

Criminal Penalty Fees Related to Sexual Exploitation Crimes

Report submitted pursuant to Chapter 121, Laws of 2013

March 2025

Report to the Legislature

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Acknowledgments

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Executive summary

Overview

In 2013, the Washington State Legislature passed [Chapter 121, Laws of 2013 \(ESHB 1291\)](#), which assessed additional fees on the crime of commercial sexual abuse of a minor (CSAM) 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 (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 above assess fees on convictions related to prostitution and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. We discuss the specifics of these fees in more detail in [Table 1: Statutes Modified by Chapter 121, Laws of 2013](#).

This report, for state fiscal year 2024, is the 11th 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 2024

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 better explain why courts do not consistently assess the fees.

- Washington courts assessed \$55,381.54 in applicable fees and collected \$64,325.74 in such fee payments.
- There were 261 fewer arrests for sexual exploitation crimes than the previous year, representing a 35% decrease, and 172 fewer convictions for such crimes compared to state fiscal year 2023, an 80% decrease. At the offense level, there was a 98% decrease in convictions for indecent exposure, a 79% decrease in convictions for promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor and a 44% decrease in convictions for promoting prostitution in the second degree. There was a 22% increase in arrests for patronizing a prostitute.
- Only 33% of the courts that handed down convictions for sexual exploitation crimes (12) assessed any fees concerning those convictions (four).
- Washington courts assessed 41% of the total amount of penalty fees possible for convictions of sexual exploitation crimes. Excluding King County, Washington courts assessed only 1% of the total amount of penalty fees possible for convictions of sexual exploitation crimes.
- Courts in King County assessed and collected most of the fees – 99% and 88%, respectively.
- Some individuals arrested in the 2024 fiscal year likely have not yet begun court 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](#), and [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 have 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 0% to 48% for local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of sex, including but not limited to increasing enforcement of commercial sex laws.
- Quarterly, jurisdictions must remit 2% of the revenue 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 cannot pay the fee. In those cases, judges may only reduce the fee by up to two-thirds.

Courts may not reduce 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 (CSAM) crime or prostitution-related crime or if other conditions are met. The owner must pay the fee before redeeming the vehicle. Subsequently, if the defendant is found not guilty of the crime, the defendant is entitled to a refund of the fee.

It is important to note that an arrest in one year can lead to a case requiring more than a year to prosecute and resolve. This can result in the total 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 Programs like this are sometimes called "john schools," but this term is not survivor informed. 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.

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 the payment of all or part of the fee assessed unless it finds, on the record, that the adult offender cannot 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	
	2nd offense	\$2,500	
	3rd and subsequent offense	\$5,000	
	1st offense	\$3,000	
	2nd offense	\$6,000	
9A.88.140	\$500	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	
	\$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 2024, 12 courts in Washington handed down convictions for crimes that bear the relevant additional penalty fees. Of these, four courts – just 33% – assessed these additional penalty fees concerning convictions for applicable crimes. This discrepancy indicates that many courts in Washington are not assessing the fees or only assessing a fraction of what they could. In addition, only 12 courts received revenue in this fiscal year, some of which was for crimes committed in previous years.

- The **King County Superior Court** assessed and collected the highest fees of all Washington courts in state fiscal year 2024, assessing \$37,649.33 and collecting \$37,815.16. The SeaTac Municipal Court assessed and collected the next highest fees, totaling \$8,500 and \$8,566, respectively.
- The **Pierce County Superior Court** had six convictions for relevant crimes (three for commercial sex abuse of a minor, two for promoting prostitution and one for patronizing a prostitute). Given all relevant convictions for the Pierce County Superior Court, the maximum possible fees would total \$22,500, assuming the convicted were first-time offenders. However, the court did not assess any relevant fees

in the state fiscal year 2024.

