

# **Research Capacity within Departments of Corrections and Local/Regional Jails**

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## Study Sponsored by ACA Research Council

- ❖ ACA sponsored this study in 2017 to explore research capacity within corrections
- ❖ Results were presented at the 2017 ACA Congress in St. Louis, MO

# Methodology

- ❖ Survey was developed to gather the information
- ❖ For state corrections, the survey was sent out through ASCA with 32 responses
- ❖ For regional/local jails, the survey was sent out to a collection of 859 jails with 43 responses

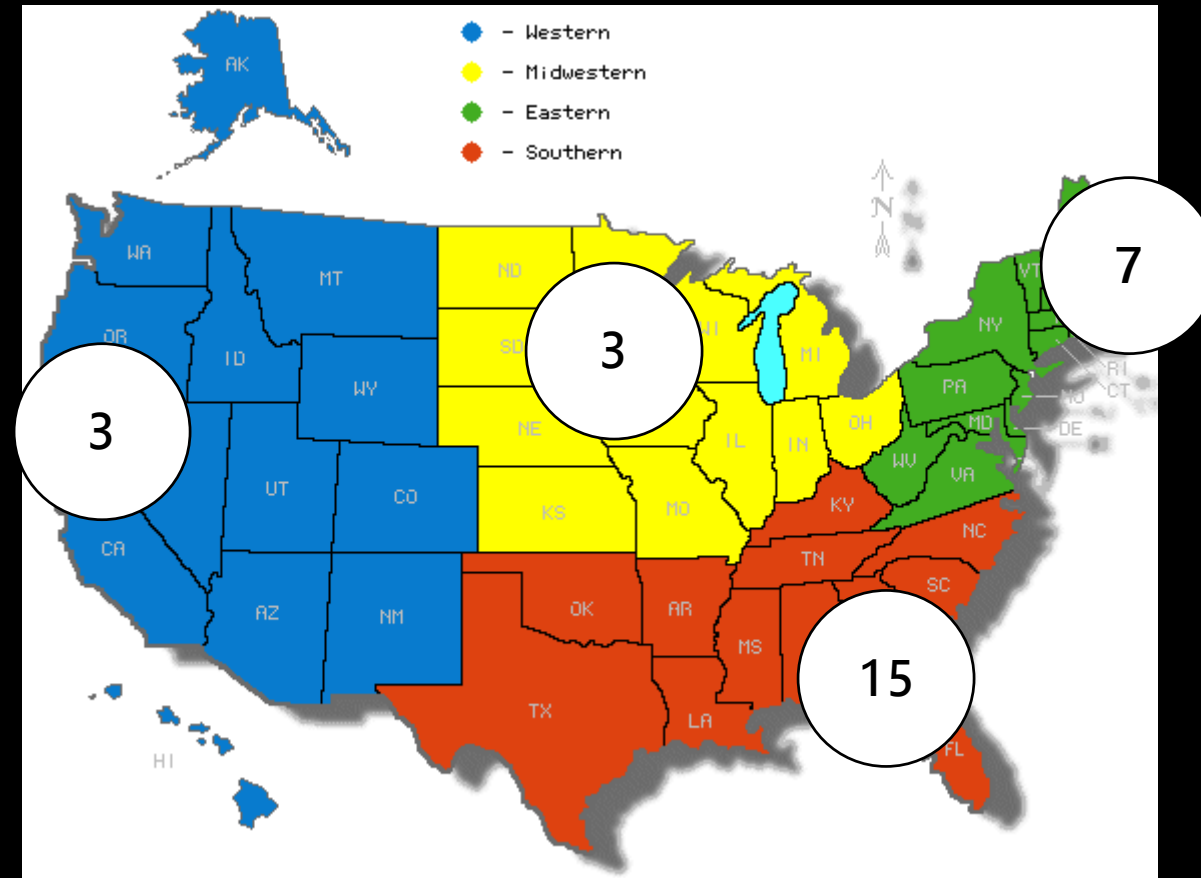
## A map of the United States with 20 red location pins placed across different states. The pins are located in the following states: Washington, Oregon, California (Los Angeles, San Diego), Nevada, Arizona (Phoenix), New Mexico (El Paso), Texas (Dallas, Houston), Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida (Orlando, Tampa, Miami), Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts. The map also shows major cities like Seattle, Portland, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Las Vegas, Tucson, Austin, San Antonio, New Orleans, Jacksonville, and Philadelphia. State names are labeled in all caps, and the text 'United States' is centered in the middle of the map.

# Summary

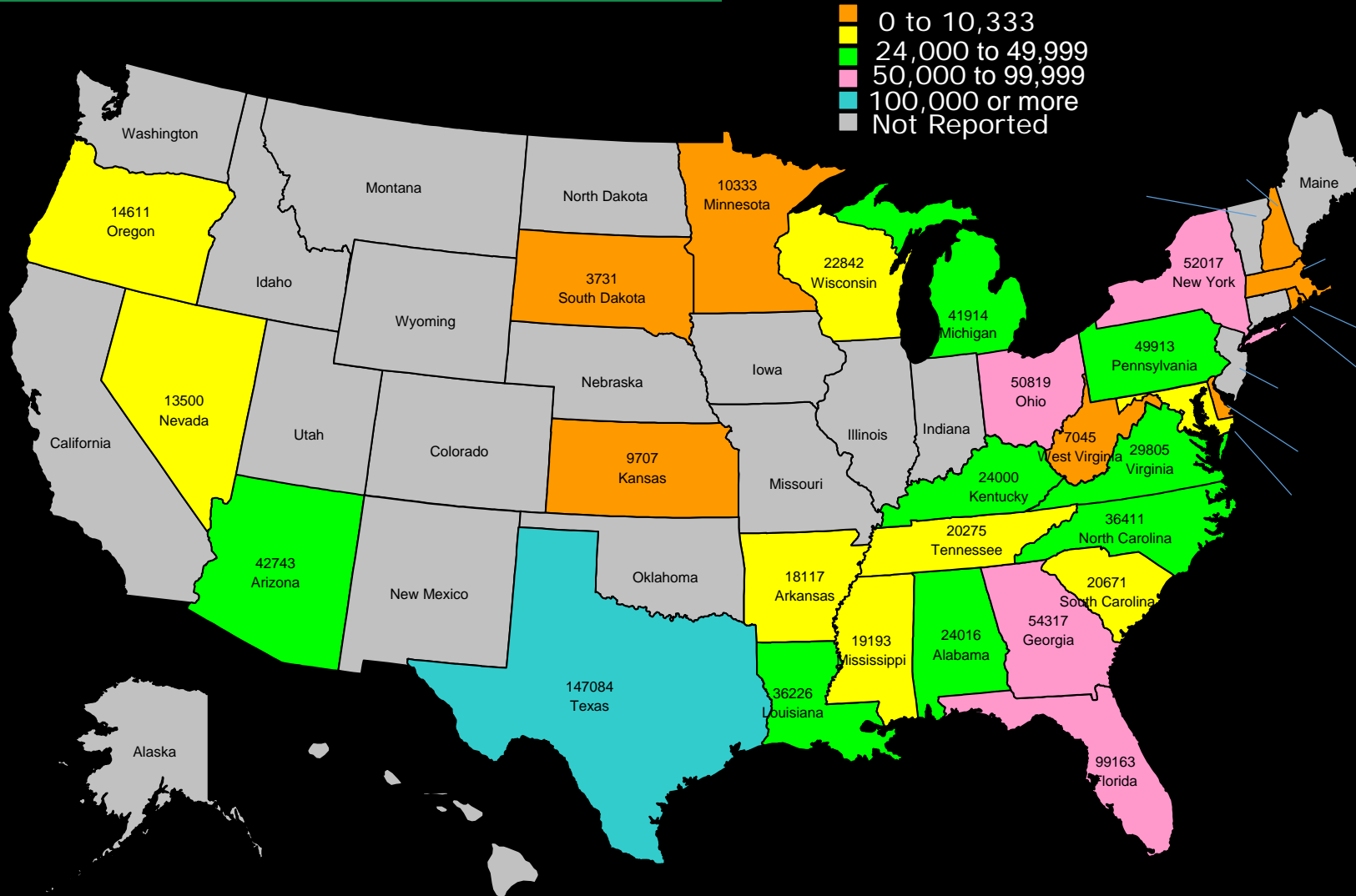
- ❖ This presentation focused on 43 jail facilities
  - Southern Region: 54%
  - Western Region: 11%
  - Midwestern Region: 11%
  - Eastern Region: 25%
- ❖ On average, the daily population of the inmates in the jails was of 1,430.

# What type of correctional institution is your facility and/or system?

- ❖ The Average Daily Population among these facilities 1,430 inmates

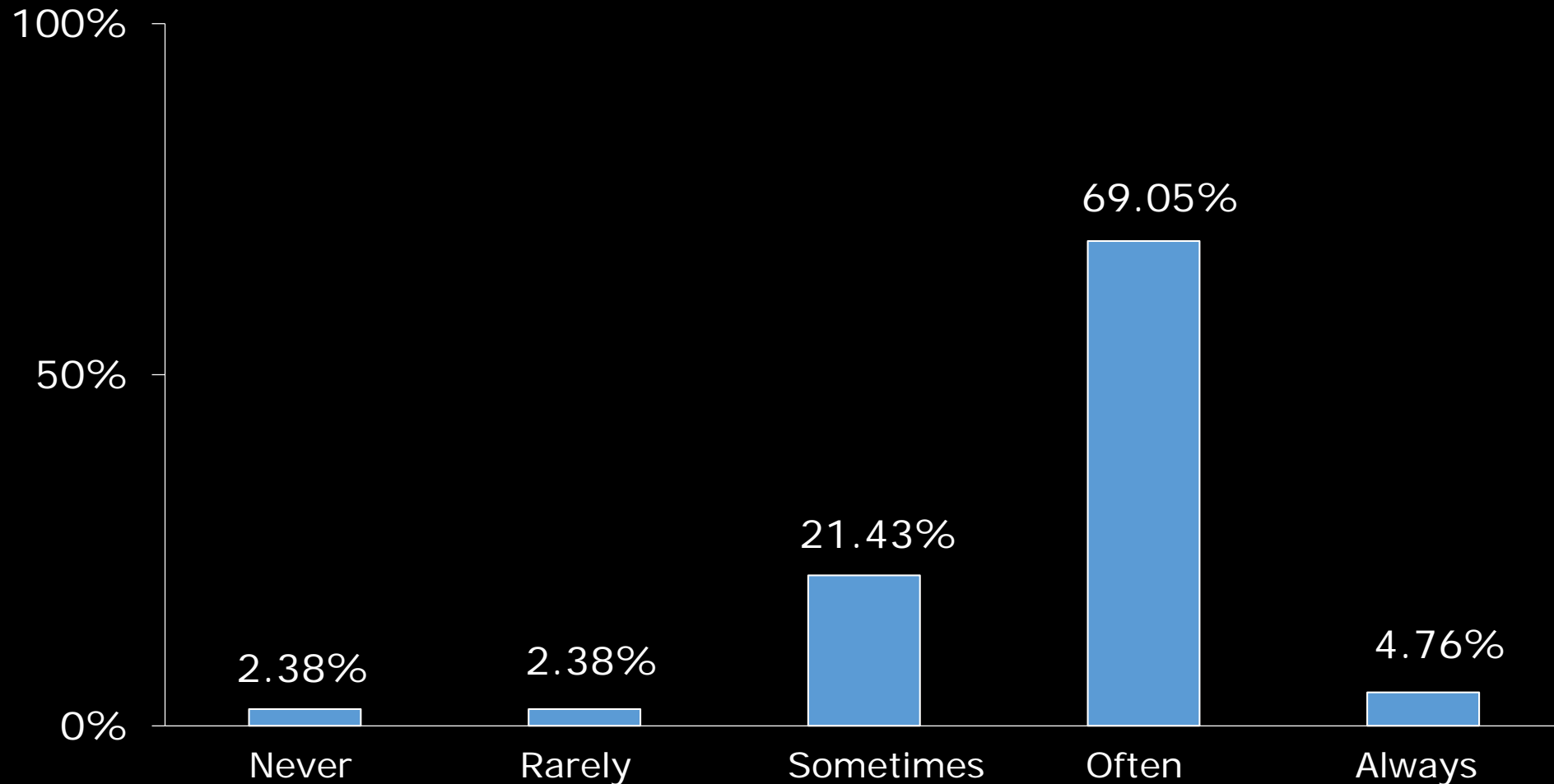


# 32 State DOC's Responded



❖ Average Population 30,696  
(median=20,424)

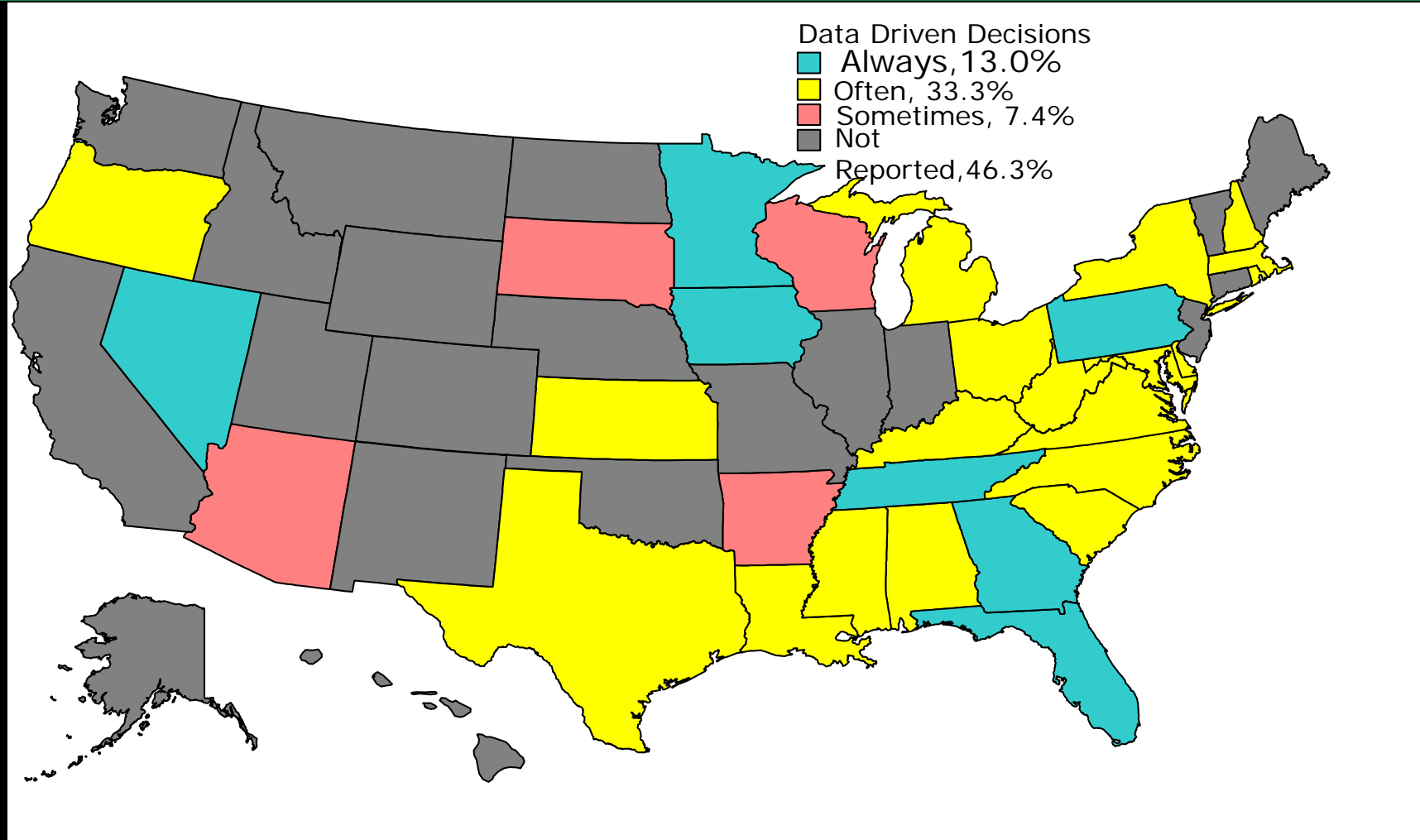
# How often does your agency utilize statistics to make decisions (data driven management)?



