



FACT SHEET

Access To Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners In Kentucky

Legislative Research Commission
Research Report No. 501

Highlighted Conclusions

- The number of SANE credentials increased from 296 in 2019 to 556 in 2025.
- There were six counties with 10 or more SANEs living in them.
- There were 81 counties with three or fewer SANEs living in them. Of those 81 counties, there were 30 counties with no SANEs living in them.
- As of October 2025, there were 25 SANE-ready hospitals in Kentucky. That number has increased steadily since 2017.
- As of October 2025, most SANE-ready hospitals were located in Louisville, Central Kentucky, and Northern Kentucky. There were no SANE-ready hospitals west of Owensboro.
- There were 100 counties without a SANE-ready hospital, and of those, 44 counties did not neighbor a county with a SANE-ready hospital.
- From 2019 to 2024, there were 4,468 SAFEs that were logged in the Kentucky State Police kit tracking portal.

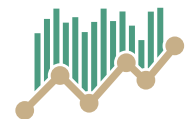
Highlighted Recommendations

- Hospitals should consider developing monetary incentives and specialized job codes to incentivize more nurses to become SANEs.
- The Kentucky Board of Nursing should consider working with SANE training programs to make them more accessible to potential candidates.
- Hospitals should work with the Kentucky Board of Nursing to offer more training options for SANE A/As and SANE P/As.
- Hospitals should consider working together to allow SANEs to float between hospitals. This would allow more hospitals to have on-call SANEs and become SANE-ready hospitals.
- The Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee should consider developing a statewide SANE coordinator position, which would coordinate the efforts of different state agencies and hospitals.
- The Kentucky Hospital Association should work with hospitals in rural areas to facilitate the sharing of SANE resources.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider requiring that hospitals have a sexual assault nurse examiner on call 24 hours each day.
- There should be greater training of hospital registration staff in order to ensure that survivors of sexual assault are not turned away, transferred, or denied treatment.
- All applicable medical providers should receive training that includes information on the treatment of survivors of sexual assault.

Key Numbers

556

SANE credentials
active in 2025



88% increase
in active
credentials
since 2019



25 SANE-ready
hospitals
in Kentucky



100 counties
without
a SANE-ready
hospital