- The **Cowlitz County Superior Court** had four convictions for relevant crimes, all of which were for commercial sex abuse of a minor. Given all relevant convictions for the Cowlitz County Superior Court, the maximum possible fees would total \$20,000, assuming the convicted were first-time offenders. However, the court did not assess any relevant fees in the state fiscal year 2024.
- The **Spokane County Superior Court** had six convictions for relevant crimes, all of which were for promoting prostitution. Given all relevant convictions for the Spokane County Superior Court, the maximum possible fees would total \$18,000, assuming the convicted were first-time offenders. However, the court did not assess any relevant fees in the state fiscal year 2024.

Statewide, courts assessed 41% of the total possible fee amount – \$55,381.54 out of a potential \$136,150. As in previous years, courts in King County both assessed and collected most of the fees. Excluding King County, other Washington courts assessed just 1% of the total possible fee amount – \$739.21 out of a potential \$81,500. 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 courts could assess 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. It also explains why some of the fees collected by a court may be greater than fees that the court assessed.

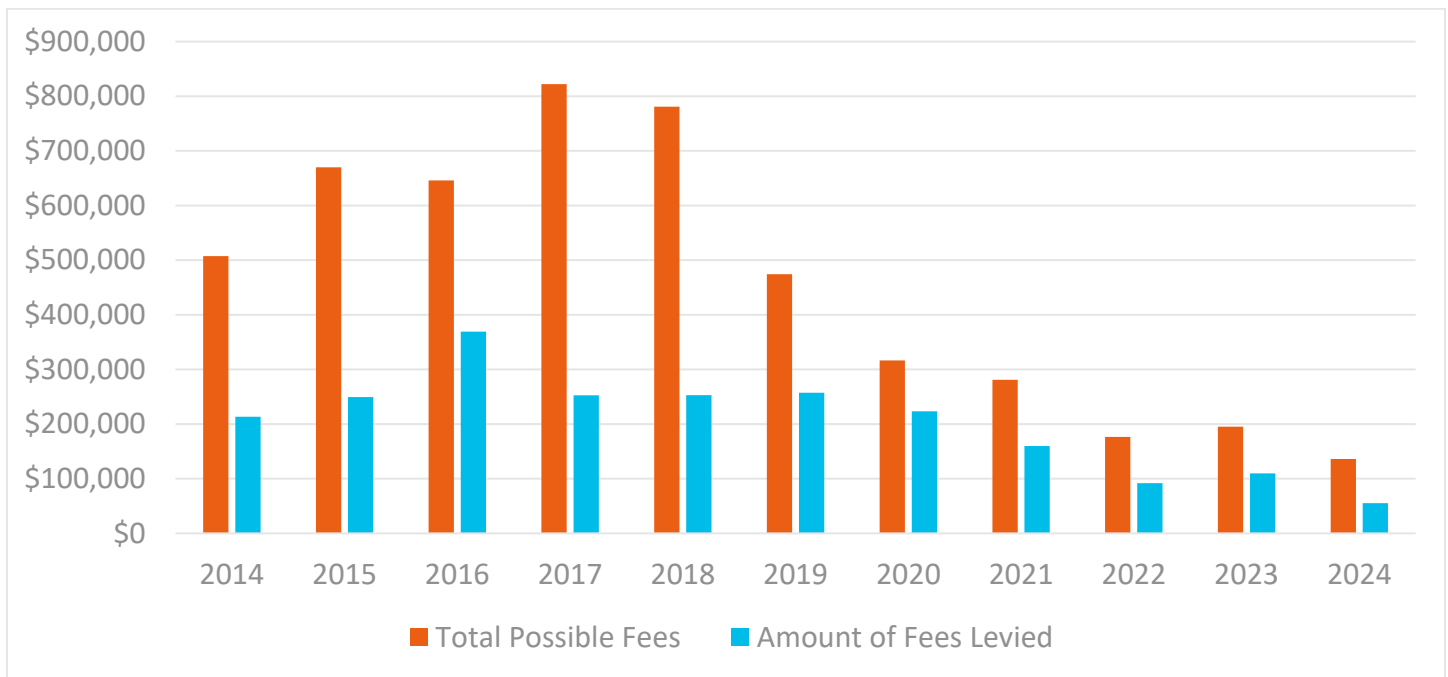
Table 2: Arrests, convictions and fees by county for applicable charges – state fiscal year 2024

