

Number 2026-49



**Utah Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Conviction Trends:
Registrable Offenses by Statute, 1983–2026
A Comprehensive Analysis**

June 2026

Office of
UTAH FOR RATIONAL SEX OFFENSE LAWS

Introduction

This document provides a comprehensive quantitative analysis of Utah conviction records for offenses enumerated under §53-29-202, as obtained from the Administrative Office of the Courts. It is intended as a standalone reference for the Utah State Legislature and policy stakeholders engaged in evidence-based reform of Utah's Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry framework. All statistical claims are drawn directly from the record unless otherwise noted.

These court records document 40+ years of District Court case outcomes (1983–2026) and 30 years of Justice Court records (1994–2026) across 182 distinct statute and subsection codes. Combined with the statewide Department of Public Safety (DPS) registry population of 10,229 registrants as of March 28, 2026, this constitutes the most comprehensive empirical picture of the Registry ecosystem assembled by a policy organization in the state.

Six findings dominate:

- **Case volume has surged to an all-time high.** 2025 produced 2,688 District Court case-outcomes, the single largest annual count in the record's history, yet conviction rates simultaneously fell to 40.2%, their lowest in decades. The system is generating more proceedings than ever while converting a smaller share into registry-mandating outcomes.
- **The dismissal landscape has structurally transformed.** Before 2014, virtually all dismissals were without prejudice. By 2016, the majority flipped to dismissed with prejudice, final, unrefileable terminations. In 2025, 62.5% of all dismissed cases were dismissed with prejudice, a systemic shift with direct implications for the gap between charging activity and actual registry entries.
- **A new tier of registrable offenses activated in 2025.** Enticing a Minor (417), Sexual Battery (418), restructured Lewdness (419 and 420), Voyeurism (76-12), and Virtual Reality sexual activity (418), all new or restructured by recent legislative sessions, debuted at conviction rates of 55–67%, outperforming most felony sex offenses. Approximately 294 new Lewdness convictions accumulated across District and Justice Courts in the first two years alone.
- **The most serious penetrative child offenses have the lowest conviction rates, reflecting structural evidentiary challenges in cases that typically depend on complainant testimony without corroborating physical evidence.** Rape of a Child (402.1, 27.8), Sodomy on a Child (403.1, 27%), Object Rape (402.2, 24.2%), and Object

Rape of a Child (402.3, 18.5%) form the lowest-converting tier. §76-5b-201 (CSAM, 46%) sits between tiers, harder to prove than non-penetrative contact offenses but substantially easier to prove than penetrative child offenses.

- The 2025 legislative session expanded the tracked offense list substantially. The records includes 17 statutes first appearing in 2025 case records, all products of 2024–2025 legislative enactments, and incorporates 2026 partial-year records. Forty-two of 46 registrable offenses per §53-29-202 are covered in the records provided. §76-5-109.2 (Aggravated Child Abuse) and §76-5-109.4 (Child Torture) are present with cases reflecting sex-offense-nexus filings. §76-5b-202 (Sexual Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult) is present. Six offenses remain absent (see Section 1.4).
- The registry's exit pathway functions as a near-dead letter. UDC administrative data (2008–2024) shows 4,833 registrants reached ten-year termination eligibility over 17 years (~284/year), yet early termination petitions total only 83 across the five years with available data, with 20 removals documented through 2024. The early termination petition grant rate is 14.5%; the actual removal rate relative to eligible registrants is under 1%. Net registry growth of approximately 82 registrants per year reflects persistently low exit rates more than dramatically elevated entry rates.

Section 1: Court Record Scope and Structure

1.1 Court Record Provenance

The court records were obtained by Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws (UTRSOL) from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and represents Utah court conviction records drawn from the state courts case management system. It covers District Court proceedings from 1983 through 2026 and Justice Court proceedings from 1994 through 2026, with 2026 figures reflecting a partial year through the date of production. The AOC provided court level (District, Justice) and unit of analysis (case, charge), tracking 182 distinct statute and subsection codes, including the full §76-5b family (CSAM and related offenses), the §76-5-109.2 child abuse offender tier, and the complete trafficking and smuggling family.

These records reflects Utah court conviction records through the 2026 production date. Statute entries appearing with first-case-year dates of 2025 represent offenses enacted or restructured by the 2024–2025 legislative sessions now generating case records for the first time. Statute entries with first-case-year dates of 2022 or 2023 reflect an earlier round of statutory reorganization. The case outcomes do not include standalone Kidnapping (76-5-301) entries; the offense categories tracked are those with an established sex offense or registrable offense nexus.

The court records include the full historical record for two statute families whose earlier charge designations pre-date the current Utah Code numbering: the 76-4-401 family (Enticing a Minor over the Internet, active 2001–2024, 2,031 District Court cases, 65.4% conviction rate) and the 76-5A-3 family (Sex Exploitation of a Minor, active 2000–2023,

1,408 cases, 46.4% conviction rate). These earlier charge codes document the same underlying offenses now designated as §76-5-417 (Enticing a Minor) and §76-5b-201 (Sexual Exploitation of a Minor) respectively, and are included to provide complete historical coverage.

All figures in this document are derived directly from the court records as produced. Figures for 2026 are partial-year and will increase with subsequent production cycles. Figures for 2025, while nominally complete, may reflect processing lags for cases that resolved late in the year. The records have not been independently verified against individual case records.

Dataset characteristic	Value
Source	Administrative Office of the Courts, Utah state courts case management system
Production date	May/June 2026
Court coverage	District Court (felony proceedings) and Justice Court (misdemeanor proceedings)
Year range, District Court	1983–2026 (2026 partial year)
Year range, Justice Court	1994–2026 (2026 partial year)
Sheet structure	Four sheets: District – Case Conv, District – Charge Conv, Justice – Case Conv, Justice – Charge Conv
Statutes tracked	182 distinct statute/subsection codes
Offense scope	46 registrable offenses per §53-29-202(1)(a)(i)–(xlv) (effective 5/6/2026); 42 of 46 covered; 4 absent (see Section 1.4)

Analytical caution: The Incest statute (76-7-102) records contain a historical anomaly of unknown origin. Incest conviction figures should be verified against court records before use in formal submissions.

All figures in this document are derived directly from these court records as produced by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Figures for 2026 reflect a partial year and will increase with subsequent production cycles; figures for 2025, while nominally complete, may reflect processing lags for cases that resolved late in the year.

1.2 Court Record Architecture

Court records operate around two distinct units of analysis: cases and charges. A single defendant may face multiple charges from the same incident or investigation. Case-level analysis records one entry per defendant per case regardless of how many charges were filed; charge-level analysis records one entry per individual charge. Conflating the two produces systematically inflated figures, and the inflation is not uniform across offense types. It is greatest for the most serious offenses, where prosecutorial charge-stacking is most aggressive.

District Court records are the primary analytical basis for this document. District Courts handle felony-level sex offense cases, which constitute the overwhelming majority of registrable offense prosecutions by both volume and severity. Justice Court records, while meaningful in the post-2025 context, primarily reflect misdemeanor-tier conduct and should be analyzed separately from District Court records rather than aggregated into a single total that obscures the severity gradient.

The charge-to-case ratio, 1.77:1 charges per case overall in District Court is itself an analytically significant figure. It means that charge-level statistics, which are commonly cited by law enforcement agencies in public reporting and legislative testimony, describe a population approximately 77% larger than the actual defendant population. For Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child (404.3), the ratio reaches 2.04:1, and for Sodomy on a Child (403.1) it is 1.72:1, the most serious offense categories also carry the highest charge inflation multipliers.

The Justice Court records reflect a 2025 statute restructuring that substantially changed how lewdness offenses are processed. The restructured Lewdness statute (76-5-419) moved a substantial portion of lewdness prosecutions from District to Justice Courts; 356 of the 960 total Justice Court case-outcomes in the record are Lewdness cases, all from 2025–2026. Justice Court records prior to 2025 reflect only a modest caseload of unlawful sexual activity misdemeanor offenses that had historically been the primary Justice Court sex offense category.

Records	What it counts	Primary use
District – Case Convictions	One row per defendant per case regardless of charge	Registry entry analysis, conviction rate analysis, dismissal pattern
District – Charge Convictions	One row per individual charge	Charge stacking analysis, offense combination analysis
Justice – Case Convictions	One row per defendant in Justice Court	Misdemeanor offense tracking; new 2025 statute debut
Justice – Charge Convictions	One row per charge in Justice Court	Supplemental charge-level detail for misdemeanor offenses

District case convictions are the primary analytical basis for this document. All conviction rates, volume figures, and dismissal rates reference these records unless otherwise noted. Charge-level records are referenced specifically where charge stacking patterns are analytically relevant, such as in offense combination analysis and the charge-to-case ratio calculations documented throughout. Justice Court records are treated as a supplemental source, incorporated where the post-2025 Lewdness restructuring makes them directly relevant to registry entry analysis.

1.3 Scale Summary

The court records aggregate scale, 48,755 District Court case-outcomes across 44 years, represents a comprehensive record of how Utah's court system has processed sex offense charges since 1983. The figure is not a count of individuals, offenses, or victims; it is a count of case dispositions, meaning a single defendant who was prosecuted in multiple separate proceedings would appear multiple times. The volume of case-outcomes has not been stable over time: the 2020–2026 period is generating case-outcomes at a higher rate than any prior seven-year window in the court's record history.

The charge-to-case ratio of 1.77:1 is the single most important structural figure for interpreting any public or legislative citation of the court records. When a prosecutor's office reports charging 500 sex offense counts, the actual number of defendants is approximately 320. This distinction matters at every level of policy analysis: it affects how the registry population is sized, how recidivism base rates are calculated, and how the relationship between prosecution activity and public safety outcomes is described.

The Justice Court case volume record is overwhelmingly a product of the 2025 statute restructuring. Prior to 2025, Justice Court sex offense cases were a small and historically stable caseload. The restructured Lewdness statute (419) transferred misdemeanor-level lewdness conduct into the Justice Court system in 2025, producing a step-change in Justice Court case volume with significant implications for how the registry's lower-severity tier will be populated going forward.

The 182 statutes tracked in this dataset reflect the Utah Legislature's continued pattern of adding offense categories to the registry in most legislative sessions, a pattern that has expanded the registry from 10 to 46 offenses across 43 years. Of the 182 statutes, 17 appear for the first time in 2025 case records, all products of 2024–2025 legislative enactments, representing the most significant single-year expansion of tracked offense categories in the dataset's 44-year span.

The figures below consolidate the full scope of the court records across both court levels and both units of analysis. They are presented together to make the structural relationship between case-level and charge-level counts visible in a single reference, a comparison that is frequently obscured when agencies or organizations cite only one figure in isolation.

Measure	Value	Note
District Court case-outcomes (all years)	48,755	Includes all dispositions: guilty, dismissed, acquitted, other
District Court charge-outcomes (all years)	86,447	1.77 charges per case overall
Justice Court case-outcomes (all years)	960	Predominantly 2025–2026; Justice Court volume reflects 2025 statute restructuring
Justice Court charge-outcomes (all years)	1,185	
Data span – District Court	1983–2026	44 years; 2026 is partial year
Data span – Justice Court	1994–2026	30 years; dominated by 2025–2026 data
Statutes tracked	182	Distinct statute/subsection codes
Charge-to-case ratio (overall)	1.77:1	Range: 1.25 (Agg. Kidnapping) to 2.04 (Agg. Sex Abuse Child 404.3)

The 1.77:1 overall charge-to-case ratio means that when agencies cite charge statistics in public statements or legislative materials, they are inflating apparent case counts by approximately 77%. The ratio reaches 2.04:1 for Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child (404.3), prosecutors stack counts most aggressively on the most serious child offense cases. For comparison, Rape (402) runs 1.38:1 and Sodomy on a Child (403.1) runs 1.72:1.

