

Criminal penalty fees related to sexual exploitation crimes



Reported submitted pursuant to Chapter 121, Laws of 2013

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIVISION**

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Report to the Legislature

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Executive summary

Overview

In 2013, the Washington State Legislature passed [Chapter 121, Laws of 2013 \(ESHB 1291\)](#), assessed additional fees on the crime of commercial sexual abuse of a minor and other sexual exploitation crimes. The fees, ordered on persons convicted of crimes, are in addition to other criminal penalties, including statutory fines and jail time. Local jurisdictions retain most of the fee revenue to fund preventative efforts, services for victims, and law enforcement activities to reduce the commercial sale of sex. Judges may reduce some fees by up to two-thirds if the judge finds, on the record, that an offender cannot pay. Courts may not entirely waive any of the fees. Chapter 121, Laws of 2013, directs the Washington State Department of Commerce to:

"...prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature on the amount of revenue collected by local jurisdictions under RCW 9.68A.105, 9A.88.120, or 9A.88.140 and the expenditure of that revenue [codified under RCW 43.280.100]."

The three statutes listed in the proviso assess fees on convictions related to prostitution and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The specifics of these fees are discussed in more detail in Table 1: Statutes Modified by Chapter 121, Laws of 2013.

This report, for state fiscal year 2022, is the ninth annual report prepared on the fee revenue and expenditures related to this set of crimes. The [Introduction](#) includes the complete statutory report requirements.

Key findings for fiscal year 2022

As in recent years, it does not appear that courts are ordering persons convicted of crimes to pay the amounts that statutes require for their crimes. It is beyond the scope of this report to investigate why many courts are not imposing these fees. Further research and judicial outreach could lead to a better understanding of why courts do not consistently assess the fees.

- Washington courts assessed \$91,962 in applicable fees but collected \$124,983 in such fee payments.
- There were 38 fewer arrests for sexual exploitation crimes than the previous year, representing a 6% decrease, and 32 fewer convictions for such crimes compared to state fiscal year 2021, a 16% decrease.
- Only 17% of the courts that handed down convictions for sexual exploitation crimes assessed any fees in connection with those convictions.
- Washington courts assessed 52% of the total amount of penalty fees possible for convictions of sexual exploitation crimes. Excluding King County, Washington courts assessed only 14% of the total amount of penalty fees possible for convictions of sexual exploitation crimes.
- Courts in King County again assessed and collected most of the fees – 90% and 84%, respectively.
- Due to pandemic-related delays in court proceedings, some individuals arrested in the 2022 fiscal year likely have not yet begun proceedings, which may skew the analysis.

Introduction

Background on revenue collection

The three statutes listed under [RCW 43.280.100](#) ([RCW 9.68A.105](#), [9A.88.120](#), or [9A.88.140](#)) assess fees on convictions related to prostitution and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The fees are in addition to other penalties, including statutory fines and jail time. Courts assess the fees on persons convicted of crimes who entered into a statutory or non-statutory diversion agreement¹ because of arrests for one of the applicable crimes. [Table 1](#) lists the statutes, the additional penalty, and the crimes to which the penalty applies.

Statutes 9.68A.105, 9A.88.120, and 9A.88.140 describe how jurisdictions must use the revenue from the fees collected:

- Cities and counties must spend at least 50%, and up to 98%, of the revenue on prevention and rehabilitation services for victims. Prevention includes education programs for persons convicted of crimes, such as accountability programs,² which provide curriculum on the sexual exploitation of people, legal ramifications, and confronting and healing from sexual addiction. Rehabilitative services for victims include mental health and substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, housing relief, education, vocational training, drop-in centers, and employment counseling.
- Jurisdictions may use between 0% and 48% for local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of sex, including but not limited to increasing enforcement of commercial sex laws.
- Two percent of the revenue must be remitted quarterly to Commerce, with a report detailing the fees assessed, the revenue received and how it was spent.

Judges may reduce some of the fees if the court finds, on the record, that the offender does not have the ability to pay the fee. In those cases, judges may only reduce the fee by up to two-thirds.

Courts may not make any reductions to the fees attached to vehicle impoundment. Impounding agencies collect these fees if a law enforcement officer impounds a vehicle used in the commission of a commercial sexual abuse of a minor crime or prostitution-related crime or if other conditions are met. The owner must pay the fee before redeeming the vehicle. If the defendant is subsequently found not guilty of the crime, the defendant is entitled to a refund of the fee.

It is important to note that an arrest made in one year can lead to a case that takes more than a year to prosecute and resolve, resulting in the total amount of fees a court could collect exceeding the maximum possible fees.

¹ RCW 9A.88.120 defines statutory or non-statutory agreement as an agreement under RCW 13.40.080 or any written agreement between a person accused of an offense and a court, county, or city prosecutor, whereby the person agrees to fulfill certain conditions in lieu of prosecution.

² These programs are sometimes called "john schools," but this term is not survivor informed and may not be accurate, as not all buyers are men. Some accountability programs may still have titles including "johns" or "men," but it is important to note that not all buyers are men, just as not all victims of sexual exploitation are women.

