24 Hours** Hospitals must notify law enforcement of reported kits

5 days Law enforcement must retrieve the kit 

30 days Law enforcement must submit the kit to the lab 

 Lab must reduce average time for testing kits
90 days by 2018
60 days by 2020

More Training, Policies for Law Enforcement



Limits destruction of kits



Mandates process for notifying victims about kit progress



SART AC to help develop victim-centered, evidence-based model policies

Other Key Elements of the SAFE Act

Establishes SANE-ready designation

CHFS will certify hospitals that have a SANE nurse on call 24/7, provide list of SANE-ready hospitals to EMS



Increases Reporting



Calls for collection of data related to sexual assault in Kentucky and analysis of costs of these crimes

Establishes Regional SARTs

Requires SART AC to help set up regional teams

SAFE Act Requirements for Hospitals

- If the victim chooses to report to law enforcement, the hospital shall notify law enforcement within 24 hours.
- All samples shall be stored for at least one year from the date of collection.
- Kits in non-reporting cases may be destroyed after a year. The victim shall be informed of this process at the time of the exam.

SANE-Ready Hospitals

- CHFS shall designate as SANE-ready any acute care hospital that certifies it has a SANE nurse on call 24/7.
- CHFS shall maintain a list of SANE-ready hospitals and post the list on its website. CHFS shall provide the list to the state EMS board, which shall share it with local EMS providers.

SANE-Ready: Why?

- Modeled after stroke-ready certification process
- Voluntary measure – allows hospitals to educate the community about the services they provide
- Goal is to bring awareness to the importance of SANE nurses in providing high-quality care to victims in a timely manner
