



Border Crossings by Terrorists Targeting the United States

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Project Research Team

Principal Investigators

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Brent Smith- Co-lead on data collection (*University of Arkansas*)

Research Personnel

Kathleen Smarick- Project director (*University of Maryland*)

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Erin Miller- GTD Data Manager (*University of Maryland*)

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Research Questions

- 1) Who are the terrorists that are crossing borders?
- 2) How are they crossing borders?
- 3) Where are they coming from prior to an incident?
- 4) What type of incidents do they commit?
- 5) Are they fleeing the country post-incident?



Project Timeline

Phase I: Completed

Creation of variables and codebook development

Testing of collection protocol and coding of sample cases

Preliminary report on project

Phase II: In Progress

Finalization of codebook

Coding of border crossings underway

Analysis forthcoming



Methodology

Project uses incidents in the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and American Terrorism Study (ATS) datasets from which to identify border crossings.

The codebook contains 224 variables and data are coded into an Oracle 11g database.

An initial review of 397 ATS court cases from 1980 through 2004 revealed 145 cases with potential border crossings. A total of 121 court cases had court documents already collected and were included in the project.

Once coding was initiated 13 were deleted from the project as border crossings were not able to be identified leaving 108 cases to be coded in this project. At this time there are 71 court cases which have been coded or are in the process of being coded.

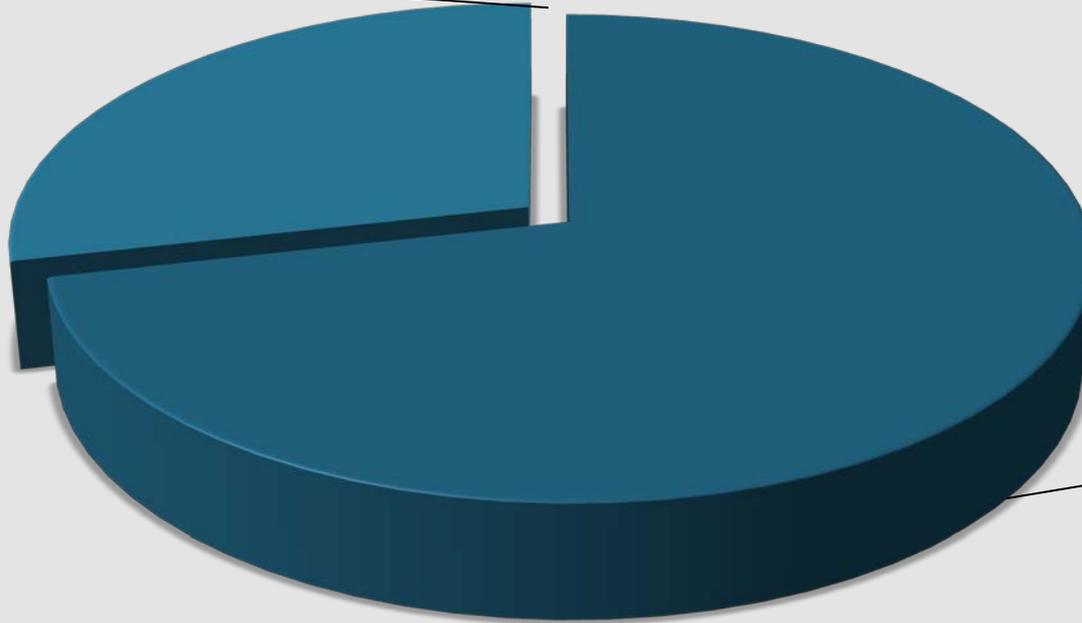
*Some 2005 to 2009 cases will be studied as documents are collected.



Border Crossings and Incidents

At least 28.6% of incidents in the ATS involved a border crossing.