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Adams	12	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Asotin	5	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Benton	12	1	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$21.31
Chelan	11	0	\$0.00	\$278.04	\$405.47
Clallam	2	0	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Clark	69	0	\$0.00	\$84.51	\$17.50
Columbia	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cowlitz	16	4	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Douglas	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ferry	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Franklin	5	1	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garfield	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grant	0	0	\$0.00	\$16.66	\$0.00
Grays Harbor	6	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$188.50
Island	2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jefferson	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
King	152	21	\$54,650.00	\$54,642.33	\$56,651.24
Kitsap	14	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kittitas	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Klickitat	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis	7	2	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lincoln	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mason	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Okanogan	12	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pacific	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pend Oreille	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pierce	34	6	\$22,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,041.72
San Juan	0	0	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Skagit	14	0	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Skamania	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Snohomish	5	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spokane	51	7	\$21,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stevens	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thurston	25	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wahkiakum	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Walla Walla	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Whatcom	14	0	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
Whitman	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yakima	16	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	488	42	\$136,150.00	\$55,381.54	\$64,325.74

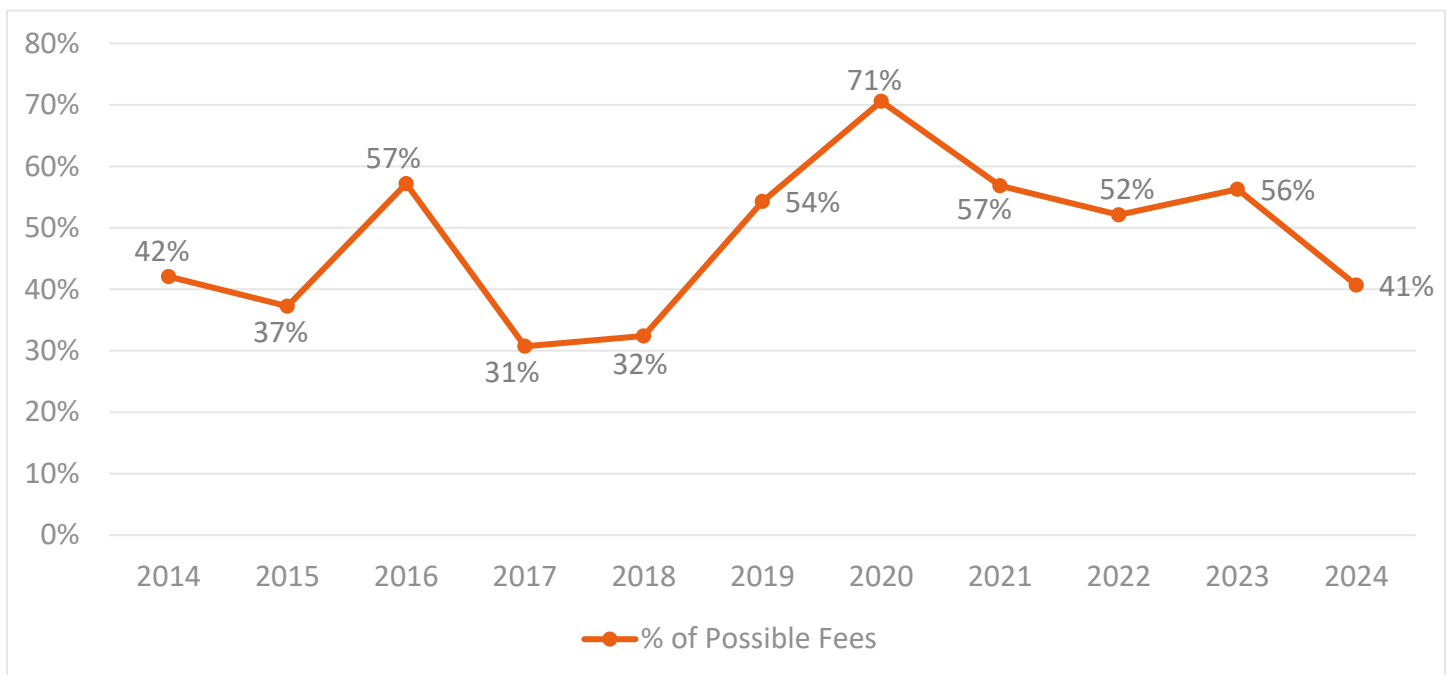
Figure 1: Amounts assessed compared to potential fees – 2014 through 2024



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 Washington courts assessed in state fiscal years 2014 through 2024.

