Washington State Department of Commerce

Criminal Penalty Fees Related to Sexual Exploitation Crimes

Report submitted pursuant to Chapter 121, Laws of 2013

June 2026

Report to the Legislature

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Acknowledgments

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Table of contents

Executive summary 4

Introduction 5

Fee assessments and crime rates 7

How jurisdictions reported spending the funds 17

Appendix A: Distribution of criminal penalty fees 19

Appendix B: Courts with convictions for applicable charges 21

Appendix C: King County's approach 24

Executive summary

Overview

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

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

The three statutes listed above assess fees on convictions related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children, indecent exposure and prostitution. We discuss the specifics of these fees in more detail in the Introduction.

This report, for state fiscal year 2025, is the 12th annual report prepared on the fee revenue and expenditures related to this set of crimes. The Introduction includes the complete statutory report requirements.

Key findings

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

- Compared to the year prior, Washington courts assessed more than twice as much ($134,883.65 compared to $55,381.54) but collected nearly half as much in applicable fees ($35,292.73 and $64,325.74 respectively).
- In state fiscal year 2025, there were more than eight times as many convictions for sexual exploitation crimes (347 convictions) as in the prior year (42 convictions).
- Arrests for sexual exploitation crimes increased by more than 92% compared to state fiscal year 2024, with 938 arrests in 2025 compared to 488 in 2024 — an increase of 450 arrests.
- Convictions for sexual exploitation crimes also increased from 2024 to 2025. Specifically: indecent exposure convictions increased by 8,667% with 260 more convictions; commercial sexual abuse of a minor convictions increased by 55%; promoting prostitution in the second degree increased by 207%; and patronizing a prostitute convictions increased by 50%.
- Although 71 courts handed down convictions for sexual exploitation crimes, only 7% (five courts) assessed any fees concerning those convictions.
- Washington courts assessed 45% of the total amount of penalty fees possible for convictions of sexual exploitation crimes.
- Excluding King County, Washington courts assessed only 10% of the total amount of penalty fees possible for convictions of sexual exploitation crimes.
- Courts in King County assessed and collected most of the fees – 90% and 62%, respectively.
- Some individuals arrested in state fiscal year 2025 likely have not yet begun court proceedings, which may skew the analysis.

Introduction

Background

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

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

- Cities and counties must spend at least 50%, and up to 98%, of the revenue on prevention and rehabilitation services for victims. Prevention includes education programs for persons convicted of crimes, such as accountability programs,[2] which provide curriculum on the sexual exploitation of people, legal ramifications, and confronting and healing from sexual addiction. Rehabilitative services for victims include mental health and substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, housing relief, education, vocational training, drop-in centers and employment counseling.

- Jurisdictions may use between 0% and 48% for local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of sex, including, but not limited to, increasing enforcement of commercial sex laws.

- Quarterly, jurisdictions must remit 2% of the revenue to Commerce, with a report detailing the fees assessed, the revenue received and how it was spent.

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

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

It is important to note that arrests, charges, prosecutions and/or resolutions of cases can occur in different fiscal years. This can result in the fees that are assessed not matching the fees collected within the same fiscal year.

Additional penalty fees

Judges may assess additional penalty fees on convictions related to prostitution, indecent exposure and the commercial sexual exploitation of children under statutes modified by Chapter 121, Laws of 2013 including RCW

[1] RCW 9A.88.120 defines statutory or non-statutory agreement as an agreement under RCW 13.40.080 or any written agreement between a person accused of an offense and a court, county, or city prosecutor, whereby the person agrees to fulfill certain conditions in lieu of prosecution.
[2] Programs like this are sometimes called "john schools", but this term is not survivor informed, as not all buyers are men. Some accountability programs may still have titles including "johns" or "men", but it is important to note that not all buyers are men, just as not all victims of sexual exploitation are women.

9.68A.105, 9A.88.120, or 9A.88.140. These three statutes define the maximum additional penalty fee that a judge may assess for each crime below.

Fixed penalty fees (do not change whether this is a first-time or repeat offense):
Judges must assess a $5,000 additional penalty fee for convictions related to the following crimes:

- 9.68A.105 9.68A.100 — Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)
- 9.68A.101 — Promoting CSAM
- 9.68A.102 — Promoting travel for CSAM

Judges must assess a $50 additional penalty fee for convictions related to the following crimes:

- 9A.88.010 — Indecent exposure
- 9A.88.030 — Prostitution

Conditional penalty fees (based on number of previous offenses):
For crimes related to permitting prostitution (RCW 9A.88.090) and patronizing a prostitute (RCW 9A.88.110), the maximum additional penalty fee amount that judges must assess depends on the number of times a person has been convicted of the crime.

- 1st offense: $1,500
- 2nd offense: $2,500
- 3rd and subsequent offense: $5,000

For crimes related to promoting prostitution in the first degree (9A.88.070) or in the second degree (9A.88.080), the maximum additional penalty fee amount that judges must assess also depends on the number of times a person has been convicted of the crime.

- 1st offense: $3,000
- 2nd offense: $6,000
- 3rd and subsequent offense: $10,000

Vehicle impound fines for crimes related to prostitution:
A $500 vehicle impound fine is assessed for convictions related to the following crimes:

- 9A.88.110 – Patronizing a prostitute
- 9A.88.070 – Promoting prostitution in the first degree
- 9A.88.080 – Promoting prostitution in the second degree
- 9A.88.085 – Promoting travel for prostitution

Vehicle impound fines for crimes related to commercial sexual abuse of a minor (CSAM):
A $2,500 vehicle impound fine is assessed for convictions related to the following crimes:

- 9.68A.100 – CSAM
- 9.68A.101 – Promoting CSAM
- 9.68A.102 – Promoting travel for CSAM

Fee reductions, waivers and suspensions
While vehicle impound fines may not be reduced or waived, judges may reduce, waive or suspend the payment of all or part of the other fees described above. If a court finds, on the record, that the adult offender cannot pay, it may reduce the fee by an amount up to two-thirds of the maximum allowable fee.