Legislative mandates relating to sex crimes

Table 1: Statutes modified by Chapter 121, Laws of 2013

Statute	Additional penalty amount	Crimes to which penalty applies	Amount by which penalty can be reduced	
9.68A.105	\$5,000	9.68A.100 – Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM) 9.68A.101 – Promoting CSAM 9.68A.102 – Promoting travel for CSAM	The court may not reduce, waive, or suspend payment of all or part of the fee assessed unless it finds, on the record, that the adult offender does not have the ability to pay, in which case it may reduce the fee by an amount up to two-thirds of the maximum allowable fee.	
9A.88.120	\$50	9A.88.010 – Indecent exposure		
	\$50	9A.88.030 – Prostitution		
	1st offense	\$1,500		9A.88.090 – Permitting prostitution 9A.88.110 – Patronizing a prostitute
	2nd offense	\$2,500		
	3rd and subsequent offenses	\$5,000		
	1st offense	\$3,000		9A.88.070 – Promoting prostitution in the first degree 9A.88.080 – Promoting prostitution in the second degree
2nd offense	\$6,000			
3rd and subsequent offenses	\$10,000			
9A.88.140	\$500	9A.88.140 – Vehicle impoundment fine for: 9A.88.110 – Patronizing a prostitute 9A.88.070 – Promoting prostitution in the first degree 9A.88.080 – Promoting prostitution in the second degree 9A.88.085 – Promoting travel for prostitution	May not be waived or reduced	
	\$2,500	9A.88.140 – Vehicle impoundment fine for: 9.68A.100 – CSAM 9.68A.101 – Promoting CSAM 9.68A.102 – Promoting travel for CSAM		

Fee assessments and crime rates

In state fiscal year 2022, 54 courts in Washington handed down convictions for crimes that bear the relevant additional penalty fees. Of these, nine courts – just 17% – assessed additional penalty fees in connection with convictions for applicable crimes. This discrepancy indicates that many courts in Washington are not assessing the fees or are assessing only a fraction of what they could. In addition, only 15 courts received revenue in this fiscal year, some of which was for crimes committed in previous years.

- The **Kent Municipal Court** both assessed and collected the highest amount of fees of all Washington courts in state fiscal year 2022, followed closely by the **King County Superior Court**. The Kent Municipal Court assessed \$31,250 and collected \$50,903; the King County Superior Court assessed \$29,318 and collected \$32,396.
- The **Pierce County Superior Court** had 13 convictions for relevant crimes, six of which were for promoting prostitution in the first and second degree and three of which were for the commercial sexual abuse of a minor. These offenses carry fees of \$3,000 and \$5,000, respectively. Given all relevant convictions for the Pierce County Superior Court, the maximum possible fees would total \$33,200, assuming the persons convicted were first-time offenders. However, the court only assessed \$7,000 in relevant fees in state fiscal year 2022, 21% of the maximum possible fees.
- In **Spokane County**, there were five convictions for promoting prostitution in the first and second degree and four additional convictions for other relevant offenses, resulting in \$17,100 total possible fees. However, no courts in the county assessed additional fees in state fiscal year 2022.

Overall, courts assessed 52% of the total possible fee amount – \$91,962 out of a potential \$176,500. As in previous years, courts in King County both assessed and collected most of the fees. Excluding King County, other Washington courts assessed just 14% of the total possible fee amount – \$9,609 out of a potential \$69,800. It is beyond the scope of this report to investigate why many courts are not imposing these fees.

[Table 2](#) lists the number of arrests and convictions for the relevant crimes, the maximum possible fees that could be assessed based on conviction data, the actual fees assessed and the fees collected for each county in Washington. [Appendix B](#) contains a complete list of all courts that imposed convictions for the applicable crimes or assessed or collected relevant fees. It is important to note that an arrest made in one year can lead to a case that takes more than a year to prosecute and resolve, explaining why the fees a court assessed may exceed the maximum possible fees and why some of the fees collected by a court may be greater than fees that court assessed.

Table 2: Arrests, convictions and fees by county for applicable charges – state fiscal year 2022

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Adams	8	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Asotin	0	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Benton	5	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Chelan	4	0	\$0	\$0	\$784.58
Clallam	6	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Clark	36	4	\$200	\$302.50	\$50
Columbia	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cowlitz	11	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Douglas	1	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Ferry	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Franklin	13	1	\$50	\$0	\$99.60
Garfield	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grant	2	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Grays Harbor	10	2	\$100	\$0	\$329.14
Island	3	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Jefferson	1	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
King	219	70	\$106,700	\$82,353.01	\$105,583.07
Kitsap	20	14	\$700	\$433	\$16.50
Kittitas	3	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Klickitat	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lewis	7	4	\$200	\$0	\$0
Lincoln	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Mason	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Okanogan	6	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Pacific	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pend Oreille	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pierce	44	22	\$33,650	\$7,120	\$14,946.81
San Juan	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$50
Skagit	16	3	\$3,100\$3,100	\$0	\$0
Skamania	1	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Snohomish	53	12	\$600	\$0	\$0
Spokane	64	9	\$17,100	\$0	\$98.45
Stevens	1	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Thurston	21	3	\$3,100\$3,100	\$0	\$0
Wahkiakum	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Walla Walla	7	1	\$50	\$0	\$0
Whatcom	10	2	\$100	\$103	\$0
Whitman	2	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Yakima	48	10	\$10,400	\$1,650	\$3,025
TOTAL	622	166	\$176,500	\$91,961.51	\$124,983.15

