

Wisconsin's Annual Report on Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation of Adults at Risk

2013



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services
Division of Long Term Care
P-00123-13 (11/2015)

Introduction: The Annual Adults at Risk Report

County agencies in Wisconsin receive abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation referrals and determine whether a situation of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation exists. They create individualized service plans to assist adults at risk and help ensure their safety.

After responding to a referral, county agencies file a report with the Department of Health Services, using the web-based Wisconsin Incident Tracking System (WITS). A compilation of all county reports from 2013 are the basis of this statewide report: *Wisconsin's Annual Report on Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation of Adults at Risk*.

Introduction: The Annual Adults at Risk Report

This report documents reported incidents involving adults at risk ages 18-59, providing information about the types of abuse reported, characteristics of the adults at risk and alleged abusers, and local responses which guide the State's efforts to stop abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults at risk.

The majority of the adults at risk included in this report are community-dwelling. Allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals living in licensed facilities are generally addressed through the Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Quality Assurance (DQA), Office of Caregiver Quality.

Who is considered an Adult at Risk?

- For the purposes of this annual report, the definition of an “adult at risk” is an adult:
 - between ages 18 and 59 years.
 - who has any physical or mental impairment that substantially restricts his or her ability to care for his or her needs.
 - who has experienced or is at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- An adult at risk *does not* require membership in a categorical group such as those with developmental disabilities, a degenerative brain disorder, a serious and persistent mental illness, or other like incapacities.

Your Role in Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Adults at Risk

Wisconsin has made great strides in identifying and protecting elders. No one should experience or endure abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Let individuals know that you are concerned about them and that they are not alone; there are others who do understand and are there to help them stay safe.

Call your **County Help Line** if you need to talk to someone about suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult at risk (ages 18-59).

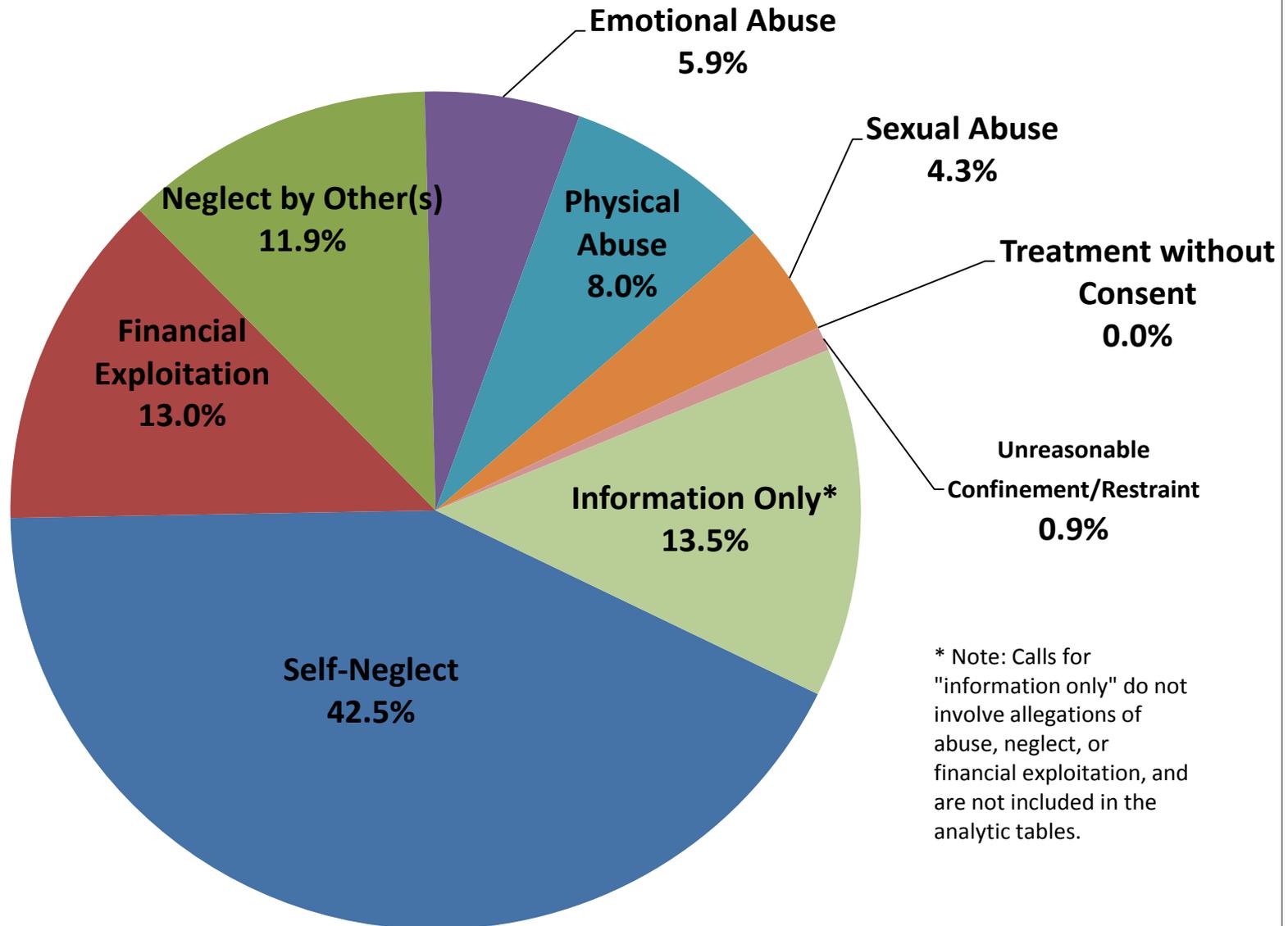
See <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aps/Contacts/aaragencies.htm> for these help line phone numbers.

Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	914	42.5%
Financial Exploitation	280	13.0%
Neglect by Other(s)	255	11.9%
Emotional Abuse	127	5.9%
Physical Abuse	172	8.0%
Sexual Abuse	93	4.3%
Treatment without Consent	0	0.0%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	20	0.9%
<i>Information Only*</i>	290	13.5%
Total	2,151	100.0%

** Note: Calls for "information only" do not involve allegations of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, and are not included in the analytic tables.*

Primary Issue Identified



Previous Report on This Individual? (2013)

