

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION (SAFE) COMMISSION

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by:

WV Division of Administrative
Services Justice and Community
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Purpose of the Commission:

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission was created under West Virginia Code Chapter 15-§9B-1, §9B-2 and §9B-3 and first met on August 8, 2014. Its purpose is to establish, manage, and monitor a statewide system to facilitate the timely and efficient collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases. Duties of the Commission include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Establish mandatory statewide protocols for conducting sexual assault forensic examinations, including designating locations and providers to perform examinations, establishing minimum qualifications and procedures for their performance, and establishing protocols to assure the proper collection of evidence;
- (2) Facilitate the recruitment and retention of qualified health care providers that are properly qualified to conduct forensic examinations;
- (3) Authorize minimum training requirements for providers conducting exams and establish a basic standard of care for victims of sexual assault;
- (4) Support county prosecutors in establishing sexual assault forensic examination boards, set forth minimum requirements for local plans developed by county or regional boards, and approve local plans for each area of the state on a county or regional basis; and
- (5) Propose rules for legislative approval.

Executive Summary:

SAFE Commission efforts resulted in the following outcomes in the past year:

- ❖ The final eight counties received approval of plans for where medical forensic services will be accessed, enabling the Commission to achieve full compliance with §15-9B-2 (3). See pages 12-14 for maps of plan submission by county.
- ❖ A protocol for storing and repackaging non-report kits at Marshall University Forensic Science Center was developed and adopted for full compliance with the 2025 legislative rule section §149-11-7.
- ❖ All hospital facilities (49) submitted treatment/transfer plans by 1/1/2026 in compliance with legislative rule §149-11-3.1.2.
- ❖ 318 SAECK quality reviews of collected kits were completed in the Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System from 9/1/2026 – 8/28/2026.
- ❖ A pediatric/adolescent SANE clinical skills course was launched and a ‘trainer the trainer’ event was held.

- ❖ Several internal protocols were developed related to training and hospital compliance with the 2025 legislative rule, including an approval process for non-Commission-developed SANE training courses, pediatric SANE training requirements, and a process for the oversight of the SANE training guidelines and SANE/hospital compliance.
- ❖ The WV SANE Coordinator through the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS) coordinated 7 adult/adolescent SANE clinical skills courses with 81 participants, and 4 pediatric/adolescent SANE clinical skills courses with 29 attendees. Additionally, 7 adult/pediatric SANE practicum skills courses were held with 79 participants.
- ❖ A total of 56 nurses were approved to provide adult/adolescent exams and 11 nurses to provide pediatric/adolescent exams.
- ❖ A mini-grant for equipment (such as cameras and locked storage carts) to assist in jumpstarting SANE programs was provided through WVFRIS to one hospital.
- ❖ The SAFE Commission's website was expanded, with all county plans posted, information available regarding SANE requirements and trainings, and Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) information provided.
- ❖ The SAFE Commission participated in the legislative audit review that began in April 2025, with the final report not yet presented to the legislature's review committee.

SAFE Commission Subcommittees:

Standards Subcommittee:

Role: Facilitate the development of county plans through the creation of: service standards definitions, county plan template, plan review process, plan dissemination method, and assessment of plan implementation process.

A work group of the Standards Subcommittee, with staff support from the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, focused this year on getting the county plans completed. The work group met six times to review plans and had numerous meetings with prosecutors and county teams, with the following outcomes for the year:

- All of the state's counties now have approved plans for how and where medical forensic services will be accessed. This process has been a struggle since 2017, but this phase is now complete.
- All plans are posted on the SAFE Commission's website at [SAFE Commission](#).
- The SAFE Commission decided that 1/3 of the county plans will be reviewed annually to ensure the local teams are meeting and implementing their plans. The Standards Subcommittee prioritized which counties should be reviewed in the next year, created

a review checklist for the counties to use, and began contacting the 18 counties to be reviewed for 2026-2027.

- Nine county plan protocols included referring victims to United Hospital Center (UHC), but UHC was not providing 24/7 exams. Several meetings were held with UHC to offer assistance in expanding exam access. UHC hired a Forensic Nurse Coordinator in July, and the WV SANE Coordinator is assisting in recruiting and training nurses there.
- All of the state's hospitals submitted plans for whether they will be providing forensic exams or transferring victims to another facility. The Standards Subcommittee began working to align the county plans for exam access with the hospitals' plans for actual exam provision.

