

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2013

A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Division of Long Term Care
P-00124-13 (11/2015)

Introduction: The Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report

In Wisconsin, county agencies receive elder 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 elder adults at risk and help ensure their safety.

After responding to a referral, county agencies file an incident report with the Department of Health Services (DHS), 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 Elder Abuse and Neglect Report*.

2013 Annual Report

This report documents and summarizes reported incidents in Wisconsin, providing information about:

- The types of abuse and neglect reported.
- The characteristics of elder adults at risk and alleged abusers.
- The local responses that guide the state's efforts to stop elder abuse.

Allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals living in licensed facilities are generally addressed by the Department of Health Services' Office of Caregiver Quality, which is located in the Division of Quality Assurance (DQA).

Your Role in Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Older Adults

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 elder adult at risk (ages 60 and older).

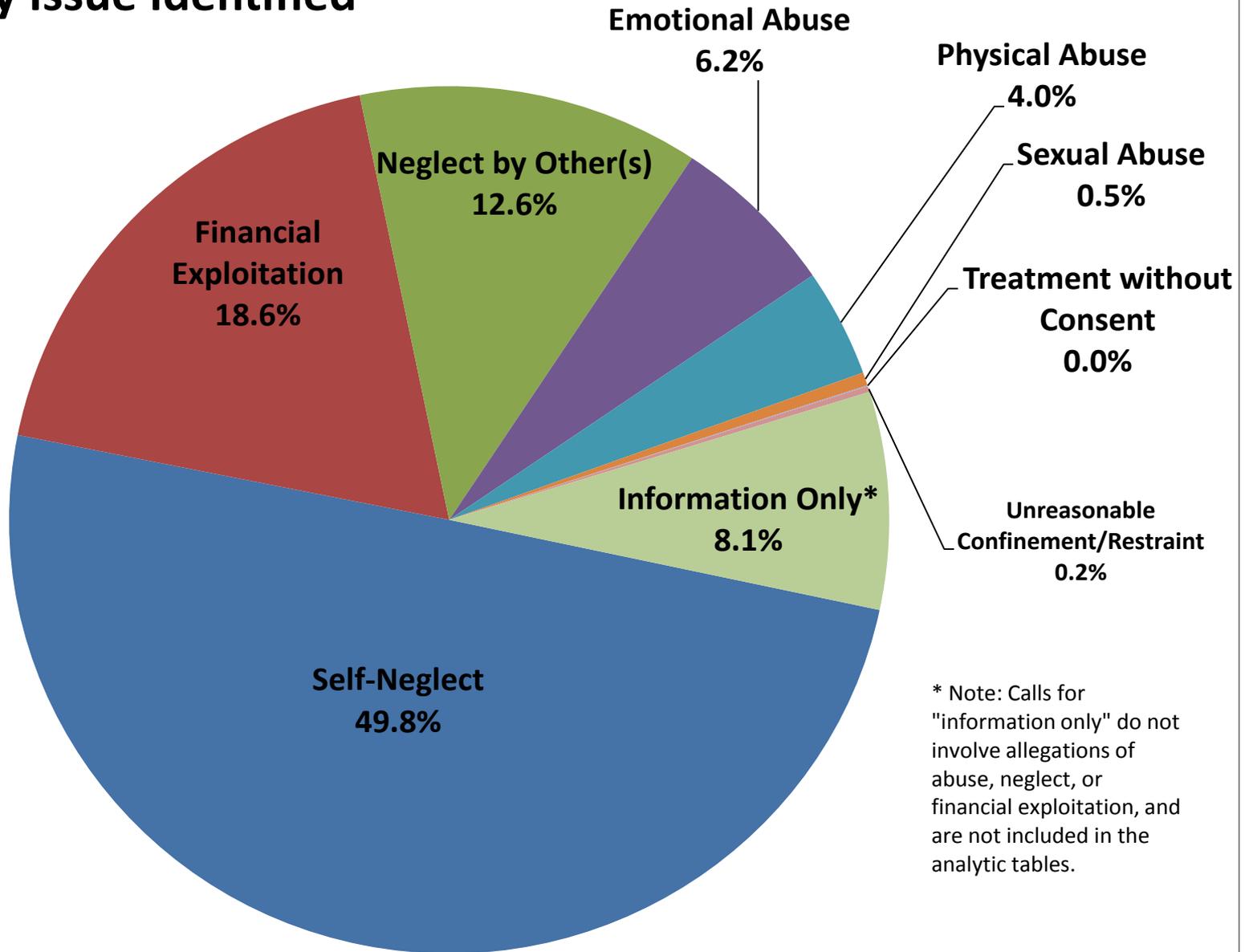
See <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aps/Contacts/aaragencies.htm> for these help line phone numbers.

