

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Professor Lisa Martin, School of Law

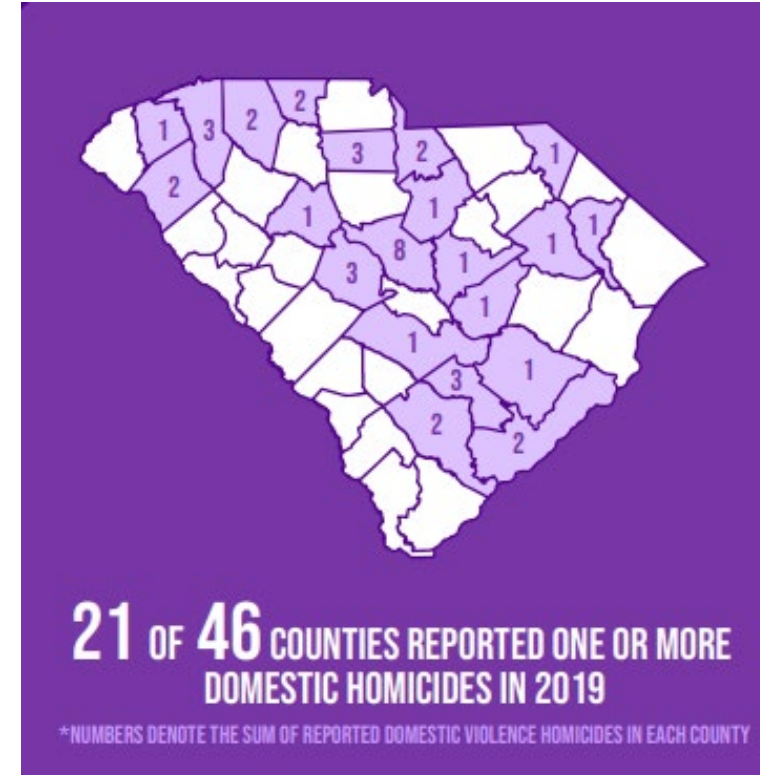
Professor Suzanne Swan, Depts. of Psychology and
Women's & Gender Studies



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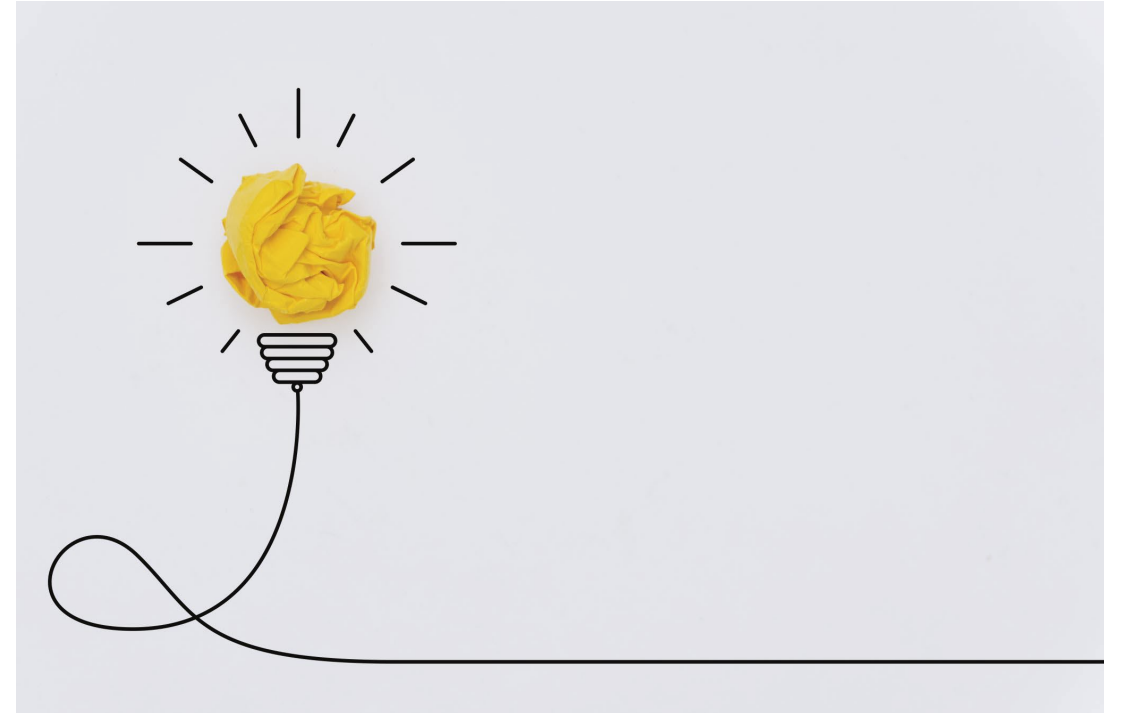
STUDY ORIGINS: S.C. AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Top 10 states for femicide in 23/25 past years; 6th in 2019
- S.C. female residents report in CDC surveys:
 - Highest lifetime rate of stalking by intimate partners
 - Among highest lifetime incidence of any form of intimate partner violence
 - Among highest lifetime incidence of psychological abuse by intimate partners



