

# **Rural Law Enforcement Agencies: An Exploratory Examination**

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**Points of view are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Justice Programs, or the Justice Research and Statistics Association.**

Why Rural?

Large Numbers of Agencies

Presumption of Special Qualities

Lack of Prior Attention

Recent National Interest

Shepherdstown, WV

# Research Design

Data: 2003 LEMAS

Definition: Not in a  
Metropolitan  
Statistical Area

Comparisons: Five Agency Types

Rural Police

Rural Sheriff

Metropolitan Police

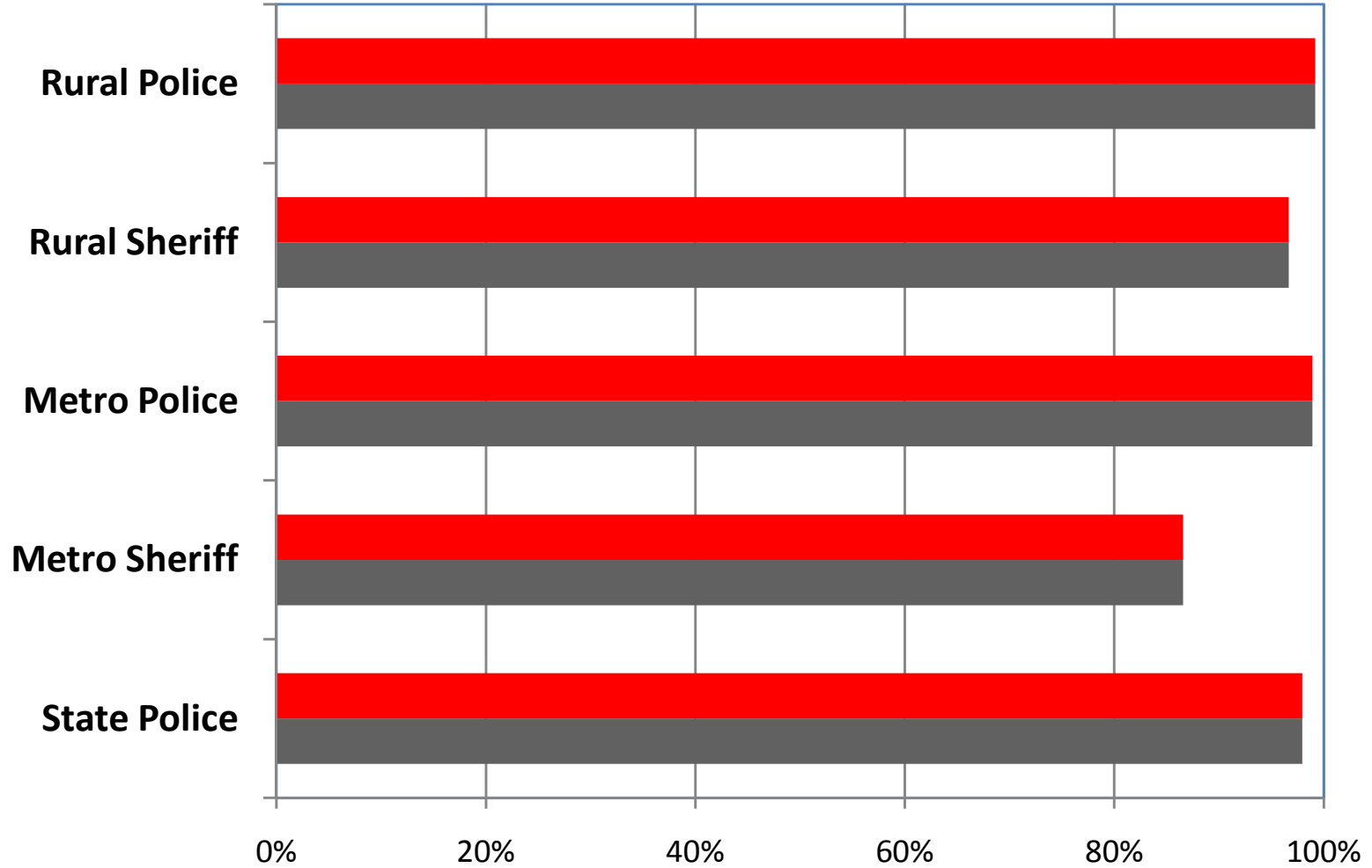
Metropolitan Sheriff

State Police

# Primary Responsibility for

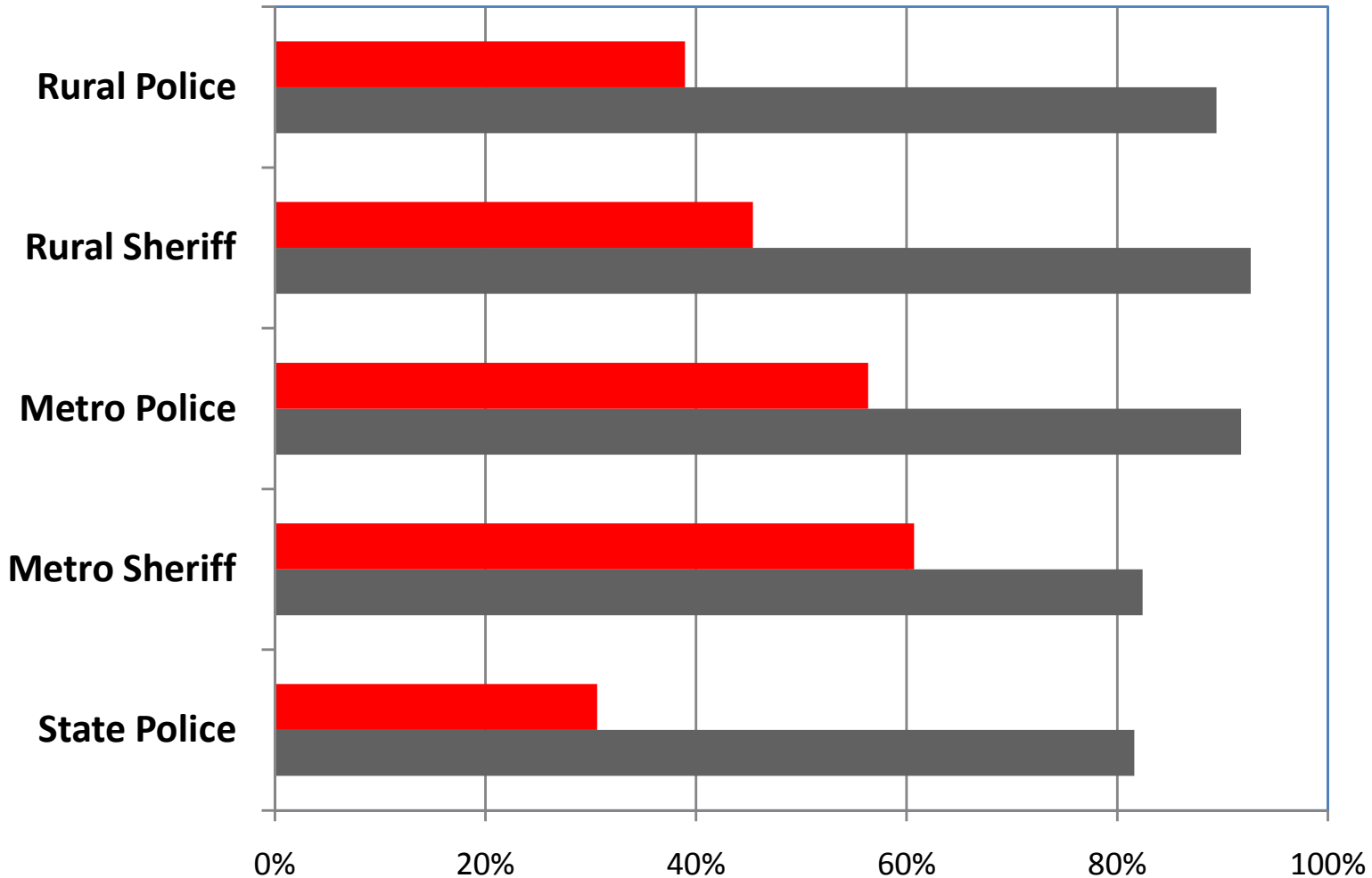
■ Patrol

■ Calls for Service



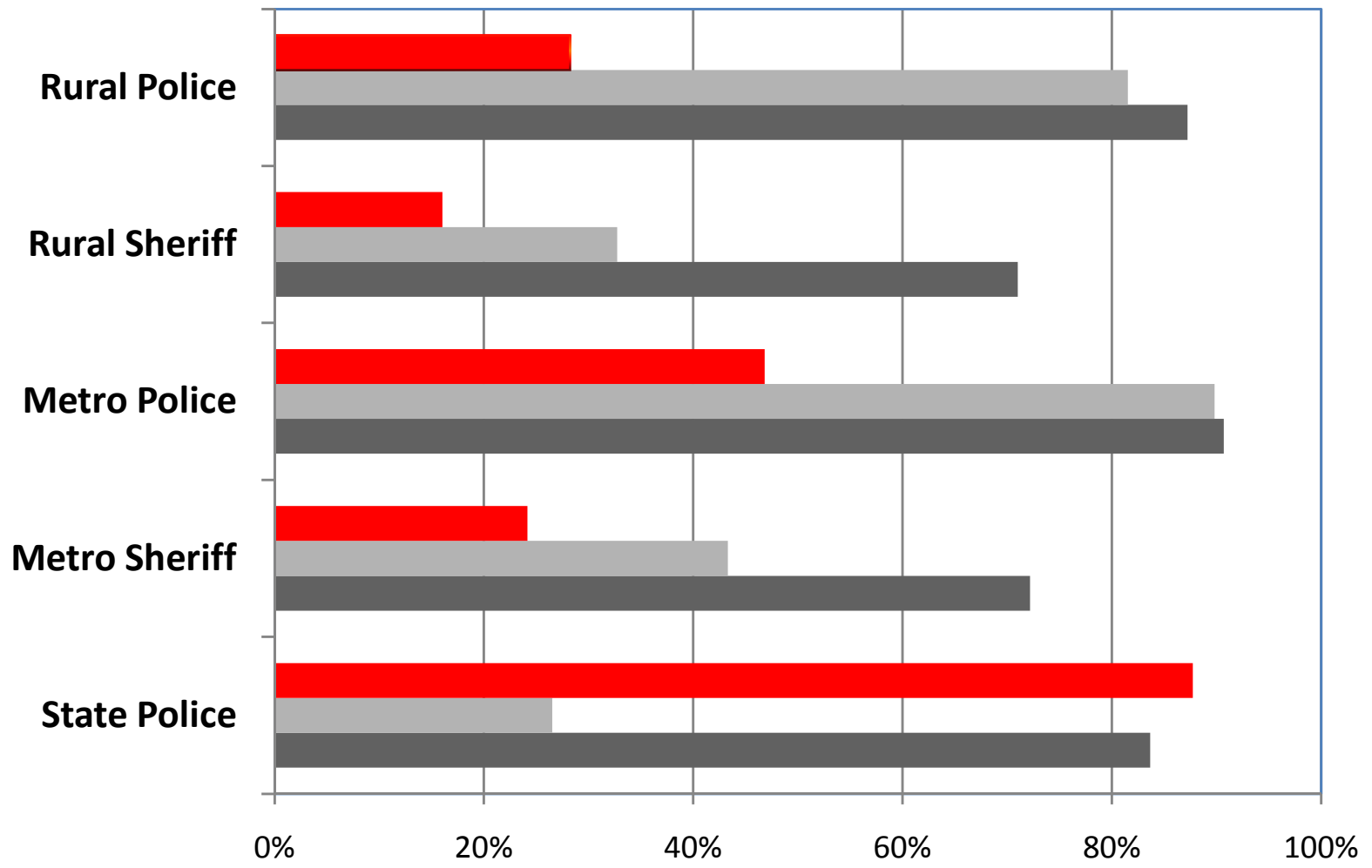
# Primary Responsibility for

■ Vice Enforcement    ■ Drug Enforcement



# Primary Responsibility for

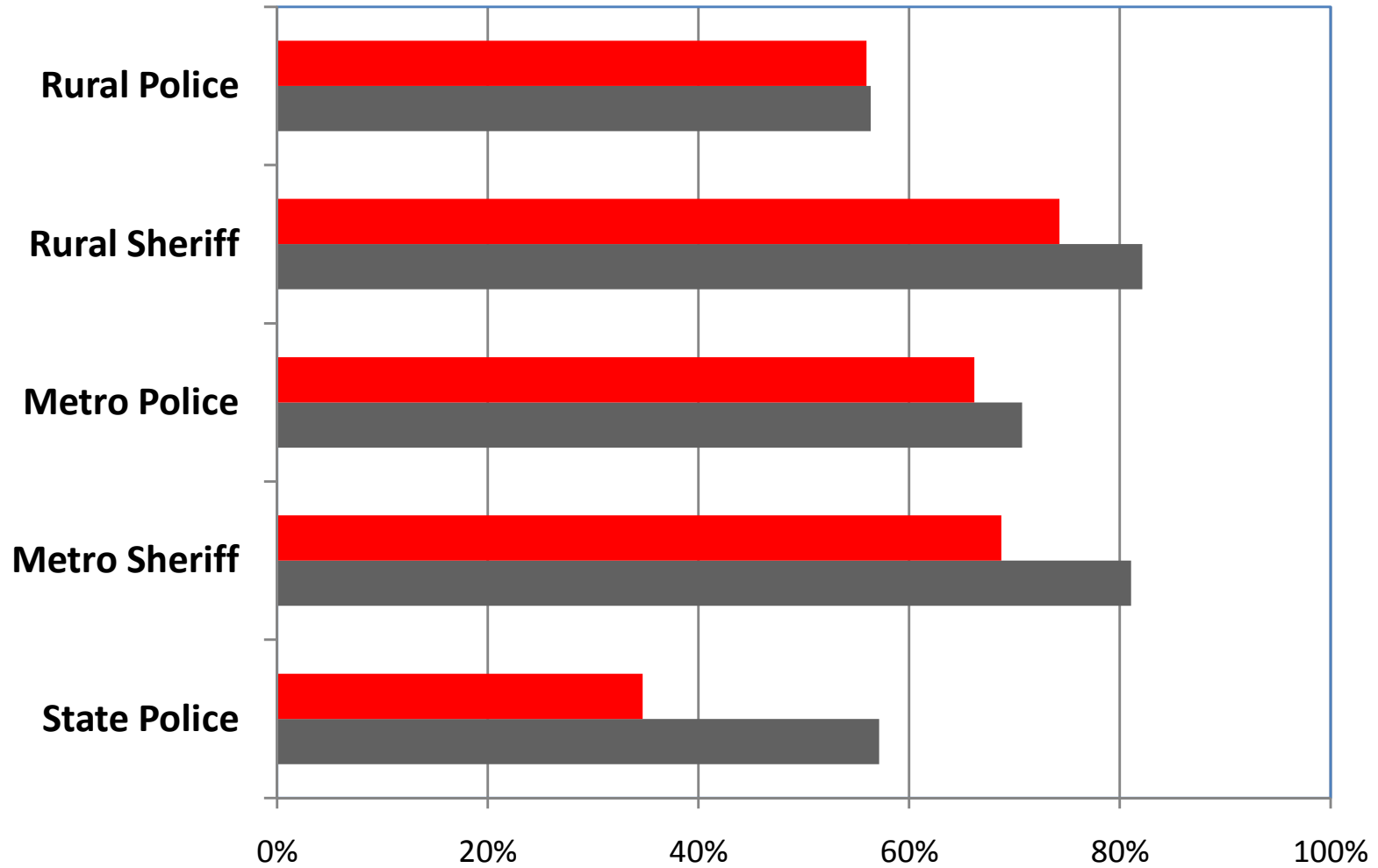
■ Commercial Vehicle    ■ Parking Enforcement    ■ Traffic Control



