

3-17-2007

# Dirty Cops: Patterns of Offending in Sex Crimes by Sworn Law Enforcement Officers

Philip M. Stinson

*Bowling Green State University*, [stinspm@bgsu.edu](mailto:stinspm@bgsu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim\\_just\\_pub](https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim_just_pub)



Part of the [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

---

## Repository Citation

Stinson, Philip M., "Dirty Cops: Patterns of Offending in Sex Crimes by Sworn Law Enforcement Officers" (2007). *Criminal Justice Faculty Publications*. 48.

[https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim\\_just\\_pub/48](https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim_just_pub/48)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Services at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Criminal Justice Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

# Dirty Cops: Patterns of Offending in Sex Crimes by Sworn Law Enforcement Officers

Philip M. Stinson, Sr.  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
Seattle, Washington  
March 17, 2007

# The Literature:

## What is known about police crime?

- Independent Commission Reports:
  - Knapp Commission (1972)
  - Pennsylvania Crime Commission (1974)
  - Mollen Commission (1994)
- Newspaper Investigative Reporting:
  - *New York Times* (1970s)
  - *Boston Globe* (1980s)
  - *Philadelphia Inquirer* (1990s and 2006)
- Research in Criminology / Social Sciences:
  - Scandal and Reform (Sherman, 1978)
  - *Forces of Deviance* (Kappeler, et al., 1998)
  - *Driving while Female* (Walker, 2002, 2003)
  - *Bad Cops: A Study of Career-Ending Misconduct Among New NYPD Officers* (Fyfe & Kane, 2006)

# Methodology

- Content analysis of newspaper articles about sworn law enforcement officers in the US arrested during the 18 month period from January 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.
- Convenience sampling primarily using Google News Alerts™ tool (search engine automated daily searches of newspapers published on the Internet).
- Articles were cataloged, coded, and entered into SPSS.
- Coded variables included gender, age, years of service, duty status at time of offense, state, department type and size, victim demographic information, and 64 offense categories (mostly NIBRS categories).
- SPSS runs for frequencies and correlations.

# Google News Alerts™

## Automated Daily Search Terms

- “deputy was arrested”
- “deputy was charged”
- “deputy was convicted”
- “deputy was indicted”
- “detective was ...”
- “detectives were ...”
- “officer ...”
- “officer was ...”
- “police chief was ...”
- “police officers were ...”
- sheriff “was ...”
- “trooper was ...”
- police “caption was ...”
- police “lieutenant was ...”
- police “officer is ...”
- police “officer was ...”
- police “sergeant was”

# Sample

- 695 arrests of 657 individual sworn law enforcement officers (38 of the cases represent officers who were arrested more than once).
- Each one of the 695 arrests is treated as a case.
- These officers were/are employed by 449 agencies (primary state, sheriff, county police, municipal police, special police, and tribal police agencies) in 49 states and DC. Wyoming is not represented in the sample.
- All of the officers were employed as sworn law enforcement officers at the time of commission of the offense for which they were arrested.

# Descriptive Statistics

	<u>n</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>Min/Max</u>
Age	535	36.43	8.084	20-64
Yrs Service	414	9.51	7.434	0-36

	<u>n</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Gender	695	663 (95.4)	32 (4.6)

# Frequency of Criminal Offenses for Sworn Officers Arrested

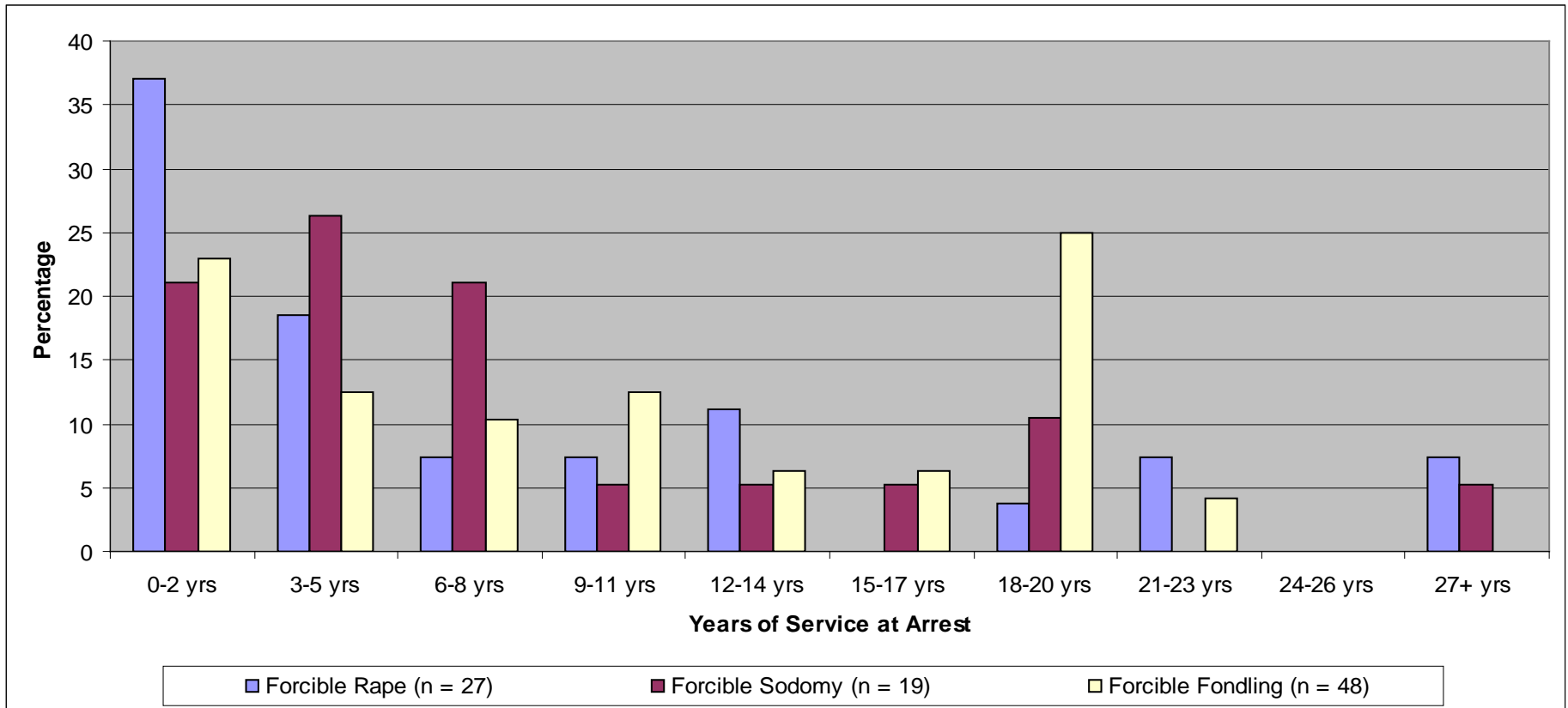
N = 695	n	%
<i>[ALL SEX OFFENSES]</i>		<i>[38.3]</i>
all other offenses (unclassified)	114	16.4
driving under the influence	95	13.7
simple assault	75	10.8
aggravated assault	61	8.8
forcible fondling	59	8.5
forcible rape	40	5.8
drug / narcotic violation	38	5.5
weapons law violation	37	5.3
intimidation	36	5.2
all other larceny	35	5.0
liquor law violation	33	4.7
statutory rape	33	4.7
false report / statement	29	4.2
pornography / obscene material	29	4.2
other sex crime	28	4.0
forcible sodomy	26	3.7



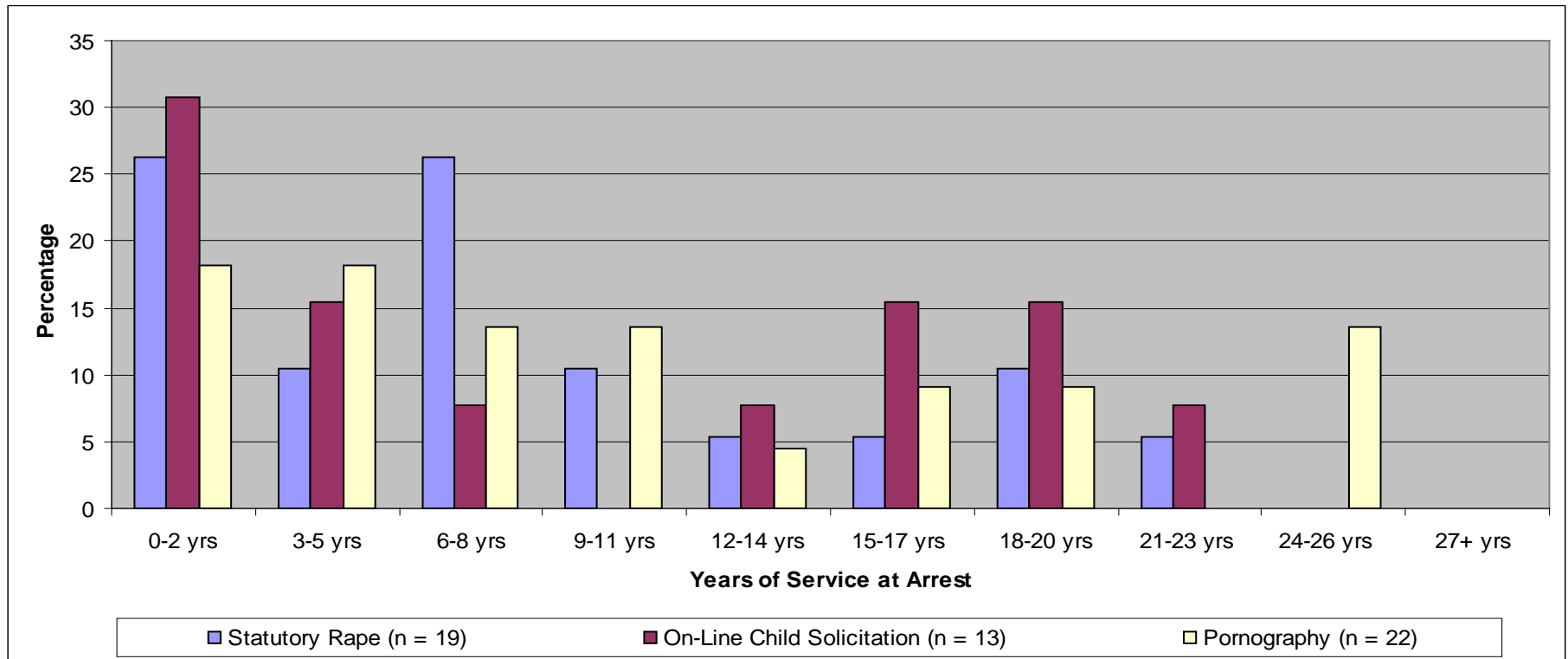
	n	%
murder & non-negligent manslaughter	22	3.2
extortion / blackmail	21	3.0
bribery	19	2.7
kidnapping / abduction	18	2.6
on-line solicitation of a child	18	2.6
disorderly conduct	17	2.4
indecent exposure	16	2.3
civil rights violation	11	1.6
evidence: destroying / tampering	11	1.6
false pretenses/swindle/confidence game	11	1.6
robbery	11	1.6
burglary / breaking and entering	10	1.4
destruction / damage / vandalism	10	1.4
sexual assault with an object	9	1.3
gambling: operating / promoting	8	1.2
impersonation	8	1.2
theft from building	8	1.2
restraining order violation	7	1.0
drunkenness	6	.9

	n	%
embezzlement	6	.9
prostitution	6	.9
arson	5	.7
negligent manslaughter	5	.7
counterfeiting / forgery	4	.6
shoplifting	4	.6
stolen property offenses	4	.6
trespass of real property	4	.6
drug equipment violation	3	.4
credit card / atm fraud	2	.3
family offense, non-violent	2	.3
incest	2	.3
liquor low violation	2	.3
motor vehicle theft	2	.3
pocket-picking	1	.1
theft from motor vehicle	1	.1
theft of motor vehicle parts	1	.1
wire fraud	1	.1
wiretapping, illegal	1	.1