Primary Reason for Call or Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	3,135	49.8%
Financial Exploitation	1,171	18.6%
Neglect by Other(s)	791	12.6%
Emotional Abuse	388	6.2%
Physical Abuse	253	4.0%
Sexual Abuse	31	0.5%
Treatment without Consent	2	0.0%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	14	0.2%
<i>Information Only*</i>	510	8.1%
Total	6,295	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?

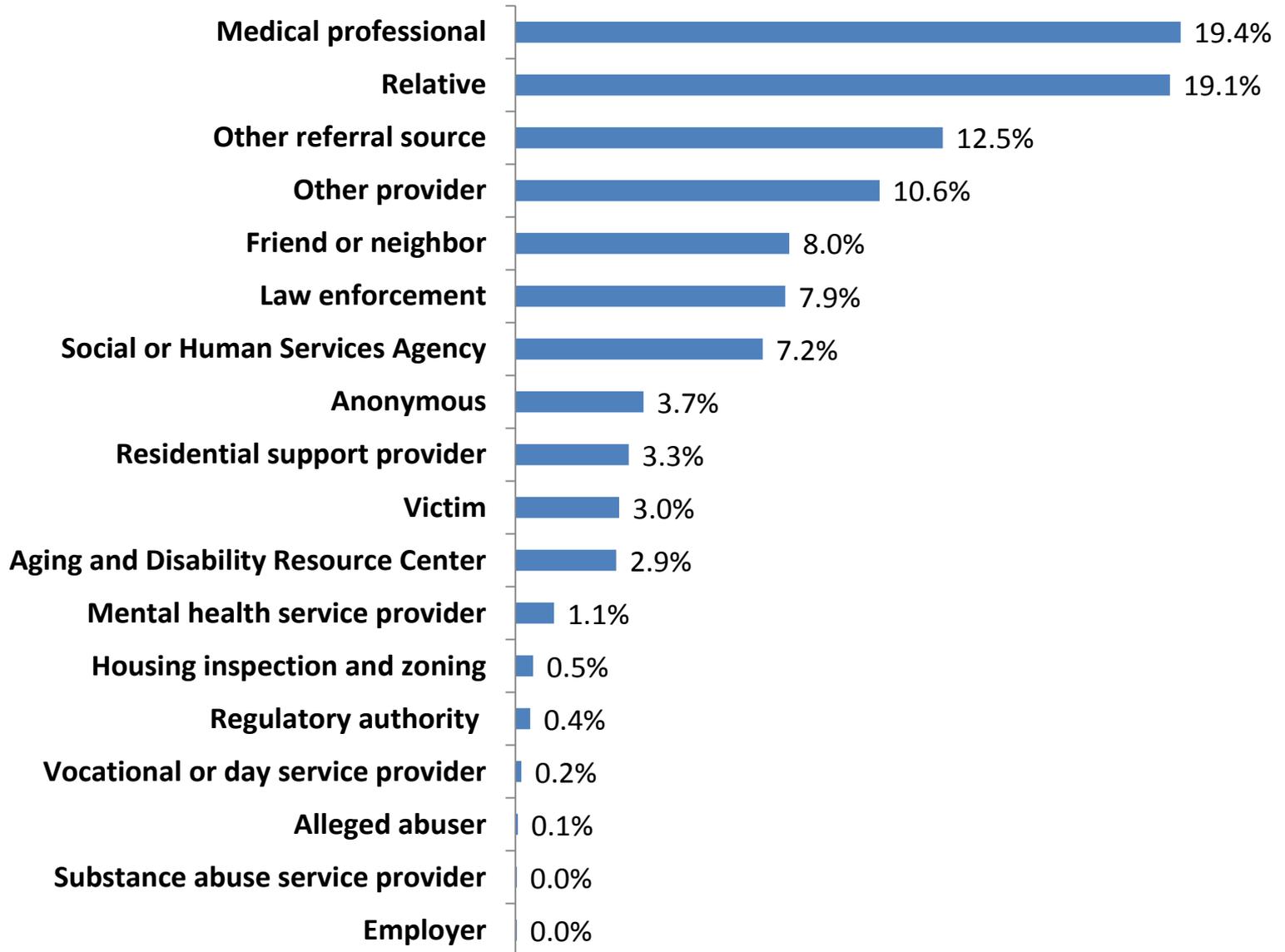
	Number	Percent
No	3,576	61.8%
Yes	1,849	32.0%
Unknown	360	6.2%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	5,156	89.1%
Other place	583	10.1%
Place of employment or day services	35	0.6%
School	1	0.0%
Transportation	10	0.2%

