

# CONTRACT PUBLIC DEFENDER CHALLENGES SURVEY

IDC Commission Meeting  
November 20, 2025

# SURVEY COMPONENTS

Top  
Challenges

Interest in  
Full-Time  
Employment

Open  
Comment

~300

PUBLIC DEFENDERS IN UTAH  
(Employees and contractors)

114

CONTRACT ATTORNEYS  
received the survey

41

**SURVEY ANSWERS**

# DEFENDERS SURVEYED

## COUNTIES

Box Elder  
Cache  
Davis  
Grand  
Juab  
Millard  
Morgan  
Salt Lake  
Sanpete  
Sevier  
Tooele  
Uintah  
Utah  
Washington  
Weber

## AREAS

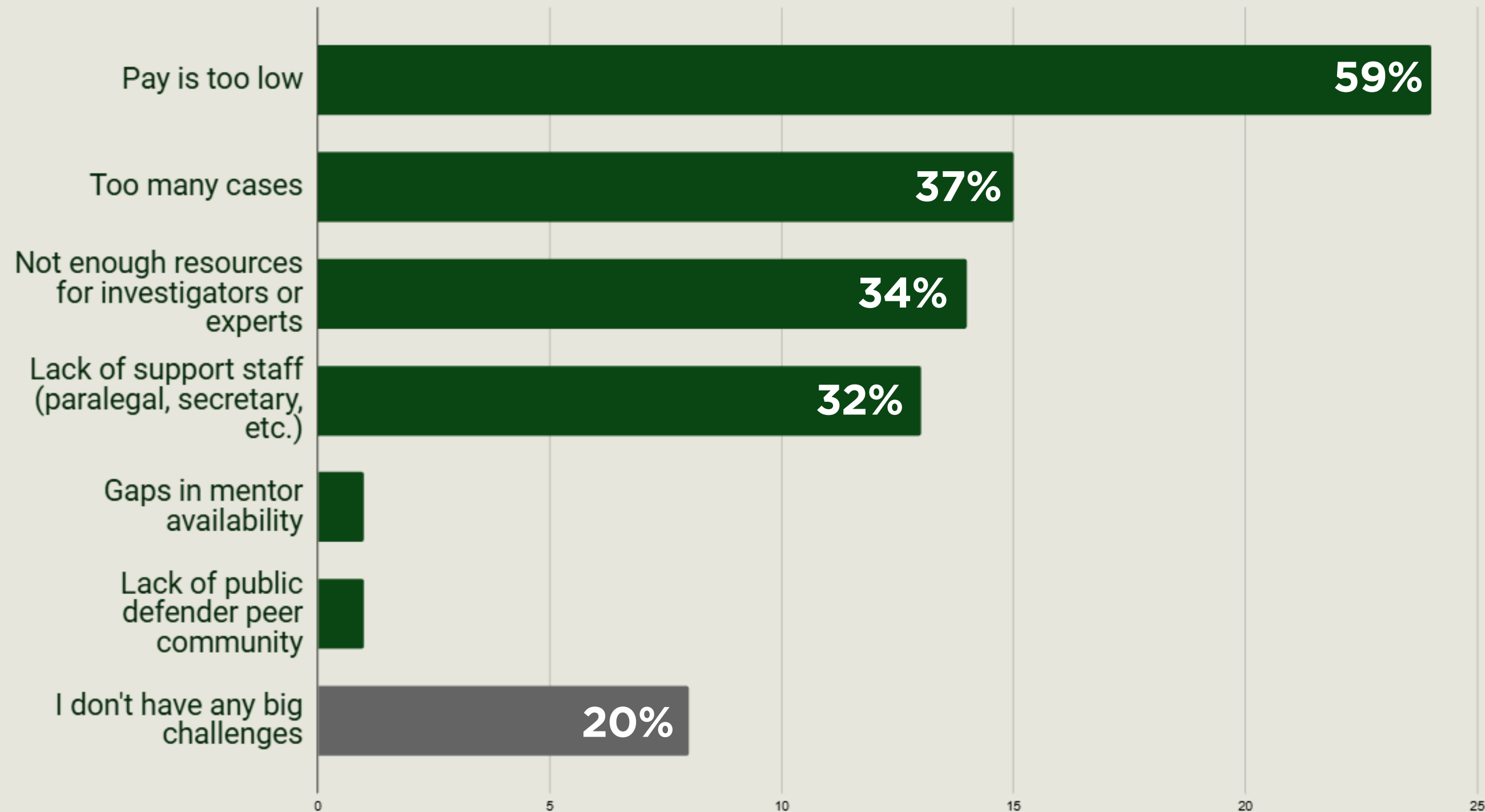
District Court  
Justice Court  
Juvenile  
Delinquency  
Child Welfare