	Number	Percent
No	1,180	63.4%
Yes	462	24.8%
Unknown	219	11.8%
Total	1,861	100.0%

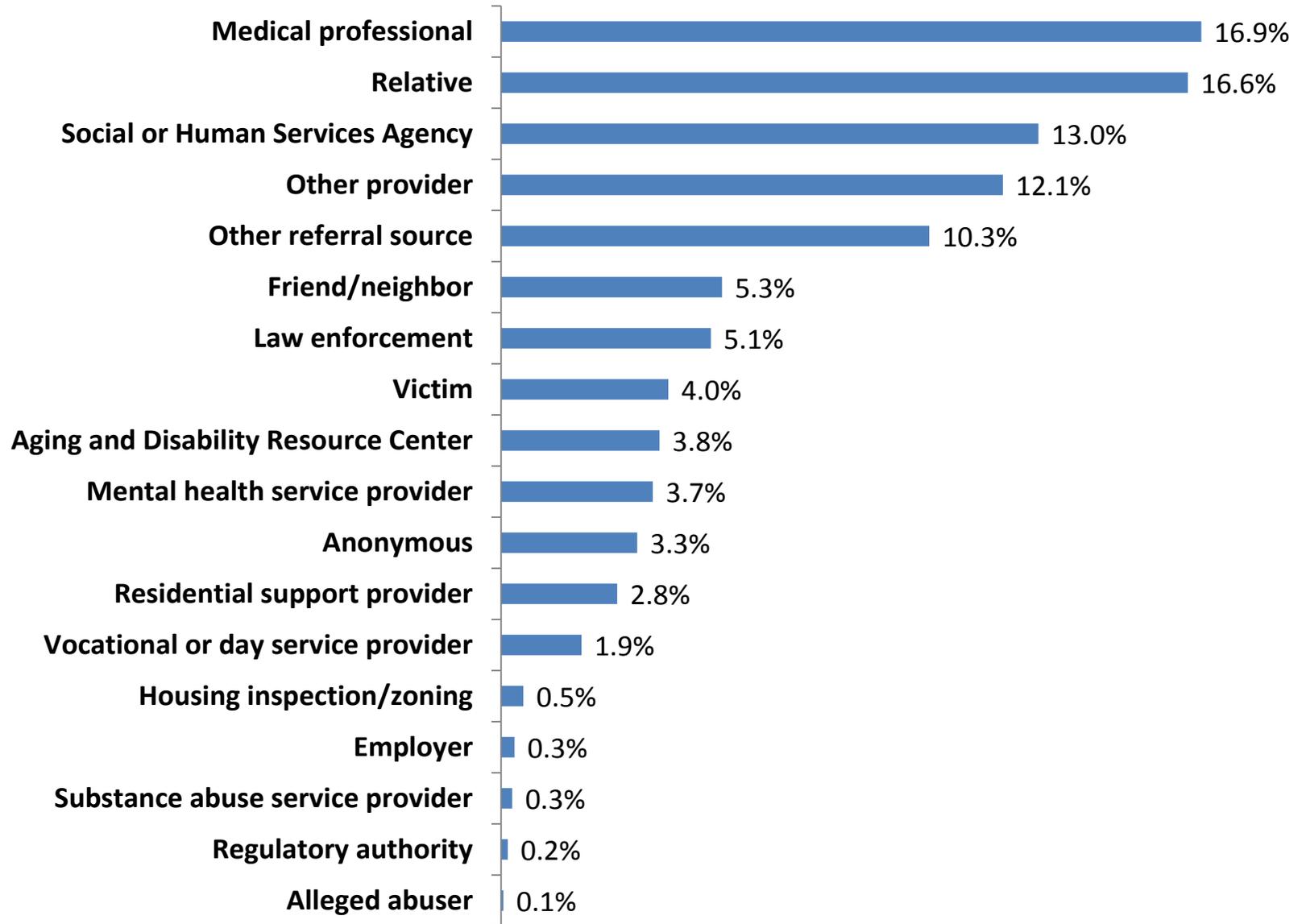
Where Incident Occurred in 2013

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	1,554	83.5%
Other place	223	12.0%
Place of employment/day services	53	2.8%
School	19	1.0%
Transportation	12	0.6%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Referral Source

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center	71	3.8%
Alleged abuser	1	0.1%
Anonymous	61	3.3%
Employer	6	0.3%
Friend/neighbor	99	5.3%
Housing inspection/zoning	10	0.5%
Law enforcement	94	5.1%
Medical professional	314	16.9%
Mental health service provider	68	3.7%
Other provider	225	12.1%
Other referral source	192	10.3%
Regulatory authority	3	0.2%
Relative	308	16.6%
Residential support provider	52	2.8%
Social or Human Services Agency	241	13.0%
Substance abuse service provider	5	0.3%
Victim	75	4.0%
Vocational or day service provider	36	1.9%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Referral Source