Referral Source		
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	170	2.9%
Alleged abuser	4	0.1%
Anonymous	216	3.7%
Employer	2	0.0%
Friend/neighbor	462	8.0%
Housing inspection/zoning	30	0.5%
Law enforcement	455	7.9%
Medical professional	1,122	19.4%
Mental health service provider	65	1.1%
Other provider	614	10.6%
Other referral source	721	12.5%
Regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	25	0.4%
Relative	1,104	19.1%
Residential support provider	191	3.3%
Social/Human Services Agency	417	7.2%
Substance abuse service provider	2	0.0%
Victim	175	3.0%
Vocational/day service provider	10	0.2%
Total	5,785	100.0%

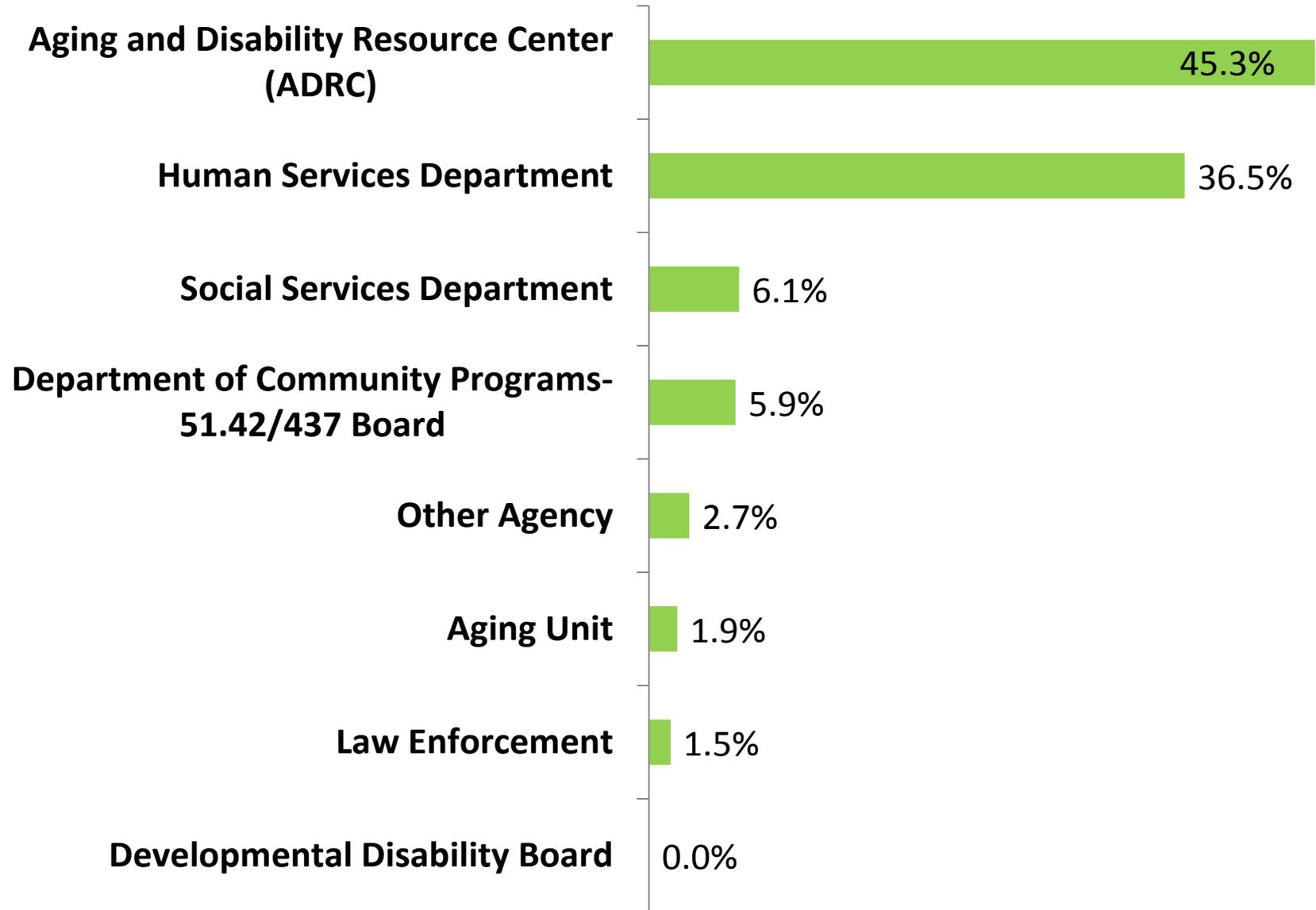
Referral Source



Call Received By

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	2,623	45.3%
Aging Unit	112	1.9%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	341	5.9%
Developmental Disability Board	1	0.0%
Human Services Department	2,109	36.5%
Law Enforcement	85	1.5%
Other Agency	159	2.7%
Social Services Department	355	6.1%
Total	5,785	100.0%

