

Montana Department of Justice
Sexual Assault Response Network
Program and Committee



*Annual Report
September 2024*

*A report to the Montana Legislature's
Law and Justice Interim Committee*

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Executive Summary

The 2023 Montana Legislature adopted House Bill No. 79 (HB 79) to establish the Sexual Assault Response Network (SARN) program and committee at the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ). SARN is housed within the Office of Victim Services, a part of the Special Services Bureau of the Division of Criminal Investigation.

After HB 79 went into effect on July 1, 2023, SSB posted the position of SARN coordinator (provided in 44-4-1704, Montana Code Annotated) in October 2023. After completing the interview and background check process, the position was hired in December 2023 and the coordinator started mid-January 2024. This report highlights the coordinator's work since then.

The SARN coordinator has focused on:

- collaborating with the Attorney General's Office to establish members of and administrative processes for the SARN Committee, which held its first meeting on June 12-13, 2024;
- learning about victim-centered, trauma informed sexual assault response best practices and existing sexual assault response resources, activities, and training in Montana;
- building relationships across the state with healthcare, law enforcement, and victim advocate sexual assault responders;
- educating stakeholders about SARN;
- supporting implementation of one-time only grant funded Sexual Assault Kit Initiative training courses for sexual assault nurse examiners, tribal multi-disciplinary teams, law enforcement, and prosecutors between March and July 2024 and sharing additional resources with attendees post-training, as appropriate;
- assisting with basic officer survivor interview scenarios at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy;
- assuming responsibility for administering the Montana Sexual Assault Kit Track System and reconciling the state's kit inventory to ensure availability, repurposing expired kits for use in training, and redistributing kits that expire October 1, 2024, to maximize their use;
- assuming responsibility for the Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program at the DOJ, which paid an historic amount in reimbursements to healthcare facilities for the cost of sexual assault exams on behalf of 85 survivors in Fiscal Year 2024; and
- collaborating with the Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing, the Indian Health Service, the Montana Children's Alliance, and other partners to share Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner training implementation strategies, successes, and lessons learned.



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Background

The 2023 Montana Legislature passed HB 79 unanimously in the House and the Senate. The overwhelming support for establishing the SARN program and committee speaks to the state’s and the DOJ’s continued dedication to seeking justice and healing for survivors of sexual violence.

The most recent National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey conducted in 2016 and 2017, found that almost 27% of women and nearly 4% of men in the United States were raped or experienced attempted rape in their lifetime (Basile, 2022). In Montana, the survey results estimated 33% of women experienced rape in their lifetime (Smith, 2023). When considering more population-specific data, the survey found that almost 47% of American Indian and Alaska Native women were raped in their lifetime (Basile, 2022). A different study in North Carolina found women with a disability were four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women without a disability (Office for Victims of Crime, 2024).



IN MONTANA, AN ESTIMATED 33% OF WOMEN EXPERIENCE RAPE IN THEIR LIFETIME.






FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN, THE RATE JUMPS TO 47%.

(Smith, 2023; Basile, 2022)

Since the 2000s, the DOJ has enhanced its practices to assist community responders, organizations, associations, and criminal justice partners with improving the overall response to sexual violence. The importance of doing so is punctuated by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control’s declaration that sexual violence is a complex public health problem that can affect persons across their lifespan. Sexual violence is associated with negative mental health outcomes, chronic health conditions, and risky health behaviors, including short- and long-term depression, anxiety, PTSD, suicidal ideation, disability, sexually transmitted diseases, and other health conditions (Basile, 2022).

SARN recognizes the prevalence and complexities of sexual violence, the impact of trauma on survivors and responders, and that lasting change takes time. SARN, even in its infancy, is demonstrating success with increasing communication among criminal justice responders, increasing multi-agency collaboration, energizing stakeholders, and building relationships with our rural and frontier responders. This report provides insight into the early stages of SARN program development and coordination.

Immediate Impacts of Rape Among Female Victims

-  1 in 7 contracted a sexually transmitted infection.
-  1 in 3 were injured.
-  2 in 3 were concerned for safety.
-  2 in 3 were fearful.
-  1 in 7 became pregnant.

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Sexual Violence

Statutory Authority

Effective July 1, 2023, the Montana Legislature established SARN (2-15-2034, MCA) at the DOJ via HB 79, sponsored by Representative Amy Regier. Subject to appropriated funds, the program consists of department agents and employees the attorney general considers necessary and appropriate, including the SARN coordinator provided under 44-4-1704, MCA.



Rep. Amy Regier introduces HB 79 at its first public hearing.

Source: The Montana Public Affairs Network

Program duties include (44-4-1702(1) and (3), MCA):

- Supporting efforts to provide uniform sexual assault evidence kit distribution and handling;
- Coordinating comprehensive, trauma-informed response to sexual violence survivors;
- Providing discipline-based training and technical assistance for sexual assault responders (in accordance with best practices and laws);
- Advancing access to quality sexual assault forensic exams and care through teleSANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) innovations;
- Coordinating with the Sexual Assault Response Network Committee;
- Conducting ongoing adult, adolescent, and pediatric direct instruction and clinical SANE training for medical providers;
- Recruiting/organizing SANE trainers to increase in-state training capacity;
- Researching teleSANE models and technological solutions to increase access to forensic exams and SANE care;
- Providing quality, accessible sexual assault response training and technical assistance for law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocates, and other relevant professionals;
- Organizing the development of SARTs;
- Promoting public education and awareness of sexual violence prevention, available services, and care;
- Maintaining the sexual assault evidence kit tracking system provided in 46-15-405, MCA;
- Maintaining the DOJ sexual assault evidence kit hotline;
- Coordinating sexual assault evidence kit inventory, materials, and distribution, including making resources available online.

