

Navigating Justice



A report to the community on sexual assault victim case outcomes in King County Superior Court system

March 2024

Background

In 2021, the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center issued its “Long Wait” report. That point-in-time snapshot showed **408** sexual assault victims had open cases, and had waited almost **19 months** for resolution since the time the defendant in their case was arraigned. The average **victim was 16**; the average **defendant was 39** when data was pulled.

“The Long Wait” also showed the seriousness of the harm victims had experienced.

Three-fourths of the charges pending were **crimes against children**. Of those, **38% were Class A felonies**.



About the data in our report

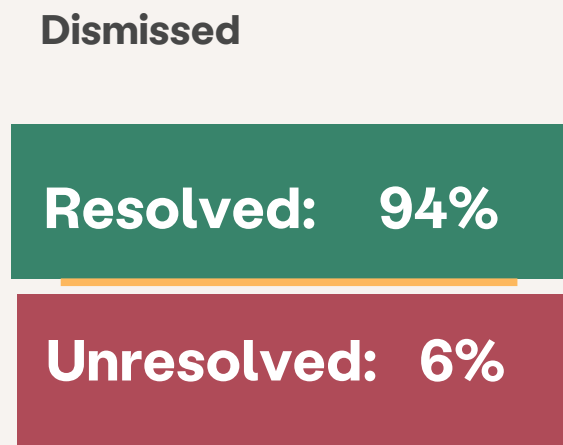
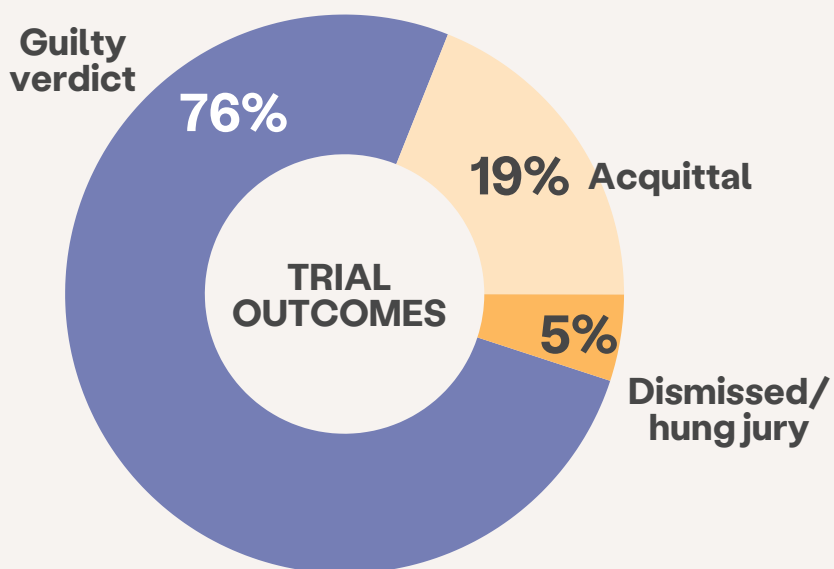
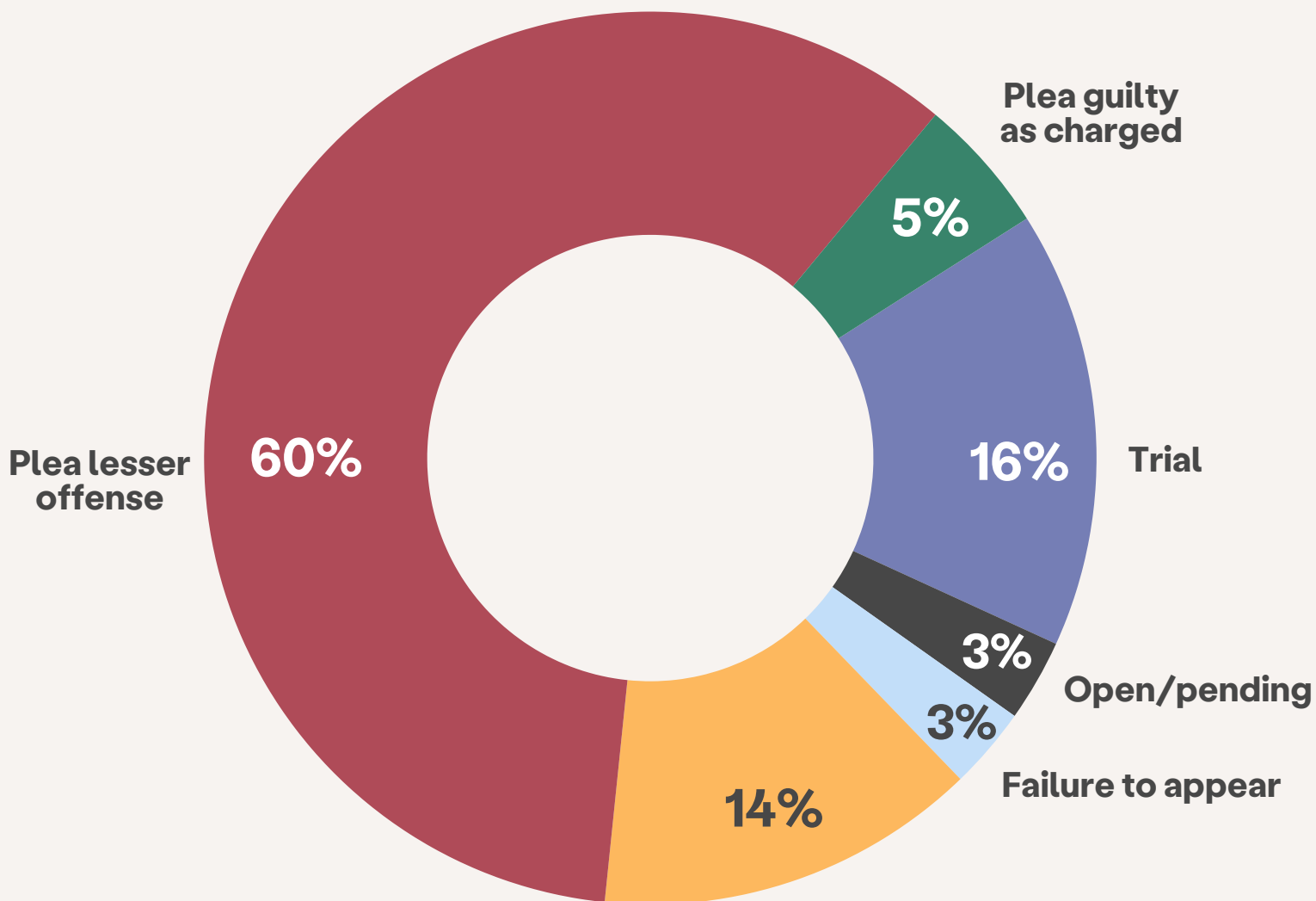
KCSARC advocates assist most, but not all, sexual assault survivors in King County Superior Court. This report reflects only data about victims assisted by KCSARC.