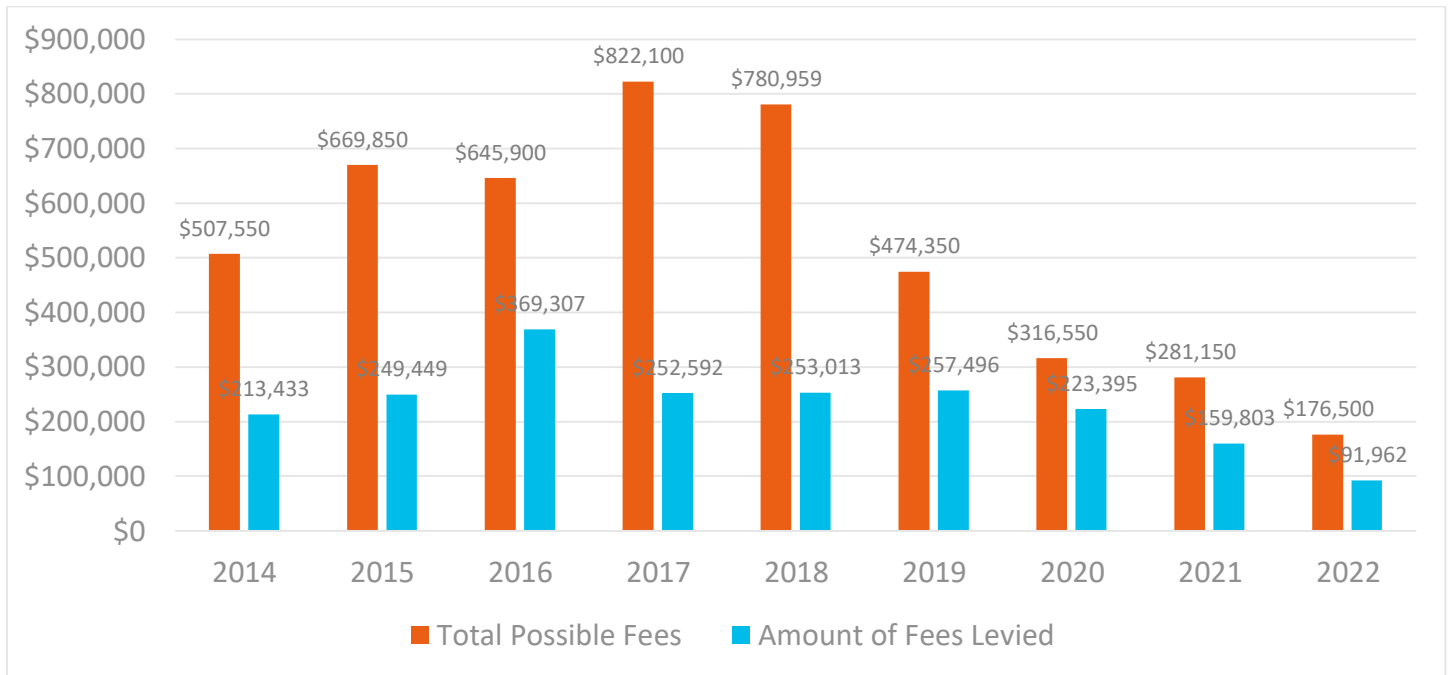
* Data from the Administrative Office of the Courts does not differentiate whether a particular case is a first, second, third or subsequent offense. Second, third and subsequent offenses have greater criminal penalty fee amounts. The calculations for maximum possible fees assume that each case is a first offense for simplicity, but if any of these offenses is a second, third, or subsequent offense, the potential fee revenue would be even greater.

Sources: The Administrative Office of the Courts, Washington State Patrol, King County Superior Court, King County District Court and Seattle Municipal Court.

The total amount of potential fees is determined using the number of convictions for each crime category and the fees described in statute.

[Figure 1](#) illustrates the total amount of potential fees compared to the actual amount courts assessed over the nine years that the fees have been in effect.

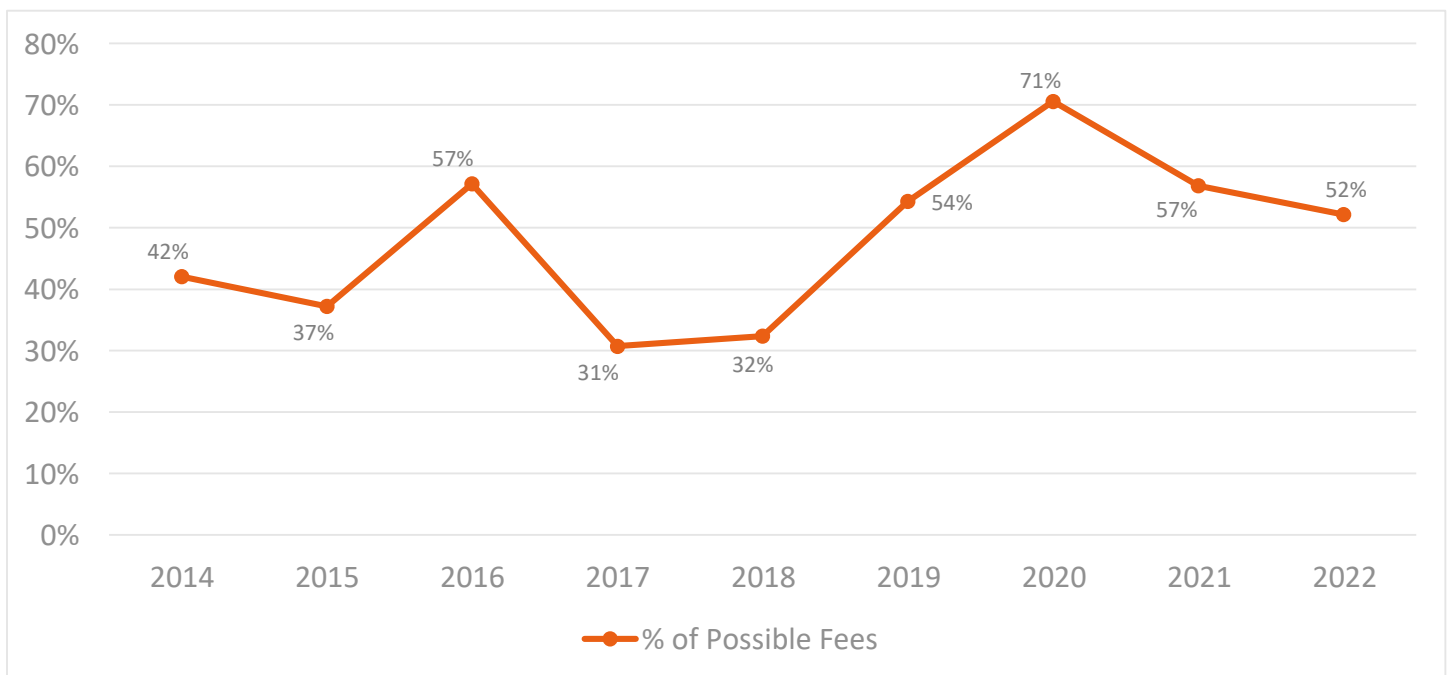
Figure 1: Amounts assessed compared to potential fees – 2014 through 2022