DOJ rulemaking authority for the program includes authority to establish:

- Minimum standards of sexual assault care;
- Minimum standards for operation of a SANE program;
- The operation and designation of SANE programs.

In conjunction with the SARN Program, the 2023 Legislature also established a statewide sexual assault response team committee (2-15-2035, MCA), which is administratively attached to the DOJ and staffed by the SARN coordinator. The committee, known as the SARN Committee:

- Exercises its functions independently of the department;
- Submits budgetary requests and required reports through the department;
- Has rulemaking authority to implement, continue, and enforce the duties listed below.

Members of the committee:

- Are appointed by the Attorney General;
- Serve no longer than 4 years without reappointment;
- Are entitled to travel reimbursement as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503;
- Include but are not limited to:
 - At least one sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE)
 - A hospital administrator
 - A registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse
 - A telehealth affiliate or provider
 - Representatives/designees of:
 - a victim service provider or organization
 - a law enforcement agency
 - a county attorney
 - the DOJ Forensic Sciences Division
 - the DOJ State Attorney's Office
 - the DOJ IT service desk
 - the Office of the Public defender
 - A member with a tribal affiliation who has experience working with indigenous survivors

Duties of the committee include:

- Adopting educational and clinical standards for SANEs and evidence-based SANE training curriculum that complies with national training standards, national protocol, guidelines from the international association of forensic nurses, and state/local laws;
- adopting/implementing medical sexual assault response guidelines for Montana;
- developing statewide teleSANE partnerships, collaborations with hospital/clinic leadership, and strategies that include interoperability of health care systems, secure health information exchange, and assessment of teleSANE models of care to increase equitable access to quality sexual assault care;
- identifying/implementing a statewide platform for SANEs to engage, mentor, share, and network among colleagues;
- establishing and periodically reviewing payment amounts, standards, and processes for the sexual assault medical forensic examination in accordance with 46-15-411.

The SARN Committee

The SARN coordinator collaborated with the Attorney General’s Office to conduct weeks of outreach with and to seek input from a multitude of stakeholders in healthcare, law enforcement, victim services, education, tribal communities, and government regarding potential nominees for the SARN Committee.

HB 79 requires the committee include at least one sexual assault nurse examiner, a hospital administrator, a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse, a telehealth affiliate or provider, a representative from a victim service provider or organization, a representative from a law enforcement agency, a county attorney representative or designee, a member of the DOJ Forensic Sciences Division, a member from the DOJ State Attorney’s Office, a member of the DOJ Information Technology Service Desk, a representative of the Office of State Public Defender, and a member with tribal affiliation who has experience working with Indigenous survivors.

Attorney General Austin Knudsen appointed 17 members to the SARN Committee in April 2024, broadening membership beyond the requirements of HB 79 to ensure diverse perspectives are included. Member terms may be 4-years in length. To begin, AG Knudsen staggered the new members’ terms as follows:

Terms Expire December 31, 2026

Heather Black Forensic Nurse Consultant Billings Area IHS	Whitney Brothers Forensic Nurse Coordinator St. Peter's Health, Helena	Capt. Anthony Honeycutt Lewistown Police Department
Brett Irigoin Dawson County Attorney Glendive	Jordan Kilby, Esq. Missoula	Emily Mangas Forensic Nursing Program Coordinator, Bozeman Health
Christina Powell CEO Help Center, Inc., Bozeman	Kodi Tall Bull Medical Director All Nations Clinic, Missoula	Bret Taylor Information Security Manager DOJ, Helena
Ben Uhlich Vice President, CNO and COO Intermountain, Peaks Region Miles City		

Terms Expire December 31, 2028

Eldena Bear Don't Walk Conflict Defender Div. Administrator Office of State Public Defender Missoula	Jamie Bray-Tanner Biology Section Supervisor DOJ Forensic Sciences Div. Missoula	Brenda George Executive Director Children's Alliance of Montana Billings
Det. Cara Guderian Great Falls Police Department	Mark Horn Manager Billings Clinic Telehealth Services	Selene Koepke Assistant Attorney General DOJ, Helena
Susan Parker Program/Finance Director Red Bird Woman Center, Fort Peck		

The SARN Committee held its first meeting on June 12 and 13, 2024, in Helena, and developed the following mission statement to guide its work:

The committee's mission is to develop a multidisciplinary framework and create guidelines to address sexual assault and care for all citizens in Montana.

To begin, the committee focused its sights first on educating itself about each member's role in response to sexual assault and how forensic exams are conducted and the components of the Montana sexual assault evidence kit. This education will begin with presentations from the forensic examiners who serve on the committee at the group's next meeting on September 27, 2024.

Other priorities identified by the committee for its first 12 to 24 months of work include: compiling all available data on the incidence of sexual assault in Montana and neighboring states; exploring the potential to use telehealth to expand the availability of forensic care to survivors; developing best practice guidelines for sexual assault response in Montana; and supporting/increasing efforts to prevent and educate the public about sexual assault.