Fee assessments and crime rates

In state fiscal year 2025, 71 courts in Washington handed down convictions for crimes that bear the relevant additional penalty fees. Of these, five courts — just 7% of the total — assessed these additional penalty fees concerning convictions for applicable crimes. This discrepancy indicates that many courts in Washington are not assessing the fees or only assessing a fraction of what they could. In addition, only eight courts received revenue from these fees in this fiscal year, some of which was for crimes committed in previous years. Some examples of court assessments and collections of the penalty fees include:

- The King County Superior Court assessed and collected the highest fees of all Washington courts in state fiscal year 2025, assessing $75,580.65 and collecting $19,408.79.
- Seattle Municipal Court assessed the next highest fees, totaling $45,036 but collected the third highest, totaling $1,900.
- The Pierce County Superior Court did not assess any relevant fees, but the court had 12 convictions for relevant crimes in state fiscal year 2025: four for promoting prostitution, two for commercial sex abuse of a minor, two for indecent exposure, two for patronizing a prostitute, one for trafficking in the first degree, and one for trafficking in the second degree. Given all relevant convictions for the Pierce County Superior Court, the maximum possible fees would total $43,100, assuming the convicted were first-time offenders.
- The Cowlitz County Superior Court had five convictions for relevant crimes, four of which were for commercial sex abuse of a minor. Given all relevant convictions for the Cowlitz County Superior Court, the maximum possible fees would total $20,000, assuming the convicted were first-time offenders. However, the court did not assess any relevant fees in the state fiscal year 2025.
- The Clark County District Court had 26 convictions for relevant crimes, all of which were for indecent exposure. Given all relevant convictions for the Clark County District Court, the maximum possible fees would total $1,300, assuming the convicted were first-time offenders. However, the court did not assess any relevant fees in the state fiscal year 2025.

Statewide, courts assessed 45% of the total possible fee amount — $134,883.65 out of a potential $294,800. As in previous years, courts in King County both assessed and collected most of the fees. Excluding King County, other Washington courts assessed just 10% of the total possible fee amount — $13,667 out of a potential $140,800. It is beyond the scope of this report to investigate why many courts are not imposing these fees.

Table 1 lists the number of arrests and convictions for the relevant crimes, the maximum possible fees that courts could assess based on conviction data, the actual fees assessed and the fees collected for each county in Washington. Appendix B contains a complete list of all courts that imposed convictions for the applicable crimes or assessed or collected relevant fees. It is important to note that an arrest made in one year can lead to a case that takes more than a year to prosecute and resolve, explaining why the fees a court assessed may exceed the maximum possible fees. It also explains why some of the fees collected by a court may be greater than fees that the court assessed.

Table 1: Arrests, convictions and fees by county for applicable charges — state fiscal year 2025

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Adams	17	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Asotin	4	1	$3,000.00	$0.00	$0.00
Benton	17	1	$5,000.00	$0.00	$0.00
Chelan	12	1	$3,000.00	$0.00	$0.00
Clallam	13	8	$400.00	$0.00	$0.00
Clark	110	35	$6,900.00	$0.00	$0.00
Columbia	0	2	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00
Cowlitz	22	10	$20,300.00	$0.00	$0.00
Douglas	0	2	$3,050.00	$0.00	$0.00
Ferry	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Franklin	13	5	$9,100.00	$0.00	$0.00
Garfield	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Grant	13	3	$5,100.00	$0.00	$0.00
Grays Harbor	5	2	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00
Island	5	4	$200.00	$0.00	$0.00
Jefferson	5	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
King	249	120	$154,000.00	$121,216.65	$21,863.03
Kitsap	29	10	$8,850.00	$12,000.00	$12,000.00

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Kittitas	17	1	$50.00	$0.00	$0.00
Klickitat	2	1	$3,000.00	$0.00	$0.00
Lewis	10	7	$350.00	$0.00	$0.00
Lincoln	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Mason	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Okanogan	6	1	$50.00	$0.00	$0.00
Pacific	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Pend Oreille	8	5	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00
Pierce	89	39	$44,450.00	$0.00	$0.00
San Juan	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Skagit	30	5	$250.00	$0.00	$0.00
Skamania	1	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Snohomish	92	31	$1,550.00	$0.00	$133.94
Spokane	59	23	$9,050.00	$0.00	$245.76
Stevens	3	2	$10,000.00	$1,667.00	$0.00
Thurston	32	8	$400.00	$0.00	$0.00
Wahkiakum	0	0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Walla Walla	11	4	$200.00	$0.00	$0.00
Whatcom	24	3	$5,100.00	$0.00	$0.00
Whitman	1	1	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00

County	Arrests	Convictions	Max possible fees*	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Yakima	39	12	$600.00	$0.00	$1,050.00
TOTAL	**938**	**347**	**$294,800.00**	**$134,883.65**	**$35,292.73**

