



CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
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JOAN M. THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Board Members

FROM: Marcos F. Soler, Deputy Executive Director for Policy
Civilian Complaint Review Board

RE: Truncation Rate – Concepts and Practices

DATE: September 6, 2012

The purpose of this memo is to provide the board with a basic framework concerning the agency's truncation rate.

The term "truncation rate" is a statistical concept that the CCRB adopted for the first time in the 1995 annual report. Since then, by truncation rate, the agency annual and monthly reports described three types of case dispositions: (a) complaint withdrawn, (b) complainant and/or victim uncooperative and (c) complainant and /or victim unavailable. In 2002, the board added an additional category, victim unidentified.

The term "truncation rate" is not used in our rules. Section §1-34 of the rules speaks of "cases closed without a Full Investigation." This section states that "[T]he Board or the Executive Director may close without conducting a full investigation any case falling within categories (5) through (17) of §1-33." Categories (5) through (9) are what we colloquially called truncated dispositions.

There are four types of case dispositions which are labeled as truncated cases. A case is closed as complaint withdrawn when the complainant voluntarily withdrew the complaint; as complainant/victim unavailable when the complainant and/or victim could not be located; as complainant/victim uncooperative when the participation of the complainant and/or victim was insufficient to enable the board to conduct a full investigation; and, as victim unidentified when the board was unable to identify the victim.

In all cases, the practice of the board is that five phone calls must be made, two letters must be sent and, when possible, two e-mails must be sent. If the complainant fails to appear for two scheduled appointments, the case could be closed as uncooperative. All

sensitive cases, cases involving serious allegations, or cases where the subject officer has a significant CCRB history require additional and different investigative steps.

Finally, the executive director may on receipt of a written request from a complainant or victim, re-open any case closed without a full investigation under §1-34. Where following receipt of a request to reopen a case closed without a full investigation under §1-34, the executive director decides not to reopen such case, such request shall be submitted to a panel or the full Board for its consideration.



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TO: Board Members

FROM: Marcos F. Soler, Deputy Executive Director for Policy
Civilian Complaint Review Board

RE: Truncation Rate – Statistical Analysis

DATE: August 22, 2012

The purpose of this memo is to provide the board with an analysis of the main factors affecting the CCRB truncation rate. I have analyzed characteristics of complaint filing, demographics, incident-related variables and internal factors. A statistical attachment has been included for your review. In the report, 2012 refers to the period from January to July. The main findings are as follows:

- In 2012, the truncation rate is 65%. In 2011, the rate was 62%. Since 2007, the rate has been above 60%. By comparison, in 2002, the truncation rate was 51%. (Chart 1)
- There is a difference in the truncation rate based on the agency receiving the initial complaint, between complaints filed with the CCRB and complaints filed with the Police Department. The truncation rate for complaints filed with the CCRB is 60%. The truncation rate for complaints filed with the Police Department is 74%. In 2011, the truncation rate for complaints filed with the Police Department was 74% while the truncation rate for complaints filed with the CCRB was 54%. (Chart 2)
- Although the difference between complaints filed with the CCRB and complaints filed with the NYPD is minimal for “complaint withdrawn” and “complainant uncooperative,” the difference is significant for complaints closed as “complainant unavailable.” A complaint is nearly three times more likely to be closed as unavailable if filed with the Police Department. In 2012, 8% of all cases filed with the CCRB were closed as unavailable; 20% of all cases filed with the NYPD were closed as unavailable. (Charts 2b and 2c)

- How complaints are filed with the CCRB is important. Only 5% of all complaints filed in-person are truncated. By comparison, 63% of all complaints filed by phone, 61% by e-mail and 47% filed by mail are truncated. 81% of complaints filed with the CCRB are filed by phone, 14% by email, 3% in person and 2% by mail. (Chart 3)
- Complaints are more likely to be truncated if filed or reported the same date of the incident (64%) and less likely if they are filed 8 or more days after the incident (53%). The percentage of complaints filed within 1 to 7 days from the date of incident has increased from 52% in 2011 to 59% in 2012. 83% of complaints are filed within a week of the incident. (Chart 4)
- In 2012, complaints filed by whites and Hispanics have a slightly higher truncation rate than complaints filed by blacks and Asians. By gender, the truncation rate is identical. However, from 2007 to 2011, race and gender were not significant predictors of truncation (except for Asians having a lower truncation rate than all other groups). (Charts 5 & 6)
- Age of the complainant and/or alleged victim is a factor affecting the truncation rate. The older the complainant and/or alleged victim, the lower the truncation rate (except for complainants and/or victims 14 and under who are accompanied by an adult). 61% of complaints filed by complainants and/or alleged victims 15 to 24 years old truncate. That percentage decreases with age. Complaints involving complainants and/or alleged victims who are 55 to 64 and 65 years and older are the least likely to be truncated. (Chart 7)
- The higher the number of complainants and/or alleged victims involved in the complaint, the lower the truncation rate. In 2012, 66% of cases with one or two complainants and/or alleged victims were truncated. In contrast, 29% of cases with five or more complainants and/or alleged victims were truncated. (Chart 8)
- Force complaints are more likely to be truncated than non-force complaints, 69% v. 62%. However, force complaints with alleged injures are less likely to be truncated than force cases without injuries, 60% v. 74%. The result is that a force complaint with injury is slightly less likely to truncate than a non-force case. (Charts 9 & 10)
- In 2012, 69% of complaints that did not stem from an incident involving either an arrest or a summons truncated. In comparison, the truncation rate was 48% where a summons was issued and 60% when the complaint involved an incident where an arrest was made. This differed from rates between 2007 to 2011, where the truncation rate was 50% involving a summons, 51% involving an arrest, and 66% involving neither an arrest or summons. (Chart 11)
- The location of a complainant's residence plays no significant role in the truncation rate. From 2007 to 2011, the five boroughs had similar truncation

rates (Manhattan, 53%; Brooklyn and Staten Island, 55%; Queens and Bronx, 57%). In 2012, complaints from the borough of Staten Island have a greater truncation rate (69%) than complaints from other boroughs (Manhattan, 57%; Brooklyn, 59%; Bronx, 60%; Queens, 61%). Given the small universe of cases from Staten Island in 2012, this year's variation could be the result of chance. (Chart 12)

- The variation between teams increased from a difference of seven percentage points in 2011 to 19 percentage points in 2012. The team with the highest truncation rate had a 74% rate; the team with the lowest truncation rate has a 55% rate. (Chart 13)

Chart 1
Truncation Rate for all Complaints
2002 - July 2012

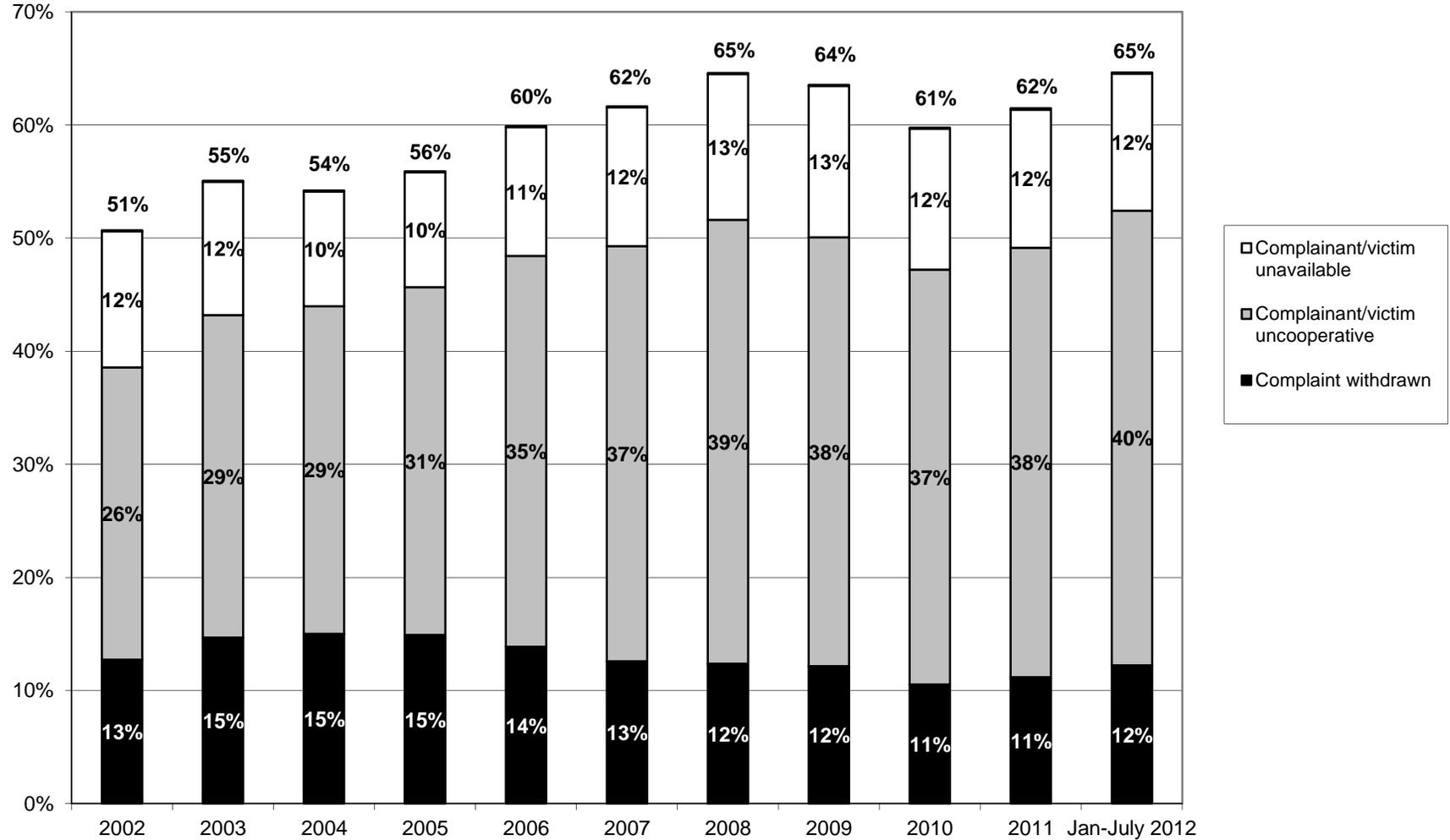


Table 2.a
Truncation Rate Based on Agency Receiving Initial Complaint
2007 - July 2012