Figure 2: Percentage of potential fees assessed statewide – 2014 through 2024



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 during a given year than assessed fees as offenders gradually pay off their penalties.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) establishes new codes in JIS and Odyssey. It informs 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 legislative guidelines, 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 for misdemeanor offenses that effectively replace the applicable state statute in the city's data system. Therefore, the researchers for this report obtained data on arrests, cases, and convictions for crimes committed within Seattle from the Seattle Municipal Court.

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

Certain courts, including the Seattle Municipal Court, 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 the state fiscal year 2024, law enforcement officers made 35% fewer arrests for sexual exploitation crimes than in state fiscal year 2023. The number of convictions between state fiscal year 2023 (214) and state fiscal year 2024 (42) also decreased by 80%. There were 163 fewer convictions for indecent exposure in state fiscal year 2024 than in state fiscal year 2023, a 98% decrease that represented the single greatest percentage decrease in convictions for any of the crimes specified under RCW 9.68A.105, RCW 9A.88.120, and RCW 9A.88.140.

[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.

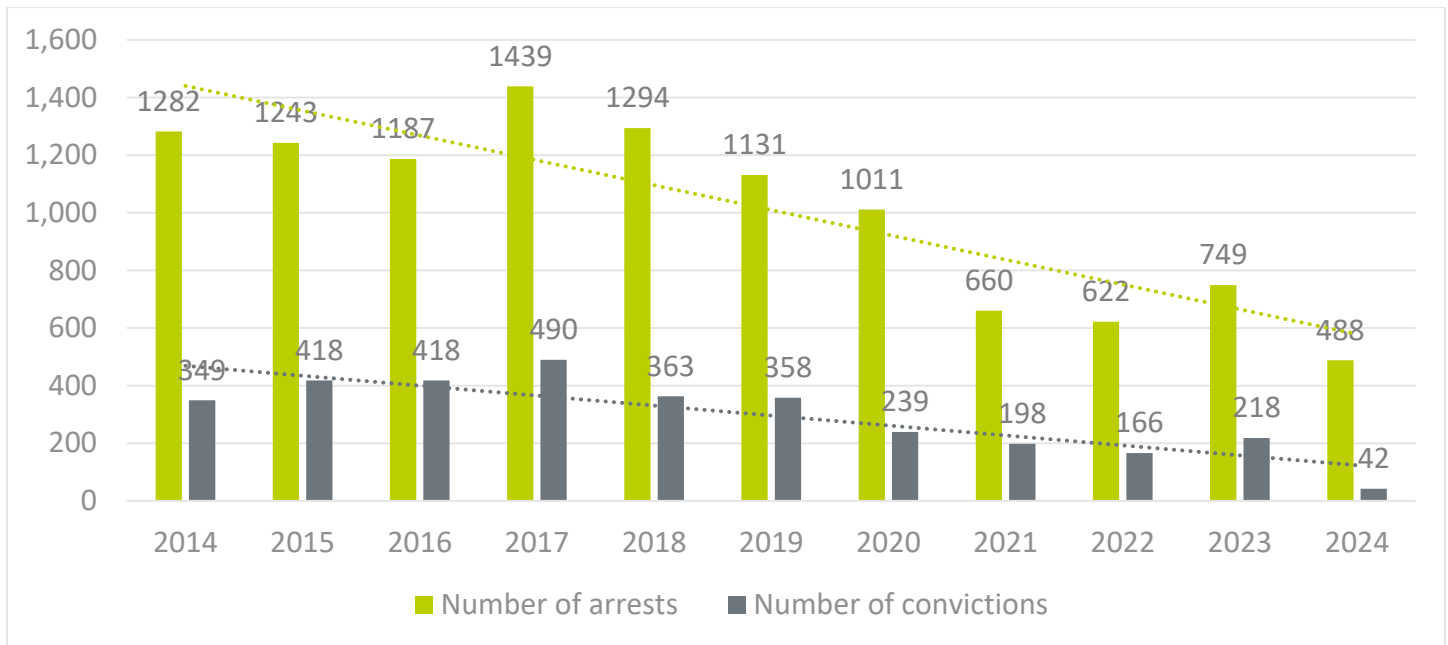
Table 3: Statewide arrests and convictions by crime – state fiscal year 2024