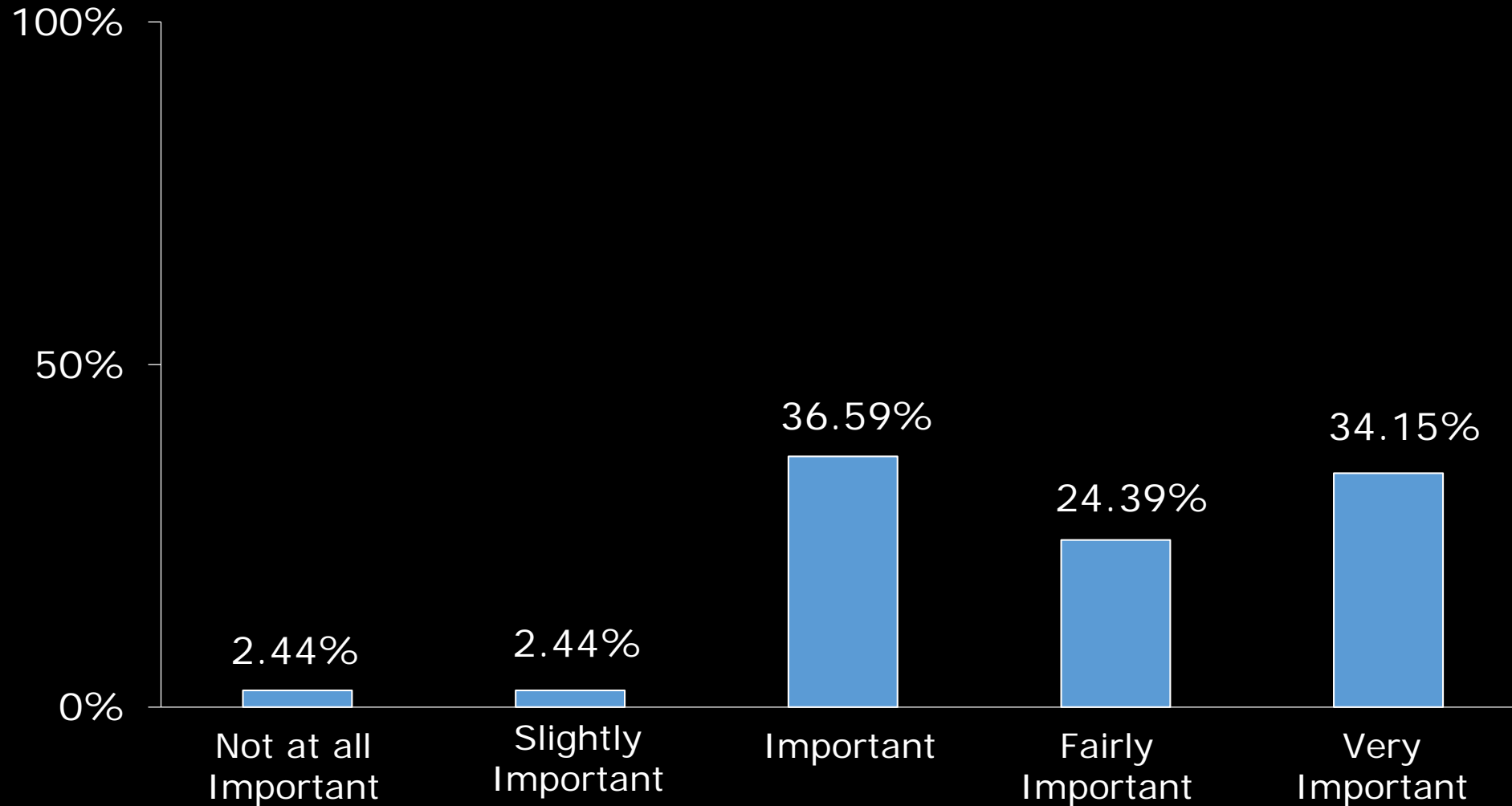
Answered 42



# How often does your agency utilize statistics to make decisions (data driven management)?

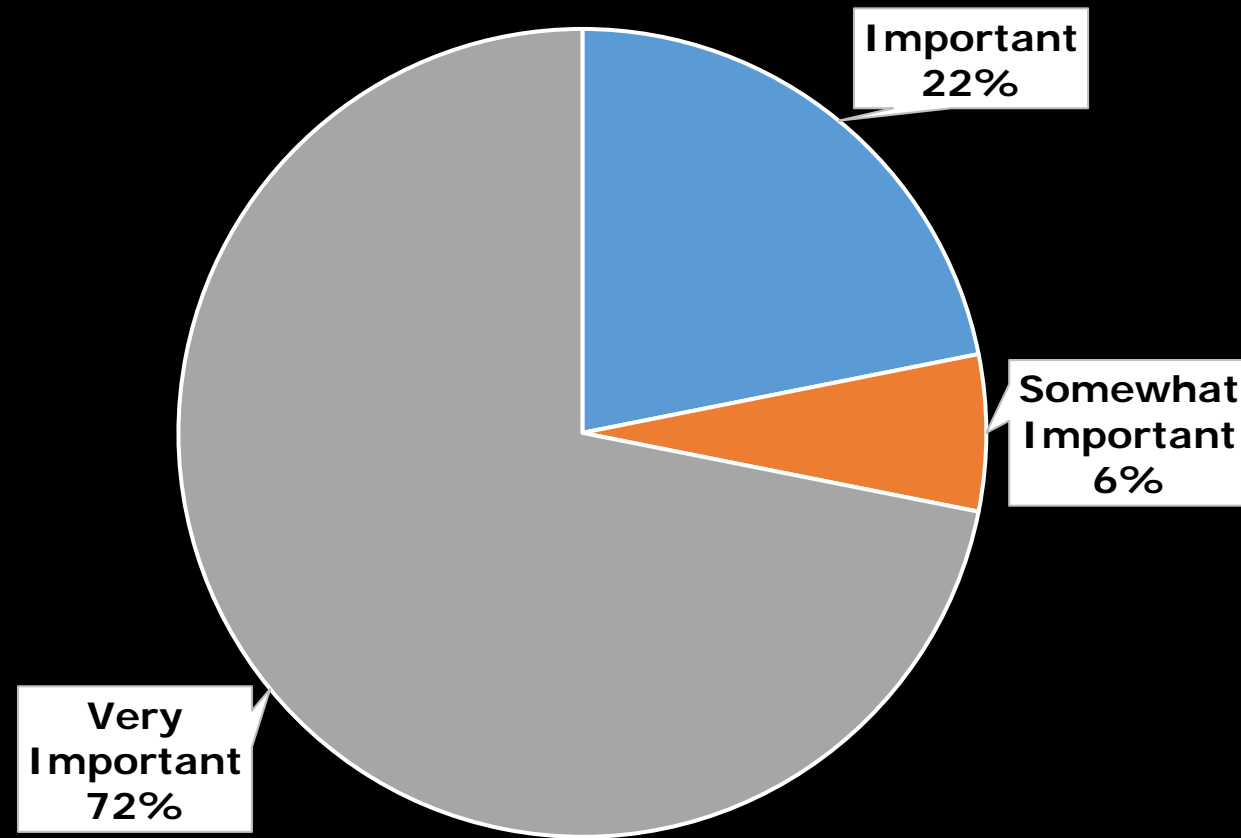


# How would you rate the level of importance for research and statistics within your organization?

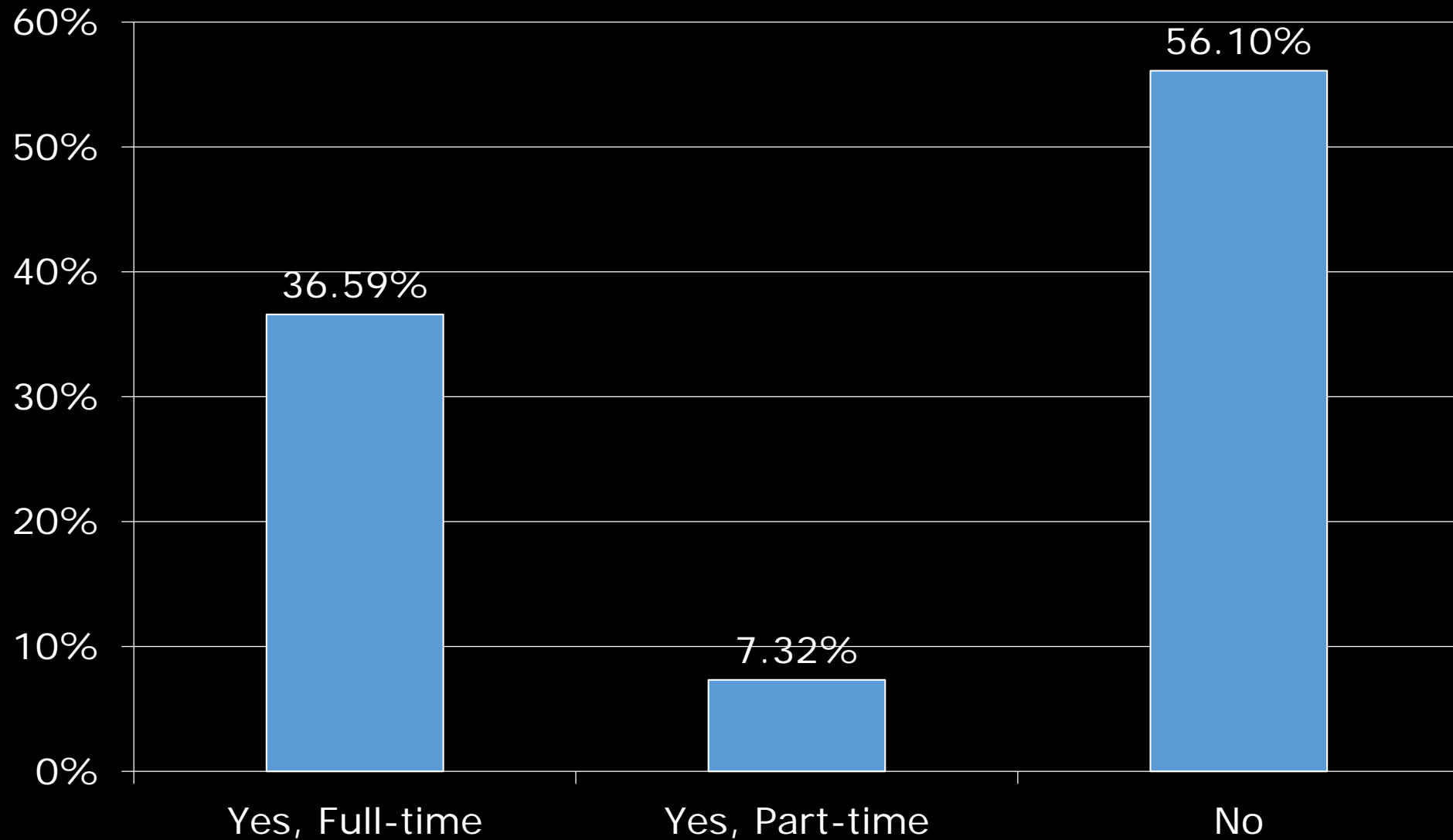


Answered 41

# How would you rate the level of importance for research and statistics within your organization?

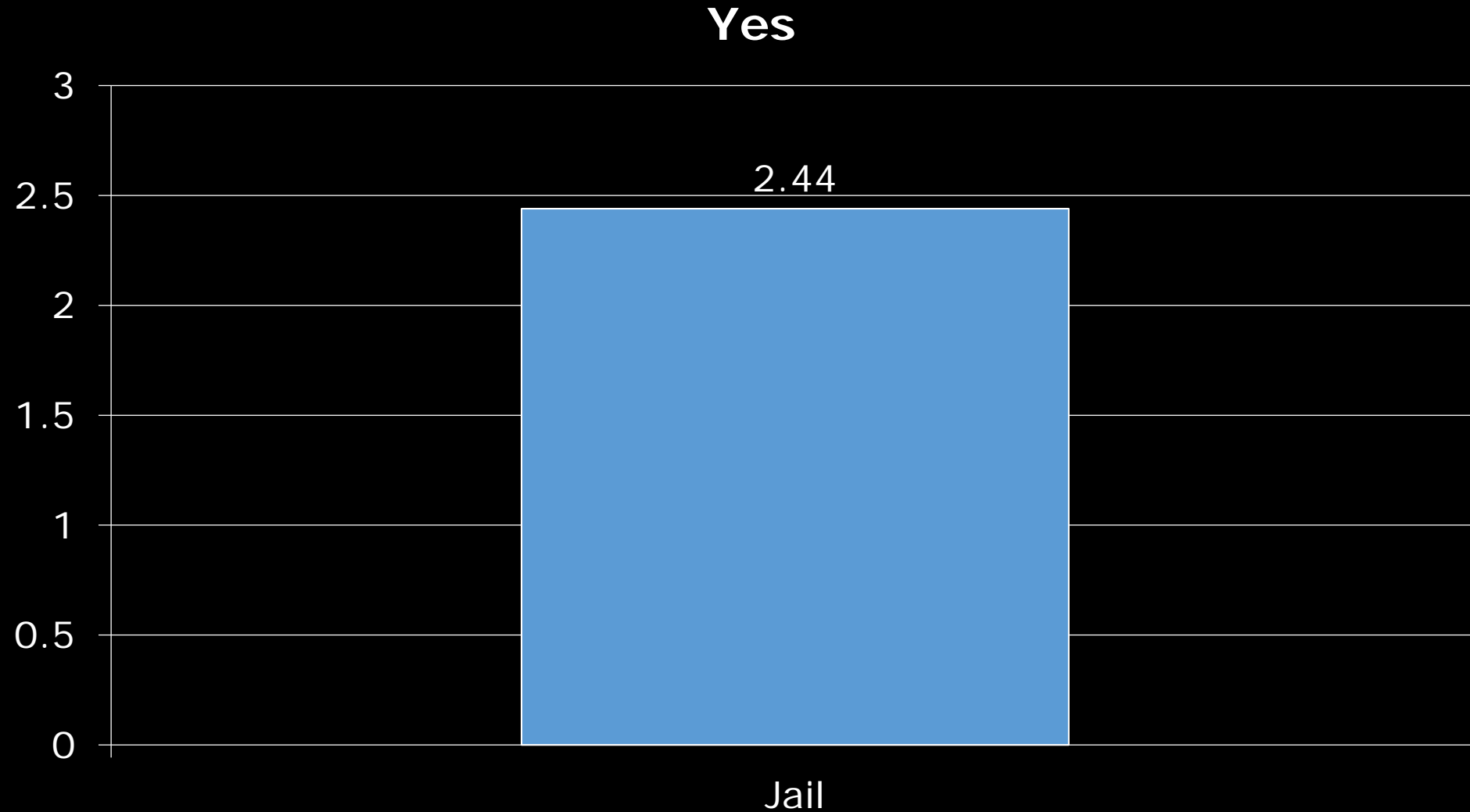


# Within your agency, is there a full-time or part-time statistician, research analyst, or related position?



Answered 41

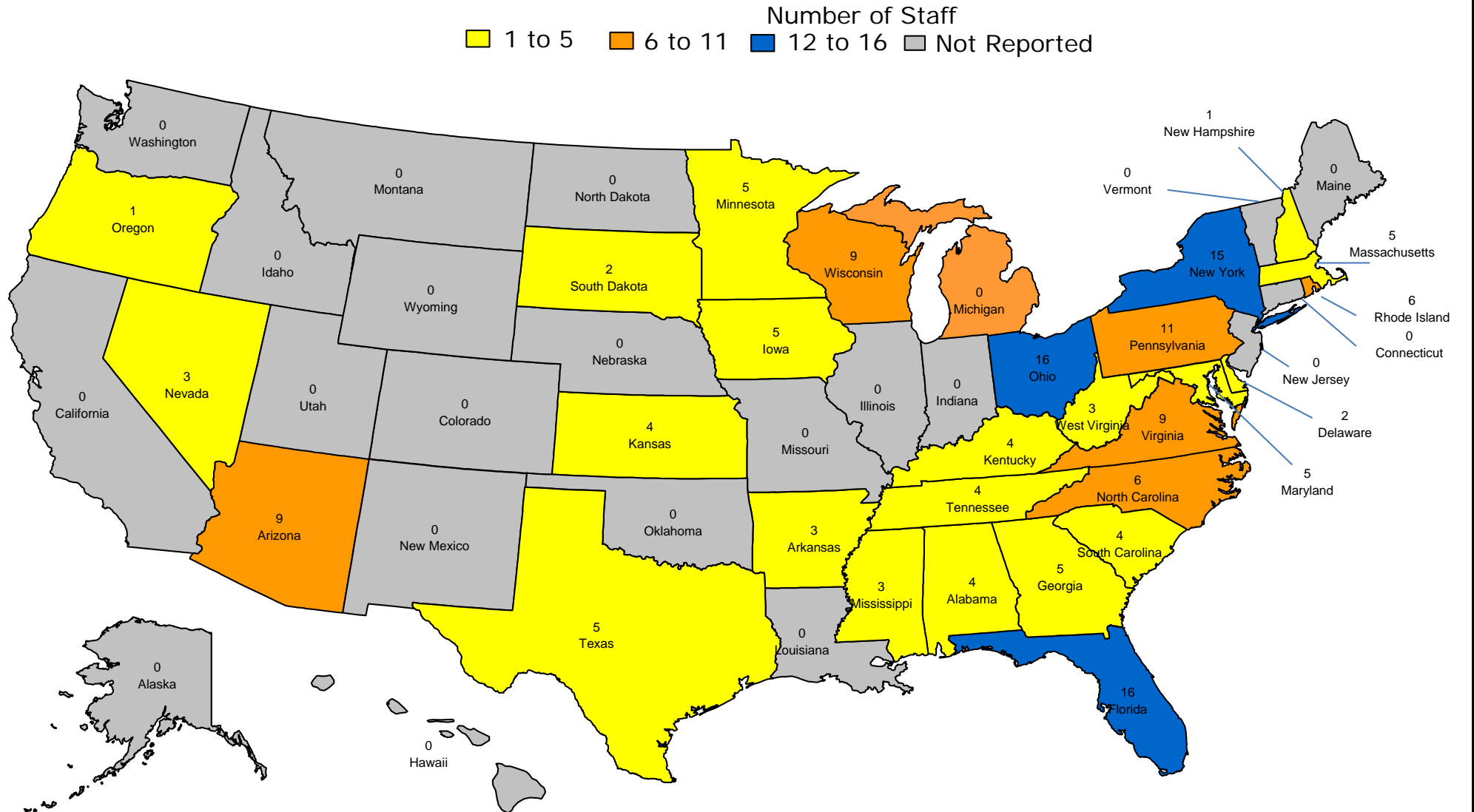
If you answered yes in Question 6, please answer the following question. How many statisticians, research analysts, or related positions are there in your organization or agency, is there a full-time or part-time statistician, research analyst, or related position?