STUDY ORIGINS: S.C. AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

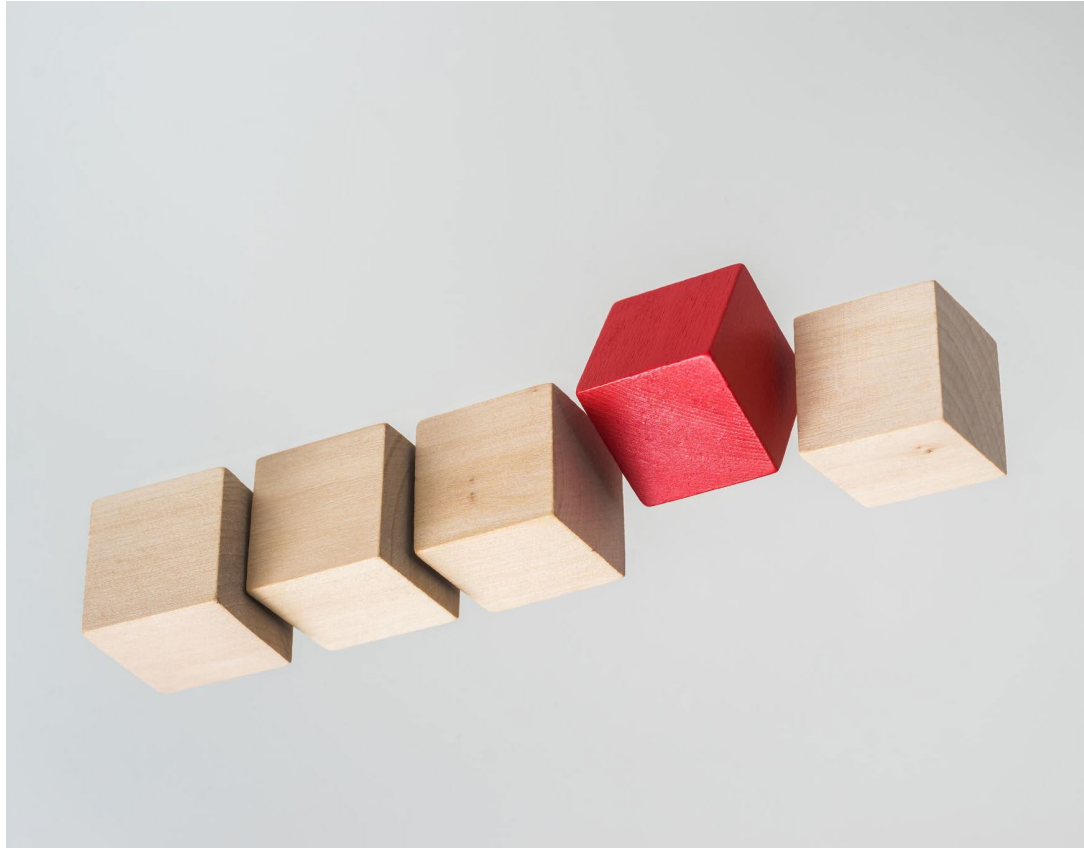
- In 2015, Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence recognized lack of data on Orders of Protection as an obstacle to redressing domestic violence in the state.
- S.C. is the only state to not offer temporary, *ex parte* orders of protection at the time an Order of Protection case is filed.
- The National Center for Access to Justice's Justice Index ranks South Carolina last among all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for having the lowest number of attorneys for people living in poverty.





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2019 CASE FILES COLLECTED



~ 3, 200 Order of Protection

~ 2,450 Restraining Order

22 Emergency Restraining Order

12 Permanent Restraining Order

45/46 Family Courts

9 Circuit Courts

93/97 Magistrate Courts (that had files)



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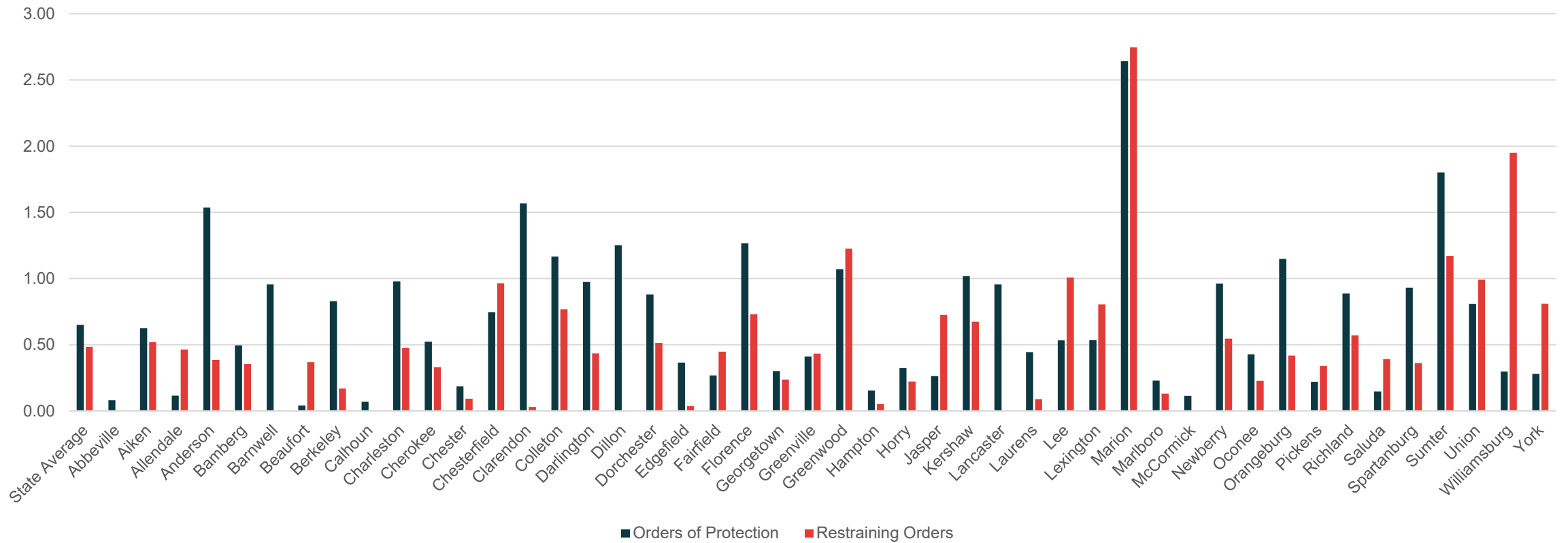
INITIAL FINDINGS: ACCESS IS HYPER-LOCAL



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ORDER OF PROTECTION AND RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS