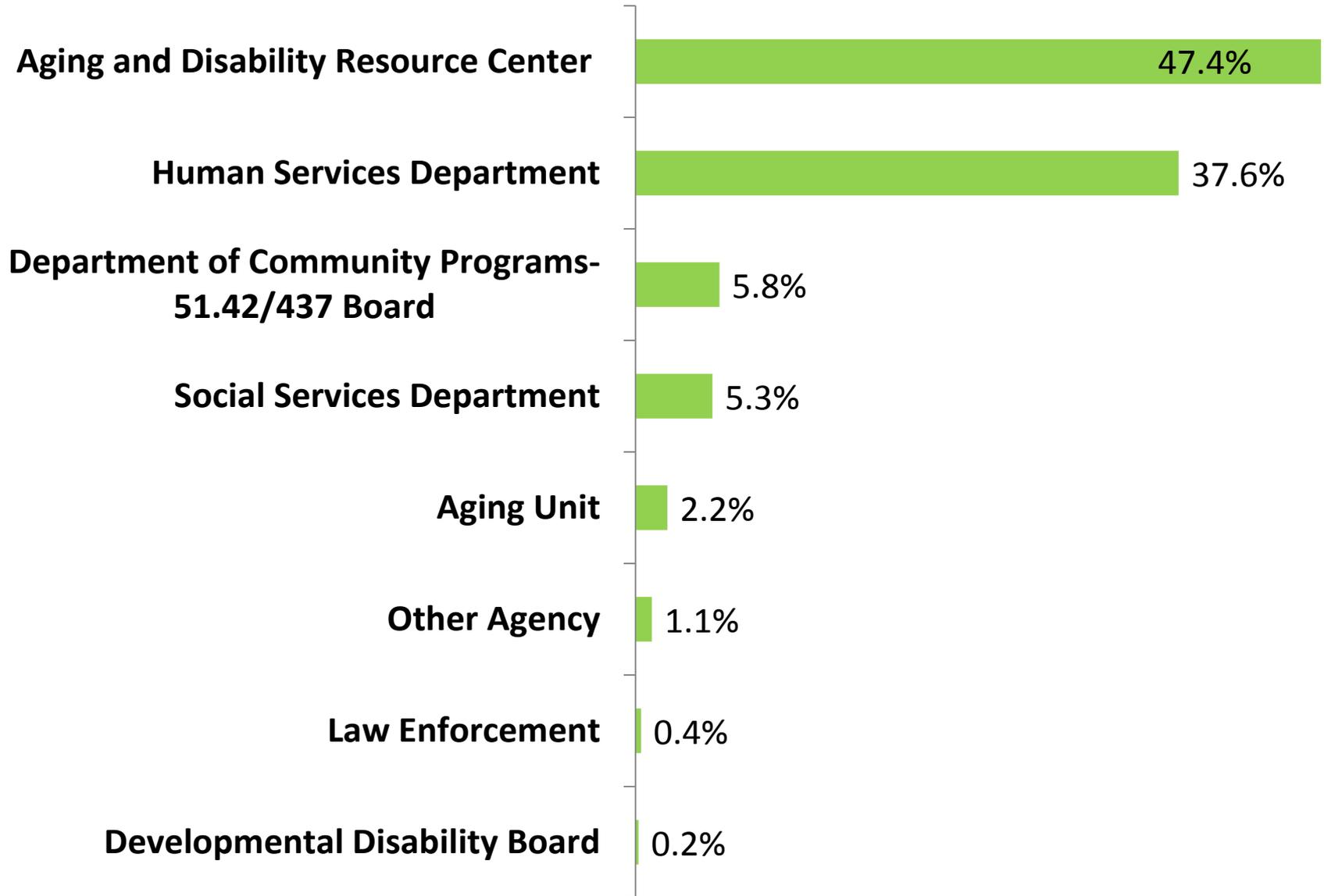
Call Received By

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center	882	47.4%
Aging Unit	41	2.2%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	108	5.8%
Developmental Disability Board	4	0.2%
Human Services Department	699	37.6%
Law Enforcement	7	0.4%
Other Agency	21	1.1%
Social Services Department	99	5.3%
Total	1,861	100.0%

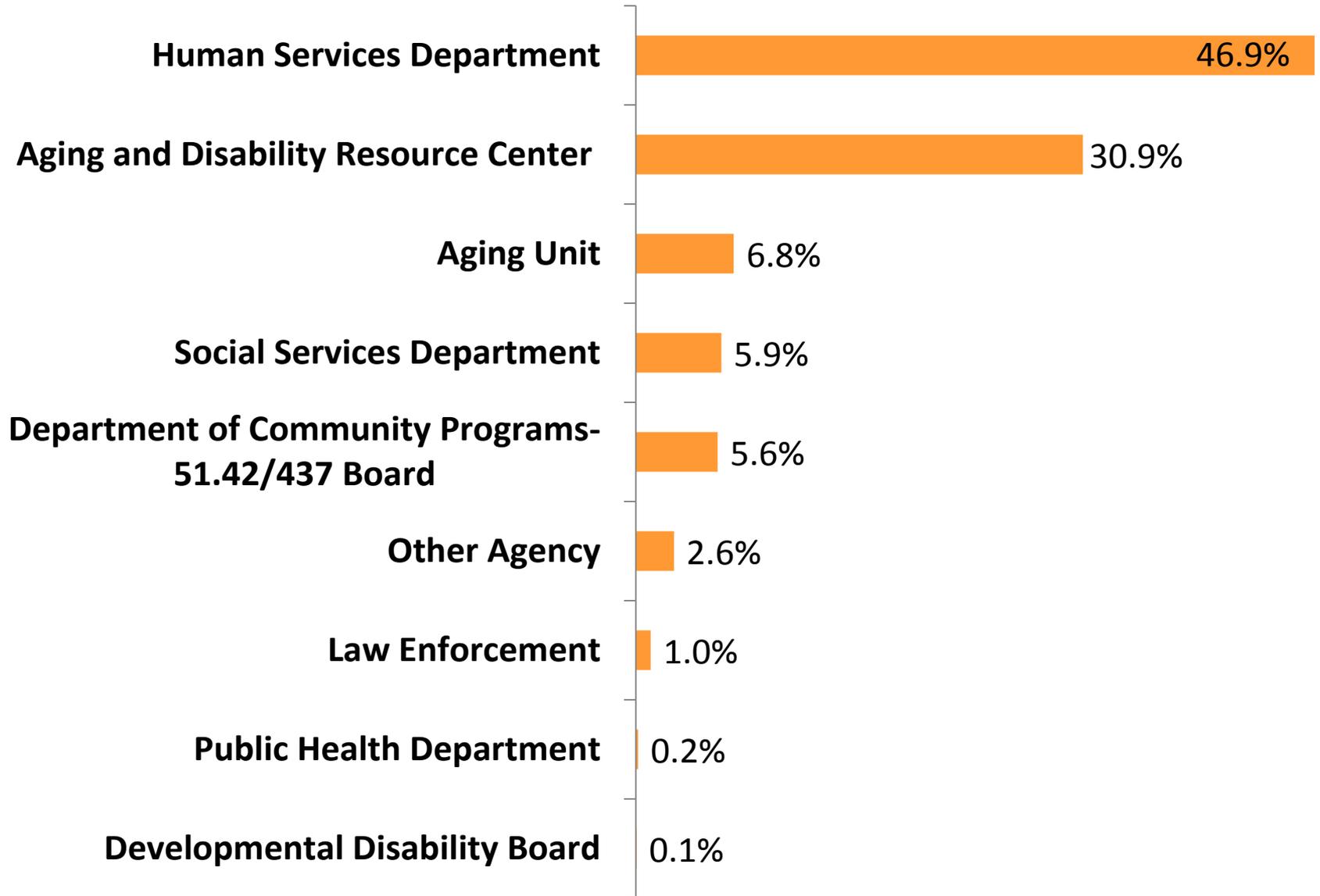
Initial Investigating Agency

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center	575	30.9%
Aging Unit	126	6.8%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	105	5.6%
Developmental Disability Board	1	0.1%
Human Services Department	873	46.9%
Law Enforcement	19	1.0%
Other Agency	49	2.6%
Public Health Department	3	0.2%
Social Services Department	110	5.9%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Call Received By:



Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	1,656	89.0%
Yes	127	6.8%
Unknown	78	4.2%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Has Adult-at-Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	114	89.8%
Yes	12	9.4%
Unknown	1	0.8%
Total	127	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents.</i>		

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	5	41.7%
Yes	2	16.7%
Unknown	5	41.7%
Total	12	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	1	50.0%
Yes	1	50.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	2	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death related to the incident.</i>		