Source: The Montana Public Affairs Network

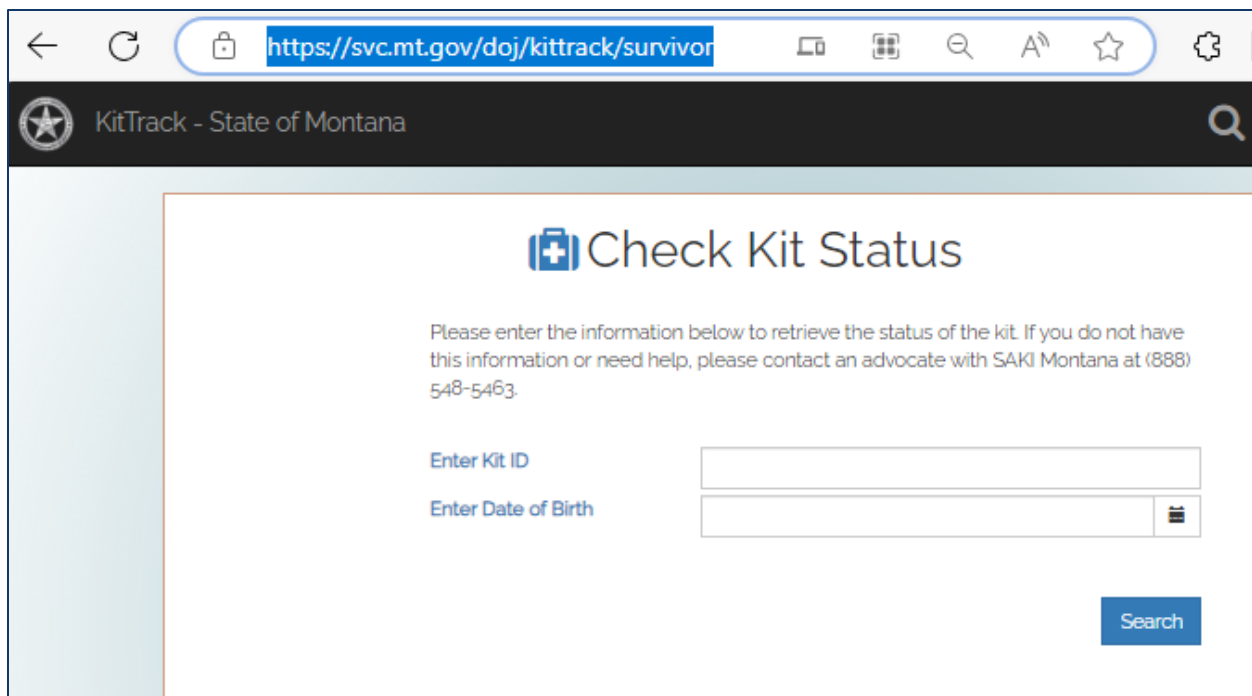
Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Distribution and Tracking

The SARN program significantly supports sexual assault response in Montana by dedicating a permanent, state-funded position to lead distribution and tracking of sexual assault evidence kits. The SARN coordinator ensures there is a sufficient inventory of kits and distributes them to healthcare facilities across the state for use in forensic exams when a survivor chooses to have evidence collected, regardless of whether the case is reported to law enforcement at the time.

To prevent backlogs of unprocessed kits, the location and status of collected kits are tracked online through the Montana Sexual Assault Kit Track System. Healthcare facilities start the process by marking the kit as collected and then recording its transfer to a law enforcement agency when the case is reported or to the DOJ when a case is not reported. Pursuant to 46-15-413, Montana Code Annotated, the DOJ stores unreported kits for 75 years from the date of collection.

For kits that are reported, the healthcare facility must notify the investigating law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the kit's collection pursuant to 46-15-404, Montana Code Annotated. That agency then has 5 business days to take possession of the kit. After that, the agency must submit the kit and an accompanying police report to a crime lab for forensic analysis within 30 days and mark the kit as transferred for analysis within the Kit Track System.

The real-time updates in the Kit Track System allow survivors to easily check the status of their kit and subscribe to receive text and email alerts for any updates.



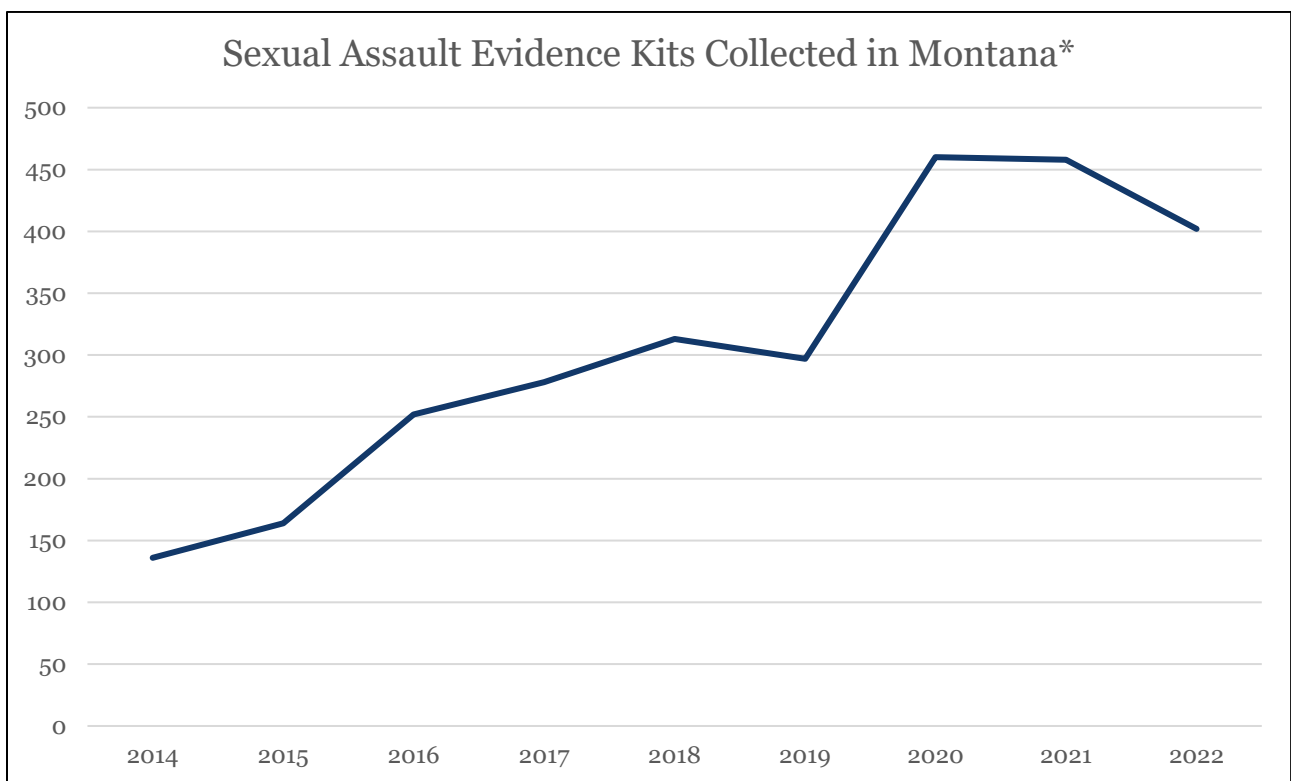
Log-in screen for the survivor Kit Track website, Montana Department of Justice.

