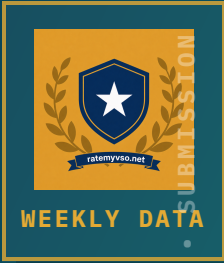


LAY EVIDENCE IN PUBLISHED BVA DECISIONS

How often general lay-evidence language appears and how those decisions are classified.



DATABASE SEARCHED
1,912,417

GENERAL REFERENCES
730,649

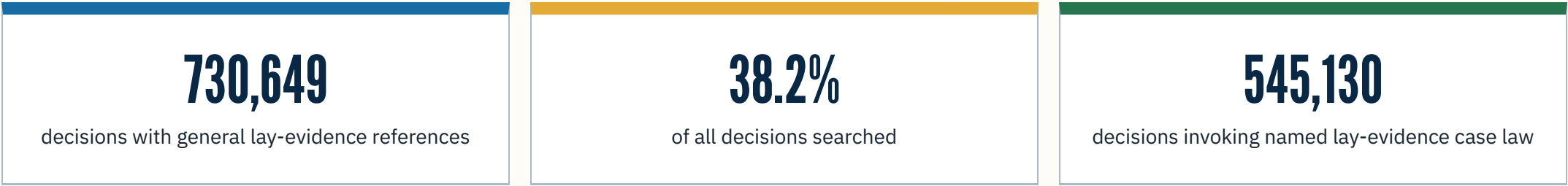
JSON GENERATED
2026-09-23

READ FIRST

RateMyVSO searched 1,912,417 published Board decisions. General lay-evidence language appeared in 730,649 decisions. This measures what the Board wrote, not whether lay evidence caused the result.

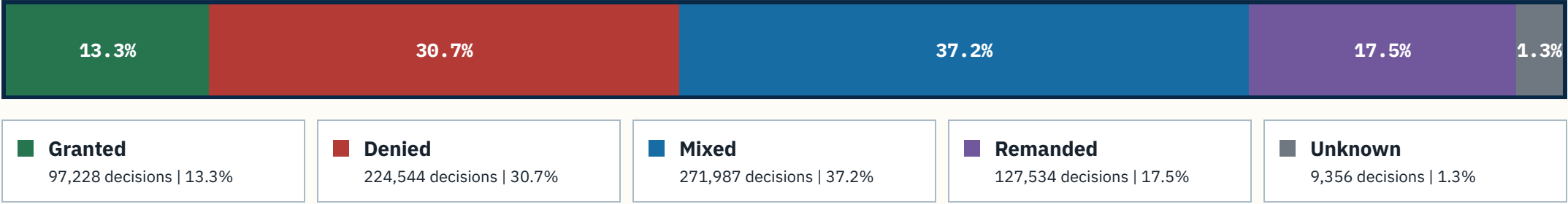
RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

GENERAL LAY-EVIDENCE REFERENCES



OUTCOME CLASSIFICATION

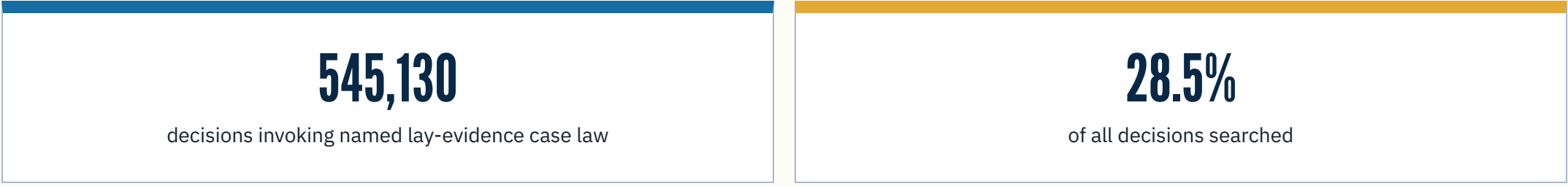
WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE DECISIONS



Percentages are rounded independently to one decimal place and may not sum to exactly 100. Bar widths use unrounded values.

NAMED LEGAL REFERENCES

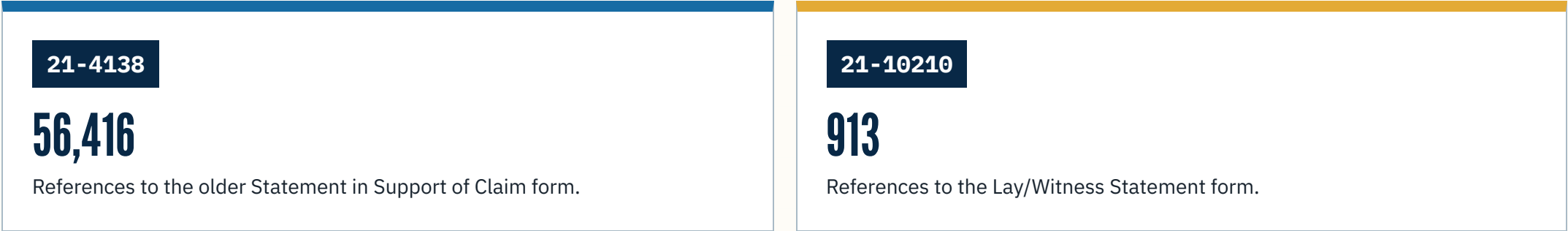
CASE-LAW MENTIONS ARE A SEPARATE MEASURE



Do not combine the measures: named case-law references are a narrower detection category than general lay-evidence language. They are shown separately and are not added together.

FORM REFERENCES

TWO LAY-STATEMENT FORMS IN THE RECORD



Form-reference counts reflect terms detected in published decision text. They do not measure how many statements were actually filed.

DESCRIPTIVE, NOT CAUSAL

A grant, denial, mixed outcome, or remand can involve many issues and evidence types. These counts do not show that lay evidence produced the outcome.

