

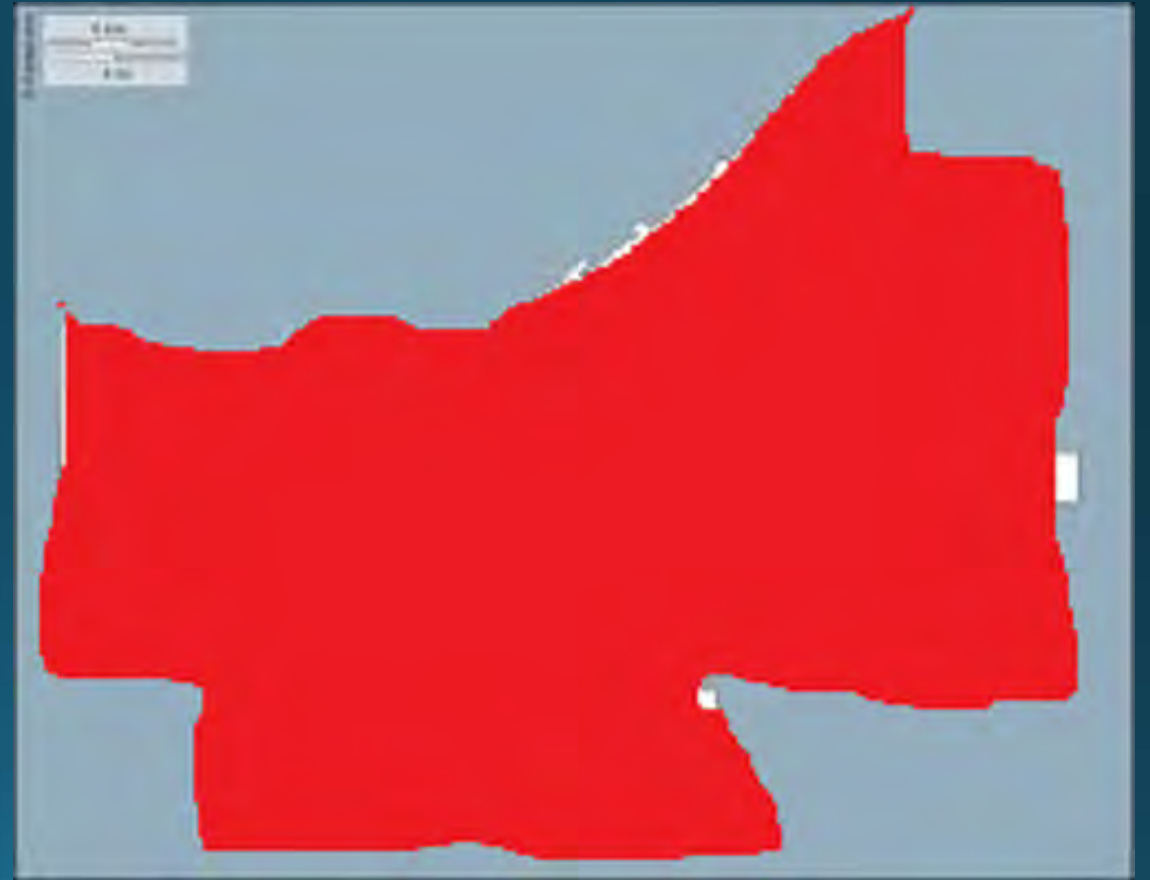
# CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



