

Progress in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audiovisual recordings

Criminal Procedure Article, Section 2-404

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

December 19, 2024

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

December 19, 2024

The Honorable Chair William C. (Will) Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Chair Luke H. Clippinger
Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Reported required by Criminal Procedure Article § 2-404 (MSAR #15666)

Dear Chairs:

In accordance with § 2-404 of the Criminal Procedure Article, which requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office) to submit a report on the progress of jurisdictions and the Department of State Police in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audiovisual recordings of custodial interrogations, please accept this letter as fulfillment of the required report.

Section 2-402 of the Criminal Procedure Article established a State public policy to require law enforcement units using one or more interrogation rooms with the capability to create audio and/or visual recordings of custodial interrogations to make reasonable efforts to record interrogations of suspects in connection with cases of murder, rape, or sexual offenses in the first or second degree. In addition, § 2-404 of the Criminal Procedure Article requires the Office to submit a report to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee by December 31 of each year as it relates to the progress in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audiovisual recordings of custodial interrogations.

Pursuant to its charge, the Office distributed an electronic survey to all law enforcement agencies in the State to gather the following information for 2024 (*as illustrated below*):



Interrogation Room Survey

Chapters [359](#) and [360](#) of 2008 established a State policy in which a law enforcement unit using one or more interrogation rooms with the capability to create audio and/or visual recordings of custodial interrogations shall make reasonable efforts to record interrogations of suspects in connection with cases of murder, rape, or sexual offenses in the first or second degree. It also requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to submit a report to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee by December 31, 2009, and annually thereafter, as it relates to the progress of jurisdictions and the Department of State Police in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audiovisual recordings of custodial interrogations.

To assist in this process, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy makes funding available to local law enforcement agencies through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, Law Enforcement Technology grant program for "custodial interrogation equipment." Additional funds have also been made available through the Byrne Justice Recovery Act since the law was enacted in 2008.

Please fill out the following:

Agency Name:

How many interrogation rooms does your entire department (all divisions and precincts) currently have?

Please answer the following question in regard to the hard wired (not portable) technological capabilities of each interrogation room:

	# of rooms
How many rooms have NO audio or video capabilities?	
How many rooms are ONLY equipped with audio equipment?	
How many rooms are ONLY equipped with video equipment?	
How many rooms are equipped with both video and audio equipment?	

Which of the following statements best describes your agency's use of portable A/V equipment in interrogation rooms? (check all that apply)

☐ This agency does not use portable Audio/Visual equipment in interrogation rooms

☐ This agency uses portable audio equipment in interrogation rooms

☐ This agency uses portable video equipment in interrogation rooms

Does your agency have future plans and/or timelines for adding new Audio/Visual equipment?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Does your agency have future plans and/or timelines for the creation of new or additional interrogation rooms?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What funding sources have you used, or will you use to fund or equip your interrogation room(s)? (check all that apply)

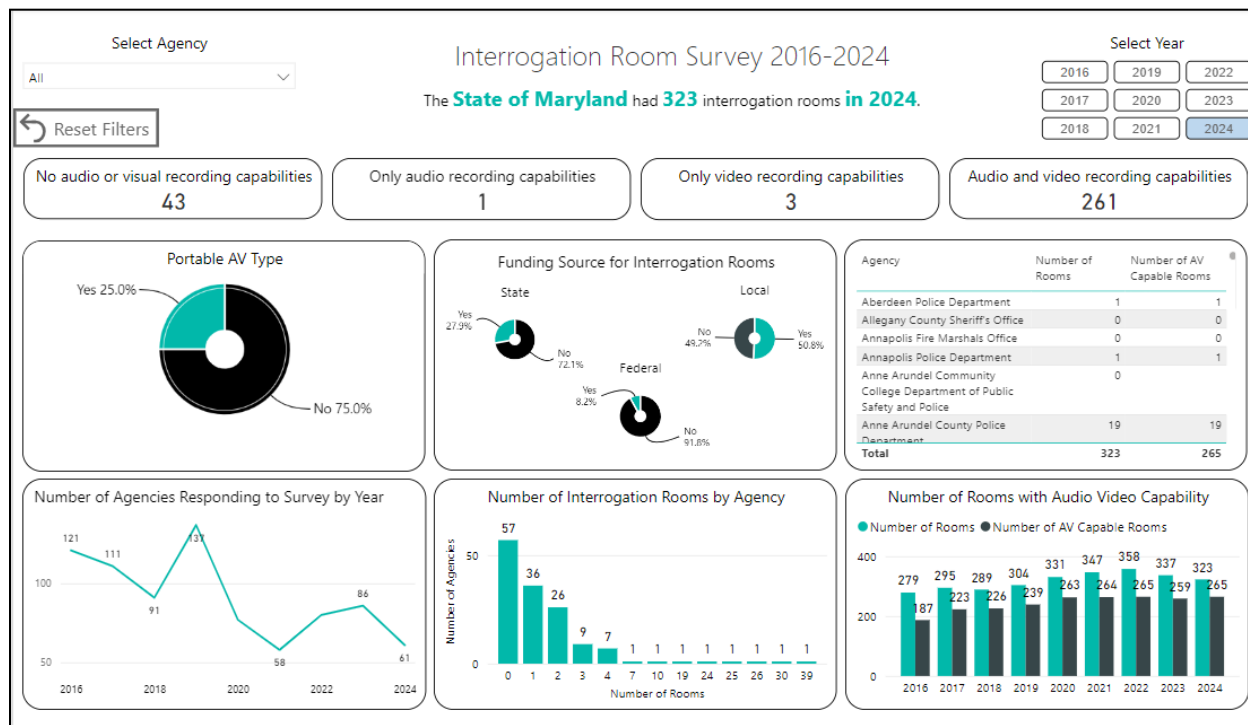
☐ Local

☐ State

☐ Federal



For the 2024 reporting period, law enforcement agencies reported a total of 323 interrogation rooms, of which 265 were equipped with a recording capability (*as illustrated below*). From this total, 98% (n = 261) provided audio and video recording capabilities, 1% (n = 3) offered video recording capabilities only, and less than 1% (n = 1) were equipped with audio recording capabilities only. For more information, please refer to the **Interrogation Room Survey Dashboard**, located on the Office's website at: <http://goccp.maryland.gov/data-dashboards/interrogation-room-survey-dashboard/>.



Should you have any questions relating to the information provided, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)