



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Law and Justice Committee

Councilmembers:
Jorge L. Barón, Chair;
Claudia Balducci, Vice-Chair;
Rod Dembowski, Teresa Mosqueda

Lead Staff: Leah Krekel-Zoppi (206-477-0892)
Committee Clerk: Gabbi Williams (206-477-7470)

9:30 AM

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Law and Justice Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

There are three ways to provide public comment:

1. **In person:** You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.
2. **By email:** You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your email is received before 11:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.
3. **Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer:** You may provide oral comment on current agenda items during the meeting's public comment period by connecting to the meeting via phone or computer using the ZOOM application at <https://zoom.us/join> and entering the Webinar ID number below.



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.



You are not required to sign up in advance. Comments are limited to current agenda items.

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Webinar ID: 889 0017 7467

By computer using the Zoom application at <https://zoom.us/join> and the webinar ID above.

Via phone by calling 1 253 215 8782 and entering the webinar ID above.

HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are three ways to watch or listen to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link www.kingcounty.gov/kctv or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD).
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone see "Connecting to the Webinar" above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment, please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

3. **Approval of Minutes** p. 4

May 7, 2025 meeting minutes

4. **Public Comment**



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Discussion and Possible Action

5. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0138](#) p. 7

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a plan for expanding and improving public access to criminal data information on the prosecuting attorney's office data dashboard for juvenile cases and a report on sexual assault cases in compliance with the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, 19861, Section 31, Proviso P1 and P2.

Sponsors: Barón

Melissa Bailey, Council staff

6. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0037](#) p. 57

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a report on adult and juvenile sex offense cases in compliance with the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, 19546, Section 31, as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2.

Sponsors: Barón

Melissa Bailey, Council staff

7. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0152](#) p. 86

A MOTION accepting the office of law enforcement oversight's annual report for the year 2024.

Sponsors: Barón

Nick Bowman, Council staff

Tamer Abouzeid, Director, Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO)

Other Business

Adjournment



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Meeting Minutes Law and Justice Committee

Councilmembers:
Jorge L. Barón, Chair;
Claudia Balducci, Vice-Chair;
Rod Dembowski, Teresa Mosqueda

Lead Staff: Leah Krekel-Zoppi (206-477-0892)
Committee Clerk: Gabbi Williams (206-477-7470)

9:30 AM

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Hybrid Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Barón called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: 3 - Balducci, Barón and Dembowski

Excused: 1 - Mosqueda

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Balducci moved approval of the minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes were approved.

4. **Public Comment**

There were no individuals present to provide public comment.

Discussion and Possible Action

5. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0091](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Adrien Leavitt, who resides in council district two, to the King County public defense advisory board, representing areas or issues that may affect public defense clients.

Melissa Bailey, Council staff, briefed the committee. Adrian Leavitt, appointee to the King County Public Defense Advisory Board, provided comments on their background and interest in serving on the committee. Will Casey, Communications Manager, Department of Public Defense and Staff Liaison to the Public Defense Advisory Board, also addressed the committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Balducci that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Balducci, Barón and Dembowski

Excused: 1 - Mosqueda

Briefing

6. [Briefing No. 2025-B0073](#)

Audit of Asset Forfeiture by KCSO

Brooke Leary, Audit Director, King County Auditor's Office, and Peter Heineccius, Senior Principal Auditor, King County Auditor's Office, briefed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Geoffrey Thomas, Chief of Staff, King County Sheriff's Office, and Candice Duclose, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, also addressed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

7. [Briefing No. 2025-B0056](#)

Department of Public Defense Annual Report

Matthew Sanders, Interim Director, Department of Public Defense (DPD), briefed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation.

This matter was Presented

8. [Briefing No. 2025-B0057](#)

Inquest Program Briefing

David Hackett, General Counsel, King County Executive, briefed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Gary Ernsdorff, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Public Integrity Team, Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), and Joe Marchesano, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Public Integrity Team, PAO, also addressed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Law and Justice Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	5	Name:	Melissa Bailey
Proposed No.:	2025-0138	Date:	June 4, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2025-0138 would acknowledge receipt of a report from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on sexual assault cases in response to the 2025 Adopted Budget (Ordinance 19861, Section 31, Proviso P2).

SUMMARY

The 2025 Adopted Budget included a proviso that withheld \$100,000 in appropriation authority from the budget for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO or KCPAO). The proviso required the PAO to submit a report on sexual assault cases and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report by July 31, 2025.

The PAO transmitted the report and motion on May 1, 2025. The report appears to be responsive to the proviso. It provides the number of sex offense cases referred to the PAO for each year requested (both adult and juvenile cases) and describes the steps that happen between a case being referred to the PAO and ultimately being disposed (resolved) as well as data associated with each step and disposition type. Council passage of the proposed motion would acknowledge receipt of the report and release the \$100,000 of restricted appropriation authority.

BACKGROUND

Proviso Requirement. The 2025 Adopted Budget included a proviso¹ that withheld \$100,000 in appropriation authority from the PAO's budget:

"Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the prosecuting attorney transmits a report on sexual assault cases and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report, and a motion acknowledging receipt of the report is passed by the council. The motion should reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance, ordinance section, and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion."

¹ Ordinance 19861, Section 31, Proviso P2

The report shall include, but not be limited to:

A. Data on sexual assault cases with adult defendants referred to the prosecuting attorney's office from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, including:

- 1. The number of sexual assault cases referred;*
- 2. Of the cases referred, the number that were charged;*
- 3. Of the cases charged, the number resolved at trial;*
- 4. Of the cases charged, the number resolved through a plea to a lesser charge;*
- 5. Of the cases pleaded to a lesser charge, the most-common lesser charge pleaded;*
- 6. The percentage of sexual assault cases in which the initial charge was never modified;*
- 7. The average wait time from arraignment to trial in sexual assault cases;*
- 8. The number of acquittals after trial for cases charged as sexual assault, and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime; and*
- 9. Demographic information of victims including race, ethnicity, gender, and age;*

B. Data on sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents referred to the prosecuting attorney's office from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, including:

- 1. The number of sexual assault cases referred;*
- 2. Of the cases referred, the number that were statutorily required to be referred;*
- 3. Of the cases referred, the number that were charged;*
- 4. Of the cases charged, the number resolved at trial;*
- 5. Of the cases charged, the number resolved through a plea to a lesser charge;*
- 6. Of the cases pleaded to a lesser charge, the most-common lesser charge pleaded;*
- 7. The percentage of sexual assault cases in which the initial charge was never modified;*
- 8. Of the cases not statutorily required to be referred, the percentage rate of charging and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime;*
- 9. The average wait time from arraignment to trial in sexual assault cases;*
- 10. The number of acquittals after trial for cases charged as sexual assault and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime; and*
- 11. Demographic information of victims including race, ethnicity, gender, and age;*

C. For sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents not filed due to insufficient evidence, describe the steps taken to systemically address the

*gathering of sufficient evidence either internally or with external partners;
and*

D. A copy of the written guidance maintained by the prosecuting attorney's office regarding charging standards for juvenile sexual assault cases;

E. Information on the prosecuting attorney's partnership with sex offender treatment providers and the treatment offered to adult defendants, juvenile respondents, and victims, including:

1. A summary of the prosecuting attorney's office work and partnership with sex offender treatment providers;

2. A summary the prosecuting attorney's office work and partnership with community-based organizations serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, including how communication and transparency is developed;

3. A description of the treatment that the prosecuting attorney's office most commonly refers sexual offenders to; and

4. The number of adult defendants and the number of juvenile respondents charged with sexual assault from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, who were referred to sexual offender treatment and the completion rate for each; and

F. Information on data collection, resources, and continuous improvement processes related to the prosecuting attorney's office gender-based violence work, including:

1. A summary of findings related to any surveys of victims of sexual assault conducted by the prosecuting attorney's office;

2. A narrative detailing the last time the prosecuting attorney's office reviewed or revised its practices and charging standards for sexual assault cases, including the date of the review or revision and whether the Aequitas standards were reviewed when performing this work;

3. An explanation of how current the prosecuting attorney's data dashboards are and if there are any gaps in the data dashboards that the prosecuting attorney plans to address;

4. A description of how the resources allocated to the gender-based violence division compares to other divisions of the criminal practice within the prosecuting attorney's office; and

5. A description of the continuous improvement process used, if any, on prosecuting sexual assault cases, including how data is used to identify and address barriers to conviction and the frequency of which the continuous improvement process is applied.

For the purposes of this proviso, "sexual assault cases" include sex offenses as described in chapter 9A.44 RCW. The report requested by this proviso need only include data and information held or reasonably obtained by the prosecuting attorney's office and shall not include any identifying information or other information prohibited from being released by state law.

The prosecuting attorney should electronically file the report and a motion required by this proviso by July 31, 2025, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the law and justice committee or its successor."

ANALYSIS

On May 1, 2025, the PAO transmitted a report in response to the proviso along with a proposed motion that would acknowledge receipt of the report. In addition to acknowledging receipt of the report, Council passage of the proposed motion would release the \$100,000 in restricted appropriation.

Data Context. The proviso report includes background information and context regarding the data provided by the PAO.

Dashboard Data. The PAO reports out cases via its public dashboard² using the umbrella category of "Sexual Assault and Child Abuse" or, for Juvenile Court cases, "Sex Offenses". This work is generally reported out as "cases referred to the PAO by law enforcement" and "work done by the KCPAO" in a specified time period. Per the report, the Council's proviso required a different form of analysis. The data included in the report tracks "cases by year of referral to their ultimate outcome" – so every date listed corresponds to the date the case was referred to the PAO.

Sex Offense Cases. The data in the proviso report includes cases that are defined by RCW 9.94A.030 as sex offenses, and crimes like Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation or Voyeurism in the Second Degree, which are considered sexual assaults, but do not meet the legal definition of sex offense. Where the term "sex offense" is used, that refers to crimes identified by RCW 9.94A.030.

Law Enforcement Referrals. The report notes that the PAO (and other prosecuting attorney offices in Washington state) are not investigative agencies. Instead, sexual assault cases are investigated by law enforcement who then formally submit cases to the PAO for review. According to the report, law enforcement typically submits a case to the PAO under one of the following circumstances:

1. They believe charges should be filed;
2. They would like legal review of an investigation but are not recommending charges; or
3. They are required by law to submit the case even though they do not believe charges should be filed (often referred to as "Statutory Referrals").

² PAO's Data Dashboard [\[LINK\]](#)

PAO Review. Prosecutors review referred cases to determine if there is sufficient legally admissible evidence to support the charges as outlined by state law. They also determine whether the case meets the PAO's Filing and Dispositions Standards in light of the evidence presented.³ Per the report, it takes time to determine the appropriate course of action and the amount of time it takes to conduct the review can vary depending on the complexity of the case, the amount of evidence presented, whether follow up investigation is required, and other factors. A case may not have a filing decision in the same year it is referred. Similarly, if a case is filed with the Court, it may not be resolved (reach a disposition) in the same year that it was referred to the PAO or filed with the Court.

Subsection A Requirements. Subsection A required *data on sexual assault cases with adult defendants referred to the prosecuting attorney's office from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, including:*

A.1. The number of sexual assault cases referred;

The report provides the number of referred sexual assault cases by year in Adult and Juvenile Court (see Table 1). This staff report will refer to adult and juvenile cases; however, it should be noted that some juveniles may be included in "Adult Superior Court" cases.⁴

Table 1. Number of Referred Sexual Assault Cases⁵

Court	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Adult Superior Court	1,093	1,039	894	942	1,099	1,181	6,248
Juvenile Court	233	168	165	221	214	232	1,233
Total	1,326	1,207	1,059	1,163	1,313	1,413	7,481

A.2. Of the cases referred, the number that were charged;

The report explains that each case referral can have one of several filing outcomes. Table 2 shows filing outcomes for cases involving adult suspects, including the number of cases that were charged (filed).

³ King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Filing and Disposition Standards [\[LINK\]](#)

⁴ RCW 13.40.110. Some juvenile respondents may have their case transferred to adult court depending on factors such as their age and the charges filed.

⁵ Table on page 7 of the proviso report. This table includes all cases referred but categorizes them by which court the case was/would have been filed in. The PAO states that they generally know which court will hear a case depending on the age of the defendant/respondent and the charges being considered.

Table 2. Filing Outcomes for Referred Sexual Assault Cases – Adults⁶

Filing Decision/Outcome	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Declined ⁷	418	417	313	307	308	294	2,057
Filed ⁸	405	370	347	307	285	283	1,997
Statutory Referral Only ⁹	268	248	230	320	477	521	2,064
Merged into another case ¹⁰	2	4	3	7	18	21	55
Under Review ¹¹			1	1	11	62	75
Total Cases Referred	1,093	1,039	894	942	1,099	1,181	6,248

A.3. Of the cases charged, the number resolved at trial;

Table 3 shows filed adult case dispositions, including the number resolved at trial, based on the year of law enforcement referral (not the year of the disposition). As previously mentioned, cases are often referred in one year but resolved in another. Therefore, the report cautions against using this table to analyze the number of pleas, dismissals, or trials in any given calendar year.

According to the report, a case is only counted as being disposed once (even when there are multiple charges in a single case). Dispositions are categorized by the most consequential or impactful disposition in the case. For example, if a defendant is charged with two different crimes in one case and pleads guilty to one crime and has the other dismissed, the case would count as one plea (not one plea and one dismissal).

⁶ Taken from the table on top of page 10 of the proviso report. In consultation with the PAO, some of the numbers have been updated to correct errors in the report.

⁷ The PAO determines it will not or cannot file charges. Charges are declined when there is insufficient admissible evidence to prove a felony crime beyond a reasonable doubt, or when the case does not meet the Filing and Disposition Standards. The glossary included in the PAO's data dashboard provides more information on the different reasons a case may be declined. [\[LINK\]](#)

⁸ A case is filed when the PAO formally files paperwork with the Court alleging one or more persons committed a crime(s) and a judge finds there is probable cause to believe a crime was committed.

⁹ Refers to RCW 26.44.030, which requires law enforcement to submit certain cases to prosecutors regardless of whether they believe charges should or can be filed. A case is only counted as SRO when the PAO has finished its review and agrees with law enforcement that charges should not be filed.

¹⁰ A case can be "merged into another case" in certain instances where a defendant has two or more closely related cases and it is legally appropriate to combine them. When this occurs, one case will have another filing decision outcome (filed, declined, or SRO) and the other(s) will be listed as having been merged into another case.

¹¹ This may be cases awaiting additional investigation from law enforcement before a filing decision can be made or declined cases that have been reopened. In these situations, the case returns to "under review" status and the referral date will be the original referral date, not the date the case was reopened.

**Table 3. Status of Filed Adult Cases by
the year the case was referred to the PAO¹²**

Status of Filed Adult Cases	Year Case was Referred to PAO						TOTAL
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Trial ¹³	38	38	19	12	3	1	111
Plea ¹⁴	272	229	201	175	102	36	1,015
Dismissal ¹⁵	61	57	66	46	31	14	275
Open ¹⁶	34	46	61	74	149	232	596
Total Adult Cases Filed	405	370	347	307	285	283	1,997

A.4. Of the cases charged, the number resolved through a plea to a lesser charge;

Table 3 above shows the total number of adult cases referred from 2019 through 2024 that were filed (1,997 cases) and the total number of those resolved by plea (1,015 cases). Per the report, 742 of these cases were resolved by a plea to a lesser class of offense.

For more detail, the report provides two tables that show cases resolved by a plea, displayed by the most serious class of offense that was originally filed (labeled “Original File Class”) and the most serious class of offense that was pleaded guilty to (labeled “Plea Disposition Class”). Table 4 shows this information for all years compiled (2019 through 2024) and Table 5 breaks the information down by year. For Table 4, the PAO also attempted to calculate how many cases resulted in a plea to a “sexual assault”

¹² Taken from the table on the top of page 13 of the proviso report.

¹³ Any case resolved by a trial is counted as a trial regardless of the verdict (guilty, not guilty, or a mix). Per the report, the PAO does this so not to unduly characterize or incentivize convictions or long prison sentences as “wins”.

¹⁴ The adult defendant or juvenile respondent pleads guilty to one or more crimes. The report notes that a plea is not always a reduced charge -- a defendant or respondent could plea to a less serious crime than what they were originally charged with, may have some charges dismissed, or could involve pleading guilty to the crime(s) they were originally charged with.

¹⁵ A case may be dismissed upon a motion by the PAO, defense, or the court. The dismissal of a case or crimes means that the defendant is no longer charged with the crime and the legal case is ended. The report states some cases are dismissed to be referred to, or upon completion of, an alternative program such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, or Veteran's Court, but that does not mean the case goes away. In these types of circumstances, the case is handled in the alternative, therapeutic courts. If an individual does not complete the alternative, therapeutic court requirements and conditions, the Superior Court felony case can resume. Similarly, a case may be dismissed when the Court finds the defendant incompetent to stand trial. These types of dismissals can come with an order for the defendant to be sent to Western State Hospital for civil commitment (mandatory treatment). If the defendant's competency is restored, the PAO may refile the criminal case

¹⁶ Cases not yet resolved are listed as “open”. Per the report, cases may be open because the defendant failed to appear for court for a substantial period (a criminal case generally cannot proceed without the defendant's presence) or other complications may have prevented a disposition.

offense (see the “SA at Disposition” column) and how many cases did not involve a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (see the “Not SA at Disposition” column).¹⁷

For reference, the classes involved are A, B, C, and M (in order of severity):

- A refers to Class A felonies. Class A felonies are the most serious alleged offenses and can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common sex offense Class A felonies include Rape in the First Degree, Indecent Liberties (with force), Rape of a Child in the First or Second Degree, and Child Molestation in the First Degree. A conviction of a class A felony could result in a sentence of life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$50,000, or both.
- B refers to Class B felonies. Class B felonies include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common Class B felonies include Rape in the Second Degree, Indecent Liberties (without force), and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class B felony can result in imprisonment of up to ten years, a fine of up to \$20,000, or both.
- C refers to Class C felonies. These can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common sex offense Class C felonies include Rape in the Third Degree, Rape of a Child in the Third Degree, and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class C felony could result in up to five years in prison, a fine up to \$10,000, or both.
- M refers to gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors. These can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common Sexual Assault Unit gross misdemeanor crimes are Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation, and Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the Second Degree. Gross misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 364 days in jail, a fine up to \$5,000, or both. Misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail, a fine up to \$1,000, or both.

¹⁷ This information was originally requested by a similar budget proviso in the 2023-2024 Budget (Ordinance 19546, Section 31, as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2). See Proposed Motion 2025-0037 for more information.

Table 4. Total Adult Plea Dispositions (2019-2024)¹⁸

Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Defendants	SA at Disposition¹⁹	Not SA at Disposition²⁰
A	A	82	81	78	4
A	B	140	140	99	41
A	C	151	150	90	61
A	M	103	103	76	27
B	A	1	1	1	
B	B	50	50	33	17
B	C	113	112	87	26
B	M	75	75	49	26
C	B	8	8	3	5
C	C	128	112	104	24
C	M	130	129	96	34
M	C	4	4	3	1
M	M	30	30	26	4
TOTAL		1,015	995	745	270

¹⁸ Taken from the table on the top of page 15 of the report. After talking with the PAO, this table is updated to address errors in the report that showed the incorrect number of cases that went from M to C.

¹⁹ Sexual Assault (SA) refers to sex offenses that require sex offender registration upon conviction. RCW 9.94A.030(47) defines crimes that qualify as sex offenses.

²⁰ Per the report, some of the cases in the "NOT SA" column were resolved with charges that reflect the sexual nature of the crime, even though they do not qualify as sex offenses. For example, a defendant may plead guilty to Assault in the Second Degree (a class B felony "strike" offense) with the admission that the defendant assaulted the victim with the intent to commit the crime of rape. In this example, a disposition would be counted in the "NOT SA" column.

Table 5. Adult Plea Dispositions by Year of Referral²¹

Original/ Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
A	127	126	88	78	46	11	476
A	24	13	19	14	8	4	82
B	40	46	22	22	9	1	140
C	33	42	31	24	19	2	151
M	30	25	16	18	10	4	103
B	68	44	51	43	24	9	239
A			1				1
B	12	10	10	8	8	2	50
C	35	22	22	21	11	2	113
M	21	12	18	14	5	5	75
C	61	50	60	50	29	16	266
B	2	2	1	1	1	1	8
C	32	19	25	21	21	10	128
M	27	29	34	28	7	5	130
M	16	9	2	4	3		34
C	1	1		2			4
M	15	8	2	2	3		30
Total	272	229	201	175	102	36	1,015

A.5. Of the cases pleaded to a lesser charge, the most-common lesser charge pleaded;

Based on the information provided in Tables 4 and 5, it appears that if the initial charge was a Class A or Class B Felony, the most common lesser classification pleaded was a Class C felony. For those initially charged with a Class C felony, it was a fairly even split between the number who plea to a Class C felony and the number who plea down to a misdemeanor. The PAO would caution against this type of analysis stating that every case is unique and reviewed individually.

²¹ Taken from the table on page 15 of the report.

A.6. The percentage of sexual assault cases in which the initial charge was never modified;

According to the PAO, "this is not feasible to measure with current resources. Cases can have multiple charges, each of which may or may not change over the pendency of the case. These types of cases receive and need a more individualized review." Using data in Table 4, Council staff estimates that 28.6% of cases with a plea disposition did not modify the original filed class; however, the PAO notes that the initial charges can be modified but still be within the same classification.

A.7. The average wait time from arraignment to trial in sexual assault cases;

The report includes graphs that look at the number of days to disposition and the age distribution of cases from 2019 through 2024 (see pages 19 and 18 of the report, respectively).

The average number of days from when an adult case was filed to disposition climbed from about 404 days in 2019 to 746 days in 2023 and then fell back down to 689 days in 2024 (about an 8% decrease from 2023 and 70% higher than pre-pandemic levels).

For the age distribution of cases, the graph shows the age of open and active cases over time and a growing backlog over the last few years. Starting in 2024, however, the PAO has been able to resolve older cases and reduce the backlog of sexual assault cases to be filed bringing the age of open cases nearer to pre-pandemic levels.

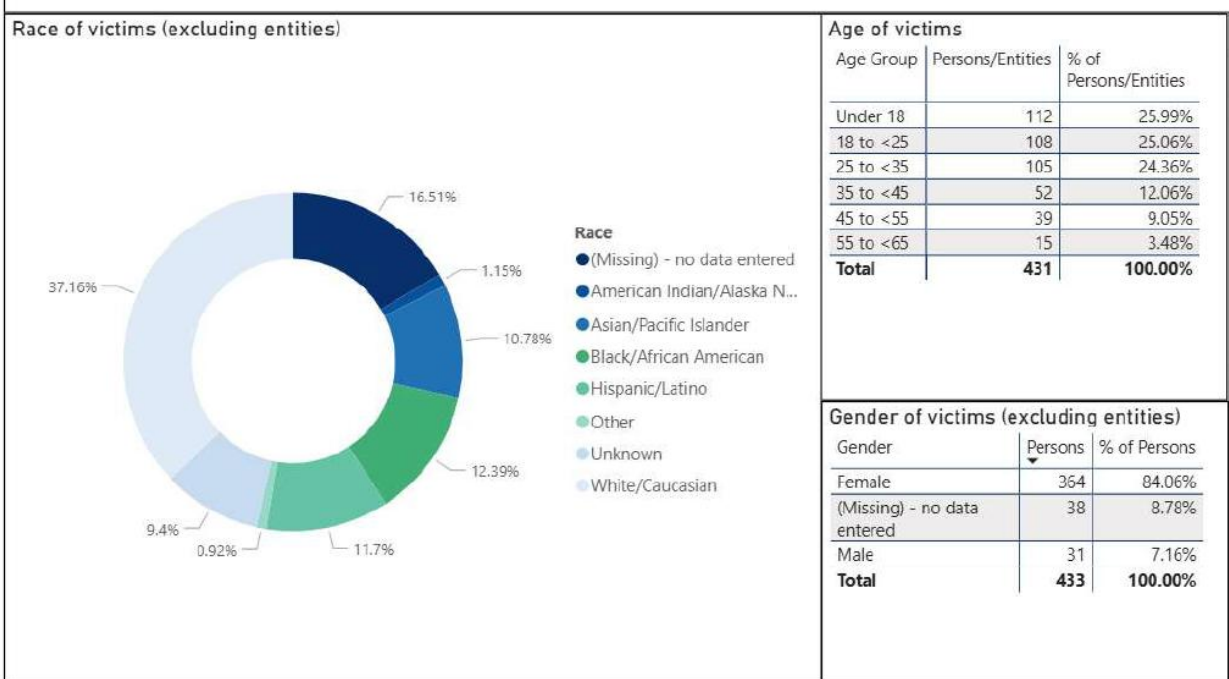
A.8. The number of acquittals after trial for cases charged as sexual assault, and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime; and

Per the report, the PAO does not report the outcome of trials because they do not want to unduly characterize or incentivize convictions or long prison sentences as "wins." DPAs are directed and encouraged to pursue the just result in an ethical manner, rather than simply seek convictions. Any case that is resolved by a trial is counted as a trial, regardless of whether the verdict was guilty, not guilty, or a mix.

A.9. Demographic information of victims including race, ethnicity, gender, and age;

This information can be found on the PAO's data dashboard. The report includes a snapshot from 2024 (see Figure 1 below), and notes that: "data on victim demographics is often of even poorer quality than that of defendants/respondents. There tends to be relatively high levels of missing data and even lack of any entry of victims, particularly on cases that are referred but not filed. There are many contributing factors to the poor quality of victim demographic data including, sporadic reporting, inconsistent data collection standards across agencies, insufficient funding for victim services, limited capacity of law enforcement and the PAO, and more. The PAO has made efforts to improve the quality of its data on victims; however, challenges remain."

Figure 1. Victim Demographics for Sexual Assault Cases Referred to King County Superior Court in 2024 – Adult²²



Subsection B Requirements. Subsection B required *data on sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents referred to the prosecuting attorney's office from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, including:*

B.1. The number of sexual assault cases referred;

As mentioned previously, the report provides the number of referred sexual assault cases by year in Adult and Juvenile Court (see Table 6) although some juveniles may be included in "Adult Superior Court" cases.²³

Table 6. Number of Referred Sexual Assault Cases²⁴

Court	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Adult Superior Court	1,093	1,039	894	942	1,099	1,181	6,248
Juvenile Court	233	168	165	221	214	232	1,233
Total	1,326	1,207	1,059	1,163	1,313	1,413	7,481

²² Figure taken from page 21 of the proviso report.

²³ RCW 13.40.110. Some juvenile respondents may have their case transferred to adult court depending on factors such as their age and the charges filed.

²⁴ Table on page 7 of the proviso report (and same as Table 1 in this staff report).

B.2. Of the cases referred, the number that were statutorily required to be referred;

Table 7 shows filing outcomes for cases involving juvenile suspects, including the number of cases that were statutorily required to be referred (481 cases).

According to the report, juvenile data is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data, any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

Table 7. Filing Outcomes for Referred Sexual Assault Cases – Juveniles²⁵

Filing Decision/Outcome	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Declined	81	40	39	51	69	106	386
Filed	88	51	49	47	43	41	319
Statutory Referral Only	58	71	73	115	92	72	481
Legally Required Misdemeanor Diversion ²⁶	*	*	*	*	10	*	*
Under Review	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Cases Referred	233	168	165	221	214	232	1,233

B.3. Of the cases referred, the number that were charged;

Table 7 above shows the number of sexual assault cases with juvenile suspects referred between 2019 through 2024 (1,233 cases) and, of that total, the number that were filed (319 cases). Per the report, there are different procedural rules and legal requirements for referrals involving juvenile suspects. For example, per state law, charges generally cannot be brought when the suspect is under twelve years old.²⁷ Additionally, in some cases, the PAO is statutorily required to divert the case away from formal prosecution – known as “legally required misdemeanor diversion”.

²⁵ Table on bottom of page 10 of the proviso report. The report notes juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

²⁶ PAO is statutorily required to divert the case away from formal prosecution when allegations involve *misdemeanor* level conduct and the referral is the juvenile’s first legal referral. According to the report, in this type of diversion, the juvenile suspect is referred to Superior Court probation, where they are required to engage in treatment or other programming. The report states there is no statutory authority to divert a *felony* sex offense, and the PAO does not, under any circumstance, divert felony sex offenses involving juvenile suspects.

²⁷ RCW 9A.04.050. The PAO’s dashboard includes the number of juvenile suspects under 12 years old.

B.4. Of the cases charged, the number resolved at trial;

Table 8 shows filed juvenile case dispositions, including the number resolved at trial (16 cases of the 319 cases filed have been resolved by trial).

As previously mentioned, this is based on the year of law enforcement referral (not the year of the disposition). Cases are often referred in one year but resolved in another. Therefore, the report cautions against using this table to analyze the number of pleas, dismissals, or trials in any given calendar year.

**Table 8. Status of Filed Juvenile Cases
by the year the case was referred to the PAO²⁸**

Status of Filed Juvenile Cases	Year Case was Referred to PAO						TOTAL
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Trial	*	*	*	*	*	*	16
Plea	26	18	20	26	16	*	*
Dismissal	19	*	*	10	*	*	49
Deferred Disposition ²⁹	35	18	16	*	*	*	81
Post-Filing Diversion ³⁰	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Open	*	*	*	*	18	32	50
Total Juvenile Cases Filed	88	51	49	47	43	41	319

B.5. Of the cases charged, the number resolved through a plea to a lesser charge;

Table 8 above shows the total number of juvenile cases referred from 2019 through 2024 that were filed (319 cases) and the total number of those cases resolved by plea (at least 106 but no more than 115 cases). Given much of the data has been redacted, council staff can only estimate the number of cases resolved by a plea to a lesser class of offense (at least 69 but no more than 96 cases).

²⁸ Taken from the table on the bottom of page 13 of the proviso report. Per the report, juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

²⁹ Outcome set forth in state statute (RCW 13.40.127) where a guilty finding is entered and the imposition of sentence is deferred for some period of supervision. If the juvenile successfully completes the conditions of supervision, then the court may dismiss the guilty finding.

³⁰ Charges were initially filed into Juvenile Court, but the parties agree to resolve the case as a diversion rather than as a formal, legal adjudication. According to the report, these types of resolutions usually involve cases that would otherwise be eligible for diversion as the time of charging; however, the PAO chose to formally file charges instead of diverting the case up front to have more control over the intervention/outcome.

Like for adult cases, the report provides two tables that show cases resolved by a plea, displayed by the most serious class of offense that was originally filed (labeled “Original File Class”) and the most serious class of offense that was pleaded guilty to (labeled “Plea Disposition Class”). Table 9 shows this information for all years compiled (2019 through 2024) and Table 10 breaks the information down by year. Much of the data has been redacted to comply with state law and the Washington State Department of Health guidelines previously mentioned.

Table 9. Total Juvenile Plea Dispositions (2019-2024)³¹

Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Respondents
A	A	16	16
A	B	*	*
A	C	22	22
A	M	33	33
B	B	*	*
B	C	*	*
B	M	*	*
C	C	*	*
C	M	14	14
M	M	*	*

³¹ Taken from the table on page 16 of the report. Per the report, juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

Table 10. Juvenile Plea Dispositions by Year of Referral³²

Original/ Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
A	23	12	13	13	13	*	*
A	*	*	*	*	*		16
B	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	22
M	10	*	*	*	*	*	33
B	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
B	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	22
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	14
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	26	18	20	25	16	*	*

B.6. Of the cases pleaded to a lesser charge, the most-common lesser charge pleaded;

Based on the information provided in Tables 9 and 10, it appears that if the initial charge was a Class A or Class C felony, the most common lesser classification pleaded was a misdemeanor; however, much of the data is missing. The PAO would caution against this type of analysis stating that every case is unique and reviewed individually.

B.7. The percentage of sexual assault cases in which the initial charge was never modified;

According to the PAO, "this is not feasible to measure with current resources. Cases can have multiple charges, each of which may or may not change over the pendency of the case. These types of cases receive and need a more individualized review." Given

³² Taken from the table on page 17 of the report. Per the report, juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

the limited data provided, council staff was unable to estimate the percentage of cases resolved by plea in which the original filed class was not modified. And, as previously mentioned, the PAO cautions that initial charges can be modified but still be within the same classification.

B.8. Of the cases not statutorily required to be referred, the percentage rate of charging and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime;

According to Table 7 in this staff report, 433 of the 1,233 sexual assault cases with juvenile suspects referred to the PAO between 2019 through 2024 were statutorily required to be referred. Of the remaining 752 cases, 319 were filed (42.4%). The PAO states that this number varies year over year.

The report did not provide an explanation of how this compares to other types of crimes, but it did point to the King County Auditor's 2020 audit of sex offense cases, which looked at data over a three and a half year period and found that King County fell within the wide range of national estimates for rape prosecution and conviction rates.³³

B.9. The average wait time from arraignment to trial in sexual assault cases;

The report includes graphs that look at the number of days to disposition and the age distribution of cases from 2019 through 2024 (see page 20 of the report). The PAO caveats this data by noting that the "statistically small number of cases in Juvenile Court make it hard to draw reliable conclusions as to trends because changes in just a few cases can drastically impact these values".

The median number of days from when a juvenile case was filed to disposition climbed from about 274 days in 2019 to 547 days in 2022 and then fell back down to 371 days in 2024 (about 35.4% higher than pre-pandemic levels).

B.10. The number of acquittals after trial for cases charged as sexual assault and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime; and

Per the report, the PAO does not report the outcome of trials because they do not want to unduly characterize or incentivize convictions or long prison sentences as "wins." DPAs are directed and encouraged to pursue the just result in an ethical manner, rather than simply seek convictions. Any case that is resolved by a trial is counted as a trial, regardless of whether the verdict was guilty, not guilty, or a mix.

³³ King County Auditor's Office. Sex Offense Cases: Some Victims and Their Cases May be Harmed by Gaps. July 22, 2020. [\[LINK\]](#)

B.11. Demographic information of victims including race, ethnicity, gender, and age;

Victim information for juvenile cases is not included on the PAO data dashboard. The report includes a snapshot from 2024 (see Table 11 below), and the same caveat applies to the juvenile data: "the data on victim demographics is often of even poorer quality than that of defendants/respondents. There tends to be relatively high levels of missing data and even lack of any entry of victims, particularly on cases that are referred but not filed. There are many contributing factors to the poor quality of victim demographic data including, sporadic reporting, inconsistent data collection standards across agencies, insufficient funding for victim services, limited capacity of law enforcement and the PAO, and more. The PAO has made efforts to improve the quality of its data on victims; however, challenges remain."

Table 11. Victim Demographics for Sexual Assault Cases Referred to Juvenile Court in 2024

Age Group	No. of Victims	Race	No. of Victims	Gender	No. of Victims
Under 18	180	(Missing) – no data entered	21	Female	147
18 to <25	*	American Indian / Alaskan Native	*	Male	43
25 to <35	*	Asian / Pacific Islander	12	Unknown	*
35 to <45	*	Black / African American	20		
45 to <55	*	Hispanic / Latino	17		
55 to <65	*	Other	*		
Over 65	*	Unknown	42		
Unknown	*	White / Caucasian	74		

Subsection C Requirements. Subsection C required the following:

C. For sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents not filed due to insufficient evidence, describe the steps taken to systemically address the gathering of sufficient evidence either internally or with external partners; and

The PAO notes that it is not an investigative agency. The PAO may request additional information from law enforcement before making a filing decision; however, there is no requirement for law enforcement to act on a PAO request and sometimes, even with excellent police work, that evidence is not available. The report states that declined cases can be reopened if new evidence is presented, which frequently happens after law enforcement has completed necessary and/or additional investigation.

Subsection D Requirements. Subsection D required the following:

D. A copy of the written guidance maintained by the prosecuting attorney's office regarding charging standards for juvenile sexual assault cases;

The PAO points to the Filing and Dispositions Standards stating that the burden of proof is the same for adult and juvenile cases. The report also notes that there are some statutory requirements that make juvenile cases different. For example, per state law, charges generally cannot be brought when the suspect is under twelve years old.³⁴ Additionally, in some cases, the PAO is statutorily required to divert the case away from formal prosecution – known as “legally required misdemeanor diversion”.

Subsection E Requirements. Subsection E required the following:

E. Information on the prosecuting attorney's partnership with sex offender treatment providers and the treatment offered to adult defendants, juvenile respondents, and victims, including:

E.1. A summary of the prosecuting attorney's office work and partnership with sex offender treatment providers;

According to the report, the "PAO does not partner with sex offender treatment providers in criminal cases and does not refer criminal defendants to providers. When defendants engage in sex offender treatment—either proactively or because it is court required—they work with their attorneys to choose a certified sex offender treatment provider. PAO receives evaluations and treatment updates if they are required to be provided. The PAO does not track treatment referrals or completion rates for those engaged in sex offender treatment because we do not have staffing necessary to do so, we do not necessarily or routinely get information about completion, and the amount of information the PAO receives on violations varies depending on whether the court must rule on a sentence violation or if DOC handles any violations administratively. The Washington State Department of Corrections the Washington State Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) may track treatment referrals and/or completion for those sentenced to DOC or committed as Sexually Violent Predators under RCW 71.09."