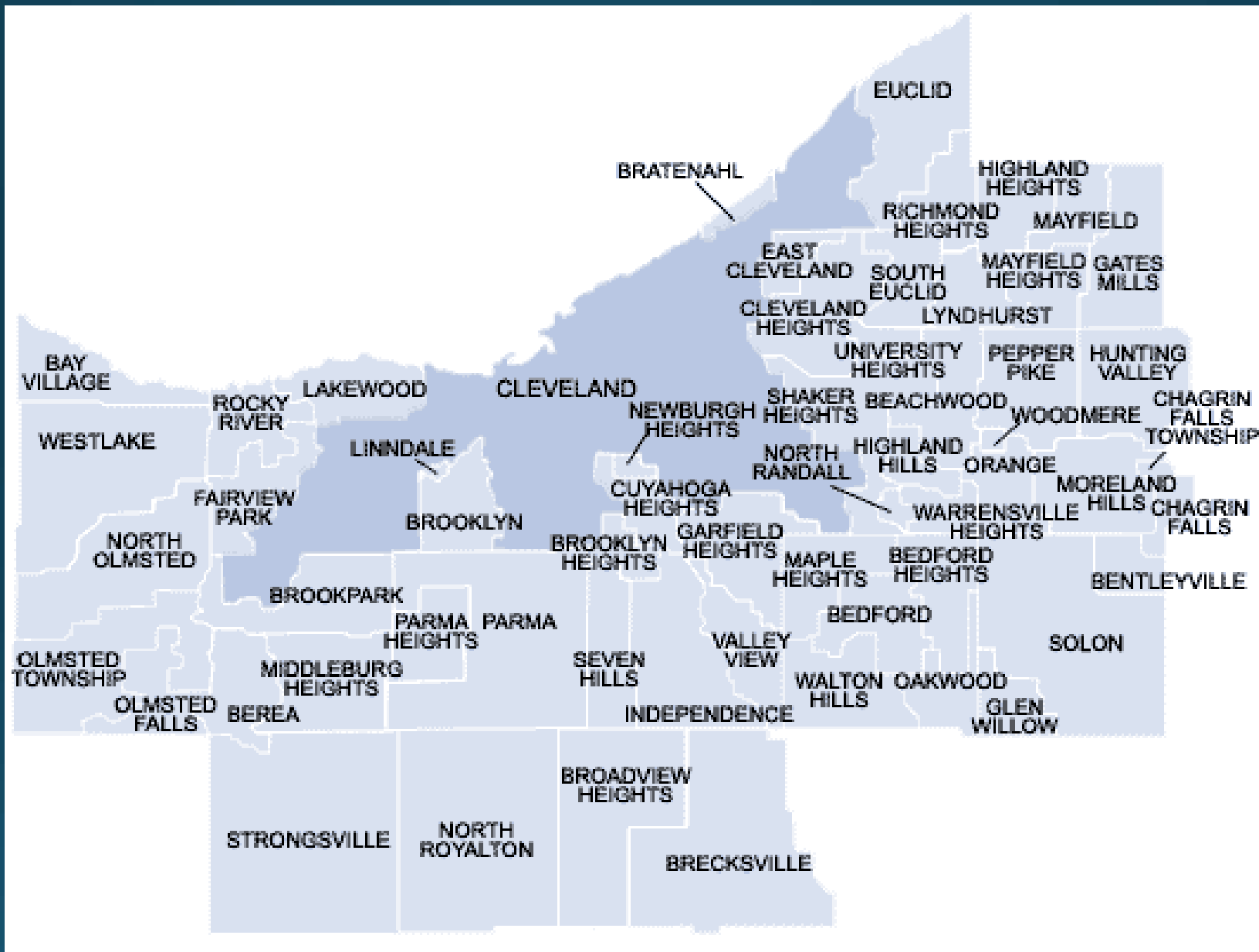
# CUYAHOGA COUNTY SAK TASK FORCE



# Cuyahoga County, Ohio



Population = 1.263 million (2013)



**WHAT PROMPTED AN INVENTORY?**



ANTHONY SOWELL

**Grand jury indicts Anthony Sowell in 11 slayings;  
sets stage for death penalty trial**

**Ninth body from Anthony Sowell's house, police  
as Kim Yvette Smith**

**Anthony Sowell,  
East Side, arrested**

**Cleveland's**

**bodies found at**

**Sowell's house identified**

**Anthony Sowell to die for murders of 11 women;  
judge accepts jury's advice**

Special Commission on  
Missing Persons and  
Sex Crime Investigations

**Final Report**

Teresa Metcalf Benaley  
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Megan O'Brien  
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**VORYS**

March 30, 2010

# Rape Commission Report March 30, 2010



Mid-2010: CPD decides to submit all new rape kits for DNA testing and to begin cataloging older, untested rape kits.

