



June 2024

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

States Provide for  
Survivors to Access  
Free Forensic Exams  
but Total Costs are  
Unknown

# GAO Highlights

Highlights of [GAO-24-106036](#), a report to congressional committees

## Why GAO Did This Study

According to federal data, sexual assaults in the U.S. increased by an estimated 64 percent from 2021 to 2022. Survivors may seek an exam and related medical treatments from a health care provider. According to federal law, sexual assault survivors have the right to not be charged for exams.

The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 includes a provision for GAO to report on states' and territories' coverage for exams and related medical treatments. Among its objectives, this report examines (1) information on state and territory requirements for covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments, (2) what medical treatments related to sexual assaults are covered by payers in states and territories, and (3) how much payers in states and territories reported spending in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments.

GAO reviewed state and territory laws and policies; analyzed the survey responses provided by payers in 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and five territories (100 percent response rate); and interviewed officials from the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and the Interior. GAO also interviewed officials from two selected Tribal Nations, officials from organizations that serve another four selected Tribal Nations, and county-level payers from two counties in each of three states.

View [GAO-24-106036](#). For more information, contact Gretta Goodwin at (202) 512-8777 or [GoodwinG@gao.gov](mailto:GoodwinG@gao.gov).

June 2024

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

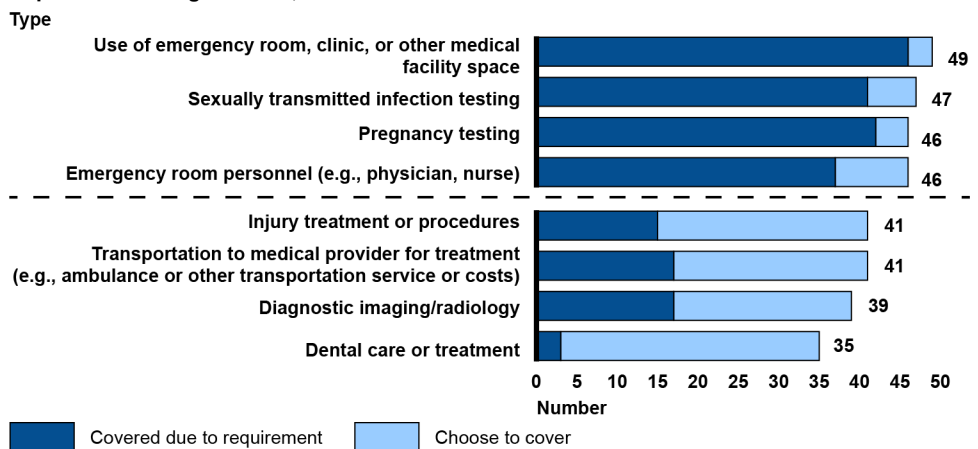
## States Provide for Survivors to Access Free Forensic Exams but Total Costs are Unknown

### What GAO Found

**States and territories have laws or policies that provide for survivors to receive sexual assault forensic exams (exams) free of charge.** GAO found that 47 out of 56 states and territories, including the District of Columbia, have laws that specify that survivors are not to be billed for the cost of exams. The remaining nine states and territories certify to the Department of Justice (DOJ) that they or another government entity incur the full out-of-pocket exam costs. Exam costs for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals who are citizens or descendants of federally-recognized Tribal Nations are covered by the Indian Health Service, investigating law enforcement agencies, health care providers, or designated state and county payers.

**Coverage for related medical treatments varies in states, counties, and on tribal lands.** State- and territory-level payers in all 56 states and territories that responded to GAO's survey reported that they cover the cost of at least one treatment for survivors of sexual assault, either because they are required to by state law or policy or they choose to cover the cost. Most-commonly covered were the cost of the medical facility, emergency room personnel, and testing for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. Least-commonly covered were the cost of dental care and diagnostic imaging (see figure).

**Related Medical Treatments that Payers in 56 States and Territories Most and Least Frequently Reported Covering the Cost, Fiscal Year 2022**



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Note: For more details, see figure 2 in GAO-24-106036.

Similarly, coverage for related medical treatments also varied among the Tribal Nations and county payers GAO interviewed.

**State-level payers reported spending at least \$93 million in federal and state funds in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments.**

However, the total amount spent by all payers is unknown for several reasons, such as limited data collection and a lack of a standardized medical billing code specifically for sexual assault forensic exams, which makes efforts to track payment inconsistent.

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**Abbreviations**

AI/AN	American Indian and Alaska Native
DOJ	Department of Justice
IHS	Indian Health Service
NCVS	National Crime Victimization Survey
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
STOP	Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors
USVI	United States Virgin Islands
VAWA	Violence Against Women Act
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act

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June 18, 2024

### Congressional Committees

According to data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey, the estimated number of rapes or sexual assaults in the U.S. increased significantly—64 percent—from 2021 to 2022 (from 324,500 to 531,810).<sup>1</sup> Following a sexual assault, a survivor may seek out an exam or related medical treatments from a health care provider to treat injuries and other medical needs resulting from the assault.<sup>2</sup> Forensic evidence collected during the exam may also be used by law enforcement for investigation and prosecution of the assailant.<sup>3</sup> To help address violent crimes against women such as sexual assault, the Department of Justice (DOJ) awarded \$140 million in fiscal year 2022 to states and territories as part of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program.<sup>4</sup>

Among other requirements to be eligible for STOP grants, a state, Tribal, local, or other government applicant must certify compliance with the requirement that the state, Tribal government, local government, or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of exams for sexual assault survivors, regardless of whether the survivor participates in

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization, 2022*, NCJ 307089 (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 2023). For more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey design and methodology, see appendix V.

<sup>2</sup>For the purposes of this report, we use the term “exam” to refer to the exams provided to sexual assault survivors following their assault for the purpose of collecting forensic evidence. In some laws and policies, these exams may be referred to as “forensic medical examinations,” “forensic examinations,” or other terms.

<sup>3</sup>Sexual assaults and rapes may go unreported to law enforcement for various reasons, such as fear of retaliation, belief that the police would not or could not help, and shame. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, an estimated 21.4 percent of rapes or sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement in 2022. See Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization, 2022*. For more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey design and methodology, see appendix V.

<sup>4</sup>In this report, unless otherwise noted, we use the term “states and/or territories” and “state and/or territory” to mean the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the following five territories: American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These entities are eligible for VAWA grants. See 28 C.F.R. § 90.10. See also 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(37).

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the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement.<sup>5</sup> “Full out-of-pocket costs” means any expense that may be charged to a victim in connection with a forensic medical examination to gather evidence of a sexual assault (e.g., full cost of the examination, insurance deductible, or a fee established by the facility conducting the examination). For individuals covered by insurance, “full out-of-pocket costs” means any costs that the insurer does not pay.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, federal law provides that sexual assault survivors have the right to not be charged for their exams.<sup>7</sup> Further, under federal law, victims must be informed of their rights under the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990,<sup>8</sup> which states that in federal investigations the federal investigating entity will cover the cost of the exam.<sup>9</sup>

Subject matter experts on exam payment practices have stated that not all survivors receive exams free of charge and that some survivors incurred substantial medical costs for treatments related to their assault.<sup>10</sup> For example, the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan policy research organization, conducted an analysis of a sample of insurance claims and found that the majority of women diagnosed by a health care provider as having experienced sexual violence and received either an exam or a test for sexually transmitted infections (STI) incurred out-of-pocket costs. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation’s report, one potential reason survivors of sexual assaults incur costs is the limited number of exam providers. We have also previously reported on the

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<sup>5</sup>34 U.S.C. § 10449(a)(1)(A), (b), (d)(1); 28 C.F.R. §§ 90.11(a), 90.13.

<sup>6</sup>28 C.F.R. § 90.13(b).

<sup>7</sup>See Survivors’ Bill of Rights Act of 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-236, § 2(a), 130 Stat. 966 (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3772(a)(1)).

<sup>8</sup>See Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22, tit. I, § 113(a)(1), 129 Stat. 227, 240 (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3771(a)(10)).

<sup>9</sup>See Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-647, tit. V, § 503(c)(7), 104 Stat. 4820, 4821 (codified as amended at 34 U.S.C. § 20141(c)(7)).

<sup>10</sup>For example, see Amrutha Ramaswamy, Brittni Frederiksen, Matthew Rae, Usha Ranji, Alina Salganicoff, Daniel McDermott, *Out-of-Pocket Charges for Rape Kits and Services for Sexual Assault Survivors* (Kaiser Family Foundation, March 18, 2022), accessed May 18, 2022, <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/out-of-pocket-charges-for-rape-kits-and-services-for-sexual-assault-survivors/>.



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limited availability of forensic exam providers.<sup>11</sup> Specifically, we found that states reported challenges maintaining a supply of exam providers because there was a limited availability of classroom, clinical, and continuing education training for exam providers. States also reported that it was difficult to obtain support for exam providers (e.g., training, resources, understanding of the examiners' role) from stakeholders, such as hospitals and law enforcement.

The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022 includes a provision for GAO to report on states and territories' coverage of forensic examinations and related medical costs for individuals following a sexual assault.<sup>12</sup> This report addresses (1) information on state and territory requirements for covering the cost of sexual assault forensic exams and other related medical treatments for survivors; (2) what medical treatments related to sexual assault are covered by payers in states and territories; (3) what challenges and promising practices have payers in states and territories experienced in ensuring that survivors are not billed for exams and related medical treatments; and (4) how much payers in states and territories reported spending in fiscal year 2022 for sexual assault forensic exams and related medical treatments.

To address all four objectives, we conducted a web-based survey of state-level organizations or government entities that pay for exams or related medical treatments (payers) in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.<sup>13</sup> The survey questionnaire included questions about what requirements the state or territory had for covering exams and related treatments, specific treatments payers in states and territories cover the cost of, challenges and promising practices for ensuring survivors do not bear the cost of their exams or related medical treatments, the amount the payers reported spending in fiscal year 2022 for exams or related medical treatments, and what funding sources the payers used to cover those costs. We received a response from officials from at least one organization responsible for covering the cost of exams or related medical treatments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia,

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<sup>11</sup>GAO, *Sexual Assault: Information on the Availability of Forensic Examiners*, [GAO-19-259T](#) (Washington, D.C.: Dec. 12, 2018); *Sexual Assault: Information on Training, Funding, and the Availability of Forensic Examiners*, [GAO-16-334](#) (Washington, D.C.: Mar. 18, 2016).

<sup>12</sup>Pub. L. No. 117-103, div. W, tit. III, § 304, 136 Stat. 840, 868-69.

<sup>13</sup>Examples of such payers are state victims' compensation programs, state Attorney General's Office, or a state department of health or department of justice.

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and five U.S. territories, for a 100 percent response rate. For more information about the survey design and administration, see appendix I. Appendix II provides a copy of the survey instrument.

Additionally, to address all four objectives, we interviewed officials from DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of Justice Programs, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We also interviewed officials from the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service (IHS) and officials from the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to include perspectives from agencies that serve American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations and citizens of federally recognized Tribal Nations. To better understand how tribal communities provide and pay for exams and related medical treatments, we also interviewed officials from organizations that represent or serve survivors who are members of a nongeneralizable sample of six Tribal Nations.<sup>14</sup> This included, for example, officials from tribal health service agencies and advocacy organizations. While these interviews are not generalizable, they provided helpful insights on payment practices, costs, promising practices, and challenges for supporting AI/AN survivors of sexual assault.

To address our first objective on states and territories' requirements to cover the cost of exams and other related medical treatments, we reviewed laws and policies in each state and territory to identify any laws or policies that explicitly state that sexual assault survivors must not be billed for exams. For states and territories that we found did not have such a law or policy, we reviewed their STOP Formula Grant Program compliance certifications. Additionally, we reviewed the responses they provided to our survey of state- and territory-level payers, described above, to identify any policies or practices they have for ensuring survivors are not billed for exams. We also reviewed laws and policies in each state and territory to identify what other related medical treatments they may cover, if any.

To address our second objective on what medical treatments related to sexual assault are covered by payers in states and territories, we analyzed data collected in our survey of state-level payers, described

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<sup>14</sup>We did not specifically seek out perspectives from organizations about serving sexual assault survivors from Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous Pacific Islander groups. However, payers in Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam would be responsible for covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments for these survivors.

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above. We also reviewed laws in each state and territory to identify any statutes that require the state or territory to cover related medical treatments. In addition, there are eight states where the primary entity responsible for paying for exams is at the local level. We conducted interviews with officials from a nongeneralizable sample of three of these eight states. These states were selected to obtain a variety of perspectives on how exam costs are covered at the local level. Within each of the selected states, we interviewed officials from two counties, one of relatively higher population and one of relatively lower population.

We also spoke with officials from payers in one of five territories to gain insights on how territorial status impacts how exam costs are covered for survivors. We chose this territory based on its unique exam payment practices. To obtain perspectives on survivor access to free exams and related medical treatments, we spoke with officials from four advocacy organizations as well as exam providers from three hospitals within these counties and territory. While these interviews are not generalizable, they yielded information and illustrative examples of the coverage of exams and related medical treatments by local-level and territory payers.

To address our third objective on states' and territories' challenges and promising practices, we analyzed data collected in our survey of state-level payers. We also conducted interviews with officials from DOJ, IHS, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as officials from organizations that represent or serve a nongeneralizable sample of six Tribal Nations, described above. We also interviewed officials from a nongeneralizable sample of local-level and territory payers and other organizations, described above. While these interviews are not generalizable, they yielded information and illustrative examples of the challenges and promising practices for ensuring that survivors do not bear the cost of exams or related medical treatments.

To address our fourth objective on how much payers in states and territories paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments, we analyzed data collected in our survey of state-level payers. During our interviews with officials from the nongeneralizable sample of local-level and territory payers described above, we asked officials about the amount they spent in fiscal year 2022 on exams and related medical treatments and what funding sources they used. Although these interviews are not generalizable, they provide descriptive examples of local-level and territory payers' experiences using federal, state, and local funds to cover the cost of exams and related medical treatments.

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For additional information on our objectives, scope, and methodology, see appendix I.

We conducted this performance audit from May 2022 to June 2024 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

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## Background

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### Exams and Exam Providers

In general, exam providers are physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses who have been specially trained and are qualified to perform exams.<sup>15</sup> Exam providers assess survivors' clinical conditions, provide appropriate treatment, and provide medical referrals for follow-up treatment. They are also trained to collect forensic evidence through an exam when given consent by a survivor. For survivors under the age of 18, exam providers may perform the exam in the hospital, as they generally do for adults, or the child may be examined at a child-specific facility, such as a child advocacy center.<sup>16</sup>

By regulation and as used in this report, a “forensic medical examination,” or “exam,” means an examination provided to a victim of sexual assault by medical personnel to gather evidence of a sexual assault in a manner

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<sup>15</sup>Medical providers performing exams can be specially trained and sometimes certified in performing these exams but may also perform these exams regardless of whether they have undergone such specialized training or received such certification. Sexual assault nurse examiners—a particular type of exam providers—are registered nurses, including nurse midwives and advanced practice nurses, who have received specialized education and have fulfilled clinical requirements to perform exams. Examiner programs have been created in hospital or non-hospital settings whereby specially trained examiners are available to provide first-response care and exams to sexual assault survivors.

<sup>16</sup>In 2022, there were 102,947 rape incidents reported in the United States by law enforcement agencies that submitted data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System, and 42 percent of those incidents were perpetrated against victims between the ages of 10 and 19. Federal Bureau of Investigation, *National Incident-Based Reporting System Details Reported in the United States*, Rape Offender vs. Victim Demographics, 2022, accessed March 28, 2024, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#!/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>.

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suitable for use in a court of law.<sup>17</sup> Under the regulation, the examination should include, at a minimum, 1) information gathered from the patient for the forensic medical history; 2) head-to-toe examination of the patient; 3) documentation of biological and physical findings; and 4) collection of evidence from the patient. Further, under the regulation, costs associated with any of those items, such as equipment or other supplies, should be considered part of the exam. The inclusion of additional procedures (e.g., testing for sexually transmitted infections) may be determined by the state, Indian tribal government, or unit of local government in accordance with its current laws, policies, and practices. DOJ guidance on victim and witness assistance clarifies that best practice in the field of victim assistance considers such an exam to include both forensic elements and medical elements. The guidance states that this could include, for example, information, treatment, and referrals for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, suicidal ideation, alcohol and substance abuse, and other nonacute medical concerns, as well as follow-up as needed to provide additional healing and treatment.<sup>18</sup>

DOJ guidance for exams recommends that providers collect a range of physical evidence during the exam.<sup>19</sup> This may include collecting evidence from the survivor's clothing, foreign materials on the body, hair (including head and pubic hair samples and combings), body swabs, and a blood or saliva sample for DNA analysis and comparison. In addition, exams typically include documenting biological and physical findings such as cuts or bruises, either in writing or photographs, and recording a survivor's medical forensic history, such as the time of the assault. Exam providers typically perform exams if the assault occurred within the previous 72 to 120 hours because physical and biological evidence on a person's body or clothes degrades over time.<sup>20</sup> Once the exam is complete, exam providers seal evidence and store the collection kits in a secure location.

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<sup>17</sup>28 C.F.R. § 90.2(c).

<sup>18</sup>Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, *The Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance, 2022 Edition*, NCJ305320 (Washington, D.C.: Oct. 2022).

<sup>19</sup>Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, *A National Protocol for Sexual Abuse Forensic Examinations, Adult/Adolescent*, NCJ228119 (Washington, D.C.: Apr. 2013).

<sup>20</sup>The standard of practice for how long such evidence is viable changes as scientific advancements are made, with some jurisdictions now performing exams up to 7 days after an assault.

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## Entities that Pay for Exams and Related Medical Treatments

The entity that pays for exams and related medical treatments varies and may operate at the federal, state, territory, or local level.<sup>21</sup>

### Federal Payers

Under federal law, if a federal investigating officer determines an exam is necessary or useful for evidentiary purposes in the investigation of a sexual assault, then the head of the department or agency investigating the sexual assault shall pay the cost of the exam, either directly or by reimbursement to the victim.<sup>22</sup> For example, officers from DOJ's Federal Bureau of Investigation might investigate a case of rape, in which case DOJ is responsible for covering the cost of the exam. Federal agencies that may be responsible in situations specifically involving AI/AN individuals or tribal citizens include the IHS—as one responsible exam payer for this population—and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### Department of Justice

In addition to covering the cost of exams in which there is a related federal case, DOJ administers grant programs that award grant funds to payers in states and territories. For example, DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime administers the VOCA Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance Grant Programs.<sup>23</sup> DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women administers the VAWA STOP Formula Grant Program.<sup>24</sup> See table 1 for more information on these grant programs.

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<sup>21</sup>For purposes of this report, we refer to these entities as payers.

<sup>22</sup>34 U.S.C. § 20141(c)(7).

<sup>23</sup>See 34 U.S.C. §§ 20102 and 20103, respectively.

<sup>24</sup>See 34 U.S.C. §§ 10441, 10446-10451, 10454.

**Table 1: Selected Department of Justice Grant Programs that Provide Grantees with Financial Assistance for Survivors of Sexual Assaults**

Source	Administering Agency	Purpose	Reporting	Monitoring
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Grant Program	Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office for Victims of Crime	These grants are awarded to states' and territories' crime victim compensation programs to supplement state funds for reimbursing victims for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from a crime, including sexual assault.	States' and territories' crime victim compensation programs or entities submit annual performance reports to DOJ on their activities and costs for each fiscal year. These reports contain self-reported data on amounts paid during the fiscal year for costs related to sexual assault and child sexual abuse crimes, including exams, as well as medical, dental, and mental health expenses. These data are then (1) published in publicly available reports, (2) provided to congressional and Freedom of Information Act requestors, and (3) used for internal program evaluation.	Monitoring is carried out through site visits and desk reviews of grantee documentation and data, according to DOJ's Grants Financial Guide. Officials from DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime reported that they review self-reported performance data from grantees each quarter and conduct additional outreach to those grantees with anomalous data.
VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Program	DOJ Office for Victims of Crime	These grants are awarded to states and territories who provide subgrants to local community-based organizations and public agencies that provide services directly to victims. Direct assistance could include crisis counseling, therapy, or additional assistance. Funds may also be used to develop new programs addressing emerging needs and service gaps and training victim service providers.	Grantees submit quarterly and annual data on their activities (e.g., the number of survivors served) and funds used to match grant funds to DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime. They are also required to provide a report describing, among other things, the subgrantee's type of organization, service area, and period of performance.	Monitoring is carried out through site visits and desk reviews of grantee documentation, including plans for how grantees will monitor subrecipients. Grant administrators are required to conduct both regular desk and onsite monitoring of all subrecipients at least once every 2 years, according to the grant solicitation.

Source	Administering Agency	Purpose	Reporting	Monitoring
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program	DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women	These grants are awarded to states and territories, which provide subawards to tribal governments, units of local government, and community-based victim service organizations for activities designed to strengthen responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.	Grant applicants must certify that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of exams for sexual assault survivors, among other requirements. <sup>a</sup> Grant applicants must certify compliance across the entire state or territory, even if STOP funds are not used to pay for exams. Applicants must also provide a brief description of the status of their compliance and submit copies of legislative or administrative rule changes related to the requirements since the submission of their last STOP funds application. Grantees are required to submit quarterly financial reports on grant expenditures as well as annual performance reports to the Office on Violence Against Women.	Each grantee may award subrecipients who are responsible for carrying out a portion of the federal award and adhering to applicable program requirements. Grantees must monitor the subrecipient's actions and measure its performance in relation to whether the objectives of the federal program were met. <sup>b</sup>

Source: Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime and Office on Violence Against Women. | GAO-24-106036

<sup>a</sup>All VAWA STOP Formula Grant applicants must certify compliance with requirements under 34 U.S.C. §§ 10449, 10450, 10451, and 10454 (including the implementing provisions of 28 C.F.R. Part 90), and the applicable grant conditions at 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b) to qualify for grant funds. See 28 C.F.R. § 90.11(a)(1). Specifically, applicants must, among other requirements, certify to DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault by either providing the exams free of charge or arranging for survivors to obtain the exams free of charge, regardless of whether the victim participates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement. 34 U.S.C. § 10449(a)(1)(A), (b), (d)(1); 28 C.F.R. § 90.13. Further, if STOP funds are used to pay for the exams, survivors cannot be required to seek reimbursement from their insurance carriers. See 34 U.S.C. § 10449(c). There may be additional DOJ grant programs that award funds to states and territories to assist non-governmental organizations that serve sexual assault survivors.

<sup>b</sup>See 2 C.F.R. § 200.332(d).

### Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service

Within the Department of Health and Human Services, IHS is responsible for providing federal health services to approximately 2.6 million AI/AN individuals who are citizens or descendants of federally recognized Tribal Nations. IHS services are administered through a system of 12 area offices and 170 service units that are managed by IHS directly or through Tribal Nations, as well as 41 urban organizations that have contracts or grants with IHS to provide care to tribal citizens. IHS's sexual assault policy states that all IHS facilities are to provide patients 18 and older who



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seek sexual assault services with access to an exam, regardless of whether they report the assault to law enforcement.<sup>25</sup>

### **Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs**

Within the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services provides advocacy and support services to AI/AN survivors of sexual assault through their Victim Assistance Program. Victim Specialists help survivors navigate the healthcare system to receive medical treatments related to the assault without being billed. Specifically, officials said that once a survivor arrives at the care facility, a specialist can help the survivor navigate the process to receive free care at an IHS facility (if eligible) or tribal facility, and serve as a liaison between the survivor, IHS, and their public or private insurance. As of January 2023, agency records indicate there were 17 victim specialist positions, including a national coordinator, located in duty stations throughout Indian country, but primarily within the western part of the U.S. Agency officials told us that the Office of Justice Services within the Bureau of Indian Affairs may also be responsible for covering exam expenses if those expenses are necessary for evidence collection and other funding sources (e.g., IHS, tribal health care, state, county, public or private insurance) are unavailable.

### **State, Local, and Other Payers**

Generally, states and territories rely on one or more state-, territory-, or local-level payers to cover the cost of exams. In some states, the payer is a single state-level entity, such as a crime victim compensation program or the attorney general. In other states, one entity pays for the exam while another pays for related medical treatments. Further, in other states, state law requires that local jurisdictions (e.g., counties, law enforcement agencies) must pay. Additionally, public (i.e., Medicaid, Medicare) and private insurers or hospitals may also cover some of these costs.

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<sup>25</sup>Indian Health Service, Indian Health Manual, 3-29. 1E (1) and (3). This policy also directs providers to follow the existing child maltreatment policy and the mandated reporting requirement located at 42 U.S.C. § 13031 for providing care to children 17 years of age and younger who may have been sexually assaulted and abused.

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## States and Territories Have Requirements Providing for Sexual Assault Survivors to Access Exams Free of Charge

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### Most States and Territories Have Laws or Policies that Survivors Must not be Billed for Exams

We found that states and territories have requirements (i.e., laws or policies) that provide for sexual assault survivors to receive exams free of charge. Based on our analysis of state and territory laws, we found that 47 out of 56 states and territories have laws that explicitly state that survivors must not be billed for the cost of exams.<sup>26</sup> The remaining six states and three territories—American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Idaho, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virgin Islands, Virginia, and Wyoming—do not have such laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for all or part of the exams, according to our analysis.<sup>27</sup>

Although these six states and three territories do not have a law or policy that explicitly states that survivors must not be billed for all or part of the cost of their exam, they have certified that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of survivors' exams.<sup>28</sup> Specifically, in order to apply for DOJ's STOP Formula Grant Program, applicants must certify compliance with the statutory requirement that they or another government entity incur the full out-of-pocket cost of survivors' exams, and as part of this certification process, state and territory applicants may provide information that explains how they are complying

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<sup>26</sup>For more information about state and territory legal and policy requirements that survivors must not be billed for their exams, see appendix III.

<sup>27</sup>These states and territories may have related laws, such as a law establishing a crime victims compensation fund and requiring that this fund pays for exams. For the purposes of our analysis, these laws do not meet our criteria for laws or policies that explicitly state that survivors must not be billed for all or part of their exam, but this kind of information may be included in their certification to DOJ to demonstrate compliance.

<sup>28</sup>See generally 34 U.S.C. § 10449; 28 C.F.R. §§ 90.11(a)(1), 90.13.

with that requirement.<sup>29</sup> Full compliance does not necessarily require a state or territory to have a law or policy that explicitly states that survivors cannot be billed for the exam, only that they meet the statutory requirement. All of the six states and three territories submitted VAWA STOP grant certifications to DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women.<sup>30</sup> Table 2 describes the information each of those states and territories provided in their VAWA STOP grant certifications regarding the requirement that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of survivors' exams.

**Table 2: VAWA STOP Program Compliance Certification by States and Territories without Laws or Policies that Survivors Must not be Billed for Exams<sup>a</sup>**

State or territory	Description of information in VAWA STOP grant certification
American Samoa	American Samoa's Department of Human and Social Services pays for exams through the Social Service Block Grant under the Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services Programs, which are two service categories under the 29 categories of program funding for the block grant.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation pays for exam expenses. The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence provides stipends for sexual assault nurse examiners, training for nurse examiners, and exam kits.
Hawaii	The state's county government entities, such as prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement agencies, are responsible for the cost of exams, sometimes through contracts with exam providers. All contractors or subgrantees must sign a certification, which is attached to their contract, stating that exams are provided at no charge to survivors of sexual assault.
Idaho	The state ensures that the cost of exams for any alleged sexual assault survivor is paid for from the Crime Victims Compensation account, established in Idaho Code § 72-1009.
Oklahoma	The state's sexual assault survivors are eligible for payments of up to \$800 for the exam from the Crime Victims Compensation Revolving Fund. Survivors can also apply for reimbursement of any costs that exceed this cap, such as those costs for related medical treatments. In 2023, Oklahoma enacted a new law that also allows state appropriations to fund exams.

<sup>29</sup>All VAWA STOP Formula Grant program applicants must certify compliance with requirements under 34 U.S.C. §§ 10449, 10450, 10451, and 10454 (including the implementing provisions of 28 C.F.R. Part 90), and the applicable grant conditions at 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b) to qualify for grant funds. See 28 C.F.R. § 90.11(a)(1). Specifically, applicants must, among other requirements, certify to DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault by either providing the exams free of charge or arranging for survivors to obtain the exams free of charge, regardless of whether the victim participates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement. 34 U.S.C. § 10449(a)(1)(A), (b), (d)(1); 28 C.F.R. § 90.13. Further, if STOP funds are used to pay for the exams, survivors cannot be required to seek reimbursement from their insurance carriers. See 34 U.S.C. § 10449(c).

<sup>30</sup>All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories receive STOP grant funds and thus have certified compliance with the Office on Violence Against Women.

State or territory	Description of information in VAWA STOP grant certification
Rhode Island	The state's General Treasurer's Office and the Hospital Association of Rhode Island have agreed upon a direct billing procedure to the Rhode Island Crime Victim Compensation Program that ensures that survivors will not billed for an exam or necessary medical treatments. Additionally, Rhode Island's Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights states, "Victims are eligible to receive compensation for the cost of their forensic sexual assault examination, regardless of whether or not they report the assault to law enforcement and/or cooperate with any investigation or prosecution."
Virgin Islands <sup>b</sup>	A licensed health care facility, upon completion of a routine sexual assault exam, performed on an alleged victim of criminal sexual conduct in any degree or of child sexual abuse, provided the crime occurred in the United States Virgin Islands, may file a claim for reimbursement directly to the Virgin Islands Criminal Victims Compensation Commission.
Virginia	The state reimburses exam providers for the cost of exams from its state Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, regardless of law enforcement involvement, in accordance with Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-165.1. Survivors alleging sexual assault are not required to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement authorities to be provided with such exams.
Wyoming	The Wyoming Attorney General's Division of Victims Services' Surcharge fund pays for all exams irrespective of a law enforcement investigation. The state is only required by statute to pay for the exam itself, but practice has been to cover services incident to the exam. If a sexual assault medical examination is completed and the victim does not wish to report to law enforcement, the exam provider submits an invoice without the victim's personal information.

Source: GAO review of states' and territories' compliance certifications for the fiscal year 2020 Violence Against Women Act of 2022 STOP formula grant program. | GAO-24-106036

Notes: All applicants for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization Act of 2005 Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant program must certify compliance with requirements under 34 U.S.C. §§ 10449, 10450, 10451, and 10454 (including the implementing provisions of 28 C.F.R. Part 90), and the applicable grant conditions at 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b) to qualify for grant funds. See 28 C.F.R. § 90.11(a)(1). Specifically, applicants must, among other requirements, certify to DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault by either providing the exams free of charge or arranging for survivors to obtain the exams free of charge, regardless of whether the victim participates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement. 34 U.S.C. § 10449(a)(1)(A), (b), (d)(1); 28 C.F.R. § 90.13. Further, if STOP funds are used to pay for the exams, survivors cannot be required to seek reimbursement from their insurance carriers. See 34 U.S.C. § 10449(c).

<sup>a</sup>Full compliance does not require a state or territory to have a law or policy that explicitly states that survivors cannot be billed for the exam. For example, a state or territory may designate a certain fund that will reimburse exam providers, or a state or territory may simply confirm that exams are provided at no charge to the victim.

<sup>b</sup>During the course of this review, we found that the information that this territory provided to DOJ Office on Violence Against Women for their VAWA STOP certification indicated that survivors are required to file a report with law enforcement. As a result, officials told us that they took actions to investigate the grantee's payment processes and resolve their concerns about the grantee's compliance certification.

Additionally, we found that 10 states and two territories—California, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Guam, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington—have laws or policies that require state or territory payment of one or more medical treatments related to the sexual

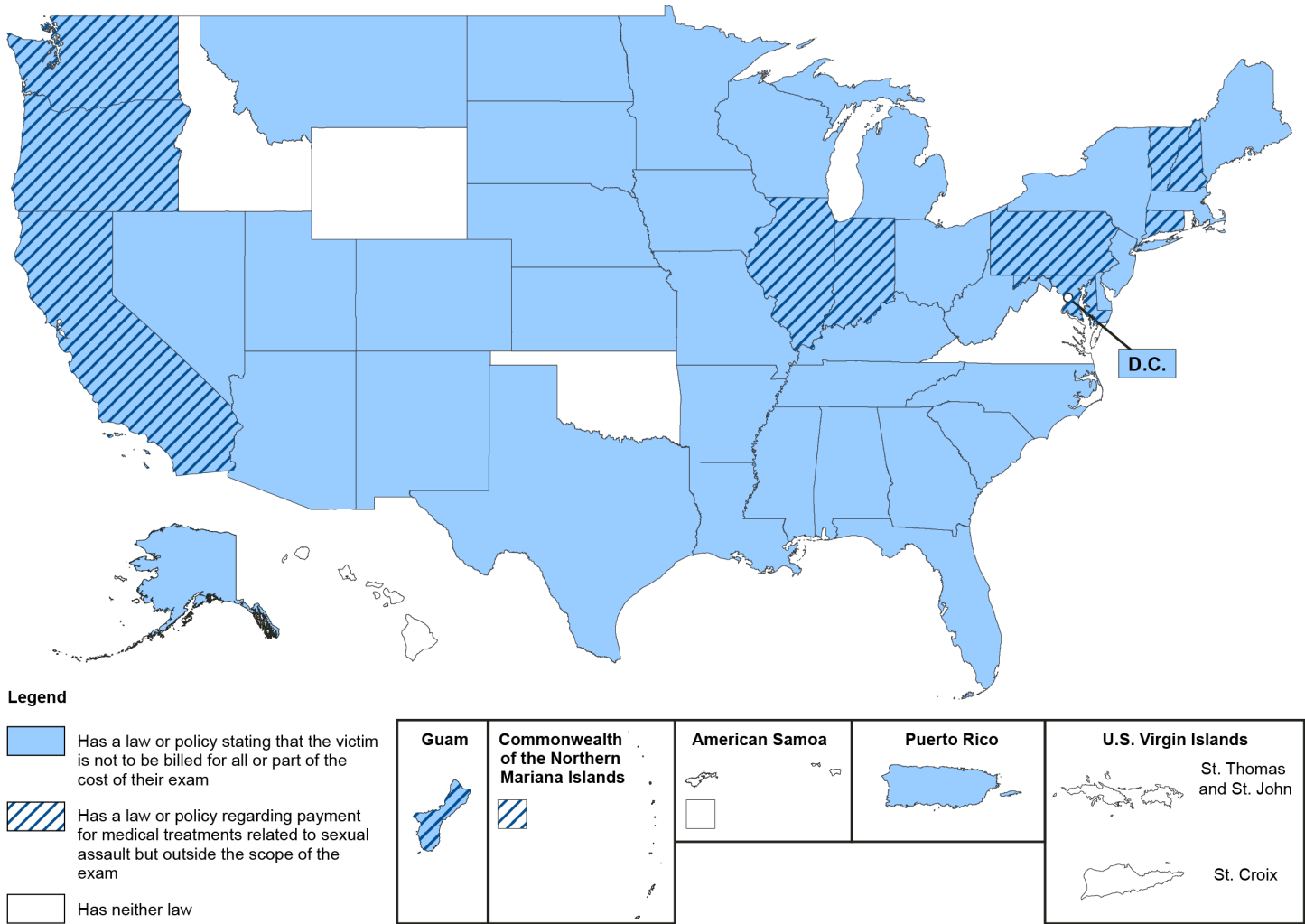
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assault but considered to be outside the scope of the exam.<sup>31</sup> Figure 1 provides an overview of laws and policies regarding payment for exams and related medical treatments in each state and territory.