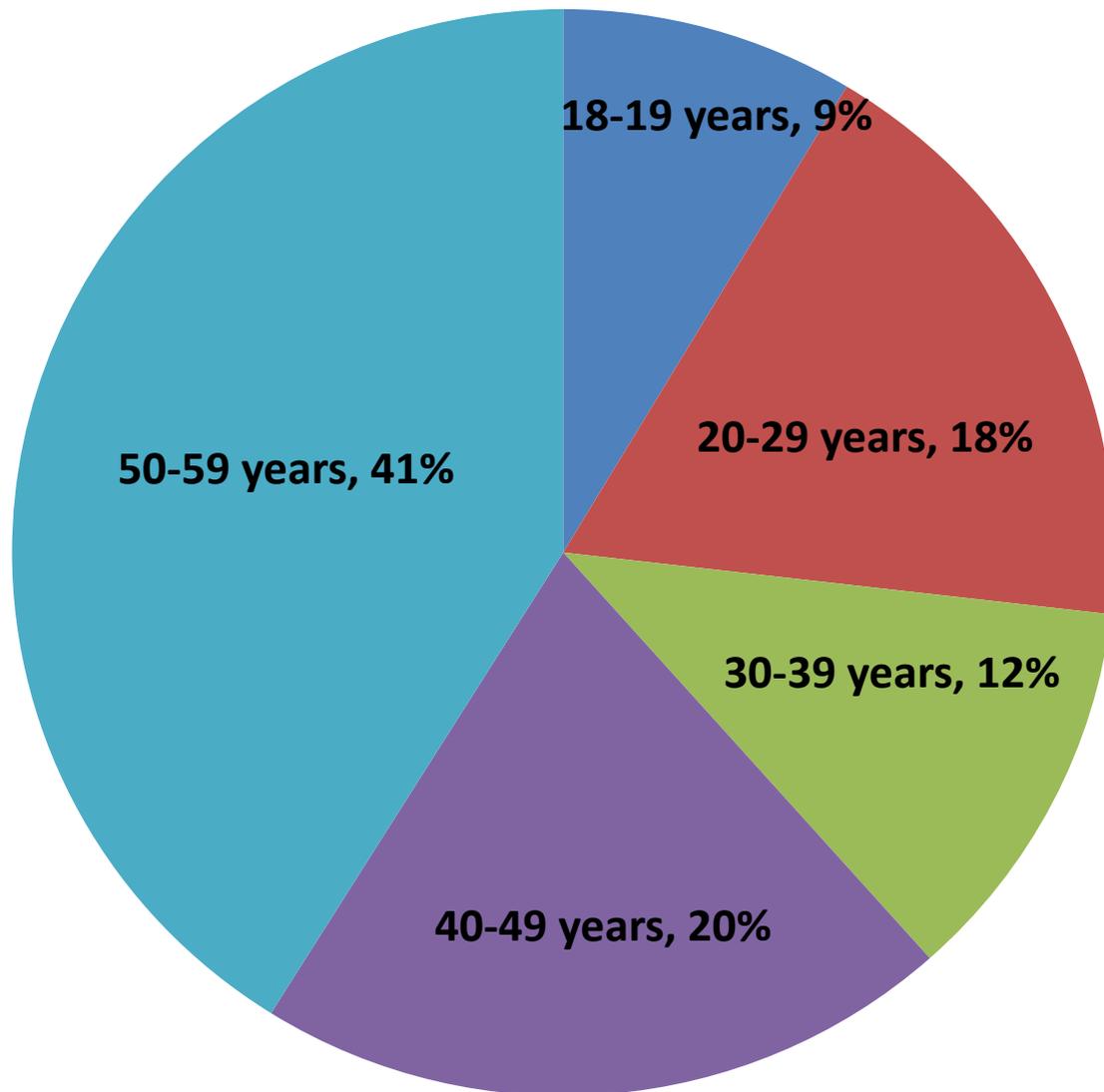
Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
18-19 years	160	8.6%
20-29 years	339	18.2%
30-39 years	216	11.6%
40-49 years	381	20.5%
50-59 years	765	41.1%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	936	50.3%
Male	924	49.7%
Unknown	1	0.1%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Adult at Risk's Race		
Age	Number	Percent
White	1,219	65.5%
Black/African American	178	9.6%
Native American/Alaska Native	53	2.8%
Asian	12	0.6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	11	0.6%
Other race	35	1.9%
Not reported or unknown	353	19.0%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Notes: Race and Ethnicity are optional fields, so some reports are missing this information. Although data may be incomplete, percents represent the share of all complete reports that showed each race/ethnicity category.

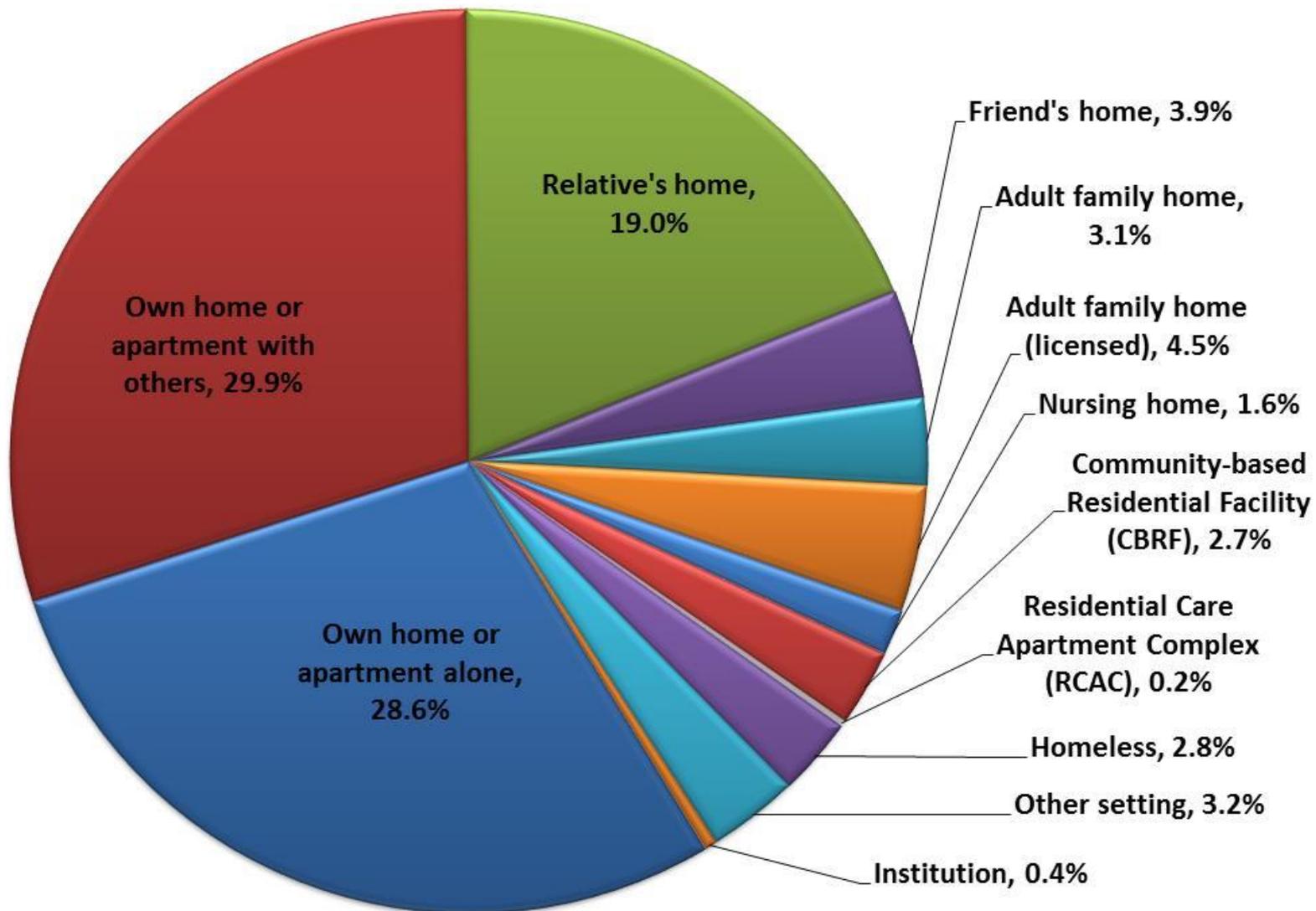
Adult at Risk's Age



Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home or apartment alone	532	28.6%
Own home or apartment with others	557	29.9%
Relative's home	353	19.0%
Friend's home	72	3.9%
Adult family home	58	3.1%
Adult family home (licensed)	84	4.5%
Nursing home	30	1.6%
Community-based Residential Facility (CBRF)	51	2.7%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	4	0.2%
Homeless	52	2.8%
Other setting	60	3.2%
Institution	8	0.4%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