Sources: The Administrative Office of the Courts, Washington State Patrol, King County Superior Court, King County District Court and Seattle Municipal Court.

Figure 2 illustrates the percentage of total potential fees that Washington courts assessed in state fiscal years 2014 through 2022.

Figure 2: Percentage of potential fees assessed statewide – 2014 through 2022



Sources: the Administrative Office of the Courts, Washington State Patrol, King County Superior Court, King County District Court and Seattle Municipal Court.

Background on fees and payments

Many individuals convicted of crimes do not pay fees all at once but instead enter into a payment plan with the court. As they pay off the fees, court clerks code them into the Judicial Information System (JIS) and Odyssey system, which are used by most courts in Washington. Therefore, revenue from fees can be greater than assessed fees as offenders gradually pay off their penalties during a given year.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is responsible for establishing new codes in JIS and Odyssey and informing courts about which codes to use. AOC codes data in these systems to the fund account rather than the statute applicable to the crime. As a result, separating the funds collected by the offense committed is impossible.

Once court clerks receive the revenue and allocate it to a code, the city or county treasurer is responsible for establishing an account for the monies. Some cities contract with their county to act as treasurer for the jurisdiction. Then, the jurisdiction must decide which department, office, or official is responsible for determining how to spend the funds, allocating the amounts according to the guidelines established by the Legislature, and ensuring that the quarterly reports are sent to Commerce.

The Washington State Patrol maintains data by county on the number of arrests and convictions for all crimes in Washington. Some cities, notably Seattle, have municipal codes used for misdemeanor offenses that effectively replace the applicable state statute for that crime in the city's data system. Therefore, the researchers for this report obtained data on arrests, cases and convictions for crimes committed within the city of Seattle from the Seattle Municipal Court.

Because the applicable crimes include both misdemeanors and felonies, the courts impacted include municipal and district courts (known as courts of limited jurisdiction, or CLJs) and superior courts, which hear cases involving serious felonies.

Certain courts, including the Seattle Municipal Court and the King County District and Superior courts, do not use JIS or Odyssey. Additionally, some municipal courts contract with their county district courts to collect fees on their behalf. For example, the King County District Court contracts with Auburn, Beaux Arts, Bellevue, Burien, Carnation, Covington, Duvall, Kenmore, Redmond, Sammamish, Shoreline, Skykomish and Woodinville. The information on fees collected and assessed by those cities is merged with the King County District Court data.

Crime rates

In state fiscal year 2022, law enforcement officers made 6% fewer arrests for sexual exploitation crimes than state fiscal year 2021. The number of convictions between state fiscal year 2021 (198) and state fiscal year 2022 (166) also declined by 16%.

[Table 3](#) lists the number of arrests, cases and convictions for these crimes. The table also includes the crime of trafficking, which carries an additional \$10,000 penalty fee. However, the fee for trafficking is not subject to the same dispersal requirements as the crimes specified under RCW 9.68A.105, RCW 9A.88.120 and RCW 9A.88.140.