Statute	Charge	Arrests	Convictions
9.68A.100	Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)	53	11
9.68A.101	Promoting CSAM	10	3
9.68A.102	Promoting Travel for CSAM	1	0
9.68A.103	Permitting CSAM	0	0
9A.40.100	Trafficking	1	0
9A.88.010	Indecent Exposure	354	3
9A.88.030	Prostitution	7	0
9A.88.070	Promoting Prostitution in the First Degree	4	4
9A.88.080	Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree	14	15
9A.88.085	Promoting Travel for Prostitution (Vehicle Impoundment)	0	0
9A.88.090	Permitting Prostitution	0	0
9A.88.110	Patronizing a Prostitute	44	6
Total		488	42

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

As a reminder, it is important to keep in mind that an arrest in one year can lead to a case that takes more than a year to prosecute and resolve. This explains why some charges have fewer arrests than convictions in the state fiscal year 2024. Since Commerce first started tracking this data in 2014, there has been a steady decrease in the numbers of both arrests and convictions for these crimes on average. State fiscal year 2023 is the exception to this trend, as it saw an increase in both arrests and convictions for relevant offenses compared to state fiscal year 2022.

Figure 3: Statewide arrests and convictions totals – 2014 through 2024



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 report [The Price of Justice](#),³ which 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 this report may provide a starting point for answering this question.

One such finding is 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 the number of cases where courts imposed LFOs, the average amount of LFOs imposed and the total amount of LFOs imposed. Between 2014 and 2018, CLJ cases in which LFOs were imposed dropped by 23%, the average

³ Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission, "The Price of Justice," (2022), [MJC_LFO_Price_of_Justice_Report_Final.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

amount of LFOs assessed per case in CLJs dropped by 12%, and the total amount of LFOs imposed per year in CLJs statewide dropped by 3%.

According to the Minority and Justice Commission, another possible factor contributing to the wide variation in the percentage of possible fees that Washington courts assess is the changing statutory landscape governing the assessment of LFOs. These changes include [requiring courts](#) to account for a person's willingness to pay before assessing discretionary LFOs, and [Chapter 449, Laws of 2023](#), which eliminated the crime victim penalty assessment for juveniles or, upon motion, for adults found to be indigent. However, it is important to note that the fees detailed in this report are mandatory and distinct from the crime victim penalty assessment.

Finally, the non-unified structure of Washington courts means that judicial education concerning LFOs happens at the court level. While the Administrative Office of the Courts provides resources like an LFO calculator and an LFO bench card that judicial officers can reference to guide LFO assessment, the state does not provide any statewide LFO educational programs.

How jurisdictions reported spending the funds

In the state fiscal year 2024, 12 courts in Washington handed down convictions for crimes that bear the additional penalty fees, and 12 courts collected revenue towards the payment of these additional penalty fees. Of the 12 courts that collected revenue, seven both assessed new fees and collected revenue towards payment of previously assessed fees. The five remaining courts collected revenue but did not assess new fees, which indicates the revenue was from persons convicted of crimes paying off fees assessed in past years.

Three courts reported collecting \$100 or less during the state fiscal year 2024 and therefore were not surveyed. Researchers surveyed the nine courts that collected greater amounts to determine how cities and counties used the funds. In most cases, it was necessary to speak with another department (for instance, 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 City of Aberdeen has issued a check for the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2024 (\$188.50) to [Beyond Survival](#), a local community sexual assault program.

