



**VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND**

*Helping Innocent Victims of Crime*

OFFICIALLY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

# **Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Payment Program Review**

## **FY2021**

(July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)



A division of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

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## MISSION



The Virginia Victims Fund, officially the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, a division of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC), administers the SAFE Payment Program.

### **VWC's Mission**

To serve injured workers, victims of crimes, employers, and related industries by providing exceptional services, resolving disputes and faithfully executing the duties entrusted to us by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



### **VWC's Vision**

Lead the nation as the most effective and innovative state agency.

## PURPOSE

Pursuant to Appropriation Act House Bill 30, Chapter 1289, this report details the following information to be delivered to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees. This information is provided for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021):

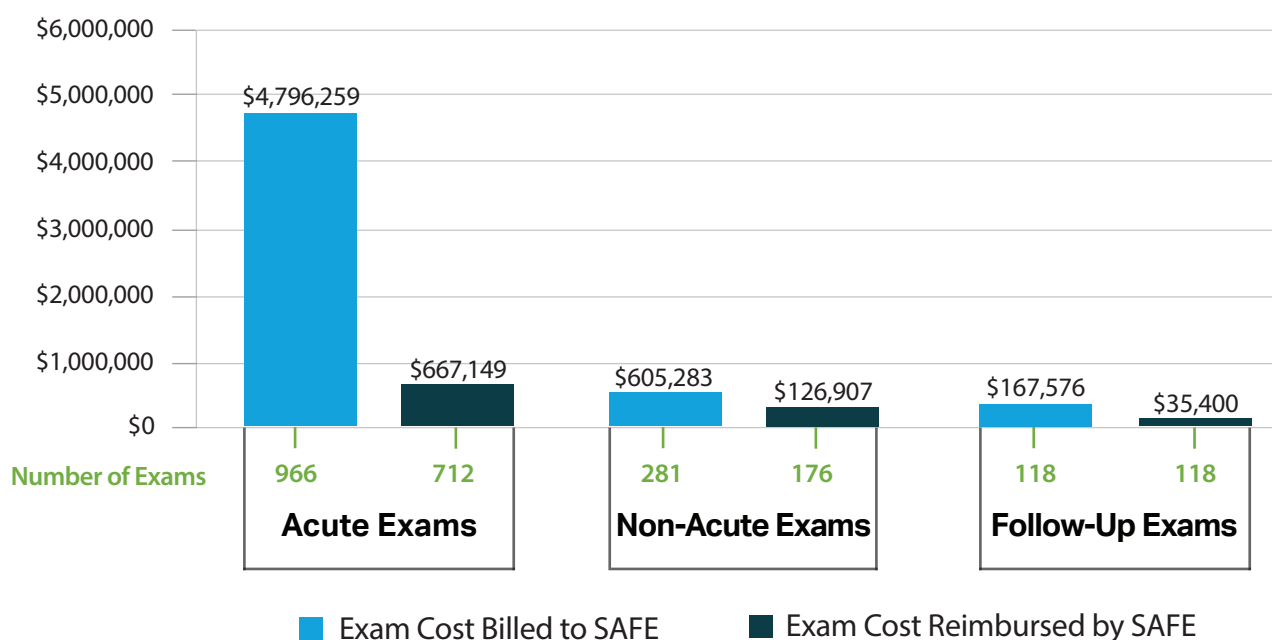
- Number of Forensic Acute, Non-Acute and Follow-up Exams;
- Total amount billed by Medical Providers for each exam;
- Total number of reimbursements made to Providers

The current SAFE payment rates are \$1,200 for an acute exam, \$800 for non-acute exam and \$300 for follow-up exams.

# SAFE EXAM DATA

The chart below details the total cost of exams billed to the SAFE Payment Program in FY21 with comparison to the costs of exams approved and reimbursed. The number of exams billed is shown, with comparison to the number of exams approved and reimbursed. The SAFE database categorizes each sexual crime claim as adult or child, as well as an acute or non-acute exam.

All follow-up treatment is filed within the existing claim. The SAFE database does not track follow-up exam counts separately, however, the chart below reflects a manual count of exams based upon the rate paid of \$300. System upgrades are planned in the upcoming year. Please visit the Resources section of the Virginia Victims Fund website [here](#), for more information.



In FY21, the SAFE Payment Program pursued a budgetary increase in response to the disparity in cost and reimbursement rates for sexual assault forensic exams. While the proposed budgetary increase was not appropriated; an increase of \$770,000 has been granted for FY22.

VVF will continue to assess and monitor the cost of exams verses the cost reimbursed along with newly released guidelines regarding the Center for Disease Control (CDC) sexually transmitted infections treatment guidelines dated July 23, 2021 to determine how best to allocate this increase. Historically, the SAFE Payment Program has reimbursed post-sexual assault prophylaxis at 100%.

The changes noted above will be monitored closely and in collaboration and coordination of efforts with the Department of Criminal Justice Service's Forensic Coordinator. VVF will continue its efforts to promote access for sexual assault victims, reinforce and strengthen practices to expand outreach, increase visibility of sexual assault forensic nursing programs and expand services.

# Ways to CONNECT



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**Online** • [virginiavictimsfund.org](http://virginiavictimsfund.org)

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