

Publication 2026-30

2025 Utah Media Analysis

What 1,042 Utah Media Articles Tell Us About
Sex Crime Coverage In The State of Utah — and What They Don't

1,042

articles

10 outlets

~419

defendants

“

Media is not measuring child sexual abuse.
It is measuring the arrest stage of a narrow,
unrepresentative slice of publicly prosecuted cases —
then presenting that slice as the shape of the problem.

These are not two different lenses on the same object. They are two different objects entirely.

Dataset Overview — 1,042 Utah Media Entries, 2025

1,042

total articles

Across 10 outlets, January–December 2025

~419

unique defendants

2.47 avg articles per defendant

~47

registry-flagged

4.7% of entries — 95.3% not flagged

57%

single-outlet

Arrest-only, no follow-through coverage

~29%

CSAM possession

Dominant charge category — 298 statute appearances

27

female defendants

6.6% of identified defendants

9

outlets tracked

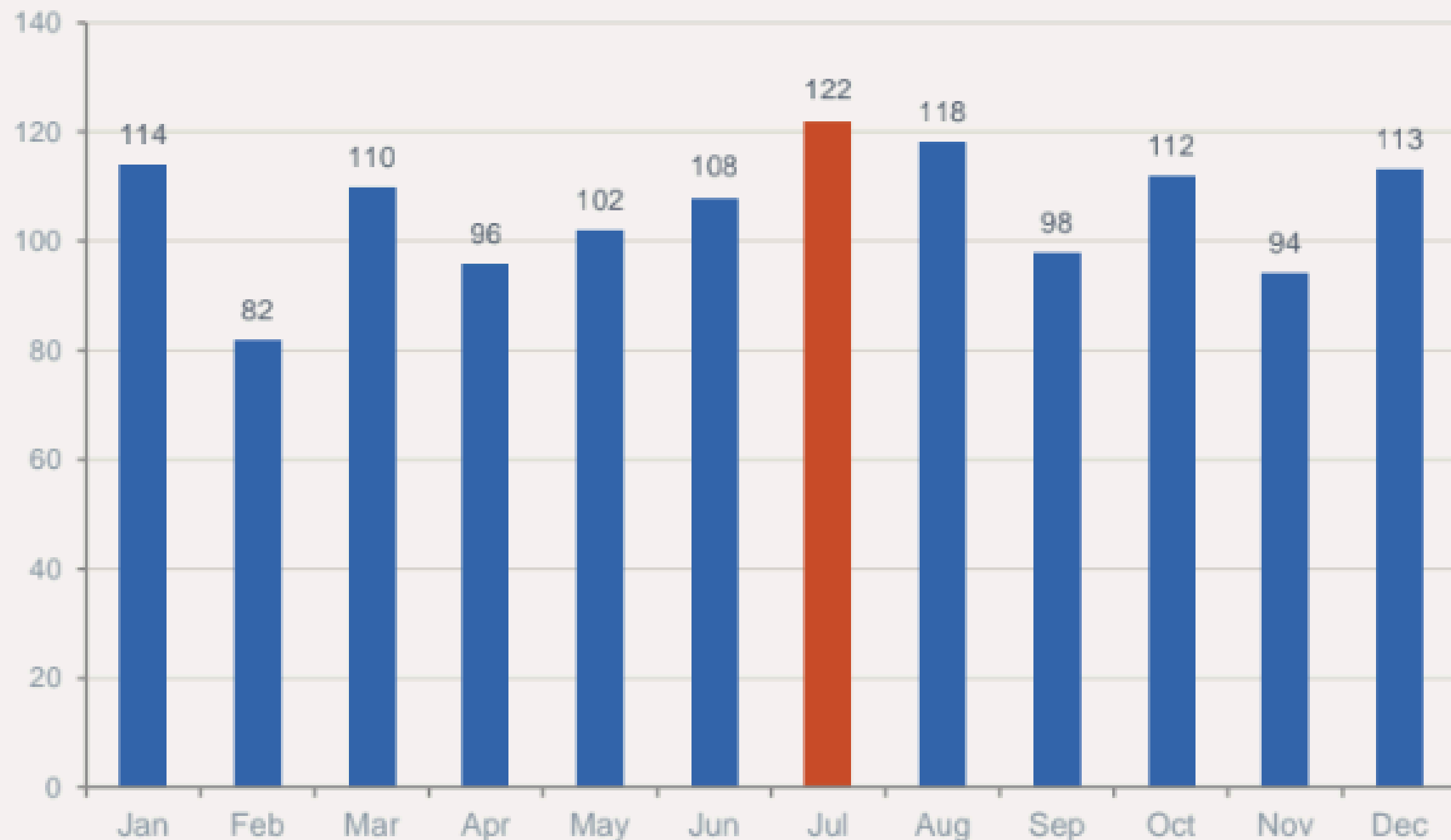
KSL, ABC4, KSLTV, KUTV, Fox13 + 4 others

161:1

perp vs prevention

Utah state spending ratio (UWLP 2025)

Articles by Month — Volume and Concentration



Jul 122

Peak month — highest annual volume

Mar ~110

Box Elder cluster (judge + fire chief)

Feb 82

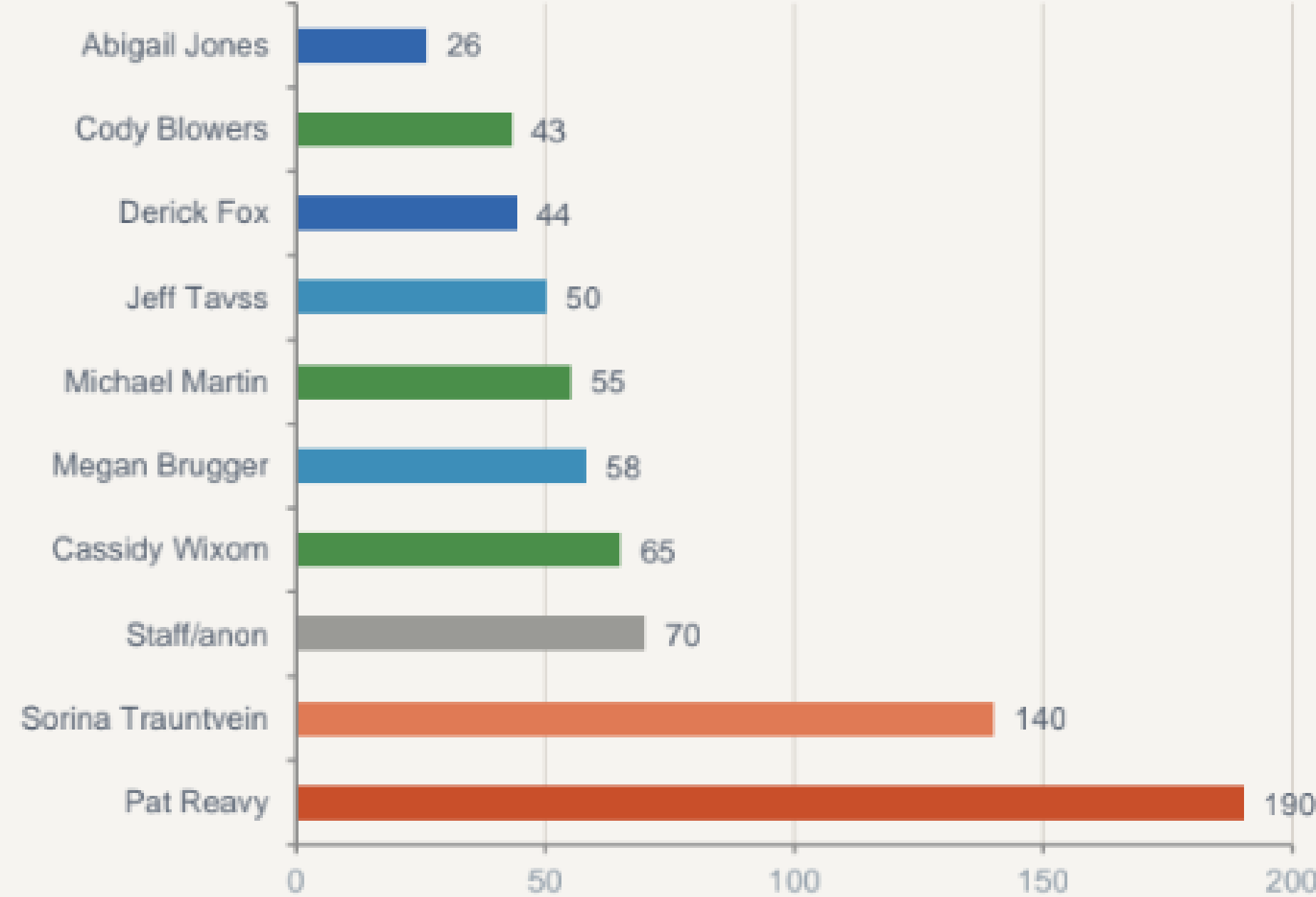
Lowest month of the year

The March spike reflects the Box Elder institutional cluster (judge Christensen + fire chief Hansen), demonstrating how two defendants can dominate a month's media cycle.

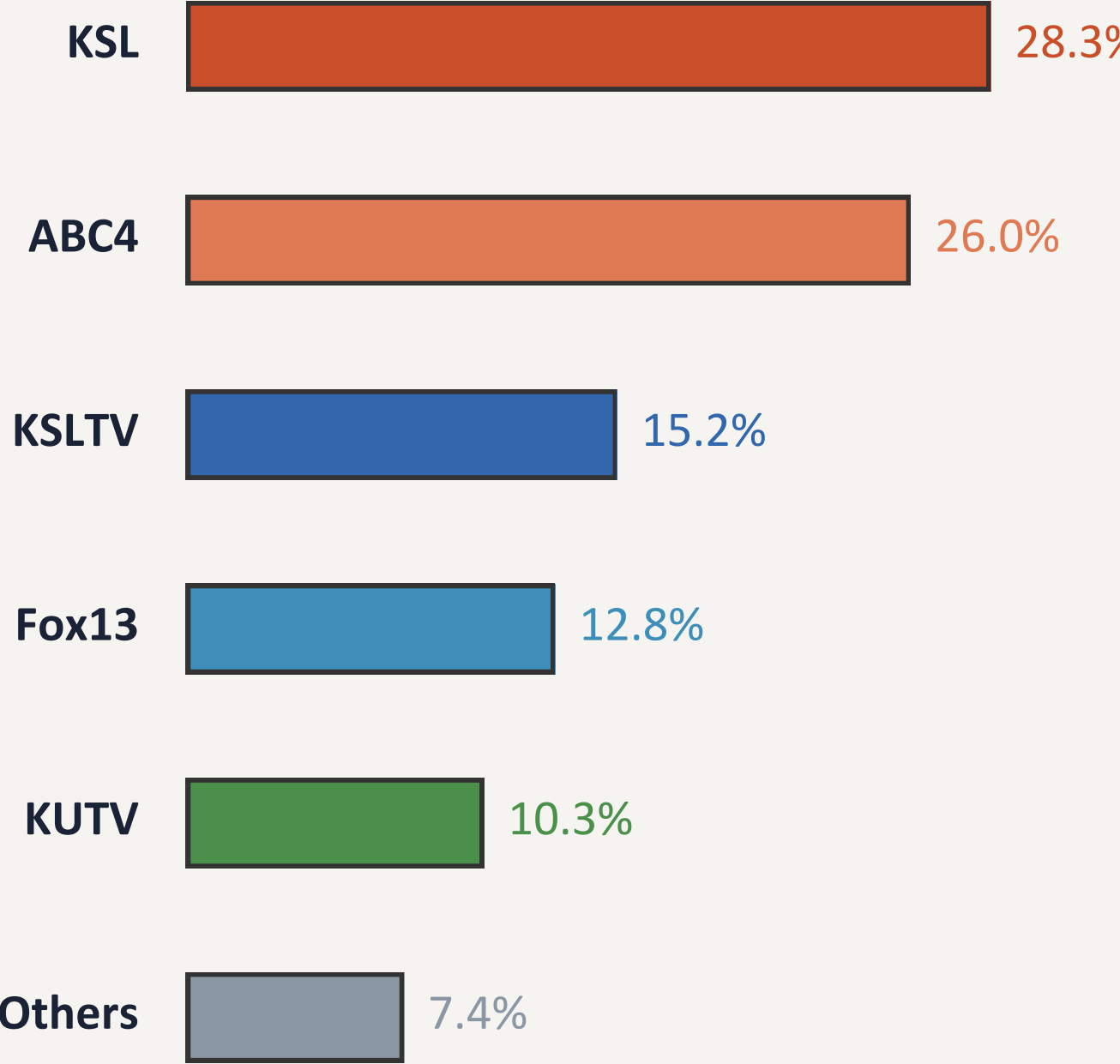
UTRSOL media dataset. Monthly counts include all articles regardless of outlet. July = 122 entries; peak month. Orange = peak bar.