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<sup>31</sup>State and territory laws and policies may not clarify whether medical treatments are paid for as part of the exam or are paid for outside of and separate from the exam. The laws and policies of the named states and territory clearly provide that certain medical treatments are paid for as outside of and separate from the exam, with no required application or eligibility determination. However, there may be other states or territories not included here with laws or policies regarding medical treatment but for which it is not clear whether the medical treatment is paid for as outside of and separate from the exam.

**Figure 1: Laws and Policies Regarding Payment for Exams or Related Medical Treatments, by State or Territory**



Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies; U.S. Census Bureau (map). | GAO-24-106036

Note: Although nine states and territories do not have laws or policies that explicitly state that survivors must not be billed for all or part of the cost of their exam, they have all submitted Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Program grant certifications describing how they meet the requirement that they or another government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of survivors' exams. DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women is responsible for ensuring grantees meet STOP program eligibility requirements. State and territory laws and policies are not always clear on whether medical treatments are paid for as part of the exam or are paid for outside of and separate from the exam. The laws and policies of the striped states and territory clearly provide that certain medical treatments are paid for as outside of and separate from the exam, but there may be other states and territories not designated striped in this figure whose laws and policies are not clear as to whether the medical treatment is paid for as outside of and separate from the exam.

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**Payment of Exams for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Survivors of Sexual Assault**

Exam costs can be covered for AI/AN survivors in several ways. The Indian Health Service (IHS) Sexual Assault Policy states that all IHS-eligible individuals, regardless of law enforcement involvement, are to receive medical care, including exams for survivors, at no cost at its federally operated facilities. Federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Indian Affairs, are also responsible for covering exam costs for AI/AN survivors who report the assault to law enforcement. See 34 U.S.C. § 20141(c)(7). State payers may also pay for exams for AI/AN survivors who do not wish to involve law enforcement. In Alaska, AI/AN health care corporations consisting of a hospital and satellite facilities in more remote areas can cover exam costs for those AI/AN survivors who do not wish to involve law enforcement.

Source: GAO analysis of interviews with agency and tribal officials. | GAO-24-106036

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**Most States and Territories Designate the Organization Responsible for Exam Payments**

States and territories may designate the payer responsible for paying exam costs, which could be a payer that serves the entire area, such as a state-level payer like a state crime victim compensation program.<sup>32</sup> The state or territory may also designate that the responsible payers are multiple organizations that operate at a more local level, such as a county-level payer or a local law enforcement agency. Based on our analysis of state and territory laws, policies, and survey responses, we found that all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four of five territories have a law, policy, regulation, or memorandum of understanding designating the organization responsible for paying for exams. In the remaining territory, according to our analysis, a territory-level government agency pays for exams; however, this responsibility is not contained within a law, policy, regulation, or memorandum of understanding.

In 47 states and territories, an organization that serves the entire area, such as a state or territory government entity (e.g., a crime victims compensation program, the state's department of justice or health) is the primary payer responsible for covering or offsetting the cost of exams, according to our analysis.<sup>33</sup> Of those 47, we found that 30 states and

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<sup>32</sup>States and territories have varying laws and policies on whether insurance may be billed. For example, a state may require insurance, if any, to be billed before another payer will cover costs. Alternatively, a state may permit insurance to be billed upon the survivor's authorization. Still, other states never bill insurance, instead directly billing a designated payer other than insurance. Regardless, this section discusses the payers besides insurers, as applicable, that are responsible for payment.

<sup>33</sup>In some states, although a county-level entity or local law enforcement may initially cover the cost of an exam, a payer that serves the entire area may offset the cost by reimbursing the initial payer. We consider states with this structure as having designated a payer that serves the entire area.

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territories require their crime victim compensation program to pay for exam costs. The remaining eight states and one territory designate that multiple organizations that operate at a more local level (e.g., county government agencies, local law enforcement agencies) are the primary payers responsible for covering the cost of exams.

In practice, states and territories can have multiple organizations involved in ensuring that survivors are not billed for exams. For example, Colorado is one of the eight states that designates an entity within the jurisdiction where the assault occurred to be the primary entity responsible for covering the cost of exams.<sup>34</sup> However, who pays for the exam depends on whether a survivor reports the assault to law enforcement for investigation. If the survivor chooses to report the assault, then the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred is responsible for covering the cost of the evidence collection portion of the exam.<sup>35</sup> Survivors can use their health insurance to pay for any remaining costs beyond evidence collection, and they may then apply to the Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Program for reimbursement, according to state guidance for survivors. For survivors who do not report their assault to law enforcement, or choose not to do so immediately, Colorado's Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program is responsible for covering the cost of evidence collection. This program is also responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments not otherwise covered by the Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Program.<sup>36</sup>

In another example, California is one of the 47 states and territories that designates a state-level payer—the Office of Emergency Services—as primarily responsible for covering or offsetting the cost of exams.<sup>37</sup> The state treats these expenses as a local cost that is to be covered by the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the assault took place, according to the state's published guidance for survivors. However, the California Office of Emergency Services is responsible for reimbursing law enforcement to offset the cost of exams. The Office of Emergency Services uses one of two funding sources for reimbursement—federal grant funds and the state's general fund—depending on the survivor's

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<sup>34</sup>Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 18-3-407.5(1), (3)(b), 18-3-407.7(2)(a.5).

<sup>35</sup>Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-3-407.5(1).

<sup>36</sup>Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-3-407.5(3)(b), 18-3-407.7(1).

<sup>37</sup>Cal. Penal Code § 13823.95(c)(2), (d), (e).



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decision to involve law enforcement. If the survivor reports their assault to law enforcement, then the Office of Emergency Services is to use the state's general fund to reimburse these exam costs. If the survivor is undecided about involving law enforcement, then the Office of Emergency Services uses federal grant funds for this exam reimbursement, according to this state guidance. The guidance also states that law enforcement agencies can apply for and receive a reimbursement from the Office of Emergency Services of up to \$911 for those survivors who are undecided about involving law enforcement at the time of the exam.

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## Payers Cover the Cost of a Range of Related Medical Treatments for Sexual Assault Survivors

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### Coverage for the Cost of Related Medical Treatments Varies in States, Counties, and on Tribal Lands

Payers in all 56 states and territories who responded to our survey reported that they cover the cost of at least one medical treatment that survivors of sexual assault may need.<sup>38</sup> Payers may cover the costs of treatments because it is required by law or policy, or by choice.

- Required to cover: A payer may be required to cover the cost of a treatment because a state or territory law, policy, or regulation requires it. The treatment may be considered part of the sexual assault forensic exam (exam), or the treatment may be considered separate from the exam.<sup>39</sup>
- Choose to cover: A payer may choose to cover a cost even though the payer does not consider the treatment to be part of the exam, and state law or policy does not otherwise require that they cover the cost.

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<sup>38</sup>We surveyed payers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. We received responses from payers in all 56 states and territories. These included payers in 47 states that require a state-level payer to cover the cost of survivors' exams, and included payers in eight states and one territory where the primary exam payers operate at the local level. Payers we surveyed from this latter group operate at the state level and may cover the cost of related medical treatments, since exams are covered locally. We did not survey exam payers at the local level.

<sup>39</sup>Forensic evidence collected during the exam may also be used by law enforcement for investigation and prosecution of the assailant.

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We asked payers in all 56 states and territories about whether they cover the cost of a number of treatments for one of these reasons.<sup>40</sup> For example, we asked the payers if they cover the cost of diagnostic imaging and radiology, which is used to detect an injury like a broken bone resulting from a sexual assault. Payers in 39 of the 56 states and territories reported that they cover the cost of this treatment. Specifically, payers in 17 states and territories reported that they cover the cost because they consider that treatment to be part of the exam or because a state law requires that they cover the cost. Additionally, payers in another 22 states and territories reported that they choose to cover the cost of imaging although they are not required to do so by law.

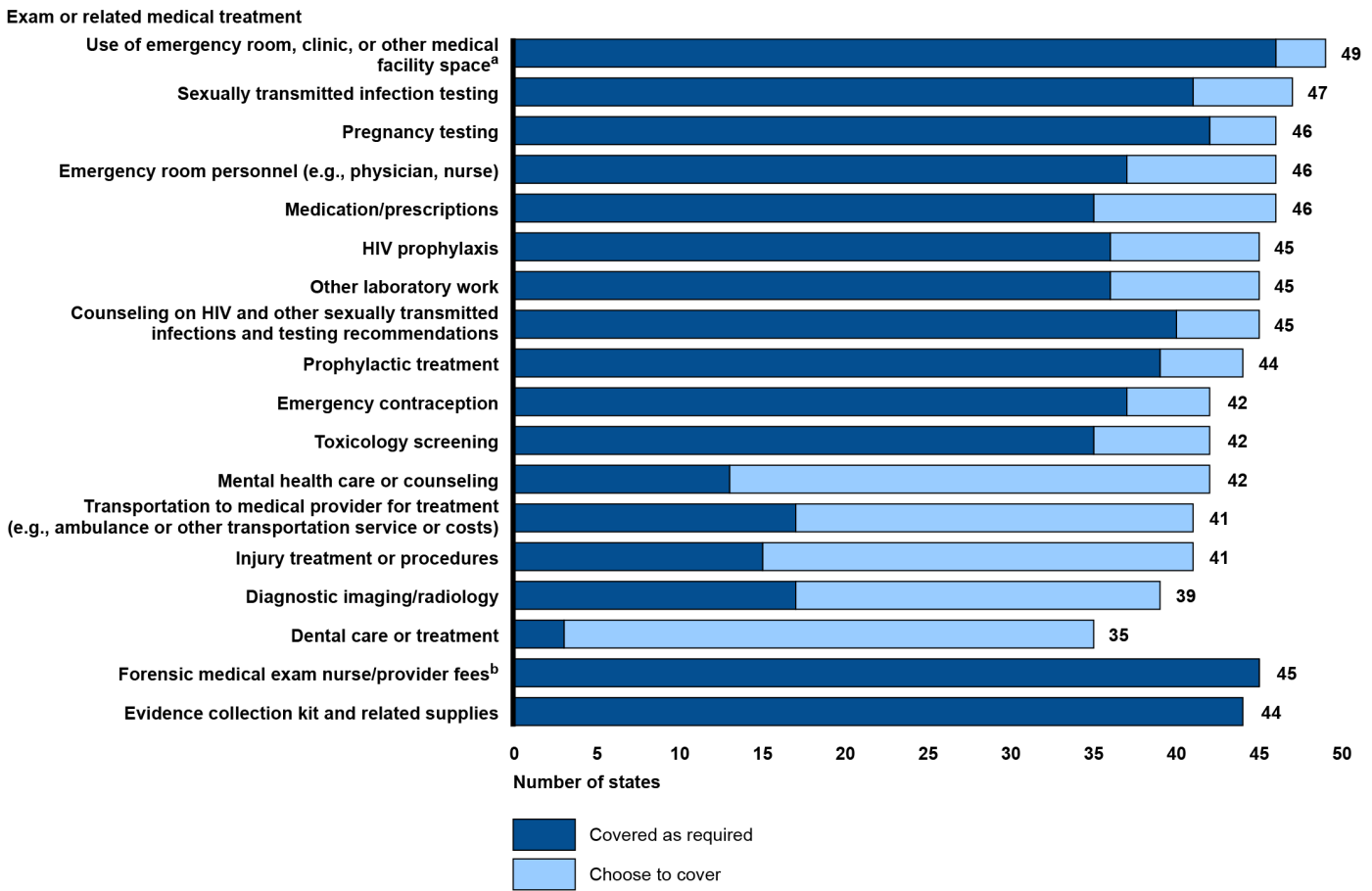
We also asked payers about prophylaxis (i.e., preventive treatment) for sexually transmitted infections (STI). Payers in 44 of the 56 states and territories reported that they cover the cost of this treatment. Specifically, payers in 39 states and territories reported that they cover the cost because they consider STI prophylaxis to be part of the exam or because a state law requires that they cover the cost. Additionally, payers in another five states and territories reported that they choose to cover the cost of this treatment although they are not required to do so by state law.

Figure 2 shows the number of states and territories with state-level payers that reported covering each of the treatments we asked about in our survey.

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<sup>40</sup>Not all survey respondents who replied that they cover the cost of some treatments indicated which treatments they cover.

**Figure 2: Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related Medical Treatments for which At Least One Payer in 56 States and Territories Reported Covering the Cost of in Fiscal Year 2022**



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Note: This figure provides a broad overview of state and territory coverage of exams and related medical treatments, as well as the reason underlying the coverage. However, the figure is not comprehensive because not all survey respondents reported whether they covered each treatment. Accordingly, the number of responses for each treatment varies, and the absence of a survey response does not necessarily mean that a payer in that state or territory does not cover the treatment.

<sup>a</sup>Payers in some states and territories cover the cost of the medical facility as part of the exam. Payers in other states and territories might cover the cost of the medical facility but not consider it to be part of the exam itself, so we classify this with other “related medical treatments.”

<sup>b</sup>Payers in some states and territories cover the cost of the evidence collection kit and the nurse performing the kit as part of the exam. Payers in other states might not cover the cost of the evidence collection kits because the kits are donated by another entity within the state.

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According to our survey results, the following list details the related medical treatments that payers most frequently reported covering the cost of:

- The use of a medical facility: payers in 49 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Testing for STIs: payers in 47 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Emergency room personnel: payers in 46 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Testing for pregnancy: payers in 46 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Medication and prescriptions: payers in 46 states and territories reported covering this cost.<sup>41</sup>

According to our survey results, the following list details the related medical treatments that payers most infrequently reported covering the cost of:

- Dental care: payers in 35 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Diagnostic imaging/radiology: payers in 39 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Transportation to an exam provider to receive treatment: payers in 41 states and territories reported covering this cost.
- Injury treatment and procedures: payers in 41 states and territories reported covering this cost.

Survivor access to free related medical treatments also varied among the local-level payers to whom we spoke. Officials from two of the eight local-level payers we spoke to reported that they do not cover the cost of any related medical treatments that are not a part of the exam. For example, one local-level payer explained that they do not cover the cost of related medical treatments for sexual assault survivors because state law does not require them to do so. Officials from two other local-level payers reported that they do cover the cost of related medical treatments if those treatments are done as part of evidence collection.

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<sup>41</sup>For more information about which treatments are covered by payers in each state and territory, see appendix IV.

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Access to free related medical treatments also varied among the Tribal Nations or tribal-serving organizations to whom we spoke. Officials from one Tribal Nation who work in the tribal health care facility told us they provide some related medical treatments to AI/AN survivors who are members of the Tribal Nation or of another federally recognized Tribal Nation. For example, officials said they send survivors to receive initial care after a sexual assault to non-tribal health care facilities that are nearby because they do not have the trained emergency room staff to treat survivors' initial injuries. However, they said they provide after-care wound treatment and medications at a tribal health care facility and do not bill survivors for these treatments. Officials said that the Tribal Nation does not pay for these related medical treatments and that these costs would be covered by the state victim compensation program, private or public insurance, or the Tribal Nation's IHS funds as a last resort. Additionally, officials told us that IHS will pay for any related medical treatments tribal citizens receive at a non-tribal facility if the local IHS service unit is notified within 72 hours of the visit.

Officials from a health care facility that serves one of our selected Tribal Nations told us that their state's law enforcement agencies cover the cost of exams for all survivors, including those who are AI/AN. Officials said that these agencies may also choose, on a case-by-case basis, to cover the cost of related medical treatments. Officials noted that it can be more difficult to provide related medical treatments free of charge if survivors do not wish to involve law enforcement. However, officials said that their facility may also cover the cost of related treatments by billing the survivor's insurance, if available, by using IHS funds for eligible survivors, and by assuming any remaining expenses.

An official from a third Tribal Nation who works at the tribal health care facility told us that their facility will provide related medical treatments for survivors from their Tribal Nation. However, tribal survivors may also seek out care from non-tribal facilities. The official said that these survivors regularly receive invoices for related medical treatments from these non-tribal facilities because their county's flat reimbursement fee for providers only covers the cost of the exam. Additionally, the official said that the state victim compensation program only reimburses survivors for related medical treatments if they involve law enforcement.

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## Payers Reported Challenges and Promising Practices for Providing Exams or Related Medical Treatments Free of Charge

Some payers that responded to our survey reported that they sometimes face challenges to ensuring survivors receive exams and related medical treatments free of charge; however, some also reported a variety of promising practices to help ensure exams or related medical treatments are provided free of charge.

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## Payers Reported Some Challenges Ensuring Survivors Receive Exams and Related Medical Treatments Free of Charge

Payers in 24 states and territories who responded to our survey reported challenges ensuring that survivors received their exams or related medical treatments free of charge. For example:

- **Billing errors.** Payers from 10 states and territories reported that billing errors are a challenge. For example, officials reported that turnover in medical billing staff and training gaps for these staff can be obstacles in ensuring that survivors are not billed for exams or related medical treatments.
- **Limited resources.** Payers from eight states and territories reported that limited resources for paying for exams or related medical treatments are a challenge.
- **Policy differences within and across states.** Payers from five states and territories reported that variation among state policies is a challenge. For example, two payers said some states are required to pay for exams regardless of where the assault occurred, but other states are only required to pay for the exam if the assault occurred within their state. This variation, particularly for neighboring states, can result in gaps in coverage for survivors, according to these payers' survey responses.

Additionally, IHS and tribal officials we spoke to discussed challenges. For example, an IHS official reported that while federally operated IHS facilities endeavor to provide direct care to survivors, accessing exams is challenging because not all facilities can provide exams or have providers trained to conduct the exams. IHS's sexual assault policy states that staff may refer AI/AN survivors to an exam provider within a 2-hour drive, if feasible. However, officials said that due to the limited number of exam providers and the geography of some tribal lands, survivors might have to travel up to 4 or more hours to obtain an exam.

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Officials from a tribal advocacy organization also stated that AI/AN survivors may not want to involve law enforcement for many reasons, such as mistrust of law enforcement due to the history of westernized systems, including law enforcement, working against the best interests of tribal communities. AI/AN survivors may also not report sexual assault out of concern they will jeopardize their access to tribal resources and support by reporting a perpetrator who can leverage their influence within the Tribal Nation to deny these resources to survivors, according to officials from another tribal advocacy organization.

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### Payers Reported Some Promising Practices for Ensuring Survivors Receive Exams and Related Medical Treatments Free of Charge

Although payers in some states and territories reported challenges to providing free exams or related medical treatments, payers in 38 states and territories who responded to our survey, as well as local-level, advocacy, and agency officials we spoke to, reported promising practices for providing free exams or related medical treatments. For example:

- state funding and reimbursement for local-level payers that face budgetary constraints to ease any potential negative effect on providing free exams or related medical treatments;
- implementation of a single payer model to help ensure consistent and prompt payment to exam providers and extra protections for survivors' personal information;
- establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the state and its primary insurers stating that they are not to bill survivors, and that the state victims' compensation program will cover any costs not paid by insurance;
- itemized billing statements for exams or related medical treatments that allow billing staff to identify charges that should not be billed to the survivor;
- development of state-wide standards for counties providing services to survivors; and
- strong partnerships and coordination between payers and exam or related medical treatment providers.

Officials from IHS and tribal organizations reported promising practices specifically for ensuring that AI/AN survivors receive free exams and related medical treatments, and IHS issued guidance in October 2023 for

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exam providers serving Indian country to enhance care to AI/AN survivors.<sup>42</sup> Recommended promising practices include the following:

- incorporating or offering traditional cultural healing practices, such as holding communal gatherings known as talking circles, to survivors;
- establishing a memorandum of understanding between a tribal-serving health care provider and tribal survivor advocacy organization to make exams available onsite at the advocacy center;
- ensuring providers receive the training necessary to provide trauma-informed care so that survivors do not have to travel outside of the community to receive an exam;
- providing ongoing training for staff involved in the exam process;
- using a collaborative, multidisciplinary, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed approach to providing care, including exams, to sexual assault survivors; and
- IHS's Forensic Healthcare Team said they provide monthly engagement, ongoing training, education, and technical assistance to federal, tribal, and urban AI/AN organizations nationwide.

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## Payers Reported Spending at Least \$93 Million in Fiscal Year 2022 for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related Medical Treatments

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### Payers Reported Using Federal and State Funds to Pay for Exams and Related Medical Treatments

Payers who responded to our survey reported using a variety of federal and state funds to pay for exams and related medical treatments. Specifically, payers in 29 out of the 56 states and territories who responded to our survey reported using at least one federal source to pay for exams, and payers in 43 states and territories reported using at least one federal source to pay for related medical treatments. For both exams and related medical treatments, the federal funding source that survey

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<sup>42</sup>This guidance—*Forensic Health Care and Caring for American Indian and Alaska Native Patients*—can be accessed at <https://www.ihs.gov/forensichealthcare/>.



respondents reported using most commonly was the Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant.<sup>43</sup>

Additionally, payers in 39 states and territories who responded to our survey reported using at least one state or territory source to pay for exams, and payers in 38 states and territories reported using at least one state or territory source to pay for related medical treatments. For both exams and related medical treatments, the state or territory funding sources that survey respondents reported using most commonly were victims of crime funds and general purpose or revenue funding. See table 3 for more information about the sources of funding that survey respondents reported using to pay for exams and related medical treatments.<sup>44</sup>

**Table 3: States' and Territories' Funding Sources in Fiscal Year 2022 for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams or Related Medical Treatments**

Funding Source	Number of States and Territories with At Least One Payer who Reported Using this Funding Source <sup>a</sup>	
	For Exams	For Related Medical Treatments
States and territories with payers who used one or more of these federal funding sources <sup>b</sup>	29	43
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant	24	41
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant	6	7
Federal Violence Against Women Act Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Formula Grant	2	3
States and territories with payers who used one or more of these state/territory funding sources <sup>c</sup>	39	38
State/territory victims of crime	24	27
State/territory department of health/mental health	1	2
State/territory law enforcement	1	1
State/territory general purpose or revenue	23	18
Other funding source(s) <sup>d</sup>	10	7

Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

<sup>a</sup>Some states have more than one payer that responded to our survey.

<sup>b</sup>Some payers reported using more than one federal funding source.

<sup>43</sup>See 34 U.S.C. § 20102.

<sup>44</sup>For more information about how payers in each state and territory pay for exams and related medical treatments, see appendix V.

<sup>c</sup>Some payers reported using more than one state/territory funding source.

<sup>d</sup>Examples of other funding sources that payers described included fines assessed against perpetrators of sexual assault.

**Payers Reported Spending At Least \$93 Million in Fiscal Year 2022 on Exams and Related Medical Treatments, but Total Costs Are Unknown**

The total amount that payers spent for exams and related medical treatments is unknown; however, payers who responded to our survey reported spending at least \$93 million in fiscal year 2022. Specifically, payers in 52 out of 56 states and territories who responded to our survey reported that they spent about \$75 million (80.6 percent) for exams and about \$18.1 million (19.4 percent) for related medical treatments<sup>45</sup> See table 4 for total amounts that payers in each state and territory reported spending on exams and related medical treatments.

**Table 4: Total Reported Amount Spent in Fiscal Year 2022 for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related Medical Treatments by State or Territory**

State or Territory	Exams	Related Medical Treatments	Total Known Amount Reported
Alabama	\$501,381	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	<b>\$501,381</b>
Alaska	\$500,000	\$173,000	<b>\$673,000</b>
Arizona	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	\$67,446	<b>\$67,446</b>
Arkansas	\$1,015,544	Unknown <sup>c</sup>	<b>\$1,015,544</b>
California	\$2,486,317	\$138,011	<b>\$2,624,328</b>
Colorado <sup>e</sup>	\$452,080	\$147,035	<b>\$599,115</b>
Connecticut	\$726,000	\$73,000	<b>\$799,000</b>
Delaware	\$215,864	\$198,687	<b>\$414,551</b>
District of Columbia	\$2,324,000	\$271,728	<b>\$2,595,728</b>
Florida	\$5,025,838	\$224,085	<b>\$5,249,923</b>
Georgia	\$3,127,111	\$145,341	<b>\$3,272,452</b>
Hawaii	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	\$50,558	<b>\$50,558</b>
Idaho	\$151,306	\$67,794	<b>\$219,100</b>
Illinois	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	<b>Unknown</b>
Indiana	\$4,865,836	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	<b>\$4,865,836</b>
Iowa	\$1,982,989	\$160,598	<b>\$2,143,587</b>
Kansas	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	\$134,501	<b>\$134,501</b>
Kentucky	\$289,849	\$773,115	<b>\$1,062,964</b>
Louisiana <sup>e</sup>	\$1,700,000 <sup>b</sup>	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>
Maine	\$243,237	Unknown <sup>c</sup>	<b>\$243,237</b>

<sup>45</sup>Some survey respondents were not able to report how much their payer organizations spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams, for related medical treatments, or both.

<b>State or Territory</b>	<b>Exams</b>	<b>Related Medical Treatments</b>	<b>Total Known Amount Reported</b>
Maryland	\$2,518,764	\$554,301	\$3,073,065
Massachusetts	\$968,625	\$43,186	\$1,011,811
Michigan	\$2,097,013	\$15,421	\$2,112,434
Minnesota	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	\$15,834	\$15,834
Mississippi	\$344,330	\$21,989	\$366,319
Missouri	\$1,831,903	\$3,356	\$1,835,259
Montana	\$14,314	\$69,567	\$83,881
Nebraska	\$807,655	\$11,286	\$818,941
Nevada	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	\$74,215	\$74,215
New Hampshire	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	Unknown <sup>a</sup>	Unknown
New Jersey	\$3,500,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$66,202	\$3,566,202
New Mexico	\$115,450	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	\$115,450
New York	\$1,625,124	\$1,833,590	\$3,458,714
North Carolina	\$874,000	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	\$874,000
North Dakota	\$300,400	\$183,947	\$484,347
Ohio	\$4,442,510	\$180,372	\$4,622,882
Oklahoma	\$1,244,823	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	\$1,244,823
Oregon	\$1,122,327	\$493,256	\$1,615,583
Pennsylvania	\$4,600,000	\$503,000	\$5,103,000
Rhode Island	\$3,540	\$166,238	\$169,778
South Carolina	\$392,888	Unknown <sup>c</sup>	\$392,888
South Dakota	\$18,510 <sup>b</sup>	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	\$18,510
Tennessee	\$2,144,900	\$49,602	\$2,194,502
Texas	\$11,000,000	\$2,300,000	\$13,300,000
Utah	\$1,200,000	\$4,700,000	\$5,900,000
Vermont	\$89,115	\$660	\$89,775
Virginia	\$1,501,700	\$210,200	\$1,711,900
Washington	\$5,270,210	\$3,203,116	\$8,473,326
West Virginia	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	\$75,000	\$75,000
Wisconsin	\$1,181,701	\$395,008	\$1,576,709
Wyoming	\$175,560	\$278,574	\$454,134
American Samoa	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	Unknown
Guam	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	\$0	Unknown
Northern Marianas	\$9,900	Unknown <sup>d</sup>	\$9,900
Puerto Rico	\$9,800	\$18,205	\$28,005
U.S. Virgin Islands	\$0	\$0	\$0

Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

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<sup>a</sup>This total is unknown because the survey respondent did not answer this survey question.

<sup>b</sup>In this state or territory, the payer responsible for covering the cost of the sexual assault forensic exam operates at the local level (e.g., a county-level government agency or local law enforcement). As a result, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams across the state or territory. Accordingly, the figures provided include only the known amount spent.

<sup>c</sup>This total is unknown because the survey respondent indicated that they do not pay for related medical treatments. There may be other payers in this state that cover related medical treatments.

<sup>d</sup>This total is unknown because the survey respondent indicated that they cover this cost but do not know how much they spent in fiscal year 2022.

<sup>e</sup>Payers in Colorado and Louisiana told us that the amount they reported paying in fiscal year 2022 for exams includes an unspecified or unknown amount paid for related medical treatments.

Based on our survey results and interviews with officials at the federal, tribal, and local levels, it is likely that the amount spent for exams and related medical treatments is more than the \$93 million that payers reported in our survey, but the total is unknown for various reasons. First, not all payers collect complete data about how much they pay for exams and related medical treatments.<sup>46</sup> DOJ officials we spoke to said that some state and territory administrators may not report using grant funds to pay for certain treatments because they do not have the ability to track health care costs by crime type, for example. State-level payers in 12 states who responded to our survey said that they pay for exams or related medical treatments, but that they did not know how much they spent (or did not provide an amount that they spent) in total in fiscal year 2022. One respondent said, for example, that their agency funds many medical and mental health programs that provide services free of charge to all trauma survivors, including survivors of sexual assault. However, they do not capture which services were provided specifically to survivors of sexual assault.

Similarly, officials from one local-level payer we spoke to said they do not track the amount they spend on exams. They said that the costs for exams are documented in the respective case file, but these costs have not been collected for tracking or auditing purposes. Some counties do track costs, however. Officials from four local-level payers we interviewed who did track the amount they spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams

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<sup>46</sup>Recipients of DOJ grant funds are required to provide data on their activities and costs for each fiscal year. However, states may be using funding sources other than DOJ grant funds and may not be collecting data about how those funds are used. Additionally, not all payers receive DOJ grant funds.

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reported spending approximately \$12,900 in a less-populated area to \$38,000 in a highly populated area.<sup>47</sup>

Second, several officials we spoke with told us that the total amount is unknown because there is no uniform Current Procedural Terminology code, or “billing code,” associated with sexual assault forensic exams. These codes are a uniform language used by medical professionals to standardize and streamline the tracking and reporting of medical procedures.<sup>48</sup> Sexual assault forensic exams can include numerous different procedures, each with their own billing code. In addition, these procedures, and the associated billing codes, can also be used for other examinations. As a result, there may be significant variability in how billing staff code for exams.

Third, in some states, the law allows medical care providers to bill the cost of exams or related medical treatments to the survivor’s private insurer or public insurance, such as Medicaid. In these instances, the payer may not know the total costs because the provider bills the survivor’s insurance directly. For example, a payer in one state who responded to our survey said that they have developed a memorandum of understanding with the state’s primary insurers to ensure the insurers cover the full cost of the exam. The payer is then responsible for covering the cost of co-payments, deductibles, and other cost-sharing requirements, as well as the cost of follow-up care. In another state, a payer we spoke to said that although a survivor’s insurance cannot be billed for the cost of the exam per state law, insurance can be billed for the cost of related medical treatments.

Fourth, some medical institutions may also choose to pay all or part of the cost of exams and related medical treatments. For example, officials from one hospital we spoke to said they charge a flat rate for the exam to the law enforcement agency if the survivor reports the assault, or to the

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<sup>47</sup>We requested cost data for calendar or fiscal year 2022, the most recent full year available. While these cost estimates represent different time periods over 2022, they provide insight on the total annual costs of sexual forensic exams in their respective jurisdictions over a recent 12-month period.

<sup>48</sup>The American Medical Association oversees the creation and management of these codes, which are updated regularly. According to the American Medical Association, the code set is constantly updated by an editorial panel with insight from clinical and industry experts to reflect current clinical practice and the latest innovations to help improve the delivery of care. The panel is composed of expert volunteers representing various sectors of the health care industry whose goal is to ensure that code changes undergo evidence-based review.

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state's justice department if the survivor chooses not to involve law enforcement. The survivor may then seek reimbursement for the cost of any related medical treatments from the state's crime victim compensation fund. Officials from that hospital said that for any remaining unpaid balances after exhausting these sources, they typically write it off as charity care. Officials from a tribal-serving health care provider we spoke to said that if a survivor does not want to report the assault to law enforcement, and law enforcement chooses not to pay for the survivor's exam as a result, the care provider will pay for the exam and related medical treatments. Officials from this same provider estimated that they pay \$350,000 per year for exams and related medical treatments.

**Payment Sources and Amounts Paid for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Survivors in Tribal Communities**

Tribal Nations are not responsible for the payment of sexual assault forensic exams. Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal officials we met with told us that there are a variety of funding sources used to ensure AI/AN survivors are not billed for exams and related medical treatments. As the U.S. government agency responsible for overseeing the provision of direct care to AI/AN individuals who are members or descendants of members of federally recognized Tribes, IHS routinely provides and coordinates payment for exams and related medical treatments. IHS officials said that when IHS pays directly, the primary sources of funding used for exams are IHS appropriated funds for direct care, IHS funds for tribal health care facilities, and IHS funds for purchased/referred care provided at non-tribal facilities. Purchased/referred care involves a set of eligibility criteria, including proof of eligibility for IHS direct care services and residence within a Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area, among other criteria.

IHS officials said they also use available state funding and third-party health insurance for exams and related medical treatments. For example, IHS would bill Medicaid for exams and related medical treatments provided to patients covered under that program. Depending on where the Tribal Nation is located, state (e.g., victim compensation) and local (e.g., county attorney's office) funds may also be used. For example, we spoke to officials from one Tribal Nation that is in a state where the county is responsible for payment. They said the tribal care provider refers survivors seeking exams to non-tribal exam providers that bill the county. According to IHS officials, IHS does not track the amount spent on exams or related medical treatments.

According to officials, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services is the payer of last resort for exams. Officials said that the Bureau pays for exams conducted by tribal and non-tribal providers in circumstances where the expenses were necessary for investigation and evidence collection by the Bureau's law enforcement and other previously described funding sources were unavailable. Officials said they paid \$31,906 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and about \$2,615 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments from its appropriated Public Safety & Justice funds for survivors in two districts.

Source: GAO analysis of interviews with agency and tribal officials. | GAO-24-106036

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## Agency Comments

We provided copies of this report to the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and the Interior for review and comment. The Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services provided technical comments, which we incorporated, as appropriate. The Department of the Interior did not have any comments on the report.