Data Collection Subcommittee:

Role: Identify and implement a system to track sexual assault kits, enhance feedback system to hospitals/medical personnel regarding the quality of the kits being collected, and utilize data to guide training needs.

The Data Subcommittee did not meet this reporting period, but the sexual assault kit tracking application continued to supply reports to hospitals on the quality of kits collected.

The following information was obtained from the WV Sexual Assault Exam Crime Kit (SAECK) Information System from data entered between September 1, 2025 to August 28, 2026:

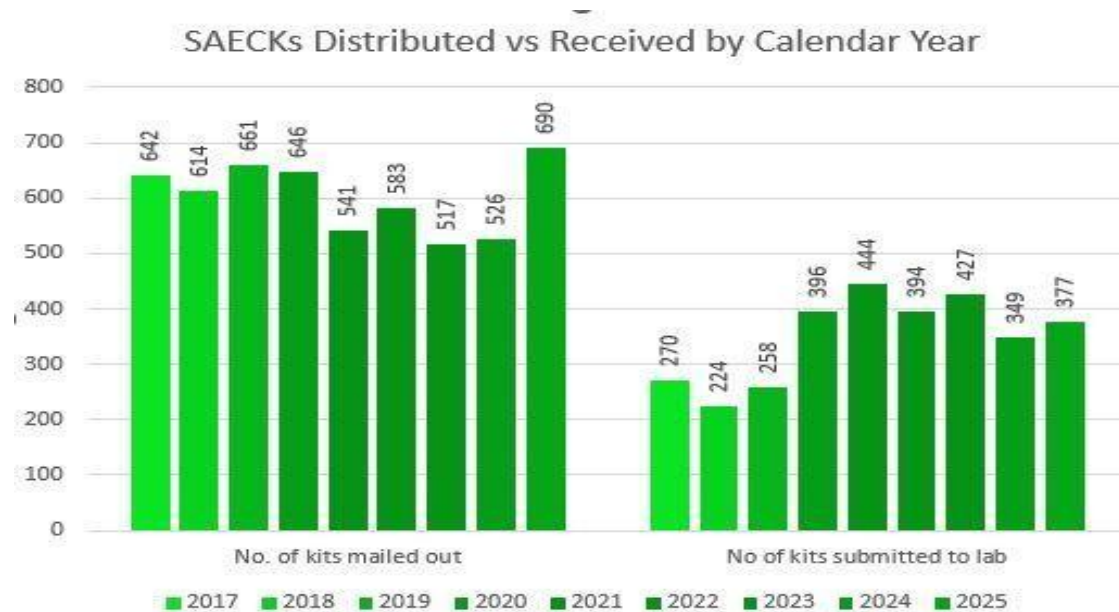
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total SAECKs distributed	550	520	516	607	601
- Tracked to Law Enforcement / WVSPFL	368	234	213	243	394
- Forwarded to another facility	4	8	4	0	7*
- To MUFSC (Non-Reports)	41	30	20	25	60
- Not used/destroyed	9	2	5	7	18
- Used for training	11	4	65	120	113
- Not tracked since mailed	114	242	209	315	153
- Activated non-report	3	0	0	2	3

* Of the 7 kits forwarded to another hospital in 2025 - 2026, 4 have since been reported and sent to the WVSPFL, and 2 were sent to the MUFSC. The remaining kit has not been tracked further.

601 SAECKs were distributed to facilities in West Virginia, Ohio, and Virginia from September 01, 2025 to August 28, 2026. Of the 378 SAECKs collected and reported to law enforcement, 24 were sent from out-of-state law enforcement agencies in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The 2024-2025 increased number of SAECKs used for training was expected due to work being performed by the WV SANE Coordinator/WVFRIS and continued efforts to train and implement CSR Title 149-11 Legislative Rule.

306 SAECK Quality Reviews were completed in the SAK System from September 01, 2025, through August 28, 2026.

Qualification	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
APRN	3	2	0	0	0
DO	2	4	3	1	1
MD	21	16	8	3	0
PA	2	0	0	0	0
FNP-BC	1	1	1	0	1
RN	107	128	107	97	65
RN-SANE-P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
SANE	194	242	199	225	212
SANE-A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31
Unknown	4	9	2	3	3
Total	334	402	320	329	318



Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits distributed to facilities by calendar year compared to the number received at the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory. The increase in received cases beginning in 2020 corresponds with the passage of HB4476 on 2/18/2020.