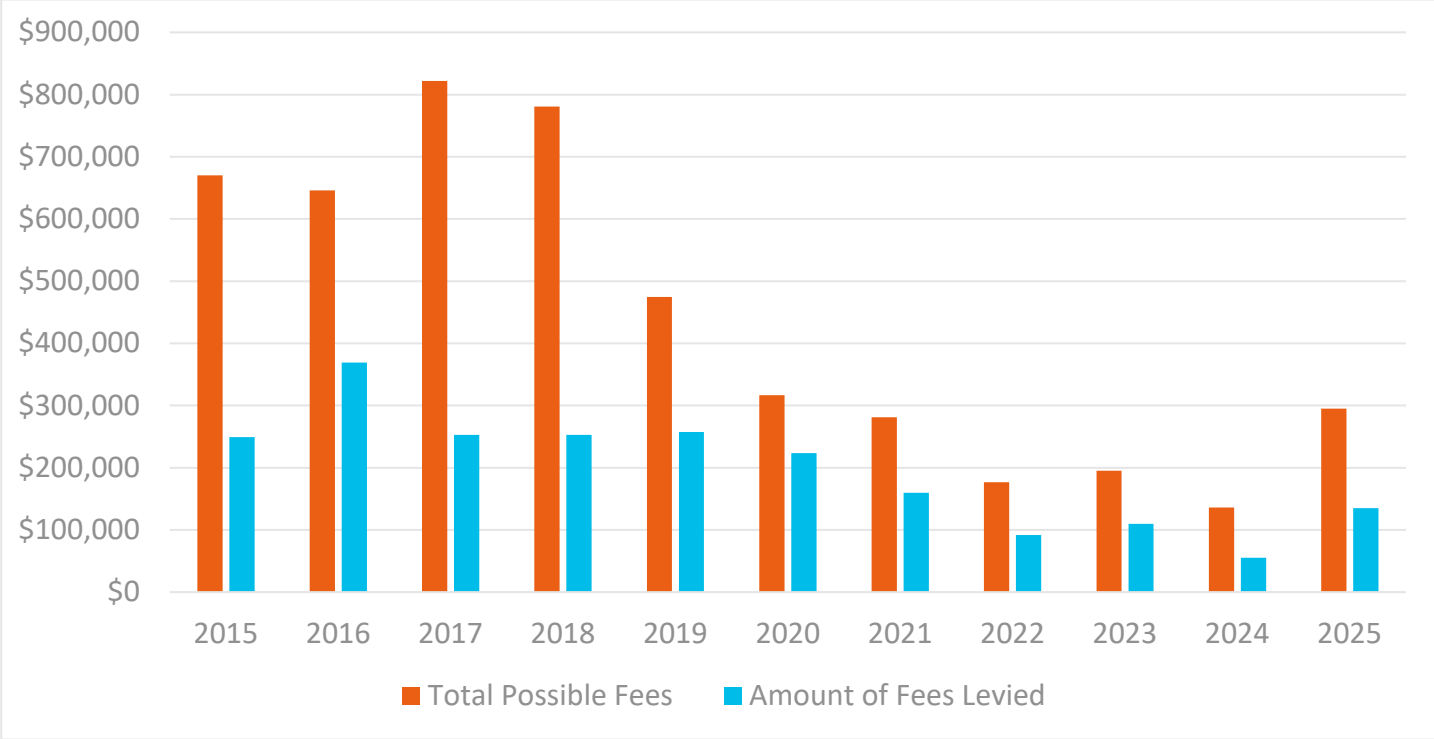
* Data from the Administrative Office of the Courts does not differentiate whether a particular case is a first, second, third or subsequent offense. Second, third and subsequent offenses have greater criminal penalty fee amounts. The calculations for maximum possible fees assume that each case is a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

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

Figure 1 provides a year-by-year comparison of criminal penalty fees assessed by Washington courts for sexual exploitation convictions from 2015 through 2025. For each year, the chart shows the total in maximum possible fees that Washington courts could have levied that year[3] beside the actual amounts courts levied. This comparison highlights the gap between the potential and actual fees imposed over time.

- The Total Possible Fees column shows the maximum fees that courts could have assessed that year if each conviction were treated as a first offense.
- The Amount of Fees Levied column shows the actual total dollar amount assessed by the courts that year for those convictions.

Figure 1: Maximum possible fees statewide compared to total amounts levied — 2015 through 2025

