

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

# 2014



Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

Division of Long Term Care  
P-00123-14 (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 2014 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 the ages of 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).

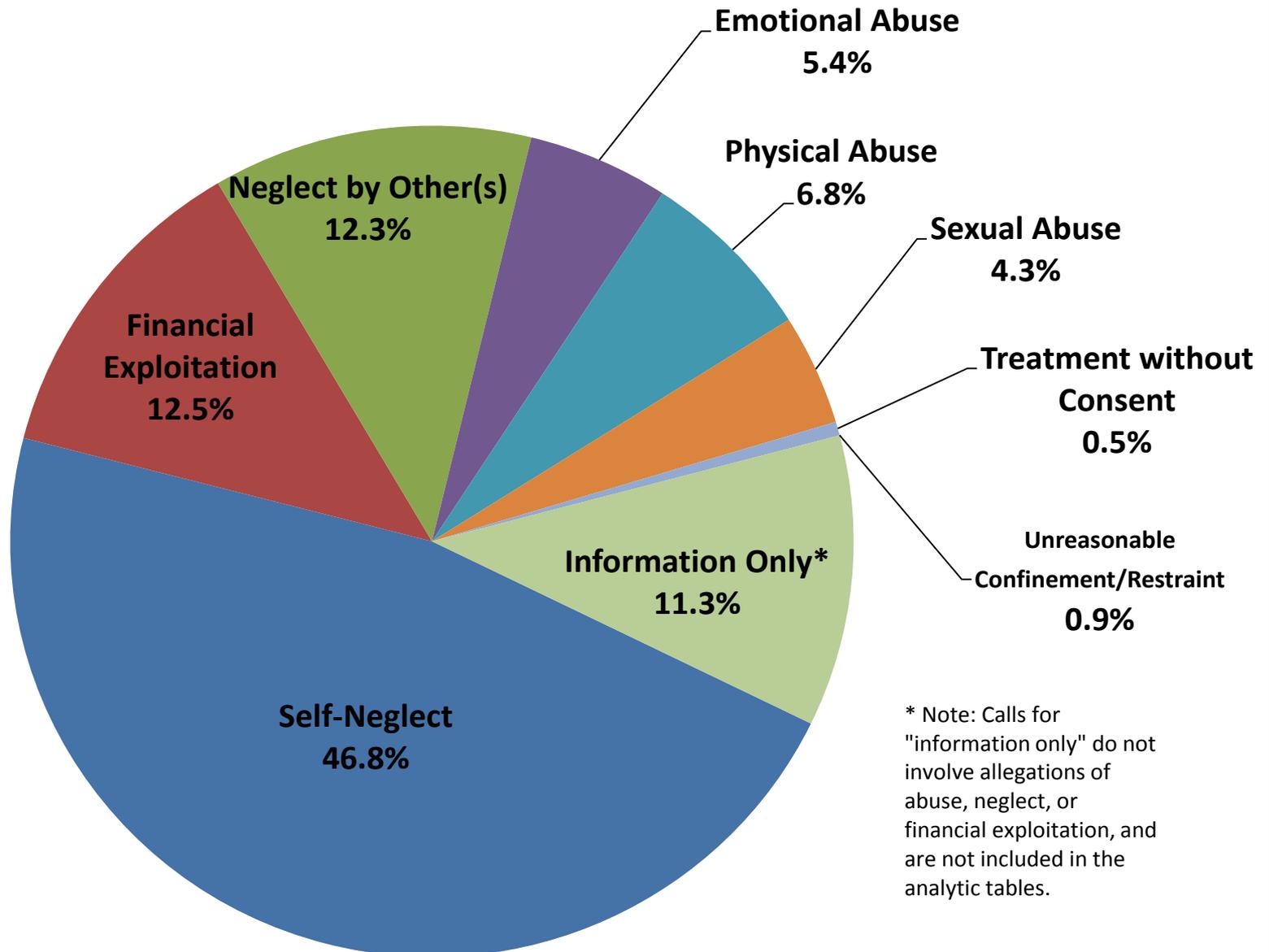
See <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aps/Contacts/aaragencies.htm> for these help line phone numbers.

## Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	1,053	46.8%
Financial Exploitation	282	12.5%
Neglect by Other(s)	276	12.3%
Emotional Abuse	122	5.4%
Physical Abuse	154	6.8%
Sexual Abuse	97	4.3%
Treatment without Consent	12	0.5%
Unreasonable Confinement or Restraint	0	0.0%
<i>Information Only*</i>	255	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*\* 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?

	Number	Percent
No	1,225	61.4%
Yes	525	26.3%
Unknown	246	12.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

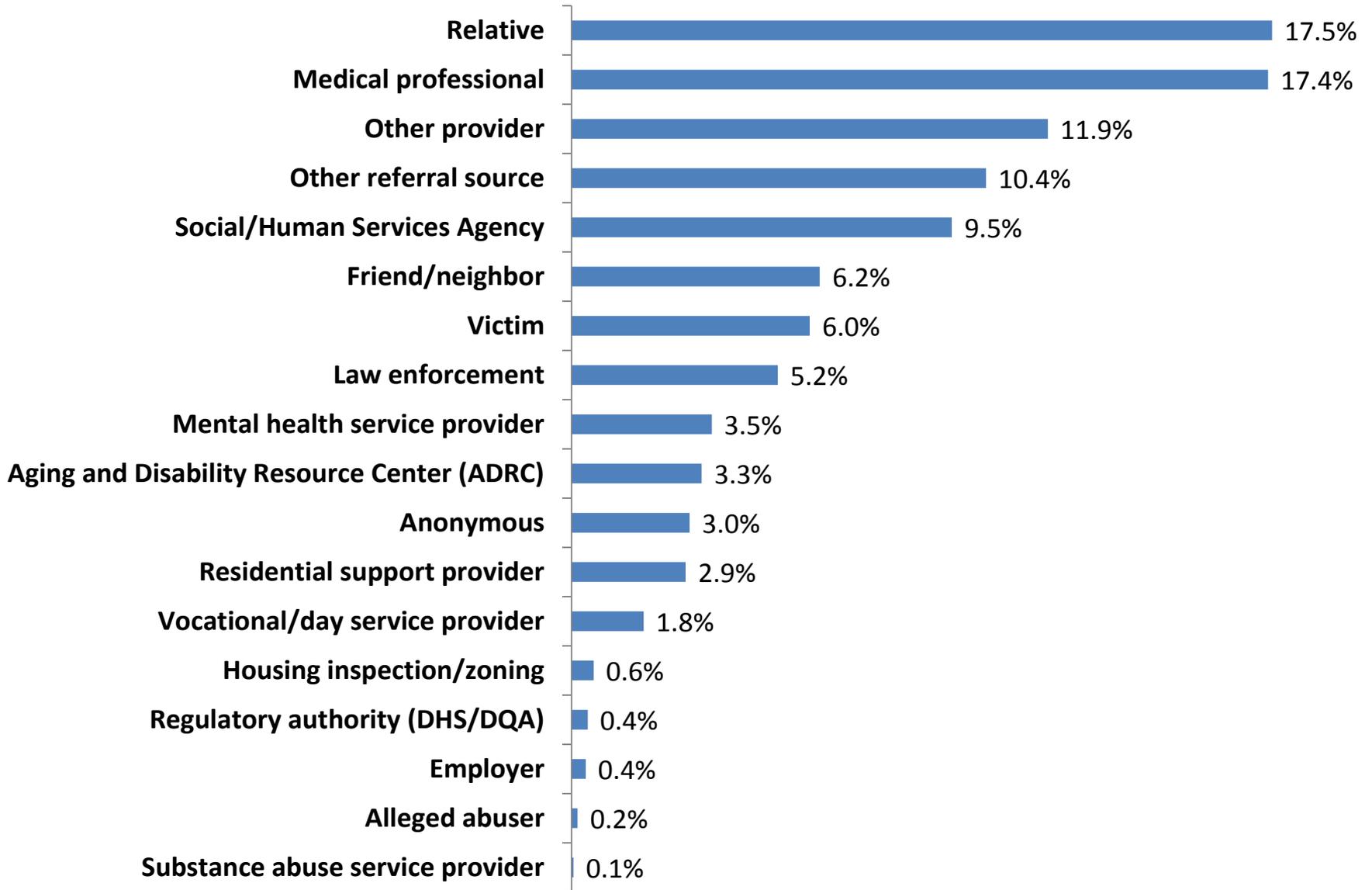
## Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	1,675	83.9%
Other place	265	13.3%
Place of employment or day services	35	1.8%
School	16	0.8%
Transportation	5	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Referral Source