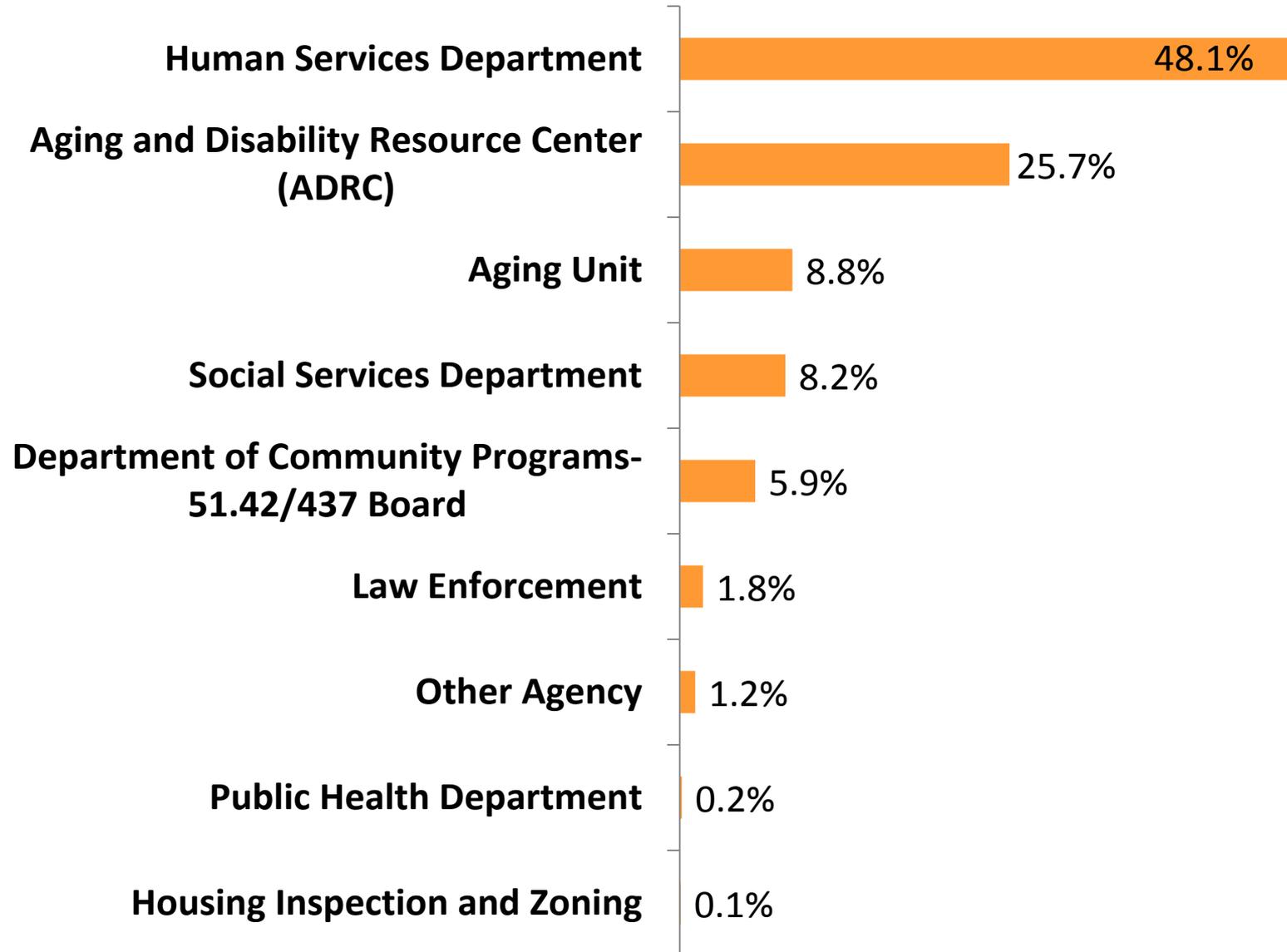
Call Received By:



Initial Investigating Agency

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,487	25.7%
Aging Unit	508	8.8%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	340	5.9%
Housing Inspection and Zoning	5	0.1%
Human Services Department	2,783	48.1%
Law Enforcement	105	1.8%
Other Agency	70	1.2%
Public Health Department	10	0.2%
Social Services Department	477	8.2%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	5,124	88.6%
Yes	415	7.2%
Unknown	246	4.3%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	344	82.9%
Yes	68	16.4%
Unknown	3	0.7%
Total	415	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents.</i>		

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	28	41.2%
Yes	30	44.1%
Unknown	10	14.7%
Total	68	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	12	40.0%
Yes	12	40.0%
Unknown	6	20.0%
Total	30	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents with death related to incident.</i>		

