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

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

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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

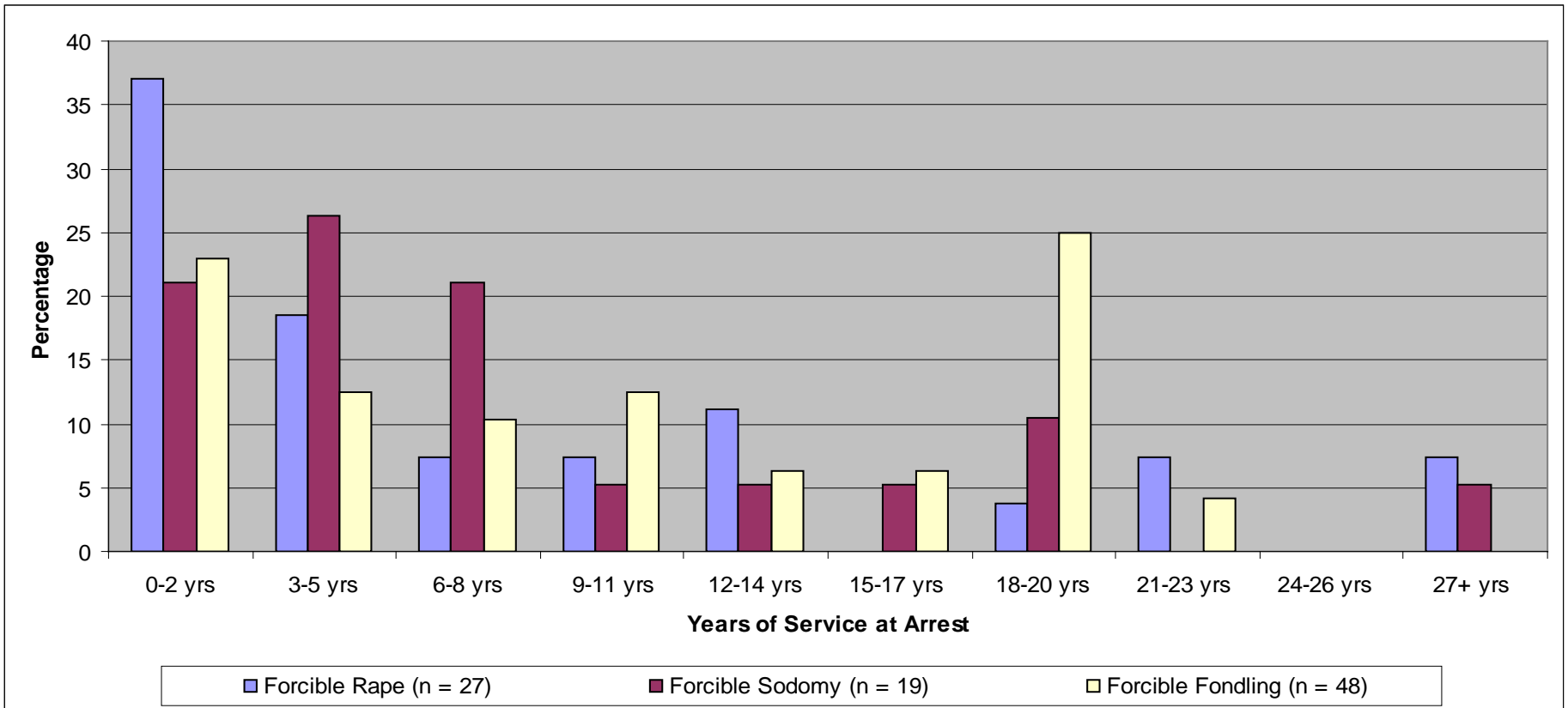
| N = 695                           | n   | %             |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| <i>[ALL SEX OFFENSES]</i>         |     | <i>[38.3]</i> |
| all other offenses (unclassified) | 114 | 16.4          |
| driving under the influence       | 95  | 13.7          |
| 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           |



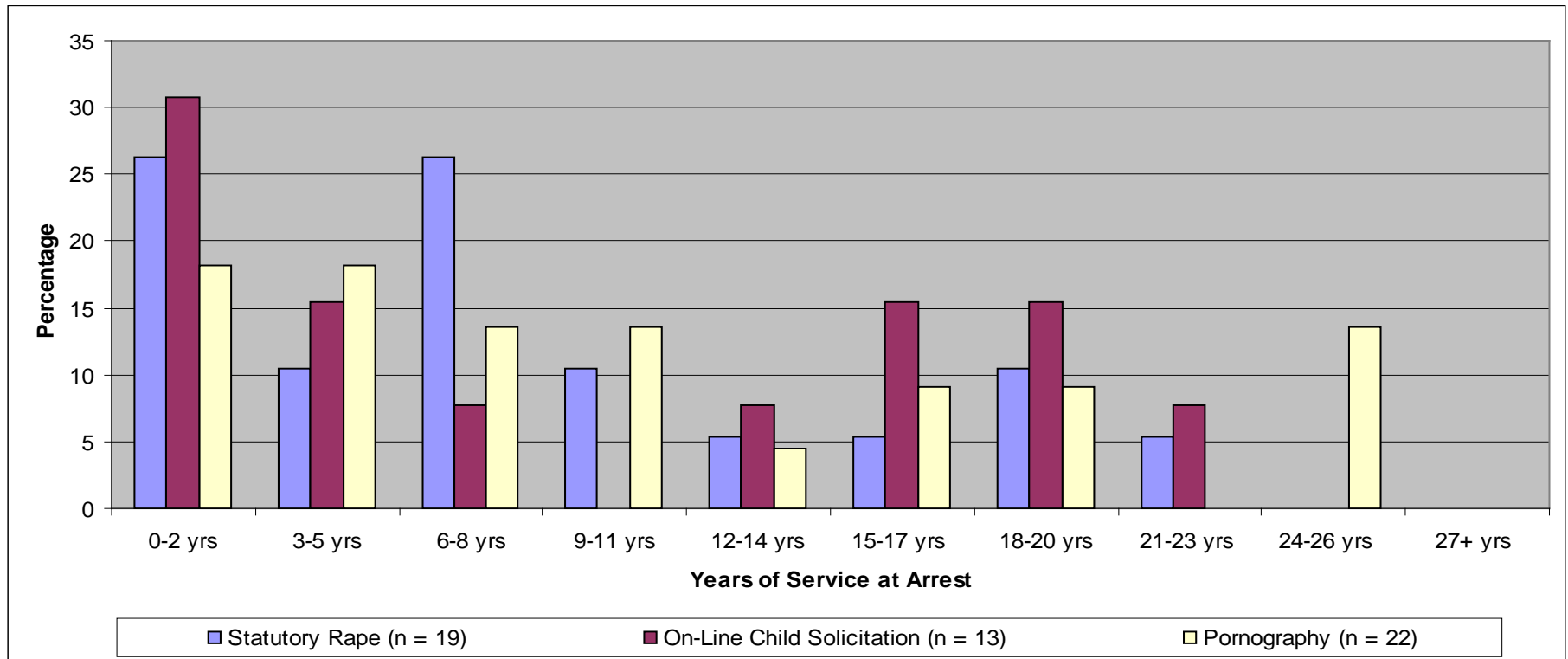
|   | n  | %   |
|---|----|-----|
| murder & non-negligent manslaughter     | 22 | 3.2 |
| extortion / blackmail                   | 21 | 3.0 |
| bribery                                 | 19 | 2.7 |
| kidnapping / abduction                  | 18 | 2.6 |
| on-line solicitation of a child         | 18 | 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 |

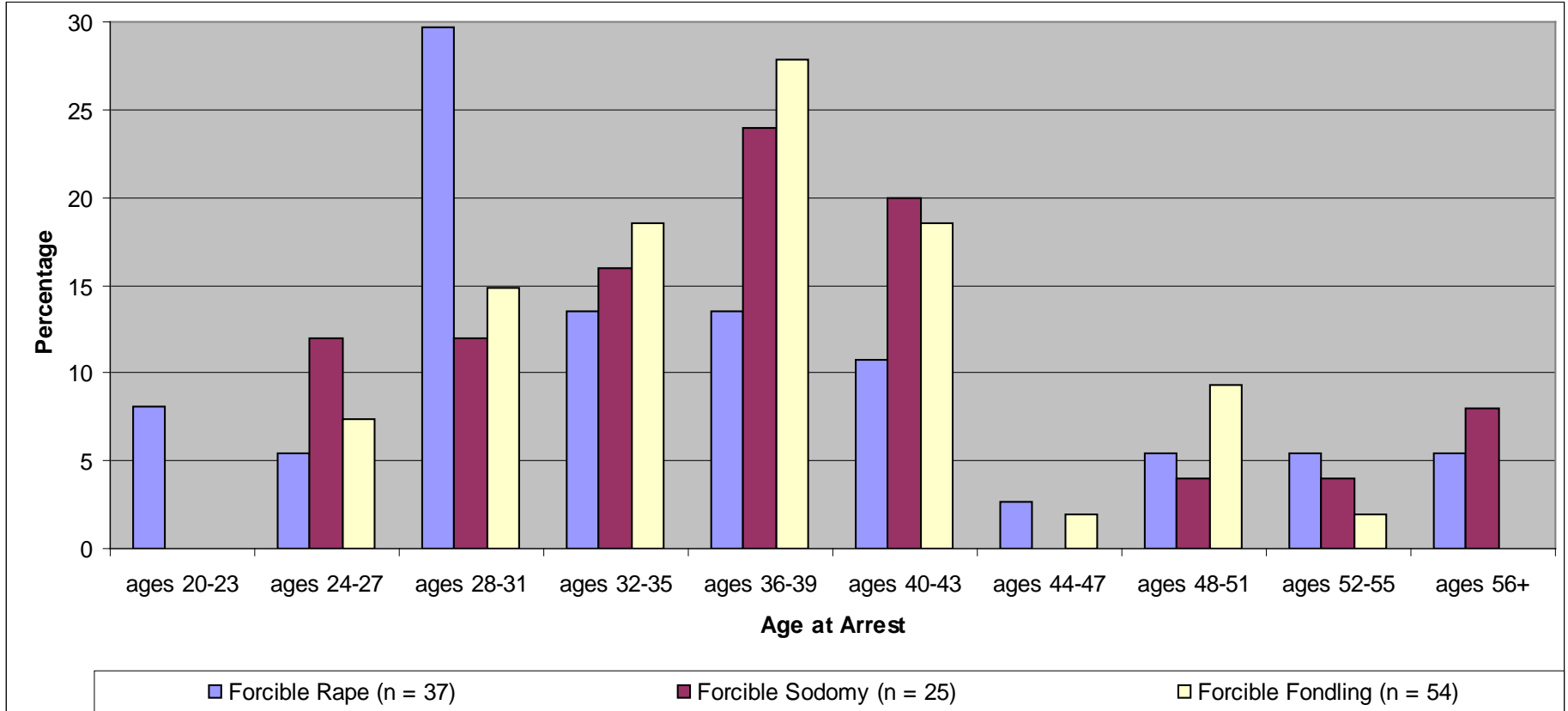
# Years of Service at Arrest: Forcible Rape, Sodomy & Fondling