Bellevue Municipal Court

The Bellevue Police Department reports spending \$46.07 on food for survivors of sexual exploitation crimes in the state fiscal year 2024.

Chelan County District Court

Chelan County has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2024.

Des Moines Municipal Court

The City of Des Moines has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2024.

Pierce County District Court

Pierce County has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2024.

SeaTac Municipal Court

The City of SeaTac has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2024.

Seattle Municipal Court

The City of Seattle has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2024.

Appendix A: Distribution of criminal penalty fees

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

Trafficking, Prostitution, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Crimes: Dispersal of Penalty Fines and Revenue from Seized Property under Washington State Statutes



Statute	Additional Penalty Amount	Statute Providing Additional Penalty	How Fines Must Be Used
9A.40.100 – Trafficking	\$10,000 (not deposited into PPIA)	9A.40.100	Local Prevention Efforts and Victims’ Services: At least 50 percent of the revenue must be spent on prevention, including education programs for offenders, such as john school, and rehabilitative services for victims, such as mental health and substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, training, housing relief, education, vocational training, drop-in centers, and employment counseling.
9.68A.100 – Commercial sexual abuse of a minor (CSAM)	\$5,000	9.68A.105	
9.68A.101 – Promoting CSAM			
9.68A.102 – Promoting travel for CSAM			
9.68A.106 – Internet advertisement related to CSAM	\$5,000 (all deposited to PPIA)	9.68A.106	
9A.88.010 – Indecent exposure	\$50	9A.88.120	

Statute	Additional Penalty Amount	Statute Providing Additional Penalty	How Fines Must Be Used
9A.88.030 – Prostitution	\$50		<p>Local Law Enforcement:</p> <p>Up to 48 percent must be used for local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of sex including, but not limited to, increasing enforcement of commercial sex laws.</p> <p>Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account (PPIA):</p> <p>Two percent of the revenue shall be remitted quarterly to the Dept. of Commerce, together with a report detailing the fines assessed, the revenue received, and how that revenue was spent.</p> <p>(Does not apply to RCW 9A.40.100, Trafficking.)</p> <p>Criminal Penalty Fines Report:</p> <p>The PPIA account funds an annual report to the legislature on the amount of revenue collected under RCW 9.68A.105, 9A.88.120, and 9A.88.140.</p>
9A.88.090 – Permitting prostitution	\$1,500 for 1st offense		
9A.88.110 – Patronizing a prostitute	\$2,500 for 2nd offense		
	\$5,000 for 3rd or greater offense		
9A.88.070 – Promoting prostitution in the 1st degree	\$3,000 for 1st offense		
9A.88.080 – Promoting prostitution in the 2nd degree	\$6,000 for 2nd offense		
9A.88.080 – Promoting prostitution in the 2nd degree	\$10,000 for 3rd or greater offense		
9A.88.140 – Vehicle impoundment fine:	\$500	9A.88.140	
9A.88.110 – Patronizing a prostitute			
9A.88.070 – Promoting Prostitution in the 1st degree			
9A.88.080 – Promoting Prostitution in the 2nd degree			
9A.88.085 – Promoting travel for prostitution			
9A.88.140 – Vehicle impoundment fine:	\$2,500		
9.68A.100 – CSAM			
9.68A.101 – Promoting CSAM			
9.68A.102 – Promoting travel for CSAM			

Statute	Additional Penalty Amount	Statute Providing Additional Penalty	How Fines Must Be Used
Statute	How Proceeds Must Be Used (effective June 12, 2014)		
Proceeds from seized property: 9.68A.120 – Child pornography 9.68A.100 – CSAM 9.68A.101 – Promoting CSAM 9A.88.070 – Promoting prostitution in the 1st degree	<p>Dispersal of Proceeds from Seized Property:</p> <p>90% shall be used by the seizing law enforcement agency for the expenses of the investigation and seizure. Remaining funds shall be used to enforce the provisions of 9A.88 RCW or 9.68A RCW.</p> <p>Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account:</p> <p>By January 31st of each year, each seizing agency shall remit to the state treasurer 10% of the net proceeds of any property forfeited during the preceding calendar year. Money remitted shall be deposited in the Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account, managed by the Dept. of Commerce.</p>		