Coverage Concentration — Outlets and Reporters

entries by reporter (top 10)



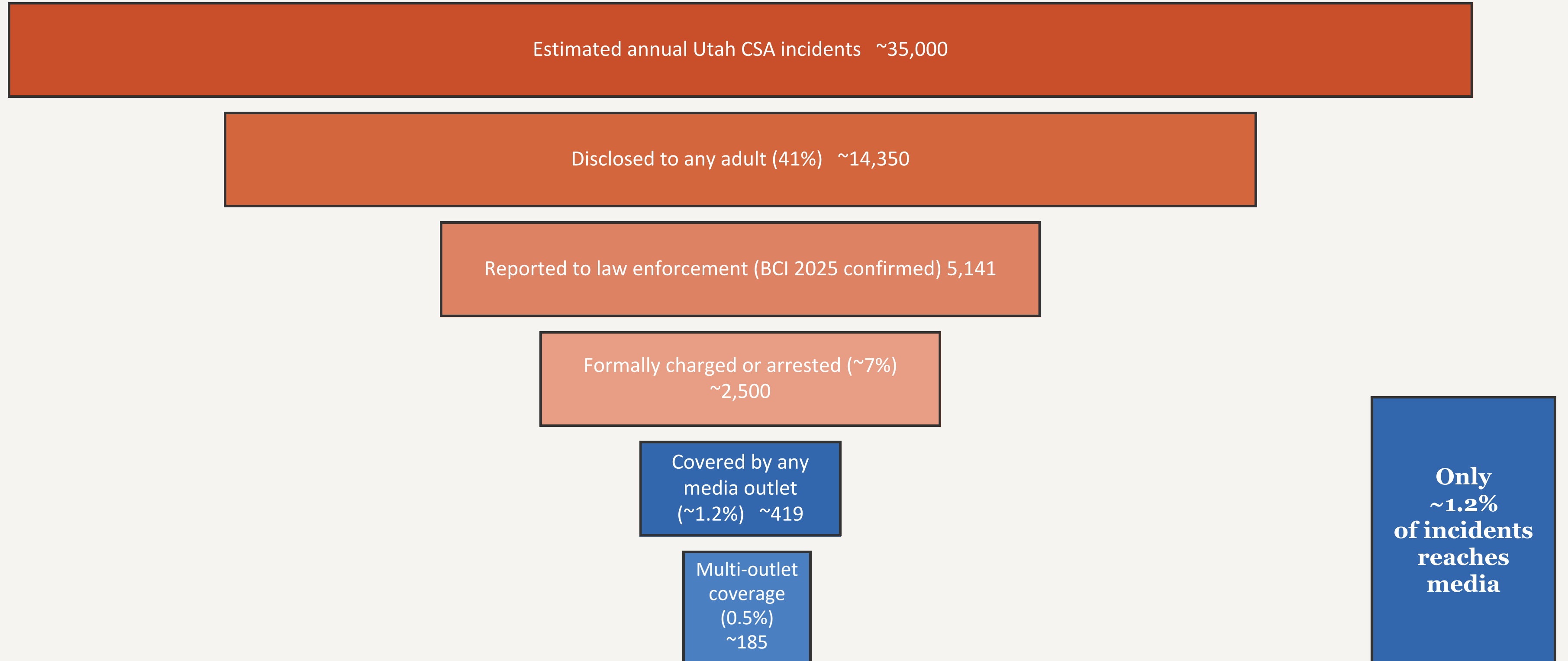
outlet share



UTRSOL byline analysis of 1,042 entries. Reporter colors indicate approximate outlet affiliation.
KSL + ABC4 combined = ~54% of all entries.

Pat Reavy + Sorina Trauntvein authored ~33% of all 2025 Utah sex offense coverage — two reporters shaping one-third of public understanding.

The Visibility Funnel — How Little Media Actually Captures



Baseline from YRBS 2021, BRFSS adult retrospective, NISMART-2 (4.6/1,000/yr). Disclosure: Finkelhor/CCRC. Reported to LE: Utah BCI NIBRS Interactive Dashboard (captured May 10, 2026; 5,141 confirmed sex offense incidents, Jan-Dec 2025). Prior estimate ~4,130 closely validated. Charged: estimated 60% of reported. Media coverage: UTRSOL 2025 dataset.

95.3%

of 2025 criminal justice events involved people
NOT on the sex offender registry at time of offense

The registry did not and could not have prevented 95.3% of what Utah media documented in 2025.

CDC explicitly states registrants are not who parents should most worry about. · Only 4.7% of 1,042 entries = registry-flagged

First-Time vs. Registry-Listed Offenders — Full Breakdown

95.3%

not on registry

966 of 1,013 entries — first-time or uncharged prior history

4.7%

registry-listed

~47 entries · 3.9% per prior 965-entry count; updated with full PDF

5–7%

sex offense recidivism

Research-documented reoffense rate — lower than most felony categories

161:1

perp mgmt vs. prevention

Utah spending ratio — calibrated almost entirely to the 4.7%

95.3% — First-time / no prior registry listing (966 entries)

— Registry-listed (~47 entries)

What registry-listed cases look like

- Charge type: CSAM possession and enticement dominate — not contact offenses
- Pattern: digital-access cases (Kik, Snapchat, Discord) with prior CSAM history
- Implication: reoffenders cluster in non-contact categories — lowest recidivism risk tier

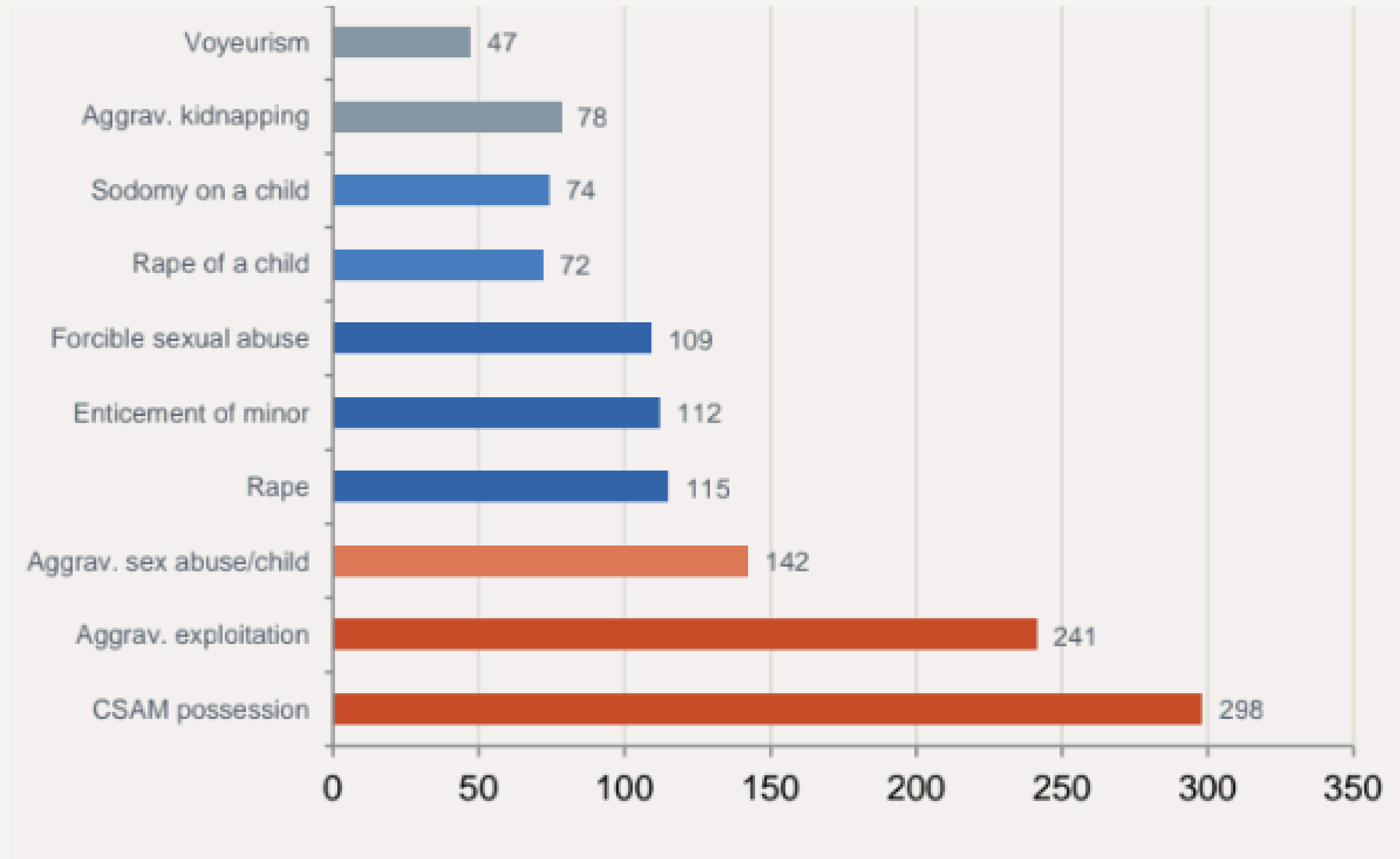
What first-time cases look like

- Occupational: teachers, fire officials, judges, therapists, religious leaders, coaches
- Setting: institutional access — schools, churches, fire stations, healthcare, daycares
- Pattern: registry could not have flagged these defendants — no prior conviction
- Scale: 966 entries across every district, demographic

The policy feedback loop

- Each reoffender article creates availability-neuristic pressure on legislators
- Media makes 4.7% vivid and salient; renders 95.3% structurally invisible
- Registry expansion addresses a population with <7% recidivism
- Prevention investment — which would address first-time offenders — remains at \$569K vs. \$92M

Charge Type Distribution – CSAM Dominance and the Conflation Problem



CSAM ≠ contact offense risk

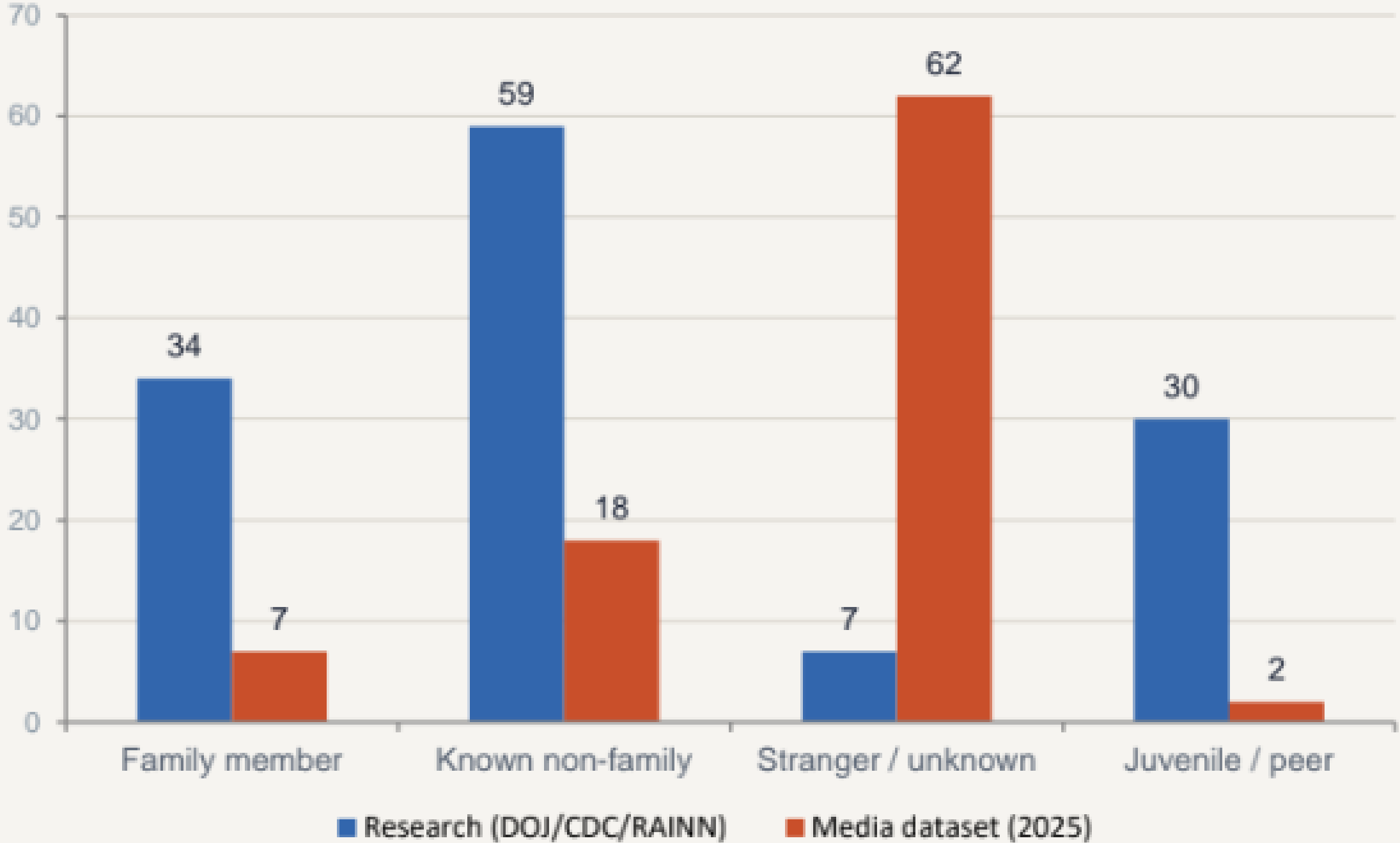
Finkelhor (2024) explicitly notes online/CSAM abuse requires separate analysis from contact CSA. Media conflates them — inflating perceived predator population.

Charges per entry

56.5%	1 charge
19.5%	2 charges
9.5%	3+ charges
14.5%	unclear

53% of entries cite a CSAM statute. Single CSAM devices can generate 20–80 charges — making charge-count a poor proxy for harm severity.

Perpetrator Type Inversion — Research vs. Media Framing



DOJ (2000): of CSA cases reported to law enforcement — 34% family, 59% acquaintance, 7% stranger. Media inverts this distribution.

Research: DOJ Sexual Assault of Young Children 2000; CDC About Child Sexual Abuse; RAINN statistics. Media dataset: UTRSOL 2025 analysis, perpetrator context coding.