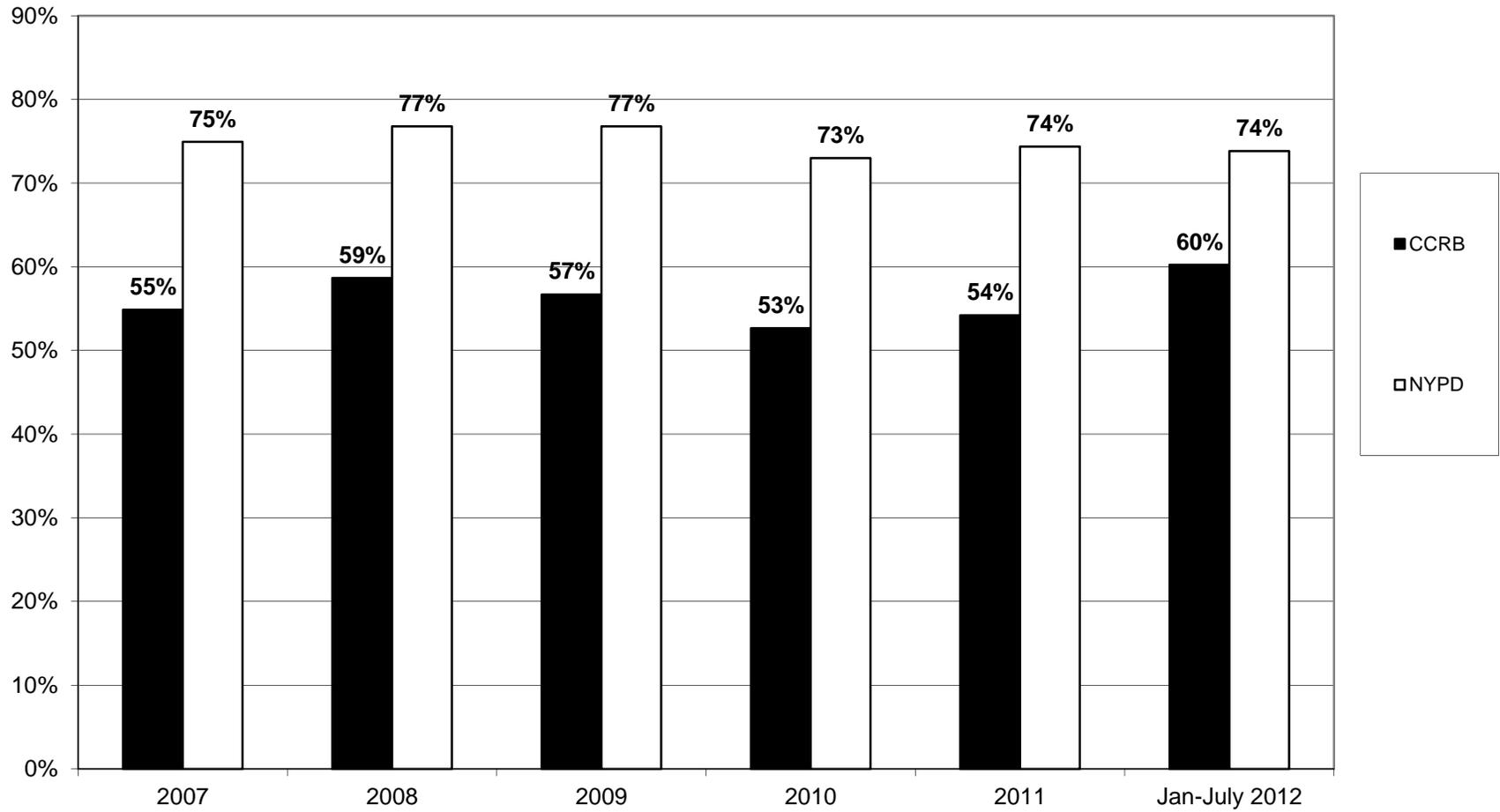


Chart 2.b
Truncation Rate Based on Agency Receiving Initial Complaint, by
Disposition Categories
2007 - 2011

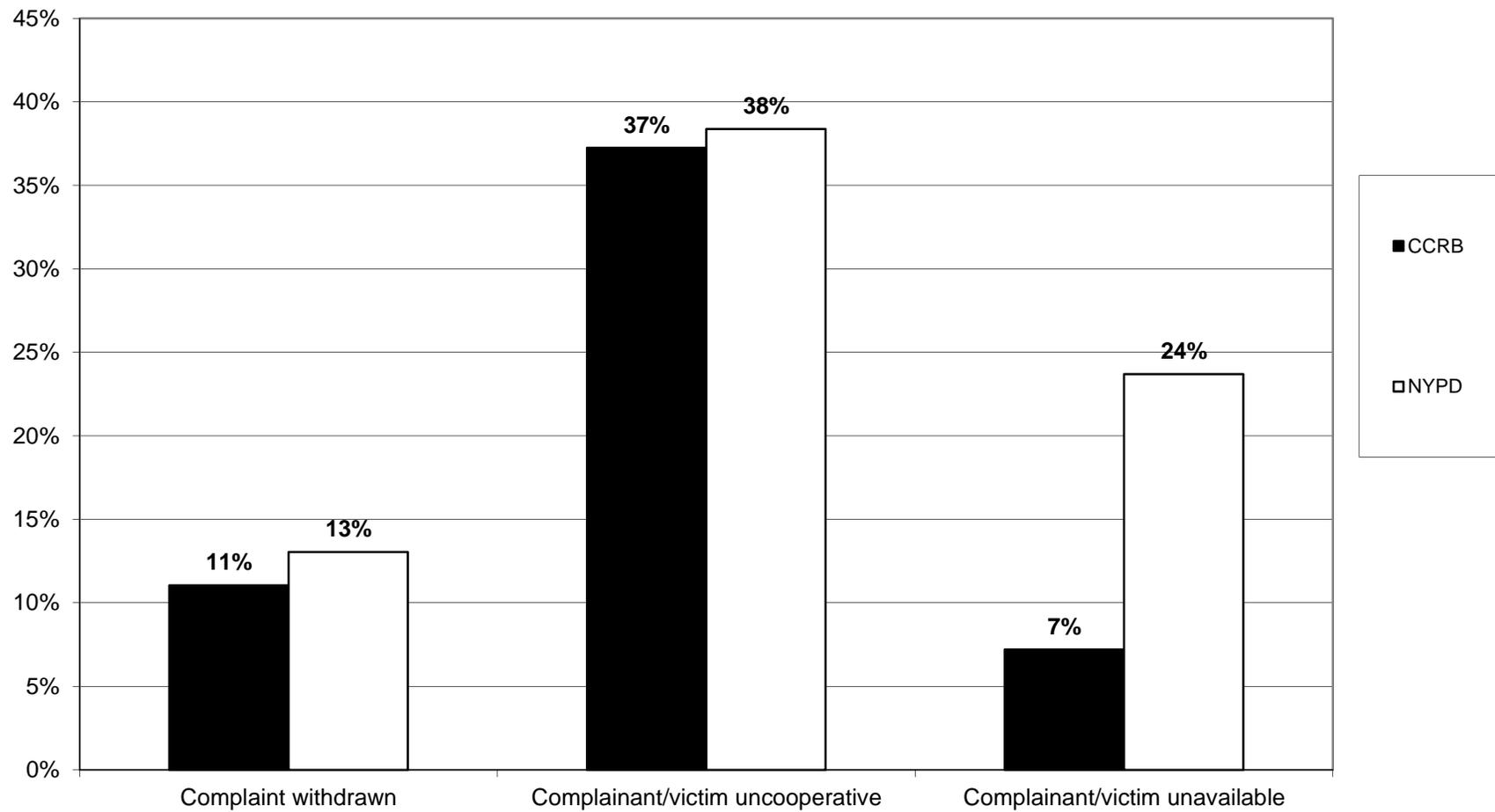


Chart 2.c
Truncation Rate Based on Agency Receiving Initial Complaint January
- July 2012