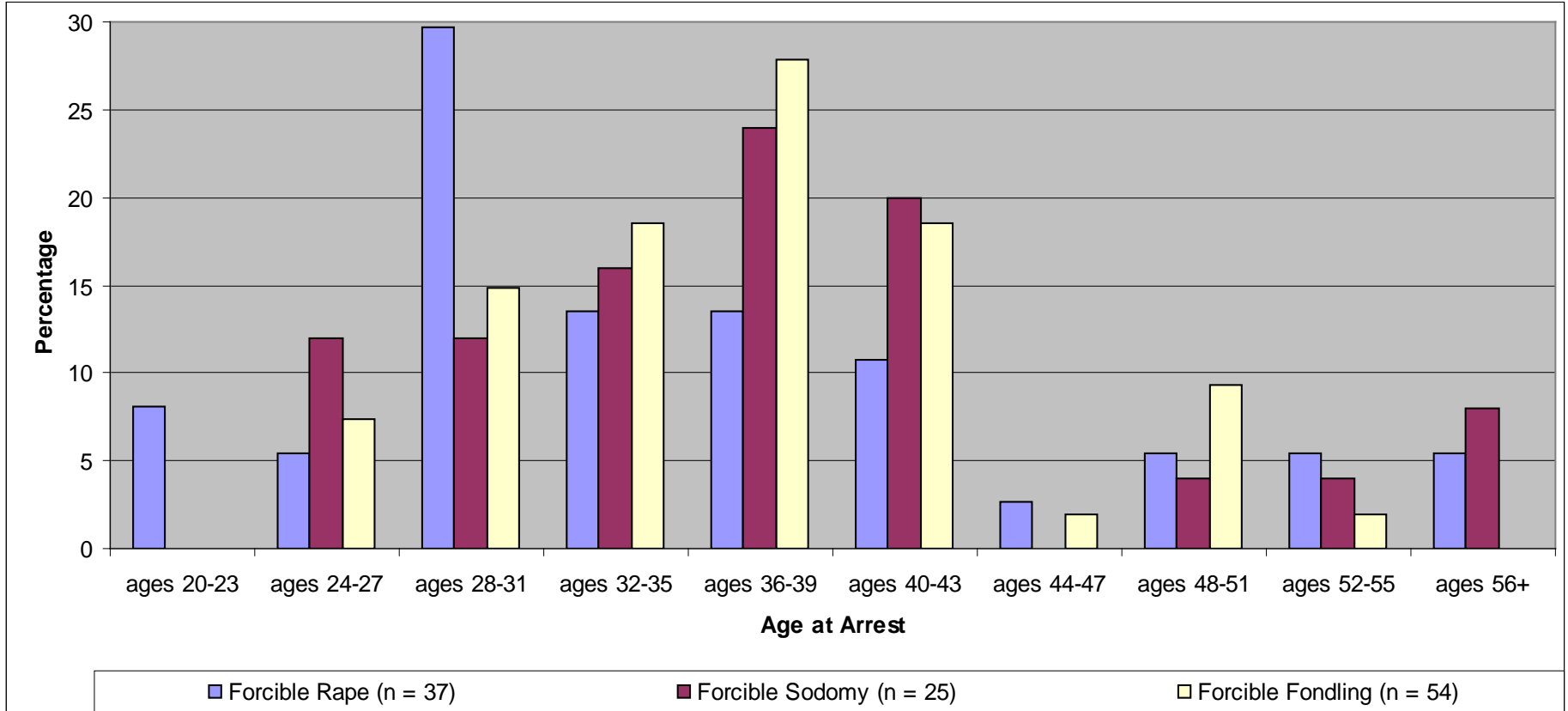
# Years of Service at Arrest: Forcible Rape, Sodomy & Fondling



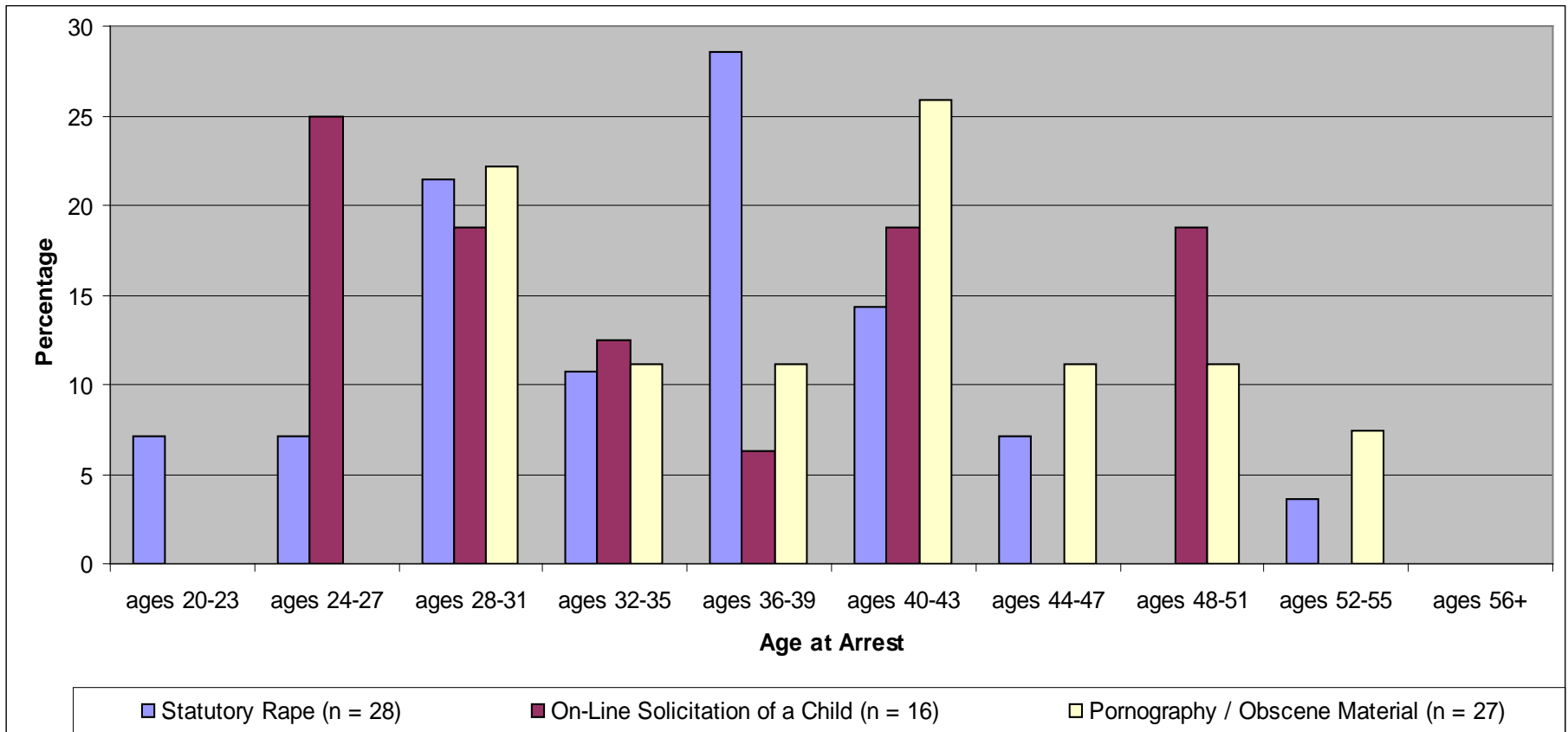
# Years of Service at Arrest: Statutory Rape, On-Line Solicitation of a Child & Pornography



# Age at Arrest: Forcible Rape, Sodomy & Fondling



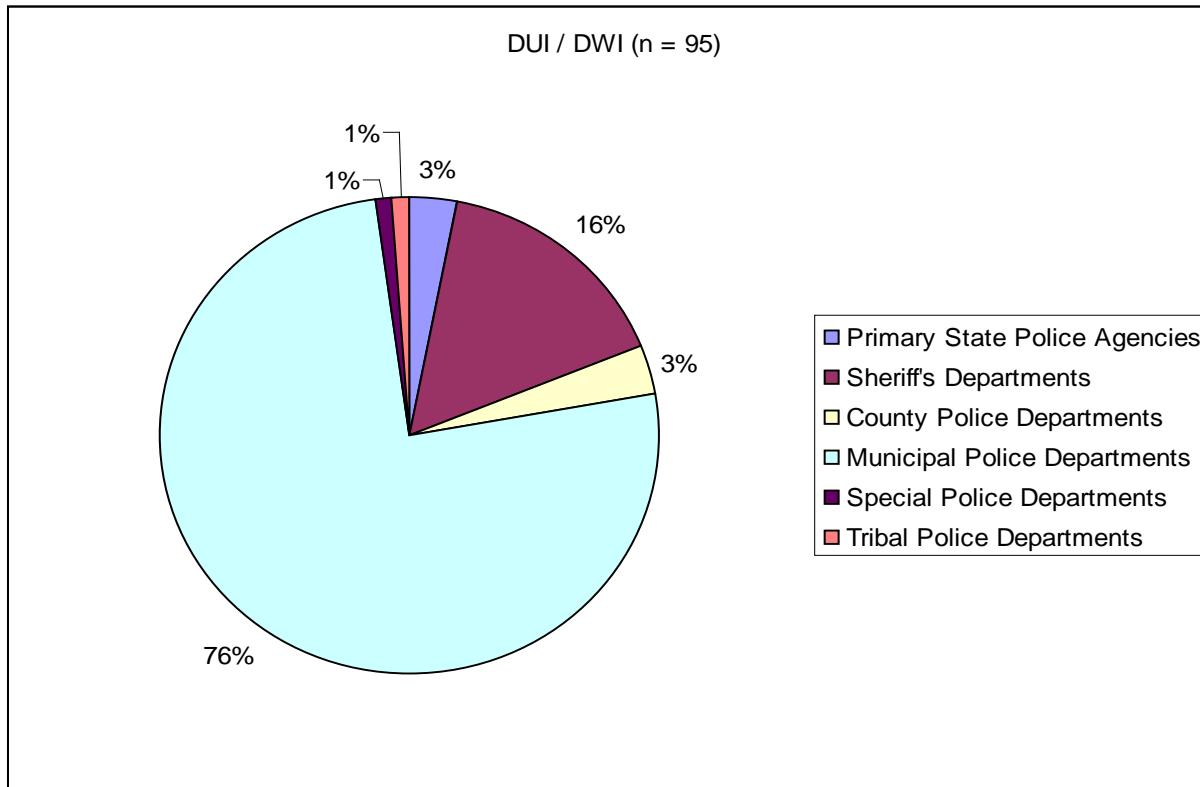
# Age at Arrest: Statutory Rape, Pornography & On-Line Solicitation of a Child



# On-Duty Sex Crimes

	<i>On-Duty</i>		<i>Off-Duty</i>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Sexual assault with an Object	6	(75.0)	2	(25.0)
Forcible Fondling	30	(51.7)	28	(48.3)
Prostitution	3	(50.0)	3	(50.0)
Forcible Sodomy	13	(50.0)	13	(50.0)
Forcible Rape	17	(43.6)	22	(56.4)
Pornography/Obscene Material	10	(35.7)	18	(64.3)
Indecent Exposure	3	(18.8)	13	(81.3)
Statutory Rape	5	(17.2)	24	(82.8)
On-Line Solicitation of a Child	0	(0.0)	16	(100)