# State Research Staff

❖ Average respondent has 5.5 Research Staffs; maximum number was 16

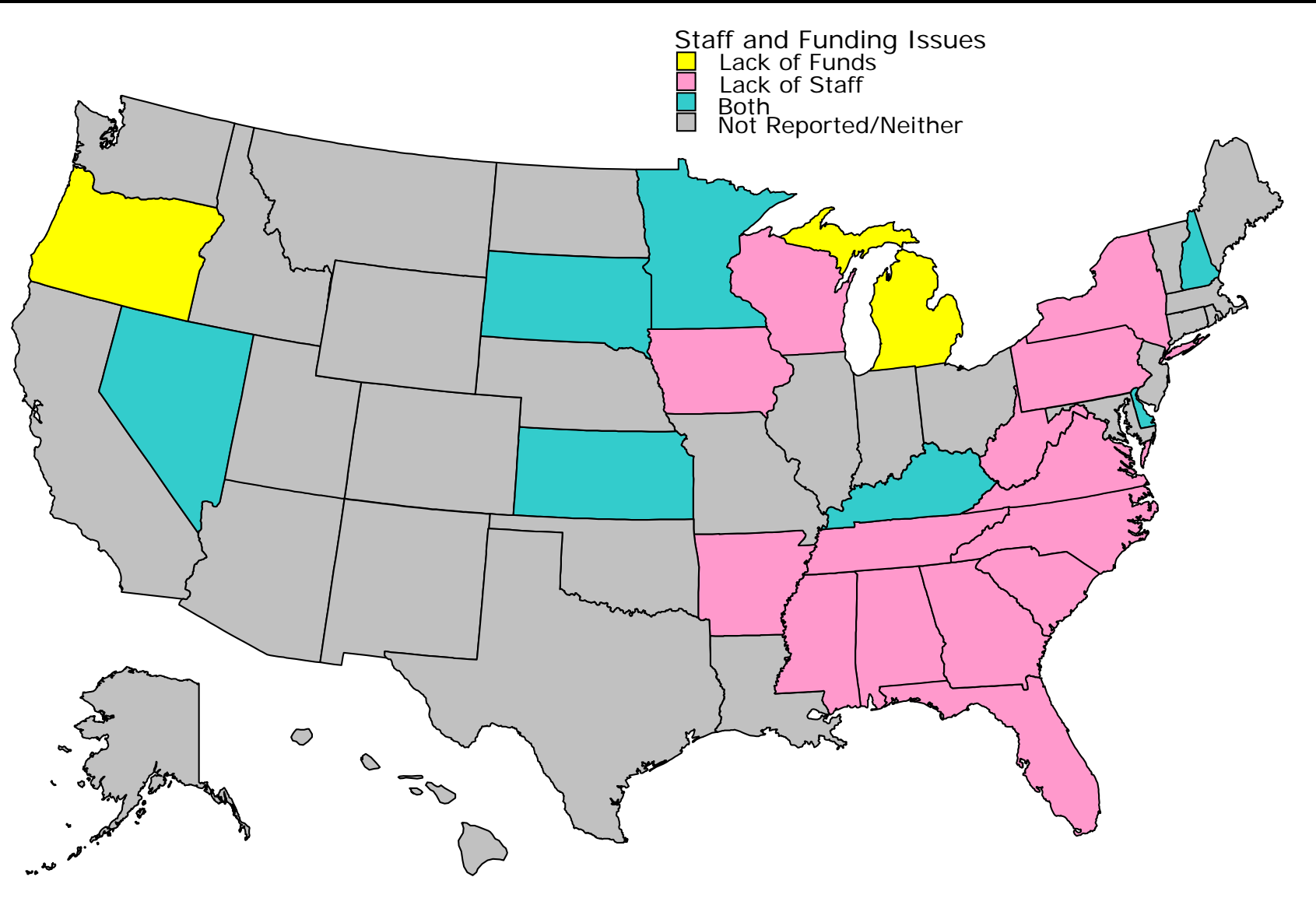
❖ All respondents except North Dakota have a full-time statistician, research analyst, or related position



**What are the biggest challenges your department encounters when collecting data? Please check all that apply.**



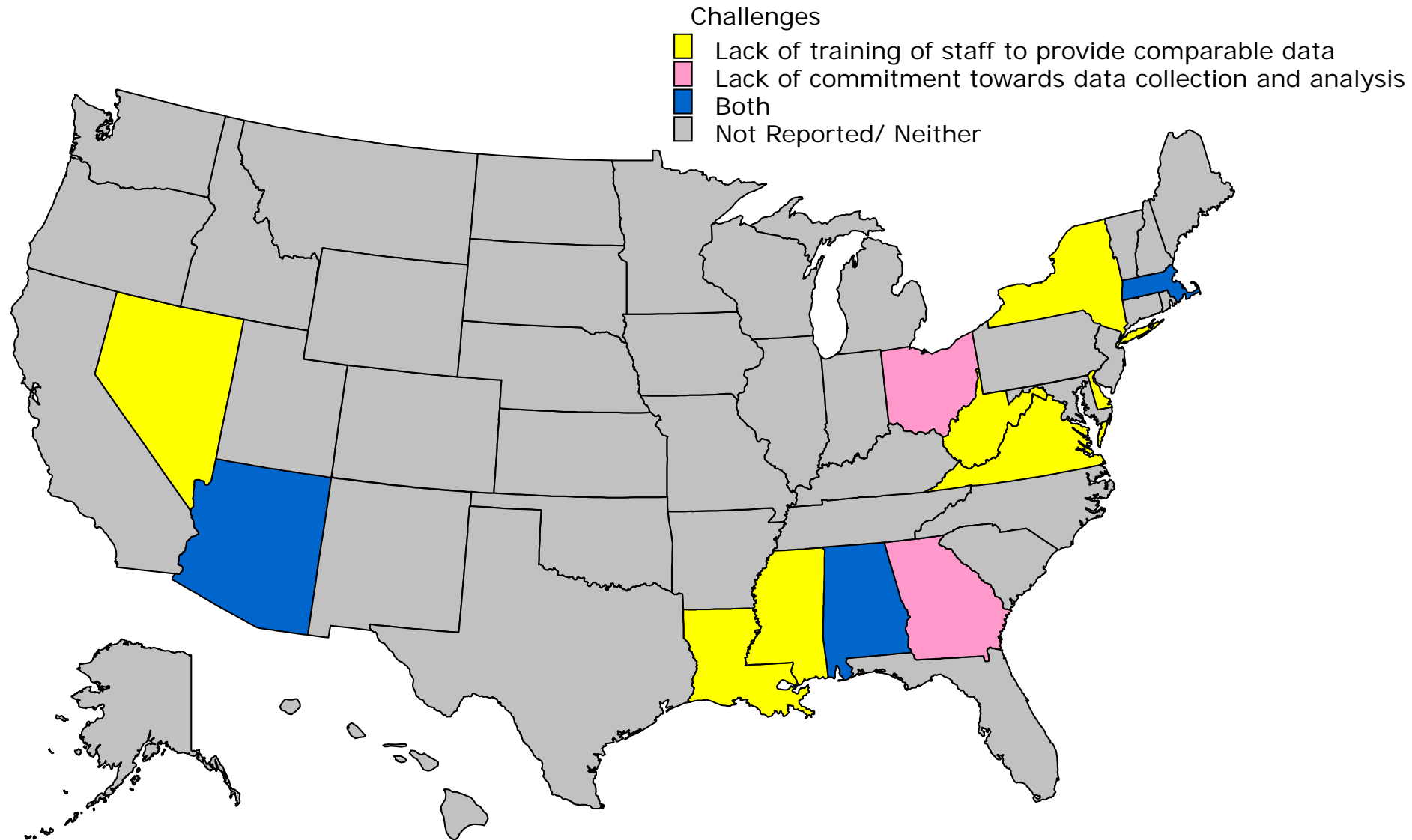
# Challenges: Staff and Funding



- ❖ 7 States reported both having a lack of funds and a lack of staff as a challenge for them.
- ❖ 14 States reported only a lack of staff, but not a lack of funds as a challenge for them.
- ❖ Michigan and Oregon reported a lack of funds, but not a lack of staff as a challenge for them.

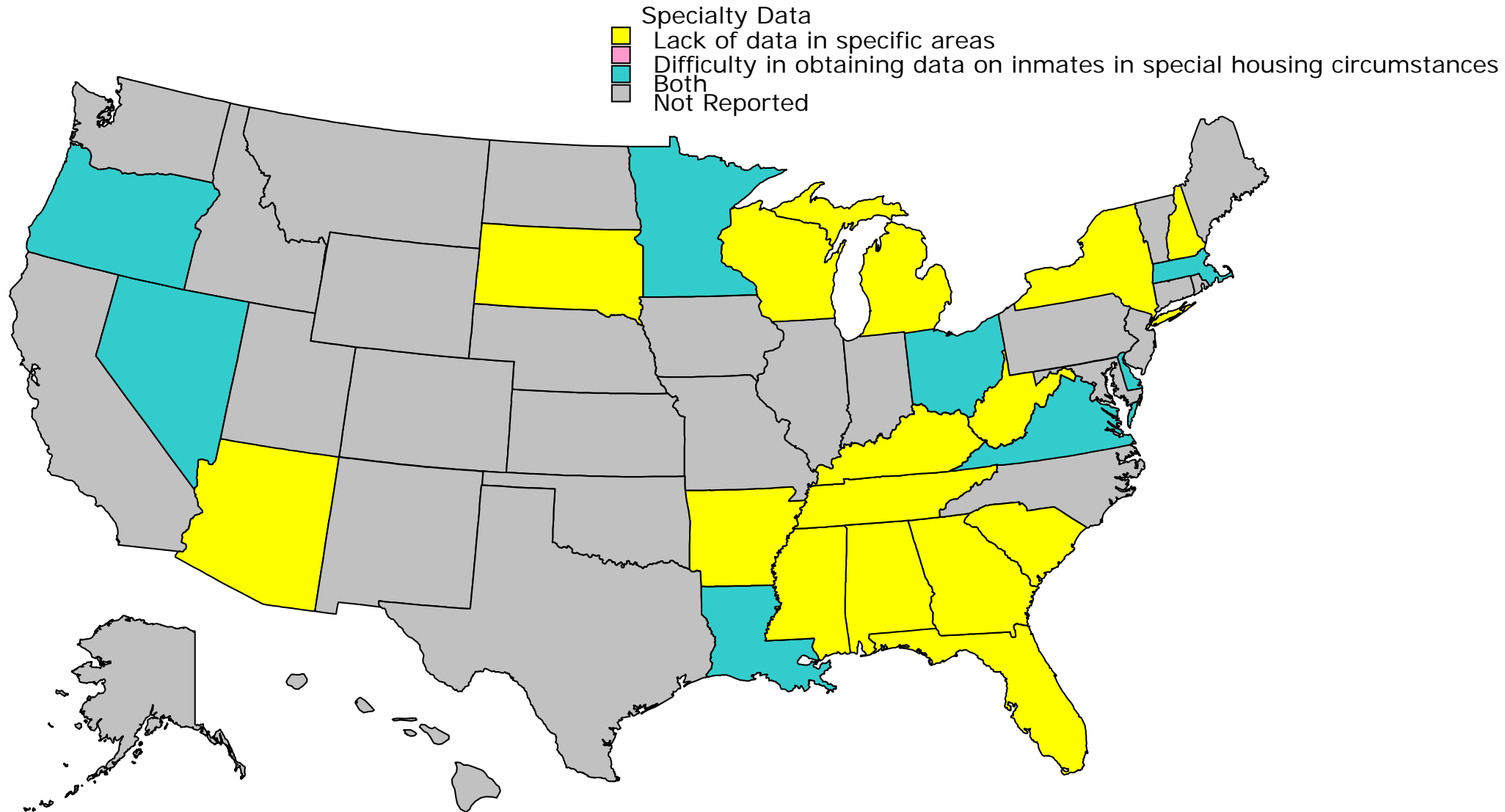


# Challenges: Data Training and Commitment



- ❖ 12 states that reported an issue with either lack of training of staff or lack of commitment toward data collection and analysis.
- ❖ Of those 12 states, 3 had an issue with both lack of training of staff and lack of commitment toward data collection and analysis.