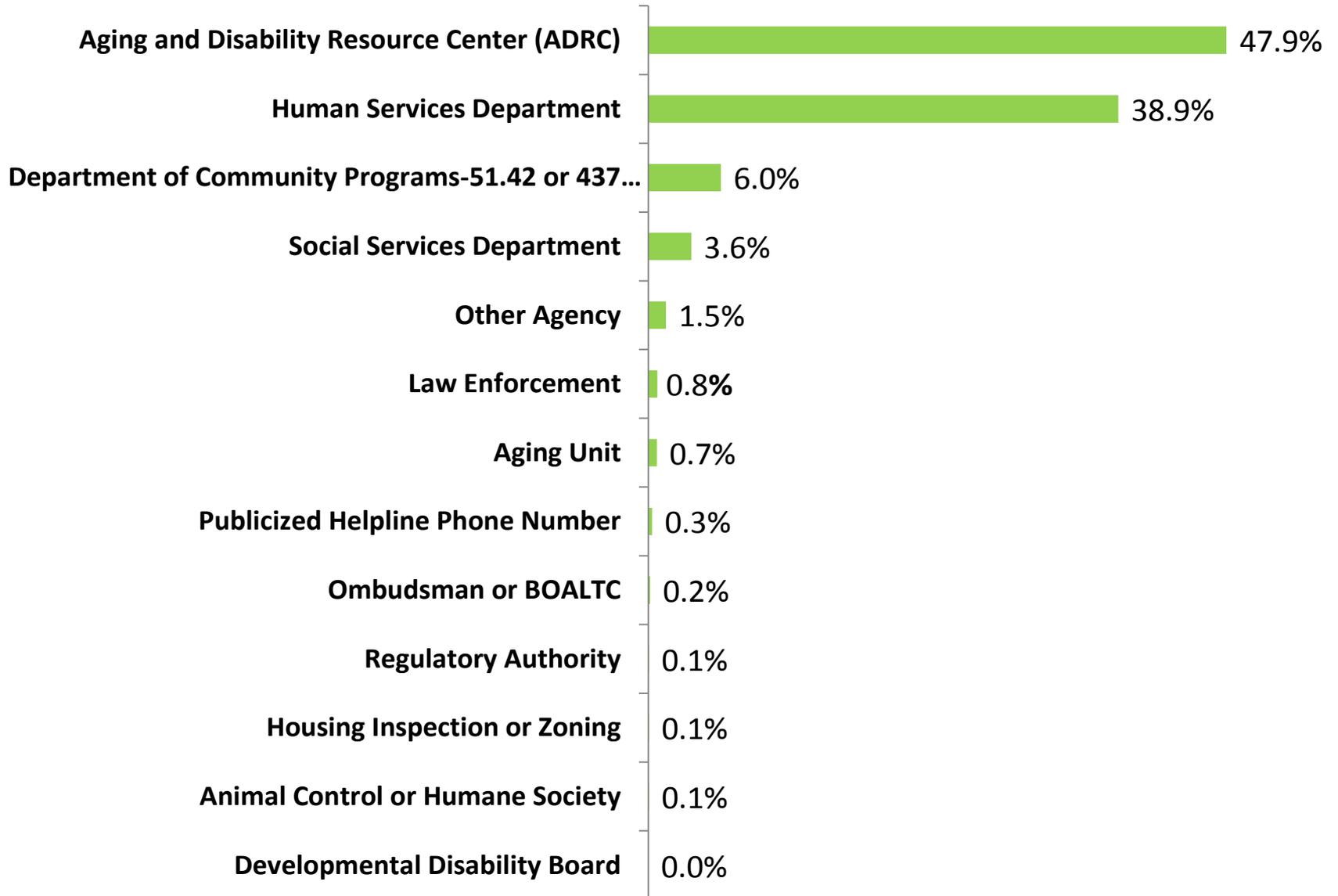
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	65	3.3%
Alleged abuser	3	0.2%
Anonymous	59	3.0%
Employer	7	0.4%
Friend or neighbor	124	6.2%
Housing inspection or zoning	11	0.6%
Law enforcement	103	5.2%
Medical professional	348	17.4%
Mental health service provider	70	3.5%
Other provider	238	11.9%
Other referral source	207	10.4%
Regulatory authority	8	0.4%
Relative	350	17.5%
Residential support provider	57	2.9%
Social or Human Services Agency	190	9.5%
Substance abuse service provider	1	0.1%
Victim	119	6.0%
Vocational or day service provider	36	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Referral Source