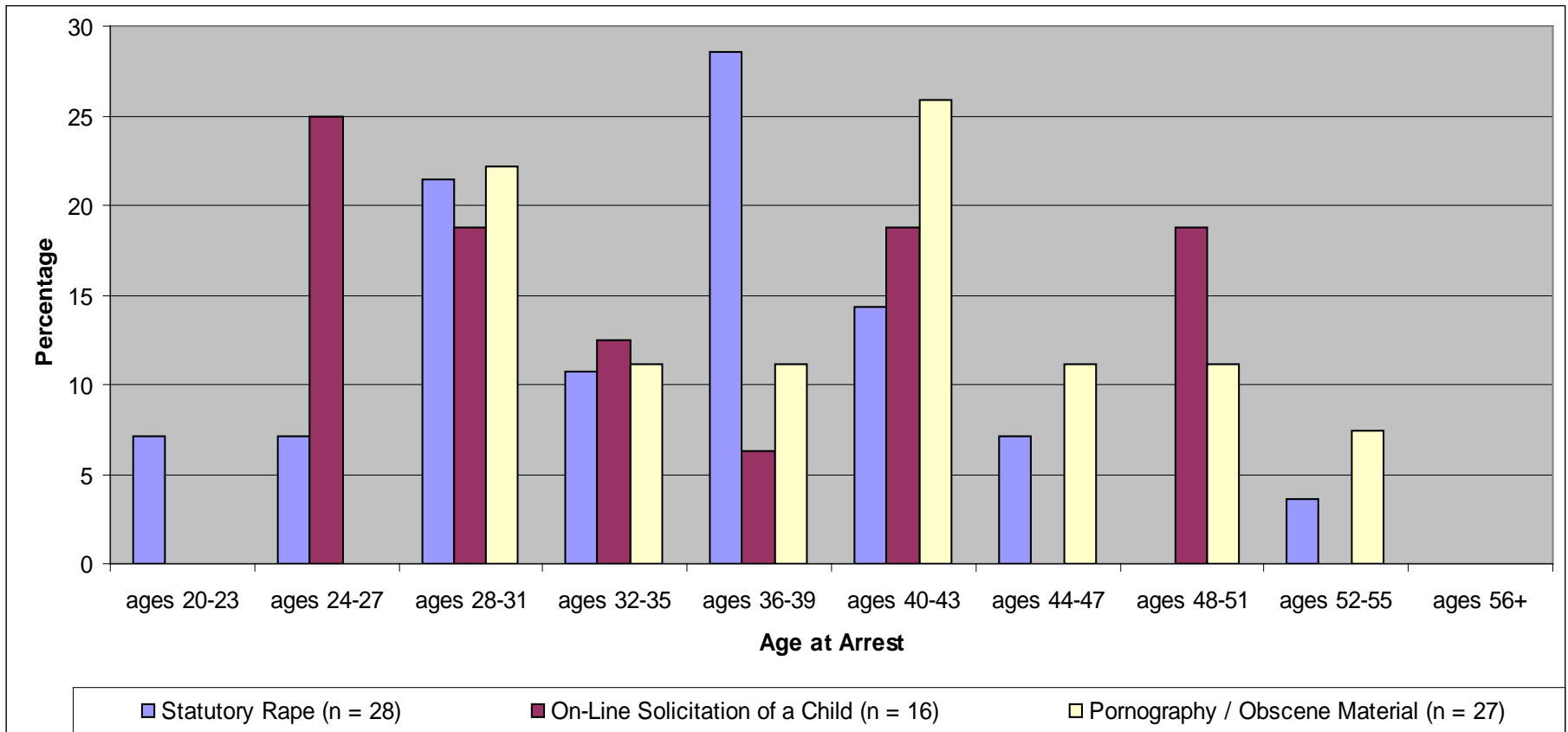
# Years of Service at Arrest: Statutory Rape, On-Line Solicitation of a Child & Pornography



# Age at Arrest: Forcible Rape, Sodomy & Fondling



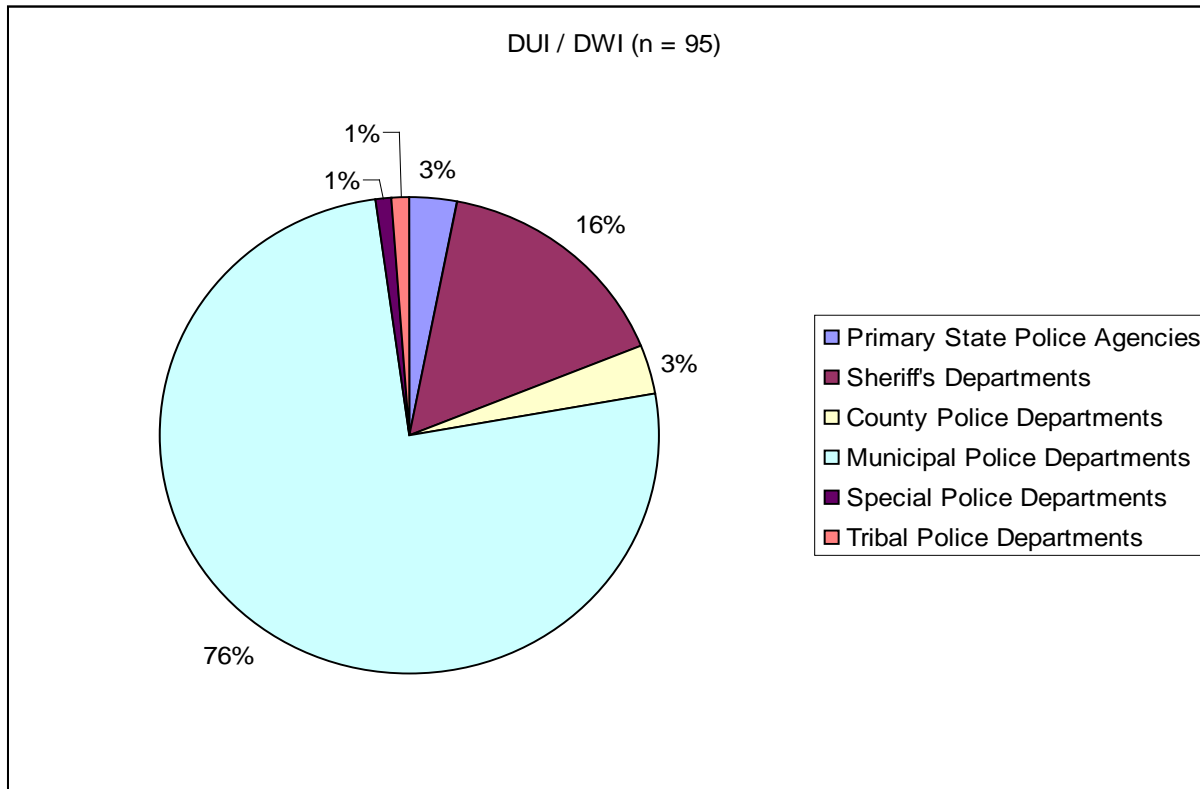
# Age at Arrest: Statutory Rape, Pornography & On-Line Solicitation of a Child



# 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)      |

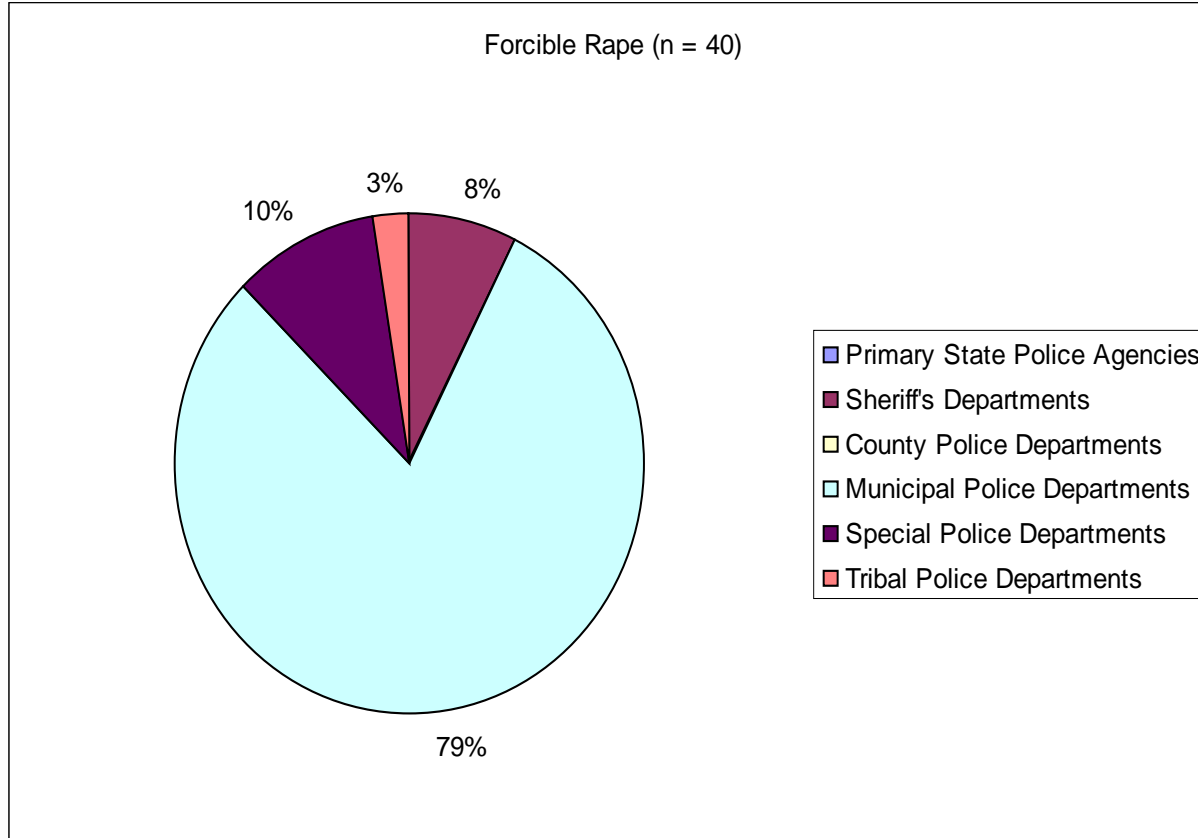
# Agency Type: Driving Under the Influence



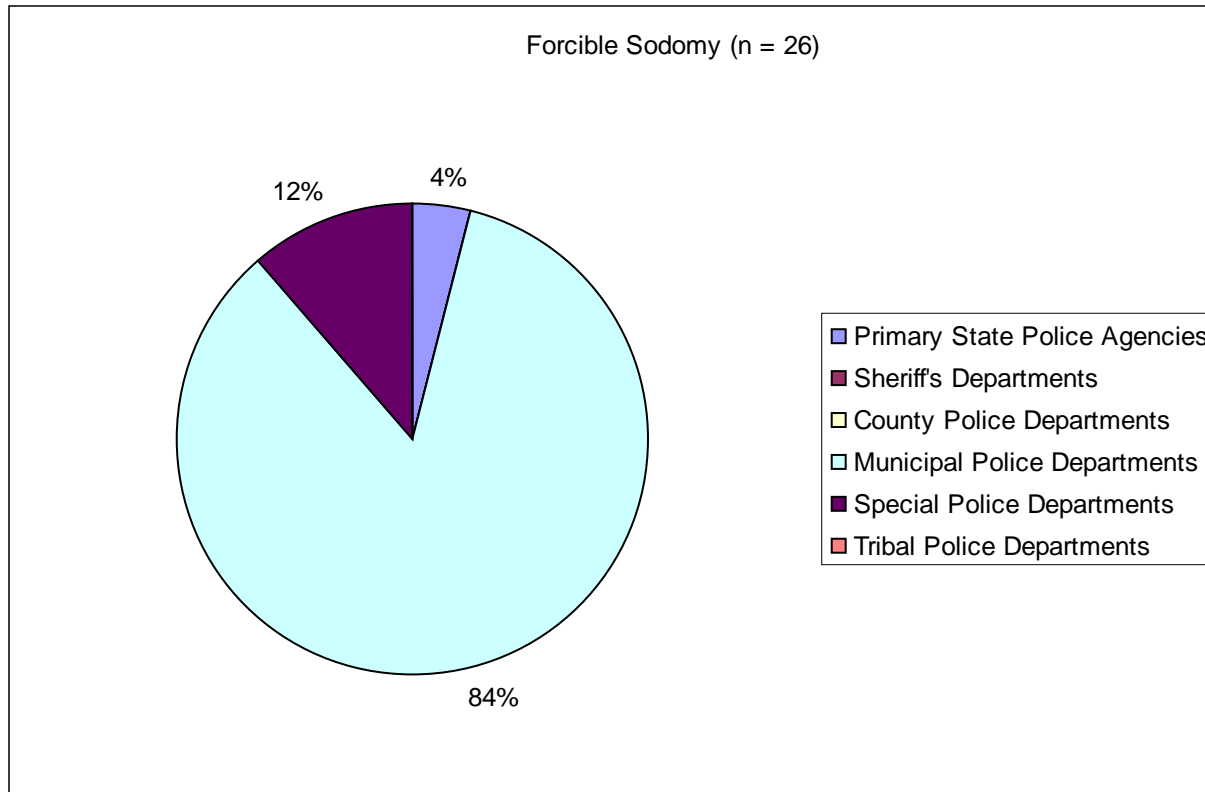
***This approximates what we would expect to find based in % nationally by agency type***