1.4 Registrable Offense Coverage: §53-29-202 Cross-Reference

Utah Code §53-29-202(1)(a) (effective May 6, 2026, as amended by Chapter 330, 2026 General Session) lists 46 registrable offense categories organized into three registrant classifications: child abuse offender (subsections i–ii), sex offender (subsections iii–xxxvi), and kidnap offender (subsections xxxvii–xlv). The combined court records cover 42 of 46 offense categories. The 4 categories not present in records are listed below with an assessment of their likely analytical significance. All other §53-29-202 offense categories, including both child abuse offender tier statutes (§76-5-109.2 and §76-5-109.4), §76-5b-202

(Sexual Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult), §76-5b-204.1 (Aggravated Sexual Extortion, covered under §76-5b-204), and all five new trafficking and smuggling statute numbers (§§76-5-308.6, 310.2, 312, 316, 317, covered under predecessor designations), are present in the court records and documented in the coverage table maintained in the internal analytical record.

§53-29-202 Subsection	Statute	Offense	Registry Category	Notes
(xxvii)	76-5b-207	Possession of Apparent CSAM	Sex Offender	Absent, new 2024/2025 statute; no predecessor; volume unknown but likely growing with ICAC expansion
(xxviii)	76-5b-208	Distribution of Apparent CSAM	Sex Offender	Absent, new 2024/2025 statute; no predecessor; same legislative origin as 76-5b-207
(xxix)	76-5b-209	Obscene Material Depicting Minor Sexual Abuse	Sex Offender	Absent, specialized offense; low expected volume; limited registry population impact
(xxxvi)	76-5d-208	Aggravated Exploitation of Prostitution	Sex Offender	Absent, separate Utah Code title (Title 76, Ch. 5d); no predecessor designation in dataset

The four absent offenses fall into two distinct categories. The three CSAM-adjacent statutes, §76-5b-207, §76-5b-208, and §76-5b-209, are newly enacted offenses that only became registrable effective May 6, 2026 under Chapter 330 of the 2026 General Session, and case records have had minimal time to accumulate.

§76-5d-208 (Aggravated Exploitation of Prostitution) is a longer-standing offense whose registrability was previously limited to convictions on or before May 9, 2011; the 2026 General Session removed that date restriction, making future convictions registrable for the first time. None of the four absences materially affects the document's core analytical conclusions, which are driven by the high-volume felony offense categories for which complete historical records are available.

Section 2: Volume Surge and Conviction Rate Collapse

2.1 Five-Year Period Summary

The court record's most consequential structural feature is the simultaneous surge in case volume and decline in conviction rates that has characterized the period since 2020. These two trends are not independent: the same conditions that are generating higher case volume, expanded statute coverage, increased investigative capacity, and greater prosecutorial activity, may also be generating cases with weaker evidentiary profiles that are more likely to be dismissed. The net result is a system producing more proceedings but fewer registry entries per unit of prosecutorial effort.

The 2000–2004 period represents the historical peak conviction decade at 53%, a level never reached before or since. The sustained 49–51% range across 2005–2019 established a stable baseline, making the post-2020 decline to 41–43% a sustained and material departure rather than a continuation of a long-term trend. Five years is long enough to conclude that the post-2020 pattern is structural rather than a COVID-period anomaly, conviction rates have not recovered to pre-2020 levels despite courts returning to full operation.

The volume surge is itself analytically significant independent of conviction rates. The 2020–2024 period produced 9,373 case-outcomes, more than any prior five-year window. This surge likely reflects multiple converging forces: the full operational effect of ICAC-driven investigation expansion, the addition of new statute categories generating new case types, and the processing of a backlog accumulated during the 2020 COVID court slowdown.

The full operational effect of ICAC-driven investigation expansion is documentable: a 2021 Utah Legislature interim report found that Utah ICAC had grown from 2 employees at founding to 98 officers statewide, with 37 affiliate agencies, a force multiplication that directly expands the pipeline of cases reaching district court. By 2025, the task force had grown further to approximately 130 agents across 65 affiliate agencies, and CyberTipline referrals to Utah ICAC reached over 9,500 in 2025, up from approximately 6,800 in 2024, a 40% single-year increase (KUER, December 19, 2025). The 2025 figure of 2,688 case-outcomes in a single year, the highest annual District Court total in 44 years of data, suggests the surge has not plateaued.

The conviction rate decline has different implications depending on offense type. For newer, lower-severity statutes (Lewdness, Enticing a Minor, Sexual Battery), conviction rates remain above 55%, suggesting the rate decline is concentrated in the serious penetrative offense categories where evidentiary challenges are most acute. In 2025, for example, Sodomy on a Child, one of the registry's original core offenses, posted a 26% conviction rate, while Lewdness, a statute added to the registry in 2025, posted 50% in its first operational year. Section 4 documents this pattern in detail by statute family.

The table below summarizes District Court case-outcomes across eight multi-year periods from 1990 through partial-year 2026. Each period reflects both total case volume and the share resulting in conviction, allowing the simultaneous trends of surging prosecution activity and declining conversion efficiency to be read against each other across a 35-year span. The 2020–2024 and 2025–2026 rows are the critical reference points: together they document a system at its highest-ever case volume and its lowest-ever conviction rate, a combination that has not previously appeared in the court records.

Period	Cases	Guilty/Plea	Conv. Rate	Trend
1990–1994	5,090	2,050	42%	Baseline era
1995–1999	4,858	2,191	47%	Post-Megan's Law expansion
2000–2004	5,475	2,681	53%	Peak conviction decade
2005–2009	5,625	2,488	51%	Stable
2010–2014	5,485	2,242	49%	Stable
2015–2019	6,243	2,756	49%	Slight decline begins
2020–2024	9,373	4,294	44%	Volume surge; rate falls
2025–2026 (partial)	3,883	1,227	32%	Lowest rate on record

† The 32% conviction rate in this row reflects a composite of 2025 full-year outcomes (2,688 cases, 40.2% conviction rate) and partial-year 2026 outcomes (1,195 cases through approximately June 1, 2026). The 2026 partial-year data is weighted toward case types and case stages that resolve earlier in the calendar year, which may depress the blended rate below what a full 2026 year will show. The 2025 standalone figure of 40.2% is the appropriate benchmark for year-over-year comparison; the 32% composite should not be cited as the current conviction rate.

The 2020–2024 period produced more cases than any prior five-year window in the court record's history, yet at a conviction rate approximately 7 percentage points below the peak. In 2025 alone, 2,688 case-outcomes is the single highest annual District Court count in 44 years of data, at a 40.7% conviction rate. This is not simply COVID court backlog; the trend predates and postdates COVID. The system is generating more registry-eligible proceedings than ever while converting a smaller share into actual registry-mandating outcomes. The registry population being added is increasingly driven by newer, lower-severity statutes with higher conviction rates, not by the serious penetrative offenses that originally justified the registry's architecture.

2.2 2025 Annual Snapshot, Top Statutes by Case Volume

The 2025 single-year snapshot reveals the current distribution of prosecutorial activity across offense categories. Several patterns are immediately apparent: §76-5b-201 (CSAM) has become the single highest-volume statute in any given year at 396 cases, overtaking Forcible Sexual Abuse (229 cases). The aggravated kidnapping statute (302(2)+(3A)) generates case volume comparable to the most serious penetrative offenses despite a 14% conviction rate. Aggravated Kidnapping enters this dataset through its registrability under § 53-29-202 when the victim is a minor, where it functions primarily as a detention-based charge ancillary to a sex offense rather than a standalone abduction case, which explains both its volume and its 14% conviction rate. The new 2025 offense designations appear at volumes that, in their first partial year, already exceed the annual case counts of many long-established offenses.

The 2025 data also shows the conviction rate disparity between old and new offense categories in sharp relief. The modern Sexual Abuse of a Child subsection (404.1) posts a 72% conviction rate on 68 cases, nearly triple the 26% rate for Sodomy on a Child (403.1) on 142 cases. These are not different points on a continuous severity spectrum; they reflect fundamentally different evidentiary structures, with the contact-without-penetration offenses consistently producing stronger conviction records than penetrative offenses regardless of victim age. The practical implication is that the registry's most serious offense categories, those that originally defined its scope and justified its architecture, are now among its lowest-performing in conversion efficiency, while newer, lower-severity statutes added at the margins are outperforming them by a substantial margin.

The dismissed-with-prejudice column is the most forward-looking figure in this table. High dismissed-with-prejudice counts, particularly for Aggravated Kidnapping (84), Sodomy on a Child (62), and Rape of a Child (51), represent permanent case closures. Cases dismissed with prejudice will not reappear as future convictions. They do, however, remain in arrest records, court filings, and any public-facing database, as that records charges rather than only final dispositions. This asymmetry, where a permanent legal closure produces no registry entry but may produce a lasting public record of the charge, is a structural feature of charge-based databases that the dismissed-with-prejudice figures make visible at scale.

The new statutes visible in this 2025 snapshot, Lewdness (54 cases), Enticing Minor 1st Degree (21 cases), Sexual Battery (21 cases), are in their first operational year. Their 2025 volumes are understated relative to their eventual steady-state caseloads, as both the investigative infrastructure and prosecutorial familiarity with these offense categories were still developing in 2025. If these statutes follow the volume trajectory of comparable offenses in their early operational years, steady-state annual case counts could reasonably reach two to three times their 2025 levels within three to five years. The 2026 partial-year data suggests these volumes are increasing.

Statute (2025)	Cases	Guilty	Conv. Rate	Dism. w/ prej.
76-5B-201, Sexual Exploitation of Minor, CSAM	396	187	47%	150
76-5-404(2)+(3A), Forcible Sexual Abuse	229	107	47%	71
76-5-404.3, Agg. Sex Abuse of Child	209	77	48%	49
76-5-302(2)+(3A), Agg. Kidnapping (unlawful detention)	182	22	14%	84
76-5-403.1, Sodomy on a Child	142	26	26%	62
76-5-402, Rape	140	49	35%	44
Agg. Sexual Exploitation (76-5b-201.1)	135	49	36%	
76-5-404.1(4), Agg. Sex Abuse of Child	131	37	28%	47
76-5-402.1, Rape of a Child	115	32	28%	51
76-5-402.2, Object Rape	93	24	26%	42
76-5-302(2)+(3B), Aggravated Kidnapping	87	21	24%	40
76-5-403, Forcible Sodomy	77	19	25%	37
76-5-404.1, Sexual Abuse of a Child	68	47	69%	10
76-5-419(2)+(3A), Lewdness (NEW)	54	27	50%	21
76-5-401(2)+(3A), Unlawful Sex Activity w Minor	42	26	62%	12
76-5-401.2(2)+(3A), Unlawful Sex Conduct 16-17yo	34	19	56%	12
76-5-418, Sexual Battery	21	12	57%	4
76-5-417(2)+(3A), Enticing Minor 1st Degree	21	14	67%	4

These 2025 figures should be read as a snapshot of a system in transition rather than a settled distribution. The new statute cohort, Lewdness, Sexual Battery, Enticing a Minor, is in its first operational year, and case volumes for those offenses will increase as investigative and prosecutorial infrastructure matures around them. Meanwhile, the high dismissed-with-prejudice counts for the serious penetrative offense categories confirm that volume at the top of the funnel is not translating into convictions: of the 115 Rape of a Child cases in 2025, 51 were permanently closed without conviction.

Section 3: The Dismissal Revolution

Utah sex offense case dismissals have undergone a structural transformation since 2014 that has fundamentally altered the relationship between prosecution activity and registry entries. The dismissal rate itself, approximately 45.6% of all case-outcomes across the full dataset, has not changed dramatically. What has changed is the finality of dismissals. Before 2014, prosecutors who dismissed a case retained the option to refile; since 2016, the majority of dismissals have been with prejudice, permanently terminating the state's ability to re prosecute.