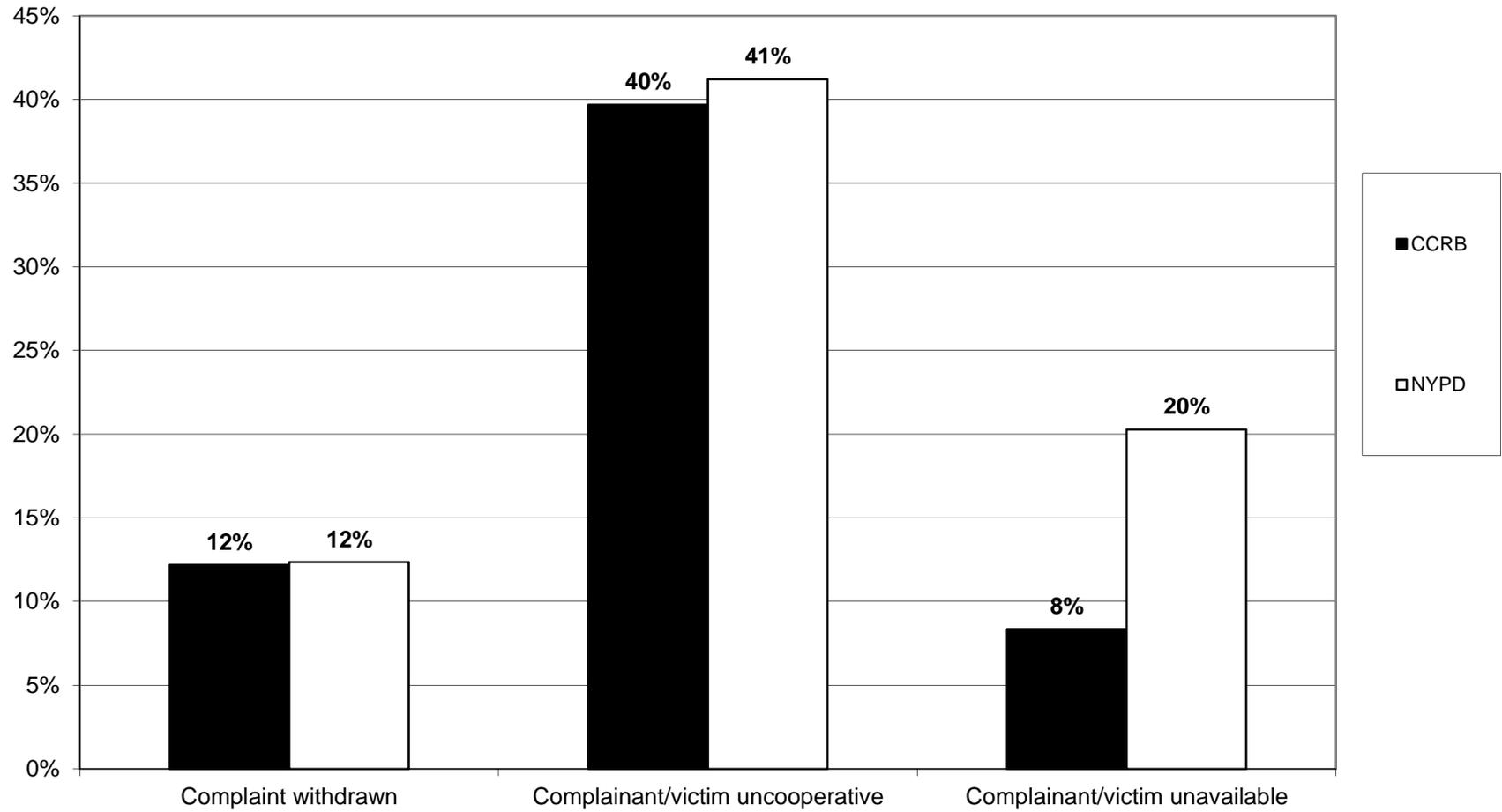


Chart 3

Truncation Rate based upon Mode of Filing with CCRB 2007 - July 2012

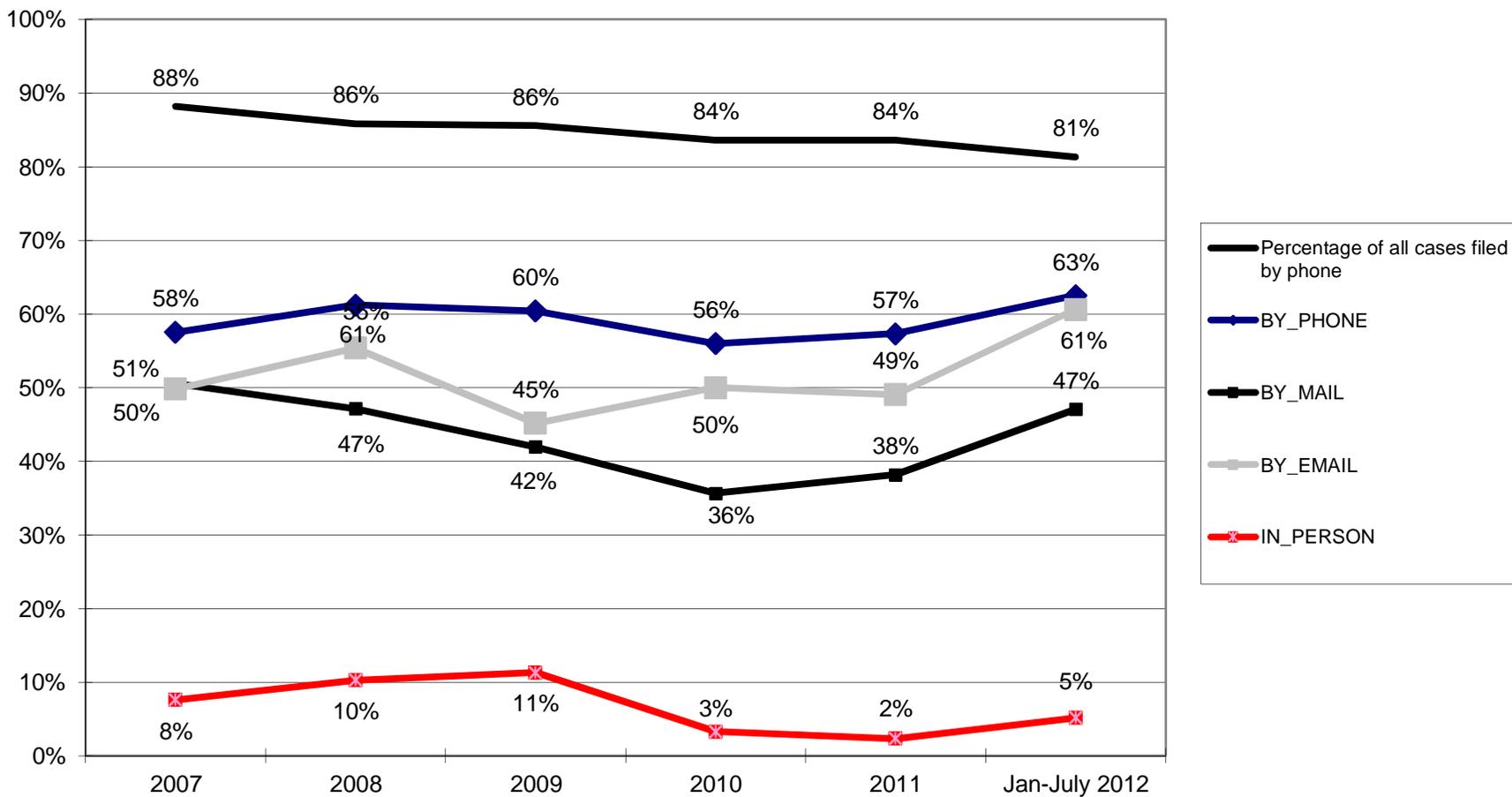


Chart 4
Truncation Rate Based on the Number of Days Elapsed from
Date of Incident to the Date Complaint is Filed with the CCRB
2007 - June 2012

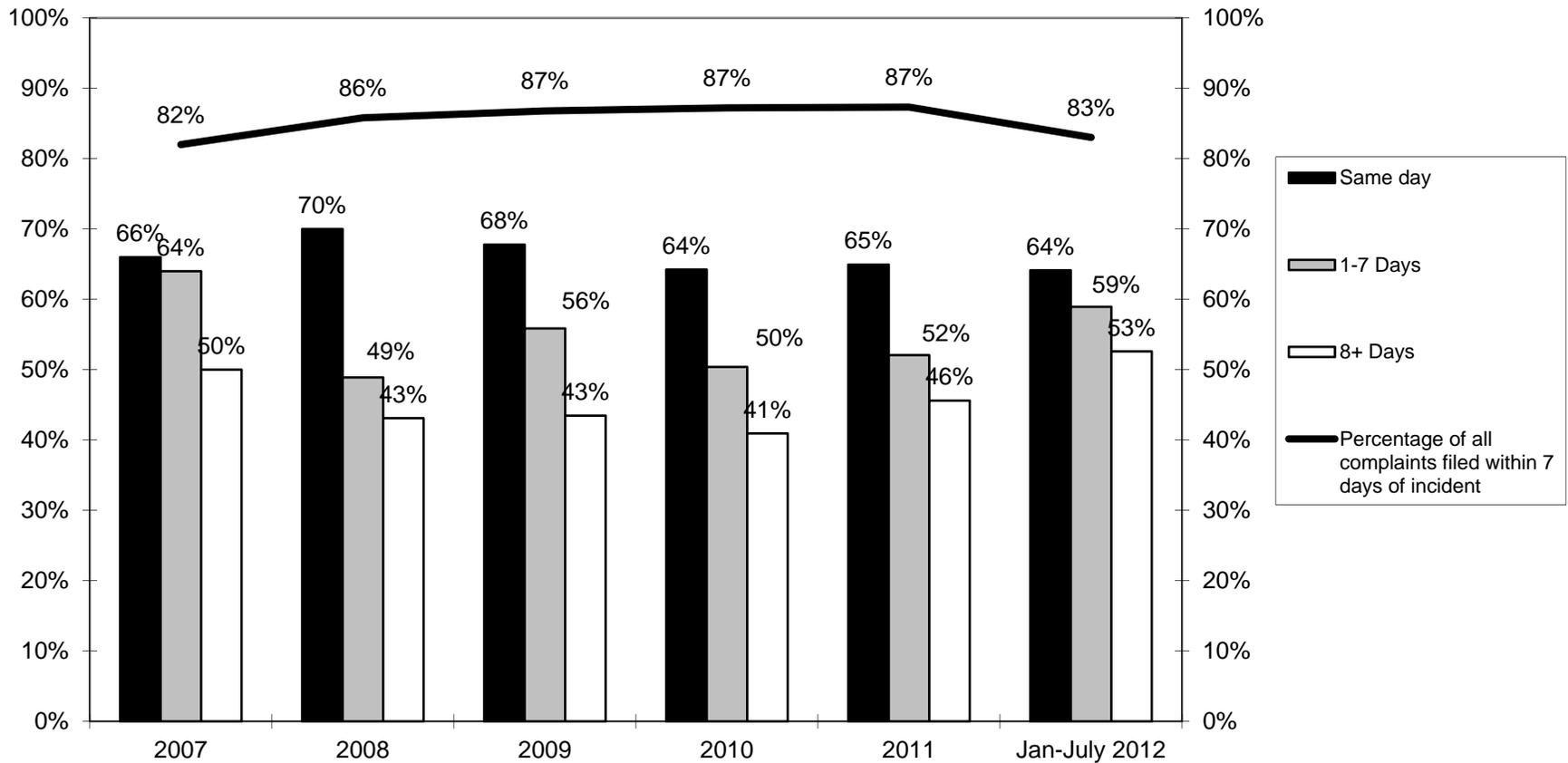


Chart 5.a
Truncation Rate Based upon Race and/or
Ethnicity of Complainants and/or Alleged Victims
2007 - 2011

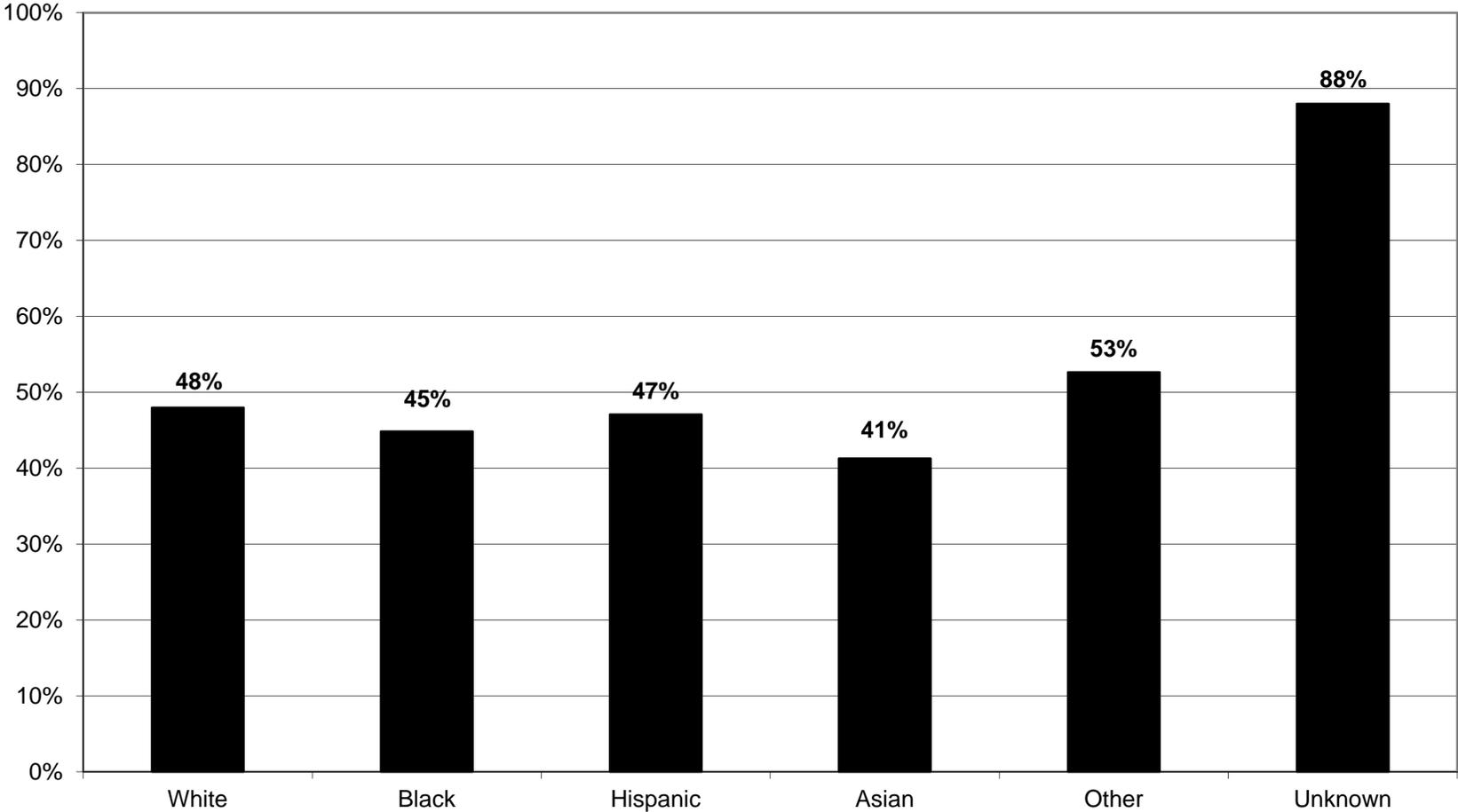


Chart 5.b
Truncation Rate Based upon Race and/or
Ethnicity of Complainants and/or Alleged Victims
January - July 2012