Incidents with
border
crossings
28.6%



Incidents
without border
crossings
71.4%

n=363



Data Coding

Codebook

- Incident-related variables
- Crossing-related variables
- Crosser-related variables

Key Variables

- Port of entry
- Links to terrorist group
- Distance between entry and target
- Time between border crossing and incident
- Type of incident



Coding Progress

Incidents: 104

Court cases: 54 (completely coded)

Avg. court cases per incident: 1.93

Crossings: 162

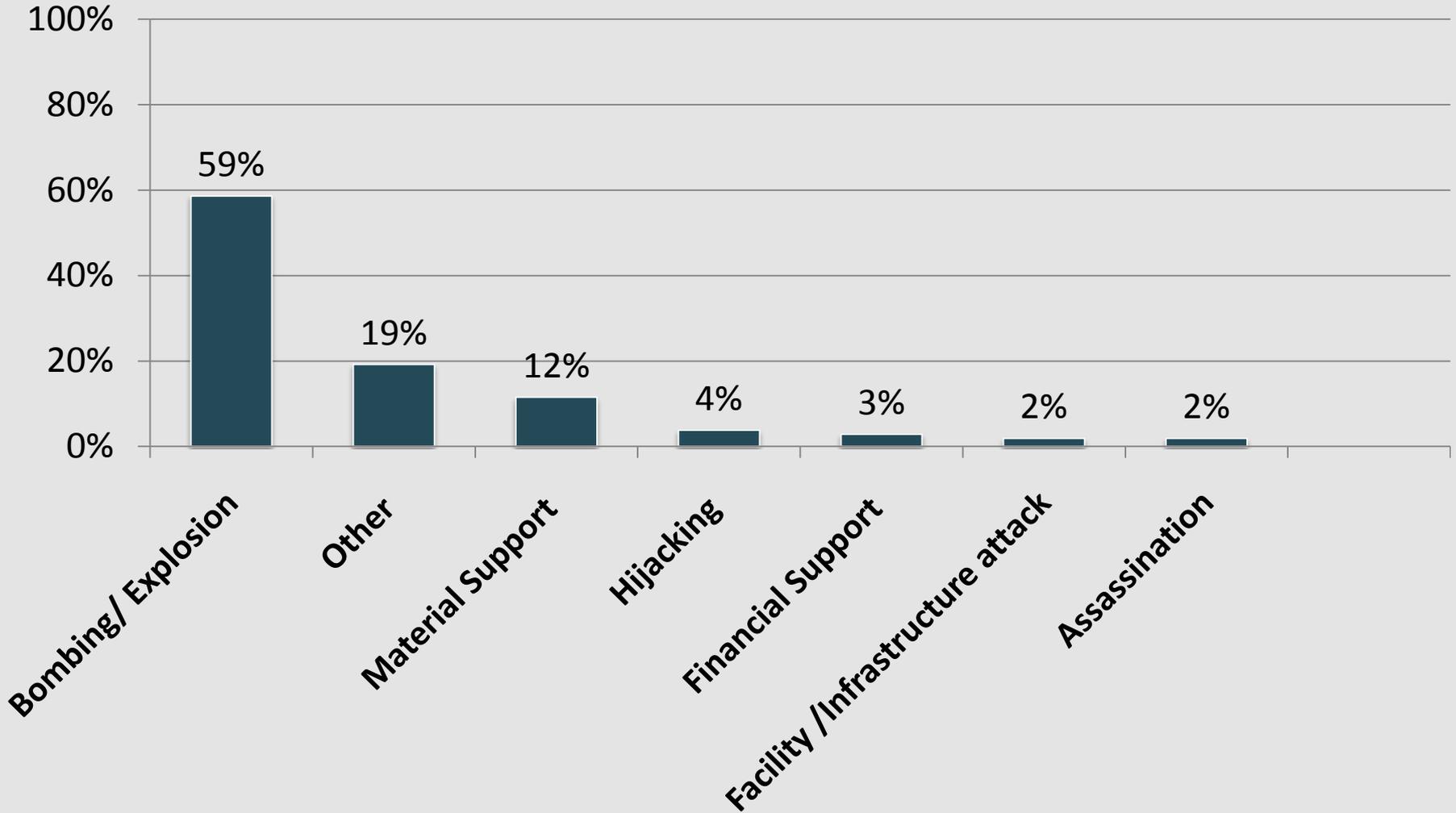
Average number of crossings per incident: 1.56
(min: 1, max: 17)

