City Attorney's Spring Conference

May 8, 2025

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

Strengthening California Cities
through Advocacy and Education

Cybersecurity

Navigation Guide and Lessons Learned

Jason Alcala, City Attorney, Livermore
Mitesh Bhakta, Senior Assistant City Attorney, Mountain View
Derek Cole, Partner, Cole Huber LLP
Donald Hester, Cybersecurity Advisor, CISA

THIS IS NOT A PANEL HOSTED BY CAL CITIES

Welcome to the Tech Business

- All Cities are in the Tech Business Now
  - Most public interface is digital or digital-first
  - Most employee interface is digital or digital-first
  - Homefront for global conflict

Navigating Cybersecurity

- **Prevention** – assessing and avoiding risks
- **Preparation** – planning for cybersecurity events
- **Response** – managing cybersecurity incidents
- **Recovery** – post incident activities

Cybersecurity - Prevention

- **Prevention** – assessing and avoiding risks
- Threat landscape (Don's slide)

Cybersecurity - Preparation

- **Preparation** – planning for cybersecurity events
- Procurement: Major First Line Defense
  - Nature of service and harm: economic vs essential
- Know Your Client and Risk Landscape
- Distinguish Legal vs Business/Operational Judgment
  - Avoid "Office of 'No'" stigma
- Maximize Your City's Leverage During Negotiations
  - Vendors will promise the Moon and the stars, it's your job to prevent them from becoming meteors
- Mind your Playbook

Cybersecurity - Preparation

- **Response** – managing cybersecurity incidents
  - Implement plans
    - Secure Communications
    - Response
    - Recovery
  - Assess situation and respond
    - Identify and contain threat
    - Identify data and systems compromised
    - Continuity of operations and government

Cybersecurity - Preparation

- **Response** – Attorney Role
  - Primarily counseling
    - Bring calm confidence to the decision makers
    - Help decision makers analyze information and make well informed decisions based upon available data
    - Help ensure decisions are aligned with authority, and help obtain and document authority when exercised
    - Provide risk analysis
  - Thoughts about ransomware

Cybersecurity - Preparation

- **Response** – Attorney Role
  - Closed session Agenda Language - example

    THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES
    Consultation with: [who], [title],
    pursuant to Government Code section 54957.

Cybersecurity - Preparation

- **Response** – managing cybersecurity incidents
- (Derek's slide tied to his questions.)

Cybersecurity - Preparation

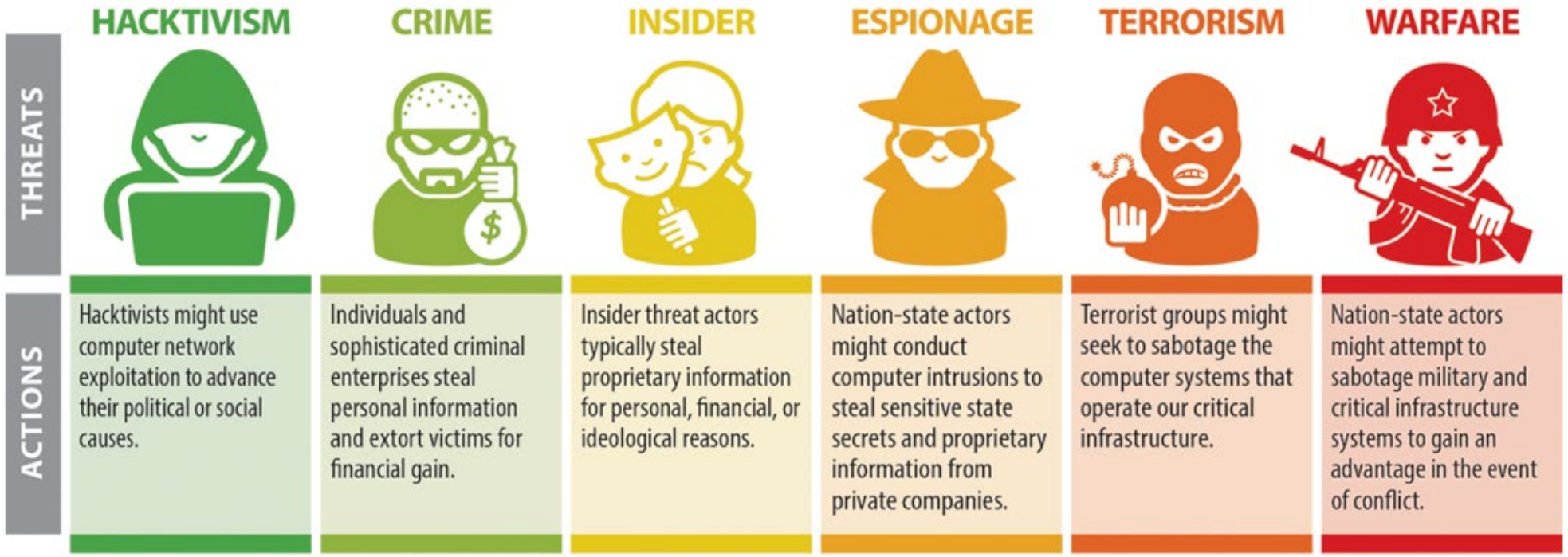
- **Recovery** –
- (who wants this slide? Possible subject, transition from response to recovery means the City needs to return to prevention. E.g. buy the software that addressed the problem and shielded the City during the response to ensure protections remain in place; notices; insurance recovery for business interruption, recovery expenditures, etc.)
- Include an image that places the points on slide two in a circle to reflect the cycle

