

Sexual Assault Investigations



CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

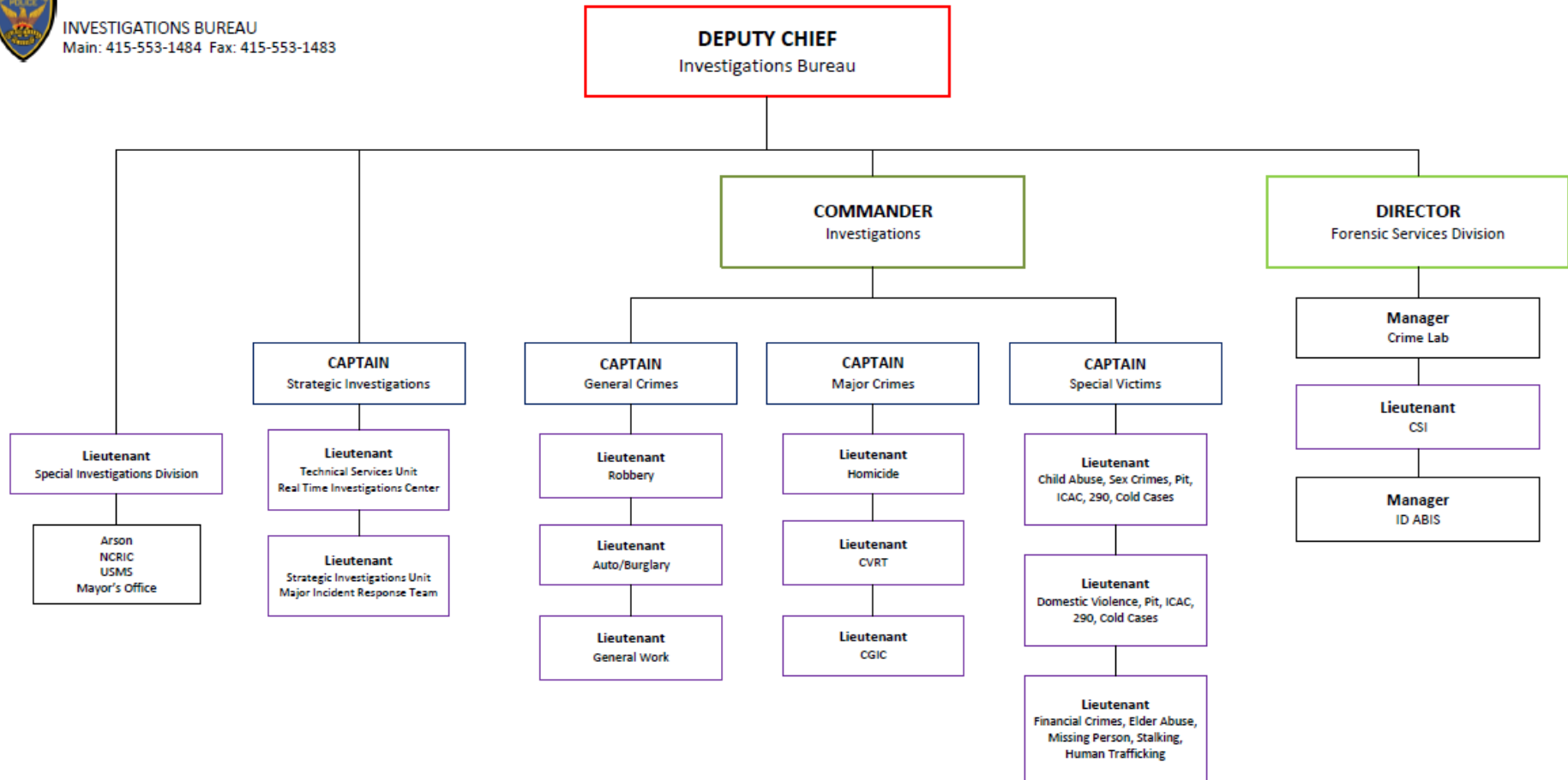


May 9, 2024

Investigations Bureau Organizational Chart



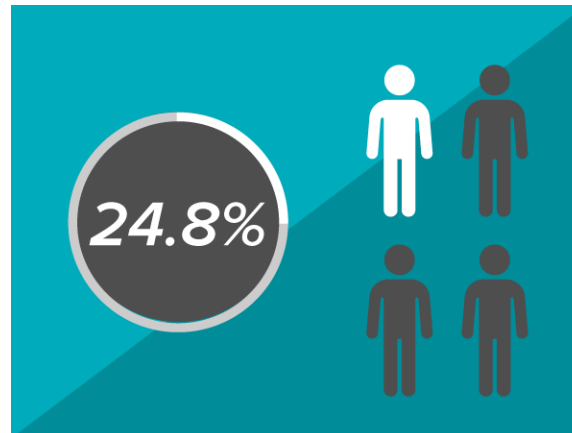
INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU
Main: 415-553-1484 Fax: 415-553-1483



