

Forensic Research & Technology

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Are we contaminating victims in Sexual Assault Referral Centres?

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DNA testing technology has rapidly advanced and is now so sensitive that it brings with it a risk of contamination, which could potentially lead to a miscarriage of justice. I reviewed environmental monitoring data from six SARCS [Sexual Assault Referral Centres] in the UK between 2013 and 2015 to assess contamination levels. Appropriate measures to reduce contamination in SARCS were then considered, in line with new guidelines produced by the Forensic Regulator for the UK.

Biography

Lucy Love is the Assistant Medical Director for Mountain Healthcare, a major provider of forensic medical services for complaints of sexual assault in the UK. She has been a Sexual Offences Examiner for 20 years including the evaluation of child sexual abuse and she regularly appears in court as an expert witness. She is a recognized trainer of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Pediatric Medical Examiners in the UK.

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