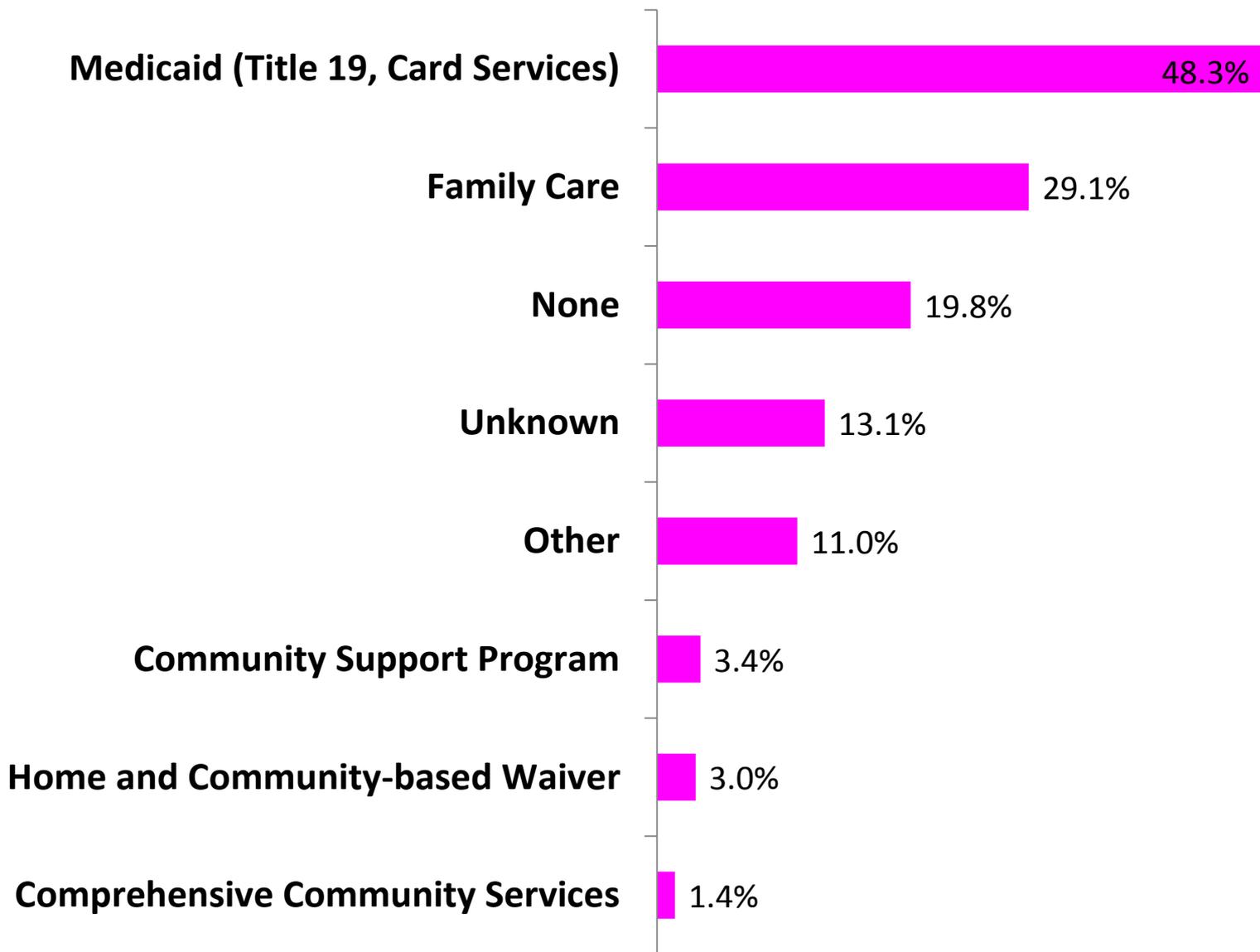


County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Adults at Risk

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	63	3.4%
Comprehensive Community Services	26	1.4%
Family Care	541	29.1%
Home and Community-based Waiver	56	3.0%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	899	48.3%
Unknown	244	13.1%
Other	204	11.0%
None	369	19.8%

Multiple responses were allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Adults at Risk



Does Adult at Risk Have a Substitute Decision-Maker?