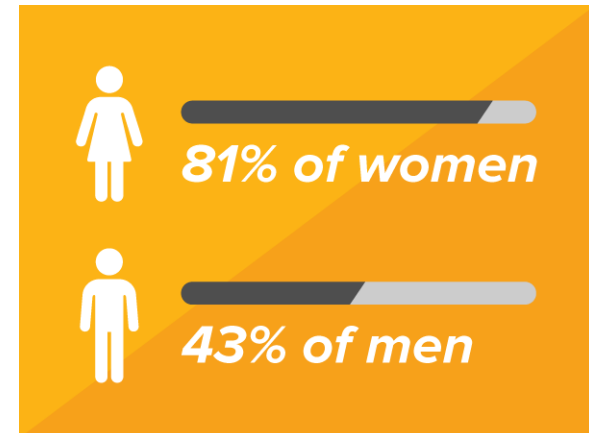
National statistics



1 in 5 women have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime.



Nearly a quarter of men will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.



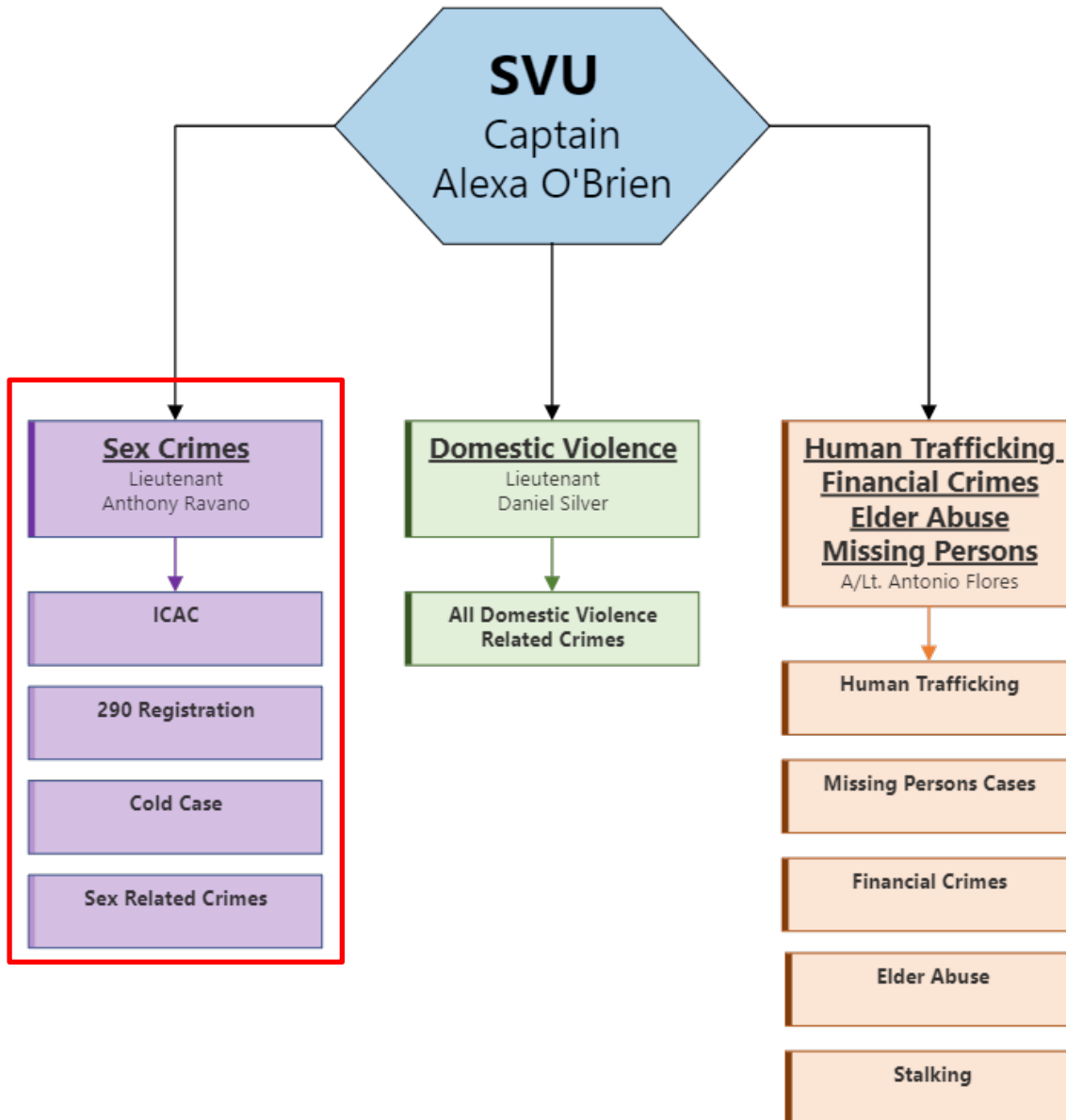
81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime.

