# ← Thread



## Anne Easton @anne\_k\_easton · Aug 9, 2018

1/21: For my @Harvard masters thesis, I chose to study the topic of the rape kit backlog. Here is a thread about what I've learned about this issue. Hint: I learned a lot (& so can you with this thread)!

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### Anne Easton @anne\_k\_easton · Aug 9, 2018

2. I met with Ilse Knecht (@maximizeDNA) at The Joyful Heart Foundation (@TheJHF), the advocacy organization behind @EndTheBacklog. They're doing major work to pass legislation in all 50 states & they have an Accountability Project.



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3. @TheJHF Accountability Project is important because there's still no accurate count of the actual number of untested rape kits in the US. Some jurisdictions have not provided a number. Some have just ignored requests, refusing to give a count.

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4. Although this topic is getting a lot of notice now (in part thanks to the #MeToo ) movement), it's not a new issue. The Debbie Smith Act, passed in 2001, & the SAFER Act of 2013 were both supposed to help clear the backlog, but now it's 2018 & this is still a massive problem.

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5. On the pos clear their ba many states h	cklogs. LA ever	e cities, like Los n built a new cr gislation or hav	18 s Angeles, have ime lab to make e legislation in t	e it happen. A	
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6. Utah bega now active in	several states.	alled "Start By They've also ir	18 Believing" (@SI nstituted an onli kit is at all times	ine tracking	t is
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7. One thing r process is the		on't know abou kit is collected i	t the Sexual Ass in a hospital or a		
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8. Some offic	, ,	kit has to go to	18 the police to m kip this step and		to
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9. Part of the police departr	@anne_k_easto reason the back ments decided important to th	klog formed in t which were 'rea	the first place v	vas because aly sent the kits
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10. Why isn't the police? Ma	@anne_k_easton there more of a aybe this is son ecially consideri	n effort to remo nething lawmak	ove rape kit judg ers should be v	vorking
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11. In Fayettev their storage f	@anne_k_easto rille, police simp facility. (In an un the damage wa	oly destroyed 3 oprecedented r	33 kits – just to nove, they did a	
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12. Sexual ass especially afte	@anne_k_easto eault advocates er they've unde rosecuting thein treated.	say that this la rgone an hours	ck of respect fo -long invasive o	examination in
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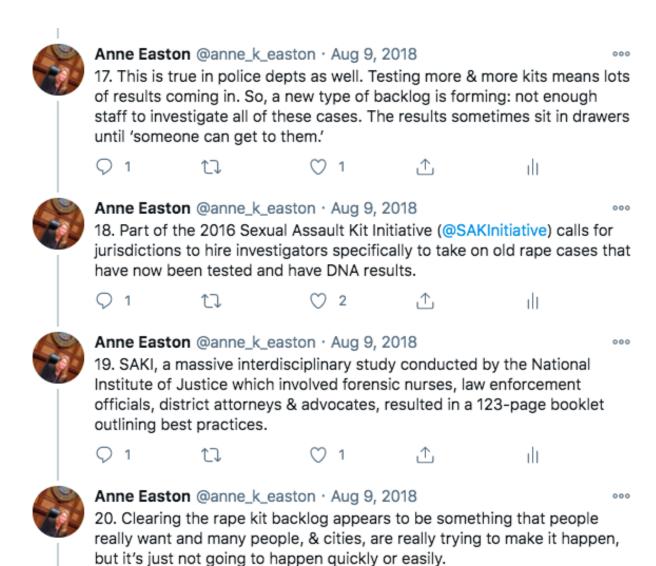
13. As of Janu suspected se committed cr	ıary '18, testinç rial rapists ir imes, some vio	n just three citie	its has uncovere es. These suspe es. This shows t	ed nearly 1313 cts have	3
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14. A class ac address its ra	tion suit agains	was dismissed	18 Police Departmo on a technicalit	ent for failure	
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15. Another su Department. S the suspect w	uit has been file She says that t	he HPD had mo ner and that if t	18 against the Hou ultiple untested hose kits had be	uston Police rape kits from	
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16. While the particularly th	goal is to test a e testing of old		new, cities have a strain on crim	found that	000

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# **Anne Easton** @anne\_k\_easton · Aug 9, 2018 Replying to @anne\_k\_easton

21. @NatashaSimone, survivor & founder of @NatashasJustice says, "In all of this talk about the backlog, the absolute most important thing is that society needs to believe and respect survivors. Then the journey to healing will truly begin."

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