THANK YOU

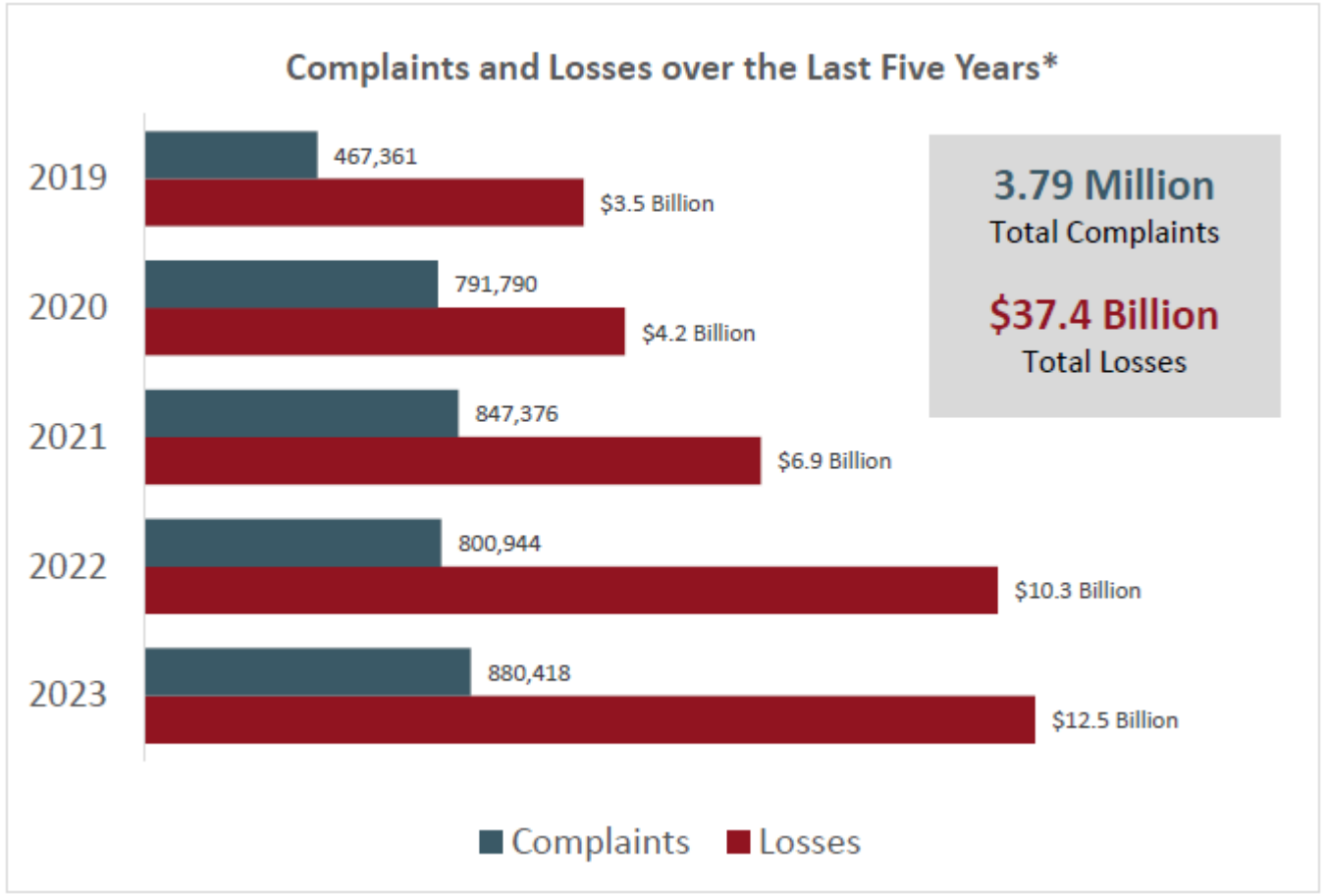
CISA

