



2024 ADULT SEXUAL ASSAULT DATA REPORT¹

Foreword

Improving outcomes for survivors of sexual assault is a priority of the Travis County District Attorney's Office (TCDA). In 2017, a group of sexual assault survivors filed a lawsuit against Travis County and the City of Austin alleging systemic failures in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault crimes. In 2021, Travis County settled this lawsuit and implemented a series of internal reforms. TCDA increased staffing in its Sexual Assault Unit and Victim Services Division, effectuated new victim policies and training requirements, established a Community Advisory Board, and committed to share more data with the public about sexual assault prosecutions.

The City of Austin settled its lawsuit with sexual assault survivors in 2022, leading the way for the launch of the Collective Sex Crimes Response Model (CSCRM) Project in 2023. The CSCRM Project has facilitated new levels of collaboration between the Travis County District Attorney's Office and the Austin Police Department and resulted in significant advancements to the ways that sexual assaults occurring in Austin are investigated, staffed between the two agencies, and prosecuted.

This collective work over the last few years has contributed to better outcomes for sexual assault survivors. In 2024, TCDA's Sexual Assault Unit secured more sexual assault convictions than it had in any of the previous eight years. In the years ahead, TCDA will continue to collaborate with law enforcement partners, sexual assault survivors, and other community stakeholders to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault crimes. TCDA and the Austin Police Department are also preparing to implement learnings from the CSCRM Project to other bodies of work.

While we recognize our recent progress, we acknowledge that there is still much work to do. Our office remains committed to improving outcomes for sexual assault survivors and ensuring that our local criminal justice system treats victims with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

¹For the purposes of this report, an adult sexual assault case can be any sexual assault case that is either staffed by TCDA's Sexual Assault Unit before it is accepted for prosecution, or that is assigned to TCDA's Sexual Assault Unit and is submitted, accepted, indicted, or otherwise prosecuted as one of the following offenses: Aggravated Kidnapping with Intent to Inflict Bodily Injury/Sexual Abuse; Aggravated Sexual Assault; Burglary of a Habitation with the Intent to Commit a Sexual Offense; Improper Sexual Activity with a Person in Custody or Under Supervision; Improper Sexual Activity with a Committed Person; Failure to Comply/Duty to Register as a Sex Offender; Hindering the Apprehension/Prosecution of a Known Felon/Sex Offender; Prohibited Sexual Conduct; Sex Trafficking of Persons, Sexual Assault; Sexual Exploitation by a Mental Health Services Provider; and Sexual Coercion.

Case Staffing

Staffing sexual assault cases with law enforcement early in the investigation process improves TCDA’s ability to prosecute these cases and improves outcomes for survivors. During a case staffing, a detective consults with an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) from TCDA’s Sexual Assault Unit about a case under investigation. When staffing a case, TCDA and the case detective may discuss whether the evidence in a case meets legal standards for prosecution, whether additional investigative steps may help strengthen a case, or whether the case should be filed with TCDA or the County Attorney’s Office for prosecution. The same case may be staffed multiple times before it is accepted for prosecution by TCDA. Conversely, law enforcement agencies may choose to arrest a suspect or file a case for prosecution without first consulting a prosecutor. This is known as “direct file”.

Approximately **23%** of adult sexual assault cases received for prosecution in 2024 were referred to TCDA through the staffing process. On average, TCDA staffed **16** cases with law enforcement partners each month. Over three-quarters of all sexual assault case staffings in 2024 related to investigations conducted by the Austin Police Department. Seventy-five (**75**) adult sexual assault investigations staffed with TCDA in 2024 were either never filed for prosecution by law enforcement or declined for prosecution by TCDA. TCDA accepted **34** adult sexual assault cases through the staffing process in 2024.

Table 1: Adult Sexual Assault Cases Accepted Through Staffing Process

	2024	2023
Austin Police Department	32	23
Other Law Enforcement Agency	2	9
Total Staffed Cases Accepted	34	32

Case Development and Review

Once a case is accepted for prosecution, TCDA continues to receive and review evidence. For example, TCDA may conduct additional victim and witness interviews, subpoena additional records, and request additional forensic testing. At the conclusion of this phase, TCDA will present the case to a grand jury. If the grand jury determines that there is probable cause to believe the accused person committed a criminal offense, they will issue an indictment. When a grand jury determines that a case lacks probable cause, the case is “no billed.”

Table 2 provides information about adult sexual assault cases that were received for prosecution and presented to a grand jury in 2024. Please note that TCDA’s case data is not longitudinal. For example, some cases presented to grand jury in 2024 may have been received by TCDA during a previous calendar year.

Table 2: Adult Sexual Assault Cases Received & Presented to Grand Jury in 2024

# Cases Received	150
# Cases Indicted by Grand Jury	113
# Cases No Billed by Grand Jury	8

Cases Rejected or Dismissed

Occasionally, TCDA may determine that the prosecution of a case cannot move forward. In such circumstances, TCDA will “reject” a case if it has not yet been presented to a grand jury or “dismiss” a case if the case has already been indicted by a grand jury. TCDA may reject or dismiss a case because there is not sufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution, a necessary victim or witness decides that they no longer wish to participate in the case or recants their original testimony, new evidence comes to light that does not support the findings of the initial investigation, or new evidence suggests that additional investigation by the referring law enforcement agency is required. Additionally, a case may be dismissed or rejected because prosecutors have decided to proceed on other charges or because a defendant has been convicted on other charges. In certain instances, a judge may dismiss a case following a motion filed by the defendant.