This transformation is not a minor procedural shift. It changes the meaning of the dismissal category from a provisional outcome (case paused) to a final outcome (case closed). A dismissal without prejudice in 2010 might plausibly have produced a subsequent conviction; a dismissal with prejudice in 2025 will not. Any analysis that treats the pre-2014 and post-2015 dismissal categories as equivalent is comparing fundamentally different legal realities.

The causes of the shift are likely multiple and partially overlapping: the influence of victim-centered prosecution policies that favor definitive case closure when a complainant declines to participate; greater judicial gatekeeping at preliminary hearings following evidentiary reforms; and changes in charging practices that result in prosecutors filing cases they are more willing to permanently close if evidentiary challenges arise. Identifying the precise cause requires case-level data beyond what this analysis provides, but the statistical pattern is unambiguous.

The practical implication for registry analysis is direct: the raw dismissal count in any year's data now understates case finality by definition. In 2025, 970 cases were dismissed with prejudice, those cases are permanently resolved, and none of those defendants will appear on the registry as a result of those proceedings. The 581 cases dismissed without prejudice leave a theoretical pathway to future conviction, but the historical pattern suggests most will not be refiled.

3.1 The 2014–2016 Inflection

The 2014–2016 period marks the sharpest inflection in the court record's 44-year span. In 2010, only 1.5% of all dismissals were with prejudice, an essentially negligible share. By 2015, the ratio had reached 47.7%, and by 2016 it crossed 60% for the first time, reaching 62.2%. It has remained above 57% in every year since, reaching 70.3% in the partial 2026 data (through the court case production date of June 1, 2026, reflecting approximately five months of case outcomes; this figure should not be interpreted as a full-year trend indicator). This is not a gradual drift but a discrete structural break that occurred within a two-year window and then stabilized at a new equilibrium.

The inflection is visible not just in the ratio but in the raw counts. In 2014, 69 cases were dismissed with prejudice against 451 without, a 13.3% share. By 2016, those figures had nearly inverted: 338 with prejudice against 205 without, a 62.2% share. The shift was not driven by a decline in total dismissals; total dismissal volume remained relatively stable across the period. What changed was the legal character of the dismissals being issued.

The speed of the transition suggests a policy-level decision rather than an organic case-by-case evolution. Whether that decision originated in the Utah Attorney General's Office, the individual county district attorney offices, or in judicial practice changes at the magistrate level cannot be determined from this analysis. What can be determined is that the transition was near-simultaneous across the full court records, suggesting a statewide rather than local driver, or at minimum a rapidly diffused norm change.

The statewide simultaneity of the shift points to a directive, training change, or rule modification rather than organic case-by-case evolution, a prosecutor-by-prosecutor transition would have been geographically uneven and gradual. Whatever the mechanism, its practical effect is unambiguous: the relationship between prosecution volume and registry entries was permanently altered beginning in 2015.

The 2020 dip to 59.0%, the lowest post-transition figure in the court records, is consistent with COVID-era court disruptions that may have changed how dismissals were classified during the period of suspended proceedings. The subsequent return to 60%+ in 2022 and above supports the interpretation of 2020 as an anomaly rather than a trend reversal. The 2026 partial-year figure of 70.3% may represent a continuing upward trend or may reflect the composition of early-year filings, which can differ from full-year patterns.

Charge-level implications: the dismissal-with-prejudice pattern applies to case dispositions, not charge dispositions. In a multi-count case dismissed with prejudice, all charges are permanently dismissed. This means the charge inflation multiplier (1.77:1 overall, 2.14:1 for the most serious offense categories) applies equally to the dismissed-with-prejudice population; the actual number of permanently closed charge-level matters is approximately 77% higher than the case-level dismissed-with-prejudice count suggests.

Before 2014, dismissals were almost entirely without prejudice, prosecutors retained the option to refile. Between 2014 and 2016 the ratio inverted completely and has never returned. By 2025, approximately 62.5% of dismissed sex offense cases are dismissed with prejudice, foreclosing any possibility of recharging.

This shift likely reflects multiple converging factors: implementation of victim-centered prosecution policies; greater judicial scrutiny at preliminary hearings; and evidentiary reform. Whatever the cause, the practical effect is unambiguous: the raw dismissal count now significantly understates the finality of case termination.

Year	Dismissed w/o prej.	Dismissed w/ prej.	% with prejudice
2010	593	9	1.5%
2012	498	9	1.8%
2014	451	69	13.3%
2015	287	262	47.7%
2016	169	261	60.7%
2018	257	395	60.6%
2020	252	363	59.0%
2022	391	564	59.1%
2024	533	806	60.2%
2025	581	970	62.5%
(partial) 2026	197	467	70.3%

** 2026 data are partial (through June 1, 2026; approximately five months of outcomes). The 70.3% figure should not be interpreted as a settled full-year rate.*

3.2 Connecting to the Statewide Registry Population

The statewide DPS registry total of 10,229 confirmed registrants as of March 28, 2026, sits at the end of the prosecutorial funnel documented in this conviction dataset. The funnel has three stages of attrition: from case filing to dismissal (approximately 45.6% of cases), from guilty outcome to registry-eligible sentence (some guilty sentences are non-registrable), and from registry-eligible sentence to active registry status (death, out-of-state relocation, and removal hearings further reduce the population). The result is a conversion rate from case-outcome to current registry status of well under 25%.

Of the 48,755 District Court case-outcomes in the conviction records, approximately 22,621 resulted in guilty pleas or verdicts across all guilty-type dispositions. That figure represents the upper bound on the cumulative registry-eligible conviction pool across 44 years; the actual registry is roughly half that size, reflecting removal through death, removal hearings, non-registrable sentences, and out-of-state convictions that Utah independently recognizes but that appear as separate entries in the DPS records. The gap between convictions and current registrants grows with each additional year of data. Registry exit dynamics, including the ten-year termination pathway and the near-dormant early termination petition process, are analyzed in Section 10.3 using UDC administrative data.

Section 4: Offense-by-Offense Conviction Rates

Utah sex offense prosecutions divide into two structurally distinct evidentiary tiers, one converting at 55–76%, the other at 18–30%, and this bifurcation has been stable across four decades of court records. All offense-level analysis in this section should be read against that structural backdrop. The 182 statutes in this dataset do not represent a continuum of evidentiary difficulty. They cluster into two distinct tiers based on the type of conduct charged, and those two tiers produce systematically different conviction rates across every decade of the court records. Understanding this structural bifurcation is essential for interpreting any aggregate statistics about Utah sex offense prosecutions, because the aggregate conviction rate (approximately 47 percent across all statutes and all years) obscures a gap of 25 to 45 percentage points between the two tiers.

The first tier, offenses short of penetration, includes Forcible Sexual Abuse (404), Sexual Abuse of a Child (404.1), Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor (401), and the newer 2025 statute cohort (Enticing a Minor, Sexual Battery, Lewdness). These offenses convert at 55 to 66 percent and have done so consistently across decades. The second tier, penetrative offenses against children, includes Rape of a Child (402.1), Sodomy on a Child (403.1), Object Rape (402.2), and Object Rape of a Child (402.3). These convert at 18 to 30 percent, with conviction rates that have shown only marginal improvement over 30 years of data.

This bifurcation is not explained by case volume differences; both tiers generate thousands of cases. It is likely explained by evidentiary structure: penetrative offense cases often depend heavily on complainant testimony without corroborating physical evidence, creating a prosecutorial barrier that non-penetrative offense cases do not face to the same degree. The implication is that the cases Utah's courts find hardest to prove are precisely the cases that, on the merits, most demand successful prosecution.

The records also reveal meaningful variation within each tier. Within the penetrative offense tier, Rape (402) of adult victims has improved from the upper-20s in the 1990s to the upper-30s in the 2020s, a sustained trend that does not appear in the child victim categories. Within the non-penetrative tier, the modern Sexual Abuse of a Child subsection (404.1) maintains a 72 to 82 percent conviction rate across decades, well above the tier

average. These within-tier differences matter for any analysis that treats a statute family as analytically uniform. Tier membership predicts evidentiary difficulty in the aggregate but not for any individual statute; citing tier averages as offense-specific benchmarks will misstate the record at both ends of each tier.

4.1 Statute Family Summary, All Years, District Court

The all-years statute family summary provides the broadest view of how Utah's courts have disposed of sex offense cases across the full 44-year record. The volume figures in this table represent the accumulated weight of decades of prosecutorial activity; the conviction and dismissal rates represent the structural features of each offense category rather than year-specific fluctuations. Offense families with records extending back to the 1980s have been tested across the full range of prosecutorial and judicial conditions; families first appearing in 2022 or 2025 have not.

Several patterns demand particular attention. Aggravated Kidnapping (302) has 3,184 cases, more than Rape (2,814), yet converts at only 18 percent (case-level) to 20 percent. This is not because kidnapping is weak evidence; it is because these charges are filed alongside sex offense charges as prosecutorial leverage and are almost universally dismissed when the underlying sex offense charge resolves. The kidnapping charge count should not be interpreted as a reflection of kidnapping-specific prosecutorial activity.

The new 2025 statute cohort is producing above-average conviction rates. Enticing a Minor (417) at 61 percent, Sexual Battery (418) at 52 percent (see Discrepancy D-4 for a case-count reconciliation affecting this figure), and Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor (401) at 64 percent all exceed the all-years conviction rate for Rape (402) of 33 percent on a case-level basis. This reflects the stronger evidentiary profiles available in cases involving digital evidence, witness-corroborated conduct, and undercover operations, not small-sample artifact.

Human Trafficking (308–311) at 43 percent overall conversion sits between the two major tiers, reflecting a genuinely heterogeneous offense category where evidentiary strength varies with trafficking method, victim cooperation, and investigative resources. Small-n subcategory figures for labor-specific and sexual exploitation subsections should be treated as directional rather than definitive.

The trafficking figures also illustrate a broader methodological caution that applies across the table: small-sample conviction rates in newly tracked or rarely charged offense categories should be treated as directional rather than definitive. A statute with 3–7 cases has not been stress-tested by the full range of prosecutorial and judicial conditions that produce stable long-run rates. The figures for these categories will become analytically reliable only as case volume accumulates over subsequent data cycles. The 2025 cohort statutes, several of which appear here with fewer than 40 cases, should be revisited in the 2027 data cycle before being cited as stable evidentiary benchmarks.

Offense Family	Cases	Guilty/Plea	Conv. Rate	Dism. Rate
Sex Abuse of Child (404.1 all subsections)	11,978	6,723	56%	34%
Forcible Sexual Abuse (404)	6,840	3,660	54%	35%
Unlawful Sex Activity / Intercourse w Minor (401)	4,079	2,602	64%	33%
Aggravated Kidnapping (302)	3,184	573	18%	75%
Sodomy on Child (403.1)	3,096	839	27%	61%
Rape (402)	2,814	924	33%	52%
Rape of Child (402.1)	2,303	640	28%	59%
Sodomy / Forcible Sodomy (403)	2,013	540	27%	64%
Unlawful Sexual Conduct 16-17yo (401.2)	1,474	831	56%	40%
Object Rape (402.2)	880	211	24%	71%
Aggravated Sexual Assault (405)	857	250	29%	52%
Agg. Sex Abuse Child – NEW (404.3)	518	232	45%	49%
Sexual Abuse of Minor (401.1)	382	213	56%	41%
Child Kidnapping (301.1)	342	109	32%	59%
Object Rape of Child (402.3)	281	61	22%	73%
Incest (76-7-102)	202	124	61%	28%
Enticing Minor – NEW (417)	120	73	61%	39%

Offense Family	Cases	Guilty/Plea	Conv. Rate	Dism. Rate
Human Trafficking (308-311)	116	50	43%	55%
Lewdness – RESTRUCTURED (419)	112	53	47%	39%
Sexual Battery – NEW (418)	83	52	63%	36%
Custodial Sexual Misconduct (412)	65	33	51%	46%
Lewdness Involving Child – NEW (420)	39	18	46%	54%
Voyeurism – NEW (76-12)	35	23	66%	34%
Enticing Minor via Internet – Earlier (76-4-401)	2,031	1,321	65%	34%
Sex Exploitation – Earlier (76-5A-3)	1,408	654	46%	51%
Sexual Exploitation of Minor – CSAM (5b-201)	3,506	1,590	45%	54%
Agg Sexual Exploitation – CSAM (5b-201.1)	314	125	40%	60%
Sexual Extortion (5b-204)	75	38	51%	40%

The two-tier pattern holds across every decade of the dataset. Offenses short of penetration, the 401 and 401.2 unlawful sexual activity categories, the 404 forcible sexual abuse family, and the newer 2025 cohort, convict at 55 to 76 percent and have done so consistently. Penetrative offenses against children and CSAM occupy a fundamentally different evidentiary tier: Rape of a Child (402.1), Object Rape of a Child (402.3), and Sodomy on a Child (403.1) all convert at 18 to 29 percent on a case-level basis.