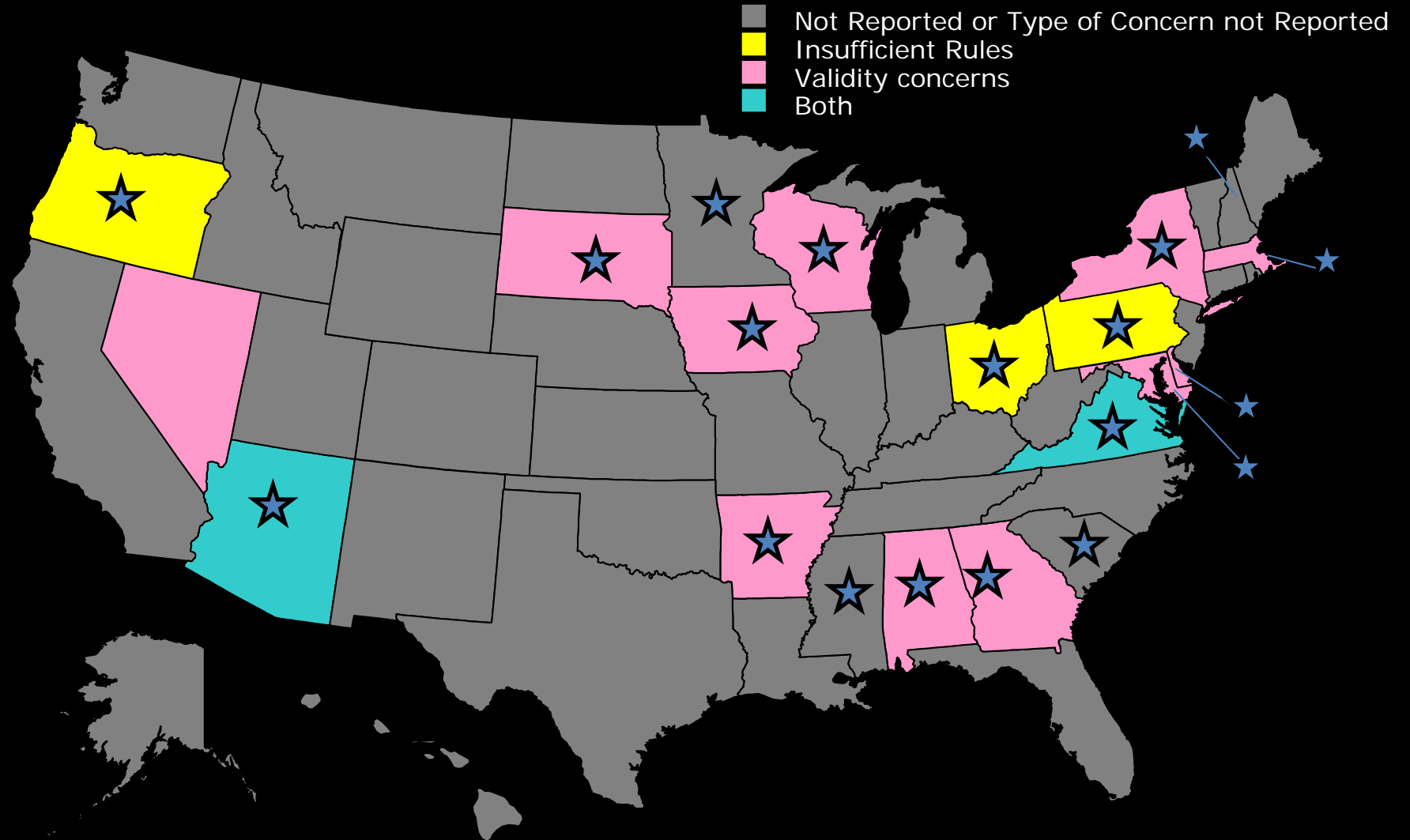
# Challenges: Specialty Data



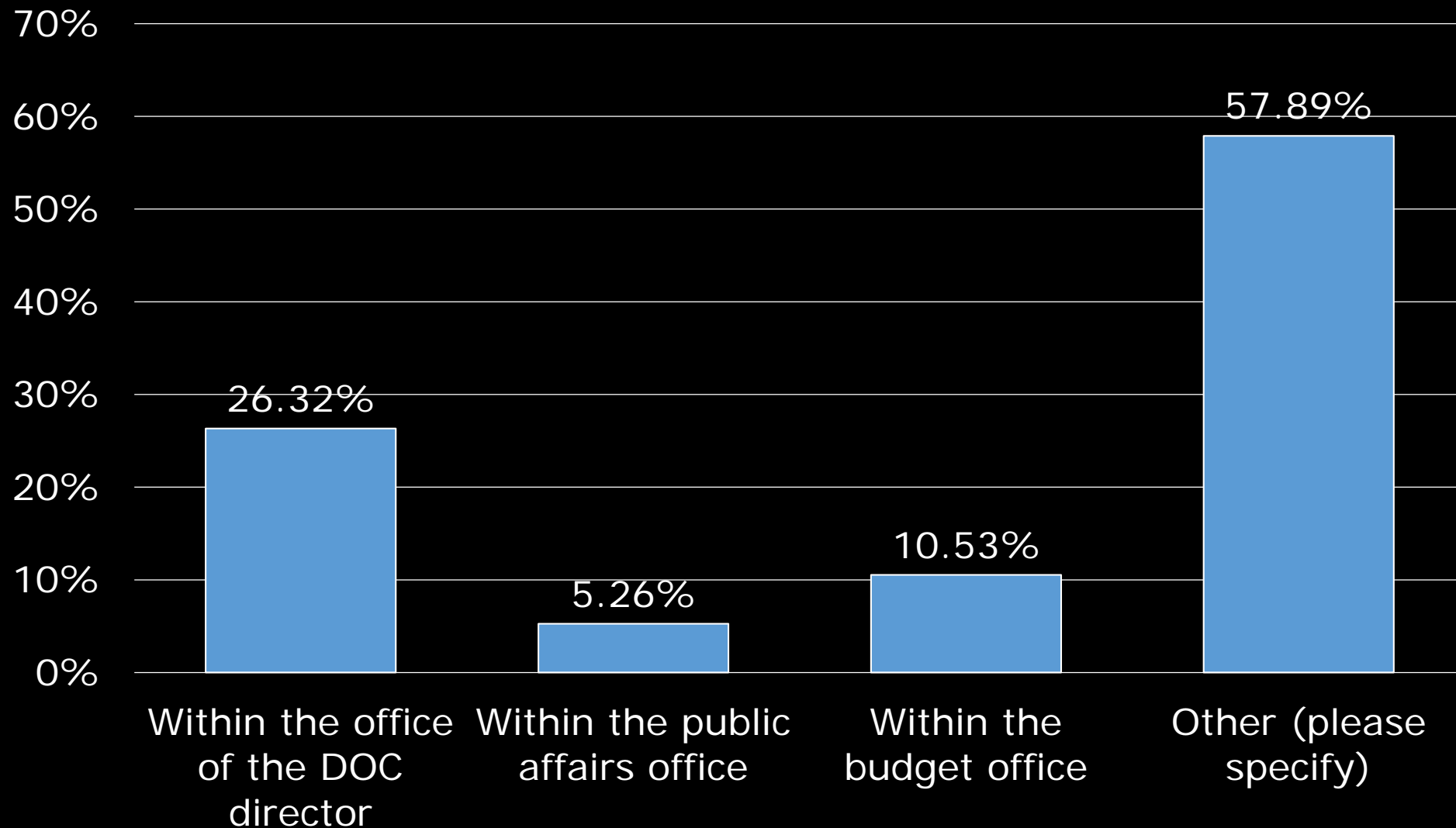
## Other Challenges

- ❖ Data is maintained for operational purposes and not always amenable for research.
- ❖ Ensuring accuracy based on combination of validity/quality/data entry
- ❖ Inadequate data management software
- ❖ Data systems upgrades to collect data

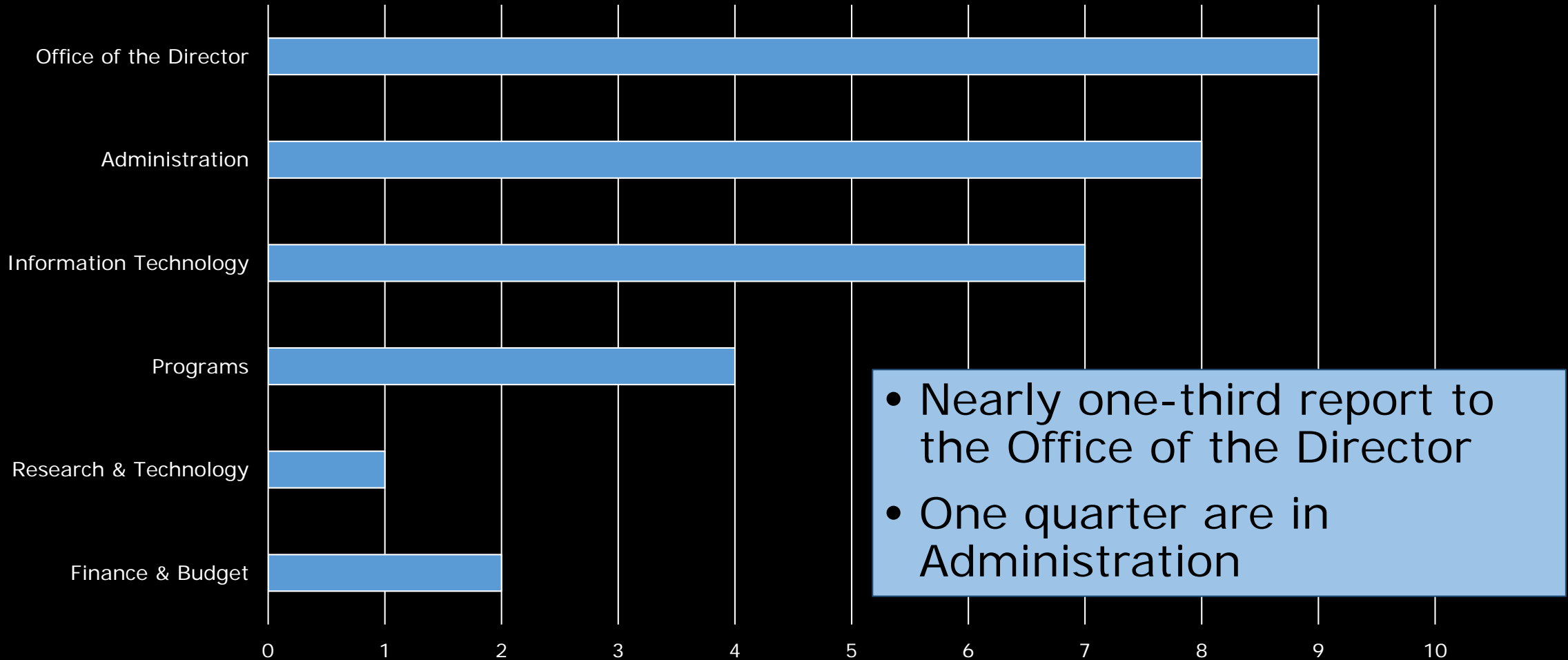
# Challenges: Data Quality



# Location of Research Unit in Jails



# Location of Research Unit in State DOC's



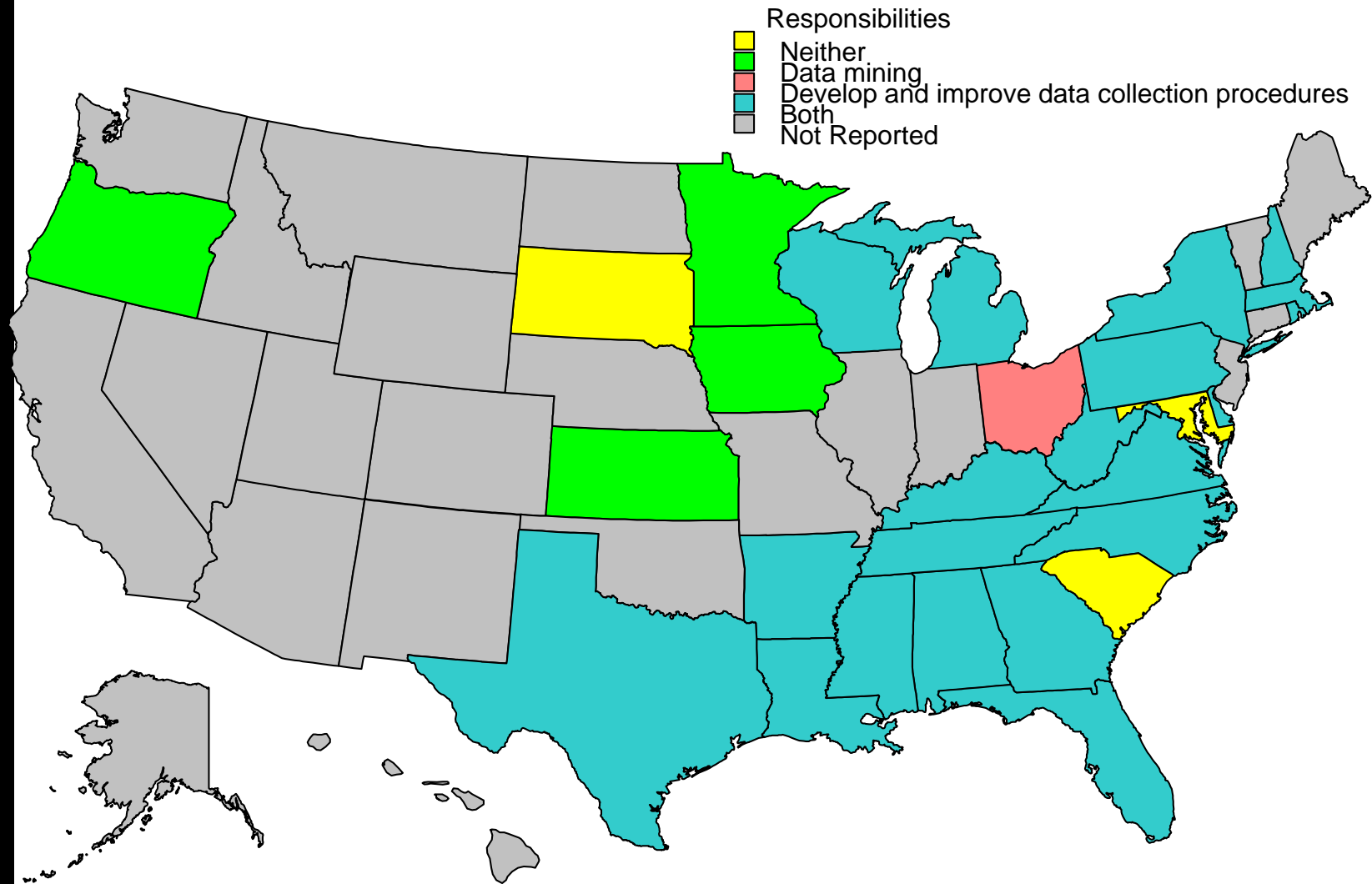
Programs includes Plans and Programs; Programming, Development and Evaluation; Programs; and Reentry, Classification and Clinical Services

# Responsibilities of the statisticians, research analysts, or related positions in Jails

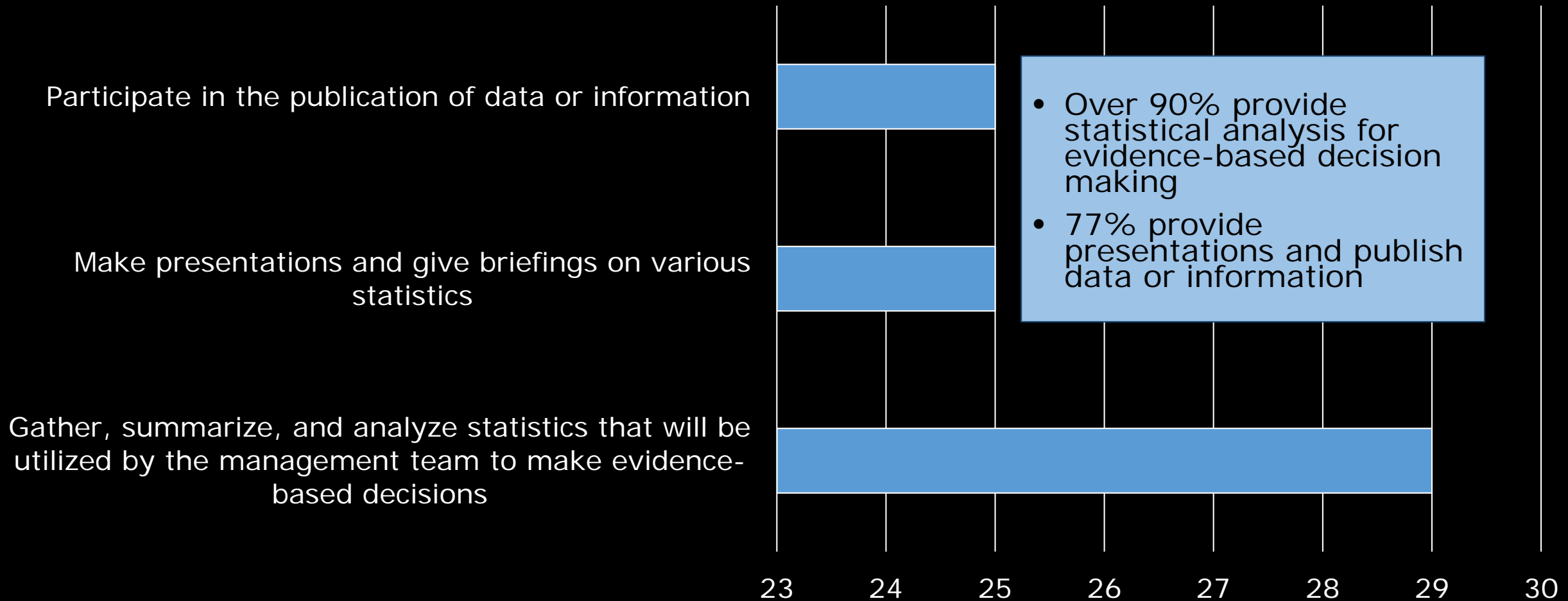


# Responsibilities in State DOC's Related to Data

- ❖ The majority of the states who reported, (19) said that both data mining and developing and improving collection procedures were their responsibility.