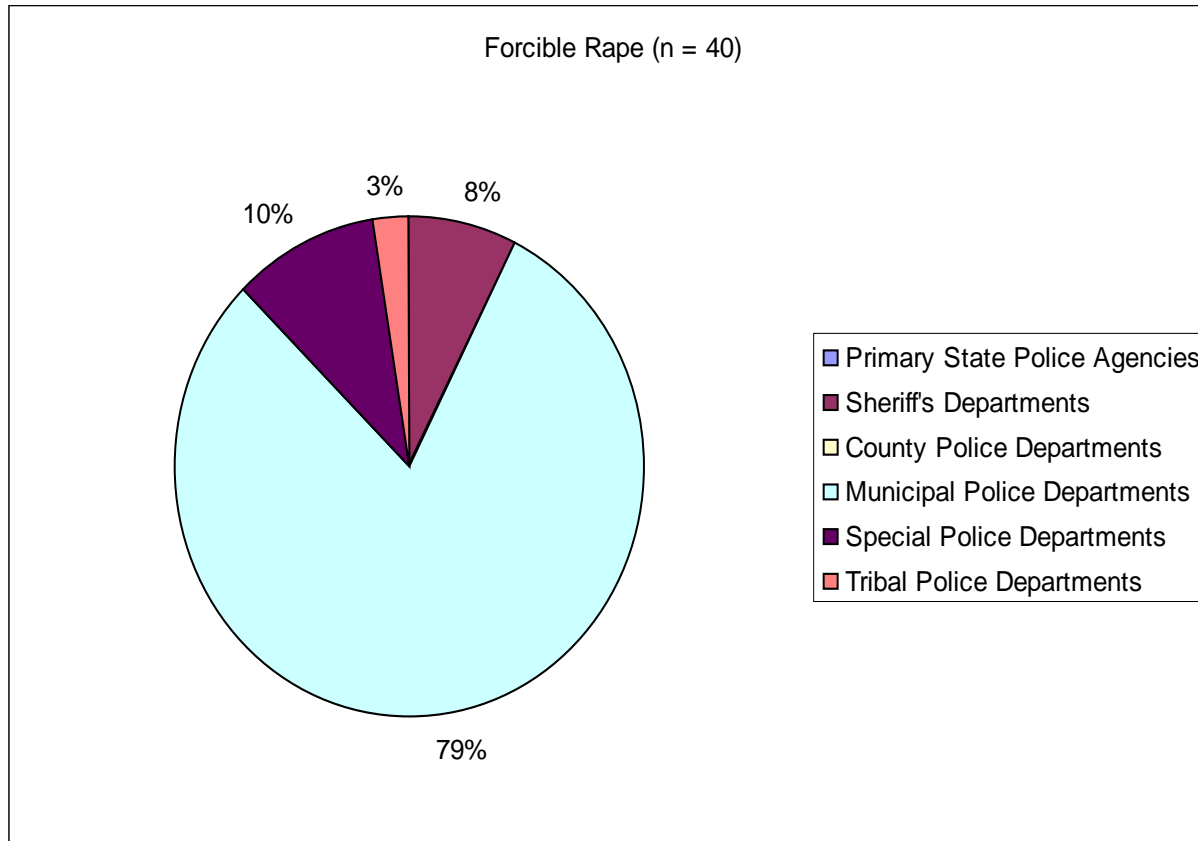
# Agency Type: Driving Under the Influence



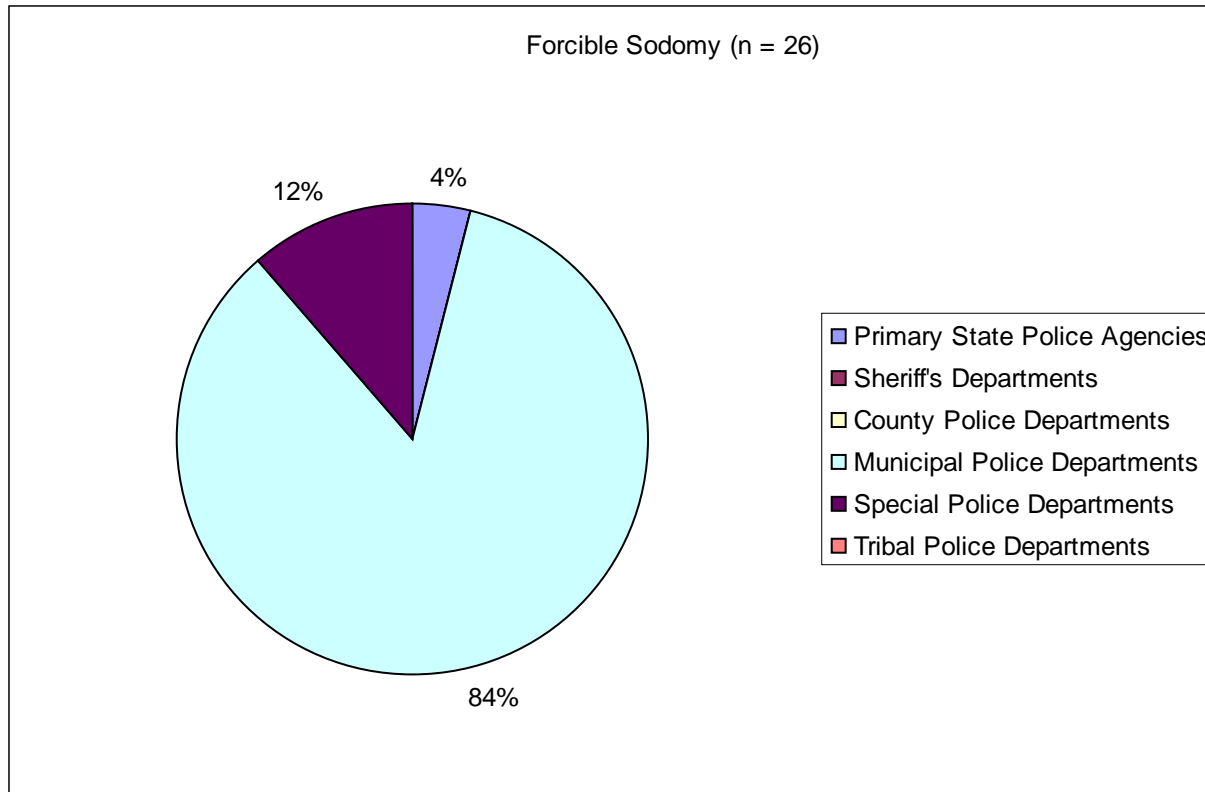
***This approximates what we would expect to find based in % nationally by agency type***