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We are sending copies of this report to the appropriate committees, the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and the Interior, and other interested parties. In addition, the report is available at no charge on the GAO website at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 512-8777 or [GoodwinG@gao.gov](mailto:GoodwinG@gao.gov). Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. GAO staff who made key contributions to this report are listed in appendix VI.



Gretta L. Goodwin  
Director  
Homeland Security and Justice

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*List of Committees*

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chair  
The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard J. Durban  
Chair  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives



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# Appendix I: Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

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The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization Act of 2022 includes a provision for GAO to report on states' and territories'<sup>1</sup> coverage of forensic examinations and related medical costs for individuals following a sexual assault.<sup>2</sup> This report addresses

- what information is known about state and territory requirements for covering the cost of sexual assault forensic exams (exams) and other related medical treatments for survivors,
- what medical treatments related to sexual assault are covered by payers in states and territories,
- what challenges and promising practices have payers in states and territories experienced in ensuring that survivors are not billed for exams and related medical treatments, and
- how much payers in states and territories reported spending in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments.

To address all four objectives, we developed, administered, and analyzed data collected from a web-based survey of state-level organizations or government entities that pay for exams or related medical treatments (payers) in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. We sent the survey to officials from the relevant state agencies or organizations responsible for covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments. We conducted the survey between July 2023 and March 2024. Because non-response errors can result when a survey fails

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<sup>1</sup>In this report, unless otherwise noted, we use the term “states and/or territories” and “state and/or territory” to mean the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the following five territories: the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These entities are eligible for VAWA grants. See 28 C.F.R. § 90.10; see also 34 U.S.C. §§ 12291(a)(37) (defining “state” to include the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five named territories for grants made under 34 U.S.C. subch. III), and 10447 (applying the definitions in § 12291 to the VAWA Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program, which includes the requirement that a state, Tribal government, local government, or other government entity incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams for sexual assault survivors); see also 28 C.F.R. § 90.2(a) (clarifying that all definitions in 42 U.S.C. § 13925(a), which was transferred to 34 U.S.C. § 12291, apply to grants awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women and all subgrants made under such awards).

<sup>2</sup>Pub. L. No. 117-103, div. W, tit. III, § 304, 136 Stat. 840, 868-69. Generally, STOP funds can be used to serve survivors over the age of 11. See Frequently Asked Questions About the STOP Formula Grants (Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, February 2016); see also 34 U.S.C. §§ 10441(b), 10447, 12291(a)(52). However, we asked payers in states and territories to provide, if available, data on exams and related medical treatment costs for individuals of all ages.

to capture information from population members, we took steps to minimize this risk. Specifically, we sent emails and conducted telephone follow-up calls to encourage participation from non-respondents. As a result, officials from at least one payer from all of the 56 states and territories responded for a 100 percent response rate.

The survey included open- and closed-ended questions about

- laws and policies in place in the payer's state or territory regarding payment for exams and related medical treatments;
- what related medical treatments the payers cover the cost of, whether because it is required by law or because they choose to cover the cost;
- the payer's perspectives about the challenges and promising practices for ensuring survivors are not billed for the cost of exams and related medical treatments;
- the amount payers spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments; and
- what funding sources payers used to cover these costs, including federal, state, and local sources.

Please see appendix II for a copy of the survey that was sent to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

To formulate our survey questions, we interviewed subject matter experts in exam payment processes as well as state government officials knowledgeable in their respective exam and related medical treatment payment practices. We then took steps to reduce the likelihood of measurement errors, which can result from differences in how a particular question is interpreted, and the sources of information available to respondents. Specifically, we conducted five pre-tests of the draft questionnaire with state government officials responsible for paying for exams and related medical treatments to (1) ensure the questions were clear, (2) obtain suggestions for clarification, (3) determine whether different state and territory officials would be able to respond to questions with minimal burden, and (4) ensure that the questions were comprehensive and unbiased. We also provided GAO contact information for respondents who had questions about the survey or experienced technical problems. Because we surveyed all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories, there are no statistical uncertainties in our estimates due to sampling errors.

To address all four objectives, we also interviewed officials from the following federal agencies:

- The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women and the Office for Victims of Crime regarding federal grant programs that provide state and territory grantees with financial assistance for sexual assault survivors
- DOJ’s Office of Justice Programs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding available data on the prevalence of sexual assault
- Department of Health and Human Services’ Indian Health Service (IHS) regarding how it provides and funds exams and related medical treatments for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) survivors and the complex jurisdictional issues that exist when serving Indian country
- Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Office of Justice Services within the Department of the Interior regarding how it supports AI/AN survivors through its Victim Assistance Program

We also interviewed officials from organizations that represent or serve a nongeneralizable sample of Tribal Nations to better understand how tribal communities provide and pay for exams and related medical treatments. To identify potential Tribal Nations to speak with, we conducted an online search and reviewed publicly available information from IHS, DOJ’s Office on Violence Against Women, the National Indian Health Board, and the International Association of Forensic Nurses to identify tribally led programs that provide exams for AI/AN survivors. We identified a training program for exam providers that was tailored to tribal communities. Of the Tribal Nations that had participated in this training program, we selected three. These were selected from participating Tribal Nations to

1. ensure variation in the type of entity responsible for covering exam costs within the state that the Tribal Nation predominately resides (e.g., state victim compensation board, county or local law enforcement, or another state entity);
2. not select Tribal Nations that GAO had done outreach to in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to reduce burden on Tribal Nations’ response to GAO engagements and diversify the Tribal Nations with whom GAO engages; and
3. ensure variation in the geographic location in which the Tribal Nations reside to include regionally diverse experiences across Indian country.

Ultimately, we spoke to officials from two selected Tribal Nations, including officials from the tribally operated health care provider, officials from the tribal law enforcement agency, and officials from tribal victim services.

In addition to speaking to officials from two selected Tribal Nations that had participated in the training program (group one), we decided to select an additional four Tribal Nations to speak to that had not participated in the program (group two). The four Tribal Nations in group two were selected based on the three criteria listed above, as well as considering the inclusion of Tribal Nations that

1. were located within a state or territory chosen for the local interviews, so that we could compare local and tribal perspectives on exam and related medical treatment payment practices and costs;
2. were recommended by IHS or the Bureau of Indian Affairs as having a sexual assault forensic exam program; and
3. had active Bureau of Indian Affairs Victim Specialists assigned in the locality to help support AI/AN survivors with navigating the process to receive free care at an IHS or tribally operated facility.

No officials from the four Tribal Nations we selected in group two chose to speak to us. Although we did not speak to officials from the Tribal Nations, we did speak to officials from organizations or agencies that provided services to these Tribal Nations. For example, the leadership of one Tribal Nation chose not to meet with us, but they referred us to officials from law enforcement, health care, and advocacy organizations that serve tribal communities in the region, including theirs. Another Tribal Nation chose not to meet with us, but we spoke with federal officials from the IHS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs who serve that Tribal Nation specifically.

In total, we spoke to officials representing or serving our six selected Tribal Nations. Table 5 shows which officials we spoke to that were associated with each of these Tribal Nations.

Appendix I: Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

**Table 5: Officials GAO Interviewed Who Represent or Serve Each Selected Tribal Nation**

	Tribe 1	Tribe 2	Tribe 3	Tribe 4	Tribe 5	Tribe 6
Tribal survivors' advocate	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Tribal law enforcement	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—
Tribal health care	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—
Department of Health and Human Service's Indian Health Service	—	—	—	✓	✓	—
Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs Victim Specialist	—	—	—	✓	—	—
Advocacy organization	—	—	✓	—	—	✓

Source: GAO interviews with officials who represent or serve selected Tribal Nations. | GAO-24-106036

Note: We chose to number the Tribal Nations to maintain their confidentiality. A dash indicates that we did not interview an official from this group type for this Tribal Nation.

While the interviews with officials who represent or serve Tribal Nations are not generalizable, they provided helpful insights on payment practices, costs, promising practices, and challenges for supporting AI/AN survivors of sexual assault.

Additionally, to address our first objective, we reviewed laws and policies in each state and territory to identify any law or policy that explicitly states that sexual assault survivors must not be billed for exams. For states and territories that we found did not have such a law or policy, we reviewed their federal VAWA Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program compliance certifications to identify any information they include for ensuring survivors are not billed for exams. Specifically, applicants for the DOJ's VAWA STOP Formula Grant Program are required to certify that they or another government entity incur the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams for sexual assault survivors, regardless of law enforcement involvement.<sup>3</sup> We reviewed states' and territories' most recent available certifications for this grant to understand what information they provide to DOJ to certify that they are in compliance with this requirement. For all states and territories, we also reviewed relevant laws and policies to identify any that require payers to cover the cost of medical treatments related to the sexual assault, but that the state or territory considers to be outside the scope of the exam. Finally, we reviewed state and territory laws and policies

<sup>3</sup>34 U.S.C. § 10449(a)(1)(A), (b), (d)(1).

designating the entity responsible for paying for exams in that state or territory (payers).

To address our second objective, we analyzed data collected in our survey of state-level payers, described above. We also reviewed laws and policies in each state and territory to identify any laws and policies that require the state or territory to cover related medical treatments. We also conducted interviews with officials from a nongeneralizable sample of local-level organizations or government entities that pay for exams. Specifically, eight states have laws that specify that payers at the local level (e.g., a county government agency) are responsible for covering the cost of exams for survivors. From these eight states, we selected a nongeneralizable sample of three states to obtain a variety of perspectives on how exam costs are covered at the local level. Within each of three selected states, we chose to interview officials from two counties. These counties were chosen from among the states' counties with relatively higher and relatively lower populations to understand the experiences of officials from counties with varying population size. We identified the entities responsible for paying for exams and spoke to officials from those payers.

Additionally, we considered how territorial status and any unique exam payment practices among the territories might impact how exam costs are covered for survivors. Accordingly, we interviewed officials from one territory's responsible payers to gain insight on how they cover the cost of exams and related medical treatments. To obtain perspectives on survivor access to free exams and related medical treatments, we also spoke with officials from four advocacy organizations as well as exam providers from three hospitals within these counties and territory. While these interviews are not generalizable, they yielded information and illustrative examples of the coverage of related medical treatments by local-level payers.

To address our third objective, we analyzed data collected in our survey of state-level payers. We also interviewed officials from DOJ, IHS, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and organizations that represent or serve a nongeneralizable sample of six Tribal Nations. We also interviewed officials from a nongeneralizable sample of local-level and territory payers, described above. While these interviews are not generalizable, they yielded information and illustrative examples of the challenges with and promising practices for ensuring that survivors are not billed for the cost of their exams or related medical treatments.

To address our fourth objective, we analyzed data collected in our survey described above. During our interviews with officials from payers in the nongeneralizable sample of three states and one territory described above, we also asked officials about the amount they spent in fiscal year 2022 on exams and related medical treatments and what funding sources they used. Although these interviews are not generalizable, they provide descriptive examples of local-level payers' experiences using federal and state funds to cover the cost of exams and related medical treatments.

We conducted this performance audit from May 2022 to June 2024 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

# Appendix II: Survey Instrument on Payment for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related Medical Treatments

## Sexual Assault Forensic Exam & Medical Treatment Costs

### Section One: Introduction

#### Study Background

The [U.S. Government Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#), an agency of the U.S. Congress, is conducting a statutorily mandated review of state and territory requirements for, and their costs and funding of, forensic medical exams conducted after sexual assaults and any related medical expenses resulting from a sexual assault. For this work, GAO is surveying state and territory agencies and programs that cover such expenses to obtain data and information for each state and territory. Results from this survey will help GAO report to the Congress about state and territory costs of forensic medical exams and other medical costs for individuals that have been sexually assaulted, the funding sources used to pay those costs, and any requirements for payment of such costs.

#### Your Response

This questionnaire should be completed by the person(s) most knowledgeable about your agency's or program's payment processes and practices; data on the costs of and funding sources used by your agency or program to pay for forensic medical exams and other medical expenses resulting from a sexual assault; and any specific requirements of your state or territory related to state or territory payment of medical expenses resulting from a sexual assault other than forensic medical exams. In our report, your responses will be presented for your respective state or territory. If there is another agency or program within your state or territory that is responsible for paying for some or all of these costs and expenses, we may also be surveying them separately for related data and information for their agency or program. At the end of the questionnaire, you will be able to provide additional comments or information you think appropriate.

When responding, you may consult with other officials familiar with the specific topics covered in this survey. Your responses will be saved as you move through the survey, so if you need to stop, you should be able to resume the survey using your link. Throughout the survey, you can use your cursor to hover over underlined words and phrases to see additional information.

After receiving the survey responses, we may follow-up with a brief telephone call if we need to clarify a response.

Your participation is important, so we urge you to complete the questionnaire. We need your



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input to provide the Congress with meaningful information and data on this important topic to help inform any future legislative action on state and territory efforts to support individuals who have been sexually assaulted. We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey.

**GAO Contacts**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact [SAFESurvey@gao.gov](mailto:SAFESurvey@gao.gov).

**Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Costs and Funding**

For the purposes of this survey:

- “*agency or program*” means the immediate agency or program where you work. It does not include any other agencies or programs, even if they may be within the same executive department or other entity (e.g., Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General, Department of Public Safety).
- “*forensic medical exam*” refers to the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women’s definition of “forensic medical examination” in 28 C.F.R. § 90.2(c): An examination provided to a victim of sexual assault by medical personnel to gather evidence of a sexual assault in a manner suitable for use in a court of law that should include (at a minimum): (i) gathering information from the patient for the forensic medical history; (ii) head-to-toe examination of the patient; (iii) documentation of biological and physical findings; and (iv) collection of evidence from the patient. Any costs associated with these components, such as equipment or supplies, are considered part of the forensic medical exam.
- “*sexual assault*” means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

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**Section Two: Medical Exam Costs**

**Q3 Payment for forensic medical exams**

Does your agency or program pay for any forensic medical exams provided to victims of sexual assault within your state or territory?

- Yes, my agency or program pays for at least some forensic medical exams provided to victims of sexual assault within my state/territory.
- No, my agency or program does not pay for any forensic medical exams.

*Skip To: Q8 If Q3 = No, my agency or program does not pay for any forensic medical exams.*

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Q4 The Office on Violence Against Women identifies minimum components of a forensic medical examination for victims of a sexual assault, but also allows a state or territory to include additional components in a forensic medical exam.

Which of the following components does your state or territory include as part of a forensic medical exam?

	Included	Not Included	Don't Know
Evidence collection kit and related supplies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forensic medical exam nurse/provider fees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and testing recommendations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toxicology screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually transmitted disease testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pregnancy testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other laboratory work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prophylactic treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HIV prophylaxis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency contraception	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medication/prescriptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diagnostic imaging/radiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Injury treatment or procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency room personnel (e.g., physician, nurse)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental care or treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health care or counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance or other transportation service or costs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other components not listed above - please describe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5 Please describe any set caps or maximums on how much your agency or program can pay for a forensic medical exam including any additional components.

There are no set caps or maximums

The set caps or maximums are: \_\_\_\_\_

Q6 Within your state or territory, does another agency or program pay for or is another agency or program responsible for payment for any forensic medical exams provided to victims of sexual assault?

Yes

No

Don't know

*Skip To: Q10 If Q6 = No*

*Skip To: Q10 If Q6 = Don't know*

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Q7 What other agency or program is also responsible for paying for forensic medical exams provided to victims of sexual assault within your state or territory, if known?

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*Skip To: Q10*

Q8 Within your state or territory, does another agency or program pay for or is another agency or program responsible for payment for any forensic medical exams provided to victims of sexual assault?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q21 If Q8 = No*

*Skip To: Q21 If Q8 = Don't know*

Q9 What other agency or program is also responsible for paying for forensic medical exams provided to victims of sexual assault within your state or territory, if known?

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*Skip To: Q21*

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Q10 Do you know how much your agency or program paid during federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) to provide forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault (including costs of evidence kits, exam fees, and any other costs associated with providing the forensic exam)?

- Yes, a total amount is known. We paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, an approximate or estimated amount is known. We paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q12 If Q10 = No*

*Skip To: Q12 If Q10 = Don't know*

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Q11 For the amount you provided in the previous question on how much your agency or program paid during federal fiscal year 2022 to provide forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault, what ages of victims does that amount represent?

- Total cost of exams *for all individuals of any age*
- Total cost of exams *for individuals age 18 and older*
- Total cost of exams *for individuals age 11 and older*
- Other age range - please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

Q12 Did your agency or program use the following types or sources of funding to pay for the costs of conducting forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault during federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022)?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory victims of crime funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory department of health/mental health funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory law enforcement funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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State general  
purpose or revenue  
funding

Local law  
enforcement funds

Other funding  
source(s) - please  
describe:

Q13 Do you have any additional information about your agency or program's coverage of forensic medical exams that would be important for us to know (e.g., qualification conditions or criteria for payment such as reporting of assault to law enforcement, etc.)?

Yes, I would like to add: \_\_\_\_\_

No



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**Q14 Policies and Practices to Ensure Sexual Assault Victims Have Access to Free Forensic Medical Exams**

To be eligible to receive certain grant funds from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, under 34 U.S.C. § 10449, states and territories must incur the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams for victims of sexual assault, which means that a state or territory must provide such exams to victims free or charge or arrange for victims to obtain such exams free of charge to the victims. States or territories must incur this cost without regard to whether the victim participates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement.

Q15 Does your state or territory have any statutes or regulations to ensure that victims of sexual assault receive forensic medical exams free of charge? If yes, please enter the citation(s) of statute(s) or regulation(s). If available, you may also upload an electronic copy of the statute(s) or regulation(s) in the space below.

Yes, the citation(s) of statute(s) or regulation(s) is/are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No

Don't know

Q16 Upload electronic copies of statute(s) or regulation(s) here.

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Q17 Outside of statutes and regulations, does your state or territory have any policies or practices to ensure that victims of sexual assault receive forensic medical exams free of charge? If yes, please describe. If available, you may also upload an electronic copy of the relevant policies or practices in the space below.

Yes, other policies or practices are:

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No

Don't know

Q18 Upload electronic copies of relevant policies or practices here.

Q19 From your perspective, what benefits or advantages, if any, do your state's or territory's laws, policies, or practices have for the payment of forensic medical exams and ensuring that victims of sexual assault are not billed for them?

Benefits or advantages are:

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None

Don't know

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Q20 From your perspective, what challenges or disadvantages, if any, do your state's or territory's laws, policies, or practices pose for the payment of forensic medical exams and ensuring that victims of sexual assault are not billed for them?

Challenges or disadvantages are:

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None

Don't know

Q21 Please click the arrow to move to the next section.

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**Section 3: Medical & Treatment Expenses**

**Q22 Payment of Other Medical and Treatment Expenses Related to a Sexual Assault**

We are also interested in the costs paid and funding sources used to pay for other medical expenses or associated costs that are related to the treatment of injuries or trauma (e.g., medical, mental health, dental) resulting from a sexual assault but that *may be outside the scope of a forensic medical exam*.

Q23 Does your state or territory have any statutory or regulatory provisions *requiring* state/territory payment of certain medical expenses and associated costs relating to treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

*Please consider "required" medical expenses and associated costs only to include those for which your state or territory is required by statute or regulation to pay. For example, statutory or regulatory provisions using language such as "shall," "must," or "entitled to" with regard to payment of expenses and costs that are not part of the forensic medical exam indicate a payment requirement.*

- Yes, our state/territory has requirements to pay certain expenses outside the scope of a forensic medical exam.
- No, our state/territory does not have any requirements to pay expenses outside the scope of a forensic medical exam.
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q36 If Q23 = No, our state/territory does not have any requirements to pay expenses outside the scope of a forensic medical exam.*

*Skip To: Q36 If Q23 = Don't know*

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Q24 Please provide citations for the statutory or regulatory provision(s) requiring payment by your state/territory of certain medical expenses and associated costs relating to treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but outside the scope of a forensic medical exam*. If available, you may also upload an electronic copy of the statutory or regulatory provision(s) in the space below.

Yes, the citation(s) of the statutory or regulatory provision(s) is/are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No

Don't know

Q25 Upload electronic copies of statute(s) or regulation(s) here.

**Q26 Required Medical Expenses and Associated Costs**

Does your agency or program pay for some or all medical expenses and associated costs *that are required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* you identified in the previous question for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but are outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

Yes, my agency or program pays for all medical expenses and associated costs that are required to be paid in accordance with my state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions.

Yes, my agency or program pays for some medical expenses and associated costs that are required to be paid in accordance with my state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions.

No, my agency or program does not pay medical expenses and associated costs that are required to be paid in accordance with my state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions.

*Skip To: Q31 If Q26 = Yes, my agency or program pays for all medical expenses and associated costs that are required to be paid in accordance with my state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions.*

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*Skip To: Q27 If Q26 = Yes, my agency or program pays for some medical expenses and associated costs that are required to be paid in accordance with my state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions.*

*Skip To: Q29 If Q26 = No, my agency or program does not pay medical expenses and associated costs that are required to be paid in accordance with my state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions.*

Q27 Within your state or territory, does another agency or program pay for or is another agency or program responsible for payment of *certain* medical expenses and associated costs *that are required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but are outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q31 If Q27 = No*

*Skip To: Q31 If Q27 = Don't know*

Q28 What other agency or program is also responsible for paying certain medical expenses and associated costs *that are required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but are outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling), if known?

- Agency(ies) or program(s) also responsible is/are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Don't know

*Skip To: Q31 If Q28 = Agency(ies) or program(s) also responsible is/are:*

*Skip To: Q31 If Q28 = Don't know*

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Q29 Within your state or territory, does another agency or program pay for or is another agency or program responsible for payment of certain medical expenses and associated costs *that are required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but are outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Skip To: Q36 If Q29 = No  
Skip To: Q36 If Q29 = Don't know

Q30 What other agency or program is also responsible for paying certain medical expenses and associated costs *that are required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but are outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling), if known?

- Agency(ies) or program(s) also responsible is/are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Don't know

Skip To: Q36 If Q30 = Agency(ies) or program(s) also responsible is/are  
Skip To: Q36 If Q30 = Don't know

Q31 Do you know how much your agency or program paid during federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) for certain medical expenses and associated costs *that were required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but were*

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*outside the scope of a forensic medical exam (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?*

- Yes, a total amount is known. We paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, an approximate or estimated amount is known. We paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q33 If Q31 = No*

*Skip To: Q33 If Q31 = Don't know*

Q32 For the amount you provided in the previous question on how much your agency or program paid during federal fiscal year 2022 for certain medical expenses and associated costs *that were required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but were outside the scope of a forensic medical*, what ages of victims does that amount represent?

- Expenses for *all individuals of any age*
- Expenses for *individuals age 18 and older*
- Expenses for *individuals age 11 and older*
- Other age range - please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know



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Q33 Did your agency or program pay for each of the following types of expenses during federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) for certain medical expenses and associated costs *that were required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and testing recommendations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toxicology screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually transmitted disease testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pregnancy testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other laboratory work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prophylactic treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HIV prophylaxis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency contraception	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medication/prescriptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diagnostic imaging/radiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Injury treatment or procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency room personnel (e.g., physician, nurse)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Dental care or treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health care or counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance or other transportation service or costs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other medical expense(s) or associated cost(s) not listed above - please describe:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q34 Was each of the following funding sources used by your agency or program in federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) to pay for medical expenses and associated costs *that were required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, *but were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory victims of crime funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory department of health/mental health funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State law enforcement funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State general purpose or revenue funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local law enforcement funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other funding source(s) - please describe:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q35 Do you have any additional information or comments that would be important for us to know as it relates to the payment of medical expenses and associated costs *that were required to be paid in accordance with your state/territory's statutory or regulatory provisions* for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault, but were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam?

Yes, I would like to add: \_\_\_\_\_

No

Q36 Please click the arrow to move to the next section.

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**Section 4 - Non-required/Other Medical Expenses and Associated Costs**

**Q37 Non-required/Other Medical Expenses and Associated Costs**

Does your agency or program pay any medical expenses or associated costs related to the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault that are not specifically required by state or territory statutory or regulatory provisions to be paid, *and are outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q43 If Q37 = No*

*Skip To: Q43 If Q37 = Don't know*

Q38 Do you know how much your agency or program paid during federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) for medical expenses and associated costs relating to the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault that were not specifically required by state or territory statutory or regulatory provisions to be paid, *and were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

- Yes, a total amount is known. We paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, an approximate or estimated amount is known. We paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q40 If Q38 = No*

*Skip To: Q40 If Q38 = Don't know*

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Q39 For the amount you provided in the previous question on how much your agency or program paid during federal fiscal year 2022 for medical expenses and associated costs for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault that were not specifically required by state or territory statutory or regulatory provisions to be paid, *and were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam*, what ages of victims does that amount represent?

- Total cost of exams for all individuals of any age
- Total cost of exams for individuals age 18 and older
- Total cost of exams for individuals age 11 and older
- Other age range - please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

Q40 Did your agency or program pay for each of the following types of medical expenses and associated costs during federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault that were not specifically required by state or territory statutory or regulatory provisions to be paid, *and were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases prevention and testing recommendations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toxicology screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually transmitted disease testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pregnancy testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Other laboratory work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prophylactic treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HIV prophylaxis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency contraception	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medication/prescriptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diagnostic imaging/radiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Injury treatment or procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency room personnel (e.g., physician, nurse)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental care or treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health care or counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance or other transportation service or costs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other medical expense(s) or associated cost(s) not listed above - please describe:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q41 Was each of the following funding sources used by your agency or program in federal fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) to pay for medical expenses and associated costs for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault that were not specifically required by state or territory statutory or regulatory provisions to be paid, *and were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam* (e.g., emergency or ongoing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling)?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory victims of crime funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State/territory department of health/mental health funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State law enforcement funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State general purpose or revenue funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local law enforcement funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other funding source(s) - please describe:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Q42 Do you have any other additional information or comments that would be important for us to know as it relates to the payment of medical expenses and associated costs for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault that were not specifically required by state or territory statutory or regulatory provisions to be paid, but were outside the scope of a forensic medical exam?

Yes, I would like to add: \_\_\_\_\_

No

Q43 Please describe any set caps or maximums on how much your agency or program can pay for required or non-required medical expenses for individuals that have been sexually assaulted, if applicable.

There are no set caps or maximums

The set caps or maximums are: \_\_\_\_\_

Q44 Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your state/territory's laws, policies, or practices concerning the payment of costs of conducting forensic medical exams and other related medical costs and associated costs for the treatment of victim injuries or trauma resulting from a sexual assault?

Yes, I want to add: \_\_\_\_\_

No

Q45 Please click the arrow to move to the next section.

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**Section 5 - Data Accuracy**

**Q46 Questions about data accuracy**

Do you know of any potential limitations with the accuracy of the data used to answer the survey questions about costs, types of expenses, and funding sources? Examples of potential limitations may be if the data system does not allow you to track or sort data for certain funding sources, ages of individuals provided a forensic medical exam, or types of medical expenses, among other things.

- Yes, limitations include: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- No data were provided or used
- Don't know

*Skip To: Q48 If Q46 = No data were provided or used*

Q47 Is there anything else we should know about the data you provided in this survey so that we can ensure we are analyzing and presenting the data accurately?

- Yes, you should also know:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No

Q48 Please click the arrow to move to the next section.

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**Section 6 - Additional Comments & Questionnaire Completion**

**Q49 Additional Comments and Questionnaire Completion**

Is there anything else you would like to share with us on the issue of costs and payment of forensic medical exams and other medical expenses and associated costs for individuals that have been sexually assaulted that you have not shared or provided already?

Yes, I would like to share:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No

Q50 In answering any of the questions in this survey, did you coordinate with or obtain any data or information from other offices or managers within your agency or program?

Yes, I coordinated with or obtained data or information from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No

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Q51 What is the name, title, and contact information of the primary person completing this questionnaire so that we may contact someone if we need to clarify any responses?

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Title: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of organization/entity: \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix III: Requirements for Payment of Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related Medical Treatments as of March 2024

Our first objective asked what information is known about state and territory requirements for covering the cost of sexual assault forensic exams and other related medical treatments for survivors. We reviewed laws and policies in each state and territory to identify any laws or policies that explicitly state that sexual assault survivors must not be billed for exams. We also reviewed laws and policies in each state and territory to identify any laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses. Table 6 summarizes the laws and policies in each state and territory.

**Table 6: Laws or Policies Explicitly Stating that Survivors Must not Be Billed for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams or Requiring State or Territory Payment for Related Medical Treatments as of March 2024**

State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
Alabama	<p>“A hospital, medical clinic, or SANE facility should not bill the victim of sexual violence for the sexual assault examination. Alabama Attorney General Troy King’s Protocol for the Examination and Treatment of Victims of Sexual Assault states that ‘victims should not be billed for sexual assault examinations.’ Alabama Attorney General Troy King’s Protocol for the Examination and Treatment of Victims of Sexual Assault, page 20.”</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 262-X-11-.01(3)(c)(1).</p>	<p>“Adult and child sexual assault examinations may be paid pursuant to the below sections . . . .</p> <p>(1) [T]he commission shall have the power to: Provide for the cost of medical examinations for the purpose of gathering evidence and treatment for preventing sexually transmitted [sic] infections in sexual abuse crimes and offenses . . . .</p> <p>(b) Adult Sexual Assault Examination Without Medication - \$ 400</p> <p>1. This fee includes exam, nurse examiner fee, pregnancy test, microscopic sperm screening, 14 Fr Foley Hymenal Exam, and drug screen.</p> <p>2. If the itemized bill is less than \$ 400, the lesser amount of the itemized bill will be paid.</p> <p>(c) Adult Sexual Assault Examination with Medication - \$ 550</p> <p>1. This fee includes exam, nurse examiner fee, pregnancy test, microscopic sperm screening, 14 Fr Foley Hymenal Exam, drug screen, and all medications except HIV prophylaxis.</p> <p>2. If the itemized bill is less than \$ 550, the lesser amount of the itemized bill will be paid . . . .</p> <p>(f) Lab Processing Fee - \$ 50.”</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 262-X-11-.01, (1)(a)(1), (9), (9)(b)-(c), (f).</p>
Alaska	<p>“A law enforcement agency, health care facility, or other entity may not require a victim of sexual assault under AS 11.41.410—11.41.425 who is 16 years of age or older to pay, directly or indirectly, through health insurance or any other means, for the costs of examination of the victim necessary for</p> <p>(1) collecting evidence using the sexual assault examination kit under AS 18.68.010 or otherwise; or</p> <p>(2) determining whether a sexual assault has occurred.”</p>	None

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
	Alaska Stat. § 18.68.040.	
American Samoa	None	None
Arizona	<p>“A. A health care institution may not charge an intake, consultation, facility, or other fee to a patient as part of a medical or forensic interview or examination for which the county is required to pay pursuant to § 13-1414.</p> <p>B. A health care institution or health care provider may not issue, either directly or through its billing company, any additional balance bill to a patient relating to a medical or forensic interview or examination for which the county is required to pay pursuant to § 13-1414.”</p> <p>Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-420.02.</p>	None
Arkansas	<p>“(b)(1)(A) All victims shall be exempted from the payment of expenses incurred as a result of receiving a medical-legal examination if the victim receives the medical-legal examination within ninety-six (96) hours of the attack.</p> <p>(B) However, the time limitation of ninety-six (96) hours may be waived if the victim is a minor or if the Crime Victims Reparations Board finds that good cause exists for the failure to provide the medical-legal examination within the required time . . . .</p> <p>(2) The licensed healthcare provider shall not submit any remaining balance after reimbursement by the board to the victim.”</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-403(b)(1), (c)(2).</p>	None
California	<p>“Costs incurred by a qualified health care professional, hospital, clinic, sexual assault forensic examination team, or other emergency medical facility for a medical evidentiary examination of a victim of a sexual assault, as described in the protocol developed pursuant to Section 13823.5, when the examination is performed pursuant to Sections 13823.5 and 13823.7, shall not be charged directly or indirectly to the victim of the assault.”</p> <p>Cal. Penal Code § 13823.95(a).</p>	<p>“The cost of a medical evidentiary examination performed by a qualified health care professional, hospital, or other emergency medical facility for a victim of a sexual assault shall be treated as a local cost and charged to and reimbursed within 60 days by the local law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the alleged offense was committed . . . . The Office of Emergency Services shall use the discretionary funds from federal grants . . . to offset the cost of the medical evidentiary examination.”</p> <p>Cal. Penal Code § 13823.95(c). (d)(1).</p> <p>“The minimum standards for the examination and treatment of victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, including child sexual abuse, and the collection and preservation of evidence therefrom include all of the following . . . . Postcoital contraception shall be dispensed by a physician or other health care provider upon the request of the victim at no cost to the victim.”</p> <p>Cal. Penal Code § 13823.11, (e)(2), (g)(4)(B).</p>

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
Colorado	<p>“A victim of a sexual offense shall not bear the cost of a forensic medical examination that includes the collection of evidence that is used for the purpose of evidence collection even if the victim does not want to participate in the criminal justice system or otherwise cooperate with the law enforcement agency, prosecuting officer, or other government official. The division of criminal justice in the department of public safety shall pay the cost of the examination.” Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-3-407.5(3)(b).</p>	<p>“The program must cover medical fees and costs associated with obtaining the medical forensic examination, including but not limited to emergency department fees and costs, laboratory fees, prescription medication, and physician’s fees, as long as funds are available.” Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-3-407.7(2)(a).</p>
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	None	<p>“The Attorney General shall provide for the payment of the cost of up to two anonymous and confidential tests of the victim for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, gonorrhea, herpes, chlamydia, and syphilis, during the 12 months following sexual assaults that pose a risk of transmission, and the cost of a counseling session by a medically trained professional on the accuracy of such tests and the risk of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases to the victim as the result of the assault.” 6 N. Mar. I. Code § 9105(c)(7).</p>
Connecticut	<p>“No costs incurred by a health care facility for the examination of a victim of sexual assault, when such examination is performed for the purpose of gathering evidence as prescribed in the protocol . . . and no costs incurred for a medical forensic assessment interview conducted by a health care facility or provider or by an examiner working in conjunction with a multidisciplinary team established pursuant to section 17a-106a or with a child advocacy center, shall be charged directly or indirectly to such victim. Any such costs shall be charged to the Forensic Sex Evidence Exams account in the Judicial Department.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-112a(e)(1).</p>	<p>“No costs incurred by a health care facility . . . including the costs of testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and the costs of prophylactic treatment as provided in the protocol . . . shall be charged directly or indirectly to such victim. Any such costs shall be charged to the Forensic Sex Evidence Exams account in the Judicial Department.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-112a(e)(1).</p> <p>“No costs incurred by a health care facility for any toxicology screening of a victim of sexual assault, when such screening is performed as prescribed in the protocol, shall be charged directly or indirectly to such victim. Any such costs shall be charged to the Division of Scientific Services within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-112a(e)(2).</p>
Delaware	<p>“Hospitals and health-care professionals shall provide forensic medical examinations free of charge to the victims of sexual offenses . . . The victim of the sexual offense shall not pay any out-of-pocket costs associated with the forensic medical examination...” Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 9023(c), (d).</p>	<p>“The cost of a forensic medical examination done for the purpose of gathering evidence that can be used in the prosecution of a sexual offense may be paid from the Victims’ Compensation Fund . . . The cost of the examination must include collecting all evidence as called for in the sexual offense evidence collection kits and may include any of the following, if done as part of the forensic medical examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Physician’s fees for the collection of the patient history, physical, collection of specimens, and treatment for the prevention of venereal disease or the provision of emergency contraception, including 1 return follow-up visit.</li> <li>(2) Emergency department expenses, including emergency room fees, cost of pelvic tray, and transportation by ambulance.</li> </ul>