# ANSWERS

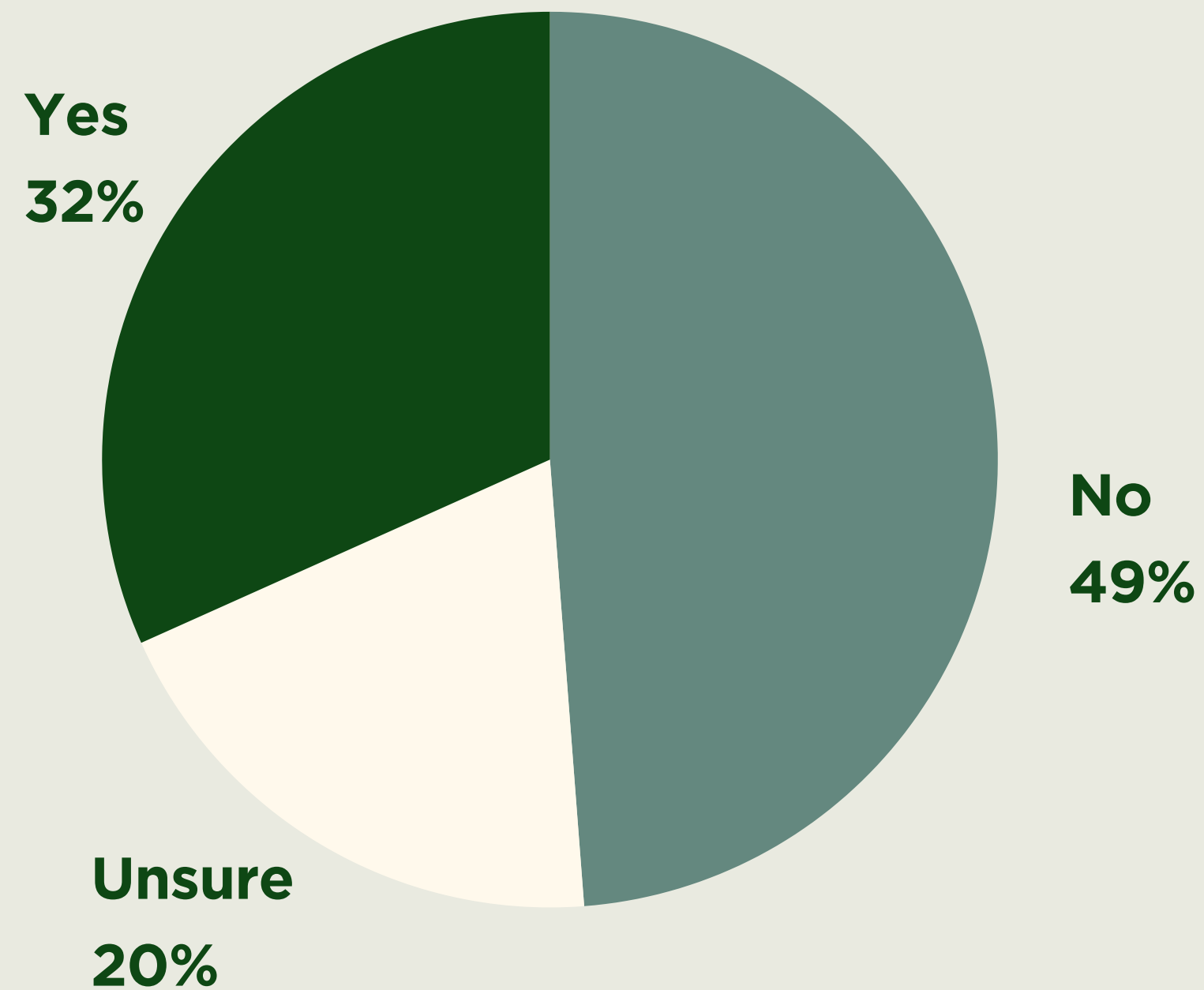
*“Thank you, IDC, for all you do.  
Conditions are much better since you  
got involved.”*



# CHALLENGES



# INTEREST IN WORKING AS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE



# OTHER COMMENTS

## Appreciation for recent improvements

*“Historically it has always been too many cases and low pay. The recent adjustments have helped significantly in those areas. “*

*“Washington County has done well in providing better pay and other resources in recent years. I appreciate the progress that has been made.”*

## Gratitute for the work & for colleagues

*“I love the work I do and have incredible colleagues which helps with the challenges of the work.”*

Praise for Davis County’s system in particular

Appreciation of treament courts

## Concerns regarding court & criminal system processes

*“I think it is too easy for the state to terminate the parental rights of parents, which is likely the worst punishment other than death.”*

*“It seems due process is sacrificed for efficiency.”*

Difficulty of traveling to various courts

Issues with discovery:

- Difficulty dealing with large files
- Difficulty obtaining those files from law enforcement

## Defense-specific concerns

Concerns about threats to cut funding in the near future

Concerns over actual availability of indigent defense resources when needed

Request to reduce caseload to meet ABA Standards



# CONCLUSION