Training and Compliance Subcommittee:

Role: Review West Virginia Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training curriculum materials and make recommendations to the SAFE Commission about training requirements for medical personnel (e.g., RNs, APRNs, PAs, DOs, and MDs) conducting medical forensic examinations; identify options for assisting SANEs in completing the clinical requirements; and make recommendations for developing and sustaining SANE programs in WV.

The Training Committee met three times during this reporting period and accomplished the following:

- Developed content for the SANE-SAKI section of the SAFE Commission's website
- Finalized internal protocols for training and hospital compliance with the 2025 legislative rule, including:
 - o Creating an approval process and documentation for SANE training curricula requests when the training is not developed by the WV SAFE Commission/WV SANE Coordinator
 - o Finalizing WV Pediatric SANE Training requirements, including both didactic and clinical trainings
 - o Recommendations for revisions to the WV SAECK paperwork to support the use of the SAFE Commission website
 - o Recommendations for revisions to the SAECK Information System
 - o Oversight of SANE training guidelines and SANE/hospital compliance

At the SAFE Commission's May 2026 meeting, the Training Committee's role was expanded to include compliance oversight and its name changed to the 'Training and Compliance Committee' to reflect its expanded duties.

WV SANE Coordinator's Annual Report Summary:

For the reporting period, the WV SANE Coordinator's efforts focused on strengthening and expanding West Virginia's statewide response to victims seeking medical forensic care. Ongoing technical assistance was provided to hospitals, SANEs, and community partners to support the development and sustainability of SANE programs. A Pediatric/Adolescent SANE Clinical Skills Course was finalized and launched to expand specialized training opportunities and strengthen the state's capacity to provide age-appropriate medical forensic care to children and adolescents. Through education, mentorship, quality-improvement activities, program development, and statewide collaboration, this work helped increase the number of qualified forensic nurses and promote consistent, trauma-informed, patient-centered care across West Virginia for victims of sexual violence.

Adult/Adolescent Trainings Facilitated:

- Clinical Skills Courses Held: 7 / Total Participants: 81
- Practicum Courses Held: 7 / Total Participants: 79
- One-Day SANE Refresher: 1 / Total Participants: 6

Pediatric/Adolescent Trainings Facilitated:

- Clinical Skills Courses Held: 4 / Total Participants: 29

Technical Assistance (TA) / Support Provided:

- Hospitals
 - Direct Hospital TA requests: 73
 - Hospital treatment/transfer plans reviewed: 11
 - Hospitals represented at trainings: 17
 - Mini-grants to a medical facility for equipment to expand SANE services: 1
 - Documents created (checklists, flyers, guidance, protocols): 5
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners
 - Direct SANE TA requests: 169+
 - Peer Reviews completed: 11
 - SANE Application Approvals:
 - AA-SANE: 56
 - PA-SANE: 11

2026 Legislative Compliance Overview:

Legislative Audit. Representatives of the SAFE Commission responded to several requests for information from the legislative auditors of the West Virginia Legislature's Performance Evaluation and Research Division. The SAFE Commission was audited as an entity under the Justice and Community Services, which was selected for an audit in 2025.

Recruitment of Qualified Health Care Providers. SAFE Commission representatives participated in numerous meetings with various medical facilities across the state as gaps in service access were identified through the mandatory 1/1/2026 submission of hospital treat/transfer plans. Several hospitals began more actively recruiting SANEs to be trained by the Commission. United Hospital Center hired

a Forensic Nurse Coordinator to focus on expanding its program and to serve as a training site. Davis Memorial began providing exams on a limited basis. These activities were initiated to address the SAFE Commission's role mandated in §15-9B-2 (a): identifying areas of greatest need and assisting in the recruitment and retention of examiners.

Protocol for Non-Reported Kit Storage/Repackaging. The Directors of the Marshall University Forensic Science Center and the WV State Police Laboratory developed draft protocol for storing and repackaging non-report kits at Marshall University Forensic Science Center. The SAFE Commission reviewed the protocol and provided additional suggestions. The final protocol was reviewed and approved at the August 2026 meeting for full compliance with the 2025 legislative rule section §149-11-7.