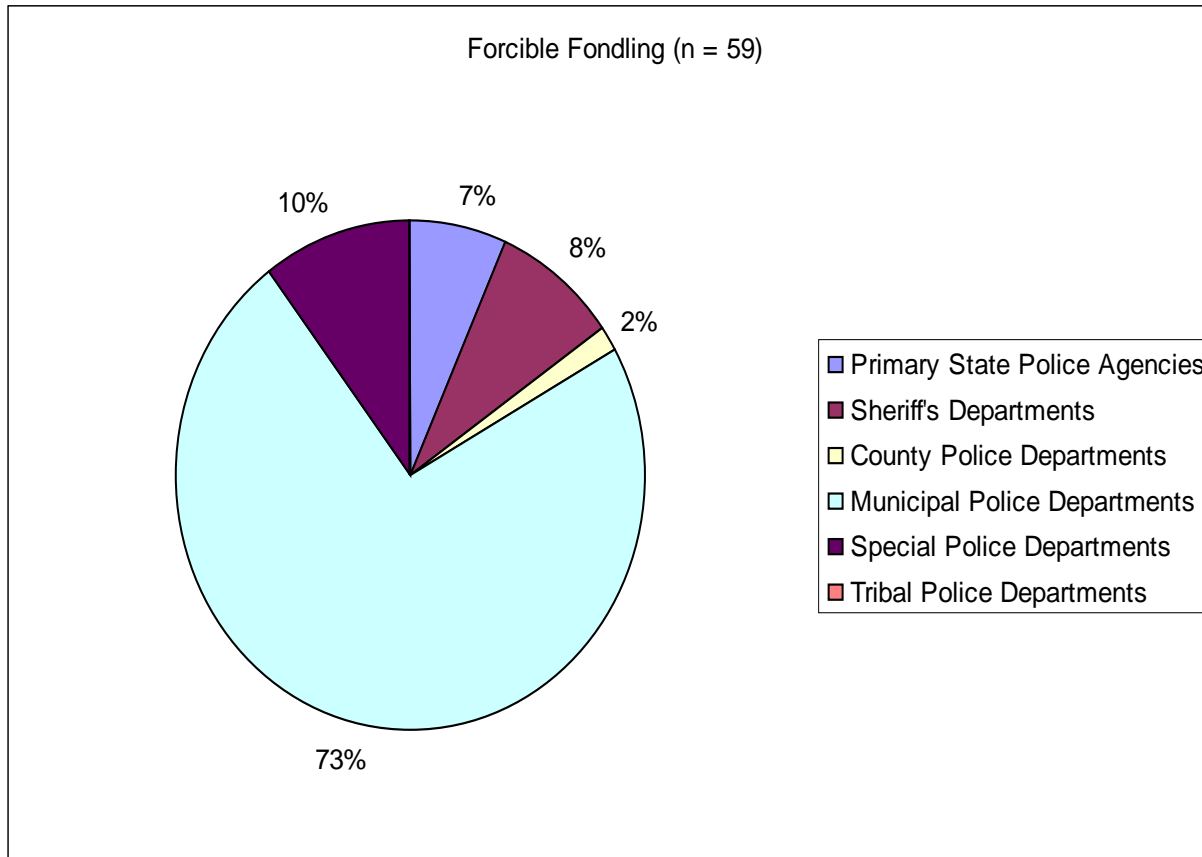
# Agency Type: Forcible Rape



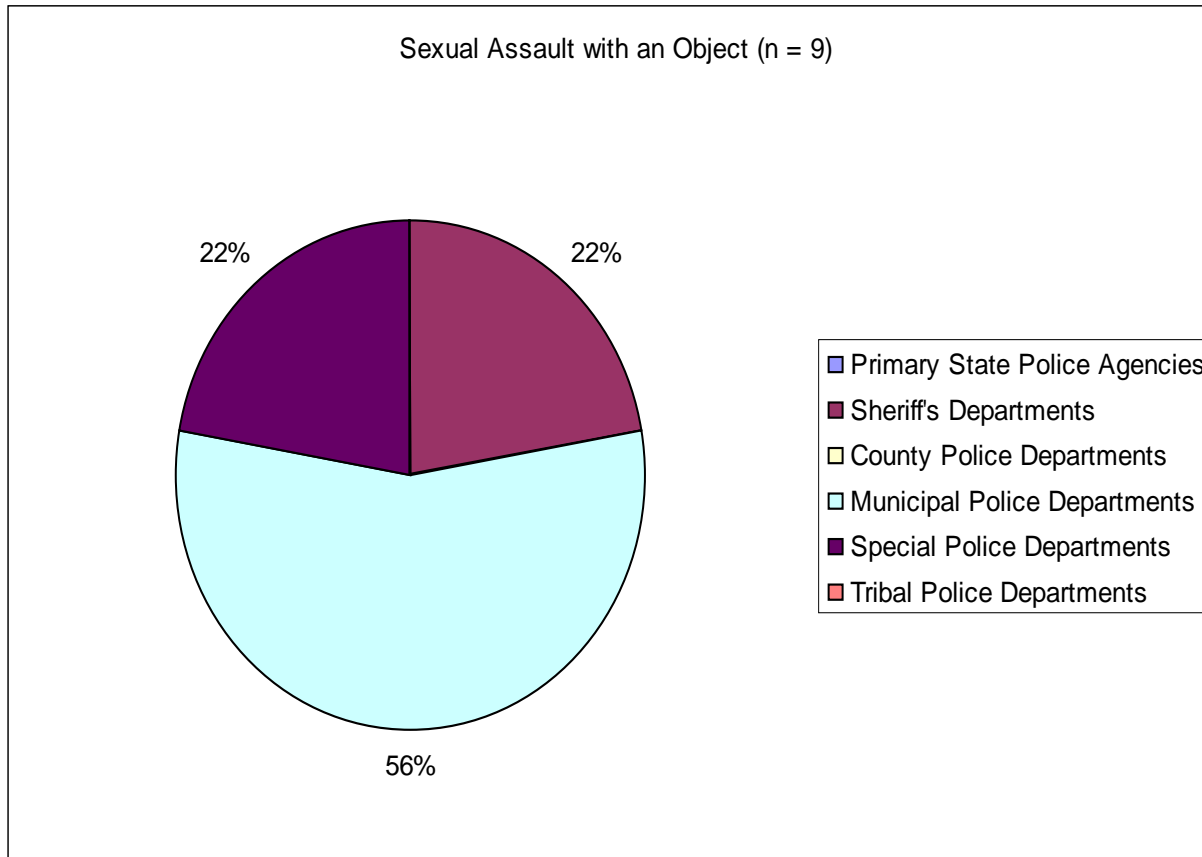
# Agency Type: Forcible Sodomy



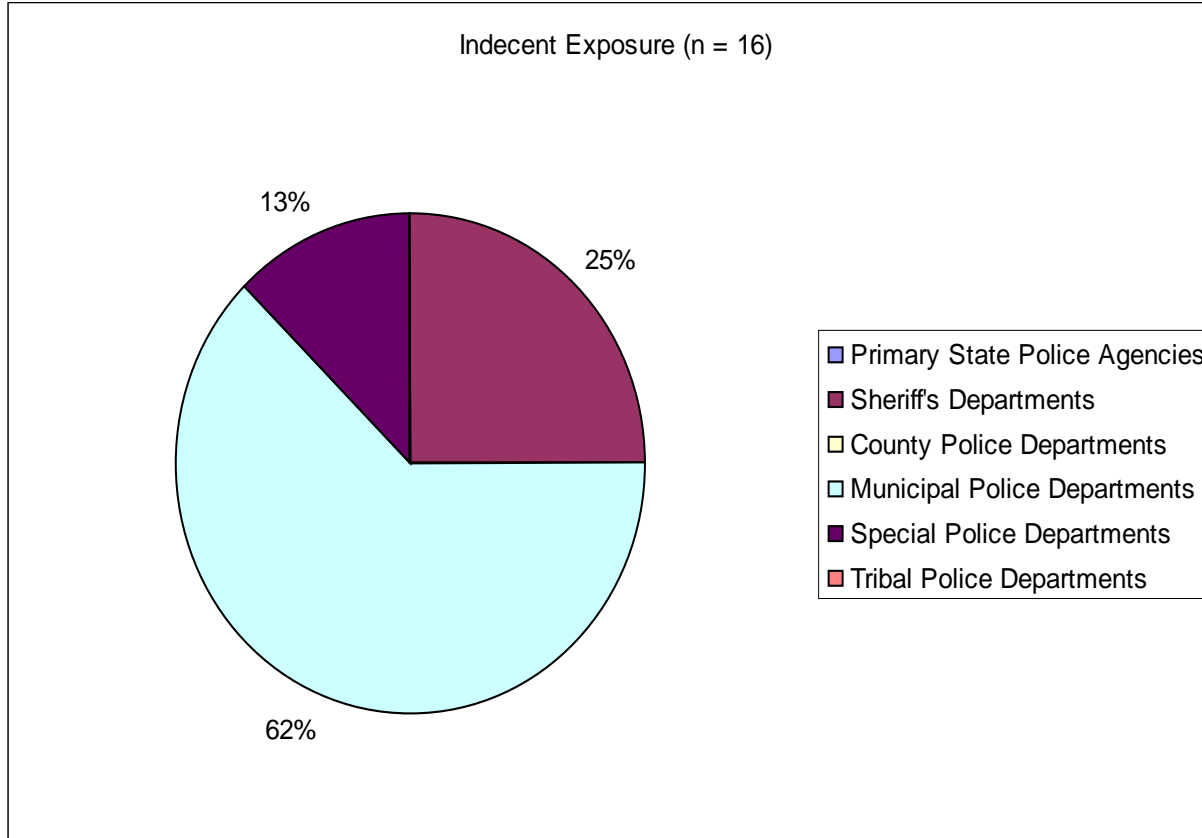
# Agency Type: Forcible Fondling



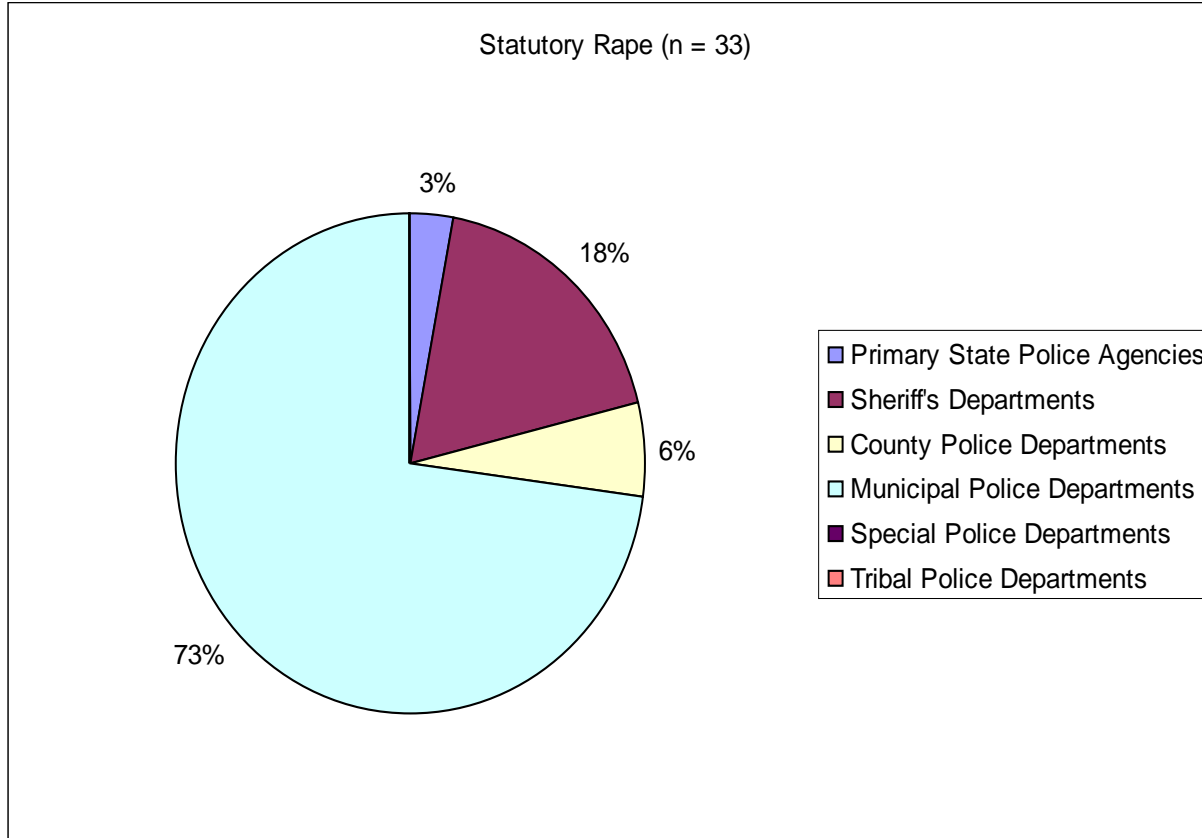
# Agency Type: Sexual Assault with an Object