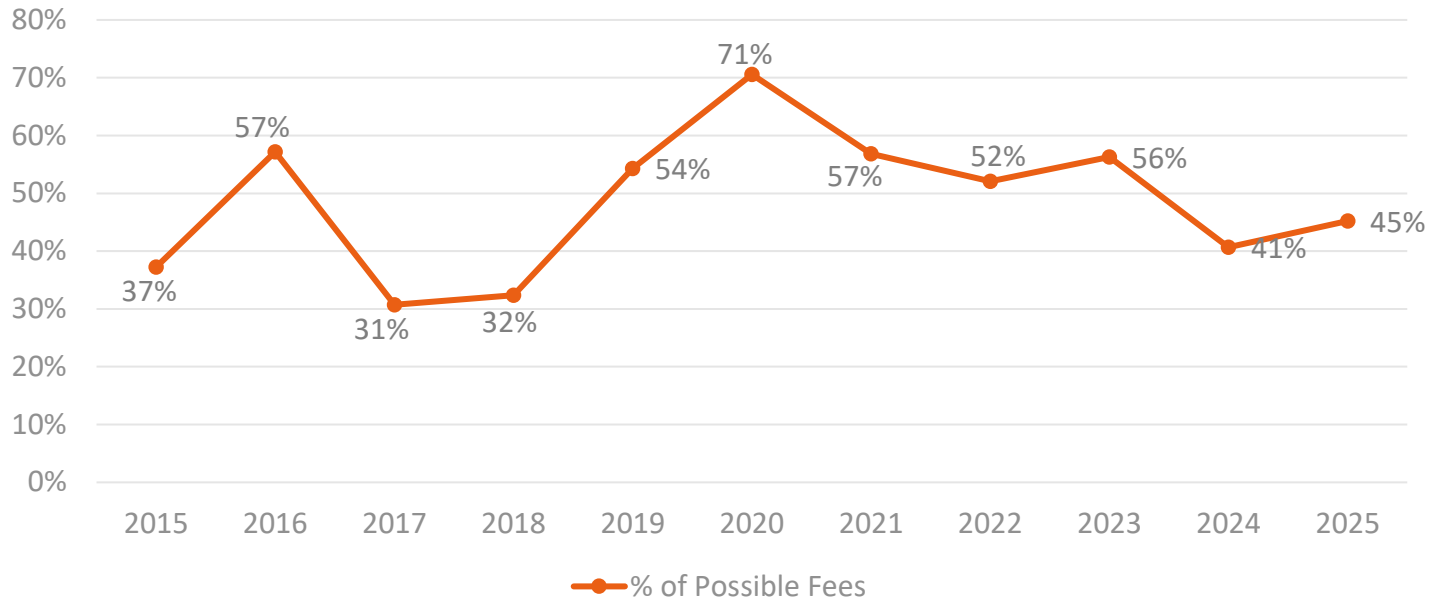


Sources: The Administrative Office of the Courts, Washington State Patrol, King County Superior Court, King County District Court and Seattle Municipal Court.

[3] Maximum possible fees were calculated by multiplying the number of sexual exploitation convictions that occurred each state fiscal year by each crime's maximum additional penalty fee amount defined in statute. Calculations assume that each case is a first offense for simplicity.

Figure 2 illustrates the percentage of total potential fees Washington courts assessed in state fiscal years 2015 through 2025.

Figure 2: Percentage of potential fees assessed statewide — 2015 through 2025



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

Background on fees and payments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crime rates

In the state fiscal year 2025, law enforcement officers made 450 more arrests for sexual exploitation crimes than in state fiscal year 2024, an increase of 92%. In state fiscal year 2025, there were more than eight times as many convictions for sexual exploitation crimes (347 convictions) as in the prior year (42 convictions).There were 260 more convictions for indecent exposure in state fiscal year 2025 than in state fiscal year 2024, an 8,667% increase that represented the single greatest percentage increase in convictions for any of the crimes specified under RCW 9.68A.105, RCW 9A.88.120 and RCW 9A.88.140.

Table 2 lists the number of arrests, cases and convictions for these crimes. The table also includes the crime of trafficking, which carries an additional $10,000 penalty fee. However, the fee for trafficking is not subject to the same dispersal requirements as the crimes specified under RCW 9.68A.105, RCW 9A.88.120 and RCW 9A.88.140.

Table 2: Statewide arrests and convictions by crime — state fiscal year 2025

Statute	Charge	Arrests	Convictions
9.68A.100	Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)	67	17

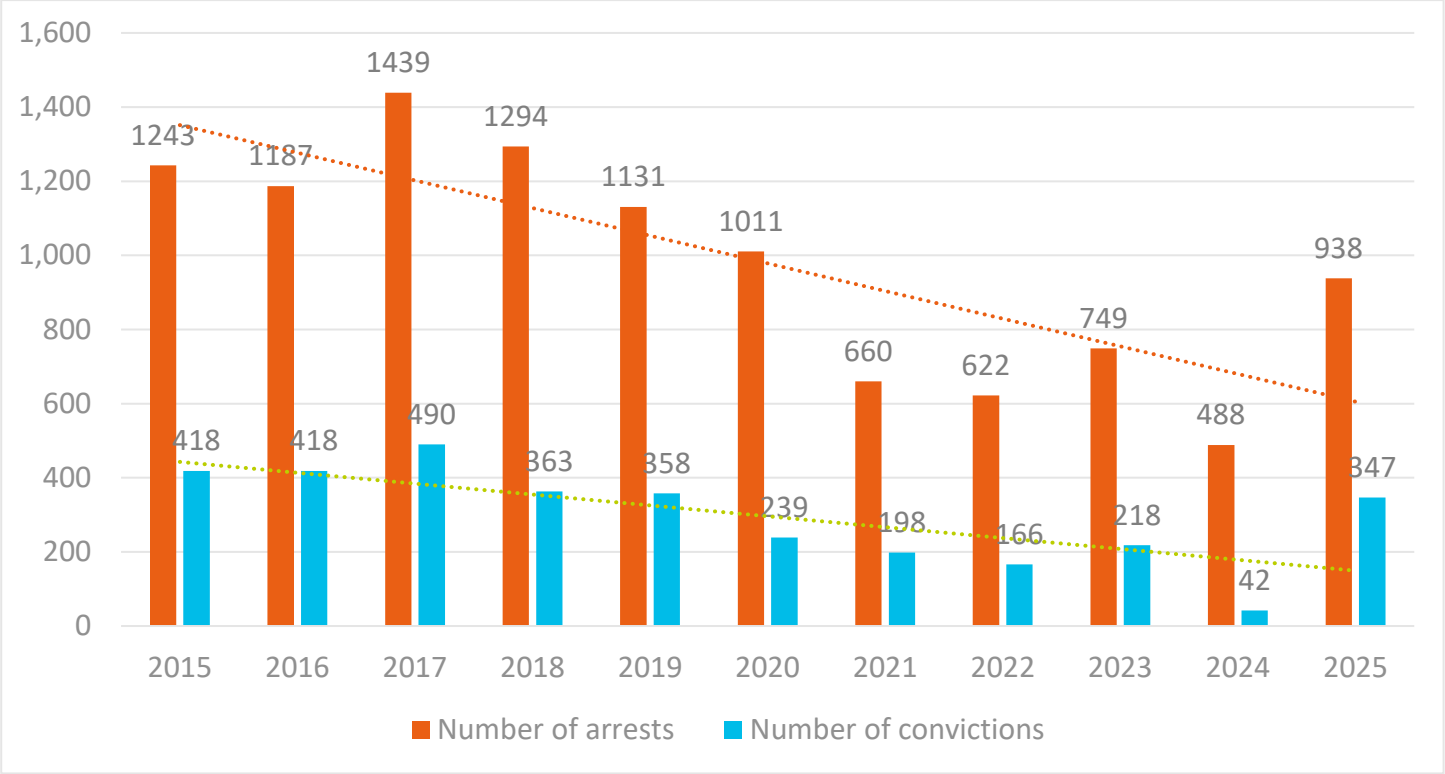
Statute	Charge	Arrests	Convictions
9.68A.101	Promoting CSAM	7	0
9.68A.102	Promoting Travel for CSAM	0	0
9.68A.103	Permitting CSAM	0	0
9A.40.100	Trafficking	27	3
9A.88.010	Indecent Exposure	692	263
9A.88.030	Prostitution	17	1
9A.88.070	Promoting Prostitution in the First Degree	13	8
9A.88.080	Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree	20	46
9A.88.085	Promoting Travel for Prostitution (Vehicle Impoundment)	0	0
9A.88.090	Permitting Prostitution	2	0
9A.88.110	Patronizing a Prostitute	93	9
TOTAL		**938**	**347**

