

A NATIONAL SURVEY OF EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

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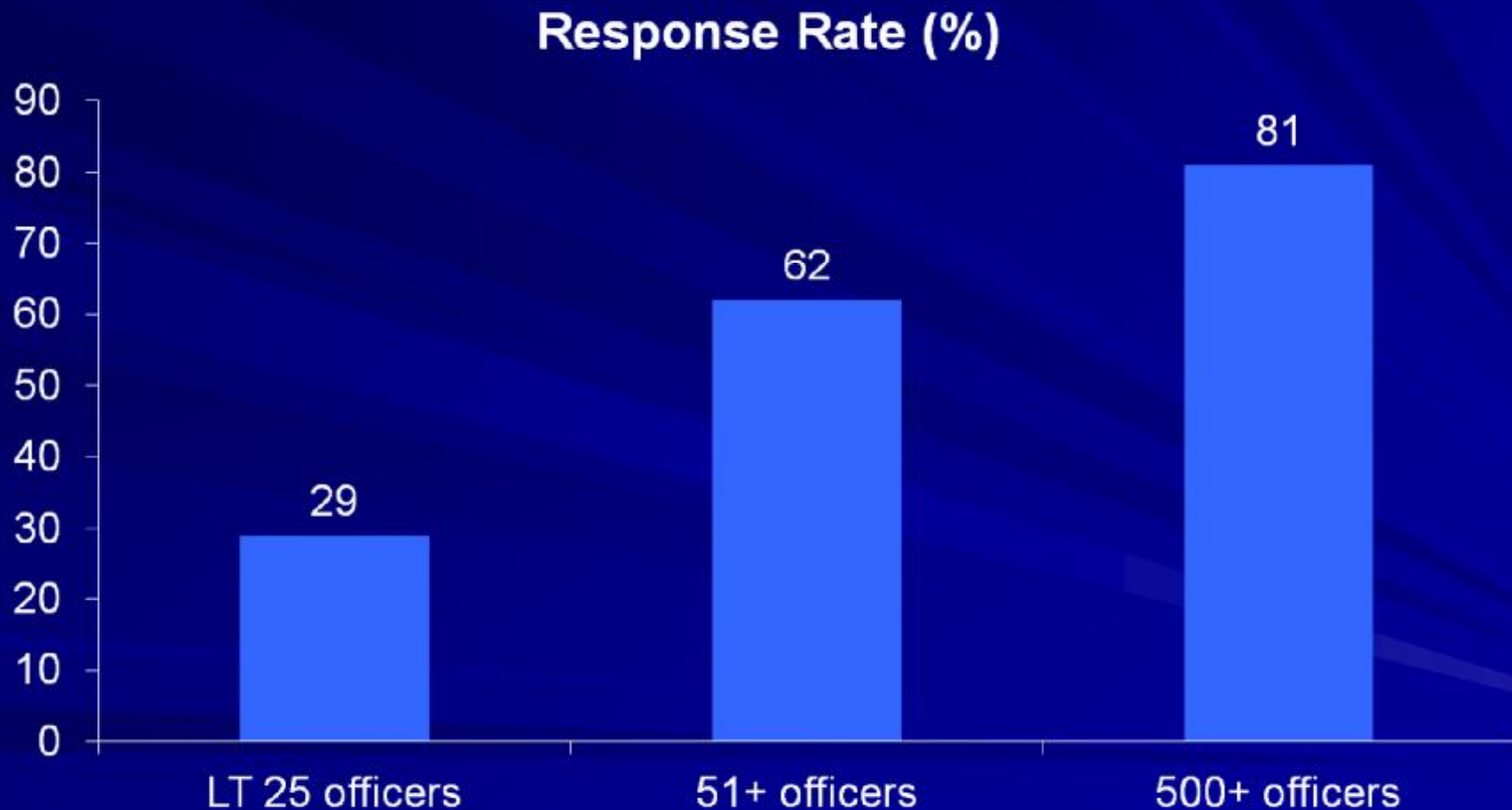
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Study Methods

Mail Survey

- Random sample of 1,377 LEAs stratified by region, type, and size
- Three waves of hard copies; five reminder letters; phone calls for non-responders
- Survey conducted August-October, 2011

45% Response Rate (N=619)