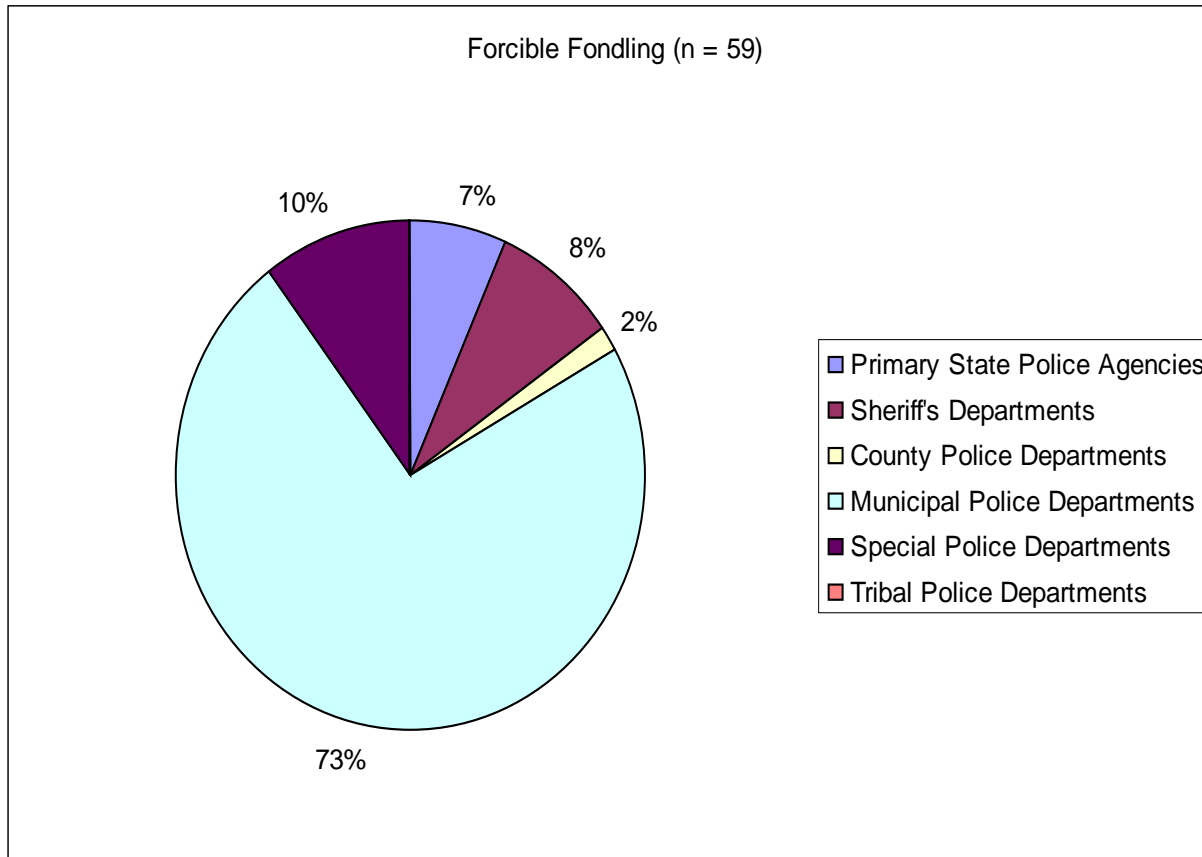
# Agency Type: Forcible Rape



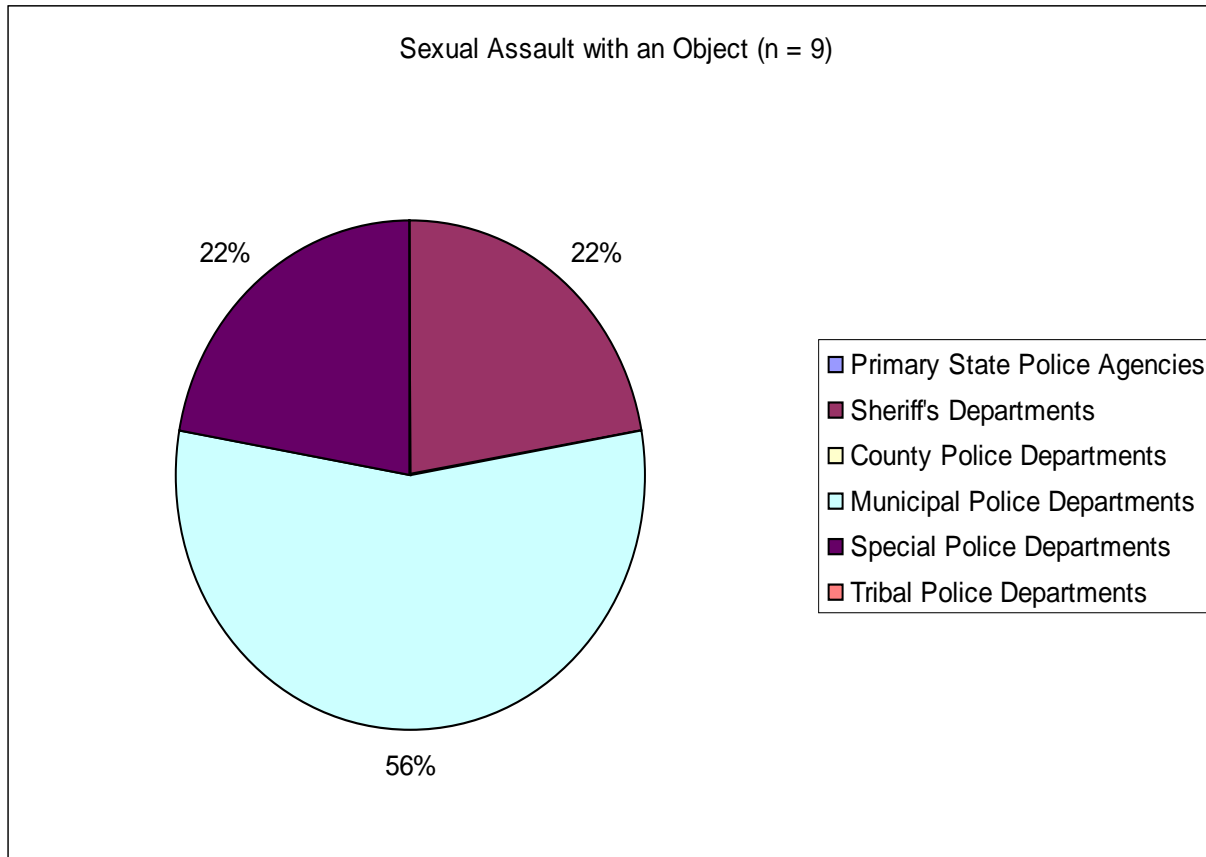
# Agency Type: Forcible Sodomy



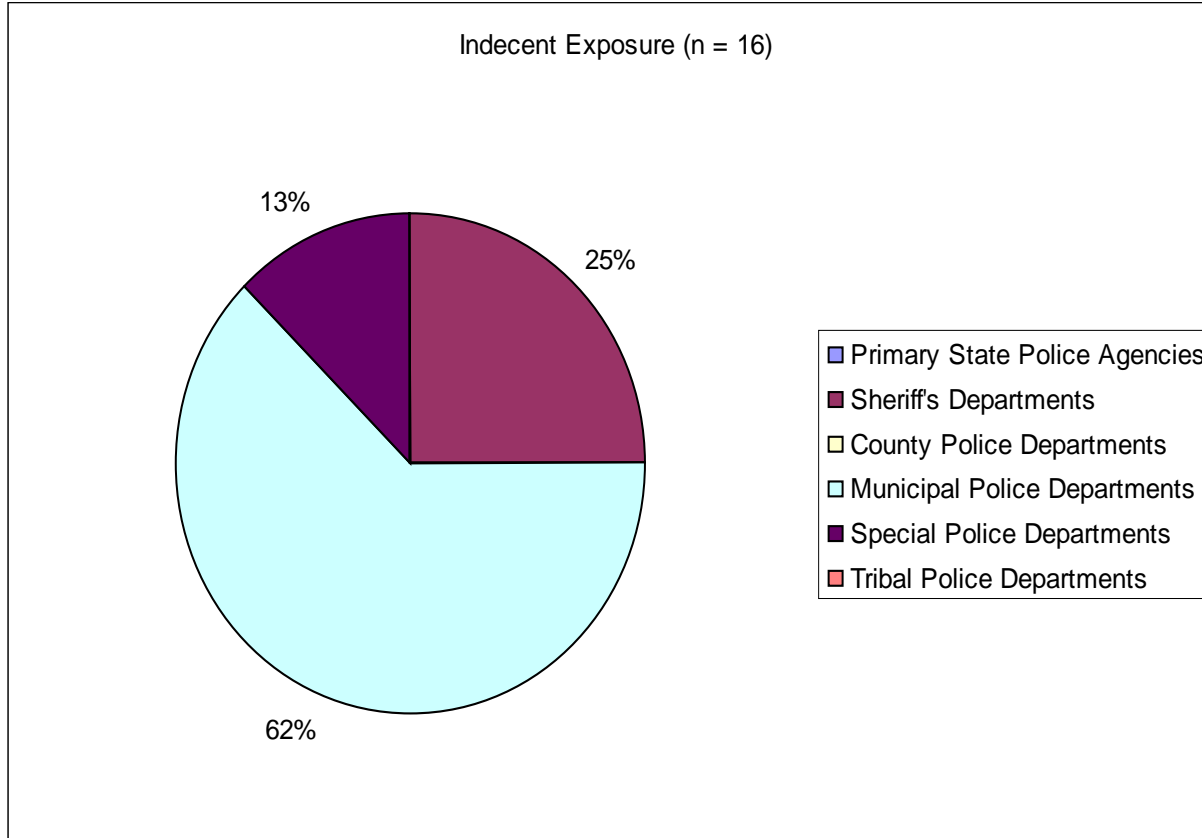
# Agency Type: Forcible Fondling



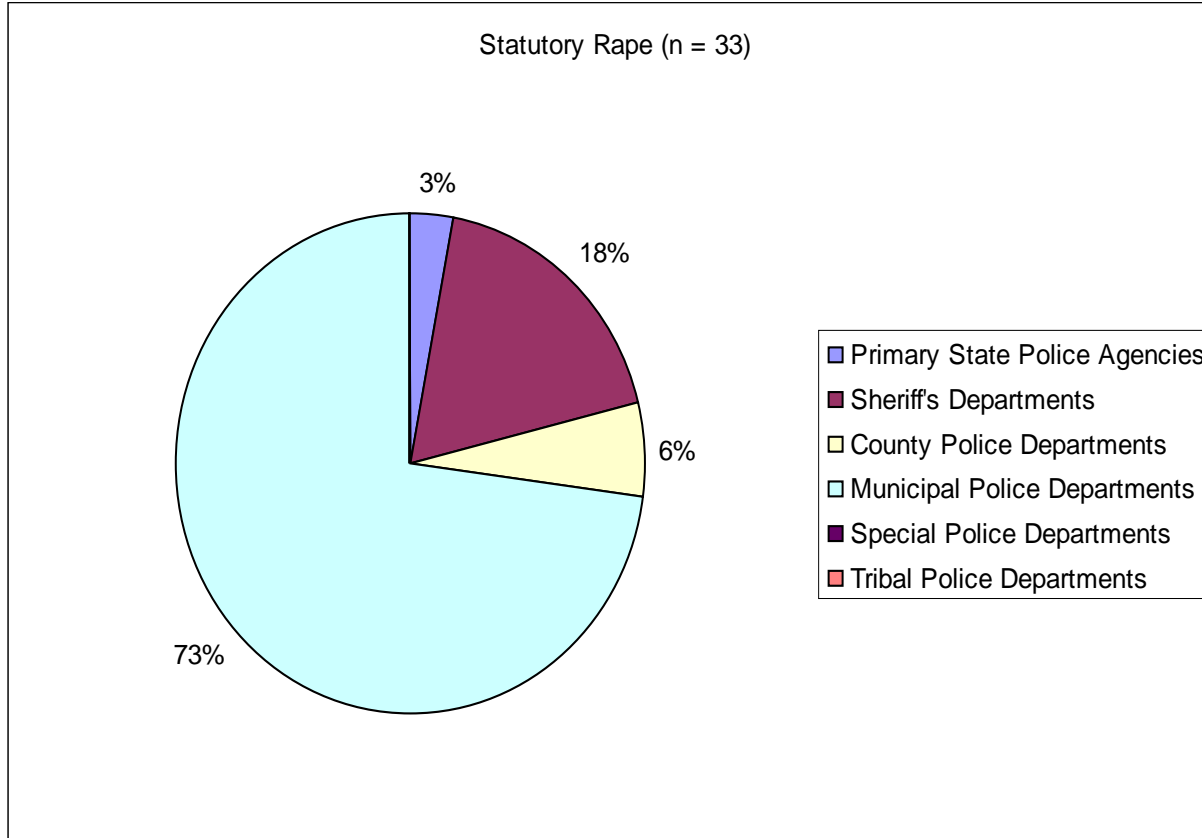
# Agency Type: Sexual Assault with an Object