8.9x
 Stranger/unknown
 OVERrepresented
 in media vs. research

4.9x
 Family member
 UNDERrepresented
 in media vs. research

15-20x
 Juvenile perpetrators
 nearly INVISIBLE
 in media vs. research

The Juvenile Blindspot — The Most Consequential Gap

~30–40%

RESEARCH SAYS

of CSA offenders are juveniles
(Finkelhor/CCRC; Snyder DOJ 2000:
40% of offenses against under-11
involve juvenile perpetrators)

~2%

MEDIA SHOWS

of identified defendants are
under 20 in the 2025 Utah
media dataset — not because
juvenile offending is rare

Why invisible:

Juvenile proceedings are sealed by law in Utah. Cases are routed through family court, diverted into treatment, or resolved informally — none of which generate public filings or press releases. The category responsible for ~35% of actual harm is structurally absent from the information environment that shapes legislation.

Utah CSA Prevalence vs. Utahns' Perception — UWLP 2024

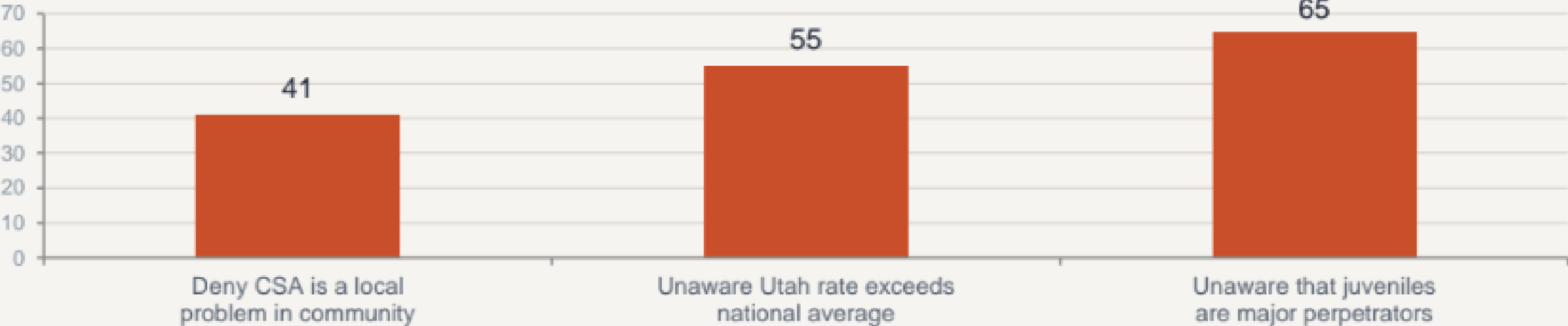
1 in 7
Utah children victimized
~131,183 statewide · BRFSS

1 in 5
Utah women (CSA survivors)
19.2% — above 17.7% US avg · BRFSS

1 in 5
High school girls (past yr)
21.4% sexual violence · YRBS 2021

1,042
Media implies (2025)
Discrete "events" — profound undercount given 11.8% reporting rate

% of Utahns with each perception gap (UWLP 2024 representative sample)



UWLP Research Snapshot #56 (Anderson & Madsen, 2025). BRFSS Utah data. YRBS 2021 Utah. Perception survey: UWLP representative samples 2023–2024. Media count: UTRSOL 2025 dataset.

Seven Structural Mismatches — Why the Gap Is Not Accidental

bias 01

The Reporting Rate Illusion

11.8% reporting means media sees 1 in ~8 cases. 1,042 "events" = ~1.2% of estimated annual incidents.

bias 02

The Arrest-Stage Capture

57% of entries are single-outlet arrest stories — media captures accusation, not conviction, acquittal, or outcome.

bias 03

The Perpetrator Type Inversion

Media: 62% stranger framing. Research: 93% known perpetrators. An 8.9× distortion on the most fundamental risk variable.

bias 04

The Juvenile Blindspot

~30–40% of CSA perpetrated by minors (research). ~2% under-20 in media. 15–20× undercount driven by sealed juvenile records.

bias 05

The CSAM Conflation

CSAM possession ≠ contact offense risk. 29% of entries use CSAM as primary charge. Finkelhor (2024): requires separate analysis.

bias 06

The Severity Cascade

Two defendants (Christensen + Hansen) generated 62+ articles. 225 defendants generated 1 article. High-status outliers define public understanding.

bias 07

The Registry Salience Pump

4.7% of entries involve registrants. CDC: not primary risk. But each reoffender story creates availability-heuristic pressure on legislators.

Together these seven biases produce a public mental model of CSA that is almost exactly inverse to what population-level research documents.

Policy Consequences — What the Distortion Produces

OVER-LEGISLATED

Registry expansion

Addresses a population with <7% recidivism that represents 4.7% of documented cases. Each reoffender article creates availability-heuristic pressure. 161:1 spending ratio on perpetrators vs. prevention.

OVER-LEGISLATED

Institutional safeguards

Background checks and building access rules address institutional/stranger cases that represent ~10% of CSA. Important but receives investment disproportionate to share of harm.

UNDER-LEGISLATED

Juvenile prevention programs

Would address ~30% of perpetrators. Universal prevention programming is the most cost-effective CSA intervention (Letourneau 2017). Zero media visibility = zero political urgency.

UNDER-LEGISLATED

Intra-family disclosure pathways

34–50% of CSA is intra-family. Requires disclosure support, mandatory reporter training, family court resources. Media absence = legislative absence.

BCI 2025 Data Integration

Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification · NIBRS Interactive Dashboard · May 10, 2026

Real-time sex offense incident data — anchoring the visibility funnel with confirmed law enforcement figures

BCI 2025 Sex Offense Incidents — Confirmed Law Enforcement Data

OFFENSE CATEGORY	2025 COUNT
Fondling	2,780
Rape	1,662
Sodomy	388
Sexual Assault with Object	125
Statutory Rape	114
Human Trafficking (Involuntary)	36
Incest	20
Human Trafficking (Commercial)	16
TOTAL SEX OFFENSE INCIDENTS	5,141

5,141
confirmed sex offense incidents
 BCI NIBRS interactive dashboard, Jan–Dec 2025
 Validates prior UTRSOL estimate of ~4,130

8.1%
visibility rate vs. reported incidents
 419 media defendants ÷ 5,141 BCI incidents
 Distinct from 1.2% (vs. all estimated incidents)

91.9%
of reported incidents — zero media coverage
 4,722 of 5,141 BCI-reported sex offenses
 generated no identifiable media record in 2025

Note: Incest (20 cases) and Statutory Rape (114 cases) generate registry consequences in Utah but appear as near-zero bars in BCI data — direct evidence for LECJ Study Item 3 on proportionality.

Source: Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification NIBRS Interactive Dashboard, captured May 10, 2026 (date filter 1/1/2025–12/31/2025, all counties). Total sex offense incidents = Fondling + Rape + Sodomy + Sexual Assault with Object + Statutory Rape + Human Trafficking (both types) + Incest. Visibility rate = UTRSOL 2025 unique defendants (419) ÷ BCI 2025 reported incidents (5,141). Note: BCI counts reflect reported NIBRS incidents; UTRSOL counts reflect media-covered defendants — distinct methodological populations.

What the BCI Data Tells LECJ Study Item 3

01

The Estimate Was Right — Now It's Real

UTRSOL's prior estimate of ~4,130 reported sex offenses (11.8% reporting rate applied to ~35,000 incidents) has been validated: BCI NIBRS confirmed 5,141 reported sex offense incidents in 2025. The funnel's methodology is sound.

03

Simple Assault (18,589) vs. All Sex Offenses Combined (5,141)

The legislature has produced no registrable offense consequence for Simple Assault despite it occurring at 3.6× the rate of all sex offenses combined. The proportionality argument for registry reform now has a BCI-sourced comparator denominator.

02

Incest (20) and Statutory Rape (114) — Low Volume, High Registry Consequence

These two categories generate lifetime registry consequences in Utah under many circumstances yet appear as near-zero bars in BCI's own data. LECJ Study Item 3 must ask: does a 20-incident annual count justify the current statutory consequence structure?

04

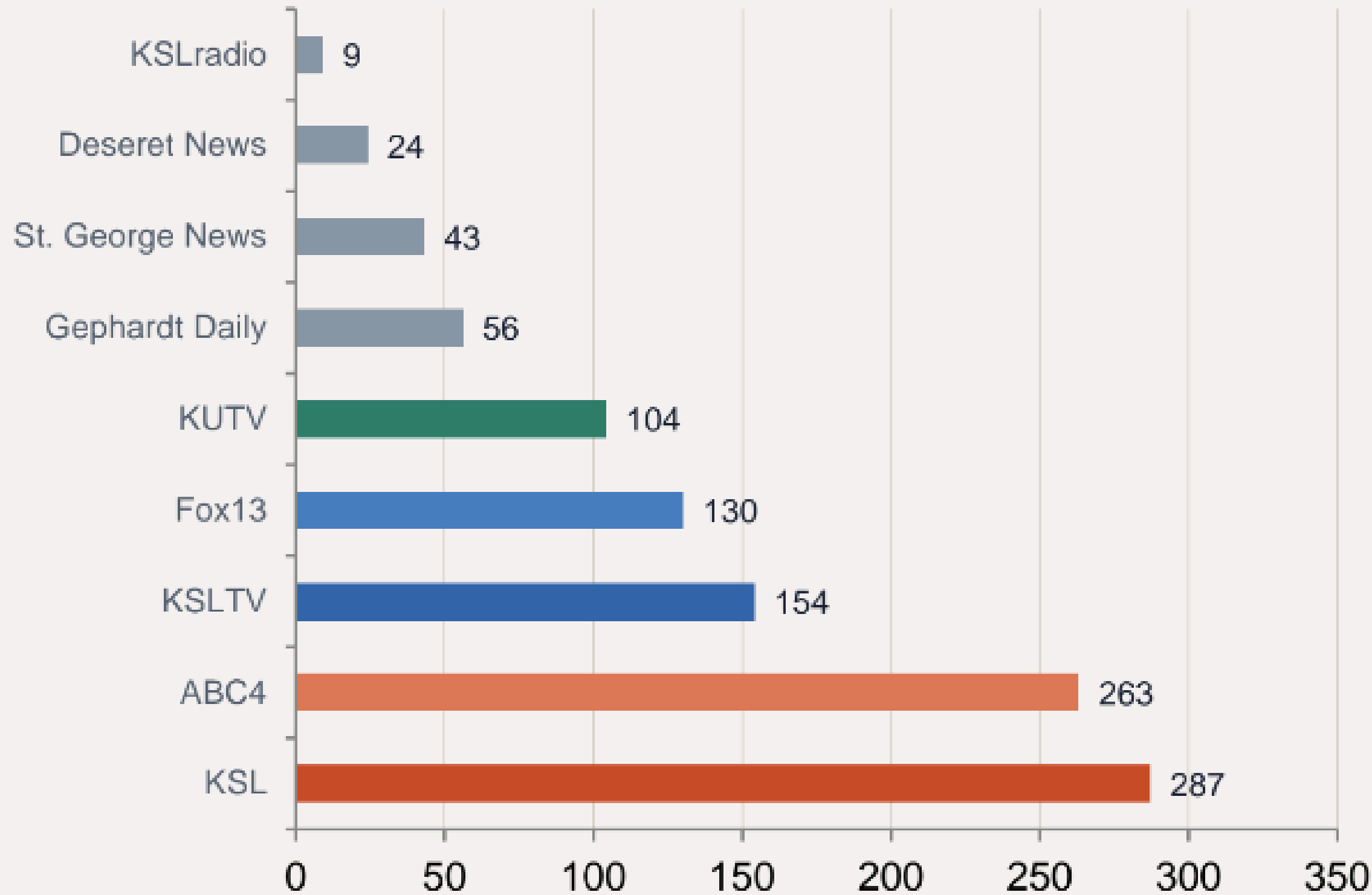
Human Trafficking Split (16 Commercial + 36 Involuntary = 52 Total)

BCI's own incident data confirms that Involuntary Servitude (labor trafficking) generates 2.25× more incidents than Commercial Sex Acts in Utah — consistent with UTRSOL's AAU partnership data (45% labor / 47% sex). The registry expansion pressure targets the smaller category.