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
		<p>(3) Laboratory expenses for wet mount for sperm, swabs for acid phosphates and ABH antigen; blood typing, serology for syphilis and Hepatitis B; cultures for gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, and other sexually transmitted diseases; pregnancy testing; urinalysis; and any other laboratory test needed to collect evidence that could be used in the prosecution of the offense.”</p> <p>Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 9023(a)-(b).</p>
District of Columbia	<p>“In addition to the rights set forth in subchapter I of this chapter, a sexual assault victim shall have the right to have [a] PERK [physical evidence recovery kit] performed at no cost.”</p> <p>D.C. Code § 23-1908(a)(1).</p> <p>“The hospital shall not bill a sexual assault victim for costs associated with a PERK, including the costs of the PERK, its administration, and the processing of the PERK or any biological specimens.”</p> <p>D.C. Code § 4-561.03.</p>	None
Florida	<p>“The victim may not be required to pay, directly or indirectly, the cost of an initial forensic physical examination performed in accordance with this section.”</p> <p>Fla. Stat. § 960.28(2).</p>	<p>“The Crime Victims’ Services Office of the department shall pay for medical expenses connected with an initial forensic physical examination of a victim of sexual battery as defined in chapter 794 or a lewd or lascivious offense as defined in chapter 800.”</p> <p>Fla. Stat. § 960.28(2).</p> <p>“The itemized invoice must include . . . One or more of the following procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Certified or board-eligible healthcare examiner’s office or other outpatient services;</li> <li>2. Emergency department services;</li> <li>3. Use of medical facility for the collection of forensic physical evidence;</li> <li>4. Venipuncture for the collection of blood samples;</li> <li>5. Laboratory tests for baseline sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy; or</li> <li>6. Forensic evidence collection kit.”</li> </ol> <p>Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 2A-3.002(9)(e).</p>
Georgia	<p>“A victim shall not be required to pay, directly or indirectly, for the cost of a forensic medical examination.”</p> <p>Ga. Code Ann. § 17-5-72.</p>	None
Guam	<p>“Victims of sexual assault shall have the following rights . . . to not be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic examination.”</p> <p>8 Guam Code Ann. § 163.40(f).</p>	<p>“The Department of Public Health and Social Services with the assistance of the Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Center shall provide services to victims of criminal sexual conduct. Such services to the victim shall be free of charge, and shall include, but are not limited to:</p>



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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
	<p>“The Department of Public Health and Social Services with the assistance of the Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Center shall provide services to victims of criminal sexual conduct. Such services to the victim shall be free of charge.”</p> <p>8 Guam Code Ann. § 120.60(b).</p>	<p>(1) Pre and post HIV testing, counseling on HIV prevention and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD), and ensuring that the victim understands the implications of HIV and STD testing, their benefits and results of the test(s); HIV or any other sexually transmitted disease testing in accordance with standard medical procedures and applicable law; and</p> <p>(2) Providing referrals for appropriate health care and support services.</p> <p>Such treatment shall not be construed to interfere with or diminish any medical support already provided by any health insurer, agency or office; nor shall provision of the services or treatment required by this Section relieve any health insurer of its duty to provide coverage.”</p> <p>8 Guam Code Ann. § 120.60(b).</p>
Hawaii	None	None
Idaho	<p>None, but website provides that “[v]ictims should not be billed for the cost of the exam.” See Idaho Crime Victims Compensation Program, Sexual Assault Forensics Examinations, <a href="https://crimevictimcomp.idaho.gov/sexual-assault-forensics-examinations/">https://crimevictimcomp.idaho.gov/sexual-assault-forensics-examinations/</a>.</p>	None
Illinois	<p>“A hospital, approved pediatric health care facility, or health care professional furnishing medical forensic services . . . to any sexual assault survivor shall furnish such services or medications to that person without charge.”</p> <p>410 Ill. Comp. Stat. 70/7(a).</p>	<p>“Physicians, ambulance providers, and other miscellaneous medical providers rendering services in the hospital emergency department shall be directly reimbursed by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services . . . . Under no circumstances shall a sexual assault survivor be billed for outpatient hospital care, emergency room care, follow-up health care or transportation services when the services are directly related to the sexual assault.”</p> <p>Ill. Admin. Code tit. 89, § 148.510(b)(1), (f).</p> <p>“A hospital, approved pediatric health care facility, or health care professional furnishing . . . an ambulance provider furnishing transportation to a sexual assault survivor, a hospital, health care professional, or laboratory providing follow-up healthcare, or a pharmacy dispensing prescribed medications to any sexual assault survivor shall furnish such services or medications to that person without charge...”</p> <p>410 Ill. Comp. Stat. 70/7(a).</p>

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<b>State or territory</b>	<b>Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams</b>	<b>Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses</b>
Indiana	<p>“When a hospital acting under IC 16-21-8 provides a forensic medical exam to an alleged sex crime victim, the hospital shall furnish the forensic medical exam described in IC 16-21-8-6 without charge.”</p> <p>Ind. Code § 5-2-6.1-39(a).</p> <p>“When a provider provides forensic medical exams . . . under this chapter to a victim, the provider shall furnish the services without charge.”</p> <p>Ind. Code § 16-21-8-6(a).</p> <p>“As described in IC 16-21-8-6, a provider shall provide forensic medical exams . . . to a victim without charge.”</p> <p>Ind. Code § 35-40.5-4-1.</p>	<p>“When a hospital acting under IC 16-21-8 provides a forensic medical exam to an alleged sex crime victim, the hospital may also furnish additional forensic services to the alleged sex crime victim. However, the additional forensic services, if furnished, shall be furnished without charge. The victim services division of the Indiana criminal justice institute shall reimburse a hospital for its costs in providing these services and may adopt rules and procedures to provide for reasonable reimbursement . . . . When a licensed medical service provider not covered by subsection (a) or (b) elects to provide additional forensic services to an alleged sex crime victim, the medical service provider shall furnish the services without charge.”</p> <p>Ind. Code § 5-2-6.1-39(b), (e).</p> <p>“When a provider provides . . . additional forensic services under this chapter to a victim, the provider shall furnish the services without charge . . . . The division shall reimburse a provider for the cost for providing services and shall adopt rules and procedures to provide for reimbursement.”</p> <p>Ind. Code § 16-21-8-6(a)-(c).</p> <p>“As described in IC 16-21-8-6, a provider shall provide . . . additional forensic services to a victim without charge.”</p> <p>Ind. Code § 35-40.5-4-1.</p>
Iowa	<p>“A victim of sexual abuse is not responsible for the payment of the costs of a sexual abuse examination determined to be eligible for payment by the department. A medical provider must not submit any costs associated with a sexual abuse examination to a victim’s insurance or to the sexual abuse victim. A medical provider must not submit any remaining balance to the sexual abuse victim after the sexual abuse examination program has determined payment.”</p> <p>Iowa Admin. Code r. 61-9-84.</p> <p>“If a peace officer has reason to believe that a sexual assault as defined in section 915.40 has occurred, the officer shall use all reasonable means to prevent further violence including but not limited to the following . . . . Providing a victim with immediate and adequate notice of the victim’s rights [which include] . . . the right to a sexual assault examination performed at state expense.”</p> <p>Iowa Code § 709.22(1)(c)(8).</p>	None
Kansas	<p>“The fee for conducting an examination of a victim pursuant to this section shall not be charged or billed to the victim or to the victim’s insurance carrier.”</p> <p>Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-448(h).</p>	None

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<b>State or territory</b>	<b>Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams</b>	<b>Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses</b>
Kentucky	<p>“No charge shall be made to the victim for sexual assault examinations by the hospital, the sexual assault examination facility, the physician, the pharmacist, the health department, the sexual assault nurse examiner, other qualified medical professional, the victim’s insurance carrier, or the Commonwealth.” Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 216B.400(9).</p> <p>“Examination facility staff shall . . . Advise the victim that the forensic-medical examination, including basic treatment, shall be conducted free of charge, but costs related to additional medical treatment may be incurred.” 502 Ky. Admin. Regs. 12:010, Section 2(5)(d).</p>	<p>“This examination shall include but not be limited to: (a) Basic treatment and sample gathering services; and (b) Laboratory tests, as appropriate . . . . Upon receipt of a completed claim form supplied by the board and an itemized billing for a forensic sexual assault examination or related services that are within the scope of practice of the respective provider and were performed no more than twelve (12) months prior to submission of the form, the board shall reimburse the hospital or sexual assault examination facility, pharmacist, health department, physician, sexual assault nurse examiner, or other qualified medical professional . . . . Reimbursement shall be made to an out-of-state nurse who is credentialed in the other state to provide sexual assault examinations, an out-of-state hospital, or an out-of-state physician if the sexual assault occurred in Kentucky.” Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 216B.400(4), (8)(b).</p> <p>“‘Basic treatment’ means basic medical care provided to victims of sexual offenses, including a medical screening, an examination for medical injuries, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and, if appropriate, delivery of postexposure HIV prophylaxis.” 502 Ky. Admin. Regs. 12:010, Section 1(1).</p>
Louisiana	<p>“No hospital or healthcare provider shall directly bill a victim of a sexually oriented criminal offense for any healthcare services rendered in conducting a forensic medical examination as provided for in R.S. 15:622.” La. Stat. Ann. § 40:1216.1(A)(6).</p> <p>“A victim of a sexually oriented criminal offense shall not be billed directly or indirectly for the performance of any forensic medical exam.” La. Stat. Ann. § 40:1216.1(A)(7).</p>	<p>“A forensic medical examination shall include the following . . . . . . . . When determined necessary by the healthcare provider, an alcohol- and drug-facilitated sexual assault assessment and toxicology screening.” La. Stat. Ann. § 15:622(A)(2)(c)(iv).</p> <p>“(6) No hospital or healthcare provider shall directly bill a victim of a sexually oriented criminal offense for any healthcare services rendered in conducting a forensic medical examination as provided for in R.S. 15:622. The expenses shall include the following: (a) Forensic examiner and hospital or healthcare facility services directly related to the exam, including integral forensic supplies. (b) Scope procedures directly related to the forensic exam including but not limited to anoscopy and colposcopy. (c) Laboratory testing directly related to the forensic examination, including drug screening, urinalysis, pregnancy screening, syphilis screening, chlamydia culture, gonorrhea coverage culture, blood test for HIV screening, hepatitis B and C, herpes culture, and any other sexually transmitted disease testing directly related to the forensic examination. (d) Any medication provided during the forensic medical examination.</p>

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
Maine	<p>“Licensed hospitals and licensed health care practitioners that perform forensic examinations for alleged victims of sexual assault may not bill the alleged victim or the alleged victim’s insurer, nonprofit hospital or medical service organization or health maintenance organization for payment for the examination.”</p> <p>Me. Stat. tit. 24, § 2986(2).</p>	<p>(7) The healthcare provider who performed the forensic medical exam and the healthcare facility shall submit a claim for payment for conducting a forensic medical exam directly to the Crime Victim Reparations Board to be paid in strict accordance with the provisions of R.S. 46:1822.”</p> <p>La. Stat. Ann. § 40:1216.1(A)(6)-(7).</p> <p>“The board shall pay . . . the costs of forensic examinations for alleged victims of sexual assault from the Victims’ Compensation Fund . . . . An examination must include at least all services directly related to the gathering of forensic evidence and related testing and treatment for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.”</p> <p>Me. Stat. tit. 5, §3360-M(1)-(2).</p> <p>“To be eligible for payment, the gross sexual assault forensic examination must include at least all services directly related to the gathering of forensic evidence and related testing and treatment for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Licensed hospital and licensed health care practitioners must have available and offer to provide at least the following tests and treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Professional/practitioner’s services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[H]istory</li> <li>Physical</li> <li>Collection of specimens</li> <li>Treatment for the prevention of sexually transmitted infection</li> </ul> </li> <li>(2) Emergency department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency room, clinic room or office room fee</li> <li>Pelvic tray</li> </ul> </li> <li>(3) Laboratory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed smear for sperm</li> <li>Blood testing for syphilis and Hepatitis B</li> <li>HIV test</li> <li>Cultures for gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD)</li> </ul> </li> <li>(4) Pregnancy testing (blood test or urinalysis)</li> <li>(5) Other laboratory tests that are required for the purpose of evidentiary examination</li> <li>(6) Medications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pregnancy prophylaxis</li> <li>Sexually transmitted disease prophylaxis</li> <li>One dose sedative, antidepressant or tranquilizer</li> <li>Anti-emetic</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
Maryland	<p>“Restrictions. A provider:</p> <p>(1) May not charge the victim or the victim’s family of an alleged rape, sexual offense, or child sexual abuse for a physical examination or an initial assessment for the purpose of establishing and gathering information and evidence as to the alleged crime or for emergency hospital treatment and follow-up medical testing performed up to 90 days after the initial physical examination;</p> <p>(2) May not bill a victim of an alleged rape, sexual offense, or child sexual abuse, or the victim’s family or private insurance, for any difference between charges and Department reimbursement.”</p> <p>Md. Code Regs. 10.12.02.05(A)(1), (2).</p> <p>“If a physician, a qualified health care provider, or a hospital provides a service described in subsection (c) of this section to a victim of an alleged rape or sexual offense or a victim of alleged child sexual abuse:</p> <p>(1) the services shall be provided without charge to the individual;”</p> <p>Md. Code Ann., Crim. Proc. § 11-1007(b)(1).</p> <p>“Applicable health care services shall be given without charge to a victim of sexual abuse, as provided under § 11-1007 of this title.”</p> <p>Md. Code Ann., Crim. Proc. § 11-925.</p>	<p>The tests and treatments performed shall be based on each patient’s individual need and preference. If performed by a licensed hospital or licensed health care practitioner, any of these listed tests and treatments may be billed as part of the forensic examination.”</p> <p>26-550-008 Me. Code R. § 1(A).</p> <p>“[T]he physician, qualified health care provider, or hospital:</p> <p>(i) is entitled to be paid by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board as provided under Subtitle 8 of this title for the costs of providing the services. . . . This section applies to the following services . . .</p> <p>(2) emergency hospital treatment; and</p> <p>(3) follow-up medical testing for up to 90 days after the initial physical examination; and for up to 5 hours of professional time to gather information and evidence of the alleged sexual abuse, an initial assessment of a victim of alleged child sexual abuse by:</p> <p>(i) a physician;</p> <p>(ii) qualified hospital health care personnel;</p> <p>(iii) a qualified health care provider;</p> <p>(iv) a mental health professional; or</p> <p>(v) an interdisciplinary team expert in the field of child abuse.”</p> <p>Md. Code Ann., Crim. Proc. § 11-1007(b)(2), (c)(2), (3).</p> <p>“The Department shall pay the physician’s usual and customary fee for consultation and for rendering emergency hospital treatment and necessary follow-up medical testing obtained within 90 days of the initial physical examination, for injuries sustained as a result of alleged rape or sexual assault . . . . The Department shall pay the established rate as determined by the Health Services Cost Review Commission for the use of the emergency room or outpatient clinic and the daily in-hospital rate in case of hospitalization for physical injuries directly resulting from the alleged sexual assault or abuse . . . . The Department shall pay the established rate as defined by the Health Services Cost Review Commission for laboratory tests necessary to establish and gather information and evidence of the crime, and for screening of the victim for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.”</p> <p>Md. Code Regs. 10.12.02.05(B)(2), (D), (E).</p>
Massachusetts	<p>“Health care providers should not bill survivors of a sexual assault for services received within a hospital setting.”</p>	<p>“The claims should either be: (1) directly submitted to the victim compensation fund for the forensic medical exam or (2) the provider should work with the survivor to help them with submitting an application to the victim compensation fund for all covered expenses . . . .</p>

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
	<p>See Massachusetts Hospital Association, Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Exams in Hospitals, Dec. 2018, <a href="https://www.mass.gov/doc/coverage-and-billing-procedures-for-sexual-assault-exams-in-massachusetts/download">https://www.mass.gov/doc/coverage-and-billing-procedures-for-sexual-assault-exams-in-massachusetts/download</a>.</p>	<p>Forensic Medical Examination Defined: All expenses that occur from the moment the survivor comes to an emergency department (ED) through their discharge from the ED or a transfer to an inpatient or other level of care. This includes:</p> <p>Physician fees that are part of or assigned to the facility and included in the overall facility fee</p> <p>Please note that independent physician fees should be submitted separately</p> <p>Facility fees</p> <p>ED Room and Board, Nursing and ancillary staff costs, Non-SANE staff (hospital clinicians) who administer the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK) costs, Ancillary services (labs, tox screens, etc.), Imaging services, and Medications (e.g., starter pack of prophylactic medications including Truvada, Flagyl, HIV meds, etc.) provided during treatment and prior to discharge.”</p> <p>See Massachusetts Hospital Association, Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Exams in Hospitals, Dec. 2018, <a href="https://www.mass.gov/doc/coverage-and-billing-procedures-for-sexual-assault-exams-in-massachusetts/download">https://www.mass.gov/doc/coverage-and-billing-procedures-for-sexual-assault-exams-in-massachusetts/download</a>.</p>
Michigan	<p>“A health care provider shall not submit a bill for any portion of the costs of a sexual assault medical forensic examination to the victim of the sexual assault, including any insurance deductible or co-pay, denial of claim by an insurer, or any other out-of-pocket expense.”</p> <p>Mich. Comp. Laws § 18.355a(2).</p> <p>“Health Care providers cannot bill a sexual assault victim for any portion of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE).”</p> <p>Mich. Admin. Code r. 18.355(3).</p>	<p>“The commission shall pay a health care provider not more than \$1,200.00 for the cost of performing a sexual assault medical forensic examination, including, but not limited to, the cost of 1 or more of the following:</p> <p>(a) Not more than \$700.00 for the use of an emergency room, clinic, or examination room, and the sexual assault medical forensic examination and related procedures other than services and items described in subdivisions (b) and (c).</p> <p>(b) Laboratory services related to the sexual assault.</p> <p>(c) Dispensing pharmaceutical items related to the sexual assault.”</p> <p>Mich. Comp. Laws § 18.355a(7).</p>
Minnesota	<p>“The hospital or other licensed health care provider performing the examination may seek insurance reimbursement from the victim’s insurer only if authorized by the victim. This authorization may only be sought after the examination is performed. When seeking this authorization, the hospital or other licensed health care provider shall inform the victim that if the victim does not authorize this, the state is required by law to pay for the examination and that the victim is in no way liable for these costs or obligated to authorize the reimbursement.”</p> <p>Minn. Stat. § 609.35(b).</p> <p>“The notice must inform the victim, at a minimum, of:</p>	<p>“Costs incurred by a hospital or other emergency medical facility or by a physician, sexual assault nurse examiner, forensic nurse, or other licensed health care provider for the examination of a victim of criminal sexual conduct that occurred in the state shall be paid by the state. These costs include, but are not limited to, the cost of the medical forensic examination, associated tests and treatments relating to sexually transmitted infection, and pregnancy status, including emergency contraception.”</p> <p>Minn. Stat. § 609.35(a).</p>

**Appendix III: Requirements for Payment of  
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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
	<p>(1) the obligation under section 609.35 of the state to pay for the examination performed for the purpose of gathering evidence, that payment is not contingent on the victim reporting the criminal sexual conduct to law enforcement, and that the victim may incur expenses for treatment of injuries..."</p> <p>Minn. Stat. § 144.6586, subd. 2(1).</p>	
Mississippi	<p>"No bill for the examination will be submitted to the victim, nor shall the medical facility hold the victim responsible for payment."</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 99-37-25(1)(a).</p> <p>"The bill for the sexual assault medical forensic examination must not be submitted to the victim."</p> <p>3-000-0001 Miss. Code R. § 603(1).</p> <p>"No bill for the examination will be submitted to the victim, nor shall the medical facility hold the victim responsible for payment."</p> <p>3-000-0001 Miss. Code R. § 600.</p>	<p>"Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examination - sexual assault medical forensic examination expenses include, but are not limited to: rape kit, authorized medical personnel fees, emergency room fees, venipuncture services and lab tests conducted (sexually transmitted disease tests, pregnancy tests, etc.). Costs such as emergency room fees and physician fees will be prorated."</p> <p>3-000-0001 Miss. Code R. § 301(9).</p> <p>"The Division of Victim Compensation shall pay for the medical examination conducted for the procurement of evidence to aid in the investigation and prosecution of the alleged offense."</p> <p>Miss. Code. Ann. § 99-37-25(1)(a).</p>
Missouri	<p>"No appropriate medical provider conducting forensic examinations and providing medical treatment to victims of sexual offenses shall charge the victim for the forensic examination."</p> <p>Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.220(6).</p>	None
Montana	<p>"The department of justice shall prepare a model form for use by health care facilities and law enforcement agencies that details the statutory rights of victims of sexual assault. These rights include the following . . . a victim may not be billed for the cost of administering the sexual assault medical forensic examination or collecting evidence for the sexual assault evidence kit."</p> <p>Mont. Code Ann. § 46-15-406(2).</p> <p>"The FREPP [(Forensic Rape Exam Payment Program)] payment constitutes payment in full for all services related to the forensic rape examination and the medical provider may not bill the victim for covered costs associated with the examination that exceed the allowable payment of \$600."</p> <p>Mont. Admin. R. 23.15.402(4).</p>	<p>"(1) To be eligible to receive FREPP coverage, a victim must have a forensic rape examination performed within 72 hours of the alleged sexual assault and must choose not to report the alleged incident to law enforcement . . . .</p> <p>(3) FREPP will pay a maximum of \$ 600 to medical providers who perform forensic rape examinations on victims who do not choose to report the alleged sexual assault to law enforcement.</p> <p>(a) The forensic rape examination payment includes the following covered costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a complete and customary forensic rape examination;</li> <li>(ii) emergency room/facility charges;</li> <li>(iii) medical provider charges;</li> <li>(iv) sexually transmitted disease (STD) and pregnancy prophylaxis;</li> <li>(v) blood and urine specimens for toxicology testing;</li> <li>(vi) supplies;</li> <li>(vii) laboratory testing;</li> <li>(viii) pharmaceuticals; and</li> <li>(ix) shipping costs." <p>Mont. Admin. R. 23.15.402(1), (3), (3)(a).</p> </li></ul>

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<b>State or territory</b>	<b>Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams</b>	<b>Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses</b>
Nebraska	<p>“A report of a forensic medical examination shall not be remitted to the patient or his or her insurance for payment.”</p> <p>Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1429.03(1).</p>	None
Nevada	<p>“1. The county in whose jurisdiction a sexual assault is committed shall... Pay any costs incurred by a hospital for the forensic medical examination of the victim.</p> <p>2. Any costs incurred pursuant to subsection 1... Must not be charged directly to the victim of sexual assault.”</p> <p>Nev. Rev. Stat. § 217.300(1)(b), (2)(a).</p>	<p>“The county in whose jurisdiction a sexual assault is committed shall... Pay any costs incurred for medical care for any physical injuries resulting from the sexual assault which is provided to the victim not later than 72 hours after the victim first arrives for treatment.”</p> <p>Nev. Rev. Stat. § 217.300(1)(a).</p>
New Hampshire	<p>“If a physician or a hospital provides any physical examination of a victim of an alleged sexual offense to gather information and evidence of the alleged crime, these services shall be provided without charge to the individual . . . . The bill for the medical examination of a sexual assault victim shall not be sent or given to the victim or the family of the victim.”</p> <p>N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 21-M:8-c.</p> <p>“Pursuant to RSA 21-M:8-c, a person who claims to be a victim of a felonious sexual assault who is examined by a physician or hospital for the purpose of treatment, gathering information or evidence shall not be charged for such services or examination that relate to the sexual assault and any other crime-related injuries . . . . If the victim of a felonious sexual assault has insurance, and chooses to bill their healthcare insurance, the health provider shall seek payment from the patient’s healthcare insurer. Neither the patient nor the department shall be billed for anything above the coverage limit.”</p> <p>N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann., Jus § 605.13(a), (c)(2).</p>	<p>“(a) . . . The department shall also pay for follow-up services and examination related to the sexual assault only. . . .</p> <p>(f) If it is determined by the examining health care provider that the victim may have been exposed to HIV/AIDS as a result of the assault, a voucher for prophylactic medication(s) shall be given to the victim.</p> <p>(g) Each victim shall also receive a voucher for forensic medical follow-up care.”</p> <p>N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann., Jus § 605.13(a), (f), (g).</p>
New Jersey	<p>“The program coordinator shall . . . . Develop and implement procedures to ensure that victims of sexual assault are not charged any fee for services that are directly associated with forensic sexual assault examinations, including routine medical screening, medications for prophylaxis of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy tests, emergency contraception, supplies, equipment and use of space.”</p> <p>N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-52(k).</p>	None
New Mexico	<p>“No costs incurred by a health care provider for the collection of a sexual assault examination kit shall be charged directly or indirectly to the survivor of the sexual assault.”</p> <p>N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-9-21(B).</p>	None



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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
New York	<p>“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, when any New York state accredited hospital, accredited sexual assault examiner program, or licensed health care provider furnishes services to any sexual assault survivor, including but not limited to a health care forensic examination in accordance with the sex offense evidence collection protocol and standards established by the department of health, such hospital, sexual assault examiner program, or licensed healthcare provider shall provide such services to the person without charge and shall bill the office directly . . . . No additional billing of the survivor for said services is permissible.”</p> <p>N.Y. Exec. Law § 631(13)(a)-(b).</p> <p>“Notwithstanding any contrary provisions, whenever a licensed provider administers services to a sexual assault survivor, such provider shall render such services without charge . . . . The victim shall not be responsible for the payment of the cost of any services specified by the provider in its submission to the office pursuant to this subdivision. The licensed provider must accept the reimbursement rate as payment in full for those services submitted to the office pursuant to this subdivision. The licensed provider shall not submit any remaining balance due for such services after submission to the office to the victim or commence civil actions against the victim to recover any balance due for such services.”</p> <p>N.Y. Comp. Codes R. &amp; Regs. tit. 9, § 525.12(h)(2), (6).</p> <p>“Every hospital providing treatment to alleged victims of a sexual offense shall be responsible for . . . ensuring sexual assault survivors are not billed for sexual assault forensic exams.”</p> <p>N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2805-i(1)(d).</p>	<p>“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, when any New York state accredited hospital, accredited sexual assault examiner program, or licensed health care provider furnishes services to any sexual assault survivor . . . such hospital, sexual assault examiner program, or licensed healthcare provider shall provide such services to the person without charge and shall bill the office directly. The office, in consultation with the department of health, shall define the specific services to be covered by the sexual assault forensic exam reimbursement fee, which must include at a minimum forensic examiner services, hospital or healthcare facility services related to the exam, and any necessary related laboratory tests or pharmaceuticals; including but not limited to HIV post-exposure prophylaxis provided by a hospital emergency room at the time of the forensic rape examination . . . . For a person eighteen years of age or older, follow-up HIV post-exposure prophylaxis costs shall continue to be reimbursed according to established office procedure.”</p> <p>N.Y. Exec. Law § 631(13)(a).</p>
North Carolina	<p>“(b) Victims to Be Provided Free Forensic Medical Examinations.—It is the policy of this State to arrange for victims to obtain forensic medical examinations free of charge. Whenever a forensic medical examination is conducted as a result of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault that occurred in this State, the Program shall pay for the cost of the examination. A medical facility or medical professional that performs a forensic medical examination on the victim of a sexual assault or attempted sexual assault shall not seek payment for the examination except from the Program.</p>	None

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
	<p>(c) No Billing of Victim.—A medical facility or medical professional that performs a forensic medical examination shall not bill the victim, the victim’s personal insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or any other collateral source for the examination and other eligible expenses.”</p> <p>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143B-1200(b), (c).</p>	
North Dakota	<p>“When an acute forensic medical examination is performed, the costs incurred by a health care facility or health care professional for performing the acute forensic medical examination or any preliminary medical screening examination may not be charged, either directly or through a third-party payer, to the alleged victim.”</p> <p>N.D. Cent. Code § 12.1-34-07(1).</p>	None
Ohio	<p>“No costs incurred by a hospital or emergency facility in conducting a medical examination and test of any victim of an offense under any provision of sections 2907.02 to 2907.06 of the Revised Code for the purpose of gathering physical evidence for a possible prosecution of a person shall be billed or charged directly or indirectly to the victim or the victim’s insurer.”</p> <p>Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2907.28(B).</p>	<p>“Any cost incurred by a hospital or emergency medical facility in conducting a medical examination of a victim of an offense under any provision of sections 2907.02 to 2907.06 of the Revised Code for the purpose of gathering physical evidence for a possible prosecution, including the cost of any antibiotics administered as part of the examination and the cost of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis provided as part of the examination, shall be paid out of the reparations fund.”</p> <p>Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2907.28(A).</p>
Oklahoma	None	<p>“A Sexual Assault Examination Fund shall be established for the purpose of providing to a victim of a sexual assault a forensic medical examination by a qualified licensed health care professional and to provide to the victim medications as directed by the health care professional.”</p> <p>Okla. Stat. tit. 21, § 142.20(A).</p> <p>“Medications provided to the victim by the medical authority conducting the examination may only be provided to said victim on a one-time initial basis for the immediate trauma and medical examination of said victim.”</p> <p>Okla. Admin. Code § 185:15-1-1.</p>
Oregon	<p>“A provider who submits a bill under this subsection may not bill the victim or the victim’s insurance carrier for the medical assessment except to the extent that the department is unable to pay the bill due to lack of funds or declines to pay the bill.”</p> <p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 147.397(4).</p>	<p>“(1) [T]he Fund will pay eligible medical services providers the costs incurred for providing sexual assault medical services to victims of sexual assault up to the following maximum amounts: . . . .</p> <p>(c) \$70.00 for emergency contraception (including pregnancy test);</p> <p>(d) \$125.00 for sexually transmitted disease prophylaxis;</p> <p>(e) Up to five (5) days of HIV prophylaxis will be paid at 50% of the amount charged, up to a maximum amount listed in 137-084-0020(h);</p> <p>(f) \$95.00 for services provided by a Doctor of Medicine or a Doctor of Osteopathy;</p>

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	<p>“An eligible medical services provider (including subcontractor or other designee) who submits a bill to the Fund under these rules may not bill the victim or the victim’s insurance carrier for a medical examination, collection of forensic evidence using the Oregon State Police SAFE Kit, or other services provided in conjunction with the sexual assault exam, except to the extent the Department is unable to pay the bill due to lack of funds or declines to pay the bill for reasons other than untimely or incomplete submission of the bill to the Fund under OAR 137-084-0030(2)(e).”</p> <p>Or. Admin. R. 137-084-0020(4).</p>	<p>(g) Payment for all other services provided in conjunction with the sexual assault exam will be calculated using the Oregon Workers Compensation Fee Schedule, up to a maximum amount listed in 137-084-0020(h); see section 137-084-0030 for examples of non-covered services;</p> <p>(h) The combined maximum payment amount for services listed in 137-084-0020 (e) and (g) will not exceed \$2,000.00;</p> <p>(i) Payment for laboratory and radiology services provided in conjunction with the sexual assault exam will be calculated using the Oregon Workers Compensation Fee Schedule up to a combined maximum amount of \$500.00;</p> <p>(j) Any services provided after the date of the sexual assault exam will not be paid by the SAVE Fund with the exception of 137-084-0020(k). Services after this date may be covered by the Crime Victims’ Compensation Program.</p> <p>(k) Five (5) counseling sessions; counseling sessions expire 18 months from the date of the sexual assault exam. Hourly rates as of March 1, 2021:</p> <p>(A) \$160.00 per hour for a Doctor of Medicine;</p> <p>(B) \$130.00 per hour for a PhD, PsyD, or PMHNP;</p> <p>(C) \$105.00 per hour for an LCSW, LPC, or LMFT;</p> <p>(D) \$75.00 per hour for a QMHP.</p> <p>(l) The Department may pay for other counseling services based on the nature of the victimization and the education, training and experience of the provider when sufficient documentation establishing the provider’s education, training and experience is provided to the Department. The Department will determine the hourly payment amount based on the supporting documentation.</p> <p>(2) An additional payment of \$95.00 will be made to eligible medical services providers who document that the medical examination, as part of either a partial or complete medical assessment, was conducted by a SANE/SAE as described in section 137-084-0001 of these rules.”</p> <p>Or. Admin. R. 137-084-0020(1), (2).</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>“The cost of a forensic rape examination . . . shall not be charged to the victim.”</p> <p>18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 11.707(h)(2).</p> <p>“The cost of a forensic rape examination or other physical examination conducted for the purpose of gathering evidence in any criminal investigation and prosecution under 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 31 (relating to sexual offenses) . . . shall not be charged to the victim.”</p> <p>42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 1726.1.</p>	<p>“(1) A hospital or other licensed health care provider may submit a claim for reimbursement for the cost of a forensic rape examination if the cost is not covered by insurance or if the victim requests that the insurance carrier not be billed. Upon filing of a claim, the Office of Victims’ Services shall promptly notify the prosecutor of the county where the crime is alleged to have occurred. The reimbursement, where applicable, shall be at a rate set by the Office of Victims’ Services.</p> <p>(2) The . . . cost of medications prescribed to the direct victim shall not be charged to the victim.”</p> <p>18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 11.707(h)(1)-(2).</p>