Table 3: Statewide arrests and convictions by crime – state fiscal year 2022

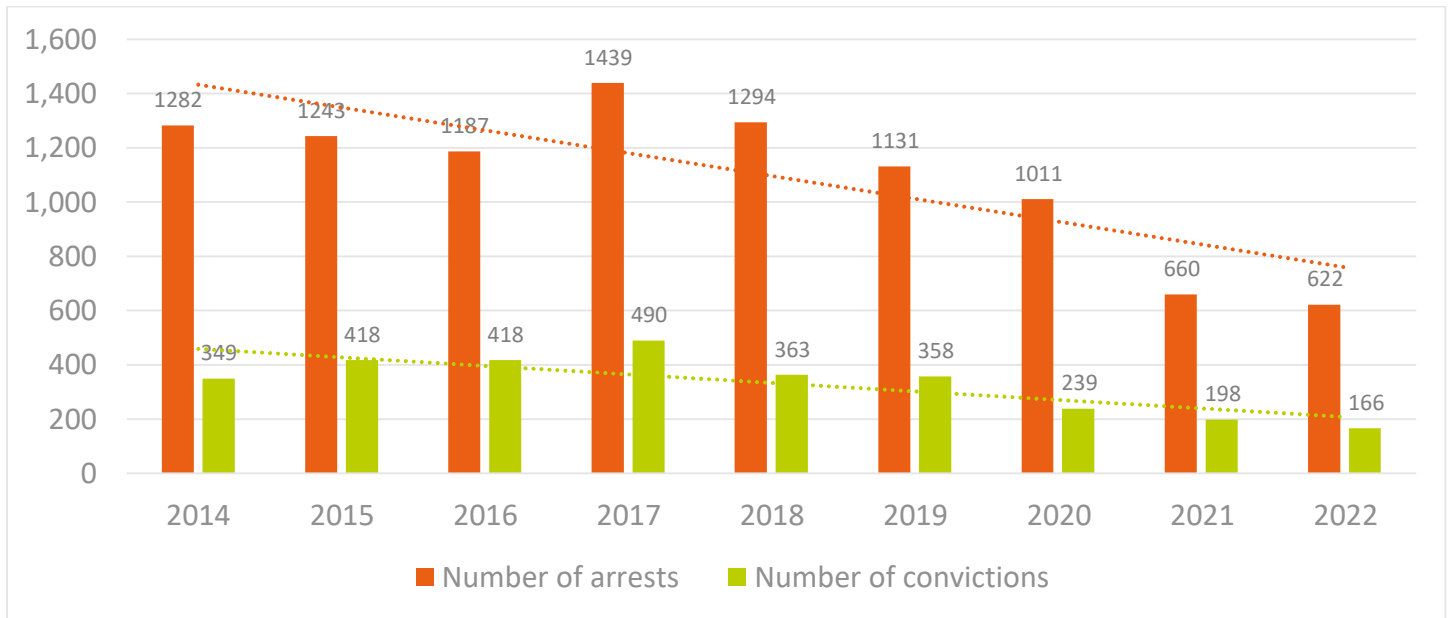
Statute	Charge	Arrests	Convictions
9.68A.100	Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor	49	10
9.68A.101	Promoting Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor	11	0
9.68A.102	Promoting Travel for Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor	4	0
9.68A.103	Permitting Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor	0	0
9A. 40.100	Trafficking	17	0
9A.88.010	Indecent Exposure	448	109
9A.88.030	Prostitution	14	1
9A.88.070	Promoting Prostitution in the First Degree	14	12
9A.88.080	Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree	18	24
9A.88.085	Promoting Travel for Prostitution (Vehicle Impoundment)	0	2
9A.88.090	Permitting Prostitution	0	2
9A.88.110	Patronizing a Prostitute	47	6
TOTAL		622	166

Source: The Washington State Patrol provided data on statewide arrests and convictions

The relatively high number of arrests for trafficking – 17 – compared to no convictions under this charge suggests that many of these cases are instead prosecuted for the lesser charge of promoting prostitution. In addition, if an investigation reveals that the victim(s) was underage, the prosecutor may elect to press a felony charge of commercial sexual abuse of a minor instead of a trafficking charge. Finally, an arrest made in one year can lead to a case that takes more than a year to prosecute and resolve, explaining why some charges have fewer arrests than convictions in state fiscal year 2022.

Since Commerce first started tracking this data in 2014, there has been a steady decrease, on average, in the numbers of arrests and convictions for these crimes. The year 2017 was an outlier. [Figure 3](#) shows the arrests and convictions, along with overall trend lines, since 2014.

Figure 3: Statewide arrests and convictions totals – 2014 through 2022



Source: The Washington State Patrol provided data on statewide arrests and convictions

Legal financial obligations

The criminal penalty fees that are the focus of this report are a subset of all the costs, fees, fines or restitutions that Washington courts may impose on people convicted of a criminal offense. These court-mandated payments are collectively called legal financial obligations (LFOs), which have been the subject of several studies in Washington in recent years.

In January 2022, the Washington Supreme Court's Minority and Justice Commission released "The Price of Justice,"³ a report that assessed local and statewide policies and practices concerning LFO assessment and collection, among other topics. While it is outside the scope of this report to make a detailed investigation of why Washington courts are not assessing the maximum possible amount of criminal penalty fees related to certain crimes of sexual exploitation, several findings from "The Price of Justice" might provide a starting point for answering this question.

One such finding is that, among judges surveyed as part of the report, "a majority indicated that between 80%-100% of the defendants that appear before them are indigent." Another is that among judges surveyed, 44% indicated that they do not believe that LFOs are essential to the criminal justice process. Defense attorneys surveyed also reported that "courts' LFO practices varied widely from judge to judge and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction," including differences in which LFOs judges understood to be mandatory.

Finally, "The Price of Justice" also noted declines for courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJs) in cases where LFOs were imposed, the average amount of LFOs imposed and the total amount of LFOs imposed. In CLJs between 2014 and 2018, cases in which LFOs were imposed dropped by 23%, the average amount of LFOs assessed per case dropped by 12%, and the total amount of LFOs imposed per year statewide dropped by 3%.

³ Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission, "The Price of Justice," (2022), [MJC_LFO_Price_of_Justice_Report_Final.pdf \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/mjc/lfo-price-of-justice-report-final.pdf)

How jurisdictions reported spending the funds

In state fiscal year 2022, 54 courts in Washington handed down convictions for crimes that bear the additional penalty fee. Nine courts (17%) assessed these additional penalty fees. Of the 15 courts that collected revenue, nine assessed and collected revenue towards payment of the fees in state fiscal year 2022. The six remaining courts collected revenue but did not assess fees, which indicates the revenue was from persons convicted of crimes paying off fees assessed in past years.

Seven courts reported \$100 or less collected during state fiscal year 2022, and therefore they were not surveyed. Researchers surveyed the eight jurisdictions that collected greater amounts through email and phone contacts to determine how cities and counties used the funds. In most cases, it was necessary to speak with another department (such as the city or county treasurer, the police department, or the prosecutor's office) to learn whether the funds had been allocated and, if so, how they had been spent.