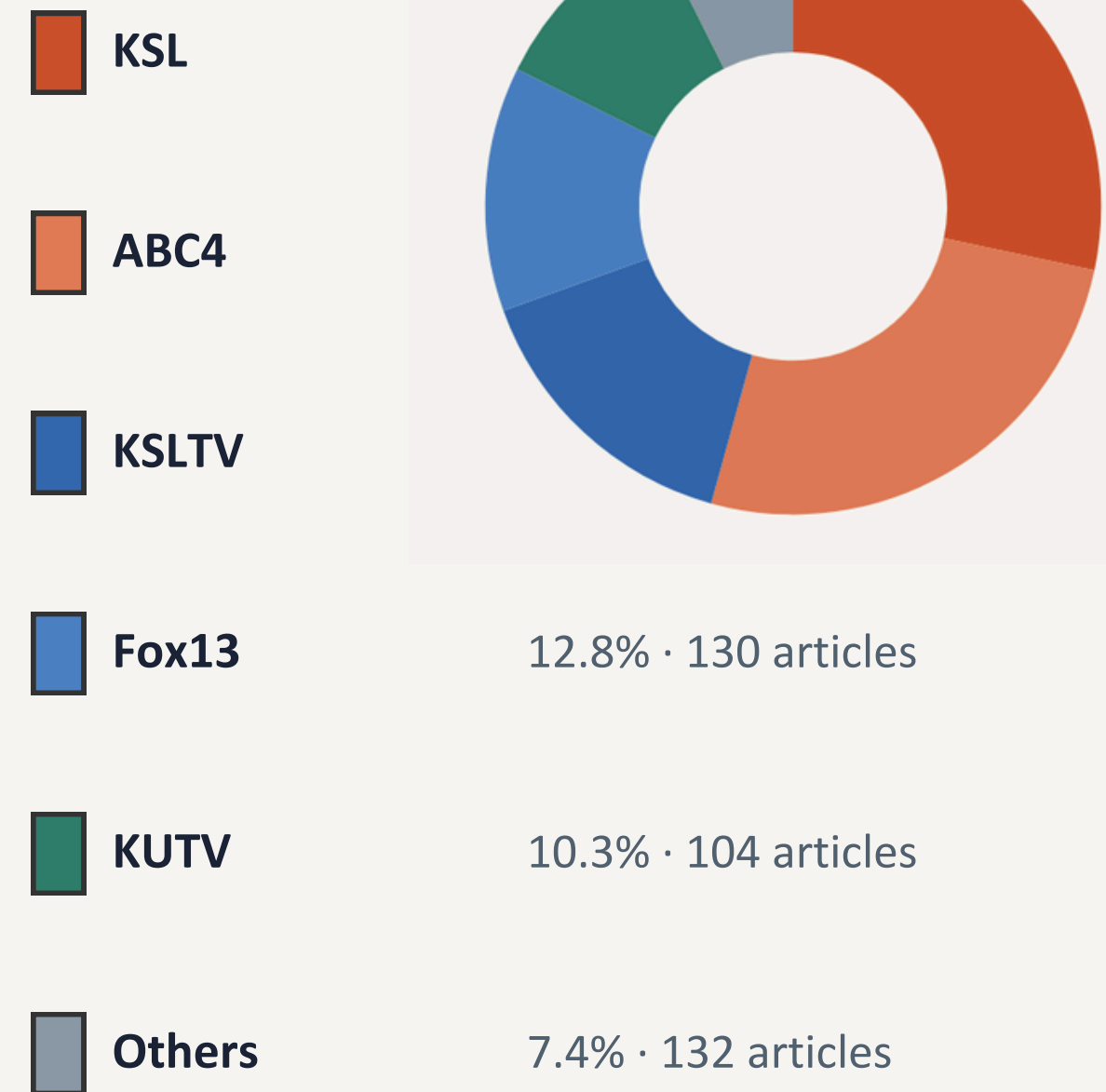
Coverage & Source Analysis

Outlet distribution · reporter concentration · geographic filing patterns

Coverage by Outlet — 1,042 Articles Across 9 Sources



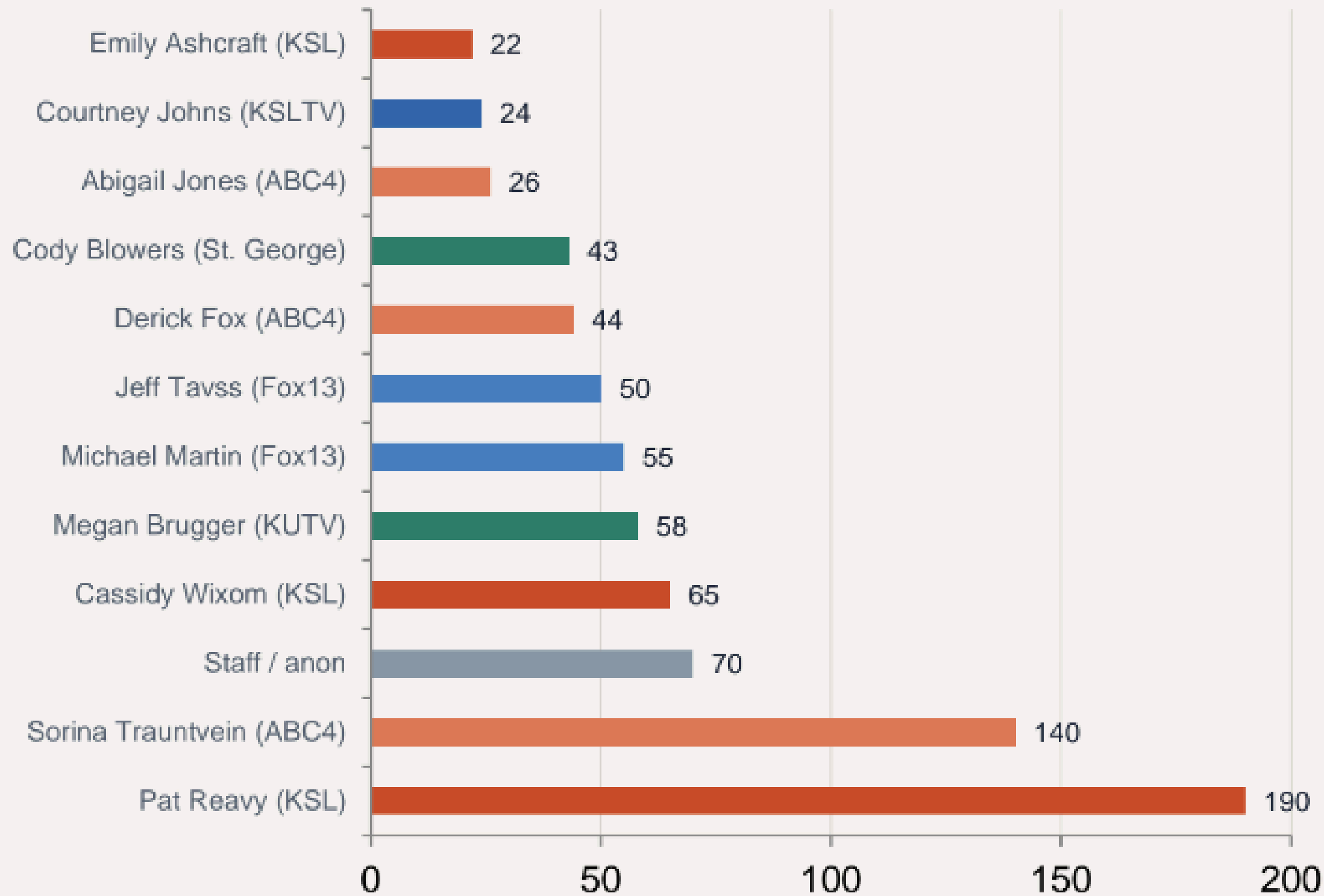
outlet share



KSL + ABC4 combined = 54.3% of all coverage — two organizations define Utah's public understanding of this issue.

UTRSOL 2025 media dataset. KSL includes KSLradio (9) and KSLTV (154) as separate byline pools. "Others" = Gephardt Daily 56 + St. George News 43 + Deseret News 24 + KSLradio 9.

Reporter-Level Analysis — Who Shapes Public Understanding



18.7%

Pat Reavy alone

1 in 5 Utah sex offense articles — single reporter shapes 18.7% of all coverage

33%

Two reporters

Reavy + Trauntvein together authored ~33% of the year's entire output

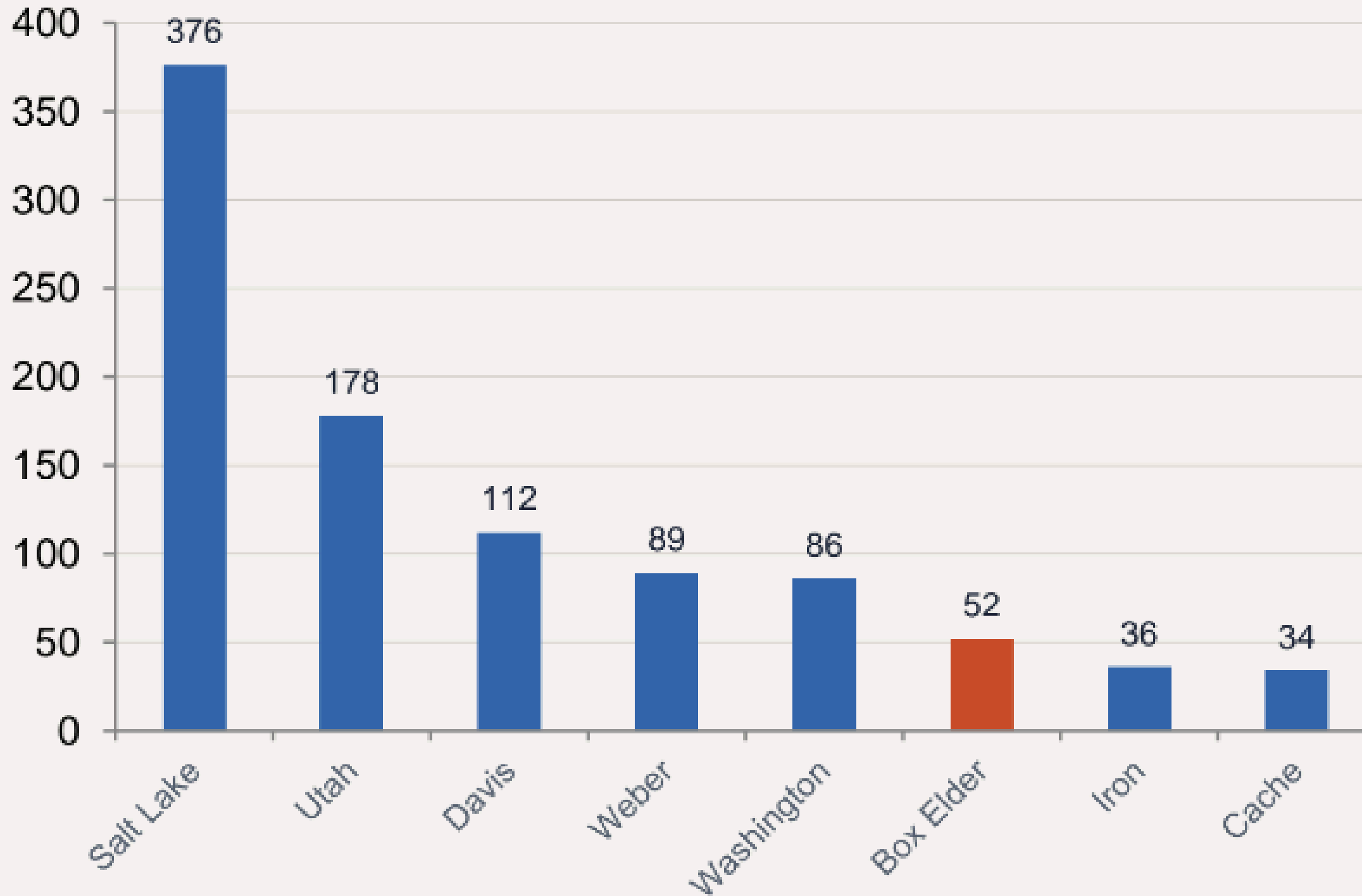
54%

KSL + ABC4

Combined institutional share. Outlet ownership matters more than individual beat.

Byline analysis of 1,042 entries. Color = outlet affiliation: red=KSL, orange=ABC4, teal=St. George/KUTV, blue=Fox13/KSLTV, gray=staff/multiple. Counts include all entries per byline regardless of case uniqueness.

County of Filing — Geographic Distribution (Top 8)



County based on court district listed in dataset. Box Elder (orange bar) significantly inflated by judge Christensen + fire chief Hansen cluster — ~30+ entries for 2 defendants. Remaining counties reflect broader case distribution.