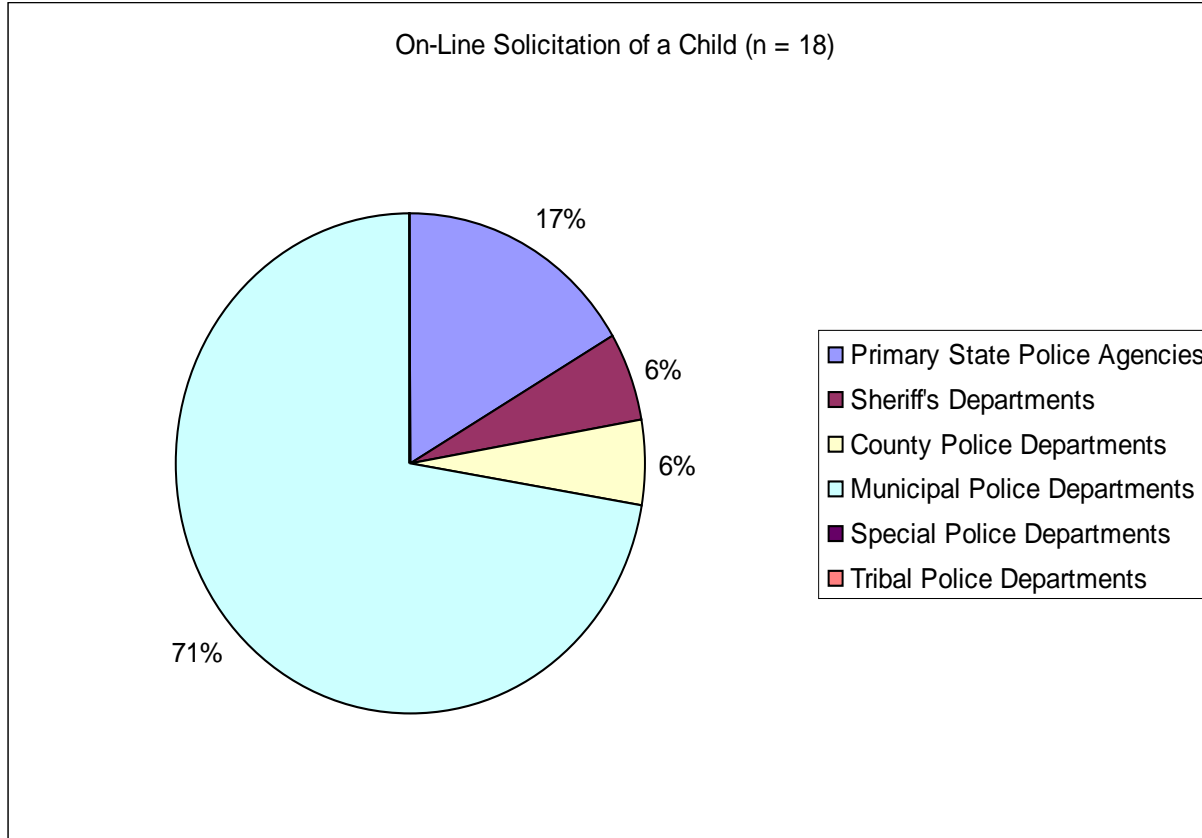
# Agency Type: Indecent Exposure



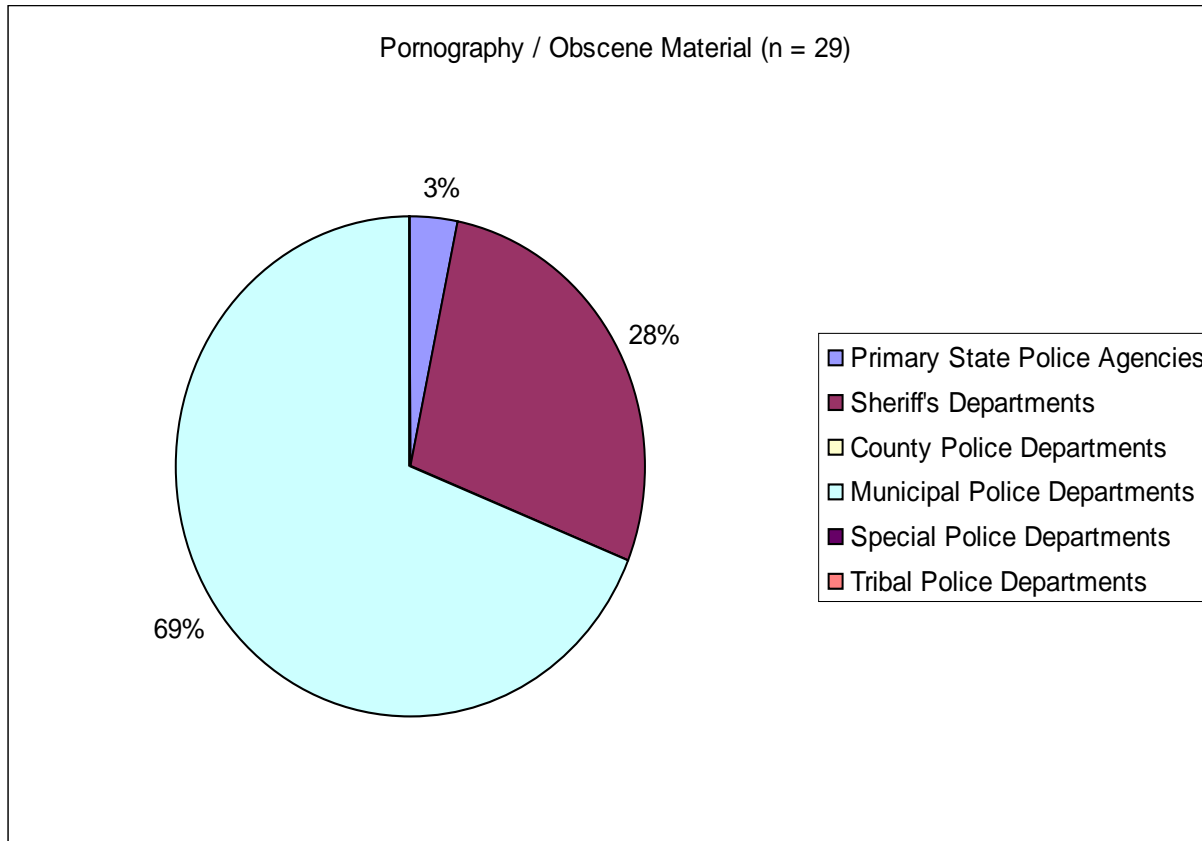
# Agency Type: Statutory Rape



# Agency Type: On-Line Solicitation of a Child

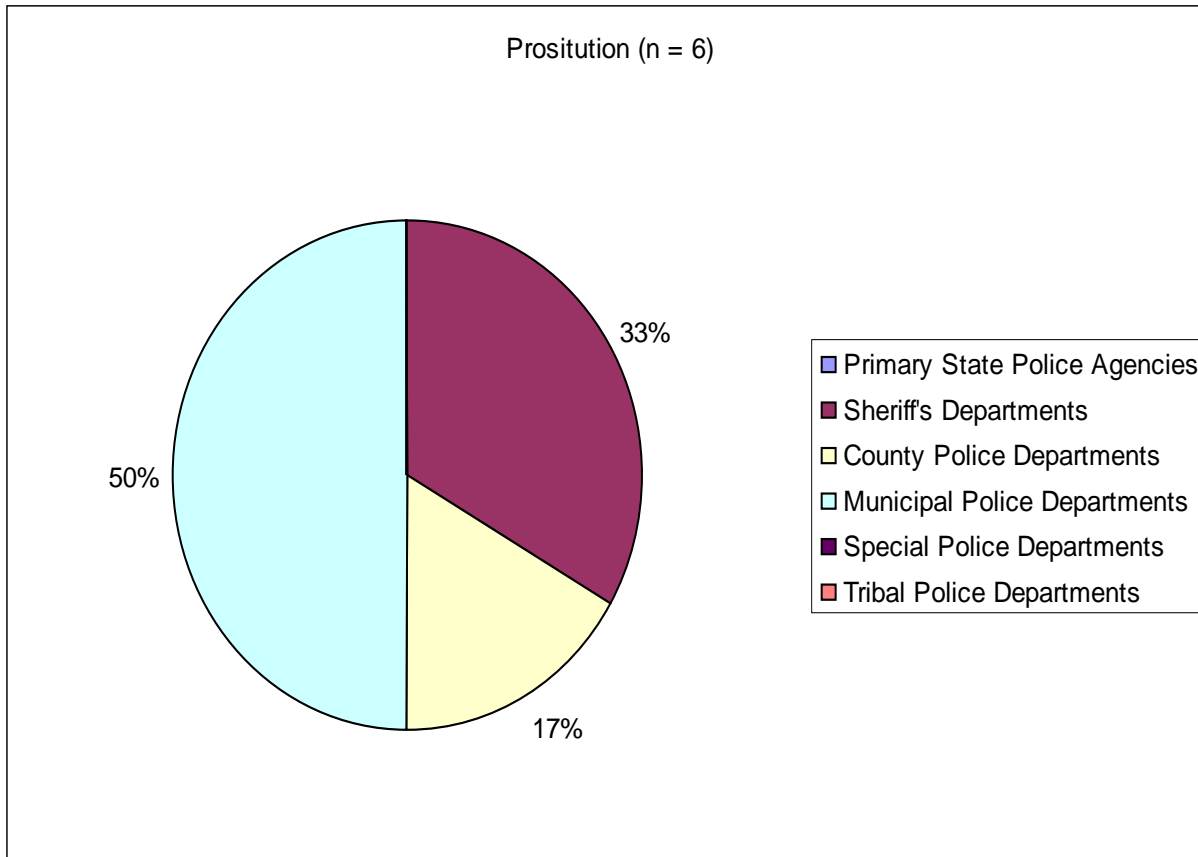


# Agency Type: Pornography / Obscene Material

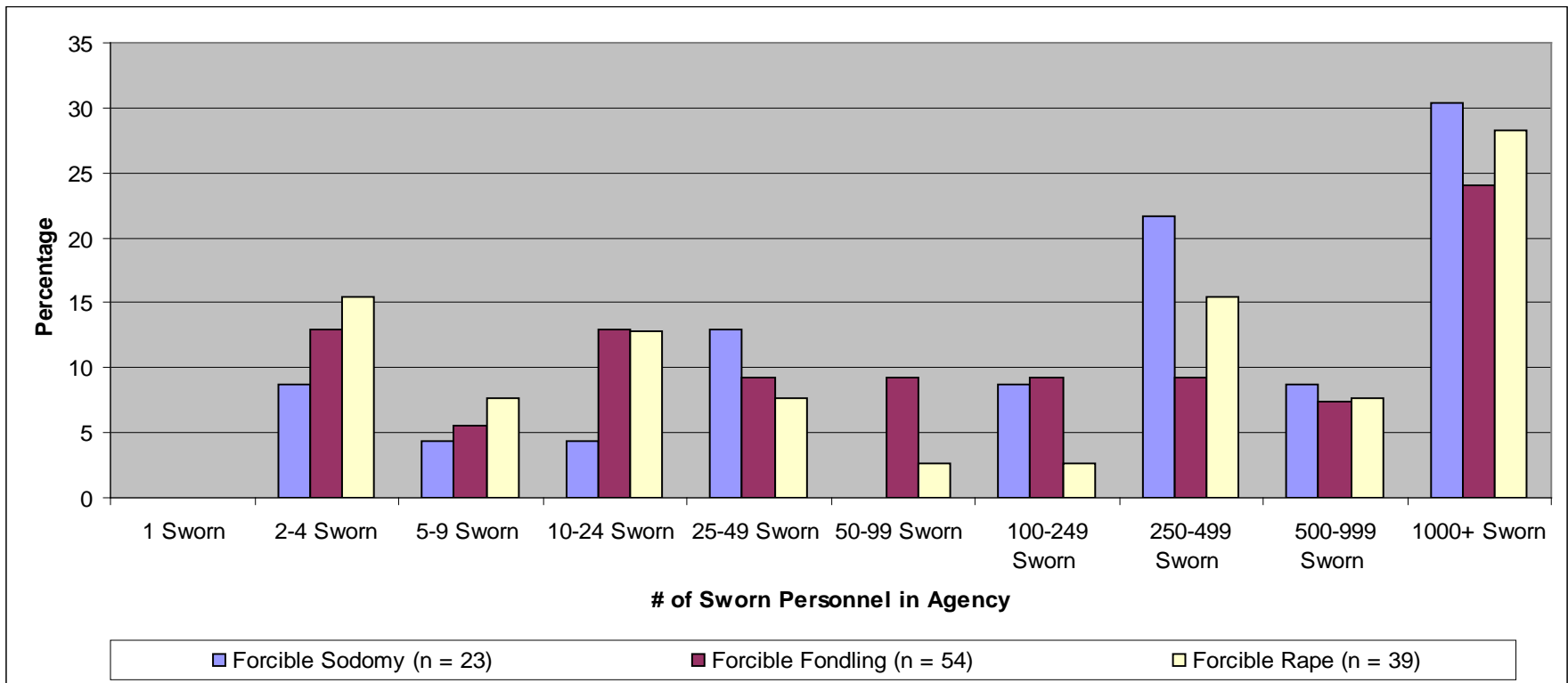




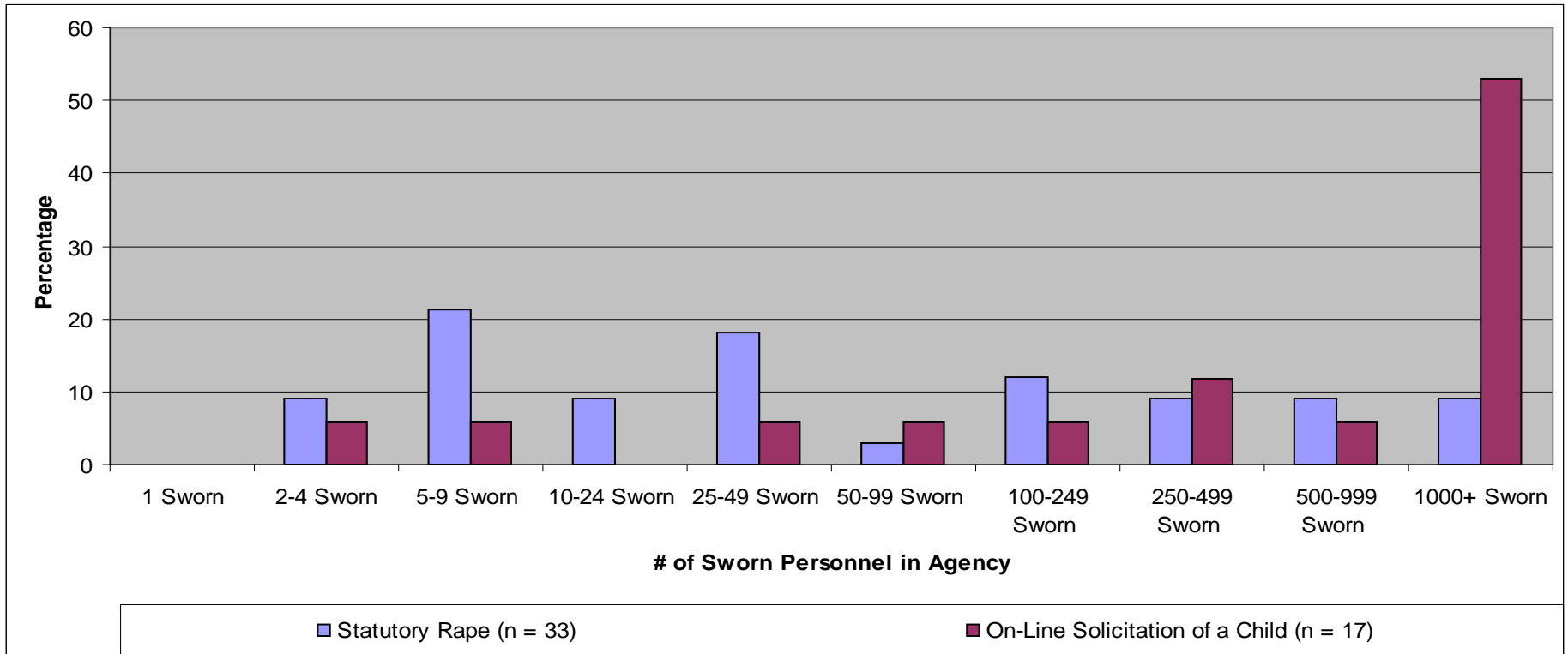
# Agency Type: Prostitution



# # of Sworn Personnel in Agency: Forcible Sodomy, Fondling & Rape

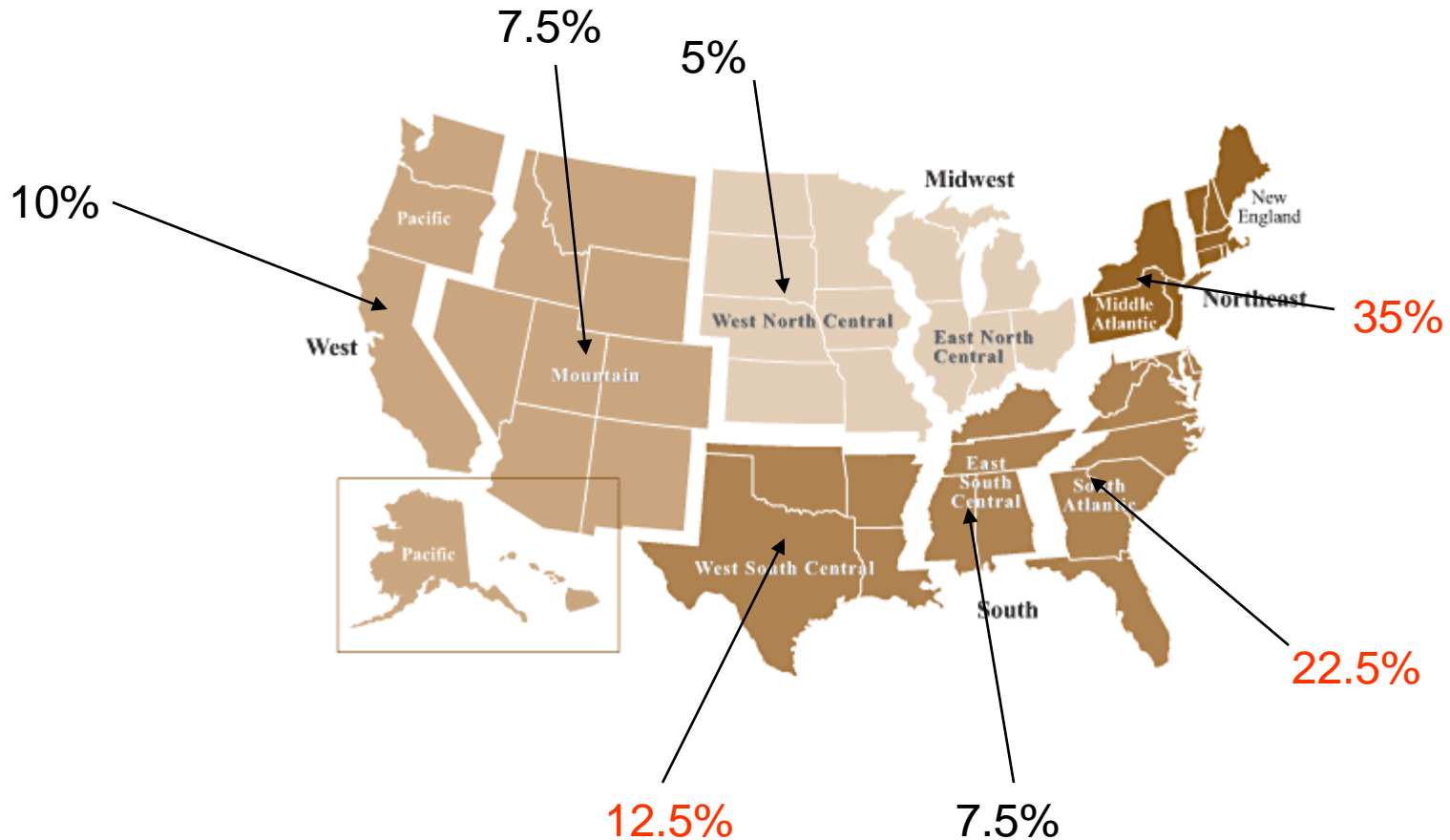