Since coming onboard, the SARN coordinator collaborated with the DOJ Criminal Justice Information Network staff to expand customer service availability for healthcare facility, law enforcement, and crime lab Kit Track account users through a dedicated email address (kittrack@mt.gov) and hotline (406-444-9820). The coordinator also supports survivors who need assistance with accessing their kit information.

To maximize kit use and stretch program dollars, the SARN coordinator reconciled Montana’s existing kit inventory, compared kit expiration and collection data, and redistributed kits set to expire on October 1, 2024. Prior to ordering new kits for 2025, the coordinator also sought extensive input from forensic examiners, the Montana State Crime Lab, and attorneys serving on the SARN Committee to update kit components and examination forms to better reflect existing practices and workflows.

Montana orders an average of 450 new sexual assault evidence kits per year and distributes them at no cost to healthcare facilities. Generally, forensic examiners in the state use the DOJ’s sexual assault evidence kit when conducting sexual assault exams, though some use a federally produced kit for cases involving matters of federal jurisdiction.¹ Federal kits, and kits collected in other states, can be added to the Montana Kit Track System and processed by the State Crime Lab, which often has a shorter turnaround time than federal labs.

In 2023, healthcare facilities collected 372 kits recorded in the Montana Kit Track System, a nearly threefold increase over a decade ago.