Object Rape of a Child (402.3) is the starkest illustration: its 2020s rate of 15 percent is virtually unchanged from 13 percent in the 1990s, meaning three decades of prosecutorial experience and evidentiary reform have produced no measurable improvement on the offense that most demands it. CSAM offenses under §76-5b-201 sit between the two tiers at 45 to 46 percent, reflecting digital documentation that eliminates the complainant testimony dependencies defining the penetrative tier. One caveat applies to the newer misdemeanor statutes: §76-5-419 and §76-5-418 require four or more total convictions before registration is triggered, so their conviction rates do not directly correspond to registry entry rates for most defendants.

The most serious charges in the dataset are also its hardest to prove, a structural feature of Utah sex offense prosecution that has remained stable across four decades. One statutory caveat applies to the newer misdemeanor tier: §76-5-419 (Lewdness) and §76-5-418 (Sexual Battery) require four or more total convictions before registration is triggered under §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxi)–(xxxiii), meaning conviction rates for those statutes do not directly correspond to registry entry rates for most defendants.

4.2 Decade-by-Decade Conviction Rates for Key Statutes

The decade-by-decade breakdown reveals which statute-level conviction rate patterns are structural and stable versus which reflect recent changes. A statute that has maintained a consistent rate across four decades is behaving as a stable feature of the Utah criminal justice system; a statute showing a sustained change over three or more decades is exhibiting a systemic pattern that transcends year-to-year variation. The table below presents computed rates alongside original publication figures. Red cells indicate divergences of 10 or more percentage points; amber cells indicate divergences of 5 to 9 points.

The most significant stable pattern is the persistent 22 to 28% floor for serious penetrative child offenses. Rape of a Child (402.1) has remained at 22 to 34% across all four decades in both sources; Sodomy on a Child (403.1) at 22 to 33%. These rates have not responded to changes in prosecutorial practices, evidentiary reforms, or the general intensification of sex offense prosecution that characterized the 2000s peak. The evidentiary barrier in these cases appears structural rather than resource-dependent.

The most significant improving pattern confirmed by both sources is Rape (402), which has risen from 26% to 37% across four decades, a meaningful and sustained improvement that may reflect advances in forensic evidence collection for adult rape cases.

The 404.1 family shows an important internal split. The legacy 404.1 statute designation shows rates ranging from 46% to 81% across decades, while modern 404.1 subsection designations have maintained 62 to 82%. This divergence reflects statute restructuring rather than a genuine change in evidentiary strength, but means that all-years 404.1 aggregates blend two analytically distinct populations.

Rape (402) is the only serious penetrative offense showing consistent improvement across decades, from 31% in the 1990s to 41% in the 2020s. Aggravated Sexual Assault (405) shows the opposite trajectory, declining to 28% in the 2020s. The 404.1 legacy statute's decline from 65% (2010s) to 50% (2020s) likely reflects the statute split into multiple subsections with different evidentiary profiles.

Statute	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s	ALL
Rape (402)	31%	34%	39%	41%	37%
Rape of Child (402.1)	23%	34%	30%	30%	29%
Object Rape (402.2)	12%	17%	26%	30%	27%
Object Rape of Child (402.3)	13%	36%	21%	15%	20%
Sodomy on Child (403.1)	25%	33%	28%	27%	29%
Forcible Sodomy (403.2)	38%	30%	29%	30%	30%
Sex Abuse of Child (404.1 legacy)	44%	63%	65%	50%	49%
Sexual Abuse of Child (404.1 modern)	68%	74%	85%	76%	76%
Agg. Sex Abuse Child (404.1.4)	—	59%	49%	47%	48%
Forcible Sexual Abuse (404)	60%	62%	64%	56%	60%
Unlawful Sex Activity w Minor (401)	76%	64%	60%	62%	64%
Unlawful Sex Conduct 16-17 (401.2)	75%	63%	60%	64%	62%
Aggravated Sexual Assault (405)	44%	37%	36%	28%	38%

Section 5: The 2025 Legislative Cohort, New Statutes

The 33 statutes appearing for the first time in 2025 case records represent the most significant single-year expansion of the tracked offense list in the dataset's 44-year span. These additions are not the product of a single bill or a single legislative decision, they reflect multiple enactments across the 2024 and 2025 legislative sessions that restructured existing offense categories, created entirely new offense categories, and granularized existing statutes into multiple tier-specific subsections. Each of these legislative decisions has now produced a measurable case record in the court conviction data.

The new statute cohort falls into three analytical categories. The first is restructured statutes, existing offense conduct reorganized into new code sections, primarily Lewdness (419) and its child-specific variant (420). These generate case volumes quickly because the underlying conduct was already subject to prosecution; the new designation reflects a statutory consolidation rather than a new prohibition. The second is genuinely new offense categories, conduct that was not previously registrable, primarily Sexual Battery (418). The third is subsection granularization, the 404.3 Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child family, which provides clearer tier-specific sentencing for conduct in the 404.1 family.

The conviction rates for the new statute cohort are uniformly higher than for the serious penetrative offense categories that have been in the dataset for decades. This is not because the new offenses are less serious in an abstract moral sense, it is because the evidentiary profile of the conduct they criminalize is different. Digital offenses (Voyeurism via recording, Enticing a Minor via electronic communication) produce documentary evidence. Physical contact offenses at the non-penetrative tier (Sexual Battery) produce corroborating physical evidence or witness testimony more readily than penetrative offenses that often depend on a single complainant's account.

The current §76-5-417 framework is generating 60–62% conviction rates, consistent with the 65% conviction rate of the earlier 76-4-401 charge designation for the same underlying conduct. Taken together, the two designations show a stable, high-performing prosecution pipeline for enticement offenses across two decades. The registry population being added by §76-5-417 continues a pattern of selective, evidentially successful prosecution established under the earlier designation. Section 12 addresses the proportionality implications; here the data speaks to the speed and scale of the expansion. Lewdness alone, a restructured statute that first appeared in case records in 2025, produced 276 combined District and Justice Court convictions in its first two years of operation.

At that pace, Lewdness will surpass the cumulative conviction totals of Object Rape of a Child, a statute with four decades of case history, within approximately three years. Unlike the serious penetrative offenses it sits alongside on the registry, it will do so with a conviction rate more than double theirs. The practical result is a registry that, measured by new entries, is becoming progressively less defined by the conduct that originally justified

its architecture and increasingly defined by conduct the legislature added at the margins. That shift is not an argument against the new statutes individually; it is an argument for examining whether a single registry tier remains the appropriate policy instrument when the offense population it contains has become this heterogeneous.

New Statute	First Year	2025 Cases	2025 Guilty	Conv. Rate	Offense Tier
76-5-417(2)+(3A), Enticing Minor 1st Degree	2025	65	39	60%	F1
76-5-417(2)+(3B), Enticing Minor 2nd Degree	2025	23	14	62%	F2
76-5-417(2)+(3C), Enticing Minor 3rd Degree	2025	29	18	62%	F3
76-5-417(2)+(3D), Enticing Minor Class A	2026	1	1	100%	MA
76-5-418, Sexual Battery	2025	83	52	63%	MA
76-5-418, VR Sexual Activity w Minor	2025	11	7	64%	Varies
76-5-419(2)+(3A), Lewdness (general)	2025	92	51	55%	MA
76-5-419(2)+(3BI), Lewdness by Sex Offender	2025	8	8	100%	Varies
76-5-419(2)+(3BII), Lewdness w/2+ priors	2025	8	6	75%	Varies
76-5-420(2)+(3A), Lewdness Involving Child	2025	39	18	46%	F3/MA
76-12-306(2)+(3A), Voyeurism (Viewing)	2025	9	6	67%	MA
76-12-307(2)+(3A), Voyeurism (Recording)	2025	21	13	62%	F3/MA
76-5-401.3, Unlawful Adolescent Sex Activity	2022	9	8	89%	Varies
76-5-404.3, Agg. Sex Abuse of Child	2023	387	197	51%	F1

The Enticing a Minor (417) family debuted at 60–62% conviction rates. Sexual Battery (418) at 64% and Voyeurism (307) at 62% similarly outperform the most serious penetrative offense categories. These new statutes are operationally successful at producing convictions and therefore registry entries.

The Lewdness restructuring (419/420) requires a critical statutory qualification. Under §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxi)–(xxxiii), a Lewdness conviction under §76-5-419 triggers registration only after four or more total convictions, not at first conviction. The same four-conviction threshold applies to Sexual Battery (§76-5-418) and to any combination of Lewdness and Sexual Battery convictions. The dataset counts all Lewdness and Sexual Battery convictions; most individual convictions will not produce a registry entry. The 276 combined Lewdness convictions documented across District and Justice Courts in 2025–2026 substantially overstate registry entry production from this statute for first- and second-offense defendants. The registrable population from §76-5-419 is confined to defendants reaching their fourth qualifying conviction.

Lewdness Involving a Child (§76-5-420) carries no such threshold, every conviction is registrable under §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxiv). The 39 District Court Lewdness Involving a Child cases (18 guilty, 46% conviction rate) produce registry entries on each conviction. Similarly, Voyeurism (§76-12-306, 307, 308) under §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxv) is registrable for any felony or Class A misdemeanor violation, with no repeat-conviction threshold. The Voyeurism and Lewdness Involving a Child categories therefore have a direct and complete conviction-to-registry-entry pathway; §76-5-419 and §76-5-418 do not for most defendants.

The Lewdness by Sex Offender subsection (419(3BI)), 8 cases, 8 guilty, 100%, operates differently from the general Lewdness threshold. A defendant already on the registry who is convicted of any Lewdness offense under the sex offender subsection is subject to extended registration requirements regardless of total conviction count. Its debut 100% conviction rate suggests prosecutors are applying it precisely where the defendant's registry status and evidentiary profile are both strong.

Section 6: The Kidnapping Anomaly

The presence of Aggravated Kidnapping (76-5-302) and Child Kidnapping (76-5-301.1) in a sex offense conviction dataset requires explanation. Kidnapping is not a sex offense in the traditional sense, but both statutes carry independent registration obligations under Utah's Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Registry. Aggravated Kidnapping (76-5-302) was added as a registrable offense by 2008 HB492 (Rep. Paul Ray), which amended the registration statute to require registration for kidnapping convictions occurring in conjunction with sex offenses. Child Kidnapping (76-5-301.1) has been a registrable offense for considerably longer. Both offenses appear in the court records because they were filed in proceedings that also involved registrable sex offense charges, not as standalone kidnapping cases. Their presence in the court records therefore reflects two distinct realities: a charging

pattern driven largely by prosecutorial leverage, and a registration framework that attaches registry consequences to the small fraction of those charges that survive to conviction.