E.2. A summary [of] the prosecuting attorney's office work and partnership with community-based organizations serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, including how communication and transparency is developed;

From the report, the "PAO interacts with many community-based service organizations serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. The most formal relationships are with the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center and the City of Seattle Crime Survivors Services, who provides legal advocacy for survivors on sexual assault cases. PAO also works with many other service organizations who provide resources to survivors or raise awareness of issues through smaller, niche efforts with the YWCA and Sexual Violence Law Center."

³⁴ RCW 9A.04.050. The PAO's dashboard includes the number of juvenile suspects under 12 years old.

E.3. A description of the treatment that the prosecuting attorney's office most commonly refers sexual offenders to; and

The PAO does not refer sex offenders to treatment. See the response to E.1.

E.4. The number of adult defendants and the number of juvenile respondents charged with sexual assault from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, who were referred to sexual offender treatment and the completion rate for each;

The PAO does not refer sex offenders to treatment or track this information. See the response to E.1.

Subsection F Requirements. Subsection F of the proviso required the following:

F. Information on data collection, resources, and continuous improvement processes related to the prosecuting attorney's office gender-based violence work, including:

F.1. A summary of findings related to any surveys of victims of sexual assault conducted by the prosecuting attorney's office;

According to the report, the PAO has not conducted surveys of sexual assault survivors.

F.2. A narrative detailing the last time the prosecuting attorney's office reviewed or revised its practices and charging standards for sexual assault cases, including the date of the review or revision and whether the Aequitas standards were reviewed when performing this work;

The report states that the "PAO utilizes a continuous improvement model. We regularly review and update our practices as it relates to prosecuting sexual assault cases as part of our day-to-day work. This is done based on experiences of PAO attorneys, employees, and victims as they arise and based the review of our data. Data is always looked at in the context of national standards, best practices, and the daily realities of the work. The King County Special Assault Protocol, which provides guidelines for cooperative investigations and support of survivors, was last updated in 2021. The PAO is in the process of updating it this year." The report does not mention whether the AEQUITAS standards were reviewed.³⁵

F.3. An explanation of how current the prosecuting attorney's data dashboards are and if there are any gaps in the data dashboards that the prosecuting attorney plans to address;

³⁵ AEQUITAS is a nonprofit organization focused on developing, evaluating, and refining prosecuting practices related to sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and human trafficking. [[LINK](#)]

The report provides the following response: "The PAO public data dashboard contains data on multiple aspects of sexual assault cases. The data therein is generally updated at least once a month. The PAO work in on data collection and management, including the data dashboard, is primarily limited and constrained by a lack of resources and the sensitivity of the data. Despite the number of detailed data requests increasing annually over at least the last five years, no meaningful additional resources have been provided to the PAO to improve our capacity for data collection, process redesign, data reporting and analysis, and data sharing and related communication. The PAO uses existing funding for the data collection and management work. As such, our capacity for this data work is extremely limited and must be balanced between many different responsibilities necessary to produce quality data and complete the PAO mission critical tasks. As a result, time available for the PAO to work on the public data dashboard is limited."

F.4. A description of how the resources allocated to the gender-based violence division compares to other divisions of the criminal practice within the prosecuting attorney's office; and

From the report: "As with other areas, the PAO monitors staffing levels of each division and their workload. The PAO makes necessary staffing adjustments based on operation priorities and other emergent needs. Given the PAO current resources (as set by the King [County] Council), and balancing the PAO's other responsibilities, currently, the GBVD has 42 attorneys assigned to it (plus legal service professionals such as paralegals) to handle their workload. However, as noted in the PAO's prior budget requests, the PAO needs additional staffing in many areas."

F.5. A description of the continuous improvement process used, if any, on prosecuting sexual assault cases, including how data is used to identify and address barriers to conviction and the frequency of which the continuous improvement process is applied.

See the answer to F.2.

AMENDMENTS

The report transmitted by the PAO included a response for two separate provisos from the 2025 Budget (Ordinance 19861, Section 31). Proviso P1 required the PAO to transmit a plan for expanding and improving public access to criminal data information on the PAO's data dashboard for juvenile cases; however, this proviso did not require the PAO to transmit a motion for the Council to acknowledge receipt of the report. Only Proviso P2, discussed in this staff report, requires the Council to acknowledge receipt via motion before the restricted appropriation can be released.

Striking Amendment S1 would remove reference to Proviso P1 to make the motion consistent with the requirements in Ordinance 19861. Title Amendment T1 would make the same change to comport with Striking Amendment S1.

INVITED

- Leesa Manion, King County Prosecutor
- David Baker, Director of Data and Analytics, Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)
- Bridgette Maryman, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Gender-Based Violence and Prevention Division, PAO
- Jimmy Hung, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Juvenile Division, PAO

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0138 and its attachment
2. Striking Amendment S1
3. Title Amendment T1
4. Transmittal Letter



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0138.1

Sponsors Barón

1 A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a plan for expanding
2 and improving public access to criminal data information
3 on the prosecuting attorney's office data dashboard for
4 juvenile cases and a report on sexual assault cases in
5 compliance with the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance,
6 19861, Section 31, Proviso P1 and P2.

7 WHEREAS, the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, 19861, Section 31, appropriated
8 moneys from the general fund to the prosecuting attorney, and Proviso P1 and Proviso P2
9 required the prosecuting attorney to transmit a plan for expanding and improving public
10 access to criminal data information on the prosecuting attorney's office data dashboard
11 for juvenile cases, a report on sexual assault cases and a motion that should acknowledge
12 receipt of the plan by June 30, 2025, and the report by July 31, 2025;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

14 Receipt of the prosecuting attorney's office proviso response, Attachment A to

- 15 this motion, in response to the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, 19861, Section 31,
16 Proviso P1 and Proviso P2, is hereby acknowledged.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: A. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office Proviso Response Ordinance 19861

KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



LEESA MANION (she/her)
 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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 Tel: (206) 296-9000 • Fax: (206) 296-0955
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The Prosecuting Attorney's Office Proviso Response Ordinance 19861

A. BACKGROUND:

This report is in response to Ordinance 19861, which set forth the following:

SECTION 31. PROSECUTING ATTORNEY - From the general fund there is hereby appropriated to:

Prosecuting attorney	\$ 112,018,000
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The maximum number of FTEs for prosecuting attorney shall be:	551.5
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ER 1 EXPENDITURE RESTRICTION:

Of this appropriation, \$85,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely to support 0.5 FTE primarily dedicated to expanding and improving public access to the prosecuting attorney's office data on criminal cases in King County.

P1 PROVIDED THAT:

Of this appropriation, \$50,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the King County prosecuting attorney transmits a plan for expanding and improving public access to criminal data information on the prosecuting attorney's office data dashboard for juvenile cases. The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

A. A summary of the data available on the prosecuting attorney's office data dashboard for juvenile cases, any improvements that have been made to the juvenile data dashboard since its inception, the limitations of the data available on the juvenile data dashboard, and opportunities for expanding the juvenile data dashboard;

B. Detailed action steps the prosecuting attorney's office plans to take to expand the

available data and improve the juvenile data dashboard with the goal of providing public users with the ability to access and analyze juvenile cases in a manner consistent with the adult felony cases section of the adult data dashboard; and

C. Barriers that the prosecuting attorney's office has identified to expanding public access to the agency's data on criminal cases involving juvenile respondents and improving the juvenile data dashboard.

The prosecuting attorney's office should protect the privacy of individual juvenile respondents while, to the greatest extent possible, preserving the dashboard categories and subcategories used in the adult data dashboard. To protect the privacy of individual juvenile respondents, the prosecuting attorney may combine data subcategories; however, that combining should be done at the lowest subcategory possible.

The prosecuting attorney should electronically file the plan by June 30, 2025, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the law and justice committee or its successor.

P2 PROVIDED FURTHER THAT:

Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the prosecuting attorney transmits a report on sexual assault cases and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report, and a motion acknowledging receipt of the report is passed by the council. The motion should reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance, ordinance section, and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion.

The report shall include, but not be limited to:

A. Data on sexual assault cases with adult defendants referred to the prosecuting attorney's office from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, including:

1. The number of sexual assault cases referred;
2. Of the cases referred, the number that were charged;

3. Of the cases charged, the number resolved at trial;
4. Of the cases charged, the number resolved through a plea to a lesser charge;
5. Of the cases pleaded to a lesser charge, the most-common lesser charge pleaded;
6. The percentage of sexual assault cases in which the initial charge was never modified;
7. The average wait time from arraignment to trial in sexual assault cases;
8. The number of acquittals after trial for cases charged as sexual assault, and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime; and
9. Demographic information of victims including race, ethnicity, gender, and age;

B. Data on sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents referred to the prosecuting attorney's office from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, including:

1. The number of sexual assault cases referred;
2. Of the cases referred, the number that were statutorily required to be referred;
3. Of the cases referred, the number that were charged;
4. Of the cases charged, the number resolved at trial;
5. Of the cases charged, the number resolved through a plea to a lesser charge;
6. Of the cases pleaded to a lesser charge, the most-common lesser charge pleaded;
7. The percentage of sexual assault cases in which the initial charge was never modified;
8. Of the cases not statutorily required to be referred, the percentage rate of charging and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime;
9. The average wait time from arraignment to trial in sexual assault cases;
10. The number of acquittals after trial for cases charged as sexual assault and an explanation of how that compares to other types of crime; and
11. Demographic information of victims including race, ethnicity, gender, and age;

C. For sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents not filed due to insufficient evidence, describe the steps taken to systemically address the gathering of sufficient evidence either internally or

with external partners; and

D. A copy of the written guidance maintained by the prosecuting attorney's office regarding charging standards for juvenile sexual assault cases;

E. Information on the prosecuting attorney's partnership with sex offender treatment providers and the treatment offered to adult defendants, juvenile respondents, and victims, including:

1. A summary of the prosecuting attorney's office work and partnership with sex offender treatment providers;

2. A summary the prosecuting attorney's office work and partnership with community-based organizations serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, including how communication and transparency is developed;

3. A description of the treatment that the prosecuting attorney's office most commonly refers sexual offenders to; and

4. The number of adult defendants and the number of juvenile respondents charged with sexual assault from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025, who were referred to sexual offender treatment and the completion rate for each; and

F. Information on data collection, resources, and continuous improvement processes related to the prosecuting attorney's office gender-based violence work, including:

1. A summary of findings related to any surveys of victims of sexual assault conducted by the prosecuting attorney's office;

2. A narrative detailing the last time the prosecuting attorney's office reviewed or revised its practices and charging standards for sexual assault cases, including the date of the review or revision and whether the Aequitas standards were reviewed when performing this work;

3. An explanation of how current the prosecuting attorney's data dashboards are and if there are any gaps in the data dashboards that the prosecuting attorney plans to address;

4. A description of how the resources allocated to the gender-based violence division

compares to other divisions of the criminal practice within the prosecuting attorney's office; and

5. A description of the continuous improvement process used, if any, on prosecuting sexual assault cases, including how data is used to identify and address barriers to conviction and the frequency of which the continuous improvement process is applied.

For the purposes of this proviso, "sexual assault cases" include sex offenses as described in chapter 9A.44 RCW. The report requested by this proviso need only include data and information held or reasonably obtained by the prosecuting attorney's office and shall not include any identifying information or other information prohibited from being released by state law.

The prosecuting attorney should electronically file the report and a motion required by this proviso by July 31, 2025, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the law and justice committee or its successor.

PAO RESPONSE TO P1 (DATA DASHBOARD):

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's office (PAO) has, without any dedicated funding, developed one of the first, most comprehensive, and most meaningful prosecutorial dashboards in the country¹, based on the feedback and requests from the PAO program needs, partner agencies, King County Executive's Office and Council, and King County communities and media. Since its launch in 2021, the dashboard has been improved and expanded to meet additional needs and requests. The addition of data on juvenile court cases (launched on March 1, 2024) to the dashboards was one example. The PAO had been working on the rollout of a juvenile dashboard since August 2023. Below are some specific details about the juvenile dashboard:

Currently, the Juvenile Court Section of the PAO's data dashboard contains data from 2019 to present on the number of cases referred to the PAO by law enforcement, filed into juvenile court, diverted, and resolved by other outcome (legally insufficient, juvenile under 12 years old, etc.). This data can be further broken down into four general crime categories: crimes against persons or involving a weapon, misdemeanors, sex offenses, and property, drug and other felonies.

There are also pages dedicated to diversions, sex offenses, and demographics.

- The diversions page explains what diversion programs are and shows the number of cases sent to each of the diversion programs.
- The sex offenses page details the numbers of those cases by the pathways that those cases can take and the unique considerations they involve.
- Finally, there are two pages detailing the demographics of juveniles with cases referred to

¹ <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/pao/about-king-county/about-pao/data-reports/dashboard>

the PAO by race², gender, and age. This information is accompanied by a glossary that provides further explanations.

The PAO's data collection and management work, including data dashboard, is primarily limited and constrained by a lack of resources and the sensitivity of juvenile data.³ Despite data requests increasing each year, no meaningful additional resources have been provided to the PAO to improve our capacity for data collection and process redesign, data reporting and analysis, data sharing, and related communication. The PAO uses existing funding for data collection and management work. As such, our capacity for this data work is extremely limited and must be balanced between the *many* different responsibilities necessary to produce quality data and complete the PAO's mission critical tasks. As a result, time available for the PAO to work on the public data dashboard is even more limited. Additionally, the sensitive nature of juvenile data and the rules governing it mean that it takes substantially longer to create public dashboards that present juvenile data in an appropriate and meaningful way.

The PAO will continue to improve and expand its data dashboard in appropriate ways and would be happy to explain the dashboard as our resources allow. One of the recent improvements (February 2025) is: a month-to-month analysis of juvenile cases referred and the demographics of those juveniles with cases referred.

PAO RESPONSE TO P2 (SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES):

A. CONTEXT

The Special Assault Unit (SAU) of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) handles most sexual assault related and child abuse cases in King County. Some sexual assault cases, that occur between intimate partners, are handled by the Domestic Violence Unit. Generally, the PAO has reported cases via its public dashboard under the umbrella category of "Sexual Assault and Child Abuse" or for Juvenile Court cases "Sex Offenses". This work is generally reported out as cases referred to the PAO by law enforcement and work done by the KCPAO in the specified time period.

The King County Council's proviso request required a different form of analysis that took substantial work to pull together. The data included in this report tracks cases by year of referral to their ultimate outcome. So, every date listed corresponds to the date the cases were referred to the KCPAO.

As with any data, it is always important to put numbers in context. In 2020, the King County Auditor performed a thorough audit of sexual assault investigations including but not limited to many of the data points below as well as case specific reviews and numerous interviews with system and community partners.⁴

² For the race/ethnicity and gender of defendants the KCPAO must rely entirely on what law enforcement reports. The KCPAO's ethical and legal responsibilities prohibit us from speaking directly with youth in criminal cases. Over 30 separate law enforcement agencies submit cases to the KCPAO; each of those agencies has separate policies and systems for collecting demographic data, which can result in varying levels of reporting. Law enforcement currently reports seven categories of race/ethnicity: White/Caucasian, Black/African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, Unknown, Other, and no value at all. These categories create data quality problems by only allowing a single selection, being generally outdated, and grouping race and ethnicity together. These data problems are compounded by inconsistent reporting and collection of this data. Unfortunately, this results in the PAO having very unreliable and inaccurate race and ethnicity data.

³ Juvenile Data, particularly for cases not filed with the court, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly the PAO applies the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), for reports involving juvenile data.

⁴ <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/independent/governance-and-leadership/government-oversight/auditors-office/reports/audits/2020/sai/sai-2020.pdf?rev=6d65142379ef4af58794853c90dfc77b&hash=ABB4907231B568CEE4246067CC61807A>

Among other things, the auditor found King County data results fall within the wide range of national estimates for rape prosecution and conviction rates. The audit also noted a rise in sexual assault reports to police. While not every report constitutes a chargeable crime, even with a strong investigation, the auditors opined that per recent studies, cultural changes including the “Me Too” movement, encouraged more victims to come forward globally. Some of this is reflected in the rise in statutory referrals (cases where law enforcement are required to submit the case by law even though they do not believe charges should be filed) described below.

In the years following the report, the PAO has provided annual updates responding to recommendations the auditor made to improve sexual assault investigations.

The data in this report includes cases that are defined by RCW 9.94A.030 as sex offenses, and crimes like Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation or Voyeurism in the Second Degree, which are considered sexual assaults, but do not meet the legal definition of “sex offense.” Where the term “sex offense” is used, that refers to crimes identified by RCW 9.94A.030.

B. FILING DECISIONS

Sexual assault cases, like other cases, are referred to the PAO when law enforcement formally submits a case to the PAO for review. The PAO and the other Prosecuting Attorney’s Offices in Washington State are not investigative agencies; prosecutors review investigations done by law enforcement (typically police) to determine if there is sufficient legally admissible evidence to support the charges as outlined in state law. The PAO also determines whether the case meets our office’s publicly posted Filing and Disposition Standards in light of the evidence presented.

Law enforcement typically submits a case to the PAO for review under one of the following circumstances: (1) they believe charges should be filed, (2) they would like legal review of an investigation but are not recommending charges, or, (3) when they are required by law to submit the case even though they do not believe charges should be filed (these are often referred to as “Statutory Referrals”).

The below table shows how many “sexual assault” cases were referred to the PAO from law enforcement per year:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Adult Superior Court	1093	1039	894	942	1099	1181	6248
Juvenile Court	233	168	165	221	214	232	1233
Total	1326	1207	1059	1163	1313	1413	7481

Adult Superior Court referrals are those with adult suspects and, if it is appropriate to file charges, cases would be filed in King County Superior Court. Juvenile Court cases are typically those with juvenile suspects.

The KCPAO does not divert cases involving juveniles accused of sexual assaults to Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) or any other community-based diversion program. The KCPAO does not, has not, and will not refer sex assaults involving juveniles to community-based diversion programs. Previous, we have seen the claim that the KCPAO has diverted at least 20 individuals accused of sexual assault to RCP. That is simply not true. There are some misdemeanor juvenile cases that are subject to mandatory court diversion under state law—including Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation, which we include in our data but that state lawmakers do not define

as a “sex offense.” In other words, the KCPAO has no choice but to divert these crimes to comply with state law, and we divert them to Juvenile Court Services, where they are assigned a juvenile probation officer. Including those mandatory diversion cases in a criticism of our charging rate is misleading.

Each referral undergoes **review** by Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys (DPAs) and can have one of several outcomes. It takes time for the PAO to conduct an individual review and to determine the appropriate course of action in each individual matter. The amount of time it takes to conduct this review varies depending on the complexity of case, the amount of evidence presented, whether follow up investigation is required, and other factors. Many sexual assault referrals contain voluminous amounts of information – hours of video and hundreds of pages of documents – which, accordingly, involves significant time for review and follow up with police investigators. As a result, a case may not have a filing decision in the same year that it is referred. Adult cases are listed as having one of the following outcomes or case statuses: Declined, Statutory Referral Only (SRO), Filed, Merged into another case, or Under Review.

A case is “**Declined**” when the PAO determines that it will not or cannot file charges. Cases are declined when there is insufficient admissible evidence to prove a felony crime beyond a reasonable doubt, or when the case does not meet our office’s [Filing and Disposition Standards](#). In these instances, the PAO sends a notice of the decline and an explanation for its decision to the investigating law enforcement agency. These declines can come after requests to law enforcement for more information that could provide the necessary evidence to charge the case. Sometimes, even with excellent police work, that evidence is not available. There also is no requirement for law enforcement to act on a PAO request. When there is a decline, the PAO also notifies the victim—typically through both a letter and through the victim’s advocate. DPAs also make themselves available to answer any questions a victim may have about the PAO’s decision to decline a charge. DPAs also make themselves available for questions from the investigating detective/agency. A more detailed discussion of the different reasons that a case may be declined can be found on the [PAO’s public dashboard and its associated glossary](#).

“**Statutory referral only**” or “SRO” is in reference to RCW 26.44.030, which requires law enforcement to submit certain cases to prosecutors regardless of whether they believe charges should or can be filed.

Statutory referrals frequently involve alleged harm to children or vulnerable adults. Statutory referrals require law enforcement to make a referral regardless of whether they believe there is insufficient evidence that a crime has been committed. When submitting the case for review, law enforcement chooses to submit it as an SRO, rather than naming a potential crime.

SROs receive the same level of scrutiny by the PAO as other referrals because prosecutors may disagree with a law enforcement officer’s assessment that a case is an SRO. In these situations, a DPA may ask for follow-up investigation or may file the case based on information originally submitted by law enforcement.

Law enforcement can also label some referrals as SROs when the referral does not meet the statutory definition of SRO. Law enforcement may do this because they do not believe that charges should be filed but *do* want a prosecutor’s review. These SROs may include sexual assaults that do not meet the statutory definition of an SRO, may include behavior that is not sexual in nature (such as alleged physical abuse of a child or vulnerable adult), may include some non-SAU cases where law enforcement simply wanted a referral reviewed, and may include some referrals that are incorrectly labeled as SRO.

Including statutory referral numbers in the calculation of our charging rate of sexual assault cases is misleading because it can appear as if the PAO is declining an unusually high number of sexual assault cases. **As the 2020 King County audit showed, the PAO's case numbers are in line with Prosecuting Attorney's Offices in other jurisdictions.**

A case is only counted as a "Statutory Referral only" if/when the PAO has finished its review of the case and determined that the PAO agree with law enforcement investigators that charges should not be filed.

A case is **filed** when the PAO formally files paperwork with the Court alleging that one or more persons (typically referred to as the "defendant" or "defendants" in adult cases or the "respondent" in Juvenile Court cases) committed a crime or crimes and a judge finds that there is probable cause to believe a crime was committed.

Law enforcement conducts all investigations and can make initial arrest decisions; however, no charge/case can be filed without prosecutor review and approval. The PAO independently reviews law enforcement investigations and determines the appropriate course of action. There is a common misconception that victims "press charges." This is not the case. Victims play an important role in providing input on how they may like a case to progress, and in many cases, a victim's testimony may be necessary to prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt. However, it is the PAO's legal and ethical duty/obligation to determine whether charges should be filed based on admissible evidence and in accordance with the office's Filing and Disposition Standards (which are published on the PAO's website).

A case can be "**merged into another case**" in certain instances where a defendant has two or more closely related cases, and it is legally appropriate to combine them. When this occurs, one case will have another filing decision outcome (filed, declined, or SRO) and the other(s) will be listed as having been merged into another case.

Some of the cases that are listed as "**under review**" are awaiting additional investigation from law enforcement before a filing decision can be made. Declined cases can be reopened if new evidence is presented. This frequently happens after law enforcement has completed necessary and/or additional investigation. It can also happen if a victim or investigator requests the PAO to reconsider its decision to decline and changes surrounding the investigation change (for instance, when a victim who had initially not wanted the PAO to file charges later changes their mind). In these situations, the case returns to "under review" status and the referral date will be the original referral date, not the date the case was reopened.

The below table shows the filing decision outcome for sexual assault referrals involving adult suspects by the year that the case was referred.

Adult Referral Outcome:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
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Declined	418	417	313	307	308	294	2057
Filed	405	370	347	308	286	288	1997
Statutory Referral Only (SRO) - never intended for prosecution	268	248	230	320	477	521	2064
Merged into another case	2	4	3	7	18	21	53
Under Review			1		10	57	77
Total	1093	1039	894	942	1099	1181	6248

Referrals involving juvenile suspects have a different set of procedural rules and legal requirements. As a result, juvenile referrals have different outcome types. For example, there are different reasons (that do not apply to adult suspects) as to why a case might be declined for prosecution. For example, when a suspect is under twelve (12) years-old charges, generally, cannot be legally brought (see RCW 9A.04.050) in accordance with state law.

Additionally, there are cases where the PAO is statutorily required to divert a case away from formal prosecution. This includes circumstances when the allegations involve misdemeanor level conduct and the referral is the juvenile's first legal referral. These cases are listed as "Legally required misdemeanor diversion." In this type of diversion, the juvenile suspect is referred to Superior Court probation, where they are required to engage in treatment or other programing.

There is no statutory authority to divert a felony sex offense, and the PAO does not, under any circumstance, divert felony sex offenses involving juvenile suspects.

Juvenile Referral Outcome:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Declined	81	40	39	51	69	106	386
Statutory Referral Only (SRO) - never intended for prosecution	58	71	73	115	92	72	481
Filed	88	51	49	47	43	41	319
Legally required misdemeanor diversion	*	*	*	*	10	*	*
Under Review	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	233	168	165	221	214	232	1233

Juvenile Data, particularly for cases not filed with the court, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be have been redacted and replaced with a "".

C. FILED CASE DISPOSITIONS

Once a case is **filed**, it can take a substantial period of time to resolve (reach a disposition). A disposition is the final result in a case.

The time to resolution can vary greatly among individual cases, depending on the complexity of the case and many other factors. A case is only counted as being resolved/disposed once (even when

there are multiple charges in a single case). Resolutions/dispositions are categorized by the most consequential or impactful disposition in the case. For example, if a defendant is charged with two different crimes in one case and pleads guilty to one crime and has the other dismissed, the case would count as one plea (not one plea and one dismissal).

Each victim is entitled to work with an advocate and almost all SAU victims work with a community or system-based advocate. Advocates are the primary points of contact for victims throughout the court process/course of their case.

Consistent with the Victim Bill of Rights, DPAs work with victim advocates to keep victims updated about proceedings and to seek victim input on any potential case disposition or outcome.

Below are potential case outcomes in the order used to determine how a case disposition is counted:

- **Trial** - There are two types of trials: **jury trials** and **bench trials**. Jury trials are far more common. In a jury trial, a jury of 12 lay persons from the community decides whether a defendant is guilty or not guilty of the crimes charged. A jury makes an individual decision on each charged crime. If a defendant is charged with multiple crimes, a jury could find the defendant guilty of some crimes and not guilty of others. The jury's decision must be unanimous to convict; if the jury cannot reach a unanimous decision on one or more crimes, the case is not disposed and will need to be resolved in another way (an additional trial, plea, or dismissal).

Bench trials are far less common and can only occur if the defendant requests a bench trial and specifically waives their constitutional right to a jury trial. In a bench trial, the judge acts as the jury, in addition to being the judge. All Juvenile Court trials are “bench trials.”

- **We do not report the outcomes of trials.** The PAO does this because we do not want to unduly characterize or incentive convictions or long prison sentences as “wins.” DPAs are directed and encouraged to pursue the just result in an ethical manner, rather than simply seek convictions. Any case that is resolved by a trial is counted as a trial, regardless of whether the verdict was guilty, not guilty, or a mix.
- **Plea** – In a plea, the defendant or respondent pleads guilty to one or more crimes. This is also typically referred to as a “plea agreement” because the defendant or respondent and the PAO usually come to an agreement on the details of the plea. This can involve a plea agreement to the crimes as charged, to a less serious crime than the defendant or respondent was originally charged with or may also involve having some charges dismissed. This can include cases where witnesses are no longer available, or where additional evidence changes a case. Plea agreements can also involve the defendant pleading guilty to the crime(s) they were originally charged with. A plea is not always a reduced charge.

A plea cannot be entered unless a Judge finds the defendant or respondent has made a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary decision to do so. Victims often support resolution by plea because it provides for a certain outcome compared to what can be perceived as the relatively uncertain outcome of a trial.

In situations when the PAO resolves a case in a manner that is contrary to a victim’s wishes,

the PAO makes those decisions based on concerns about our ability to prove the charge(s) beyond a reasonable doubt based upon on all available *and* admissible evidence. DPAs make themselves available to both victims and law enforcement to answer questions about resolutions. DPAs do this to hear feedback and concerns and to answer questions about the PAO's decisions.

- **Dismissal** - A case may be dismissed upon a motion by the PAO, defense, or the court. The dismissal of a case or crimes means that the defendant is no longer charged with the crime; in other words, the legal case is ended.

Some cases are dismissed in order to be referred to, or upon completion of, an alternative program such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, or Veteran's Court, but that does not mean the case goes away. In these types of circumstances, the case is handled in the alternative, therapeutic courts because those are not specifically available in Superior Court. If an individual does not complete the alternative, therapeutic court requirements and conditions, the Superior Court felony case can resume.

Sometimes, there are other nuances with dismissed cases. For example:

- It is not uncommon for defendants have multiple criminal cases pending at the same time. In this type of situation, a case may resolve with the defendant pleading guilty to some of the cases in exchange for the dismissal of some charges. For example, if a defendant pleaded guilty to two cases in exchange for the dismissal of a third, those three cases would each be counted separately, two as pleas and one as a dismissal.
- Cases are sometimes dismissed when the Court finds that an individual is incompetent to stand trial (after an evaluation by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Service). These types of dismissals can come with an order for the defendant to be sent to Western State Hospital for civil commitment (mandatory treatment). If the defendant's competency is restored, the PAO may refile the criminal case.
- The PAO may also dismiss a case if new information comes to light that causes the PAO to conclude that the defendant did not commit the charged offense, that the case can no longer be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, or that the interests of justice no longer warrant prosecution.
- Judges can also make legal rulings that result in dismissing of the case.

Cases that are not yet resolved are listed as "**Open**". Cases may be open because the defendant failed to appear for court for a substantial period (a criminal case generally cannot proceed without the defendant's presence) or other complications may have prevented a disposition.

The tables below show case dispositions based on the year of law enforcement referral (not the year of the disposition). Cases are often referred in one year, but resolved in another. Therefore, this table should not be used to analyze the number of pleas, dismissals or trials in any given calendar year.

Status of Filed Adult Cases by the Year the Case was Referred to the KCPAO							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Plea	272	229	201	175	102	36	1015
Open	34	46	61	74	149	232	596
Dismissal	61	57	66	46	31	14	275
Trial	38	38	19	12	3	1	111
Total	405	370	347	307	285	283	1997

In addition to the categories listed above, Juvenile Court cases can also be resolved/disposed through a “Deferred Disposition” or the completion of a post-filing diversion (“Post-Filing Diversion Completed”).

A **Deferred Disposition** is a juvenile disposition outcome that is set forth in statute (see RCW 13.40.127) and where a guilty finding is entered, and the imposition of sentence is deferred for some period of supervision. If the juvenile successfully completes the conditions of supervision, then the court may dismiss the guilty finding.

Post-Filing Diversion Completed are resolutions where charges have been initially filed into juvenile court, but where the parties agree to resolve the case as a diversion rather than as a formal, legal adjudication. These types of resolutions usually involve cases that would otherwise be eligible for diversion at the time of charging, but the PAO exercised its discretion to formally file charges (as opposed to diverting charges up front) in order to have more control over the intervention/outcome.

Status of Filed Juvenile Cases by the Year the Case was Referred to the KCPAO							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Deferred Disposition	35	18	16	*	*	*	81
Dismissal	19	*	*	10	*	*	49
Open	*	*	*	*	18	32	50
Plea	26	18	20	26	16	*	*
Post-Filing Diversion Completed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trial	*	*	*	*	*	*	16
Total	88	51	49	47	43	41	319

Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be have been redacted and replaced with a “”.

D. DETAIL ON PLEA DISPOSITIONS

When a defendant or respondent enters a plea of guilty, they can do so to the charge(s) they were originally charged with, a greater charge, or a lesser charge.

The data listed below shows cases that were resolved by a plea, displayed by the most serious class of

offense that was originally filed (labeled Original File Class) and the most serious class of offense that was pleaded (guilty) to (labeled Plea Disposition Class). The classes involved are A, B, C, and M (in order of severity) which are defined as:

- **A** refers to class A felonies. Class A felonies are the most serious alleged offenses and can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common sex offense Class A felonies include Rape in the First Degree, Indecent Liberties (with force), Rape of a Child in the First or Second Degree, and Child Molestation in the First Degree. A conviction of a class A felony could result in a sentence of life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$50,000, or both.
- **B** refers to class B felonies, which are less serious, but still very serious offenses. Class B felonies include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common Class B felonies include Rape in the Second Degree, Indecent Liberties (without force), and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class B felony can result in imprisonment of up to ten years and/or a \$20,000 fine.
- **C** refers to class C felonies, which can include sex offenses and non-sex offense. Some common sex offense Class C felonies include Rape in the Third Degree, Rape of a Child in the Third Degree, and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class C felony could result in up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.
- **M** refers to gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors, which can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Gross misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 364 days in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine. Misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. Some common SAU gross misdemeanor crimes are Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation, and Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the Second Degree.
- **SA** refers to sex offenses that require sex offender registration upon conviction. RCW 9.94A.030(47) defines crimes that qualify as sex offenses.

The PAO has attempted to calculate how many cases resulted in a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (SA at Disposition) and how many cases did not involve a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (NOT SA at Disposition).

Some of the cases in the “NOT SA” column were resolved with charges that reflect the sexual nature of the crime, even though they do not qualify as sex offenses. For example, a defendant may plead guilty to Assault in the Second Degree (a class B felony “strike” offense) with the admission that the defendant assaulted the victim with the intent to commit the crime of rape. In this example, a disposition would be counted in the “NOT SA” column.

Adult Plea Dispositions:

Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Defendants	SA at Disposition	NOT SA at Disposition
A	A	82	81	78	4
A	B	140	140	99	41
A	C	151	150	90	61
A	M	103	103	76	27
B	A	1	1	1	
B	B	50	50	33	17
B	C	113	112	87	26
B	M	75	75	49	26
C	B	8	8	3	5
C	C	128	112	104	24
C	M	130	129	96	34
M	C	30	4	3	1
M	M	30	30	26	4

Adult Plea Disposition Breakdown by Year of Referral:							
Original Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
A	127	126	88	78	46	11	476
A	24	13	19	14	8	4	82
B	40	46	22	22	9	1	140
C	33	42	31	24	19	2	151
M	30	25	16	18	10	4	103
B	68	44	51	43	24	9	239
A			1				1
B	12	10	10	8	8	2	50
C	35	22	22	21	11	2	113
M	21	12	18	14	5	5	75
C	61	50	60	50	29	16	266
B	2	2	1	1	1	1	8
C	32	19	25	21	21	10	128
M	27	29	34	28	7	5	130
M	16	9	2	4	3		34
C	1	1		2			4
M	15	8	2	2	3		30
Total	272	229	201	175	102	36	1015

Juvenile Data, including for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is

particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data, any values less than 10 (including 0) have been redacted and replaced with a “*” **along with any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be.**

However, the number of juvenile plea dispositions where the resulting charge was not classified as a “sexual assault” was so small that all of that information had to be redacted from the report. So, the columns for that listed the number of case that were a sexual assault charge at disposition are not included for juveniles.

Juvenile Plea Dispositions:			
Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Respondents
A	A	16	16
A	B	*	*
A	C	22	22
A	M	33	33
B	B	*	*
B	C	*	*
B	M	*	*
C	C	*	*
C	M	14	14
M	M	*	*

*Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) **and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be** have been redacted and replaced with a “*”.

Juvenile Plea Disposition Breakdown by Year of Referral:							
Original Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
A	23	12	13	13	13	*	*
A	*	*	*	*	*	*	16
B	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	22
M	10	*	*	*	*	*	33
B	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
B	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	22
C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	14
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	26	18	20	25	16	*	*

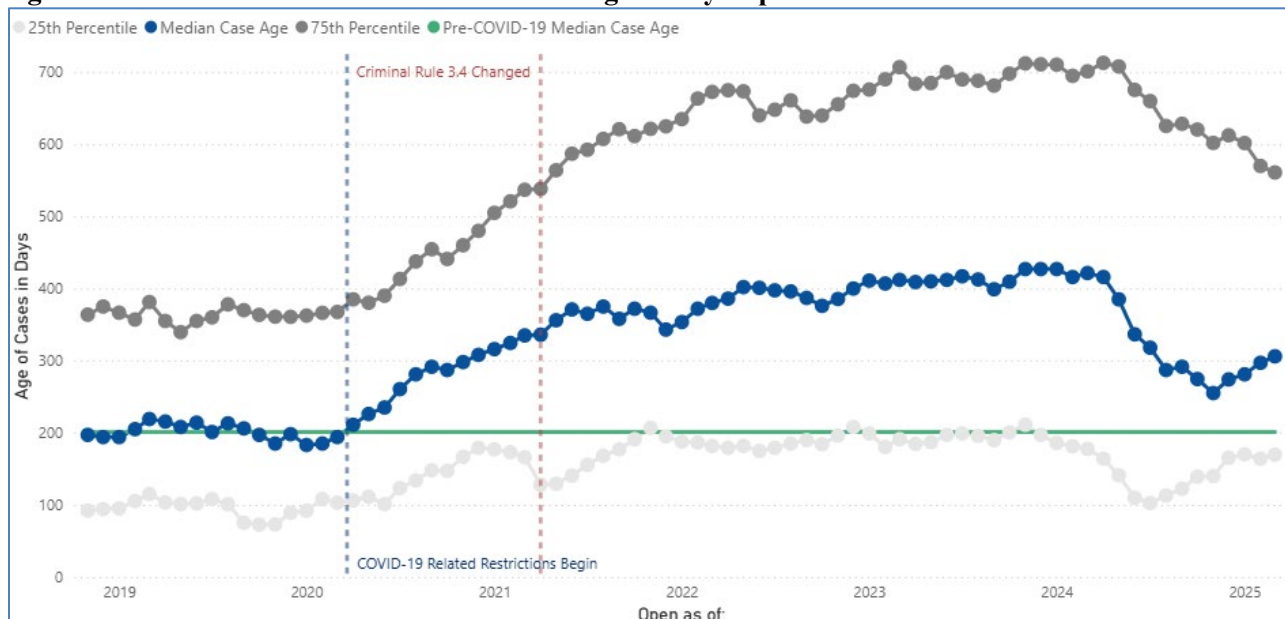
Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be have been redacted and replaced with a “”.