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		<p>“[T]he cost to provide medications prescribed to the victim therein. . . shall not be charged to the victim. If appropriate insurance is unavailable, reimbursement may be sought pursuant to the provisions of section 477.9 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.”</p> <p>42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 1726.1.</p>
Puerto Rico	<p>“In cases of sexual assault, the hospital shall not require the victim to pay any amount whatsoever for the medical forensic examination.”</p> <p>P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 25, § 981h(a).</p>	None
Rhode Island	None	<p>“Crimes involving victims of sexual assault may be reported to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner or other medical professional for compensation related to the costs of forensic sexual assault exams pursuant to § 2.7(A)(2) of this Part and R.I. Gen. Laws § 12-25-22(a).”</p> <p>120-00 R.I. Code R. § 2.7(A)(2)(e).</p> <p>“‘Medical forensic examination’ means an examination of a sexual assault patient by a healthcare provider, ideally one who has specialized education and clinical experience in the collection of forensic evidence and treatment of these patients. Such examination may include gathering information from the patient for the medical forensic history; an examination; coordinating treatment of injuries; documentation of biological and physical findings; collection of evidence from the patient; information, treatment, and referrals for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, suicidal ideation, alcohol and substance abuse, and other non-acute medical concerns; and follow-up as needed to provide additional healing, treatment, or collection of evidence.”</p> <p>R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-98-2(6).</p>
South Carolina	<p>“The State must ensure that a victim of criminal sexual conduct in any degree, criminal sexual conduct with a minor in any degree, or child sexual abuse must not bear the cost of his or her routine medicolegal exam following the assault.”</p> <p>S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1350(A).</p>	<p>“These exams must include treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and must include medication for pregnancy prevention if indicated and if desired . . . . The Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division, Department of Crime Victim Compensation must utilize existing funds appropriated from the general fund for the purpose of compensating licensed health care facilities for the cost of routine medical exams for sexual assault victims as described above.”</p> <p>S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1350(B), (D).</p>

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State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
South Dakota	<p>“Each physician, hospital, and clinic conducting an examination under § 22-22-26 shall coordinate with the county to establish a payment process by which the county shall pay for the cost of any forensic medical examination performed under § 22-22-26 and to notify any victim of rape or sexual offense of the availability of a forensic medical examination at no cost to the victim. A victim of rape or sexual offense is not required to participate in the criminal justice system or to cooperate with law enforcement to be provided with a forensic medical examination without cost to the victim.”</p> <p>S.D. Codified Laws § 22-22-26.2.</p>	<p>“The cost of a forensic medical examination to be paid by the county under Section 22-22-26 and reimbursed to the county under this section shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Physician, hospital, or clinic services and fees directly related to the forensic medical examination, including integral forensic supplies;</li> <li>(2) Scope procedures directly related to the forensic medical examination, including anoscopy and colposcopy;</li> <li>(3) Laboratory testing directly related to the forensic medical examination, including drug screening, urinalysis, pregnancy screening, syphilis screening, chlamydia culture, gonorrhea coverage culture, blood test for HIV screening, hepatitis B and C, herpes culture, and any other sexually-transmitted disease testing directly related to the examination;</li> <li>(4) Any medication provided during the forensic medical examination; and</li> <li>(5) Any radiology service directly related to the forensic medical examination.”</li> </ol> <p>S.D. Codified Laws § 22-22-26.1.</p>
Tennessee	<p>“A victim of a sexually-oriented crime, defined as a violation of §§ 39-13-502 — 39-13-506, 39-13-522, 39-13-527, 39-13-531, and 39-13-532, shall be entitled to forensic medical examinations without charge to the victim. No bill for the examination shall be submitted to the victim, nor shall the medical facility hold the victim responsible for payment. All claims for forensic medical examinations are eligible for payment from the criminal injuries compensation fund, created under § 40-24-107.”</p> <p>Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-13-118(b)(1).</p>	None
Texas	<p>“A victim of a sexual assault may not be required to pay for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the forensic portion of the forensic medical examination; or</li> <li>(2) the evidence collection kit.”</li> </ol> <p>Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 56A.304(f).</p> <p>“A sexual assault survivor who receives a forensic medical examination from a sexual assault examiner or sexual assault nurse examiner employed by or under contract with a SAFE program may not be required to . . . pay for any costs described by Article 56A.304(a), Code of Criminal Procedure.”</p> <p>Tex. Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. § 323.054(d)(2).</p>	<p>“The attorney general shall make a payment to a victim of a sexual assault or on behalf of a victim of a sexual assault for the reasonable costs incurred for medical care that is provided to the victim as described by Article 56A.304(a).”</p> <p>Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 56A.305(a).</p>

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U.S. Virgin Islands	None	<p>“These exams shall include treatment for venereal disease, and shall include medication for pregnancy prevention if indicated and if desired . . . . A licensed health care facility, upon completion of a routine sexual assault exam, . . . may file a claim for reimbursement directly to the Virgin Islands Criminal Victims Compensation Commission. The Virgin Islands Criminal Victims Compensation Commission shall develop procedures for health care facilities to follow when filing a claim with respect to the privacy of the victim. Health care facility personnel shall obtain any information necessary for the claim at the time of the exam if possible. The Virgin Islands Criminal Victims Compensation Commission shall reimburse eligible health care facilities directly.”</p> <p>V.I. Code Ann. tit. 34, § 206(b)-(c).</p>
Utah	<p>“A victim may not be . . . charged for a medical forensic sexual assault examination.”</p> <p>Utah Admin. Code r. 270-1-24(6)(a).</p>	<p>“(1) The office may pay a medical service provider who performs a medical forensic sexual assault examination: . . .</p> <p>(b) the full cost of any medications the medical service provider gives directly to a victim during a medical forensic sexual assault examination such as:</p> <p>(i) the morning after pill or high dose oral contraceptives for the prevention of pregnancy; and</p> <p>(ii) medication for the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.</p> <p>(2) The office may pay a medical facility where a medical forensic sexual assault examination is performed:</p> <p>(a) 50% of the fee for the use of an examination room to perform a medical forensic sexual assault examination up to a maximum payment of \$350; and</p> <p>(b) the PEHP rate if one has been established or 50% of the fee for:</p> <p>(i) a history and physical;</p> <p>(ii) the collection of specimens and wet mount for sperm;</p> <p>(iii) testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, and other sexually transmitted diseases;</p> <p>(iv) a serum blood test for pregnancy; and</p> <p>(v) the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.”</p> <p>Utah Admin. Code r. 270-1-24(1), (2).</p>

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Medical Treatments as of March 2024**

<b>State or territory</b>	<b>Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams</b>	<b>Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses</b>
Vermont	<p>“A health insurer shall not impose any co-payment or coinsurance or, to the extent permitted under federal law, deductible or other cost-sharing requirement for the sexual assault examination of a victim of alleged sexual assault for health care services associated with specific procedure codes identified in a memorandum of understanding between the health insurer and the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services.”</p> <p>Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 8, § 4089(a).</p>	<p>“The State shall bear the costs of forensic medical and psychological examinations administered to victims of crime committed in this State, in instances where that examination is requested by a law enforcement officer or a prosecuting authority of the State or any of its subdivisions and the victim does not have health coverage or the victim’s health coverage does not cover the entire cost of the examination . . . . If, as a result of a sexual assault examination, the alleged victim has been referred for mental health counseling, the State shall bear any costs of such examination not covered by the victim’s health coverage.”</p> <p>Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 32, § 1407(b).</p> <p>“‘Sexual assault examination’ means either or both of the following:</p> <p>(A) a physical examination of the patient, documentation of biological and physical findings, and collection of evidence; and</p> <p>(B) treatment of the patient’s injuries; providing care for sexually transmitted infections; assessing pregnancy risk; discussing treatment options including reproductive health services, screening for the human immunodeficiency virus, and prophylactic treatment when appropriate; and providing instructions and referrals for follow-up care.”</p> <p>Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 8, § 4089(b)(2).</p> <p>“(g) Upon request of the victim at any time after the commission of a crime involving a sexual act under subsection (b) of this section, the State shall provide any of the following services to the victim:</p> <p>(1) counseling regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);</p> <p>(2) testing, which shall remain confidential unless otherwise provided by law, for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, including gonorrhea, herpes, chlamydia, and syphilis;</p> <p>(3) counseling by a medically trained professional on the accuracy of the testing, and the risk of transmitting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases to the victim as a result of the crime involving a sexual act; and</p> <p>(4) prophylaxis treatment, crisis counseling, and support services.</p> <p>(h) A victim who so requests shall receive monthly follow-up HIV testing for six months after the initial test.”</p> <p>Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13, § 3256(g), (h).</p>
Virginia	None	None

**Appendix III: Requirements for Payment of  
Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related  
Medical Treatments as of March 2024**

State or territory	Laws or policies explicitly stating that survivors must not be billed for exams	Laws or policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses
Washington	<p>“No costs incurred by a hospital or other emergency medical facility for the examination of the victim of a sexual assault, when such examination is performed for the purposes of gathering evidence for possible prosecution, shall be billed or charged directly or indirectly to the victim of such assault. Such costs shall be paid by the state pursuant to this chapter.” Wash. Rev. Code § 7.68.170.</p> <p>“The client is not required to file an application with us to receive this benefit and may not be billed for these costs.” Wash. Admin. Code § 296-30-170.</p>	<p>“No costs incurred by a hospital or other emergency medical facility for the examination of the victim of domestic violence assault involving nonfatal strangulation, when such examination is performed for the purposes of gathering evidence for possible prosecution, shall be billed or charged directly or indirectly to the victim of such assault. Such costs shall be paid by the state pursuant to this chapter.” Wash. Rev. Code § 7.68.803(1).</p>
West Virginia	<p>“No licensed medical facility may collect the costs of a forensic medical examination from the alleged victim of a violation of this article or from the alleged victim’s insurance coverage, if any.” W. Va. Code § 61-8b-16(b).</p>	None
Wisconsin	<p>“A health care provider seeking an award under this section may not seek payment for any examination costs from the victim or any guardian of the victim.” Wis. Stat. § 949.26(2)(a).</p> <p>“NO BILLING OF VICTIM. Per s. 949.26 (2) (a), Stats., a health care provider seeking an award under this subchapter may not seek payment for any examination costs from the victim or any guardian of the victim.” Wis. Admin. Code Jus § 11.16(2).</p>	<p>“‘Examination costs’ means the costs of an examination that is done to gather evidence regarding a sex offense, any procedure during that examination process that tests for or prevents a sexually transmitted disease, and any medication provided or prescribed, during that examination process, that prevents or treats a sexually transmitted disease that the person performing the examination or procedure believes could be a consequence of the sex offense.” Wis. Stat. § 949.20(3).</p> <p>“The health care provider shall also indicate the amount sought for all of the following categories of examination costs: (a) Services of the provider. (b) Facilities used for the examination. (c) Any other expenses . . . . The department will pay two-thirds of the amount billed for eligible services, up to a maximum of \$ 1200 for each examination.” Wis. Admin. Code Jus § 11.16(1), (4).</p>
Wyoming	<p>None, but website provides that “victims of sexual assault who wish to obtain a SANE exam, but who do not wish to make a law enforcement report, may do so at no cost” and “victims of sexual assault who have made a report to law enforcement and wish to have a SANE exam may do so at no cost to the victim.” See Division of Victim Services, SANE, <a href="https://dvs.wyo.gov/sane">https://dvs.wyo.gov/sane</a>.</p>	None

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory laws. | GAO-24-106036

Note: We reviewed state and territory laws and policies related to payment for exams and related medical treatment. For the first column, we reviewed laws and policies that explicitly state that survivors cannot be billed for all or part of the exam cost. Laws or policies that designate the payer,



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**Appendix III: Requirements for Payment of  
Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related  
Medical Treatments as of March 2024**

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for example, but do not include an explicit statement that the survivor cannot be billed do not appear in this first column. For the second column, we reviewed laws and policies that require state or territory payment for related medical expenses. In identifying for such requirements, we considered language using “shall” or “must” to indicate a requirement.

# Appendix IV: Reported Coverage for Medical Treatments Related to Sexual Assault, Fiscal Year 2022

In our survey of state-level organizations or government entities that pay for sexual assault forensic exams or related medical treatments (payers) in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories, we asked about whether they cover the cost of several treatments, either due to a state or territory requirement or by choice. Table 7 shows each of the treatments we asked about in our survey, for which states' payers reported that they covered the cost of that treatment (regardless of whether it was considered part of the exam or outside of the exam), and whether they covered the cost because it was required by their state or territory law or policy or by choice.

**Table 7: Related Medical Treatment Costs States and Territories Reported Covering for Sexual Assault Survivors during Fiscal Year 2022**

Related medical treatment costs	States and territories with requirements to cover related medical treatments <sup>a</sup>	States and territories that choose to cover related medical treatment costs outside of the exam <sup>b</sup>
Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, Kansas, and South Dakota
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections prevention and testing recommendations	Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Guam, Kansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota
Toxicology screening	Alaska, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Utah, and West Virginia
Sexually transmitted infections testing	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Guam, Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, New Jersey, and West Virginia

**Appendix IV: Reported Coverage for Medical Treatments Related to Sexual Assault, Fiscal Year 2022**

<b>Related medical treatment costs</b>	<b>States and territories with requirements to cover related medical treatments<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>States and territories that choose to cover related medical treatment costs outside of the exam<sup>b</sup></b>
Pregnancy testing	Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, and West Virginia
Other laboratory work	Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey, and West Virginia
Prophylactic treatment	Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Delaware, Florida, Kansas, South Dakota, and Texas
HIV prophylaxis	Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Nevada, New Jersey, South Dakota, and Texas
Emergency contraception	Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Florida, Kansas, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas
Medications and prescriptions	Arkansas, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, New Jersey, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia

**Appendix IV: Reported Coverage for Medical Treatments Related to Sexual Assault, Fiscal Year 2022**

<b>Related medical treatment costs</b>	<b>States and territories with requirements to cover related medical treatments<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>States and territories that choose to cover related medical treatment costs outside of the exam<sup>b</sup></b>
Diagnostic imaging/radiology	California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia
Injury treatment or procedures	California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia
Emergency room personnel (e.g., physician, nurse)	Arkansas, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming	Alabama, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Texas
Dental care or treatment	Indiana, Massachusetts, and Montana	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

**Appendix IV: Reported Coverage for Medical Treatments Related to Sexual Assault, Fiscal Year 2022**

<b>Related medical treatment costs</b>	<b>States and territories with requirements to cover related medical treatments<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>States and territories that choose to cover related medical treatment costs outside of the exam<sup>b</sup></b>
Mental health care or counseling	American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin
Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance or other transportation service or costs)	Alaska, American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming	Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia
Other medical expenses or associated costs not listed above	Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, and New York	Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wyoming

Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

<sup>a</sup>Requirements via law or policy may include related medical treatments considered to be part of the exam or outside the scope of the exam.

<sup>b</sup>States and territories may choose to cover related medical treatments despite no legal requirement to do so.

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# Appendix V: States' and Territories' Coverage for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and Related Medical Treatments

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On the pages that follow, we present for each U.S. state and territory, a summary of that state's or territory's laws or policies to provide for survivors of sexual assault to receive forensic exams (exams) free of charge. We also relied on information provided by payers in their responses to our survey, which was sent to payers in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.<sup>1</sup> For example, states may designate a state-level entity like a victims' compensation program as the primary responsible payer or a state government entity like a department of justice as the primary payer. Some states also have Sexual Assault Response Teams, which are multidisciplinary teams that help survivors navigate legal systems, community-based victim services, and the process of obtaining medical care and other needs following an assault, such as an exam.

Additionally, as available, we summarize whether there are any caps on how much they are responsible for paying for each survivor, what treatments they cover the cost of (regardless of whether they are covered pursuant to a law or policy requirement or by choice) how much they paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments, and what funding sources they used to cover those costs. Finally, we summarize any narrative information provided by survey respondents about their experiences ensuring that survivors receive free exams or related medical treatments.

For the total amount paid in fiscal year 2022, we present the total amount that is known. There are several reasons that the total might be higher, but we do not know by how much. For example, in eight states, the primary payer responsible for covering the cost of exams operates at a more local level, such as a county government. We surveyed only those entities that operate at the state level, and therefore did not collect information about how much was paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams or related treatments at the local level. Additionally, in some states, the law allows medical care providers to bill the cost of exams or related medical treatments to the survivor's private insurer or public insurance, such as Medicaid. In these instances, the payer may not know the total costs because the provider bills the survivor's insurance directly.

For each state and territory, we cannot provide the number of sexual assaults in that state because the number is unknown. However, the

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<sup>1</sup>For more information about the survey design and administration, see appendixes I and II.

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**Appendix V: States' and Territories' Coverage  
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National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects information on nonfatal personal crimes, such as rape or sexual assault, that were either reported or not reported to the police. The survey defines rape as coerced or forced sexual intercourse and defines sexual assault as a wide range of victimizations, separate from rape, attempted rape, or threatened rape.<sup>2</sup> The survey's annual estimates reflect crimes that are classified by the year of the survey and not by the year of the crime. For example, the 2022 survey was administered from January through December 2022 and asked about crimes experienced in the previous 6 months, therefore covering crimes experienced from July 1, 2021, through November 30, 2022.

NCVS data are collected from a sample of about 150,000 persons aged 12 and older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. Beginning in 2016, the size of the NCVS core sample was increased and reallocated to enhance the representativeness of the NCVS sample within a subset of U.S. states. In total, NCVS now collects data that are representative at the state level in 22 states, but these state-level data are not yet publicly available. It is unclear from the Department of Justice's (DOJ) NCVS timeline whether or when it will collect representative data from all states. Another DOJ component, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, collects data about rape, generally one type of sexual assault, for each state.<sup>3</sup> However, these data reflect assaults that are reported to law enforcement agencies that report crime statistics to

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<sup>2</sup>Forced sexual intercourse in this survey means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender or offenders. This category could include incidents where the penetration was from a foreign object such as a bottle. It includes attempted rape, threatened rape, male and female victims, and incidents involving victims and offenders who are the same sex or different sexes. Sexual assault related crimes include attacks or threatened attacks involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling.

<sup>3</sup>These estimates appear in the *Crime in the United States* report. They are generated from Summary Reporting System data and National Incident-Based Reporting System data converted to Summary Reporting System data because not all agencies had yet transitioned to the National Incident-Based Reporting System, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Data for the offense of rape were estimated using the revised Uniform Crime Reporting definition of rape and reported in Table 5: *Crime in the United States, by State, 2022*. The revised definition of rape is penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included in the statistics presented here; however, statutory rape and incest are excluded. Rape is generally one type of sexual assault.

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**Appendix V: States' and Territories' Coverage  
for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams and  
Related Medical Treatments**

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the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Those data show that there were 102,947 reported rapes in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>For more information about federal data collection efforts on sexual violence and their limitations, see *Sexual Violence Data: Actions Needed to Improve Clarity and Address Differences Across Federal Data Collection Efforts*, [GAO-16-546](#) (Washington, D.C.: July 19, 2016).





Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in 2022 in Alabama is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Alabama. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,504 rapes reported to law enforcement in Alabama in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

If the exam is provided by a hospital without a Sexual Assault Response Team program, the hospital submits the charges to the survivor's private or public insurance. Costs not paid by insurance can be submitted to the Crime Victims Compensation Commission. If the exam is provided by a Response Team program, the bill is submitted directly to the Commission. See Op. of the Att'y Gen. 1 (June 9, 2008). The Commission makes payments pursuant to its Sexual Assault Examination Payment Policy. See Ala. Admin. Code r. 262-X-11-.01(4)(c)(8). The Commission may also reimburse survivors for additional expenses. See Ala. Code § 15-23-2.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for exams and related medical treatments, as well as state general purpose or revenue funds for related medical treatments. Officials reported that the Commission's caps per claim include

- \$550 for exam with medication,
- \$400 for exam without medication,
- \$300 for exam conducted outside of a health care facility, and
- \$50 for lab processing fee

The cap for related medical treatments is \$15,000 or 30 percent of expenses not eligible through the Commission's Sexual Assault Exam Program. See Ala. Admin. Code r. 262-X-4-.04(3), 262-X-11-.01(9).

## ALABAMA

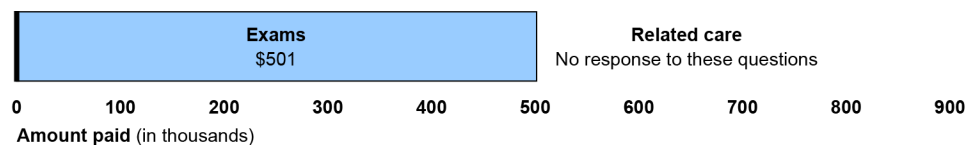
Public and private insurance, as well as the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission, are responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Commission reported spending \$501,381 in fiscal year 2022 on exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID ALABAMA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$501,381 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from the Commission reported that they cannot determine the amount paid for related medical treatments for sexual assault survivors specifically because these claims do not specify whether individuals received a sexual assault forensic exam. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Alabama's payment process is it helps to ensure survivors are never billed for exams. However, officials reported that prior to 2024, they were funded by only earmarked fines, fees, and restitution. Officials said that in 2024 they received a general fund appropriation to help with funding deficits.



Source: elzloy/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## ALASKA

Municipal police departments are responsible for covering the cost of exams for sexual assault survivors and are reimbursed by the Alaska State Troopers, according to officials who responded to our survey. The Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Officials from the Alaska State Troopers reported spending \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from the Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board reported spending \$173,000 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Alaska in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Alaska. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 983 rapes reported to law enforcement in Alaska in 2022.

Tribal officials we met with told us that in fiscal year 2022, there were 113 reported sexual assaults of minors in the Alaska Native communities they serve and about 325 exams of both minors and adults administered annually. These officials stated that the majority of the 325 exams were for survivors under the age of 18.

There are 229 Alaska Native entities with over 180,000 tribal citizens.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials from the Alaska State Troopers who responded to our survey reported they cover exam costs, which may include reimbursing municipal police who initially cover the cost.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety, Violent Crimes Compensation Board has the discretionary authority to award compensation to sexual assault victims. See Alaska Stat. §§ 18.67.080(a), 18.67.110(a).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Alaska State Troopers and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board officials reported using state general purpose or revenue funding for exams and federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

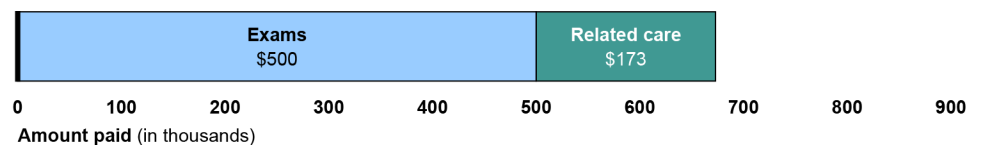
Officials reported that the Board does not have a cap for exams but has a cap of \$40,000 per claim for related medical treatments. See also Alaska Stat. § 18.67.130(c).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID ALASKA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from Alaska State Troopers who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams, and officials from the Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board reported that they spent \$173,000 in fiscal year 2022 on related medical treatments. Board officials reported that mental healthcare was the largest category of funding spent. Board officials also reported that the Board covers the costs of follow-up exams, loss of wages, security, and relocation assistance.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials said that some troopers may choose to cover related medical treatments. Tribal officials stated that survivors may not always volunteer information about perpetrators due to the perpetrator's position in the community and potential loss of resources if they were jailed.

Tribal officials also told us that survivors in Native villages often need to be flown out of their villages for medical care. Advocates sometimes meet with survivors in isolated villages during traditional communal gatherings, known as talking circles, to communicate to them the resources that are available, according to tribal officials.

Alaska State Troopers officials reported that beginning in 2023, the state rolled out an electronic system to track sexual assault evidence kits from collection through final storage.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## ARIZONA

Counties in which a sexual assault occurred are responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors and, in some cases, other medical expenses. Additionally, survivors may seek reimbursement from the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, for related medical treatments. Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022. Officials from the Program, however, reported spending \$67,446 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Arizona in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Arizona, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,246 rapes reported to law enforcement in Arizona in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The county in which a sexual assault occurred covers exam costs. The county must list on its website the official responsible for covering exam expenses. See Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 13-1414, 36-420.02. There are 15 counties in Arizona.

Additionally, survivors can seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program. See Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41-2407.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victim Compensation Program reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant and state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Program has a cap of \$25,000 for related medical treatments per claim.

Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the full range of funding sources used across the state for exams. For example, officials from the two county attorneys' offices we met with use various funds to pay for exams. The county office in a more populated county that we met with uses its state-appropriated general funds. The county office in a less populated county receives an annual \$5,000 victim assistance grant from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission to be used for any crime, including sexual assault.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID ARIZONA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

As mentioned, counties are responsible for covering exam costs, so there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. For example, officials from the county attorney's general office in a more populated county that we met with reported paying approximately \$720,000 for exams in the state's fiscal year 2022 (July 1 to June 30). However, officials from the less populated county told us they had no reported sexual assault cases in 2022 and thus made no payments. In addition, officials from the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$67,446 for related medical treatments in fiscal year 2022. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from a more populated county we met with stated that they have a contract with the local health care provider to administer exams, allowing the county to set standards for exam providers. The county pays for any medical costs related to evidence collection as part of the exam, officials told us.

County officials and survivor advocates we spoke to said that the state's payment process is efficient, but access to exams is a challenge. For example, officials stated that there is a shortage of exam providers, especially in rural areas, and survivors must often travel long distances to obtain an exam. In addition, while federal and state law protect the availability of exams to survivors over the age of 18, regardless of whether they report to law enforcement, survivors are often led to believe that they need to cooperate with law enforcement to receive these services, according to an advocate.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Arkansas in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Arkansas. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,315 rapes reported to law enforcement in Arkansas in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Crime Victims Reparations Board may reimburse licensed health care providers for exams and related medical treatments. Survivors do not pay for exams or related medical treatment if they receive an exam within 96 hours of their assault or if good cause exists for having not obtained an exam within that timeframe. See Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-12-402(d), 403(b)(1), 404; .015.12 Ark. Code R. § 3.2.

Officials who responded to our survey reported that exams are only covered when the assault occurs in Arkansas. Further, law enforcement is required to sign exam repayments for survivors, the official reported.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Reparations Board reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for exams.

The Board's caps for exams per claim include \$350 for exams and medications; \$350 for exam provider fees; \$200 for labs; \$160.88 for colposcope exam; and \$350 for ambulance. See .015.12.1 Ark. Code R. § 3.4(2).

## ARKANSAS

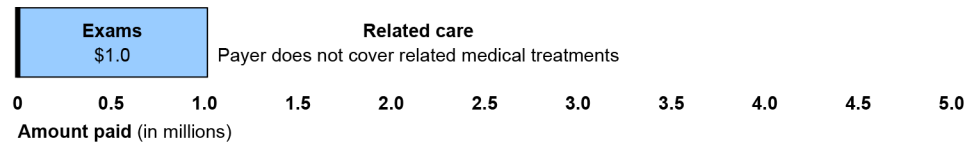
The Crime Victims Reparations Board, administered by the Arkansas Department of Public Safety, is responsible for covering exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Board reported spending \$1,015,543 in fiscal year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID ARKANSAS PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board who responded to our survey reported they spent \$1,015,543 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. However, officials did not respond to our survey questions on costs paid for related medical treatments. In response to our survey, officials reported that in addition to the treatments covered in the above table, the Board also covers the cost of a colposcope exam. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Arkansas payments practices is the statutory requirement that survivors are not billed for exams.

However, officials reported that the statutory maximum coverage funding limits are not adequate reimbursement. Further, officials said that current Arkansas laws deter survivors from reporting assaults. They also reported that the general lack of understanding by the public and stakeholders around sexual assault victimization creates barriers to providing assistance to all survivors.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## CALIFORNIA

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services is responsible for partially offsetting exam costs for local law enforcement agencies, which initially cover the cost. The Office of Emergency Services is also responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments. The California Victim Compensation Board may cover related medical treatments not covered by the Office. Officials from the Office of Emergency Services reported spending \$2,486,317 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from the California Victim Compensation Board reported spending \$138,011 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in California in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in California, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 14,613 rapes reported to law enforcement in California in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Local law enforcement agencies cover exam costs, and the Office of Emergency Services partially offsets the costs for local law enforcement agencies. See Cal. Penal Code § 13823.95(c)(1), (2)(d), (2)(e).

Survivors can seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Victim Compensation Board. See Cal. Gov’t Code §§ 13955, 13957(a)(1).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

The Office of Emergency Services reported using federal Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds and state general purpose or revenue funds for exams.

The Victim Compensation Board reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime and general purpose or revenue funds for related medical treatments.

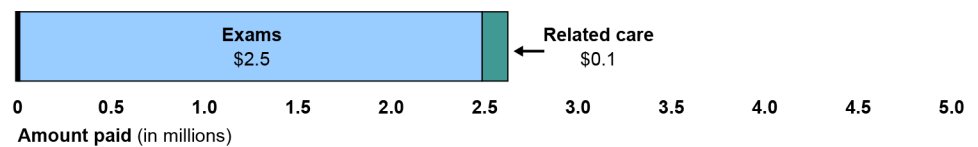
Officials reported that the Office of Emergency Services reimburses local law enforcement agencies up to \$1,127 to offset exam costs for survivors who report to law enforcement at the time of the exam, using state funds to cover these claims. Officials also reported that the office reimburses these agencies up to \$911 to offset exam costs for survivors who have not decided whether to report to law enforcement at the time of the exam and uses STOP grant funds to cover these claims.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID CALIFORNIA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and California Victim Compensation Board who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$2,486,317 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$138,011 for related medical treatments. In addition, given that law enforcement entities may cover exam costs, the total amount spent across the state is not known by a single entity. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Payers in California who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## COLORADO

Law enforcement entities are responsible for covering the costs of exams for survivors who report the assault to law enforcement. The Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program, administered by Colorado’s Division of Criminal Justice, is responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors who do not report to law enforcement. The Program is also responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Officials from the Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program reported spending \$452,080 in fiscal year 2022 for exams, and that the Crime Victim Compensation Program spent \$147,035 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Colorado in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Colorado, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,700 rapes reported to law enforcement in Colorado in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Law enforcement entities with jurisdiction over the assault cover the cost of exams for survivors who report the assault to law enforcement. See Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-3-407.5(1).

The Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program, administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, covers the cost of the exam for survivors who do not wish to involve law enforcement. It may also pay for related medical expenses not otherwise covered by the Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Program. See Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 18-3-407.5(3)(b), 18-3-407.7(1). Survivors may seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Crime Victim Compensation Program. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 24-4.1-105.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

The Program reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance and Victim Compensation Formula Grant and state general purpose or revenue funds for exams and related medical treatments.

Officials who responded to our survey reported the Program has a cap of \$5,000 per claim for exams and related medical treatments.

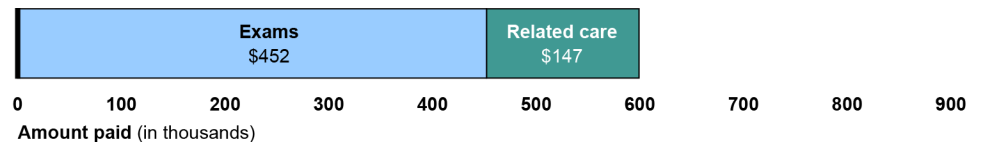
Given that law enforcement entities may cover some exam costs, no single entity knows the full range of funding sources used across the state.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID COLORADO PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Note: Payers in Colorado told us that the amount they reported paying in fiscal year 2022 for exams includes an unspecified or unknown amount paid for related medical treatments.

Officials from the Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$452,080 in fiscal year 2022 for exams, which could also include an unknown amount for related medical treatments. Program officials also reported that the Crime Victim Compensation Program spent \$147,035 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. In addition, given that law enforcement entities may cover exam costs, the total amount spent across the state is not known by a single entity. For example, officials from a sheriff’s office in a more populated area reported spending approximately \$26,304 for exams in fiscal year 2022. Sheriff’s office officials in a less populated area told us that they did not track exam expenses in 2022. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the state’s emergency payment program encourages survivors to seek medical care following a sexual assault. However, officials reported that this fund is limited, and additional funding to cover mental health care expenses would further benefit survivors who choose not to report to law enforcement.

Health care providers we spoke to in Colorado told us that providers and law enforcement that service less populated communities may not understand the state’s payment process. This can result in law enforcement entities refusing to pay for exams and health care organizations absorbing the cost, which can be a financial burden, according to officials.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

# CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program, administered by the Connecticut Judicial Branch’s Office of Victim Services, is responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. The Office of Victim Services is also responsible for covering some additional related medical treatments not covered by the Program. Officials from the Office reported spending \$726,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$73,000 for related medical treatments.

## HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Connecticut in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Connecticut. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 656 rapes reported to law enforcement in Connecticut in 2022.

## WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Office of Victim Services’ Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program provides reimbursement for exams and some related medical treatments incurred by exam providers, including an exam interview, pregnancy and STI testing, and prophylaxis. The Office of Victim Services Compensation Program may reimburse eligible applicants for related medical treatments. See Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-209(d). The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection’s Division of Scientific Services covers toxicology screening expenses. See Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 19a-112a(e)(2), 54-210.

## HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Office of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported that they provide reimbursement for exams through an appropriation from state general purpose or revenue funds.

Officials reported that the Office of Victim Services Compensation Program uses federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

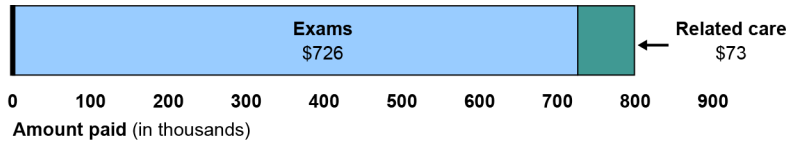
Officials reported the Program’s reimbursement cap for exams is \$900 per claim and for related medical treatments is \$15,000 per claim.

## WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MUCH DID CONNECTICUT PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Connecticut Office of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$726,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$73,000 for related medical treatments.

## WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Connecticut’s payment process is survivors do not have to worry about the cost of an exam or using their insurance.



DECEMBER 7, 1787

Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Delaware in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Delaware. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 224 rapes reported to law enforcement in Delaware in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Exam providers must seek reimbursement for exams from the survivor's insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare, if available. If insurance is not available or does not cover the full costs, the exam provider may seek reimbursement from the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program. See Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 9023(c), (d).

Survivors may also seek compensation for related medical expenses from the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program. See Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, §§ 9005, 9011, 9023(f).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Program does not have a cap for exams, but the statutory maximum for related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim. See Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 9011(d).

