



A140 Sex Crimes in Colombia From the Perspective of the Forensic Biology Laboratory

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand that the integral analysis of the criminal context of sex crimes requires the involvement of various disciplines. All of these disciplines must work together to reconstruct the offense, based on the physical evidence collected from the crime scene and from the bodies of the victim and possibly the perpetrator. This presentation will describe the efforts of the Forensic Biology Lab of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, Southwestern Regional Office, concerning sex crime management. The advances made since the opening of the Forensic Genetics Lab at the Southwestern Office, particularly since the implementation of the sex crimes management protocol and the creation of the Elite Sex Crimes Team (GEDES), will be highlighted.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by describing the significant efforts made by the Biology Lab in the area of preliminary analyses. Several unknown perpetrators were identified in specific rape cases. The above, together with the interdisciplinary approach, contributed to obtaining genetic profiles from the evidence processed in search for sperm. The profiles were subsequently uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for future comparison.

The primary basis of the integral management of sex crimes victims is to bring together all the law enforcement agencies and health care

Agencies, Attorney General's Office, National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, both private and public Hospitals and Health Care Centers, Family Advocacy, Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, and others). These agencies must effectively communicate and coordinate their efforts, bearing in mind that the first 72 hours after the fact are critical to the collection of biological evidence that may have been left behind. Therefore, immediate attention to sex crime victims is a key factor that will allow medical examiners to obtain genetic profiles of potential sex offenders after preliminary evidence analysis.

This presentation will describe a case received by the Forensic Biology Lab, where current analytical methods, together with inadequate collection and sample delivery methods, jeopardized the investigative process due to the deterioration of physical evidence. The presentation will also describe cases where the laboratory has received evidence that, according to the victim's account, is not associated with the crime and does not contribute to the clarification of the facts.

- The following statistical information will be provided in order to give the audience an overview of the current situation in Colombia:
- National statistics on expert reports of alleged sex crimes Case characterization according to perpetrator typology
- The number of cases received by the Forensic Biology Lab
- The number of cases related to alleged sex crimes
- The number of cases where analyses yielded positive results
- The number of cases referred to the Forensic Genetics Lab by the Criminalistics area
- The number of cases referred to the Forensic Genetics Lab by the Elite Sex Crimes Team
- The number of expert reports required for public hearings

Finally, this paper is intended to show the importance of the implementation of the GEDES project in the city. This is a valuable sex crimes investigation tool where unknown perpetrators may be identified, frequently, as serial rapists.

Sex Crimes, Physical Evidence, Elite Sex Crimes Team GEDES