The registration status of these offenses matters for interpreting their conviction data. Unlike the plea-leverage framing that describes much of the kidnapping charging pattern, a conviction for Aggravated Kidnapping or Child Kidnapping in a sex offense proceeding does carry registry consequences. The low conviction rates for these statutes, 18% for the 76-5-302 family overall, 33% for Child Kidnapping, do not mean registrable outcomes are rare; they mean that kidnapping charges are filed far more often than they are proven, and the vast majority are dismissed while the underlying sex offense charge proceeds to conviction. The cases that do result in kidnapping guilty pleas or verdicts produce registry entries under the kidnap offender classification in §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxvii)–(xlv).

The 18% overall conviction rate and 74% dismissal rate for the 76-5-302 family, compared to 37% conviction and 52% dismissal for Rape, is the quantitative signature of the plea leverage function. Kidnapping charges filed alongside sex offense charges are almost universally dismissed as part of the plea resolution of the underlying sex offense. The defendant's cooperation in pleading guilty to the sex offense charge is typically exchanged for dismissal of the kidnapping count. This pattern has been structurally stable across every decade of the dataset, with pre-2008 and post-2008 conviction rates both averaging approximately 18%, confirming the leverage function predates and postdates the 2008 change in registration status.

The appearance of the 302(2)+(3A) unlawful detention subsection beginning sharply in 2023 is the most analytically puzzling feature of the recent kidnapping data. This subsection volume, 162 cases in 2025 alone, compared to effectively zero before 2023, appears to reflect either a new or newly applied statutory provision or a change in charging practice at major prosecutorial offices. The 12% conviction rate is consistent with the general kidnapping-as-leverage pattern, arguing against interpretation as a genuinely new independently prosecuted offense category. The practical effect is an inflation of apparent case volume with negligible registry impact: the vast majority of these charges are filed and then permanently dismissed.

The dataset does not include standalone Kidnapping (76-5-301) entries. The Administrative Office of the Courts scoped the dataset to offense categories with an established sex offense nexus. The 76-5-302 Aggravated Kidnapping and 76-5-301.1 Child Kidnapping entries that are present were filed in the same proceedings as registrable sex offense charges. This scope boundary is important: the absence of standalone Kidnapping does not mean kidnapping conduct is absent from Utah sex offense proceedings, it means that kidnapping charges filed without an accompanying registrable sex offense charge are outside the dataset's scope. The dataset captures kidnapping as leverage and co-offense conduct, not as an independent criminal theory.

Statute	Cases	Guilty/Plea	Conv. Rate	Dism. Rate
76-5-302, Aggravated Kidnapping (all subsections)	3,184	582	18%	74%
76-5-302(2)+(3A), Agg. Kidnapping (Unlawful Detention)	351	46	13%	86%
76-5-302(2)+(3B), Aggravated Kidnapping	213	35	16%	83%
76-5-302(3)(A), Agg. Kidnapping (Unlawful Detention)	46	6	13%	87%
76-5-301.1, Child Kidnapping	342	113	33%	59%

These charges appear in the sex offense dataset because they were filed alongside registrable sex offenses, not as standalone kidnapping cases. For the 76-5-302 family, the leverage function dominates: prosecutors file kidnapping counts to increase plea pressure and dismiss them upon resolution of the sex offense charge. The 18% conviction rate across 3,184 cases, stable at approximately the same level before and after the 2008 registration change, confirms that the registration obligation attached to these offenses has not altered prosecutorial charging or disposition behavior.

Child Kidnapping (76-5-301.1) warrants separate treatment. Its 33% conviction rate substantially exceeds the Aggravated Kidnapping rate, reflecting that Child Kidnapping charges in this dataset include a mix of true abduction cases and co-filed conduct charges. Cases with independent abduction evidence are stronger evidentiarily than pure-leverage filings, producing a higher but still below-average conviction rate. The 2023 addition of a (3) subsection at 62.5% on 8 cases is too thin to interpret reliably but is consistent with a well-evidenced standalone abduction theory.

Section 7: The Trial Verdict Emergence

The near-complete absence of trial guilty verdicts from the pre-2021 dataset is one of its most striking features. Across the entire decade of 2010–2019, the dataset records approximately two trial-guilty outcomes, a number so small it is more likely an artifact of how outcomes were coded in older court records than a reflection of a legal system in which sex offense defendants never went to trial. The most plausible interpretation is that trial-by-jury and trial-by-bench outcomes were classified differently in the legacy court management system and were not consistently mapped to the conviction outcome categories used in this dataset.

The 2021 break is sharp and unambiguous regardless of its cause. Whether it reflects a genuine change in prosecution practice (more cases going to trial), a data collection change (trial outcomes newly coded in the dataset's classification system), or a combination of both, the post-2021 period produces a measurable and consistent trial conviction share of approximately 10%. A legal system in which 1 in 8 convictions comes from a jury or bench verdict operates differently from one in which all convictions are negotiated pleas, different risk profiles, different legal records, and different implications for the registry population's composition.

The new statute cohort is plausibly a contributing factor. Voyeurism cases with recording evidence, Enticing a Minor cases with preserved electronic communications, and Sexual Battery cases with physical evidence profiles are all more amenable to trial presentation than a Sodomy on a Child case resting primarily on complainant testimony from a child victim. If prosecutors are more willing to take the new offense categories to trial because the evidence is stronger, the 10% trial conviction rate reflects a compositional shift in what kinds of cases reach conviction, not only a change in prosecutorial strategy for the long-established offense categories.

Trial convictions carry different registry implications than plea convictions in one important respect: sentencing. Defendants convicted at trial are sentenced by a judge applying statutory guidelines without the plea agreement's negotiated terms; defendants who plea may negotiate sentencing reductions that affect whether a conviction is registrable or the tier to which it is assigned. The registry entries produced by trial convictions may therefore cluster in higher-severity offense categories and longer registration terms than the plea-conviction-dominated baseline.

Year	Plea/Admin Guilty	Trial Guilty	% by Trial
2010–2019 (total)	~5,500 total	~2 total	~0%
2020	520	1	0.20%
2021	806	43	5.30%
2022	887	78	8.80%
2023	978	94	9.60%
2024	955	88	9.20%
2025	1081	102	9.40%

One interpretive caution applies to everything that follows in this section. The near-complete absence of trial guilty verdicts before 2021 is more consistent with a legacy coding

artifact than with a legal system in which sex offense defendants genuinely never went to trial. If pre-2021 trial outcomes were coded differently and excluded from the conviction categories used in this dataset, the 2021 break reflects a data collection change rather than a behavioral one, and the conclusions about compositional shifts in the registry population, trial-readiness of new statute categories, and the 10% trial conviction share as a floor rather than a ceiling should be set aside pending case-level verification.

Before 2021, trial guilty verdicts were either genuinely absent or coded differently in older court system records. Starting in 2021, approximately 1 in 10 guilty outcomes comes from a jury or bench verdict. This matters for registry analysis: individuals convicted at trial generally had less plea-bargaining leverage and may carry different statutory outcome profiles than those who negotiated pleas.

The trial conviction emergence is consistent with the broader volume surge, more cases in the system, more proceeding to adjudication. It may also partially reflect the new statute cohort: newer offenses with stronger digital evidence profiles (Voyeurism, Enticing a Minor via electronic means) may be more trial-ready than older penetrative offense charges.

The trial verdict emergence is a structural shift that will compound over time rather than stabilize. As the new 2025 statute cohort matures and ICAC investigative volume continues expanding, the pipeline of digitally documented cases amenable to trial presentation will grow, and the 10% trial conviction share documented here is more likely a floor than a ceiling. For registry analysis, this means the conviction pool is becoming compositionally different from the plea-dominated baseline that characterized the prior four decades, weighted more heavily toward offense categories where evidence was strong enough to take to a jury, and toward sentencing outcomes that reflect judicial rather than negotiated terms. The registry population produced by trial convictions is not interchangeable with the population produced by plea agreements, and any tiering or risk-assessment framework that treats all conviction pathways as equivalent will inherit that conflation.

Section 8: Human Trafficking

The human trafficking statutes (76-5-308 through 76-5-311) occupy a distinctive analytical position in this dataset. They are present in relatively small numbers, 116 total cases across all years, but they represent a categorically different type of offense than the sex offense categories that dominate the dataset by volume. Where most high-volume sex offenses involve conduct between known parties (child contact offenses in family or trust-relationship contexts, non-contact exploitation of minors), human trafficking involves organized conduct across institutional lines: labor exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation, and the trafficking of vulnerable populations including children and adults in dependency situations. The overall 44% conviction rate for the trafficking family sits between the two major tiers identified in Section 4, higher than the serious penetrative child offenses (29%) but below the non-penetrative offense categories (55–66%).

This intermediate position reflects the genuine heterogeneity of trafficking prosecution: some trafficking cases involve strong documentary evidence (financial records, electronic communications, corroborating victim testimony from multiple survivors); others face the same complainant-testimony dependency challenges that characterize the serious child offense prosecutions.

The trafficking-for-labor subsection (76-5-308) represents a distinct population within the broader trafficking family. Labor trafficking prosecutions are typically built on financial evidence, employment records, and conditions-of-confinement documentation rather than on sexual conduct evidence. The risk profile of labor trafficking offenders differs from that of sexual exploitation traffickers — they do not share the sexual recidivism patterns that the registry's community notification function was designed to address, and the actuarial instruments used to assess sex offense recidivism risk were not developed for this population. The thin data record, 3 cases, 2 convictions, reflects the recency of labor trafficking as a prosecutorial priority in Utah rather than the absence of labor trafficking in Utah communities. Structural barriers to prosecution witness vulnerability, immigration status complications, and the absence of established prosecutorial frameworks, account for the gap between survivor service data and criminal conviction data.

Statute	Cases	Guilty	Conv. Rate	Notes
76-5-308, Human Trafficking (general)	31	11	35%	General trafficking category
76-5-308, Human Trafficking for Labor	3	2	67%	Labor-specific; thin baseline
76-5-308(2)(B), Forced Sexual Exploitation	6	2	33%	
76-5-308.1, HT for Sexual Exploitation	7	5	71%	
76-5-308.5, HT of a Child	34	16	47%	
76-5-310, Aggravated Human Trafficking	13	3	23%	Low conviction rate
76-5-311, HT of Vulnerable Adult	1	0	0%	Single case; no conviction

The total trafficking conviction dataset (116 cases, 51 convictions, 44% overall conviction rate) is modest relative to sex offense volume. The labor trafficking subsection has 3 cases and 2 convictions to date, already producing registry entries at a rate exceeding Rape of a Child and Sodomy on a Child. Real-world trafficking volume far exceeds what reaches criminal conviction, consistent with the broader pattern of prosecutorial attrition.

Section 9: Justice Court, A Different World

Justice Courts occupy a structurally distinct position in Utah's court system. They handle class A and class B misdemeanor cases, and until the 2025 statute restructuring, they were largely irrelevant to sex offense registry analysis. The pre-2025 Justice Court caseload in this dataset, primarily Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor (401) misdemeanor cases, was a small and historically stable category. The 968 total Justice Court case-outcomes in the dataset, of which the overwhelming majority are 2025–2026 Lewdness cases, represent a qualitative change in the Justice Court's role in registrable offense processing, not merely a quantitative expansion. For the first time, registry-eligible convictions are being processed through a court tier with fewer procedural protections and more limited judicial resources than the District Court proceedings that have historically been the registry's primary entry.

The significance of Justice Court in the post-2025 context is that it represents the registry's new lower tier. Prior to 2025, virtually all registry-eligible convictions passed through District Court felony proceedings. The Lewdness restructuring created a class A misdemeanor pathway to registry entry that bypasses the District Court system entirely. Defendants charged with Lewdness are now processed in Justice Courts, with different procedural protections, different timelines, and different judicial resources than felony proceedings, yet they arrive at the same registry as individuals convicted of first-degree felony rape.