# Primary Responsibility for Investigating

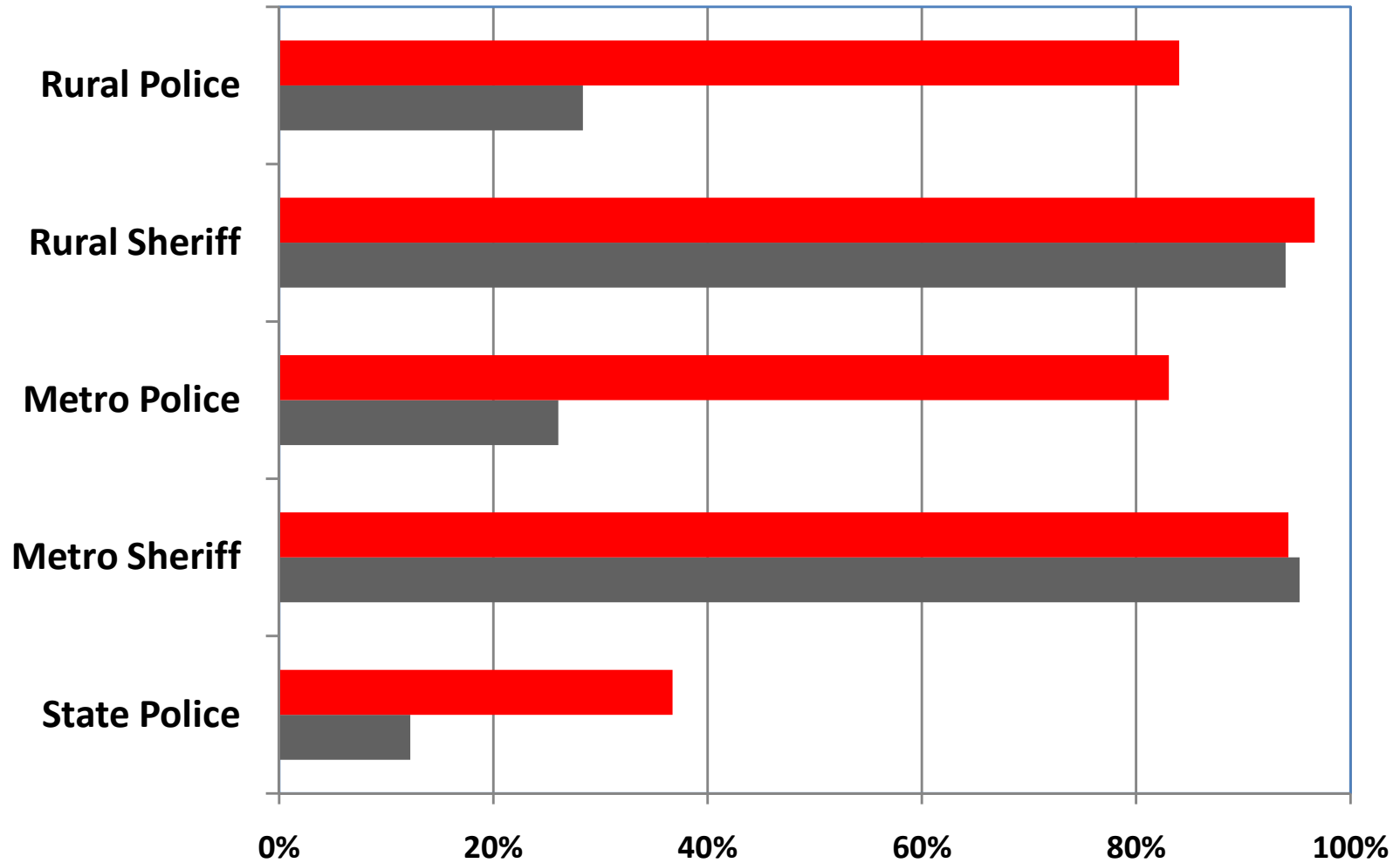
■ Arson

■ Homicide



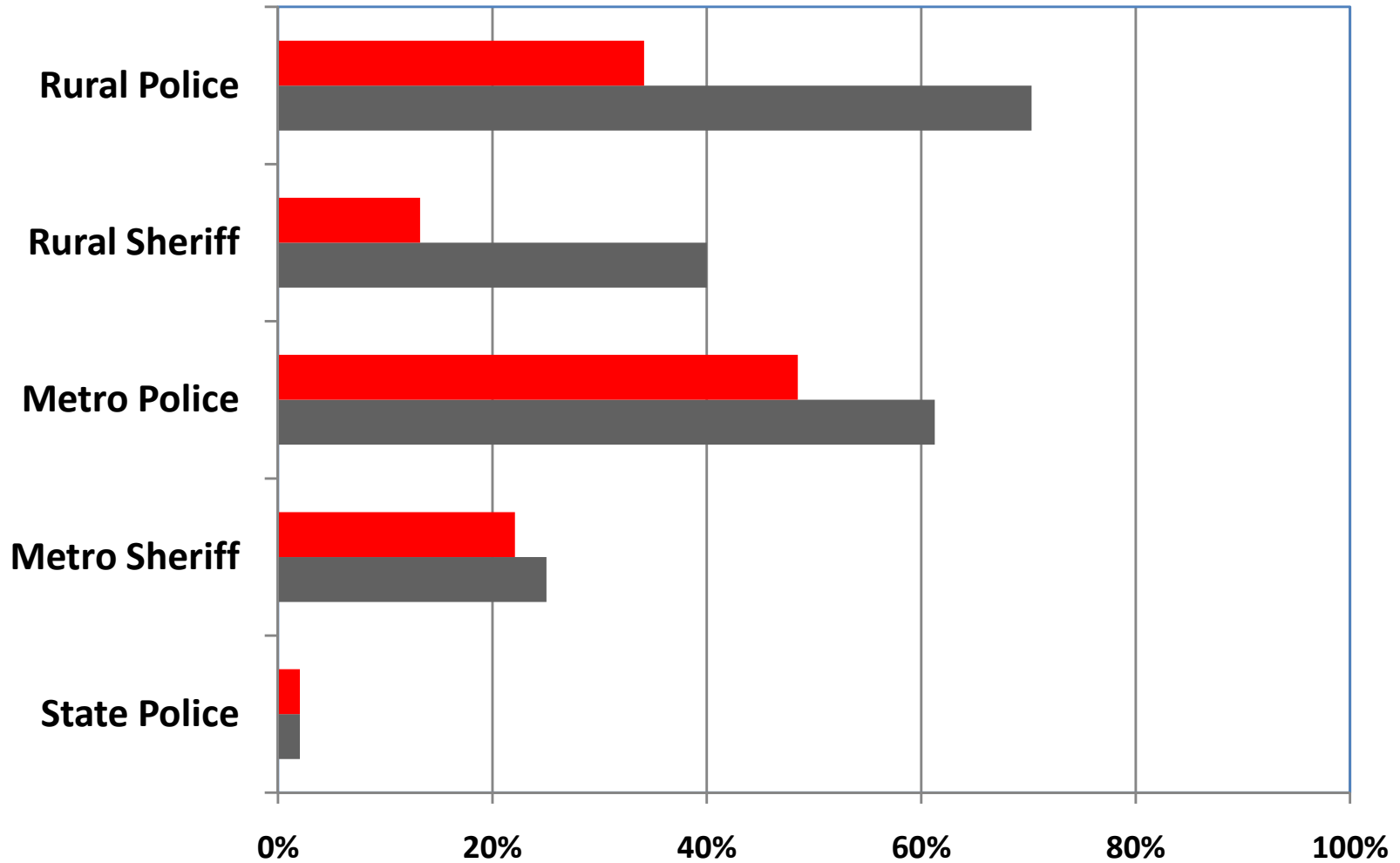
# Primary Responsibility for

■ Enforcing Protection Orders      ■ Court Security



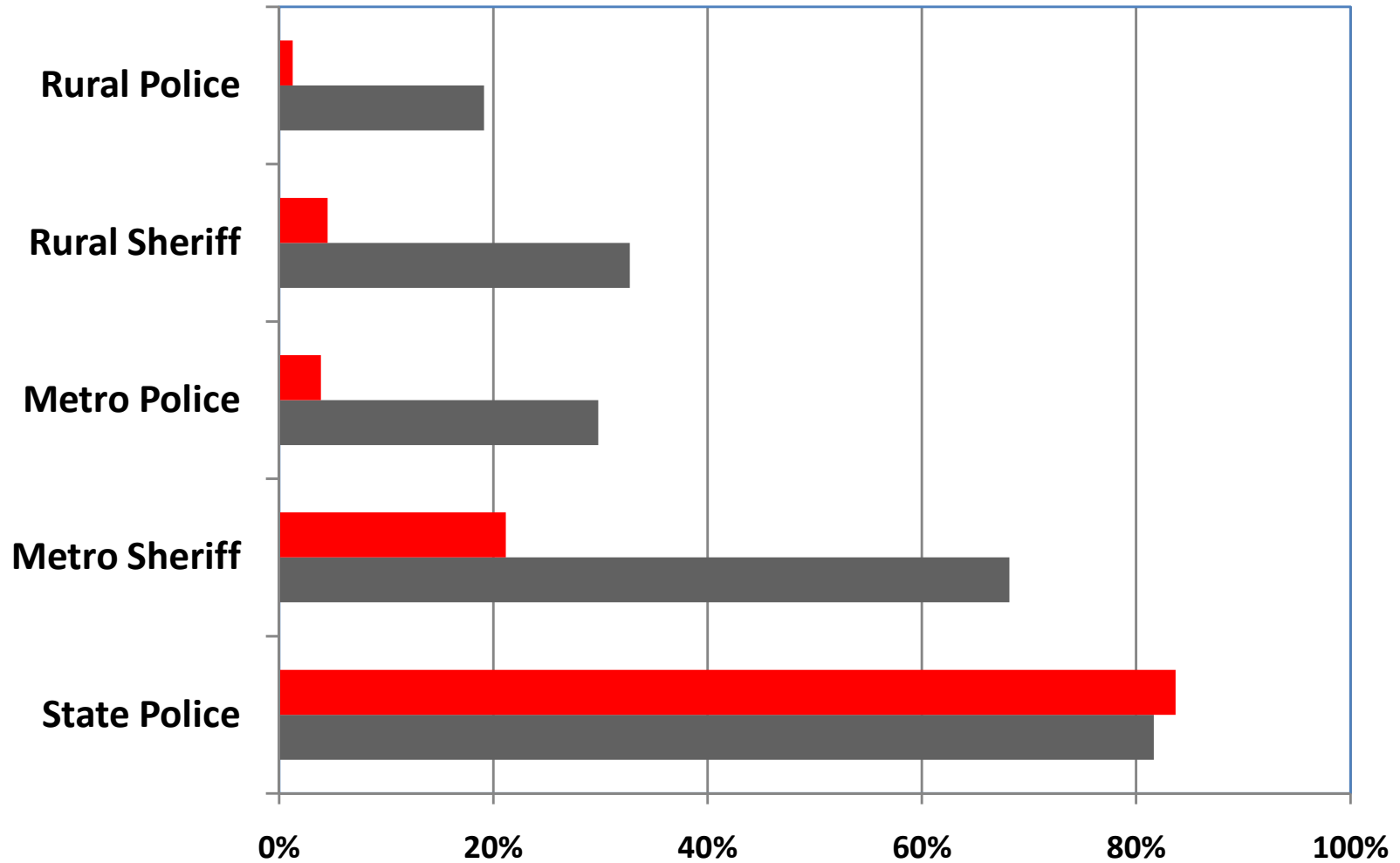
# Primary Responsibility for

■ School Crossing Services    ■ Animal Control

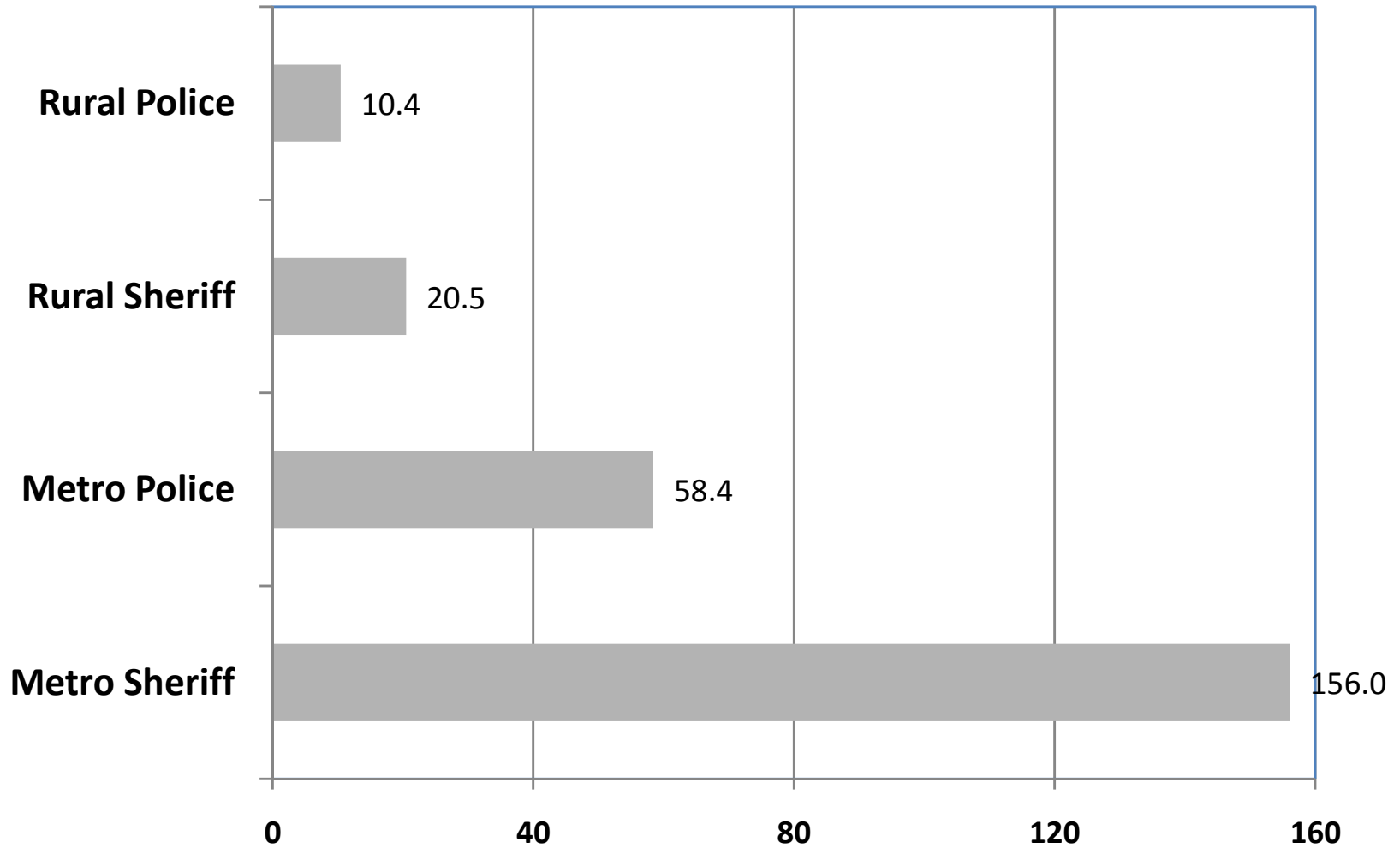