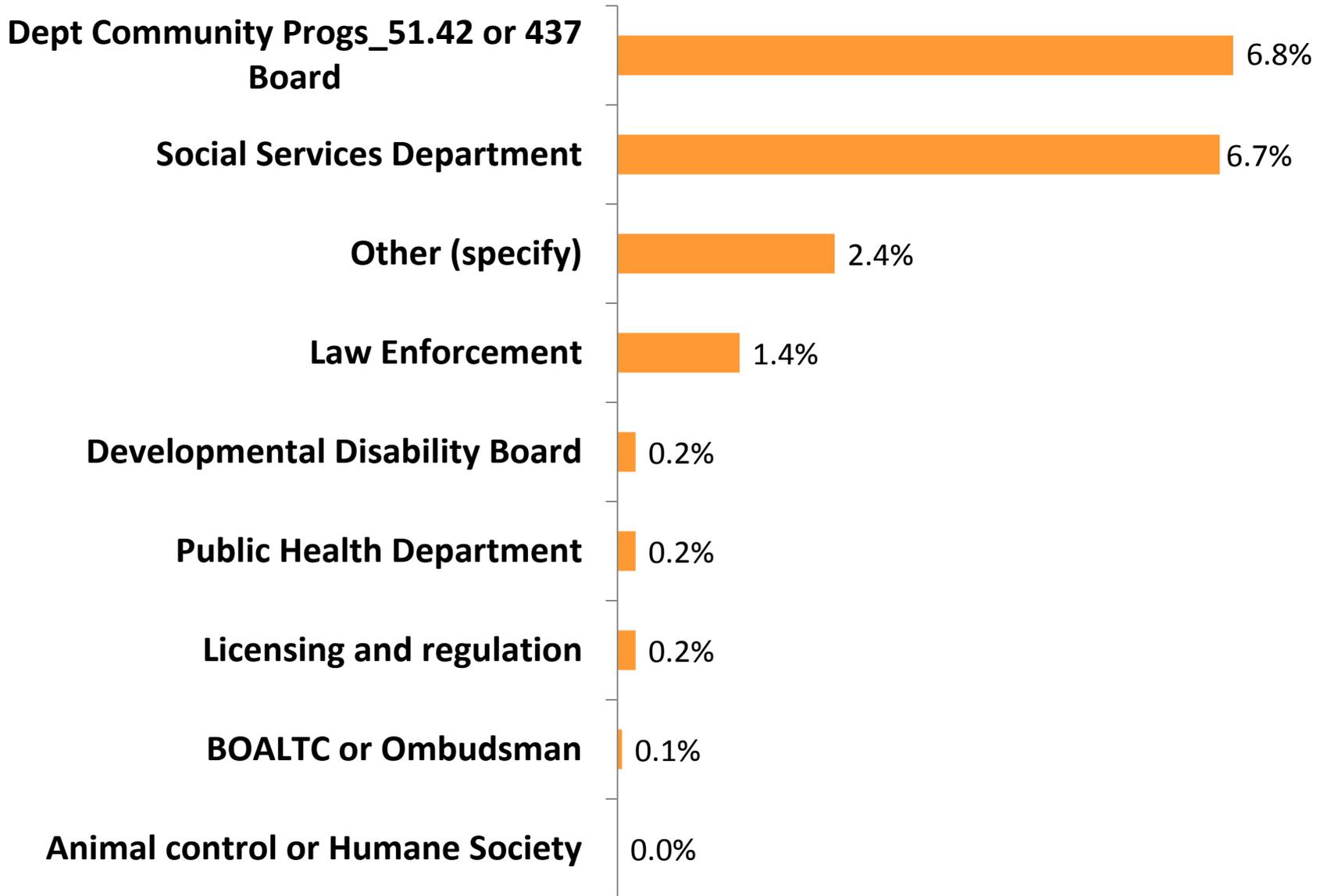


<b>Call Received By:</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	956	47.9%
Aging Unit	14	0.7%
Animal control or Humane Soc	1	0.1%
Department of Community Programs-51.42 or 437 Board	120	6.0%
Developmental Disability Board	2	0.0%
Housing inspection or Zoning	1	0.1%
Human Services Department	777	38.9%
Law Enforcement	15	0.8%
Ombudsman or BOALTC	3	0.2%
Other Agency	29	1.5%
Publicized helpline number	6	0.3%
Regulatory authority	1	0.1%
Social Services Department	71	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
<b>Initial Investigating Agency</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	624	31.3%
Aging Unit	141	7.1%
Animal control or Humane Society	0	0.0%
Department of Community Programs-51.42 or 437 Board	136	6.8%
Developmental Disability Board	4	0.2%
Human Services Department	874	43.8%
Law Enforcement	27	1.4%
Licensing and regulation	4	0.2%
Ombudsman or BOALTC	1	0.1%
Other (specify)	48	2.4%
Public Health Department	4	0.2%
Social Services Department	133	6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Call Received By:



## Initial Investigating Agency



<b>Was Incident Life Threatening?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	1,750	87.7%
Yes	132	6.6%
Unknown	114	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Has Adult at Risk Died?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	118	89.4%
Yes	14	10.6%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents.*

<b>Was Death Related to the Incident?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	3	21.4%
Yes	7	50.0%
Unknown	4	28.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.*

<b>Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	1	50.0%
Yes	1	50.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death related to the incident.*

