



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

Commissioner's Office
Commissioner James E. Cockrell

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December 21, 2022

Betsy Kim
PO BOX 1558
Bellevue, WA 98009

RE: 51045

Dear Betsy Kim,

I am responding to your request for public information that you submitted to the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) on December 9, 2022. In your request you asked:

"Dec 9, 2022

To whom it may concern: Under the Alaska Public Records Act, I'd like to request the following records:

(a) The Alaska rape kit backlog in 2022, broken down by:

1. rape kits that were not tested within 30 days of being submitted to the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, in addition to any other accredited forensic or crime lab in the state of Alaska that tests rape kits.

Response: As of 12/16/2022, the backlog at the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (ASCDL) is 58 cases. A backlog is defined as untested kits over 30 days old. This is the backlog for all law enforcement agencies in the state. The ASCDL is the only accredited crime lab in the state.

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.

Response: The ASCDL does not have this information available; this would need to be requested from each individual agency. The ASCDL is working on implementing a statewide sexual assault kit tracking software. For more information regarding this project, please visit our website: [Kit Tracking Project - SAK - Comm - Alaska Department of Public Safety](#).

(b) The month/date that the 2022 rape kit backlog numbers from
(a) were collected.

Response:

Year 2022
Feb- 1
Apr-2
Jul- 1
Aug- 2
Sep – 7
Oct – 21
Nov – 24

(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).

Response: This is the backlog for the entire state. The ASCDL is the only accredited crime lab in Alaska that provides testing on all SA kits.

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.

Response: The ASCSL does not have this information as the ASCDL can only query active cases. In 2017, the Alaska state legislature implemented an annual statewide inventory of untested sexual assault kits. The annual inventory reports from 2017 onwards can be found at the following link: [Annual Statewide Inventory - SAK - Comm - Alaska Department of Public Safety](#).

(e) Of the rape kits that were tested in 2022, the count tested within 30 days of being submitted to a lab.

Response: The ASCDL processed 626 cases from January 1, 2022- December 15, 2022. Per the current statute (AS 44.41.065), the ASCDL is to test a sexual assault kit within one year after receiving the kit. On July 1, 2023, the law will change from one year to six months for testing. During the above period, 59 cases were processed in under 30 days.

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 Alaska Public Records 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”

The time spent to fill this request has not exceeded the five-hour threshold set forth in Alaska Statute 40.25.110; therefore, the requested materials are released to you at no cost.

Please find DPS’ responses embedded above after “**Response**”.

Portions of these reports have been redacted in accordance with Alaska statute, regulation, or court precedence.

You may administratively appeal the denial by complying with the procedures in 2 AAC 96.340. There is no bond requirement for an administrative appeal. You may obtain immediate judicial review of the denial by seeking an injunction from the superior court. *See AS 40.25.125 and Alaska R. App. P. 602(b)*. An election not to pursue injunctive remedies in superior court shall have no adverse effects on your rights.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Chanelle Lauger
Research Analyst 4