Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY NEWSLETTER

October 2026 / Vol. 4 Issue 1

This photo capturing a Kansas windmill at sunrise was taken by Biology Assistant Supervisor James Newman

Note from KBI Assistant Laboratory Director

Welcome to the latest issue of the KBI Forensic Science Newsletter. The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory is active in meeting current and future needs of our customers. As you will read in this edition of the newsletter, the laboratory continues its commitment to assuring quality forensic science services for the state through various activities.

The KBI is continuing development of facilities that meet the specialized requirements of not only the Forensic Science Laboratory, but also direct training needs of our customers through our partnership with the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. The new Regional Crime Center and Laboratory (RCCL) at Pittsburg will provide modern, purpose designed laboratory and training space when completed. We are also eager to have purpose designed and equipped spaces for the controlled substance analysis and evidence operations at this site. The Great Bend Phase 3 remodeling, when completed, will renew laboratory space at the Great Bend facility. Included will be the complete reconstruction of two spaces – a "wet" lab for the initial processing of evidence in controlled substance examinations and an "isolation laboratory" for the evaluation, initial processing and preservation of certain items of evidence from crime scenes.

The celebration and activities of National Forensic Science Week (NFSW) serve several purposes. Included is assuring our current staff of highly trained, dedicated forensic scientists know they are appreciated and have the opportunity to share in some fun and informative activities. Future forensic scientists have the opportunity to learn about both the science and the career potential in forensic science from scientists currently engaged in that career. And finally, the week helps educate the citizens of the state about a vital piece of the law enforcement community that strives to keep them safe.

Also please note the 2027 edition of Evidence Submission Guidelines is now available.

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Progress in KBI Locations Throughout the State

With the beginning of Volume 4 of the KBI Forensic Science Laboratory Newsletter, we would like to provide updates on three site projects occurring throughout the state. These projects include upcoming KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory in Pittsburg, continued progress for the Great Bend Laboratory location, and the upcoming dedicated Evidence Receiving and Transfer location in Wichita.

Pittsburg - Upcoming KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory

We are excited to share a brief update and current progress of the KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory located in Southeast Kansas. The RCCL is located on the campus of Pittsburg State University and is another collaborative effort between the State of Kansas, City of Pittsburg, Kansas Bureau of Investigation and Pittsburg State University.

This 55,000 square foot facility will serve the southeast part of the state while enhancing educational programs related to the criminal justice system. The KBI will have major crimes/special operations, a child victim task force, crime analysis, controlled substance testing and evidence transaction capabilities. Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Pittsburg State University Police and Pittsburg State University academic programs are partners within the building.



Building rendering graphic of the new KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory in Pittsburg, KS

Pittsburg - Upcoming KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory





Photos capturing North (left) and East (right) side of construction on KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory in Pittsburg, KS

The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art training space, an indoor firing range, evidence control centers, chemistry teaching labs, instrument rooms, classrooms, crime scene room, vehicle examination bays and a controlled substance testing laboratory. The RCCL is set to open in the spring of 2027.

Great Bend - Progress in Remodel

Progress on the KBI Great Bend Laboratory continues during phase 3 of the site laboratory remodel project. To date, the KBI has worked closely with the project architects and engineers to complete the design and planning work. During this project, the KBI has also coordinated with the Office of Procurement and Contracts (OPC) and the Office of Facilities and Property Management (OFPM) to post the project for bidding. At this time, the project has received six bids from general contractors. The proposals have been reviewed and it was recommended to accept one of the bids. Currently, the KBI is working through the bid award process with OPC.

Interesting Fact:

When you bid a construction project, you identify your base needs and then everything else is listed as an alternate, in order of priority. The alternates then have to be accepted in the established priority order.

Wichita - Upcoming Evidence Receiving and Transfer Location

The KBI celebrated the opening of its new Wichita office earlier this year. In the coming months, the Forensic Science Laboratory anticipates the completion of a dedicated Evidence Receiving and Transfer area at this location. This new space will provide a convenient option for customers to submit evidence for laboratory analysis and to pick up completed evidence. Services at this location will be limited to in-person submissions and will be available by appointment only, to ensure we can meet the needs of all our customers. As we get closer to opening, we will distribute a brief survey to our customers in and around the Sedgwick County area. Your feedback will help us finalize preparations and tailor our services to meet community needs.