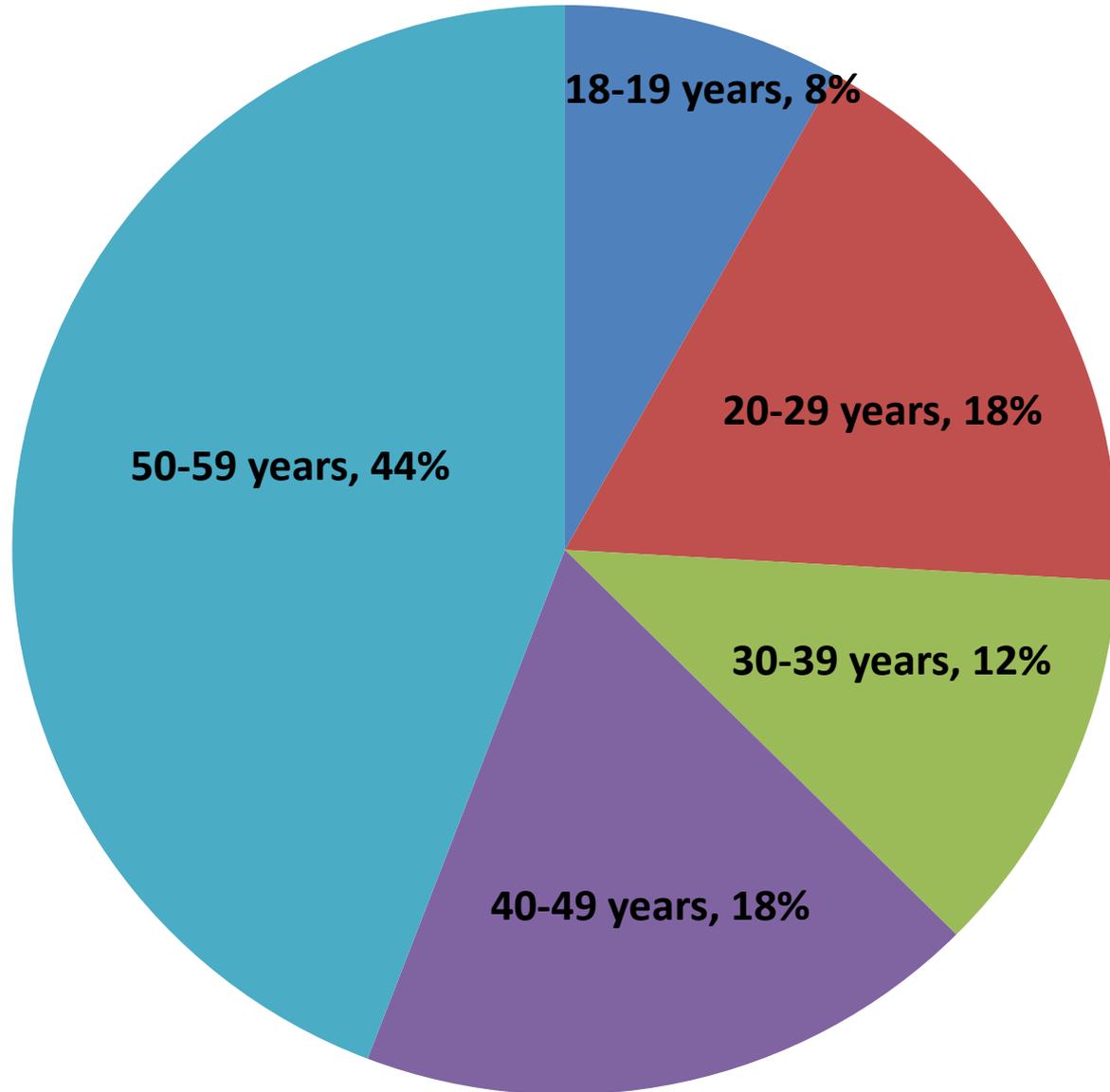
<b>Adult at Risk's Age</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
18-19 years	162	8.1%
20-29 years	355	17.8%
30-39 years	231	11.6%
40-49 years	366	18.3%
50-59 years	882	44.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Adult at Risk's Gender</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	1,031	51.7%
Male	963	48.2%
Unknown	2	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Adult at Risk's Race</b>		
<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	1,302	65.2%
Black or African American	189	9.5%
Native American or Alaska Native	46	2.3%
Asian	13	0.7%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	0.2%
Other race	17	0.9%
Not reported or unknown	425	21.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*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.*

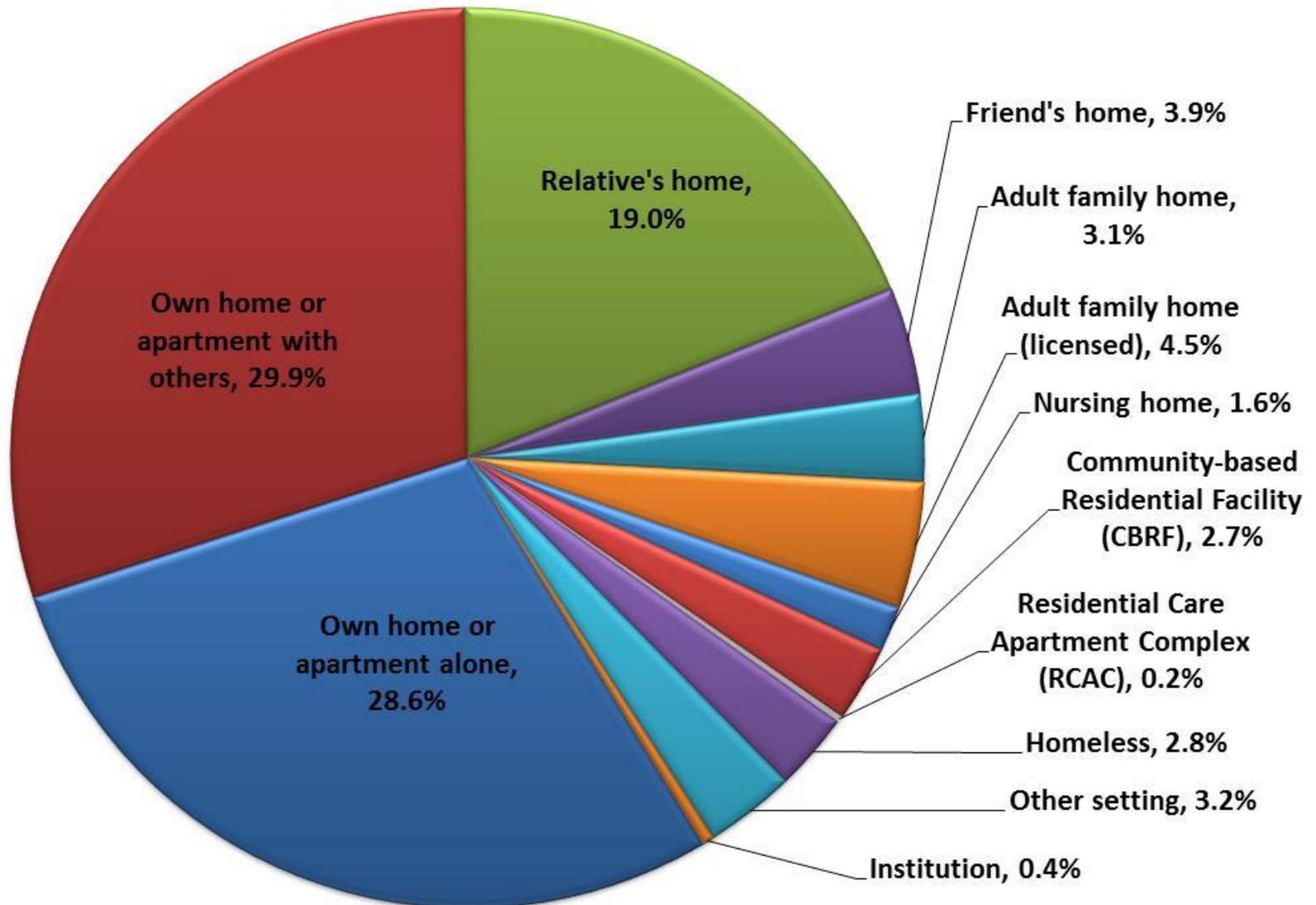
# Adult at Risk's Age



## Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home or apartment alone	547	27.4%
Own home or apartment with others	579	29.0%
Relative's home	399	20.0%
Friend's home	61	3.1%
Adult family home	60	3.0%
Adult family home (licensed)	91	4.6%
Nursing home	40	2.0%
Community-based Residential Facility (CBRF)	42	2.1%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	7	0.4%
Homeless	91	4.6%
Other setting	73	3.7%
Institution	6	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

