



WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

January 5, 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 #12655) - 2023 Letter on the Progress in Establishing Interrogation Rooms Capable of Creating Audiovisual Recordings

Dear Chairs:

In accordance with § 2-404 of the Criminal Procedure Article, which requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (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, 2009, and annually thereafter, 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 2023 (*as illustrated below*):



Maryland

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,
AND VICTIM SERVICES

2023 Interrogation Room Survey

* 1. Agency Name:

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

3. 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?	<input type="text"/>
How many rooms are ONLY equipped with audio equipment?	<input type="text"/>
How many rooms are ONLY equipped with video equipment?	<input type="text"/>
How many rooms are equipped with both video and audio equipment?	<input type="text"/>

4. 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

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

- Yes
- No

If "Yes," when do you expect to add new or additional audio/visual equipment (in months)?

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

- Yes
- No

If "Yes," when do you expect to add new or additional rooms (in months)?

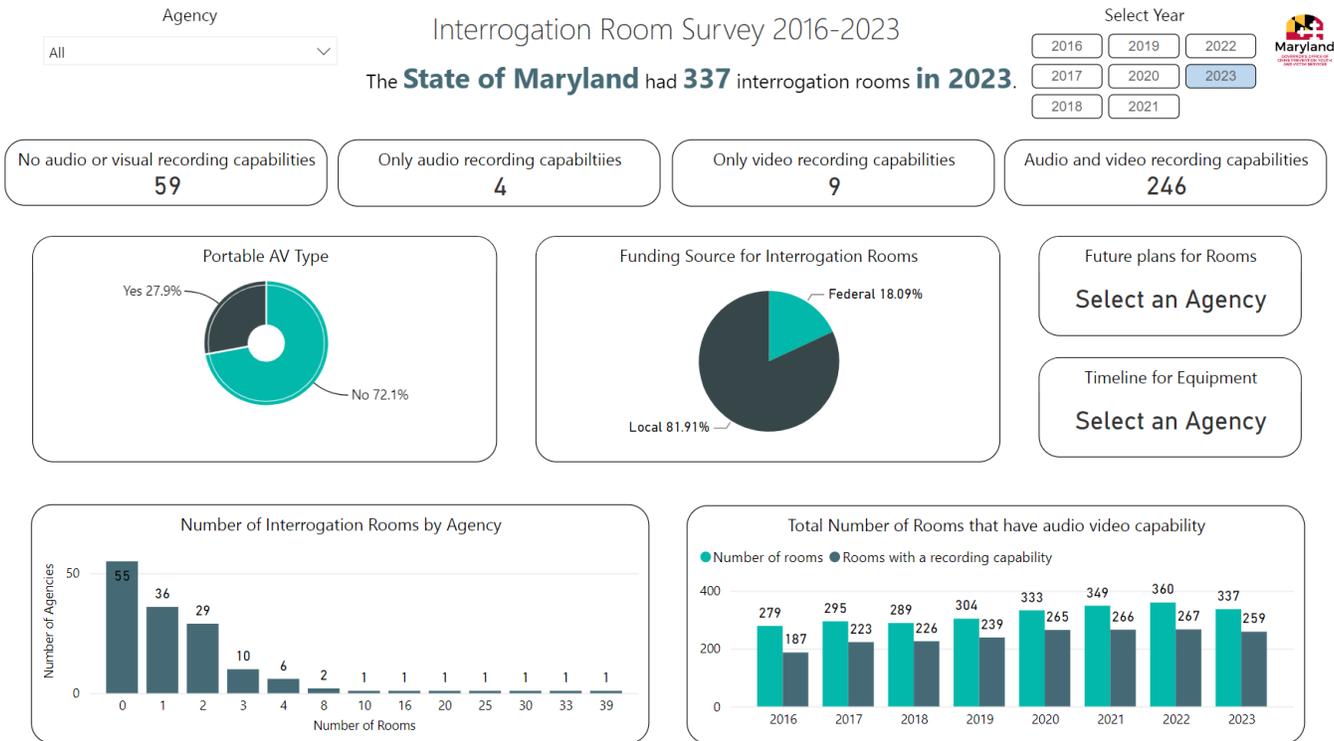
7. What funding sources have you used, or will you use to fund or equip your interrogation room(s)? (check all that apply)

- Local
- State
- Federal

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For the 2023 reporting period, law enforcement agencies reported a total of 337 interrogation rooms, of which 259 had a recording capability (as illustrated below).¹ From this total (n = 259), 95% (n = 246) have audio and video recording capabilities, 3.5% (n = 9) have video recording capabilities only, and 1.5% (n = 4) have 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)

¹ It is important to note that the following 17 law enforcement agencies reported a combined decrease of 39 interrogation rooms in 2023 (n = 86 reporting agencies), compared to 2022 (n = 79 reporting agencies): Allegany County Sheriff’s Office, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, Berwyn Heights Police Department, Bowie State University Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff’s Office, Cecil County Sheriff’s Office, Centreville Police Department, Frostburg City Police Department, Greensboro Police Department, Mount Rainier Police Department, Ocean City Police Department, Oxford Police Department, Prince George’s County Police Department, Princess Anne Police Department, St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office, and University of Maryland - Baltimore County Police Department.