

# SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVISORY BOARD OF OHIO

## Law Enforcement Survey Results

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## Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio Law Enforcement Survey Results

The Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio (SAABO), is co-convened by the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, and Ohio Attorney General's Office.

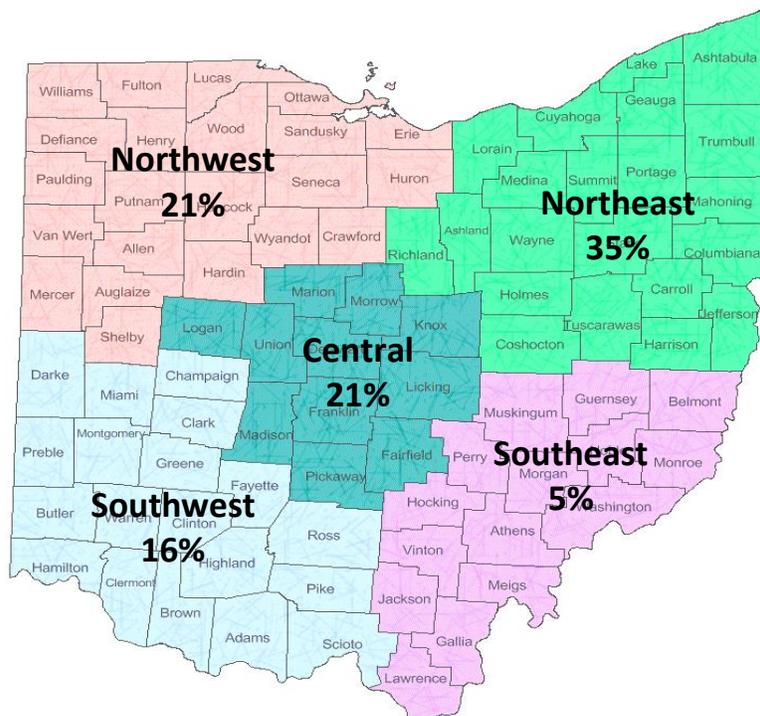
*SAABO Mission: The Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio, hereinafter referred to as "SAABO," works towards the mission of ensuring that all victims (patients/individuals/survivors) of sexual assault or sexual abuse have consistent access to quality medical care in the collection of evidence that meet the standards set forth in the Ohio Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical and Forensic Examination.*

### Overview

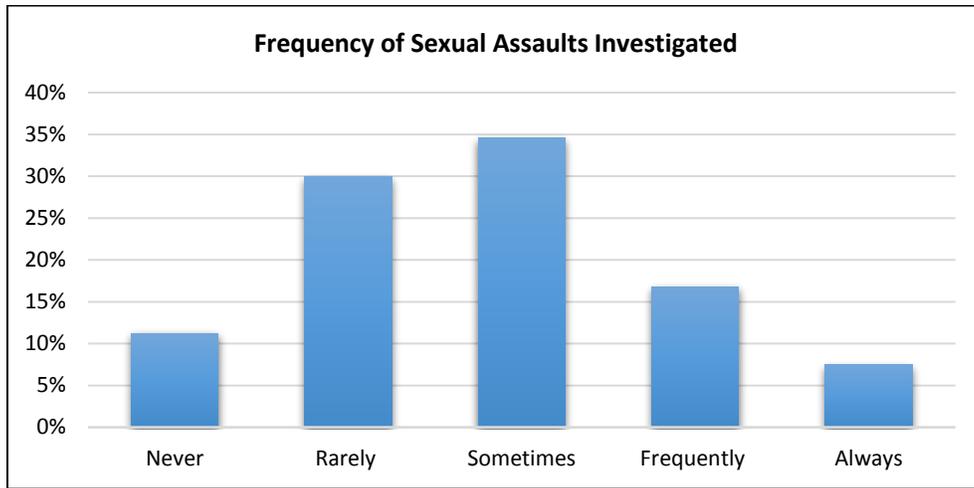
On February 19, 2016 SAABO conducted a statewide survey of Ohio law enforcement officers.

There were a total of 154 respondents to the survey, with 107 respondents completing the survey in its entirety. Data analyzed below will reflect the total number of respondents who completed the survey.

Over one-third of officers who responded to the survey identified the location of their agency or post in Northeast Ohio. Sixty-five percent identified their agency's jurisdiction as local, 29 percent reported as a county level agency and six percent reported as a state level agency. Lastly, 41 percent identified the communities they serve as urban with 25 percent as rural (non-Appalachian), and 22 percent as suburban.