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

It is important to note that an arrest in one year can lead to a case that takes more than a year to prosecute and resolve. This explains why some charges have fewer arrests than convictions in the state fiscal year 2025.

Over the past eleven years, the numbers of arrests and convictions for these crimes have generally declined since Commerce began tracking the data in 2014. However, state fiscal years 2023 and 2025 stand out as exceptions to this trend, showing increases in both arrests and convictions compared to the previous year.

Figure 3: Statewide arrests and convictions totals — 2015 through 2025



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

Legal financial obligations

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

In January 2022, the Washington Supreme Court's Minority and Justice Commission released a report titled, "The Price of Justice,"[4] which assessed local and statewide policies and practices concerning LFO assessment and collection, among other topics. While it is outside the scope of this report to examine in detail why Washington courts are not assessing the maximum possible criminal penalty fees for certain sexual exploitation crimes, several findings from "The Price of Justice" may help explain why fee assessments fall short of the maximum allowed.

One such finding is among judges surveyed as part of the report, "a majority indicated that between 80%-100% of the defendants that appear before them are indigent."[5] Another is that among judges surveyed, 44% indicated that

[4] Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission, "The Price of Justice," (2022),
[5] RCW 10.101.010 defines "indigent" as, "a person who, at any stage of a court proceeding, is: (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance: Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits, medical care services under RCW 74.09.035, pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-related veterans' benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, Medicaid, or supplemental security income; or (b) Involuntarily committed to a public mental health facility; or (c) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of one hundred twenty-five percent or less of the current federally established poverty level; or (d) Unable to pay the anticipated cost of counsel for the matter before the court because his or her available funds are insufficient to pay any amount for the retention of counsel."

they do not believe that LFOs are essential to the criminal justice process. Defense attorneys surveyed also reported that "courts' LFO practices varied widely from judge to judge and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction," including differences in which LFOs judges understood to be mandatory.

Lastly, "The Price of Justice" also noted LFO-related reductions in courts of limited jurisdiction. For example, between 2014 and 2018, courts of limited jurisdiction saw a 23% decrease in cases with LFOs imposed, a 12% decrease in the average LFO assessed per case, and a 3% decrease in the total annual amount of LFOs imposed statewide.

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

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

How jurisdictions reported spending the funds

In the state fiscal year 2025, 71 courts in Washington handed down convictions for crimes that bear the additional penalty fees, and seven courts collected revenue toward the payment of these additional penalty fees. Of the seven courts that collected revenue, four both assessed new fees and collected revenue toward payment of previously assessed fees. The three remaining courts collected revenue but did not assess new fees, which indicates the revenue was from people convicted of crimes paying off fees assessed in past years.

Researchers annually survey courts that collected fees greater than $100 to determine how cities and counties used the funds. All courts that collected additional penalty fees in the state fiscal year 2025 reported collecting more than $100; therefore, all seven courts were surveyed. In most cases, it was necessary to speak with another department (for instance, the city or county treasurer, the police department or the prosecutor's office) to learn whether the funds had been allocated and, if so, how they had been spent.

Reports by jurisdiction

King County District Court

King County District Court (KCDC) collected $554.24 on behalf of its partner organizations, Bellevue, Covington and King County. The clerk's office then disbursed the following amounts to the following local jurisdictions:

- Bellevue: $500
  Bellevue Police Department spent $124.70 on transportation and food related to victim interviews.
- Covington: $4.24
  Covington was not surveyed because they did not receive more than $100 in the state fiscal year 2025.
- King County: $50
  King County reported spending 50% of the funds on staffing for the King County Sheriff's Office, focusing on investigations related to human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of minors. The other 50% was directed toward the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children program, providing support for survivors.[6]

King County Superior Court

King County Superior Court (KCSC) collected $19,408.79 on behalf of its partner organizations. The clerk's office then disbursed the following amounts to the following local jurisdictions:

- Bellevue: $2,851.14
  Bellevue Police Department spent $124.70 on transportation and food related to victim interviews.
- Bothell: $43.40
  The city of Bothell collected less than $100 during the state fiscal year 2025 and therefore was not surveyed.
- Kent: $1,905.00
  The city of Kent could not determine use of funds before this report was published due to city staff absences.
- King County: $13,036
  King County reported spending 50% of the funds on staffing for the King County Sheriff's Office, focusing on investigations related to human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of minors. The other 50% was directed toward the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children program, providing support for survivors.
- Kirkland: $6.18

[6] Although King County received less than $100 from King County District Court, they were surveyed because they received more than $100 from the King County Superior Court in the state fiscal year 2025.