Mission of Special Victims Unit (SVU)

The mission of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) Special Victims Unit (SVU) is dedicated to investigating and addressing crimes involving some of the most vulnerable members of society. Our SVU Sergeants are highly specialized in handling cases related to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, elder abuse (both physical and financial), internet crimes against children, and all financial crimes within the City and County of San Francisco. Their primary objective is to support survivors and ensure justice, while holding perpetrators accountable.

SVU officers receive state-mandated specialized training designed to equip them with the skills necessary to handle sensitive cases with empathy, understanding, and professionalism. They work closely with victims, providing essential resources and support throughout the investigation and subsequent legal processes.

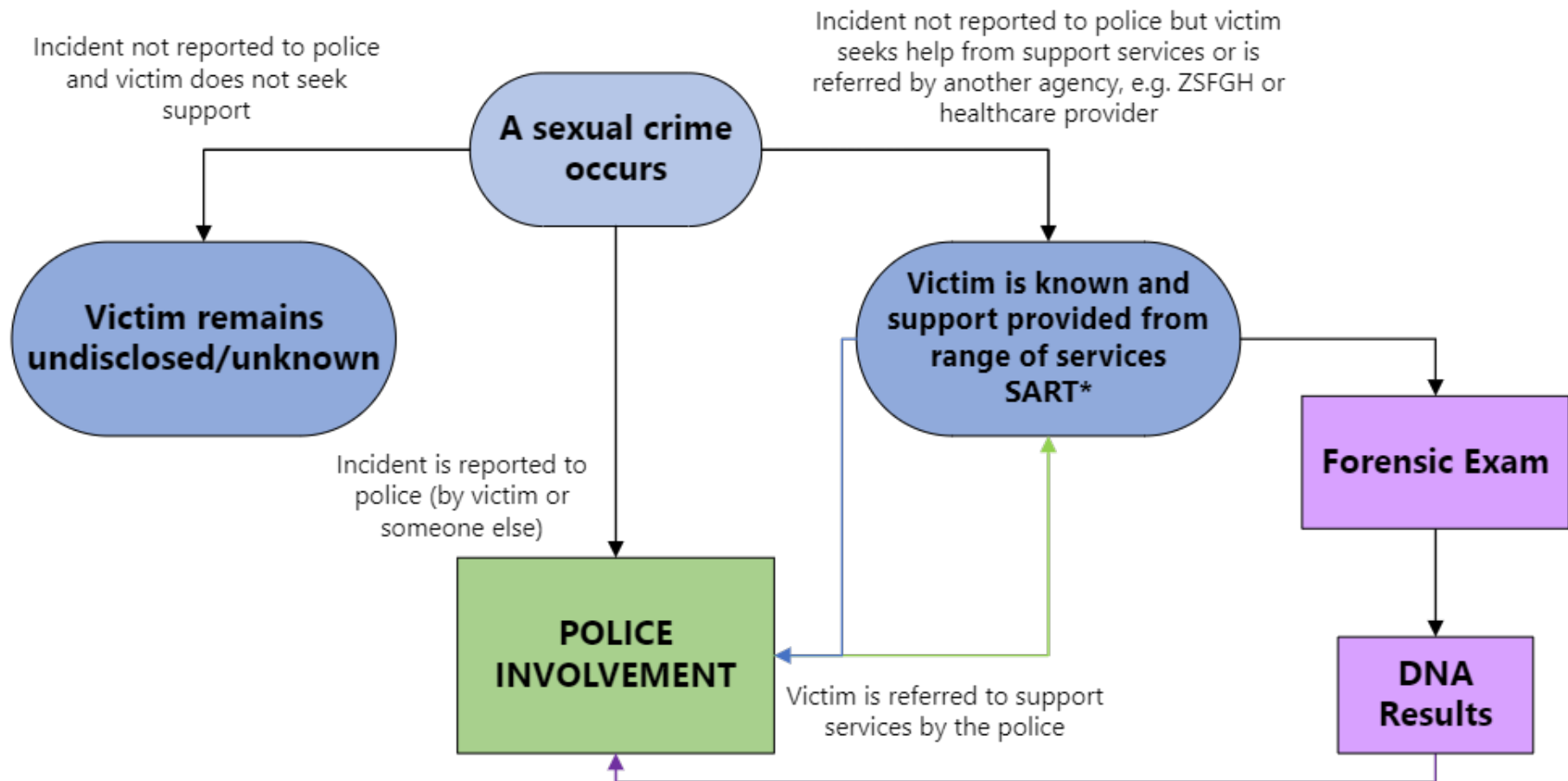
Furthermore, the SVU collaborates extensively with other law enforcement bodies, social services, and community organizations to prevent victimization and enhance public awareness about these severe crimes. Through their unwavering pursuit of justice and advocacy for victims' rights, the SVU plays an indispensable role in protecting and advocating for San Francisco's most vulnerable populations.