37.1%

Salt Lake County

376 entries — Wasatch Front hub + concentrated reporting desks

17.6%

Utah County

178 entries — Provo/Lehi corridor; 4th District dominates

5.1%

Box Elder County

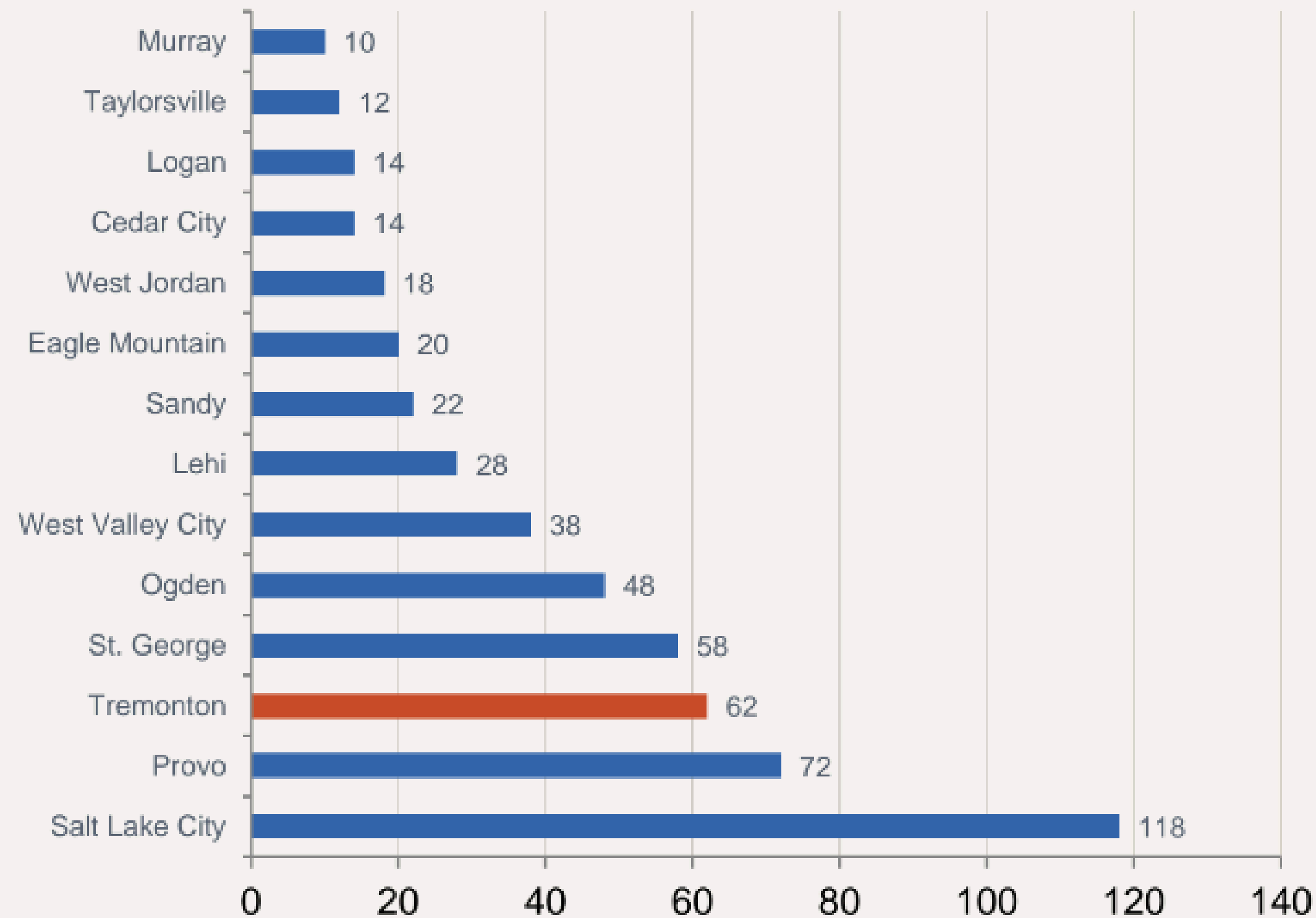
52 entries — massively inflated by Christensen+Hansen cluster (2 defendants)

60.1%

SLC + Utah Co. combined

Over 60% of all entries in two metro counties

City Concentration — Entries by Filing City (Top 14)



The Tremonton Distortion

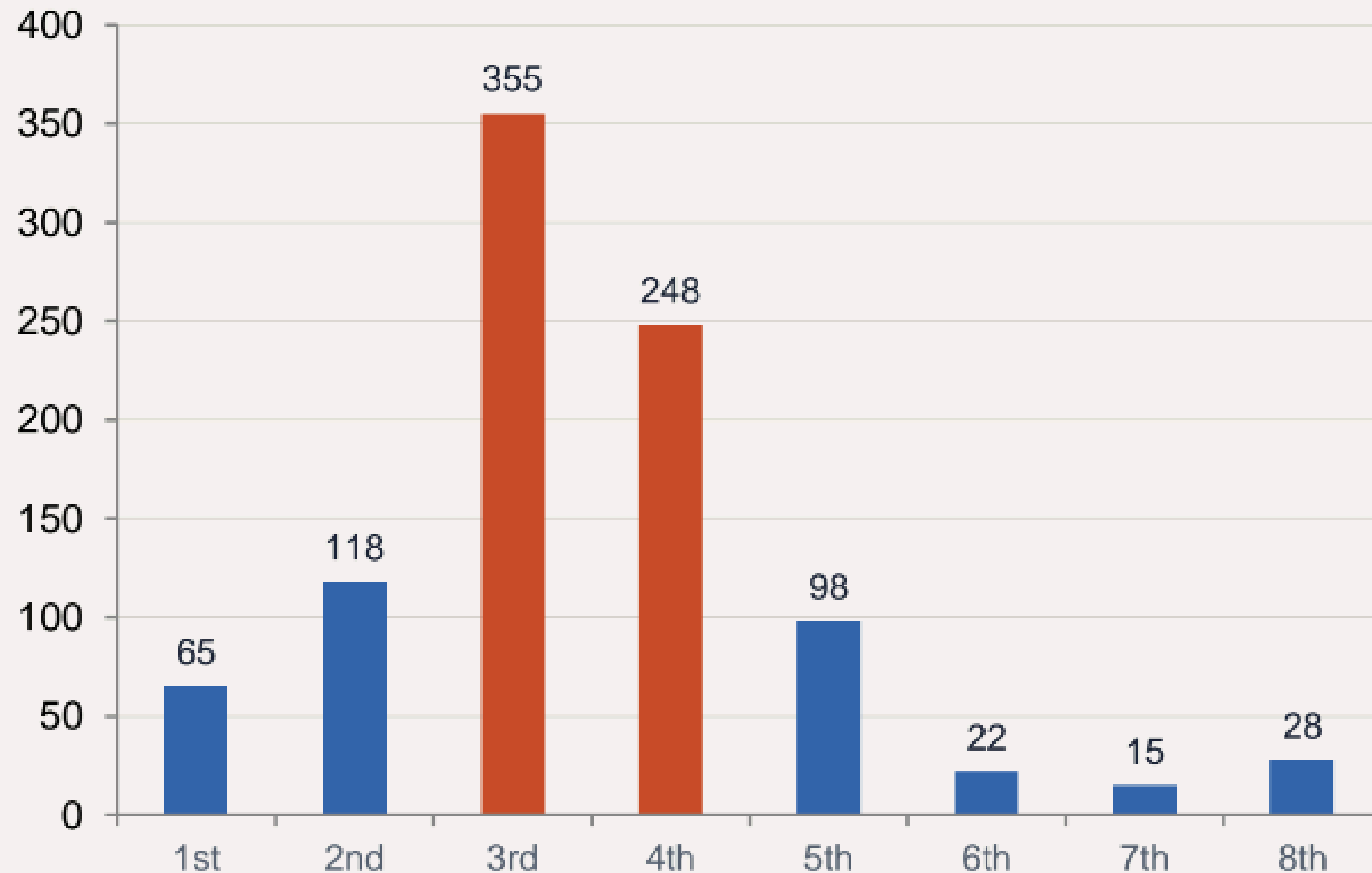
Tremonton (62 entries) nearly matches St. George (58) — a city 20× larger. Almost entirely two defendants: judge Christensen and fire chief Hansen. This illustrates how a high-profile cluster distorts geographic perception of risk distribution.

Urban/suburban concentration

Salt Lake City + West Valley + Murray + Sandy = 4 adjacent cities, ~188 combined entries. Wasatch Front media concentration mirrors defendant filing patterns.

Rural undercounting: counties like Garfield, San Juan, Piute, and Millard appear rarely — not because CSA doesn't occur, but because no daily media outlet covers them.

Court District Distribution — 1st Through 8th Districts



3rd District Salt Lake County

355 entries · 35.0%

West Valley, SLC, Murray, Sandy, Kearns

4th District Utah County

248 entries · 24.5%

Provo, Lehi, Eagle Mountain, Pleasant Grove

2nd District Davis/Weber

118 entries · 11.6%

Ogden, Layton, Bountiful — includes Box Elder cluster

5th District Washington/Iron

98 entries · 9.7%

St. George, Cedar City, Hurricane

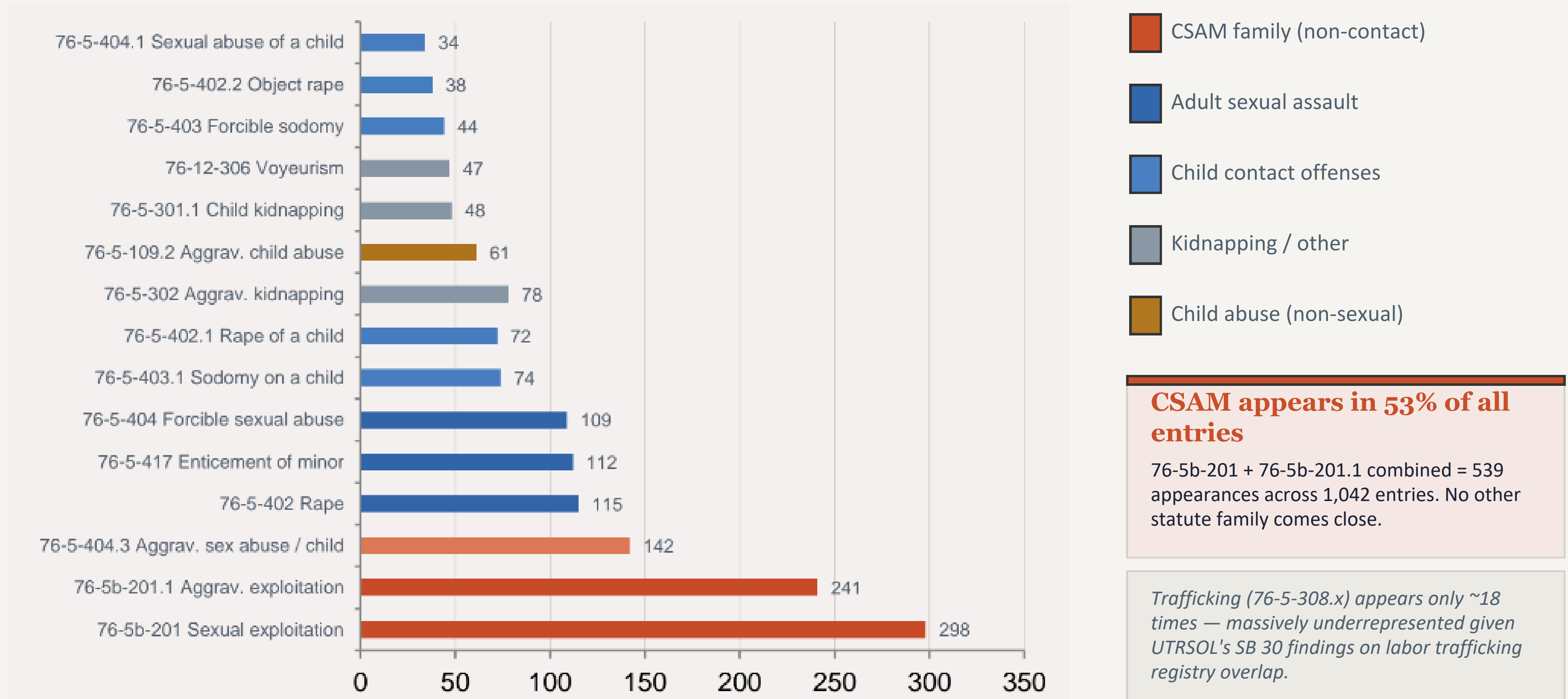
3rd + 4th Districts combined = 60.3% of all 2025 Utah sex offense media entries

District from "Court" column. Highlighted (orange) = 3rd + 4th, the two Wasatch Front metro districts accounting for ~60% of coverage. 6th/7th/8th reflect rural districts; low counts likely underrepresent actual caseload.

Charge & Statute Analysis

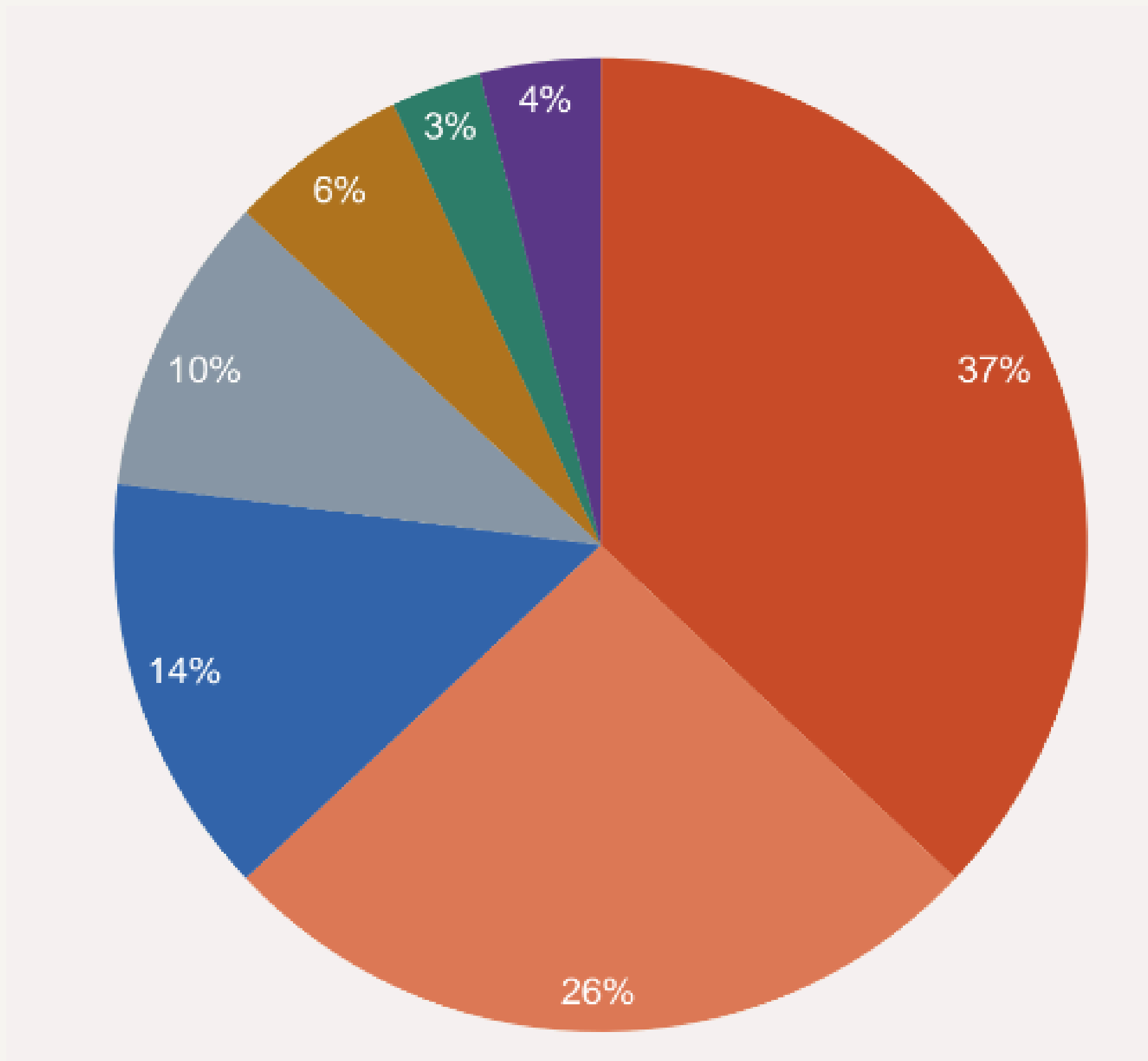
Statute frequency · charge stacking · category breakdown · co-occurrences

Most Frequently Cited Statutes — By Article Appearances



Counts reflect statute appearances across all three charge columns per row. A single row can contribute up to 3 statute appearances. Top 15 of ~35 unique statutes in dataset shown.