Appendix B: Courts with convictions for applicable charges

Table 4: Convictions, fees assessed and fees collected by court - fiscal year 2024

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Aberdeen Municipal Court	Grays Harbor	0	\$0.00	\$188.50
Auburn Municipal Court	King	0	\$16.50	\$0.00
Battle Ground Municipal Court	Clark	0	\$17.50	\$17.50
Bellevue Municipal Court	King	0	\$2,550.00	\$2,075.08
Benton County District Court	Benton	0	\$0.00	\$21.31
Benton County Superior Court	Benton	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chelan County District Court	Chelan	0	\$175.54	\$405.47
Clallam County District Court No 1	Clallam	0	\$50.00	\$0.00
Clark County District Court	Clark	0	\$67.01	\$0.00
Covington Municipal Court	King	0	\$16.50	\$0.00
Cowlitz County Superior Court	Cowlitz	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Des Moines Municipal Court	King	1	\$500.00	\$550.00
East Wenatchee Municipal Court	Chelan	0	\$102.50	\$0.00

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Franklin County Superior Court	Franklin	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grant County District Court	Grant	0	\$16.66	\$0.00
Kent Municipal Court	King	0	\$165.00	\$0.00
King County District Court	King	4	\$5,245.00	\$5,845.00
King County Superior Court	King	13	\$37,649.33	\$37,815.16
Lewis County Superior Court	Lewis	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pierce County Superior Court	Pierce	6	\$0.00	\$7,024.72
Puyallup Municipal Court	Pierce	0	\$0.00	\$17.00
San Juan County District Court	San Juan	0	\$50.00	\$0.00
Sedro Woolley Municipal Court	Skagit	0	\$150.00	\$0.00
SeaTac Municipal Court	King	1	\$8,500.00	\$8,566.00
Seattle Municipal Court	King	2	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Spokane County District Court	Spokane	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spokane County Superior Court	Spokane	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Whatcom County District Court	Whatcom	0	\$110.00	\$0.00

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Total	28 courts	42	\$55,381.54	\$64,325.74

Appendix C: King County's approach

King County continues to lead statewide efforts to reduce demand for prostitution and combat sex trafficking. Several law enforcement agencies, including Seattle, Kent, Bellevue, Des Moines, and Renton police departments, actively pursue individuals who provide anything of value in exchange for sexual conduct. Recognizing the shortcomings of past practices that punished prostituted people, King County has shifted its focus to prosecuting buyers and traffickers, connecting victims to services, and reducing demand for commercial sex.⁴

This approach is rooted in the understanding that trafficking disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including youth in the Child Welfare System, individuals experiencing poverty, people of color, and LGBTQ2+ individuals. Traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities for profit, with many victims coerced into the sex trade between the ages of 13 and 15. In 2018, over 470 youth aged 11–24 accessed services for commercial sexual exploitation in King County, with 73% between the ages of 12 and 17.⁵ These individuals experience severe harm, including repeated abuse and violence.

To address these challenges, King County has implemented innovative programs targeting buyers and traffickers. A notable example is the “Stopping Sexual Exploitation” program, an education initiative for convicted buyers. Grounded in social justice principles, it helps participants understand and change their behavior while generating funds to support victim services like housing, treatment, and job training.⁶

King County also collaborates with community organizations to prevent exploitation and shift societal norms. For example:⁷

Prevention education is provided to youth in schools and adults in workplaces.

Employers are engaged to prevent solicitation activity, addressing findings that 13% of calls to solicit sex originate from businesses, with a peak solicitation time of 2 p.m.