Introduction to SVU

- Various disciplines
- On-call teams for after hours business
- Responsible for the investigation of:
 - Sexual abuse
 - Any type of sexual assaults
 - Digital Penetration
 - Unlawful intercourse
 - Rape, forcible
 - Sexual battery
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Workplace

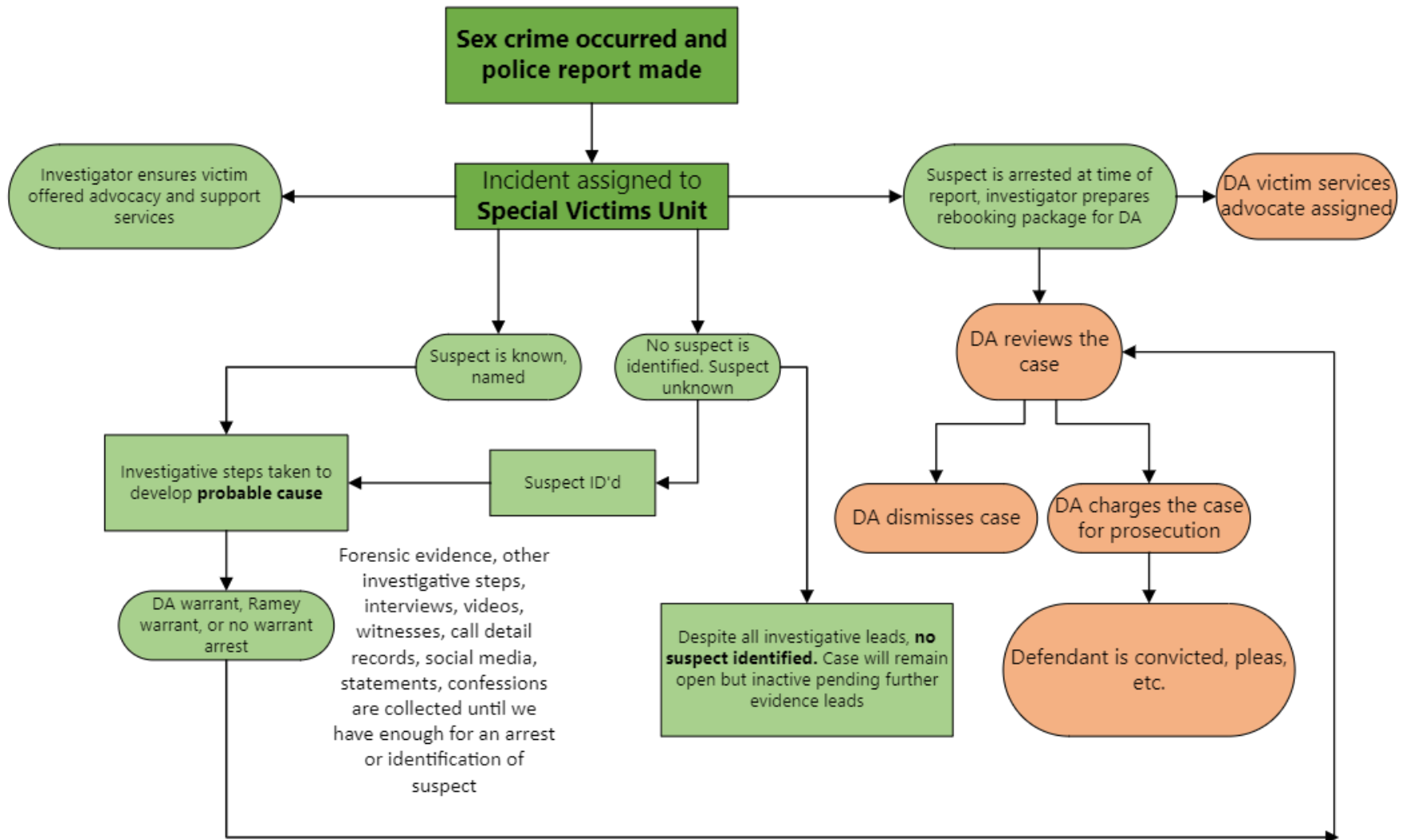
Victim reporting pathways



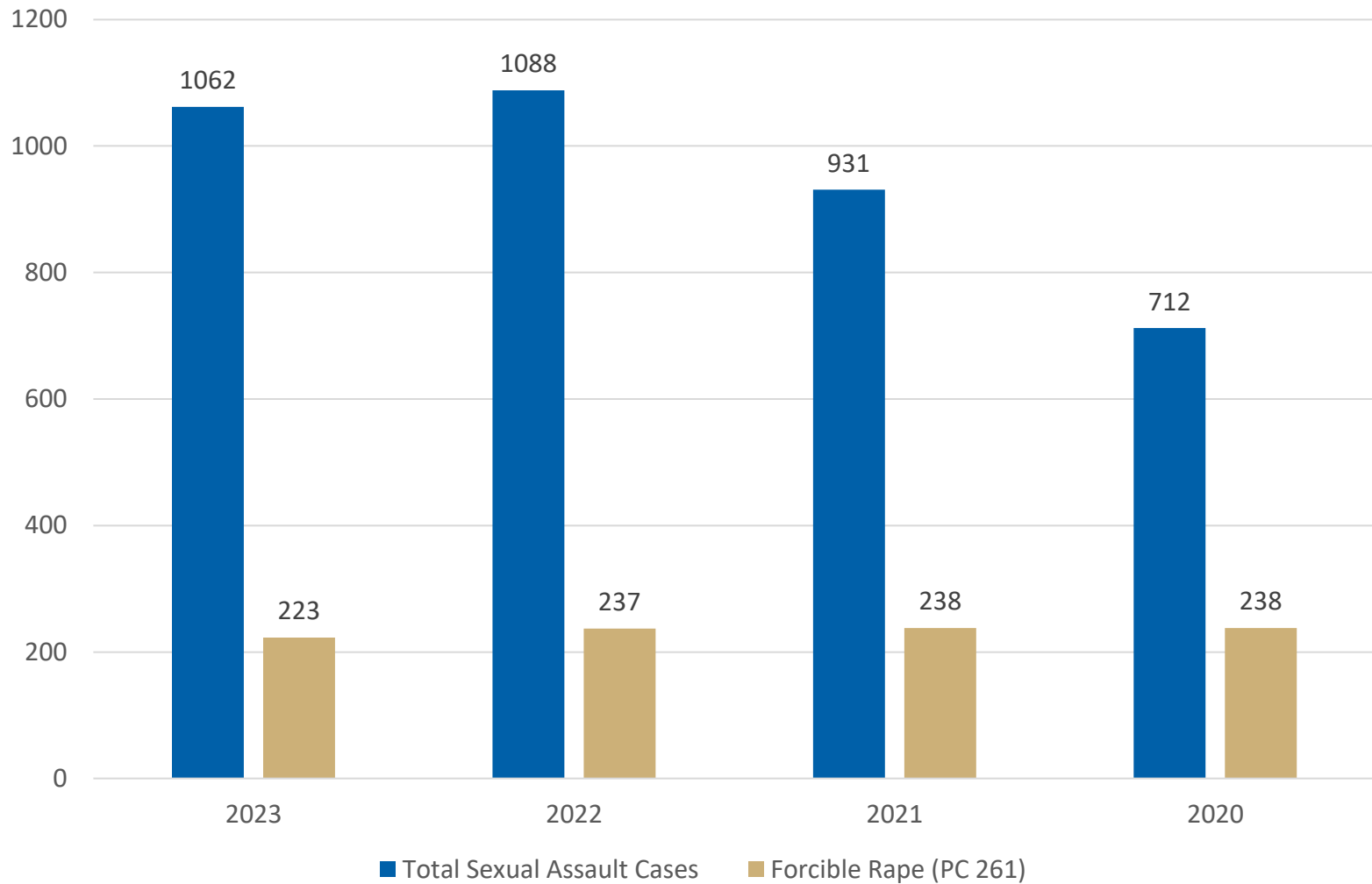
*Partial list of Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) organizations:

- UCSF Trauma Recovery Center
- Rape Treatment Center
- W.O.M.A.N., Inc.

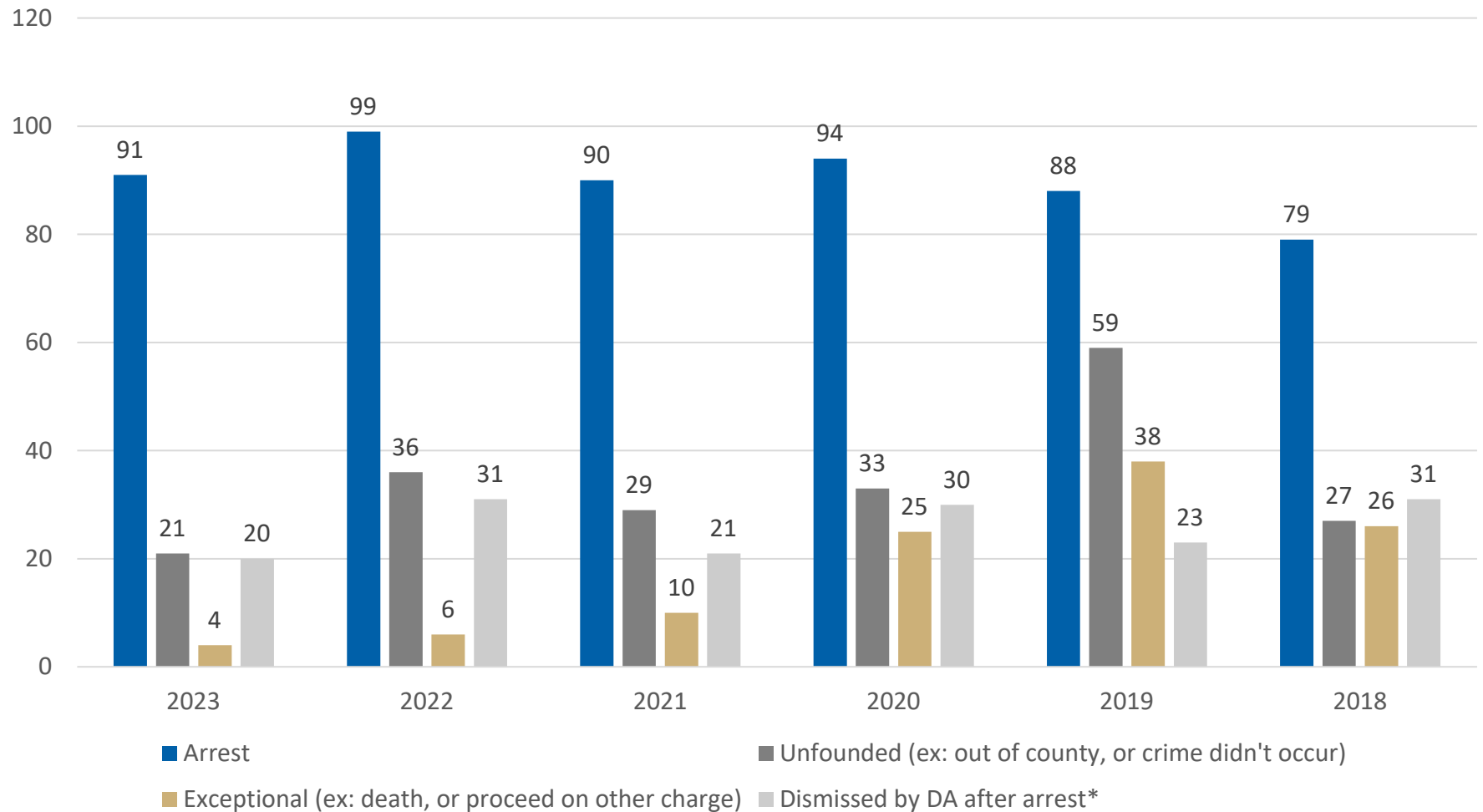
SVU protocol for handling allegations of sex assaults