KBI Forensic Science Laboratory Continued Accreditation

The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory is pleased to relay that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB) granted the laboratory's continued accreditation in the field of Forensic Testing. ANAB concluded that the laboratory met or exceeded accreditation requirements, to include the requirements of the laboratory's management system. The laboratory fulfills the requirements of and is accredited to the following standards:

- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories
- AR 3125 – Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)
- FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories:2025
- FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories:2025

The KBI Laboratory is dedicated to providing the highest quality of services and testing activities to meet the accreditation requirements and to satisfy the needs of the Kansas criminal justice community.

From DNA Databank: Did You Know?

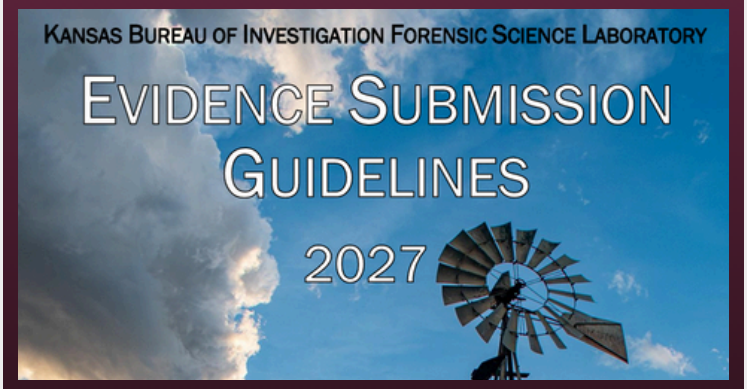
The DNA Databank is responsible for the maintenance and analysis of offender DNA samples collected pursuant to Kansas Law 21-2511.

The current state level database (as of 9/30/2026) is roughly the same size as:

- **Chula Vista, CA**
- **Chandler, AZ**
- **Strasbourg, France**

That is equivalent to 8.7% of Kansas's total population, which is about 1 in 11.5 people.

ANNOUNCEMENT



The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory is happy to announce the release of the 2027 Evidence Submission Guidelines. Physical copies are available in a full-size 8.5" x 11" spiral-bound booklet or a compact 4" x 6" spiral-bound booklet. Both formats of the 2027 edition are available at each KBI Laboratory location. Agencies may also request physical copies by mail by emailing the request to KBI-Lab@kbi.ks.gov. If requesting physical copies be sent to you, please indicate which format is preferred. To access and download the updated guidelines online via the KBI website, click here.

2026 National Forensic Science Week

This year, Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed National Forensic Science Week (NFSW) as September 20 – 26, 2026, acknowledging and expressing appreciation to those in the forensic science field for their contribution to the criminal justice system.

The KBI NFSW committee organized a fun-filled week of activities for KBI personnel to celebrate their dedication and commitment to enhancing public safety through forensic science. The events included a case study presentation and participating in a round table discussion at Washburn University where students had the opportunity to visit with professionals in the forensic science field.