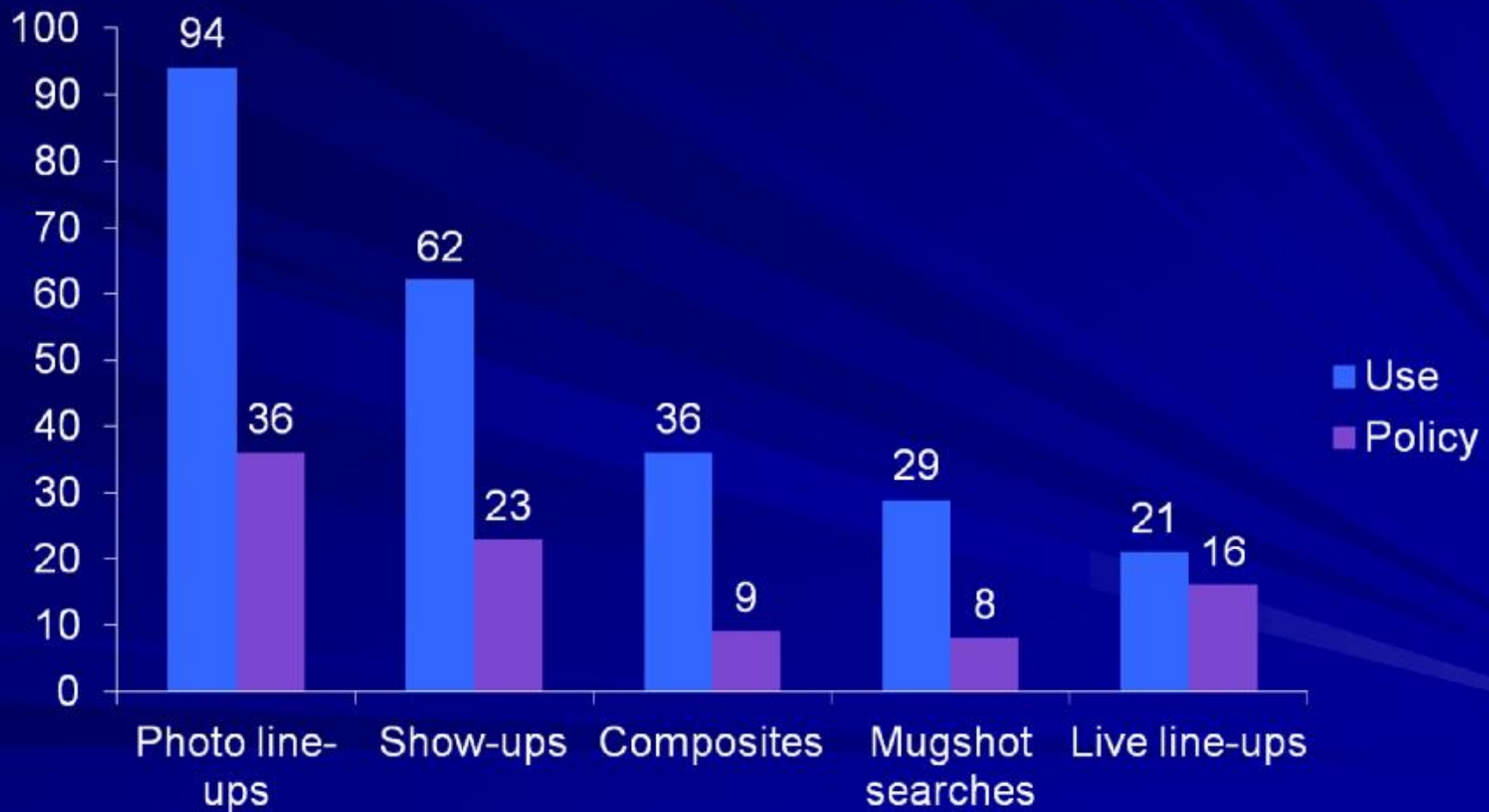


Telephone Interviews

- **Purpose:** expand on themes in survey and identify promising practices
- 44 agencies identified in survey as having recent changes in to blind administration or sequential line-ups or use of computer-aided administration of line-ups
- Interviews completed with 30
 - Mix of state, local police & sheriffs
 - 2/3 were LEAs with 500+ officers

Major Findings of the Study

Eyewitness ID Procedures



Training

- 68% provide training on photo line-ups
- 44% provide training on live line-ups
- Of those that provide training...
 - 47% train that multiple witnesses should participate separately
 - 42% train that photos must not contain information on prior arrests
 - 69% train that administrator must instruct that perp may not be in line-up

Line-Up Procedures

- Majority use non-blind administrator for live (92%) and photo (69%) line-ups
- Majority use simultaneous presentation for live (65%) and photo (68%) line-ups
- Relatively few use audio or video recordings to document live line-ups (24%) or photo line-ups (21%)

Treatment of Witnesses

- Large majority instruct witnesses that perp may or may not be present in live (88%) or photo (84%) line-ups
- Three in four allow witnesses to view photos multiple times

Changes to Policies

56% reported changes in policies or procedures since 1999 – most in 2010/2011

Policy Change	% of Agencies Reporting Change
Live line up instructions	39%
Blind photo line-ups	39%
Sequential photo line-ups	37%
Photo line-up instructions	34%
Blind live line-ups	27%
Sequential live line-ups	20%

Implications

- LEAs lack uniformity in procedures used for eyewitness identification
- Most police agencies have not fully implemented 1999 NIJ recommendations
- But most LEAs have made some changes in practice since 1999