E. AGE OF THE CASELOAD AND TIME TO DISPOSITION

The PAO measures the age of the pending caseload from the date the case is filed. The age of the pending (also called open) cases gives us a picture of how fast cases are proceeding through the system right now, the trend as to how long cases are pending before resolution, and how many new cases are entering the system relative to the overall caseload. The time to disposition provides you information what happened leading up to the disposition (how fast were cases processed in the past). The time it takes to process a case is influenced by many factors including, but not limited to: the complexity of the case, the engagement of the defendant (generally, a criminal case cannot proceed without the defendant’s participation), defense engagement/strategy, and the court management of the caseload. In recent years, the most significant factors impacting the age of the caseload were the COVID-19 public health restrictions and the changes to Criminal Rule 3.4, which reduced the number of times a defendant had to appear for court and resulted in a reworking of general court processing.

The below visualizes the age of the open and active caseload of sexual assault cases in King County Superior Court over time. The PAOs efforts to resolve older cases and reduce the backlog of sexual assault cases to be filed can be seen in the changes that occurred over 2024.

Age Distribution of Sexual Assault Cases in King County Superior Court



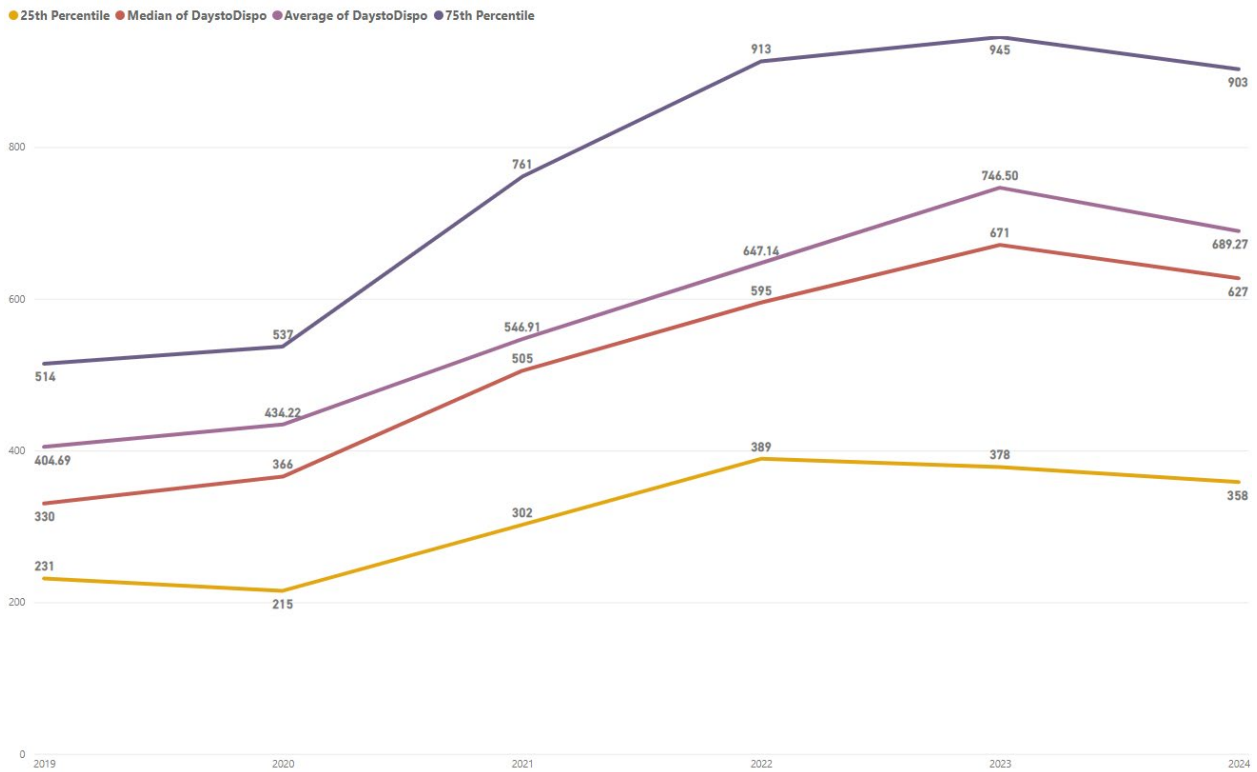
In addition to the overall median age of the caseload pre-Covid-19, the visual displays 3 different measures:

- **25th Percentile**
 - The 25th Percentile is the number of days where 25% of the open cases are that old or less. So, if the 25th Percentile were 68 days, you would know that 25% of the open cases were filed 68 or less days ago and 75% of cases were filed more than 68 days ago.
- **Median Case Age**
 - The Median is the point at which half the cases are older than it and half the cases are younger than it. So, if the median were 140 days, you would know that half the cases were filed less than 140 days ago and half the cases were filed more than 140 days ago.
- **75th Percentile**
 - The 75th Percentile is the number of days where 75% of the open cases are that old or less. So, if the 75th Percentile were 257 days, you would know that 75% of the cases were filed less than 257 days ago and 25% of the cases were filed more than 257 days ago.

These three measures together show a band or range of the ages of the open caseload. As the cases get older and take longer to resolve the values of all three tend to increase and spread out. When a significant number of new cases are filed the 25th Percentile tends to decrease because you have increased the percent of cases that have recently been filed. This can in turn reduce the values for the Median and 75th Percentiles as their portions of the total change. Similar changes can sweep through all three measures when large numbers of cases resolve (depending on the age of the cases that resolved) and when policies or practices change.

A similar trend can be seen in the distribution of the days to disposition for sexual assault cases in King County Superior Court. Unlike the age of the open caseload, which looks at the ages of all open active cases on the first of each month, the days to disposition visual below looks at the cases resolved in each year. This is done to have enough data points to reach significance.

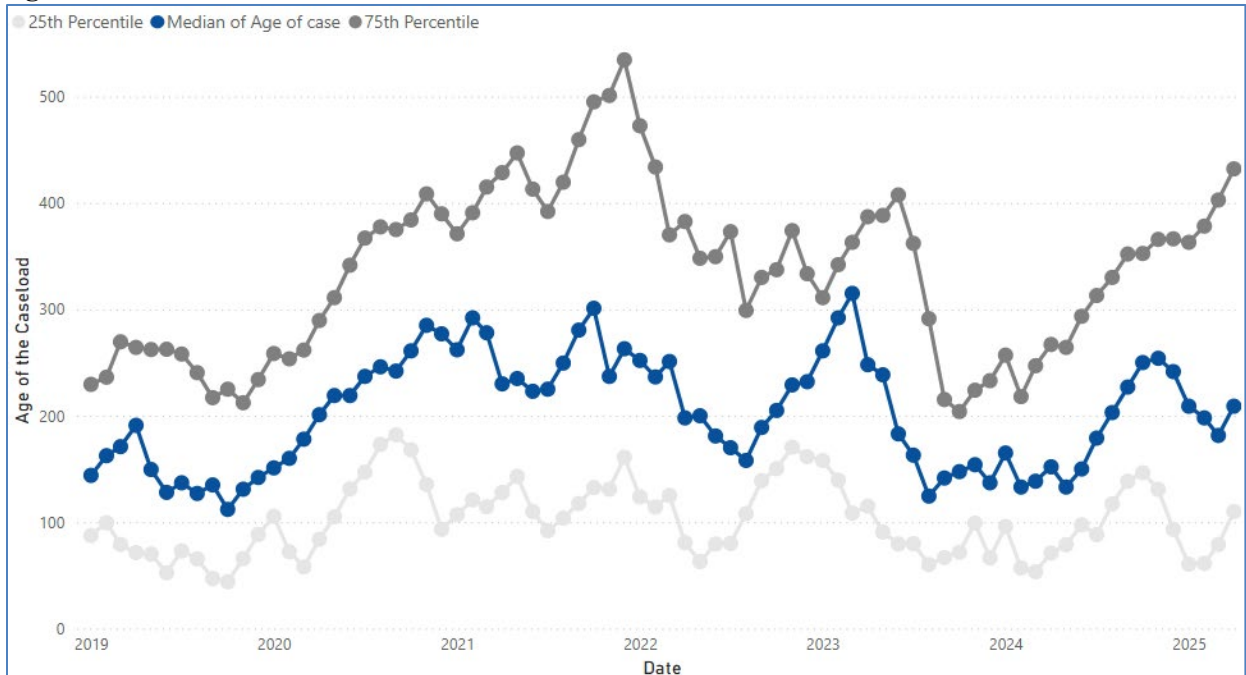
Days to Disposition of Sexual Assault Cases in King County Superior Court by Year of Resolution



The number of open and active sexual assault cases in juvenile court and the number of dispositions of those cases is much smaller than those in adult King County Superior Court.⁵ These small numbers mean that a change in just a few cases or a single respondent returning after a long period of failing to appear can drastically change the distribution of the age of the caseload. As a result, little meaningful information can be drawn from the data, which can be seen in the below visuals showing the age distribution of open and active sexual assault cases in juvenile court and the following visual shows days to disposition.

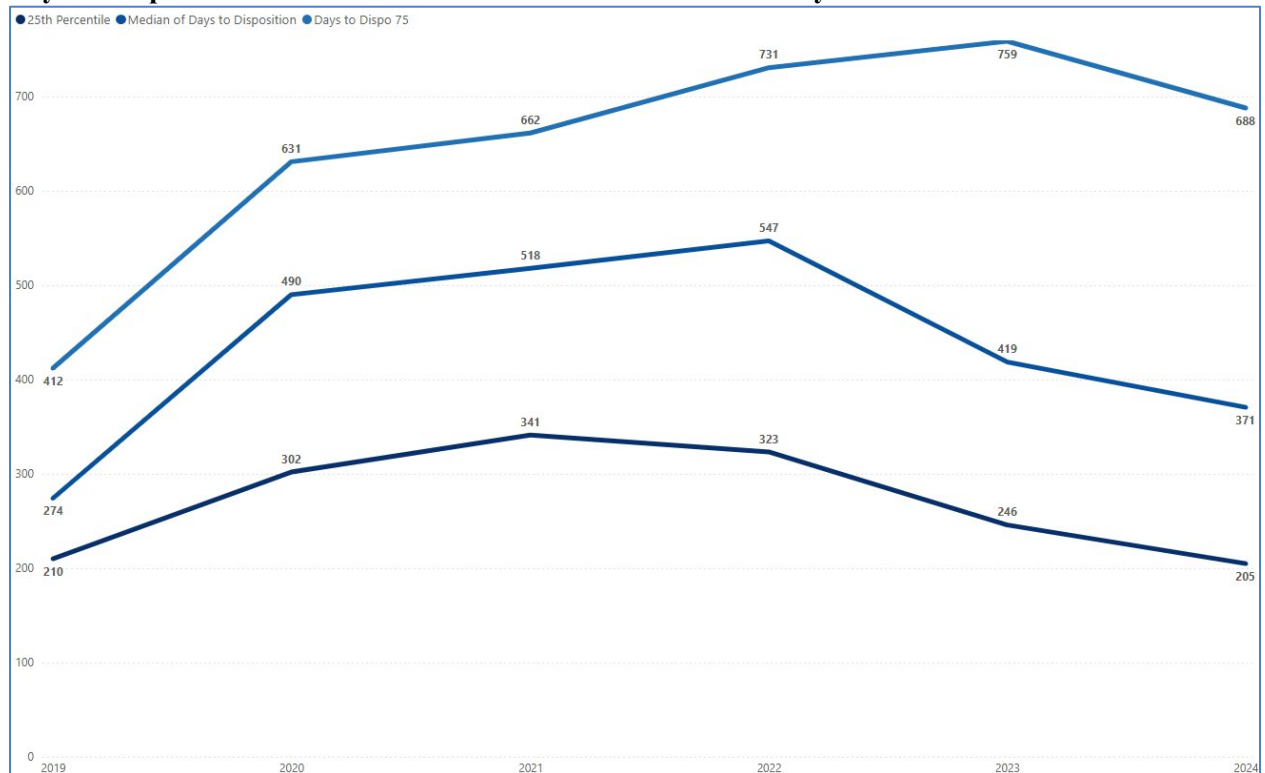
⁵ At times there have been fewer than 30 sexual assault cases pending in juvenile court. In contrast, since Covid-19 in adult King County Superior there has been around 400 to 550 sexual assault cases pending at any given time.

Age Distribution of Sexual Assault Cases in Juvenile Court*



*The statistically small number of cases in juvenile court make it hard to draw reliable conclusions as to trends because changes in just a few cases can drastically impact these values.

Days to Disposition of Sexual Assault Cases in Juvenile Court* by Year of Resolution



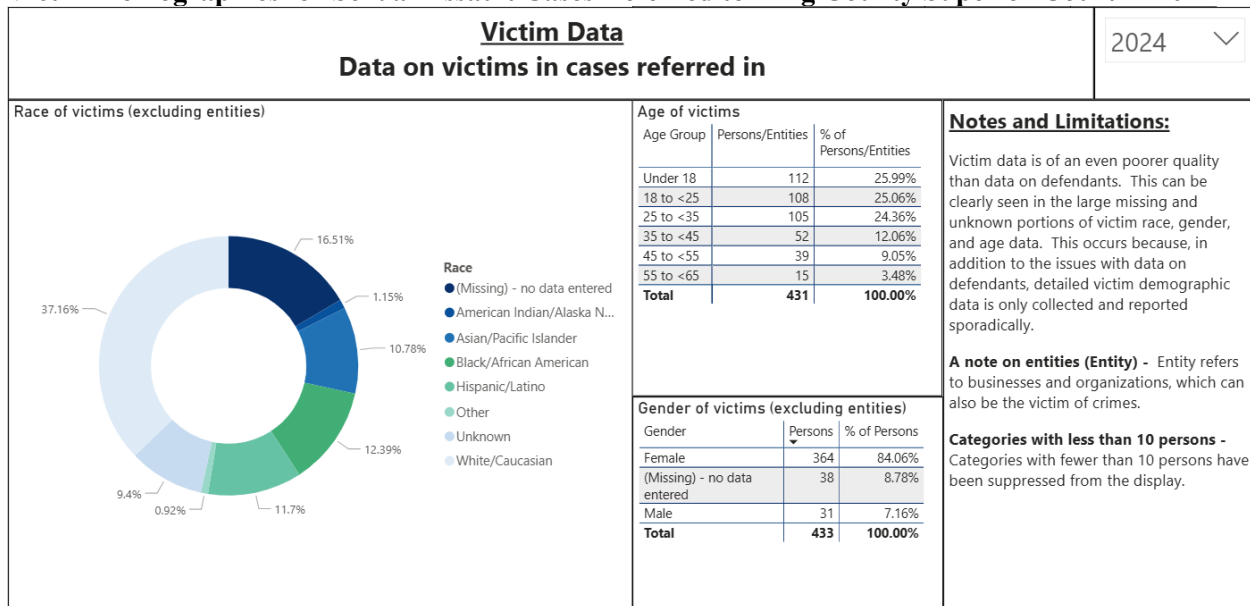
*The statistically small number of cases in juvenile court make it hard to draw reliable conclusions as

to trends because changes in just a few cases can drastically impact these values.

F. VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

As noted in the PAO data dashboard, data on victim demographics is often of even poorer quality than that of defendants/respondents. There tends to be relatively high levels of missing data and even lack of any entry of victims, particularly on cases that are referred but not filed. There are many contributing factors to the poor quality of victim demographic data including, sporadic reporting, inconsistent data collection standards across agencies, insufficient funding for victim services, limited capacity of law enforcement and the PAO, and more. The PAO has made efforts to improve the quality of its data on victims; however, challenges remain. This can be seen in the below screenshot from the PAO's data dashboard.

Victim Demographics for Sexual Assault Cases Referred to King County Superior Court in 2024



The victim data on juvenile cases suffers from the same issues outlined above. The below summarizes available data for victims on juvenile court sexual assault cases.

Victim Demographics for Sexual Assault Cases Referred to Juvenile Court 2024

Age Group	Number of Victims	Race	Number of Victims	Gender	Number of Victims
Under 18	180	(Missing) - no data entered	21	Female	147
18 to <25	*	American Indian/Alaska Native	*	Male	43
25 to <35	*	Asian/Pacific Islander	12	Unknown	*
35 to <45	*	Black/African American	20		
45 to <55	*	Hispanic/Latino	17		
55 to <65	*	Other	*		
Over 65	*	Unknown	42		
Unknown	*	White/Caucasian	74		

*Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on](#)

sensitive data, any values less than 10 (including 0) **and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be** have been redacted and replaced with a “*”.

The PAO plans to continue its efforts to improve the consistency and quality of the reporting and collection of victim data.

G. TREATMENT PROVIDERS (QUESTION P2 PART E)

The PAO does not partner with sex offender treatment providers in criminal cases and does not refer criminal defendants to providers. When defendants engage in sex offender treatment—either proactively or because it is court required—they work with their attorneys to choose a certified sex offender treatment provider. PAO receives evaluations and treatment updates if they are required to be provided. The PAO does not track treatment referrals or completion rates for those engaged in sex offender treatment because we do not have staffing necessary to do so, we do not necessarily or routinely get information about completion, and the amount of information the PAO receives on violations varies depending on whether the court must rule on a sentence violation or if DOC handles any violations administratively. The Washington State Department of Corrections the Washington State Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) may track treatment referrals and/or completion for those sentenced to DOC or committed as Sexually Violent Predators under RCW 71.09.

H. COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (P2 PART E.2)

The PAO interacts with many community-based service organizations serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. The most formal relationships are with the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center and the City of Seattle Crime Survivors Services, who provides legal advocacy for survivors on sexual assault cases. PAO also works with many other service organizations who provide resources to survivors or raise awareness of issues through smaller, niche efforts with the YWCA and Sexual Violence Law Center.

I. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT (P2 PART F)

The PAO utilizes a continuous improvement model. We regularly review and update our practices as it relates to prosecuting sexual assault cases as part of our day-to-day work. This is done based on experiences of PAO attorneys, employees, and victims as they arise and based the review of our data. Data is always looked at in the context of national standards, best practices, and the daily realities of the work.

The King County Special Assault Protocol, which provides guidelines for cooperative investigations and support of survivors, was last updated in 2021. The PAO is in the process of updating it this year.

The PAO has not conducted surveys of sexual assault survivors.

J. DATA DASHBOARDS (P2 PART F)

The PAO public data dashboard contains data on multiple aspects of sexual assault cases. The data therein is generally updated at least once a month. The PAO work in on data collection and management, including the data dashboard, is primarily limited and constrained by a lack of resources and the sensitivity of the data. Despite the number of detailed data requests increasing annually over

at least the last five years, no meaningful additional resources have been provided to the PAO to improve our capacity for data collection, process redesign, data reporting and analysis, and data sharing and related communication. The PAO uses existing funding for the data collection and management work. As such, our capacity for this data work is extremely limited and must be balanced between many different responsibilities necessary to produce quality data and complete the PAO mission critical tasks. As a result, time available for the PAO to work on the public data dashboard is limited.

K. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE DIVISION RESOURCES (P2 PART F)

As with other areas, the PAO monitors staffing levels of each division and their workload. The PAO makes necessary staffing adjustments based on operation priorities and other emergent needs. Given the PAO current resources (as set by the King Council), and balancing the PAO's other responsibilities, currently, the GBVD has 42 attorneys assigned to it (plus legal service professionals such as paralegals) to handle their workload. However, as noted in the PAO's prior budget requests, the PAO needs additional staffing in many areas.

[M. Bailey]

1 STRIKING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2025-0138, VERSION 1

3 "WHEREAS, the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19861, Section 31,
4 appropriated moneys from the general fund to the prosecuting attorney, and Proviso P2
5 required the prosecuting attorney to transmit a report on sexual assault cases and a motion
6 that should acknowledge receipt of the report by July 31, 2025;

8 Receipt of the prosecuting attorney's office proviso response, Attachment A to
9 this motion, in response to the 2025 Annual Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19861, Section
10 31, Proviso P2, is hereby acknowledged."

11 **EFFECT** prepared by M. Bailey: *Removes reference to Proviso P1 since that proviso*
12 *did not require the Council's acknowledgement by motion.*

May 7, 2025
Title Amendment

[M. Bailey]	Sponsor: <u>Barón</u>
	Proposed No.: <u>2025-0138</u>

1 **TITLE AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2025-0138, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1, beginning on line 1, strike lines 1 through 6 and insert:

3 "A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a report on sexual
4 assault cases in compliance with the 2025 Annual Budget
5 Ordinance, Ordinance 19861, Section 31, Proviso P2."

6 **EFFECT prepared by M. Bailey: *Amends the title by removing reference to Proviso***

7 ***P1 to comport with Striking Amendment S1.***

KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



LEESA MANION (she/her)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

JUSTICE
COMPASSION
PROFESSIONALISM
INTEGRITY
LEADERSHIP

May 1 , 2025

Melani Hay
King County Clerk of the Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104
Clerk.council@kingcounty.gov •

Via E-mail

Dear Clerk of the Council:

Please find attached the proviso motion and attachment, as required by the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, 19546, Section 31, as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2.

If you have any questions concerning the motion or report, please feel to contact me.

Sincerely
FOR LEESA MANION (She/Her)

Jay Zhao,
Director of Budget & Finance
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

cc: Jimmy Hung, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Bridgette Maryman, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Christina Miyamasu, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
David Baker, Director of Data and Analytics



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Law and Justice Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	6	Name:	Melissa Bailey
Proposed No.:	2025-0037	Date:	June 4, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2025-0037 would acknowledge receipt of a report from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on adult and juvenile sex offense cases in response to the 2023-2024 Adopted Biennial Budget (Ordinance 19546, Section 31, as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2).

SUMMARY

The 2023-2024 Biennial Budget, as amended, included a proviso that withheld \$100,000 in appropriation authority from the budget for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO or KCPAO). The proviso required the PAO to submit a report on adult and juvenile sex offense cases (specifically data on referred cases that were pled down to a lesser charge) and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report by November 1, 2024.

The PAO transmitted the report and motion to the Council Clerk on January 21, 2025. Council passage of the proposed motion would acknowledge receipt of the report. It would have no budgetary impact as the 2023-2024 biennial budget cycle has elapsed. The report appears to be responsive to the proviso. It provides the number of sex offense cases referred to the PAO for each year requested and data on the cases resolved through a plea agreement. The report also describes the steps that happen between a case being referred to the PAO and ultimately being disposed (resolved) as well as data associated with each step and disposition type.

BACKGROUND

Proviso Requirement. The 2023-2024 Biennial Budget was amended to include a proviso¹ that withheld \$100,000 in appropriation authority from the budget for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office:

¹ Ordinance 19546, Section 31, as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2

“Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the prosecuting attorney transmits a report on adult and juvenile sex offense cases and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report and a motion acknowledging receipt of the report is passed by the council. The motion should reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance number, ordinance section, and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion.

The report shall include, but not be limited to the following:

A.1. The total number of referred sex offenses and, of the total number of referred sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a non-sex offense;

2. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of referred felony sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a lesser felony;

3. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of referred felony sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a misdemeanor sex offense;

4. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of referred felony sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a misdemeanor non-sex offense; and

5. The total number of referred sex offenses cases that were pled down and, of the total number of referred sex offense cases that were pled down, the number that were referred to a diversion program and which diversion programs they were referred to.

B. The data requested in subsection A. of this proviso shall include adult sex offense cases and juvenile sex offense cases; however, they shall be reported on separately and not combined.

C. The report shall cover the period from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2023. The data requested in subsection A. of this proviso shall be provided for each year of the reporting period.

The prosecuting attorney should electronically file the report and motion required by this proviso no later than November 1, 2024, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the law and justice committee, or its successor.”

ANALYSIS

On January 21, 2025, the PAO officially transmitted a report to the Council Clerk in response to the proviso along with a proposed motion that would acknowledge receipt of the report. This transmittal occurred after the November 1, 2024, due date and after the 2023-2024 biennial cycle concluded. According to the PAO, the report was originally emailed directly to Councilmembers on November 18, 2024 (which is why the

transmitted report is dated November 18, 2024). Council passage of the proposed motion would acknowledge receipt of the report. It would have no budgetary impact as the 2023-2024 biennial budget cycle has elapsed.²

Data Context. The proviso report includes background information and context regarding the data provided by the PAO.

Dashboard Data. The PAO reports out cases via its public dashboard³ using the umbrella category of “Sexual Assault and Child Abuse” or, for Juvenile Court cases, “Sex Offenses”. This work is generally reported out as “cases referred to the PAO by law enforcement” and “work done by the KCPAO” in a specified time period. Per the report, the Council’s proviso required a different form of analysis. The data included in the report tracks “cases by year of referral to their ultimate outcome” – so every date listed corresponds to the date the case was referred to the PAO.

Sex Offense Cases. The data in the proviso report includes cases that are defined by RCW 9.94A.030 as sex offenses, and crimes like Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation or Voyeurism in the Second Degree, which are considered sexual assaults, but do not meet the legal definition of sex offense. Where the term “sex offense” is used, that refers to crimes identified by RCW 9.94A.030.

Law Enforcement Referrals. The report notes that the PAO (and other prosecuting attorney offices in Washington state) are not investigative agencies. Instead, sexual assault cases are investigated by law enforcement who then formally submit cases to the PAO for review. According to the report, law enforcement typically submits a case to the PAO under one of the following circumstances:

1. They believe charges should be filed;
2. They would like legal review of an investigation but are not recommending charges; or
3. They are required by law to submit the case even though they do not believe charges should be filed (often referred to as “Statutory Referrals”).

PAO Review. Prosecutors review referred cases to determine if there is sufficient legally admissible evidence to support the charges as outlined by state law. They also determine whether the case meets the PAO’s Filing and Dispositions Standards in light of the evidence presented.⁴ Per the report, it takes time to determine the appropriate course of action and the amount of time it takes to conduct the review can vary depending on the complexity of the case, the amount of evidence presented, whether follow up investigation is required, and other factors. A case may not have a filing

² The 2025 Budget also included a proviso requesting a report on sex offense cases from the PAO along with a motion that would acknowledge receipt of the report (Ordinance 19861, Section 31, Proviso P2). The PAO has transmitted that report and motion to the Council (Proposed Motion 2025-0138).

³ PAO’s Data Dashboard [\[LINK\]](#)

⁴ King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Filing and Disposition Standards [\[LINK\]](#)

decision in the same year it is referred. Similarly, if a case is filed with the Court, it may not be resolved (reach a disposition) in the same year that it was referred to the PAO or filed with the Court. Tables 2 and 3 in this staff report show filing outcomes for adult and juvenile cases, respectively.

Subsection A Requirements. Subsection A asked the proviso report to include the following data:

A.1. The total number of referred sex offenses and, of the total number of referred sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a non-sex offense.

Table 1 in this staff report shows the total number of referred sexual assault cases (both adult and juvenile). Table 6 shows adult plea dispositions and breaks them down by sex offense and non-sex offense dispositions. The proviso report shares information about juvenile plea dispositions (see Tables 5, 8, and 9 in this staff report); however, the report does not provide a breakdown of the pleas by sex offense and non-sex offense dispositions. According to the report, juvenile data is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data, any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

A.2.-A.4. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of referred felony sex offenses:

- *the number that were pled down to a lesser felony (A2);*
- *the number that were pled down to a misdemeanor sex offense (A3);*
- *the number that were pled down to a misdemeanor non-sex offense (A4); and*

The proviso report provided data in response to these questions (see Tables 6, 7, 8, and 9 in this staff report). Per the proviso report, some of this information is not provided for juvenile cases to comply with state law and the Washington State Department of Health guidelines previously mentioned.

A.5. The total number of referred sex offenses cases that were pled down and, of the total number of referred sex offense cases that were pled down, the number that were referred to a diversion program and which diversion programs they were referred to.

Tables 4 and 5 in this staff report provide data on the number of sexual assault cases resolved with a plea agreement (for adult and juvenile cases, respectively). According to the proviso report, when a defendant or respondent enters a plea of guilty, they can do so to the original charge(s), a greater charge, or a lesser charge. Tables 6, 7, 8, and 9 provide more information on plea agreements, including the original filed class and the plea disposition class.

As for sex offense cases referred to diversion programs, the PAO confirms that adult sex offense cases (misdemeanors and felonies) and juvenile felony sex offense cases are not referred to diversion programs. For juvenile misdemeanor sex offense cases, Table 3 in this staff report includes information on juvenile cases that are “legally required misdemeanor diversions” and Table 5 provides information on juvenile sexual assault cases with deferred dispositions and post-filing dispositions. Much of the data, however, is redacted for the privacy reasons previously mentioned. According to the PAO, deferred juvenile misdemeanor sex offense cases are only sent to the Superior Court’s probation program. No other diversion programs, including the Restorative Community Pathways program, handles sex offense cases.

Referred Cases. The report provides the number of referred sexual assault cases by year with adult and juvenile cases separated (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of Referred Sexual Assault Cases⁵

Court	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Adult Superior Court	1,093	1,039	894	942	1,099	5,067
Juvenile Court	233	168	165	221	214	1,001
Total	1,326	1,207	1,059	1,163	1,313	6,068

Filing Decisions/Outcomes. The report explains that each case referral can have one of several filing outcomes. Table 2 shows filing outcomes for cases involving adult suspects and Table 3 shows filing outcomes for cases involving juvenile suspects.

Per the report, there are different procedural rules and legal requirements for referrals involving juvenile suspects. For example, per state law, charges generally cannot be brought when the suspect is under twelve years old.⁶ Additionally, in some cases, the PAO is statutorily required to divert the case away from formal prosecution – known as “legally required misdemeanor diversion”.

⁵ Table on page 3 of the proviso report. Note, the table in the report has an error in the total for the 2023 column. It has 1314 but the PAO confirms that the correct total is 1313. This is also true for the final total (report states 6069, but it should be 6068). The correct totals are reflected in this staff report.

⁶ RCW 9A.04.050. The PAO’s dashboard includes the number of juvenile suspects under 12 years old.

Table 2. Filing Outcomes for Referred Sexual Assault Cases – Adults⁷

Filing Decision/Outcome	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Declined ⁸	418	417	314	309	341	1,799
Filed ⁹	405	370	347	305	284	1,711
Statutory Referral Only ¹⁰	268	248	228	318	430	1,492
Merged into another case ¹¹	2	4	3	5	19	33
Under Review ¹²			2	5	25	32
Total Cases Referred	1,093	1,039	894	942	1,099	5,067

Table 3. Filing Outcomes for Referred Sexual Assault Cases – Juveniles¹³

Filing Decision/Outcome	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Declined	81	40	39	51	69	280
Filed	88	51	49	47	42	277
Statutory Referral Only	58	71	73	115	92	409
Legally Required Misdemeanor Diversion ¹⁴	*	*	*	*	10	*
Under Review	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Cases Referred	233	168	165	221	214	1,001

⁷ Table on page 5 of the proviso report.

⁸ The PAO determines it will not or cannot file charges. Charges are declined when there is insufficient admissible evidence to prove a felony crime beyond a reasonable doubt, or when the case does not meet the Filing and Disposition Standards. The glossary included in the PAO's data dashboard provides more information on the different reasons a case may be declined. [\[LINK\]](#)

⁹ A case is filed when the PAO formally files paperwork with the Court alleging one or more persons committed a crime(s) and a judge finds there is probable cause to believe a crime was committed.

¹⁰ Refers to RCW 26.44.030, which requires law enforcement to submit certain cases to prosecutors regardless of whether they believe charges should or can be filed. A case is only counted as SRO when the PAO has finished its review and agrees with law enforcement that charges should not be filed.

¹¹ A case can be "merged into another case" in certain instances where a defendant has two or more closely related cases and it is legally appropriate to combine them. When this occurs, one case will have another filing decision outcome (filed, declined, or SRO) and the other(s) will be listed as having been merged into another case.

¹² This may be cases awaiting additional investigation from law enforcement before a filing decision can be made or declined cases that have been reopened. In these situations, the case returns to "under review" status and the referral date will be the original referral date, not the date the case was reopened.

¹³ Table on page 5-6 of the proviso report. The report notes juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a "*" in the report.

¹⁴ PAO is statutorily required to divert the case away from formal prosecution when allegations involve *misdemeanor* level conduct, and the referral is the juvenile's first legal referral. According to the report, in this type of diversion, the juvenile suspect is referred to Superior Court probation, where they are required to engage in treatment or other programming. The report states there is no statutory authority to divert a *felony* sex offense, and the PAO does not, under any circumstance, divert felony sex offenses involving juvenile suspects.

Case Status or Disposition. A disposition is the final result in a case, and a case is only counted as being resolved/disposed once (even when there are multiple charges in a single case). Dispositions are categorized by the most consequential or impactful disposition in the case. For example, if a defendant is charged with two different crimes in one case and pleads guilty to one crime and has the other dismissed, the case would count as one plea (not one plea and one dismissal).

Table 4 shows filed adult case dispositions based on the year of law enforcement referral (not the year of the disposition). As previously mentioned, cases are often referred in one year but resolved in another. Therefore, the report cautions against using this table to analyze the number of pleas, dismissals, or trials in any given calendar year.

**Table 4. Status of Filed Adult Cases
by the year the case was referred to the PAO¹⁵**

Status of Filed Adult Cases	Year Case was Referred to PAO					TOTAL
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Trial ¹⁶	38	37	17	8	2	102
Plea ¹⁷	272	226	198	161	85	942
Dismissal ¹⁸	60	59	61	42	27	249
Open ¹⁹	35	48	71	94	170	418
Total Adult Cases Filed	405	370	347	305	284	1,711

Table 5 shows filed juvenile case dispositions based on the year of law enforcement referral (not the year of the disposition).

¹⁵ Taken from the table on page 8 of the proviso report.

¹⁶ Any case resolved by a trial is counted as a trial regardless of the verdict (guilty, not guilty, or a mix). Per the report, the PAO does this so not to unduly characterize or incentivize convictions or long prison sentences as “wins”.

¹⁷ The adult defendant or juvenile respondent pleads guilty to one or more crimes. The report notes that a plea is not always a reduced charge -- a defendant or respondent could plea to a less serious crime than what they were originally charged with, may have some charges dismissed, or could involve pleading guilty to the crime(s) they were originally charged with.

¹⁸ A case may be dismissed upon a motion by the PAO, defense, or the court. The dismissal of a case or crimes means that the defendant is no longer charged with the crime and the legal case is ended. The report states some cases are dismissed to be referred to, or upon completion of, an alternative program such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, or Veteran's Court, but that does not mean the case goes away. In these types of circumstances, the case is handled in the alternative, therapeutic courts. If an individual does not complete the alternative, therapeutic court requirements and conditions, the Superior Court felony case can resume. Similarly, a case may be dismissed when the Court finds the defendant incompetent to stand trial. These types of dismissals can come with an order for the defendant to be sent to Western State Hospital for civil commitment (mandatory treatment). If the defendant's competency is restored, the PAO may refile the criminal case

¹⁹ Cases not yet resolved are listed as “open”. Per the report, cases may be open because the defendant failed to appear for court for a substantial period (a criminal case generally cannot proceed without the defendant's presence) or other complications may have prevented a disposition.

**Table 5. Status of Filed Juvenile Cases
by the year the case was referred to the PAO²⁰**

Status of Filed Juvenile Cases	Year Case was Referred to PAO					TOTAL
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Trial	*	*	*	*	*	15
Plea	26	18	20	25	*	*
Dismissal	19	*	*	*	*	45
Deferred Disposition ²¹	35	18	16	*	*	79
Post-Filing Diversion ²²	*	*	*	*	*	*
Open	*	*	*	*	27	29
Total Juvenile Cases Filed	88	51	49	47	42	277

Plea Dispositions. The report concludes by providing tables that show cases resolved by a plea, displayed by the most serious class of offense that was originally filed (labeled “Original File Class”) and the most serious class of offense that was pleaded guilty to (labeled “Plea Disposition Class”). The classes involved are A, B, C, and M (in order of severity):

- A refers to Class A felonies. Class A felonies are the most serious alleged offenses and can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common sex offense Class A felonies include Rape in the First Degree, Indecent Liberties (with force), Rape of a Child in the First or Second Degree, and Child Molestation in the First Degree. A conviction of a class A felony could result in a sentence of life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$50,000, or both.
- B refers to Class B felonies. Class B felonies include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common Class B felonies include Rape in the Second Degree, Indecent Liberties (without force), and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class B felony can result in imprisonment of up to ten years, a fine of up to \$20,000, or both.