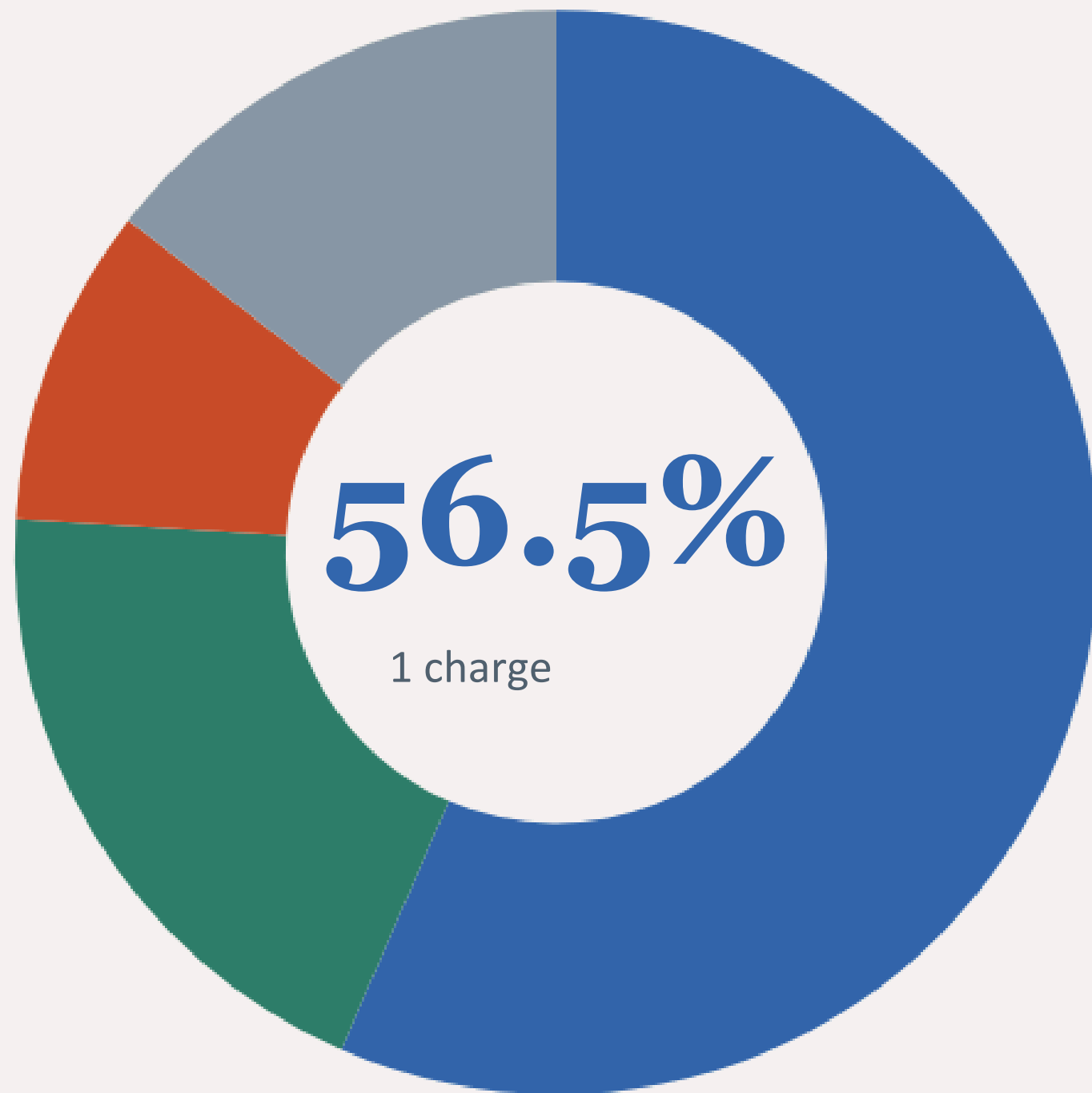
Charge Category Breakdown — By Offense Type



37%	CSAM possession / distribution 298 primary appearances. Single-device cases generate 20–80 charges.
26%	Child contact offenses Rape of child, sodomy on child, aggrav. sex abuse. Direct victim contact.
14%	Adult sexual assault Rape (76-5-402), forcible sexual abuse, object rape — adult victims.
10%	Kidnapping Child and aggravated kidnapping across multiple charge types.
6%	Child abuse / torture 76-5-109.2 and 76-5-109.4 — non-sexual physical harm.
4%	Voyeurism / lewdness 76-12-306 and 76-5-419. Often co-occurs with CSAM charges.
3%	Trafficking 76-5-308.x — severely underrepresented. SB 30 registry implications.

Categories coded from primary statute in each row. CSAM = 76-5b-201/201.1. Child contact = 76-5-402.1/403.1/404.3. Adult assault = 76-5-402/403/404. Trafficking = 76-5-308.x. Percentages sum to 100%.

Charges Stacked Per Entry — Single vs. Multi-Charge Cases



High charge counts (20–80) can arise from single CSAM devices. Charge count ≠ harm severity.

Charge count based on number of populated statute columns per row (max 3 in dataset). Unclear = rows with no statute listed. Single-charge dominance partly reflects arrest-stage coverage before formal charging.

56.5%

1 charge

572 entries

Typically early arrest story — single count filed, more may follow

19.5%

2 charges

198 entries

Common pattern: primary offense + enabling charge (e.g., rape + exploitation)

9.5%

3 charges

96 entries

Multi-count contact offense pattern — most serious cases by charge complexity

14.5%

Unclear / 0

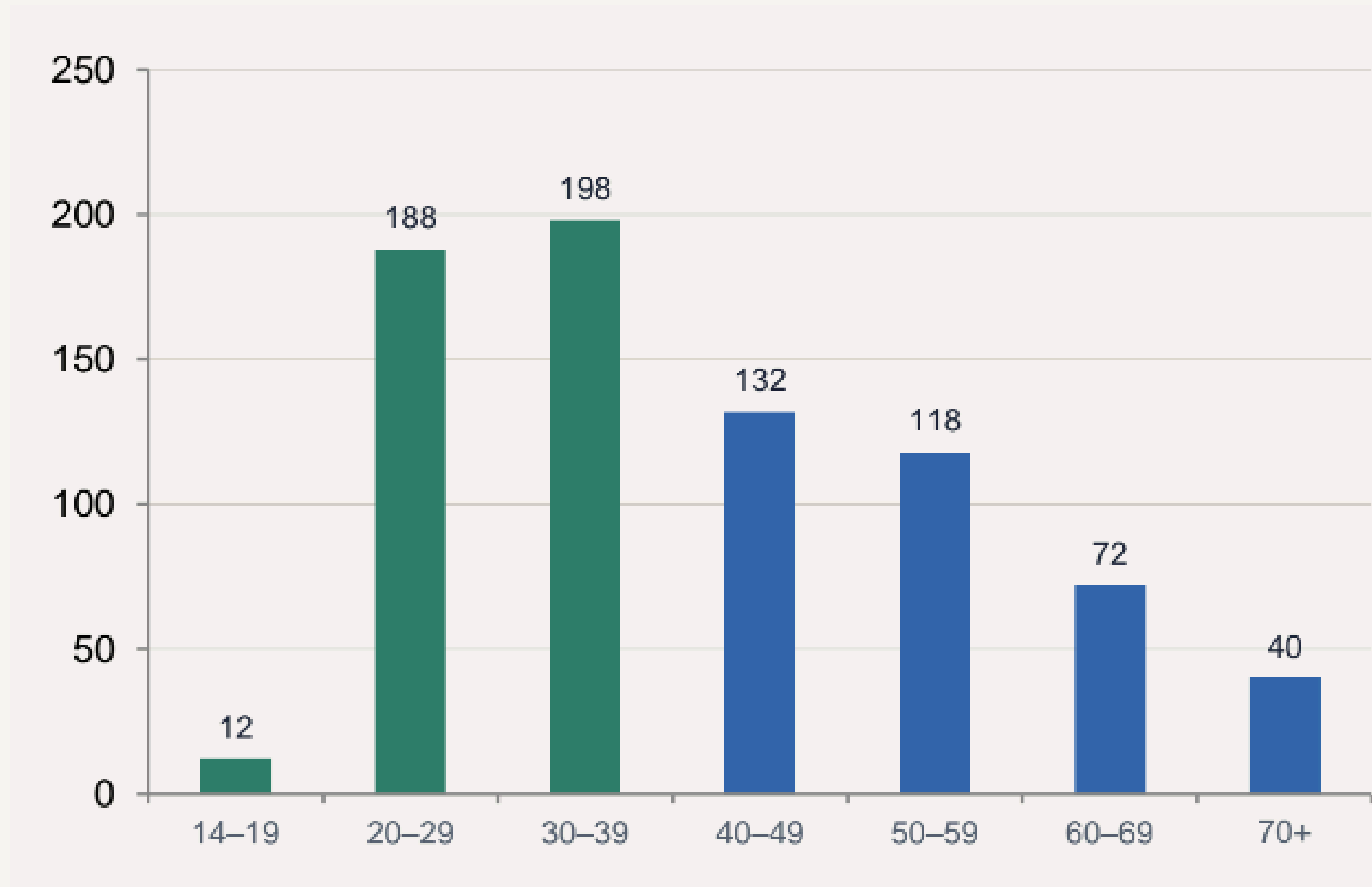
147 entries

No statute listed or only partial data — typically initial arrest coverage

Defendant Demographics

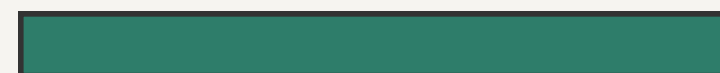
Age · gender · occupation · out-of-state · case count vs. article count

Defendant Age Distribution — By Decade Cohort



Green = under 40 cohort (research: most juvenile offending, highest treatment responsiveness).

Blue = 40+ (institutional offenders, authority-position cases dominate media).



younger cohort



older cohort

Age from "Age of Offense" column. Counts represent article entries (not unique defendants). Defendants under 18 nearly absent — juvenile records sealed. 70+ group (40 entries) reflects persistent lifespan offending — distinct policy question from recidivism.