As in previous years, jurisdictions were provided with a chart ([Appendix A](#)) showing the relevant statutes and the statutory dispersal formula for the funds.

Reports by jurisdiction

Aberdeen Municipal Court

The \$329 in criminal penalty fee funds received by the Aberdeen Municipal Court were allocated to Beyond Survival, a sexual assault resource center and advocacy group in Grays Harbor County.

Chelan County District Court

The Chelan County District Court has not yet spent the funds it collected in state fiscal year 2022.

Des Moines Municipal Court

The Des Moines Municipal Court spent \$7,060 to fund wish list items for the Genesis Project, a nonprofit drop-in center for domestic minor sex trafficking victims. The Des Moines Police Department has not yet utilized the allocated funds.

Kent Municipal Court

Kent assessed and collected the highest criminal penalty fees statewide in state fiscal year 2022, with a total of \$31,250 assessed and \$50,903 collected. The Kent Police Department used \$4,287 of these fees to send one of its detectives to Cellebrite Certified Operator training in November 2021. This training concerns extracting digital evidence from mobile devices. Kent is seeking a local organization to be a recipient of the balance of its fee revenue.

Pierce County Superior Court

The Pierce County Superior Court has not yet spent the funds it collected in state fiscal year 2022.

SeaTac Municipal Court

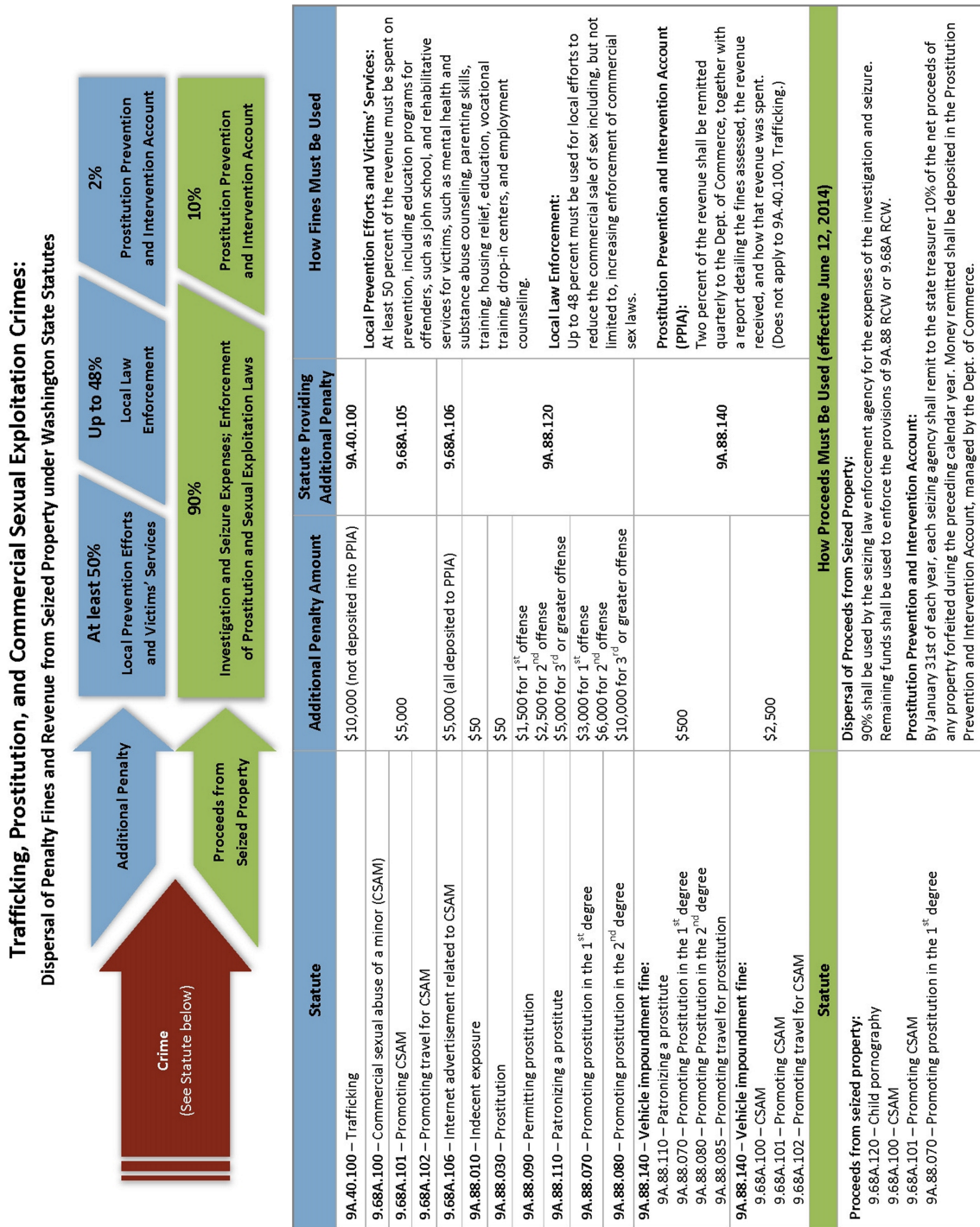
The SeaTac Municipal Court has not yet spent the funds it collected in state fiscal year 2022.

Yakima Municipal Court

The Yakima Municipal Court has not yet spent the funds it collected in state fiscal year 2022.