Crossers: 196 (108 unique persons)

Average number of people per crossing: 1.21
(min- 1, max- 12)



Incident Type

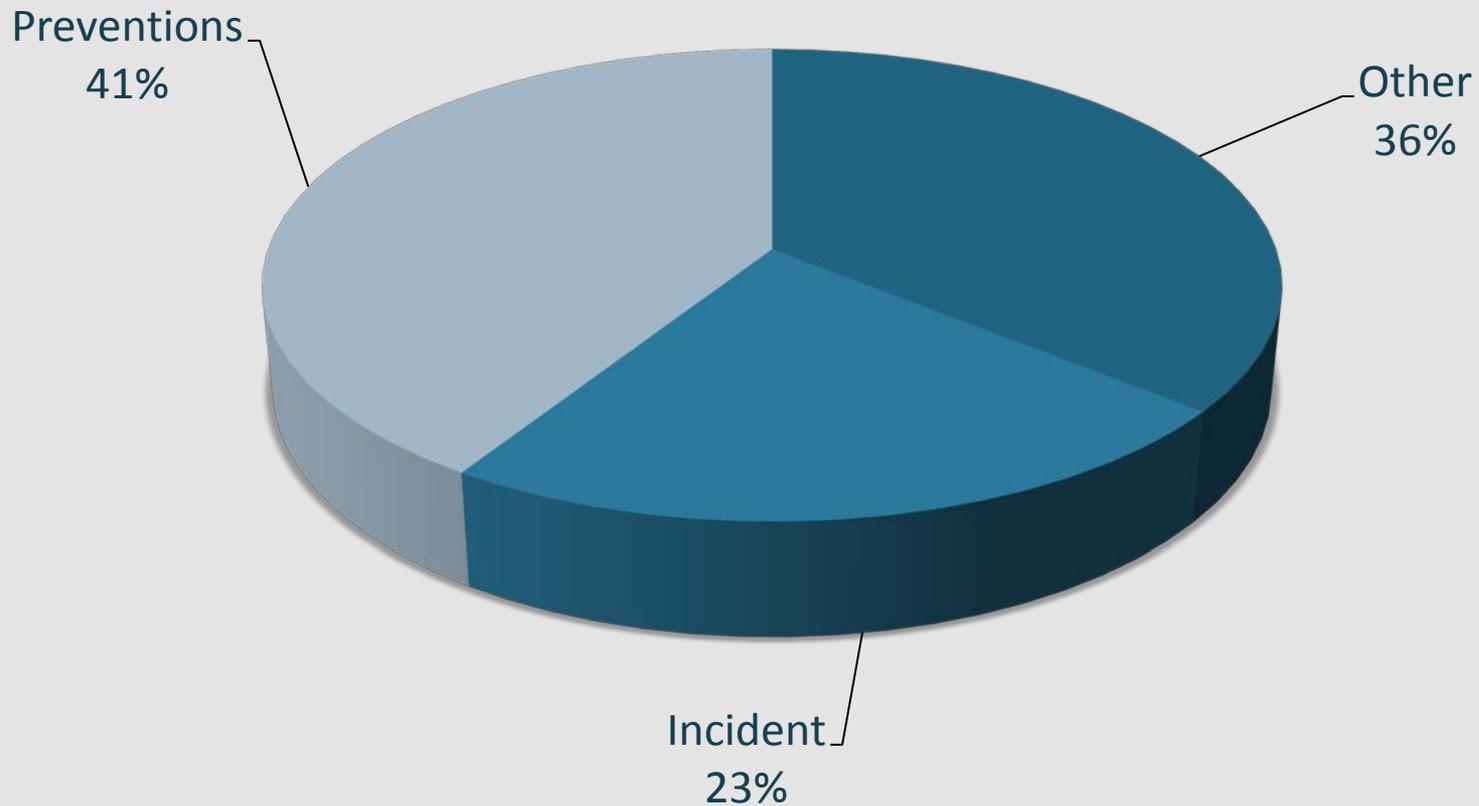


n=104





Preventions and Incidents



n=104



Target Information

Prominent Target Cities

New York City, NY
Chicago, IL
Los Angeles, CA
Eagle Creek, OR
Arlington, VA
Port Elizabeth, NJ