Additionally, all counties have submitted the required county plans (§15-9B-2 (3)) and all hospital facilities (49) submitted treatment/transfer plans by 1/1/2026 (legislative rule section §149-11-3.1.2).

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Grant:

The WV Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) continues to make steady progress in addressing the 2664 previously unprocessed or partially processed Sexual Assault Kits identified through this project. Of the kits processed, 1,111 DNA profiles have been uploaded to CODIS; 452 have had CODIS hits, including 6 new hits in the past year. Through the certification process to ensure that law enforcement agencies have retained no untested kits (as mandated by statute), 53 additional kits were identified for testing.

With assistance from the newly formed WV State Police Violent Crime and Cold Case Task Force, the SAKI project has now reported the closure of 273 cases, with 96 closed by arrest, conviction, or plea (35%).

A new full-time SAKI investigator, retired WV State Police Lt. Col. Robert A. Maddy, was hired in May 2026 and has been assisting with case investigations in southern West Virginia.

Since July 2024, seven cases involving serial rapists from across the state have been reopened, investigated, and have resulted in an arrest, plea, or conviction. The incident dates on these crimes span from 1976 through the early 2000s and involved more than 20 victims.

ATTACHMENTS

SAFE Commission Members
Subcommittee Members
County Plan Submission/Completion Maps

SAFE Commission Members

Required members:

1. WV Prosecuting Attorney's Association – Gabriella Mucciola
2. WV Association of Counties - Jonathan Adler
3. Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health or designee - Designee- John McComas/Mark McDaniel
4. WV State Police Forensic Laboratory - David Miller/Aaron Dean
5. WV Child Advocacy Network - Tracy Shroyer-Carlyle/Shiloh Woodard (appointment pending)
6. President of the WV Hospital Association or designee - Designee - Hallie Morgan
7. WVFRIS - Nancy Hoffman, Debbie Lopez-Bonasso
8. WV University Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program – Tiffany Edwards
9. Marshall University Forensic Science Program - Dr. Terry Fenger/Jason Chute

Additional Members Appointed by the Administrative Services Director:

10. An emergency room physician -Dr. Christopher Goode
11. Victim Advocate for a rape crisis center – Katie Spriggs
12. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner - Angelita Nixon
13. Law Enforcement officer with experience in sexual assault investigation – Larry Hasley
14. Health Care Provider with pediatric and child abuse expertise - Dr. Joan Phillips
15. Director of a Child Advocacy Center - Beth Cook

Subcommittee Members

Standards Subcommittee:

1. Nancy Hoffman - WVFRIS
2. Debbie Lopez-Bonasso - WVFRIS
3. Dr. Chris Goode – MD, WVU Medicine
4. Larry Hasley – WVSAKI Project
5. Carol Blankenship/Erica Turley - WVJCS- Justice Program Specialist