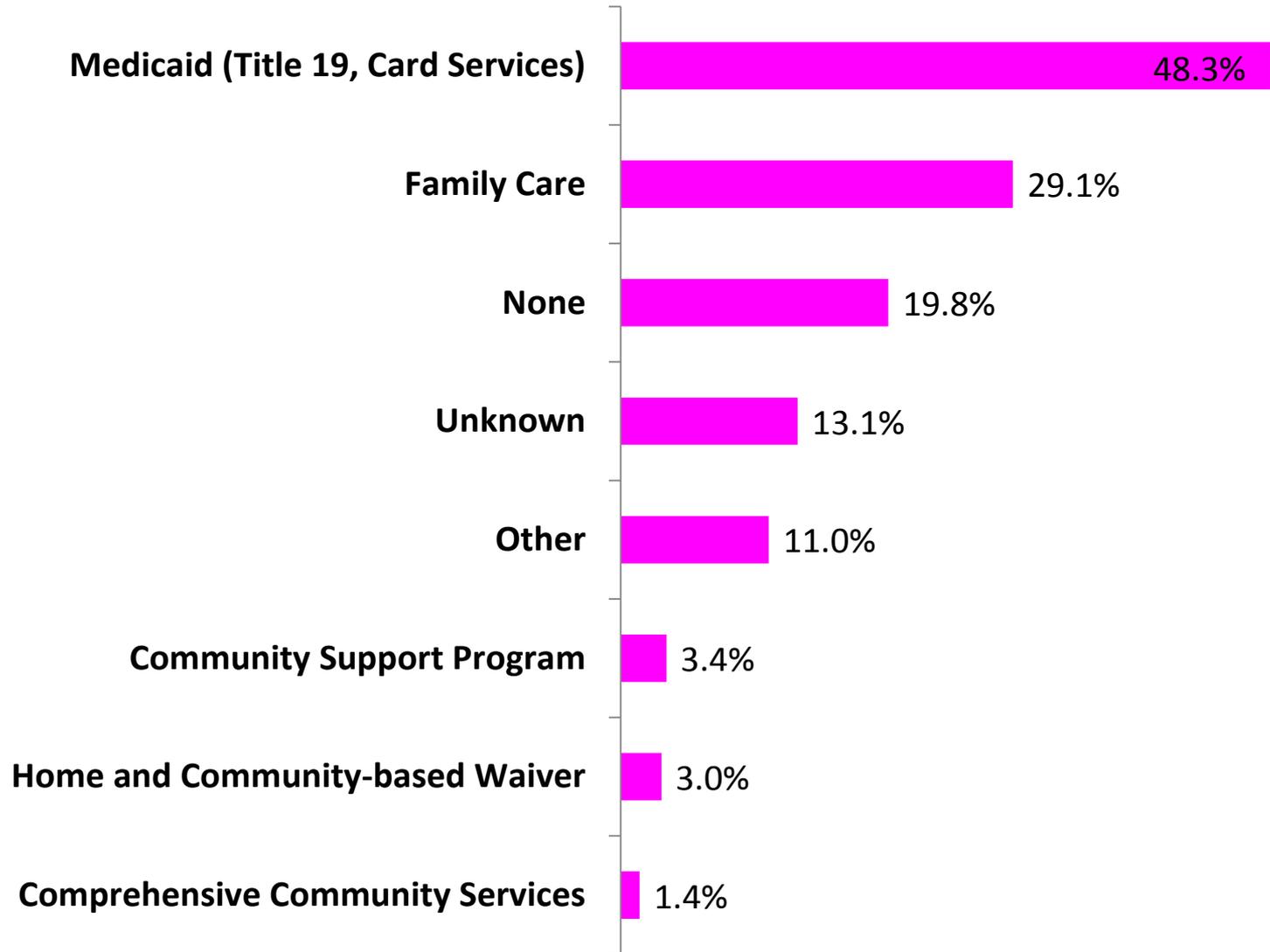


## County and State Funded Programs That Have Served Adult at Risk Adults

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	77	3.9%
Comprehensive Community Services	24	1.2%
Family Care	580	29.1%
Home and Community-based Waiver	68	3.4%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	960	48.1%
Unknown	277	13.9%
Other	221	11.1%
None	377	18.9%

*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?