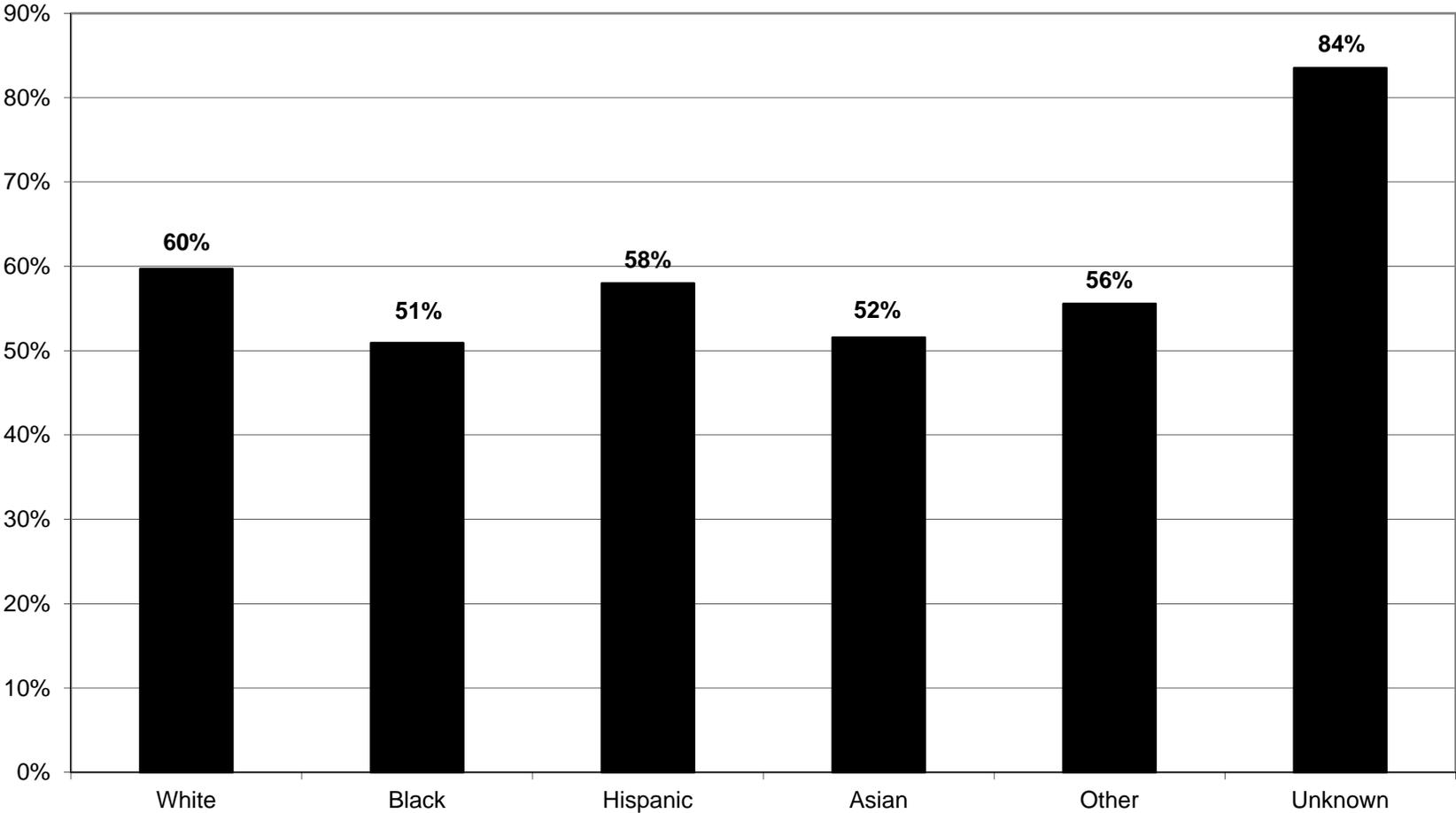


Chart 6.a
Truncation Rate Based upon Gender of
Complainants and/or Alleged Victims
2007 - 2011

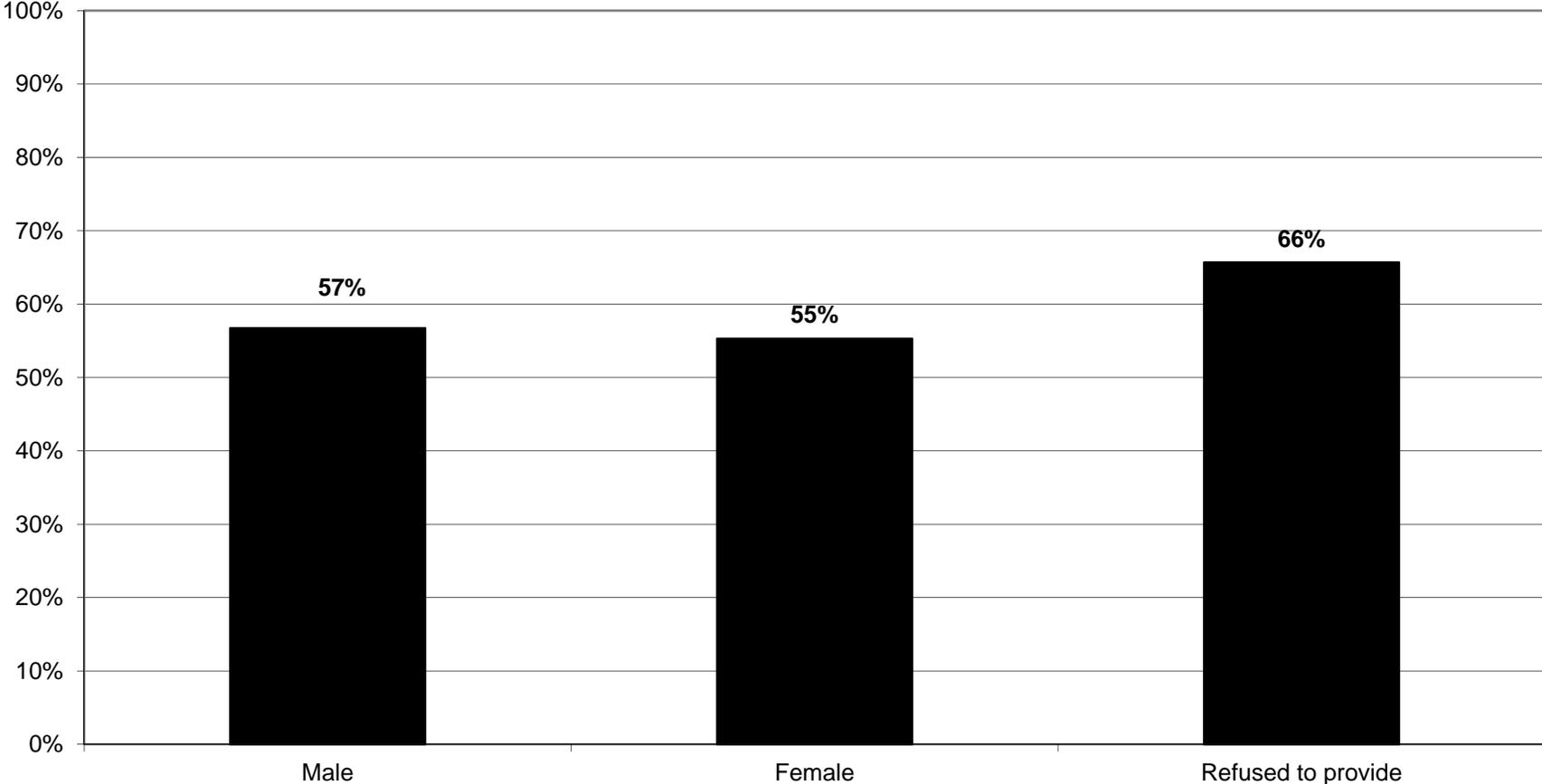


Chart 6.b
Truncation Rate Based upon Gender of
Complainants and/or Alleged Victims
January - July 2012

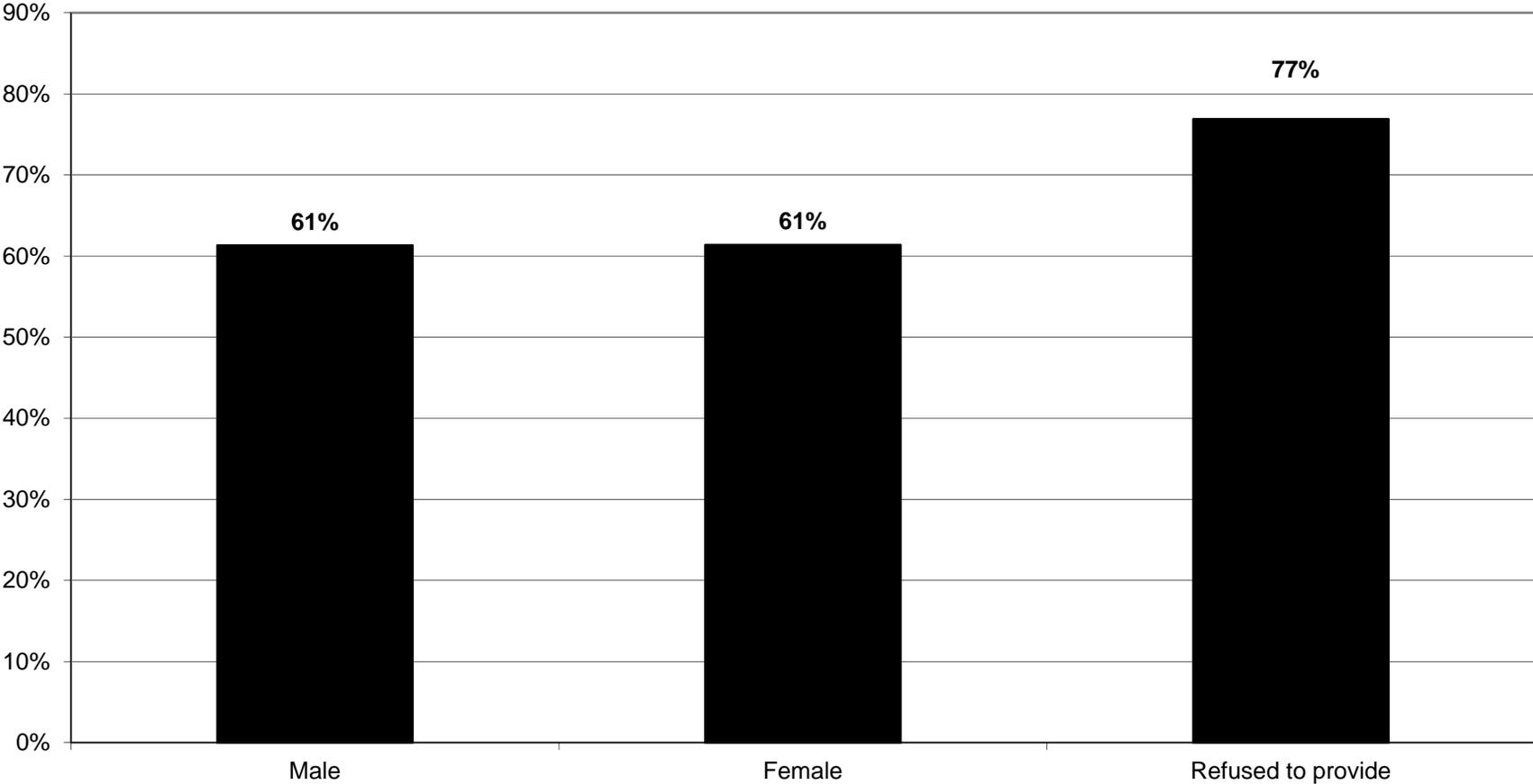


Chart 7.a
Truncation Rate Based upon Age of Complainants and/or Alleged
Victims
2007 - 2011

