

“Prostitution is like rape...”

## RAPE KITS UNTESTED

### Cost of prostitution arrests vs. lab testing of rape kits:

In 2011, Michigan citizens reported **4,347 violent rapes** (not including sexual assaults). Police officers arrested a mere **589 alleged rapists- or 14%**. They also arrested **320 persons for prostitution**, and an additional **8,563 persons for ‘disorderly conduct.’** Perhaps not all or even most of the disorderly conduct arrests were related to prostitution, but surely some of them were. Let’s say that 1,000 of them were arrests of sex workers when cops could not make a solicitation arrest. That’s at least **1,320 persons arrested for non violent, consenting adult commercial sex** (until the 2011 arrests by gender and age are available, we will count all those arrests as adults).

In 1987, the Hastings Law Journal published the research of Julie Pearl entitled **“The Highest Paying Customers: America's Cities and the Costs of Prostitution Control”** in which the author’s research revealed that the cost of arresting a single prostitute was about **\$2,000**. In 2011’s currency, adjusted for inflation, that would be **\$3,967.04 per arrest**.

So, the cost for arresting the 1,320 alleged prostitutes and their clients would be **around \$5,236,440**. If the cost of sending the rape kits to a private lab ranges from **\$1,200 to \$1,500 per kit**, the money spent arresting those prostitutes and clients could have paid for **3,490 rape kits @ \$1,500 per kit or 4,363 rape kits @ \$1,200 per kit**.

There was a backlog of **11,303 untested kits** in Detroit alone, so while the money spent arresting people for commercial sex wouldn’t have covered the testing of ALL the rape kits, it would have helped.

Nationwide (in 2011), there were **243,800 reported violent rapes and sexual assaults** and **14,943 arrests** for rape and sexual assault, although the FBI Bureau of Criminal Statistics also states in some reports that there were **16,206 alleged rapists arrested**.

That same year, there were **48,658 prostitution arrests** and **453,470 arrests for disorderly conduct**. Let’s say that 10% of the disorderly conduct arrests were instead of prostitution arrests- or **45,000-** plus the prostitution arrests **= 93,658** arrests for NON violent commercial sex... which cost an estimated **\$371,541,286**. If the cost of testing rape kits in private labs is consistent nationwide, then **theoretically, 247,694 rape kits could have been tested**. Some reports claim that there are between **400,000 to 500,000 untested rape kits sitting in police evidence lockers nationwide**.

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### Inflation Calculator

The Changing Value of a Dollar

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A dollar just ain't what it used to be.

Our inflation calculator will tell you the relative buying power of a dollar in the United States between any two years from 1914-2013.

It will also calculate the rate of inflation during the time period you choose.

We determine the value of a dollar using the Consumer Price Index from December of the previous year. All calculations are approximate.

Fun fact: In 2007, the inflation rate was 4.08%. This was higher than any year since 1990. In 2008, the inflation rate was 0.09%, the lowest rate since 1954.

\$2,000.00 in 1987 had the same buying power as \$3,967.04 in 2011.

Annual inflation over this period was 2.89%.

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