# Primary Responsibility for

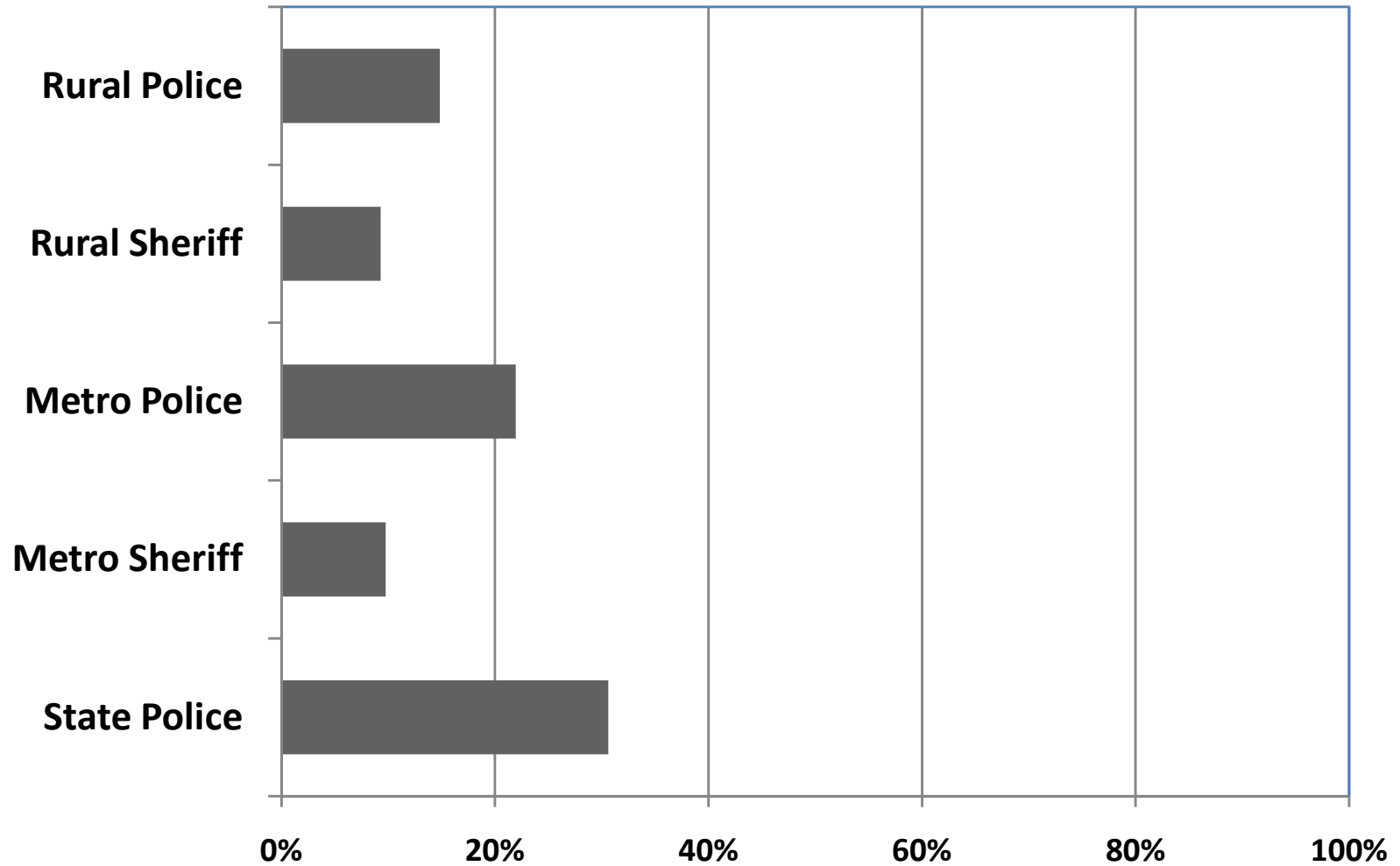
■ Training Academy      ■ SWAT



## Average Full-Time Equivalent Sworn Officers

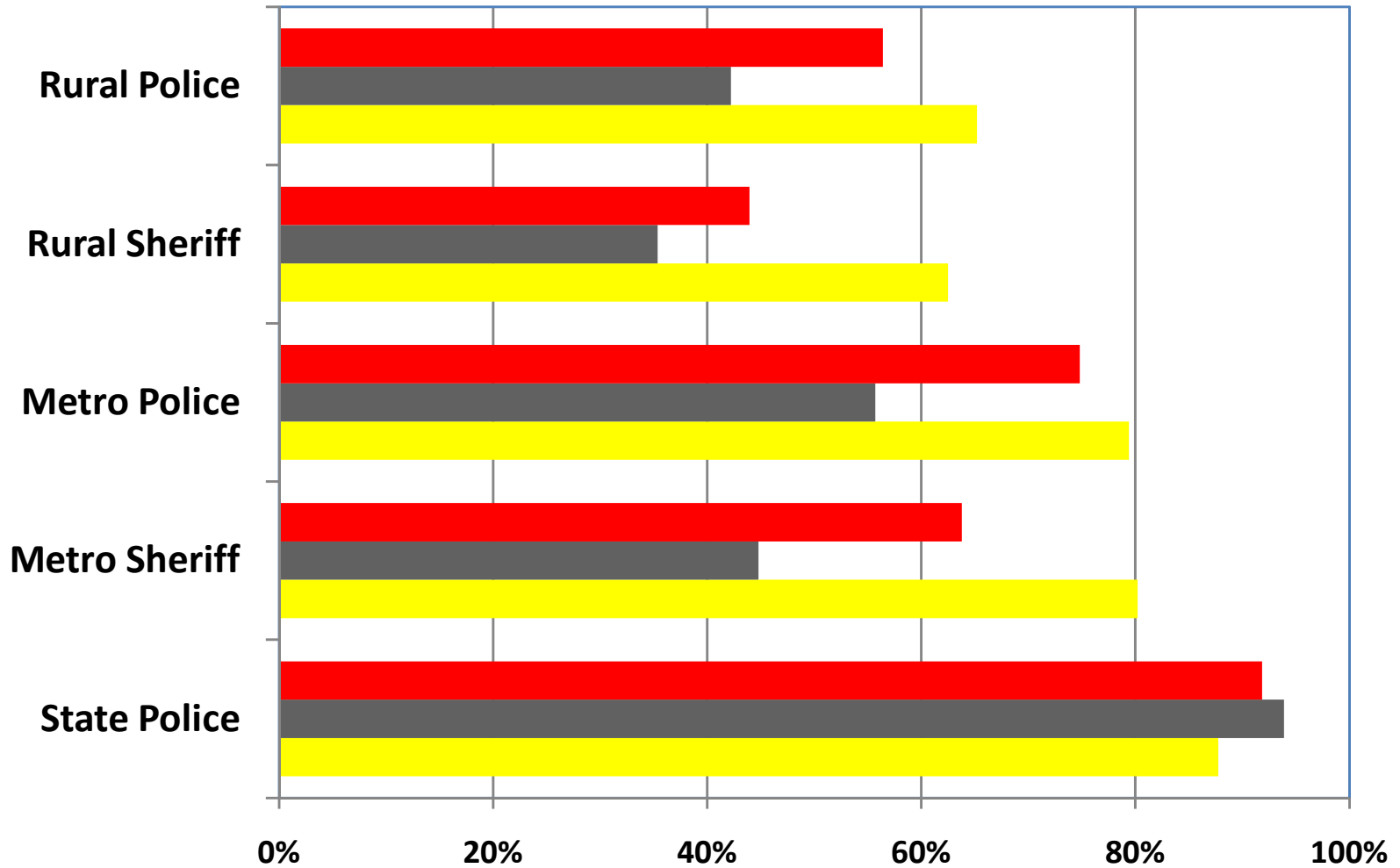


## Screening Procedures for Recruits: Some College Required



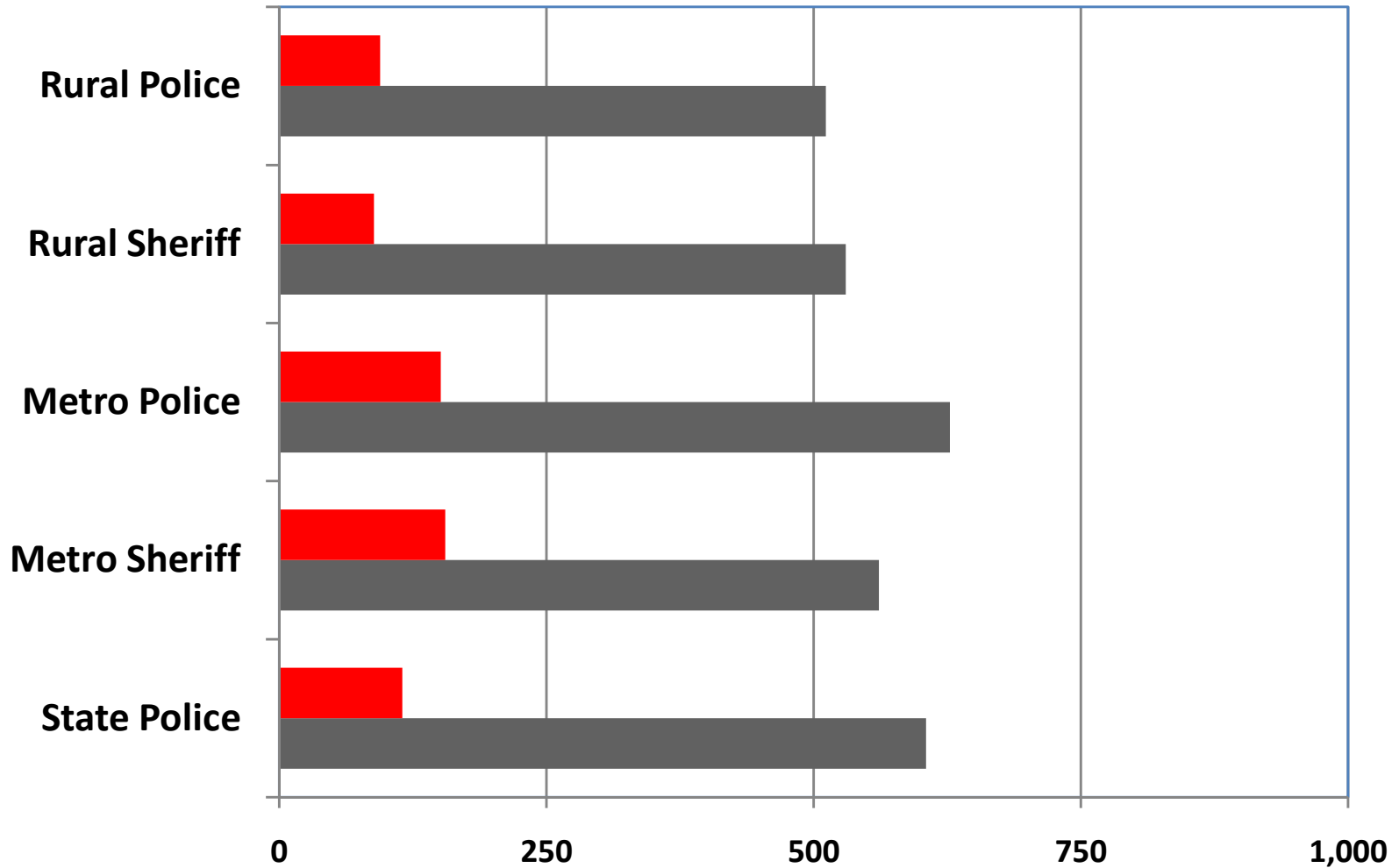
# Screening Procedures for Recruits

■ Psychological Exam   ■ Physical Agility   ■ Drug Testing