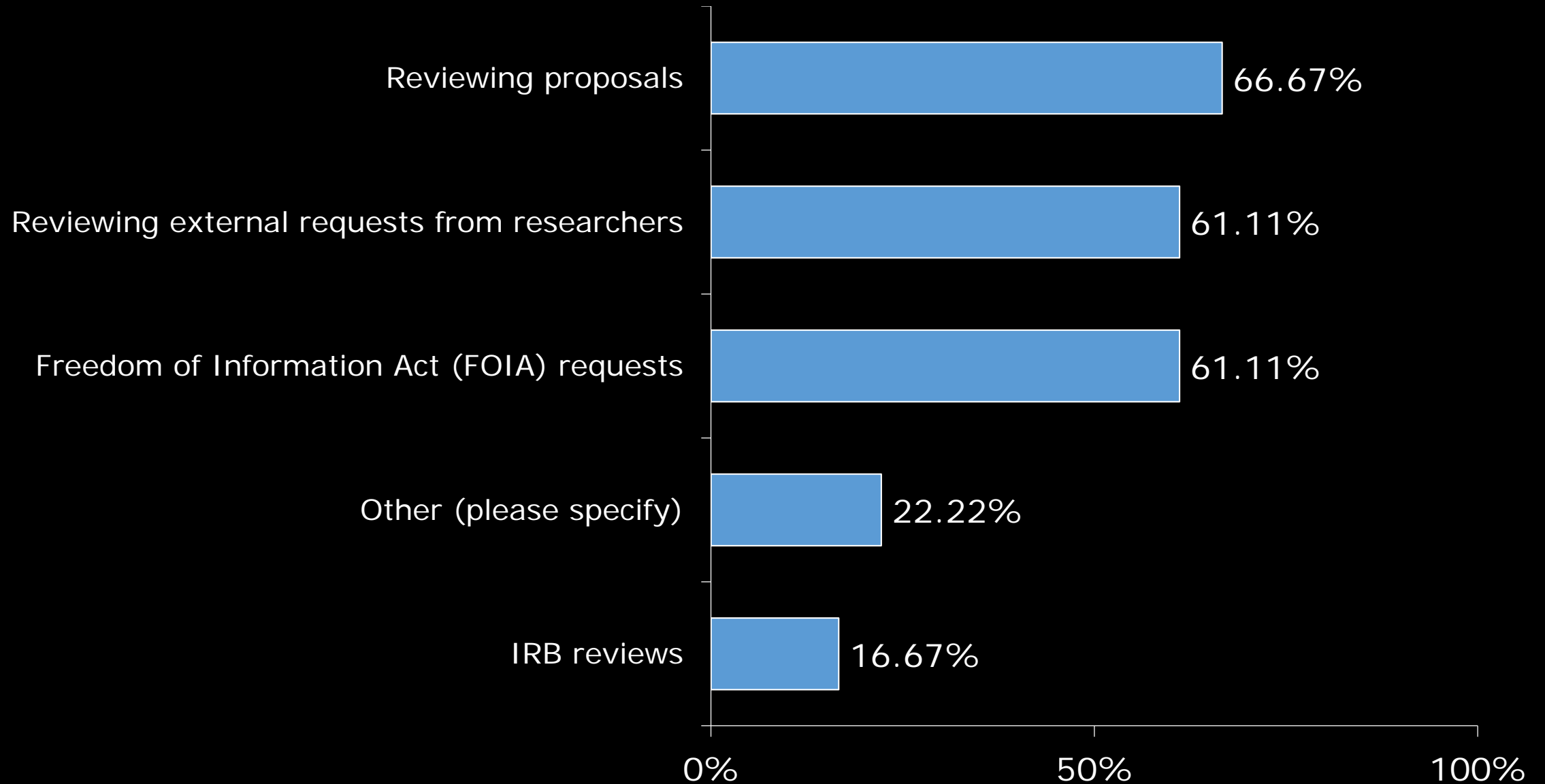


# Responsibilities in State DOC's Related to General Analysis



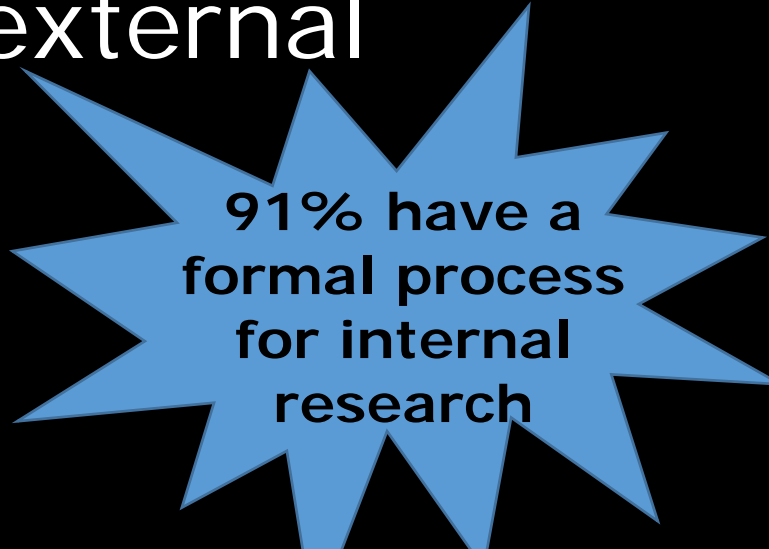


# Jail Involvement in Requests



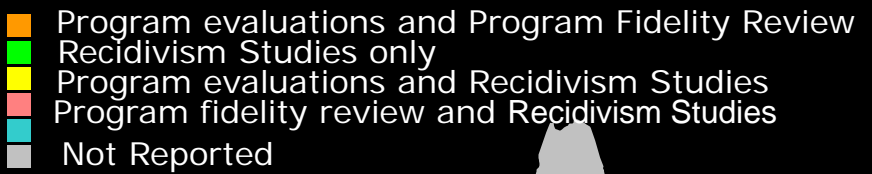
# Responsibilities in State DOC's Related to Requests

- ❖ 78% respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
- ❖ 47% review Internal Review Board (IRB) requests
- ❖ 97% review requests from external researchers
- ❖ 81% review requests



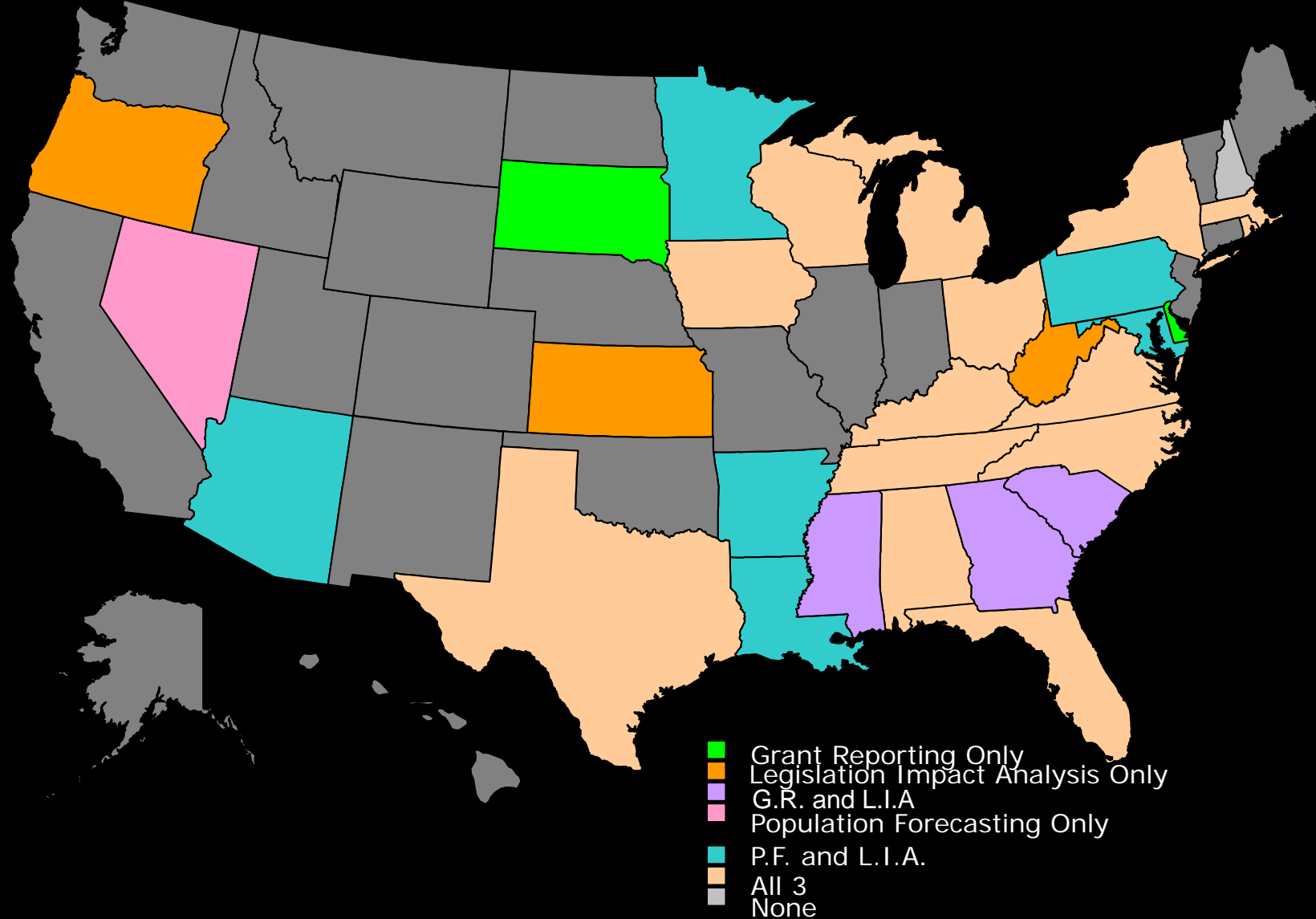
91% have a  
formal process  
for internal  
research

## Responsibilities in State DOC's Related to Evaluation

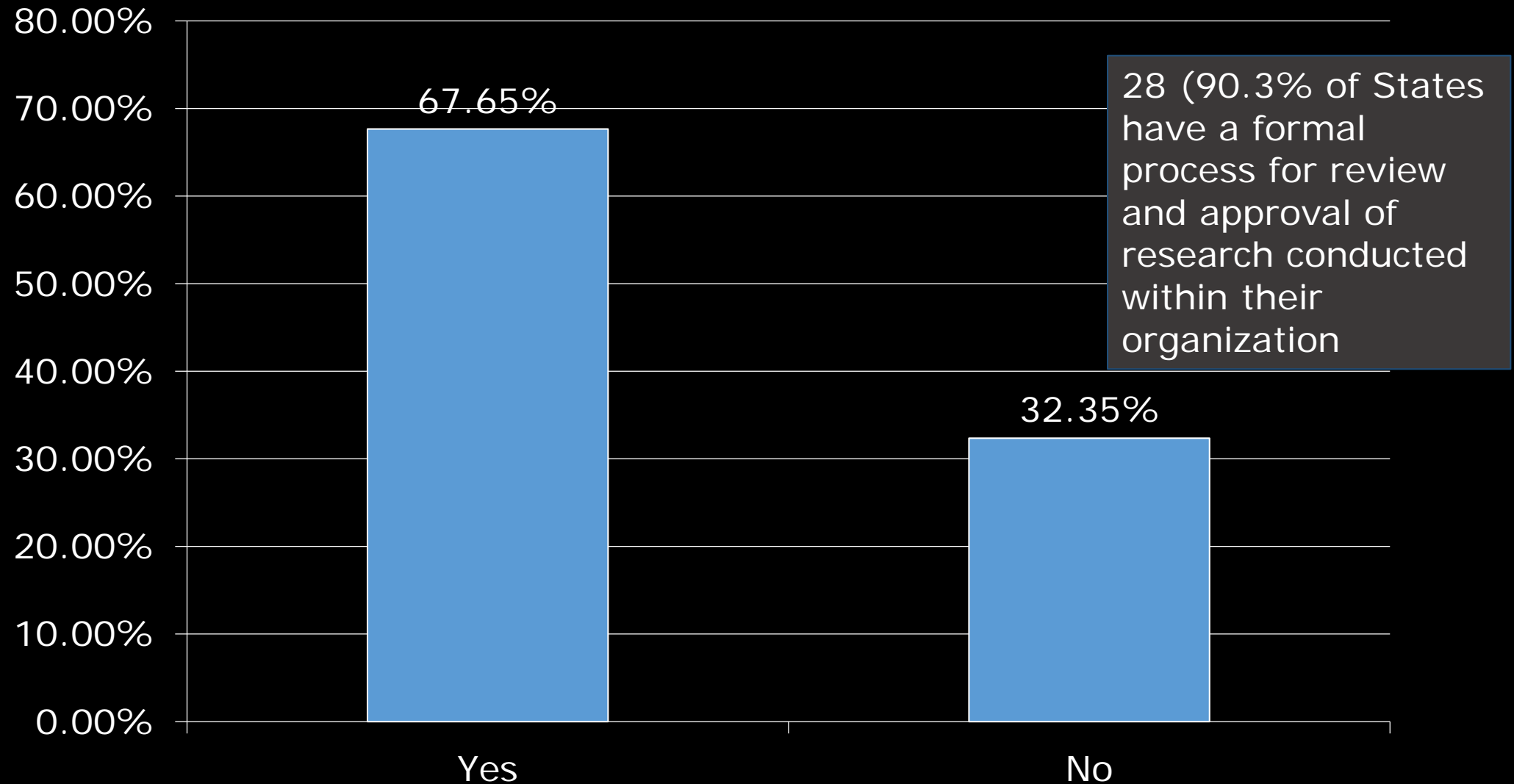


# Responsibilities in State DOC's Related to Planning

- ❖ 45% Record the flow of defendants through their facilities
- ❖ 68% Strategize to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization and/or criminal justice system