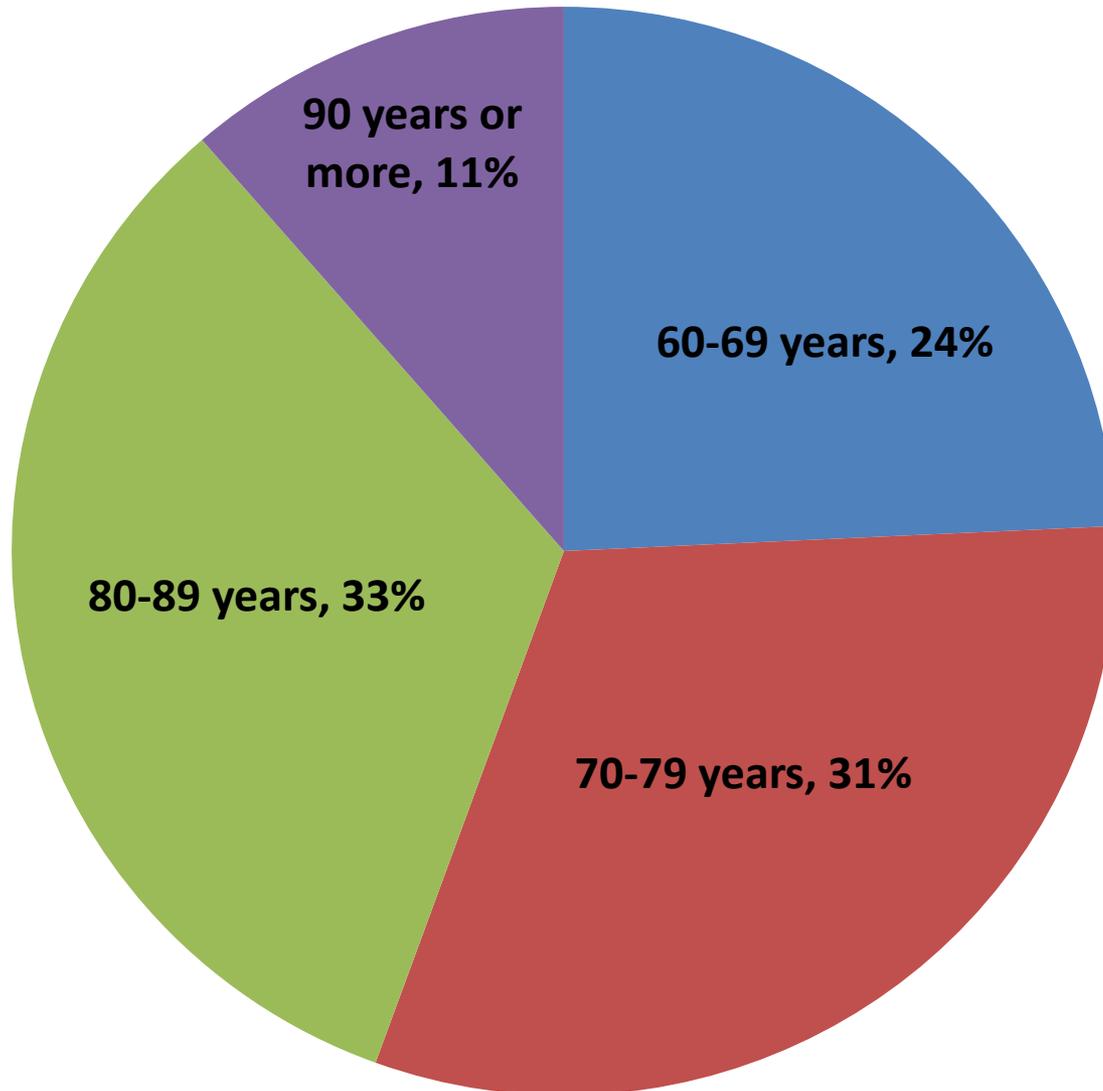
Elder Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	1,404	24.3%
70-79 years	1,809	31.3%
80-89 years	1,914	33.1%
90 years or more	658	11.4%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	3,475	60.1%
Male	2,308	39.9%
Unknown	2	0.0%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Race		
	Number	Percent
White	4,386	75.8%
Black/African American	286	4.9%
Native American/Alaska Native	74	1.3%
Asian	22	0.4%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7	0.1%
Other race	47	0.8%
Not reported or unknown	963	16.6%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Although data may be incomplete, percents represent the share of all complete reports that showed each race/ethnicity category.