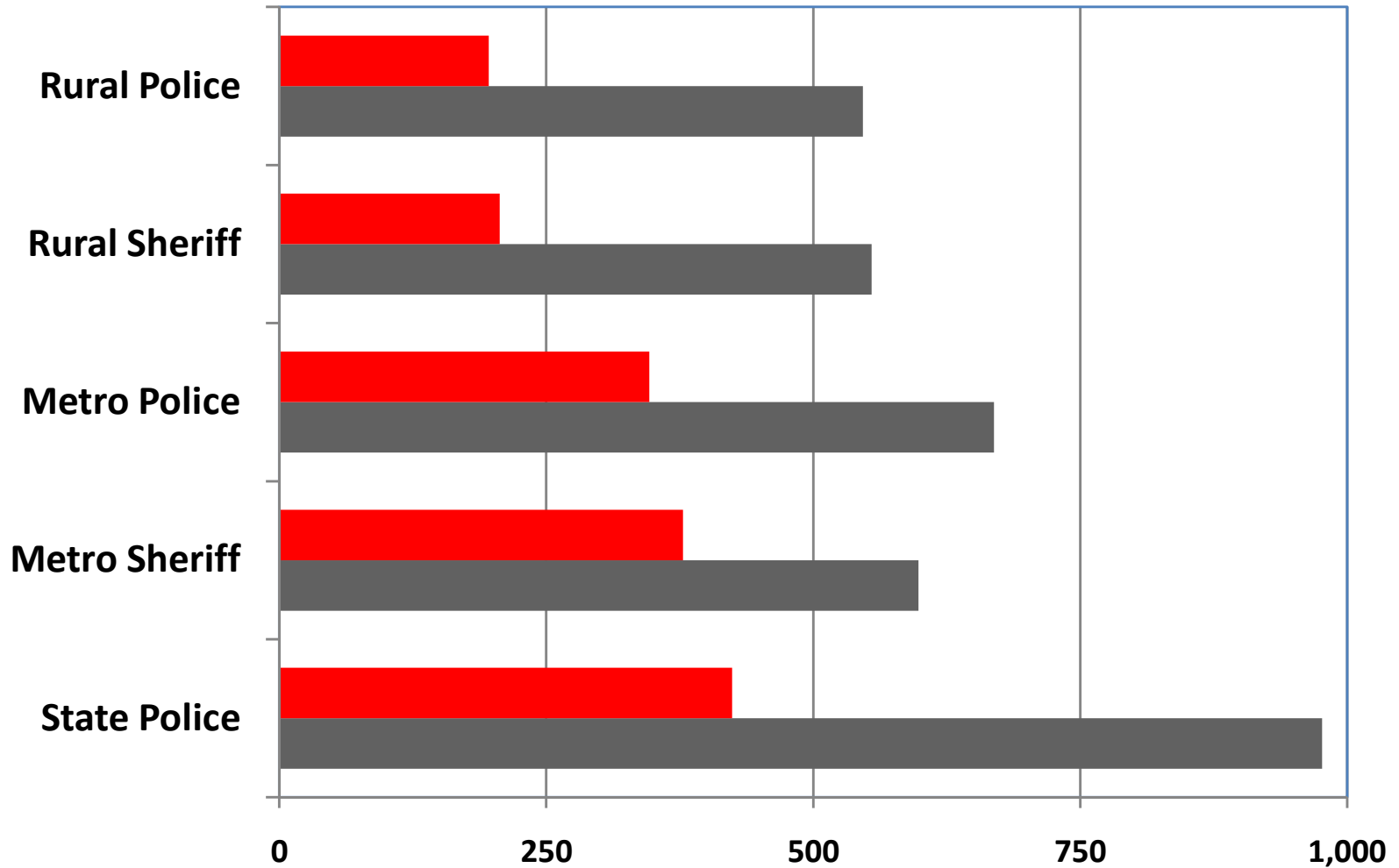
# State Mandated Hours of Training

■ Field Training   ■ Academy Training



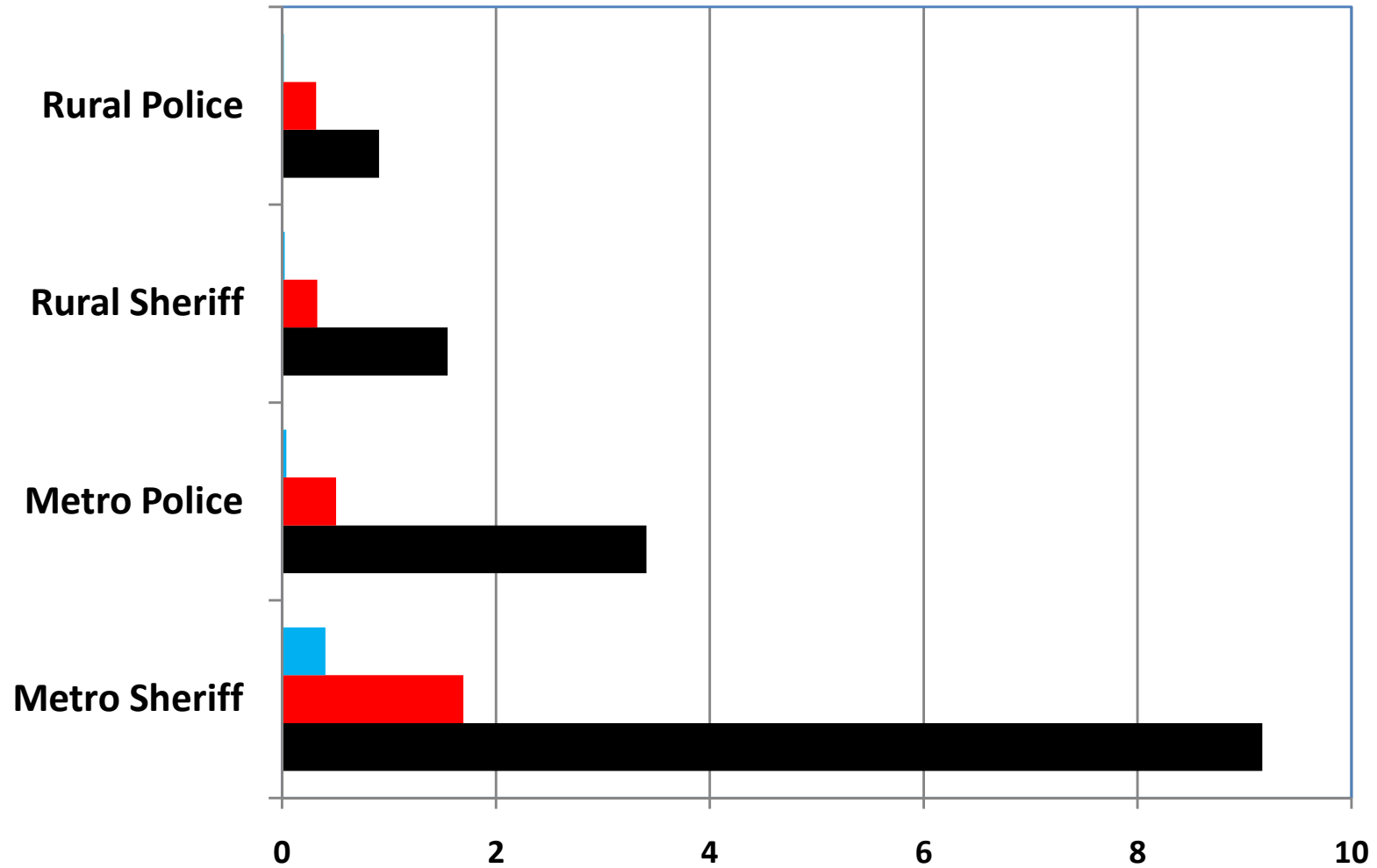
# Required Hours of Training

■ In-Service ■ Academy



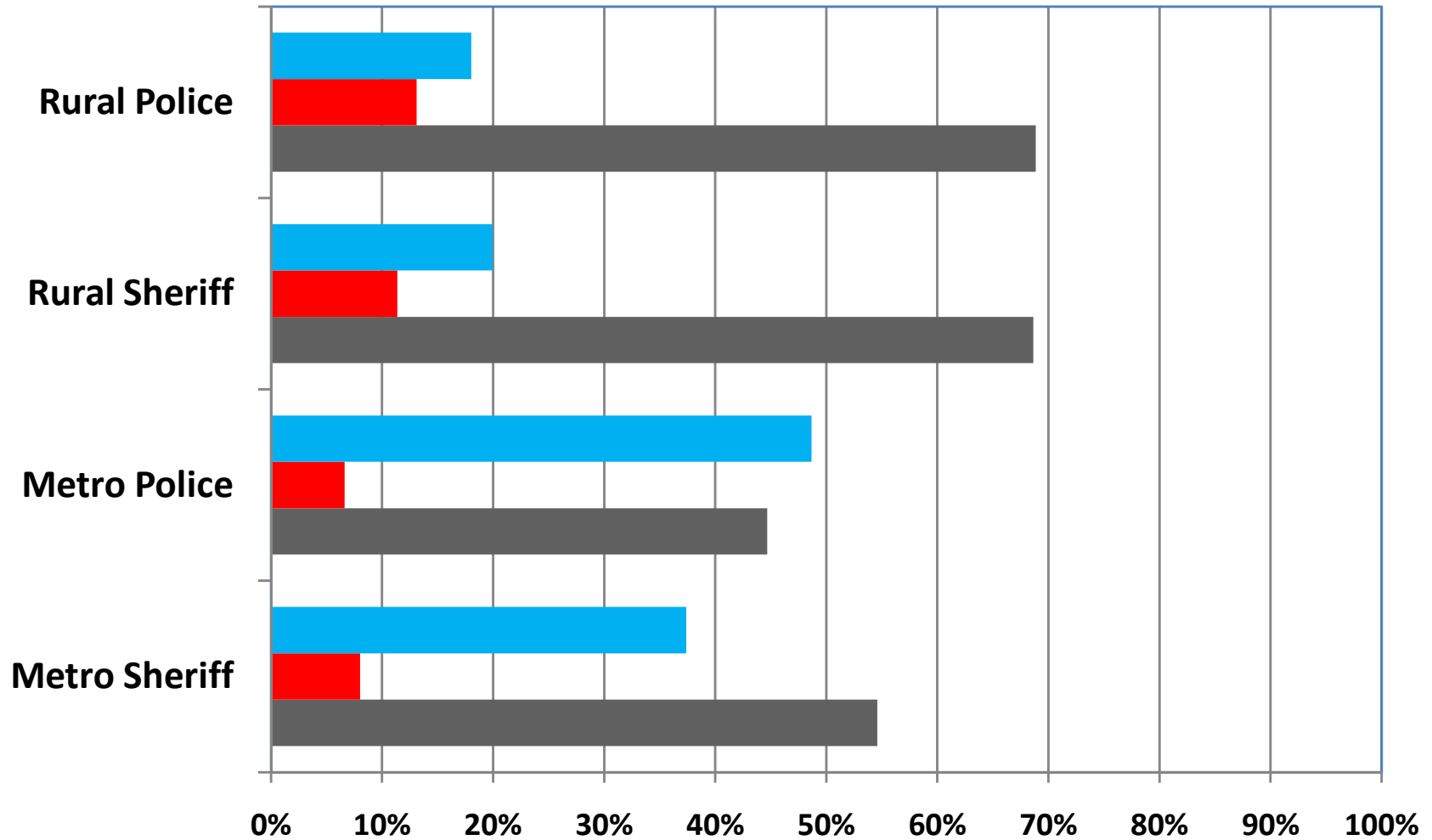
# Sources of New Hires

■ Other   ■ Lateral Transfers   ■ Entry Level



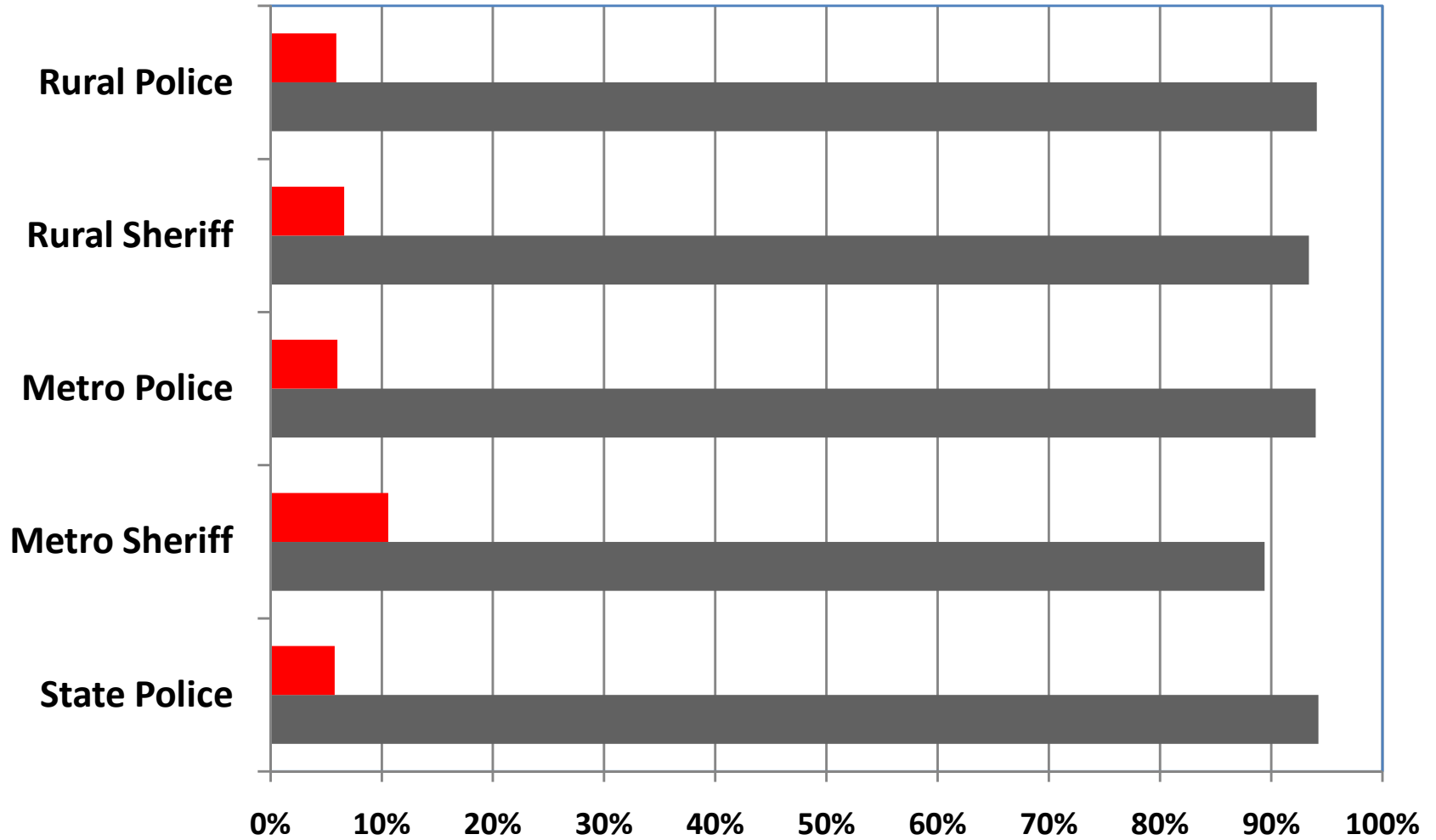
