



# LOUISIANA SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 1.16.15

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## **Sen. Morrell Announces Untested Sexual Assault Kit Responses**

### ***Agencies Report 1,163 Untested Kits***

At the request of District 3 State Senator JP Morrell (D-New Orleans), through Act 124 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session, state law enforcement and criminal justice agencies have collected data on the number of untested sexual assault kits in the state.

The report reveals that 1,069 sexual assault kits remain untested at law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and 94 untested pediatric kits are being held at health care facilities. As of Friday, January 16, 2015, all 64 Parish Sheriff's Departments and 185 of the 315 police departments have responded. The deadline to respond was January 1.

"I would like to thank the responding agencies for complying with Act 124 and commend the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab for collecting the data and putting together this report," said Sen. Morrell. "Establishing a firm number of the untested kits is only the first step in finding justice for victims of sexual assault."

Sen. Morrell said that untested sexual assault kit issues will be part of his 2015 legislative package, "Our next step will be to determine how best to address these issues. I will be working diligently to develop a sexual assault legislative package that creates sound policy to address untested rape kits as well as sexual assaults on state campuses."

"What this data says to us is that we have a problem that needs addressing and the fact that there are any untested pediatric kits at all is especially troubling and disturbing," said Sen. Morrell. "We must do everything within our power to ensure that the outstanding pediatric sexual assault kits, that have never been picked up by law enforcement, are put on the record, investigated and resolved to bring justice to these young victims."

Act 124 is part of an effort to "end the backlog," a national movement to upload DNA evidence from sexual assaults into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which links federal, state and local criminal justice agencies.

A listing of the responding agencies and number of untested rape kits is attached.

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