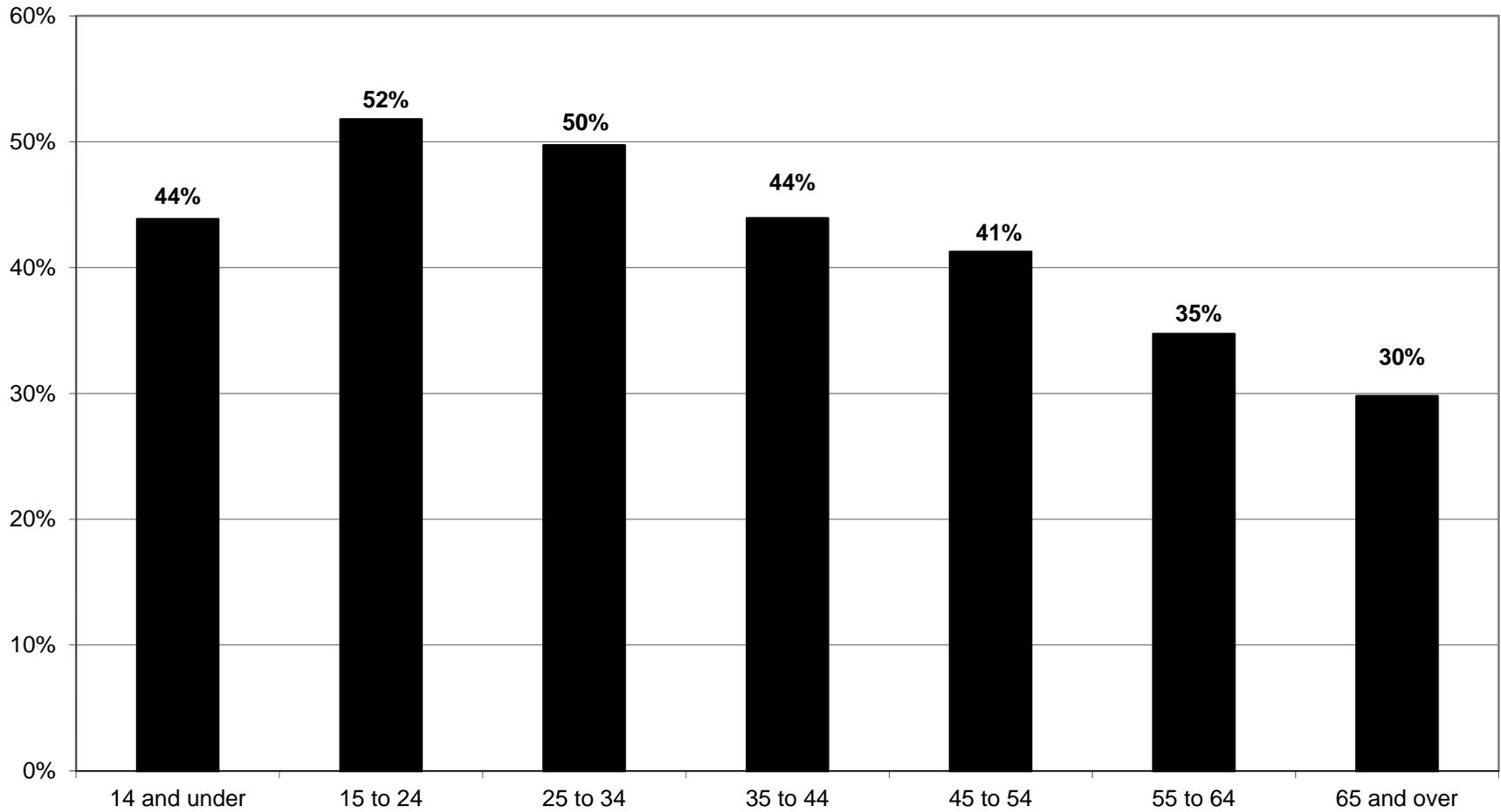


Chart 7.b
Truncation Rate Based upon Age of Complainants and/or Alleged
Victims
January - July 2012

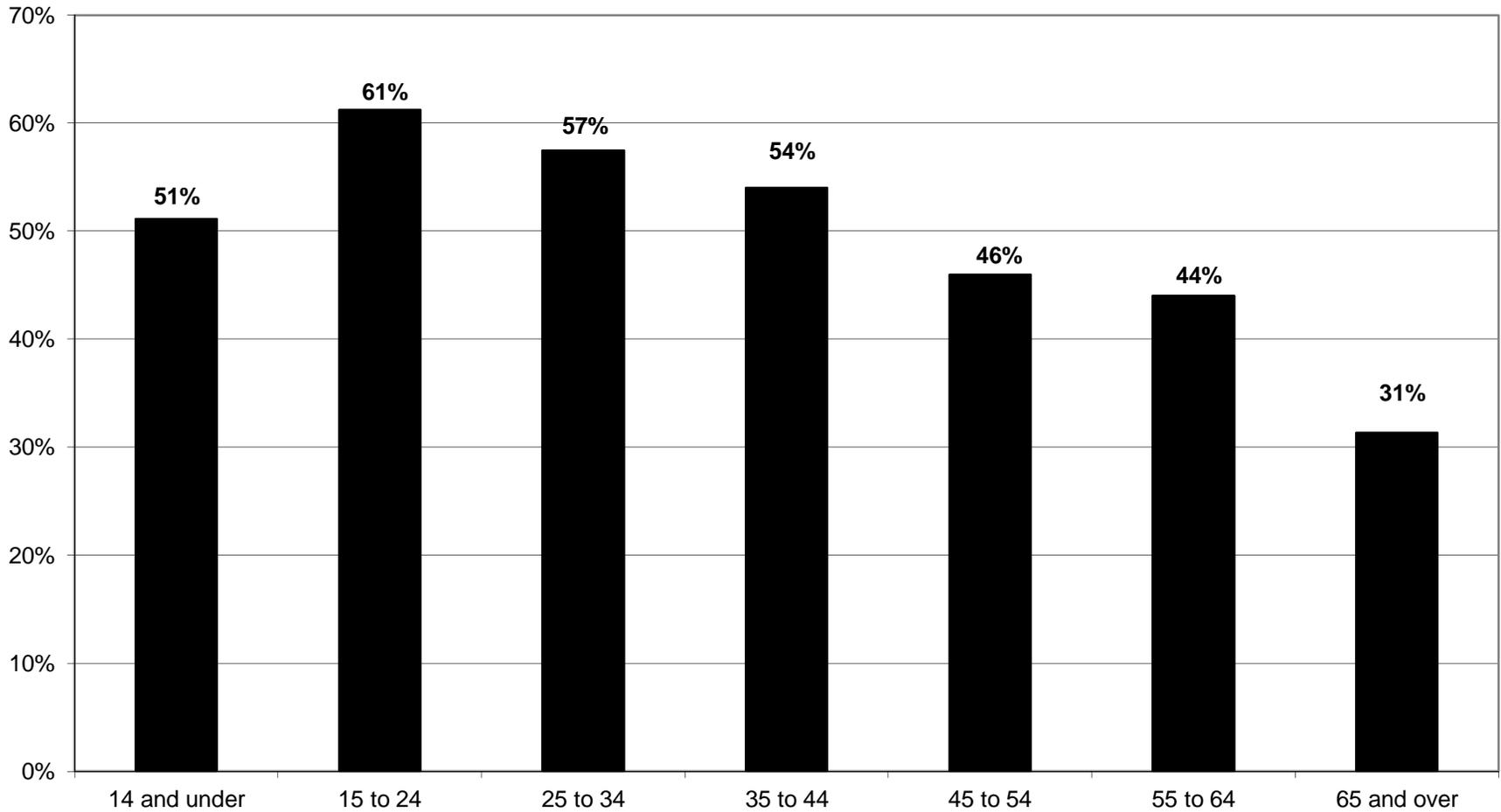


Chart 8.a
Truncation Rates for Complaints by Number of Complainants and/or
Alleged Victims
2007 - 2011