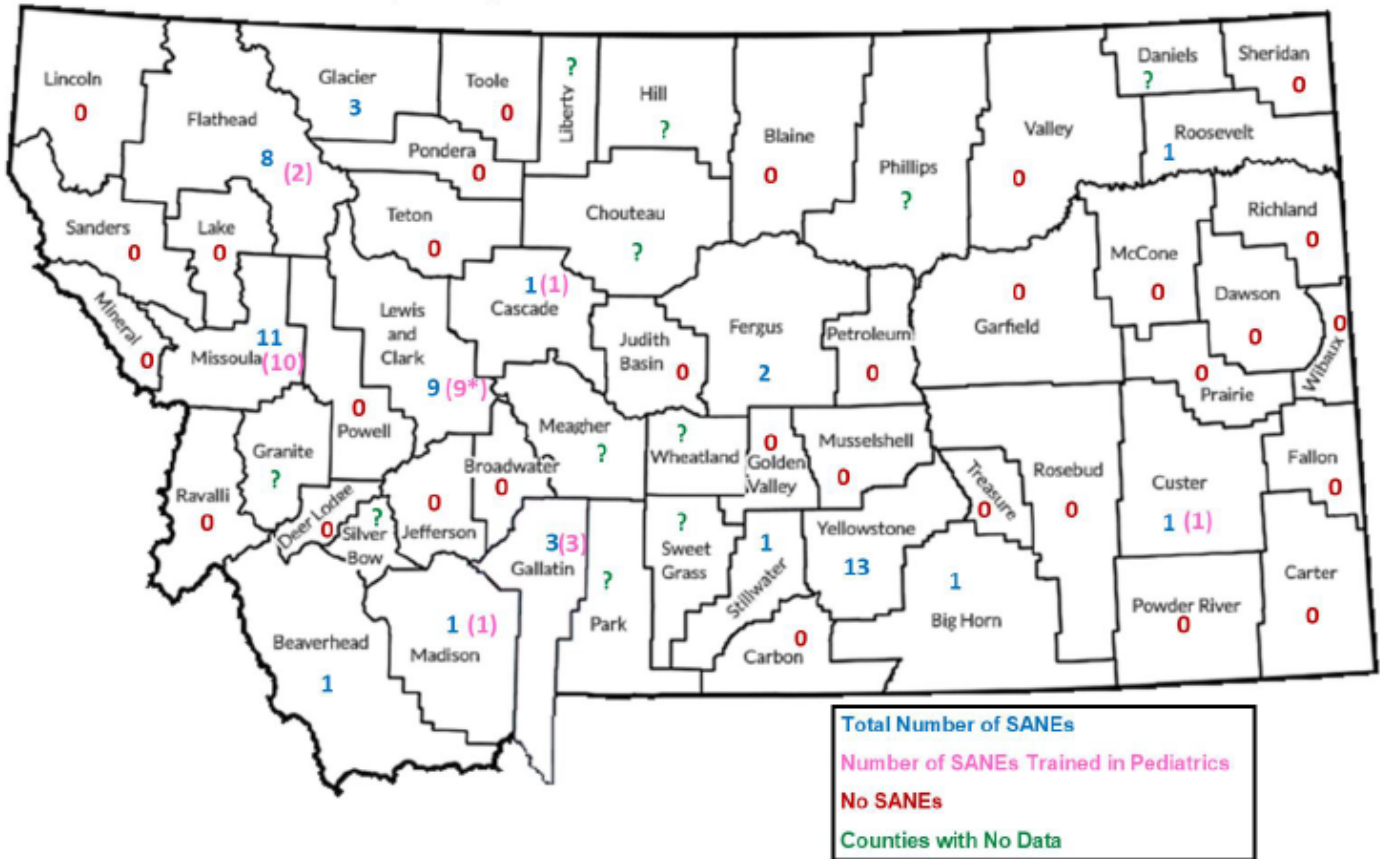


**For evidence kits tracked in the Montana Sexual Assault Kit Track System*

¹ The Indian Health Service units administered by the IHS Billings Area Office use the Montana sexual assault evidence kits in their exams.

Increasing Access to Forensic Care in Montana

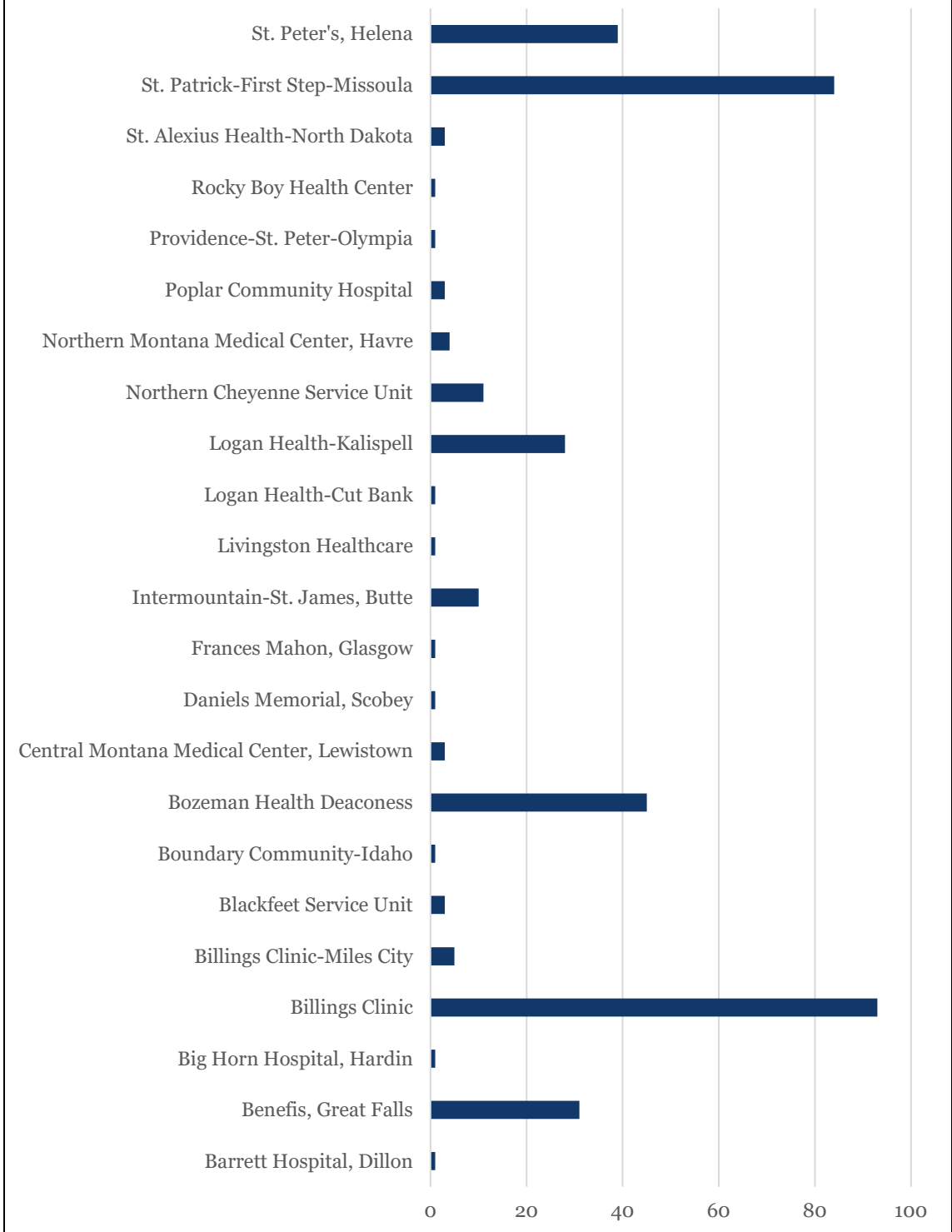
Increasing equitable access to quality sexual assault care is a primary goal of HB 79. In 2023, Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing PhD candidate Sarah Wangerin, a former sexual assault nurse examiner in Kalispell, surveyed hospitals and sheriff's departments in each Montana county to ascertain the availability of forensic exams in the state. Wangerin found that at least 53% of counties had no trained sexual assault nurse examiners; seven counties had only one. The availability of pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners was even more limited. Only 13% of counties reported having at least one pediatric SANE. (Wangerin, 2023)



Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners per County in Montana (Wangerin, 2023)

In half of the 12 counties from which Wangerin received no response, the SARN coordinator confirmed there are staff available to perform forensic exams. This includes Hill County at Northern Montana Healthcare in Havre, Blaine and Rosebud Counties at the Indian Health Service at Fort Belknap Agency and Lane Deer, Park County at Livingston Healthcare, Butte/Silver Bow at Intermountain-St. James and the Southwest Montana Community Health Center, and Ravalli County at Bitterroot Health in Hamilton. Staff at Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital in Glasgow (Valley County) and Daniels Memorial Hospital in Scobey (Daniels County) also administered one exam each in 2023 according to records in the Montana Kit Track System. In addition, two nurses at Logan Health-Shelby in Toole County received training in the Spring of 2024, and their facility is working to begin offering sexual assault exams there.

Where sexual assault forensic exams were administered for Montana patients in 2023*



*For evidence kits tracked in the Montana Sexual Assault Kit Track System

Outreach and training for healthcare facilities

The SARN coordinator spent extensive time between January and September 2024, conducting outreach with healthcare facilities across Montana and the Billings Area Indian Health Service units to learn about their forensic care operations, staffing, and to ensure their sexual assault evidence kit inventory was up to date if they provide exams. The coordinator replaced expired kits² with new inventory received in Spring 2024, and redistributed kits set to expire October 1, 2024, to facilities that conduct more exams to maximize their use and stretch program dollars.

The SARN coordinator found multiple facilities actively working to start, revive, or strengthen their sexual assault exam services. Efforts to begin or revive services included Bitterroot Health in Hamilton, Intermountain Health-St. James Healthcare in Butte, Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis, Alluvion Health in Great Falls, Logan Health-Shelby, Livingston Healthcare, and Intermountain Health-Holy Rosary Miles City in partnership with Billings Clinic-Miles City.

Staff from each of these facilities attended sexual assault forensic examiner training hosted by the DOJ in Spring 2024. It was the first Montana-based training offered since 2018 when previous training developed by clinical and hospital-based forensic program leaders dissolved due to lack of funding. In the interim, many nurses and other medical professionals attended out of state or virtual trainings offered by organizations like the International Association of Forensic Nurses, the Hennepin Foundation, the University of Minnesota's ReLAB, and Texas A&M University.

The DOJ funded the Spring 2024 training using a one-time FY2020 National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant award for which hosting a 40-hour sexual assault nurse examiner training was an identified objective. DOJ staff collaborated with existing forensic program leaders in Missoula, Kalispell, Whitefish, Helena, and Poplar to deliver 40-hours of synchronous instruction over the course of five weeks via Zoom. The team also collaborated with trainers from the Hennepin Foundation to host four 16-hour, in-person clinical practicums in Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, and Bozeman where participants received hands-on training in conducting speculum insertions and other components of a sexual assault exam on live, standardized patients.

SANE clinical training gives nurses the tools to help sexual assault survivors



Source: [KTVH, May 13, 2024](#)

² Montana's sexual assault evidence kits have a roughly 4-year shelf-life, depending on the date they are received from the manufacturer. The expiration date reflects the expiration date of the sterile cotton-tipped swabs included in the kits. The swabs may be replaced with similar healthcare facility stock to allow the kit to be used past the noted expiration date on the side of the box.

Forty nurses and other providers attended the 40-hours of online instruction and in-person clinicals, and an additional 16 participated in the clinicals alone. They represented the communities of Belgrade, Billings, Box Elder, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Livingston, McAllister, Miles City, Missoula, Poplar, Shelby, and Whitehall. Feedback provided by the nurses included:

"Thank you so much! To practice on live patients was intimidating to me at first, [but] as the day went along, I can't tell you how valuable this experience was for me. I feel so much more confident going into an exam and feel like I can share what I learned with the team at home. Such an amazing experience, and everyone was so kind, thoughtful, and helpful."

"This was a fantastic training. I learned a lot and felt that all learners were very supported no matter what their previous experience or training level was. It was a great balance of information, discussion, and hands-on skills."

"...These are skills I can use on any patient I am treating. My biggest challenge is my use of appropriate words. Until I have SANE cases, I can practice what I learned on [other] patients."

"I am feeling very hopeful about the future of SANE nursing in MT. It feels very empowering to connect with so many awesome folks in our state and hear from so many individuals working in their communities. It is so great to see the facilitators empower and support one another."

Of the 56 participants in the Spring 2024 training, the Montana Kit Track System shows 22 conducted a sexual assault forensic exam as of August 1, 2024.

The SARN coordinator helped facilitate and manage the 40-hour Zoom course, compiled follow up resources to share with participants after each week's class, collected weekly feedback to improve course delivery, and assisted with the physical set up and take down of each in-person clinical practicum. The SARN coordinator is currently partnering with the Spring 2024 trainers to develop follow up education, resources, mentoring, and peer support for the participants based on their experience conducting exams thus far.

Future training for healthcare facilities

The DOJ hopes to secure additional funding sources and is continuing to collaborate with organizations across the state to build on the success of the Spring 2024 training. A particular goal is to host in-person clinical trainings in Eastern Montana within the next year.