The 58% conviction rate for Justice Court Lewdness cases is particularly notable in context. It exceeds the District Court conviction rate for Rape (37%), Rape of a Child (29%), and Sodomy on a Child (29%). Justice Court, historically the venue for minor traffic violations and low-level misdemeanors, is now convicting registrable offense defendants at a higher rate than the District Court venues handling the most serious sex offense categories. This reflects the evidentiary advantage of lewdness cases (typically witness-corroborated or officer-observed conduct) rather than any equivalence in offense severity.

The Justice Court dataset's limitations should be acknowledged explicitly. The case-versus-charge distinction is less analytically meaningful at the misdemeanor level, where charge stacking is less common. Conviction type coding in Justice Court records may differ from District Court coding practices, potentially affecting the classification of 'Guilty,' 'No Contest,' and 'Plea in Abeyance' outcomes. And the 2025–2026 Justice Court data is too recent to assess whether the current conviction rates and case volumes represent stable patterns or first-year artifacts of a newly activated prosecution category.

The 356 Justice Court Lewdness cases and 208 guilty outcomes in 2025–2026, combined with 112 District Court cases and 68 guilty outcomes, total approximately 276 Lewdness convictions in the statute's first two years. However, §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxi)–(xxxiii) requires four or more total convictions before §76-5-419 triggers a registration obligation, meaning most of these 276 convictions will not individually produce registry entries. The

Justice Court Lewdness data is analytically significant for documenting prosecution volume and the statute's operational scale, but it is not directly equivalent to 276 new registry entries. First- and second-offense defendants convicted of §76-5-419 are not registrants. The registry impact of the Lewdness statute will not become visible in population data until individual defendants accumulate four convictions, a threshold effect that makes the statute's registry contribution a lagging indicator, not a contemporaneous one.

Justice Court Statute	Cases	Guilty/Plea	Conv. Rate
76-5-401, Unlawful Sex Activity w Minor	489	~165	~34%
76-5-419(2)+(3A), Lewdness	356	208	58%
76-5-401.1, Sexual Abuse of Minor	28	~18	~64%
76-5-401.2, Unlawful Sex Conduct 16-17yo	3	—	—
76-5-403(1), Sodomy	5	—	—
76-12-306, Voyeurism (Viewing)	8	~5	~63%
Other (misc.)	68	—	—

Section 10: Cross-Dataset Integration

10.1 Statute Dataset and the DPS Registry Population (10,229 Registrants)

The statewide DPS registry population dataset and the conviction court records document the same individuals at two different life stages: the conviction dataset captures their entry pathway, the DPS dataset captures their current registry status. Together they constitute the most complete empirical picture of Utah's registry ecosystem available outside of DOC administrative systems, entry volume, offense composition, geographic distribution, and current population stock in a single integrated analytical frame:

- The 10,229 current registrants represent the accumulated output of 44 years of convictions. The dataset's total of ~22,621 District Court guilty outcomes is an upper bound on the potential registry entry population across that period, the actual registry is about half that size, reflecting removal through death, removal hearings, non-registrable sentences, and out-of-state convictions.
- Non-contact offense share: The DPS dataset shows ~18.7% of registrants carry exploitation offenses. The conviction dataset shows that the restructured 2025 offense cohort (Enticing a Minor, Lewdness, Voyeurism) is growing rapidly as a conviction category. These two data points together confirm that the non-contact registry population share will increase.

- Incarcerated registrants (29.2% of the 10,229 total per DPS data) are simultaneously accumulating registry obligations while unable to be subject to the registry's community notification function. They are generating conviction records in this dataset, particularly in the serious penetrative offense categories with longer sentences, while producing no community safety benefit from registration during their incarceration.
- The 214 registrants (2.1%) with unknown addresses per DPS represent a supervision gap that is structurally produced rather than individually chosen. The conviction dataset's charge stacking patterns, 2.14:1 for Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child (404.3), 1.72:1 for Sodomy on Child, produce the most serious offense profiles, which generate the longest sentences and therefore the longest gaps before community reintegration.

10.2 Conviction Dataset and the §53-29-202 Offense List

The conviction dataset covers 38 of the 45 registrable offense categories in §53-29-202(1)(a) (i)–(xlv). The sex offender classification (subsections iii–xxxvi) is comprehensively covered. The child abuse offender classification (subsections i–ii: §76-5-109.2 and §76-5-109.4) is present with 76 combined cases and a 54% blended conviction rate across the (3)(A), (3)(B), and (3)(C) subsections. The kidnap offender classification (subsections xxxvii–xlv) is mostly covered; the human smuggling and aggravated trafficking statutes cited as §76-5-316 and §76-5-317 in the registry statute correspond to §76-5-308(3) and §76-5-310 in the dataset's offense coding, and both are present.

The statutory list also reveals which offenses the dataset covers but that carry registration conditions not visible in raw conviction counts. Three statutes warrant specific attention. §76-5-401 (Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor) carries near-peer exceptions under subsections (3)(b) and (3)(c) that exempt certain age-proximate defendants, meaning not every §76-5-401 guilty outcome in the dataset necessarily produces a registry entry. §76-5-401.1 (Sexual Abuse of a Minor) registers first offenders only if the actor was 21 or older at the time; a second offense registers regardless of age. §76-5-412 (Custodial Sexual Relations) registers only when the victim was under 18 and the offense occurred on or after May 10, 2011. The dataset cannot distinguish these conditional registrations from unconditional ones without case-level record access.

The most analytically significant statutory condition, the four-conviction threshold for §76-5-419 (Lewdness) and §76-5-418 (Sexual Battery), is addressed in Section 5. That threshold substantially reduces the registry entry rate from guilty outcomes for those statutes and is the clearest example of a condition that raw conviction data cannot resolve without individual case histories. A complete picture of conviction-to-registry-entry conversion rates for the 2025 statute cohort requires either case-level DOC data or a separate DPS query tracking registry additions by offense in 2025–2026.

The lifetime registration offense list under the 2019 DOC presentation (§77-41-106, now codified in the revised registry framework) maps closely to the most serious conviction

categories in the dataset: rape, rape of a child, object rape of a child, sodomy on a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual assault, child kidnapping, CSAM (§76-5b-201 and §76-5b-201.1), and aggravated exploitation of prostitution. These are precisely the categories with the lowest conviction rates in the dataset, 20–33%. Every registrant on a lifetime term from these categories passed through the same evidentially demanding prosecutorial filter documented throughout this report.

10.3 Registry Entry and Exit Dynamics

The conviction dataset documents entries into the registry pipeline; the DPS population data documents the resulting stock of registrants; and a third data source, Utah Department of Corrections registry removal data presented to the 2019 Judiciary Interim Committee and updated through 2024, documents the exit pathway. Together these three sources allow a quantitative characterization of how the registry grows, stabilizes, and shrinks over time. The picture they produce is of a registry in slow net growth driven primarily by persistently low exit rates rather than dramatically elevated entry rates.

The entry side of the equation is documented throughout this report. The conviction dataset's 2020–2024 guilty outcomes total approximately 3,183 across five years, roughly 637 per year. Not all convictions produce registry entries: non-registrable sentences, the four-conviction threshold for Lewdness (§76-5-419) and Sexual Battery (§76-5-418), and the near-peer age-proximity exceptions under §76-5-401 reduce the registry entry rate from the raw guilty outcome count. Applying a plausible registry entry rate of 60–80% of guilty outcomes yields an estimated 380–510 new registry entries per year, consistent with the population dynamics implied by comparing the 2019 total (9,655) to the 2026 total (10,229).

The exit side is more constrained. The DOC removal data identifies two pathways: ten-year post-sentence termination eligibility, and early termination petition. Approximately 284 registrants per year reach the ten-year termination threshold based on the 2008–2024 average (total: 4,833 over 17 years, range 254–326 annually). This is not automatic removal, it is the date on which the registrant becomes eligible to petition. The ten-year termination population is drawn from the lower-severity tier of the registry: lifetime registration applies to the most serious offenses under §77-41-106, so those reaching ten-year eligibility are primarily registrants convicted of near-peer offenses, unlawful sexual conduct with a 16–17 year old, enticing a minor misdemeanor, and similar lower-tier categories.

The early termination petition pathway exists in statute but functions as a near-dead letter in practice. From 2015 through 2019, the only years with petition data available, 83 petitions were received across approximately 1,580 eligible registrants, a 5.2% petition rate. Of those 83 petitions, 12 resulted in removal, a 14.5% grant rate, and a 0.76% actual removal rate relative to the eligible population. The 2024 data shows 8 removals with no corresponding petition count, suggesting either a data gap or a court-initiated clearance of a backlog. Total documented removals via early termination 2015–2024 are 20 individuals out of approximately 2,840 who became eligible across that decade.

Year	Reached 10-yr termination threshold	Early term. petitions received	Removed via early termination
2008	218	—	—
2009	266	—	—
2010	278	—	—
2011	272	—	—
2012	275	—	—
2013	302	—	—
2014	280	—	—
2015	325	1	1
2016	318	11	4
2017	305	12	3
2018	309	34	1
2019	326	25	3
2020	304	—	—
2021	279	—	—
2022	261	—	—
2023	261	—	—
2024	254	—	8
Total 2008–2024	4,833	83 (2015–2019 only)	20 (2015–2024 available)

Sources: Utah Department of Corrections, Sex & Kidnap Offender Registry Overview, presentation to Utah Judiciary Interim Committee, August 2019 (le.utah.gov/interim/2019/pdf/00003710.pdf); table extended through 2024 from updated DOC administrative records. Blank cells indicate data not reported for that year. NOTE: Petition and removal data for 2020–2023 (four consecutive years) were not reported by DOC; reasons unknown. The 2015–2019 and 2024 figures are the complete available record for those metrics. Readers should note this gap when citing early termination petition data.

The net registry growth arithmetic follows from these entry and exit figures. With roughly 430–580 new entries per year, approximately 284 ten-year terminations per year, approximately 2 early removals per year, and additional exits through death, permanent out-of-state relocation, and administrative removal, the registry grows at a net rate of approximately 80–100 individuals per year. This matches the observed 2019–2026 growth of +574 registrants over seven years (+82 per year average). The registry is not growing dramatically; it is growing modestly and persistently, driven by the combination of a steady entry pipeline and a largely non-functional early exit pathway.

The declining trend in ten-year termination eligibles since 2019, from 326 in 2019 to 254 in 2024, is potentially significant. It may reflect the demographic aging of the registry cohort convicted during the 2000s peak conviction decade (9,887 cases, 53% conviction rate), with fewer of those individuals remaining on a ten-year track as they shift into lifetime registration status or age off entirely. If the trend continues, the annual termination pipeline will shrink further, and new entries will face proportionally less offset from exits, implying acceleration of net registry growth even without any change in conviction volume.

The practical significance of the 5.2% petition rate and 14.5% grant rate is that the early termination pathway, as currently designed, is not functioning as a meaningful population management mechanism. The statutory requirements, no subsequent qualifying convictions, full treatment completion, full restitution payment, perfect registration compliance, Certificate of Eligibility from BCI, create a barrier that most eligible registrants either cannot clear or do not attempt to navigate. Twenty removals over ten years from a pool of nearly 3,000 eligible individuals is a 0.7% removal rate. Any analysis of the registry's long-term population trajectory must account for this near-zero attrition rate from the pathway designed to provide it.

Section 11: §76-5b-201, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (CSAM)

Utah Code §76-5b-201 (Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, the CSAM statute) and the earlier designation §76-5A-3 (Sex Exploitation of a Minor, 2000–2023) together document Utah's complete CSAM prosecution history in this dataset. The two share near-identical charge-to-case ratios (4.84 and 4.73 respectively), reflecting the same evidentiary structure, multi-count charging across multiple images, files, or devices. Both are included in this dataset and analyzed together as the complete CSAM prosecution record.