# # of Sworn Personnel in Agency: Statutory Rape & On-Line Solicitation of Child



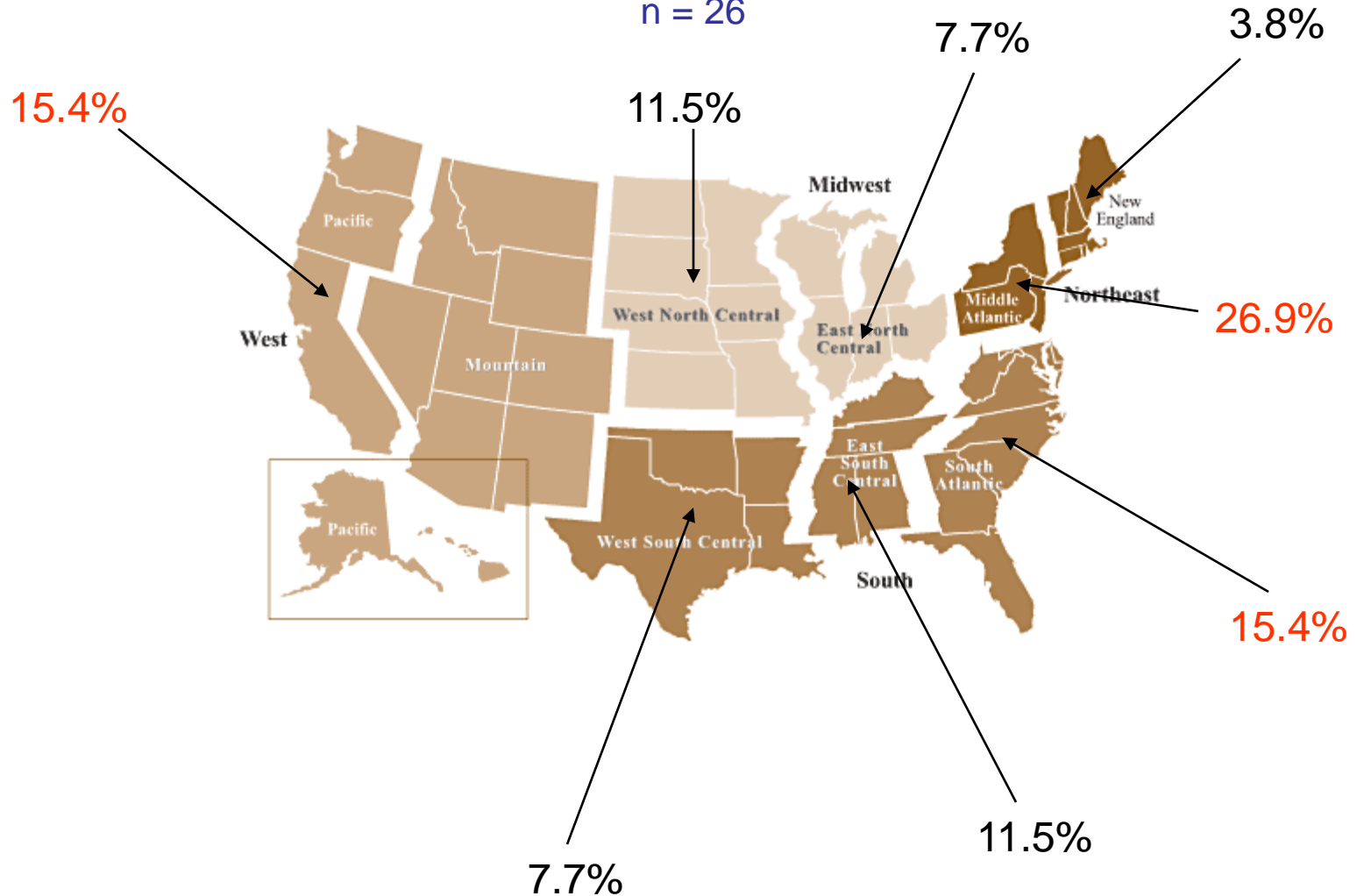
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Forcible Rape

n = 40



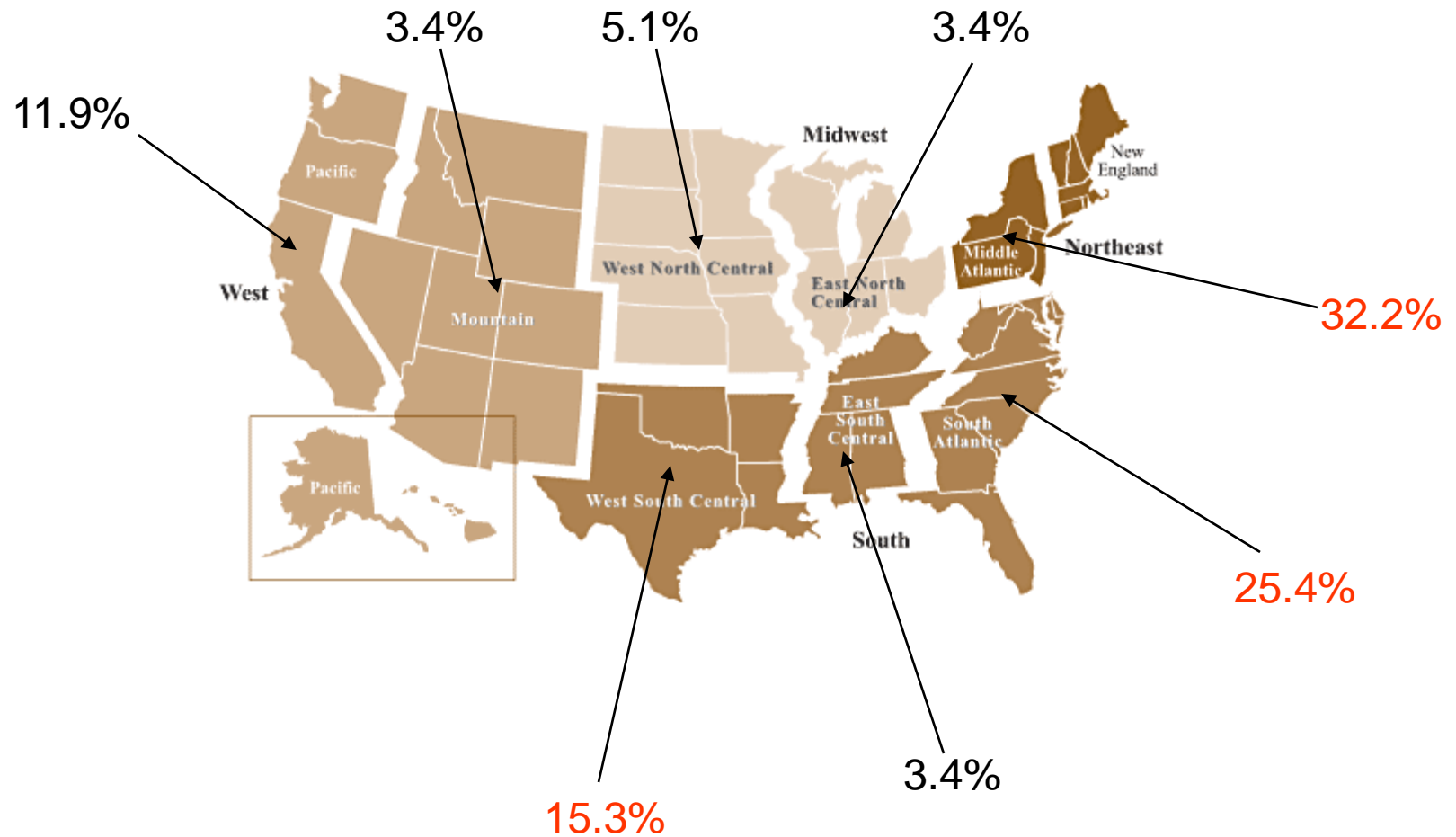
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Forcible Sodomy

n = 26



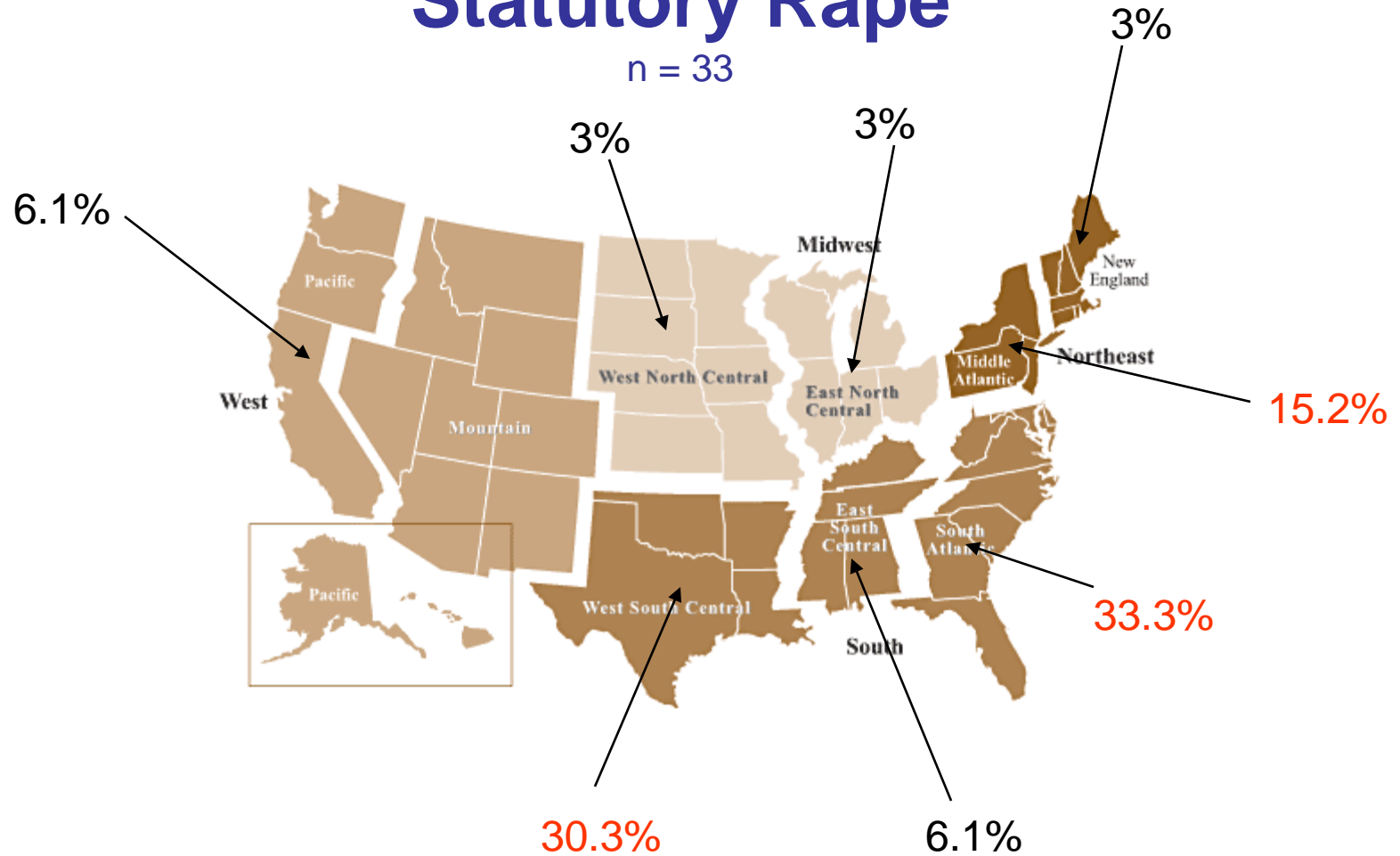
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Forcible Fondling