Targets

Pentagon, Illinois Naval Militia Building, United States Military Recruiting Office, Republican Party Office, Standard Oil of Indiana Building, IBM Building, Holiday Inn, Legend of the Seas Cruise Ship, Padron Cigar Company, United Nations, World Trade Center, FBI Headquarters, J.C. Penney, Lincoln Tunnel



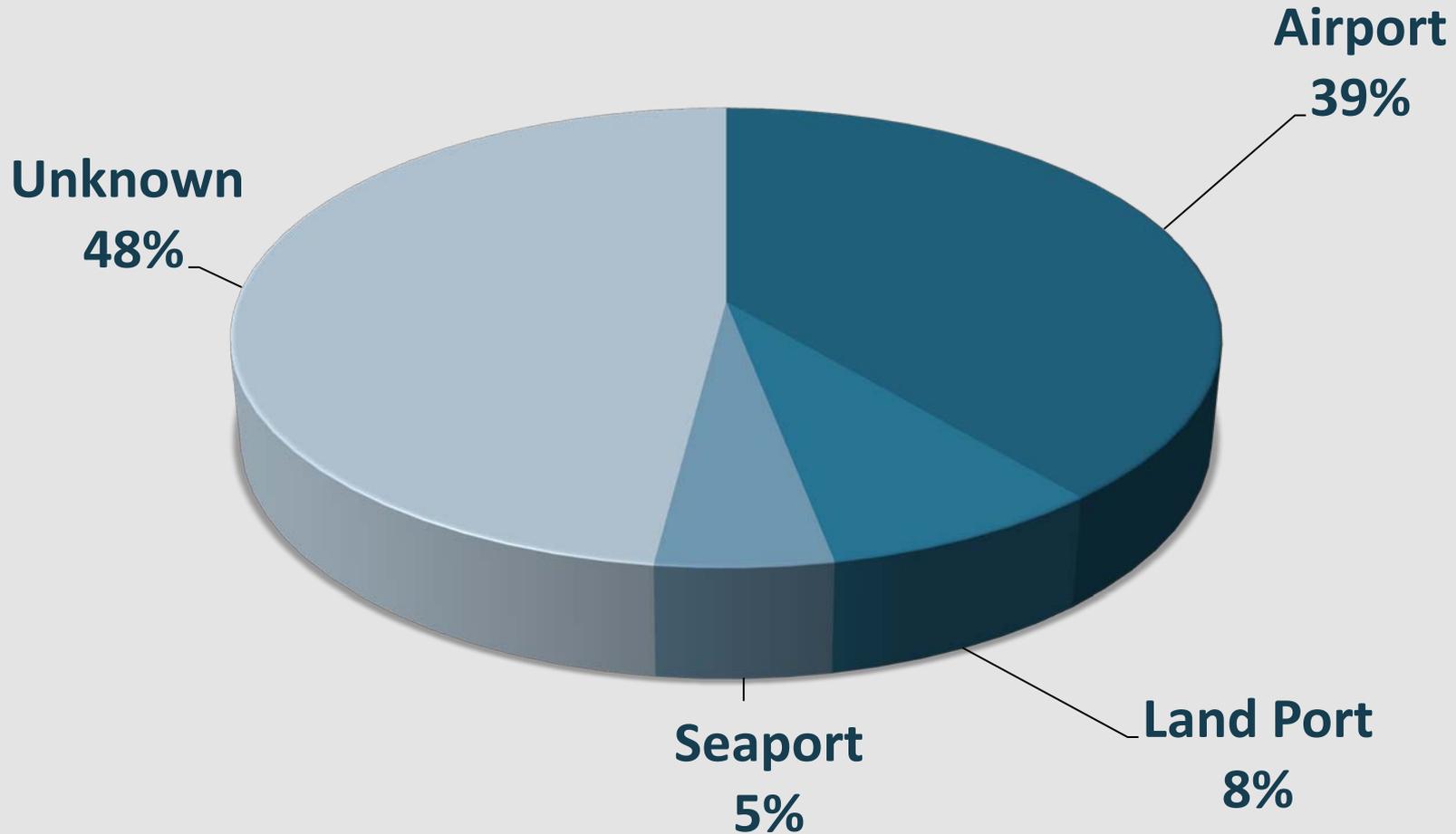
Border Crossing Details

- Immigration Fraud