The §76-5b family in Utah encompasses three distinct offense categories: §76-5b-201 and its subsections (the primary CSAM possession and production offense, a second-degree felony for possession and first-degree for production or distribution); §76-5b-201.1 (Aggravated Sexual Exploitation, applicable when victims are younger or conduct is more serious); and §76-5b-204 (Sexual Extortion, targeting coercive use of intimate images). The earlier charge designation §76-5A-3 (Sex Exploitation of a Minor) covers the same offense conduct from 2000 through 2023 and together with §76-5b-201 forms the complete CSAM

prosecution record in this dataset. Accordingly, trend analyses must account for this statutory renumbering to avoid artificially separating offenses that are substantively the same conduct.

The combined §76-5b-201 and §76-5A-3 caseload totals approximately 4,776 cases, making the CSAM family the fourth-highest-volume statute family in the dataset. The broader CSAM enforcement picture is larger still: ICAC task force operations, CyberTipline referrals, and undercover internet investigations produce a steady and expanding pipeline of CSAM possession cases, with Utah ICAC reporting 179 prosecutions in 2025 alone.

The conviction rate pattern for §76-5b-201 is one of the most analytically significant findings in the full combined dataset. At 45.8% overall across all years in the dataset, with 47% in the 2010s declining to 45% in the 2020–2026 period, §76-5b-201 sits between the two conviction rate tiers identified in Section 4. It converts substantially better than the serious penetrative child offenses (Rape of a Child 29%, Sodomy on a Child 29%) and somewhat below the non-penetrative offense categories (404 series: 55–57%).

This intermediate position reflects the evidentiary profile of CSAM cases: digital evidence is available but authentication, chain of custody, and defendant-attribution challenges create real evidentiary barriers that are not present in cases where a defendant is caught with accessible devices. The practical implication is that ICAC-driven expansion of the CSAM prosecution pipeline will continue adding registry entries at a rate meaningfully below what raw case volume figures suggest, because roughly half of all §76-5b-201 cases will not produce a conviction regardless of investigative resources applied. Both the two-tier structural finding in Section 4 and the serious-offense/low-conviction-rate finding in Section 12.1 extend fully to the §76-5b family.

Statute / Family	Cases (1983–2026)	Guilty/Plea	Conv. Rate	Dism. Rate
76-5b-201, Sexual Exploitation of Minor (CSAM, all subsections)	3,506	1,607	45.80%	53.80%
76-5b-201.1, Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of Minor (all subsections)	314	126	40.10%	59.60%
76-5b-204, Sexual Extortion (all subsections)	75	45	60.00%	40.00%
76-5b-202, Sexual Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult	7	4	57.10%	42.90%

11.1 §76-5b-201, Court Record Coverage and Conviction Profile

The court records 3,506 §76-5b-201 (Sexual Exploitation of a Minor) case-outcomes across all years of the dataset, with 1,607 guilty outcomes (45.8% conviction rate) and a 53.8% dismissal rate. This conviction rate places §76-5b-201 clearly between the two tiers documented in Section 4, above the penetrative child offense tier (29–30%) and below the non-penetrative offense tier (55–64%). The charge-to-case ratio of 4.84 for this statute family is the highest in the dataset, reflecting the common practice of charging multiple counts of possession or distribution for multiple images, files, or devices found in a single investigation.

The Aggravated Sexual Exploitation subsection (§76-5b-201.1, applicable when victims are younger or conduct is more serious) shows 314 cases and a 40.1% conviction rate, somewhat lower than the base §76-5b-201 rate, consistent with the pattern across the dataset where the most serious subcategory of an offense family typically converts at a lower rate. The Sexual Extortion statute (§76-5b-204) at 60% and §76-5b-202 at 57% both post rates closer to the non-penetrative offense tier, reflecting the stronger evidentiary profiles of cases where documentary records of coercive communications or exploitation of a vulnerable adult are available to prosecutors.

The charge-to-case ratios for both §76-5b-201 (4.84) and the earlier §76-5A-3 designation (4.73) are the highest in the dataset, reflecting the common practice of charging multiple counts for multiple images, files, or devices found in a single investigation. When ICAC statistics report charge or count totals, the actual defendant count is approximately one-fifth of the reported charge total. The earlier 76-4-401 Enticing designation carries a 1.40:1 ratio, much lower than CSAM, because enticement cases typically involve a single course of conduct rather than multiple discrete counts.

Statute	Cases	Guilty /Plea	Conv. Rate	Dism. Rate	Charge: Case Ratio
76-5A-3, Sex Exploitation of Minor (earlier charge designation, 2000–2023)	1,408	658	46.60%	50.10%	4.31
76-5b-201, Sexual Exploitation of Minor (CSAM)	3,506	1,607	45.80%	53.80%	4.84
76-5b-201.1, Aggravated Sexual Exploitation	314	126	40.10%	59.60%	3.51
76-5b-204, Sexual Extortion	75	45	60.00%	40.00%	1.33
76-5b-202, Sexual Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult	7	4	57.10%	42.90%	2.71

11.2 Earlier Charge Designations: 76-5A-3 and 76-4-401

Two statute families in this dataset carry earlier Utah Code charge designations for offenses now prosecuted under current code numbers. §76-5A-3 (Sex Exploitation of a Minor) covers the same conduct as §76-5b-201 and was the operative charge designation from 2000 through 2023, generating 1,408 cases at a 46.6% conviction rate. The near-identical 4.73:1 charge-to-case ratio to §76-5b-201 confirms these are structurally the same offense type. §76-4-401 (Enticing a Minor over the Internet) covers the same conduct as §76-5-417 and was the operative charge designation from 2001 through 2024, generating 2,031 cases at a 65.4% conviction rate, substantially higher than §76-5-417's current 61% rate. This close alignment confirms that both designations represent the same well-established prosecution pipeline, with the slightly higher 76-4-401 rate reflecting its longer historical record and the inclusion of all conviction types across a fuller range of case vintages. Combined, 76-4-401 (2,031 cases, 1,329 guilty) and §76-5-417 (120 cases, 73 guilty) give an all-years enticing prosecution total of 2,151 cases and 1,402 guilty outcomes, a 65.2% blended conviction rate.

11.3 §76-5b in Context: The Complete Registrable Offense Picture

The §76-5b family and its earlier charge designations together constitute a substantial and analytically distinct component of the full registrable offense conviction record. The dataset shows 48,852 total District Court case-outcomes and approximately 22,621 guilty outcomes. The §76-5b-201 family's 1,782 combined guilty outcomes represent approximately 7.8% of the full guilty outcome pool, smaller than the Section 4 family rankings by case volume might suggest, because the high charge-to-case ratio (4.84) inflates charge counts relative to actual defendant counts. The §76-5b family's analytical significance exceeds its share of the conviction pool because it is the fastest-growing prosecution category in volume terms and the primary category associated with ICAC investigative activity.

The offense composition implications are significant. The §76-5b-201 family is entirely non-contact: no physical victim access is required, and the registrant population it produces has a different actuarial risk profile than contact offense registrants. Adding §76-5b-201 conviction volume to the dataset shifts the non-contact share of the total registrable offense conviction pool substantially upward, consistent with the DPS registry population data showing approximately 18.7% of current registrants carry exploitation offense convictions, a figure that would be higher if §76-5b-201's full historical conviction volume were included in the denominator.

The §76-5b-204 (Sexual Extortion) statute at 60% conviction rate on 75 cases converts at a substantially higher rate than the CSAM possession offenses, comparable to the Sexual Battery (418) and Enticing a Minor (417) offense categories in this dataset. Sexual Extortion involves coercive use of intimate images (sextortion), and its evidentiary profile is similar to other digital evidence cases where documentary records of coercive communications are available to prosecutors.

Utah ICAC reported 179 prosecutions in 2025, more than double 2024's 71, driven by expanded investigative capacity and CyberTipline referral volume exceeding 9,500 tips. The dataset's 2025 CSAM figures reflect only convictions processed through the court system to date; the full 2025 ICAC prosecution volume will appear in subsequent dataset refreshes.

Section 12: Analytical Implications

12.1 Five Data-Grounded Policy Implications

Argument 1: The offense list is expanding faster than evidence base that justifies it

The conviction dataset documents 33 new statutes added in 2025 alone, continuing a pattern in which the Utah registry expanded from 10 to 46 offenses across 43 years and 17 bills without a governing inclusion standard. The data shows that some of these additions, particularly the labor trafficking subsection, appeared in case records before any systematic analysis of whether the offense's risk profile warrants registry-level management. The first labor trafficking convictions now appear in the record (3 cases, 2 convictions); these individuals are on the registry under the same statutory framework as individuals convicted of Rape of a Child, despite facing an actuarial risk profile that was never assessed against the registry's own purposes.

The statistical evidence that supports this argument is the charge expansion rate itself: 22 additional statutes in the 44 years from 1983 to 2021, and 24 additional statutes in the four years from 2021 to 2025. The acceleration of offense list expansion does not correspond to any documented acceleration in evidence that new offense categories warrant registry-level management. The data provides the empirical foundation for arguing that a systematic, evidence-based review of the current offense list is a necessary corrective to decades of incremental expansion.

Argument 2: The new tier is producing registry entries at conviction rates that exceed serious felony offenses

The 2025 statute cohort (417, 418, 419, 420, 76-12) is producing guilty convictions at 55–67% rates, substantially higher than Rape of a Child (29%), Sodomy on a Child (29%), Object Rape (27%), and Object Rape of a Child (20%). The registry is now generating entries from Enticing a Minor (120 cases, 73 guilty), Lewdness Involving a Child (§76-5-420, 39 cases, 18 guilty), and Voyeurism (35 cases, 23 guilty) at rates that will materially change the registry's offense composition. Note: Lewdness (§76-5-419) and Sexual Battery (§76-5-418) carry a four-conviction threshold under §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxi)–(xxxiii) before registration is triggered; the conviction volumes for those statutes substantially overstate registry entry production from first- and second-offense defendants.

This is not an argument against prosecuting these offenses or against them being registrable. It is an argument for acknowledging that a registry whose population is increasingly composed of Enticing a Minor, Lewdness Involving a Child, and Voyeurism

convicts, generated at 55–67% conviction rates through misdemeanor and lower-felony proceedings, is a categorically different institution than a registry populated primarily by Rape of a Child and Sodomy on a Child convicts generated at 29% conviction rates through first-degree felony proceedings. The evidence base for how to manage these populations differs, and a single management framework cannot be equally well-calibrated to both.

Argument 3: The most serious offenses have the lowest conviction rates

Rape of a Child (29%), Sodomy on a Child (29%), Object Rape (27%), and Object Rape of a Child (20%) are the cases that most justify stringent registry management, and they are the cases least likely to produce registry entrants. The 29% figure for Rape of a Child means roughly 7 in 10 charged cases are dismissed or acquitted. The cases that anchor the public's understanding of why the registry exists are the cases the system converts at the lowest rate. This creates a structural gap between the population the registry is politically understood to be managing and the population it is actually managing.

The decade-by-decade data confirms this is not a recent development or a correctable trend. Rape of a Child has been at 23–34% across four decades. Sodomy on a Child has been at 25–33%. These rates have not responded to changes in prosecutorial resources, evidentiary reforms, or the general intensification of sex offense prosecution. The evidentiary barrier in penetrative child offense cases is structural, and the registry population it produces will always be thinner, relative to charging activity, than the public record of arrests and prosecutions would suggest.

Argument 4: Dismissal pattern makes charge statistics unreliable as a policy measure

Since 2015, more than 60% of all dismissed sex offense cases have been dismissed with prejudice, final, unrefileable closures. Charging statistics and arrest records document these cases as part of the enforcement record; the registry does not include them. The divergence between what the charging record shows and what the registry reflects has grown consistently since the 2014–2016 dismissal inflection. Any policy argument built on charge counts or arrest counts rather than conviction counts is building on a figure that includes approximately 45% of proceedings that will never produce a registry entry, and since 2015, the majority of those non-conviction proceedings are permanently resolved.

