

From: Crime Lab Records
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 16:22:12 +0000
To: Betsy Kim
Cc: Crime Lab Records
Subject: RE: [RECORDS REQUEST] Texas Rape Kit Backlog

Ms. Kim,

Please find the responses to your questions below in blue. Please let us know if you have any other questions or concerns.

1. For the 2022 report, I see conflicting information about the time frame. In your letter, you stated that the report had 2022 numbers, but the title of the first table is entitled "September 1, 2019 - November 23, 2021". Is this an aggregate from 2019-2022 or just 2022 numbers? If it's the former, could I have a report including 2022 numbers only? [The 2022 report contains data for kits collected from 9/1/19 – 11/23/22. The tracking system does not have a report that includes 2022 numbers only.](#)
2. Same question for the 2021 report. Do the numbers "Total number of unsubmitted kits: 572" and "Total Number of Unanalyzed Kits: 3,005) apply to Jan - Dec 2021 only, or to multiple years? If it includes multiple years, could I have a report including 2021 numbers only? [The 2021 report contains data for kits collected from 9/1/19 – 11/23/21. The tracking system does not have a report that includes 2021 numbers only.](#)
3. Where is the 2020 report? I understand the tracking system began collecting information in September 2019, so I'm assuming there is data for 2020. [The data for these reports is exported from Track-Kit on a specific date \(11/23\) in order to meet a statutorily required reporting deadline \(12/1\). The first report was the 2021 report. The tracking system does not have a point in time report/query to pull 2020 numbers.](#)

Would it be reasonable to say that of the rape kits that were received by Texas state crime labs in 2022, none of them were analyzed in under 30 days? [While the tracking system is unable to provide an exact number of kits processed in under 30 days, there are kits that are processed by labs in Texas in under 30 days. Examples include kits that are negative after the screening process or those in which in the law enforcement agency and/or prosecuting attorney have requested expedited analysis.](#)

Regards,

Texas DPS Crime Laboratory
5800 Guadalupe St
Austin, TX 78752
crimelabrecords@dps.texas.gov

EMAIL CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not use, copy or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received the message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail and delete the message.

From: Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 4:09 PM
To: Crime Lab Records <CrimeLabRecords@dps.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: [RECORDS REQUEST] Texas Rape Kit Backlog

CAUTION: This email was received from an EXTERNAL source, use caution when clicking links or opening attachments.
If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please send this email as an attachment to SPAM@dps.texas.gov.

Hello,

Thank you for your response.

I have a few clarifying questions about the data you provided:

1. For the 2022 report, I see conflicting information about the time frame. In your letter, you stated that the report had 2022 numbers, but the title of the first table is entitled "September 1, 2019 - November 23, 2021". Is this an aggregate from 2019-2022 or just 2022 numbers? If it's the former, could I have a report including 2022 numbers only?
2. Same question for the 2021 report. Do the numbers "Total number of unsubmitted kits: 572" and "Total Number of Unanalyzed Kits: 3,005) apply to Jan - Dec 2021 only, or to multiple years? If it includes multiple years, could I have a report including 2021 numbers only?
3. Where is the 2020 report? I understand the tracking system began collecting information in September 2019, so I'm assuming there is data for 2020.
4. Would it be reasonable to say that of the rape kits that were received by Texas state crime labs in 2022, none of them were analyzed in under 30 days?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Betsy



Betsy Kim
Data Analyst

(425) 708-8875
www.usafacts.org



From: Crime Lab Records <CrimeLabRecords@dps.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>
Cc: Crime Lab Records <CrimeLabRecords@dps.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: [RECORDS REQUEST] Texas Rape Kit Backlog

Ms. Kim,

Please find the Department's response to your Public Information Request along with responsive records attached.

Regards,

Texas DPS Crime Laboratory
5800 Guadalupe St
Austin, TX 78752
crimelabrecords@dps.texas.gov

EMAIL CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not use, copy or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received the message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail and delete the message.

From: Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:03 PM
To: OGC Webmaster <OGC.Webmaster@dps.texas.gov>
Subject: [RECORDS REQUEST] Texas Rape Kit Backlog

CAUTION: This email was received from an EXTERNAL source, use caution when clicking links or opening attachments.
If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please send this email as an attachment to SPAM@dps.texas.gov.

Dec 9, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Under the Texas Public Information Act, I'd like to request the following records:

- **(a)** The Texas rape kit backlog in 2022, broken down by:

- (1) rape kits that were not tested within 30 days of being submitted to the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory, in addition to any other accredited forensic or crime lab in the state of Texas that tests rape kits.
- (2) rape kits that were not submitted to the aforementioned crime labs and held by entities that collect rape kits, including, but not limited to, police stations and hospitals.
- **(b)** The month/date that the 2022 rape kit backlog numbers from (a) were collected.
- **(c)** Whether the numbers from (a) are reflective of the rape kit backlog for the entire state. If not, please list the municipalities, police stations, or crime labs that have been excluded from the counts provided in (a).

Please prioritize (a), (b), and (c) in your response. In addition, I would like:

- **(d)** The information from (a), (b), and (c) for 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- **(e)** Of the rape kits that were tested in 2022, the count tested within 30 days of being submitted to a lab.

Please include me on any external or internal correspondence related to this request.

I want to stress that I'm not seeking any records that are prohibited from release either by statute or previous rulings by the Texas Attorney General or the courts.

Let me know if clarifying my request might speed the release of these records, reduce any programming or staff time, and most importantly, avoid a referral to the Attorney General.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

I seek this information in the public interest as a journalist, and not for a commercial purpose.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$100.

The Texas Public Information Act requires a response to this request be made within 10 days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

Please provide me with the information in a continuous manner. I am more than happy to get partial responses to this request until it's completed in full.

Thank you again for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy Kim
Data Analyst
USAFacts
betsyk@usafacts.org



Betsy Kim
Data Analyst

(425) 708-8875
www.usafacts.org
g