Appendix A: Distribution of criminal penalty fees

Figure 4: Dispersal of penalty fines and revenues from seized property under RCW



Appendix B: Courts with convictions for applicable charges

Table 4: Convictions, fees assessed and fees collected by court - fiscal year 2022

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
ABERDEEN MUNICIPAL COURT	Grays Harbor	0	\$0	\$329.14
ANACORTES MUNICIPAL COURT	Skagit	1	\$0	\$0
ASOTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Asotin	1	\$0	\$0
BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL COURT	Whatcom	2	\$0	\$0
BENTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Benton	1	\$0	\$0
BOTHELL MUNICIPAL COURT	King	1	\$0	\$0
BREMERTON MUNICIPAL COURT	Kitsap	7	\$0	\$0
BURIEN MUNICIPAL COURT	King	0	\$16.50	\$0
CAMAS/WASHOUGAL MUNICIPAL COURT	Clark	0	\$202.50	\$50
CHEHALIS MUNICIPAL COURT	Lewis	1	\$0	\$0
CHELAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Chelan	0	\$0	\$784.58
CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Clark	3	\$100	\$0
CLARK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Clark	1	\$0	\$0
COWLITZ COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Cowlitz	1	\$0	\$0
DES MOINES MUNICIPAL COURT	King	0	\$1,500	\$4,730
DOUGLAS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Douglas	1	\$0	\$0
EVERETT MUNICIPAL COURT	Snohomish	2	\$0	\$0
EVERGREEN DISTRICT COURT	Snohomish	1	\$0	\$0
FIFE MUNICIPAL COURT	Pierce	3	\$0	\$0
FRANKLIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Franklin	1	\$0	\$0

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
GRANT COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Grant	1	\$0	\$0
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO 1	Grays Harbor	1	\$0	\$0
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Grays Harbor	1	\$0	\$0
ISLAND COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Island	1	\$0	\$0
ISSAQUAH MUNICIPAL COURT	King	1	\$102.50	\$0
KENT MUNICIPAL COURT	King	4	\$31,250	\$50,902.99
KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	King	6	\$0	\$0
KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	King	49	\$29,318.01	\$32,396.02
KIRKLAND MUNICIPAL COURT	King	1	\$0	\$0
KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Kitsap	5	\$433	\$16.50
KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Kitsap	2	\$0	\$0
LAKE FOREST PARK MUNICIPAL COURT	King	0	\$50	\$50
LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL COURT	Pierce	2	\$0	\$0
LEWIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Lewis	1	\$0	\$0
LEWIS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Lewis	2	\$0	\$0
LOWER KITTITAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Kittitas	1	\$0	\$0
MARYSVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT	Snohomish	4	\$0	\$0
MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT	Skagit	1	\$0	\$0
OKANOGAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Okanogan	1	\$0	\$0
OLYMPIA MUNICIPAL COURT	Thurston	2	\$0	\$0
PASCO MUNICIPAL COURT	Franklin	0	\$0	\$99.60
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Pierce	13	\$7,000	\$14,946.81
PUYALLUP MUNICIPAL COURT	Pierce	2	\$120	\$0

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
RENTON MUNICIPAL COURT	King	2	\$0	\$0
SAN JUAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	San Juan	0	\$0	\$50
SEATTLE MUNICIPAL COURT	King	3	\$0	\$0
SEATAC MUNICIPAL COURT	King	3	\$20,116	\$17,504.06
SKAGIT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Skagit	1	\$0	\$0
SNOHOMISH COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Snohomish	1	\$0	\$0
SNOHOMISH COUNTY SOUTH DISTRICT COURT	Snohomish	2	\$0	\$0
SNOHOMISH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Snohomish	2	\$0	\$0
SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Spokane	1	\$0	\$98.45
SPOKANE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Spokane	8	\$0	\$0
STEVENS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Stevens	1	\$0	\$0
SUMNER MUNICIPAL COURT	Pierce	1	\$0	\$0
SUNNYSIDE MUNICIPAL COURT	Yakima	1	\$0	\$25
TACOMA MUNICIPAL COURT	Pierce	1	\$0	\$0
THURSTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Thurston	1	\$0	\$0
WALLA WALLA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Walla Walla	1	\$0	\$0
WHATCOM COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Whatcom	0	\$103	\$0
YAKIMA COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Yakima	2	\$0	\$0
YAKIMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Yakima	2	\$0	\$0
YAKIMA MUNICIPAL COURT	Yakima	5	\$1,650	\$3,000
TOTAL	63 courts	166	\$91,962.51	\$124,983.15

Appendix C: King County's approach

King County has the most arrests and convictions for the crime of patronizing a prostitute (RCW 9A.88.110) and commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9.68A.100) in the state. Several law enforcement agencies in King County, including the City of Seattle, Kent, Bellevue, Des Moines and Renton police departments, have policies to actively pursue those who buy sexual encounters from adults or children.

In 2014, King County launched a new approach to reduce the demand for prostitution by working to change the attitudes and behaviors of people arrested for patronization. Several law enforcement and prosecuting agencies within King County have altered their emphasis to both pursue the buyers of commercial sex and the people who facilitate sex trafficking. This approach is based on the reality that the past practice of arresting and prosecuting people in prostitution did not make the community any safer. Rather, punishing prostituted people resulted in the cycle of prostitution-related crime and sex trafficking persisting. Presently, law enforcement and prosecuting agencies are instead focusing on punishing those who seek out and facilitate illegal interactions – the sex buyers, promoters and traffickers.