## DELAWARE

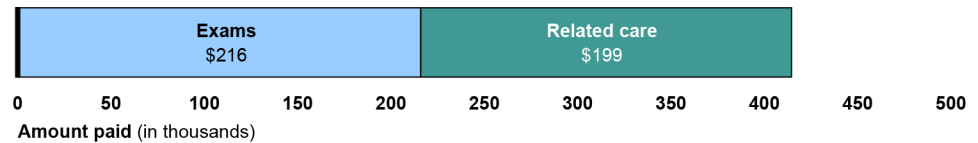
Public and private insurers in Delaware, as well as the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program, are responsible for covering the cost of exams. More specifically, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program, administered by the Delaware Department of Justice, is responsible for covering expenses for exams and some related medical treatments not covered by insurers. Officials from the Program reported spending \$215,864 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$198,687 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID DELAWARE PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Delaware Victims' Compensation Assistance Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$215,864 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$198,687 for related medical treatments. In response to our survey, officials reported that the Program's cost data is coded based on the way the claim is filed with the Program. For example, if other treatments were provided at the time of the exam and the claim is approved for full medical benefits, it is possible that the payment was coded as a "medical" payment rather than an "exam" payment.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.





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## WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District of Columbia (D.C.) Victim Services is responsible for covering the cost of exams. The Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by the Superior Court of D.C., is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Officials from Victim Services reported that they spent \$2,324,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams, and officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program reported that they spent \$271,728 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Washington, D.C. in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Washington, D.C. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 279 rapes reported to law enforcement in Washington, D.C. in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials reported that Victim Services pays for all exams by paying exam providers directly. The Superior Court of D.C. administers the Crime Victims Compensation Program, which may cover related medical treatments. Survivors can seek reimbursement from the program if their claim is timely filed. See D.C. Code § 4-503(a).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

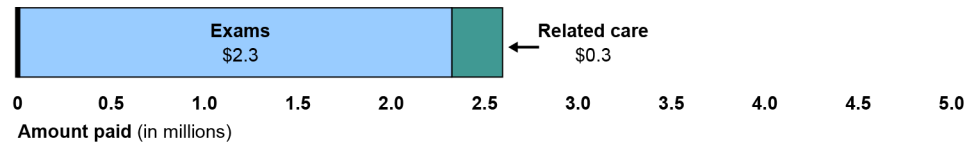
Officials who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds, as well as state victims of crime funds and general purpose or revenue funds for exams. Officials also reported using both federal VOCA Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds, STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds, as well as state victims of crime funds, and state general purpose or revenue funds for related medical treatments. Officials reported that D.C. does not have a set cap for exams per claim. The Crime Victims Compensation Program has a cap of \$25,000 for related medical treatments per claim, with some exceptions. See D.C. Code § 4-507(b).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID WASHINGTON, D.C. PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from D.C. Victim Services who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$2,324,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and the D.C. Crime Victims Compensation Program spent \$271,728 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. Victim Services officials reported that they fund many medical and mental health programs that provide free services to all trauma victims, including sexual assault survivors. Victim Services officials also reported that their claims system does not capture the cost of related medical treatments paid for sexual assault survivors separately from other trauma survivors.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from Victim Services reported that it has an annual contract in place with hospitals to avoid confusion about who pays for the exams. The officials explained that the hospitals bill the agency directly for all exams at the end of each quarter.

Officials from Victim Services also reported that they provide grant funding for sexual assault nurse examiner programs in D.C., which sign Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) compliance agreements.

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program reported that a challenge for them is that there is limited funding available to provide services for survivors.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## FLORIDA

The Florida Bureau of Victim Compensation—administered by the Division of Victim Services, Office of the Attorney General—is responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Office reported spending \$5,025,838 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$224,085 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Florida in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Florida, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 6,714 rapes reported to law enforcement in Florida in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Florida Bureau of Victim Compensation covers the costs of exams and has discretion to pay for medical treatments related to the initial exam following a sexual assault. See Fla. Stat. § 960.28(2); Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 2A-3.002(1)-(2).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Bureau of Victim Compensation who responded to our survey reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula Grants and state victims of crime funds for exams and related medical treatments. Bureau officials also reported using VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grants for exams.

Officials from the Bureau also reported compensating survivors the following amounts in fiscal year 2022, in addition to the amount paid for exams and related medical treatments: \$15,154 for related medical treatments (including transportation); \$111,001 for mental health (including transportation); \$9,060 for economic losses (e.g., wage loss, disability); and \$88,870 for relocation.

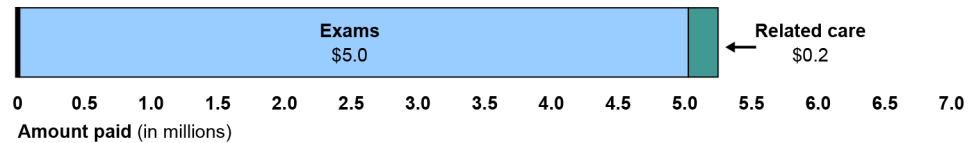
Officials reported that medical, mental health, and economic costs per claim combined cannot exceed \$15,000 for living survivors, \$50,000 when the survivor sustained a catastrophic injury, and \$1,500 on any one relocation.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID FLORIDA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Florida Bureau of Victim Compensation who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$5,025,838 in fiscal year 2022 on exams and \$224,085 on related medical treatments. Officials reported that the Bureau covers additional allowable expenses associated with related medical treatments for crime-related injuries.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the state is statutorily required to cover the payment of medical expenses connected with an exam following a sexual battery or lewd or lascivious offense, regardless of insurance or cooperation with law enforcement. Officials also reported that providers may not bill a survivor or the survivor's parent or guardian indirectly or directly for that exam.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## GEORGIA

The Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, is responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$3,127,111 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$145,341 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Georgia in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Georgia, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,977 rapes reported to law enforcement in Georgia in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program pays exam costs. See Ga. Code Ann. §§ 16-6-1(c), 17-5-72, 17-15-15.

Sexual assault survivors can also seek reimbursement for related medical treatments. See Ga. Code Ann. § 17-15-8(b).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state Driving Under the Influence fines, probation fees, and parole fees for both exams and related medical treatments.

The Program's cap for exams is \$1,000 per claim. See Ga. Code Ann. § 17-15-15.

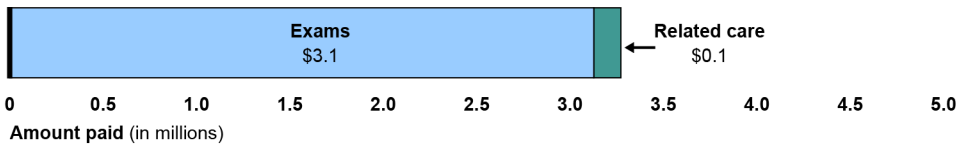
Officials reported that the Program's cap for related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID GEORGIA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?

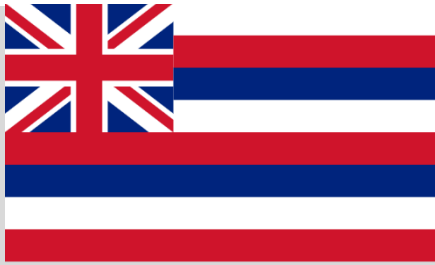


Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$3,127,111 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$145,341 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Crime Victims Compensation Program works closely with the state's Medicaid department and local hospitals to ensure survivors are not billed.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## HAWAII

Counties are responsible for covering the cost of exams for sexual assault survivors. The Hawaii Crime Victim Compensation Commission is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022. However, officials from the Commission reported spending \$50,557 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Hawaii in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Hawaii. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 546 rapes reported to law enforcement in Hawaii in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials reported that counties cover exam costs. There are four counties in Hawaii.

The Crime Victim Compensation Commission has the discretion to reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 351-31(a), 351-33.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Hawaii Crime Victim Compensation Commission reported using state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

The Commission's cap for related medical treatments is \$20,000 per claim. See Haw. Rev. Stat. § 351-62(b).

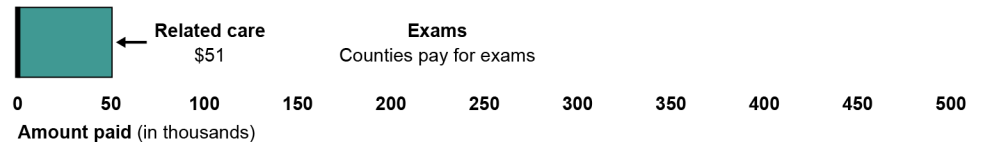
Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the full range of funding sources used across the state.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	Unknown	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	Unknown
Exam provider fees	Unknown	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID HAWAII PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

As mentioned, counties are responsible for covering exam costs, so there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. However, officials from the Hawaii Crime Victim Compensation Commission who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$50,557 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that sexual assault services in Hawaii are provided under one master contract with the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, with a commitment to ensure survivors are never billed for exams.

Officials said that Hawaii has universal health care, which includes coverage for mental health care or counseling services.

Officials reported that there have been issues in Hawaii with determining who is the responsible payer for survivors who are out-of-state visitors and receive an exam in their home state, according to officials. Officials also reported that there has been uncertainty whether the Commission must cover the cost of prophylactics.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in 2022 in Idaho is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Idaho. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 945 rapes reported to law enforcement in Idaho in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Evidence collection kits are covered by Idaho State Police. See Idaho Code § 67-2919(10).

The Idaho Industrial Commission, through the Crime Victims Compensation Program, covers the cost of exams, for the purpose of gathering evidence for possible prosecution for adult survivors whose bills are not covered by federal or federally financed third parties. For survivors under the age of 18, the Commission pays for costs not covered by any third party. See Idaho Code § 72-1019(2).

The Commission, in its discretion, may also pay costs for related medical treatments. See Idaho Code § 72-1019(2).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for exams and related medical treatments. Program officials also reported using state victims of crime and general purpose or revenue funds for exams.

Officials reported that the maximum cap for both exams and related medical treatments per incident is \$25,000.

## IDAHO

The Idaho Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by the Idaho Industrial Commission, is responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$151,306 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$67,794 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID IDAHO PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Idaho Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$151,306 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$67,794 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that the Program must spend \$50,000 in state-dedicated and federal funds for adult sexual assault exams before spending the \$294,000 from the state's general appropriated funds.

Officials reported that survivors may apply for the Program to cover the cost of related medical treatments—including diagnostic imaging and radiology, injury treatment, dental care, and transportation to medical provider—by completing a compensation application and reporting the assault to law enforcement or providing other factual evidence (e.g., a letter from an advocacy center) for the Program to determine eligibility.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Illinois in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Illinois, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 6,052 rapes reported to law enforcement in Illinois in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Health care providers can seek reimbursement for exams and related medical treatments from the survivor's insurance, including Medicaid. The Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program covers costs not covered by insurance or for uninsured survivors. See 410 Ill. Comp. Stat. 70/7(a); Ill. Admin. Code tit. 89, § 148.510.

A survivor who meets eligibility requirements can also seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Crime Victims Compensation Program. See 740 Ill. Comp. Stat. 45/6.1.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program who responded to our survey reported using state general purpose or revenue funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that they did not know the funding sources used by the Crime Victims Compensation Program for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that there are no caps for exams or related medical treatments per claim.

## ILLINOIS

Public and private insurers, as well as the Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program, administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, are responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program and Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Program reported that they did not know how much they paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams or related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	Unknown	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID ILLINOIS PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Illinois Sexual Assault Treatment Emergency Program and Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they did not know how much they spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams or related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the Illinois Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program and Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Indiana in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Indiana, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,241 rapes reported to law enforcement in Indiana in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Victim Services Division reimburses hospitals or health care providers for exams and additional forensic services, when provided. See Ind. Code § 5-2-6.1-39(a)-(e).

The Division also has discretion to pay for related medical treatments. See 203 Ind. Admin. Code 1-2-3.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Criminal Justice Institute who responded to our survey reported using state victims of crime and general purpose or revenue funds for exams and federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that there are no caps for exams or related medical treatments.

## INDIANA

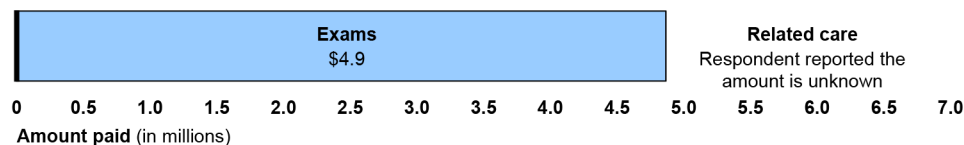
The Victim Services Division, administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, is responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Institute reported spending \$4,865,836 in fiscal year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID INDIANA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?

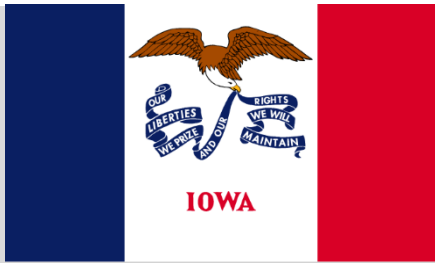


Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$4,865,836 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials reported in response to our survey question that they do not know how much the Victim Services Division paid for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Indiana's payment process is it helps ensure survivors receive medical care more frequently following an assault.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Iowa in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Iowa. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,361 rapes reported to law enforcement in Iowa in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Iowa Department of Justice’s Crime Victim Assistance Section covers expenses related to an exam and may cover some related medical treatments through its Sexual Abuse Examination Payment Program. See Iowa Code § 915.41(1); Iowa Admin. Code r. 61-9.80, 61-9.83(1), 61-9.84.

A survivor can seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Crime Victim Compensation Program. See Iowa Code § 915.84.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victim Assistance Section reported using state funds, including criminal fines and penalties, restitution or subrogation, and inmate wages for exams and federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

The Sexual Abuse Examination Payment Program will pay up to \$300 for the examination facility and up to \$200 for examiner fees. Consideration of reimbursement for charges in excess of these amounts will require additional documentation from the provider. See Iowa Admin. Code r. 61-9.83(2).

Officials from the Section also reported that the Program will cover up to 75 percent of pharmacy and laboratory fees per exam claim. Officials reported that providers are required to adjust the remaining amount and cannot bill survivors.

## IOWA

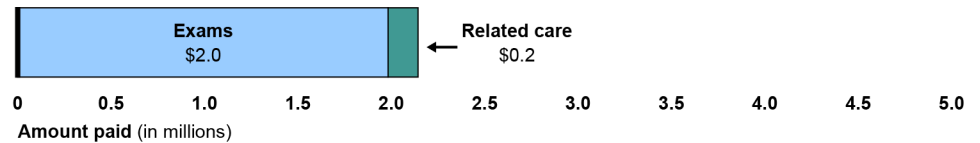
The Sexual Abuse Examination Payment Program, administered by the Iowa Department of Justice’s Crime Victim Assistance Section, is responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors. The Crime Victim Compensation Program, also administered by the Crime Victim Assistance Section, is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Officials from the Section reported spending \$1,982,989 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$160,598 for expenses directly related to the crime, including related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID IOWA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Iowa Crime Victim Assistance Section who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$1,982,989 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$160,598 for expenses directly related to the crime, including related medical treatments (e.g., counseling). Other expenses directly related to the crime include clothing held as evidence and lost wages, officials reported.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that if an exam is not conducted, the survivor could still receive compensation for counseling charges or lost wages.

Officials also reported that the Iowa Attorney General is currently reviewing to determine whether emergency contraception is eligible for reimbursement.





# KANSAS

Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Kansas in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Kansas. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,335 rapes reported to law enforcement in Kansas in 2022.

## WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Counties cover exam costs for sexual assault crimes committed within their jurisdiction. See Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-448(h). There are 105 counties in Kansas.

The Crime Victims Compensation Board has discretion to reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See Kan. Stat. Ann. § 74-7305.

## HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Board who responded to our survey reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Board's caps for related medical treatments include

- \$25,000 per claim,
- up to \$5,000 for outpatient mental health per claim, and
- \$10,000 and up to 10 days for inpatient care.

Officials reported that the mental health and inpatient care caps can be increased at their discretion, but the number of days covered for inpatient care cannot be increased.

Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the full range of funding sources used across the state for exams.

# KANSAS

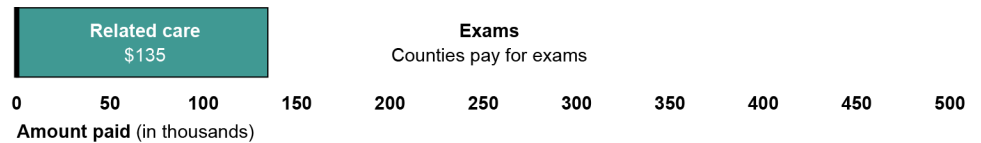
Counties in which a sexual assault occurred are responsible for covering the costs of exams, and the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board, administered by the Attorney General's Crime Victims Compensation Division, is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. However, officials from the Board reported spending \$134,501 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

## WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MUCH DID KANSAS PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

As mentioned, because counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. However, officials from the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$134,501 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

## WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that the Board covers some related medical treatments for survivors eligible for compensation. The types of related medical care treatments they reported as covered were based on general knowledge of the most commonly paid treatments.

Officials also said that a state statutory requirement to cover related medical treatments would be extremely complicated for states in which local jurisdictions are responsible for exam payments because those states would need to create entirely separate systems and processes to cover these payments.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Kentucky in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Kentucky. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,527 rapes reported to law enforcement in Kentucky in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Crime Victims Compensation Board covers exams. The Board also has discretion to reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 216B.400(8)(a)-(b), 49.370.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Board who responded to our survey reported using state general purpose or revenue funds for both exams and related medical treatments. Officials also reported using traffic school fees and court costs to cover exams. The Board also reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Board's cap for exams per claim includes

- \$200 for exam fee,
- \$250 for facility fee,
- \$100 for labs,
- \$100 for medications,
- \$100 for HIV testing,
- \$800 for HIV prophylaxis,
- \$150 for follow up exams,
- \$365 for additional labs.

The Board's cap for related medical treatments is \$30,000 per claim, with a 2-year cap to receive mental health counseling. See Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 49-370(3), (6).

## KENTUCKY

The Crime Victims Compensation Board, administered by the Kentucky Office of Claims and Appeals, is responsible for covering costs for exams using the state's sexual assault victim assistance fund. The Board is also responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Officials from the Board reported that they spent \$289,848 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$773,115 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID KENTUCKY PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Kentucky Crime Victims Compensation Board who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$289,848 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$773,115 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Kentucky's payment process is the Board provides recourse against exam providers who do not comply with the process, ensuring survivors are not billed. Specifically, per Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 216B.990(3), there is a penalty of up to \$500 for hospitals that violate any provision of Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 216B.400, which includes the provision that survivors must not be billed.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Louisiana in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Louisiana. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,975 rapes reported to law enforcement in Louisiana in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Exam providers seek reimbursement for exams from the Crime Victim Reparations Board. See La. Stat. Ann. §§ 40:1216.1(A)(7), 46:1822. The Board can also reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See La. Stat. Ann. § 46:1804.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victim Reparations Board who responded to our survey reported using state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

The Board's cap for exams is \$1,000 for the facility and \$600 for the exam provider per claim. See La. Stat. Ann. § 46:1822(A).

The Board's cap for related medical treatments is a maximum of \$15,000 per claim for crimes committed on or after August 1, 2022. See La. Stat. Ann. § 46:1810(B).

## LOUISIANA

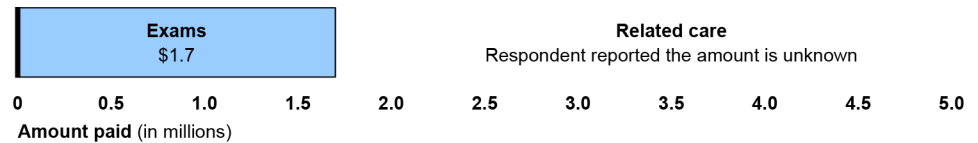
The Crime Victim Reparations Board, administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, is responsible for covering costs for exams and may cover costs for some related medical treatments. Officials from the Board reported spending \$1,700,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID LOUISIANA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Note: Payers in Louisiana told us that the amount they reported paying in fiscal year 2022 for exams includes an unspecified or unknown amount paid for related medical treatments.

Officials from the Louisiana Crime Victim Reparations Board who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$1,700,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials reported that they did not know the amount paid in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments because all expenses associated with sexual assault are captured together in the data. As a result, the amount they reported spending for exams includes the amount spent for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Louisiana's payment process is that the state's statute clearly provides that an exam provider must bill the Board directly for reimbursement to help ensure survivors are not billed. However, officials reported hospital billing departments may code an exam incorrectly, that may result in it being sent to the survivor. Officials said that when a survivor is incorrectly billed, the survivor, advocate, legal representative, or Claims Investigator (victim assistance) will reach out to the Crime Victim Reparations Board staff and notify them to help resolve the billing issue as soon as possible.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Maine in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Maine. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 444 rapes reported to law enforcement in Maine in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program covers exam costs. Survivors can also seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Program. See Me. Stat. tit. 5, § 3360-M(1), (4); see also Me. Stat. tit. 24, § 2986(2); 26-550-8 Me. Code R. § 3(1).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for exams. Officials also reported using restitution funds from convicted perpetrators to fund exams.

Officials reported that the Program's cap for exams is \$750 per claim. Officials said they negotiate with health care providers in Maine to set this cap.

The cap for related medical treatment is \$15,000. See Me. Stat. tit. 5, § 3360-E.

## MAINE

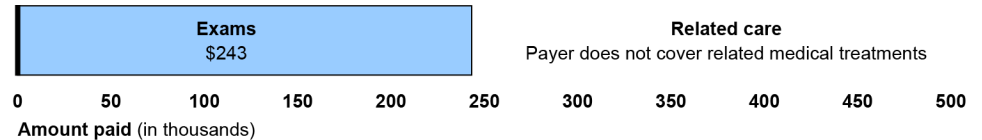
Maine's Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by the Maine Attorney General, is responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$243,237 in fiscal year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MAINE PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Maine Crime Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$243,237 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from the Program did not respond to our survey questions on costs for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that one benefit of Maine's payment process is having exam costs directly billed to the Crime Victims' Compensation Program, which ensures that neither the survivor nor their insurer is billed.

Officials reported one challenge is that the Program's data collection is a snapshot in time of the treatments administered during the exam. If a survivor decides to report to law enforcement later, updated information is not captured in their data system.

Officials stated they believe exams should be paid by the entity responsible for other types of evidence collection, such as law enforcement.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## MARYLAND

The Maryland Sexual Assault Reimbursement Unit, administered by the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, is responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Governor’s Office reported that they spent \$2,518,764 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$554,301 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Maryland in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Maryland, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,885 rapes reported to law enforcement in Maryland in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Maryland Sexual Assault Reimbursement Unit covers exam costs submitted by providers who conducted an exam within 15 days of an assault. See Md. Code Ann., Crim. Proc. § 11-1007(b)(1).

A survivor can also apply to the Maryland Crime Victims’ Assistance Program for services. See Md. Code Regs. 01.04.03.04.A.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Governor’s Office who responded to our survey reported using state general purpose or revenue funds for exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that there are no caps per claim for exam costs.

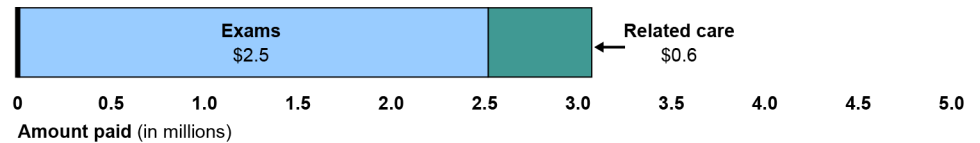
Officials reported caps of \$80 per hour for up to 5 hours of treatment and interview time for pediatric services provided by Child Advocacy Center professionals, totaling a cap of \$400 per claim.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MARYLAND PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$2,518,764 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$554,301 for related medical treatments. Officials reported that the Sexual Assault Reimbursement Unit also covers all ongoing medical care related to HIV prophylaxis, in addition to the treatments listed in the above table.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Sexual Assault Reimbursement Unit is the first payer for reimbursement of related medical treatments for sexual assault survivors. Officials reported that this helps to ensure that survivors do not have the additional burden of paying for medical treatments associated with their assault, helping them focus on their recovery from a traumatic occurrence.

However, officials reported that hospital staff and medical providers, who are responsible for billing the Reimbursement Unit on behalf of the survivor, do not always understand the process for submitting a claim, and there have been instances when survivors have been billed for related medical treatments.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Massachusetts in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Massachusetts, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,033 rapes reported to law enforcement in Massachusetts in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Victim Compensation and Assistance Division is billed for exam costs for survivors with privacy or confidentiality concerns, survivors who are uninsured, or survivors whose insurance does not cover the full cost. If a survivor agrees that the claim may be submitted to their insurance, then their primary insurer will be billed. See Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Exams in Hospitals, December 2018.

A survivor can also seek reimbursement for related medical treatment costs from the Division. See 940 Mass. Code Regs. §§ 14.03, 14.06.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Victim Compensation and Assistance Division who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state appropriation funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that they do not have a cap on the amount they will pay for exams.

The cap for related medical treatment and other enumerated expenses incurred after an exam is \$25,000, with some exceptions. See Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 258C, § 3.

## MASSACHUSETTS

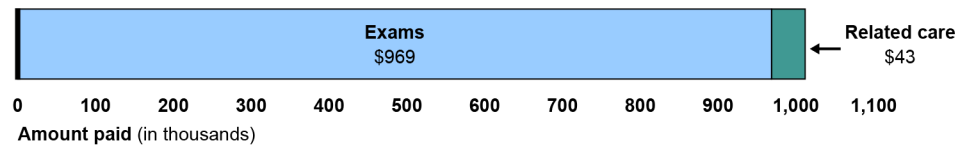
The Victim Compensation and Assistance Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General, as well as public and private insurers, are responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Division reported spending \$968,625 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$43,186 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	Unknown	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MASSACHUSETTS PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Massachusetts Victim Compensation and Assistance Division who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$968,625 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$43,186 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a challenge of Massachusetts' payment process is the Victim Compensation and Assistance Division does not have the legal authority, under current statutory provisions, to ensure survivors are not billed. However, officials reported that the Division works with and conducts extensive training with hospitals, medical providers, and related service providers, as well as hospital billing department personnel to ensure that survivors are not billed.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## MICHIGAN

Public and private insurers and the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Response Program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services Crime Victim Services Commission, are responsible for covering the cost of exams. The Commission is also responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments expenses. Officials from the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Response Program reported spending \$2,097,013 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$15,421 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Michigan in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Michigan, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 6,504 rapes reported to law enforcement in Michigan in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

With the survivor's consent, providers submit claims for exam costs to the survivor's insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare. If reimbursement cannot be obtained or insurance is unavailable, providers submit claims to the Crime Victim Services Commission, Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Response Program, or another entity other than the survivor. See Mich. Comp. Laws § 18.355a(3)-(4).

The Crime Victim Services Commission, in its discretion, may also reimburse survivors for related medical treatment. See Mich. Comp. Laws § 18.354.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Program who responded to our survey reported using state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments. Officials also reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

The Program's cap for exams is \$1,200 per claim. See Mich. Comp. Laws § 18.355a(7). Officials reported that there is also a cap of \$700 per claim for evaluation and management services.

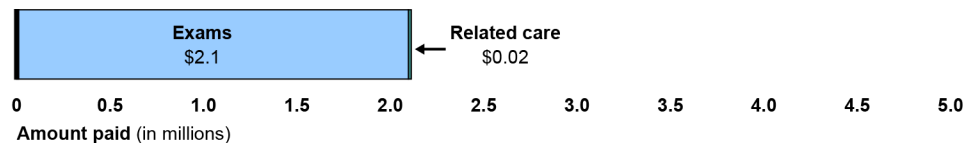
Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Crime Victim Services Commission's cap for related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	Unknown	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MICHIGAN PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Michigan Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Response Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$2,097,013 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$15,421 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that Michigan's payment process helps ensure sexual assault survivors receive equitable and quality care regardless of where the exam is administered. However, officials reported hospitals have a high rate of employee turnover, and new employees may lack the knowledge about the state statute that is meant to prevent survivors from being billed for exams. If a survivor has been erroneously billed, the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Response Program will contact the provider to inform them of the statute, request that the survivor or their insurance company is refunded, send proof of the reimbursement to the Program, and then offer training to them regarding the Program.

Officials also reported that the Program's current claims management system is outdated and does not capture all demographic, qualitative, and quantitative information that would allow for an in-depth cost analysis of expenses paid.



Source: Tindo/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## MINNESOTA

Until July 1, 2023, the county in which the assault occurred was responsible for covering the cost of exams; as such, there was no single entity responsible for collecting the total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams across the state. Beginning July 1, 2023, responsibility for covering exams was shifted to the Minnesota Sexual Assault Exam Payment Program, administered by the Department of Public Safety, which has also historically covered the cost of some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$15,834 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Minnesota in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Minnesota, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,327 rapes reported to law enforcement in Minnesota in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Since July 1, 2023, medical service providers submit payment requests for exams to the Minnesota Sexual Assault Exam Payment Program. Medical service providers can only seek reimbursement from the survivor's insurance, if authorized. See Minn. Stat. § 609.35.

Officials reported that the Crime Victims Reimbursement Board may cover related medical treatments for survivors who report the assault to law enforcement. See also Minn. Stat. §§ 144.6586, 611A.57.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

As mentioned, counties were responsible for covering exam costs in fiscal year 2022; as such, no single entity knows the full range of funding sources that were used across the state for exams during that time. However, officials reported that the Sexual Assault Exam Payment Program will be covered by state general purpose or revenue funds.

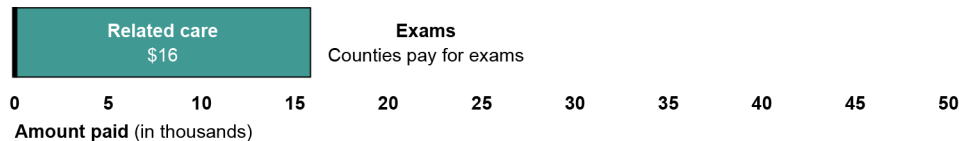
The Board's cap for exams is \$1,400 per claim, adjusted annually for inflation. See Minn. Stat. § 609.35(a). Officials said there are no caps for related medical treatments, but there is a cap per claim of \$50,000 for all financial compensation.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MINNESOTA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

In fiscal year 2022, Minnesota's 87 counties were responsible for covering exam costs, and there was no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. However, officials from the Minnesota Crime Victims Reimbursement Board who responded to our survey reported that they estimate that counties spent approximately \$3,300,000 on exams in fiscal year 2022, based on the number of kits submitted and average cost of an exam. Further, officials reported that the Board spent \$15,834 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that changing Minnesota's payment process to a single payer system will help ensure survivors' insurers are not billed, consistent and prompt payment to the hospitals, and better protection for survivors' private information.

Officials reported that the newly-established claim submission process requires providers to submit information about assaults. The Program will be collecting information about total costs, as well as survivors' demographics and whether an evidence kit was completed, officials reported.

Officials also reported that Minnesota launched a system for tracking evidence collection kits electronically, and this will allow the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to track how many kits have been completed.





Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Office of the Attorney General, is responsible for covering the cost of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$344,330 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$21,989 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Mississippi in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Mississippi. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 990 rapes reported to law enforcement in Mississippi in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Office of the Attorney General, covers the cost of exams. A survivor of sexual assault can also apply for reimbursement from the Division. See Miss. Code Ann. §§ 99-37-25(1)(a), 99-41-29(1); 3-000-001 Miss. Code R. §§ 103, 301(9), 600.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victim Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state general purpose or revenue funds for exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported exam caps of \$1,000 per claim. See also 3-000-001 Miss. Code R. § 604(1).

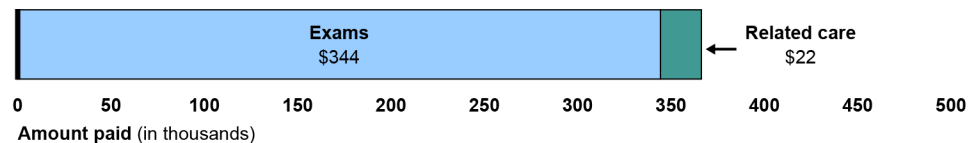
Officials also reported related medical treatments caps per claim of \$15,000 for medical expenses and \$3,500 for mental health expenses.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MISSISSIPPI PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Mississippi Crime Victim Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$344,330 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$21,989 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that the Program provides sexual assault nurse examiners and hospital billing staff training on the state's statute to ensure sexual assault survivors are not billed for exams.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## MISSOURI

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program, administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety, is responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$1,831,903 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$3,356 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Missouri in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Missouri, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,023 rapes reported to law enforcement in Missouri in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program reimburses exam providers for exams. The Program may also reimburse eligible survivors for some related medical treatments. See Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 595.220(1), (6), 595.015.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using state victims of crime funds for exams and federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

The Program's cap for exams per claim is \$900 if in the hospital and \$650 if in a clinic. The Program's cap for labs associated with the exam is \$200. See Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 11, § 30-12.010(10).

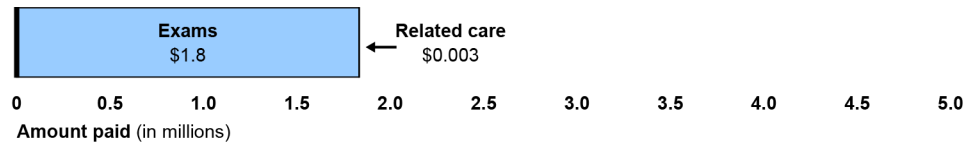
The Program's cap for related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim for eligible survivors. See Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.030(5).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID MISSOURI PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Missouri Crime Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$1,831,903 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$3,356 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Program is part of a collaborative network consisting of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, other state government agencies, and local community officials. Officials said this network promotes exam services and raises awareness that survivors must not be billed for exams.

Officials also reported that the Program is at risk of depleting its limited funds by the second quarter of each fiscal year. Without readily available funds and prompt reimbursement from the state, officials said there is a risk that exam providers will stop treating survivors. Additionally, officials reported their concern that the rising cost of medical services may reduce access to exams.

# MONTANA



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Montana in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Montana. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 611 rapes reported to law enforcement in Montana in 2022.

## WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Local law enforcement agencies cover exams for survivors of sexual offense crimes committed within their jurisdiction who choose to report the crime. The Payment Program covers exams for survivors who choose not to report. See Mont. Code Ann. § 46-15-411, Mont. Admin. R. 23.15.401.