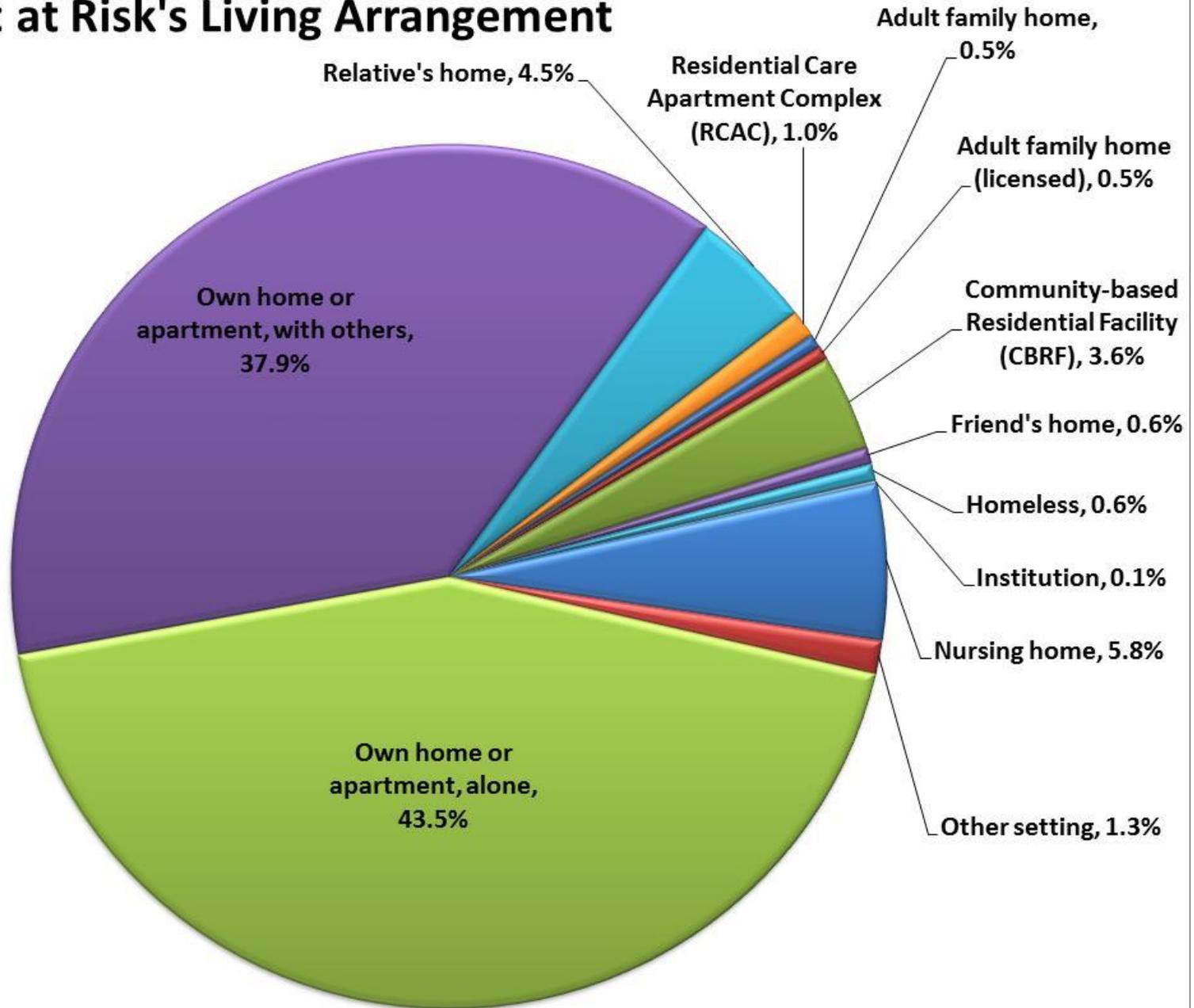
Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Adult family home	30	0.5%
Adult family home (licensed)	30	0.5%
Community-based Residential Facility (CBRF)	206	3.6%
Friend's home	36	0.6%
Homeless	37	0.6%
Institution	6	0.1%
Nursing home	337	5.8%
Other setting	73	1.3%
Own home or apartment, alone	2,517	43.5%
Own home or apartment, with others	2,192	37.9%
Relative's home	262	4.5%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	59	1.0%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