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force, active since 2013, continues to ensure the safety of exploited children and offers resources like data, training, and toolkits for prevention.⁸

While the Ending Exploitation Collaborative (EEC) no longer exists, its cross-sector work laid the foundation for these ongoing efforts. Law enforcement and prosecutors in King County are now recognized nationwide for

⁴ King County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Task Force. <https://www.kingcountycsec.org>

⁵ King County CSEC Task Force Data. <https://www.kingcountycsec.org/data>

⁶ U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking. “Stopping Sexual Exploitation: A Program for Men.” <https://usiaht.org>

⁷ King County CSEC Task Force Initiatives. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/court/superior-court/courts-jails-legal-system/court-programs-children-families/juvenile-court-services/programs-services-juvenile-court/commercially-sexually-exploited-children>

⁸ King County Commercial Sexual Exploitation Task Force Resources. <https://www.kingcountycsec.org/resources>

their innovative approaches to arresting and prosecuting traffickers and sex buyers, creating a safer community, and reducing the prevalence of sex trafficking.

Figure 5: Arrests for patronization and prostitution convictions – state fiscal year 2024

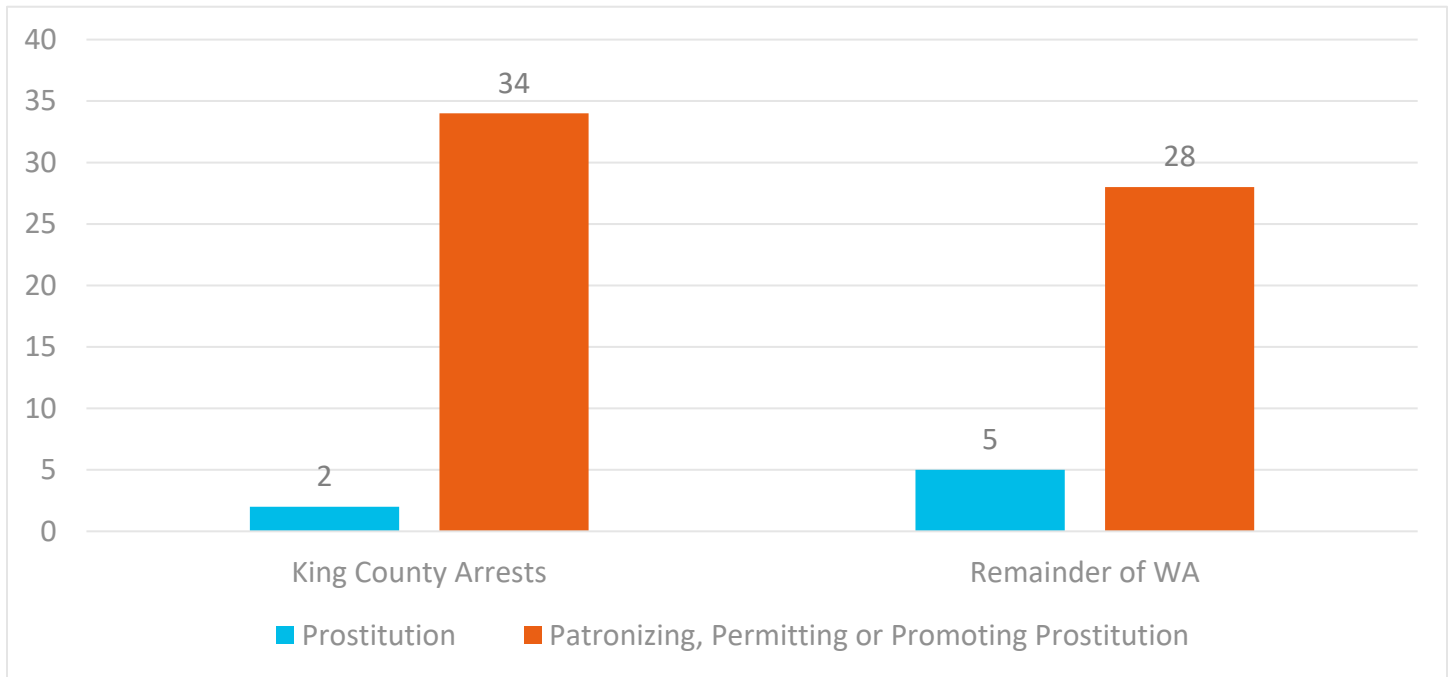


Figure 6: Patronization and prostitution convictions – state fiscal year 2024

