Current Sex Investigations

• Multi-Disciplinary Teams
  – Specialized Detective Units
  – Forensic Nurse Examiners
  – Victim Advocates
  – Advocacy Centers

• Advances in Science
  – Doing more with less – greater analysis capabilities
  – CSI effect

• Physical evidence
  – DNA: Y-STR, Mitochondrial, Touch
  – Animal & Plant DNA
  – Fingerprints
  – L.E. expectation/responsibility to collect and examine
  – It’s better to collect it and not submit it than to not have collected it at all!

• Expanding searchable databases
  – AFIS, CODIS, NIBINS
Expectations for Law Enforcement

- Multi-disciplinary team member
- Trained and specialized
  - Understanding of the dynamics
  - Overcoming consent
- Current in methods and techniques of processing crime scenes (as seen on CSI)
- Objective fact finder
- Don’t stop at DNA – Detect!
The Crime Scene

- Victim
- Abduction site
- Assault site
- Release site
Crime Scene Goals

• Locating, identifying, and collecting that tangible material which may associate a given individual (suspect and/or victim) with the crime scene and the crime
  – Locard’s Theory of Exchange

• Reconstruct (Establish MO / Signature)

• Corroborate
  – Victim/Witness/Suspect
Crime Scene Considerations

- Management
- Protection
- Identification/documentation of evidence
- Collection and preservation
- Laboratory examination
- Application into court
  - If you can’t get into court, it is worthless
Crime Scene Rules

- Protect yourself
- Prevent contamination
- Never touch, move or alter any items
- Maintain the chain of custody
- Physical/Forensic evidence never lies
  - Hypothesis development
- You only have one chance
Resources

- [http://www.DNA.gov](http://www.DNA.gov) offering info about resources related to the use of DNA technology in solving crimes, protecting the innocent, and identifying missing persons.
- [http://www.dna.gov/training/otc/](http://www.dna.gov/training/otc/) offering information on how to present DNA evidence in court
Sexual Assault Evidence Collection

- **Collect evidence from victim ASAP**
  - Including injury documentation
- Skin swabs, areas of licking/kissing
- Finger & Fingernail Swabbings
- Pubic Hair Combings
- Bitemarks
- Victim’s clothing
- Other items
  - Bedding
  - Car seat, mattress, carpet
  - Collateral evidence
What is a Crime Scene?

• A physical location
• Where a crime has allegedly occurred
• Where potential evidence was brought to the scene and left
• Where potential evidence has been carried away
• Where something has been altered or disturbed in some manner
• A starting point for a criminal investigation
Sources of Forensic Evidence
@Crime Scene

- Blood
- Semen/vaginal secretions
- Cells-touch (person, clothing, object)
- Fingerprints
- Saliva-bites, kissing, licking
- Urine/Feces
- Teeth/Bone
- Tissue/Organs
- Hairs with roots

*DNA is the same in every cell (nucleated) -- skin, saliva, blood, semen
DNA Evidence

- Early DNA - Size of quarter
- Current DNA - If you can see it, we can try it
- Touch DNA
Consent

• Overcoming consent
• Understanding sexual violence dynamics
• Trained in comprehensive interviewing
• Thorough crime scene/s investigation