Sexual assault cases per year (compared to forcible rape only)

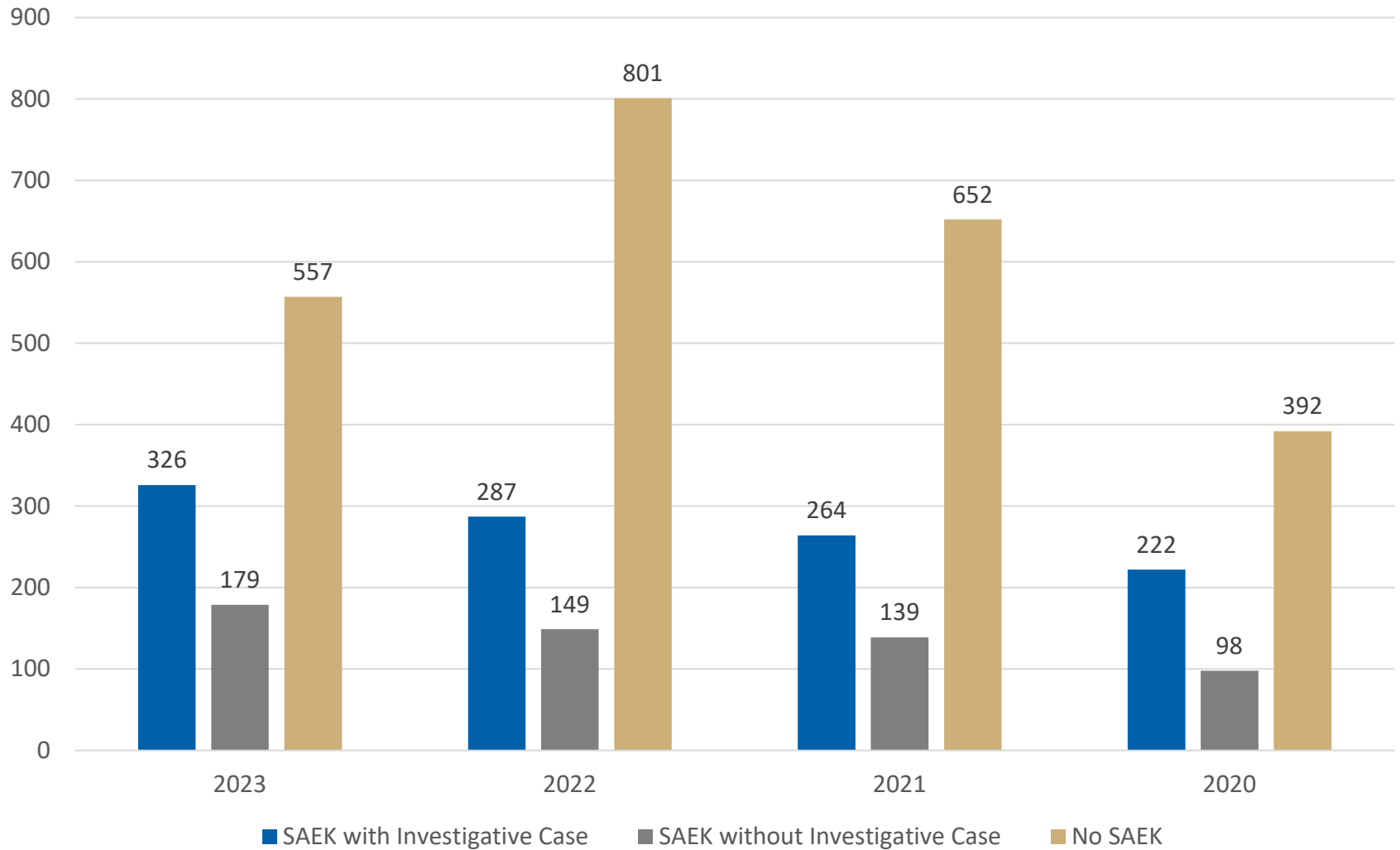


Sexual assault clearance breakdown



*Common dismissals: lack of evidence, victim unavailable, complaint withdrawn, proceed on other count, released to another agency/jurisdiction