Order of Protection and Restraining Order Filings per 1,000

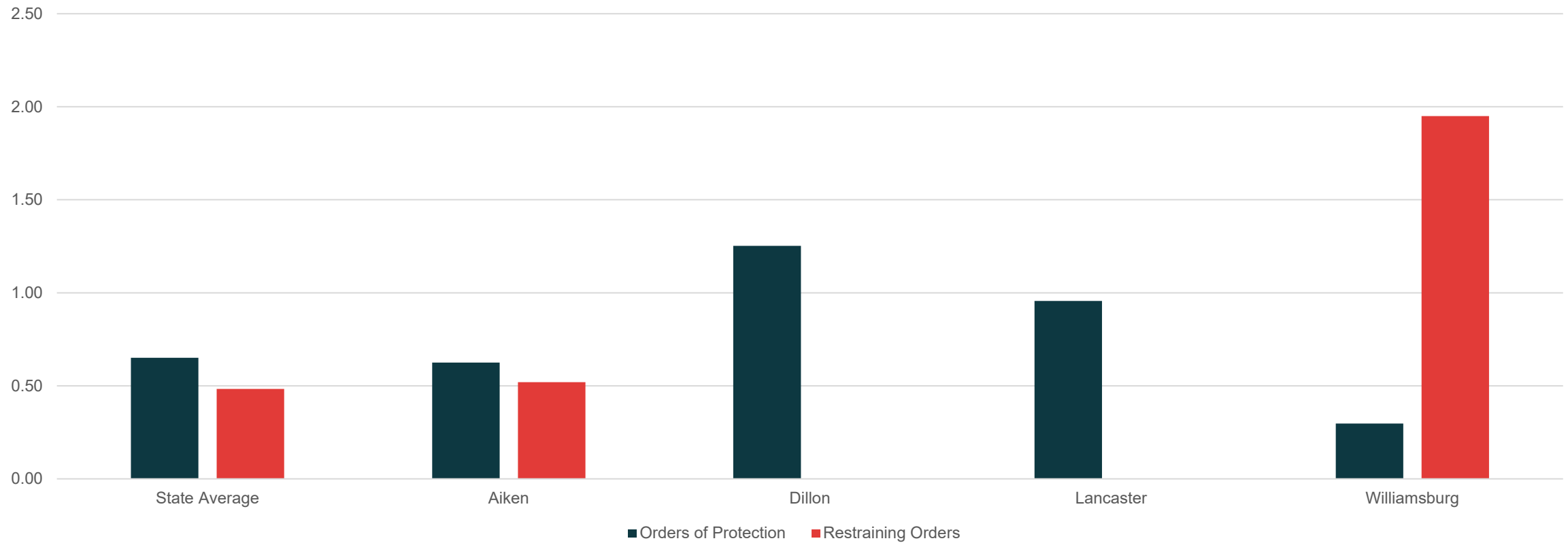


ORDER OF PROTECTION AND RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS



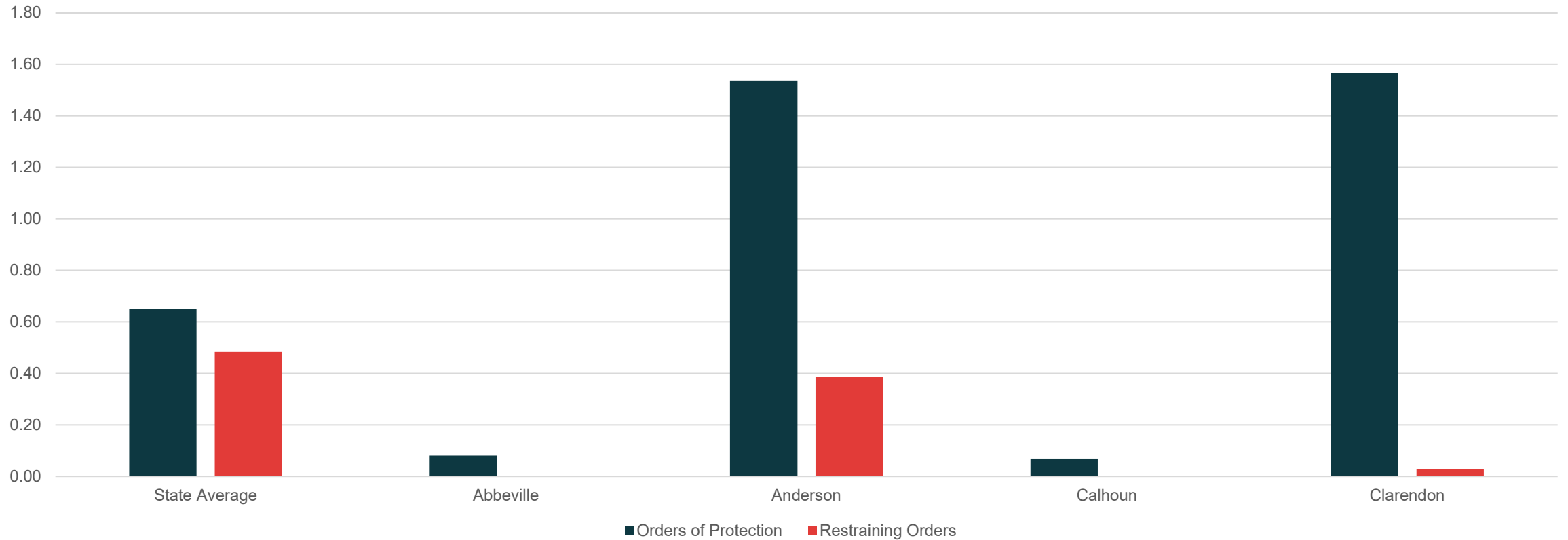