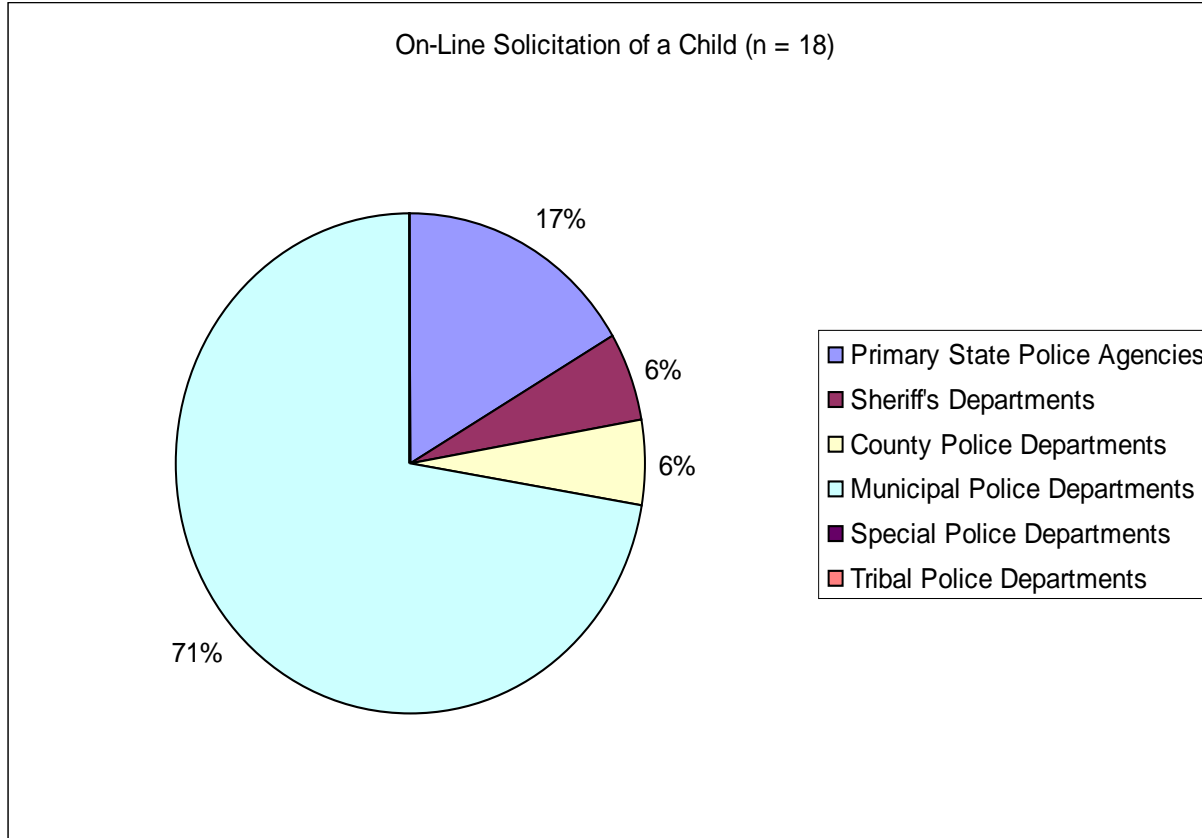
# Agency Type: Indecent Exposure



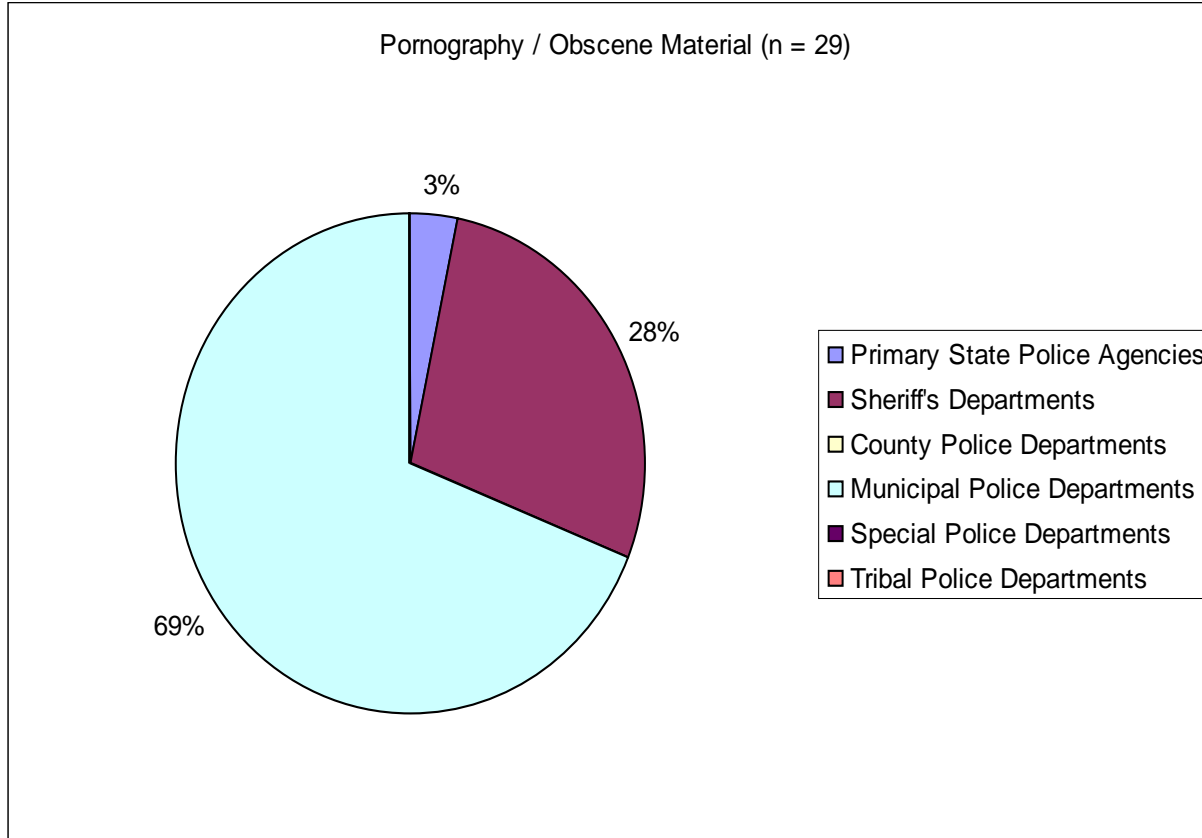
# Agency Type: Statutory Rape



# Agency Type: On-Line Solicitation of a Child

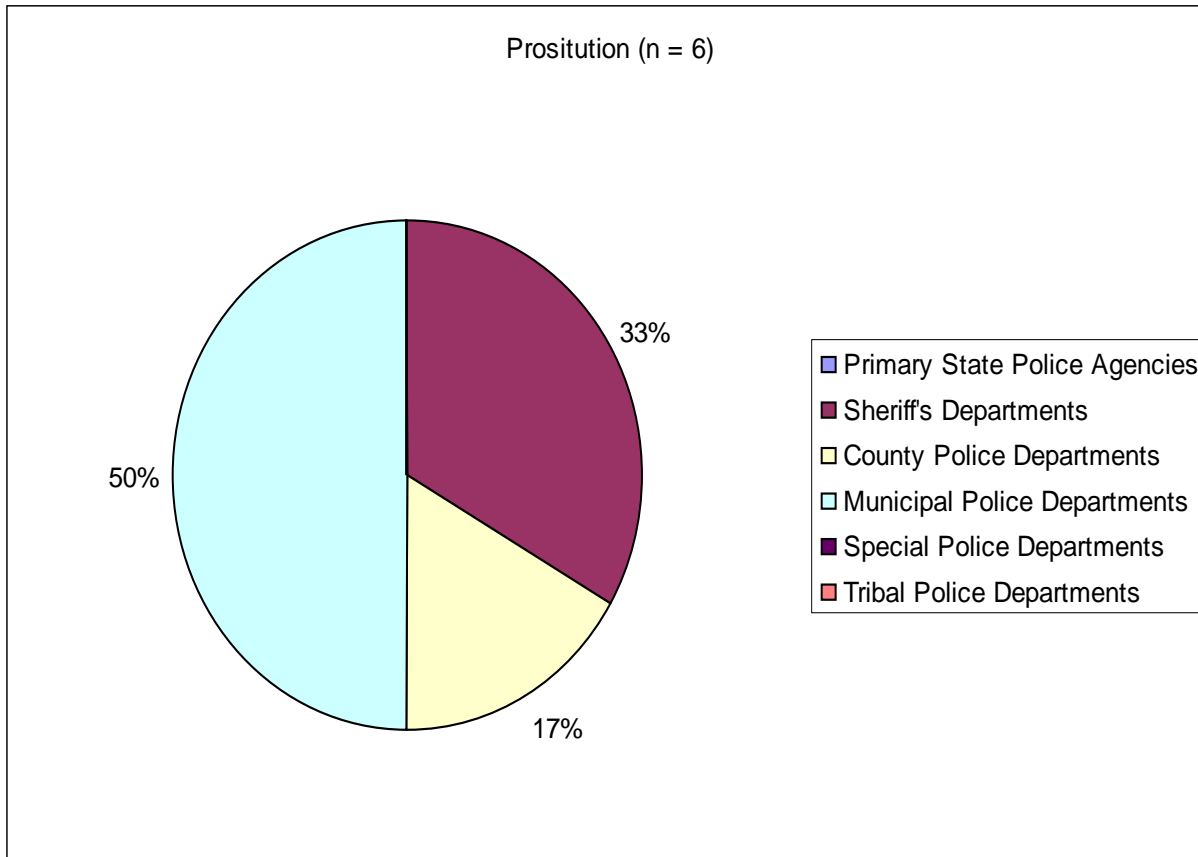


# Agency Type: Pornography / Obscene Material

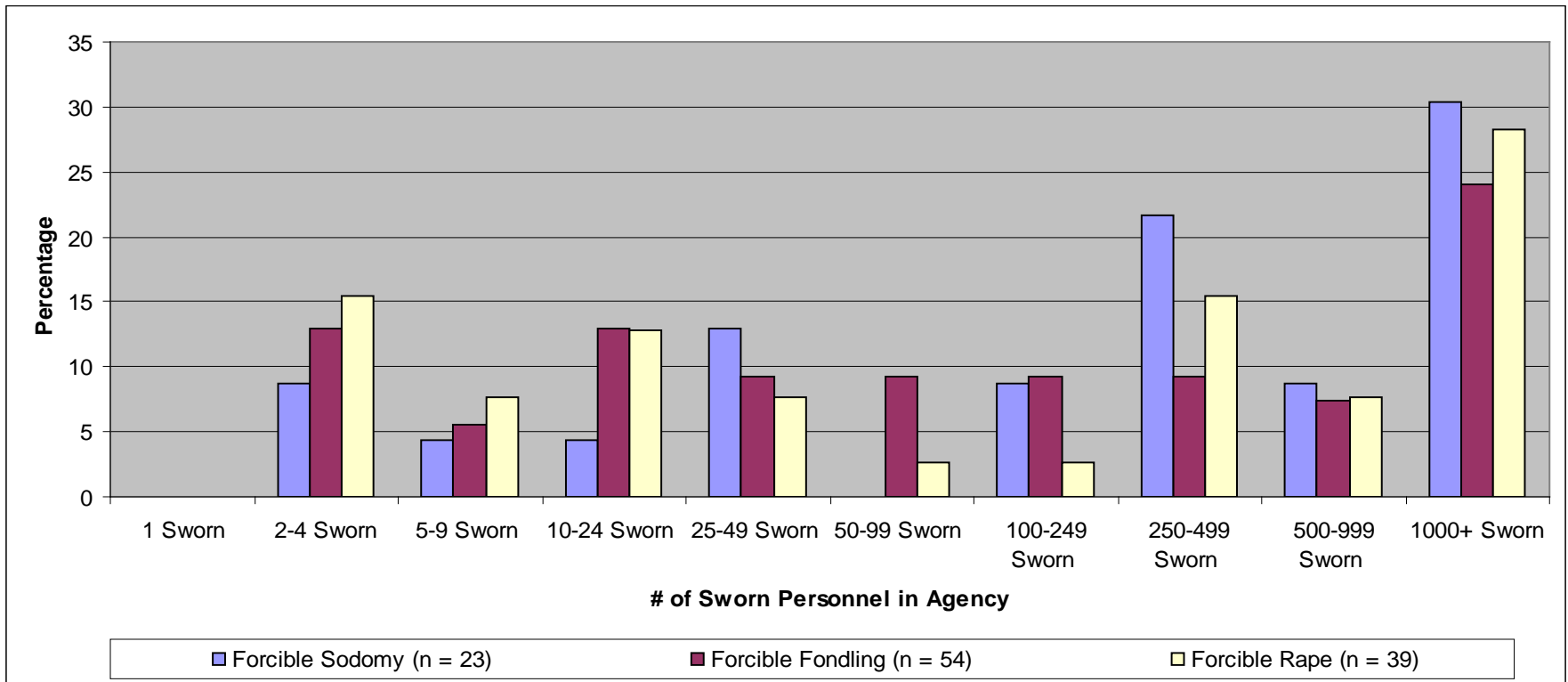