“The Long Wait” and “Navigating Justice” pertain to King County Superior Court, which handles criminal cases involving adult defendants only.

The data includes 408 victims and 319 defendants. Victims outnumber defendants because many defendants have multiple victims.

Our report and data center on victim experience and point of view.

Outcomes: 408 victims



- 9 defendants awaiting trial
- 7 defendants failed to appear

Unresolved

Pending Trial 12 of 13 victim cases in trial are for **child sex offenses**.

Failure to Appear (FTA): 12 of 13 victims where defendant has failed to appear are charged with **Class A child sex offenses**.



Victims have been waiting **almost 4 years** since arraignment.

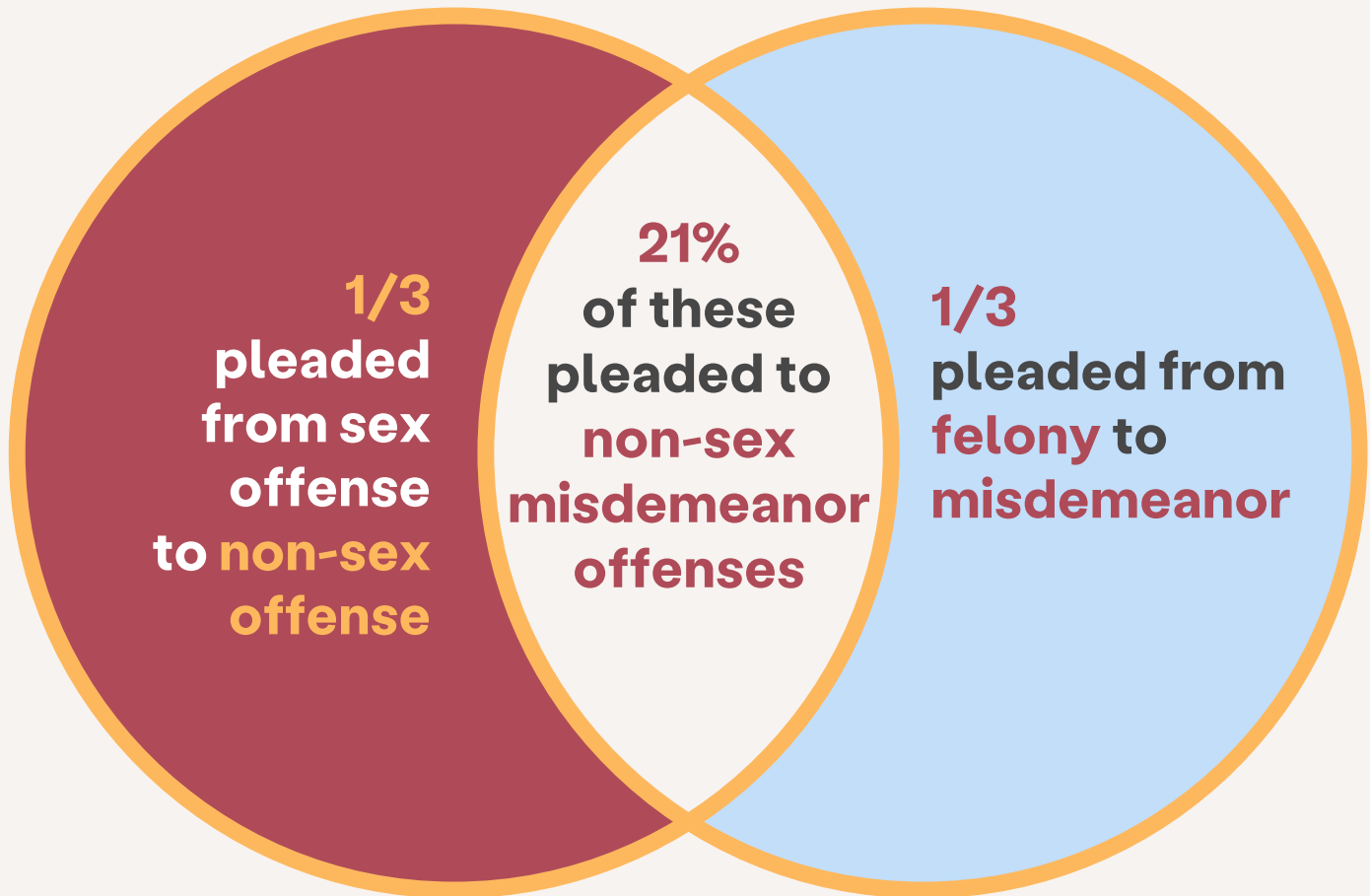
Dismissals: 14%

Victims waited
an average of
807 days
before their case was dismissed.

Negotiated cases: Implications for victims & community

In **60%** of victim cases, defendants pleaded to lesser charges.
1/3 pleaded to a lesser felony sex offense.

Of the remaining:



THIS MEANS:  No SAPO or registration +  No reporting or supervision

VICTIMS FEEL:



About the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

KCSARC is a 501c3 community nonprofit that provides comprehensive advocacy and therapy services to sexual assault survivors and their families in both English and Spanish, as well as prevention education to stop sexual violence from happening in communities throughout King County.

In 2023, KCSARC assisted 4,805 individual survivors and their family members. About half of KCSARC's clients are children <18.

For immediate help or information,
KCSARC's 24-hour Resource Line is available, always,
at 1.888.99.VOICE.

Para recibir ayuda o información o para conocer los recursos
gratuitos y confidenciales disponibles en español:
llame 425.282.0324 (L-V, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)



King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center