- Marriage Fraud
- Fraud
- Smuggling
- Money Laundering



Coding Results

Type of Port

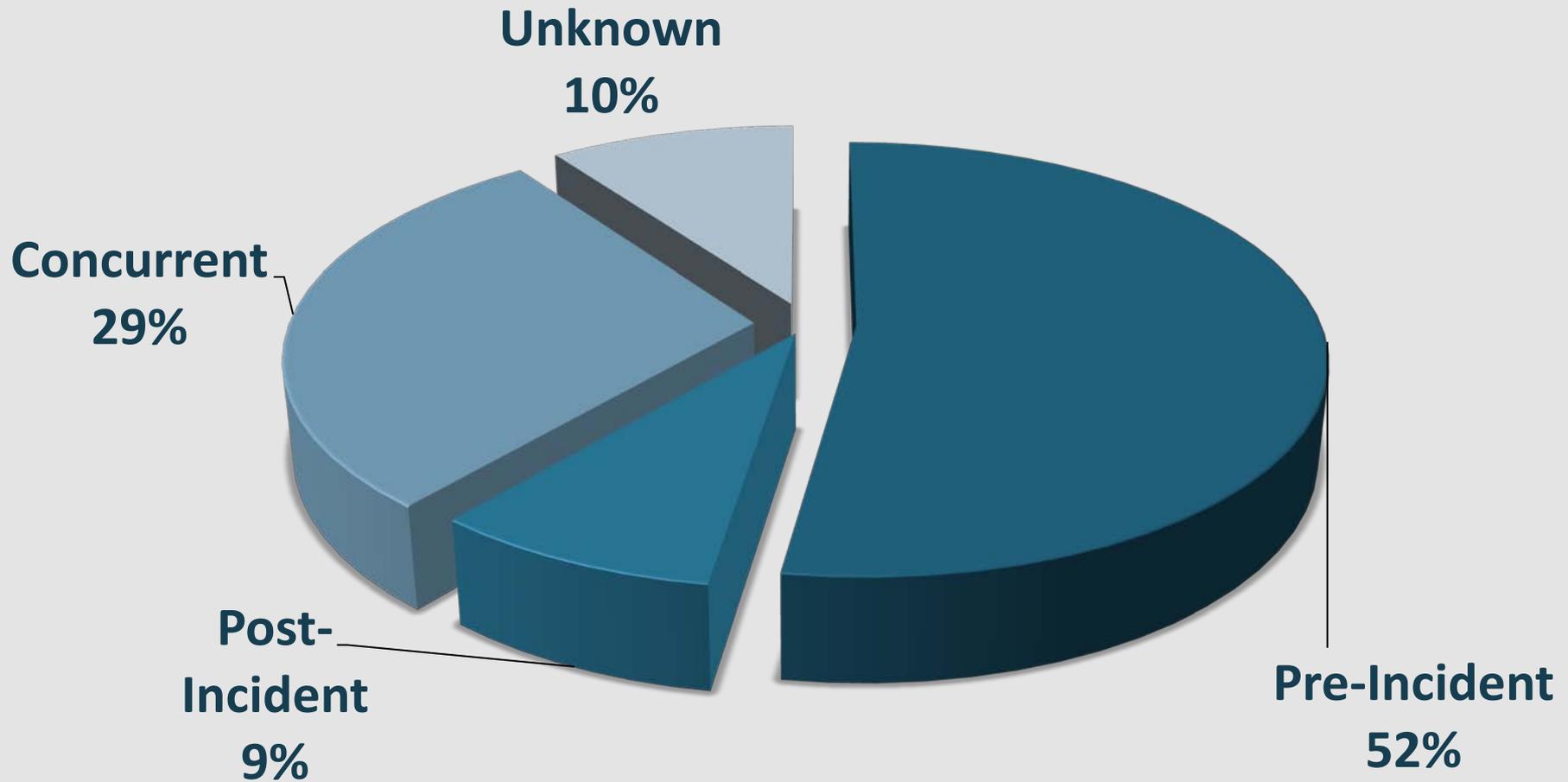


n=162



Coding Results

Time of Crossing

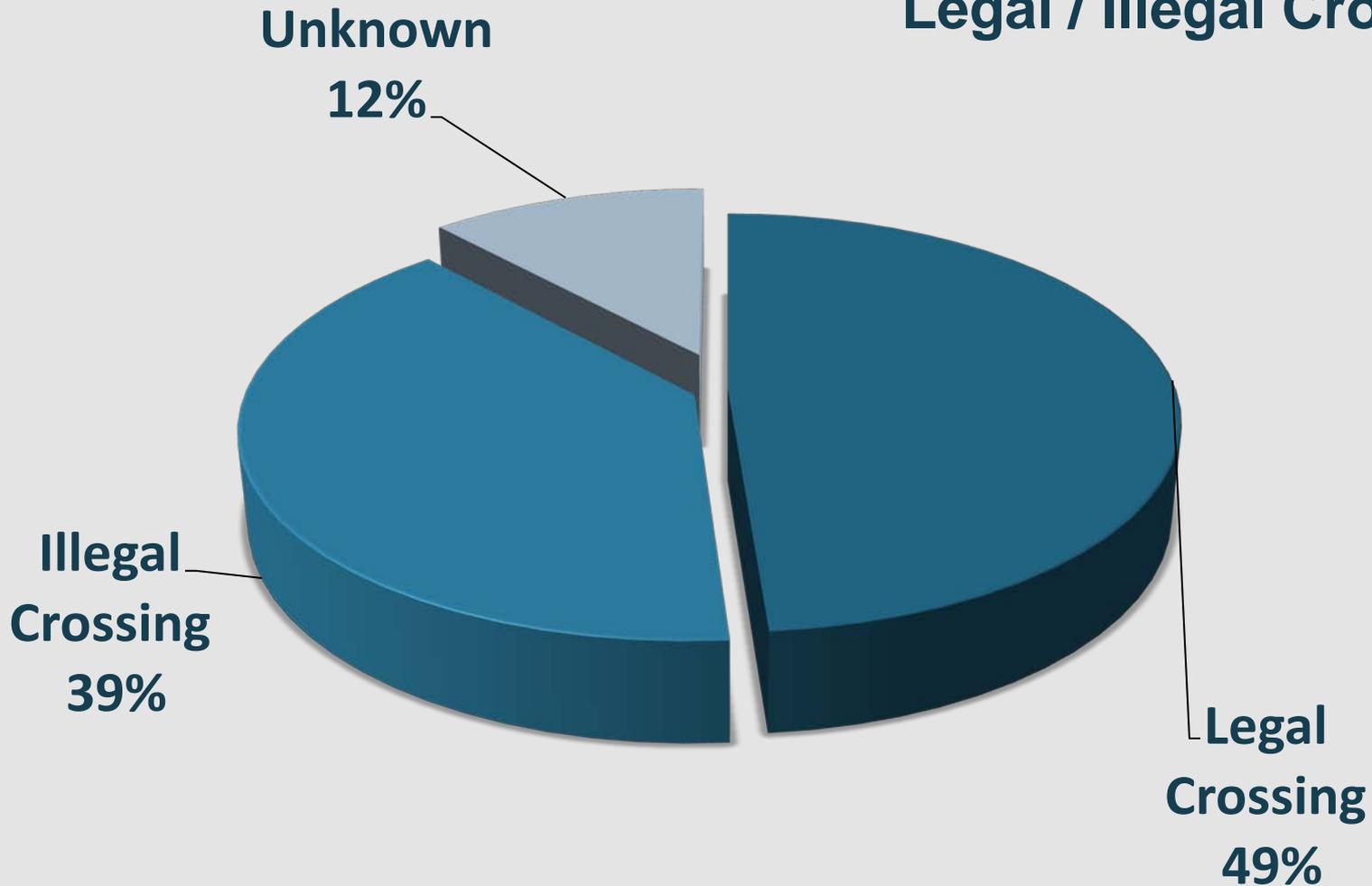