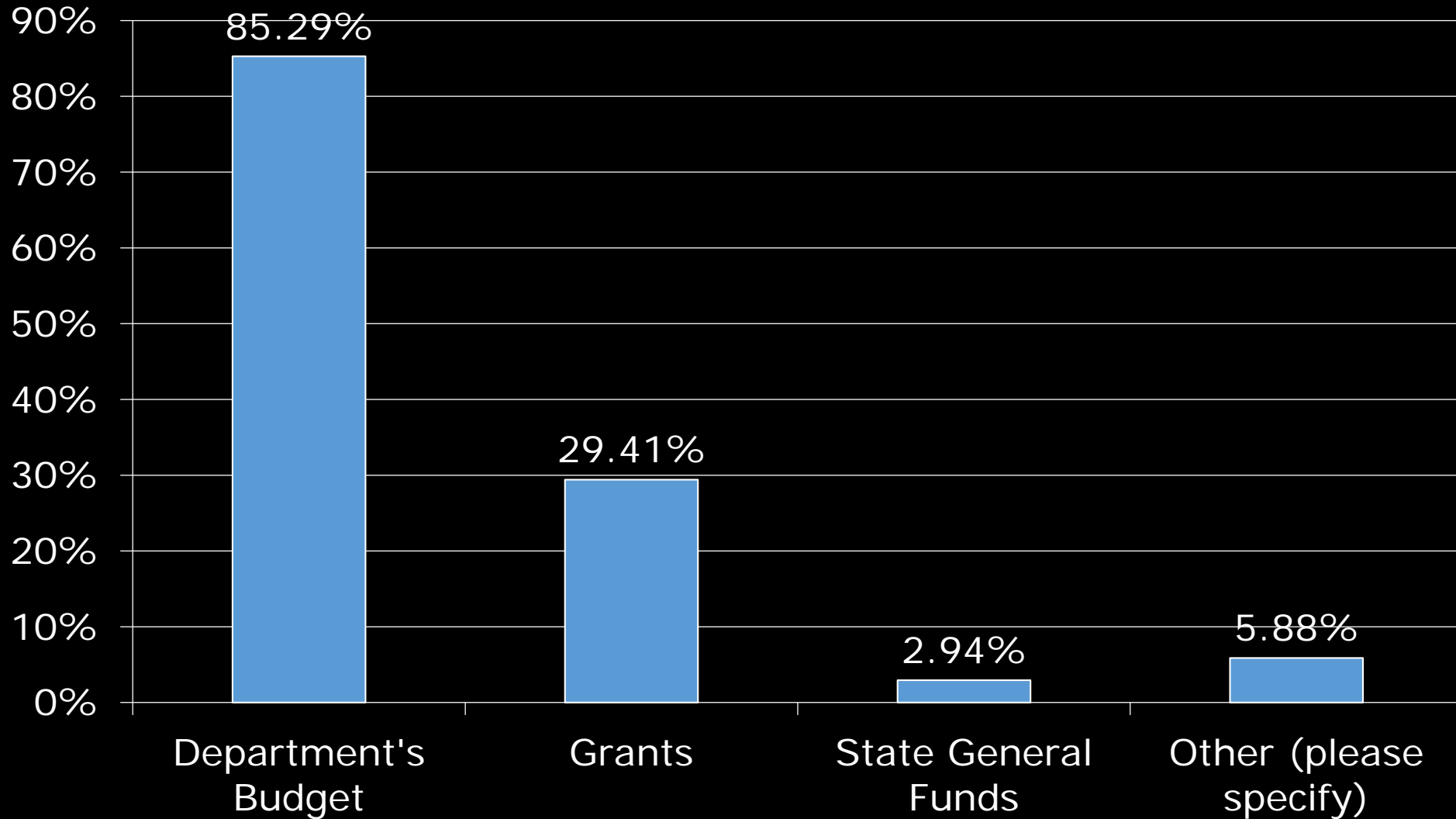


# Is there a formal process for review and approval for the research conducted within your organization?

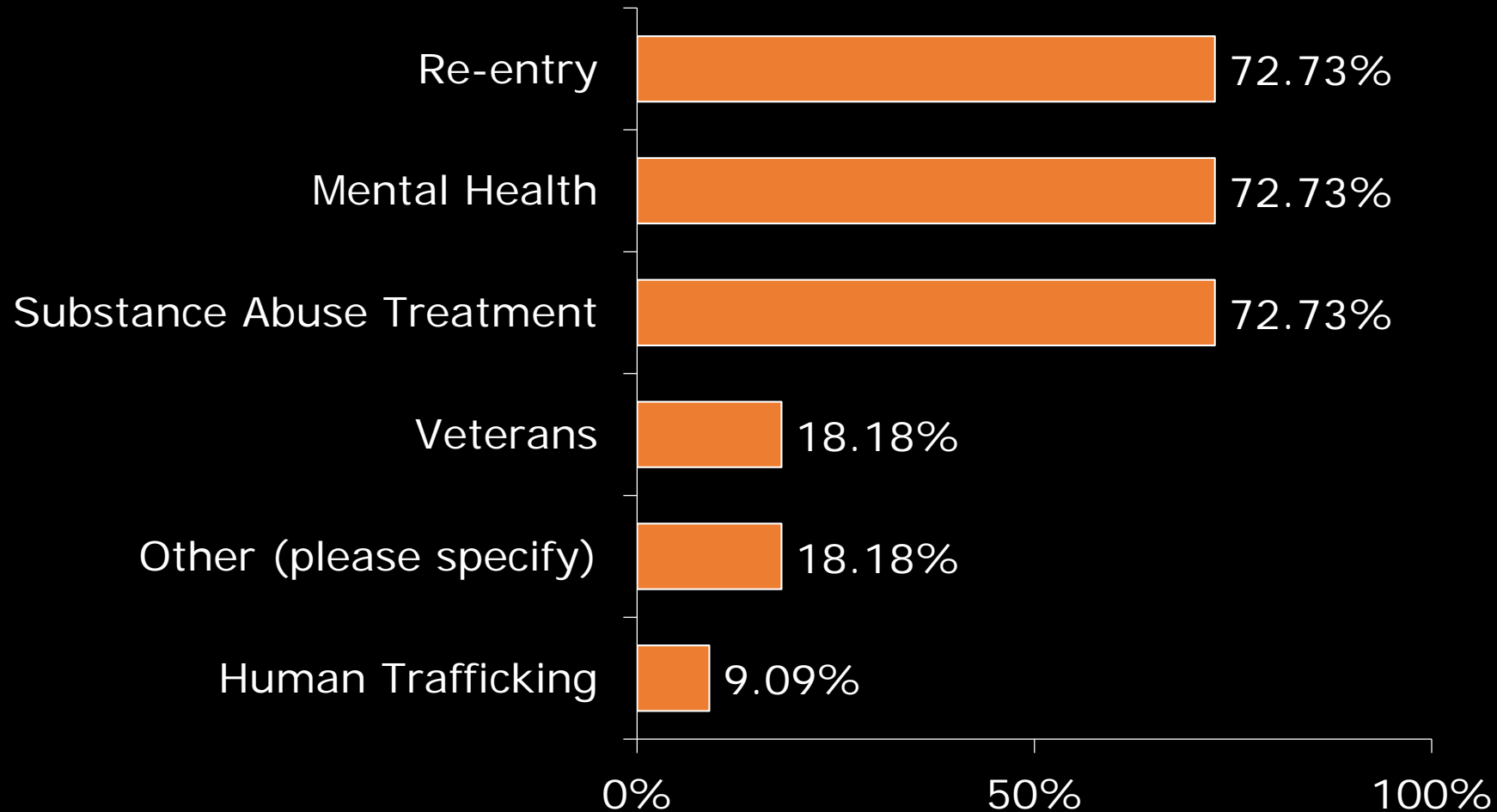


Answered 34

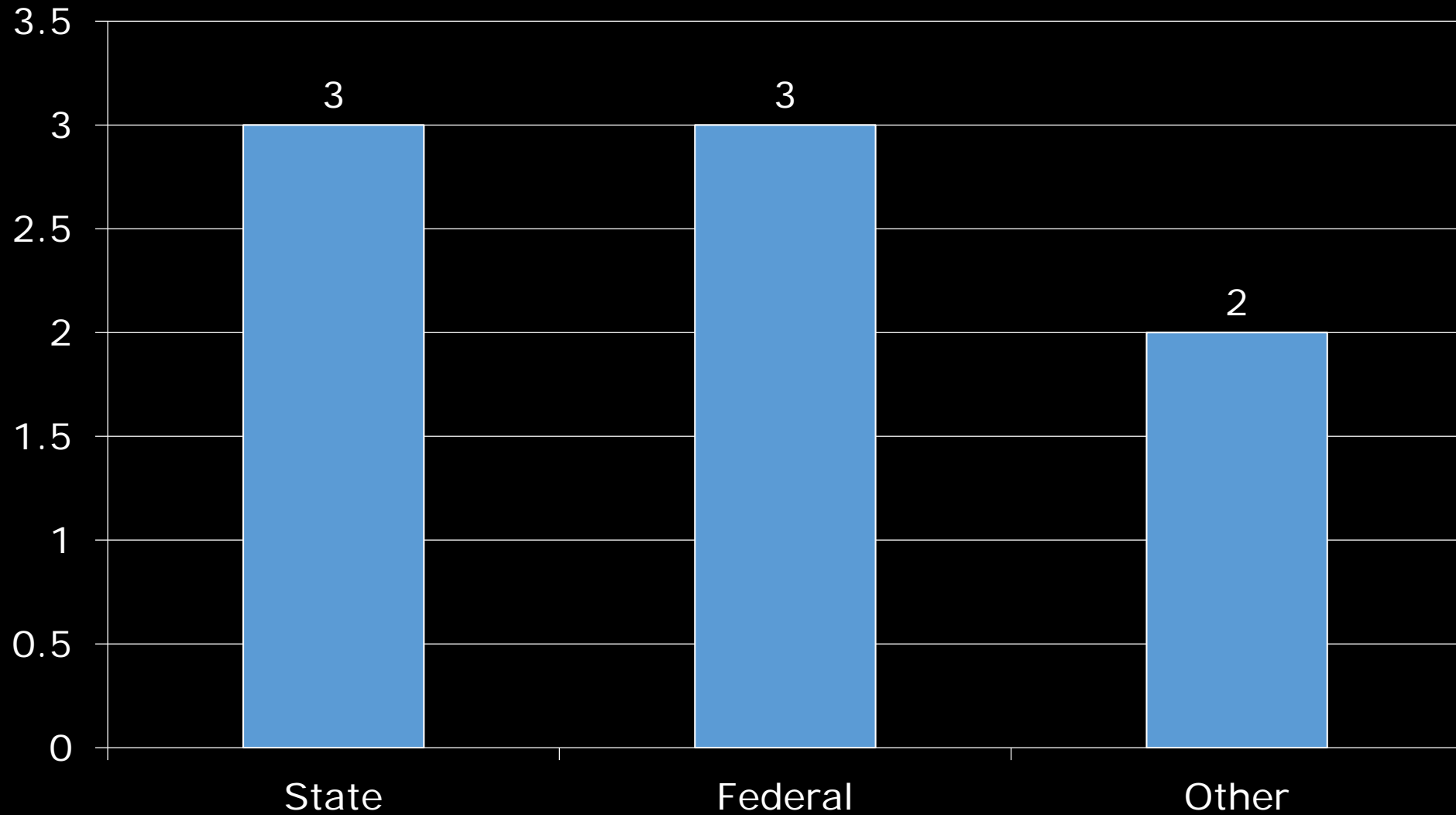
## Where do the funds for your organization's research come from? Please check all that apply.



If you checked "Grants" in Question 12, please answer the following question. What are the subject matters associated with the grant?



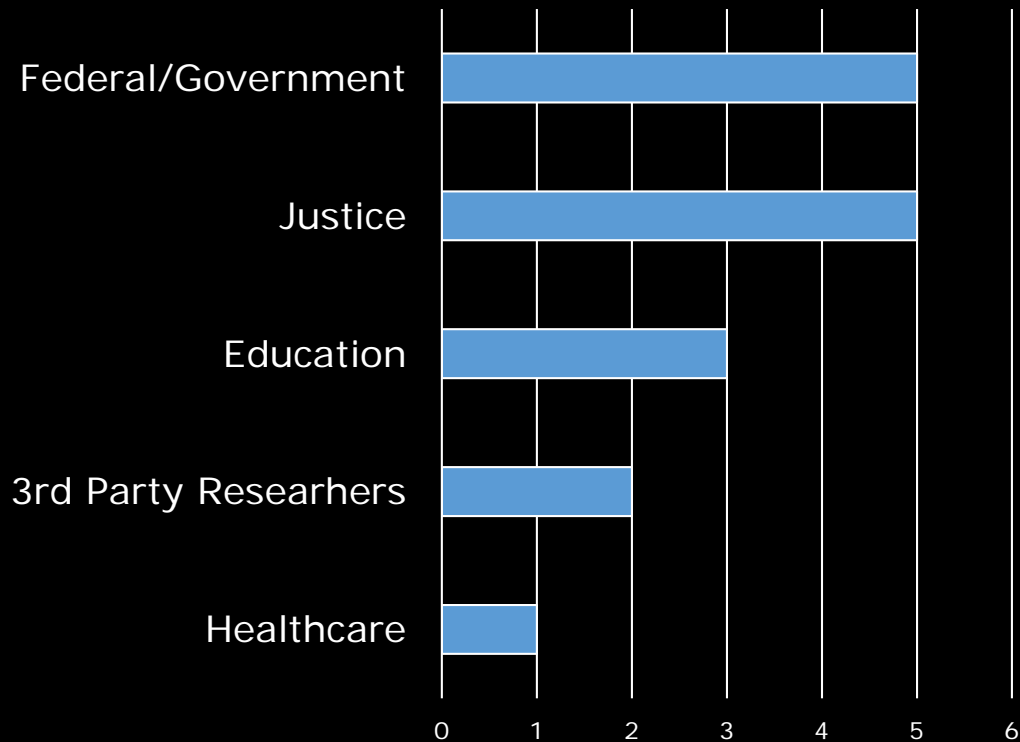
If you checked "Grants" in Question 12, please answer the following question. What type of organization does the grant come from?