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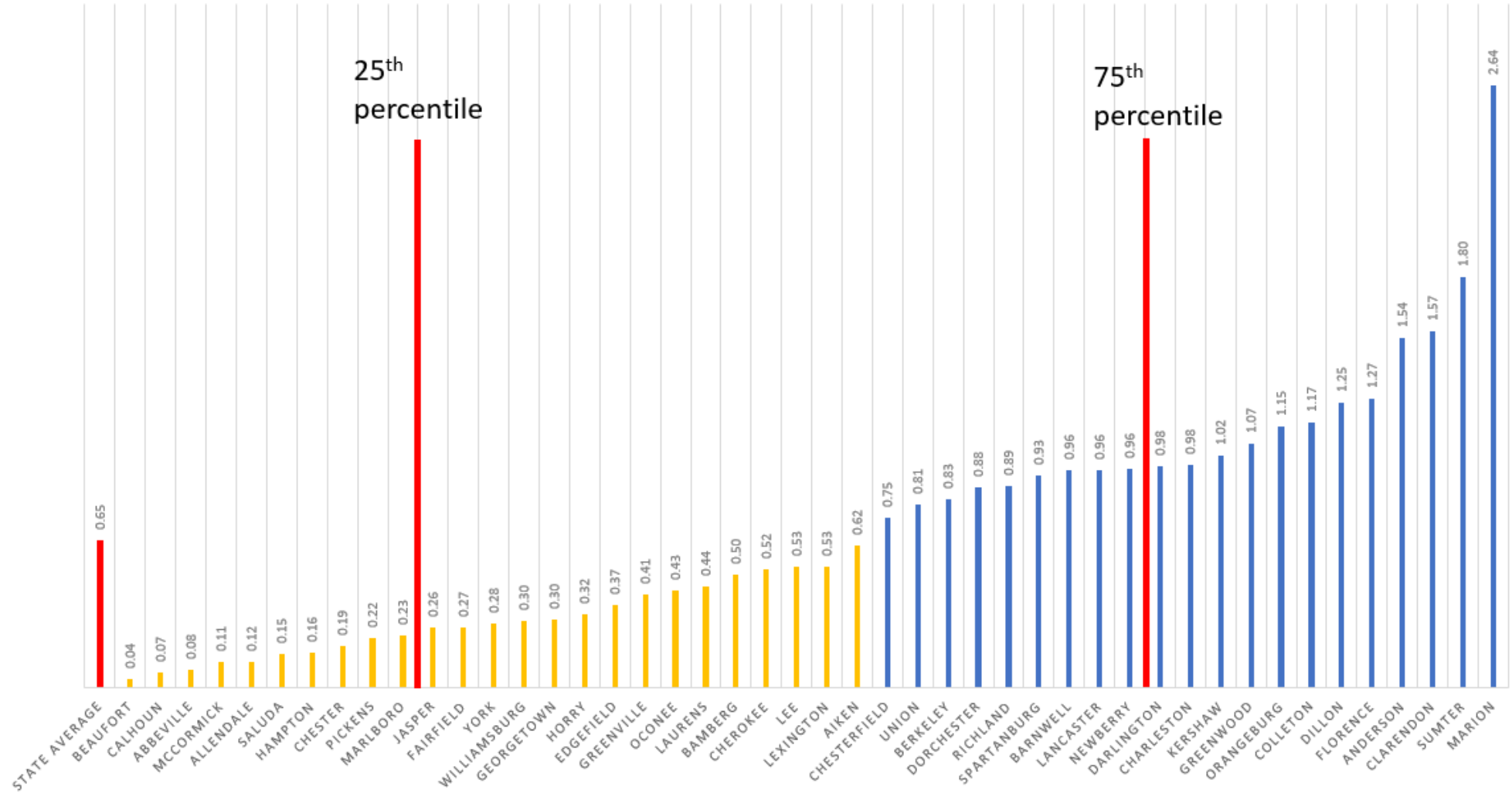
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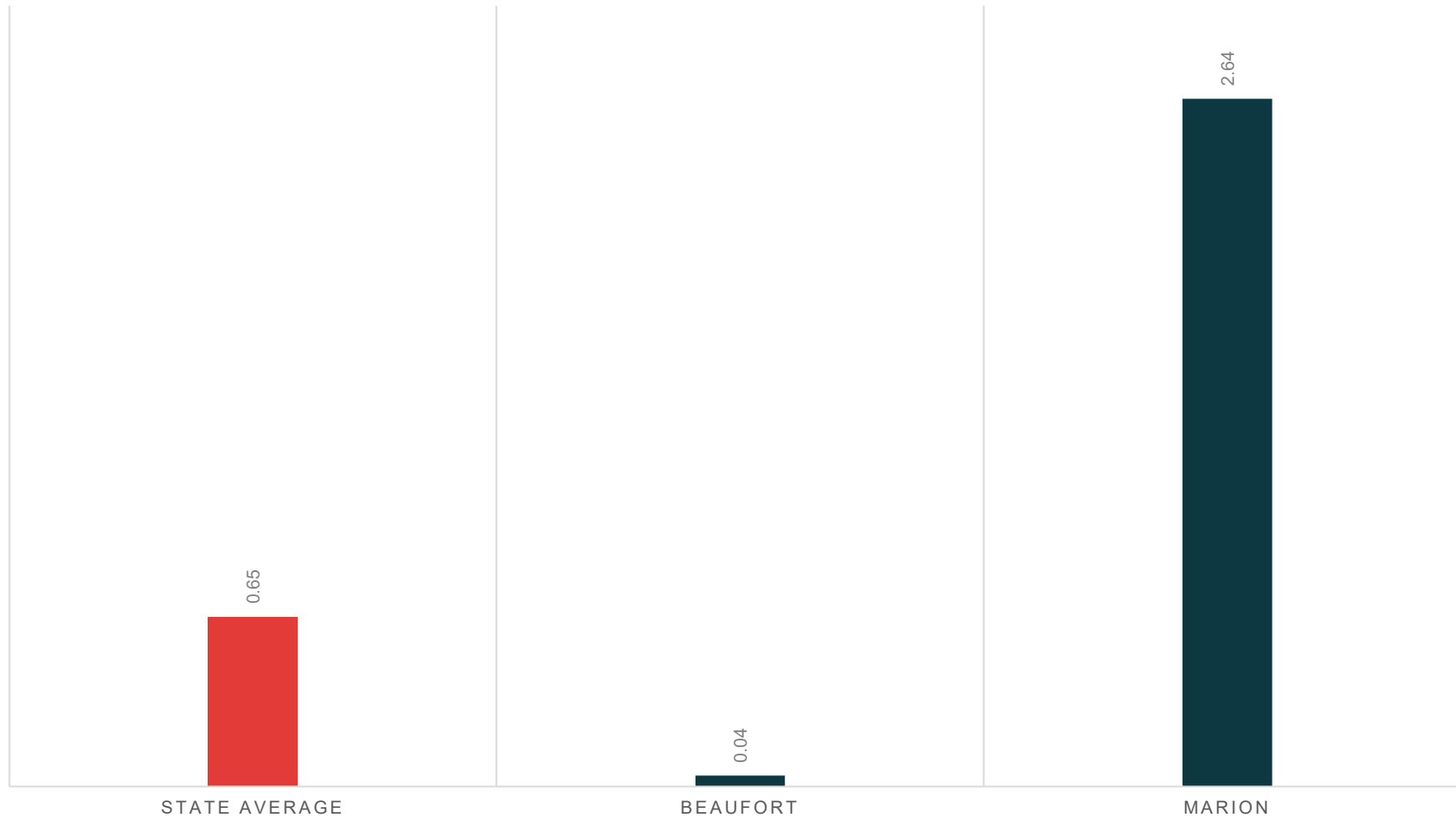
ORDER OF PROTECTION FILINGS