n=162



Coding Results

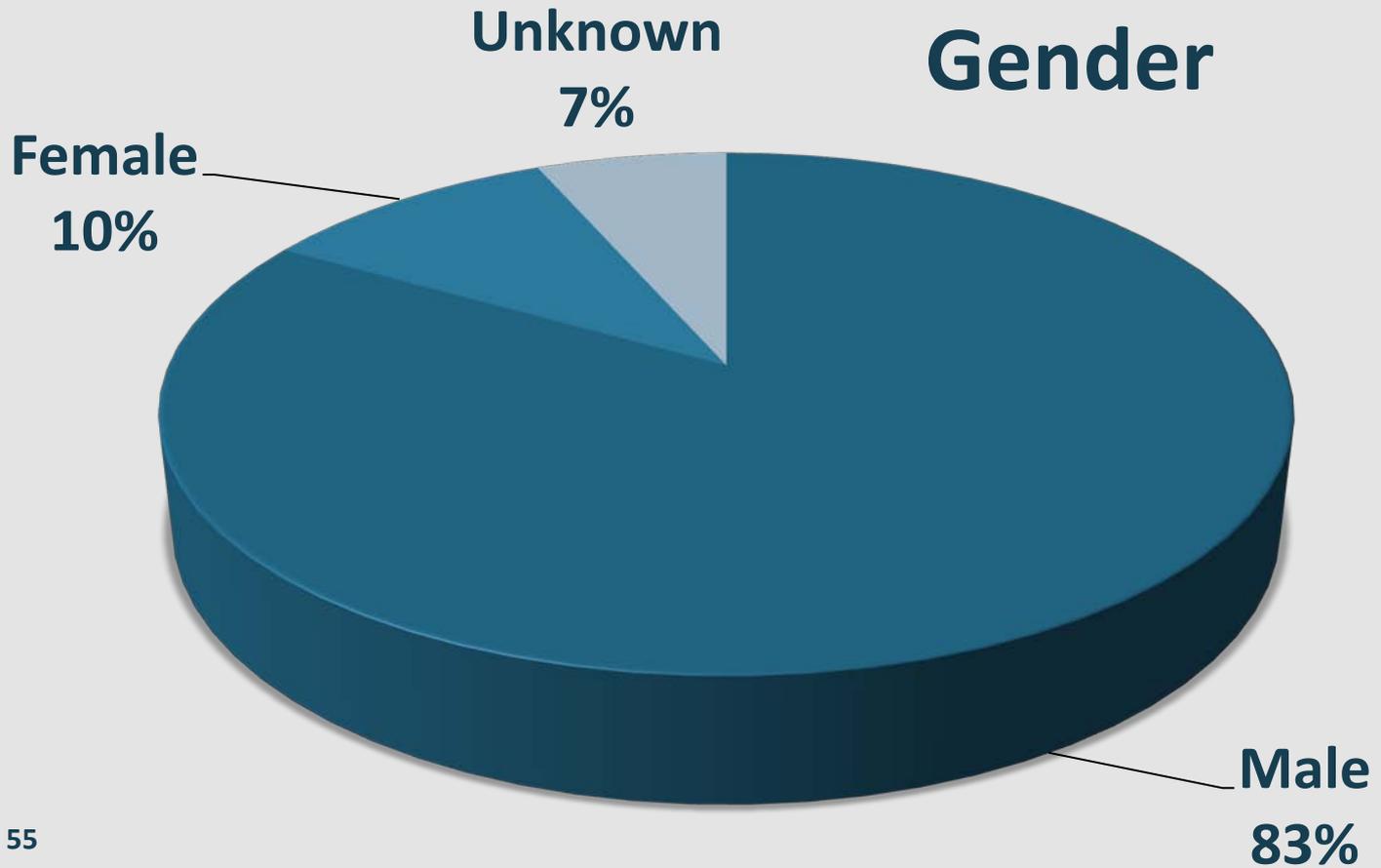
Legal / Illegal Crossings



n=162



Demographics



Age

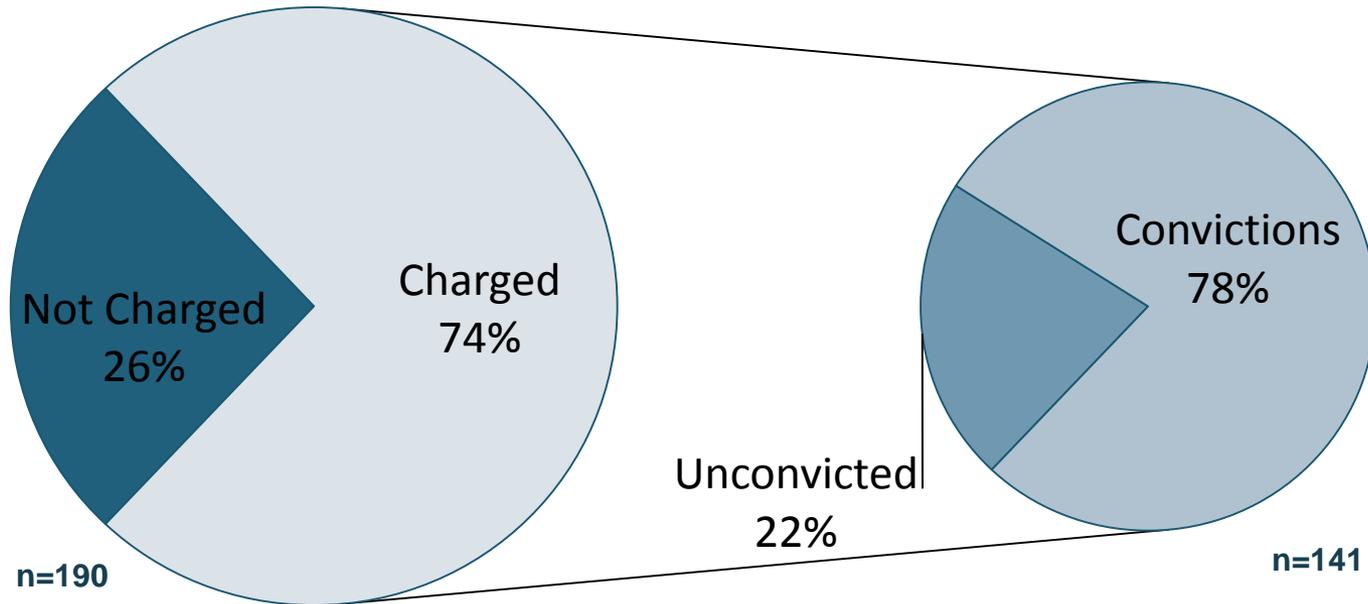
Avg. 30.42
min: 19; max: 55

n=108



Coding Results

Federal terrorism related charges on crossers





Future Plans

- Finish Coding
- Analyses of all coded cases
- Border crossings in general
- Terrorism in general