

THE LONG WAIT

A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FROM
KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS ARE CAUGHT IN COURT SYSTEM BACKLOG

Victims engaging in the legal system in King County have always experienced lengthy waits. With pandemic closures, justice system delays have reached a crisis point, preventing victims, the majority of whom are young, from moving forward with their healing and their lives.

A plan to address the backlog must prioritize victims of sexual assault, the majority of whom were children when they were abused.

408 VICTIMS

16

VICTIM AGE

The median age of sexual assault victims at the time data was retrieved was 16. 82% of victims were female.

563

DAYS SINCE ARRAIGNMENT

KCSARC clients had been waiting on average almost 19 months from the time defendants in their cases were arraigned.

319 DEFENDANTS*

39

DEFENDANT AGE

The median age of defendants at the time data was retrieved was 39. 95% of defendants were male.

73%

CHARGES PENDING

Almost 3/4 of all charges involved in these backlogged sexual assault cases are for crimes against children.

Of these

38%

are Class A felonies, such as Rape of a Child and Child Molestation.

The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, a nonprofit serving sexual assault survivors throughout King County, analyzed client legal case data retrieved in January, 2021. KCSARC assists victims in the majority of sexual assault cases in King County Superior Court. Data reflects KCSARC client caseload only. All cases are adult court cases.

*Victims outnumber defendants because defendants may have more than one victim.

www.kcsarc.org

24-hour Resource Line: 888.99.VOICE

 King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center