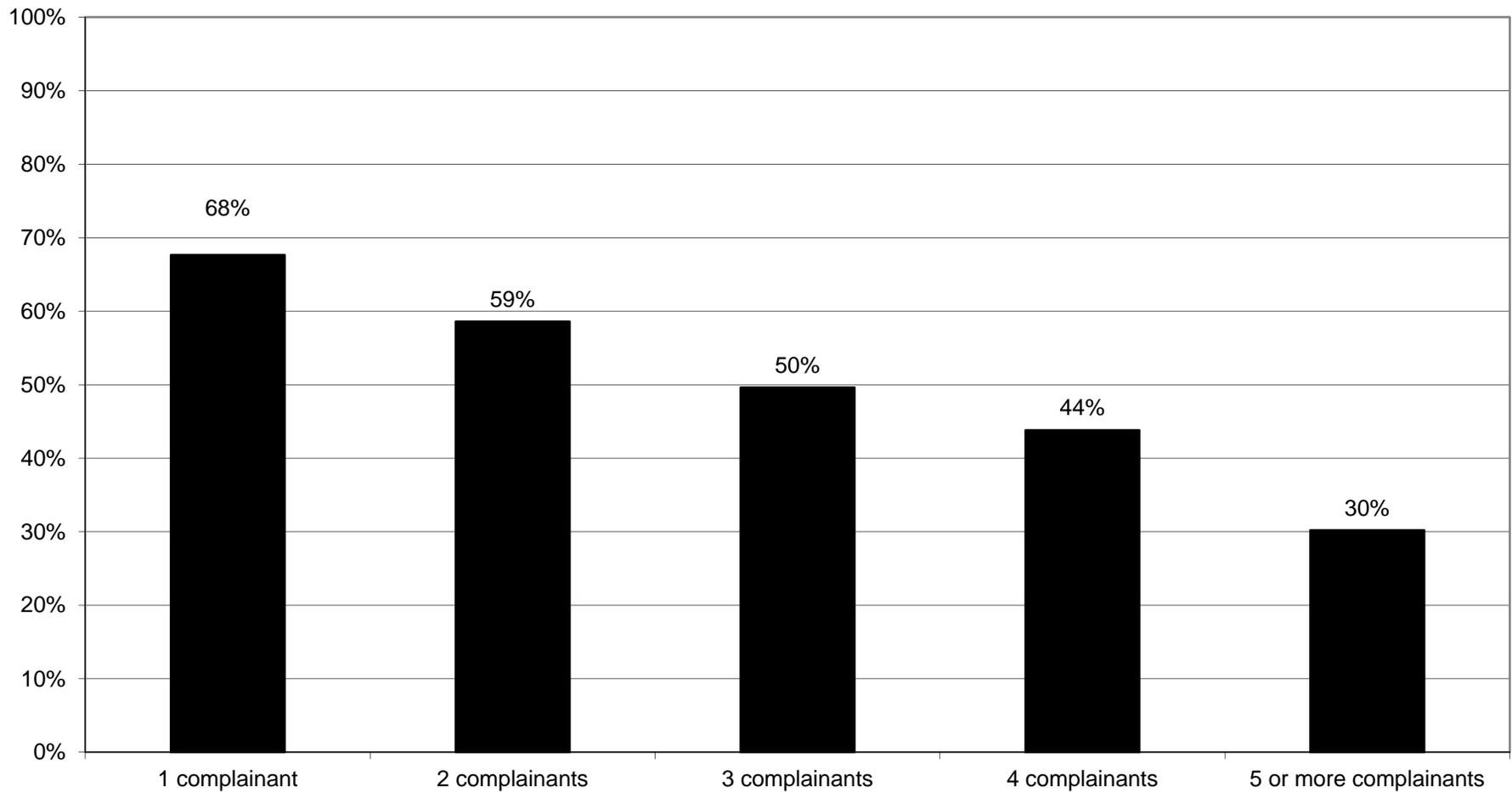


Chart 8.b
Truncation Rates for Complaints by Number of Complainants and/or
Alleged Victims
January - July 2012

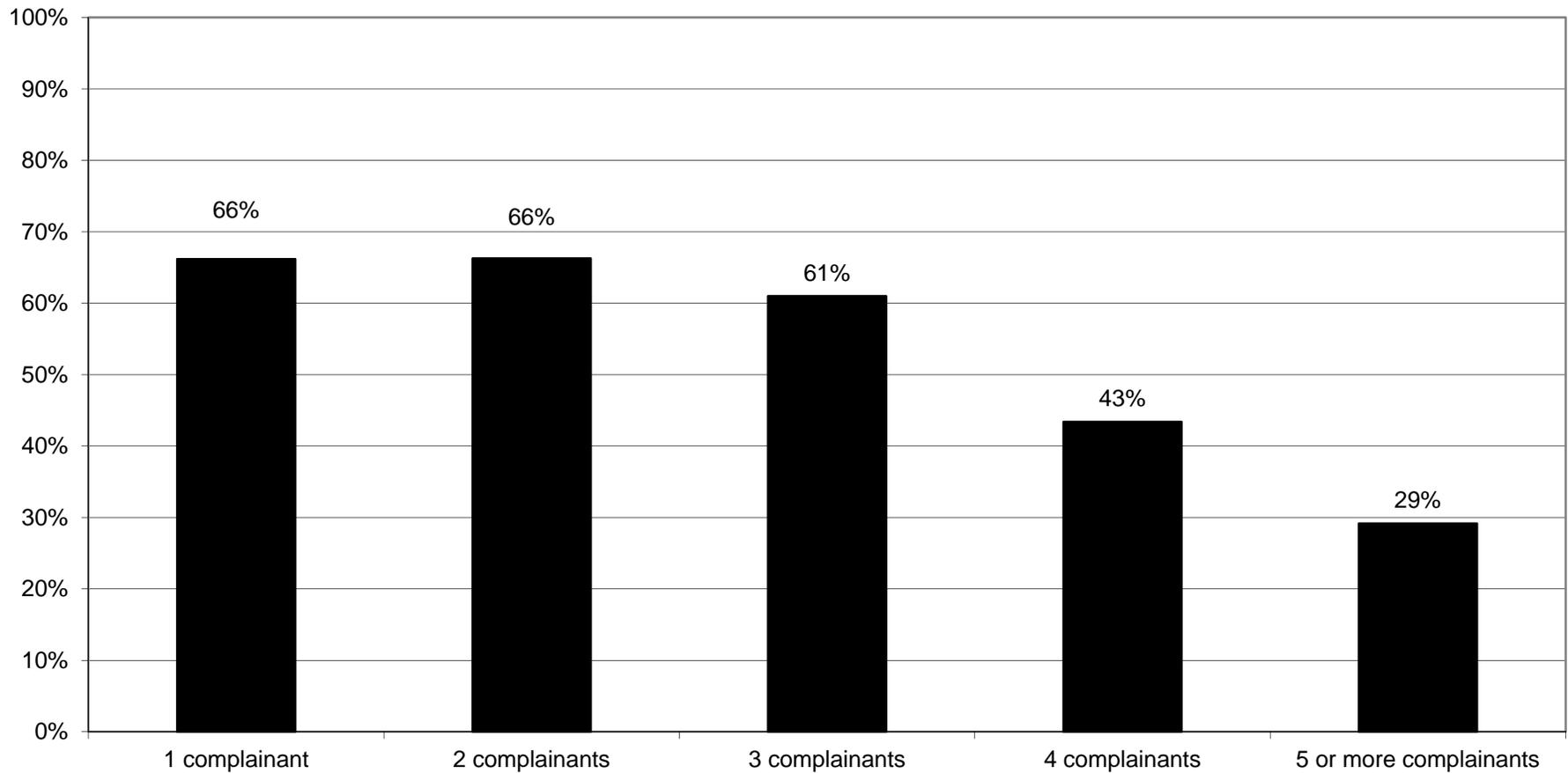


Chart 9.a
Truncation Rates for Complaints With and Without a Force Allegation
2007 - 2011

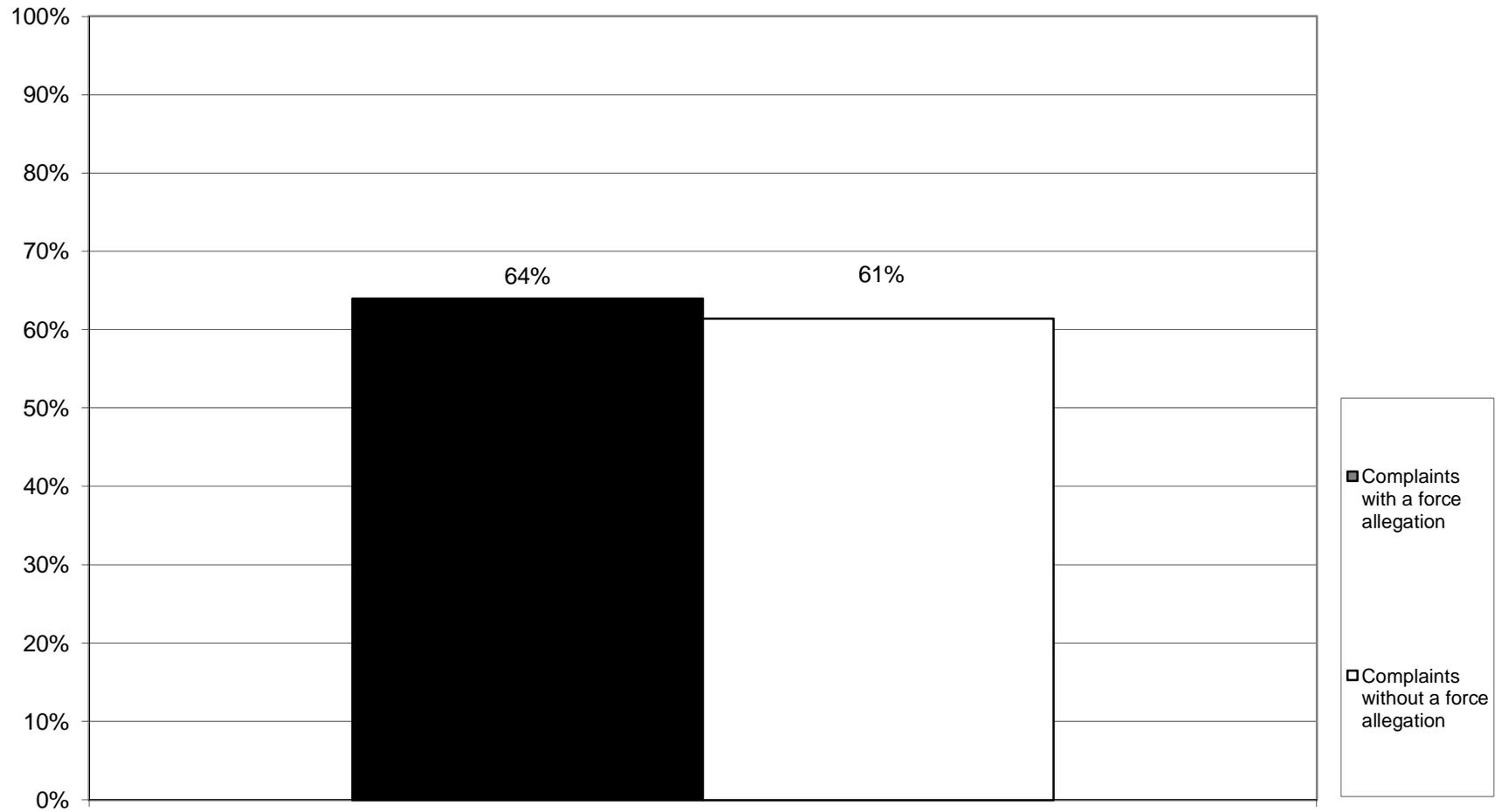


Chart 9.b
Truncation Rates for Cases With and Without a Force Allegation
January - July 2012