In April 2024, the DOJ teamed up with the Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing, the Billings Area Indian Health Service, the Montana Children's Alliance, and other partners to submit a coordinated application for a federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to fund future training opportunities for sexual assault nurse examiners in Montana. HRSA awarded a grant of \$499,990 per year for 3 years to the MSU College of Nursing in July 2024. The SARN coordinator continues to assist MSU with development and execution of training opportunities resulting from the grant.

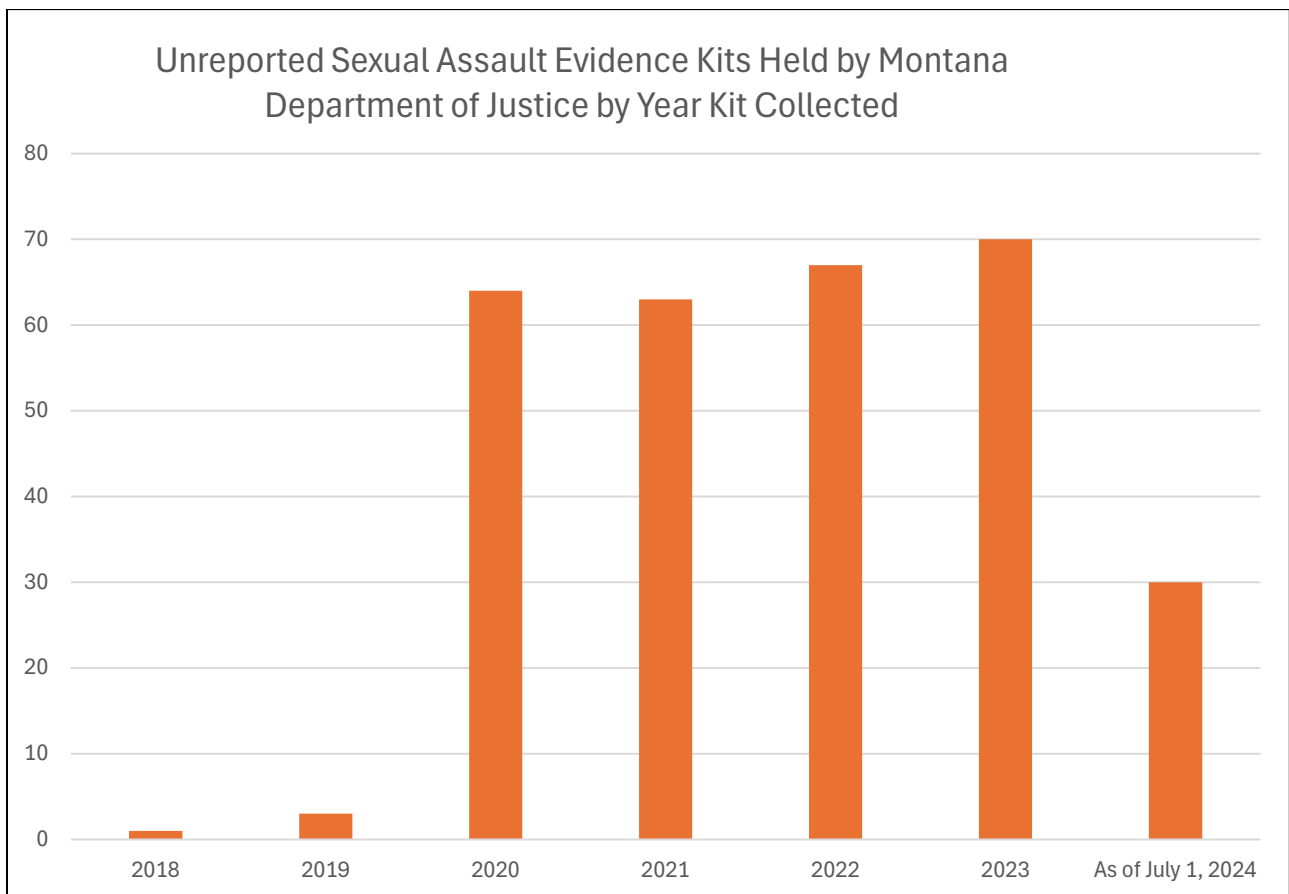
Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program

The SARN program also significantly supports sexual assault response in Montana by taking over administration of the Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program (FREPP). FREPP is responsible for storing kits collected in cases of sexual assault that are not reported to law enforcement and for reimbursing healthcare facilities for the cost of those exams.

Storing unreported kits

In 2005, in response to the federal Violence Against Women Act, the Montana Legislature designated the DOJ as the repository for sexual assault evidence kits collected in cases that are not reported to law enforcement. These are now referred to as FREPP kits.

In 2023, the Montana Legislature enacted 46-15-413, Montana Code Annotated, to increase the amount of time the DOJ must store the kits from 1 year to 75 years. This was in response to the increased statute of limitations for the prosecution of sex crimes against children and improvements in DNA analysis. As of July 1, 2024, the DOJ held 298 sexual assault evidence kits, dating back to 2018, for survivors who had not reported the incident to law enforcement.



Source: Montana Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System

On average, 11 percent of the kits sent to the DOJ to hold are ultimately reported by survivors to law enforcement.