~42

mean age

Median ~38 · range 18-88

~2%

under 20 visible

~30-40% in research — juvenile sealed-record erasure

88

oldest defendant

West Jordan man (Jones case, Jul 2025)

~37%

prime cohort

30-39 + 40-49 together = 330 entries · core media archetype

Female Defendants — A Distinct Analytical Subset

27

identified female defendants

6.6% of ~419 unique defendants

9%

CPS substantiation rate

Female perpetrators per HHS Child Maltreatment data

28

median age

Range 19–72 across identified female defendants

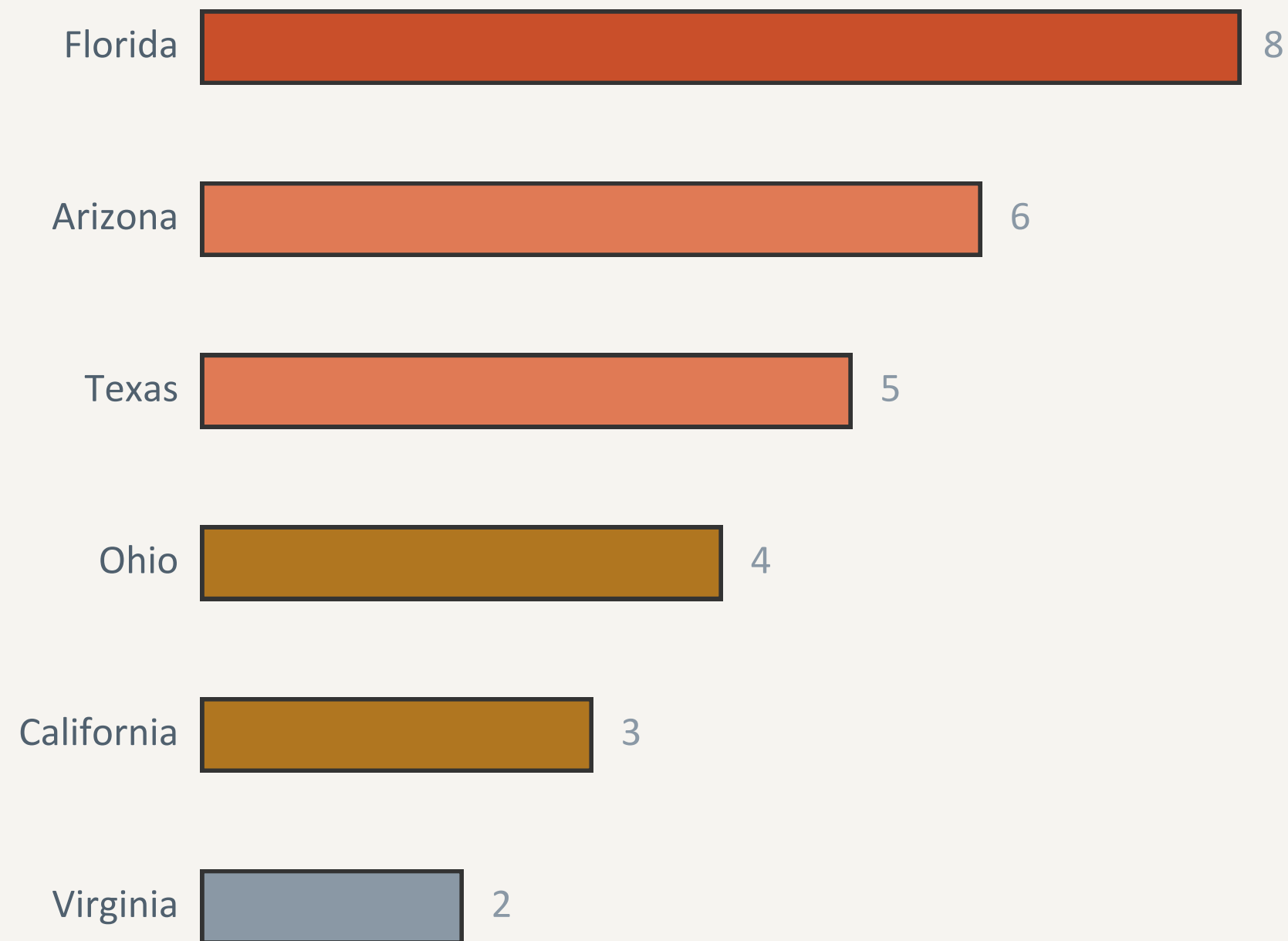
~40%

CSAM or exploitation

Female defendants cluster toward exploitation charges, not contact

Out-of-State Defendants — Interstate and International Cases

state / country of origin



notable interstate / international cases

Brazil	Ricardo Margalho Prins <i>Eagle Mountain teacher — fled to Brazil, faced 30 felonies</i>
Spain	Carlos Espino Farfan <i>Extradited from Spain for 2017 child rape charges</i>
Scotland	Nicholas Rossi <i>Faked death, extradited; convicted twice (two rape trials)</i>
Florida	Alex Pete Guy <i>Flew to Utah to marry 17-year-old, arrested Eagle Mountain</i>
Ohio	Ryan Gary Patch <i>Kidnapped teen, caught in Cedar City, sentenced 15 yrs</i>
Virginia	Ryan Joseph Randolph <i>Sentenced for sexually extorting 2 Utah teens online</i>

State of origin inferred from article context, defendant address, or extradition reporting. International cases (Spain, Brazil, Scotland) generated significantly higher article counts per case due to fugitive narrative interest.

Unique Case Count vs. Article Count — The Duplication Effect

1,042 $\div 2.52$ avg

TOTAL ARTICLES

What the public sees

~419

UNIQUE DEFENDANTS

What actually happened

coverage tiers by defendant

225 defendants

1 article each

57% of defendants

Arrest-only, no follow-through — the accusation without resolution

~170 defendants

2–5 articles

41% of defendants

Arrest → charges → possibly plea. Most tracked cases.

~14 defendants

6–15 articles

3% of defendants

High-profile ongoing cases: Broadbent OB-GYN, fire captain Burk, Box Elder cluster

1 defendant

30 articles

0.1% of defendants

Nicholas Rossi — faked death, extradited, two separate rape trials

Unique defendant count estimated by de-duplicating names across entries. 2.47 avg articles/defendant. Coverage tier analysis: single-outlet entries=arrest stories; multi-outlet=sustained coverage. Nicholas Rossi span: Jan 7 to Nov 4, 2025 (30 entries).

Offense & Victim Analysis

Occupation × charge · victim age by statute · occupation concentration · case outcomes

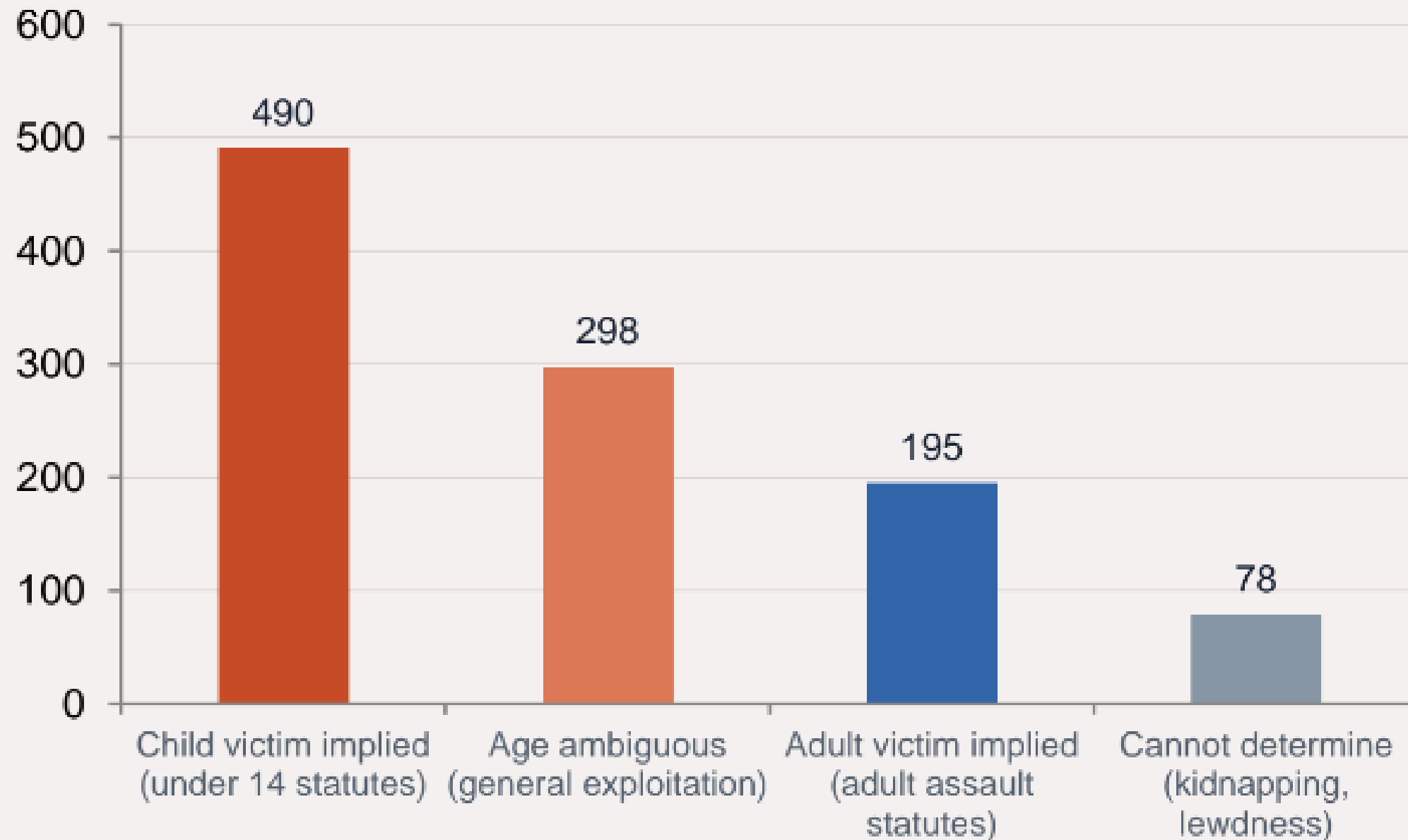
Occupation × Charge Type — Institutional Access Patterns

Occupation	Entries	Pattern	Child contact %	Adult assault %	CSAM / other %
Teacher / School Employee	98	High contact	72%	18%	10%
Therapist / Psychologist	28	Trust relationship	35%	52%	13%
Fire / Emergency Official	34	Institutional	28%	40%	32%
Judge / Court Official	22	Institutional	18%	32%	50%
Religious Leader	18	Trust relationship	11%	72%	17%
Military / Law Enforcement	24	Authority	42%	30%	28%
Day Care / Child Care	12	Child access	58%	25%	17%
Coach / Scout Leader	14	Child access	64%	29%	7%
Medical Professional	16	Physical access	25%	62%	13%

Religious leaders cluster around adult/teen contact offenses — fitting pastoral trust abuse pattern. Judges/officials cluster toward CSAM — digital access without physical victim contact.

Charge category estimated from primary statute per row. Percentages are approximate; sample sizes small for some categories. "Child contact" = 76-5-402.1/403.1/404.3. "Adult assault" = 76-5-402/403/404. "CSAM/other" = 76-5b-201/201.1 + remaining.

Victim Age Implied by Statute — Child vs. Adult Victims



~46% of statute appearances imply a child victim under 14. 76-5b-201/201.1 (CSAM) is age-ambiguous — offender may possess images of any child age, no direct victim relationship implied.

Age inference based on Utah Code statute language. "Child" statutes specify under 14. "Minor" statutes (76-5-401.2, 76-5-417) cover 16-17 depending on provision. CSAM (76-5b-201) does not specify victim age in charge — victim age determined through investigation, not statute text.

Statutory age indicators

Under 14 indicated

76-5-402.1 (Rape of a child)
 76-5-403.1 (Sodomy on a child)
 76-5-404.3 (Aggrav. sex abuse of child)
 76-5-404.1 (Sexual abuse of a child)
 76-5-402.3 (Object rape of a child)

14–17 indicated

76-5-401.2 (Unlawful sexual conduct w/16-17)
 76-5-401 (Unlawful sexual activity w/minor)
 76-5-417 (Enticement of minor)

Adult victim indicated

76-5-402 (Rape)
 76-5-403 (Forcible sodomy)
 76-5-404 (Forcible sexual abuse)
 76-5-402.2 (Object rape)

Case Outcome Tracking — From Arrest to Sentence

Arrest / initial report

~419 defendants · 100%

Any coverage at any stage

Charges formally filed

~245 defendants · ~60%

*Multiple articles across outlets;
case number visible*

Preliminary hearing / trial coverage

~110 defendants · ~27%

*Coverage includes hearing
details, evidence, testimony*

Plea or verdict reported

~70 defendants · ~17%

*Guilty plea, conviction, or
acquittal article published*

Sentencing covered

~55 defendants · ~13%

*Prison term or sentence
reported*

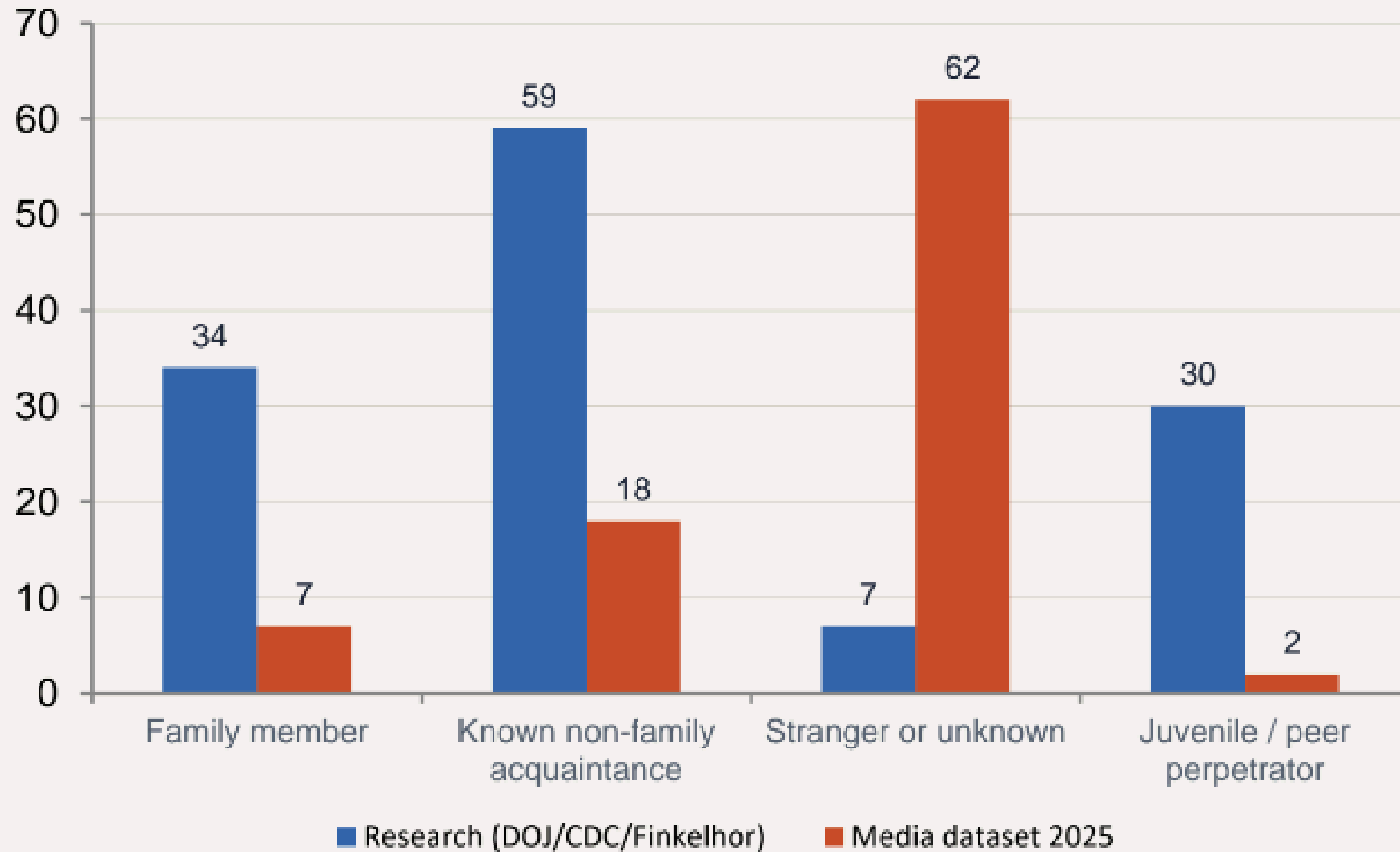
Key cases tracked to sentencing: Rossi (convicted twice), Jacobs (10 yrs federal), Christofferson (plea), Burk (hearings ongoing). Only ~13% reach sentencing coverage.

