

Sexual Assault Response Network Program and Committee

May 20, 2026

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The [Sexual Assault Response Network \(SARN\) Committee](#) surveyed healthcare facilities in July and August 2025 to better understand the availability of and billing for post-sexual assault care in Montana. It received 17 responses from five prospective payment system hospitals (~50% of PPS facilities in Montana), 11 critical access hospitals (~22% of CAHs in Montana), and one primary care/physician clinic. Of respondents, ten had collected sexual assault evidence kits in 2024 and/or 2025 and seven had not. Three additional facilities conducted sexual assault forensic exams during that time but did not collect an evidence kit as part of the exam.

When responding to questions about unrecovered expenses, the healthcare facilities responded they incur such expenses for each exam. Examples of unrecovered expenses included space, staff wages and on-call pay¹, supplies, labs, pharmacy, radiology, medications, emergency room fees, and staff training. One facility shared that their emergency room providers are a separate entity and collectively decided not to bill sexual assault patients for their exam costs.

Six facilities shared specifics to the amount of unrecovered expenses they incur per exam and/or per year, including:

- Facility A: approximately \$190,607 per year
- Facility B:
 - In 2024: \$274,620.00 in charges and \$66,307.38 in unrecovered charges/expenses.
 - In 2025 to date: \$159,712.00 in charges and \$95,822.54 unrecovered charges/expenses.
- Facility C: an estimated \$165,000 in unrecovered expenses for exams billed to (local law enforcement) and the Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program at DOJ for exams not reported to law enforcement. This figure does not include exams for other entities including other non-local enforcement and federal agencies.
- Facility D: an average estimate would be \$800 in unrecovered expenses per exam.
- Facility E: ~\$550,000 to \$625,000 annually
- Facility F: estimated >\$5,000 in the last fiscal year

When asked how these facilities account for those unrecovered expenses, they responded:

- Facility A: We did not have any donations or grants last year for our program. It was 100% covered by (our facility).
- Facility B: We write off/adjust charges not paid.
- Facility C: Writing off as community benefit/charity care.
- Facility D: An estimated \$24,800 was written off for community benefit.
- Facility E: ~\$350,000 to \$400,000 is written off annually as charity care/community benefit. Grants cover \$125,000 to \$150,000 annually and private donations \$75,000 annually.
- Facility F: Community Benefit

¹ Six of the facilities offered on-call pay.