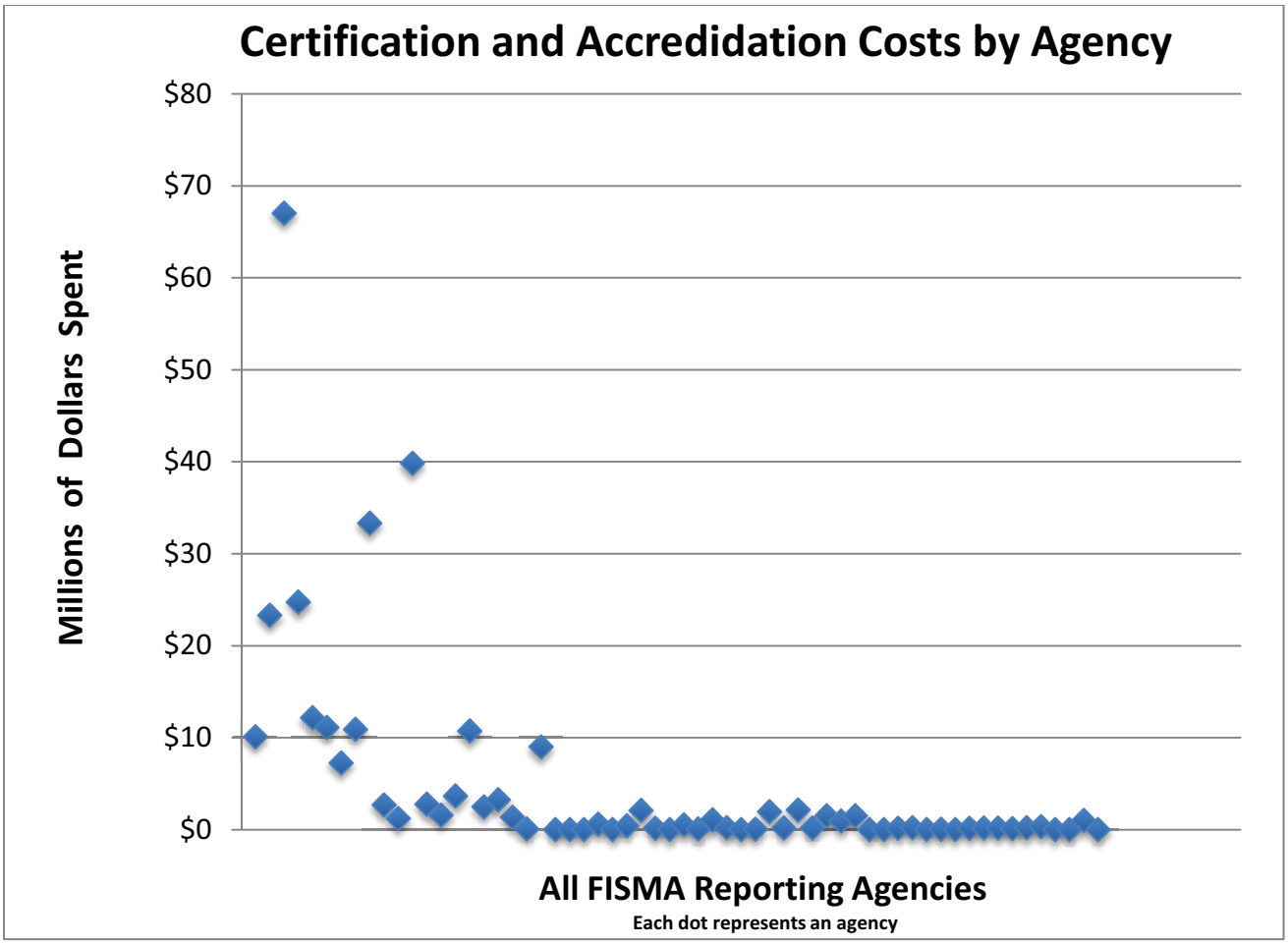


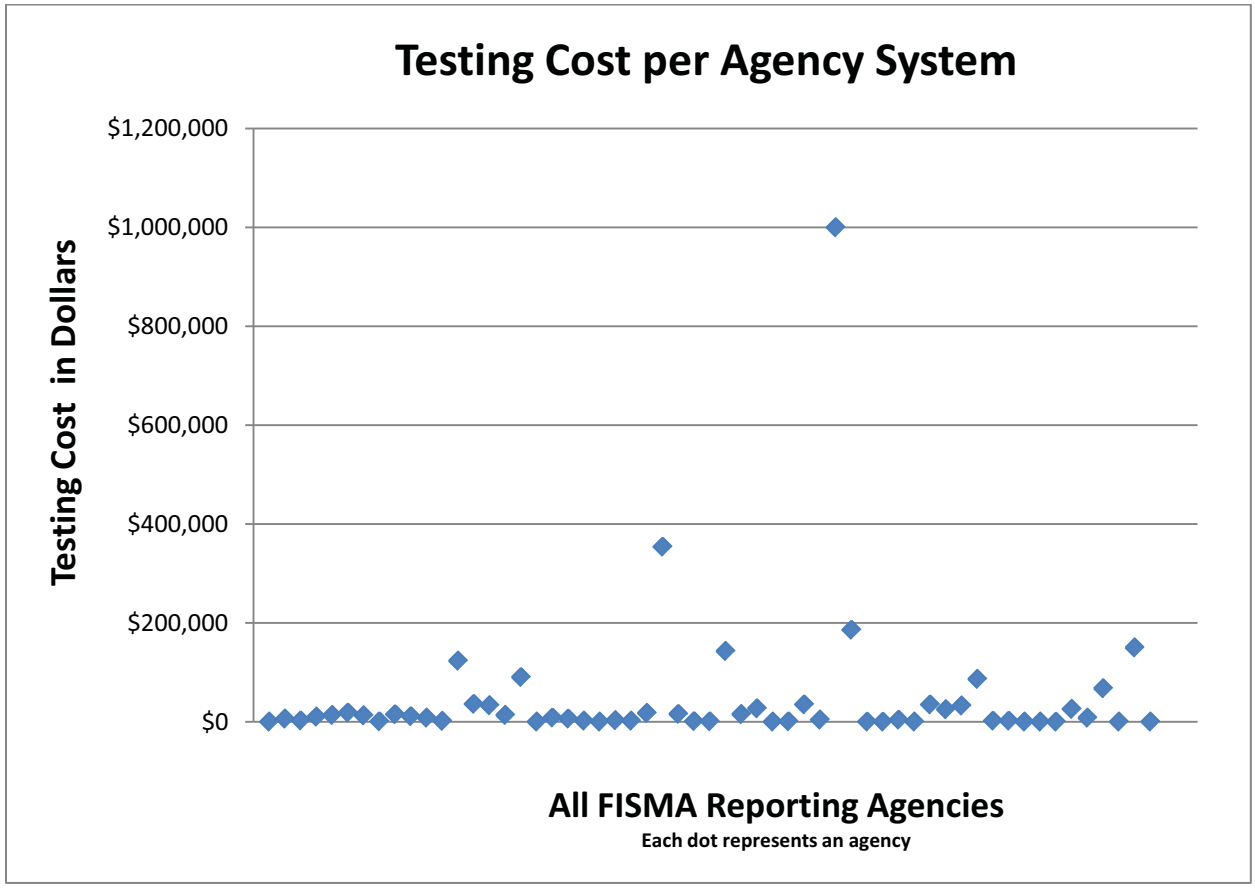
Overall, agencies reported spending almost $300 million in certification and accreditation activities. This amount is about 4% of the $6.8 billion reported for all cybersecurity activities for the FY 2009 President's Budget.

OMB also asked agencies to provide us with the number of systems that agencies had conducted certification and accreditations on within the year. OMB used this information to calculate an average cost per agency per system and an average cost per system for the entire federal government. While the average cost across the federal government was about $78,000, the average per system at the agencies varied widely.

Costs of certification and accreditation activities are based on a variety of factors. For example, the complexity of the system (number of servers, multiple locations, etc.) may mean that a system will cost more to certify and accredit. In addition, the risk categorization of the system directly impacts the cost of certification and accreditation activities. High and medium risk systems have more system controls and require more extensive testing. Even the number of systems may impact cost; if an agency has multiple similar systems, they may be able to achieve

cost efficiency for coverage of all systems. The highest average cost was not at the 25 largest agencies, although several of them reported higher than average costs per system.

Annual Testing—FISMA requires that agencies test the operational, managerial and technical security controls on their systems at least annually. OMB asked agencies to report the cost of these testing activities, excluding the government FTE costs and the testing done during the certification and accreditation process. Agencies reported that they spent about $165 million on security testing. This amount represents 2% of the reported $6.8 billion for security costs that agencies reported for the FY 2009 President's Budget. This also represents an average cost per



system of $21,000. Again, testing cost per system varied widely across the Federal Government. Testing costs may vary for a variety of reasons. Agencies may test more often then annually, especially with systems that are categorized as high risk. Again, system complexity will also impact testing costs. An agency with a few large, complex systems may have a much higher average testing cost than an agency with more systems, but ones that are less complex. Finally, the rigor of the testing will impact costs. Agencies design testing on a risk-benefit cost model.