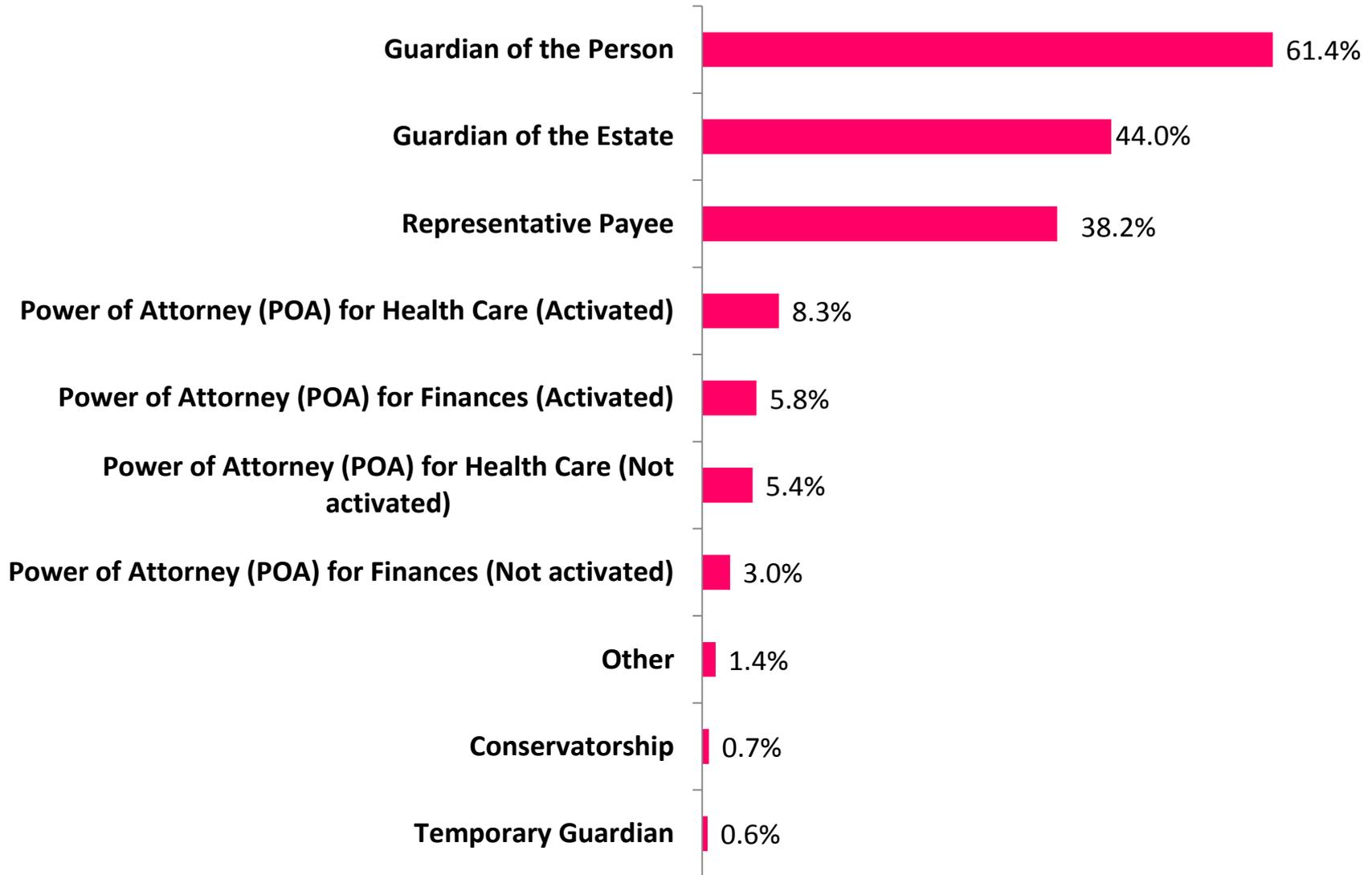
	Number	Percent
No	1,102	55.2%
Yes	730	36.6%
Unknown	164	8.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	4	0.5%
Guardian of the Person	464	63.6%
Guardian of the Estate	321	44.0%
Representative Payee	241	33.0%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	38	5.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	15	2.1%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	58	7.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	48	6.6%
Temporary Guardian	9	1.2%
Other	2	0.3%

*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)



<b>Adult at Risk's Characteristics</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alcohol abuse	214	9.5%
Blind or visually impaired	39	1.7%
Brain injury	132	5.9%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	164	7.3%
Chronic alcoholic	106	4.7%
Chronic mental illness	139	6.2%
Communication disorder	45	2.0%
Deaf or hard of hearing	28	1.2%
Dementia	45	2.0%
Developmental disability	728	32.3%
Diabetes	159	7.1%
Disoriented and confused	95	4.2%
Drug abuse	104	4.6%
Financially dependent on abuser	16	0.7%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on Adult at Risk	38	1.7%
Frail elderly	6	0.3%
Functionally illiterate	27	1.2%
Homebound	63	2.8%
Incontinent	77	3.4%
Limited English proficiency	5	0.2%
Medically fragile	258	11.5%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	445	19.8%
Mobility impaired	240	10.7%
Morbidly obese	68	3.0%
Physical disability	398	17.7%
Stroke-related condition	86	3.8%
Unemployed	122	5.4%
Other medical condition	281	12.5%
Other characteristic	110	4.9%
None of the listed characteristics	38	1.7%
<i>Percents refer to share of all adults at risk having this characteristic. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.</i>		

## Age of Alleged Abuser(s)

	Number	Percent
Under 25 years	69	6.1%
25 to 44 years	206	18.1%
45 to 59 years	268	23.6%
60 to 79 years	117	10.3%
80 years or older	15	1.3%
Unknown	463	40.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

## Alleged Abusers' Gender

	Number	Percent
Male	590	51.8%
Female	482	42.4%
Unknown	66	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

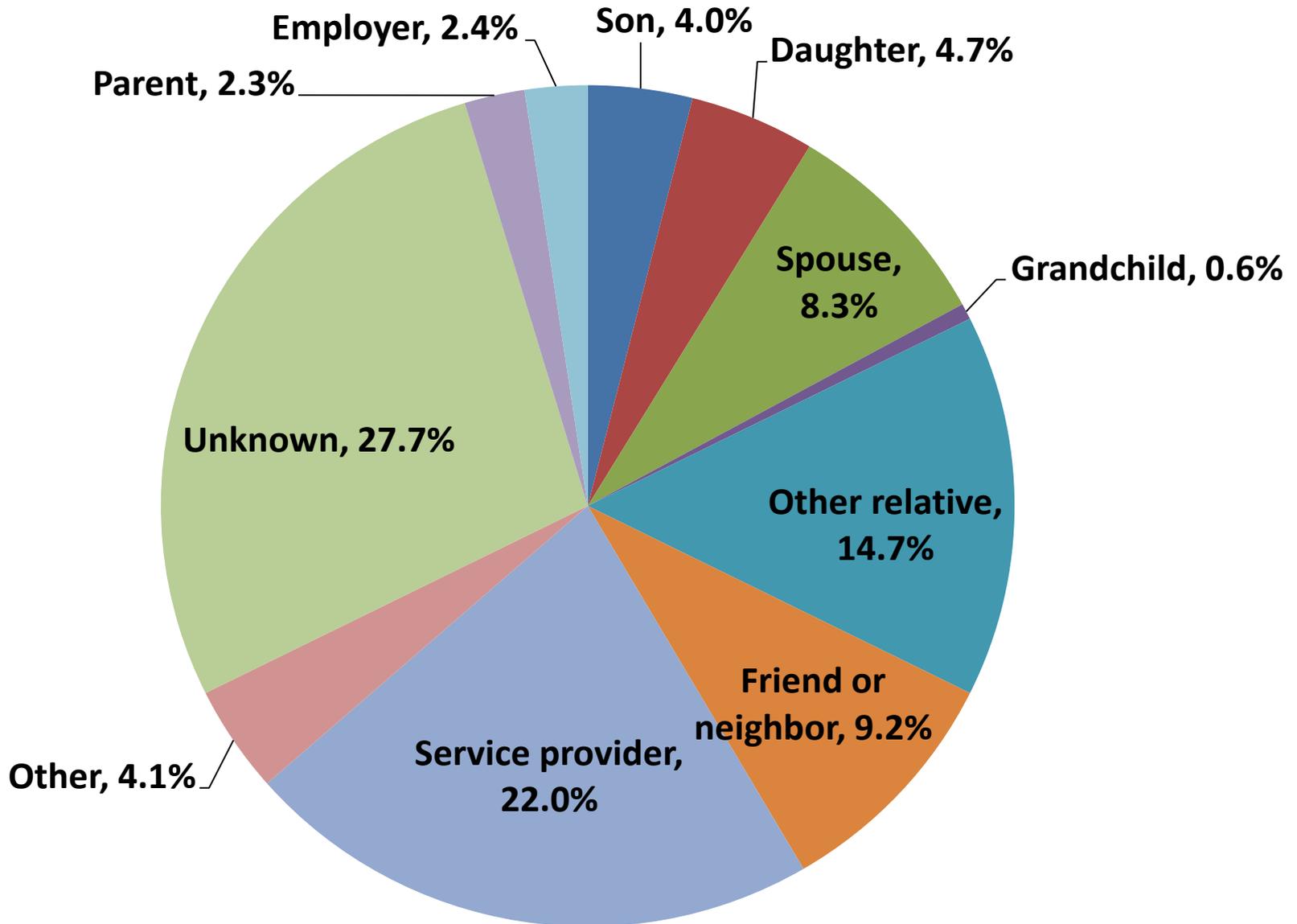
## Alleged Abusers' Relationship to Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Son	45	4.0%
Daughter	54	4.7%
Spouse	95	8.3%
Grandchild	7	0.6%
Other relative	167	14.7%
Friend or neighbor	105	9.2%
Service provider	250	22.0%
Other	47	4.1%
Unknown	315	27.7%
Parent	26	2.3%
Employer	27	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?