Mid-2011: CPD begins submitting backlog of untested rape kits to BCI for DNA testing.



# SAK INITIATIVE

An excerpt from Attorney General Mike DeWine's letter to law enforcement:

"In December 2011, I formed the Sexual Assault Kit Commission to address the problem of untested sexual assault kits in Ohio. We discovered that there were many old, untested kits in Ohio. In order to stay ahead of the twenty year statute of limitations for sexual assaults, I'm asking you to send us *any* kit from a probable sexual assault. We will prioritize the testing of kits approaching the twenty year mark. But even if those older kits don't result in leads today, they are essential for developing a robust database of sexual predators' DNA profiles."

**Fall 2012:** CPD and other law enforcement agencies begin to get results from BCI.

**Early 2013:** Attorney General Mike DeWine tells Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty to expect a large number of leads from BCI testing.

**March 2013:** Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Kit Task Force is created. CPD, BCI, CCSD, and CCPO come together to investigate leads from BCI testing.

**September 2013:** CPD and the CCPO begin to work together to conduct a formal inventory of unsubmitted SAKs in CPD's possession.

**June 2014:** CPD and the CCPO complete inventory, which reveals 4,373 unsubmitted SAKs from 1993-2010.

**December 2015:** Governor John Kasich signs Ohio Senate Bill 316, which requires law enforcement agencies to (1) submit all old SAKs to BCI or another crime laboratory w/in 1 year and (2) submit all new SAKs to BCI or another crime laboratory w/in 30 days of collection.

# INVENTORY PROCESS - CLEVELAND

- September 2013 – June 2014
- Inventory Team = 4 Evidence Preparation Technicians from CCPO and Sex Crimes Unit detectives from CPD
- Worked in secured area of police department
- Focused on SAKs w/in SOL (1993-2010)
- Reviewed SAKs to determine if previously submitted to BCI
  - If already tested for serology and negative, not resubmitted to BCI
  - If already tested for DNA, not resubmitted to BCI
- Made sure each SAK properly labeled and sealed
- Periodically shipped SAKs to BCI
- Prepared weekly reports to keep CPD and CCPO apprised of progress
- Inventory = 4,373 unsubmitted SAKs

# INVENTORY PROCESS - EAST CLEVELAND

- September 2013
- Inventory Team = representatives from CCPO, ECPD, and BCI
- Worked out of a refrigerated trailer in East Cleveland
- Focused on SAKs w/in SOL (1993-2010)
- Reviewed SAKs to determine if previously submitted to BCI
  - If already tested for serology and negative, not resubmitted to BCI
  - If already tested for DNA, not resubmitted to BCI
- Made sure each SAK properly labeled and sealed
- Sent SAKs back to BCI w/ BCI personnel
- Inventory = 175 unsubmitted SAKs



# INVENTORY PROCESS - SUBURBS

- Suburban police departments responsible for own inventories
- CCPO sent multiple letters to Chiefs of Police
- Representatives from Task Force attended Chiefs of Police Meetings
- Ohio Senate Bill 316 (mandatory submission of unsubmitted SAKs)
  - 257 SAKs submitted before Ohio Senate Bill 316 went into effect
  - 145 SAKs submitted after Ohio Senate Bill 316 went into effect



**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

# BCI NUMBERS

## (AS OF 4/1/16)

- 4,955 SAKs submitted by law enforcement agencies in Cuyahoga County
  - 4,378 SAKs submitted by CPD
- BCI has completed testing on 4,673 SAKs
  - 2,794 SAKs (60%) yielded foreign DNA profile sufficient for CODIS upload
  - 1,831 SAKs (39%) yielded a CODIS hit
- BCI sends out monthly report to keep CCPO and Task Force apprised of progress
  - Monthly report includes spreadsheet listing each and every SAK
    - Spreadsheet has columns for BCI #, incident #, date of offense, agency name, and testing status