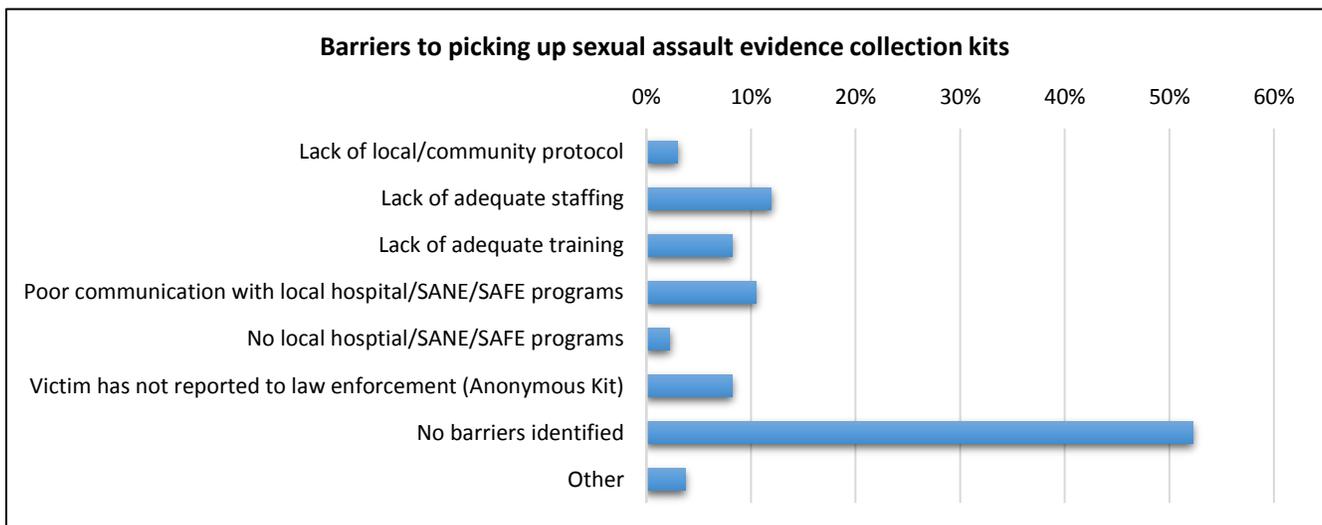
Respondents averaged a total of 22 years as an Ohio law enforcement officer. It was reported that the majority of law enforcement officers have investigated at least one sexual assault. However, about 35 percent of law enforcement officers reported having only “sometimes” investigated a sexual assault.



Seventy-seven percent of participants reported that their agency was “very effective” and “moderately effective” in meeting the needs of the victims of sexual assault. Approximately 73 percent of law enforcement officers reported receiving training on sexual assault response. Of these, 75 percent were county level law enforcement, and 61 percent were local level law enforcement.

Approximately 39 percent of law enforcement officers reported having a community with an active Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Of those who responded to having a SART, 81 percent reported that their agency was involved in the SART.

The majority of officers reported having no barriers preventing their agency from picking up Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits.



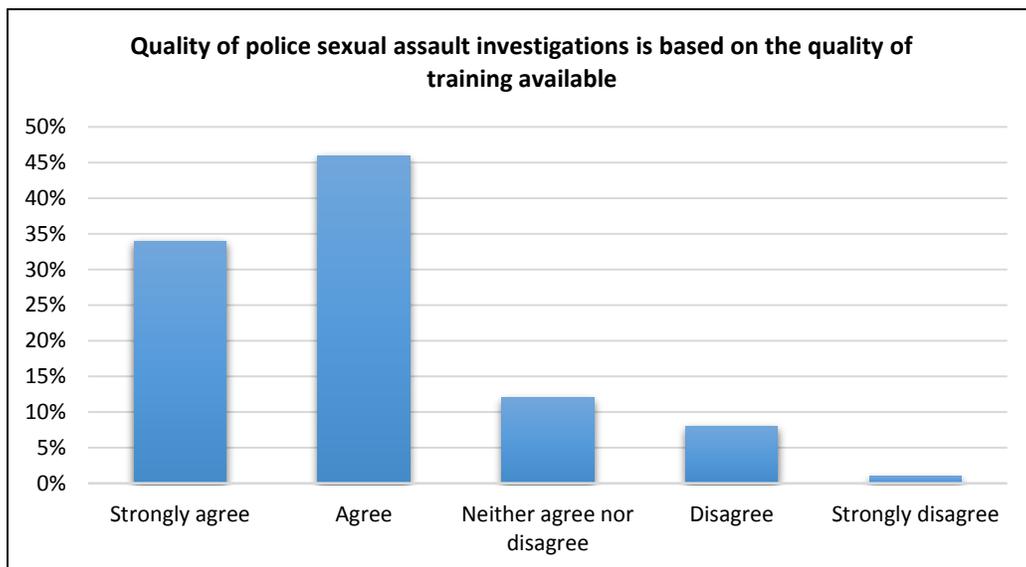
Eighty-six percent of officers reported being aware that all new sexual assault evidence collection kits must be submitted for testing within 30 days and that all previously untested kits be submitted in March 2016. However, only 54 percent of officers reported that they were aware of the June 2015 protocol revisions for anonymous kits. Broken down further, of the officers who reported being aware of the new revisions, 45 percent were officers who “sometimes” investigated sexual assaults and 21 percent were officers who “frequently” or “always” investigated sexual assaults.