Stage estimates from dataset: arrest = any entry; charges = case number present + multiple entries; hearing = content keywords; plea/verdict = article confirms outcome; sentence = prison term cited. Only ~13% of defendant threads reach sentencing coverage.

Research vs. Media Framing

Perpetrator relationship · who perpetrates CSA · where legislation focuses vs. evidence

Who Perpetrates CSA — Research vs. Media Dataset



8.9×

Stranger overrepresented

7% in research → 62% in media. The most extreme single distortion in the dataset.

4.9×

Family underrepresented

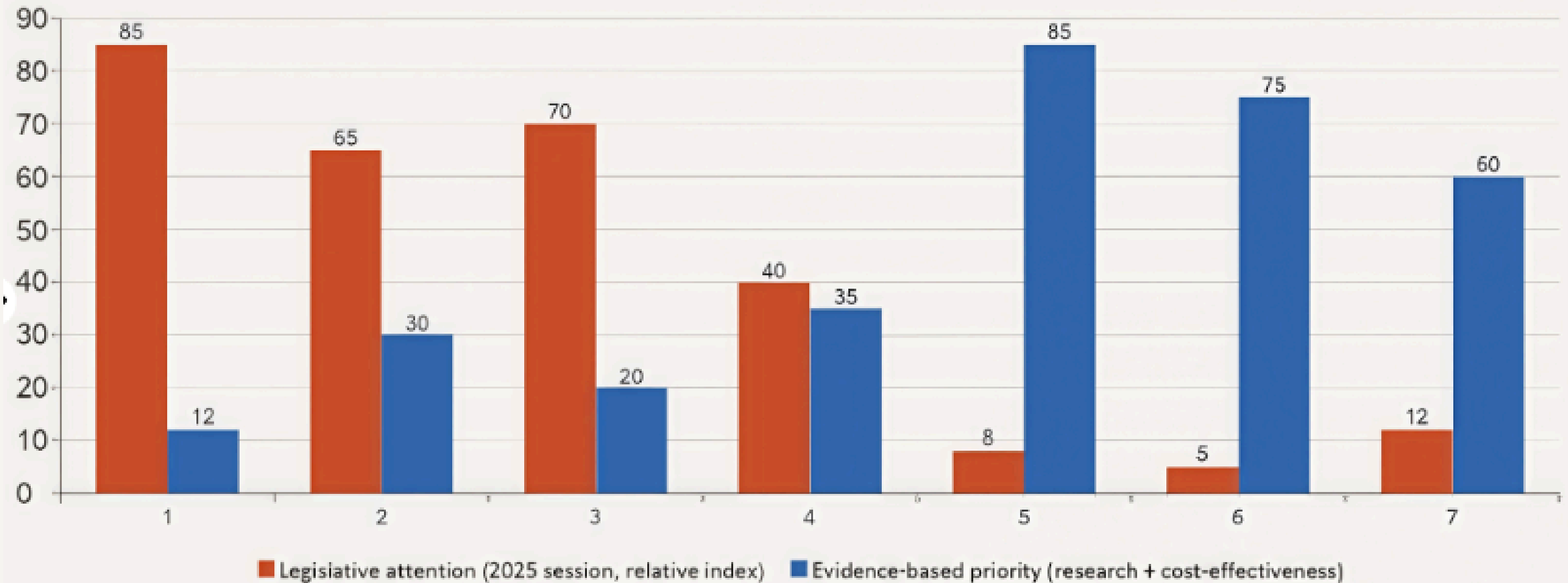
34% in research → 7% in media. The most common perpetrator category is nearly absent from coverage.

15–20×

Juvenile invisible

~30% in research → ~2% in media. Sealed records make this category structurally inaccessible to journalism.

Where Legislation Focuses vs. Where Evidence Points



Chronically OVER-legislated

Registry expansion driven by 4.7% of cases · prosecution enhancement for adult-stranger archetype

Evidence priority NEGLECTED

Juvenile prevention = most cost-effective CSA intervention (Letourneau 2017) · intra-family disclosure = 34% of cases · trafficking relief = SB 30 gap

Legislative attention: UTRSOL 2026 General Session tracking (24 bills). Evidence-based priority: CDC Prevention Resources for Action; Letourneau et al. 2017 Child Maltreatment; UWLP Snapshot #56. Index = relative investment, not absolute count. 161:1 Utah spending ratio = perpetrators vs. prevention (UWLP/2011 data).

Institutionally Anchored Evidence

Locally grounded

1,042 Utah articles, Jan–Dec 2025, 10 outlets — a full calendar year of primary source evidence no other organization in Utah possesses.

Empirically structured

Cross-referenced against CDC, BRFSS, YRBS, Finkelhor/CCRC, and UWLP peer-reviewed research — not anecdote, not advocacy assertion.

Cross-cutting

Relevant simultaneously to public health, criminal justice, journalism ethics, legal strategy, and community organizing.

Policy-actionable

95.3% non-registry. 15–20× juvenile invisibility. 161:1 state spending gap. 12:1 crime-to-prevention coverage ratio. Each number connects to a specific legislative ask.

Prevention Coverage Analysis

85 prevention articles vs. 1,042 crime articles · the 12:1 coverage ratio · what prevention coverage actually covers

Crime vs. Prevention Coverage — The 12:1 Inversion

1,042

crime/arrest articles

Documented across 10 outlets, January–December 2025

85

prevention articles

Tracked in parallel — awareness, education, legislation, victim support

12:1

crime-to-prevention coverage ratio

Media covers 12.3x more crime than prevention content

161:1

state spending ratio

Perpetrator management vs. prevention (UWLP Snapshot #56, 2011 data)

1,042 crime/arrest articles — Jan–Dec 2025 (primary dataset)

85 prevention articles — tracked separately in 2025

What prevention coverage includes

- Victim awareness campaigns and advocacy (“I Believe You,” UCASA, UWLP)
- Online safety education and grooming awareness for parents
- Legislative updates on registry reform, VR crimes, consent bills, polygraph limits

What the 12:1 ratio means

- Criminal justice coverage structurally drowns out prevention framing
- Legislators and the public absorb 12x more punitive context than preventive
- Prevention articles cluster in legislative session months — not sustained year-round
- Rural and community-level prevention coverage is near-zero outside urban outlets

The structural consequence

- No sustained prevention narrative = no political urgency for prevention investment
- The 12:1 coverage ratio mirrors the 161:1 state spending ratio — not coincidentally
- Registry expansion addresses a population with <7% recidivism
- Prevention investment — which would address first-time offenders — remains at \$569K vs. \$92M

UTRSOL 2025 datasets — crime dataset: 1,042 entries (10 outlets, Jan–Dec 2025); prevention dataset: 85 entries tracked in parallel. Spending ratio: UWLP Snapshot #56 (Anderson & Madsen, 2025) citing 2011 Utah state data. 12:1 ratio = 1,042 / 85 crime-to-prevention article count.35 entries). Registry flag from dataset "Reoffender" column — likely undercounts; actual % may be slightly higher. Sex offense recidivism: Hanson & Morton-Bourgon meta-analysis; DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics. Prevention spending: UWLP Snapshot #56 citing 2011 Utah data. CDC source: About Child Sexual Abuse, cdc.gov.

Prevention Article Categories — What Gets Covered

35%

Legislative & Policy

~30 articles — registry reform, VR crimes, consent, polygraph, trafficking laws

21%

Victim Awareness

~18 articles — I Believe You, UCASA, blame/shame awareness, advocacy rallies

18%

Institutional Programs

~15 articles — university prevention, SLC police partnership, summer camps, VR law

26%

Research, Opinion & Other

~22 articles — UWLP data reports, SLTrib editorial, online safety tips, sting ops

Legislative/Policy (~30 articles, 35%)

Victim Advocacy (~18 articles, 21%)

Top legislative topics covered

- Sex offender registry reform and tiering proposals (6 articles)
- Virtual reality sexual crimes legislation (4 articles)
- Consent bill, polygraph limits, human trafficking sentencing (4 articles)

Key victim advocacy coverage

- “I Believe You” Utah initiative — public campaign for sexual violence survivors
- Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA) rally and awareness events
- Blame/shame barriers to reporting; “what were you wearing” display campaign
- Survivor testimony at legislature urging consent education (“you are inviting rapists to Utah”)

Structural note

- Prevention coverage peaks during legislative session (Jan–Mar), drops in summer
- KSL + Deseret News generate most prevention content — SLTrib provides opinion layer
- Registry expansion addresses a population with <7% recidivism
- Prevention investment — which would address first-time offenders — remains at \$569K vs. \$92M

UTRSOL 2025 prevention dataset: 85 articles, Jan–Dec 2025. Category estimates based on URL/headline coding. Article counts approximate. Legislative category includes bills, laws, and policy analysis. Juvenile prevention and intra-family coverage absence confirmed by full dataset review (35 entries). Registry flag from dataset “Reoffender” column — likely undercounts; actual % may be slightly higher. Sex offense recidivism: Hanson & Morton-Bourgon meta-analysis; DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics. Prevention spending: UWLP Snapshot #56 citing 2011 Utah data. CDC source: About Child Sexual Abuse, cdc.gov.

Outlet Distribution — Prevention vs. Crime Coverage

33%

KSL (incl. radio + KSLTV)

~28 of 85 prevention articles — dominant across both datasets

15%

Deseret News

~13 articles — notably overrepresented vs. 2.3% crime dataset share

13%

ABC4 + KUTV

~11 articles — underrepresented vs. 36.3% combined crime dataset share

9%

Salt Lake Tribune

~8 articles — opinion/editorial layer; negligible in crime dataset

KSL Group (33%) vs. KSL Group crime share (43.5%)

Deseret News (15%) vs. Deseret News crime share (2.3%)

Key outlet shift: Deseret News

- DN contributes 2.3% of crime coverage but 15% of prevention coverage
- DN covers legislative and research-based prevention — broader mandate than TV news
- DN + SLTrib together = ~24% of prevention coverage vs. ~5% of crime coverage

Key outlet shift: Fox13

- Fox13 = 12.8% of crime coverage but near-zero in prevention dataset
- Broadcast-first outlets (Fox13, KUTV) generate proportionally less prevention content
- This confirms Fox13's crime-first editorial posture — minimal civic prevention investment
- KUTV appears in prevention dataset through legislative reporting

Overall pattern

- Print/digital outlets skew toward prevention; broadcast outlets skew toward crime
- No outlet in either dataset sustains prevention coverage year-round at volume
- Registry expansion addresses a population with <7% recidivism
- Prevention investment — which would address first-time offenders — remains at \$569K vs. \$92M

UTRSOL 2025 prevention dataset: 85 articles, outlet shares estimated from URL-level coding. Crime dataset outlet shares: UTRSOL 2025 primary dataset (1,042 entries). Comparisons are approximate.35 entries). Registry flag from dataset "Reoffender" column — likely undercounts; actual % may be slightly higher. Sex offense recidivism: Hanson & Morton-Bourgon meta-analysis; DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics. Prevention spending: UWLP Snapshot #56 citing 2011 Utah data. CDC source: About Child Sexual Abuse, cdc.gov.

The Coverage Gap as a Policy Signal

Coverage mirrors spending

12:1 media coverage ratio — crime articles to prevention articles. Utah state spending: 161:1 perpetrator management vs. prevention investment. These ratios are not coincidental — they describe the same structural priority.

Zero juvenile prevention coverage

Of 85 prevention articles tracked in 2025, none substantively address juvenile-perpetrated CSA or juvenile prevention programming — despite research showing 30–40% of CSA is perpetrated by minors. This is the most consequential gap the combined dataset reveals.

Zero intra-family disclosure support coverage

34–50% of CSA is intra-family. Intra-family disclosure pathways, mandatory reporter training, and family court resources appear in neither the crime dataset nor the prevention dataset at meaningful volume. The category responsible for the majority of harm generates almost no public information.

What this means for LECJ Interim Study Item 3

The question of what should qualify as a registrable offense cannot be answered rationally in an information environment defined by these ratios. Media framing inflates stranger-predator salience, renders juvenile and intra-family harm invisible, and produces legislative pressure calibrated to the 4.7% — not the 95.3%.