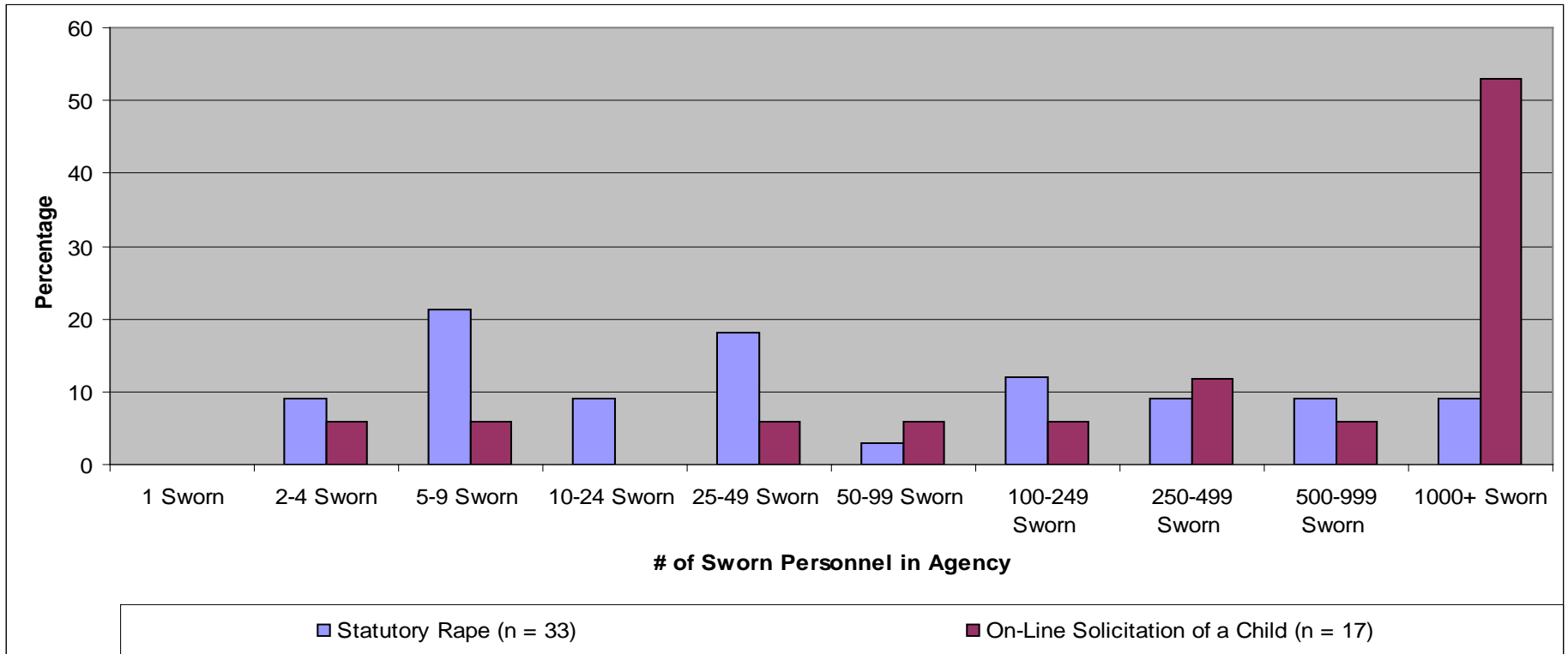
# Agency Type: Prostitution



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

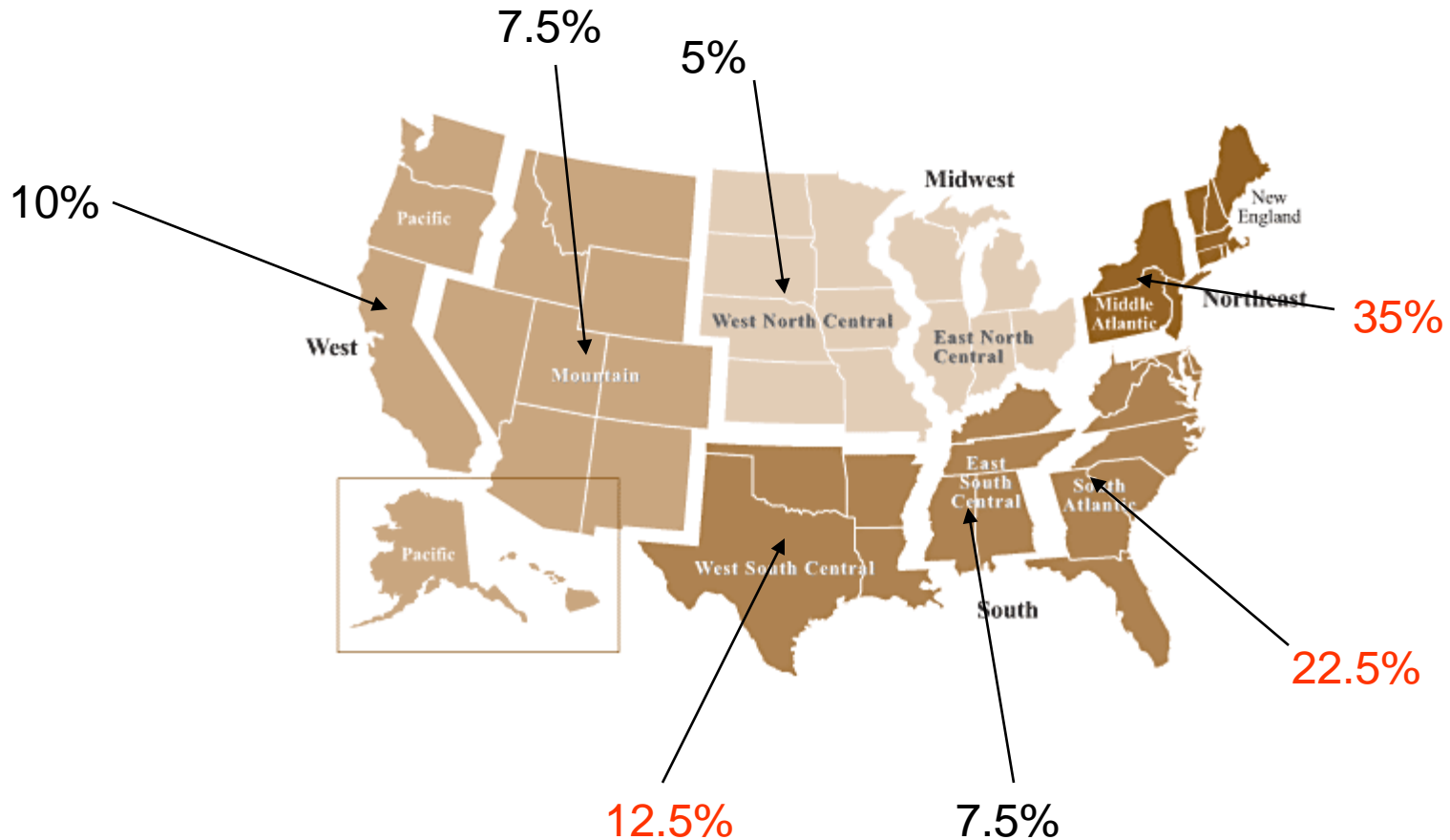


# # of Sworn Personnel in Agency: Statutory Rape & On-Line Solicitation of Child



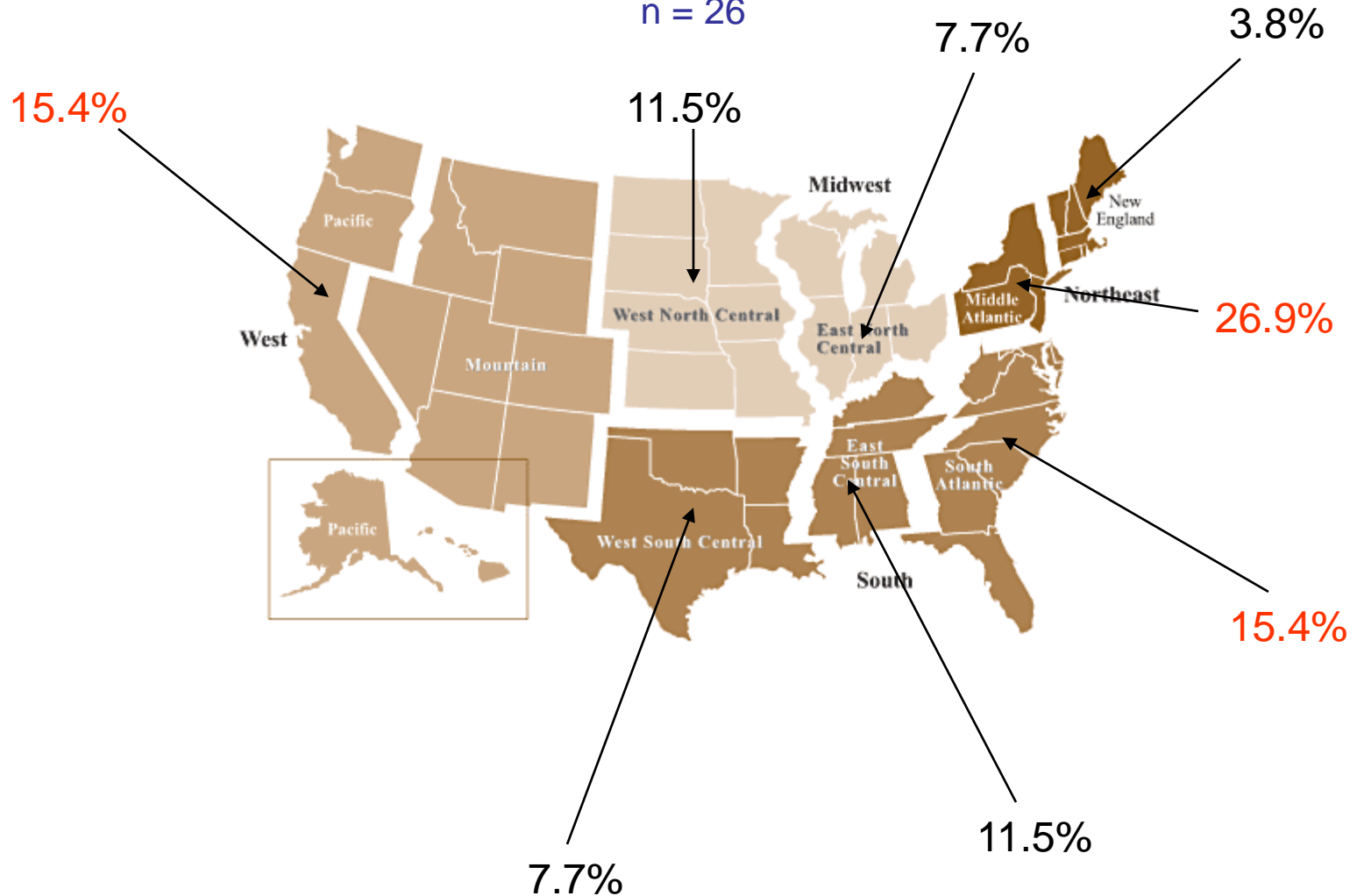