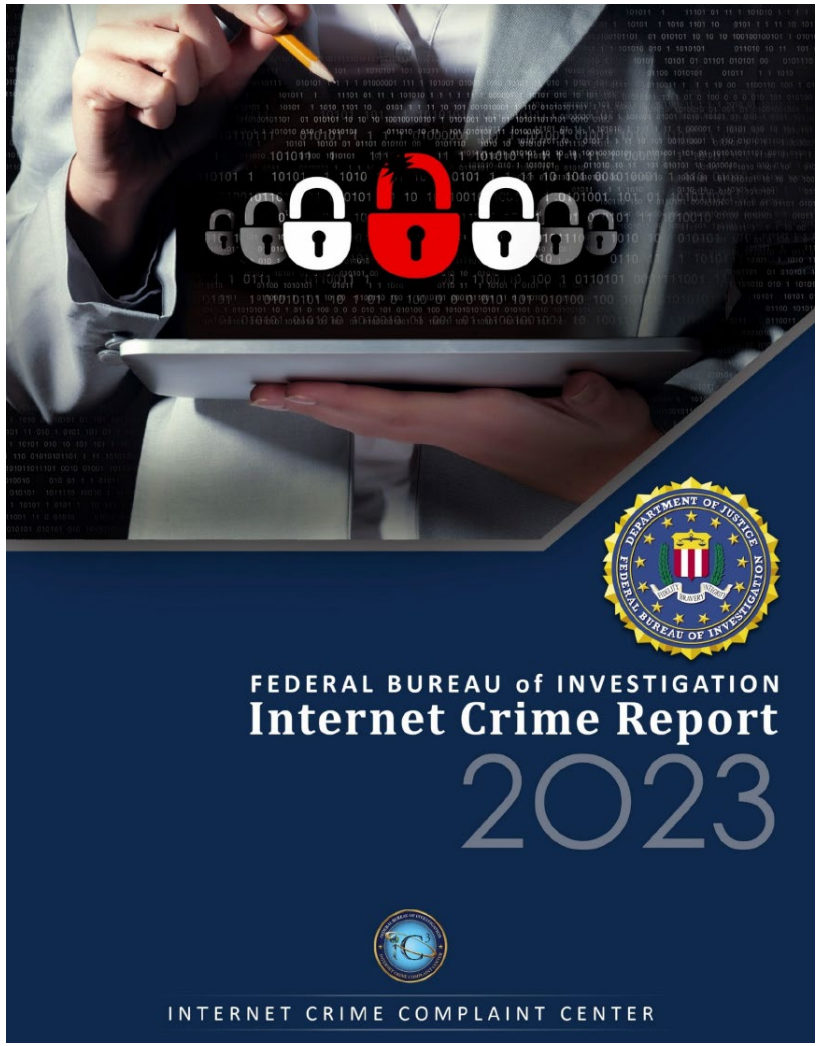
CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