# Types of Separation from Agency

Other Separation   Dismissal   Resignation



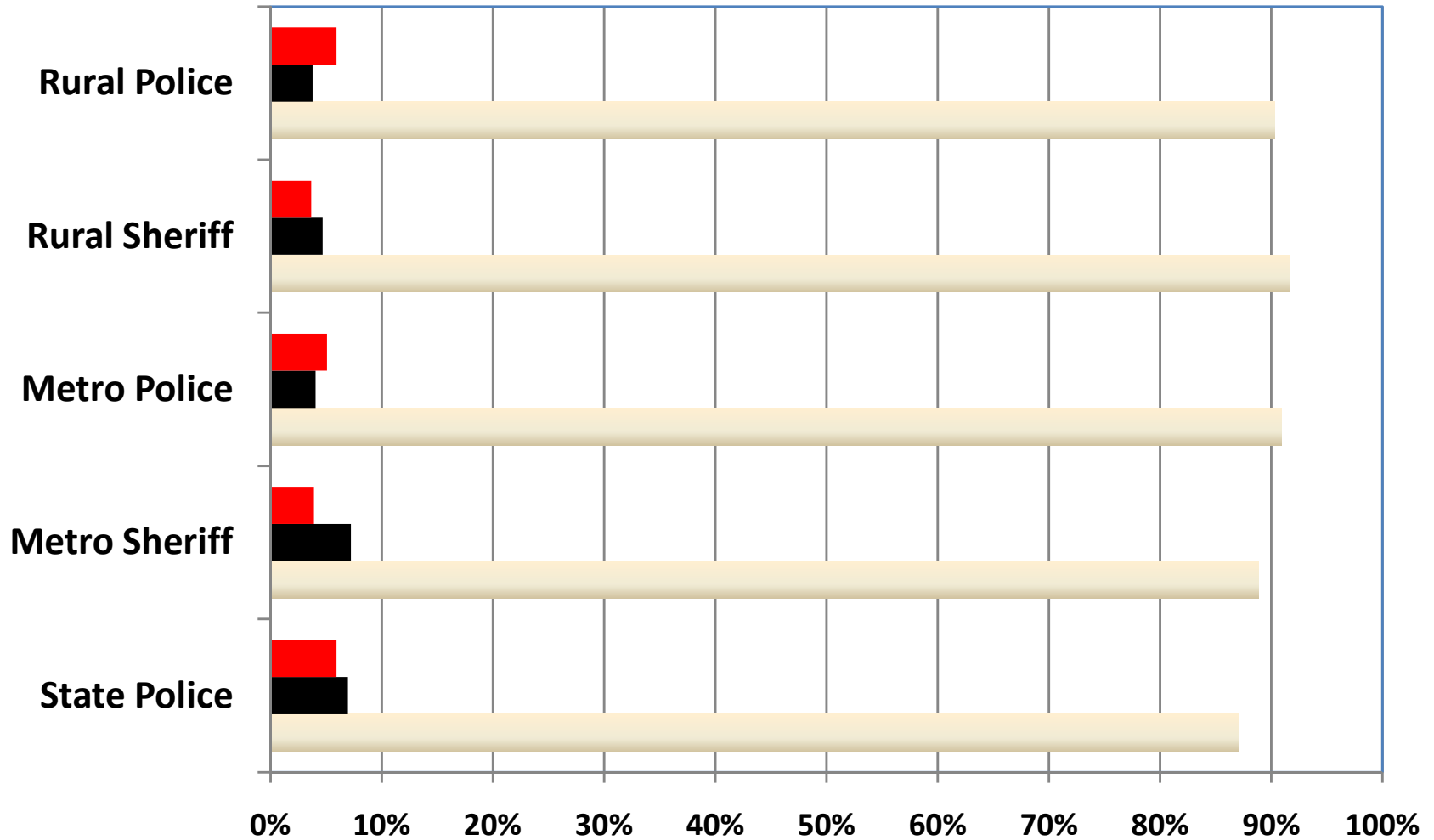
# Sex of Officers

■ Female ■ Male



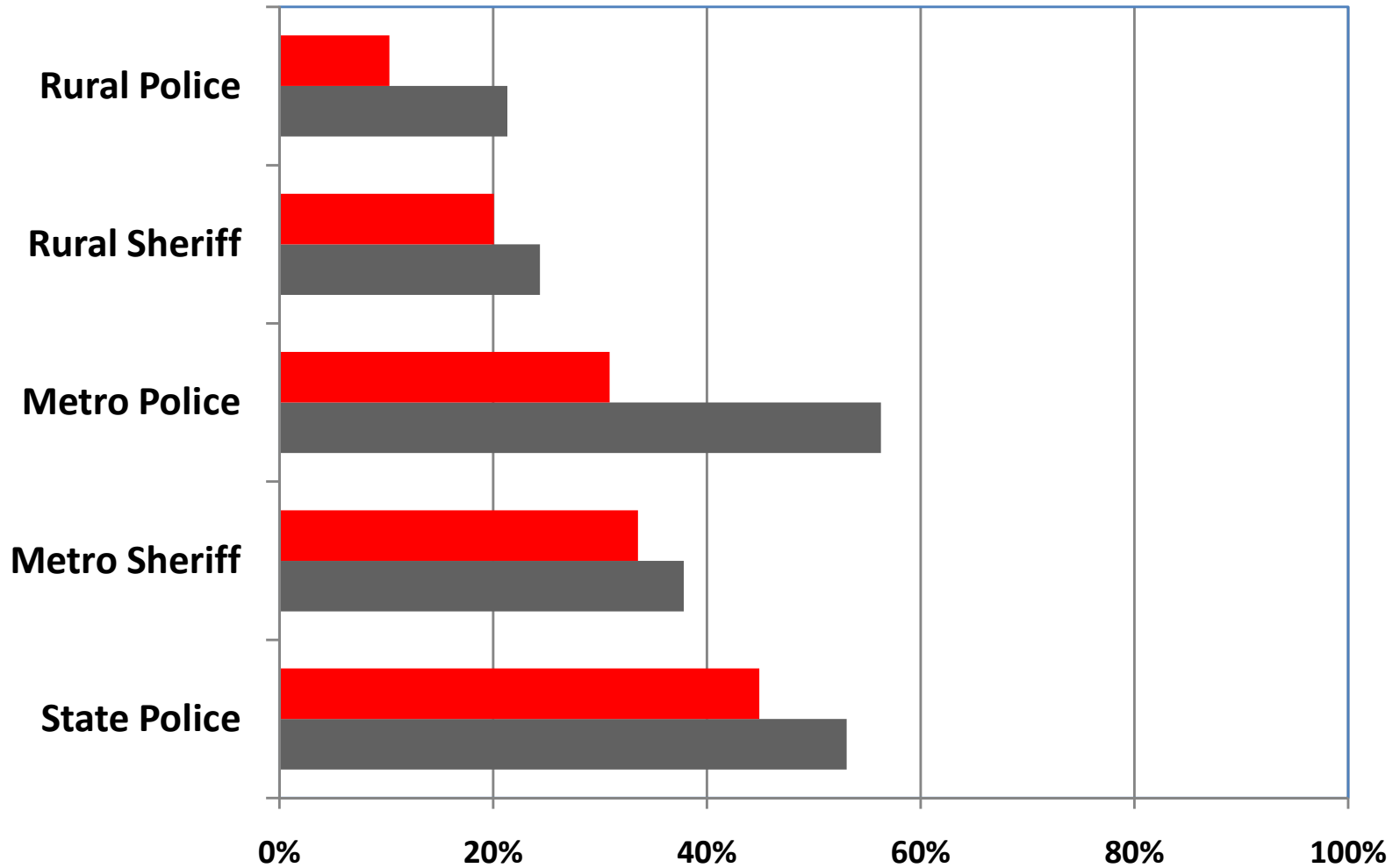
# Race of Officers

■ Other ■ Black ■ White



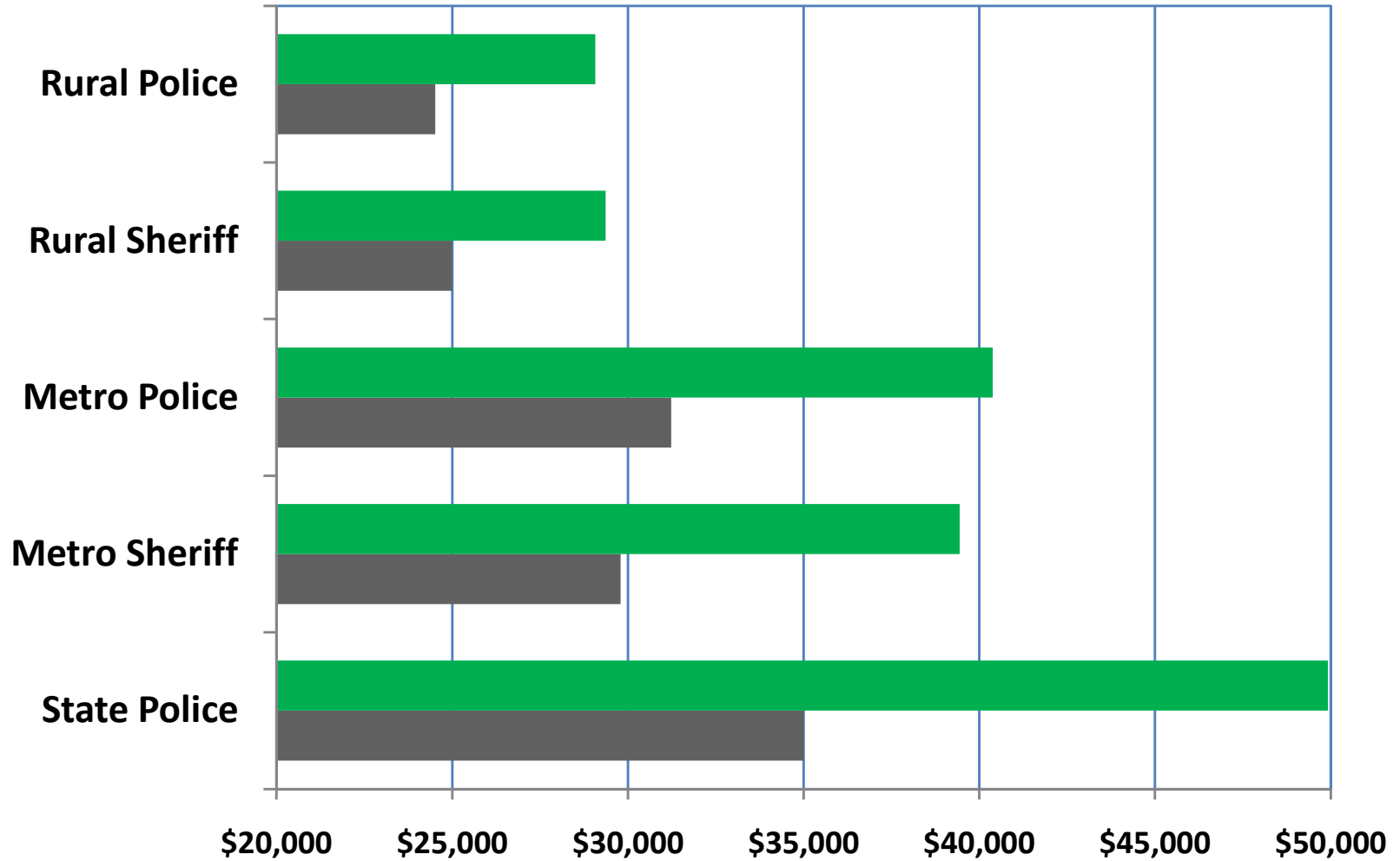
# Collective Bargaining Authorized

■ Nonsworn Personnel   ■ Sworn Personnel



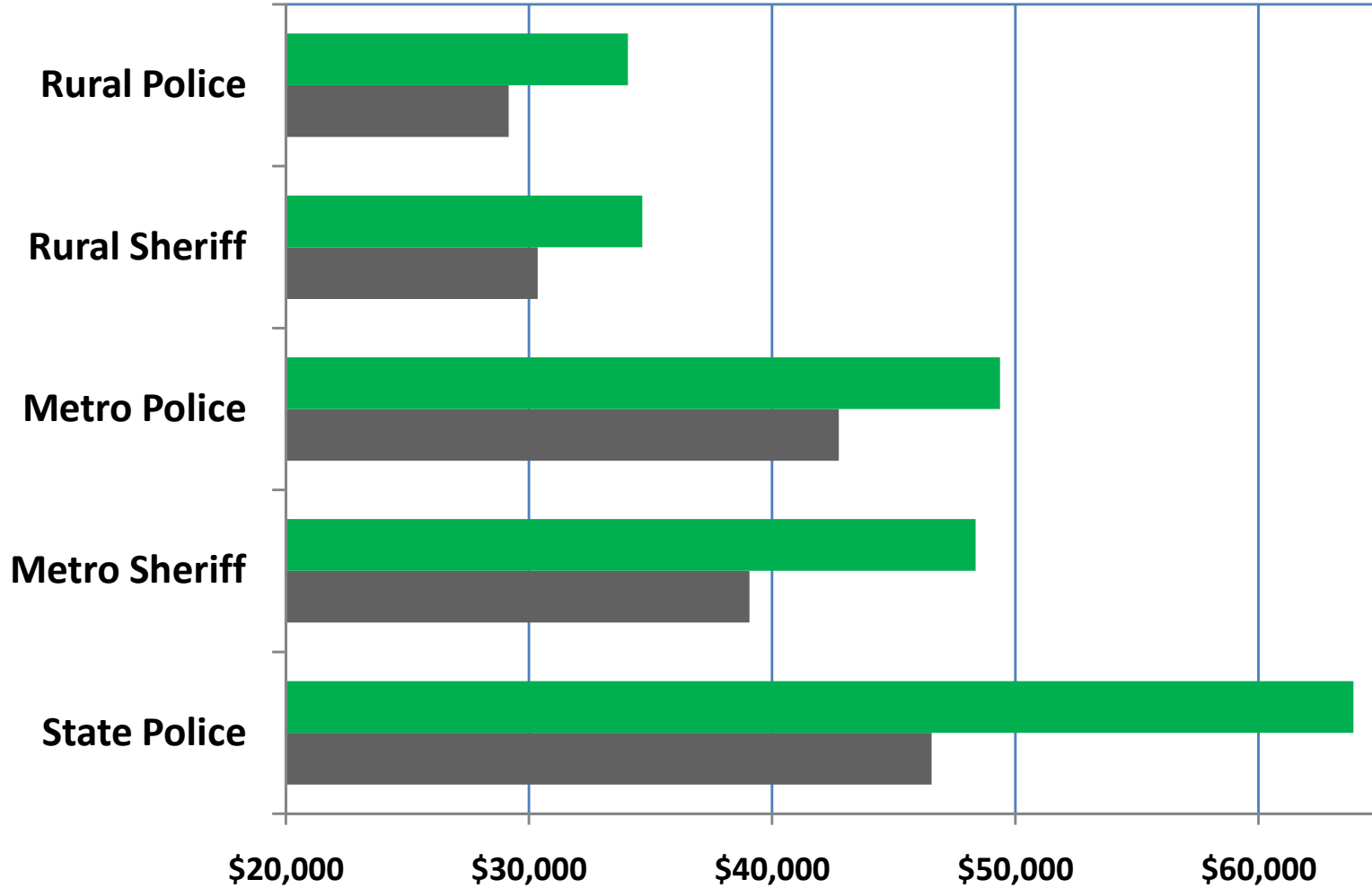