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Forcible Rape

n = 40



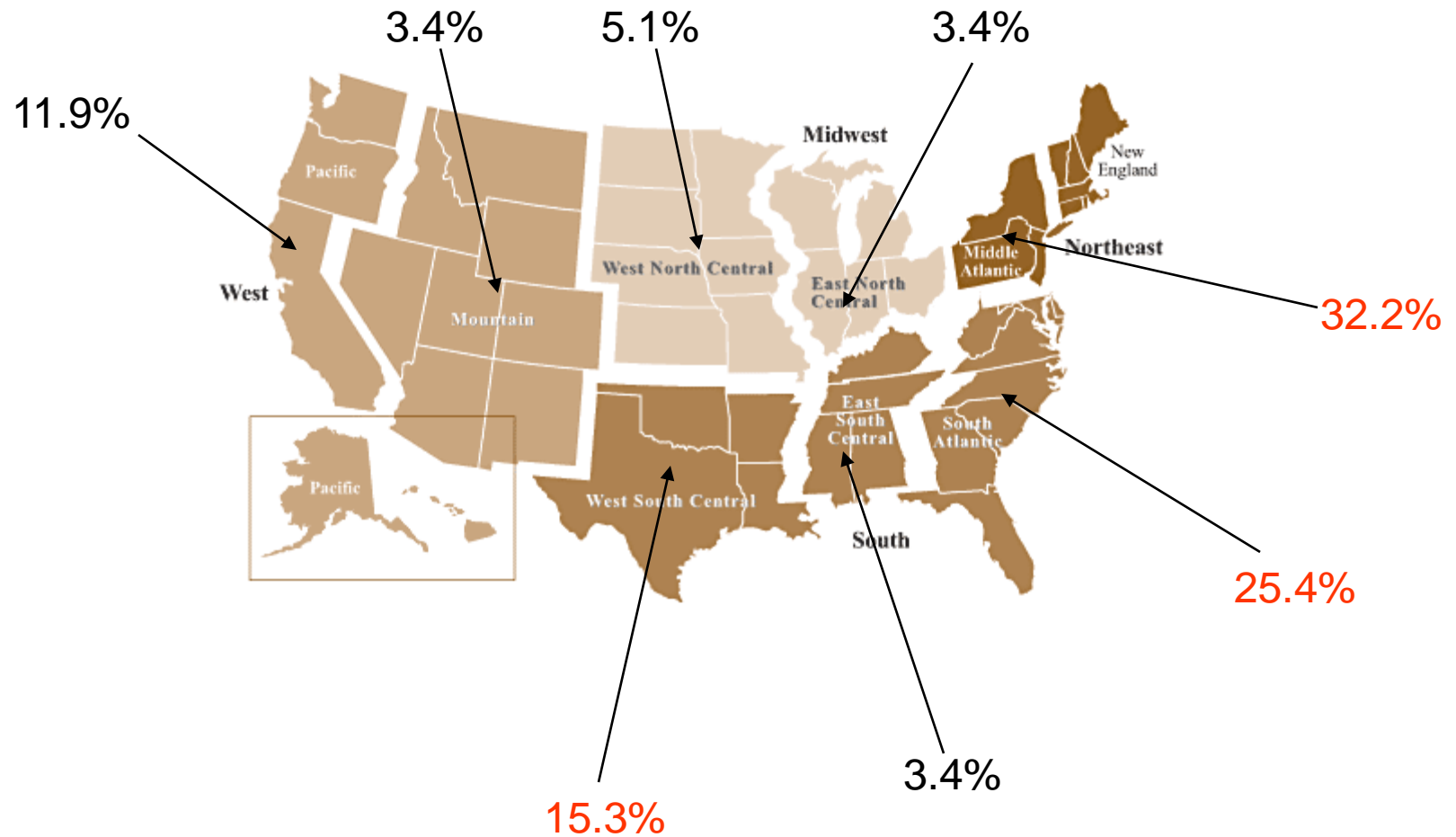
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Forcible Sodomy

n = 26



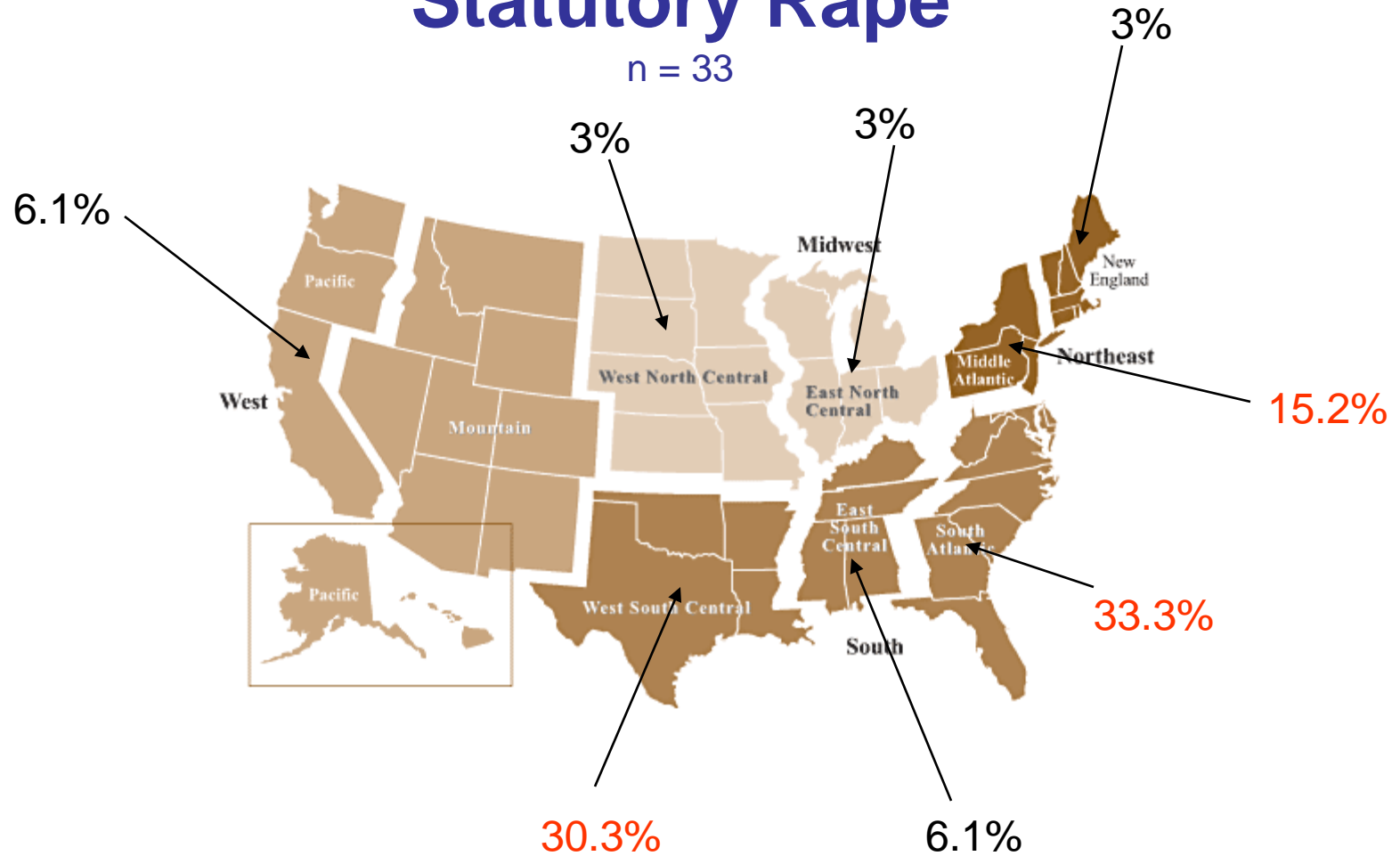
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Forcible Fondling