²⁰ Taken from the table on page 9 of the proviso report. Per the report, juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

²¹ Outcome set forth in state statute (RCW 13.40.127) where a guilty finding is entered and the imposition of sentence is deferred for some period of supervision. If the juvenile successfully completes the conditions of supervision, then the court may dismiss the guilty finding.

²² Charges were initially filed into Juvenile Court, but the parties agree to resolve the case as a diversion rather than as a formal, legal adjudication. According to the report, these types of resolutions usually involve cases that would otherwise be eligible for diversion at the time of charging; however, the PAO chose to formally file charges instead of diverting the case up front to have more control over the intervention/outcome.

- C refers to Class C felonies. These can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common sex offense Class C felonies include Rape in the Third Degree, Rape of a Child in the Third Degree, and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class C felony could result in up to five years in prison, a fine up to \$10,000, or both.
- M refers to gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors. These can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common Sexual Assault Unit gross misdemeanor crimes are Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation, and Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the Second Degree. Gross misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 364 days in jail, a fine up to \$5,000, or both. Misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail, a fine up to \$1,000, or both.

Table 6 shows the total number of sexual assault cases with adult defendants referred to the PAO between 2019 and 2023 that resulted in a plea disposition, and Table 7 breaks down that information by year. For Table 6, the PAO attempted to calculate how many cases resulted in a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (see the “SA at Disposition” column) and how many cases did not involve a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (see the “Not SA at Disposition” column).

Table 8 shows the total number of sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents referred to the PAO between 2019 and 2023 that resulted in a plea disposition, and Table 9 breaks down that information by year. Per the report, “the number of juvenile plea dispositions where the resulting charge was not classified as a “sexual assault” was so small that all of that information had to be redacted from the report. So, the columns for that listed the number of case[s] that were a sexual assault charge at disposition are not included for juveniles.”

Table 6. Total Adult Plea Dispositions (2019-2023)²³

Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Defendants	SA at Disposition²⁴	Not SA at Disposition²⁵
A	A	71	71	67	4
A	B	135	135	95	40
A	C	145	144	87	58
A	M	98	98	73	25
B	A	1	1	1	
B	B	47	47	33	14
B	C	106	105	84	22
B	M	69	69	48	21
C	B	5	5	3	2
C	C	111	98	93	18
C	M	120	119	92	28
M	C	4	4	3	1
M	M	30	30	26	4
TOTAL		942	926	705	237

²³ Taken from the table on page 10 of the report.

²⁴ Sexual Assault (SA) refers to sex offenses that require sex offender registration upon conviction. RCW 9.94A.030(47) defines crimes that qualify as sex offenses.

²⁵ Per the report, some of the cases in the “NOT SA” column were resolved with charges that reflect the sexual nature of the crime, even though they do not qualify as sex offenses. For example, a defendant may plead guilty to Assault in the Second Degree (a class B felony “strike” offense) with the admission that the defendant assaulted the victim with the intent to commit the crime of rape. In this example, a disposition would be counted in the “NOT SA” column.

Table 7. Adult Plea Dispositions by Year of Referral²⁶

Original/ Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
A	127	125	88	71	38	449
A	24	13	19	11	4	71
B	40	46	22	19	8	135
C	33	41	31	24	16	145
M	30	25	16	17	10	98
B	68	43	51	41	20	223
A			1			1
B	12	10	10	8	7	47
C	35	21	22	20	8	106
M	21	12	18	13	5	69
C	61	49	57	45	24	236
B	2	2	1			5
C	32	19	23	20	17	111
M	27	28	33	25	7	120
M	16	9	2	4	3	34
C	1	1		2		4
M	15	8	2	2	3	30
Total	272	226	198	161	85	942

²⁶ Taken from the table on page 11 of the report.

Table 8. Total Juvenile Plea Dispositions (2019-2023)²⁷

Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Respondents
A	A	14	14
A	B	*	*
A	C	19	19
A	M	30	30
B	B	*	*
B	C	*	*
B	M	*	*
C	C	*	*
C	M	13	13
M	M	*	*

According to the report, there were 277 sexual assault cases with juvenile respondents filed from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023. Of those 277 cases, at least 89 – but not more than 98 cases – were resolved through a plea agreement (see Table 5 in this staff report).

²⁷ Taken from the table at the top of page 12 of the report. Per the report, juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

Table 9. Juvenile Plea Dispositions by Year of Referral²⁸

Original/ Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
A	23	12	13	13	*	*
A	*	*	*	*	*	14
B	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	19
M	10	*	*	*	*	30
B	*	*	*	*	*	*
B	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	19
C	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	13
M	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	26	18	20	25	*	*

Subsection B and C Requirements. The report appears to be responsive to the requirements in Subsection B. and Subsection C. of the proviso. The report provides information on both adult and juvenile cases and reports on them separately²⁹ (requirement from Subsection B.) and the report covers the time period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023 and is broken out by year (requirement from Subsection C.).

²⁸ Taken from the table on the bottom of page 12 of the report. Per the report, juvenile data, particularly for cases not filed with the Court, is sensitive and protected by state law. As a result, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers of sensitive data [\[LINK\]](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than 10 would be – have been redacted and replaced with a “*” in the report.

²⁹ Per the report, juvenile data, including for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data, any values less than 10 (including 0) – and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be – have been redacted in the report.

INVITED

- Leesa Manion, King County Prosecutor
- David Baker, Director of Data and Analytics, Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)
- Bridgette Maryman, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Gender-Based Violence and Prevention Division, PAO
- Jimmy Hung, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Juvenile Division, PAO

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0037 and its attachment
2. Transmittal Letter



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0037.1

Sponsors Barón

1 A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a report on adult and
2 juvenile sex offense cases in compliance with the 2023-
3 2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, 19546, Section 31, as
4 amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2.

5 WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, 19546, Section 31, as
6 amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, appropriated moneys to the prosecuting
7 attorney fund and Proviso P2, requiring the prosecuting attorney to transmit a report on
8 adult and juvenile sex offense cases and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the
9 report by November 1, 2024;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

11 Receipt of the prosecuting attorney's office proviso response, Attachment A to

- 12 this motion, in response to the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, 19546, Section 31,
13 as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2, is hereby acknowledged.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: A. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office Proviso Response Ordinance 19791

KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



LEESA MANION (she/her)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

JUSTICE
COMPASSION
PROFESSIONALISM
INTEGRITY
LEADERSHIP

November 18, 2024

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office Proviso Response Ordinance 19791

Background:

This report is in response to Ordinance 19791, which set forth the following:

198 Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the
199 prosecuting attorney transmits a report on adult and juvenile sex offense cases and a
200 motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report and a motion acknowledging receipt
201 of the report is passed by the council. The motion should reference the subject matter,
202 the proviso's ordinance number, ordinance section, and proviso number in both the title
203 and body of the motion.
204 The report shall include, but not be limited to the following:
205 A.1. The total number of referred sex offenses and, of the total number of
206 referred sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a non-sex offense;
207 2. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of
208 referred felony sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a lesser felony;
209 3. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of
210 referred felony sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a misdemeanor sex
211 offense;
212 4. The total number of referred felony sex offenses and, of the total number of
213 referred felony sex offenses, the number that were pled down to a misdemeanor non-sex
214 offense; and
215 5. The total number of referred sex offenses cases that were pled down and, of
216 the total number of referred sex offense cases that were pled down, the number that were
217 referred to a diversion program and which diversion programs they were referred to.
218 B. The data requested in subsection A. of this proviso shall include adult sex
219 offense cases and juvenile sex offense cases; however, they shall be reported on
220 separately and not combined.

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY • KING COUNTY COURTHOUSE W400
516 THIRD AVENUE • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104
Tel: (206) 477-1200 • Fax: (206) 296-9013 • www.kingcounty.gov/prosecutor

C. The report shall 221 cover the period from January 1, 2019, through December 31,
222 2023. The data requested in subsection A. of this proviso shall be provided for each year
223 of the reporting period.

224 The prosecuting attorney should electronically file the report and motion required
225 by this proviso no later than November 1, 2024, with the clerk of the council, who shall
226 retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the
227 council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the law and justice committee, or its
228 successor.

PAO Response:

A. Context

The Special Assault Unit (SAU) of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) handles most sexual assault related and child abuse cases in King County. Some sexual assault cases, that occur between intimate partners, are handled by the Domestic Violence Unit. Generally, the PAO has reported out cases via its public dashboard under the umbrella category of "Sexual Assault and Child Abuse" or for Juvenile Court cases "Sex Offenses". This work is generally reported out as cases referred to the PAO by law enforcement and work done by the KCPAO in the specified time period.

The King County Council's proviso request required a different form of analysis that took substantial work to pull together. The data included in this report tracks cases by year of referral to their ultimate outcome. So, every date listed corresponds to the date the cases were referred to the KCPAO.

As with any data, it is always important to put numbers in context. In 2020, the King County Auditor performed a thorough audit of sexual assault investigations including but not limited to many of the data points below as well as case specific reviews and numerous interviews with system and community partners.¹

Among other things, the auditor found King County data results fall within the wide range of national estimates for rape prosecution and conviction rates. The audit also noted a rise in sexual assault reports to police. While not every report constitutes a chargeable crime, the auditors opined that per recent studies, cultural changes including the "Me Too" movement, encouraged more victims to come forward globally. Some of this is reflected in the rise in statutory referrals (cases where law enforcement are required to submit the case by law even though they do not believe charges should be filed) described below. In the years following the report, the PAO has provided annual updates to recommendations the auditor made to improve sexual assault investigations.

The standard PAO offense categories were narrowed down to attempt to limit the report to what might generally be considered "sexual assault" or "sex offense" cases in the common understanding. The data in this report includes cases that are defined by RCW 9.94A.030 as sex offenses, and crimes like Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation or Voyeurism in the Second Degree, which are considered sexual assaults, but do not meet the legal definition of

¹ <https://kingcounty.gov/en/legacy/depts/auditor/auditor-reports/all-landing-pgs/2020/sai-2020>

“sex offense.” Where the term “sex offense” is used, that refers to crimes identified by RCW 9.94A.030.

B. Filing Decisions

Sexual assault cases, like other cases, are referred to the PAO when law enforcement formally submits a case to the PAO for review. The PAO and the other Prosecuting Attorney’s Offices in Washington State are not investigative agencies; prosecutors review investigations done by law enforcement (typically police) to determine if there is sufficient legally admissible evidence to support the charges as outlined in state law. The PAO also determines whether the case meets our office’s Filing and Disposition Standards in light of the evidence presented.

Law enforcement typically submits a case to the PAO for review under one of the following circumstances: (1) they believe charges should be filed, (2) they would like legal review of an investigation but are not recommending charges, or, (3) when they are required by law to submit the case even though they do not believe charges should be filed (these are often referred to as “Statutory Referrals”).

The below table shows how many “sexual assault” cases were referred to the PAO from law enforcement per year:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Adult Superior Court	1093	1039	894	942	1099	5067
Juvenile Court	233	168	165	221	214	1001
Total	1326	1207	1059	1163	1314	6069

Adult Superior Court referrals are those with adult suspects and, if it is appropriate to file charges, cases would be filed in King County Superior Court. Juvenile Court cases are those with juvenile suspects.

Each referral undergoes **review** by Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys (DPAs) and can have one of several outcomes. It takes time for the PAO to conduct an individual review and to determine the appropriate course of action in each individual matter. The amount of time it takes to conduct this review varies depending on the complexity of case, the amount of evidence presented, whether follow up investigation is required, and other factors. Many sexual assault referrals contain voluminous amounts of information – hours of video and hundreds of pages of documents – which, accordingly, involves significant time for review and follow up with police investigators. As a result, a case may not have a filing decision in the same year that it is referred. Adult cases are listed as having one of the following outcomes or case statuses: Declined, Statutory Referral Only (SRO), Filed, Merged into another case, or Under Review.

A case is “**Declined**” when the PAO determines that it will not or cannot file charges. Cases are declined when there is insufficient admissible evidence to prove a felony crime beyond a reasonable doubt, or when the case does not meet our office’s [Filing and Disposition Standards](#). In these instances, the PAO sends a notice of the decline and an explanation for its decision to the investigating law enforcement agency. The PAO also notifies the victim—typically through

both a letter and through the victim's advocate. DPAs also make themselves available to answer any questions a victim may have about the PAO's decision to decline a charge. DPAs also make themselves available for questions from the investigating detective/agency. A more detailed discussion of the different reasons that a case may be declined can be found on the [PAO's public dashboard and its associated glossary](#).

"**Statutory referral only**" or "SRO" is in reference to RCW 26.44.030, which requires law enforcement to submit certain cases to prosecutors regardless of whether they believe charges should or can be filed.

Statutory referrals frequently involve alleged harm to children or vulnerable adults. Statutory referrals require law enforcement to make a referral regardless of whether they believe there is insufficient evidence that a crime has been committed. When submitting the case for review, law enforcement chooses to submit it as an SRO, rather than naming a potential crime.

SROs receive the same level of scrutiny by the PAO as other referrals because prosecutors may disagree with a law enforcement officer's assessment that a case is an SRO. In these situations, a DPA may ask for follow-up investigation or may file the case based on information originally submitted by law enforcement.

Law enforcement can also label some referrals as SROs when the referral does not meet the statutory definition of SRO. Law enforcement may do this because they do not believe that charges should be filed but *do* want a prosecutor's review. These SROs may include sexual assaults that do not meet the statutory definition of an SRO, may include behavior that is not sexual in nature (such as alleged physical abuse of a child or vulnerable adult), may include some non-SAU cases where law enforcement simply wanted a referral reviewed, and may include some referrals that are incorrectly labeled as SRO.

Including statutory referral numbers in the calculation of our charging rate of sexual assault cases is misleading because it can appear as if the PAO is declining an unusually high number of sexual assault cases. As the 2020 King County audit showed, the PAO's case numbers are in line with other Prosecuting Attorney's Office in other jurisdictions.

A case is only counted as a "Statutory Referral only" if/when the PAO has finished its review of the case and determined that the PAO agree with law enforcement that charges should not be filed.

A case is **filed** when the PAO formally files paperwork with the Court alleging that one or more persons (typically referred to as the "defendant" or "defendants" in adult cases or the "respondent" in Juvenile Court cases) committed a crime or crimes and a judge finds that there is probable cause to believe a crime was committed.

Law enforcement conducts all investigations and can make initial arrest decisions; however, no charge/case can be filed without prosecutor review and approval. The PAO independently reviews law enforcement investigations and determines the appropriate course of action. There is a common misconception that victims "press charges." This is not the case. Victims play an important role in providing input on how they may like a case to progress, and in many cases, a victim's testimony may be necessary to prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt. However, it is

the PAO's legal and ethical duty/obligation to determine whether charges should be filed based on admissible evidence and in accordance with the office's Filing and Disposition Standards (which are published on the PAO's website).

A case can be "**merged into another case**" in certain instances where a defendant has two or more closely related cases and it is legally appropriate to combine them. When this occurs, one case will have another filing decision outcome (filed, declined, or SRO) and the other(s) will be listed as having been merged into another case.

Some of the cases that are listed as "**under review**" are awaiting additional investigation from law enforcement before a filing decision can be made. Declined cases can be reopened if new evidence is presented. This frequently happens after law enforcement has completed necessary and/or additional investigation. It can also happen if a victim or investigator requests the PAO to reconsider its decision to decline and changes surrounding the investigation change (for instance, when a victim who had initially not wanted the PAO to file charges later changes their mind). In these situations, the case returns to "under review" status and the referral date will be the original referral date, not the date the case was reopened.

The below table shows the filing decision outcome for sexual assault referrals involving adult suspects by the year that the case was referred.

Adult Referral Outcome:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Declined	418	417	314	309	341	1799
Filed	405	370	347	305	284	1711
Statutory Referral Only (SRO) - never intended for prosecution	268	248	228	318	430	1492
Merged into another case	2	4	3	5	19	33
Under Review			2	5	25	32
Total	1093	1039	894	942	1099	5067

Referrals involving juvenile suspects have a different set of procedural rules and legal requirements. As a result, juvenile referrals have different outcome types. For example, there are different reasons (that do not apply to adult suspects) as to why a case might be declined for prosecution. For example, when a suspect is under twelve (12) years-old charges, generally, cannot be legally brought (see RCW 9A.04.050) in accordance with state law.

Additionally, there are cases where the PAO is statutorily required to divert a case away from formal prosecution: This includes circumstance when the allegations involve misdemeanor level conduct and the referral is the juvenile's first legal referral. These cases are listed as "Legally required misdemeanor diversion." In this type of diversion, the juvenile suspect is referred to Superior Court probation, where they are required to engage in treatment or other programming. There is no statutory authority to divert a felony sex offense, and the PAO does not, under any circumstance, divert felony sex offenses involving juvenile suspects.

Juvenile Referral Outcome:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Declined	81	40	39	51	69	280

Statutory Referral Only (SRO) - never intended for prosecution	58	71	73	115	92	409
Filed	88	51	49	47	42	277
Legally required misdemeanor diversion	*	*	*	*	10	*
Under Review	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	233	168	165	221	214	1001

*Juvenile Data, particularly for cases not filed with the court, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) **and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be** have been redacted and replaced with a “*”.

C. File Case Dispositions

Once a case is **filed**, it can take a substantial period of time to resolve (reach a disposition). A disposition is the final result in a case.

The time to resolution can vary greatly among individual cases, depending on the complexity of the case and many other factors. A case is only counted as being resolved/disposed once (even when there are multiple charges in a single case). Resolutions/dispositions are categorized by the most consequential or impactful disposition in the case. For example, if a defendant is charged with two different crimes in one case and pleads guilty to one crime and has the other dismissed, the case would count as one plea (not one plea and one dismissal).

Each victim is entitled to work with an advocate and almost all SAU victims work with a community or system-based advocate. Advocates are the primary points of contact for victims throughout the court process/course of their case.

Consistent with the Victim Bill of Rights, DPAs work with victim advocates to keep victims updated about proceedings and to seek victim input on any potential case disposition or outcome.

Below are potential case outcomes in the order used to determine how a case disposition is counted:

- **Trial** - There are two types of trials: **jury trials** and **bench trials**. Jury trials are far more common. In a jury trial, a jury of 12 lay persons from the community decides whether a defendant is guilty or not guilty of the crimes charged. A jury makes an individual decision on each charged crime. If a defendant is charged with multiple crimes, a jury could find the defendant guilty of some crimes and not guilty of others. The jury's decision must be unanimous to convict; if the jury cannot reach a unanimous decision on one or more crimes, the case is not disposed and will need to be resolved in another way (an additional trial, plea, or dismissal).

Bench trials are far less common and can only occur if the defendant requests a bench trial and specifically waives their constitutional right to a jury trial. In a bench trial, the judge acts as the

jury, in addition to being the judge. All Juvenile Court trials are “bench trials.”

- **We do not report the outcomes of trials.** Any case that is resolved by a trial is counted as a trial, regardless of whether the verdict was guilty, not guilty, or a mix. The PAO does this because we do not want to unduly characterize or incentive convictions or long prison sentences as “wins.” DPAs are directed and encouraged to pursue the just result in an ethical manner, rather than simply seek convictions.
- **Plea** – In a plea, the defendant or respondent pleads guilty to one or more crimes. This is also typically referred to as a “plea agreement” because the defendant or respondent and the PAO usually come to an agreement on the details of the plea. This can involve a plea agreement to a less serious crime than the defendant or respondent was originally charged with or may also involve having some charges dismissed. Plea agreements can also involve the defendant pleading guilty to the crime(s) they were originally charged with. A plea is not always a reduced charge.

A plea cannot be entered unless a Judge finds the defendant or respondent has made a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary decision to do so. Victims often support resolution by plea because it provides for a certain outcome compared to what can be perceived as the relatively uncertain outcome of a trial.

In situations when the PAO resolves a case in a manner that is contrary to a victim’s wishes, the PAO makes those decisions based on concerns about our ability to prove the charge(s) beyond a reasonable doubt based upon on all available *and* admissible evidence. DPAs make themselves available to both victims and law enforcement to answer questions about resolutions. DPAs do this to hear feedback and concerns and to answer questions about the PAO’s decisions.

- **Dismissal** - A case may be dismissed upon a motion by the PAO, defense, or the court. The dismissal of a case or crimes means that the defendant is no longer charged with the crime; in other words, the legal case is ended.

Some cases are dismissed in order to be referred to, or upon completion of, an alternative program such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, or Veteran's Court, but that does not mean the case goes away. In these types of circumstances, the case is handled in the alternative, therapeutic courts. If an individual does not complete the alternative, therapeutic court requirements and conditions, the Superior Court felony case can resume.

Sometimes, there are other nuances with dismissed cases. For example:

- It is not uncommon for defendants have multiple criminal cases pending at the same time. In this type of situation, a case may resolve with the defendant pleading guilty to some of the cases in exchange for the dismissal of some charges. For example, if a defendant pleaded guilty to two cases in exchange for the dismissal of a third, those three cases would each be counted separately, two as pleas and one as a dismissal.
- Cases are sometimes dismissed when the Court finds that an individual is incompetent to stand trial (after an evaluation by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Service). These types of dismissals can come with an order for the defendant to be sent to Western State Hospital for civil commitment (mandatory treatment). If the defendant's competency is restored, the PAO may refile the criminal case.
- The PAO may also dismiss a case if new information comes to light that causes the PAO to conclude that the defendant did not commit the charged offense, that the case can no longer be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, or that the interests of justice no longer warrant prosecution.
- Judges can also make legal rulings that result in dismissing of the case.

Cases that are not yet resolved are listed as “**Open**”. Cases may be open because the defendant failed to appear for court for a substantial period (a criminal case generally cannot proceed without the defendant's presence) or other complications may have prevented a disposition.

The tables below show case dispositions based on the year of law enforcement referral (not the year of the disposition). Cases are often referred in one year, but resolved in another. Therefore, this table should not be used to analyze the number of pleas, dismissals or trials in any given calendar year.

Status of Filed Adult Cases by the Year the Case was Referred to the KCPAO						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Plea	272	226	198	161	85	942
Open	35	48	71	94	170	418
Dismissal	60	59	61	42	27	249
Trial	38	37	17	8	2	102
Total	405	370	347	305	284	1711

In addition to the categories listed above, Juvenile Court cases can also be resolved/disposed through a “Deferred Disposition” or the completion of a post-filing diversion (“Post-Filing Diversion Completed”).

A **Deferred Disposition** is a juvenile disposition outcome that is set forth in statute (see RCW 13.40.127) and where a guilty finding is entered and the imposition of sentence is deferred for a some period of supervision. If the juvenile successfully completes the conditions of supervision, then the court may dismiss the guilty finding.

Post-Filing Diversion Completed are resolutions where charges have been initially filed into juvenile court, but where the parties agree to resolve the case as a diversion rather than as a

formal, legal adjudication. These types of resolutions usually involve cases that would otherwise be eligible for diversion at the time of charging, but the PAO exercised its discretion to formally file charges (as opposed to diverting charges up front) in order to have more control over the intervention/outcome.

Status of Filed Juvenile Cases by the Year the Case was Referred to the KCPAO						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Deferred Disposition	35	18	16	*	*	79
Dismissal	19	*	*	*	*	45
Open	*	*	*	*	27	29
Plea	26	18	20	25	*	*
Post-Filing Diversion Completed	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trial	*	*	*	*	*	15
Total	88	51	49	47	42	277

Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be have been redacted and replaced with a “”.

D. Detail on Plea Dispositions

When a defendant or respondent enters a plea of guilty, they can do so to the charge(s) they were originally charged with, a greater charge, or a lesser charge.

The data listed below shows cases that were resolved by a plea, displayed by the most serious class of offense that was originally filed (labeled Original File Class) and the most serious class of offense that was pleaded (guilty) to (labeled Plea Disposition Class). The classes involved are A, B, C, and M (in order of severity) which are defined as:

- **A** refers to class A felonies. Class A felonies are the most serious alleged offenses and can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common sex offense Class A felonies include Rape in the First Degree, Indecent Liberties (with force), Rape of a Child in the First or Second Degree, and Child Molestation in the First Degree. A conviction of a class A felony could result in a sentence of life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$50,000, or both.
- **B** refers to class B felonies, which are less serious, but still very serious offenses. Class B felonies include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Some common Class B felonies include Rape in the Second Degree, Indecent Liberties (without force), and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class B felony can result in imprisonment of up to ten years and/or a \$20,000 fine.
- **C** refers to class C felonies, which can include sex offenses and non-sex offense. Some common sex offense Class C felonies include Rape in the Third Degree, Rape of a Child in the Third Degree, and Child Molestation in the Third Degree. A conviction of a Class C felony could result in up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

- **M** refers to gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors, which can include sex offenses and non-sex offenses. Gross misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 364 days in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine. Misdemeanors carry a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. Some common SAU gross misdemeanor crimes are Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, Assault in the Fourth Degree with Sexual Motivation, and Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the Second Degree.
- **SA** refers to sex offenses that require sex offender registration upon conviction. RCW 9.94A.030(47) defines crimes that qualify as sex offenses.

The PAO has attempted to calculate how many cases resulted in a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (SA at Disposition) and how many cases did not involve a plea to a “sexual assault” offense (NOT SA at Disposition).

Some of the cases in the “NOT SA” column were resolved with charges that reflect the sexual nature of the crime, even though they do not qualify as sex offenses. For example, a defendant may plead guilty to Assault in the Second Degree (a class B felony “strike” offense) with the admission that the defendant assaulted the victim with the intent to commit the crime of rape. In this example, a disposition would be counted in the “NOT SA” column.

Adult Plea Dispositions:					
Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Defendants	SA at Disposition	NOT SA at Disposition
A	A	71	71	67	4
A	B	135	135	95	40
A	C	145	144	87	58
A	M	98	98	73	25
B	A	1	1	1	
B	B	47	47	33	14
B	C	106	105	84	22
B	M	69	69	48	21
C	B	5	5	3	2
C	C	111	98	93	18
C	M	120	119	92	28
M	C	4	4	3	1
M	M	30	30	26	4

Adult Plea Disposition Breakdown by Year of Referral:

Original Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
A	127	125	88	71	38	449
A	24	13	19	11	4	71
B	40	46	22	19	8	135
C	33	41	31	24	16	145
M	30	25	16	17	10	98
B	68	43	51	41	20	223
A			1			1
B	12	10	10	8	7	47
C	35	21	22	20	8	106
M	21	12	18	13	5	69
C	61	49	57	45	24	236
B	2	2	1			5
C	32	19	23	20	17	111
M	27	28	33	25	7	120
M	16	9	2	4	3	34
C	1	1		2		4
M	15	8	2	2	3	30
Total	272	226	198	161	85	942

Juvenile Data, including for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data, any values less than 10 (including 0) have been redacted and replaced with a “*” **along with any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be.**

However, the number of juvenile plea dispositions where the resulting charge was not classified as a “sexual assault” was so small that all of that information had to be redacted from the report. So, the columns for that listed the number of case that were a sexual assault charge at disposition are not included for juveniles.

Juvenile Plea Dispositions:

Original Filed Class	Plea Disposition Class	Cases	Respondents
A	A	14	14
A	B	*	*
A	C	19	19
A	M	30	30
B	B	*	*
B	C	*	*
B	M	*	*
C	C	*	*
C	M	13	13
M	M	*	*

*Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) **and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be** have been redacted and replaced with a “*”.

Juvenile Plea Disposition Breakdown by Year of Referral:						
Original Plea	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
A	23	12	13	13	*	*
A	*	*	*	*	*	14
B	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	19
M	10	*	*	*	*	30
B	*	*	*	*	*	*
B	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*
C	*	*	*	*	*	19
C	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	13
M	*	*	*	*	*	*
M	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	26	18	20	25	*	*

*Juvenile Data, including that for filed cases that do not result in a conviction or are sealed or vacated, is particularly sensitive and protected by statute (RCW 13.50.050). Accordingly, and in compliance with the [Washington State Department of Health guidelines for small numbers on sensitive data](#), any values less than 10 (including 0) **and any values that would necessarily reveal what a value less than ten would be** have been redacted and replaced with a “*”.

KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



LEESA MANION (she/her)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

JUSTICE
COMPASSION
PROFESSIONALISM
INTEGRITY
LEADERSHIP

January 17, 2025

Melani Hay
King County Clerk of the Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104
Clerk.council@kingcounty.gov

Via E-mail

Dear Clerk of the Council:

Please find attached the proviso motion and attachment, as required by the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, 19546, Section 31, as amended by Ordinance 19791, Section 9, Proviso P2.

If you have any questions concerning the motion or report, please feel to contact me.

Sincerely
FOR LEESA MANION (She/Her)

Jay Zhao,
Director of Budget & Finance

cc: Jimmy Hung, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Bridgette Maryman, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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King County

OLEO

OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERSIGHT

2024 Annual Report



Welcome and Year in Review	3
Letter from the Director	3
2024 By the Numbers	4
About OLEO.....	5
Oversight of Sheriff's Office Investigations of Misconduct Complaints	8
Mapping Complaints	9
Complaints Received by OLEO.....	10
Complaint Intake Classifications	11
Types of Allegations.....	14
Patterns in Complaints Against Sworn Employees	16
Trends in External Allegations and Classification	18
Monitoring Investigations.....	20
Certified vs. Not Certified Investigations	21
Investigations Findings	22
Sheriff's Office Findings.....	22
OLEO Findings Recommendations	25
Corrective Action and Appeal.....	32
Corrective Action.....	32
Grievances, Settlements, or Arbitrations (Appeals)	34
Critical Incidents and Reportable Use of Force	36
Critical Incidents	36
Use of Force	39
Policy and Practices.....	40
Policy Reviews.....	40
Reports.....	42
Community Engagement	46
Community Partnerships.....	46
Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight	46
List of Tables and Figures	48
Appendices	49



Contact OLEO

PHONE: 206-263-8870

EMAIL: OLEO@kingcounty.gov

WEB: kingcounty.gov/OLEO

To request a print copy of this Annual Report, call or email OLEO.

FOR BEST VIEWING EXPERIENCE

This report is intended to be read on a screen and includes navigational links at the top of each page. For the best experience, we recommend using a PDF viewer rather than a web browser to navigate the report.

Alternate formats available.
Call 206-263-8870 or TTY: 711.

Letter from the Director

2024 was a marquee year for the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO), one on which we intend to build for years to come. OLEO continues to expand our operations, exercise more of our statutory powers, and increase our connections within the community.

Some of the important highlights from 2024 include:

- Planning and piloting our program for independent investigations.
- Issuing OLEO [findings recommendations](#) on more investigations than ever before.
- Launching our first [policy review](#) under our Community Guidance Framework.
- Issuing a report on [trauma-informed notifications](#) about critical incidents.
- Executing [memoranda of understanding](#) with multiple community-based organizations.

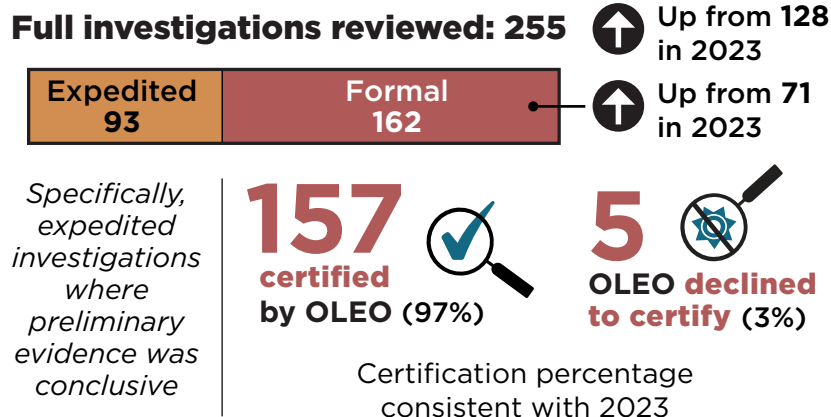
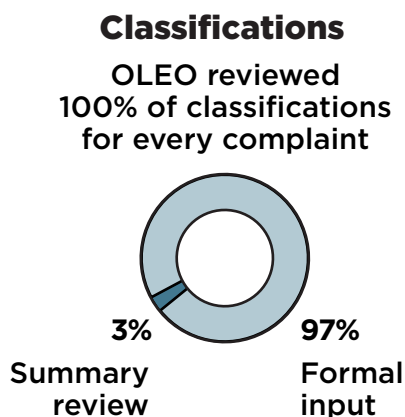
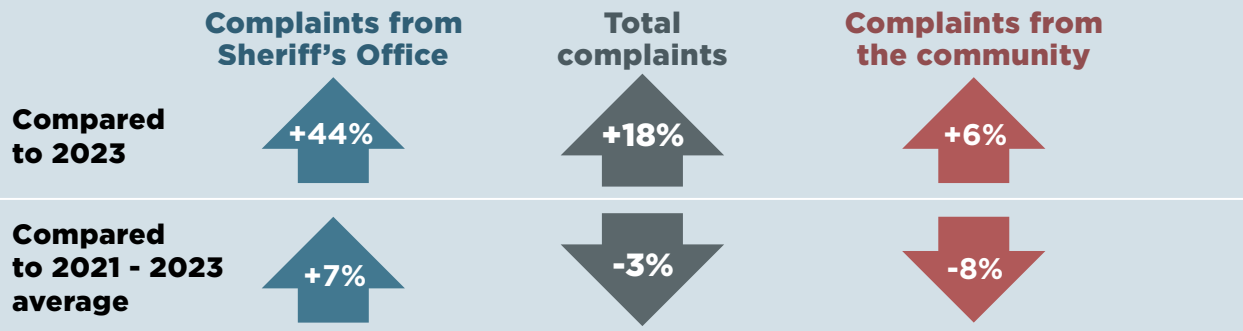
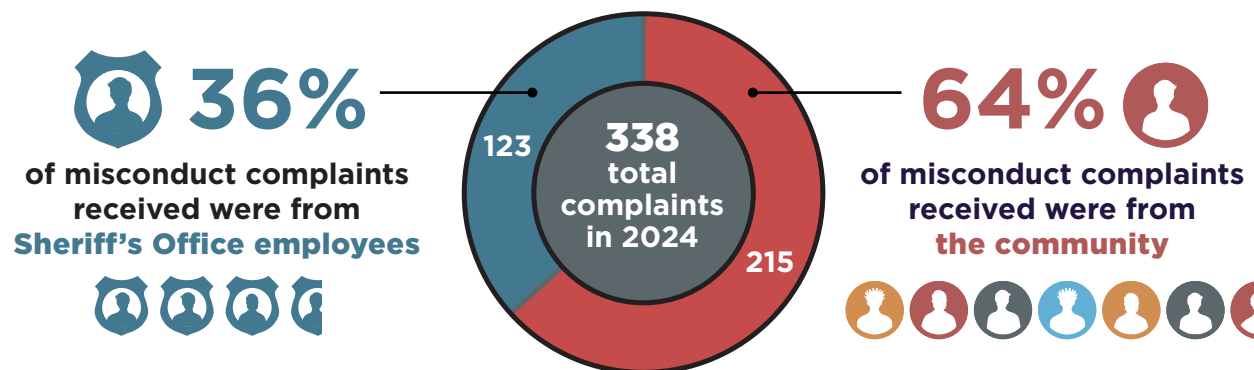
In addition, we have reviewed more investigations of misconduct complaints against the King County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) than ever before. Both the number of certification reviews (162 vs. 71) and the total number of full reviews (255 vs. 128) **have more than doubled over the previous year**. And, we have continued to build our capacity, through both staffing and professional development, to set ourselves up for future success.

It is my honor to lead such a dedicated team of public servants at OLEO, and together it is the honor of all of us to serve the residents of King County.



Tamer Y. Abouzeid, Director

2024 By the Numbers



Findings

OLEO recommended findings for 8 investigations

In 5 of the cases, Sheriff's Office final findings differed from initial findings recommendations

Policy

5 new policy review partnerships with community organizations

34 policy recommendations issued

Community contacts with OLEO

In 2024, OLEO was contacted by community members nearly **280** times

+40% since 2022

About OLEO

Our Mission

OLEO provides independent oversight of the Sheriff's Office. We conduct objective reviews and independent investigations, and make evidence-based policy recommendations that are guided by the community and rooted in equity.

Our Vision

A King County where laws are just and fairly applied, and where the criminal legal system does no harm.

