

From: Wendelken, Joseph (RIDOH)
Sent: Wed, 15 Mar 2023 16:31:17 +0000
To: Betsy Kim
Subject: RE: Information request

Hello Betsy,
I'm sorry for the delay.

1. We sometimes end calendar years with analyses that are incomplete. But those are for kits that come to us relatively late in the year. Tests are analyzed within 30-60 days. At the end of 2022, we had two kits that were still in the process of being tested.
2. We are beginning to look at this annually. As of 12/31/2022, law enforcement agencies had 100 untested kits in their possession. These kits were not eligible to be tested because the victims had not yet initiated the process of pressing charges.

Joseph Wendelken | Public Information Officer
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joseph.wendelken@health.ri.gov

Desk: 401-222-3998 | Mobile: 401-378-0704

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From: Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 8:14 PM
To: Wendelken, Joseph (RIDOH) <Joseph.Wendelken@health.ri.gov>
Subject: Re: Information request

Hi Joseph,

Just bumping this email! Also happy to speak over the phone if that's easier for you.

Sincerely,
Betsy



Betsy Kim
Data Analyst

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From: Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Wendelken, Joseph (RIDOH) <Joseph.Wendelken@health.ri.gov>
Subject: Re: Information request

Hi Joseph,

Thank you very much for your detailed response to my request. I can definitely verify that Rhode Island's turnaround times are much quicker than most states in the US so that is great to see.

I just had a couple clarifying questions, if you don't mind!

1. For the information you provided in (D), of the kits that were tested in greater than 30 days, were there any kits for which testing had not been completed by the end of the year? And if so, how many remained untested each year?
2. What records does the Department of Health have on the number of rape kits that remain in the possession of law enforcement agencies, without being submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Health Forensic Lab, by the end of each year? It's a pretty significant part of the rape kit backlog in other states, so any information you have on the matter would be much appreciated.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Betsy



Betsy Kim
Data Analyst

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From: Wendelken, Joseph (RIDOH) <Joseph.Wendelken@health.ri.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Betsy Kim <betsyk@usafacts.org>
Subject: Information request

Hello Betsy,
I am replying to your information request regarding sexual assault forensic exams in Rhode Island.

To first share some context, we are very proud of the turnaround times that we have at RIDOH's State Health Laboratories for sexual assault forensic exams. We currently have three sexual assault kits

pending results, and they are being worked on now. We do not have a backlog in Rhode Island. We prioritize sexual assault cases, and start testing very quickly – well within 30 days of receipt. For this reason, our average time to test completion is well below what you see at most state health laboratories across the country. Our average time to completion slightly exceeds 30 days because of the different analyses required in most cases, such as serology testing and DNA testing. These types of analyses are complex and time-consuming. Additionally, we need to work in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System to identify potential matches. This happens before cases are officially closed out.

A. Information for 2022

1. 2022

79 total kits submitted/76 total kits tested

11 tested within 30 days

65 greater than 30 days, average of 45 days

3 currently pending testing. The RIDOH Forensic Biology lab is the only lab in the State that tests rape kits.

2. All sexual assault forensic exams are submitted directly to Rhode Island Department of Health Forensic Lab.

B. These numbers are as of 12/15/2022

C. These numbers are reflective of the entire state for reported sexual assault forensic exams.

D. Rhode Island information for previous years.

2021

80 total kits submitted and tested

19 tested within 30 days

61 tested greater than 30 days, average of 43 days

2020

66 total kits submitted and tested

20 tested within 30 days

46 tested greater than 30 days, average of 50 days

2019

101 total kits submitted and tested

15 tested within 30 days

86 tested greater than 30 days, average of 49 days

2018

65 total kits submitted and tested

21 tested within 30 days

44 tested greater than 30 days, average of 42 days

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