n = 59



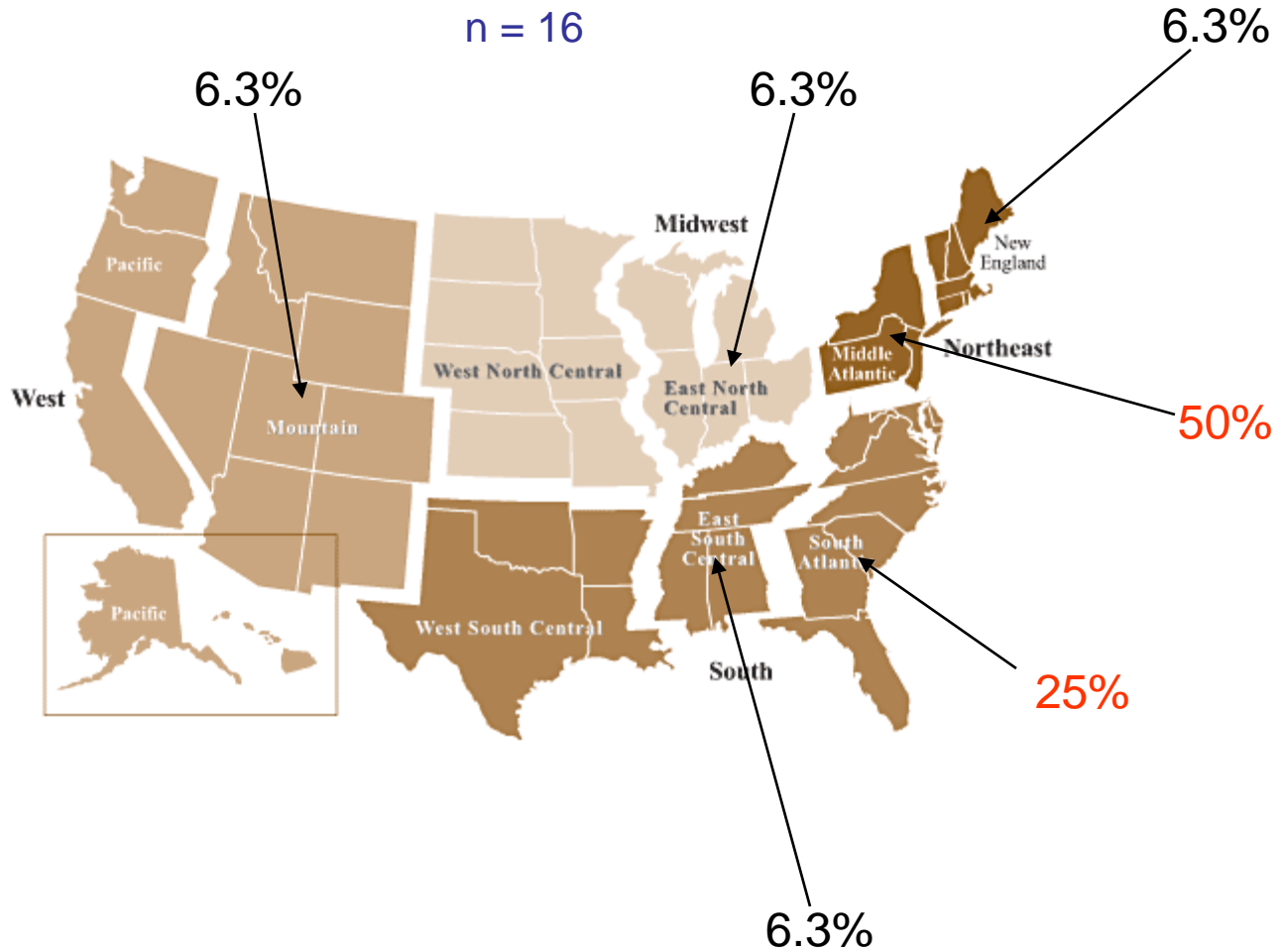
# Sworn Officers Arrested for Statutory Rape