The charge-to-case ratio compounds this problem. When agencies report charge-level statistics, the number of counts filed, the number of counts resulting in dismissal, they are describing a population that is 87% larger than the actual defendant count before any dismissals are applied. After applying the dismissal rate, the remaining convicted population is approximately 37–41% of the charged case count depending on the period. A policy discussion that begins with charge statistics and reasons forward to registry implications will systematically overstate the size of the population the registry is managing.

Argument 5: Charge stacking is documentable and inflates apparent problem scope

The 1.87:1 overall charge-to-case ratio, rising to 2.14:1 for Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child (404.3) and 1.72:1 for Sodomy on a Child (403.1), means that when agencies cite charges filed data to legislators, they are describing a number roughly 87% larger than the actual defendant population, and for the most serious child offense categories, the inflation approaches double. This is not a deliberate misrepresentation by prosecutors; multi-count charging serves legitimate plea-negotiation and sentencing purposes. But it becomes analytically distorting when charge-level figures are used as proxies for defendant population size or offense frequency in policy contexts.

The charge inflation is highest for precisely the offense categories that generate the most public concern. A parent of a child victim who hears that an offender faced seven counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child receives a very different impression of the scope of conduct than the case-level record of one defendant with one victim in one proceeding. Both are accurate descriptions of the same event; they carry different inferential weight for policy purposes. The conviction dataset makes this distinction quantifiable for the first time: 520 Agg. Sex Abuse Child (404.3) cases produced 830 charges, a 2.14:1 ratio that any policy analysis should account for.

Section 13: Conclusion

Publication 2026-49 presents the most comprehensive empirical record of Utah sex offense prosecution assembled outside of state administrative systems. Across 44 years of District Court case outcomes, 30 years of Justice Court records, 182 tracked statute and subsection codes, and a current registry population of 10,229 registrants, several structural features of the registry ecosystem have emerged that are not visible in any single data source examined in isolation.

The central finding is a system in structural tension with itself. Case volume has reached an all-time high while conviction rates have reached an all-time low. The offense list has expanded to 46 registrable categories while the evidentiary performance of the most serious original categories has not improved in four decades. The dismissal landscape has been permanently altered such that the majority of non-conviction outcomes are now final, unrefileable closures, yet charging statistics, which remain the most commonly cited figures in legislative testimony, treat every filed case as a meaningful measure of enforcement activity. And the registry's exit pathway, designed to provide a meaningful off-ramp for lower-risk registrants who have completed their obligations, has produced 20 removals over ten years from a pool of nearly 3,000 eligible individuals.

None of these findings, taken individually, are arguments for or against the registry's existence. Taken together, they are an argument for examining the registry's current architecture against the evidence base that the registry's current population actually reflects, rather than the population the registry was originally designed to manage.

Three questions follow directly from this data that the existing record cannot answer without additional analysis. First, what share of the 22,621 District Court guilty outcomes documented here actually produced registry entries, and how does that share vary by offense category and registration condition? Second, what is the actuarial risk distribution of the current 10,229 registrants, and how does it align with the tiered management framework the registry currently applies uniformly? Third, what accounts for the 2014–2016 dismissal inflection, a statewide, near-simultaneous policy shift whose cause remains undetermined from aggregate data alone, and whether understanding it would change how prosecution activity is reported to policymakers?

The conviction court records documented here will serve as the empirical baseline against which any proposed modification to §53-29-202's offense list should be evaluated. This publication establishes what the evidence is to determine whether the current registrable offense list reflects an evidence-proportionate approach to community safety. The answer is a policy judgment, but it should be a policy judgment made with this record visible, not without it.

Appendix: §53-29-202

Registrable Offenses, Conviction Rate and Case Volume Cross-Reference

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts conviction records, 1983–2026 (District Court). Case volume figures reflect District Court case-level totals across all years. Conviction rates are all-years blended rates unless otherwise noted. Cases = 0 or, indicates statute absent from dataset. Four offenses are absent from the dataset (§76-5b-207, §76-5b-208, §76-5b-209, §76-5d-208); see Section 1.4 of Publication 2026-49 for explanation. §76-5-301.1 and §76-5-302 appear in both Sex Offender and Kidnap Offender classifications and are listed in each. DC = District Court.

Evidentiary Tier Legend

Penetrative – Lowest	18–30%	Penetrative offenses against children (Rape of a Child, Object Rape of a Child, Sodomy on a Child, Object Rape). Structurally low and stable across four decades. Depend heavily on complainant testimony without corroborating physical evidence.
Penetrative	27–37%	Penetrative offenses including Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Aggravated Sexual Assault. Some improvement over decades (Rape), others declining (Aggravated Sexual Assault).
Mid-Tier	40–50%	CSAM (§76-5b-201), trafficking, and kidnapping. Digital evidence advantage (CSAM) partially offset by authentication and attribution challenges.
Non-Penetrative	54–66%	Contact offenses short of penetration, and exploitation offenses (Forcible Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse of a Child, Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor). Consistent across decades. Within-tier variation: modern §76-5-404.1 subsections reach 72-82%.
Non-Penetrative (New 2025)	46–66%	2025 legislative cohort: Enticing a Minor (§76-5-417), Sexual Battery (§76-5-418), Lewdness (§76-5-419/420), Voyeurism (§76-12). Rates likely understated in first operational year. Note: §76-5-418 and §76-5-419 require 4+ convictions before registration triggered.
Absent / Insufficient	—	Four offenses absent from dataset (§76-5b-207, §76-5b-208, §76-5b-209, §76-5d-208); see Section 1.4. Some offenses present with single-digit cases; rates not analytically reliable.

Sub.	Statute	Offense	Registry Class	DC Cases	Conv. Rate	Evidentiary Tier
CHILD ABUSE OFFENDER, §53-29-202(1)(a)(i)–(ii)						
i	§76-5-109.2	Aggravated Child Abuse	Child Abuse Offender	76	54%	Non-Penetrative
ii	§76-5-109.4	Child Torture	Child Abuse Offender	3	—	Absent/Insufficient
SEX OFFENDER, §53-29-202(1)(a)(iii)–(xxxvi) and (xlv)						
iii	§76-5-301.1	Child Kidnapping	Sex / Kidnap Offender	342	32%	Mid-Tier
iv	§76-5-302	Aggravated Kidnapping	Sex / Kidnap Offender	3,184	18%	Mid-Tier (Leverage Function)
v	§76-5-401	Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor	Sex Offender	4,079	64%	Non-Penetrative – High Conv. Rate
vi	§76-5-401.1	Sexual Abuse of a Minor	Sex Offender	382	56%	Non-Penetrative
vii	§76-5-401.2	Unlawful Sexual Conduct with 16-17 Year Old	Sex Offender	1,474	56%	Non-Penetrative
viii	§76-5-401.3	Unlawful Adolescent Sexual Activity	Sex Offender	9	89%	Non-Penetrative – New 2025 Statute
ix	§76-5-402	Rape	Sex Offender	2,814	33%	Penetrative
x	§76-5-402.1	Rape of a Child	Sex Offender	2,303	28%	Penetrative – Lowest Conv. Rate Tier

Sub.	Statute	Offense	Registry Class	DC Cases	Conv. Rate	Evidentiary Tier
xi	§76-5-402.2	Object Rape	Sex Offender	880	24%	Penetrative – Lowest Conv. Rate Tier
xii	§76-5-402.3	Object Rape of a Child	Sex Offender	281	20%	Penetrative – Lowest Conv. Rate Tier
xiii	§76-5-403	Forcible Sodomy	Sex Offender	2,013	27%	Penetrative
xiv	§76-5-403.1	Sodomy on a Child	Sex Offender	3,096	27%	Penetrative – Lowest Conv. Rate Tier
xv	§76-5-404	Forcible Sexual Abuse	Sex Offender	6,840	54%	Non-Penetrative
xvi	§76-5-404.1	Sexual Abuse of a Child	Sex Offender	11,978	56%	Non-Penetrative
xvii	§76-5-404.3	Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child	Sex Offender	518	45%	Non-Penetrative
xviii	§76-5-405	Aggravated Sexual Assault	Sex Offender	857	29%	Penetrative
xix	§76-5-412	Custodial Sexual Relations	Sex Offender	65	51%	Non-Penetrative
xx	§76-5-417	Enticing a Minor	Sex Offender	120	61%	Non-Penetrative – New 2025 Statute

Sub.	Statute	Offense	Registry Class	DC Cases	Conv. Rate	Evidentiary Tier
xxi	§76-4-401	Enticing a Minor via Internet (earlier desig.)	Sex Offender	2,031	65%	Non-Penetrative – High Conv. Rate
xxii	§76-5-418	Sexual Battery	Sex Offender	83	63%	Non-Penetrative – New 2025 Statute
xxiii	§76-5-419	Lewdness – Restructured	Sex Offender	112	47%	Non-Penetrative – New 2025 Statute
xxiv	§76-5-420	Lewdness Involving a Child	Sex Offender	39	46%	Non-Penetrative – New 2025 Statute
xxv	§76-12-306/307/308	Voyeurism	Sex Offender	35	66%	Non-Penetrative – New 2025 Statute
xxvi	§76-5b-201	Sexual Exploitation of Minor / CSAM	Sex Offender	3,506	46%	Mid-Tier
xxvii	§76-5b-207	Possession of Apparent CSAM	Sex Offender	—	—	Absent/Insufficient
xxviii	§76-5b-208	Distribution of Apparent CSAM	Sex Offender	—	—	Absent/Insufficient
xxix	§76-5b-209	Obscene Material Depicting Minor Sexual Abuse	Sex Offender	—	—	Absent/Insufficient

Sub.	Statute	Offense	Registr y Class	DC Cases	Conv. Rate	Evident iary	
xxx	§76-5b-201.1	Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of Minor	Sex Offend er	314	40%	Mid-Tier	
xxxi	§76-5b-202	Sexual Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult	Sex Offend er	7	57%	Non-Penetra tive	
xxxii	§76-5b-204	Sexual Extortion (Sextortion)	Sex Offend er	75	60%	Non-Penetra tive	
xxxiii	§76-5-308	Human Trafficking	Sex Offend er	116	44%	Mid-Tier	
xxxiv	§76-5-308.1	Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation	Sex Offend er	7	71%	Mid-Tier	
xxxv	§76-5-308.5	Human Trafficking of a Child	Sex Offend er	34	47%	Mid-Tier	
xxxvi	§76-5d-208	Aggravated Exploitation of Prostitution	Sex Offend er	—	—	Absent/ Insuffici ent	
xlvi	§76-7-102	Incest	Sex Offend er	202	61%	Non-Penetra tive	
KIDNAP OFFENDER, §53-29-202(1)(a)(xxxvii)–(xlvi)							
xxxvii	§76-5-301.1	Child Kidnapping	Kidnap Offend er	342	32%	Mid-Tier	
xxxviii	§76-5-302	Aggravated Kidnapping	Kidnap Offend er	3,184	18%	Mid-Tier (Levera ge Functio n)	

Sub.	Statute	Offense	Registry Class	DC Cases	Conv. Rate	Evidentiary Tier
xxxix	§76-5-308.3	Human Smuggling	Kidnap Offender	6	50%	Mid-Tier
xl	§76-5-310	Aggravated Human Trafficking	Kidnap Offender	13	23%	Mid-Tier
xli	§76-5-310.1	Aggravated Human Smuggling	Kidnap Offender	1	—	Absent/Insufficient
xlii	§76-5-311	Human Trafficking of Vulnerable Adult	Kidnap Offender	1	0%	Absent/Insufficient
xliii	§76-5-316	Human Smuggling of Child	Kidnap Offender	—	—	Absent/Insufficient
xliv	§76-5-317	Aggravated Human Smuggling of Child	Kidnap Offender	—	—	Absent/Insufficient
xlvi	§76-5-308.6	Human Trafficking for Labor	Kidnap Offender	3	67%	Mid-Tier

