



Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097
TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

February 11, 2016

[REDACTED]
Goodwin Proctor LLP
[REDACTED]

RE: AP16-0111; JOYFUL HEART FOUNDATION

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your records request seeking information the Rhode Island Department of Health may have in its possession related to any documentation regarding the number of sexual assault evidence collection kits received by the Department over the last ten years, the number of sexual assault evidence collection kits received and processed by the Department in the last ten years, the number of sexual assault evidence collection kits received and not processed by the Department in the last ten years that remain under the control of the Department and written policies or procedures regarding the Department's practices on handling sexual assault evidence collection kits. The archives and on site files have been reviewed and it has been determined that the records you requested are in the possession of the Department. Accordingly, said records are attached hereto with some explanation as follows:

The Rhode Island Department of Health Forensic Biology laboratory receives sexual assault evidence from police departments and from the area hospitals. The laboratory stores the sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAECKS) submitted from the hospital for possible future testing, however these kits are not opened nor tested until we receive notification in the form of a complaint from the police department. The data labelled as "Non-Reported Kits" consists of the SAECKS in storage at the laboratory which have never been reported as a law enforcement case. These cases are not considered available for testing or part of the laboratories rape kit backlog.

The "Police Sexual Assault cases" are the number of sexual assault cases the lab has received with a police complaint. A small number of these cases may not have an actual SAECK, but contain other items of evidence important for a sexual assault investigation. As shown in the chart, all the police sexual assault cases have been processed, except for a few that were received in late 2015. The majority of sexual assault cases are processed within 60 days, and the six remaining cases are currently in progress in the laboratory.

Responses to requests #1-3 are in the excel summary of sexual assault cases. All other pdf's are in response to request #4.

1. Attached please find the number of sexual assault cases received by year for the last ten years.
2. Attached please find the number of sexual assault cases processed by year for the last ten years.
3. Attached please find the number of non-reported sexual assault cases that were not processed for the last ten years.
4. Attached please find uncontrolled copies of procedures, work instructions, and forms that address sexual assault cases.

Rhode Island General Laws § 38-2-8 requires we provide you notice of your right to appeal this response to the Director of Health, Dr. Nicole Alexander Scott, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908, and or file a complaint with the Department of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903, or the Rhode Island Superior Court of the county where the records are maintained.

Further information concerning the Access to Public Records Act may be available through the Attorney General's website at www.riag.org.

Thank you for your interest in keeping government open and accountable to the public

Sincerely,


Stephen Morris, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal, OHHS



State Health Laboratories

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Summary of sexual assault cases by category and year:

	Police Sexual Assault cases	Cases processed	Non-Reported Kits
2015	72	66	176
2014	70	70	135
2013	67	67	137
2012	69	69	184
2011	68	68	165
2010	71	71	173
2009	83	83	156
2008	91	91	142
2007	87	87	142
2006	123	123	97