ORDER OF PROTECTION FILINGS PER 1,000



ORDER OF PROTECTION FILINGS

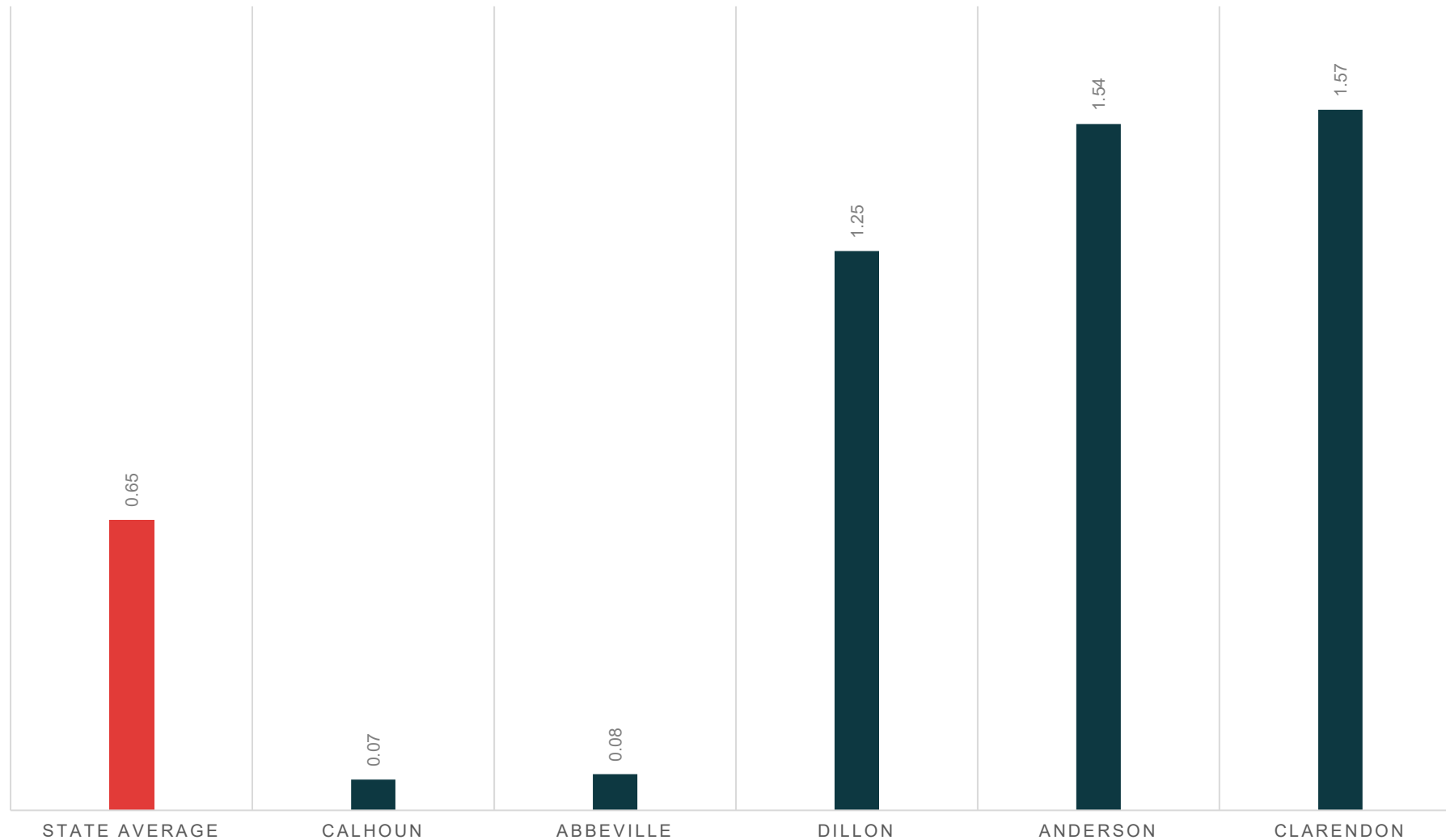
ORDERS OF PROTECTION FILINGS PER 1,000



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ORDER OF PROTECTION FILINGS