n = 59



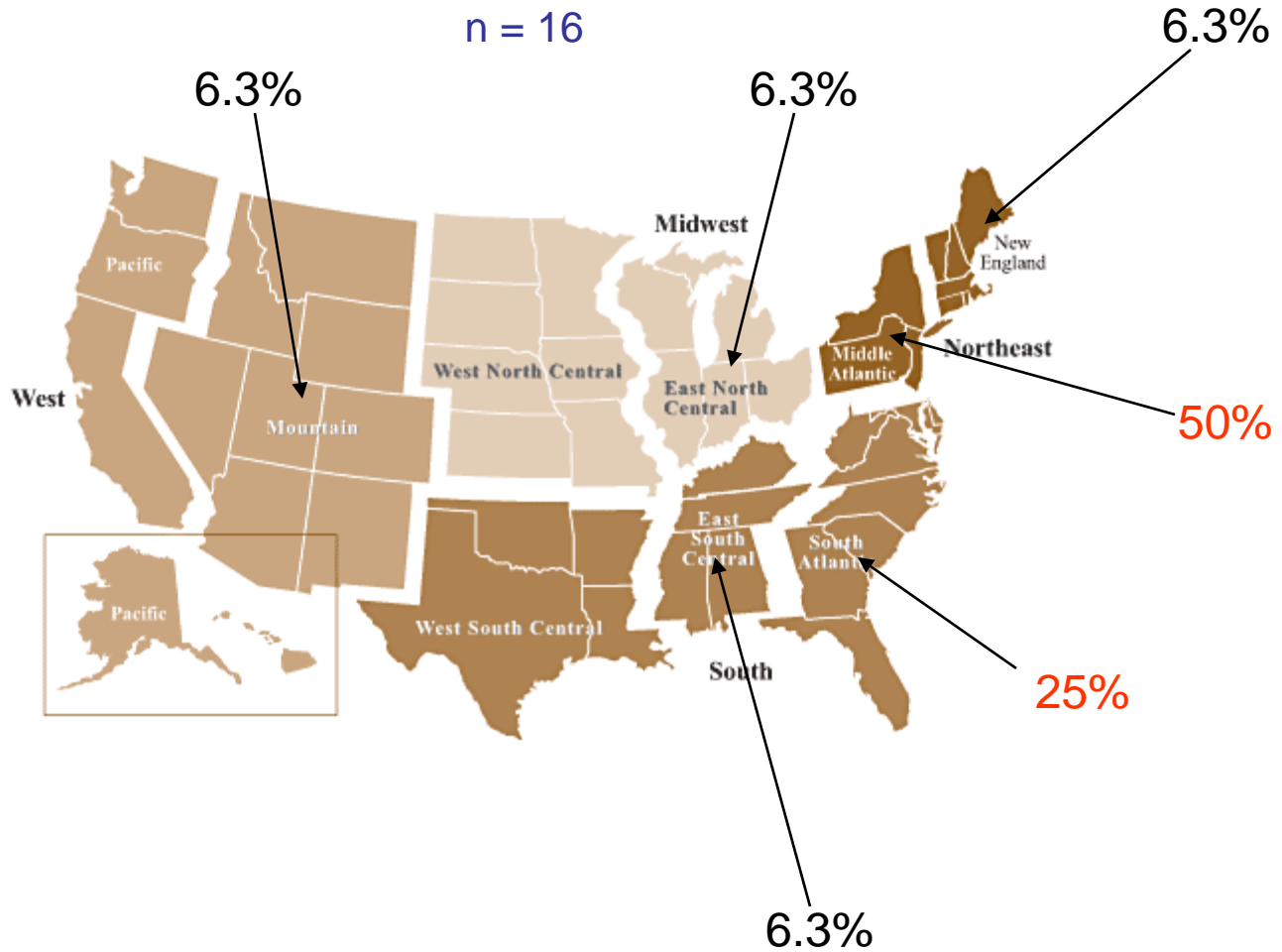
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Statutory Rape