n = 33



# Sworn Officers Arrested for Indecent Exposure

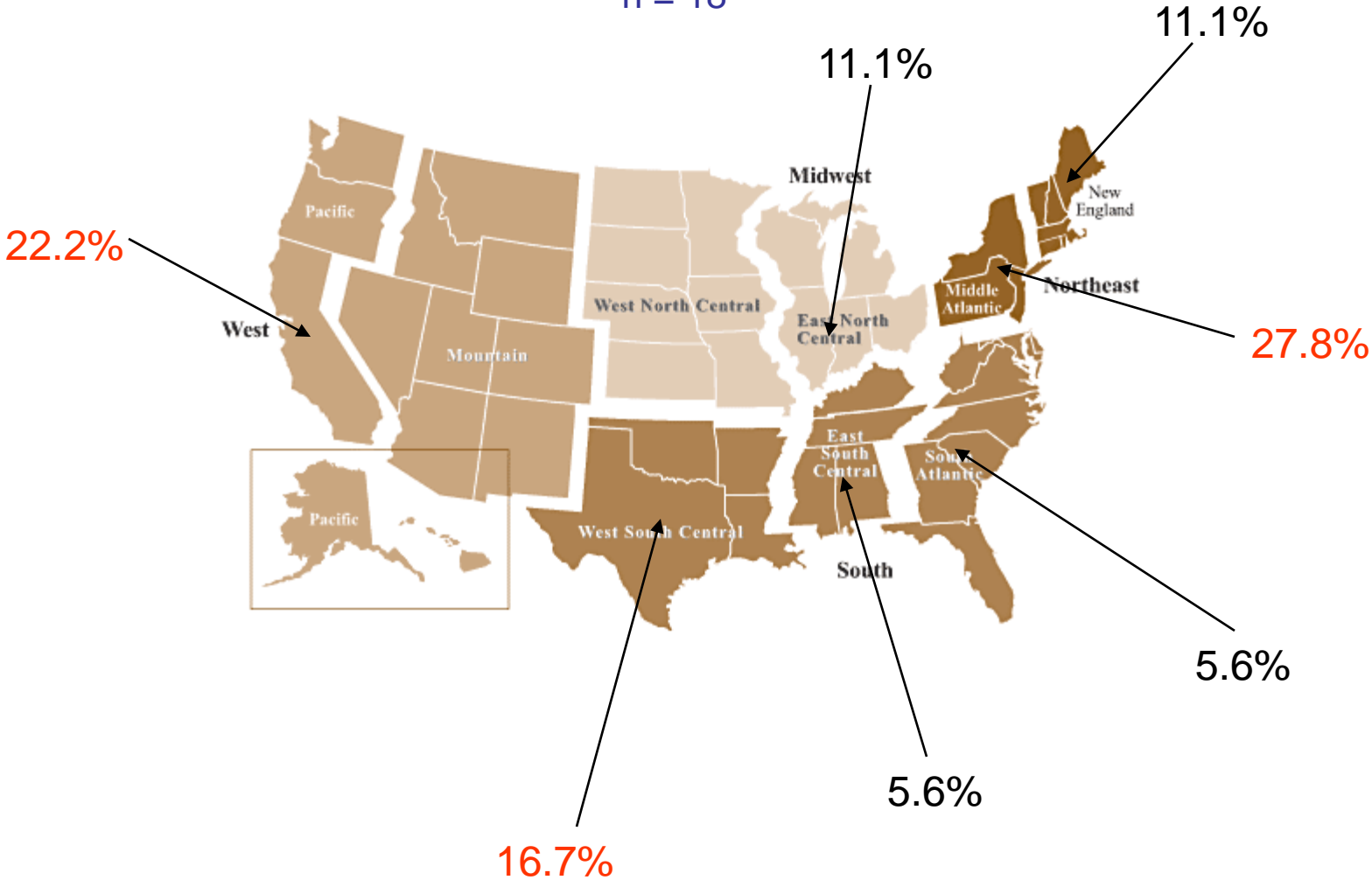
n = 16



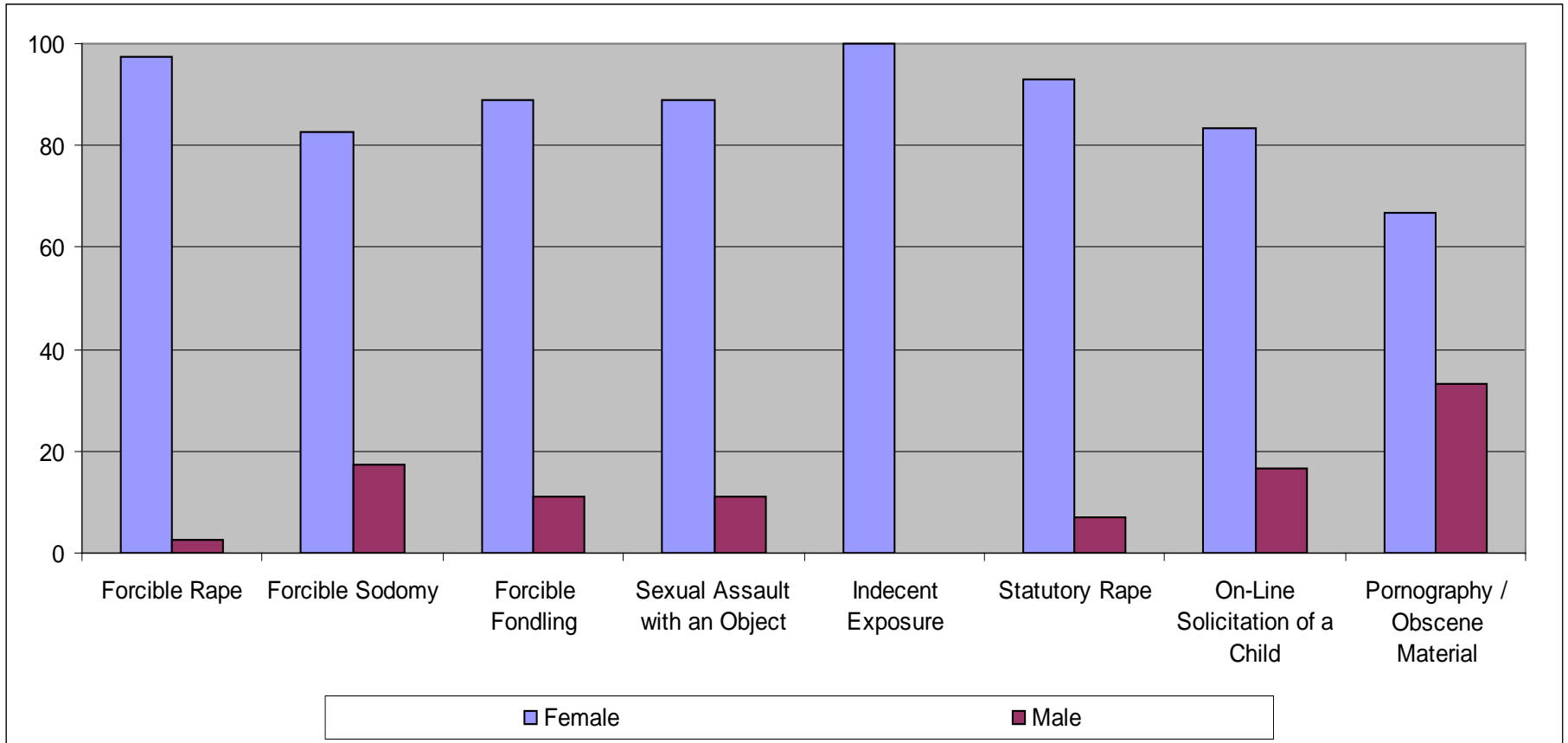


# Sworn Officers Arrested for On-Line Solicitation of a Child

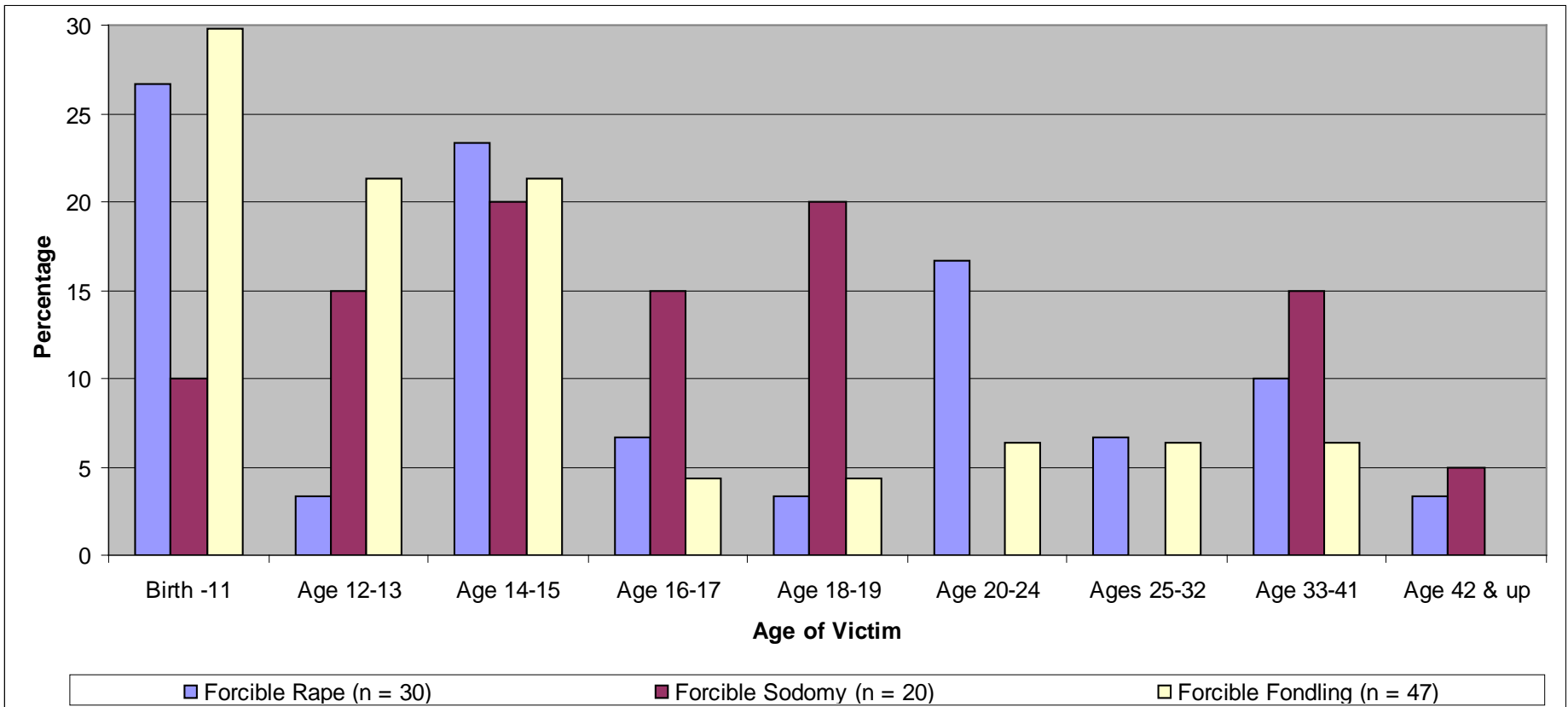
n = 18



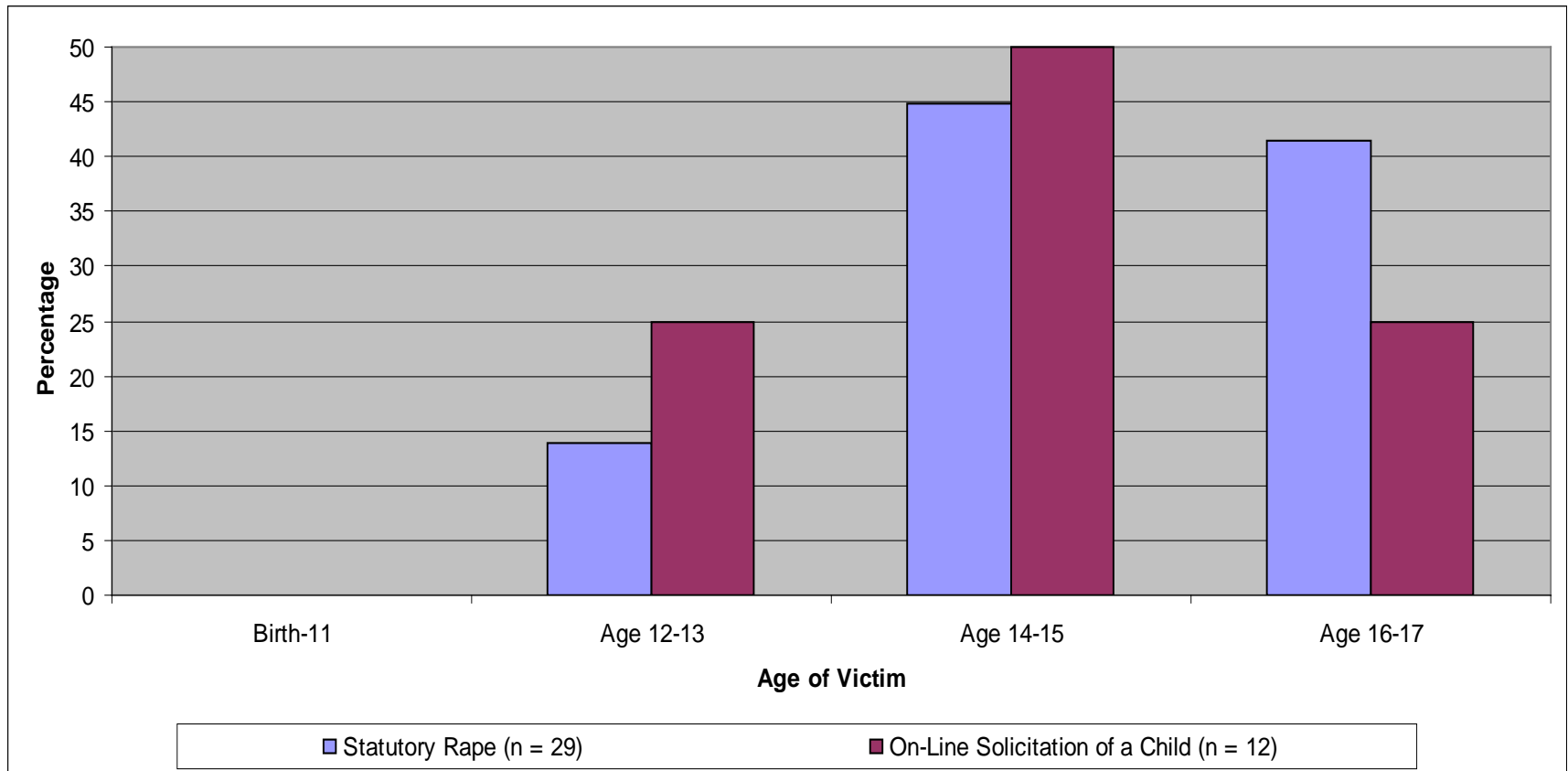
# Victim Gender: Various Sex Crimes



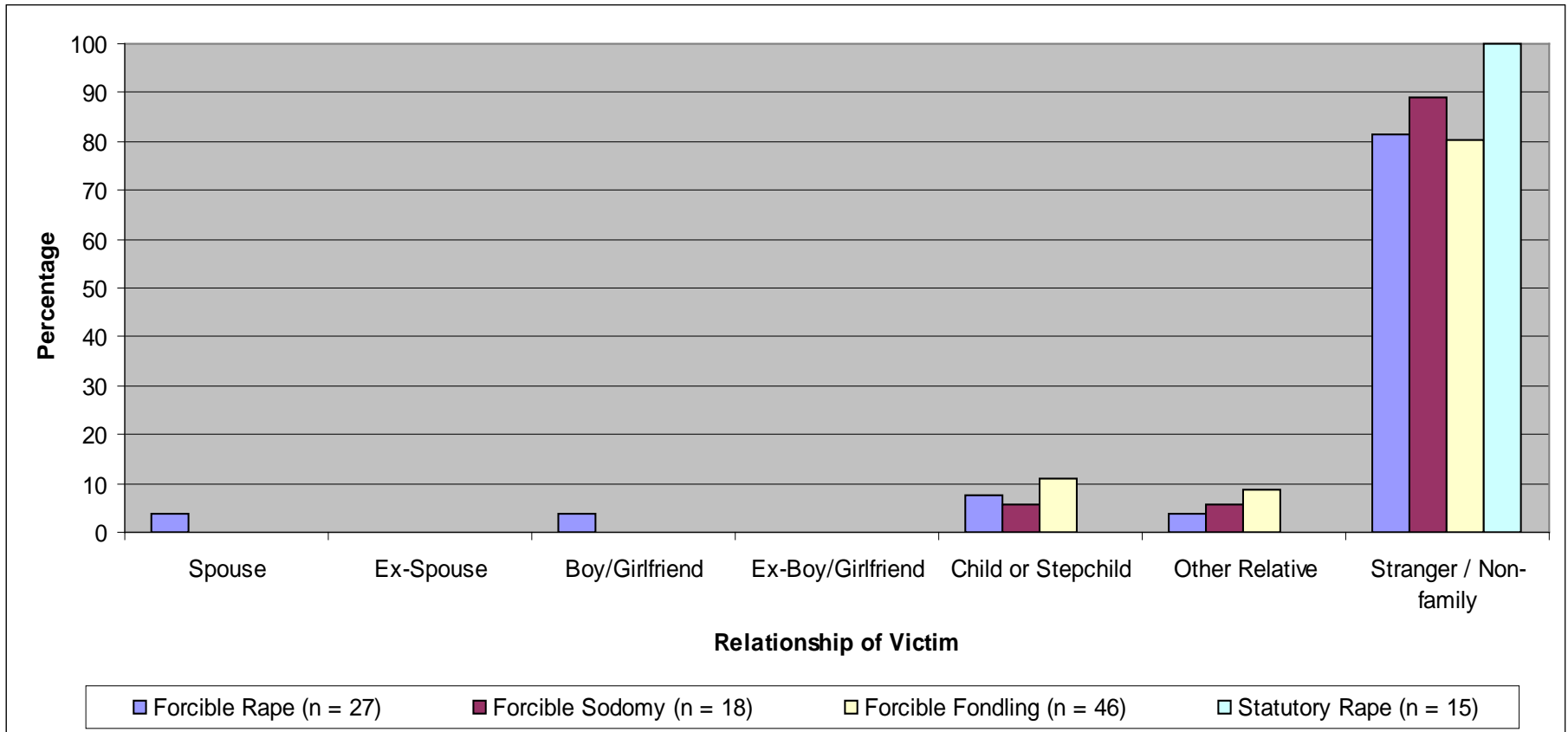
# Age of Victim: Forcible Rape, Sodomy & Fondling



# 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?