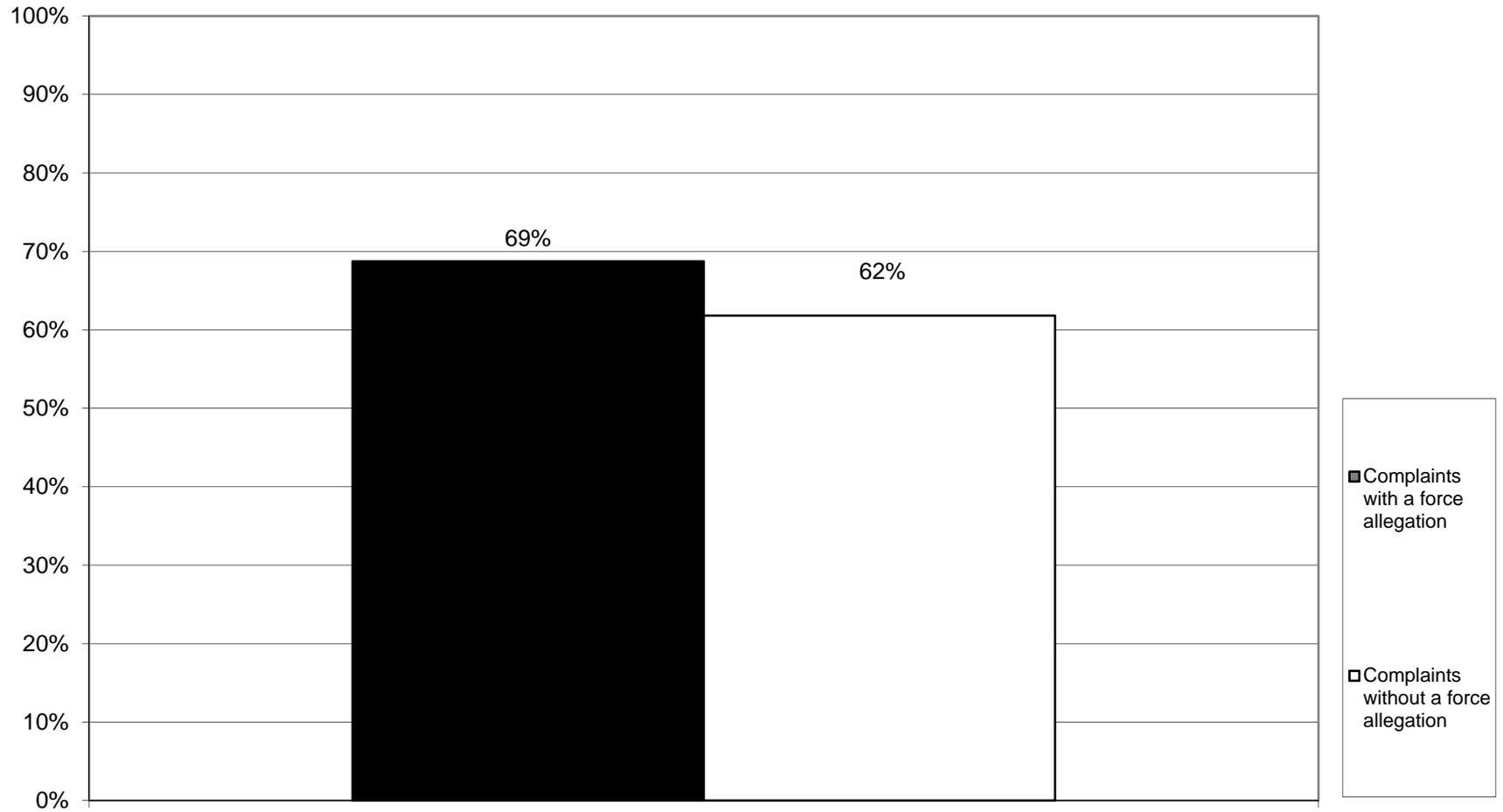


Chart 9.c
Truncation Rates for Complaints With and Without a Force Allegation
January - July 2012