Cyber Threat Continuum

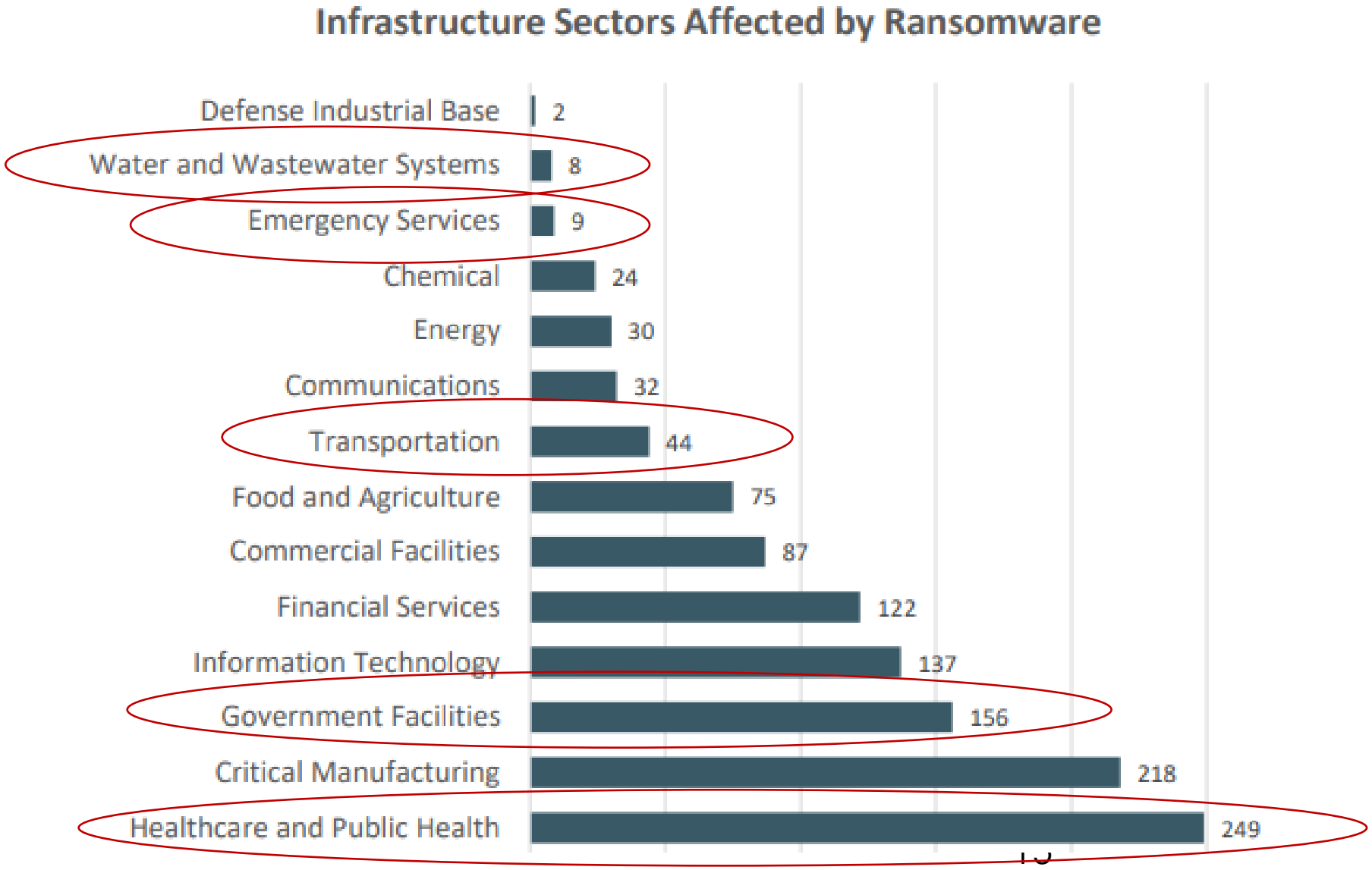


IC3 Internet Crime Report 2023

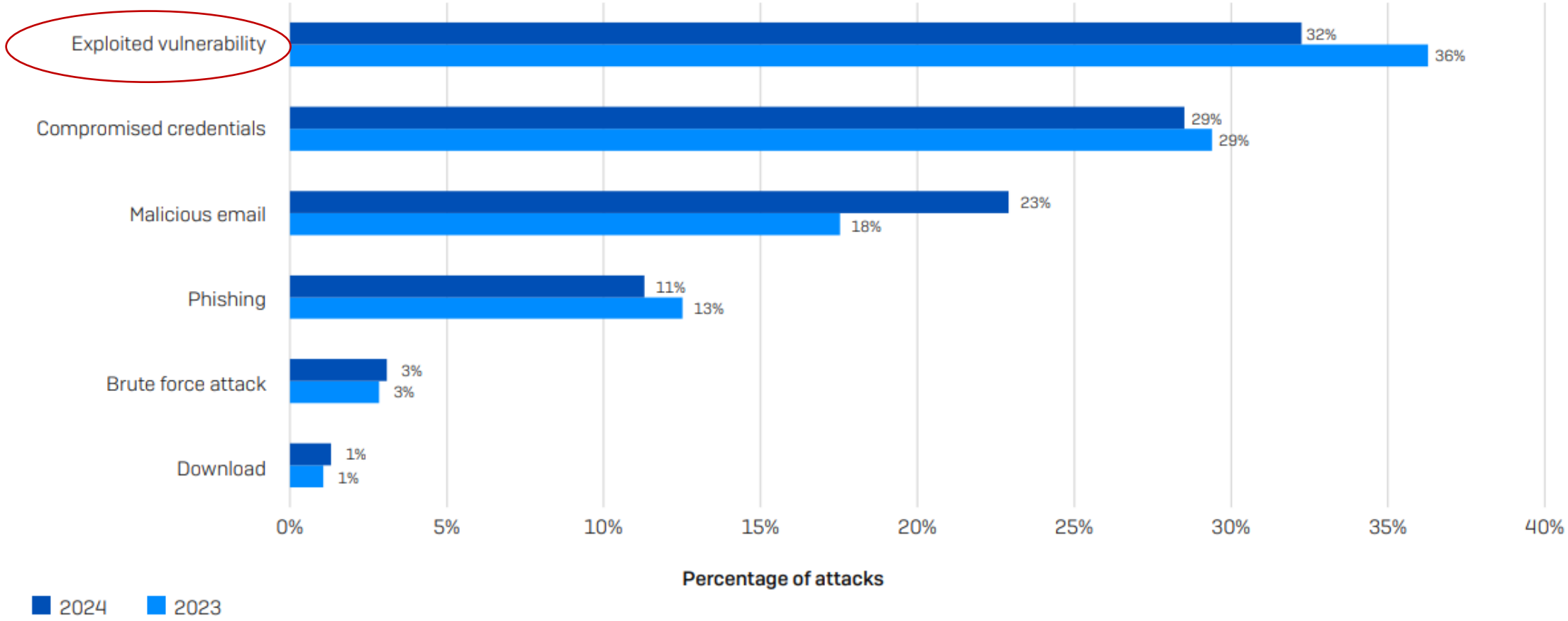




Sectors Affected by Ransomware



Causes of Ransomware Attack



Disruptive Technology: AI Threats

- Attacks on AI Systems
- AI Enabled Phishing
- AI Enabled Vulnerability Researc
- AI Enabled Hacking
- Video and Voice Cloning

Key Takeaways

- Government is a **top victim**
- Top threat actors are Nation States and
- **Outdated software** and **vulnerabilities**
- Stolen credentials are the next highest
- The average cost of a cyber incidents i
- Keep a close eye on disruptive techno
- Good backups will save you money
- Patch Management and MFA greatly r