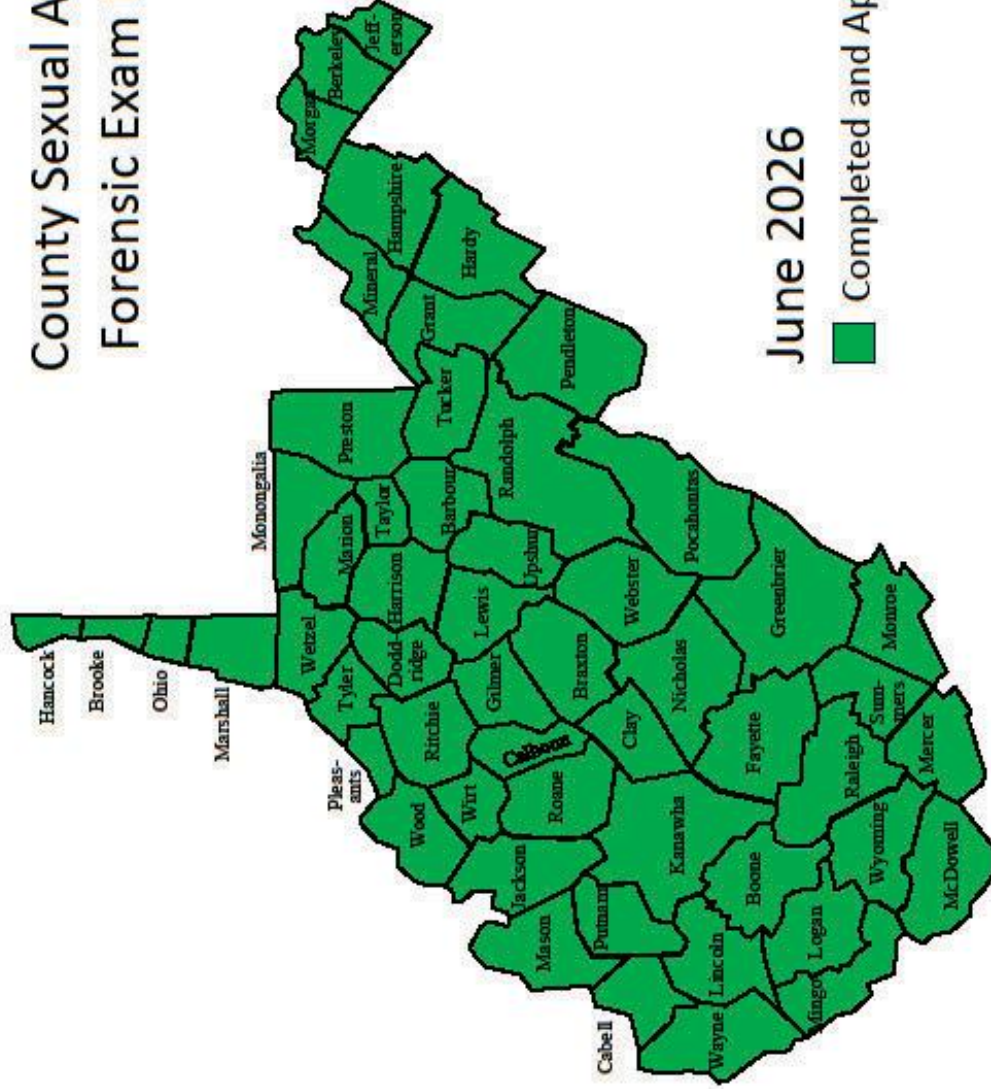
Data Collection Subcommittee:

1. David Miller/Aaron Dean - WV State Police Lab
2. Debbie Lopez-Bonasso - WVFRIS
3. Hallie Morgan - WV Hospital Association
4. Erica Turley- WVJCS Research Specialist
5. Carol Blankenship - WVJCS- Justice Program Specialist

Training Requirements Subcommittee:

1. David Miller/Aaron Dean - WV State Police Lab
2. Debbie Lopez-Bonasso – WVFRIS
3. Tiffany Edwards, WVU Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program
4. Dr. Terry Fenger - Marshall University Forensic Science Program
5. Dr. Chris Goode – MD, WVU Medicine
6. Hallie Morgan – WV Hospital Association
7. Angelita Nixon- CNM
8. Dr. Joan Phillips - MD, Child Advocacy Center at Women's & Children's Hospital
9. Tracy Shroyer-Carlyle – WVCAN/WVFRIS

County Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Plans



June 2026

Completed and Approved Plans



**SAFE County Plans
Scoring For Completeness
2025**

Legend:

- Green: Counties that plan is complete
- Orange: Counties with plan revisions in progress
- Yellow: Counties that plan is incomplete
- Red: Counties with no plans submitted

Counties and Status:

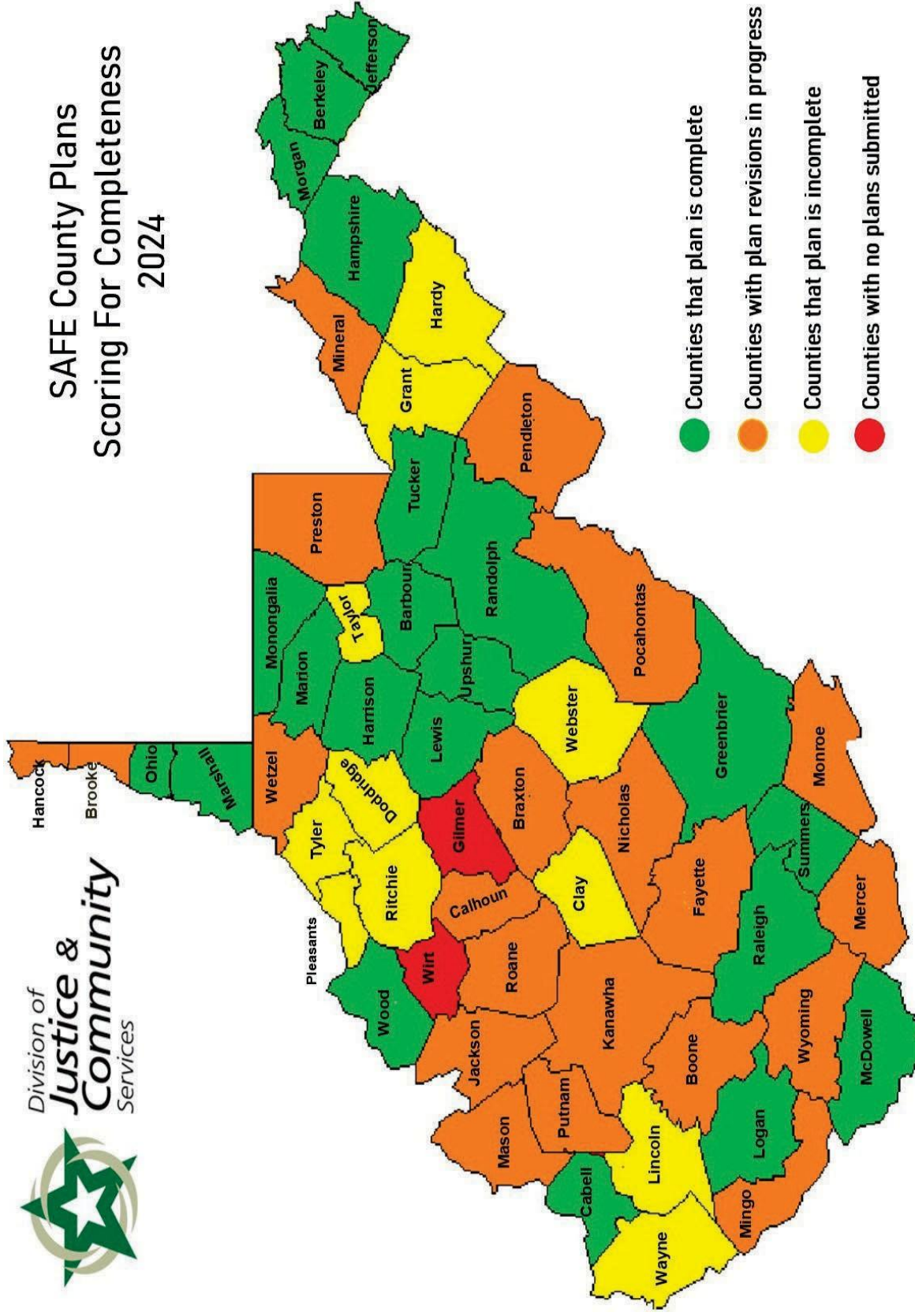
County	Status
Allegany	Complete
Barkeley	Complete
Berkeley	Complete
Jefferson	Complete
Hamshire	Complete
Mineral	Complete
Hardy	In Progress
Grant	Complete
Pendleton	Complete
Tucker	Complete
Preston	Complete
Monongalia	Complete
Marion	Complete
Harrison	Complete
Barbour	Complete
Upshur	Complete
Randolph	Complete
Pocahontas	In Progress
Greenbrier	Complete
Monroe	In Progress
Summers	Complete
Mercer	Complete
Wyoming	Complete
McDowell	Complete
Lincoln	Complete
Logan	Complete
Mingo	Complete
Wayne	In Progress
Cabell	Complete
Mason	Complete
Putnam	Complete
Kanawha	Complete
Boone	Complete
Fayette	In Progress
Clay	Complete
Nicholas	Complete
Braxton	Complete
Gilmer	In Progress
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Division of
**Justice &
Community**
Services

SAFE County Plans Scoring For Completeness 2024



SAFE County Plans are legislatively mandated to outline protocols for sexual violence victim advocacy, transportation and forensic exams.