# Salary Range for Officers

■ Maximum Salary   ■ Minimum Salary



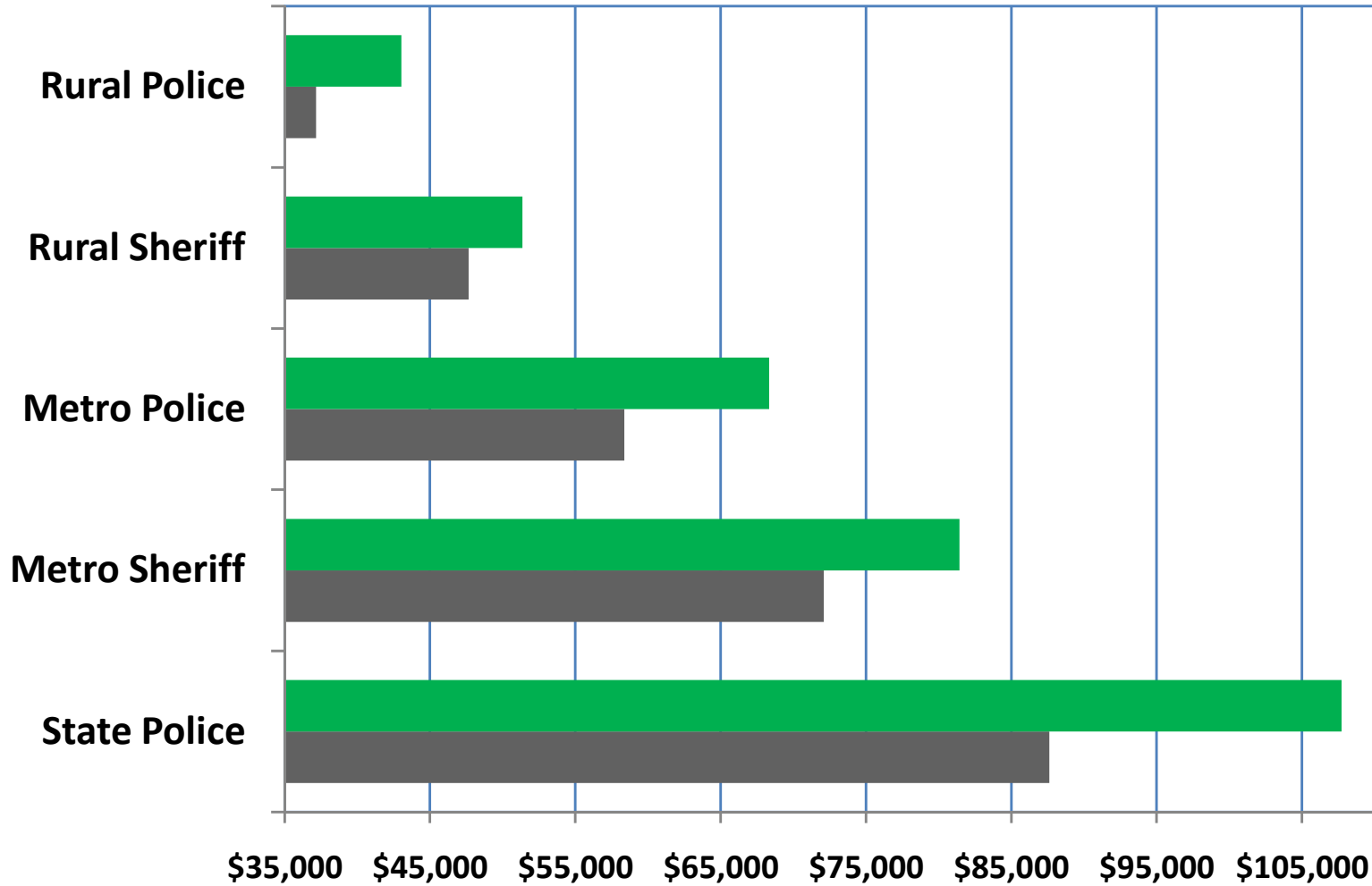
# Salary Range for Sergeants

■ Maximum Salary   ■ Minimum Salary



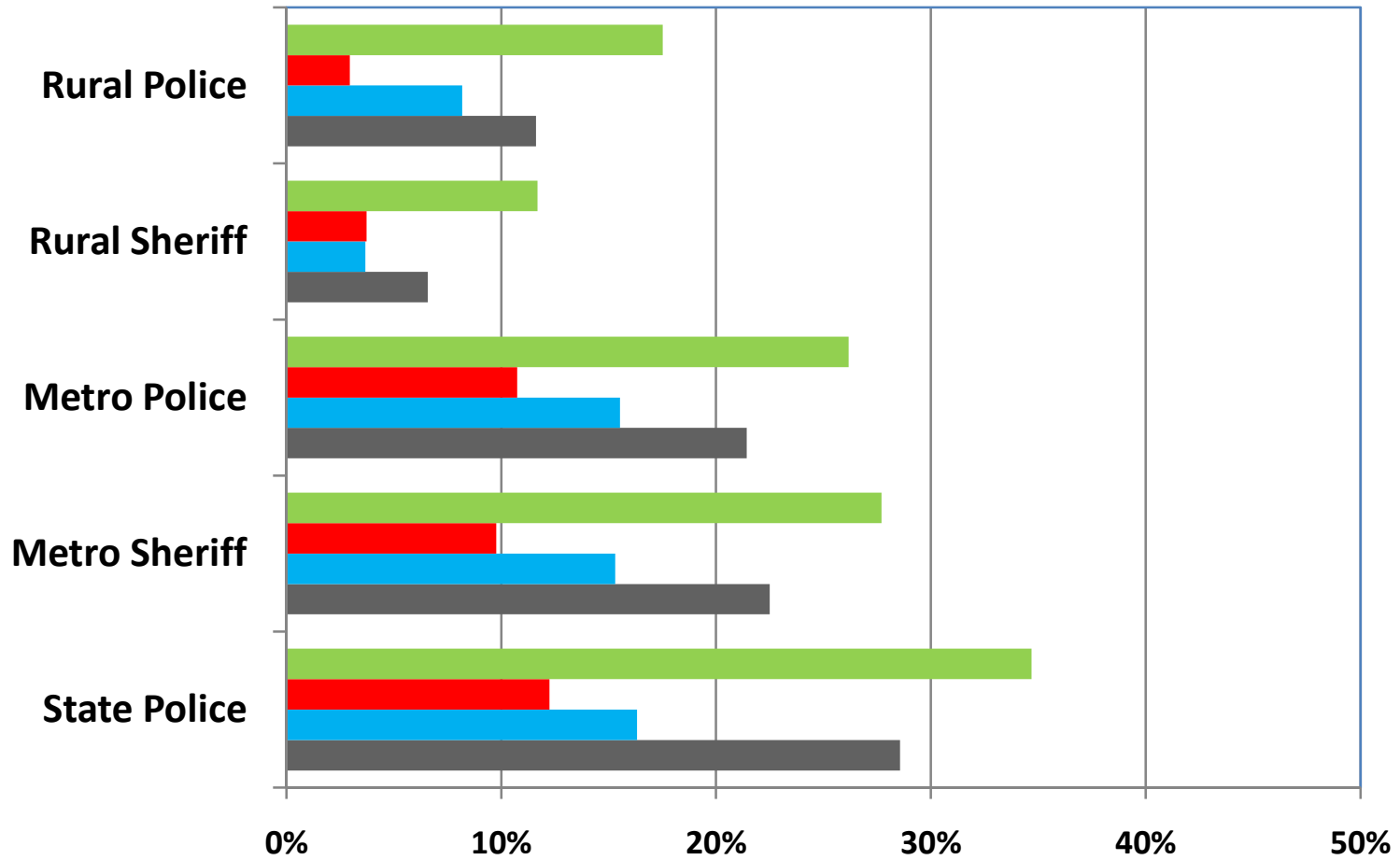
# Salary Range for Chief Executives

■ Maximum Salary   ■ Minimum Salary



# Surveys of the Public

■ Any Survey      ■ Crime Experience  
■ Perceptions of Problems   ■ Public Satisfaction



**More**  
**Methodological**  
**Questions**  
**than**  
**Substantive**  
**Answers**

**Use of “Primary Responsibility”**

**Screening Procedures versus  
Selection Process**

**Source of Training**

**Methods of Separation**

**Salary Range Controlled for  
Cost of Living**

**Statistical and Substantive Tests**

**Nonrural Small v. Rural**

**2007 LEMAS**