Our Team

Tamer Abouzeid, *Director*

Liz Dop, *Operations Manager*

Simrit Hans, *Policy Analyst*

Lea Hunter, *Senior Policy Analyst*

Katy Kirschner, *Deputy Director*

Megan Kraft, *Investigations Analyst*

Najma Osman, *Community Engagement Specialist*

Ryan McPhail, *Investigations Monitor*

Kate Miller, *Investigations Analyst*

Jamie Ridgway, *Investigations Analyst*

Jamie Tugenberg, *Community Engagement Specialist*

Rick Powell, *Investigations Analyst*

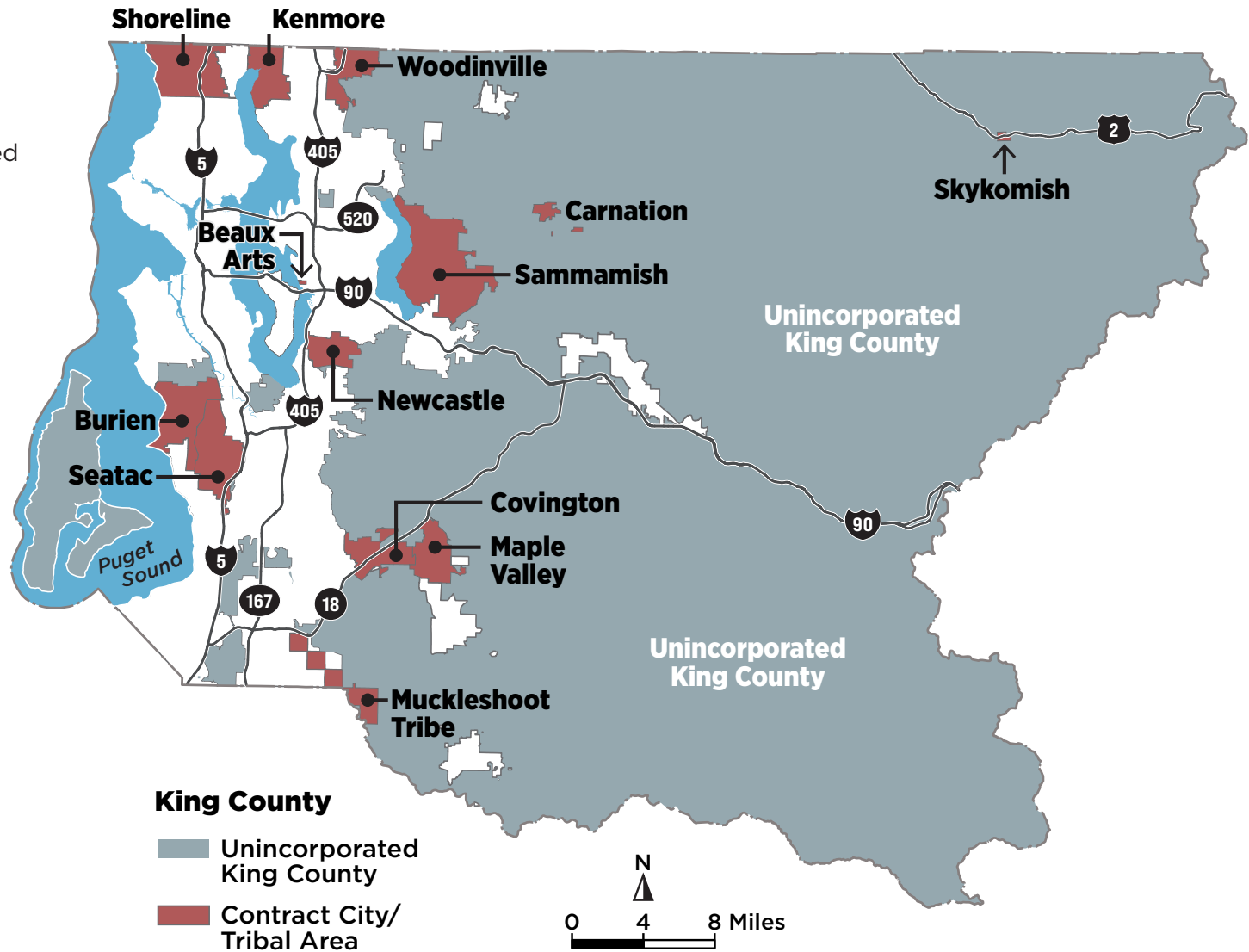
Molly Webster, *Policy Analyst*

Sophie Ziliak, *Project Administrator*

About OLEO *continued*

Our Communities

OLEO serves King County residents who are served by the Sheriff's Office. Some services are provided based on location, such as unincorporated King County, 12 cities that contract with the Sheriff's Office for the provision of police services, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the King County International Airport - Boeing Field. In addition, the Sheriff's Office provides some services that may cross multiple jurisdictional lines, such as police services for Metro and Sound Transit, and the execution of court orders and evictions throughout King County.

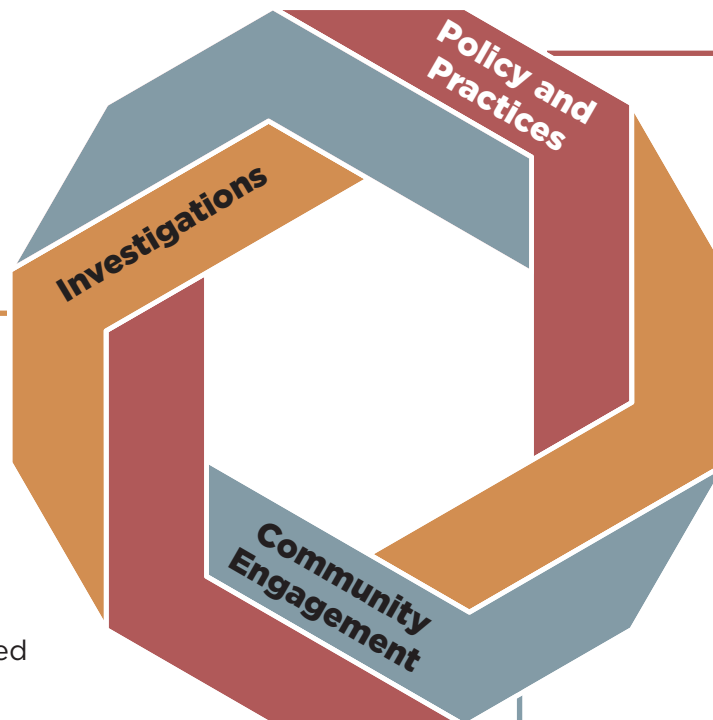


About OLEO *continued***Our Work**

OLEO's work encompasses Investigations, Policy and Practices, and Community Engagement. When reviewing or conducting investigations, OLEO's commitment is to be objective and focus on the evidence. When it comes to policy and practices, it is our duty to recommend better policies that promote equity and reduce policing's attendant harms to our communities. We come to know about these harms, and about the priorities we should pursue, by engaging with community stakeholders, analyzing trends in investigations, and reviewing outside research.

Investigations

Investigations work encompasses two parallel workflows. Most commonly, OLEO monitors, reviews, and issues recommendations on misconduct complaint investigations conducted by the Sheriff's Office's Internal Investigations Unit. In 2024, OLEO also started our second workflow, conducting our own independent investigations in some cases. So far, all such investigations have been conducted in parallel to, and in coordination with, the Sheriff's Office. The workflow also allows OLEO to independently investigate complaints even if the Sheriff's Office does not.



Policy and Practices
Policy and practices work entails reviewing potential policy changes initiated by the Sheriff's Office, or initiating recommendations ourselves. Additionally, through data collection and analysis, we seek to better understand Sheriff's Office practices and operations and analyze them for consistency with laws, policy, standard operating procedures, and community standards.

Community Engagement

Community engagement work focuses on ensuring that communities served by OLEO and the Sheriff's Office have a loud voice that is incorporated into our work product, especially when formulating policy recommendations. We also seek to educate King County residents about OLEO and the role we play.



Oversight of Sheriff's Office Investigations of Misconduct Complaints



The Sheriff's Office's Internal Investigations Unit (IIU) has 180 days to complete an investigation into a misconduct complaint. This could result in a complaint reported in one year being closed in the following year. The data analysis in this report focuses on actions taken in 2024 during the complaint process. For complaint classifications and allegations, we analyzed investigations opened in 2024. For the quality of investigations or the outcome of complaint investigations, such as disposition or discipline, we analyzed investigations closed in 2024.¹

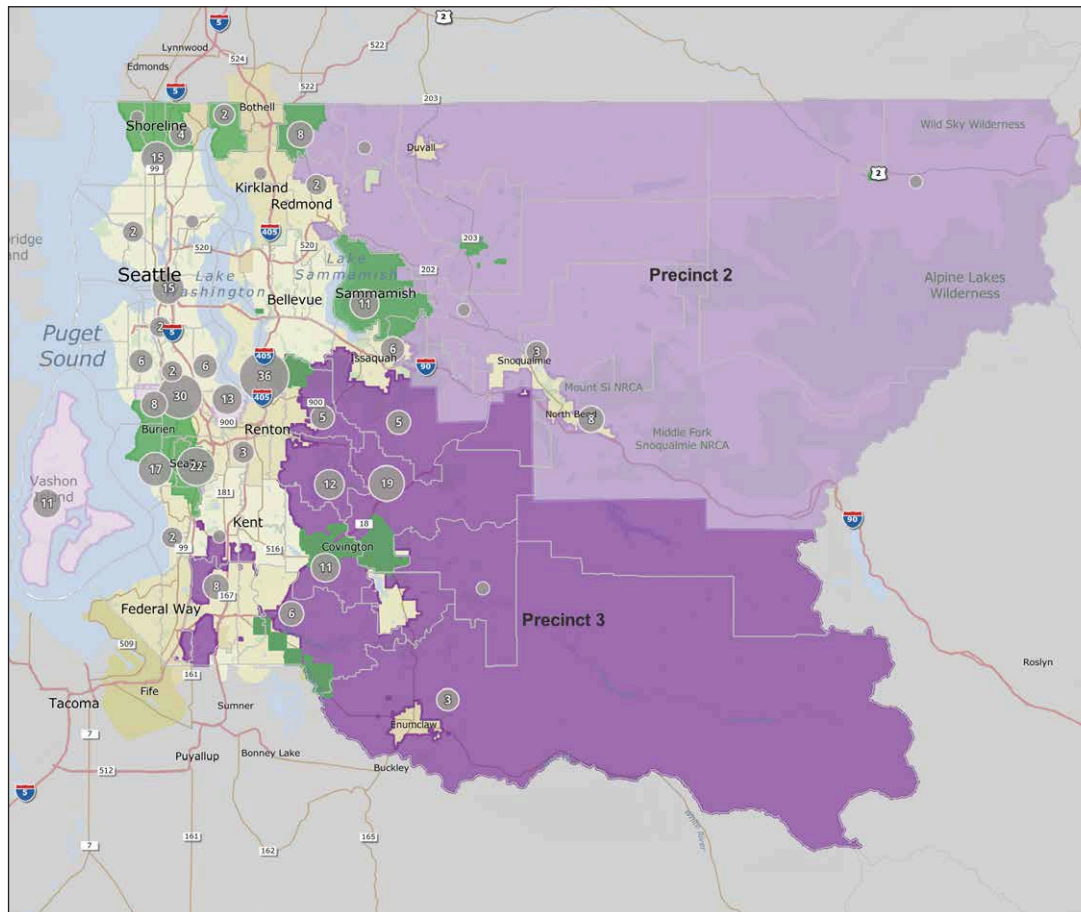
OLEO Annual Reports are required by King County Code 2.75.040(H). Annual Reports include qualitative and quantitative information demonstrating how OLEO fulfills its purpose, duties, and responsibilities. Data is gathered from the Sheriff's Office's database, IAPro. It is reflective of accurate and complete data at the time of the data collection cutoff. For more information, see [Appendix A: Notes About Data.](#))

¹ OLEO's methodology for analyzing the data may differ from the Sheriff's Office's methodology in analyzing yearly numbers; accordingly, numbers may not match.

Mapping 2024 Complaints

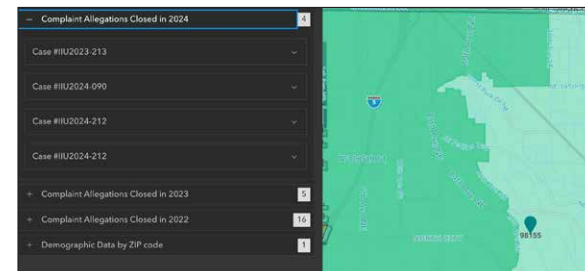
To increase the accessibility to our data, OLEO and King County's [Geographic Information System](#) collaborated to provide a geospatial representation of misconduct complaint allegations. Data starts with complaints closed in 2022 and subsequent years are added accordingly. The full interactive experience is available [here](#).

With some exceptions explained on the map, this snapshot presents the clustering of Sheriff's Office misconduct complaint allegations closed in 2024, mapped by ZIP code.



Case #IU2024-151	
Case #IU	2024-151
Case Classification	Formal Investigation
Case Origin	Resident
Allegations	Courtesy
Zip Code of Occurrence	98072
King County Council District	3
Disposition	Exonerated
Discipline	N/A
Other Discipline	N/A
OLEO Certification	Certify With Comments

Details for each allegation are also available on the map.



Users can also filter by type of allegation, internal and external (resident) complaints, disposition, OLEO certification status, and/or King County Council District.

Complaints Received by OLEO



In addition to filing complaints with the Sheriff's Office directly, OLEO may [receive complaints](#) from any complaining party, including Sheriff's Office employees or the community. Complaints received by OLEO are forwarded to the Sheriff's Office for further review, although OLEO may conduct additional intake first to assist complainants in this process. Please note: Not all complaints result in formal investigations, especially if it is determined to be a complaint over which the Sheriff's Office and OLEO lack jurisdiction. In those instances, OLEO connects complainants to the proper agency.

In 2024, OLEO was contacted nearly 280 times, conducting complaint intake or follow-up as appropriate. The number of community contacts with OLEO has increased by 12% year-over-year and by 40% since 2022.²

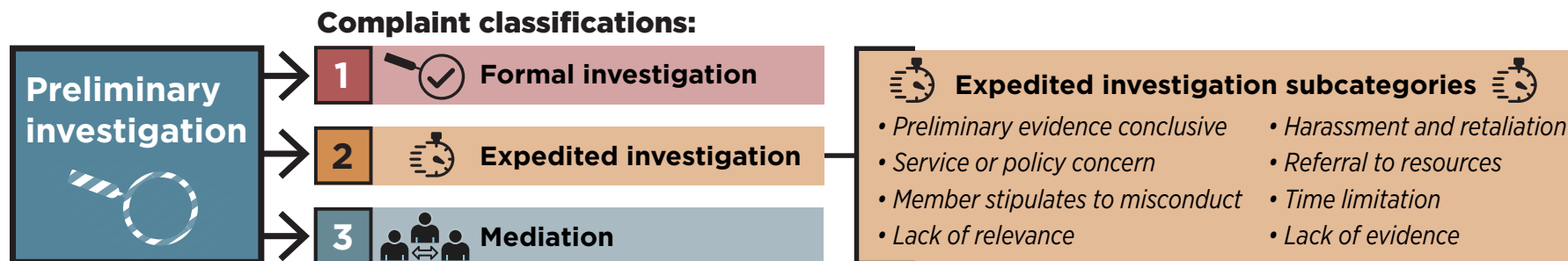
² In 2023, OLEO was contacted nearly 250 times; in 2022, nearly 200.

Complaint Intake Classifications



When IIU receives a complaint, one of its early steps is to classify the complaint, which determines whether and how the Sheriff's Office will proceed on an allegation of misconduct. While the Sheriff's Office distinguishes between "misconduct" and violations of "performance standards," for purposes of this Annual Report, "allegation of misconduct" includes any allegation that a subject employee has violated the General Orders Manual (GOM).

After a preliminary investigation is complete, a complaint is classified in one of three ways: formal investigation, expedited investigation, or mediation. Expedited investigations include eight subcategories.



For more detail on definitions of classifications, including subcategories, see [Appendix B: Complaint Classifications](#).

OLEO reviews and provides input on the Sheriff's Office's classifications, which includes verifying that allegations are correctly identified and/or proposing additional steps that need to be completed before determining the classification. In 2024, OLEO reviewed 100% of investigations for classifications, conducting a full review of 97% of investigations and a summary review of 3% of investigations. When fully reviewing complaints for classification, OLEO recommended a formal investigation in just over 50% of cases.

In 2024, OLEO and the Sheriff's Office expanded on the successes born out of the revised classification system. While the system was fully implemented by mid-2023, 2024 marks the first year that all new cases were classified under the revised system. Not only has this classification system enabled OLEO and IIU to use their resources more efficiently, but it has also contributed to better outcomes with regard to OLEO's role in certifying IIU investigations. Because OLEO can engage with IIU earlier in the investigation process, both agencies are able to identify potential obstacles to certification early and overcome them before they become irreversible outcomes.

The number of total misconduct complaints rose significantly in 2024 as shown in Figure 2, which is a change from recent years' trends. In 2024, total complaints increased to 338, mostly accounted for by an increase of internal complaints from Sheriff's Office employees. While complaints from the community also rose modestly from 2023, they only represented 64% of the total complaints opened in 2024, compared to 70%+ seen in the previous two years. Internal complaints represented 36% of the 2024 total, and were at their highest number since 2021.

Expedited—preliminary evidence conclusive investigations made up nearly 40% of the total classifications opened in 2024.

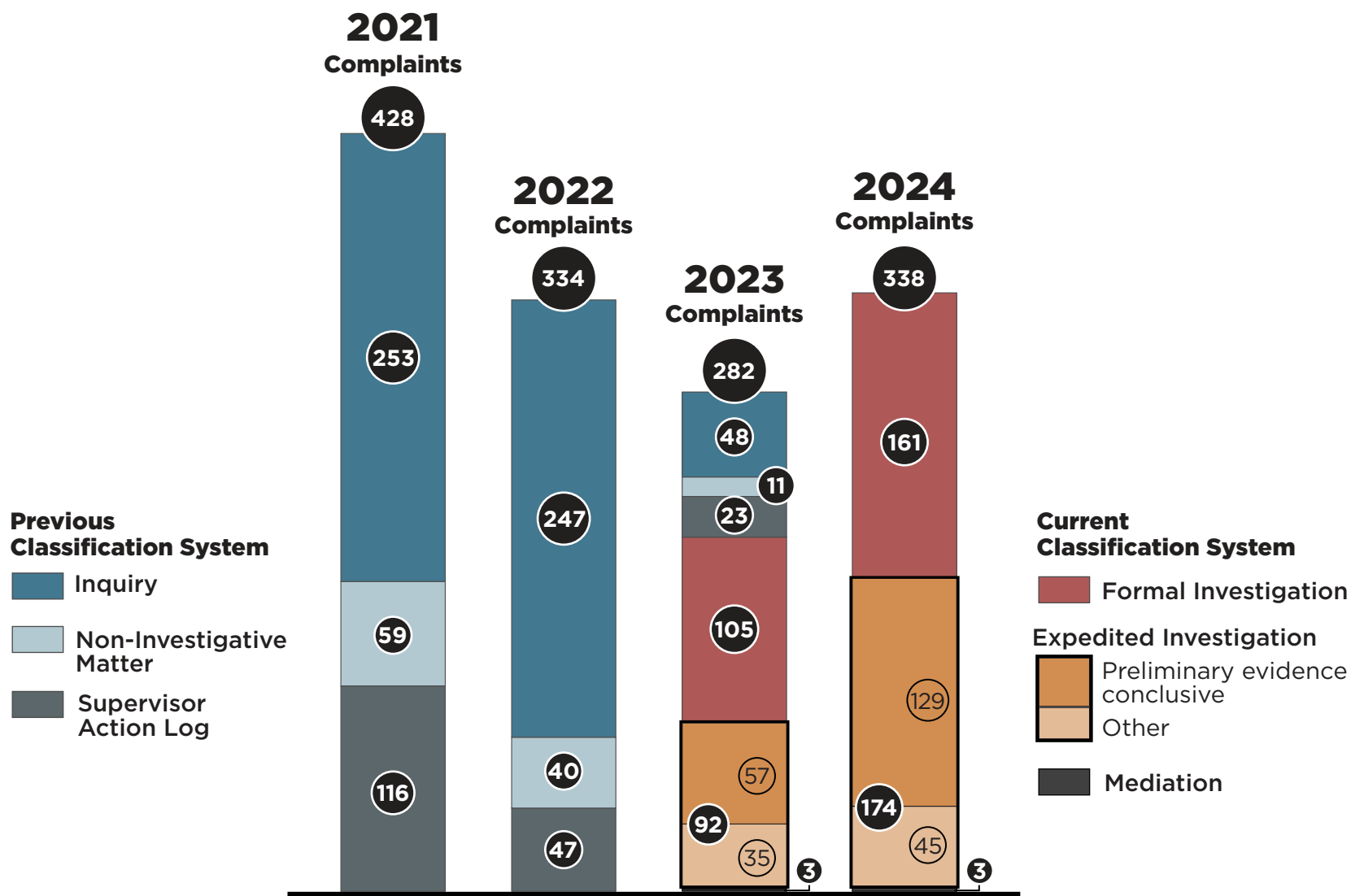
Internal expedited investigations where preliminary evidence was conclusive, often representing allegations corrected with performance-related training from a supervisor, were closed more quickly compared to similar investigations in 2023. In 2024, such investigations were completed in one month, on average.

**Expedited—preliminary evidence
conclusive investigations**

**made up
nearly 40%**

**of the total classifications
opened in 2024.**

Figure 1: Breakdown of Classifications, 2021-2024



Types of Allegations

A complaint may include more than one allegation; therefore, the number of allegations exceeds the number of complaints. For example, in 2024, complaint investigations had an average of 1.8 allegations each, an increase from 2023.

The 338 complaints made in 2024 included 606 allegations of misconduct, with 177 allegations from Sheriff's Office employees and 429 from the community.

Just over half of the allegations of misconduct from Sheriff's Office employees are of three specific types related to adherence to policy, standards, and training (Figure 2). Discourtesy and discrimination are also common internal allegations.

Seventy-three percent of the misconduct allegations from community members were of six specific types, the breakdown of which is described below in Figure 3. Subsequent analyses will focus only on allegations resulting from community complaints (referred to as "external") and include all classifications.

Figure 2: Top Internal Allegations in 2024

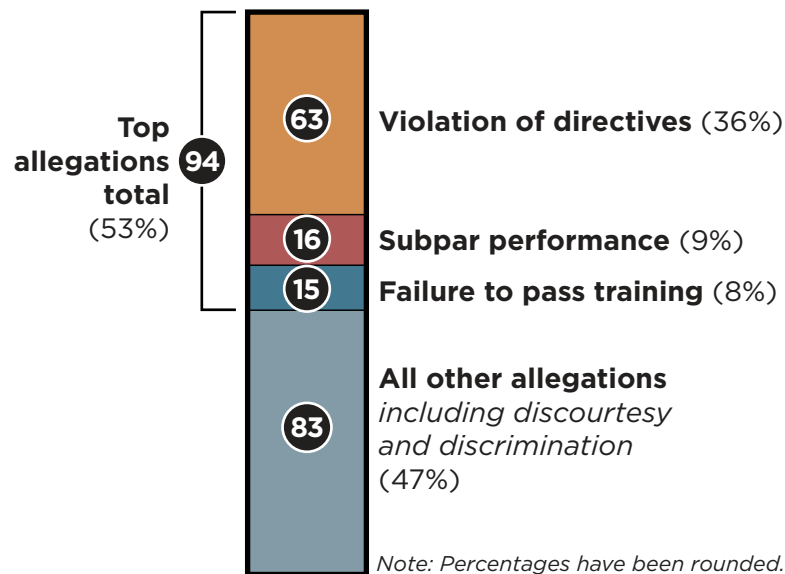
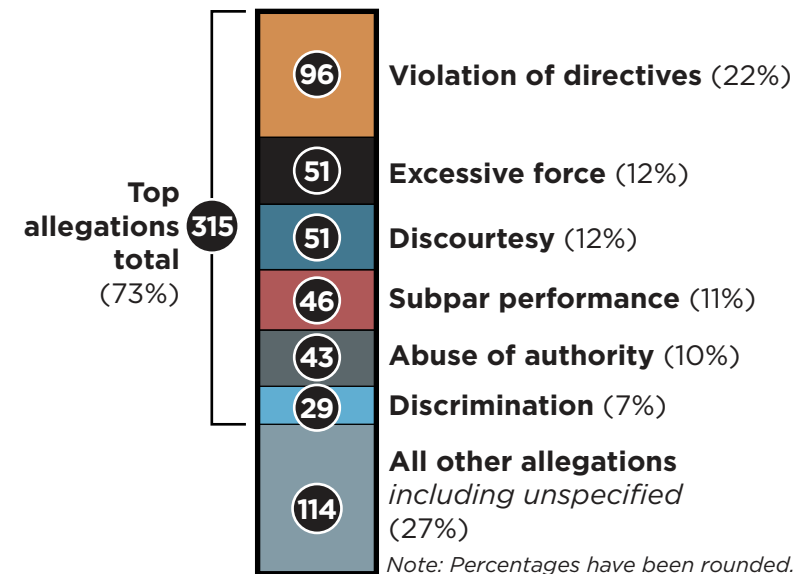


Figure 3: Top External Allegations in 2024



General Orders Manual Revision and New Allegations

In August of 2024, the Sheriff's Office updated the section of the General Orders Manual related to personnel misconduct. This update consisted largely of language cleanup and consolidation of allegations considered redundant. For example, the update eliminated the specific prohibition against taking a bribe as that conduct was already prohibited by the prohibition against engaging in criminal conduct. Notably, two updates were made regarding allegations of discriminatory conduct. First, the list of protected classes against which discrimination is prohibited was updated to mirror the language contained in general King County Human Resources policies. Second, the additional offense of inappropriate conduct was created to cover conduct that may not meet the definition of discrimination according to Sheriff's Office policies but nevertheless communicates a "hostile, derogatory, unwelcome, or negative message" about someone based on their membership in a protected class.

Patterns in Allegations Against Sworn Employees

Consistent with recent years, in 2024, a quarter of sworn³ Sheriff's Office employees (198 of 729) were the subjects of at least one allegation of misconduct from a community member.

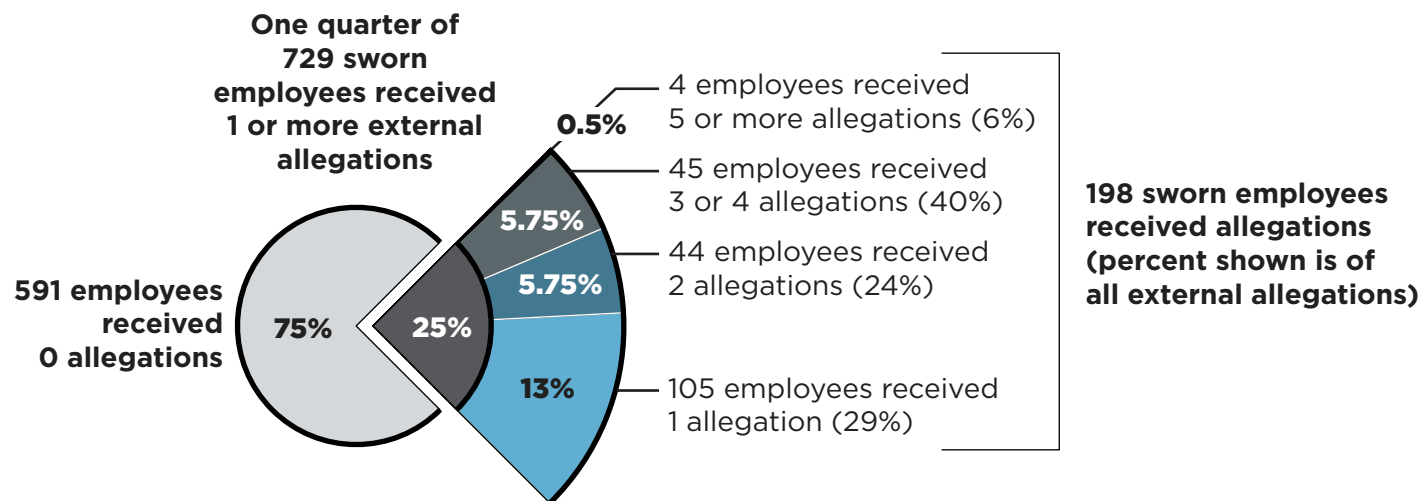
A small number of deputies accounted for a significant number of misconduct allegations, more so than in 2023. Nearly half (46%) of external allegations were against deputies who have had 3 or more allegations leveled against them, just 6% of the sworn force.

17 deputies

received three or more yearly external allegations in multiple years between 2022 and 2024.



Figure 4: External Allegations Against Sworn Employees in 2024

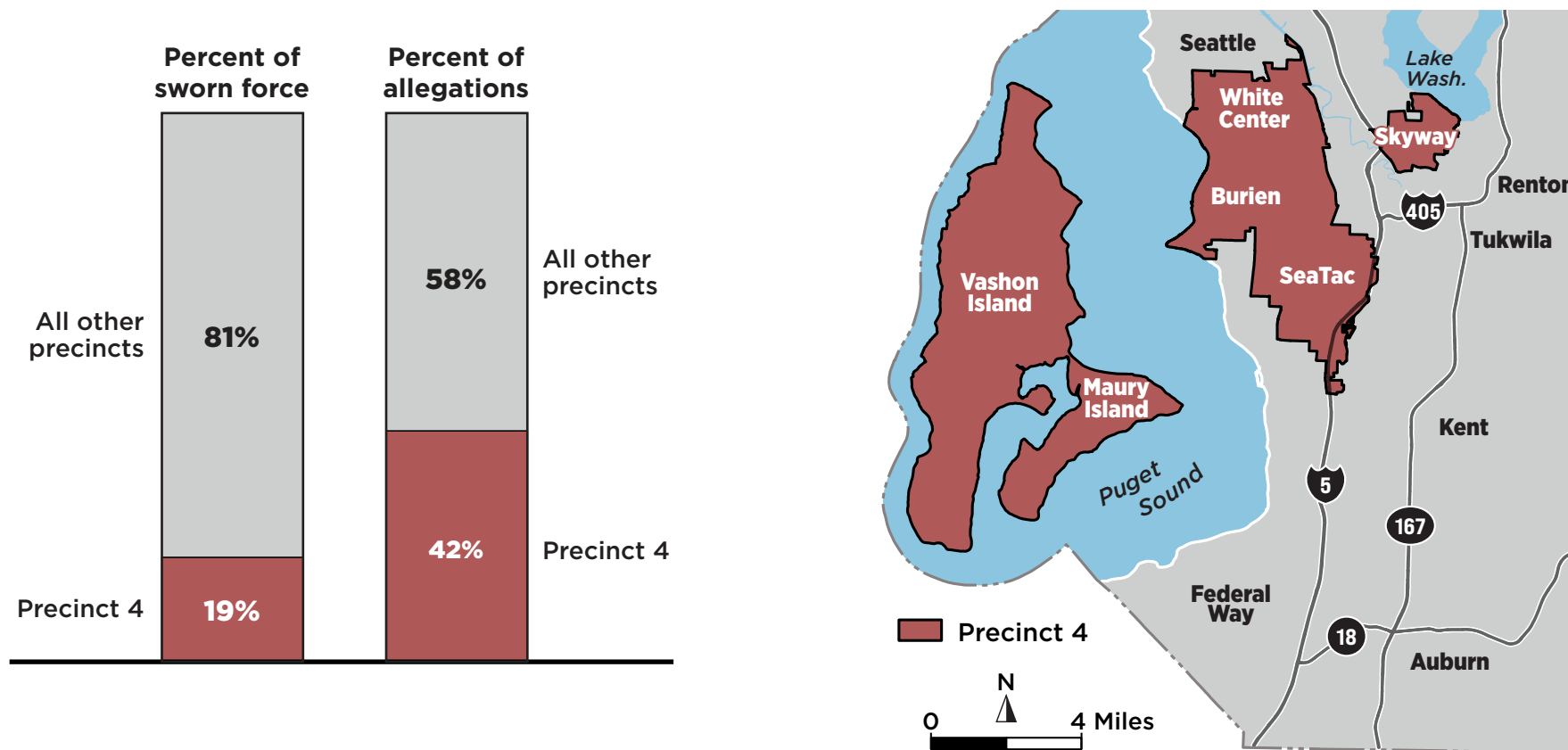


Note: We excluded investigations in which IJU either could not identify the subject employee or the subject employee was unknown. Counts of Sheriff's Office sworn employees were provided by Sheriff's Office Human Resources.

³ Sworn employees refers to all commissioned personnel including the Sheriff, Undersheriff, and various rankings of deputies.

In addition, a large percentage of these allegations are about deputies assigned to specific geographic areas. The geographic area of Precinct 4 covers the areas of Skyway/West Hill, North Highline (including White Center), Vashon Island, Burien, and SeaTac. When community members complained of misconduct, 42% of the allegations were about deputies assigned to Precinct 4 at the time. Typically, 20% of the Sheriff's Office sworn force is assigned to this area.

Figure 5: Deputy Assignment Breakdown for External Allegations Against Deputies

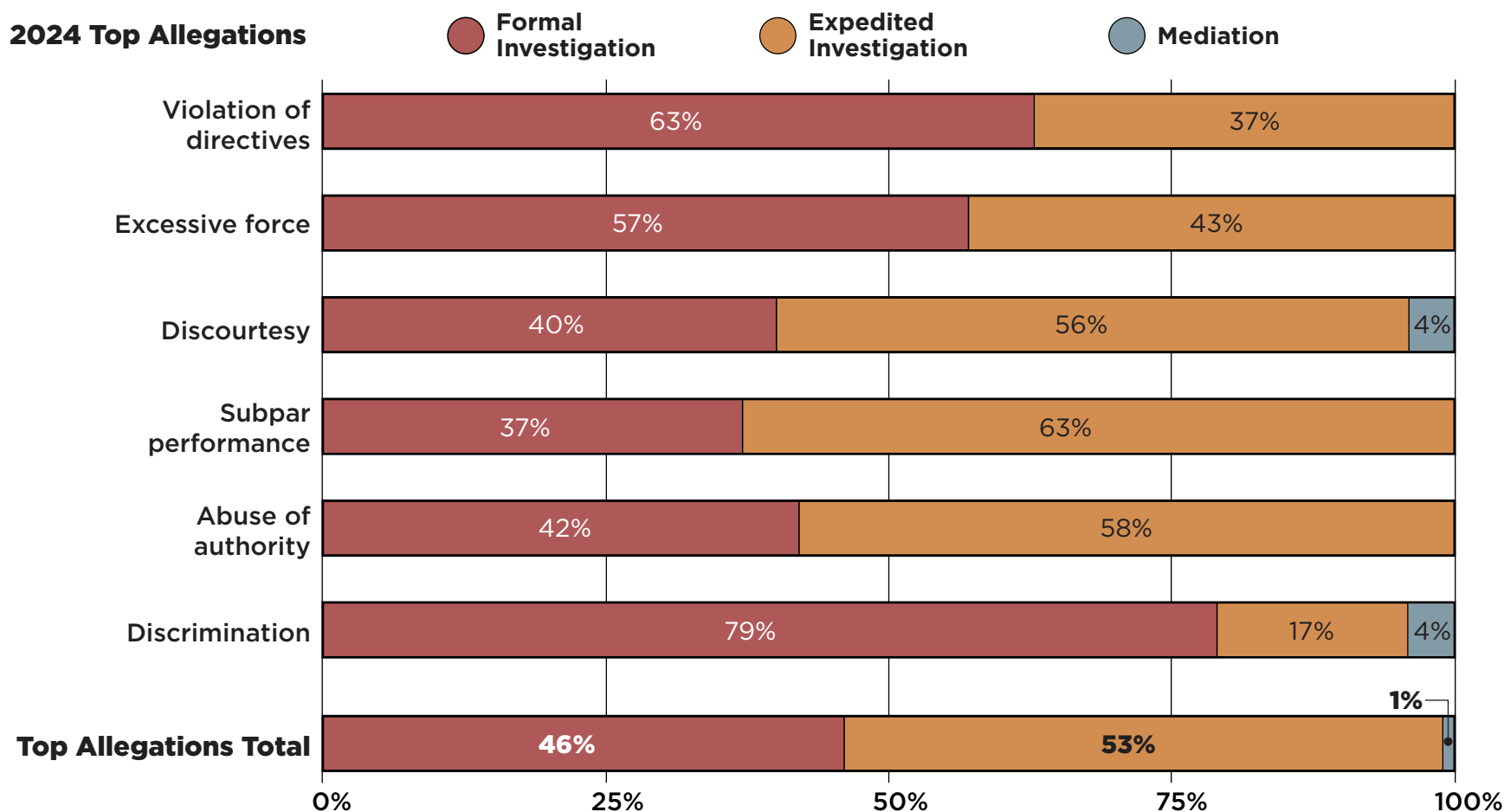


Trends in External Allegations and Classification

While the types of allegations commonly made by both Sheriff's Office employees and the community are similar, the classification patterns vary.