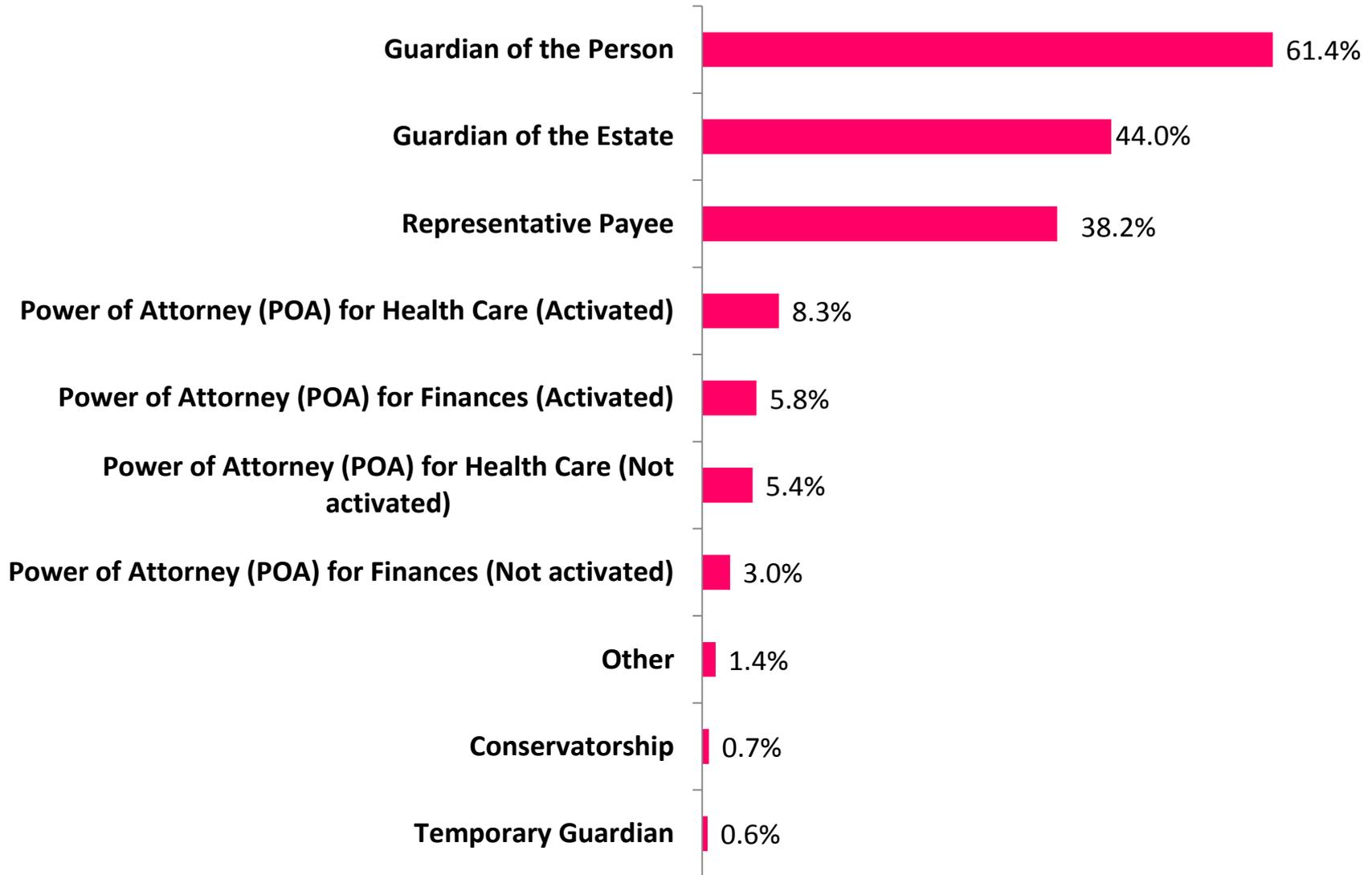
	Number	Percent
No	990	53.2%
Yes	702	37.7%
Unknown	169	9.1%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	5	0.7%
Guardian of the Person	431	61.4%
Guardian of the Estate	309	44.0%
Representative Payee	268	38.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	41	5.8%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	21	3.0%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	58	8.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	38	5.4%
Temporary Guardian	4	0.6%
Other	10	1.4%

Note: Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision-maker (n=702). Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker (2013)



Adult at Risk's Characteristics		
	Number	Percent
Alcohol abuse	172	9.2%
Blind/visually impaired	38	2.0%
Brain injury	110	5.9%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	157	8.4%
Chronic alcoholic	91	4.9%
Chronic mental illness	136	7.3%
Communication disorder	48	2.6%
Deaf/hard of hearing	26	1.4%
Dementia	52	2.8%
Developmental disability	714	38.4%
Diabetes	136	7.3%
Disoriented or confused	72	3.9%
Drug abuse	64	3.4%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on Adult at Risk	50	2.7%
Financially dependent on abuser	27	1.5%
Frail elderly	12	0.6%
Functionally illiterate	43	2.3%
Homebound	44	2.4%
Incontinent	67	3.6%
Limited English proficiency	4	0.2%
Medically fragile	207	11.1%
Mental illness	437	23.5%
Mobility impaired	191	10.3%
Morbidly obese	73	3.9%
None	34	1.8%
Other characteristic	92	4.9%
Other medical condition	261	14.0%
Physically disabled	364	19.6%
Stroke-related impairments	71	3.8%
Unemployed	102	5.5%

Note: Percents refer to share of all adults at risk having this characteristic. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Age of Alleged Abuser(s)

	Number	Percent
Under 25 years	70	6.1%
25 to 44 years	249	21.8%
45 to 59 years	302	26.5%
60 to 79 years	104	9.1%
80 years or older	11	1.0%
Unknown	404	35.4%
Total	1,140	100.0%

Total includes all alleged abusers; some incidents involve more than one.