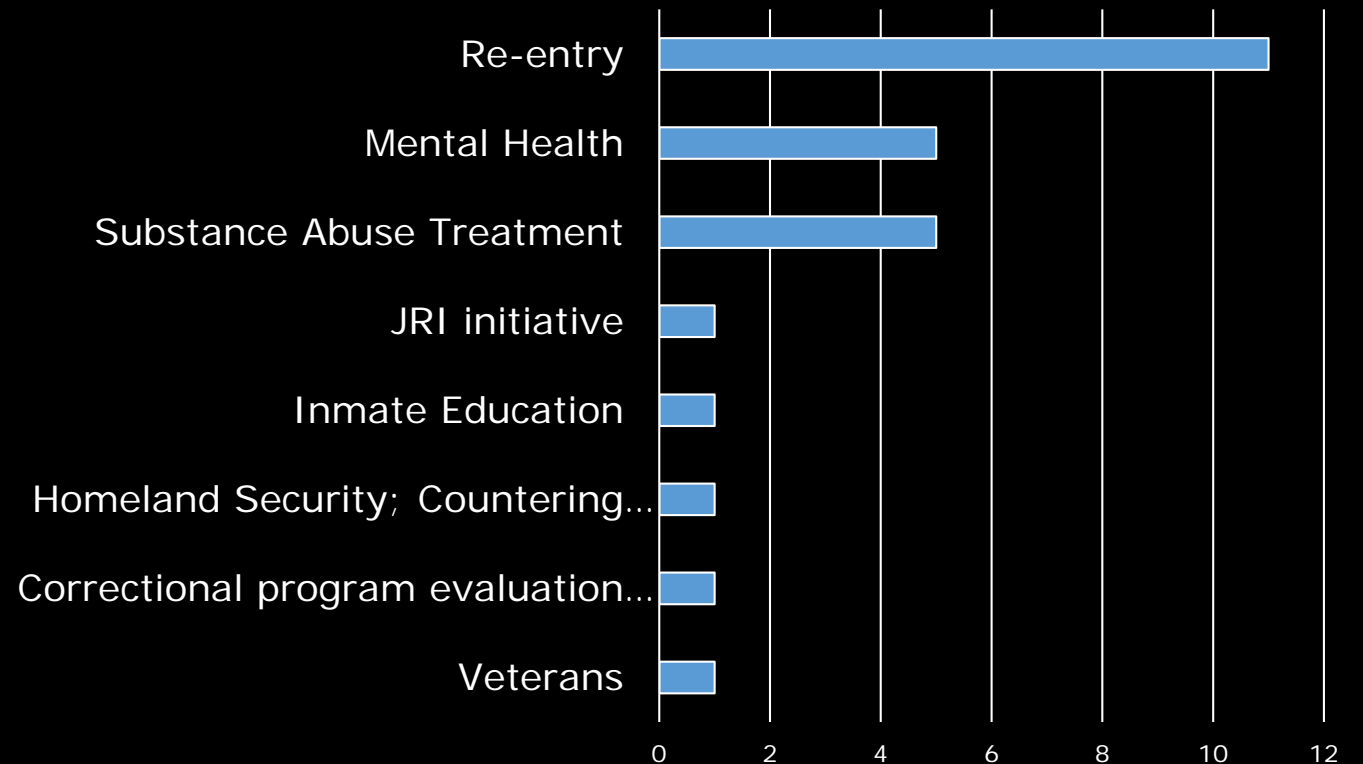


# State DOC's Funding Research through Grants

## Grant Sources

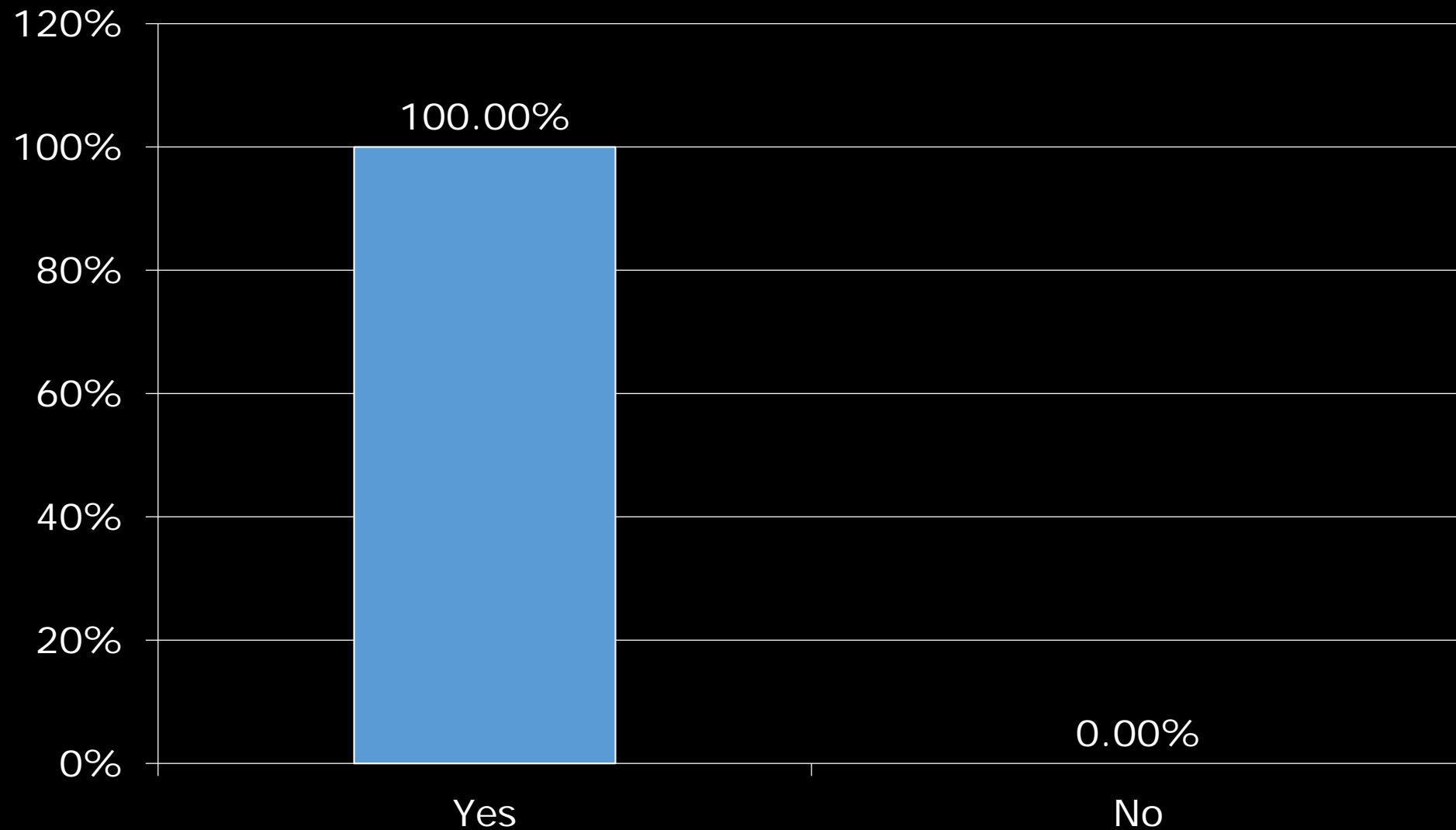


## Grant Topics

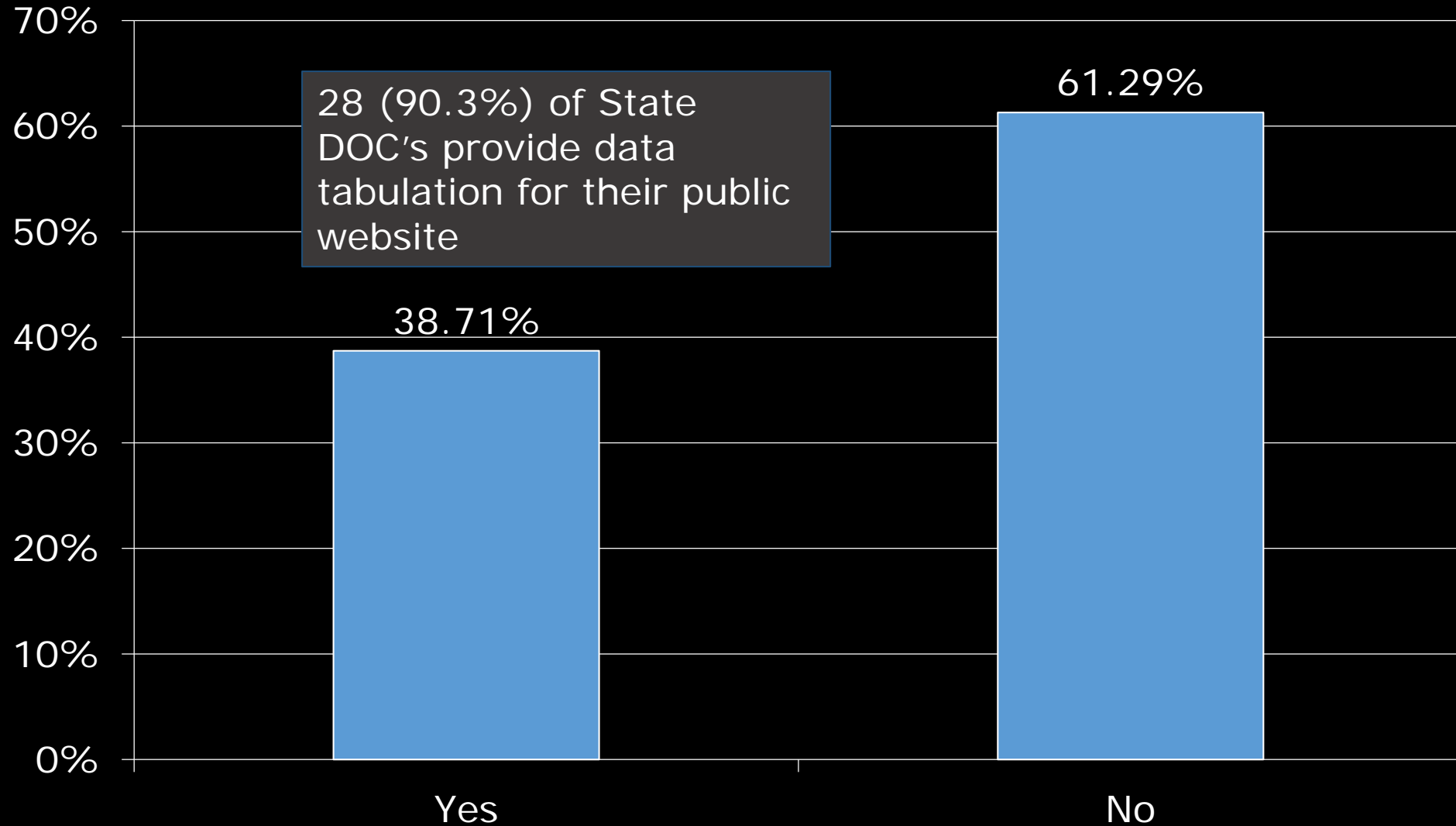


11 (35.5%) receive grant funds for research

# Jail and State Corrections who Maintain a Website?



## Jail research office responsibility for providing data tabulation to the public on the website

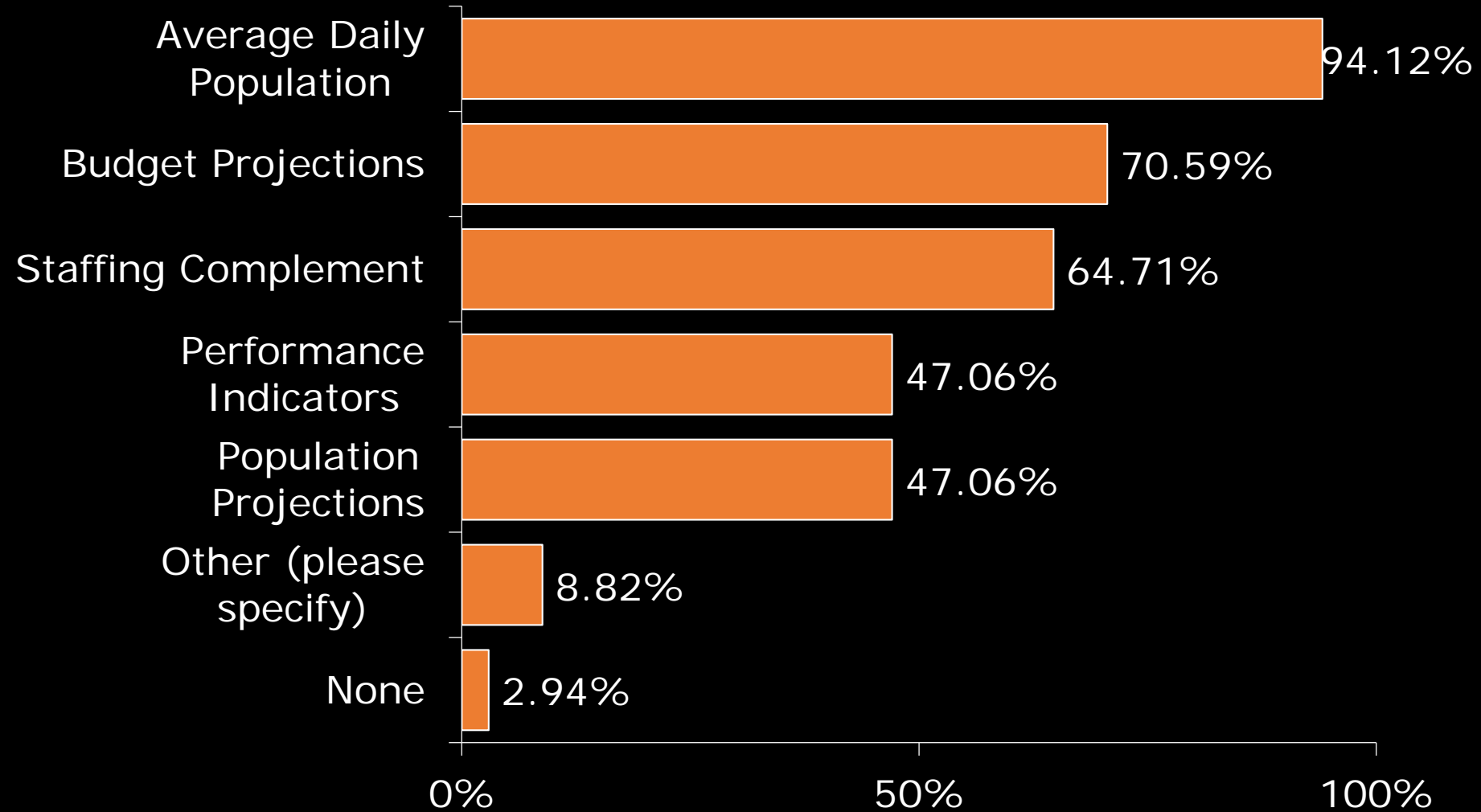


# Types of research reports archived and accessible on Jail Websites

*If "Yes" please specify:*

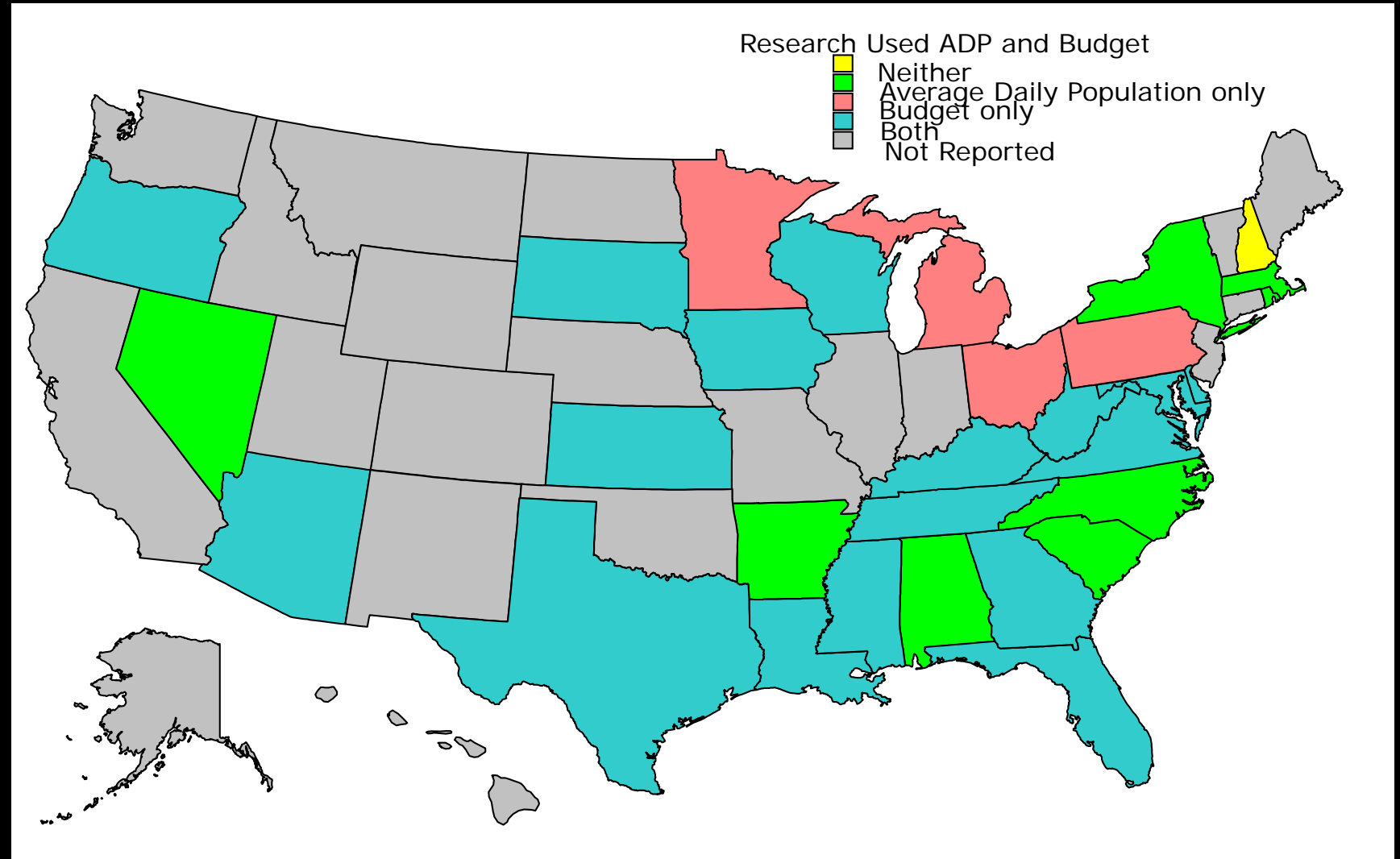
- Inmate Population And Programing Statistics
- Agency Annual Report
- Monthly Statistics On Population And Treatment Services
- Some Reports Are Posted, I.E, Annual Reports, Statistics, Etc.
- Arrest/Booking/Length of Stay Inmate Data.
- Crime Statistics
- Reports: Daily Population, Initial Appearance, PREA
- Various Reports

## What type of statistical reports does your agency use in-house? Please check all that apply.



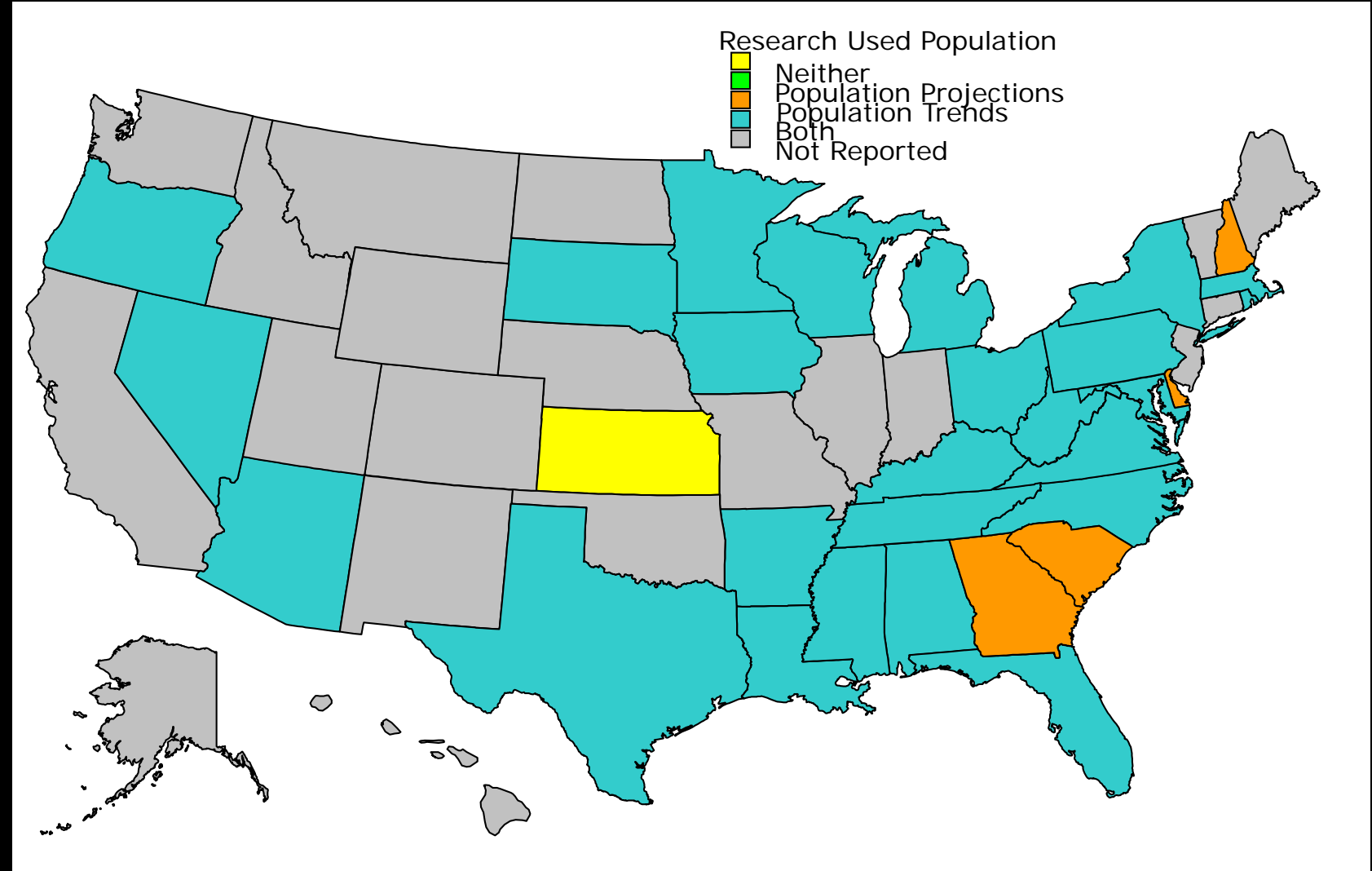
# State DOC's that use Research for ADP and Budget

- ❖ 17 States said that their research is used for both ADP and the budget.
- ❖ 8 States do not use their research for budget, but do use it for ADP.
- ❖ 4 States use their research for Budget, and do not use it for ADP.
- ❖ 1 State (New Hampshire) does not use their research for either the ADP or the Budget.