- Around 80% of all discrimination allegations were classified as formal investigations, with little difference between those from Sheriff's Office employees and those from the community. Allegations of violation of directives were also classified similarly no matter where they originated, with around 60% as formal investigations.
- In contrast, most (81%) internal allegations of subpar performance were classified as formal investigations, whereas the same external allegations were mostly (63%) classified as expedited investigations. Likewise, most (67%) internal allegations of discourtesy were classified as formal investigations, while external allegations of discourtesy were mostly (58%) classified as expedited investigations.

The top six external allegations previously discussed are broken down by complaint classification below in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Top External Allegations by Classification Type in 2024

Note: Percentages have been rounded. Also see [Appendix D: Top External Allegations by Classification Subcategory Type in 2024](#).

Monitoring Investigations



OLEO monitors and reviews the Sheriff's Office's handling of complaints to promote thorough, objective, and timely investigations. Investigations are reviewed according to criteria set by the King County Council and OLEO.

What does OLEO ask when monitoring and reviewing investigations?

- Were all material witnesses identified and thoroughly interviewed?
- Was all relevant evidence obtained and, if not obtained, was it due to the investigator's actions?
- Was the subject employee provided proper notice of the complaint allegations?
- Was there any conflict of interest in fact or appearance between the investigator(s) and any of the persons involved in the incident?
- Were interviews conducted using non-leading and open-ended questions?
- Were investigative reports presented in a neutral, unbiased manner?
- Were inconsistencies in evidence, credibility, and reliability addressed by the investigator?
- Was the investigation completed within 180 days?

Certified vs. Not Certified Investigations



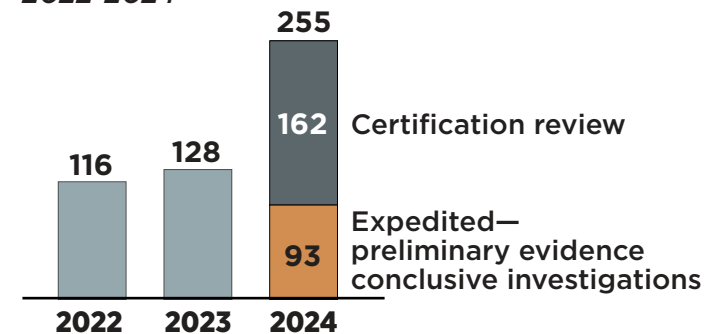
During certification review, OLEO may certify or decline to certify the investigation.

In 2024, OLEO conducted formal certification review of 162 investigations, more than double the previous year. OLEO certified 157 of those investigations and declined to certify five investigations. Most of the investigations that were not certified were investigations that were opened in previous years and failed to close within the 180-day deadline required. The single investigation that OLEO declined to certify due to reasons other than timeliness was declined because IIU interviewed the subject employee and neglected to provide OLEO with notice of the interview. As the opportunity to participate in subject employee interviews is critical in OLEO's oversight role, OLEO declined to certify that investigation. It should be noted that this investigation happened in early 2024 and OLEO did not decline to certify an investigation on that basis for the remainder of the reporting year.

In addition, out of investigations closed in 2024, OLEO agreed to expediting 121 investigations, including 93 of them with preliminary evidence being conclusive. Like certification reviews, reviewing expedited investigations is a comprehensive process that ensures that the preliminary investigation is thorough and free of bias. While much of the increase in investigations reviewed is due to increased staffing,⁴ OLEO also credits increased coordination with IIU and better access to information for the improvement. Hopefully this trend will continue in the coming year.

⁴ The OLEO Investigations team was staffed at 80% for most of 2024.

Figure 7: Full Investigations Reviewed by OLEO, 2022-2024



157
certified
by OLEO (97%)

5
OLEO declined
to certify (3%)

Up from 68
in 2023

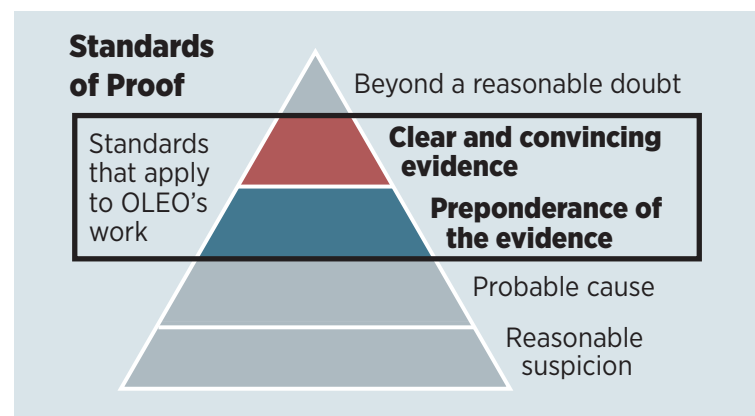
Up from 3
in 2023

Investigations Findings



Sheriff's Office Findings

Following the fact-gathering portion of the investigation, the Sheriff's Office issues a finding, or disposition, for each allegation in the complaint. According to Sheriff's Office policies, the standard of proof to sustain an allegation generally requires a "preponderance of evidence" (i.e., "more probable than not") that the policy violation occurred based on the facts. However, if criminal or serious misconduct is alleged, and there is a likelihood of suspension, demotion, or termination, the standard of proof is raised to "clear and convincing evidence" (i.e., "far more likely to be true than false").



The Sheriff's Office utilized one of five disposition categories for each allegation.

Sustained

The allegation is supported by sufficient factual evidence and was a violation of policy.

Non-sustained

There is insufficient factual evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation.

Unfounded

The allegation is not factual, and/or the incident did not occur as described.

Exonerated

The alleged incident occurred, but was lawful and proper.

Undetermined

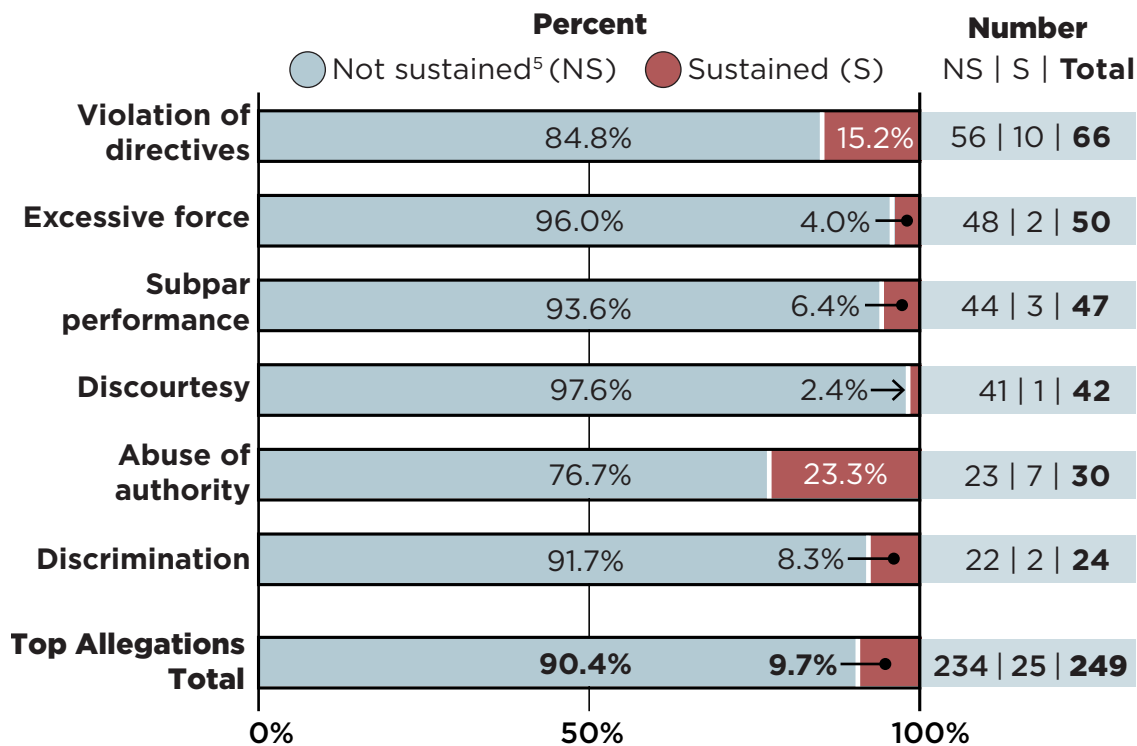
The completed investigation does not meet the criteria of the above categories.

In investigations closed during 2024, 81% of fully investigated allegations of misconduct from the community were concluded with the Sheriff's Office employee being exonerated, or a finding that the allegation was unfounded. For the purposes of this Annual Report, investigations that resulted in performance-related training but no other forms of corrective action/discipline are labeled as sustained investigations and are included in analyses. Fourteen percent of investigated allegations were sustained, including those that resulted in performance-related training for the employee as the corrective action. When compared with 2023, a greater percentage of allegations were closed with conclusive findings.

Fully investigated external allegations closed in 2024 include those in formal investigations, expedited investigations with preliminary evidence conclusive, and inquiries classified under the previous system. Eighty-two percent of these allegations (259) are within the top six types previously described, and are shown in Figure 8. In this group, 9.7% of the allegations were closed with sustained dispositions (including performance-related training). Some allegations were sustained at rates much higher than this group rate.

When examining the group of these same top six allegation types originating from Sheriff's Office employees, the total sustain rate is 61%. Much, but not all, of this difference is accounted for by allegations related to training needs or minor policy violations.

Figure 8. Top External Allegations Sustained Rate in 2024



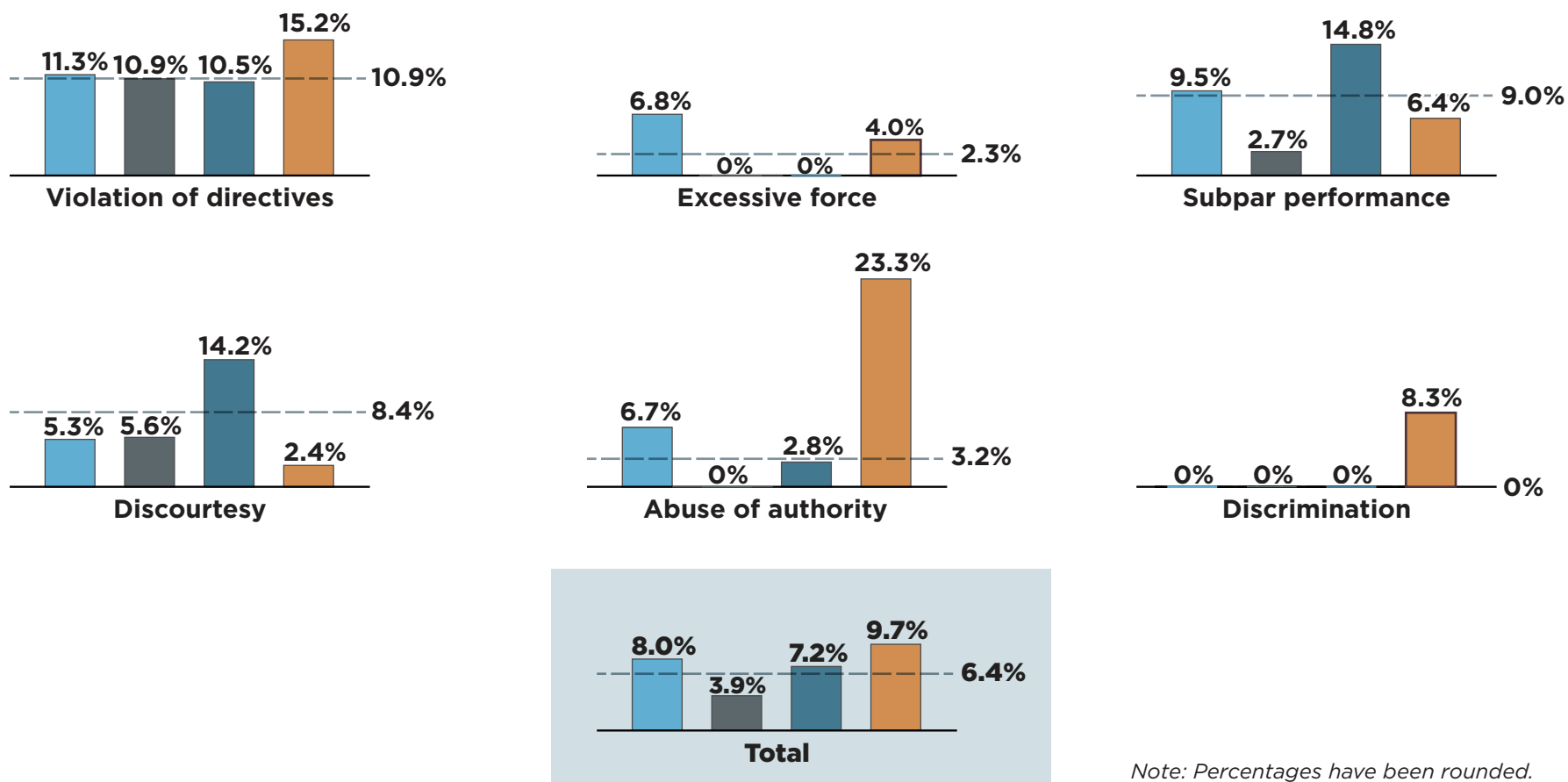
Note: Percentages have been rounded.

⁵ "Not sustained" is not to be confused with the specific disposition of "non-sustained," which is generally reserved for investigations where there is not enough evidence to make a conclusive finding. The "not sustained" column includes all dispositions other than sustained, viz. unfounded, exonerated, non-sustained, or undetermined.

Compared to the equivalent group of top allegations for investigations closed in 2023, these allegations were sustained at a higher rate. However, there are individual differences in how frequently certain allegations were sustained between the years as shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9. Top External Allegations Sustained Rates for 2021-2024

● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 --- 2021-2023 Average



Note: Percentages have been rounded.

Investigations Findings



OLEO Findings Recommendations

OLEO has the authority to recommend independent investigative findings, or dispositions. Through this authority, OLEO can propose alternative analyses and dispositions for the Sheriff's Office to consider before it finalizes its decision.

Once an investigation is concluded, IIU submits the evidence to the subject employee's Section Commander (typically a Captain or Major) for findings. That Commander will draft a recommended findings report for review by the relevant Division Chief who will either concur or disagree and send the investigation to the Undersheriff who will make a recommendation for any applicable discipline. OLEO has the right to review the commander-level findings and potentially issue its own recommended findings for review by the Division Chief and Undersheriff.

Throughout 2024, OLEO engaged closely with the Sheriff's Office regarding many findings. In some instances, OLEO recommended its own findings; in others, OLEO held conversations with Sheriff's Office command staff and leadership, and reached agreement informally. We will analyze a few notable findings below.

Use of Force

In IIU2023-047, deputies responded to an assault call to find the complainant actively assaulting another person, and they immediately arrested the complainant. The complainant actively resisted the arrest and, after being handcuffed and placed in the police car, began striking his head against the inside of the car. Two deputies attempted to restrain the complainant in the car to stop him from hurting himself, with one attempting to secure him from the shoulders and another from the legs. The complainant kicked the latter deputy three times in the leg, groin, and chest. At that point, the subject employee intervened and punched the complainant several times in the chest. Upon witnessing this, other deputies restrained and pulled the subject employee away from the complainant.

The Sheriff's Office enlisted another law enforcement agency to review the incident for potential criminal violations. That agency determined there was probable cause to forward charges to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office agreed and filed charges. A trial was held, and the subject employee was found not guilty.

In the administrative investigation, the initial recommendation by the Sheriff's Office Major was to not sustain the allegation of excessive force. However, the Division Chief disagreed, recommending instead to sustain the allegation of excessive force, and Sheriff's Office leadership concurred.

In reaching a sustained finding, the Division Chief and Sheriff's Office leadership found that, even though that level of force may be used in response to active resistance, it still must be necessary if it is to fall within policy. The force used by the subject employee—direct punches—was unnecessary and therefore fell outside of policy.

Initially, OLEO was going to draft findings for this investigation. However, after being informed that the allegation of excessive force was going to be sustained, OLEO decided not to draft additional findings for the sake of efficiency.

Search and Seizure⁶

OLEO recommended findings in three investigations involving search and seizure. In all three investigations, initial recommendations by the Sheriff's Office Major were to exonerate the subject employees of at least one allegation related to improper search or seizure. After OLEO issued its findings, the recommendations for one of the investigations was changed to sustained by the Chief, and for another, the finding was changed to sustained by the Undersheriff.

In IIU2023-189, the subject employee followed an erratically driven car into an apartment complex. The subject employee had earlier looked up the car's license plate and found that the registered owner of the vehicle had an outstanding warrant. The subject employee claimed that another person he found in the apartment complex matched the description of the person he was looking for. The subject employee was looking for a 37-year-old Black male with a light complexion, standing at 5'9", weighing 190 pounds, sporting a short beard and twisted locks long enough to cover his ears, and wearing jeans and a white jacket. Backup arrived while the subject employee was still looking around the apartment complex, after which the subject employees made contact with the complainant. The complainant was 10 years younger and 40 pounds lighter, had a darker complexion and a very short haircut, and was wearing a black jacket and dark sweatpants. When the complainant insisted he was not the person for whom the subject employee was looking and refused to give his name, the subject employees arrested him for obstruction.

⁶ Some investigations included multiple allegations; however, this summary is focused on specific allegations related to protections against inappropriate searches or seizures, whether based on the Fourth Amendment or state or county laws.

OLEO asserted that the subject employees did not have reasonable suspicion to detain the complainant because he did not match the description, and, even if they did, the subject employees did not have probable cause to arrest the complainant. The Sheriff's Office agreed with OLEO that the arrest was without probable cause and sustained the allegations.

In IIU2024-084, the subject employees observed a car parked in front of a residence noted as the site of previous criminal activity with a person slumped inside of it. The subject employees, who admit that they had not observed any evidence of a crime, did not attempt to rouse the complainant or speak to him, but instead opened the car door.

The Sheriff's Office Major recommended exonerating the subject employees, and OLEO recommended sustaining the allegations. The Chief changed the recommendation to non-sustained, but the Undersheriff agreed with OLEO and sustained the allegations.

In its findings, OLEO relied on a nearly identical arrest from King County in which a court found that “merely being...slumped down in a parked car at midday, even in a community with an opioid epidemic, is inadequate to justify an officer opening a car door without first briefly attempting to speak to or otherwise rouse the suspected overdose victim.”⁷

Unlike in the previous two investigations, in IIU2024-131, the Sheriff's Office insisted on an exonerated finding despite OLEO's recommendation to sustain allegations. In this investigation, the subject employees were investigating an alleged assault and robbery when the victim informed them that he believed the assailant was the complainant, who lived in an apartment above his sister's unit. Searching for the complainant, the subject employees went to that apartment where they received permission from the apparent children of the complainant to enter the home and search it; they did not find the complainant. The issue in this investigation was whether the subject employees complied with Sheriff's Office policies as well as state and county laws that require deputies to provide juveniles with access to an attorney before requesting a search.

⁷ *State v. Harris*, No. 77987-7-1, Court of Appeals of Washington, Division 1 (2019).

The exonerated finding itself is subject to good-faith disagreement between the Sheriff's Office and OLEO; accordingly, OLEO did not escalate this case. However, OLEO finds the reasoning behind the findings problematic, mainly the disregard for the plain language of Sheriff's Office policy, state law, and county law.

After noting that it is based on state and county laws, GOM 12.07.055 states that “deputies shall provide a juvenile with access to an attorney for consultation” before, among other things, “requesting that a juvenile consent to an evidentiary search of their person, property, dwelling, or vehicle.” The corresponding state law, RCW 13.40.740, and King County Code 2.63.020 contain identical requirements. King County Code 2.63.020(B) also clarifies that a juvenile’s ability to consult with an attorney before giving consent to a search cannot be waived and must be provided “regardless of the youth’s custody status.”

Despite this clarity, Sheriff's Office findings claimed the policy was “ambiguous” and that a survey of others within the Sheriff's Office found that there was general agreement that it only applied to juveniles who were suspected of crimes. That reading is not supported by the text of the policy or the law and runs the risk of defeating their purpose. The Sheriff's Office must clarify its understanding of the policy and inform its employees of its true meaning. A recent attempt to do this by the Sheriff's Office was insufficient.

Discrimination

OLEO recommended findings in three investigations with allegations of discrimination, harassment, incivility, and bigotry, in violation of GOM 3.00.015(1)(g). This provision of the GOM forbids, among other things, discussions that belittle others on the basis of protected class, such as gender, race, and national origin.⁸ All three investigations in which OLEO recommended findings involved subject employees making belittling remarks about community members based on their ethnicity or national origin. The Sheriff's Office's findings in these investigations revealed inconsistent concern about discrimination against different groups and a possible reluctance to sustain discrimination allegations, even in instances where the subject employee admits to the conduct.

⁸ In August of 2024, the Sheriff's Office amended the allegations listed in GOM 3.00.015 and discriminatory comments are now considered inappropriate conduct, in violation of GOM 3.00.015(2)(g).

In IIU2023-241, a deputy alleged that she heard the subject employee (who is originally from Romania) refer to Roma people⁹ as “gypsies” and make derogatory remarks about them in front of members of the public. Four additional members of the subject employee’s squad reported hearing him discuss Roma people negatively, with one witness officer summarizing the subject employee’s remarks as stating that, “This is a culture that will commit crimes.” The subject employee was also recorded on body-worn camera berating an arrestee from Moldova¹⁰ for committing crimes because, as he told another deputy, “It’s so unusual for those people to do this kind of stuff.” The subject employee openly explained these views in his interview with investigators, stating that the term “gypsy” referred to an ethnic group that is found throughout Europe and “now, unfortunately, we have them in the United States.” The subject employee also claimed that all Roma people are involved in crime because they must regularly pay tribute money to their clan leaders and, if any Roma person appears to have a legitimate job, it is merely a front for criminal activity.¹¹

OLEO recommended that the Sheriff’s Office sustain the discrimination allegation against the subject employee because his repeated comments about the Roma people constituted national origin discrimination. The Sheriff’s Office declined to adopt OLEO’s recommendation because it believed that being Roma is an “ethnicity” and thus not protected by the GOM’s prohibition against discrimination. This reasoning is unsound as it is well established that national origin discrimination includes discrimination against ethnic groups.

Both the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and courts have recognized the Roma as protected by prohibitions against national origin discrimination. Further, the Sheriff’s Office has rightfully sustained at least one discrimination allegation involving comments about Hispanic community members, another ethnic group. This refusal to engage with anti-Roma bias thus sets a dangerous precedent of differential treatment. OLEO escalated the case to Sheriff’s Office leadership, but the findings were not changed.

⁹ The Roma, or Romani, people are an ethnic group with concentrated populations in Eastern Europe. Approximately 1 million Roma people live in the United States.

¹⁰ Moldova is a European country that borders Romania. Its official language is Romanian.

¹¹ The U.S. State Department considers using the term “gypsy” as a slur and stereotyping the Roma as persons who engage in criminal behavior as manifestations of anti-Roma bias. Additional information can be found at <https://www.state.gov/defining-anti-roma-racism/>. (The current U.S. Administration has been purging civil rights-related information from various federal governmental websites related to what it incorrectly and pejoratively identifies as “DEI” (diversity, equity, and inclusion) material. Because this process of purging has been haphazard, [Appendix E: Defining Anti-Roma Racism](#) contains the most recent version of this page, in case it gets removed.)

By contrast, the Sheriff's Office sustained an allegation of ethnic discrimination in IIU2023-235. The complainant in the case alleged that the subject employee overheard her and her fiancé speaking Spanish with a security screener and stated, "This is America, speak English." A court coordinator was standing near the subject employee and also heard his remark. When the complainant requested a sergeant's information so she could make a complaint, the subject employee gave her a business card with *his* personal cell phone number and a sergeant's name handwritten on it.¹² In his interview with investigators, the subject employee admitted that he made the statement, but claimed that he said it "quietly" so that only the court coordinator would hear. The subject employee also explained that he had recently traveled overseas and, based on his experiences there, believed it would be to the complainant's fiancé's "honest benefit" to learn English.

The Sheriff's Office initially proposed not sustaining the discrimination allegation because it believed the subject employee sought to "instruct" the complainant and her fiancé about the difficulties of not speaking English in the United States. OLEO recommended that the allegation be sustained because it would not make sense for the subject employee to make the statement quietly if he earnestly intended it as a helpful instruction to the complainant. The Sheriff's Office ultimately agreed with OLEO's recommendation and sustained the allegation.

In another apparent inconsistency, the Sheriff's Office did not apply this same scrutiny to the subject employee's stated motives for making a discriminatory statement against a Hispanic community member in IIU2023-205. The complainant in that investigation, who the subject employee identified in his report as a Hispanic man, verbally argued with the subject employee when he responded to a domestic violence call at the complainant's cousin's home. As shown in body-worn camera video, during the encounter, the complainant asked for the subject employee's sergeant and told him that he was going to get in "big trouble," to which the subject employee dismissively responded, "OK, papi." The complainant believed that the subject employee intended the remark as a homophobic taunt because he was gay. In his interview with investigators, the subject employee explained that he made the comment to undercut the complainant's authority and "to basically, firmly put him in his place." He also stated that he speaks Spanish near fluently and was not familiar with the term "papi" having homophobic connotations. When asked why he used that term specifically, the subject employee suggested that he may have slipped into conversational Spanish during the incident.

¹² The Sheriff's Office brought an allegation of dishonesty against the subject employee for this conduct. OLEO recommended that this allegation be sustained, but the Sheriff's Office declined to accept the recommendation.

OLEO recommended that the allegation of discrimination be sustained because, by his own admission, the subject employee perceived the complainant as Hispanic, intended to undercut the complainant and “put him in his place,” and did so by utilizing a Spanish term which he would not have otherwise used.

OLEO also observed that it was improbable that the subject employee spontaneously switched to using Spanish when everyone on the scene was speaking English exclusively for several minutes. The Sheriff's Office rejected OLEO's proposed reasoning.

Instead of considering use of the term from both angles—both regarding sexual orientation and ethnicity—the Sheriff's Office found that the allegations could not be sustained solely on the basis that the subject employee did not know that the complainant was gay. OLEO agreed that there was no evidence to sustain an allegation based the use of a homophobic slur, but insisted that the allegation should be sustained based on belittling the complainant in Spanish because of his ethnicity.

Notably, in its written findings in this investigation, the Sheriff's Office commented that the subject employee's use of “papi” should be addressed by training because it “was not consistent with de-escalation principles.” The Sheriff's Office's findings in IIU2023-241 (also not sustained) similarly recommended that the subject employee receive training because his comments “reflect flawed ways of thinking.”

This tension between insisting that a subject employee did not commit wrongdoing yet still suggesting that the conduct needed to be remedied suggests a possible reluctance to sustain discrimination allegations against employees because of the weight such an allegation carries.

This reluctance may also have contributed to the fact that the Sheriff's Office did not sustain a single allegation of discrimination between 2020 and 2023. In August of 2024, the Sheriff's Office created an additional category of misconduct, inappropriate conduct, which covers conduct that may not rise to discrimination but that nevertheless communicates a negative message based on a complainant's membership in a protected class. Going forward, OLEO will continue to review the Sheriff's Office's findings in discrimination and inappropriate conduct investigations for consistency and accuracy.

Corrective Action and Appeal



Corrective Action

The Sheriff's Office may provide corrective counseling or training or impose discipline when a finding is sustained. This includes expedited investigations that resulted in a disposition of performance-related training (and considered as sustained for the purposes of this Annual Report), which is considered corrective and not discipline. Due to collective-bargaining restrictions, OLEO cannot make discipline recommendations or comment on specific instances of discipline at this time.

The group of sustained top six external allegations previously discussed had corrective action imposed on the subject employee as shown in Figure 9. Training or corrective counseling of all types was the corrective action or discipline for 84% of these allegations. When examining some of the same top allegation types originating from Sheriff's Office employees, training or corrective counseling was less common, imposed for 70% of these allegations.

However, among all the sustained allegations in 2024, internal allegations had training imposed as the corrective action more frequently than those from the community.

Table 1. Primary Corrective Action or Discipline for Sustained Top External Allegations in 2024

Allegation	Number	Sustained, including performance-related training (PRT)
Violation of directives	66	10
		PRT: 8
		Corrective counseling memo: 1
		No action: 1
Excessive force	50	2
		PRT: 1
		Suspension: 1
Subpar performance	47	3
		PRT: 3
Discourtesy	42	1
		Verbal counseling: 1
Abuse of authority	30	7
		PRT: 2
		Training: 5
Discrimination	24	2
		Suspension: 1
		Termination: 1

Note: "No action" is used when discipline cannot be issued, as when an employee resigned.

Table 2: Comparison of Corrective Action or Discipline for Sustained Allegations by Origin in 2024

Corrective action	Percent of sustained external allegations with corrective action imposed	Percent of sustained internal allegations with corrective action imposed
Training and corrective counseling: 61%		
Performance-related training	35%	55%
Training	12%	0%
Verbal counseling	5%	0%
Corrective counseling memo	2%	9%
Progressive discipline: 36%		
Written reprimand	2%	21%
Suspension	23%	13%
Termination	14%	0%
No corrective action: 4%		
No action	7%	2%

Note: Percentages have been rounded.

Grievances, Settlements, or Arbitrations (Appeals)

Discipline imposed by the Sheriff's Office may change through the grievance and arbitration process as a result of a management decision in the collective bargaining agreement's grievance hearings, a discipline settlement agreement reached between the County and the employee's union, or a final arbitral award from the Public Employment Relations Commission's Law Enforcement Disciplinary Grievance Arbitration Panel. Below are investigations that have been subject to the grievance and arbitration process in 2024.

Table 3. Grievances, Settlements, or Arbitrations Occurring in 2024

Status	Case number	Sustained allegations	Discipline imposed by Sheriff's Office ¹³	Grievance/Settlement/Arbitration status or outcome
Resolved	IIU2023-075	Violation of directives; Conduct unbecoming	Termination	Termination upheld at Arbitration (i.e., no change in outcome).
Resolved	IIU2023-092	Criminal conduct; Conduct unbecoming; Discrimination; Ridicule	Termination	Termination upheld through grievance steps. The King County Police Officers Guild decided not to proceed to arbitration (i.e., no change in outcome).
Resolved	IIU2023-118	Inappropriate conduct	One-day suspension	Suspension upheld though grievance steps. The King County Police Officers Guild withdrew arbitration demand (i.e., no change in outcome) as a part of settlement combining this and another investigation (IIU2024-205).
Resolved	IIU2023-118	Inappropriate Conduct; Ridicule	Written reprimand	Sustained finding reversed to non-sustained at Grievance Step 1.
Resolved	IIU2023-152	Violation of directives; Subpar performance	One-day suspension	Discipline reduced to written reprimand and 40 hours of prescriptive training at Grievance Step 2.

¹³ For purposes of this Annual Report, discipline imposed by the Sheriff's Office refers to the initial discipline decision made by the Sheriff, and when required, after a *Loudermill* hearing has occurred or been waived. A *Loudermill* hearing must be offered for all discipline decisions that impact an employee's compensation (e.g., termination, suspension, demotion, loss of specialty assignment pay) and requires notice of the proposed discipline and an opportunity for the employee to explain and refute any findings that are the basis of the proposed discipline before imposition.

Table 3. Grievances, Settlements, or Arbitrations Occurring in 2024 *continued*

Status	Case number	Sustained allegations	Discipline imposed by Sheriff's Office ¹³	Grievance/Settlement/Arbitration status or outcome
Resolved	IIU2023-180	Being under the influence while off-duty resulting in charges; False statements; Conduct unbecoming	Termination	Termination upheld through grievance steps. The King County Police Officers Guild decided to not proceed to arbitration (i.e., no change in outcome).
Resolved	IIU2023-239	Subpar performance	One-day suspension	Suspension upheld at Grievance Step 1, and grievance dropped at Grievance Step 2 (i.e., no change in outcome).
Resolved	IIU2023-250	Obedience to laws; Ethics and conflicts	Two-day suspension	Discipline reduced by settlement to written reprimand at Grievance Step 3.
Pending	IIU2023-047	Excessive force; Conduct unbecoming	Two-week suspension	Suspension upheld at Grievance Step 2, pending Grievance Step 3 decision.
Pending	IIU2024-024	Violation of directives; Conduct unbecoming	One-day suspension	Suspension upheld through grievance steps, proceeding to arbitration.
Pending	IIU2024-125	Conduct unbecoming	Two-week suspension, including one week held in abeyance	Suspension upheld through grievance steps, proceeding to arbitration.

Critical Incidents and Reportable Use of Force

Critical Incidents

Critical incidents could be force incidents that resulted in either death or serious injury, deaths that occurred under the custody of the Sheriff's Office, or use of deadly force, regardless of whether any contact or injury occurred.

OLEO's role in reviewing critical incidents includes attending and observing the processing of scenes of officer-involved shootings and serious uses of force. OLEO has authority to monitor the administrative investigation and attend force reviews for critical incidents.



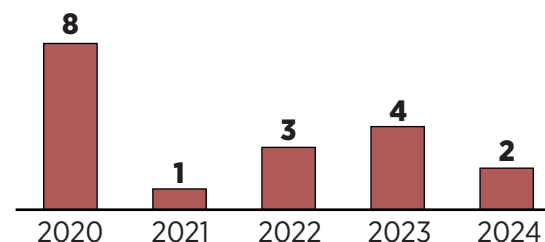
¹⁴ While the administrative and criminal investigations run parallel in theory, the Sheriff's Office generally waits for a charging decision by King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office before completing its administrative investigation.

ART2024-003: Shooting

One officer shooting resulted in a critical incident in 2024, when Sheriff's Office Tac30 personnel fatally shot the tenant of an apartment, Mr. Michael Vaughn, during an attempted eviction. In March of 2024, the Sheriff's Office Civil Unit received orders to enforce the eviction of a tenant at an apartment complex in Auburn. When the Civil Unit attempted the eviction, the tenant refused to leave, threatened violence against the deputies, and indicated that he had access to firearms. The deputies left the premises without enforcing the eviction. They returned several weeks later with the assistance of the Crisis Negotiation Team and a Tac30 team. The Tac30 team parked an armored vehicle outside the unit and the Crisis Negotiation Team gave instructions over the loudspeaker to the tenant to exit the unit. The tenant came to the window of the unit armed with an AR-15-style rifle. The Tac30 team attempted to speak with the tenant who appeared to become more agitated as they spoke. The Tac30 team then deployed tasers and 40mm less-lethal rounds in an attempt to subdue the tenant. These methods failed and the tenant opened fire on the Tac30 team with his rifle. The Tac30 team returned fire, striking the tenant in the chest and knocking him to the ground. The Tac30 team then entered the unit and attempted to administer medical aid to the tenant. The tenant died of his injuries on the scene. OLEO responded to the scene. The investigation by the Valley Independent Investigative Team has been completed and the review by the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) is currently pending.

ART2024-005: Use of K-9

The other critical incident in 2024 involved the use of a police dog (K-9) to immobilize and arrest a person suspected of a crime, Mr. Vincent Robinson, resulting in injuries to his arm that required surgery. In July of 2024, a Sheriff's Office deputy and his K-9 assisted Auburn Police, including their SWAT unit, in arresting a man suspected of shooting his girlfriend the evening before. The suspect was in a neighbor's apartment, and the neighbor consented to the police entering the apartment to carry out the arrest. The methodical search of the home included the deputy letting his K-9 enter some rooms first, because there was no response to repeated calls for the suspect to come out. In one of the rooms, the K-9 located the suspect and bit him on the arm, causing punctures and injuries to the arm that required surgery. The Administrative Review Team completed its review of the incident and concluded that the use of force was within policy. Per state law, this critical incident did not necessitate an investigation by an independent investigative team or a review by KCPAO.

Figure 10. Critical Incidents, 2020-2024

2024 had the fewest critical incidents in one year since 2021.

Critical Incident Updates (2022-2023)

ART2022-003: Shooting death of Mr. Derrick Ellis. The Critical Incident Review Board found the deputies' action to be within policy. KCPAO declined prosecution, finding that Mr. Ellis' "action of pointing the firearm at a deputy is sufficient to find that there was probable cause that he posed a threat of serious physical harm to the involved deputies." ¹⁵

ART2022-004: In-custody death of Mr. Lamond Dukes. The investigation by the Valley Independent Investigative Team has been completed and review by KCPAO is currently pending.¹⁶

ART2023-001: Non-fatal shooting of Mr. Abdinjib Ali Ibrahim. The Critical Incident Review Board has been completed, finding the deputies' actions to be within policy. KCPAO declined prosecution, finding that the officers "acted in good faith and were justified in using deadly force against Mr. Ibrahim."¹⁷

¹⁵ Decline Memorandum, Use of Force – Fatality of Derrick Ellis, <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/pao/documents/public-integrity/use-of-force-fatalities/2022/ellis-derrick-public-memo---redacted.pdf>.