Sex trafficking is a crime that disproportionately targets vulnerable youth across Washington, including victims of child sexual abuse or youth in the foster care system. The crime disproportionately harms youth from marginalized racial backgrounds and sexual identities. Human traffickers and sex buyers exploit the vulnerabilities of youth by involving them in the sex trade. Across the U.S., the typical age of entry for youth coerced into the sex trade is between 13 and 15. In 2018, almost 200 youth between the ages of 11 and 24 were referred to services for youth experiencing commercial sexual exploitation in King County. Of those youth referred, 20% were between 11 and 14. These children and young adults experience repeated rapes, abuse, and other forms of violence at the hands of sex buyers and traffickers.

All through the process, these trafficking victims face many barriers to escaping the life of prostitution. Therefore, King County's approach emphasizes the prosecution of sex buyers and traffickers and connecting prostituted people to services. Program leaders assert that a reduction in demand will decrease harm to prostituted people, reduce the self-destructive behaviors of buyers and curb sex trafficking.

Since 2014, the [Ending Exploitation Collaborative \(EEC\)](#) in King County marshaled a cross-sector transformation toward diverting victims of sexual exploitation to services and holding sex buyers accountable. The EEC is a partnership of the Organization for Prostitution Survivors, the Washington State Attorney General's Office, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle Against Slavery, Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking and the Center for Child and Youth Justice.

The EEC has changed norms and practices across sectors to confront the demand for commercial sex. For example, traffickers and sex buyers in King County are arrested and prosecuted through pioneering approaches that are recognized around the country. Following conviction, sex buyers in King County must complete an innovative and successful education program called "Stopping Sexual Exploitation." This program is based on principles of social justice and personal transformation and is designed to help men understand their behavior and promote their own decisions not to buy sex. A significant portion of fees for the buyer education program and statutorily mandated fines assessed from buyers are directed to increase services that help victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, including housing, treatment and employment training.

The EEC also seeks to shift norms and practices by youth and adults through education and targeted interventions because of its belief that broader cultural and institutional norms influence the individual choice to buy sex. The EEC provides prevention education for youth in schools and adults at work. Because research indicates that 13% of calls to solicit sex originate from local businesses, and a peak time to solicit sex online is

2 p.m., employers have played an important role in educating employees and preventing illegal activity through the workplace.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate how King County's arrests and convictions, respectively, compare to the numbers in the rest of the state.

Figure 5: Arrests for patronization and prostitution crimes – state fiscal year 2022

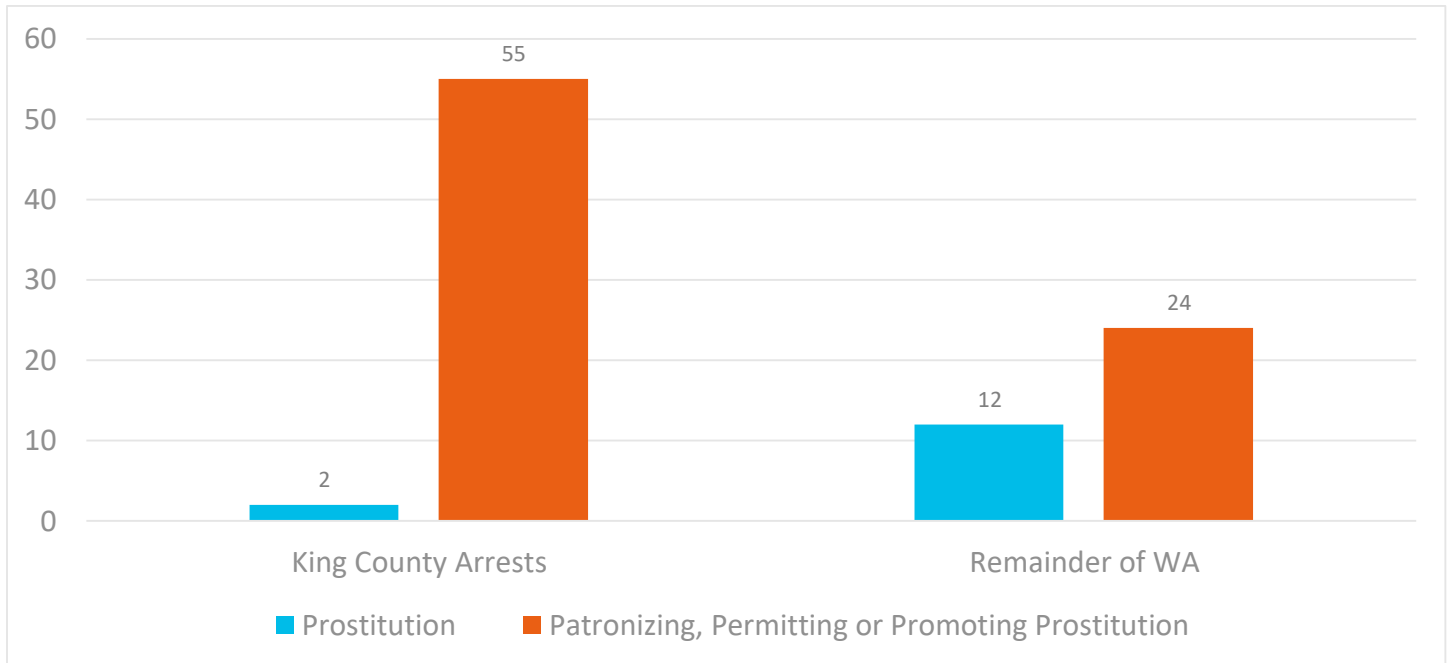


Figure 6: Patronization and prostitution convictions – state fiscal year 2022