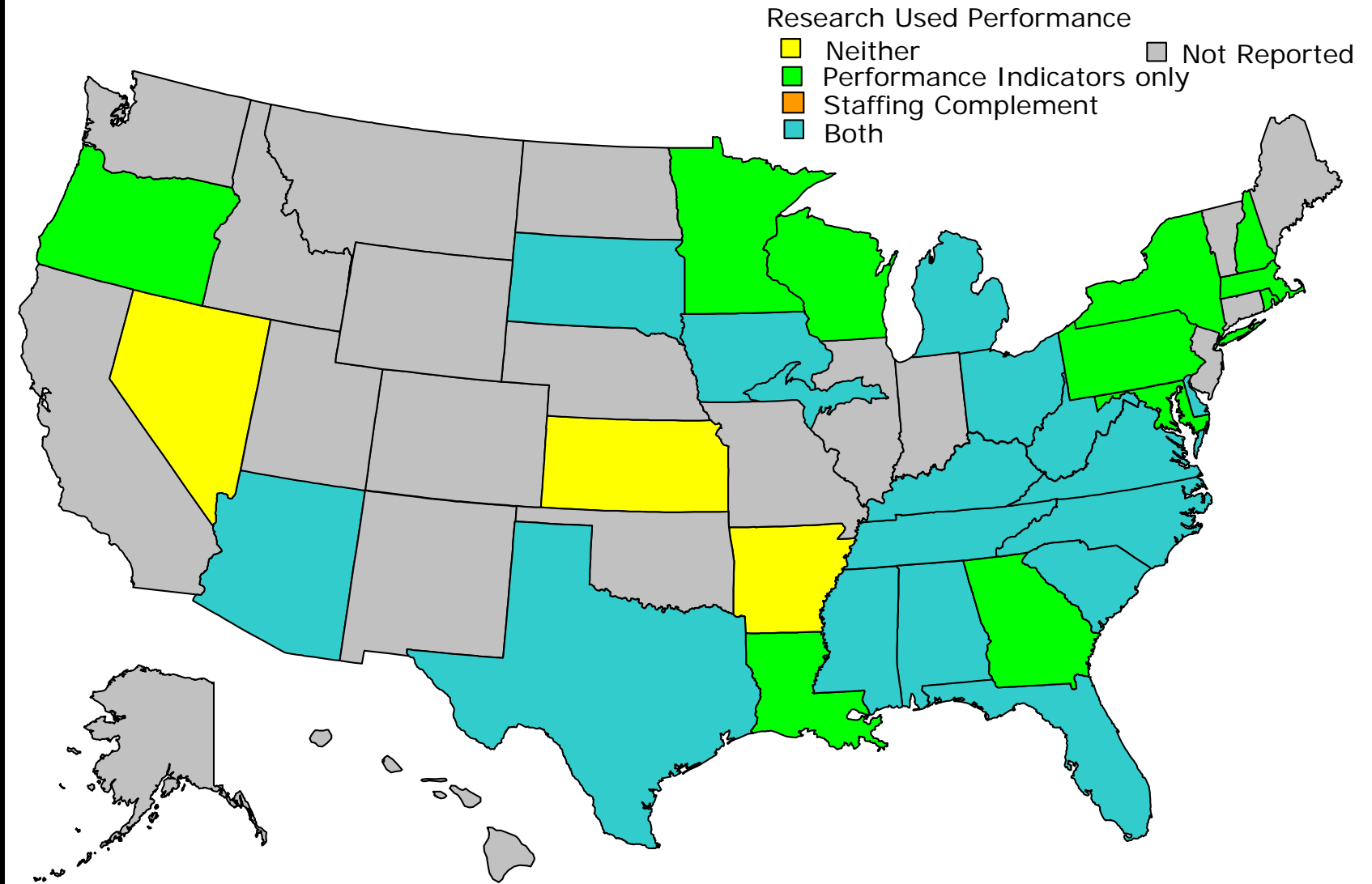
## State DOC's that use Research for Population Projection and Trends

- ❖ 25 States said that their research is used for both population projections and population trends.
- ❖ 4 States said their research is used for only population trends and not population projections.
- ❖ Only 1 State (Kansas) said their data is not used for either population projections or population trends.



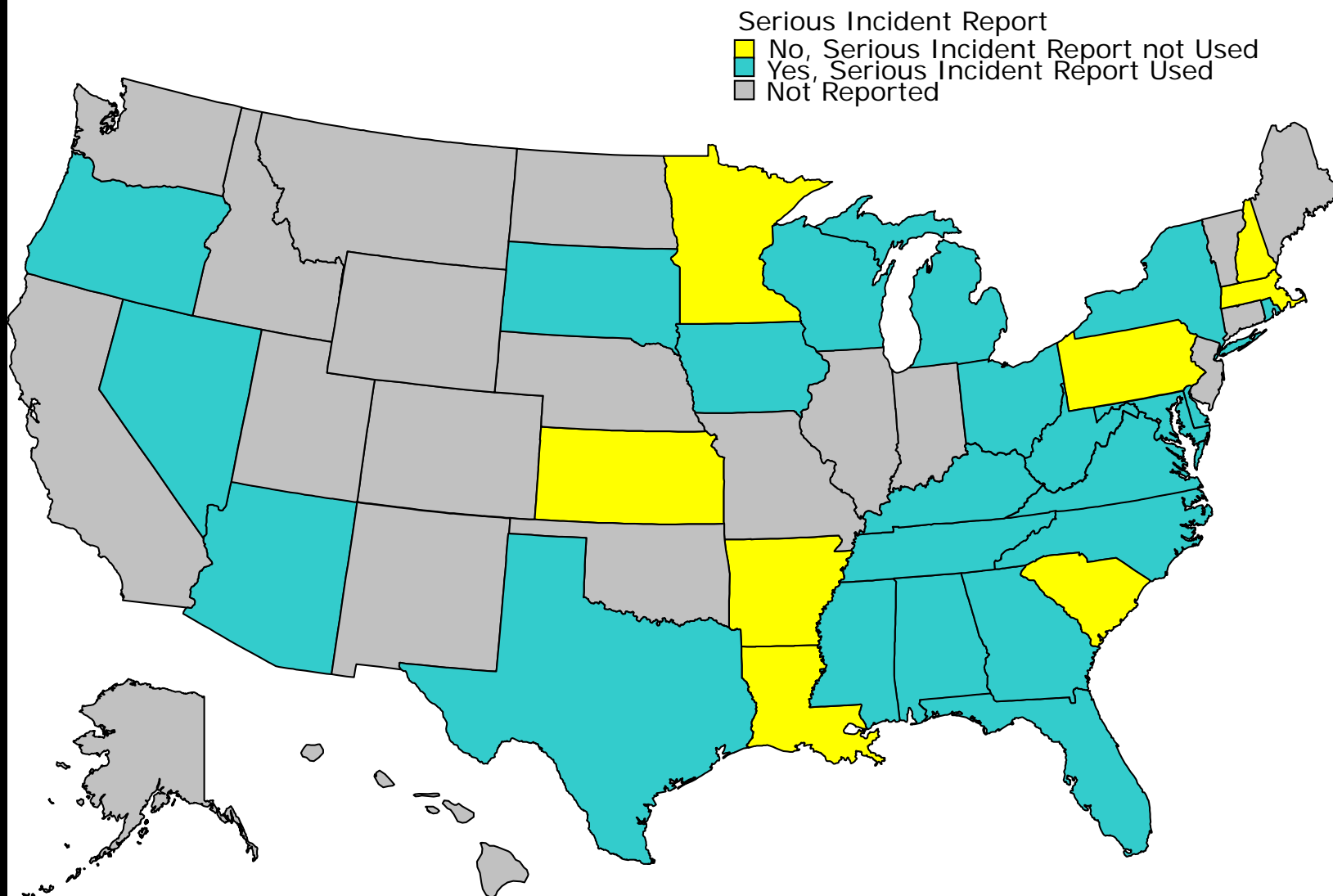
## State DOC's that use Research for Performance Indicators and Staffing

- ❖ 3 States said their research was not used for either performance indicators, or for staffing complement.
- ❖ 16 States said research was used for both performance indicators as well as a staffing complement.





# State DOC's that use Research for Serious Incidents



- ❖ Of the 30 States that answered this question, 22 of them (75.9%) stated that they use a serious incident report for research purposes.
- ❖ 8 States (27.6%) stated they did not use a serious incident report for research purposes.

# Other State DOC's uses of Research

- ASCA/PBMS related information
- Contraband Finds, Offender Activity
- Fiscal information-the work release inmates' wage information is reported on a monthly and annual basis
- Month End and Annual Reports
- Operational statistics
- Pharmacy, Bed Assignments, Classification, Active Sentences, Crime, Demographics, Drug Testing, Investigations, Maintenance Requests, Parole Hearings, Sex Offenders, Victim Notifications, Field Services Supervisions
- Population snapshots
- Recidivism, admissions, releases, demographic profiles
- Recidivism, program assessments, ad hoc requests

# Findings: Data Driven Management

## ❖ Jails

- 69% of the respondents said that they “often” use data driven management.
- 95% of the respondents indicated that research and statistics is either “important,” “fairly important,” or “very important.”

## ❖ State DOC's

- 13% of the respondents said that they “always” use data driven management and another 33.3% said they “often” do.
- 72%% of the respondents indicated that research and statistics is “very important,” 22% “important,” and 6% “somewhat important.”

# Findings: Research Capacity

## ❖ Jails

- The majority (56%) of the agencies didn't have a statistician, research analyst, or any other person with a related position on board.
- However, the agencies that had hired a statistician, research analyst, or any other person with a related position, had on average three of these staff members on their team.

## ❖ State DOC's

- Only one state didn't have a statistician, research analyst, or any other person with a related position on board.
- Average of 5.5 Researchers (maximum 16)

# Findings: Challenges

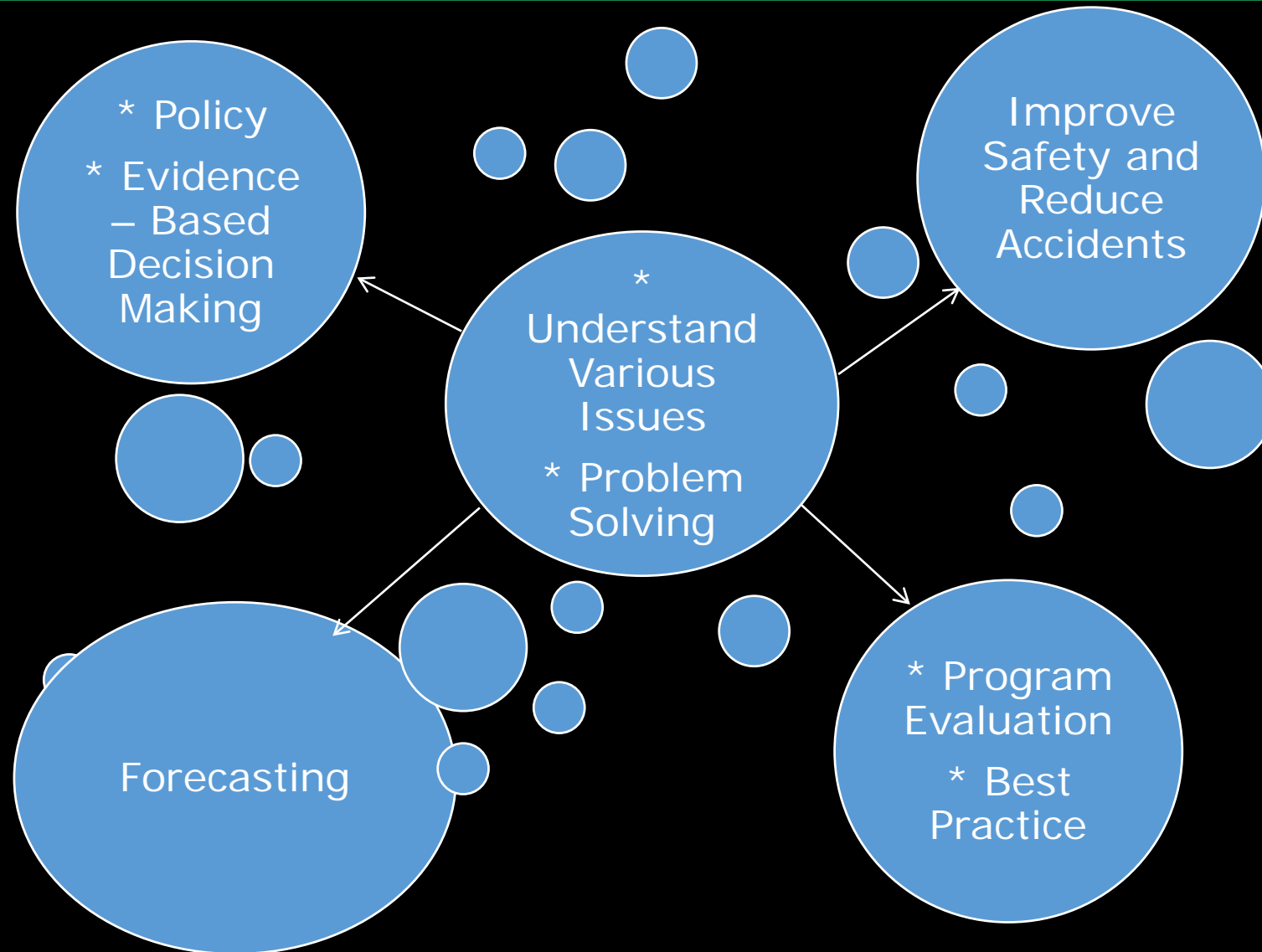
## ❖ Jails

- For the biggest challenge they encountered when collecting data, majority of the respondents (58%) concluded that it was the lack of staff.

## ❖ State DOC's

- 22 (71%) adequate lack staffing
- 23 (74.2%) lack specialized data
- 21 ( 67.7%)

# Importance of Research



# Discussion: Offender Population Studies

## Virginia

- Trends
- Geriatric Offenders
- Female Offenders
- Overdoses and Drug Test Results
- Restrictive Housing

## Orange County

- Jail Population Trends
- Mental Health Inmates
- Homeless Inmates
- Controlled Substance Related Arrests: Heroin, Cocaine, Marijuana, Fentanyl

**How about you?**

# Discussion: Forecasting and Impact Analysis

## Virginia

- Multi-agency consensus population forecast
- Legislative impact analysis for all proposals that could result in an SR sentence or impact corrections

## Orange County

- Master Plan in 30 Years
- Legislative impact analysis for all proposals that could affect jail population

**How about you?**



# Discussion: Surveys

## Virginia

- Staff Environment Surveys
- Topical Surveys
- Data collection
- How other states do things

## Orange County

- Benchmarking for Cost Per Day Per Inmate Survey
- Use of Force Policy Survey
- Women Leadership Survey
- Database Software Usage

**How about you?**

# Discussion: Performance Measures

## Virginia

- Operations Efficiency Measures
- Strategic Plan Measures
- Governor's Goals Measures

## Orange County

- Primary Indicators
- Orange County Office of Management and Budget Performance Measures

**How about you?**

# Discussion: Outcomes & Program Evaluation

## Virginia

- EBP Program Fidelity instrument development and feedback loops
- Outcome evaluation for programs and education
- Recidivism analysis

## Orange County

- CCD Success Rate
- Recidivism Rate Study
- Outcome evaluation for programs and education

**How about you?**

# Discussion: Operations Support and Law Suits

## Virginia

- Identification of sights for programs
- Identification of sights for security equipment
- Analysis and reporting for legal cases
- CQI measurement support for health services

## Orange County

- Incidents Report
- Incidents Analysis
- Staff Assignment

**How about you?**

# Discussion: Changes in the Role of Research

## Virginia

- In the last decade gone from basic trends, forecast and recidivism reporting to a data driven agency where the highest user of research is operations and reentry
- Data Driven Decision (3-D) Model is agency wide initiative

## Orange County

- Over the past 10 years, there has been a surplus in the amount of internal and external data and data analysis information being requested.
- Data Driven Decision Making has expanded at the agency and county level in accordance with the Mayor's Strategic Plan.

**How about you?**

# Discussion: Challenges Moving Forward

## Virginia

- Keeping up with the increasing demand
- Finding qualified staff

## Orange County

- Multiple databases and software used to extract and analyze data.
- Databases unable to interact and exchange information.
- Policies and benchmarking are not standardized between county agencies.
- Database entry errors.

**How about you?**

# Questions



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