¹⁶ Prosecuting Attorney's Office – 2022 incidents, [Prosecuting Attorney's Office – 2022 incidents - King County, Washington](#).

¹⁷ Decline Memorandum, Use of Force Non-Fatality, Abdinjib Ibrahim, <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/pao/documents/public-integrity/use-of-force-non-fatalities/2023/ibrahim-abdinjib-public-memo---redacted.pdf>.

Use of Force

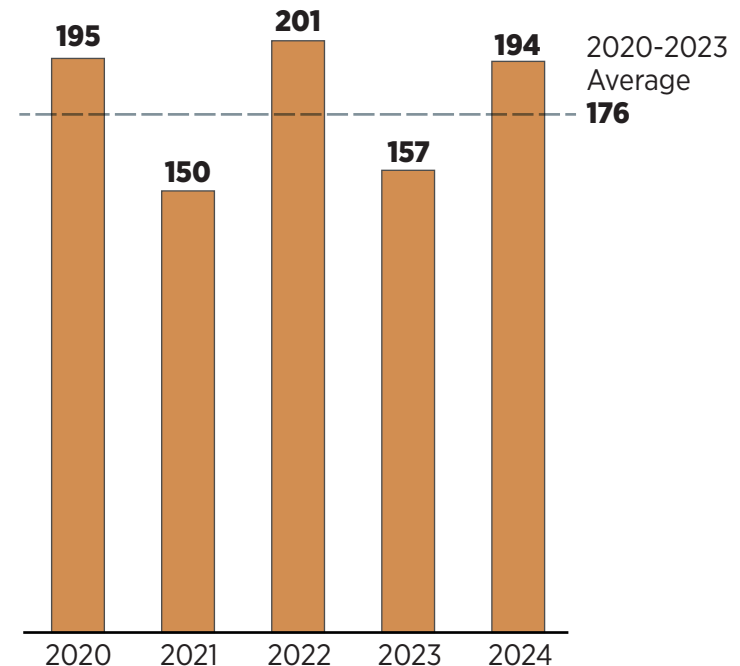
Deputies who use force on an individual that meets the Sheriff's Office's criteria for reporting are required to call a sergeant in most instances. The Sheriff's Office has three categories for reportable force.¹⁸

Level I, for example, includes control holds and “show of force” by displaying a firearm but does not require a supervisor to respond to the scene unless a complaint is made.

Level II, for example, includes using a Taser or pepper spray, K-9 bites, aiming a firearm at a person, hitting or striking someone with hands, feet, or an object, and any other force that results in injury or complaint of injury. Except for aiming a firearm, a supervisor is required to respond to the scene.

Level III, for example, includes discharge of a firearm toward a person, a strike to the head, neck or throat with a hard object, or any other actions or means reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury. A supervisor is required to respond to the scene and the Commander must also be notified.

Figure 11. Use of Force, 2020-2024



¹⁸ GOM 6.01.015.

Policy and Practices

Policy Reviews

OLEO provides feedback and recommendations on specific policies in the Sheriff's Office General Orders Manual and on various Standard Operating Procedures. OLEO's policy recommendations aim to prioritize equity and reflect community interests, legal standards, and law enforcement best practices. Below are select highlights of OLEO's recommendations in 2024.

Policy status key:  Adopted  Partially adopted  Pending  Not adopted  Not yet published by OLEO

Use of Force (GOM 6.00.000), Investigation/Reporting Use of Force & Serious Incidents (GOM 6.01.000), and Less Lethal Weapons (GOM 6.03.000) [Link to memo](#)

In 2024, OLEO issued recommendations aimed at ensuring the Sheriff's Office's use of force policies are in line with the Washington State Attorney General's Office Model Use of Force Policy and reflect law enforcement best practices. The memo included three recommendations reissued from OLEO's February 2023 memo to clarify the language around standards of "necessary, proportional, and reasonable" for the use of physical force and the issuance of warnings prior to the use of physical force, and to implement stricter standards on when deputies may use force to prevent fleeing a temporary investigative stop. Additionally, OLEO included three new policy recommendations to limit the use of Taser Energy Weapons on handcuffed persons, explicitly define the term less lethal weapons, and to restore prior policy language on reporting standards when pointing and aiming a less lethal weapon.

Executing Search Warrants/Planned Events (GOM 5.12.000) [Link to memo](#)

After several rounds of review and discussion with the Sheriff's Office, OLEO issued recommendations aimed at improving transparency and accountability surrounding planned operations and promoting best practices for search warrant operations. In response to OLEO's recommendations, the Sheriff's Office adopted the majority of these policy changes into the GOM including promoting tactics which can reduce risk for officers and the subjects of warrants, incorporating language on proper notice and considerations for making a forced entry, and reporting and documentation of search warrant operations.

However, the Sheriff's Office did not adopt recommendations regarding additional data collection and reporting, standardization of documentation and planning for assessing the risk of an operation, and requiring the presence of crisis negotiators at higher risk operations.

Policy status key:  Adopted  Partially adopted  Pending  Not adopted  Not yet published by OLEO

Traffic Enforcement and Safety

In response to feedback from its community partners, OLEO began work to review the Sheriff's Office policies regarding traffic enforcement and safety. This will be OLEO's first policy review using the Community Guidance Framework, a new process OLEO and its community partners designed to review and develop policy recommendations in direct collaboration and consultation with community. At the end of 2024, OLEO began work to collect community input on their priorities and concerns regarding traffic enforcement and safety in King County. These efforts included three in-person listening sessions and a survey which garnered 187 responses. This policy work and forthcoming recommendations to the Sheriff's Office will continue into 2025.

Reports

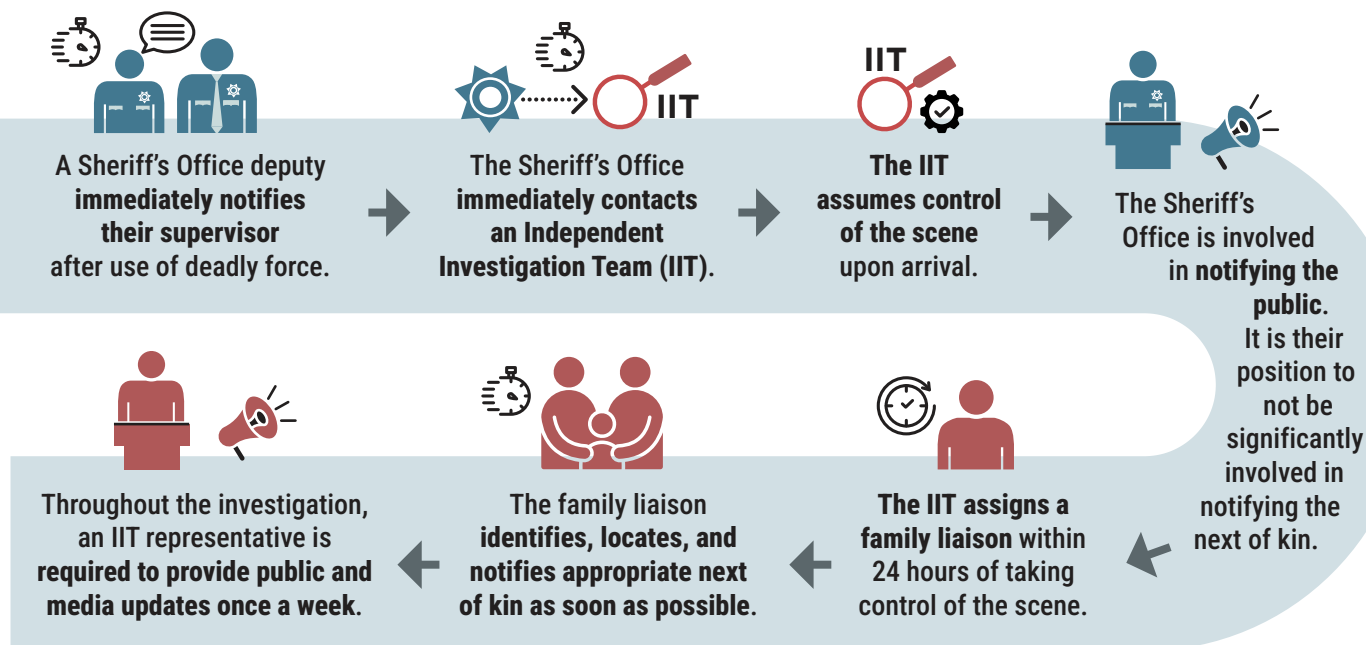
Trauma-Informed Notifications [Link to report](#)

In 2024, OLEO issued a report that aimed to answer the question: How can the Sheriff's Office use a trauma-informed lens to speak with community members after a critical incident?

This report examined the legal and policy landscape governing notifications and public communication after a critical incident, current Sheriff's Office policy, and national research and best practices for incorporating trauma-informed notifications.

"Critical incident" is an umbrella term that includes three scenarios that require notification. These incidents are treated differently in terms of the procedures of investigation and who is tasked with communicating with next of kin and the public: (1) a use of deadly force which results in death or serious injury, (2) a use of non-deadly force which results in death or serious injury, and (3) an in-custody death or serious injury with no use of force.

The Sheriff's Office's current notification procedures for incidents involving deadly force are described below:



OLEO's review indicated that next of kin notification practices did not always align with the procedures above and that the Sheriff's Office did not provide notifications to the public in the majority of critical incidents reviewed.

Best Practices

OLEO referenced research literature and conducted interviews with subject matter experts in the fields of civil rights, academia, law, mental health, and victim advocacy to define best practices in trauma-informed communication surrounding critical incidents.

Next of Kin Notification

Who should deliver notification?

Research shows a variety of opinions on law enforcement involvement in notification, but there is consensus that a trauma-informed non-law enforcement professional should always be present to help deliver difficult news to next of kin of those killed or seriously injured by law enforcement.

When should the notification be delivered?

Notifications should be delivered to next of kin at the earliest possible moment.

How should the notification be delivered?

Notifications should be tailored to the unique needs of the people receiving the news and should be followed up with referrals to community-based resources to provide additional support.

How do other law enforcement departments manage next of kin critical incident notifications?

Most departments do not have policies for notifying next of kin after a critical incident. However, when they do have relevant policy guidance, it aligns with best practices of timely, respectful, clear communication that incorporates a team of both law enforcement and non-law enforcement professionals.

Public Notification

What notifications should be delivered?

Within hours, the basic facts of an incident should be released to the public and in the days following, additional relevant information like video footage should be proactively released in coordination with next of kin and investigators.

How should notifications be delivered?

Public notifications about a critical incident should be done transparently, sensitively, and using neutral language.

How do other law enforcement departments manage public critical incident notifications?

Notable department policies establish clear protocols for release of public information after a critical incident that include specific timelines, designated roles and responsibilities, and guidelines for what information can and cannot be released. Another peer agency practice is to create a clearinghouse that ensures the public can easily access and navigate information and data about critical incidents.

Recommendations

1.

Create a policy and include language in MOUs¹⁹ for trauma-informed notification and engagement after each type of critical incident.

- a. Create a multidisciplinary family engagement team that is responsible for next of kin communication in the aftermath of a critical incident. This engagement team should:
 - i. Require personnel who engage with next of kin to be accompanied by non-law enforcement representatives.
 - ii. Require in-person engagement with next of kin whenever possible.
 - iii. Require personnel who engage with next of kin to be in plain clothes.
 - iv. Provide written materials or pamphlets to leave with next of kin.
- b. Provide trauma-informed communication training for personnel to utilize in emergency circumstances.

2.

Partner with organizations that offer victim support services within King County to provide trauma informed responses and equitable, culturally competent community organization referrals.

3.

Clarify confidentiality or lack thereof, of interactions between next of kin and independent investigator family liaisons.

4.

Publish Independent Investigations Team protocols on the Sheriff's Office website.

5.

Create a policy for media release after a critical incident.

¹⁹ Memorandums of understanding govern the Sheriff's Office involvement in critical incidents when an IIT is involved.

Recommendations *continued*

6. Create a video release policy that includes release of critical incident footage within 72 hours and requires transparency in decision-making.

7. Create a data portal with easily accessible data of all critical incidents.

Community Engagement

Community Partnerships

In 2024, OLEO engaged community-based organizations to partner on OLEO's [Community Guidance Framework](#) for policy reviews. OLEO met with organizations that provide services to minority communities, promote civic organizing and political advocacy, and advance social and racial equity. After initial outreach, OLEO secured five partnerships through memoranda of understanding with The Arc of Washington, Washington For Black Lives, Congolese Integration Network, Transportation Choices Coalition, and People Power Washington. Together with these partners, OLEO began work to engage diverse communities on policy topics using listening session forums and an online survey. OLEO will continue this work in 2025 to create policy recommendations that are informed by the lived experiences of community members in King County.

OLEO is looking for community-based organizations that can be a part of our policy review process. This is a process open to all, and it is especially important to collaborate with organizations that further the interests of populations that have been historically marginalized or overpoliced. Interested? Please fill out this [simple form](#) and OLEO will be in touch.

Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight

A focal point of OLEO's connection to King County communities is through the Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight (CACLEO). This body is up to an eleven-member Executive-appointed, Council-confirmed committee that advises and collaborates with OLEO. CACLEO also advises the King County Council and the Sheriff's Office on matters related to public safety and equity and social justice.

CACLEO represents an effort to engage with the diverse communities of King County and increase transparency of and accessibility to oversight activities and functions. Committee work in 2024 included the following:

- Support of OLEO and the Sheriff's Office in opposing enforcement of Burien city code that criminalizes homelessness
 - » [Press Release](#)
- Attendance at community events to increase CACLEO's presence and community awareness of oversight topics
- Expansion of outreach efforts to recruit for open CACLEO positions
- Engagement with community members on Sheriff's Office policy and procedures related to misconduct complaints

Essential Duties and Responsibilities of CACLEO Members

- Act as a liaison between OLEO and King County's diverse communities. This includes conducting outreach to communities served by the Sheriff's Office, gathering information about public perceptions and concerns relating to the Sheriff's Office, and providing the public with information about recourse for alleged law enforcement misconduct.
- Provide input and guidance on policies, procedures and practices related to policing in King County.
- Advise the King County Council and the Sheriff's Office on matters of equity and social justice related to law enforcement and on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement within the Sheriff's Office.

Qualifications of CACLEO Members

- Residency in King County, WA.
- Ability to regularly attend committee meetings. Schedules are established with committee input at the beginning of each calendar year.
- Ability to serve on at least one subcommittee and available for phone-based consultation with OLEO staff (always scheduled in advance).
- Ability to participate effectively in committee meetings, listen to and work well with other committee members, provide feedback in a respectful manner, and be open to a diversity of ideas.
- Ability to check email and make timely responses.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Interested?

- Please review the full [position description](#).
- Complete the [commission application](#) and the [personal questions form](#).
- Send the completed forms to oleo@kingcounty.gov.

OLEO's Community Engagement team will schedule time to speak by phone once an application is submitted. OLEO's Director will then review the application and send it to the King County Boards and Commissions liaison for consideration.

Join CACLEO!

The committee is currently looking for new members to join!

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 1. *Primary Corrective Action or Discipline for Sustained Top External Allegations in 2024*

Table 2. *Comparison of Corrective Action or Discipline for Sustained Allegations by Origin in 2024*

Table 3. *Grievances, Settlements, or Arbitrations Occurring in 2024*

Figures

Figure 1. *Breakdown of Classifications, 2021-2024*

Figure 2. *Top Internal Allegations in 2024*

Figure 3. *Top External Allegations in 2024*

Figure 4. *External Allegations Against Sworn Employees in 2024*

Figure 5. *Deputy Assignment Breakdown for External Allegations Against Deputies*

Figure 6. *Top External Allegations by Classification Type in 2024*

Figure 7. *Full Investigations Reviewed by OLEO, 2022-2024*

Figure 8. *Top External Allegations Sustained Rate in 2024*

Figure 9. *Comparison of Top External Allegations Sustained Rates for 2021-2024*

Figure 10. *Critical Incidents, 2020-2024*

Figure 11. *Use of Force, 2020-2024*

Appendices

Appendix A: Notes About Data

Appendix B: Complaint Classifications

Appendix C: Notes About Allegations

Appendix D: Top External Allegations by Classification Subcategory Type in 2024

Appendix E: Defining Anti-Roma Racism

Appendix A: Notes about Data

- OLEO maintains its own database and updates it regularly by viewing and reviewing case files from the Sheriff's Office IAPro database.
- To have a clear data set that was not ever-changing, OLEO assigned January 31, 2025 as the cutoff data date. That means that anything entered into IAPro after that date is not included in this Annual Report.
- In one investigation, OLEO judged the information to be erroneous and/or that an inaccurate disposition had been applied. The disposition recorded shows no finding when in fact it should have been sustained – lesser included²⁰ which is a new disposition published in February of 2025. For purposes of this Annual Report, OLEO did not change the no finding record but recognizes if sustained – lesser included had been used, OLEO would have included that allegation in analysis in this Annual Report.
- In investigations that resulted in a *Loudermill* hearing and where the *Loudermill* hearing outcome changed an allegation, disposition, or discipline, OLEO updated our dataset for analysis to show the new outcome from the *Loudermill* hearing. For example, a disposition was originally served as sustained and through a *Loudermill* hearing, the final disposition became non-sustained; OLEO used the final non-sustained disposition for analysis in this Annual Report.

²⁰ Sustained – lesser included is used when an allegation is supported by sufficient factual evidence to establish a general misconduct violation but is based on the same facts as a sustained serious misconduct allegation for the same incident, and therefore does not result in additional discipline. (GOM 3.03.190.)

Appendix B: Complaint Classifications

A complaint is classified into one of three ways: formal investigation, expedited investigation, or mediation.

- 1. Formal investigation:** a complaint alleging a policy violation (serious or minor) that requires further investigation beyond the preliminary investigation or that does not fall under one of the other classifications.
- 2. Expedited investigation:** a complaint that does not require further investigation beyond the preliminary investigation. An expedited investigation must fall under one of the following subcategories:
 - Preliminary evidence conclusive – a complaint where the preliminary investigation has provided clear and convincing evidence to determine that one of the below findings should be entered, and where there is no other compelling interest to further investigate:
 - Sustained, where the policy infraction warrants performance-related training but no other corrective action with the resulting disposition being performance-related training
 - Unfounded
 - Exonerated
 - Service or policy concern – a complaint that, even if true, would not be a violation of policy
 - Member stipulates to misconduct – a complaint that satisfies the following criteria:
 - Employee admits to the conduct alleged
 - Employee agrees to imposed corrective action
 - Allegation is not of a serious policy violation
 - Allegation does not involve an associated significant public concern

- Employee does not attribute their actions to something that an investigator must independently verify
- Lack of relevance – a complaint about a person who is no longer an employee of the Sheriff's Office, where the allegations are not of significant public concern, and where an administrative investigation would not provide meaningful information about current Sheriff's Office operations
- Harassment and retaliation – a recurring complaint without additional facts and where there is evidence the complaint is made to harass or retaliate against an employee who themselves filed a complaint
- Referral to resources – a recurring complaint without additional facts or evidence and where there is cause to believe the complainant would benefit from a referral to community resources (e.g., mental health, substance use, crisis intervention)
- Time limitation – a complaint that would not constitute a serious policy violation, that is not of significant public concern, and that is about conduct that occurred more than one year prior
- Lack of evidence – a complaint where the preliminary investigation could not generate sufficient factual evidence or leads to allow for the identification of the involved employee

- 3. Mediation:** a complaint that qualifies for mediation.

Appendix C: Notes about Allegations

For the purposes of this Annual Report, allegations have been described in a shortened fashion. Below are those allegations as shown in the GOM.²¹ Because a given allegation may indicate a wide variety of specific misconduct reported, examples of this range are included.

Allegation, shortened	Allegation as shown in the GOM	Examples of allegations
Abuse of authority	Inappropriate use of authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A complainant alleges they were harassed by a deputy during a contact.• A complainant alleges deputies enforced a civil matter inappropriately.
Being under the influence while off duty resulting in charges	Being under the influence of either drugs or alcohol while off-duty, resulting in criminal conduct charges or conviction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An off-duty deputy is alleged to have hit someone while intoxicated at a bar and is charged with assault.
Conduct unbecoming	Conduct unbecoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A complainant alleges a deputy contacted a sex worker for services while on-duty.• A complainant alleges a deputy swore at and threatened them.• An employee alleges their colleague made an inappropriate comment about them on social media.
Criminal conduct	Conduct that is criminal in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An arrested person alleges they were sexually assaulted by a deputy.• A complainant alleges an employee stole their property.• A off-duty deputy is arrested on suspicion of DUI in Snohomish County.

²¹ <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/sheriff/about-king-county/about-sheriff-office/about-kcso/general-orders-manual>.

Notes about Allegations *continued*

Allegation, shortened	Allegation as shown in the GOM	Examples of allegations
Discourtesy	Courtesy/disrespect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complainant alleges the 911 dispatcher was dismissive. • A colleague reports a deputy making unprofessional comments about a coworker. • A complainant alleges they were harassed.
Discrimination	Discrimination, harassment, or retaliation ²²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complainant alleges a deputy was racially biased in handling a traffic matter. • An employee reports sexual harassment by a colleague.
Ethics and conflicts	Ethics, conflicts, and appearance of conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A colleague alleges an employee used their work email for political events.
Excessive force	Excessive use of force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An arrested person alleges they were thrown to the ground unnecessarily by deputies. • A supervisor reports a deputy pointed a weapon improperly.
Fails to pass training	Fails to achieve a passing score in any required training or qualification session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deputy was late in renewing their firearm qualification. • An employee failed to complete a required anti-harassment training.
False statements	Making false or fraudulent reports or statements, committing acts of dishonesty, or inducing others to do so	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complainant alleges a deputy lied about their body-worn camera. • An employee alleges their supervisor is lying about them.

²² Previously, this allegation was listed in the GOM as Discrimination, harassment, incivility, and bigotry (members while on duty). The current allegation as shown in the table now separates out discrimination from inappropriate conduct which covers conduct that may not rise to discrimination but that nevertheless communicates a negative message based on a complainant's membership in a protected class.

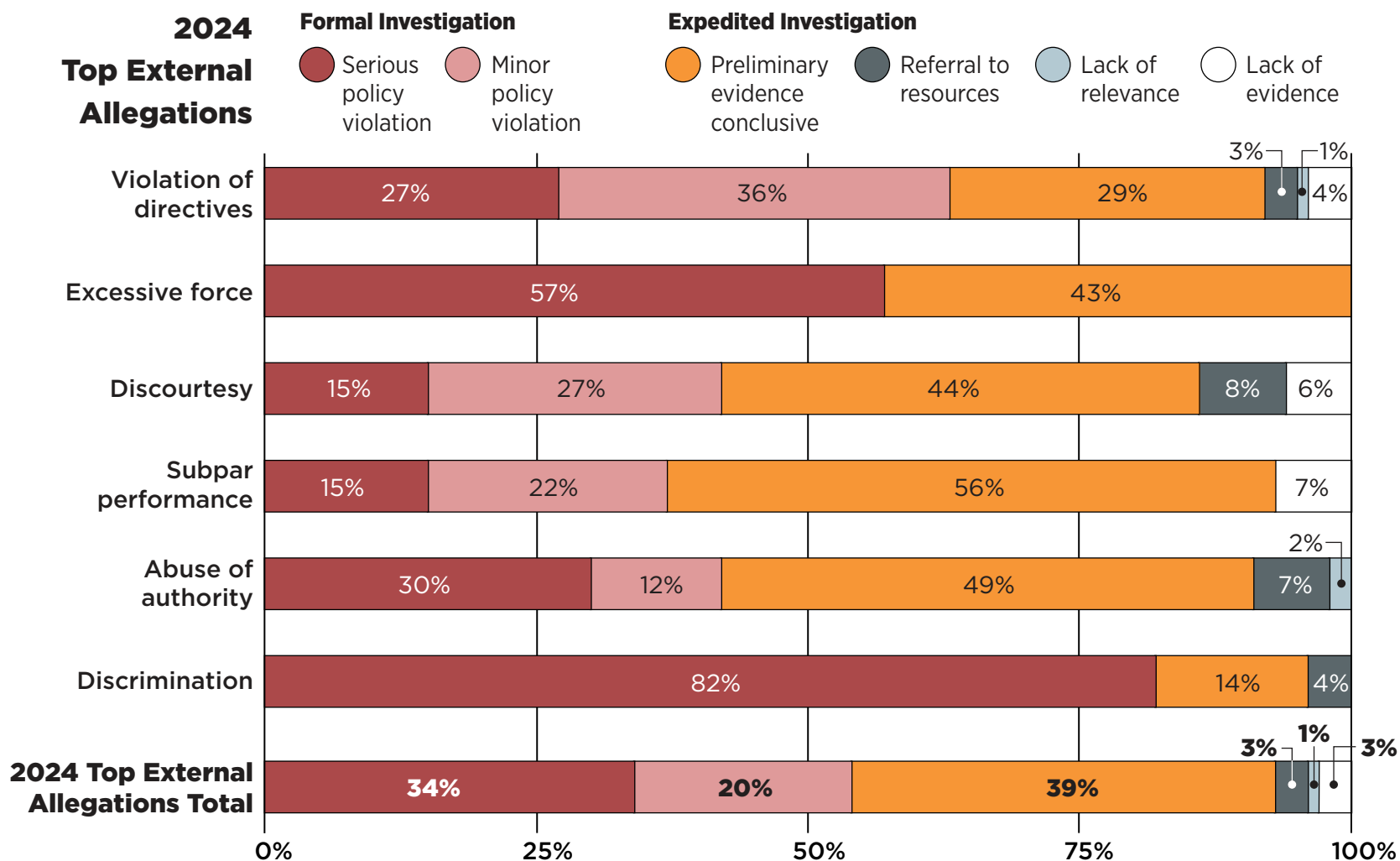
Notes about Allegations *continued*

Allegation, shortened	Allegation as shown in the GOM	Examples of allegations
Inappropriate conduct	Inappropriate conduct ²³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An employee alleges a colleague made comments about their colleague's gender. • A complainant alleges a deputy harassed them.
Ridicule	Ridicule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complainant alleges deputies laughed at their report of an assault.
Subpar performance ²⁴	<p>Performance standards: otherwise fails to meet standards set forth by law, policies or procedures as set out in this manual, or elsewhere; and</p> <p>Performance standards: performs at a level significantly below standards achieved by others in work unit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An employee failed to work a mandatory overtime shift. • A complainant alleges a deputy failed to follow up and mishandled a case. • A colleague alleges a report has factual errors and inconsistencies. • A supervisor alleges a deputy modified equipment inappropriately.
Violation of directives	Acts in violation of Sheriff's Office directives, rules, policies, or procedures as set out in this manual, or elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A colleague reports an employee was late for their shift. • A school zone camera takes a photo of a deputy speeding in their patrol car. • A complainant alleges they were arrested unlawfully without a warrant. • A supervisor alleges a deputy violated use of force and body-worn camera policy.

²³ Inappropriate conduct covers conduct that may not rise to discrimination but that nevertheless communicates a negative message based on a complainant's membership in a protected class.

²⁴ Previously, there were two versions of allegations of employees not meeting standards for performance: "Performs significantly below the standard achieved by others in the work unit" (often used) and "Otherwise fails to meet Sheriff's Office standards" (seldomly used). With the 2024 updates to the GOM, the wording of the latter was updated to "Otherwise fails to meet standards set forth by law, policy, procedure, or training", which IIU began using for all allegations of employees not meeting performance standards in place of the previous GOM categories. "Subpar performance" is comparable to the "Performs below standards" abbreviation in OLEO's 2023 Annual Report. This table in the appendix includes all related allegations as written in various GOM versions.

Appendix D: Top External Allegations by Classification Subcategory Type in 2024



Note: Percentages have been rounded, and mediation cases excluded..

Appendix E: Defining Anti-Roma Racism

As defined by the U.S. Department of State:²⁵

Home > ... > Defining Anti-Roma Racism*

Defining Anti-Roma Racism*

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOLOCAUST ISSUES

The U.S. Department of State has used the working definition of Anti-Roma racism* since it was adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) as a legally non-binding definition in 2020. The effort to draft a **working definition** of anti-Roma racism was spearheaded by experts in the IHRA **Committee on the Genocide of the Roma** in consultation with representatives of civil society. As a member of IHRA, the United States has encouraged other governments and international organizations to adopt the definition.

The Working Definition of Anti-Roma Racism*

Adopted on 8 October 2020

Acknowledging with concern that the neglect of the genocide of the Roma has contributed to the prejudice and discrimination that many Roma** communities still experience today, and accepting our responsibility to counter such forms of racism and discrimination (Articles 4 and 7 of the IHRA 2020 Ministerial Declaration, article 3 of the Stockholm Declaration), the IHRA adopts the following working definition of anti-Roma racism:

Anti-Roma racism is a manifestation of individual expressions and acts as well as institutional policies and practices of marginalization, exclusion, physical violence, devaluation of Roma cultures and lifestyles, and hate speech directed at Roma as well as other individuals and groups

ment of Roma as an alleged alien group and associates them with a series of stereotypes and distorted images that represent a specific form of racism.

IHRA in its work, the following is being recognized:

racism has existed for centuries. It was an essential element in the persecution and policies against Roma as perpetrated by Nazi Germany, and those fascist and totalitarian partners and other collaborators who participated in these crimes.

racism did not start with or end after the Nazi era but continues to be a central theme in the persecution against Roma. In spite of the important work done by the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other international bodies, the stereotypes and prejudices about Roma have not been delegitimized or discredited vigorously enough so that they continue to be deployed largely unchallenged.

racism is a multi-faceted phenomenon that has widespread social and political dimensions. It is a critical obstacle to the inclusion of Roma in broader society, and it acts to prevent Roma from enjoying equal rights, opportunities, and gainful social-economic conditions.

Examples may be given to illustrate anti-Roma racism. Contemporary manifestations of anti-Roma racism could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Distorting or denying persecution of Roma or the genocide of the Roma.
- Glorifying the genocide of the Roma.
- Inciting, justifying, and perpetrating violence against Roma communities, their property, and individual Roma.
- Forced and coercive sterilizations as well as other physically and psychologically abusive treatment of Roma.
- Perpetuating and affirming discriminatory stereotypes of and against Roma.
- Blaming Roma, using hate speech, for real or perceived social, political, cultural, economic, and public health problems.

ing Roma as persons who engage in criminal behavior.

the term "Gypsy" as a slur.

ing or encouraging exclusionary mechanisms directed against Roma on the basis of discriminatory assumptions, such as the exclusion from regular schools and social procedures or policies that lead to the segregation of Roma communities.

ing policies without legal basis or establishing the conditions that allow for the arbitrary and discriminatory displacement of Roma communities and individuals.

Roma collectively responsible for the real or perceived actions of individual members of Roma communities.

Spreading hate speech against Roma communities in whatever form, for example in media, including on the internet and on social networks.

* The United States uses the term anti-Roma racism, as the **IHRA working definition** recommends that Member Countries use the preferred term in their national context.

** The word 'Roma' is used as an umbrella term which includes different related groups, whether sedentary or not, such as Roma, Travellers, Gens du voyage, Resanefolket/De resande, Sinti, Camminanti, Manouches, Kalés, Romanichels, Boyash/Rudari, Ashkalis, Égyptiens, Yéniches, Doms, Loms and Abdal that may be diverse in culture and lifestyles. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma.

²⁵ <https://www.state.gov/defining-anti-roma-racism/>.

Acknowledgments

OLEO would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this Annual Report:

Wendy Gable Collins, KCIT, for her delightful designs.

Toni Carpenter, KCGIS, for her magical maps.

And for their technical review and expertise:

- **King County Sheriff's Office**
- **Devon Shannon**, PAO
- **Sasha Alessi**, OLR



King County OLEO

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To request a print copy of this
Annual Report, call or email OLEO.