Officials reported that law enforcement agencies are not required to pay for related medical treatments. See also Mont. Code Ann. § 46-15-411(3). Likewise, the Payment Program is not required to cover related medical treatments. See Mont. Code Ann. § 46-15-411(3).

Officials reported that the Compensation Program may help pay for exam costs, depending on law enforcement agencies' resources. Survivors may seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Compensation Program. See Mont. Code Ann. § 53-9-128.

## HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Compensation Program reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds, state and local law enforcement funds, and state general purpose or revenue funds for exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Payment Program's cap for exams is \$600 per claim. Officials also reported that the Compensation Program's cap for exams and related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim.

# MONTANA

Local law enforcement agencies and the Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program in Montana are responsible for covering the costs of exams, depending on whether the survivor chooses to report to law enforcement. The Montana Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Montana Department of Justice, is responsible for covering costs for exams on behalf of law enforcement agencies with limited funds and costs for some related medical treatments. Officials reported that the Payment Program spent \$14,314 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and the Compensation Program spent \$69,567 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

## WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MUCH DID MONTANA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program spent \$14,314 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and the Crime Victim Compensation Program spent \$69,567 for related medical treatments. In addition, given that law enforcement entities may cover exam costs, the total amount spent across the state is not known by a single entity. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

## WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the exam Payment Program claims are not itemized by the specific medical services provided during an exam. Instead, claims only document that an exam was performed.

Officials also reported that while the exam Payment Program offers outreach and training to health care providers, ensuring every billing department knows not to bill survivors is difficult.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

# NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Crime Commission administers the Sexual Assault Payment Program, which is responsible for covering the cost of exams, and the Crime Victim’s Reparations Program, which is responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments. Officials from the Commission reported spending \$807,655 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$11,286 for related medical treatments.

## HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Nebraska in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Nebraska. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,089 rapes reported to law enforcement in Nebraska in 2022.

## WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Nebraska’s Sexual Assault Payment Program covers full out-of-pocket costs for exams, including exam provider, facility, and laboratory fees (i.e., sexually transmitted infection and pregnancy testing). See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1429.03(1), (3).

Sexual assault survivors can submit a claim directly to the Crime Victims’ Reparations Program for related medical treatments. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1807.

## HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Nebraska Crime Commission who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds and state general purpose or revenue funds for exams and related medical treatments.

The cap for exams is \$500 per claim. Officials reported that the total is broken down into \$200 for exam provider fees and \$300 for facility fees. See also Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1429.03(5).

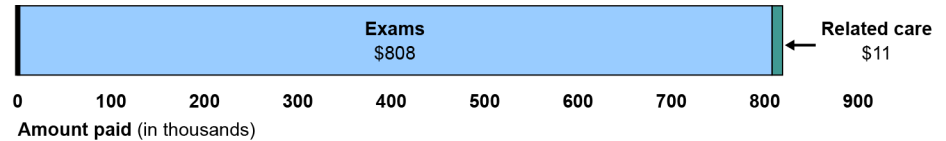
Officials reported that The Crime Victims’ Reparations Program has a cap of \$25,000 for related medical treatments, a \$5,000 cap for funeral expenses, and a cap of \$2,000 for mental health counseling.

## WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MUCH DID NEBRASKA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



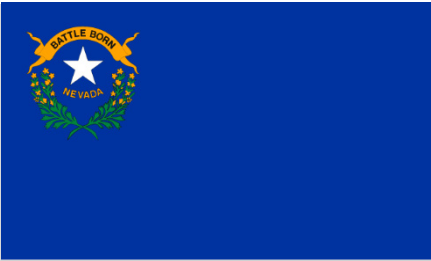
Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Nebraska Crime Commission who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$807,655 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$11,286 for related medical treatments.

## WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of Nebraska’s payment process is hospitals and child advocacy centers can submit their bill directly to the Sexual Assault Payment Program for reimbursement.

Officials also reported that the Nebraska Attorney General’s office has a state Forensic Nursing Coordinator who educates facilities and exam providers across the state, helping ensure evidence collection is completed accurately and appropriately and that facilities know how to submit reimbursement claims for the exams.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## NEVADA

Counties are responsible for covering the costs of exams and some related medical treatments. The Nevada Victims of Crime Program, administered by the state's Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for reimbursing counties for the costs of some exams and some related medical treatments. Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022. However, officials from the Program reported spending \$74,215 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Nevada in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Nevada. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,871 rapes reported to law enforcement in Nevada in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Counties cover exam costs for sexual assault crimes committed within their jurisdiction for survivors who receive an exam within 72 hours after they arrive for treatment. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 217.300(1)-(2). The state's Department of Health and Human Services reimburses counties for some exams. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 217.160(1)(f). There are 17 counties or equivalents in Nevada.

The Department may also reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 217.200. Survivors can apply to the county to have treatments covered at county expense. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 217.310(1).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Victims of Crime Program reported using state victims of crime funds to reimburse counties for exams. Officials also reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime, department health and mental health, and local law enforcement funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Program's cap for related medical treatments is \$35,000 per claim.

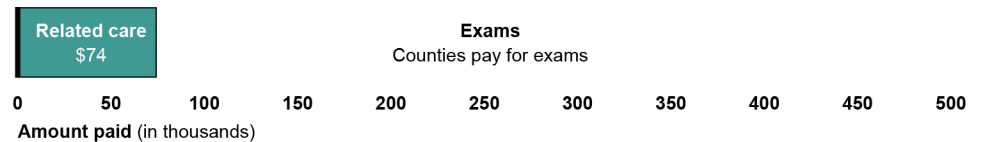
Given that counties may cover costs for some exams and related medical treatment, no single entity knows the full range of funding sources used across the state for those costs.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	Unknown	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	Unknown
Exam provider fees	Unknown	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NEVADA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

As mentioned, counties are responsible for covering exam costs, so there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. Officials from the Nevada Victims of Crime Program who responded to our survey reported that they did not know how much the Program spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams. However, officials reported that they spent \$74,215 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. The total amount spent in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that Nevada's payment process helps ensure survivors receive necessary medical care following an assault without financial barriers. Officials said that Nevada does not have a specific state Medicaid billing category for exams or strangulation tests. If these categories were available, state Medicaid could cover these costs regardless of income, providing survivors more equal access to exams, according to officials.

Officials reported that counties do not pay exams on behalf of Tribal Nations and that there is a separate process to ensure those exams are paid for by the state.

Officials said that each county pays for exams in different ways. For example, some counties are funded through law enforcement or district attorney's offices, officials reported. Further, each county can use their own funds for exams or apply for reimbursement of up to \$1,000 per claim for treatment, and up to 10 exams or \$10,000 for exams, whichever is less, each fiscal year, officials reported. See also Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 217.160(1)(f), 217.320(2).



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in New Hampshire in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in New Hampshire. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 553 rapes reported to law enforcement in New Hampshire in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Health providers can seek reimbursement for exams from the Victims' Compensation Program or the survivor's insurance, including Medicaid or Medicare, if the survivor chooses to bill insurance. The Program can also reimburse survivors for some related medical treatments. See N. H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 21-M:8-c; N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann., Jus §§ 605.13, 605.01.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from New Hampshire Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey did not respond to the questions about what funding sources they used to cover the cost of exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported in response to our survey question that there are no caps for exams. Officials did not respond to our survey question about caps for related medical treatments.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

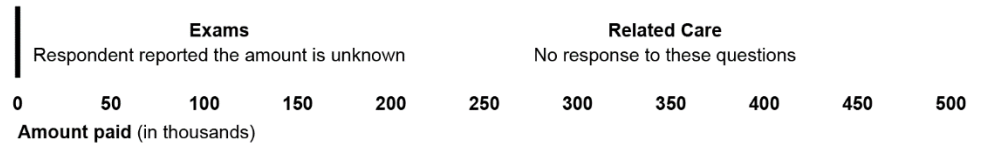
The New Hampshire Victims' Compensation Program, administered by the New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General, and, in some cases, insurance providers, are responsible for covering the cost of exams. The Victims' Compensation Program is responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program did not respond to our survey questions on the amount paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams or related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NEW HAMPSHIRE PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the New Hampshire Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey said they do not know how much they paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials did not respond to our survey questions on the amount paid in fiscal year 2022 related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the New Hampshire Victims' Compensation Program who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## NEW JERSEY

Counties are responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Fund, administered by the New Jersey Attorney General. The Victims of Crime Compensation Office is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022. However, officials from the Attorney General's Office reported spending approximately \$3,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 on exams. Officials from the Victims of Crime Compensation Office reported spending \$66,202 in fiscal year 2022 on related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in New Jersey in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in New Jersey, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,557 rapes reported to law enforcement in New Jersey in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Counties cover exam costs for sexual assault survivors through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Fund. See N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-59. County prosecutors provide the exam kits to health care facilities, according to state standards. There are 21 counties in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office can also reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-44(c)(4).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds for exams and federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant and state victims of crime and appropriation funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported exam costs have no cap, but the cap for related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim. Other caps include

- \$20,000 for direct victim counseling,
- \$7,000 for a secondary survivor or family counseling, and
- \$10 per day roundtrip transportation costs for medical visits with \$3,000 cap per claim.

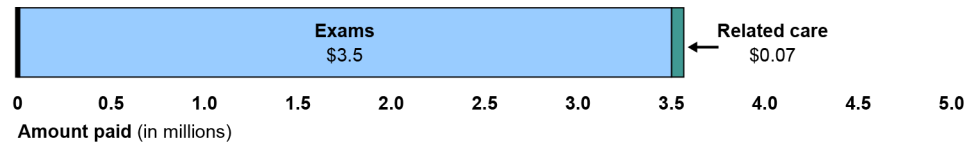
Given that counties may cover some exam costs, no single entity knows the full range of funding sources used across the state.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NEW JERSEY PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office who responded to our survey reported that the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Fund spent approximately \$3,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 on exams. Officials from the Victims of Crime Compensation Office reported that they spent \$66,202 in fiscal year 2022 on related medical treatments. Victims of Crime Compensation Office officials reported that they did not receive payment requests for many of the treatments listed in the above table for fiscal year 2022. Officials reported that they also cover the cost of a residential counseling facility, physical therapy, and hearing aids.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

According to state standards for providing services to sexual assault survivor, each county has a Sexual Assault Response Team. Survivors can seek treatment at any health care facility, but not all facilities have a response team or provide specialized services, according to state standards.

We interviewed officials from a New Jersey survivor advocacy organization who said survivors, particularly from vulnerable populations, are sometimes charged for related medical treatments (e.g., HIV prophylaxis, follow-up medical care). Officials said the payment process is not as streamlined as it may appear, and survivors have reported being billed and paying for exams, primarily due to hospital billing errors. Officials said that while the errors are corrected, the responsibility may still fall on the survivor to seek out assistance to have the costs covered.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Department of Health and, according to officials, the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission is responsible for covering the cost of sexual assault survivors' exams. The Commission is also responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments. Officials from the Commission reported spending \$115,450 in fiscal year 2022 on exams.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in New Mexico in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in New Mexico. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,153 rapes reported to law enforcement in New Mexico in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Mental Health Division of the Department of Health covers exam costs. See N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 29-11-3, 29-11-7. Survivors can seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Crime Victims Reparation Commission. See N.M. Stat. Ann. § 31-22-4.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Reparation Commission who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime, department of health and mental health, and general purpose or revenue funds for exams.

Officials from the Commission reported using these funds as well as federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant and Violence Against Women Act Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

Officials from the Commission reported that it does not have a cap for exams.

The Commission's cap for related medical treatments is \$20,000, with some exceptions. See N.M. Stat. Ann. § 31-22-14(B).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NEW MEXICO PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission reported they spent \$115,450 in fiscal year 2022 for exams, but that they did not know how much they spent in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that New Mexico developed a bill of rights for sexual assault survivors that helps to ensure survivors are not charged for exams.

Officials also reported that compensation applications submitted with reports from a sexual assault nurse examiner are considered eligible for other expenses related to the assault.





Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in New York in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in New York, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 5,805 rapes reported to law enforcement in New York in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

A survivor can choose to have their insurance billed for an exam. Alternatively, hospitals or exam providers directly bill the Office of Victim Services for exams. The Office can also reimburse survivors for some related medical treatments. See N.Y. Exec. Law §§ 624, 631(13)(a), (b); see also N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 9, § 525.12(h)(2).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Office of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported the following caps per claim:

- \$800 for exam conducted without a kit.
- \$1,200 for exams using a kit.
- \$1,500 for exams, with or without a kit, for survivors 18 or older and partial HIV prophylaxis treatment.
- \$2,500 for exams, with or without a kit, for survivors under 18 and full HIV prophylaxis treatment.

See also N.Y. Exec. Law § 631(13)(b).

Officials reported that it does not have caps for related medical treatment for eligible survivors.

## NEW YORK

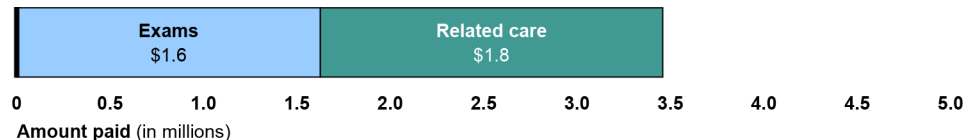
Public or private insurers and the New York Office of Victim Services are responsible for covering the cost of exams, as well as some related medical treatments. Officials from the Office reported spending \$1,625,124 in fiscal year 2022 for exams, including HIV post-exposure prophylaxis medication, and \$1,833,590 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NEW YORK PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the New York Office of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported that the Office spent \$1,625,124 in fiscal year 2022 on exams, including HIV post-exposure prophylaxis medication, and \$1,833,590 on related medical treatments. Officials reported that the Office's database cannot tabulate costs for specific related medical treatments. Officials also reported that payments made during the federal fiscal year do not necessarily reflect services provided during the calendar year, as providers had some time to submit claims for reimbursement until the end of 2022.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the Office of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported that they will cover the cost of exams provided in New York, even if the assault occurred in another state. However, if a survivor is assaulted in New York and travels to another state for care, New York will not automatically cover the cost of the exam. If the state where the exam is performed requires that the assault also occurred in that state, then the survivor may apply to the Office of Victim Services to request reimbursement for the exam conducted out-of-state, officials reported.

Officials also reported that having a central system for both victim compensation and exam claims is beneficial for survivors who later seek reimbursement for related medical treatments. However, officials reported that applying for reimbursement for related medical treatment costs may be retraumatizing for the survivor.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in North Carolina in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in North Carolina, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,267 rapes reported to law enforcement in North Carolina in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Health care providers can seek reimbursement for exams from the North Carolina Rape Victim Assistance Program. Survivors can seek reimbursement for related medical treatments outside of the exam from the Crime Victim Compensation Services. See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143B-1200(d)-(f).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victim Compensation Services who responded to our survey reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for exams and related medical treatments.

Crime Victim Compensation Services' cap for exams is \$1,500 maximum per claim with specific caps for the following expenses:

- \$600 for exam provider
- \$500 for hospital or facility fee
- \$400 for other eligible expenses related to the exam.

See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143B-1200(d).

Crime Victim Compensation Services' cap for related medical treatments is \$45,000. See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15B-11(g).

## NORTH CAROLINA

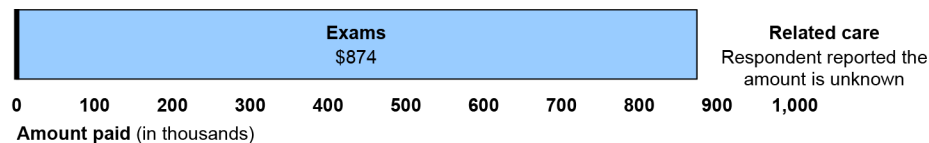
The North Carolina Rape Victim Assistance Program, administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Crime Victim Compensation Services, is responsible for covering the cost of sexual assault survivors' exams and some related treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$874,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NORTH CAROLINA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from Crime Victim Compensation Services who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$874,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. In response to our survey, officials reported that they did not know how much they paid for related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that North Carolina's payment process provides the opportunity for more sexual assault survivors to come forward and seek treatment regarding their victimization. However, officials reported that it can be challenging when health care providers file claims and seek reimbursement from the survivor's insurance company.

Officials also reported that an increase in the Program's funding could allow for more coverage of expenses not currently eligible under North Carolina's Crime Victim Compensation Services.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in North Dakota in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in North Dakota. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 442 rapes reported to law enforcement in North Dakota in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Health care providers can seek reimbursement from the Attorney General for exams. See N.D. Cent. Code § 12.1-34-07(3).

The Crime Victims Compensation Fund, administered by the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, has discretion to reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See N.D. Cent. Code § 54-23.4-06.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Attorney General officials who responded to our survey reported using state insurance regulatory trust funds for exams. Department of Corrections officials reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds, state restitution funds, and state general purpose or revenue funds for related medical treatments.

Attorney General officials reported that their cap for exams ranges from \$100 to \$800 maximum per claim, depending on the type of exam performed.

Attorney General officials also reported a maximum of \$660,000 spent over 2 years to cover all claims for related medical treatments.

Department of Corrections officials reported that their caps per claim for mental health treatment include 30 sessions (or up to \$3,600) for adults and 40 sessions (or up to \$4,800) for minors.

## NORTH DAKOTA

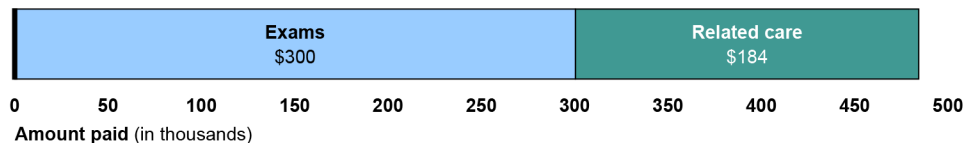
The North Dakota Office of Attorney General is responsible for covering the cost of sexual assault survivors' exams. The Crime Victims Compensation Fund, administered by the North Dakota Department of Corrections, is responsible for covering some related medical treatment. Officials from the Attorney General reported spending \$300,400 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from the Department of Corrections reported spending \$183,947 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NORTH DAKOTA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the North Dakota Office of Attorney General who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$300,400 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from the Department of Corrections reported that they spent \$183,947 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the North Dakota Department of Corrections who responded to our survey reported that travel to receive mental health counseling treatment must be more than 150 miles round trip to be eligible for reimbursement.

Department of Corrections officials reported that the Crime Victims Compensation Fund can reimburse an accredited children's advocacy center for providing a forensic interview of a child. Officials said these cases are paid at 80 percent, and the Attorney Generals' office would pay the remaining 20 percent for the interview, in addition to paying the cost of the exam.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Ohio in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Ohio, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 5,692 rapes reported to law enforcement in Ohio in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The health care provider that conducts the exam must submit a request for reimbursement to the Ohio Attorney General. See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2907.28(A)(2).

The survivor may also apply to the Crime Victim Compensation Program for reimbursement for related medical treatments. See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2743.66.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program used federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime and general purpose or revenue funds for exams. Officials reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state general purpose or revenue funds for related medical treatments.

The Crime Victims Compensation Program has a cap of \$632 for exams and \$2,500 for HIV prophylaxis per claim. See Ohio Admin. Code 109:7-1-02. Officials reported that survivors can apply to this Program for reimbursement of up to \$50,000 per claim for some related medical treatments.

## OHIO

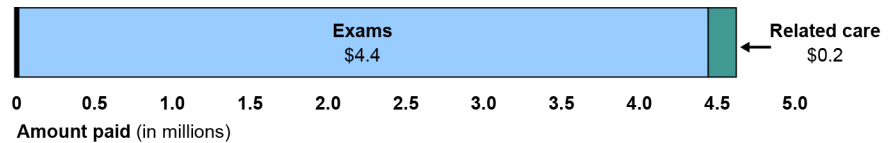
The Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program, administered by the Ohio Attorney General, is responsible for covering exam costs and some related medical treatments for sexual assault survivors. Survivors can also apply to the Crime Victim Compensation Program, also administered by the Attorney General, for reimbursement for related medical treatments. Officials from the Ohio Attorney General reported spending \$4,442,510 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$180,372 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID OHIO PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Ohio Attorney General who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$4,442,510 in fiscal year 2022 for exams (which includes HIV prophylaxis) and \$180,372 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that health care providers must ensure that the exam kit is completed fully and that the claim is submitted with supporting documentation, such as itemized statements, within required time frames to qualify for reimbursement. Further, officials reported that all assaults must be reported to law enforcement, but adult survivors can remain anonymous.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Oklahoma in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Oklahoma. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,313 rapes reported to law enforcement in Oklahoma in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Program covers the cost of exams and may cover some related medical treatments for survivors of sexual assault. Exams are paid regardless of whether a survivor has insurance. See Okla. Stat. tit. 21, §§ 142.20(A), (C), 142.3; Okla. Admin. Code § 185:15-1-6(a).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments. Officials also reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

The Program’s cap for the exam and related medical treatments increased as of November 1, 2023. Specifically, the cap for exam costs includes \$800 for exam provider fees and \$100 for exam-related medications, and the cap for related medical treatments is \$25,000 per claim, with some exceptions. See Okla. Stat. tit. 21, §§ 142.20(A), 142.13.

## OKLAHOMA

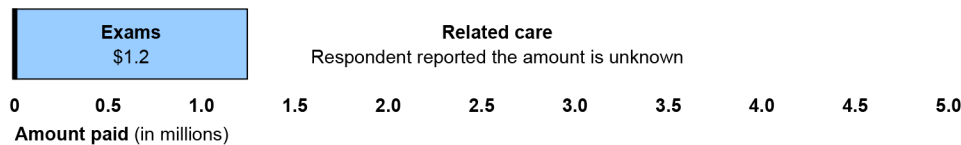
The Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Program is responsible for covering costs for exams and may cover some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending \$1,244,823 in fiscal year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID OKLAHOMA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$1,244,823 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials reported that they did not know how much they spent on related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a limitation to their current victim compensation data system is having to access multiple databases to compile reports on how much they paid for exams and related medical treatments.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## OREGON

The Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency Medical Response Fund, administered by the Oregon Department of Justice, is responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Fund reported spending \$1,122,327 for exams in fiscal year 2022 and \$493,256 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Oregon in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Oregon. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 1,722 rapes reported to law enforcement in Oregon in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Oregon Department of Justice covers exams and some related medical treatments. See Or. Rev. Stat. § 147-397(1); Or. Admin. R. 137-084-0020. Survivors may also seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Oregon Crime Victims' Compensation Program. See Or. Rev. Stat. § 147.015.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Fund who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime and general purpose or revenue funds for exams and some related medical treatments. The Fund's caps per claim include

- \$475 for exams used as part of evidence collection or \$215 for exams not used as evidence;
- \$125 for STI prophylaxis;
- \$70 for emergency contraception, including pregnancy testing;
- \$95 for exam provider and physician fees;
- Up to \$2,000 combined for 5 days of HIV medication (paid at 50 percent) and all other medical services (after workers compensation); and
- Five counseling sessions with maximum amounts dependent upon the provider's license.

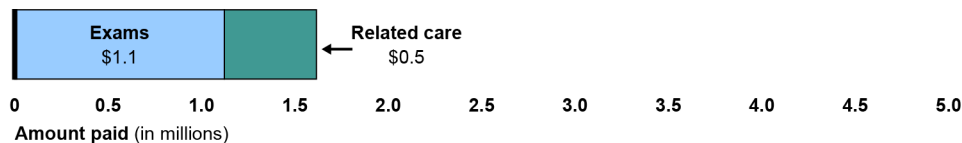
See Or. Admin. R. 137-084-0020(1).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID OREGON PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Oregon Department of Justice who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$1,122,327 for exams in fiscal year 2022 and \$493,256 for related medical treatments. The Fund covers these costs only if the sexual assault occurred in Oregon and the exam is conducted within 7 days of the assault, officials reported.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that if the Fund is made aware that a survivor received a bill in error, it works with the hospital to ensure the survivor does not have to pay.

Officials reported that a limitation to the Fund is that it does not cover all treatments related to a sexual assault. For example, it does not cover any follow-up treatments other than counseling. Officials reported that survivors who received services not covered by the Fund could apply for reimbursement from Oregon's Crime Victims' Compensation Program.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Pennsylvania in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Pennsylvania, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,828 rapes reported to law enforcement in Pennsylvania in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Office of Victims' Services reimburses hospitals or other licensed health care providers for exams and related medications administered following a sexual assault. See 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 11.707(h)(1). The Victims Compensation Assistance Program can reimburse a survivor who is "erroneously billed" and, upon application from the survivor, may cover some related medical expenses. See 37 Pa. Code § 411.42(b)(3)(iv); 28 Pa. Code § 117.56.

Survivors may opt to use their insurance. See 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 11.707(h)(1). In response to our survey, officials reported that the Program has a claim type in which the survivor does not have to report their assault. The survivor is only eligible for counseling expenses under this claim, which are paid directly to the provider.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

The Program has a cap of \$1,000 for exam related expenses; \$35,000 for related medical treatments; \$5,000 for adult survivors' counseling services; and \$10,000 for minor survivors' counseling services per claim. See 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 11.707(b); see also 37 Pa. Code §§ 411.41, 411.42(b)(3)(i).

## PENNSYLVANIA

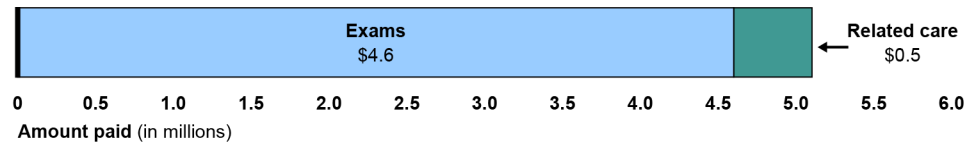
Insurers and the Office of Victims' Services in the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, which administers the Victims Compensation Assistance Program, are responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported spending approximately \$4,600,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$503,000 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID PENNSYLVANIA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Pennsylvania Victims Compensation Assistance Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent approximately \$4,600,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$503,000 for related medical treatments. Officials stated that exam payments are the largest expense type for the Program.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported claims must be filed with the Program within 1 year of the crime. The assault does not need to be reported, but the forensic evidence collected must be given to law enforcement, officials reported.

Officials reported that state policy allows the Program to pay for exams for survivors who were assaulted outside of the state only if the survivor is a resident of and received their exam in Pennsylvania.

Officials also reported that providers sometimes erroneously bill survivors for exams. When this occurs, the Program informs the provider of the correct billing process and the survivor that they are not responsible for these expenses.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Rhode Island in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Rhode Island. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 416 rapes reported to law enforcement in Rhode Island in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials reported that the Crime Victim Compensation Program will first bill a survivor's private insurance, if applicable, followed by other public sources for reimbursement (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, workers' compensation). See also 120-00 R.I. Code R. § 2.8(A)(2)(b)(1)-(2), (e). Officials explained that the Program will pay for the exam without first billing insurance to guard the privacy of younger survivors who are on their parents' insurance.

A survivor can seek compensation for medical expenses, which officials reported may include the exam or related medical treatments, from the Rhode Island Crime Victim Compensation Program. See also R.I. Gen. Laws § 12-25-19, 120-00 R.I. Code R. § 2.8.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

The Crime Victim Compensation Program reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for both exams and related medical treatments. The Program also used local law enforcement funds for related medical treatments.

The Program has a cap of \$25,000 for related medical treatments per claim. See 120-00 R.I. Code R. § 2.8(A)(1)(A).

## RHODE ISLAND

After insurance or other public sources are billed, the Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Office of the Rhode Island General Treasurer, may cover exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported that they spent about \$3,540 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$166,238 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID RHODE ISLAND PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Rhode Island Crime Victim Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$3,540 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. In response to our survey, an official reported that the Program pays any services related to the sexual assault that were charged with the initial hospital visit. Officials reported that they spent \$166,238 in fiscal year 2022 on related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Crime Victim Compensation Program has a very good relationship with local health care providers and hospitals. Officials reported that the Program assists survivors with filling out the required forms to ensure that expenses related to the exam are covered.

Officials reported that the Program's Treasury and Rhode Island hospitals have a direct billing procedure to the Crime Victim Compensation Program that ensures a survivor will not be charged for the exam or related medical treatments that are incurred during the initial hospital visit.





Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in South Carolina in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in South Carolina. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,019 rapes reported to law enforcement in South Carolina in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Upon completion of an exam, the health care provider submits a claim for reimbursement to the Office of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services, which administers the Department of Crime Victim Compensation. See S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1350(C).

In addition, survivors of sexual assault can seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Department. See S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1210.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Department of Crime Victim Compensation who responded to our survey reported using both state victims of crime and general purpose or revenue funds for exams. Officials reported that they use federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and in a given year, will likely draw from multiple state funding sources, including state victims of crime funds and general purpose or revenue funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that if all treatments are performed at the time of the exam, the Department has a cap up to \$1,490 per claim. The Department also has a cap of \$15,000 for related medical treatments. See S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1180(C).

## SOUTH CAROLINA

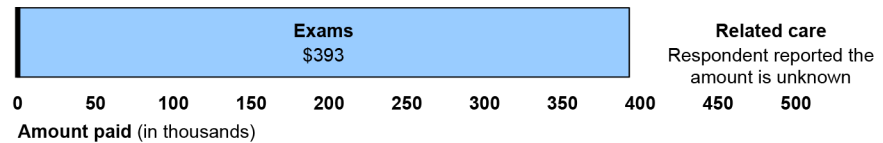
The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General administers the Department of Crime Victim Compensation, which is responsible for covering exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Department reported spending approximately \$392,888 in fiscal year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID SOUTH CAROLINA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the South Carolina Department of Crime Victim Compensation who responded to our survey reported that they spent approximately \$392,888 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials also reported that the Department's data system is outdated and unable to track or sort data of certain funding sources, ages of individuals who received an exam, and medical expenses. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that some exam providers in South Carolina will bill survivors and their insurance providers without informing the Department of Crime Victim Compensation. When this occurs, the Department will contact the provider to have them refund the survivor and the survivor's insurance, as well as have the provider send the sexual assault protocol to the Department to consider payment.

Officials also reported that when survivors report to the hospital to seek treatment, they can submit an anonymous claim to receive reimbursement for related medical treatments.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Counties are responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors. Officials reported that exam kits are provided by the South Dakota Department of Health. Further, survivors may seek reimbursement for some related medical treatments from the South Dakota Crime Victims' Compensation Program, administered by the Department of Public Safety. Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022. However, officials from the Department of Health reported that they spent \$18,510 in fiscal year 2022 for exam kits.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in South Dakota in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in South Dakota. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 508 rapes reported to law enforcement in South Dakota in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the state's Department of Health provides the forensic exam evidence collection kits to counties. Counties cover exam costs for sexual assault crimes committed within their jurisdiction. See S.D. Codified Laws §§ 22-22-26, 22-22-26.2. There are 66 counties in South Dakota.

Additionally, the South Dakota Crime Victims' Compensation Program may pay for some related medical treatments. See S.D. Codified Laws § 23A-28B-10.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Department of Health who responded to our survey reported using state Preventive Health Block Grant funds for exam kits. Officials from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance and Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

The Program has a cap of \$15,000 per claim for related medical treatments. See S.D. Codified Laws § 23A-28B-21.

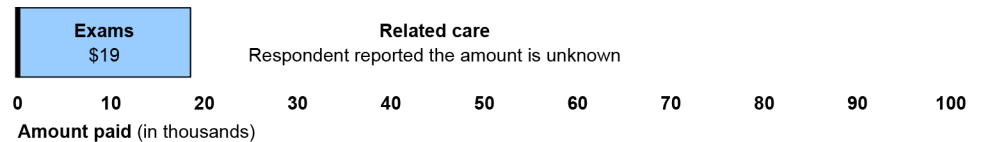
Given that counties are responsible for covering exam costs, there is no single entity that knows the full range of funding sources used across the state.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID SOUTH DAKOTA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

As mentioned, counties are responsible for covering exam costs, so there is no single entity that knows the total amount paid for exams in fiscal year 2022 across the state. Officials from the South Dakota Department of Health who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$18,510 in fiscal year 2022 for exam kits. Officials from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program reported that they did not know how much was paid for related medical treatments. Officials from the two county state's attorneys' offices we met with stated that they paid approximately \$20,000 and \$38,600 in fiscal year 2022. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

One county official we interviewed stated that larger counties may choose not to pay for some treatments since they receive more claims. Additionally, a county official said that there are complicated jurisdictional responsibilities for determining the responsible payer and the leading investigative agency for assaults that occur on tribal lands. One county official also stated that officials in rural areas may advise survivors against receiving exams because too much time has elapsed since the assault for valid evidence collection.

Officials stated that there have been some rare instances where a survivor received a bill. It may have been a misunderstanding between the survivor and law enforcement or an error by the hospital, officials said. If it was a hospital billing error, the county would work with the hospital to correct the error and make the payment for the exam, officials said.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## TENNESSEE

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, administered by the Tennessee Department of Treasury, is responsible for covering exams and most related medical treatments. Officials from the Fund reported that they spent \$2,144,900 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$49,602 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Tennessee in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Tennessee, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,694 rapes reported to law enforcement in Tennessee in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

All exam claims submitted by the health care provider are eligible for payment from the Tennessee Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Survivors can also seek reimbursement for related medical treatments from the Fund. See Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 29-13-118(b)(1), 29-13-105.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund who responded to our survey reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for exams and related medical treatments.

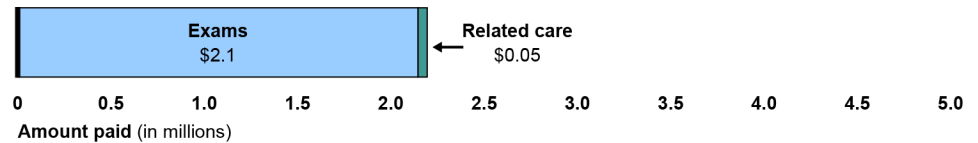
The Fund reimburses exam providers up to \$1,000 per exam. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-13-118(d). Officials reported that the Fund also pays up to \$32,000 per claim for related medical treatments. See also Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-13-106(e), (h).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID TENNESSEE PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Tennessee Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$2,144,900 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$49,602 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials in Tennessee who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Texas in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Texas, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 15,002 rapes reported to law enforcement in Texas in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Health care providers are entitled to reimbursement for exam-related expenses, including the exam kit and exam provider fees. See Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 56A.304(a), 56A.305(a).

The Texas Office of the Attorney General makes payments for treatments provided as part of an exam. See Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 56A.304(a).

Survivors can seek discretionary compensation from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program. See Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 56A.305.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported using both federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for exams and related medical treatments.