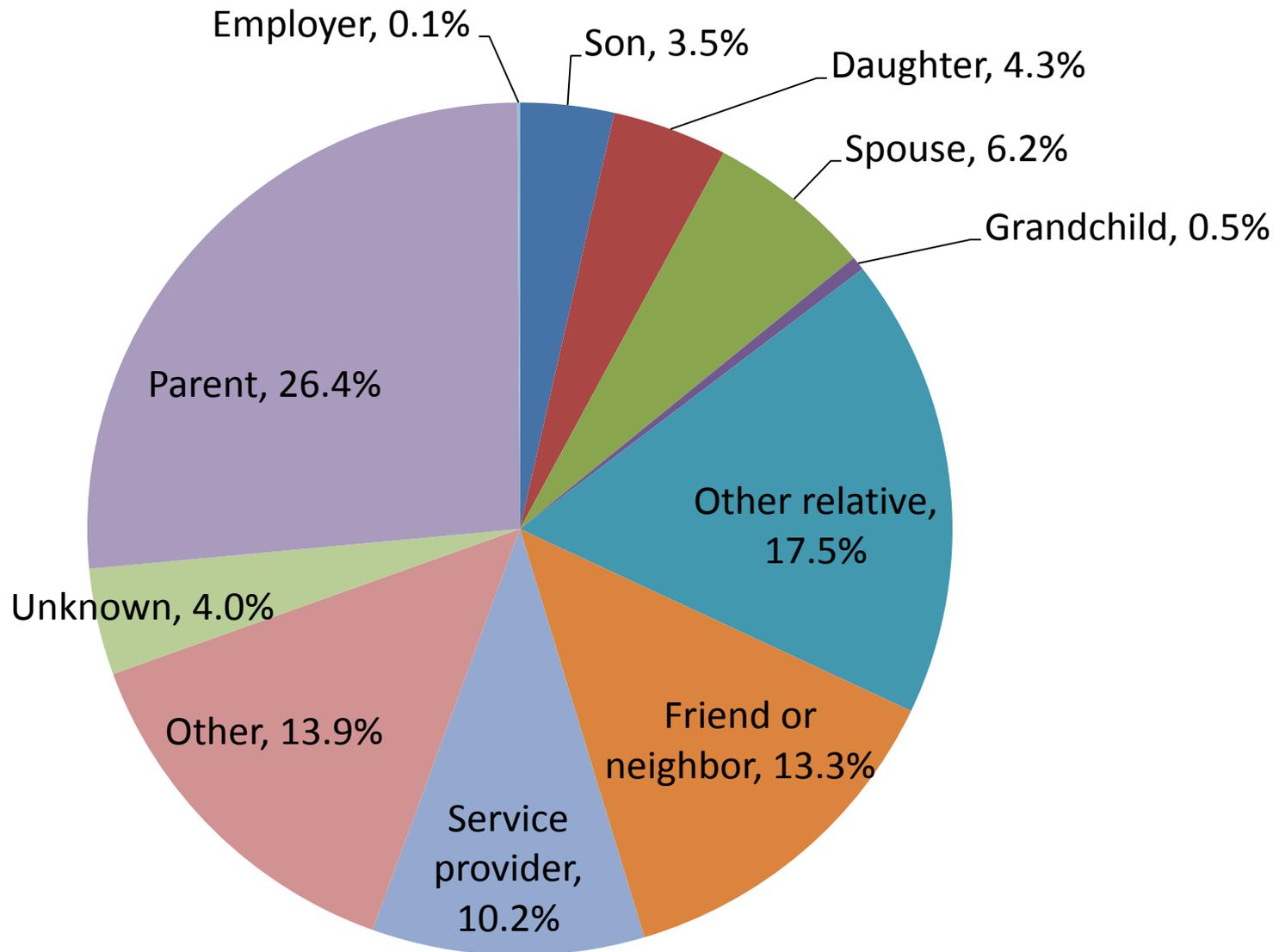
Alleged Abusers' Gender

	Number	Percent
Male	462	40.5%
Female	624	54.7%
Unknown	54	4.7%
Total	1,140	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationship to Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Son	40	3.5%
Daughter	49	4.3%
Spouse	71	6.2%
Grandchild	6	0.5%
Other relative	199	17.5%
Friend or neighbor	152	13.3%
Service provider	116	10.2%
Other	159	13.9%
Unknown	46	4.0%
Parent	301	26.4%
Employer	1	0.1%
Total	1,140	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	570	50.0%
No	521	45.7%
Unknown	49	4.3%
Total	1,140	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Adult at Risk?

	Number	Percent
Yes	639	56.1%
No	455	39.9%
Unknown	46	4.0%
Total	1,140	100.0%

Do Alleged Abusers Have Any Legal or Substitute Decision-Maker Status?

	Number	Percent
Any legal or substitute decision maker status listed	367	32.2%
No status listed	773	67.8%
Total	1,140	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	1	0.1%
Guardian of the Person	212	18.6%
Guardian of the Estate	147	12.9%
Temporary Guardian	0	0.0%
Representative Payee	130	11.4%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	14	1.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	12	1.1%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	27	2.4%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	16	1.4%
Other legal status	20	1.8%
Unknown legal status	103	9.0%
No legal status	659	57.8%

Note: Percents represent share of all abusers who have this legal status. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Alleged Abusers' Characteristics		
	Number	Percent
Alcohol abuse	61	5.4%
Blind or visually impaired	3	0.3%
Brain injury	5	0.4%
Chronic alcoholic	10	0.9%
Chronic mental illness	13	1.1%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	30	2.6%
Communication disorder	3	0.3%
Deaf or hard of hearing	3	0.3%
Dementia	4	0.4%
Developmental disability	42	3.7%
Diabetes	6	0.5%
Disoriented and confused	1	0.1%
Drug abuse	48	4.2%
Financial dependence: adult at risk on abuser	101	8.9%
Financial dependence: abuser on adult at risk	27	2.4%
Frail elderly	15	1.3%
Functionally illiterate	1	0.1%
Homebound	2	0.2%
Incontinent	2	0.2%
Limited English proficiency	3	0.3%
Medically fragile	12	1.1%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	57	5.0%
Mobility impaired	7	0.6%
Morbidly obese	12	1.1%
Physical disability	33	2.9%
Stroke-related condition	2	0.2%
Unemployed	130	11.4%
Other medical condition	18	1.6%
Other characteristic	82	7.2%
None of the listed characteristics	656	57.5%
<i>Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		
<i>Percents refer to share of all alleged abusers.</i>		

More than One Alleged Abuser?

	Number	Percent
Yes	75	6.6%
No, one alleged abuser only	1,065	93.4%
Total (all reported incidents with at least one abuser reported)	1,140	100.0%

Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?		
	Number	Percent
Substantiated	914	49.1%
Unsubstantiated	659	35.4%
Unable to Substantiate	288	15.5%
Total	1,861	100.0%

Actions Taken to Assist Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	155	8.3%
Investigation not accepted	71	3.8%
Mental health commitment	26	1.4%
Outreach continues	179	9.6%
Protective services placement	72	3.9%
Referral made to other agency	212	11.4%
Referral made to state agency	6	0.3%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry	21	1.1%
Referral to law enforcement/Department of Justice	163	8.8%
Referral to detoxification services	14	0.8%
Referral to protection/advocacy agencies	120	6.4%
Referral to regulatory authority	19	1.0%
Services needed are not available	25	1.3%
Services not needed	345	18.5%
Services offered, but not accepted	276	14.8%
Services offered, all accepted	277	14.9%
Services offered, some accepted	375	20.2%
Response/investigation continues	22	1.2%
Other legal action	53	2.8%
Other disposition	113	6.1%