**King County
Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO)**

2024 Annual Report Presentation

June 4, 2025

Presented to: Law & Justice Committee

Presented by: Tamer Abouzeid, OLEO Director

[KingCounty.gov/OLEO](https://kingcounty.gov/OLEO)



**King County
OLEO**

Agenda

- Complaints and Investigations
- Notable Cases
- Reportable Use of Force
- Critical Incidents
- Policy
- Community Engagement
- Open Call to King County Residents



Some Definitions

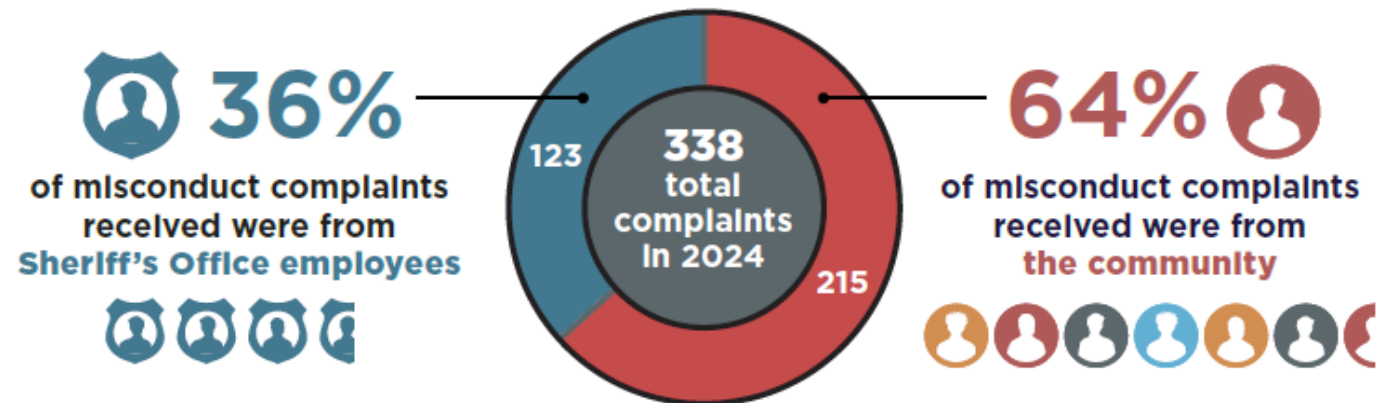
- “Misconduct” – any violations
- Selected OLEO Findings
- Use of Force Incidents
- Critical Incidents
- Policy Updates
- Community Engagement Updates
- Independent Investigations Updates
- Open Call to King County Residents



Complaints and Investigations

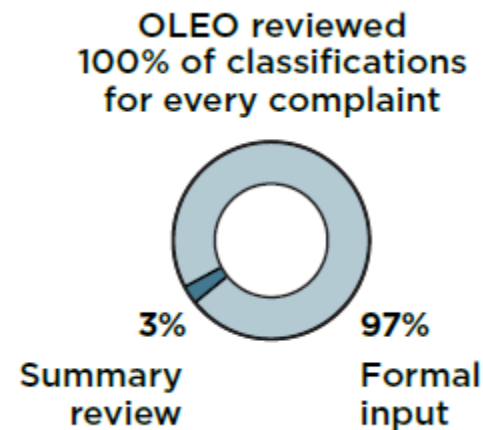
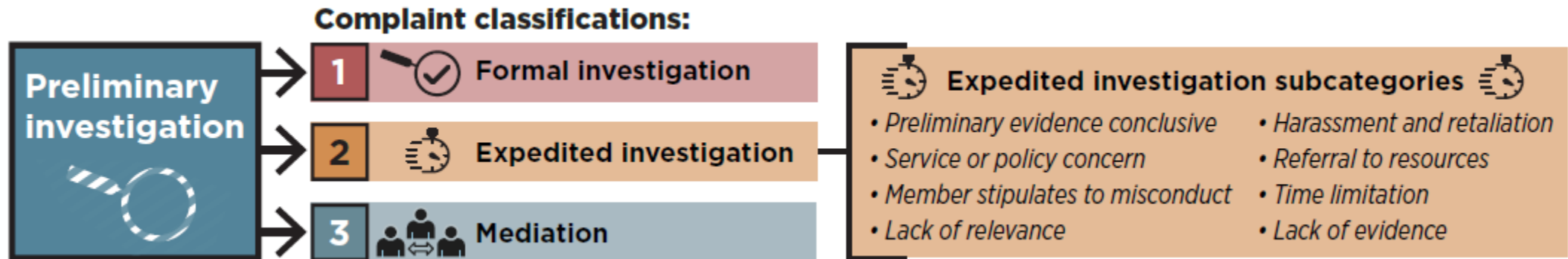
Complaints and Source of Complaints

- Generally, 60-70% of complaints come from the community; this year is consistent
- Total complaints increased year-over-year, and slightly decreased compared with 2021-2023 average
- Biggest increase came from internal complaints

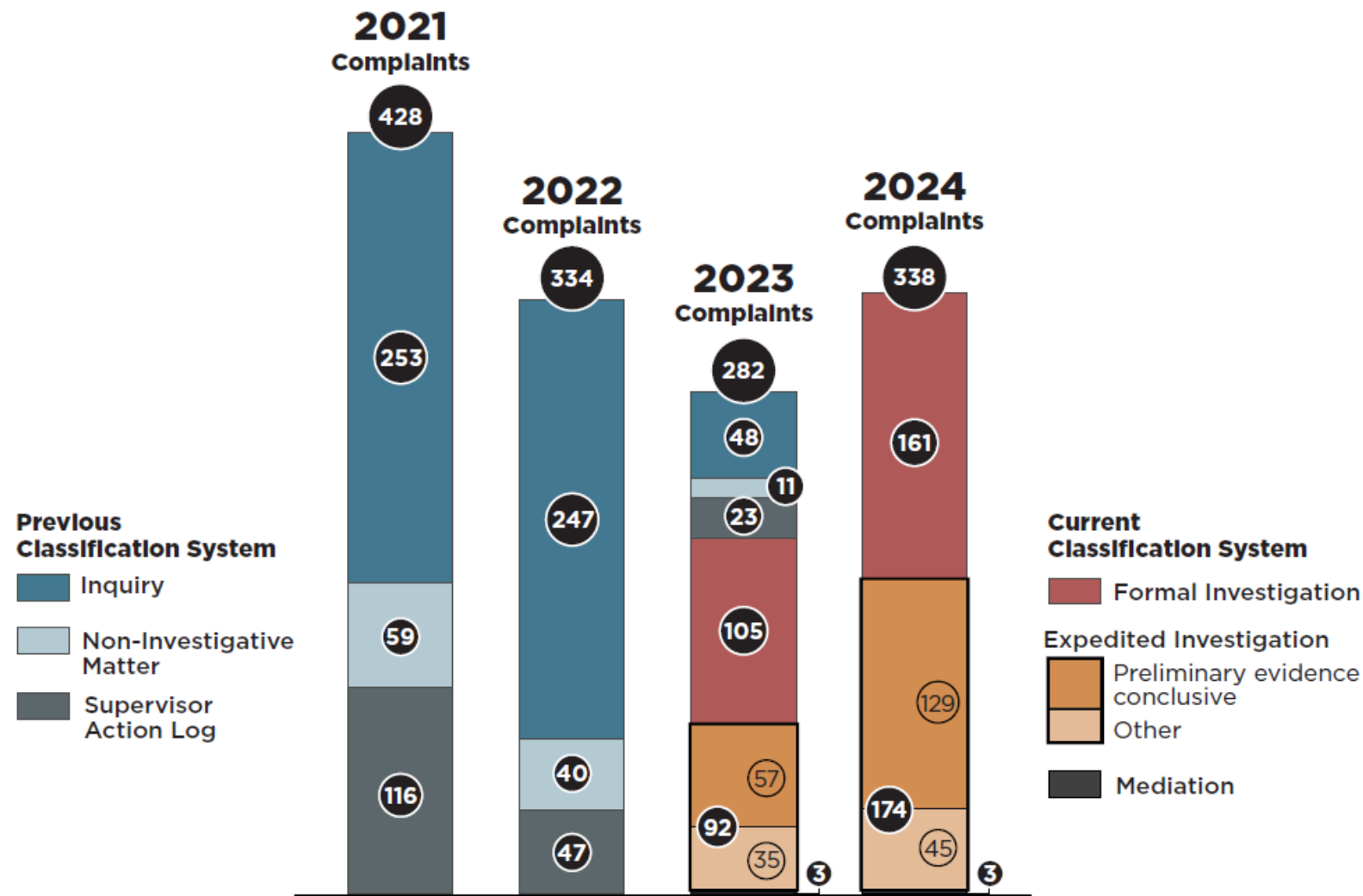


	Complaints from Sheriff's Office	Total complaints	Complaints from the community
Compared to 2023	+44%	+18%	+6%
Compared to 2021 - 2023 average	+7%	-3%	-8%

Classifications



Breakdown of Classifications



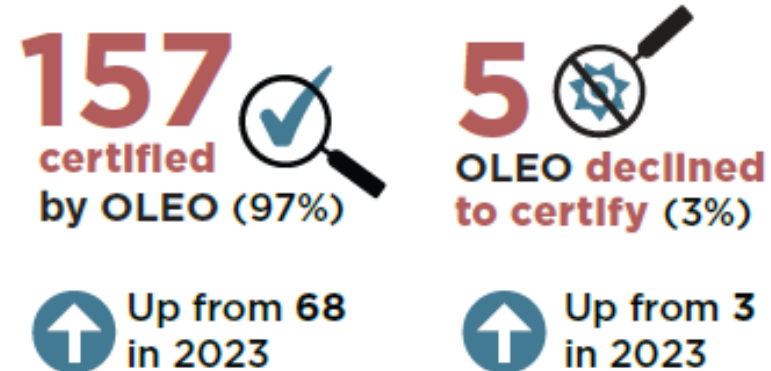
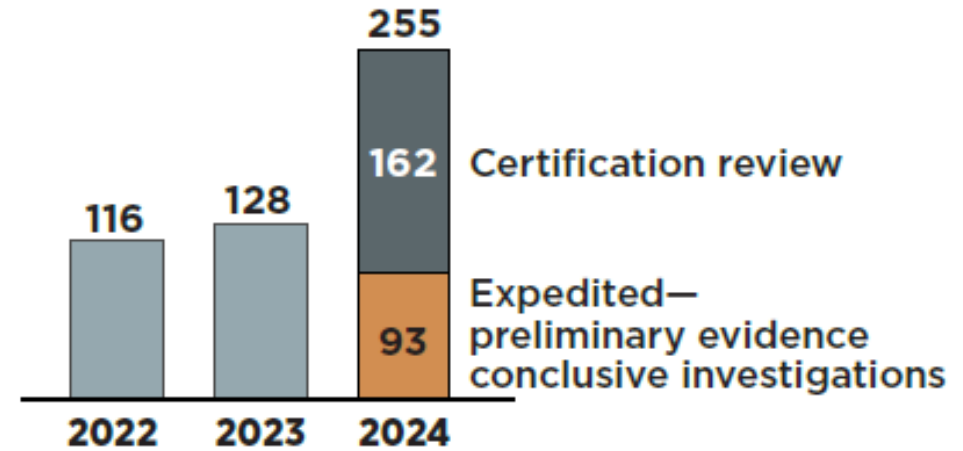
Expedited—preliminary evidence conclusive investigations made up nearly **40%** of the total classifications opened in 2024.

OLEO Review of Full Investigations

This includes Formal Investigations as well as Expedited Investigations where preliminary evidence was conclusive

Year-over-year:

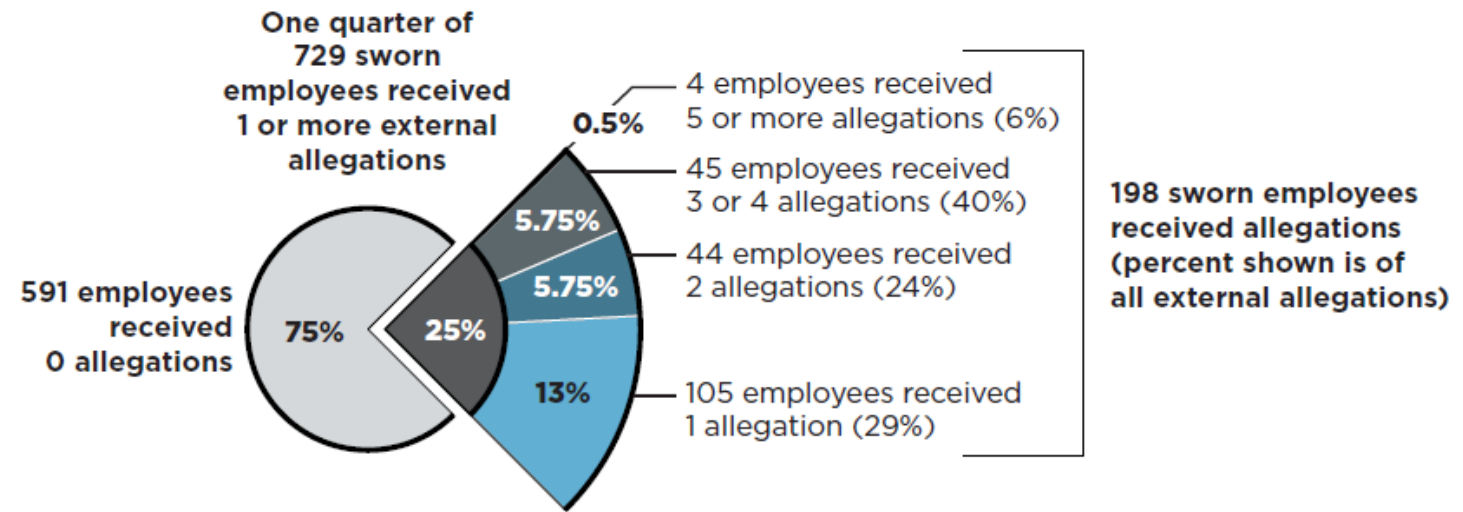
- Total number of reviews **doubled**
 - From 128 to 255
- Certification reviews **doubled**
 - From 71 to 162



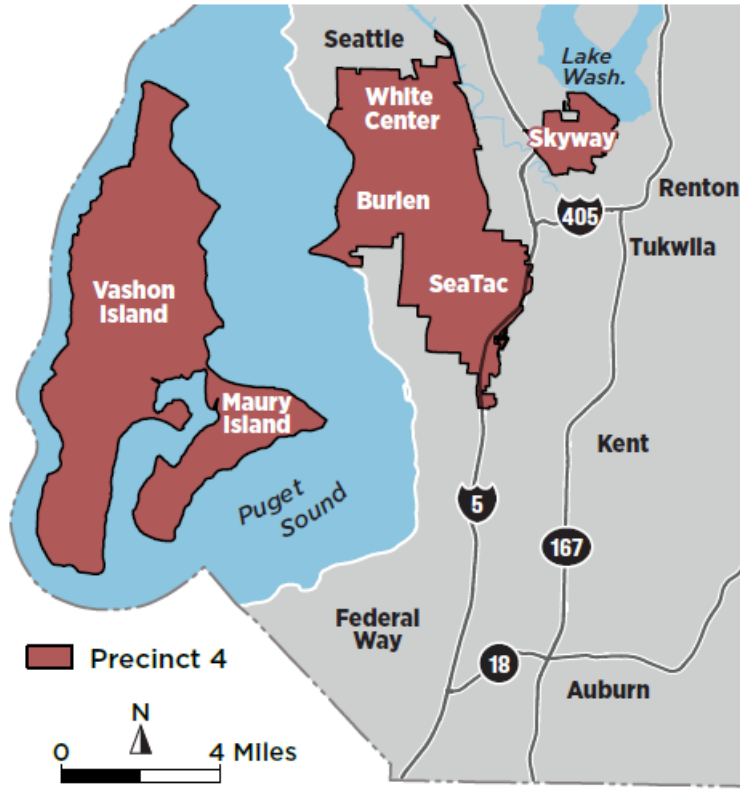
External Allegations Against Sworn Personnel

We looked at how many sworn personnel were the subject of at least one external allegation

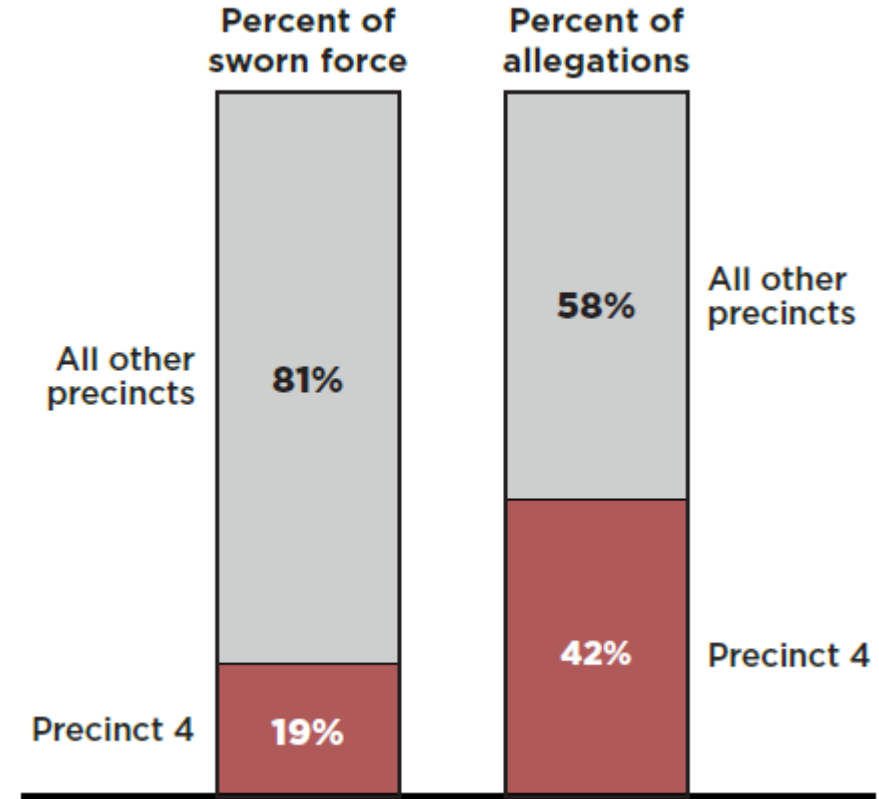
- Three quarters of deputies were **not subjects of any external allegations**
- Approximately **six percent** of sworn personnel accounted for **almost half of all allegations** (46%)



Area with Highest Number of Allegations



Precinct 4 includes: Skyway/West Hill;
North Highline (including White Center);
Vashon; Burien; and SeaTac

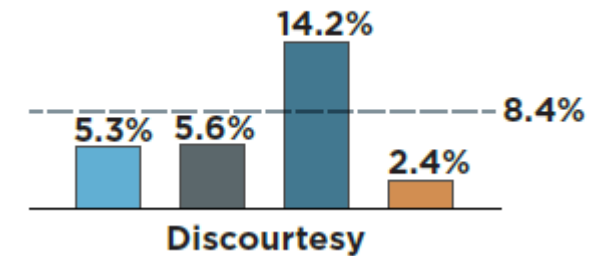
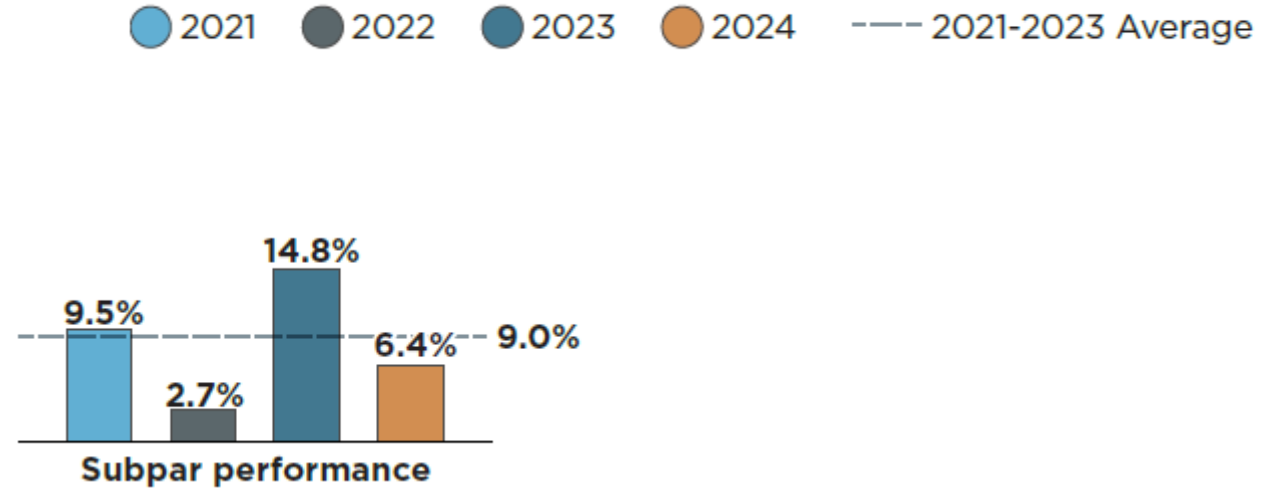


Sustained Rates: Notable Drops

Looking at the top external allegations, the following allegations:

- Subpar performance
- Discourtesy

Both of these drops follow years that were higher than normal

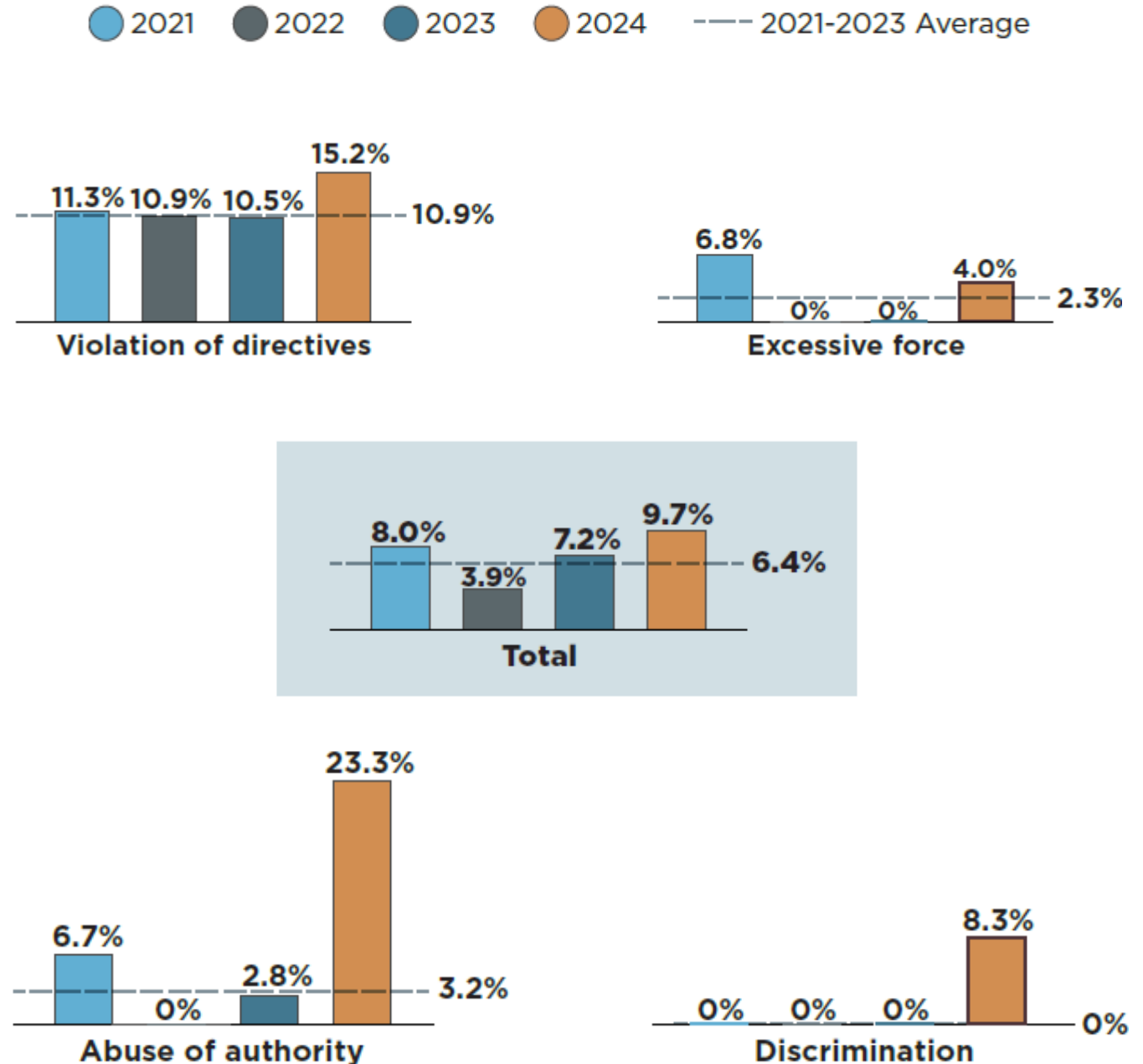


Trend in Rate of Sustained Allegations

Looking at the top external allegations, in total, 2024 marks the highest rate of sustained allegations since at least 2021

OLEO has prioritized the following allegations in our work:

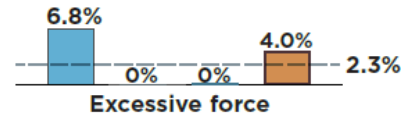
- **Abuse of Authority**
 - 7 of 30 sustained
- **Discrimination**
 - 2 of 24 sustained
- **Excessive Force**
 - 2 of 50 sustained



Notable Cases

Including agreements and disagreements between OLEO and Sheriff's Office

Use of Force



Use of Force during the restraining of a resistant but handcuffed complainant

- Sheriff's Office **deputies intervened** when they witnessed another deputy using excessive force
- Sheriff's Office **enlisted another LE agency to review for potential criminal violations**
- Prosecutor filed charges, trial was held. Verdict: **Not Guilty**
- Initial recommendation for Use of Force allegation from Major was Non-Sustained, but Division Chief **changed to Sustained** and Leadership agreed

AUBURN REPORTER

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NEWS

King County Sheriff's Office deputy faces assault charge

By Benjamin Leung • October 23, 2023 9:14 am



A King County Sheriff's Office deputy faces a misdemeanor assault charge after King County prosecutors say he intentionally punched a suspect seat-belted and handcuffed inside a patrol vehicle that kicked him.

Prosecutors filed a charge of assault in the fourth degree against

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SeaTac officer who punched suspect found not guilty of assault

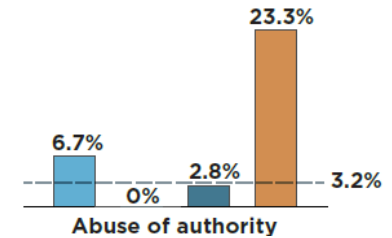
June 25, 2024 at 1:42 pm



By Lauren Girgis
Seattle Times staff reporter

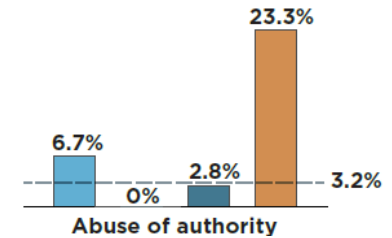
A SeaTac police officer employed by the King County Sheriff's Office was found not guilty of assault by a jury last week after he punched a man in the back of a patrol car in 2023.

Search & Seizure Cases



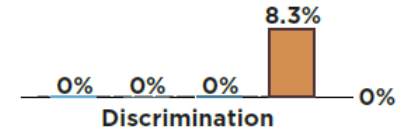
- 3 Cases with initial recommendations to find no wrongdoing
- OLEO made recommended findings
- In **2 of 3** cases, findings were changed to **sustained**
- Case 1: Unlawful arrest
 - Arrest was for obstruction, not the underlying reason for the *Terry* stop
 - Sheriff's Office agreed that there was **no probable cause for arrest**
- Case 2: Unlawful search
 - Deputies had observed a person slumped over in a car and opened it without attempting to speak to the person first
 - Deputies stated they had not seen evidence of a crime
 - Sheriff's Office agreed that there was **no justification for entering the car**

Search & Seizure Cases (Cont'd)



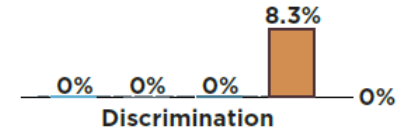
- 3 Cases with initial recommendations to find no wrongdoing
- OLEO made recommended findings
- In **2 of 3** cases, findings were changed to **sustained**
- Case 3: Search with consent of a juvenile
 - State law, County code, and Sheriff's Office General Orders mandate that juveniles have access to an attorney for consultation before a search
 - In this case, deputies were alleged to have gotten consent to search a home from a juvenile; deputies were searching for the juvenile's parent
 - Sheriff's Office **reasoning was deeply flawed**, claiming the policy is "ambiguous" and that it was widely understood to apply to juveniles suspected of crimes only
 - There is nothing ambiguous about the state and county laws or the GOM policy

Discrimination Cases



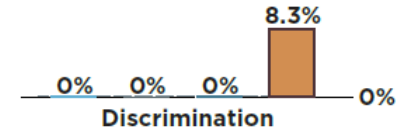
- 3 Cases with initial recommendations to find no wrongdoing
- OLEO made recommended findings
- In **1 of 3** cases, findings were changed to **sustained**
- Case 1: Deputy admits anti-Roma sentiment
 - Deputy stated that “Gypsies” are criminals and it is a “culture that will commit crimes” and that it was “unfortunate” that they are in the United States
 - Deputy was reported by other deputies and he openly discussed his views
 - Sheriff’s Office insisted that there was no discrimination or belittling because “Roma” is an ethnicity, which was not listed as a protected class at the time (it has since changed)
 - Sheriff’s Office did not sustain the allegation despite the clear violation, i.e., discrimination based on national origin

Discrimination Cases (Cont'd)



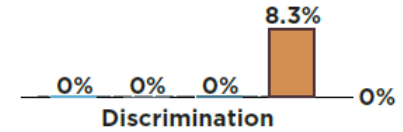
- 3 Cases with initial recommendations to find no wrongdoing
- OLEO made recommended findings
- In **1 of 3** cases, findings were changed to **sustained**
- Case 2: “Speak English”
 - Subject employee, after hearing a woman and her fiancé speak Spanish, said, “This is America. Speak English.”
 - Sheriff’s Office ultimately sustained the allegation of discrimination

Discrimination Cases (Cont'd)



- 3 Cases with initial recommendations to find no wrongdoing
- OLEO made recommended findings
- In **1 of 3** cases, findings were changed to **sustained**
- Case 3: “Okay, Papi”
 - Complainant told deputy that he would file a complaint and that the deputy would be in trouble
 - Deputy, who had identified complainant as “Hispanic,” replied, “Okay, Papi” to “firmly put him in his place”
 - Complainant felt that the use of “Papi” was homophobic
 - Sheriff’s Office and OLEO agreed that there was no homophobia because the deputy actually thought the complainant was in a relationship with the woman who called the police
 - Sheriff’s Office insisted there was no discrimination based on ethnicity or national

Discrimination Cases (Notes)



- There is historically a reluctance to sustain allegations of discrimination, which OLEO has fought against
- There is inconsistency in applying the policies
 - Case involving **anti-Roma sentiment**: Sheriff's Office finds no discrimination based on national origin, argues "ethnicity" not included
vs.
Case involving **"Speak English"**: Sheriff's Office finds discrimination based on national origin and race
 - In cases where Sheriff's Office found no wrongdoing, it **still recommended training**—this is a clear sign that there is wrongdoing that needed to be remedied

Corrective Action

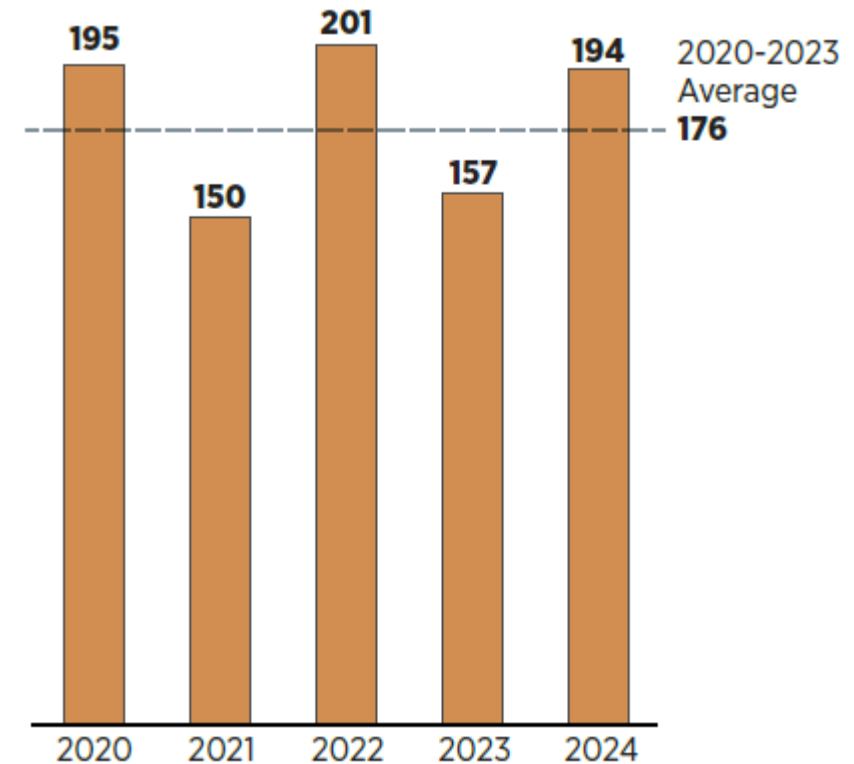
- Corrective action can range from training and counseling to discipline
- Between those two buckets, rates are similar when looking at external vs. internal allegations
 - Training/counseling:
External 54% vs. Internal 64%
 - Discipline:
External 39% vs. Internal 34%
- Sustained external allegations **more likely to result in suspension or termination** (37% vs. 13%) or to result in **no corrective action** (7% vs. 2%)

Corrective action	Percent of sustained external allegations with corrective action imposed	Percent of sustained internal allegations with corrective action imposed
Training and corrective counseling: 61%		
Performance-related training	35%	55%
Training	12%	0%
Verbal counseling	5%	0%
Corrective counseling memo	2%	9%
Progressive discipline: 36%		
Written reprimand	2%	21%
Suspension	23%	13%
Termination	14%	0%
No corrective action: 4%		
No action	7%	2%

Note: Percentages have been rounded.

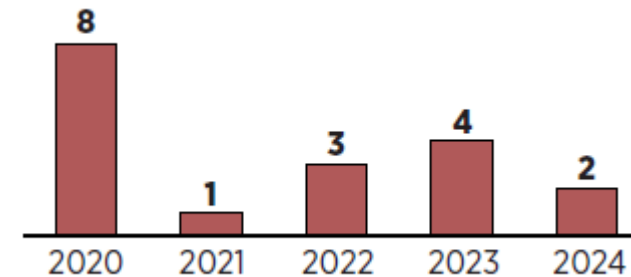
Reportable Use of Force

- Generally, Sheriff's Office logs 150-200 reportable uses of force every year
- Numbers in line with past years



Critical Incidents

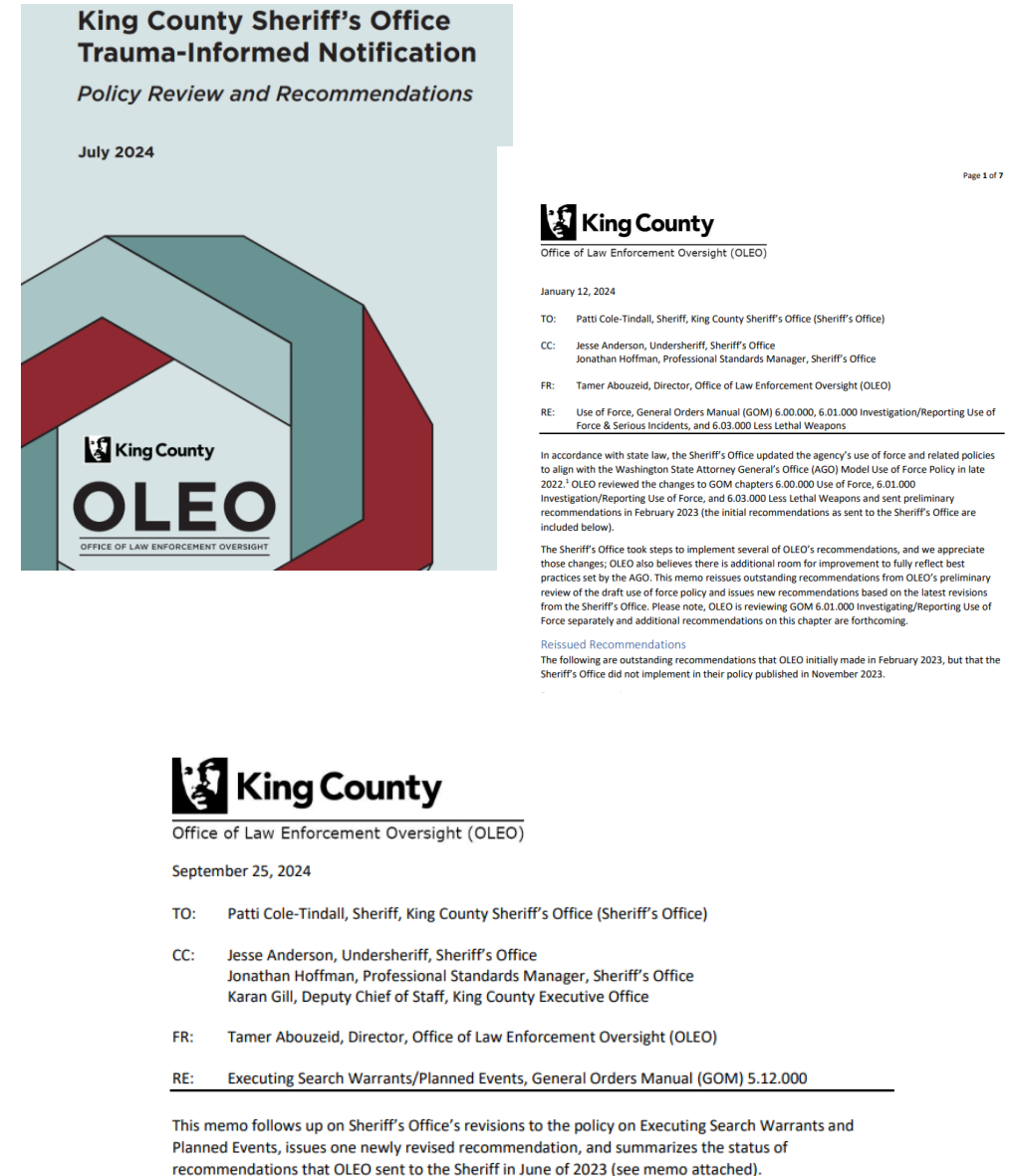
- 2024 saw the **fewest critical incidents since 2021**, including one fatal shooting and one dog bite requiring hospitalization
- For the **second year in a row**, a fatal shooting occurred during the carrying out of an **eviction**
- Updates on previous cases:
 - Shooting of Mr. Derrick Ellis – KCPAO declined prosecution
 - In-custody death of Mr. Lamond dukes – KCPAO review pending
 - Non-fatal shooting of Mr. Abdinjib Ali Ibrahim – KCPAO declined prosecution



Policy

OLEO continually monitors policy changes and works on policy projects with community-based organizations

- OLEO issues **34 policy recommendations in 2024** covering:
 - Use of Force (continuation from 2023)
 - Executing Search Warrants
- OLEO issued its **Trauma-Informed Notifications report** with recommendations to the Sheriff's Office



Community Engagement

OLEO works diligently to increase our presence and availability to the community

- In 2024, we were contacted by community members 280 times in 2024, an **increase of 40% since 2022**
- We have entered into Memoranda of Understanding with **five community-based organizations**—and counting

Community contacts with OLEO

In 2024, OLEO was contacted by community members nearly

280 times

+40% since 2022

Policy



5 new policy review partnerships with community organizations

Open Call: Be a part of the work!

We are looking for people who care about King County to be part of the work

- For residents: [Join CACLEO](#), the Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight
- For community-based organizations, [become a policy review partner](#), as part of our Community Guidance Framework for Policy Reviews



Office of Law Enforcement Oversight

Vacancy:	King County Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight Member	Location:	Seattle, WA
<p>The King County Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement is comprised of 11 members who are appointed by the King County Executive and confirmed by the King County Council. Committee members engage in activities that bolster the work and position of the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO). The committee meets, at minimum, on a quarterly basis. Members can serve up to two three-year terms. Members are responsible for their own transportation to meetings, but are offered parking reimbursement in eligible lots. The Committee meets as a whole and sometimes forms subcommittees to explore issues in greater detail for consideration by the full body.</p>			
Essential Duties and Responsibilities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a liaison between OLEO and King County's diverse communities. This includes conducting outreach to communities served by the Sheriff's Office, gathering information about public perceptions and concerns relating to the Sheriff's Office, and providing the public with information about recourse for alleged police misconduct. • Provide input and guidance on policies, procedures and practices related to policing in King County. • Advise the King County Sheriff's Office and the King County Council on matters of equity and social justice related to law enforcement and on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement within the Sheriff's Office. 			
Qualifications			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residency in King County, WA. 			



King County • Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO)

COMMUNITY GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK FOR POLICY REVIEWS

This document provides an overview of OLEO's community guidance process for policy reviews. By law, OLEO has authority to review and make recommendations to the Sheriff regarding changes to the Sheriff's Office policies, rules, procedures, or general orders [K.C.C. 2.75.040(D)]. Alongside its other programs,

OLEO aims to further policing standards through evidence-based policy recommendations that are driven by community and rooted in equity.

In service of that mission, OLEO has designed a process to review and develop policy recommendations in direct collaboration and consultation with community. This framework is a living document, and we invite residents of King County to connect with us if you'd like to get involved or share your feedback.