Officials said that the Program has a cap of \$1,000 per claim for exams and a cap of \$50,000 for related medical treatments per claim.

## TEXAS

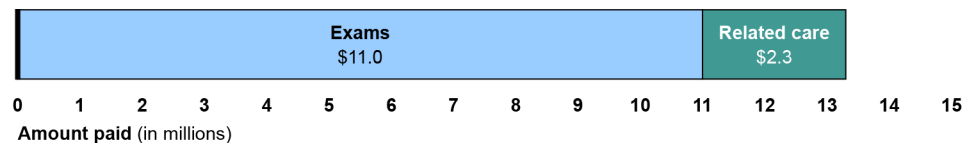
The Texas Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by the Attorney General, is responsible for covering the costs of exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported that they spent approximately \$11,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$2,300,000 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID TEXAS PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Texas Crime Victims Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent approximately \$11,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$2,300,000 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that a benefit of the state's payment practice is having exam expenses billed directly from the exam provider to the Program through an online web portal.

Officials also reported that the Crime Victims Compensation Program pays for related medical treatments provided at the time of the exam through a different business process.



Source: Tindo/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Utah in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Utah. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,010 rapes reported to law enforcement in Utah in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Insurance providers are billed for exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault. See Utah Admin. Code. r. 270-1-28(5)(a)-(b).

For survivors without insurance or remaining costs not covered by insurance, the Utah Office for Victims of Crime covers the cost of exams. The Office may also reimburse exam providers and survivors for some related medical treatments. See Utah Admin. Code r. 270-1-24(1)-(2); Utah Code Ann. § 63M-7-511.

Survivors may seek discretionary compensation from the Office for Victims of Crime. See Utah Code Ann. §§ 63M-7-509, 63M-7-511.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials who responded to our survey reported using state general purpose or revenue funds for both exams and related medical treatments. Officials reported the Office also uses federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that caps per claim include

- up to \$1,250 for exams with photo documentation and up to \$625 for exams without it;
- use of emergency room is paid, up to \$350; and
- 50 percent of the remaining allowable charges without a cap.

## UTAH

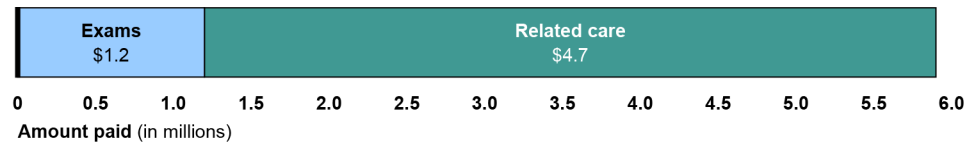
Public and private insurers in Utah as well as the Utah Office for Victims of Crime are responsible for covering the cost of exams. The Utah Office for Victims of Crime is responsible for covering the costs for exams not covered by insurers and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Office for Victims of Crime reported that they spent approximately \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and approximately \$4,700,000 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID UTAH PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Utah Office for Victims of Crime who responded to our survey reported that they spent approximately \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and approximately \$4,700,000 for related medical treatments. In response to our survey, officials reported that the Office pays the remaining patient responsibility after insurers pay.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the exam provider must report the exam to law enforcement, but sexual assault survivors in Utah are not required to report their assault to or cooperate with law enforcement or prosecution.

Officials also reported that if the sexual assault survivor was incarcerated at the time of the crime, the prison or jail where the survivor was incarcerated would be responsible for payment for the exam and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Office uses the Public Employee Health Plans' common fee schedule allowable amounts for caps of certain related medical treatments per claim. If there is no allowable amount for a particular treatment or expense, such as the physicians' bills, the Office pays 50 percent of the billed amount for that treatment or expense, according to officials.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

# VERMONT

Public and private insurers in Vermont are responsible for covering the costs of exams for sexual assault survivors with insurance. The Sexual Assault Program, administered by the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, is responsible for covering expenses for exams and some related medical treatments not covered by insurance and for the uninsured. Officials from the Center reported that they spent approximately \$89,115 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$660 for related medical treatments.

## HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Vermont in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Vermont. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 238 rapes reported to law enforcement in Vermont in 2022.

## WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Vermont established a memorandum of understanding with health insurers to ensure coverage of survivors' exams. See Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 8, § 4089(a). The Sexual Assault Program, part of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, covers co-pays, deductibles, and follow-up costs related to the assault. See Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 32, § 1407(c)(2). Officials reported that the Program does not require a report to law enforcement.

Through the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, the state bears the costs of exams in cases where the survivor is uninsured, or their insurance does not cover the entire cost. See Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 32, § 1407(b)(c)(1); Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13, §§ 5353, 5359(a).

Survivors may also seek compensation for related medical expenses from the Victim's Compensation Board. See Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13, §§ 5353, 5359(a).

## HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services reported using federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds, VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds, and state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

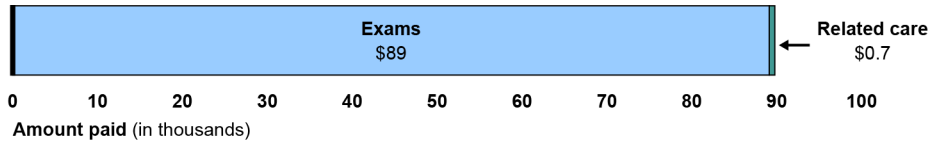
An official reported that the Sexual Assault Program has a cap per claim for 20 mental health counseling sessions, with a maximum rate of \$85 per individual session and \$45 per group session.

## WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MUCH DID VERMONT PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$89,115 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$660 for related medical treatments. Officials stated that the Program's data system does not differentiate medical expenses required as part of the exam and medical treatments administered separately from the exam. In addition, officials reported that the survivor may have initial costs covered under the Sexual Assault Program and then submit a victim compensation claim for further medical coverage, if they choose to report to law enforcement. This is often for coverage of mental health services beyond the 20 sessions allowed under the Sexual Assault Program, according to officials.

## WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that when a survivor's insurance does not cover the cost of the exam, the state pays 60 percent of the bill. Survivors are not billed for the remainder of the balance, officials reported.

Officials reported that Vermont covers costs for sexual assaults that occurred in-state. If a survivor was assaulted out-of-state but received an exam in Vermont, the survivor would not be eligible for coverage in Vermont, officials reported.

Officials reported that in some circumstances, visits can be quite expensive based on the survivor's injuries, potentially burdening the victim compensation and assistance funds that are utilized to cover these expenses. For example, strangulation is being identified more frequently after a sexual assault, and treatment for this can be in the thousands of dollars.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## VIRGINIA

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission administers the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Payment Program, which is responsible for covering exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported that they spent \$1,501,700 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$210,200 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Virginia in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Virginia, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,623 rapes reported to law enforcement in Virginia in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Payment Program covers exams and may cover some related medical treatments for eligible survivors. See Va. Code Ann. §§ 19.2-165.1(B), 19.2-368.11:1(F). A survivor can also seek reimbursement from the Office for Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission's Virginia Victims Fund, officially known as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, for treatments not covered by the Program. See Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-368.11:1(E).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Payment Program reported using state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

Officials reported that the Program has the following caps for exams per claim: 60 percent of eligible charges for "acute" exams performed within 120 hours of the assault; \$1,500 for "non-acute" exams performed after 120 hours has elapsed since the assault; and \$1,000 for follow-up exams.

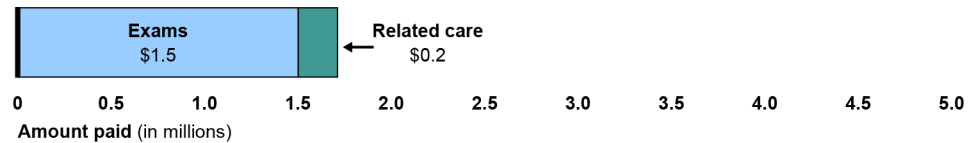
Officials also reported that the Program has memorandums of agreement with healthcare facilities with caps of 60 to 70 percent of the billed amount per claim for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID VIRGINIA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Payment Program who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$1,501,700 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$210,200 for related medical treatments. Officials reported that medical treatment costs paid in fiscal year 2022 included medications, transportation, and ancillary providers. The Program reimburses 100 percent of medication costs, such as prophylaxis, according to the official.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Program has developed close working relationships with exam providers and medical billing providers, ensuring exams are billed timely and all documentation is received to process payment quickly. The official also reported that ongoing training with these exam and billing partners helps to avoid billing patients for exams.

Officials reported that if a survivor received medical treatment at a healthcare facility prior to the exam and their private insurance is registered from that visit, the facility's billing office will sometimes automatically bill the insurance policy that is on file, even though the survivor may have elected to not have their private insurance billed for the exam.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Washington in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Washington, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 3,055 rapes reported to law enforcement in Washington in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Crime Victim Compensation Program within the Washington Department of Labor and Industries covers exam costs. See Wash. Rev. Code § 7.68.170; Wash. Admin. Code § 296-30-170.

The Crime Victim Compensation Program also covers related medical treatments not covered as part of the exam, but a survivor must complete the application, including reporting to law enforcement and meet other eligibility criteria, according to officials. See also Wash. Rev. Code § 7.68.060(6)(a); Wash. Admin. Code § 296-30-170.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Crime Victim Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported they used state general purpose or revenue funds and federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

The Program's caps for exams and related medical treatments are dependent upon the Program's fee schedule, which may reduce the amount billed per claim. See Wash. Admin. Code § 296-30-090.

## WASHINGTON

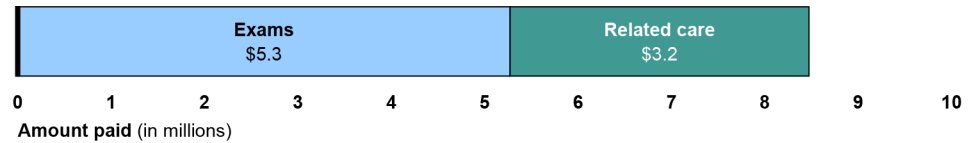
The Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Department of Labor and Industries, is responsible for covering costs for exams and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Program reported that they spent \$5,270,210 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$3,203,116 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID WASHINGTON PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from Washington's Crime Victim Compensation Program who responded to our survey reported they spent \$5,270,210 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$3,203,116 for related medical treatments. Officials reported that any treatments not covered as part of the exam are covered by the Program as related medical treatments, but survivors must submit a formal claim and report their assault to law enforcement for related treatments to be covered.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that sexual assault survivors in Washington are not required to report the crime to law enforcement.

Officials reported that a benefit to Washington's payment process is survivors can receive exams without the fear of having to involve law enforcement immediately or ever if they are unable or unwilling.

However, officials reported that a challenge is the high turnover of personnel in hospitals' billing departments. Officials reported that due to this turnover, the Crime Victim Compensation Program must routinely educate new billing staff to ensure survivors are not billed.





Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute is responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors using the Forensic Medical Examination Fund. The Crime Victims Compensation Fund, administered by the West Virginia Legislative Claims Commission, is responsible for covering costs for some related medical treatments. Officials from the Fund reported that they spent \$75,000 in fiscal year 2022 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in West Virginia in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in West Virginia. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 789 rapes reported to law enforcement in West Virginia in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute reimburses licensed medical facilities for exams. See W. Va. Code § 61-8B-16(a).

Eligible sexual assault survivors can receive reimbursement for some related medical treatments from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund. See W. Va. Code §§ 14-2A-10, 14-2A-14.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Prosecuting Attorneys Institute who responded to our survey reported that the Forensic Medical Examination Fund used state general purpose or revenue funds for exams. Officials reported that the Crime Victim Compensation Fund used federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state victims of crime funds for related medical treatments.

The Forensic Medical Examination Fund has a cap of \$1,000 for exams per claim. See W. Va. Code R. § 168-1-3.1.8.

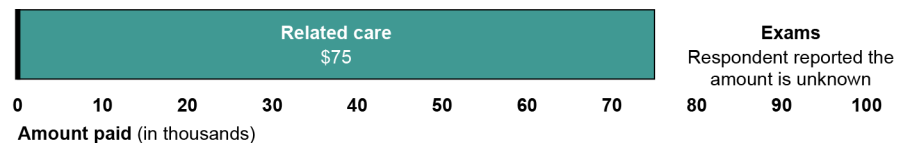
The Crime Victims Compensation Fund has a cap of \$35,000 for related medical treatments. See W. Va. Code § 14-2A-14(g)(1).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID WEST VIRGINIA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute who responded to our survey reported that they did not know how much the Forensic Medical Examination Fund spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams. However, officials reported that the Crime Victim Compensation Fund spent \$75,000 in fiscal year 2022 for some related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.

# WISCONSIN



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Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Wisconsin in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey estimates the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Wisconsin, but the estimate is not yet published. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 2,273 rapes reported to law enforcement in Wisconsin in 2022.

## WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Wisconsin Department of Justice reimburses health care providers for exams and reimburses survivors who are eligible and apply for compensation for related medical treatments. See Wis. Stat. §§ 949.20, 949.26(1), 949.08. Officials reported that the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Fund pays for exams for survivors who do not wish to involve law enforcement, are uninsured, or do not want their insurance provider billed. See also Wis. Stat. § 949.26(1). Otherwise, the Crime Victim Compensation Program pays for exams. See Wis. Stat. § 949.26(1m).

## HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials reported that the Fund and Crime Victim Compensation Program used federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds and state general purpose or revenue funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

The Fund pays up to two-thirds the amount billed for eligible services. Officials reported that the cap for exams and related medical treatments is \$1,451.28 per claim, which varies in accordance with the state legislature's Consumer Price Index. See Wis. Admin. Code Jus. § 11.16(4).

The Crime Victim Compensation Program's cap for related medical treatments is \$40,000 per claim. See Wis. Stat. § 949.08(1m)(a).

# WISCONSIN

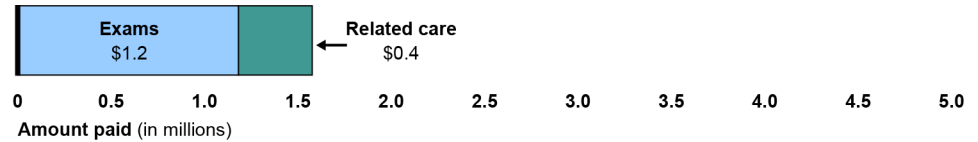
The Wisconsin Department of Justice administers the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Fund, which is responsible for covering the cost of exams, and the Crime Victim Compensation Program, which is also responsible for covering exams as well as some related medical treatments. Officials from the Department of Justice reported that they spent \$1,181,701 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$395,008 for related medical treatments.

## WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

## HOW MUCH DID WISCONSIN PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials who responded to our survey reported that the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Fund paid \$1,159,663 in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials reported that the Crime Victim Compensation Program spent \$22,038 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$395,008 for related medical treatments. Officials stated that the Program covers ambulance transport expenses, including air ambulance, but does not cover transportation expenses for scheduled medical appointments.

## WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that having a state-specific program in statute helps to (1) build the framework of the Fund and (2) reassure survivors that exams are covered. Officials reported that the Fund works with survivor advocates and health care professionals to spread awareness about the Fund and how it supports survivors.

Officials reported that hospitals might erroneously bill survivors before the Fund processes the claim or a third of the victim compensation claim, which is typically written off as a courtesy to all crime survivors. The Program helps to resolve these issues, officials reported.

Officials reported that each hospital may bill the same treatment at different prices, affecting how much the Fund can cover for other treatments because it can only pay up to two-thirds of the allowable or eligible expenses. For example, one hospital might bill a medication for \$10 and another might bill it for \$200.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## WYOMING

The Attorney General's Division of Victim Services is responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors. The Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by the Division, is responsible for covering some costs for related medical treatments. Officials from the Division reported that they spent \$175,560 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$278,574 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Wyoming in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Wyoming. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 365 rapes reported to law enforcement in Wyoming in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Exams costs are to be billed to the Wyoming Division of Victim Services. Related medical treatments not paid by the Division or another source may be eligible for reimbursement from the Crime Victims Compensation Program. See Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 6-2-309(g)-(h), (j), 1-40-101 et seq.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Division of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds, state general purpose or revenue funds and state victims of crime funds for both exams and related medical treatments.

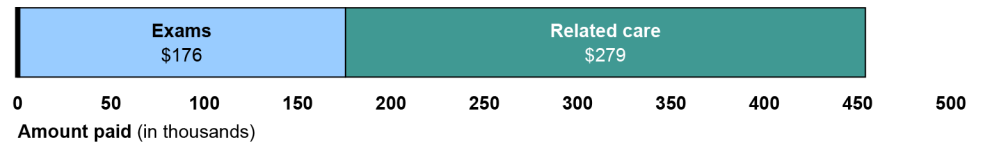
The Program does not have a cap for exams. The cap for related medical treatments is \$15,000, with an additional \$10,000 for "catastrophic injury" (i.e., life flights) per claim. See Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-40-109(d)-(e).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	✓
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	✓
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	✓	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID WYOMING PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Wyoming Attorney General's Division of Victim Services who responded to our survey reported they spent \$175,560 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$278,574 for related medical treatments. Officials said survivors have 1 year following their assault to file a claim with the Crime Victims Compensation Program. The Program then keeps claims open for up to 3 years from the date of the crime to cover medical and mental health expenses related to the victimization, officials reported.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Division officials who responded to our survey reported that Wyoming's statute changed in 2019 to remove the burden of paying for exams from local law enforcement agencies. Officials said the change resulted from concern that smaller agencies may have been worried about constrained budgets and discouraged survivors from requesting exams.

Officials reported that the Program may not capture expenses paid by other sources. For example, Wyoming has a large American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population, and the official noted that the federal Indian Health Service typically covers exams for AI/AN survivors who are members of federally-recognized Tribal Nations.



Source: gladder/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in American Samoa in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in American Samoa. In addition, the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not currently estimate the number of rapes reported to law enforcement in American Samoa in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials from the American Samoa Criminal Justice Planning Agency who responded to our survey reported that the American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services is responsible for covering the cost of exams, and the Agency covers the cost of some related medical treatments.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Agency who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance and Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Violence Against Women formula grant funds for related medical treatments.

Officials reported that there is no cap for exams or related medical treatments.

## AMERICAN SAMOA

The American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services is responsible for covering the cost of exams, according to officials. Officials said the American Samoa Criminal Justice Planning Agency is responsible for covering the cost of some related medical treatments. Officials from the Agency reported that they did not know how much they spent in fiscal year 2022 on related medical treatments.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID AMERICAN SAMOA PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Agency reported that they did not know how much they spent in fiscal year 2022 on related medical treatments. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials from the Agency who responded to our survey did not report additional information regarding their experiences with covering the cost of exams and related medical treatments following a sexual assault.



Source: gladder/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## GUAM

Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center, administered by the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and the Guam Police Department are responsible for covering exam costs, according to officials. The Guam Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission may be responsible for covering costs for some related medical treatments. Officials reported that the Commission received no applications for sexual assault crimes in fiscal year 2022 and thus awarded no payments to cover related medical treatments for sexual assault survivors in fiscal year 2022.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Guam in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Guam. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 50 rapes reported to law enforcement in Guam in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

Officials reported that the Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center and Guam Police Department cover exam costs. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission has discretion to reimburse survivors for related medical treatments. See 8 Guam Code Ann. §§ 161.15, 161.50(a) 161.60.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center officials reported that they use federal and local funds and funds from the Sexual Assault and Abuse Resource Center Association for exams. Further, there are currently no caps for exams.

Officials reported that the Commission is currently using its federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula Grant funds for fiscal year 2020 for award reimbursement. As such, VOCA funds for fiscal year 2022 have not been used.

Officials also reported that the Commission's past awards did not indicate reimbursement for sexual assault survivors. This does not mean that the survivors are not covered but that the Commission did not award compensation for medical expenses specifically to sexual assault survivors, according to officials.

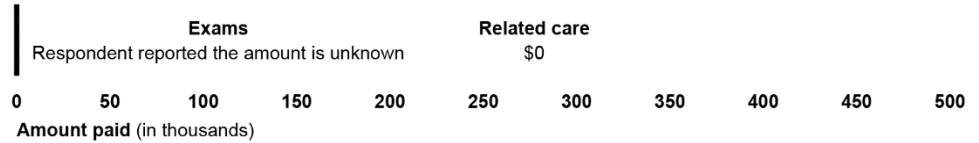
The Commission's cap for related medical treatments per claim is \$20,000. See 8 Guam Code Ann. § 161.90(b).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID GUAM PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from Healing Hearts reported that they do not know how much was spent in fiscal year 2022 for exams. Officials from Guam's Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission reported that the Commission did not receive applications for reimbursement for treatments related to sexual assault in fiscal year 2022. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 for exams and related medical treatments is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Guam officials reported in our survey that compensation applications are subject to eligibility requirements, and the ultimate determination of award is made by the Commission.

The Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, and the Guam Police Department work together to provide survivors who come to the wellness center or hospital for an exam within 48 to 72 hours from the time of their assault for viable evidence collection. Officials from Healing Hearts Crisis Center reported that the time frame can go up to 96 hours for adults.

Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center officials reported that survivors are referred to the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services to receive further STI treatment.



Source: gladder/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in the Northern Mariana Islands in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition, the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not currently estimate the number of rapes reported to law enforcement in the Northern Mariana Islands in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence pays for exams, and the primary health care provider—the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation—pays for related medical treatments, according to officials.

There is a memorandum of understanding between the Coalition, the Corporation, Karidat Social Services, the Attorney General, and the Departments of Public Safety and Community and Cultural Affairs establishing a Sexual Assault Response Team for ensuring that survivors are not billed for their exams. This memorandum governs the process for covering exam costs, according to Coalition officials. See also 6 N. Mar. I. Code § 9105(c)(7).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Coalition officials reported using both federal and local funds to pay for exams and related medical treatments. Specifically, Coalition officials reported using a federal Victims of Crime Act Grant to fund care bags for sexual assault survivors.

Officials reported that the Coalition pays an exam provider up to \$450 per exam.

## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

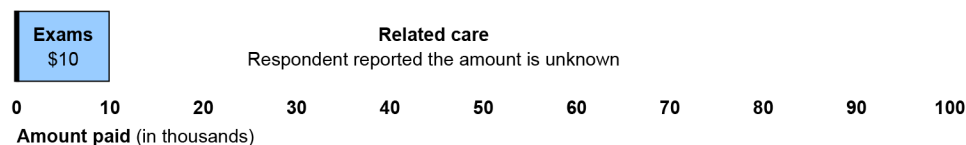
The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is responsible for covering exam costs for sexual assault survivors. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation is responsible for covering some related medical treatments. Officials from the Coalition reported that they spent \$9,900 in calendar year 2022 for exams.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	✓	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	✓
Exam provider fees	✓	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	✓	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	✓	Emergency room personnel	✓
Toxicology screening	✓	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	✓
Pregnancy testing	✓	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence reported that they spent \$9,900 in calendar year 2022 on exams. The Coalition's system does not record costs by federal fiscal year. Officials stated that mental health care costs are tracked as part of overall exam expenses, but they do not track other related medical treatments specifically, such as dental expenses. The total amount paid in fiscal year 2022 is unknown.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Coalition officials stated that they were unaware of any sexual assault survivors being billed for an exam. However, the territory faces challenges in retaining exam providers due to its geographic isolation, officials stated. To help mitigate this, officials noted that they provide a stipend to exam providers for training.

Officials said other challenges include the lack of any magnetic resonance imaging machines for treating survivors in the territory, nor is there a crime lab for processing collected evidence.



Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

## COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

The Office of Compensation for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Justice, is responsible for covering exam costs and some related medical treatments. Officials from the Puerto Rico Department of Justice reported that they spent \$9,800 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$18,205 for related medical treatments.

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in Puerto Rico in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in Puerto Rico. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 230 rapes reported to law enforcement in Puerto Rico in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

According to the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, Puerto Rico's grant certification indicates that the Office of Compensation for Victims and Witnesses of Crime covers the cost of all exams. See also P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 25, §§ 981f(b), 981h(a).

Survivors of sexual assault can seek reimbursement for related medical expenses from the Office. See P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 25, §§ 981a, 981f(b).

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials from the Office of Compensation for Victims and Witnesses of Crime who responded to our survey reported using federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation formula grant funds for exams and related medical treatments. Officials said they also use federal VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant funds for related medical treatments.

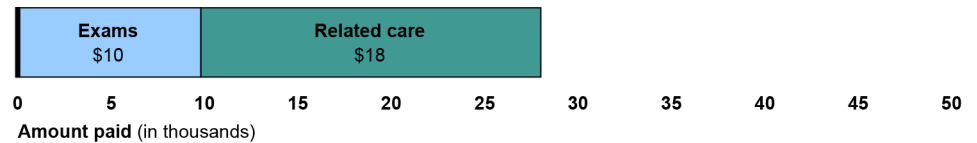
The Office has a cap of \$700 for exams per claim and \$6,000 per person for the exam and related medical treatment combined. See P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 25, § 981h.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	Unknown	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	Unknown
Exam provider fees	Unknown	Emergency contraception	Unknown
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	✓
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	Unknown	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	Unknown	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	✓
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	✓

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID PUERTO RICO PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Office of Compensation for Victims and Witnesses of Crime who responded to our survey reported that they spent \$9,800 in fiscal year 2022 for exams and \$18,205 for related medical treatments.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

In response to our survey, officials reported that Puerto Rico's Help Center for Victims of Rape (Centro de Ayuda a Víctimas de Violación or CAVV) is also responsible for paying for some medical treatments related to a sexual assault.



Fuente: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-107417

### ¿CUÁNTAS AGRESIONES SEXUALES?

Se desconoce el número total de agresiones sexuales en Puerto Rico en 2022. La Encuesta Nacional de Victimización Delictiva no estima actualmente el número de agresiones sexuales denunciadas y no denunciadas en Puerto Rico. Sin embargo, los datos del Negociado Federal de Investigaciones muestran que hubo 230 violaciones que se denunciaron a las fuerzas del orden en Puerto Rico en 2022.

### ¿QUIÉN PAGA LA ATENCIÓN?

Según la Oficina sobre Violencia Contra las Mujeres del Departamento de Justicia, la certificación de subvención de Puerto Rico indica que la Oficina de Compensación y Servicios a las Víctimas y Testigos de Delitos cubre el costo de todos los exámenes. Véase también P.R. Leyes An. tit. 25, §§ 981f(b), 981h(1)(a).

Sobrevivientes de agresiones sexuales pueden solicitar a la Oficina el reembolso de los gastos médicos relacionados. Véase P.R. Leyes An. tit. 25, §§ 981a, 981f(b).

### ¿CÓMO PAGAN?

Los funcionarios de la Oficina de Compensación a las Víctimas y Testigos de Delitos que respondieron a nuestra encuesta informaron de que utilizaron los fondos federales de la subvención de la fórmula de Compensación para Víctimas de la Ley de Víctimas de Delitos (VOCA, por sus siglas en inglés), para exámenes y tratamientos médicos relacionados. Los funcionarios dijeron que también utilizan los fondos federales de la subvención derivada de la fórmula para asistencia a las víctimas, dispuesta en VOCA, para tratamientos médicos relacionados.

La Oficina tiene un tope de \$700 para exámenes por reclamo y de \$6.000 por persona para el examen y el tratamiento médico relacionado combinados. Véase P.R. Leyes An. tit. 25, § 981h.

## ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO

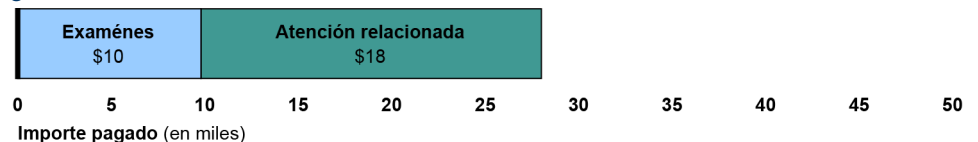
La Oficina de Compensación y Servicios a las Víctimas y Testigos de Delitos, administrada por el Departamento de Justicia de Puerto Rico, es responsable de cubrir los costos de los exámenes y algunos tratamientos médicos relacionados. Los funcionarios del Departamento de Justicia de Puerto Rico informaron que gastaron \$9.800 en el año fiscal 2022 para exámenes y \$18.205 para tratamientos médicos relacionados.

### ¿QUÉ TRATAMIENTOS ESTÁN CUBIERTOS?

Estuche para la recolección de pruebas y suministros relacionados	Se desconoce	Uso de sala de emergencias, clínica u otro centro médico	Se desconoce
Honorarios del proveedor de exámenes	Se desconoce	Anticoncepción de emergencia	Se desconoce
Consejería sobre el VIH y otras infecciones de transmisión sexual (ITS)	Se desconoce	Transporte al proveedor médico para tratamiento (p. ej., ambulancia)	✓
Pruebas de ITS	Se desconoce	Personal de sala de emergencias	Se desconoce
Examen toxicológico	Se desconoce	Tratamiento de lesiones o procedimientos	Se desconoce
Profilaxis para el VIH	Se desconoce	Diagnóstico por imágenes/radiología	Se desconoce
Profilaxis para otras ITS	Se desconoce	Medicamentos/recetas	Se desconoce
Prueba de embarazo	Se desconoce	Atención o tratamiento dental	✓
Otros análisis de laboratorio	Se desconoce	Atención o consejería de salud mental	✓

Fuente: Análisis de la GAO de las respuestas a la encuesta, leyes y políticas estatales y territoriales. | GAO-24-106036 (en inglés)

### ¿CUÁNTO DECLARARON GASTAR LOS PAGADORES DE PUERTO RICO?



Fuente: Análisis de la GAO de las respuestas a la encuesta. | GAO-24-107417

Los funcionarios de la Oficina de Compensación a Víctimas y Testigos de Delitos que respondieron a nuestra encuesta informaron de que gastaron \$9.800 en el año fiscal 2022 para exámenes y \$18.205 para tratamientos médicos relacionados.

### ¿QUÉ HEMOS OÍDO?

En respuesta a nuestra encuesta, los funcionarios reportaron que el Centro de Ayuda a Víctimas de Violación de Puerto Rico (CAVV) también se encarga de pagar algunos tratamientos médicos relacionados con una agresión sexual.





Source: magr80/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MANY SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

The total number of sexual assaults in USVI in 2022 is unknown. The National Crime Victimization Survey does not currently estimate the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults in the USVI. However, Federal Bureau of Investigation data show there were 34 rapes reported to law enforcement in USVI in 2022.

### WHO PAYS FOR CARE?

The USVI Criminal Victims Compensation Commission covers the cost of exams for survivors of sexual assault if they file an incident report with the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department. See V.I. Code Ann. tit. 34 § 206(a). Survivors may seek compensation for related medical treatments if they have reported their assault to the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department. See V.I. Code Ann. tit. 34 §§ 161(a), 163(a).

According to Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, the Virgin Island's grant certification indicates that the territory uses the Virgin Islands General Fund to cover the cost of exams if survivors choose not to report their assault to the police.

### HOW DO THEY PAY?

Officials reported that the Commission did not receive applications for reimbursement for treatments related to sexual assault in fiscal year 2022. As such, officials had no funding sources to report. Officials said it is possible that survivors may have accessed funding through another program, even if they did not have a sexual assault claim.

The Commission's cap for related medical expenses is \$25,000 per claim. See V.I. Code Ann. tit. 34, § 164(a).

## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (USVI)

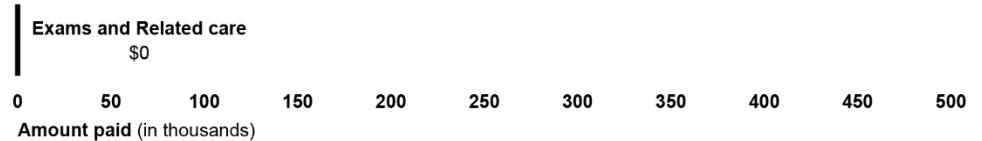
The Virgin Islands Criminal Victims Compensation Commission, administered by the Department of Human Services, is responsible for covering exam costs and some related medical treatments for survivors who report their assault to the police. Officials reported that the Commission received no applications for sexual assault crimes in fiscal year 2022 and thus awarded no payments in fiscal year 2022 to cover exams or related medical treatments for sexual assault survivors.

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE COVERED?

Evidence collection kit and related supplies	Unknown	Use of emergency room, clinic, or other medical facility space	Unknown
Exam provider fees	Unknown	Emergency contraception	✓
Counseling on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Unknown	Transportation to medical provider for treatment (e.g., ambulance)	Unknown
STI testing	Unknown	Emergency room personnel	Unknown
Toxicology screening	Unknown	Injury treatment or procedures	Unknown
HIV prophylaxis	✓	Diagnostic imaging/radiology	Unknown
Other STI prophylaxis	✓	Medication/prescriptions	Unknown
Pregnancy testing	Unknown	Dental care or treatment	Unknown
Other laboratory work	Unknown	Mental health care or counseling	Unknown

Source: GAO analysis of state and territory survey responses, laws, and policies. | GAO-24-106036

### HOW MUCH DID USVI PAYERS REPORT SPENDING?



Source: GAO analysis of survey responses. | GAO-24-106036

Officials from the Virgin Islands Criminal Victims Compensation Commission who responded to our survey reported that the Commission did not receive applications for reimbursement in fiscal year 2022 for exams or treatments related to sexual assault.

### WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Officials reported that if a survivor does not file a claim with the Criminal Victims Compensation Commission, funding for costs related to sexual assault, but outside of medical expenses, might also be covered if the survivor accessed the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services through another program, such as Medicaid or child welfare services. A survivor could receive coverage through these programs for related medical treatment expenses, such as psychological or other services from private providers in which the Department has paid contracts, officials reported.

Officials also reported that the Criminal Victims Compensation Commission is undergoing administrative rebuilding of the program and, with federal technical assistance, aims to ensure all necessary processes are in place to ensure survivors are not billed.

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# Appendix VI: GAO Contact and Staff Acknowledgments

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## GAO Contact

Gretta L. Goodwin, (202) 512-8777 or [goodwing@gao.gov](mailto:goodwing@gao.gov)

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## Staff Acknowledgments

In addition to the individual named above, Sonja S. Ware (Assistant Director), Sarah Williamson (Analyst-In-Charge), Chris Hatscher (Analyst-in-Charge), Robin Nye, Jenna Lada, Nasreen Badat, Michele Fejfar, Eric Hauswirth, Jocelyn Kuo, Samantha Lyew, Samantha Mussell, Rebecca Sero, Janet Temko-Blinder, and Christopher Zubowicz made key contributions to this report.

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