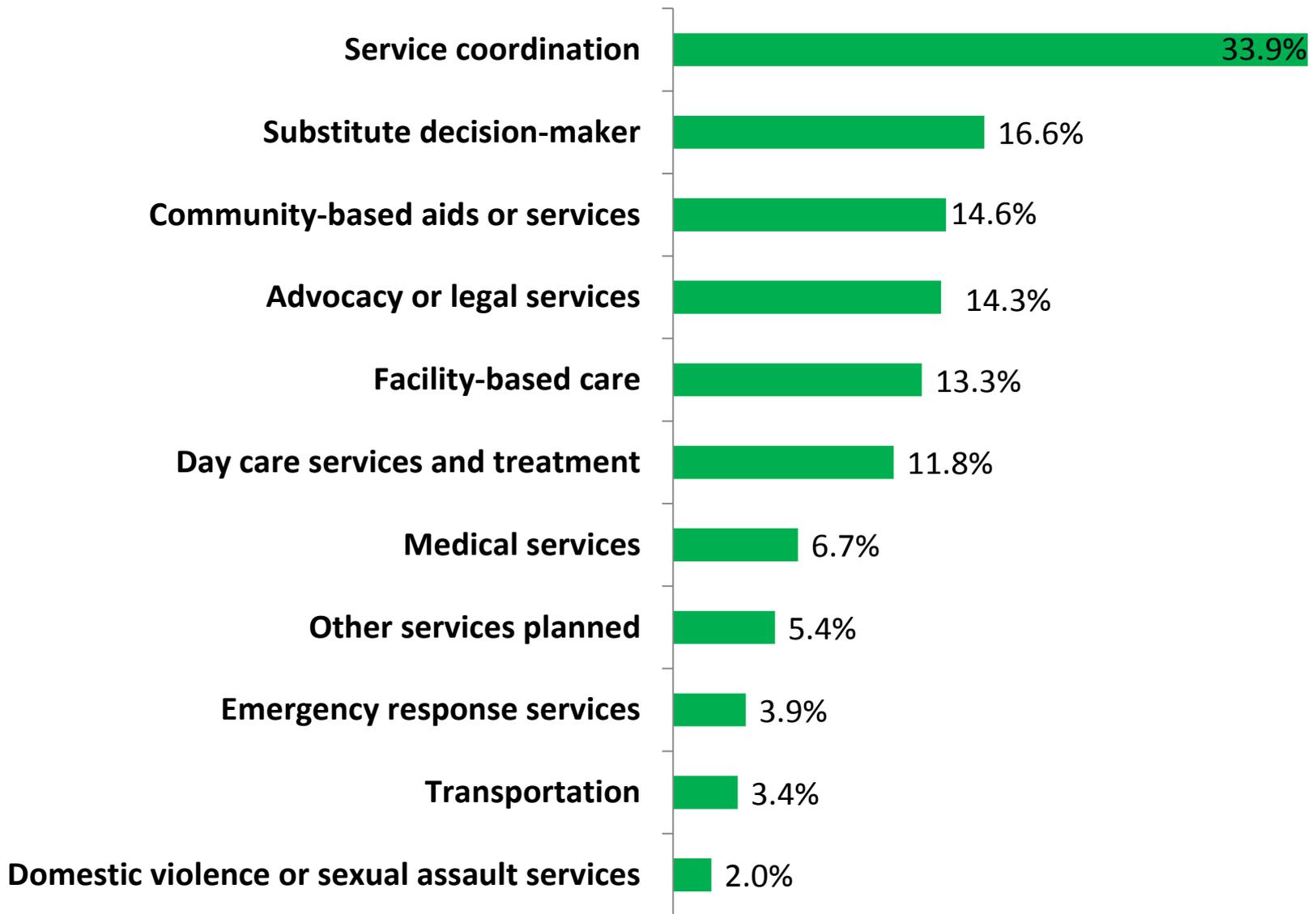
Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.

Services Planned for Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Advocacy or legal services	266	14.3%
Community-based aids or services	271	14.6%
Day care services and treatment	219	11.8%
Domestic violence or sexual assault services	38	2.0%
Emergency response services	72	3.9%
Facility-based care	247	13.3%
Medical services	124	6.7%
Service coordination	630	33.9%
Substitute decision-maker	309	16.6%
Transportation	64	3.4%
Other services planned	101	5.4%

Percents refer to share of all reports showing this service planned. Multiple responses were allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.

Services Planned for Adult at Risk



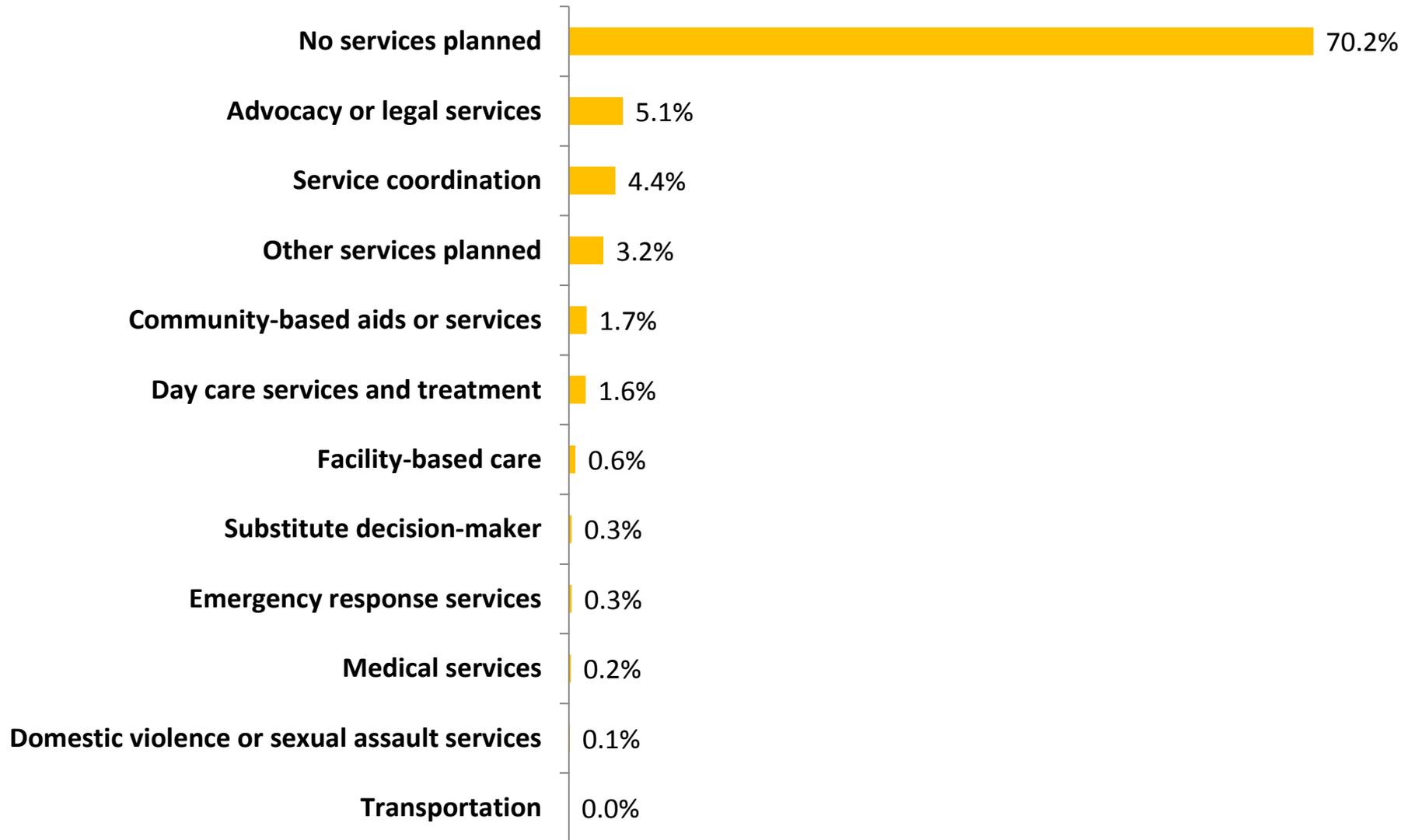
Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

	Number	Percent
No services planned	800	70.2%
Advocacy/Legal services	58	5.1%
Community-based aids or services	19	1.7%
Day care services and treatment	18	1.6%
Domestic violence or sexual assault services	1	0.1%
Emergency response services	3	0.3%
Facility-based care	7	0.6%
Medical services	2	0.2%
Service coordination	50	4.4%
Substitute decision-maker	3	0.3%
Transportation	0	0.0%
Other services planned	37	3.2%

Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.

Percents refer to share of all incidents in which abuse or neglect was alleged (n=1,140).

Services Plan for Alleged Abuser(s)



Contact Information

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