Sexual Assault Protocol			
How often do you investigate sexual assault?	Are you aware of the June 2015 protocol revisions for anonymous kits?		
		Yes	No
	Never	5	4
	Rarely	15	15
	Sometimes	26	11
	Frequently	7	9
	Always	5	3
<b>Total*</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42</b>	

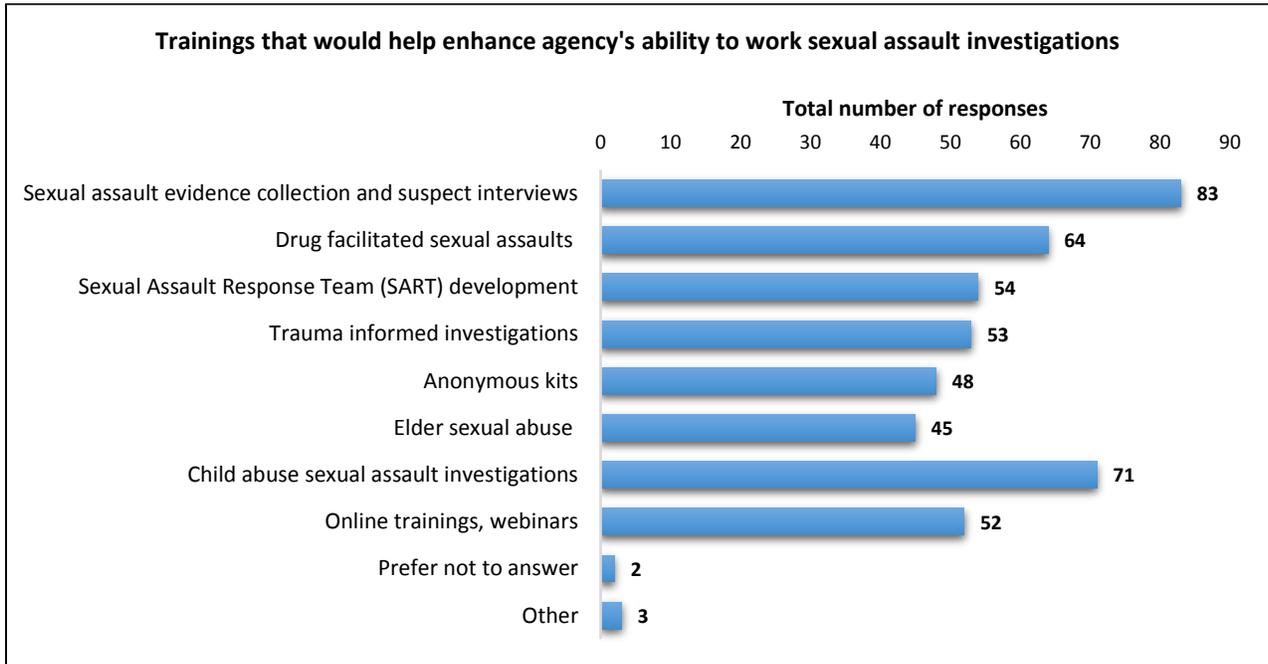
\*Total equals 100 participants due to 7 participants selecting “prefer not to answer” for the question “Are you aware of the June 2015 protocol revisions for anonymous kits?”

Sixty-two percent of officers agreed that a protocol for having sexual assault evidence collection kits delivered directly from hospitals to BCI or other crime labs would be an acceptable practice.

The majority of officers ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ (80 percent) that the quality of police sexual assault investigations is based on the quality of training available to their agency.



The majority of officers identified sexual assault evidence collection and conducting suspect interviews as trainings would enhance their agency’s ability to work sexual assault investigations.



### Advocacy

Ninety-two percent of officers agreed that victim advocacy is a best practice and enhances victim safety and healing. Furthermore, 79 percent of officers agreed that victim advocacy enhanced investigations and provided better outcomes for prosecution.

Ninety-four percent of officers reported that their community or jurisdiction had advocates (hospital, community based, victim witness) available to assist victims of sexual assault.

Lastly, officers were asked when taking a report for a victim of crime, how often they provided the victim with the following:

- **Their name:** 93 percent reported ‘always’ or ‘frequently’
- **Their badge number:** 64 percent reported ‘always’ or ‘frequently’
- **The report number:** 81 percent reported ‘always’ or ‘frequently’
- **Follow-up telephone number:** 87 percent reported ‘always’ or ‘frequently’
- **Information about protective orders:** 84 percent reported ‘always’ or ‘frequently’
- **Ohio AG’s Crime Victims’ Rights booklet:** 66 percent reported ‘always’ or ‘frequently’