

From: **McClung Debra** <mcclung@dps.state.ia.us>  
To: **Betsy Kim** <betsyk@usafacts.org>  
Subject: RE: \*\* External Email Alert \*\* Re: [RECORDS REQUEST] Iowa Rape Kit Backlog  
Date: 13.04.2023 17:27:25 (+02:00)

Hi Betsy – Please see information below about pending sexual assault kits (SAKs) at the end of each calendar year you're your request below.

As mentioned in the original response, our laboratory information management system (LIMS) is designed to search for current or "real time" pending cases, so it's more difficult to go back in time and look at this historically for any given moment in time. What we have done however is to make our best estimations based on overall pending assignments for the DNA unit and factoring in the approximate percentage of those assignments that we typically see in the form of SAKs.

Pending Sexual Assault kits at the end of each calendar year for the Iowa DCI Crime Lab – Please note these are estimates only:

End of 2022: 99 pending SAKs estimated  
End of 2021: 135 pending SAKs estimated  
End of 2020: 113 pending SAKs estimated  
End of 2019: 208 pending SAKs estimated  
End of 2018: 324 pending SAKs estimated

We've provided a conservative estimate, so likely the actual number was slightly less than above.

Thank you and be safe.

**DEBBIE MCCLUNG, APR**

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**From:** Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 3:34 PM  
**To:** McClung Debra <mcclung@dps.state.ia.us>  
**Subject:** Re: \*\* External Email Alert \*\* Re: [RECORDS REQUEST] Iowa Rape Kit Backlog

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Hi Debbie,

Thank you for your response to my request! I have some follow-up questions. Following up through email as I wasn't able to reach you through the phone.

For the 2022 number you provided, would you be able to clarify whether "644 kits" represents the number of kits that were still pending testing by the end of 2022, or whether it represents the number of kits received by the lab in 2022 as a whole? The number I am seeking is the former.

My same question applies for the numbers you provided for the years of 2018-21. Again, I am looking for the number of untested kits by the end of each year (rather than submission data) and want to be sure my reporting on the state of Iowa is accurate.

Respectfully,  
Betsy



**Betsy Kim**  
Data Analyst  
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**From:** McClung Debra <[mcclung@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:mcclung@dps.state.ia.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 4:10 AM  
**To:** Betsy Kim <[betsyk@usafacts.org](mailto:betsyk@usafacts.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: \*\* External Email Alert \*\* Re: [RECORDS REQUEST] Iowa Rape Kit Backlog

Hi Betsy,

Thank you for your request. Please see the attached your document with our responses in **red text**.

My apologies for the delay in providing this response. In the future, please send your requests to [recordsrequest@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:recordsrequest@dps.state.ia.us).

**DEBBIE MCCLUNG, APR**  
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**From:** Betsy Kim <[betsyk@usafacts.org](mailto:betsyk@usafacts.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** [mortvedt@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:mortvedt@dps.state.ia.us) <[mortvedt@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:mortvedt@dps.state.ia.us)>  
**Subject:** [RECORDS REQUEST] Iowa Rape Kit Backlog

Dec 9, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Under the Iowa Open Records Law, I'd like to request the following records:

- (a) The Iowa rape kit backlog in 2022, broken down by:
  - (1) rape kits that were not tested within 30 days of being submitted to labs run by the Division of Criminal Investigation, in addition to any other accredited forensic or crime lab in the state of Iowa 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.

Let me know if clarifying my request might speed the release of these records or reduce any programming or staff time.

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 Iowa Open Records Law 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  
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