The city of Kirkland collected less than $100 during the state fiscal year 2025 and therefore was not surveyed.

- Renton: $1,566.67
  The city of Renton transferred the 2% of funds that it collected in the state fiscal year 2025 to the Washington State Department of Commerce. It has not yet spent any of the remaining revenue.
- Seattle: $0.40
  The City of Seattle has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2025.[7]

Kitsap County Superior Court

Kitsap County collected $12,000. The county was unable to report if or how collected funds were spent in the state fiscal year 2025 because the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Kitsap County had a discrepancy in the amounts collected. Although the county and AOC were working to resolve the discrepancy, agreement was not reached before this report was published.

Seattle Municipal Court

Seattle Municipal Court collected $1,900. The clerk's office disbursed $1,900.00 to the City of Seattle's Human Services Department. The City of Seattle's Human Services Department reported that it has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2025.

Snohomish County Superior Court

Snohomish County Superior Court collected $133.94. The county clerk's office transferred the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2025 to the County General Fund and they have not yet been spent.

Spokane County Superior Court

Spokane County Superior Court collected $245.76. The county reported that all funds were used to pay for criminal case costs incurred while moving the case through the system to adjudication.

Yakima County Superior Court

Yakima County Superior Court collected $1,050.00. The county has not yet spent the funds it collected in the state fiscal year 2025.

[7] Although Seattle received less than $100 from KCSC, they were surveyed because they received more than $100 from the Seattle Municipal Court in the state fiscal year 2025.

Appendix A: Distribution of criminal penalty fees

Trafficking, prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation crimes

Dispersal of penalty fines and revenue from seized property under Washington state statutes, effective January 1, 2026.

Additional penalty fees for sexual exploitation crimes go toward:

Minimum 50%
Local prevention efforts and victims' services

Up to 48%
Local law enforcement

2%
Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account (PPIA)

Statutes and additional penalties

9A.40.100: $10,000 – Trafficking (not deposited into PPIA) – Additional penalty statute: **9A.40.100**
9.68A.100: $5,000 – Commercial sexual abuse of a minor (CSAM) – Additional penalty statute: **9.68A.105**
9.68A.101: $5,000 – Promoting CSAM – Additional penalty statute: **9.68A.105**
9.68A.102: $5,000 – Promoting travel for CSAM – Additional penalty statute: **9.68A.105**
9.68A.106: $5,000 (all deposited to PPIA) – Internet advertisement related to CSAM – Additional penalty statute: **9.68A.106**
9A.88.010: $50 – Indecent exposure – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.030: $50 – Prostitution – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.090: 1st offense: $1,500 – Permitting prostitution – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.090: 2nd offense: $2,500 – Permitting prostitution – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.090: 3rd or greater offense: $5,000 – Permitting prostitution – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.110: 1st offense: $1,500 – Patronizing a prostitute – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.110: 2nd offense: $2,500 – Patronizing a prostitute – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.110: 3rd or greater offense: $3,500 – Patronizing a prostitute – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.070: 1st offense: $3,000 – Promoting prostitution in the 1st degree – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.070: 2nd offense: $6,000 – Promoting prostitution in the 1st degree – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.070: 3rd or greater offense: $10,000 – Promoting prostitution in the 1st degree – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.080: 1st offense: $3,000 – Promoting prostitution in the 2nd degree – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.080: 2nd offense: $6,000 – Promoting prostitution in the 2nd degree – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.080: 3rd or greater offense: $10,000 – Promoting prostitution in the 2nd degree – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.120**
9A.88.140: $500 – Vehicle impoundment fine for patronizing a prostitute (9A.88.110), promoting prostitution in the 1st degree (9A.88.070), promoting prostitution in the 2nd degree (9A.88.080) and promoting travel for prostitution (9A.88.085) – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.140**
9A.88.080: $2,500 – Vehicle impoundment fine for Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM) (9.68A.100), promoting CSAM (9.68A.101) and promoting travel for CSAM (9.68A.102) – Additional penalty statute: **9A.88.140**

How fines must be used

Local prevention efforts and victims' services:
At least 50% of the revenue must be spent on prevention efforts, including education programs for offenders (such as John school) and rehabilitative services for victims (such as mental health and substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, training, housing relief, education, vocational training, drop-in centers and employment counseling).

Local law enforcement:
Up to 48% must be used for local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of sex including, but not limited to, increasing enforcement of commercial sex laws.

Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account (PPIA):
Two percent of the revenue shall be remitted quarterly to the Washington State Department of Commerce, together with a report detailing the fines assessed, the revenue received and how that revenue was spent. (Does not apply to RCW 9A.40.100, Trafficking.)

Criminal Penalty Fines Report:
The PPIA account funds an annual report to the Legislature on the amount of revenue collected under RCW 9.68A.105, 9A.88.120 and 9A.88.140.

Proceeds from seized property related to sexual exploitation convictions go toward:

90%
Investigation and seizure expenses; enforcement of prostitution and sexual exploitation laws

10%
State General Fund (effective January 1, 2026)

Statutes
9.68A.120: – Child pornography
9.68A.100: – Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)
9.68A.101: – Promoting CSAM
9A.88.070: – Promoting prostitution in the 1st degree

How proceeds must be used (effective January 1, 2026)

Disposal of proceeds from seized property:
90% shall be used by the seizing law enforcement agency for the expenses of the investigation and seizure. Remaining funds shall be used to enforce the provisions of 9A.88 RCW or 9.68A RCW.

Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account:
By January 31st of each year, each seizing agency shall remit to the state treasurer 10% of the net proceeds of any property forfeited during the preceding calendar year. Money remitted shall be deposited in the State General Fund.

Appendix B: Courts with convictions for applicable charges

Table 3: Convictions, fees assessed and fees collected by court - state fiscal year 2025

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Asotin County Superior Court	Asotin	1	$0.00	$0.00
Bellingham Municipal Court	Whatcom	2	$0.00	$0.00
Benton County Superior Court	Benton	1	$0.00	$0.00
Bothell Municipal Court	King	1	$0.00	$0.00
Bremerton Municipal Court	Kitsap	3	$0.00	$0.00
Buckley Municipal Court	Pierce	11	$0.00	$0.00
Burlington Municipal Court	Skagit	1	$0.00	$0.00
Camas Washougal Municipal Court	Clark	2	$0.00	$0.00
Centralia Municipal Court	Lewis	1	$0.00	$0.00
Chehalis Municipal Court	Lewis	1	$0.00	$0.00
Clallam County District Court No 1	Clallam	5	$0.00	$0.00
Clallam County Superior Court	Clallam	3	$0.00	$0.00
Clark County District Court	Clark	26	$0.00	$0.00
Clark County Superior Court	Clark	7	$0.00	$0.00
Columbia County District Court	Columbia	2	$0.00	$0.00
Cowlitz County District Court	Cowlitz	5	$0.00	$0.00
Cowlitz County Superior Court	Cowlitz	5	$0.00	$0.00
Des Moines Municipal Court	King	2	$0.00	$0.00
Douglas County Superior Court	Douglas	2	$0.00	$0.00
Enumclaw Municipal Court	King	1	$0.00	$0.00
Everett Municipal Court	Snohomish	14	$0.00	$0.00
Federal Way Municipal Court	King	6	$0.00	$0.00
Franklin County District Court	Franklin	1	$0.00	$0.00
Franklin County Superior Court	Franklin	4	$0.00	$0.00
Grant County District Court	Grant	2	$0.00	$0.00
Grant County Superior Court	Grant	1	$0.00	$0.00
Grays Harbor County Superior Court	Grays Harbor	2	$0.00	$0.00

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Island County District Court	Island	2	$0.00	$0.00
Island County Superior Court	Island	2	$0.00	$0.00
Issaquah Municipal Court	King	1	$0.00	$0.00
Kent Municipal Court	King	4	$0.00	$0.00
King County District Court	King	11	$600.00	$554.24
King County Superior Court	King	72	$75,580.65	$19,408.79
Kitsap County Superior Court	Kitsap	4	$12,000.00	$12,000.00
Klickitat County Superior Court	Klickitat	1	$0.00	$0.00
Lakewood Municipal Court	Pierce	2	$0.00	$0.00
Lewis County Superior Court	Lewis	5	$0.00	$0.00
Lower Kittitas County District Court	Kittitas	1	$0.00	$0.00
Lynnwood Municipal Court	Snohomish	3	$0.00	$0.00
Marysville Municipal Court	Snohomish	4	$0.00	$0.00
Mercer Island Municipal Court	King	2	$0.00	$0.00
Okanogan County District Court	Okanogan	1	$0.00	$0.00
Olympia Municipal Court	Thurston	2	$0.00	$0.00
Pend Oreille County District Court	Pend Oreille	5	$0.00	$0.00
Pierce County District Court	Pierce	6	$0.00	$0.00
Pierce County Superior Court	Pierce	12	$0.00	$0.00
Poulsbo Municipal Court	Kitsap	1	$0.00	$0.00
Puyallup Municipal Court	Pierce	3	$0.00	$0.00
Renton Municipal Court	King	2	$0.00	$0.00
SeaTac Municipal Court	King	2	$0.00	$0.00
Seattle Municipal Court	King	14	$45,036.00	$1,900.00
Skagit County Superior Court	Skagit	4	$0.00	$0.00
Snohomish County District Court	Snohomish	1	$0.00	$0.00
Snohomish County South District Court	Snohomish	2	$0.00	$0.00
Snohomish County Superior Court	Snohomish	7	$0.00	$133.94
Spokane County District Court	Spokane	8	$0.00	$245.76

Court	County	Convictions	Fees assessed	Fees collected
Spokane County Superior Court	Spokane	7	$0.00	$0.00
Spokane Municipal Court	Spokane	8	$0.00	$0.00
Stevens Superior Court	Stevens	2	$1,667.00	$0.00
Sumner Municipal Court	Pierce	1	$0.00	$0.00
Tacoma Municipal Court	Pierce	4	$0.00	$0.00
Thurston County District Court	Thurston	5	$0.00	$0.00
Walla Wall County District Court	Walla Walla	2	$0.00	$0.00
Walla Walla County Superior Court	Walla Walla	2	$0.00	$0.00
Wenatchee County Superior Court	Wenatchee	1	$0.00	$0.00
West Klickitat County District Court	Klickitat	2	$0.00	$0.00
Whatcom County Superior Court	Whatcom	3	$0.00	$0.00
Whitman County District Court	Whitman	1	$0.00	$0.00
Yakima County Superior Court	Yakima	5	$0.00	$1,050.00
Yakima Municipal Court	Yakima	7	$0.00	$0.00
Yelm Municipal Court	Thurston	1	$0.00	$0.00
TOTAL	**71 courts**	**347**	**$134,883.65**	**$35,292.73**

Appendix C: King County's approach

Most arrests and convictions for the crime of patronizing a prostitute (RCW 9A.88.110) and commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9.68A.100) occur in King County. Several law enforcement agencies in King County, including the City of Seattle, Kent, Bellevue, Des Moines and Renton police departments, have policies to actively pursue those who provide anything of value in exchange for an adult or child engaging in sexual conduct with them.