	Number	Percent
Yes	604	53.1%
No	469	41.2%
Unknown	65	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Adult at Risk



### Do Alleged Abusers Live with Adult at Risk?

	Number	Percent
Yes	642	56.4%
No	437	38.4%
Unknown	59	5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

	Number	Percent
No	740	65.0%
Yes	398	35.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	2	0.2%
Guardian of the Person	239	21.0%
Guardian of the Estate	170	14.9%
Temporary Guardian	0	0.0%
Representative Payee	125	11.0%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	18	1.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	10	0.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	22	1.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	27	2.4%
Other legal status	15	1.3%
Unknown legal status	130	11.4%
No legal status	608	53.4%

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

<b>Alleged Abusers' Characteristics</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alcohol abuse	48	4.2%
Blind or visually impaired	2	0.2%
Brain injury	4	0.4%
Chronic alcoholic	10	0.9%
Chronic mental illness	13	1.1%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	27	2.4%
Communication disorder		0.0%
Deaf or hard of hearing	2	0.2%
Dementia	8	0.7%
Developmental disability	34	3.0%
Diabetes	3	0.3%
Disoriented and confused	2	0.2%
Drug abuse	49	4.3%
Financial dependence: adult at risk on abuser	26	2.3%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	78	6.9%
Frail Elderly	15	1.3%
Functionally illiterate	2	0.2%
Homebound	5	0.4%
Incontinent	0	0.0%
Limited English proficiency	2	0.2%
Medically fragile	15	1.3%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	58	5.1%
Mobility impaired	21	1.8%
Morbidly Obese	13	1.1%
Physical Disability	38	3.3%
Stroke-related condition	2	0.2%
Unemployed	113	9.9%
Other medical condition	21	1.8%
Other characteristic	101	8.9%
None of the listed characteristics	644	56.6%
<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	70	6.2%
No, one alleged abuser only	1,068	93.8%
<b>Total (all reported incidents with at least one abuser reported)</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

## Actions Taken to Assist Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	207	10.4%
Investigation not accepted	132	6.6%
Mental health commitment	30	1.5%
Outreach continues	230	11.5%
Protective services placement	88	4.4%
Referral made to other agency	252	12.6%
Referral made to state agency	4	0.2%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry	14	0.7%
Referral to law enforcement or Department of Justice	140	7.0%
Referral to detoxification services	14	0.7%
Referral to protection or advocacy agencies	119	6.0%
Referral to regulatory authority	21	1.1%
Services needed are not available	21	1.1%
Services not needed	344	17.2%
Services offered but not accepted	269	13.5%
Services offered-all accepted	308	15.4%
Services offered-some accepted	372	18.6%
Response or investigation continues	16	0.8%
Other legal action	46	2.3%
Other disposition	130	6.5%

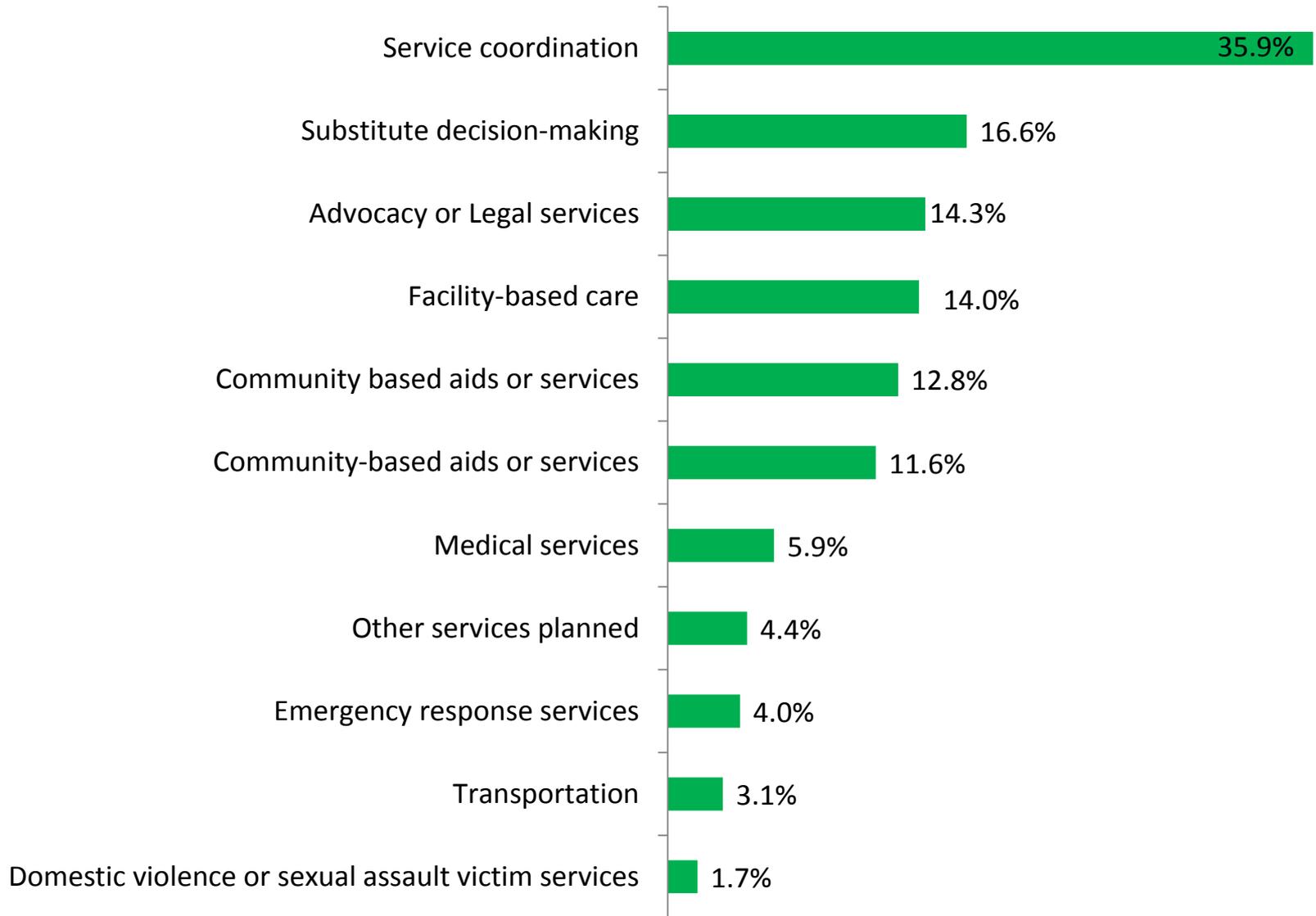
*Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.*