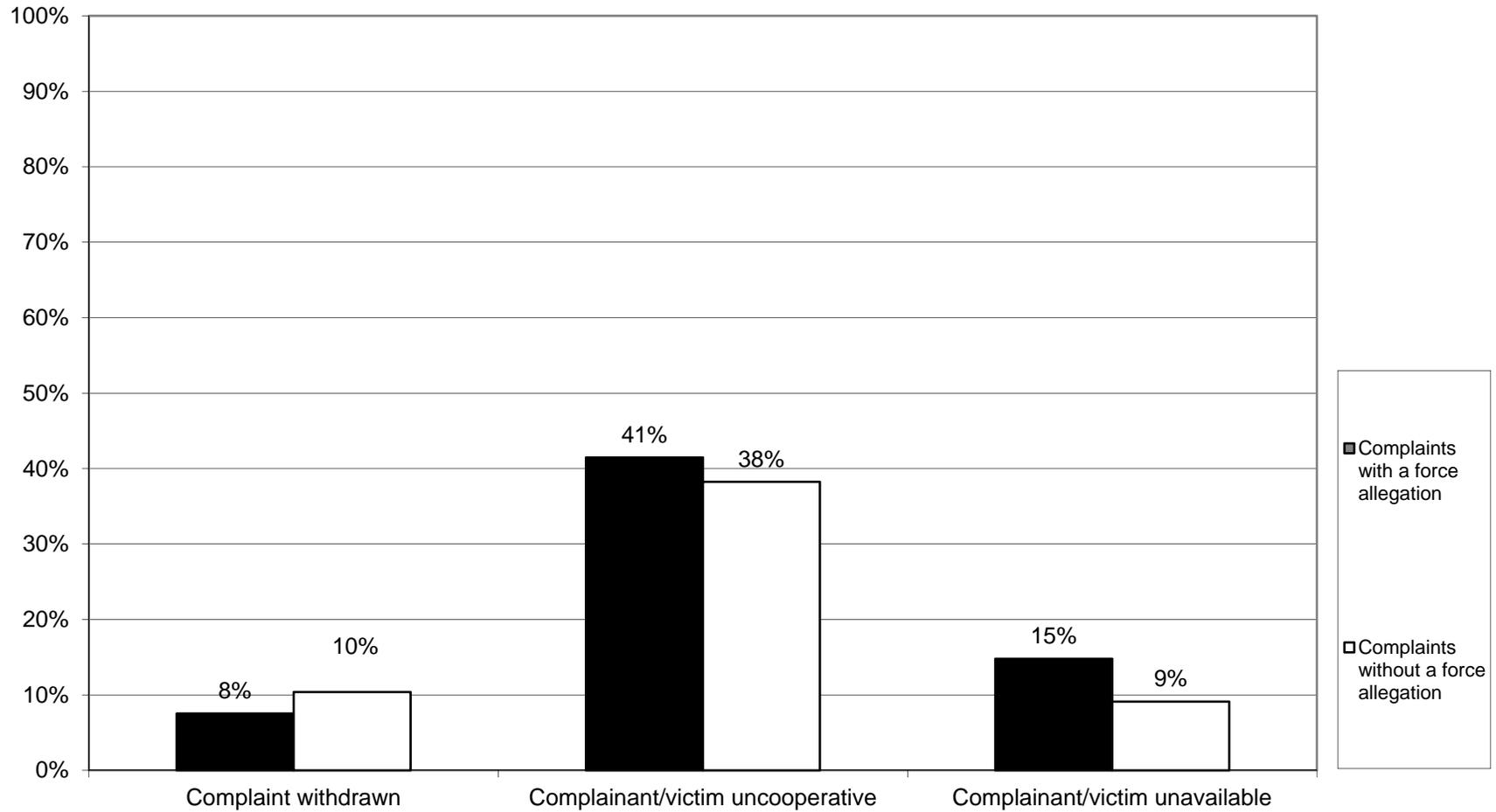


Chart 10
Truncation Rates by Injury
2007 - 2011

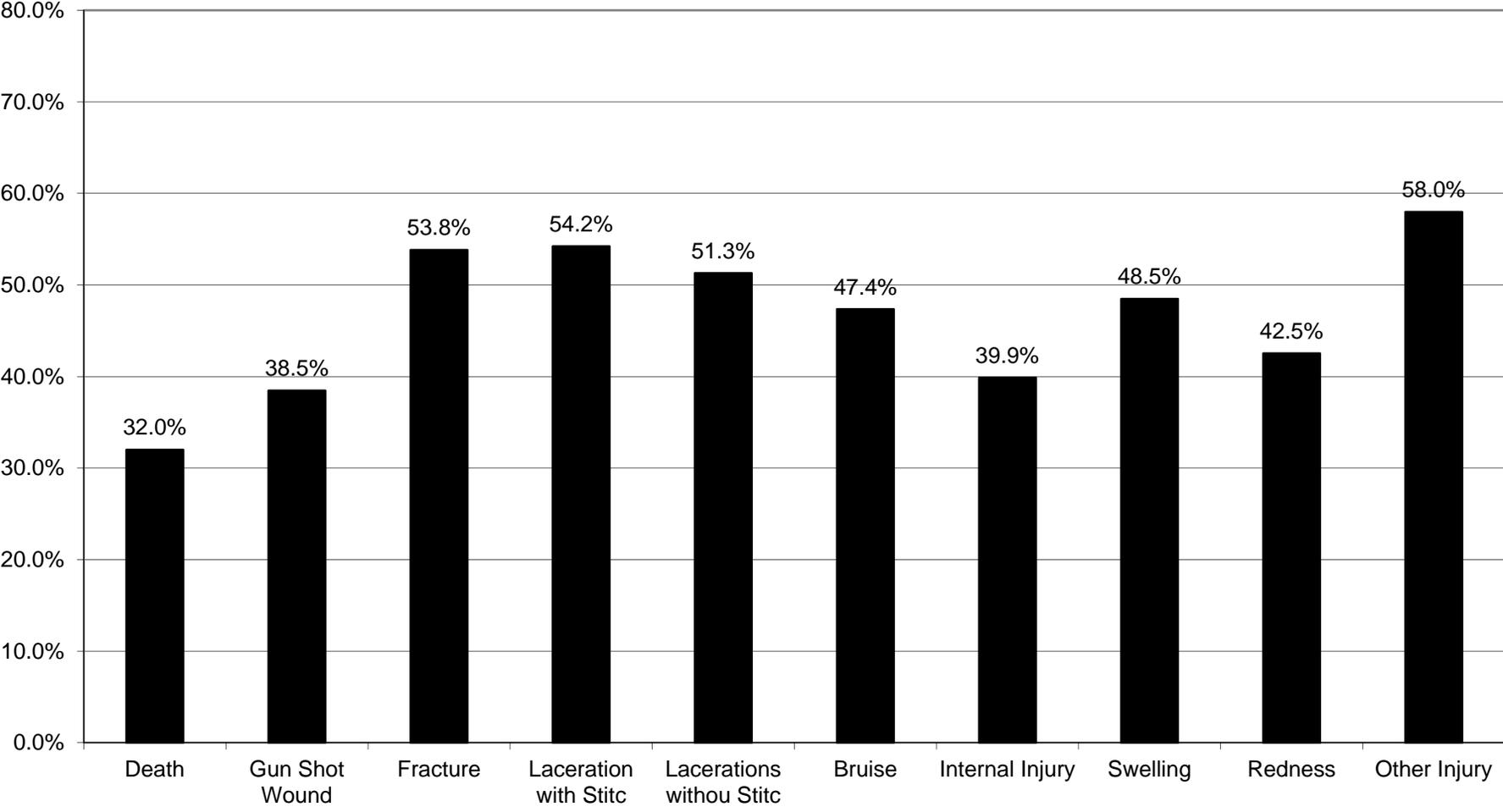


Chart 11.a
Truncation Rates by Arrest or Summons
2007 - 2011

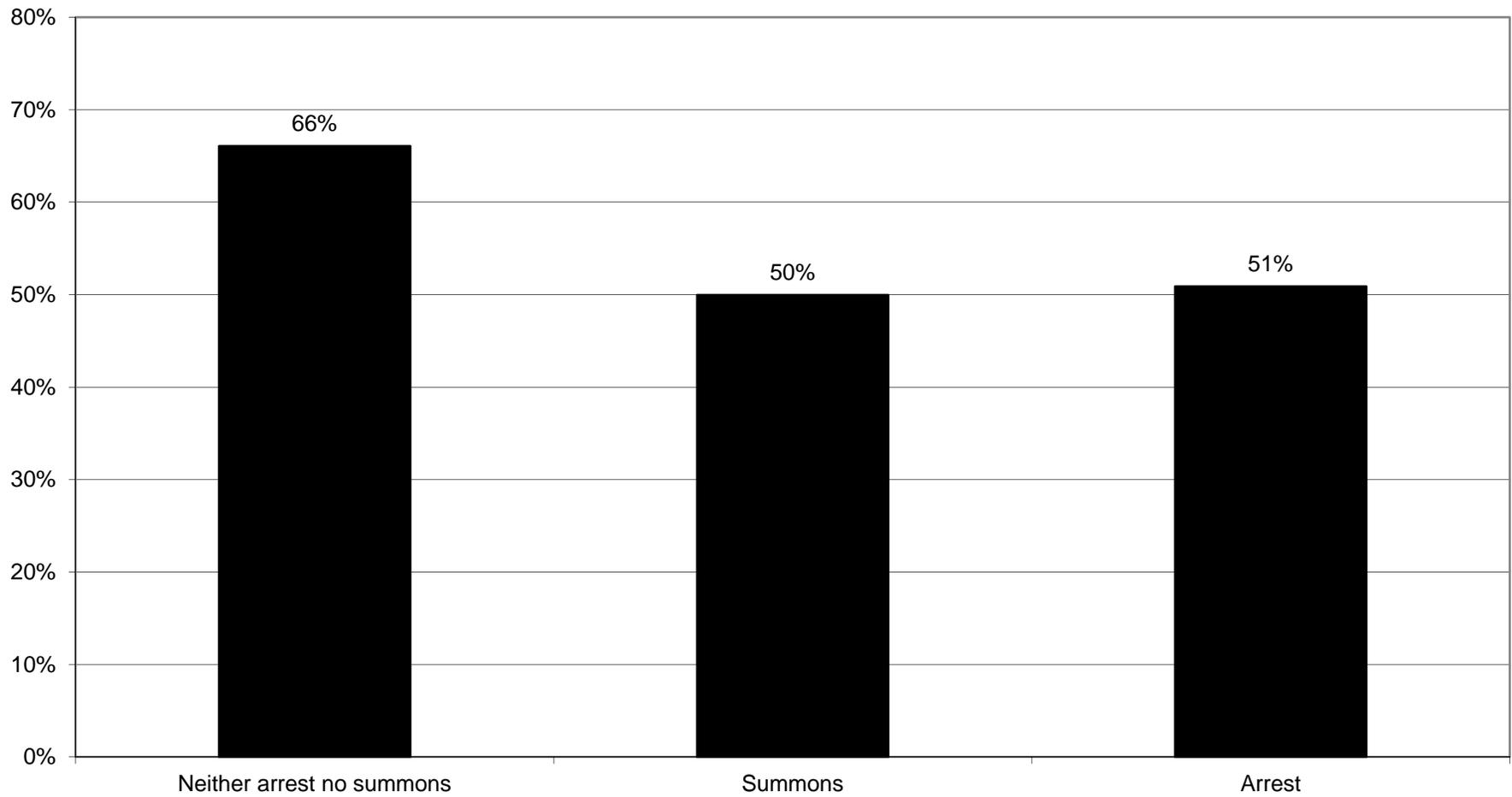


Chart 11.b
Truncation Rates by Arrest or Summons
January - July 2012

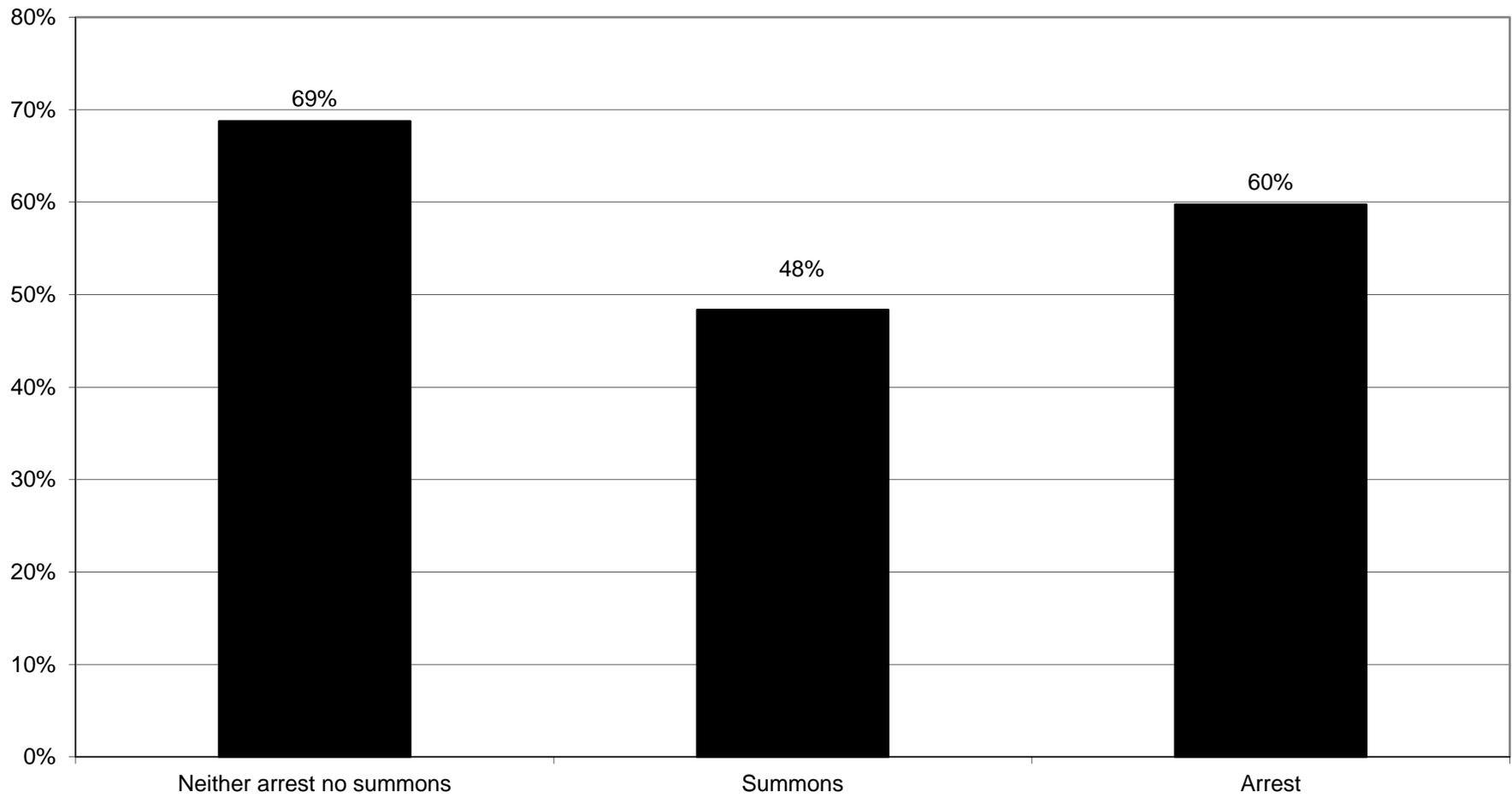


Table 13.a
Truncation Rates by Team
2007 - 2011

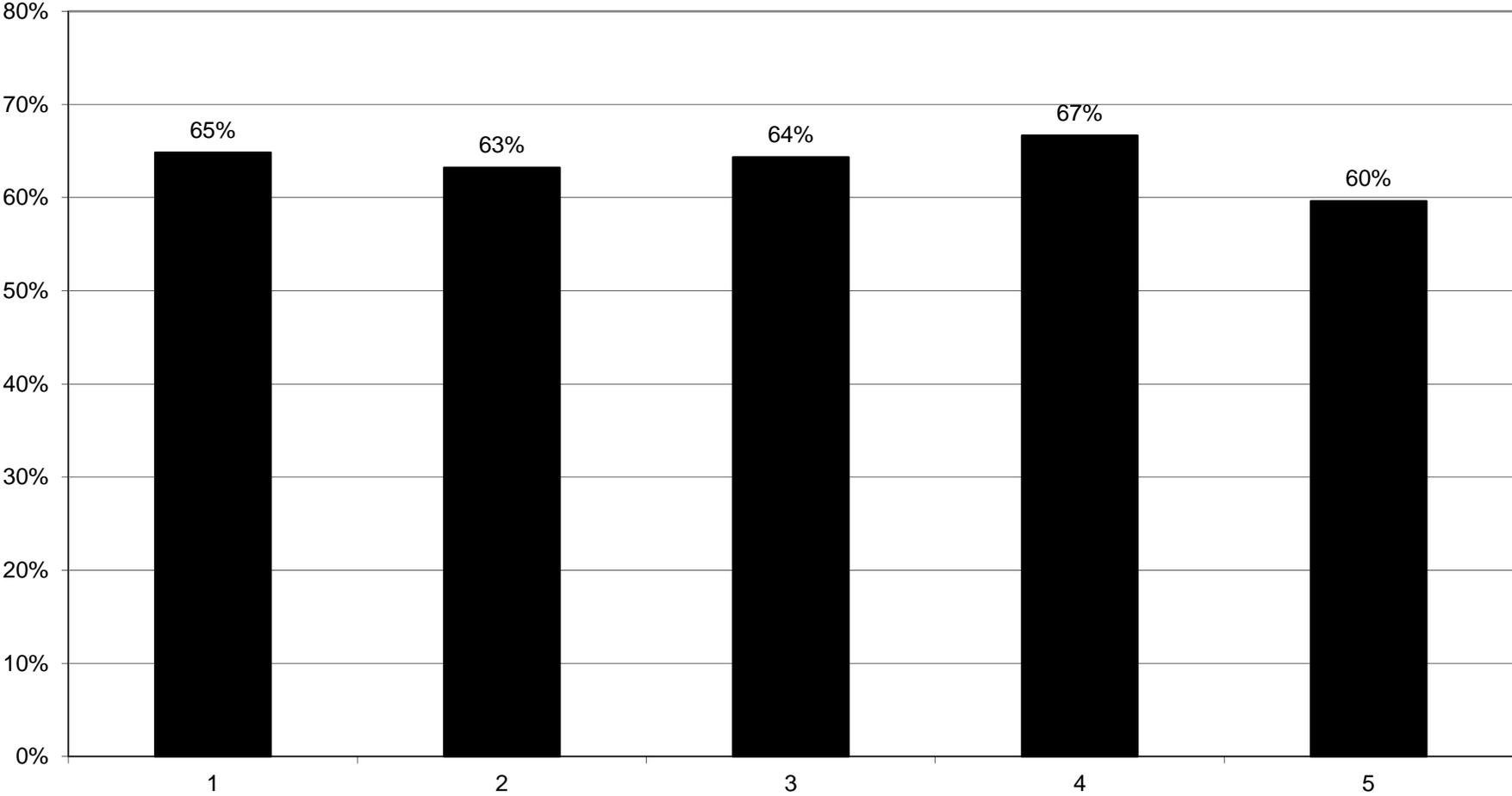


Table 13.b
Truncation Rates by Team
January - July 2012