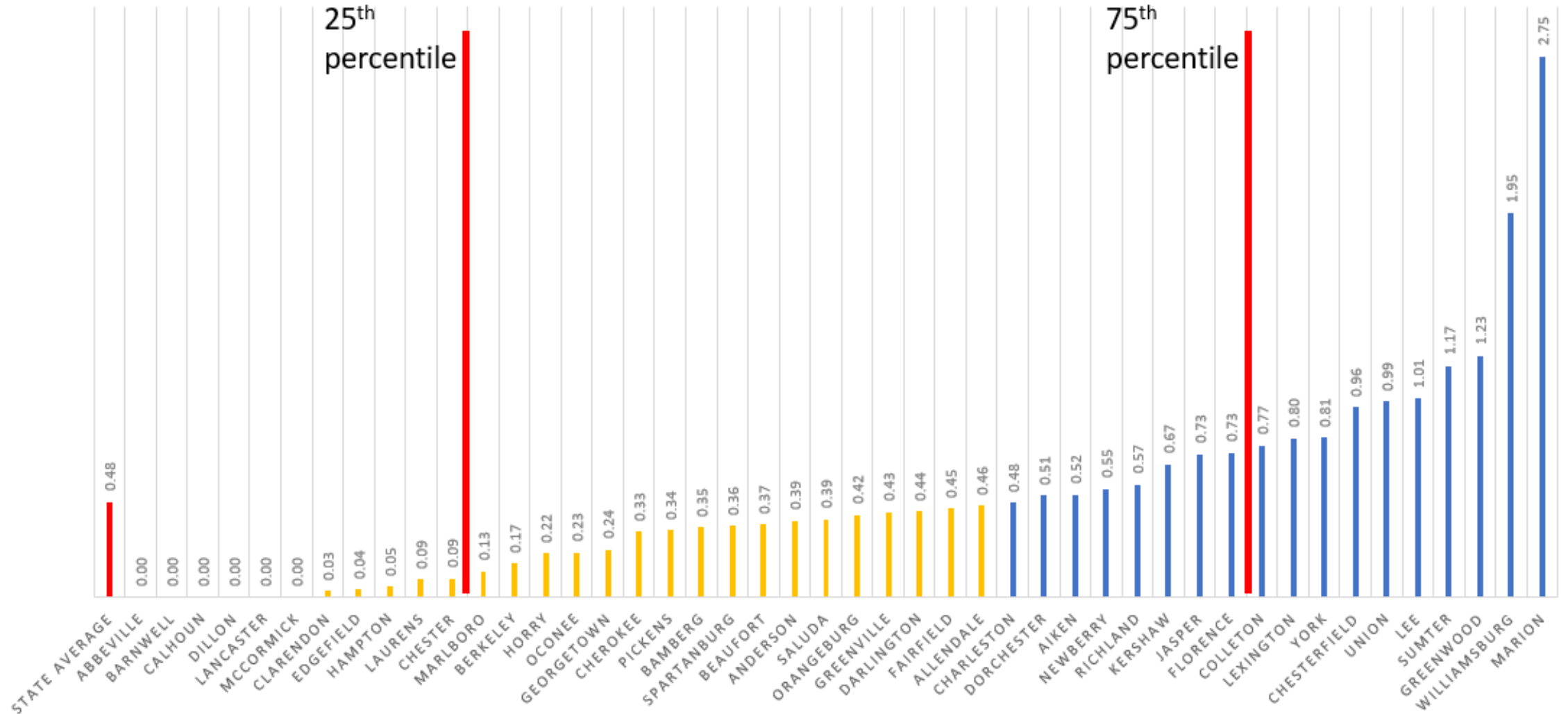
ORDERS OF PROTECTION FILINGS PER 1,000



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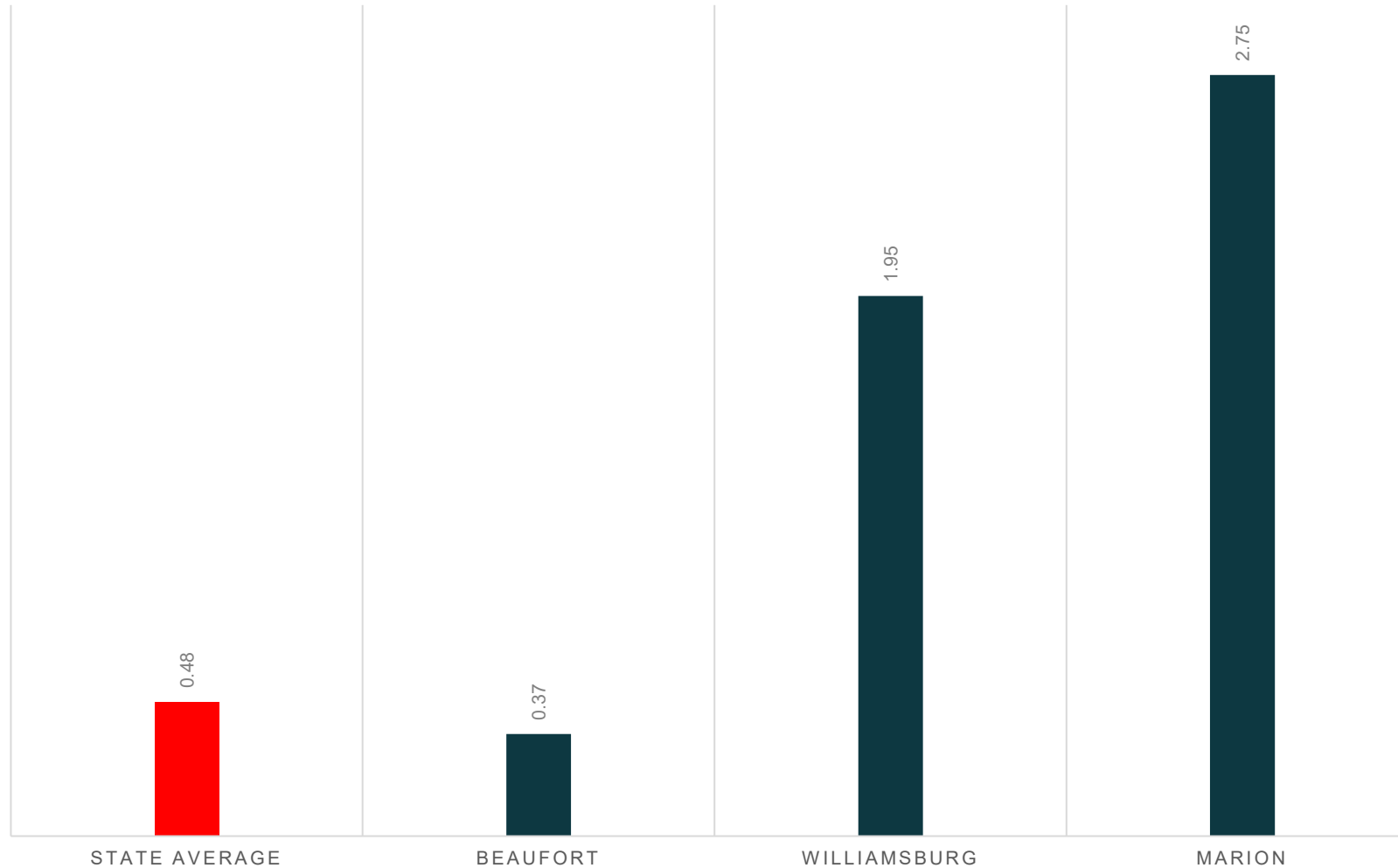
RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS

RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS PER 1,000



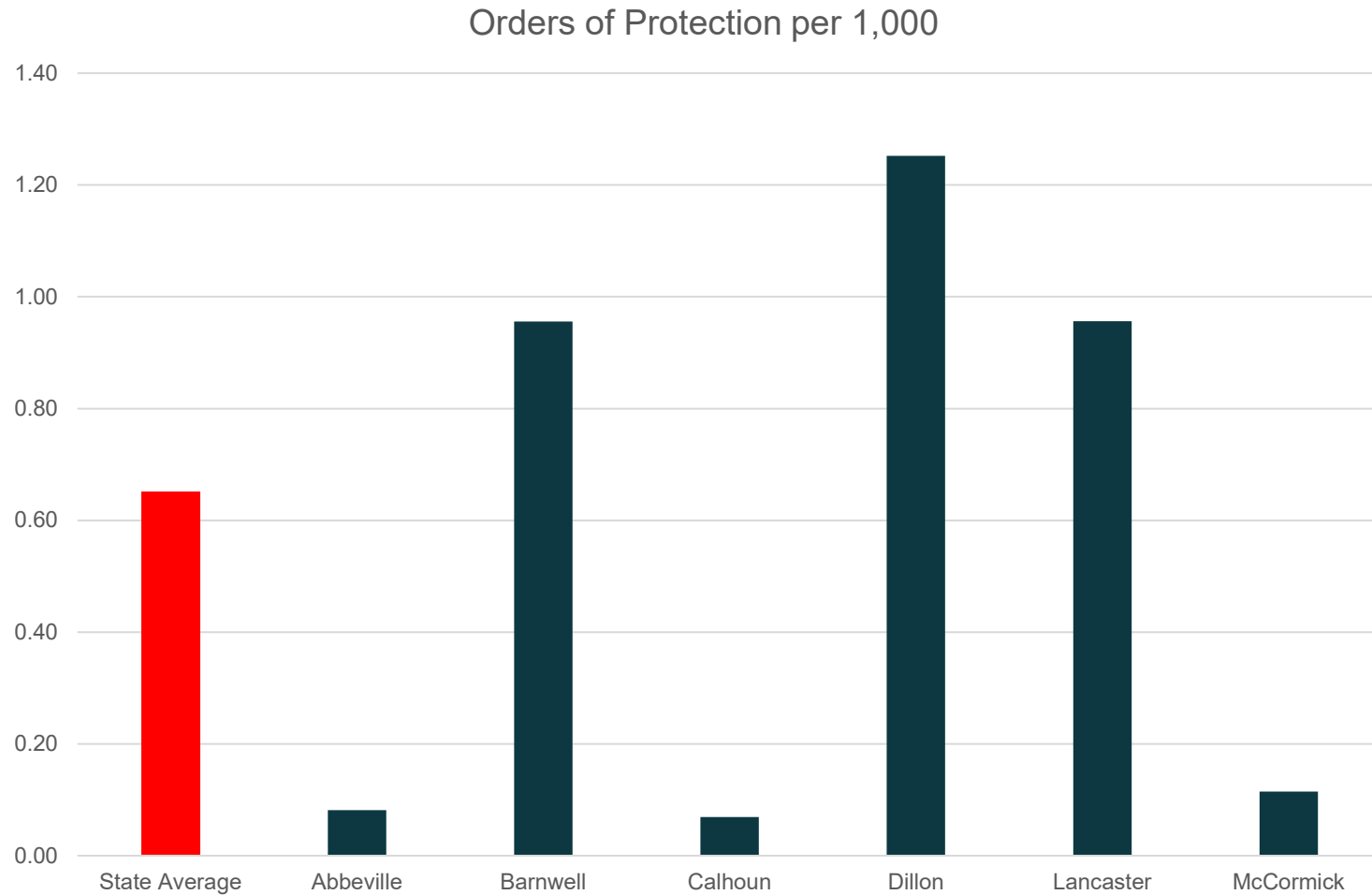
RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS

RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS PER 1,000



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COUNTIES WITH NO RESTRAINING ORDER FILINGS



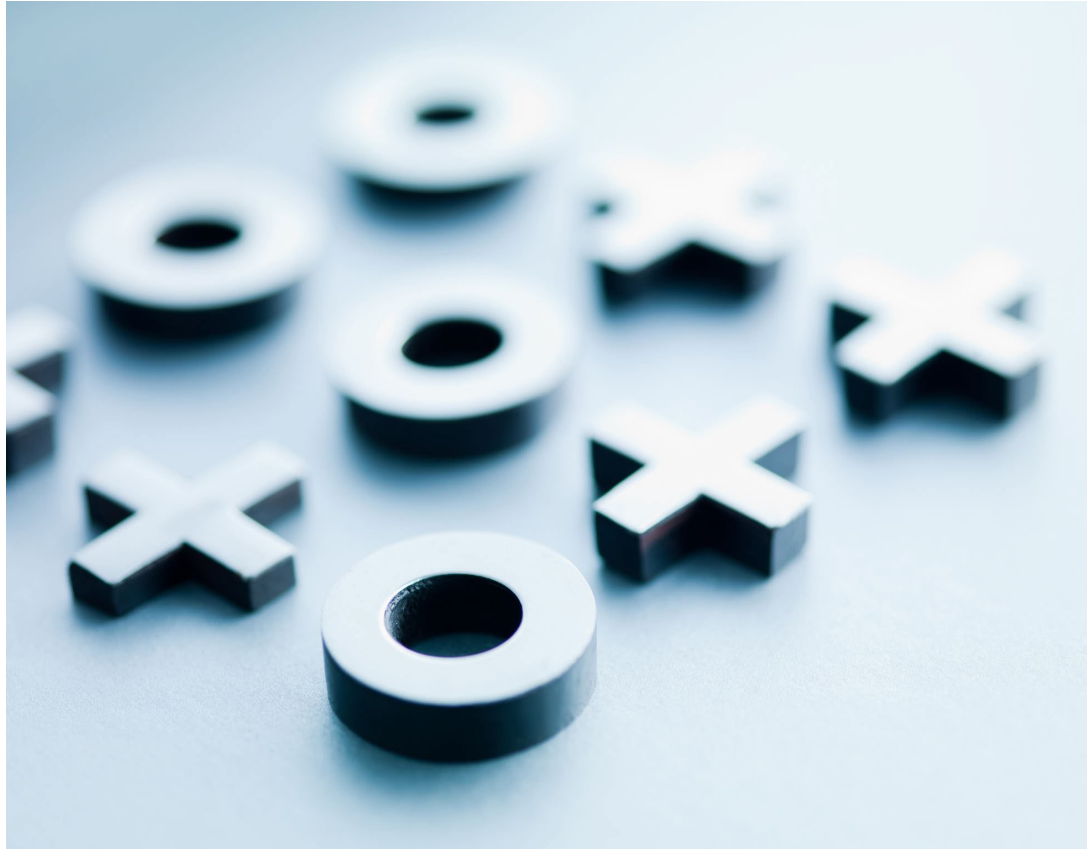
POSSIBLE PREDICTIVE FACTORS



- Race/Ethnicity
- Rurality/Urbanity
- Poverty/Wealth
- Gender
- Reports to Law Enforcement

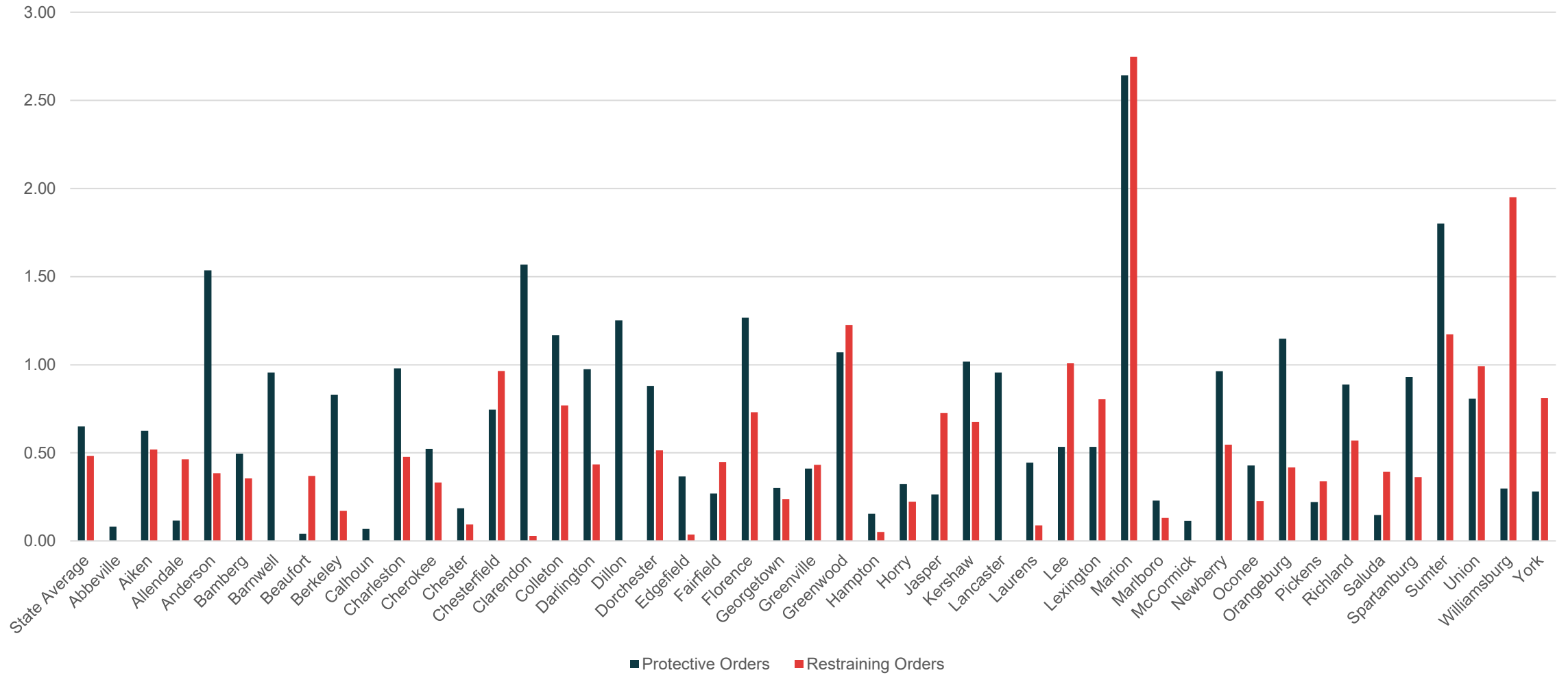


POSSIBLE PREDICTIVE FACTORS



- Race/Ethnicity
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Order of Protection and Restraining Order filings per 1,000



INITIAL FINDINGS: ACCESS IS HYPER-LOCAL



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INITIAL COUNTY LEVEL FINDINGS



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THANK YOU!

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