Sexual Assault Exam Kits (SAEK)



SVU maintains working relationships with the following groups and organizations, which also serve as resources for victims:

Community-Based Organizations:

(partial list)

- Huckleberry House
- San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCAHT)
- South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking
- Survivor Restoration Program of Sheriff's Department
- Polaris Project National Human Trafficking Resource Center
- San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates for Child
- Domestic Violence Consortium
- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
- Love Never Fails
- Missey Inc
- Freedom House
- Justice at Last
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking
- La Casa de las Madres
- Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)
- W.O.M.E.N., Inc.

We are committed to collaborating with other agencies. We work closely on labor and commercial sex investigations with the following organizations:

- Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Department of Public Health
- Office of the City Attorney
- California Department of Justice
- Adult and Juvenile Probation
- SF District Attorney's Office
- SF Public Defender's Office
- SF District Attorney's Victim Services Division
- SF Sheriff's Office
- California Massage Therapy Council
- Office of Labor Standards Enforcement
- Human Services Agency
- UCSF Trauma Recovery Center
- San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children
- Department on the Status of Women
- Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Sex Trafficking Subcommittee

SVU meets regularly with our partners:

Domestic Violence Quarterly Meeting

Every 3 months/3rd Thursday of that month

Coordinator: Melanie Kushnir-Pappalardo, LCSW,
Director, Collaborative Justice Programs, Superior
Court of California, San Francisco

Elder Abuse Prevention Program/Institute on Aging

Biweekly Thursdays

Coordinators: Ali Chu (Supervisor), Annette
Orduno (Program Coordinator), Michaela Tippetts
(Program Developer Specialist), Glen Fishman
(Senior Program Development Specialist)

Elder and Disability Death Review (EDDRT)

2nd Tuesday of month

Coordinator: Annette Orduno
Attendees: ME, DA, APS, Ombudsmen Office

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

1st Tuesday of Month

Coordinators: Dr. Sarah Metz, UCSF and Jessica
(Forensic Nurse)
Attendees: SART

Child and Adolescent Support Resource Center (CASARC)

2nd Wednesday of Month

Coordinators:
Gloria Samoya (forensic interviewer)
Ronda Johnson (CPS Director)

Forensic Center and High-Risk Self Neglect Partners (FC/HRSN)

Quarterly (last meeting was in October 2023)

Coordinator: Annette Orduno

Denim Day @ Police Headquarters

On Denim Day, we encourage everyone to wear denim as a visible means of standing in solidarity with sexual assault survivors around the world.

The purpose of the event is to support survivors, acknowledge advocates in the field and educate our members and attendees about all forms of sexual violence.



April 2023



April 2024

Policy and procedure changes

- **DATA ANALYSIS:** Semi Annual Report to the Police Commission on Sex Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK)
 - July 1 – December 31, 2023
 - Average turn around time for SAEK process completion – 39 days
 - Out of 154 SAEK:
 - 61 SAEK resulting in a foreign DNA Profile entered into CODIS
 - 20 SAEK had a CODIS profile match
 - 41 SAEK had NO CODIS profile match
 - 93 SAEK did NOT result in a DNA profile
- **TRAINING:** Extensive training between SFPD and our CBO partners, and outside training
- **COLLABORATION:** Regularly scheduled meetings with the stakeholders listed on prior slides
- COVID, mental health of our communities and the generations we serve have changed
- Limits on storage and use of DNA profiles ([Ordinance No. 73-22](#))
- SFPD has evolved to a more trauma-informed approach

Thank You.

Questions?

SAN FRANCISCO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

The image shows the exterior of the San Francisco Police Department building. On the left is a modern glass-walled structure, and on the right is a brick building. A grey stone wall in the foreground features the department's name in large, raised, white letters. Three flagpoles with the American flag, the California state flag, and a yellow flag stand in front of the brick building. A set of stairs with a metal railing leads up to the entrance of the brick building.