Seventy-nine (**79**) adult sexual assault cases were rejected or dismissed in 2024. In two cases, the judge dismissed the case after ruling on a motion filed by the defendant. In **77** cases, the rejection or dismissal was initiated by the attorney representing the state. The table below outlines reasons for case rejections or dismissals in 2024. A case rejected or dismissed in 2024 may have been filed for prosecution during a previous calendar year.

Table 3: Adult Sexual Assault Cases Rejected or Dismissed in 2024

Reason for Case Disposition	# Cases Rejected or Dismissed
Case has been Refiled	10
Defendant Prosecuted in Another Case	22
Insufficient Evidence	18
Requested by Victim or LEA and In the Interest of Justice	5
Unable to Locate or Necessary Witness Failed to Appear/Engage	10
Other	14
Total Cases Rejected or Dismissed	79

Convictions and Trials

Most prosecuted cases are resolved through a plea agreement. Occasionally, adult sexual assault cases are set for trial and resolved by a judge’s or jury’s verdict. In 2024, TCDA negotiated plea agreements in **69** adult sexual assault cases. Additionally, TCDA tried **nine** adult sexual assault cases that year.²

Table 4: Adult Sexual Assault Cases Convicted by Year, 2017-2024*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Jury Trial	5	1	1	0	2	5	7	1
Negotiated Plea of Guilty	69	68	29	19	12	23	33	29
Unnegotiated Plea of Guilty to Judge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Cases Convicted	74	69	30	19	14	28	40	31

**Case totals indicated in this table represent the sum of unique cause numbers resulting in a conviction each year. A single defendant may be convicted on multiple charges under one cause number. A conviction includes cases resolved by a negotiated plea of guilty, unnegotiated plea of guilty (open plea), and by a guilty trial verdict.*

Table 5: Adult Sexual Assault Trial Outcomes, 2022-2024

	2024	2023	2022
Conviction	5	1	1
Acquittal	1	1	2
Mistrial	3	0	0
Total Sexual Assault Trials	9	2	3

Table 6: 2024 Adult Sexual Assault Convictions by Offense**

Convicted Offense	# of Convictions	% of Total
Sexual Assault	22	26%
Indecent Assault	20	24%
Sexual Coercion	11	13%
Aggravated Sexual Assault	6	7%
Other	25	30%
Total Counts Convicted	84	100%

*** A single defendant may be convicted on multiple charges under the same cause number. Convicted offenses represent convictions secured by negotiated plea of guilty, unnegotiated plea of guilty (open plea), and by trial. Convicted offenses include preparatory offenses (e.g. Attempt to Commit Sexual Assault).*

² For context, in the last decade, less than one percent of all felony cases in Texas were tried before a jury. Gibson, N. Waters, M. Hamilton, E. Stevens, M. Novitt, H. Caspers, E. Taylor, eds. Last updated Oct 2024 CSP STAT, National Center for State Courts (Accessed 29 Oct 2025), www.courtstatistics.org.

Table 7: Convicted Offenses by Year, 2017-2024***

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
AGG ASSAULT CAUSES SERIOUS BODILY INJ	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	5
AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
AGG KIDNAPPING	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGG KIDNAPPING BI/SEXUAL ABUSE	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
AGG ROBBERY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
AGG SEXUAL ASSAULT	6	6	5	2	2	2	5	4
ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJ	3	2	0	1	3	6	3	4
ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY FAMILY VIOLENCE	1	4	0	0	0	1	7	0
ASSAULT FAM/HOUSE MEM IMPEDE BREATH/CIRCULAT	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
ASSAULT FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD MEMBER PREV CONV IAT	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY HABITATION INTEND OTHER FELONY	4	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY OF HABITATION	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
CRIMINAL TRESPASS INST HIGH EDU PREV CONV IAT	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAIL TO COMPLY SEX OFF DUTY TO REG LIFE/ANNUAL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
INDECENT ASSAULT	20	20	2	2	1	0	0	0
INDECENT ASSAULT PREV CONV IAT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INDECENT EXPOSURE	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
INJURY CHILD/ELDERLY/DISABLE RECKLESS SBI/MENTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
INJURY CHILD/ELDERLY/DISABLE W/INT BODILY INJ	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
INJURY CHILD/ELDERLY/DISABLED RECKLESS BODILY INJ	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
KIDNAPPING	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROH SEXUAL CONDUCT	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
SEXUAL ASSAULT	22	21	11	9	5	14	12	10
SEXUAL ASSAULT PROH/PURPORT SPOUSE	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEXUAL COERCION	11	10	4	0	0	0	0	0
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT EXPOSE TO SBI	3	1	2	1	1	3	7	4
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	3
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT LESS THAN 17 YRS OF AGE	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	84	82	33	21	16	30	42	34

***Convicted offenses represent convictions resolved by a negotiated plea of guilty, an unnegotiated plea of guilty (open plea), and by a guilty trial verdict. Convicted offenses include preparatory offense (e.g. Attempt to Commit Sexual Assault). A single defendant may be convicted on multiple counts as part of a single case.