n = 33



# Sworn Officers Arrested for Indecent Exposure

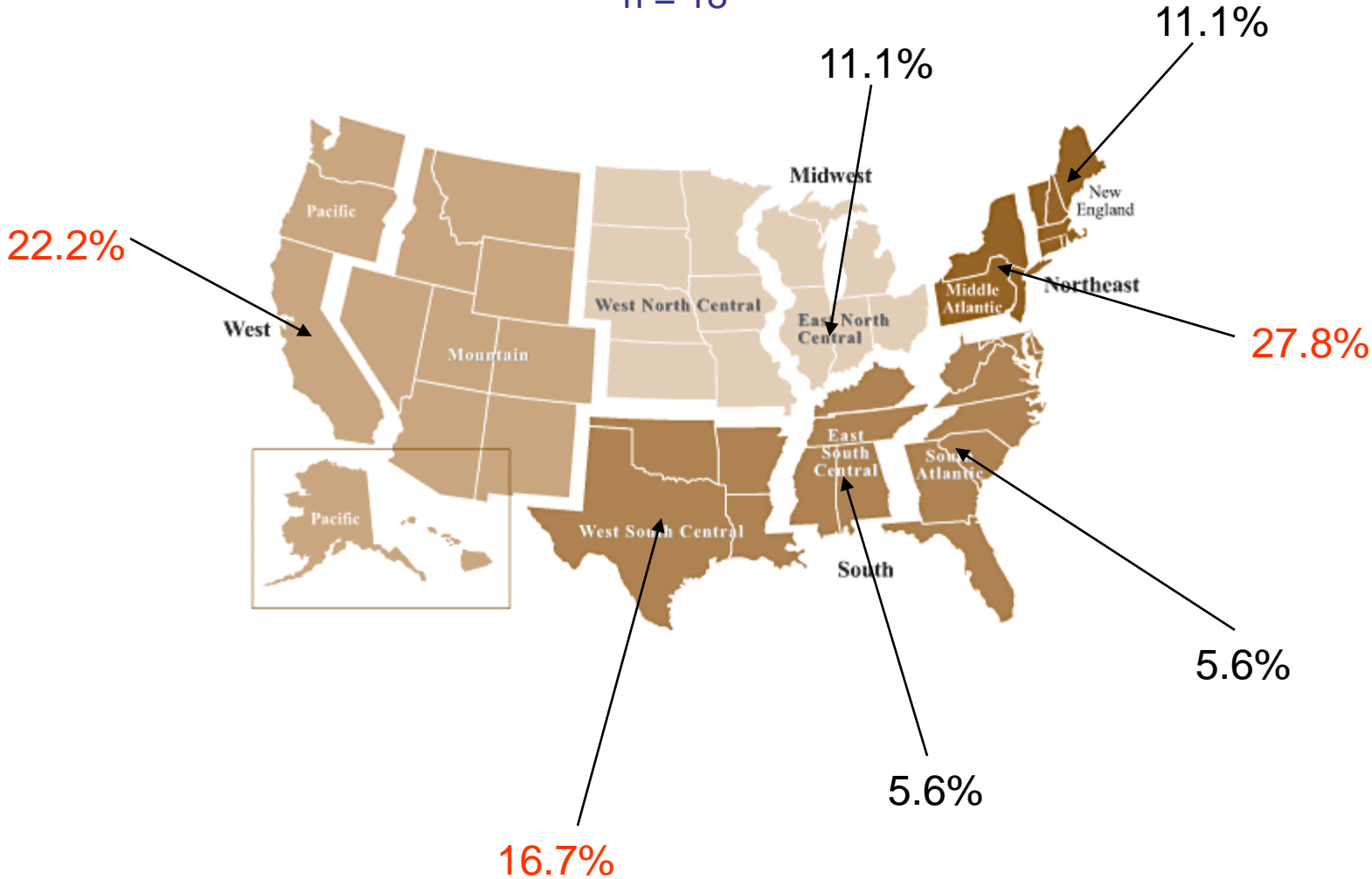
n = 16



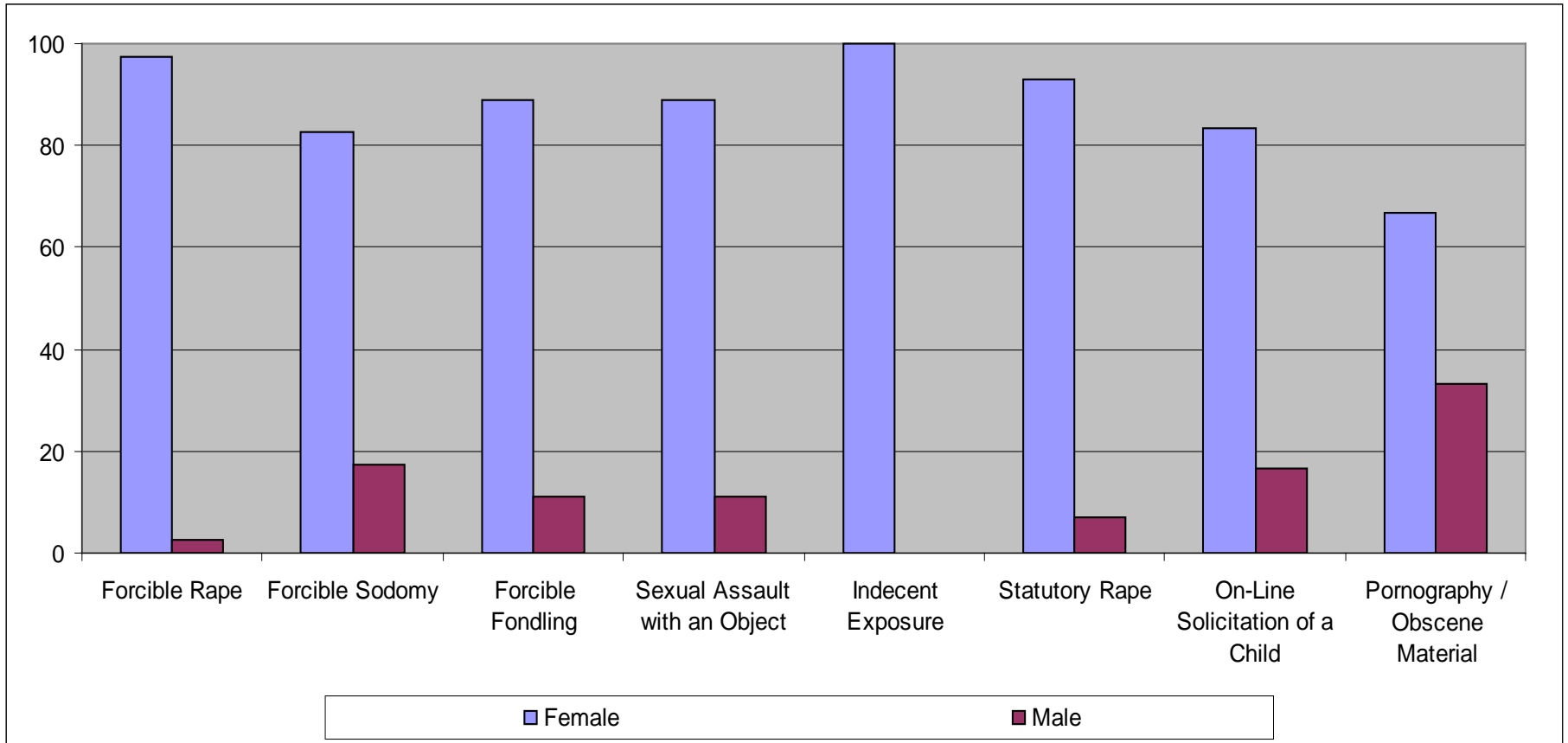


# Sworn Officers Arrested for On-Line Solicitation of a Child

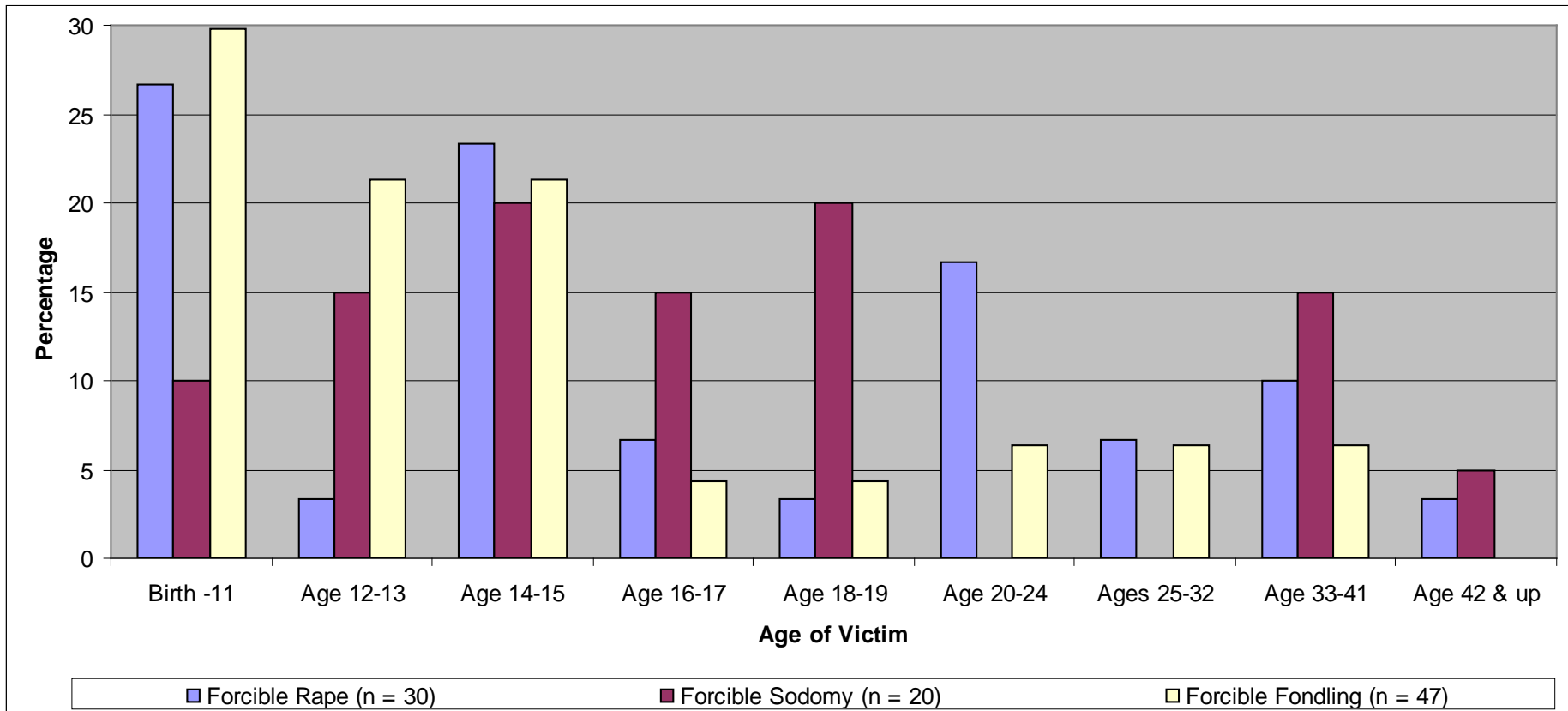
n = 18



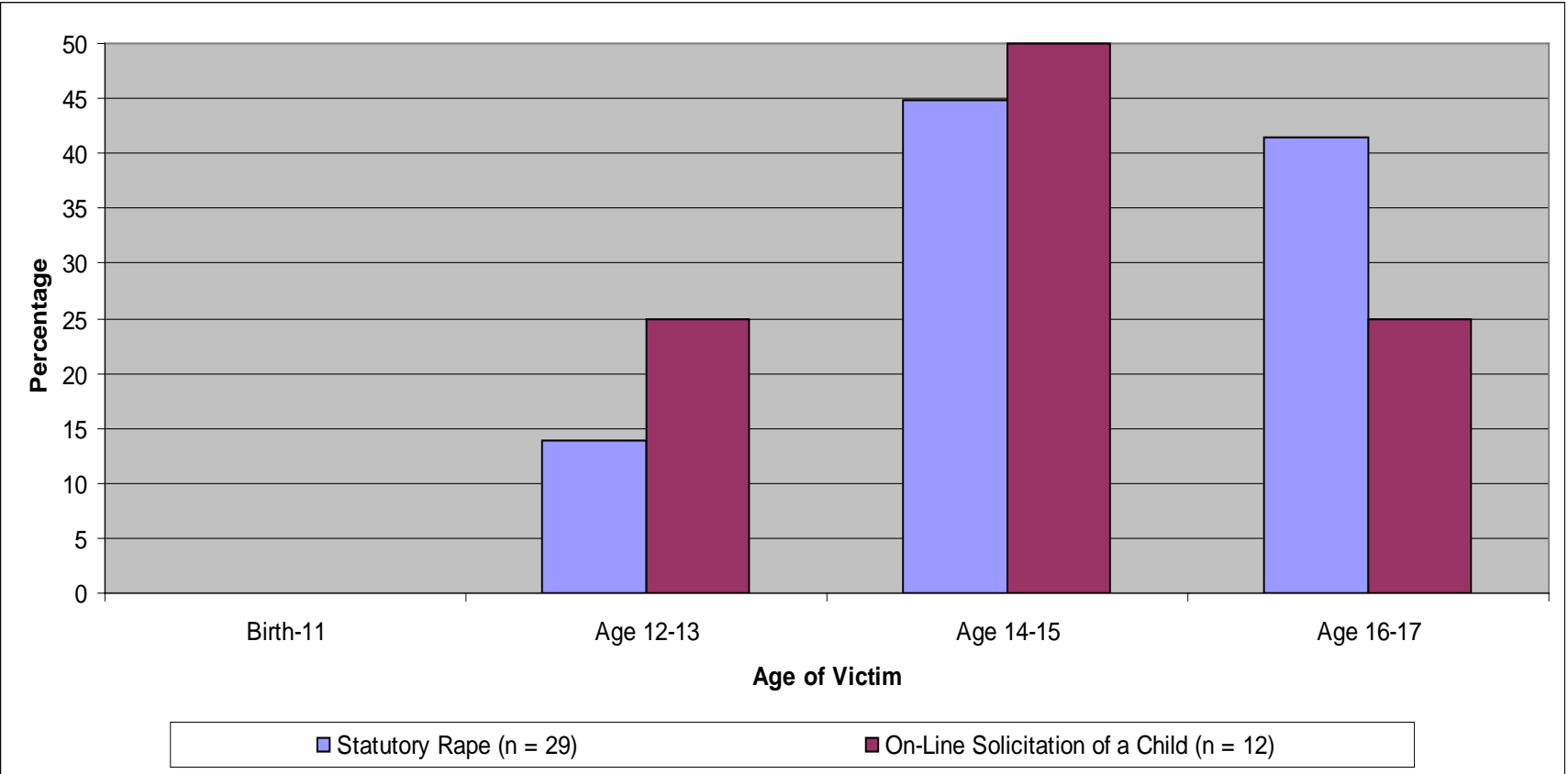
# Victim Gender: Various Sex Crimes



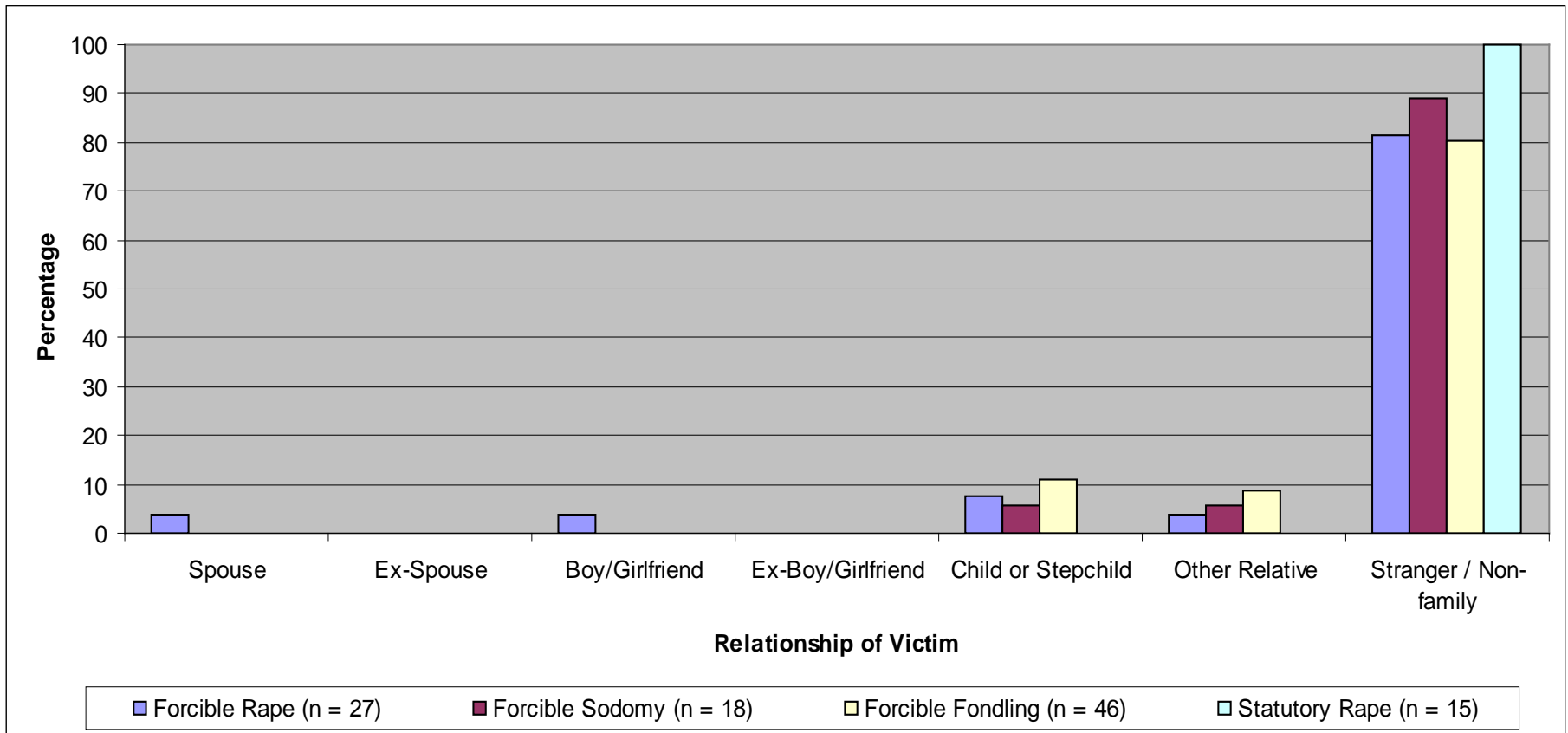
# Age of Victim: Forcible Rape, Sodomy & Fondling



# Age of Victim: Statutory Rape & On-Line Solicitation



# Relationship of Victim: Rape, Sodomy, Fondling & Statutory Rape



# Future Research Agenda

- Continue data collection for an additional 18 months
  - January, 2005 – December, 2007 (36 months total)
  - Will the patterns hold with more cases?
- Gather available data for logistic regression analyses
  - CALEA accreditation status
  - Agencies' minimum entry-level education requirements
  - Early Intervention / Early Warning Systems
- Generate a random sample from the population of cases for in-depth research
  - Review of court case files to develop more data (especially interested in patterns in case dispositions (e.g., convictions, plea bargains, acquittals, dismissals))
  - Are officers keeping their jobs after being arrested?
  - Are officers losing certification?