

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397



JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 28, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL

Ms. Betsy Kim
Data Analyst
USAFacts
betsyk@usafacts.org

Re: **Right to Know Regarding SANE Kit Data**

Dear Ms. Kim,

The Office of the Attorney General has completed its search for data you've requested under New Hampshire RSA Chapter 91-A for

- (a) *The New Hampshire rape kit backlog in 2022, broken down by:*
 - (1) *rape kits that were not tested within 30 days of being submitted to the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory, in addition to any other accredited forensic or crime lab in the state of New Hampshire 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).*
- (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 be advised that the following information is the responsive data relative to your request in its entirety:

The NH DOJ does not have under its possession and control information about the number of kits not tested within 30 days of submittal to the NH State Police Forensic Lab.

Prior to the establishment of an automated statewide kit tracking system in September 2022, comprehensive kit tracking data was not available. As part of the FY18 SAFE-ITR Program (Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking, Reporting), NH worked to clear its inventory of previously unsubmitted kits (582 as of 2019) and launch the kit tracking system to prevent unsubmitted kits in the future. Based on the information available to the NH DOJ, there is 1 unsubmitted kit from each of the following years: 2019, 2021, 2022.

The SAFE-ITR Program has been a statewide initiative with no agencies excluded. In the State of New Hampshire, hospitals do not hold on to kits and there is only one crime lab, the NH State Police Forensic Lab

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tracey J. Riehl
Paralegal II
Criminal Justice Bureau
(603) 271-8409
tracey.riehl@doj.nh.gov

cc: Nicholas A. Chong Yen, Assistant Attorney General
Lynda W. Ruel, Victim-Witness Advocate Director
Julie Curtin, Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Coordinator

TJR/tjr