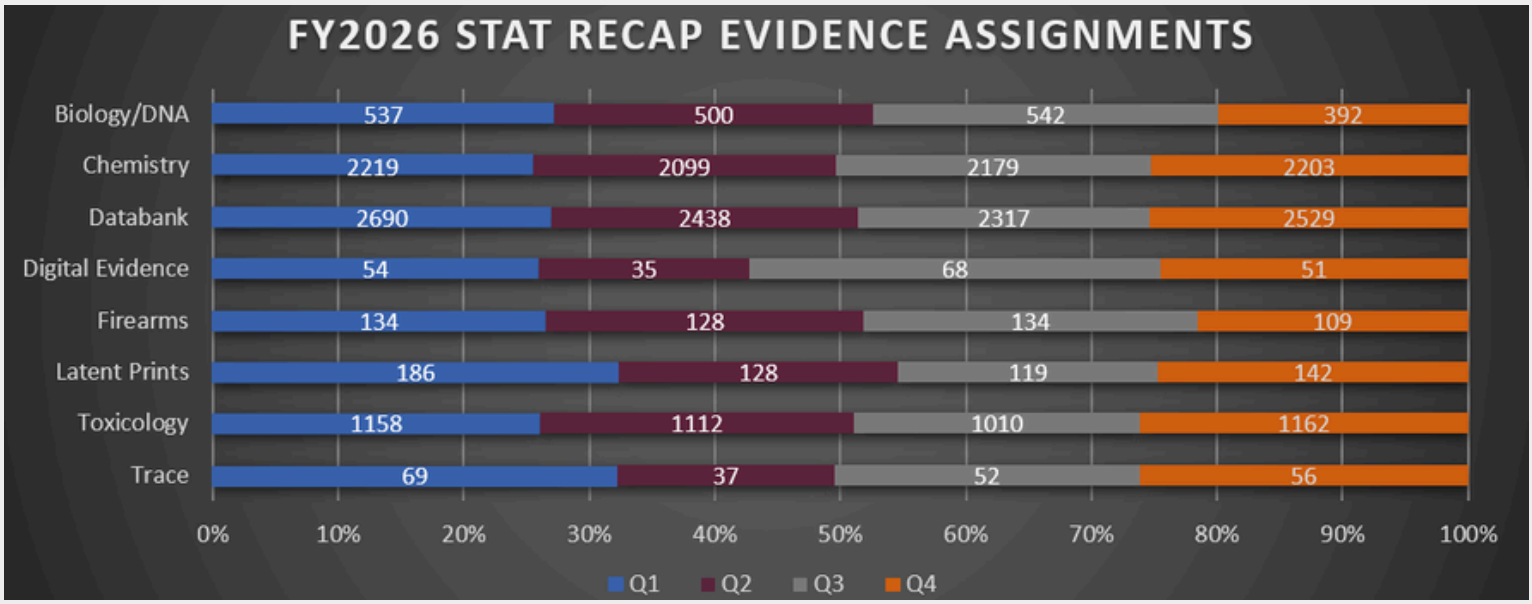


Above: Students visit with a KBI Firearm and Toolmark Forensic Scientist at the Washburn University round table event.

Below: KBI Forensic Scientists from the Chemistry and Toxicology Sections talk with students at the Washburn University round table event.



Photos taken by Video Production Specialist Perla Soto



Upcoming Laboratory Provided KLETC Trainings

(click on links to register)

KBI Laboratory DNA Databank - Collecting DNA from Arrestees, Convicted Offenders, and Registered Offenders
10/22/2026 - Virtual
2/11/2027 - Virtual

KBI Laboratory Services - Digital Evidence
11/10/2026 - Topeka, KBI FSC (In-person)
3/25/2027 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)

Basic Processing and Collection of Latent Prints
4/13/2027 - Topeka, KBI FSC (In-person)

2027 KBI Laboratory Services in Support of Violent Crime Investigations - Biology, Latent Prints, Firearms and Toolmarks
1/19/2027 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)
3/17/2027 - Virtual
5/13/2027 - Virtual
10/12/2027 - Topeka, KBI FSC (In-person)

Investigation and Analysis of Fire Scene Evidence - Collaboration with KS Fire Marshal's Office
2/24/2027 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)

The KBI Laboratory Mission:

The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory, as an integral part of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, is committed to providing timely forensic science services to the Kansas criminal justice system. Employees of the KBI Forensic Science Laboratory are dedicated to preserving the safety of Kansas citizens through the application of science and modern technology.

Laboratory Contacts

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KBI Laboratory Locations

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Kansas City
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Kansas City, KS 66112
(913) 942-3000

Pittsburg
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Pittsburg, KS 66762
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The KBI laboratory welcomes feedback from our customers as we strive to meet your expectations. Continued feedback is necessary in order to align ourselves with our mission and continue to develop and improve our relationships. At your convenience, please take a moment to use the link below and complete our survey.

Your Opinion Matters! Please take our Survey

The laboratory system consists of four accredited laboratories located in Topeka, Great Bend, Kansas City, and Pittsburg. The laboratory system is accredited by ANAB in the field of forensic testing and fulfills the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 International Standard, ANAB Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration, the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing, and the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Databasing Laboratories. Evidence related to all types of criminal cases is accepted from qualified customers and examined at no cost. The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory is funded by the Kansas Legislature and court-ordered laboratory fees from convicted offenders in accordance with K.S.A. 28-176.