## Services Planned for Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Advocacy or Legal services	286	14.3%
Community-based aids or services	256	12.8%
Day care services or treatment	231	11.6%
Domestic violence or sexual assault victim services	33	1.7%
Emergency response services	80	4.0%
Facility-based care	279	14.0%
Medical services	118	5.9%
Service coordination	717	35.9%
Substitute decision-making	332	16.6%
Transportation	61	3.1%
Other services planned	88	4.4%

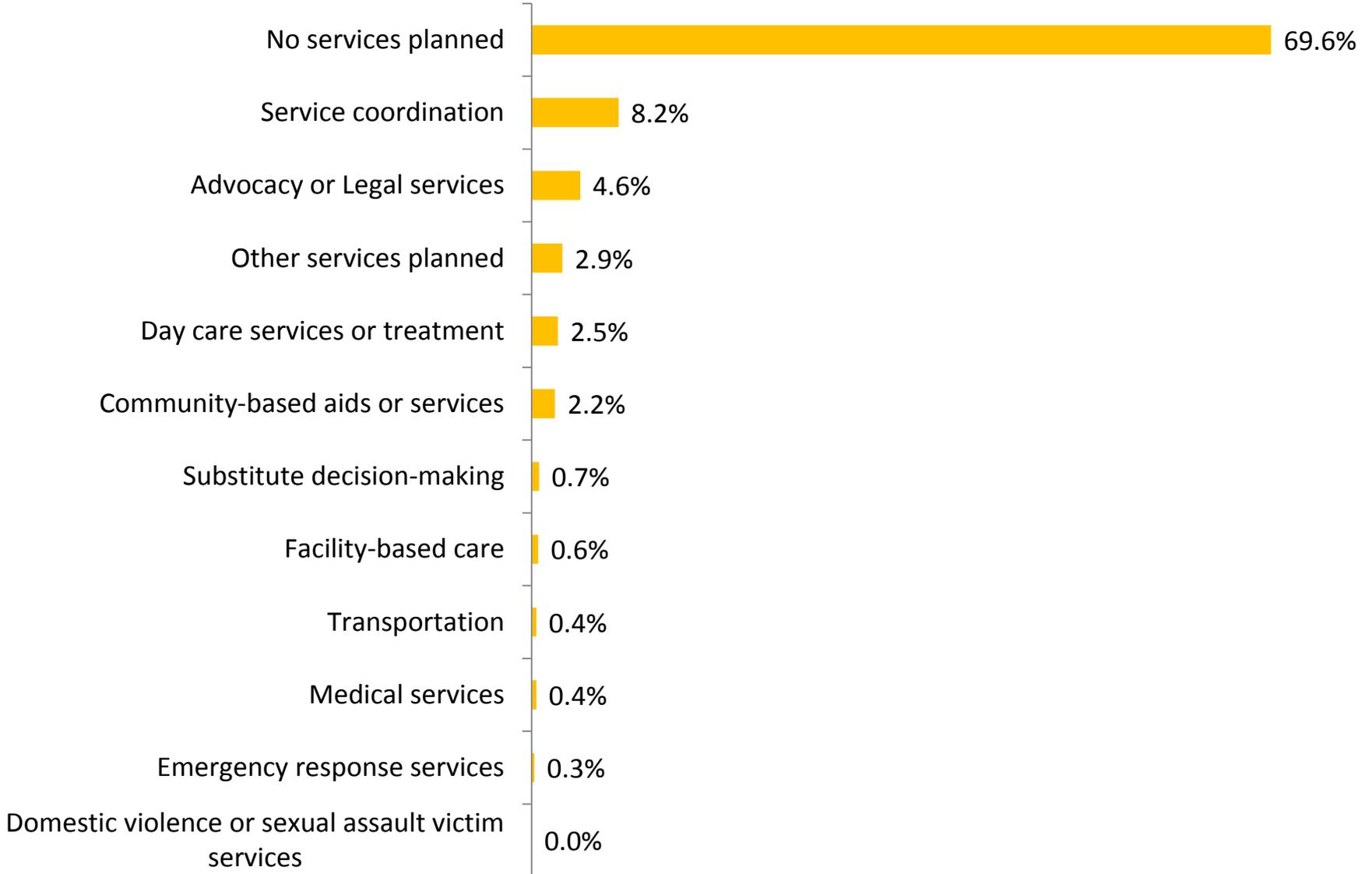
*Percents refer to share of all reports showing this service planned. Multiple responses were allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.*

## Services Planned for Adult at Risk



<b>Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No services planned	792	69.6%
Advocacy or Legal services	52	4.6%
Community-based aids or services	25	2.2%
Day care services or treatment	28	2.5%
Domestic violence or sexual assault victim services	0	0.0%
Emergency response services	3	0.3%
Facility-based care	7	0.6%
Medical services	5	0.4%
Service coordination	93	8.2%
Substitute decision-making	8	0.7%
Transportation	5	0.4%
Other services planned	33	2.9%
<i>Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		
<i>Percents refer to share of all incidents in which abuse or neglect was alleged (n=1,138).</i>		

# Services Plan for Alleged Abuser(s)



# Contact Information

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