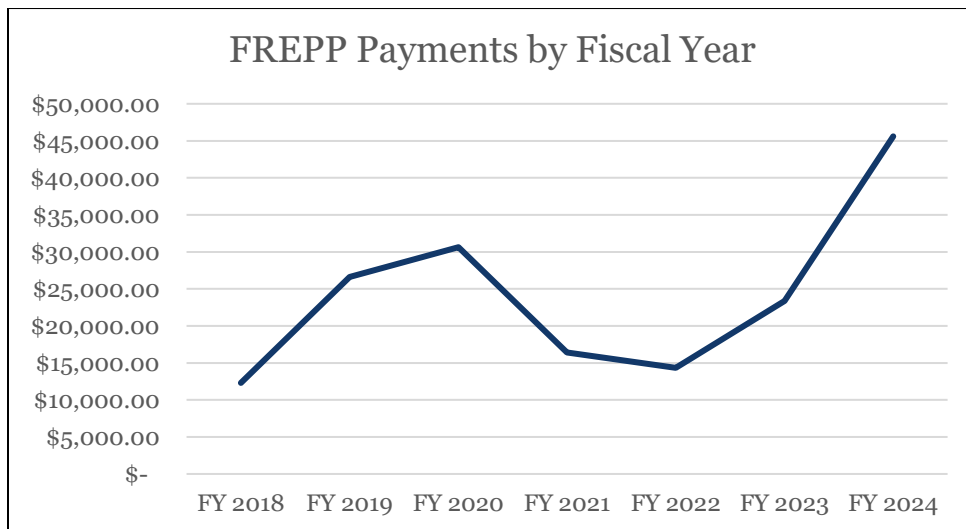
	Kits received by DOJ	Kits later reported to law enforcement	Percent of kits ultimately reported to law enforcement as of July 1, 2024
2013	46	5	11%
2014	37	3	8%
2015	71	8	11%
2016	68	3	4%
2017	71	7	10%
2018	99	11	11%
2019	93	9	10%
2020	73	8	11%
2021	91	19	21%
2022	82	7	9%
2023	84	12	14%

Source: Sexual Assault Response Network Program, Montana Department of Justice

Payments to healthcare facilities

In accordance with the federal Violence Against Women Act, which prohibits survivors from being charged for the cost of a sexual assault forensic exam, and pursuant to 46-15-411, Montana Code Annotated, the DOJ reimburses healthcare facilities for the cost of forensic exams conducted in cases not reported to law enforcement, up to \$600 per exam.

In April 2024, the SARN coordinator conducted outreach with healthcare facilities to update them on current FREPP procedures and submission processes resulting in an historic number of payments made by FREPP in FY 2024.



Source: Sexual Assault Response Network Program, Montana Department of Justice

The maximum amount paid per exam has not changed since 2005 when the Montana Legislature enacted the FREPP program. The reimbursement rate is far lower than actual costs reported by healthcare facilities to the SARN coordinator. The 2023 Montana Legislature tasked the SARN Committee in 44-4-1703, Montana Code Annotated, with reviewing payment amounts for the program, which the committee expects to do in the next year along with reviewing how and how much other states are paying for these exams.

Modernizing FREPP

In 2024, the SARN coordinator worked with the DOJ IT staff to develop an online internal evidence tracking and FREPP reimbursement processing system using existing resources. In July 2024, the coordinator migrated historic data for a total of 1,115 FREPP kits received by DOJ since 2005 to the new system.

Outreach, Training, and Technical Support

The SARN program is tasked in 44-4-1702, Montana Code Annotated, to provide quality, accessible sexual assault response training and technical assistance for law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocates, and other relevant professionals. To that end, the SARN coordinator shared information about the program, the Montana Kit Track System, and FREPP in a multitude of meetings and conversations with various sexual assault responders between January and September 2024. This included formal presentations for:

- the Montana Board of Crime Control Educational Power Hour, virtual, April 2024 (serving primarily victim advocates)
- the Spring 2024 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training, virtual, April 2024
- Bitterroot Health and S.A.F.E. (Hamilton-based victim advocacy organization), virtual, July 2024
- the combined FBI Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) National Crime Database and Investigating Sexual Assault Training for law enforcement at MLEA in July 2024
- law enforcement training hosted by the DOJ Missing Person Clearinghouse, Bozeman, August 2024
- Montana Hospital Association annual conference, Billings, September 2024

The SARN coordinator also shared information and built relationships while assisting with the DOJ's implementation of sexual assault investigation training for tribal multidisciplinary teams in Browning and Box Elder in March and April 2024 and with sexual assault prosecution training for county attorneys in Helena in April 2024.

The SARN coordinator routinely communicates with law enforcement agencies across the state in support of their sexual assault investigations and use of the Montana Kit Track System, and ships previously anonymous sexual assault evidence kits held by the DOJ to agencies when a survivor decides to report.

The SARN coordinator attends the sexual assault investigation portion of new officer training at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) and assists with assessing cadet performance during sexual assault training scenarios. The scenarios use forensic actors portraying survivors awaiting a sexual assault exam to test the cadets' interview, investigation, personal communication, and rapport building skills.

The investigation course and training scenarios build off the textbook, *Investigating Sexual Assault: A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers*, published by the DOJ in 2020. The SARN coordinator will support an upcoming review and revision of the textbook in the coming year.

The SARN coordinator meets quarterly with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Victim Services program manager at the Department of Public Health and Human Services for awareness and coordination of public outreach and education efforts. The SARN coordinator also helped develop and edit content for the DOJ's federally funded series of public outreach videos for survivors and their families and friends regarding sexual assault response and availability of forensic exam care. The DOJ expects to release the videos and other online training modules for sexual assault nurse examiners, victim advocates, and mandatory reporters (e.g., teachers, school counselors, and law enforcement officers who suspect child sexual abuse) later this year on the Office of Victim Services [website](#).

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