Here is some background information associated with the data provided.

We use multiple services to categorize our sexual assault kit submissions. These categories have been put into place and evolved over time in response to sexual assault kit legislation. Prior to May 1, 2022, SAK could also change categories.

STR – the main category for all DNA cases. SAK submitted prior to July 24, 2015 would all be included in this category, as well as SAK submitted between July 24, 2015 and May 1, 2022 that were prioritized by law enforcement agencies as active investigations and cases where DNA may be required for court.

SAK-2 – SAK collected and submitted between July 24, 2015 and May 1, 2022 that were prioritized by law enforcement agencies as inactive investigations or cases where DNA may not be required for court.

SAK-3 – (also sometimes referred to as historical SAK) cases collected prior to July 24, 2015 that were never previously submitted and/or tested. Submission of these cases by law enforcement agencies to the Washington State Patrol was due October 1, 2019. Due to the large number of cases submitted in this category, entry of these cases into our system continued through 2020.

SAK – non-historical SAK submitted after May 1, 2022 and are subject to the Washington State 45 day turnaround time legislation.

We are unable to limit the data in the STR, SAK-2, and SAK-3 categories to only sexual assault kit testing. These three categories also may include additional non-SAK testing such as clothing, bedding, or references, ownership review of outsourced cases, or CODIS associations that occur after testing. The data is limited to only the case offenses in the rape or sex offense categories for STR category. The SAK-2 and SAK-3 categories are already restricted to cases that are in the rape or sex offense categories or otherwise have an SAK tested. The SAK category was set up strictly for sexual assault kit testing.

Cases in the SAK-3 category and a number of cases in the SAK-2 category were outsourced by Washington State Patrol to private DNA testing laboratories for testing. Outsourced cases are included in this data set.