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

Sex trafficking is a crime that disproportionately affects young people, people experiencing poverty, people of color, people with previous trauma history and people who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. Youth in the Child Welfare System are at high risk. Traffickers target adults and youth who are impacted by systemic inequities. Systemic inequities result in racism, discrimination, poverty and other vulnerabilities. Traffickers exploit the vulnerabilities of youth and adults and use them to make money. Across the U.S., the typical age of entry for youth coerced into the sex trade is between 13 and 15. In 2018, over 470 youth between the ages of 11 and 24 were engaged with services for youth experiencing commercial sexual exploitation in King County. A demographic analysis of a sample of those youth found that 73% were between 12 and 17.[8] These children and young adults experience repeated rapes, abuse and other forms of violence at the hands of sex buyers and traffickers.

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

While it no longer exists, over the past several years, the Ending Exploitation Collaborative (EEC) in King County marshaled a cross-sector transformation toward diverting victims of sexual exploitation to services and holding sex buyers accountable. The EEC was a partnership of the Organization for Prostitution Survivors, the Washington State Attorney General's Office, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle Against Slavery, Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking and the Center for Child and Youth Justice.

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

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[8] Boyer, Debra, "Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in Seattle/King County 2019 Update," (2023),

The EEC also sought to shift norms and practices by youth and adults through education and targeted interventions because of its belief that broader cultural and institutional norms influence the individual choice to buy sex. The EEC provided prevention education for youth in schools and adults at work. Because research indicates that 13% of calls to solicit sex originate from local businesses, and a peak time to solicit sex online is 2 p.m., employers played an important role in educating employees and preventing illegal activity through the workplace.

Additionally, since April 2013, King County has had the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Task Force, which aims to "ensure the safety and support of commercially sexually exploited children and to prevent further exploitation."[9] This task force collects and shares a variety of resources, including data, prevention resources, recommended reading, toolkits and training opportunities.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate how King County's arrests and convictions, respectively, compare to the numbers in the rest of the state.

[9] King County CSEC Task Force, "Home," (2025),

Figure 4: Arrests for patronization, promotion and prostitution crimes — state fiscal year 2025

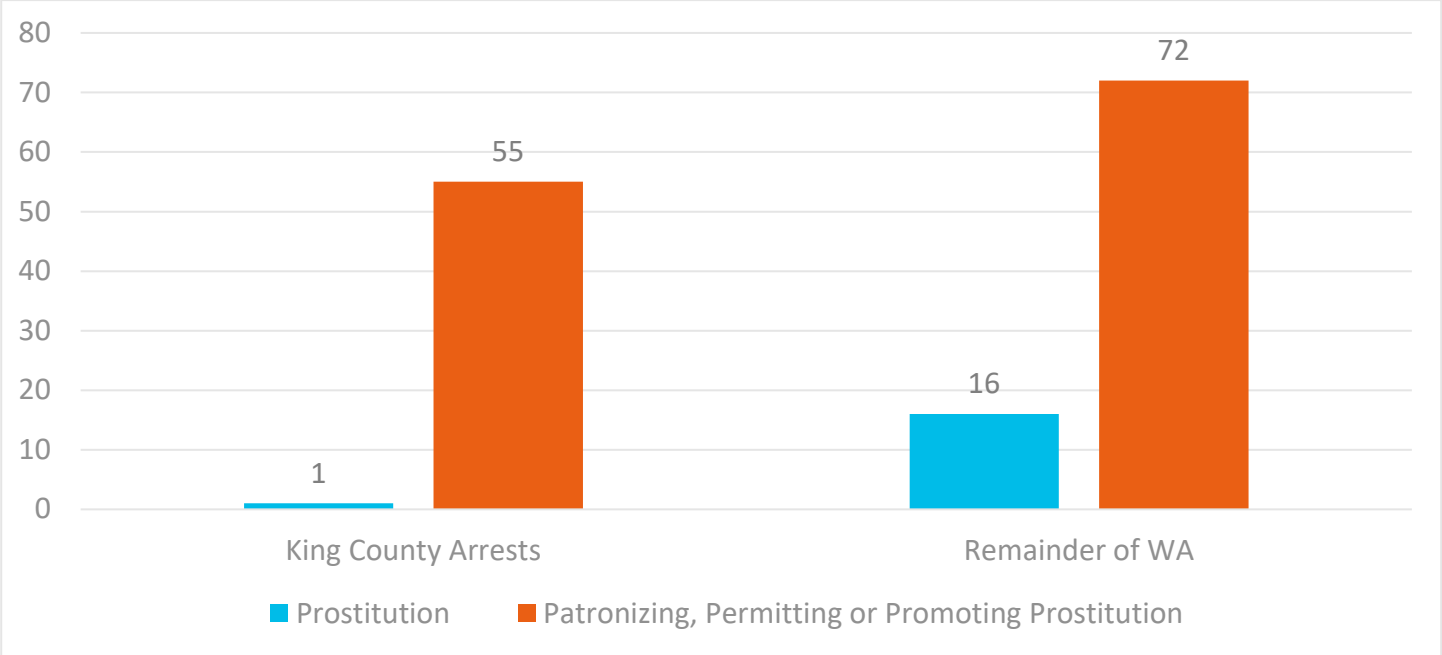


Figure 5: Convictions for patronization, promotion and prostitution— state fiscal year 2025