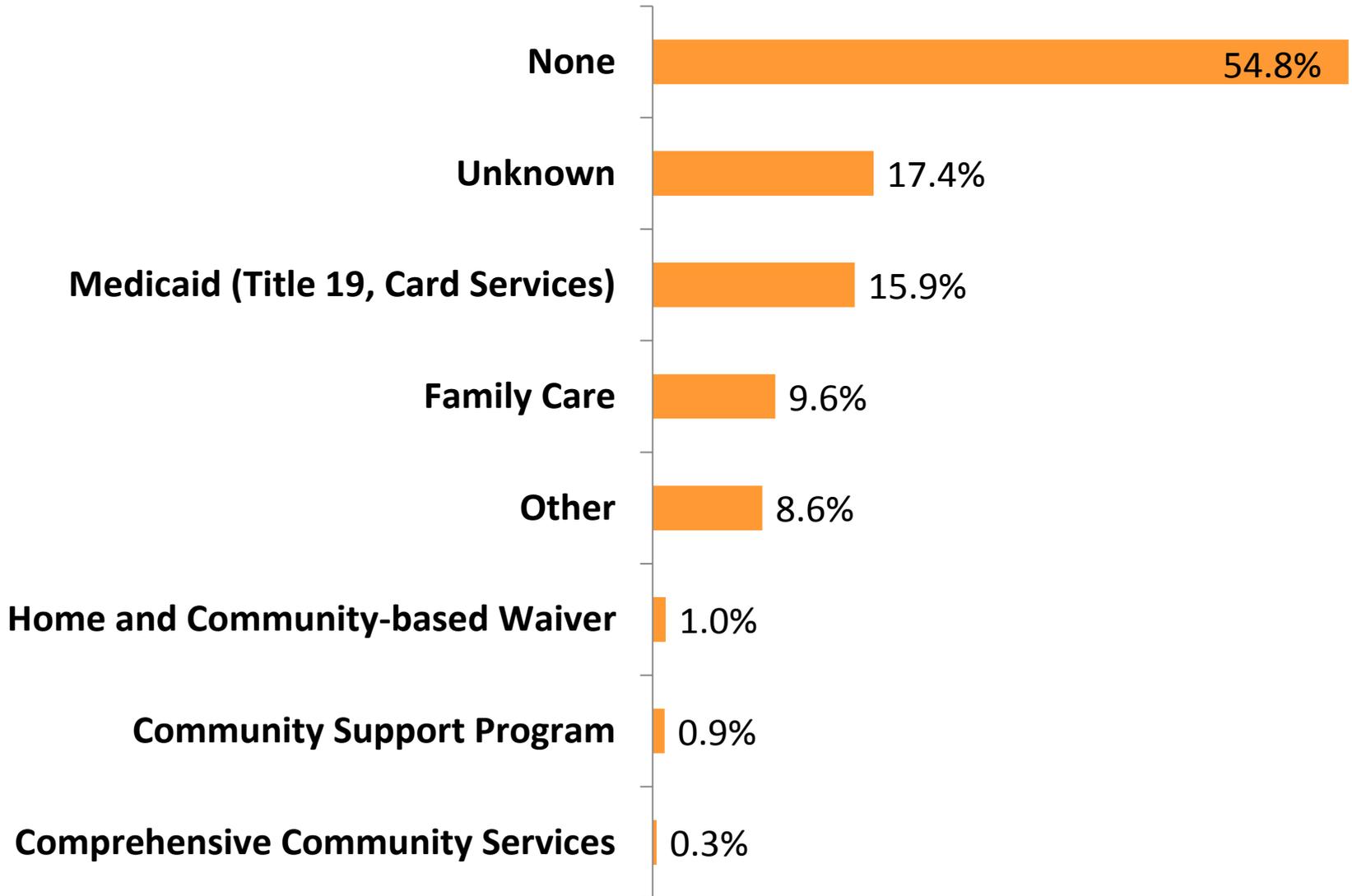


County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	54	0.9%
Comprehensive Community Services	17	0.3%
Family Care	558	9.6%
Home and Communitybased Waiver	59	1.0%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	920	15.9%
Unknown	1,006	17.4%
Other	499	8.6%
None	3,171	54.8%

Note: Elder Adult at Risk may be served by more than one program, so sum does not equal 100%.

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



Does Elder Adult-at-Risk Have a Substitute Decision-Maker?

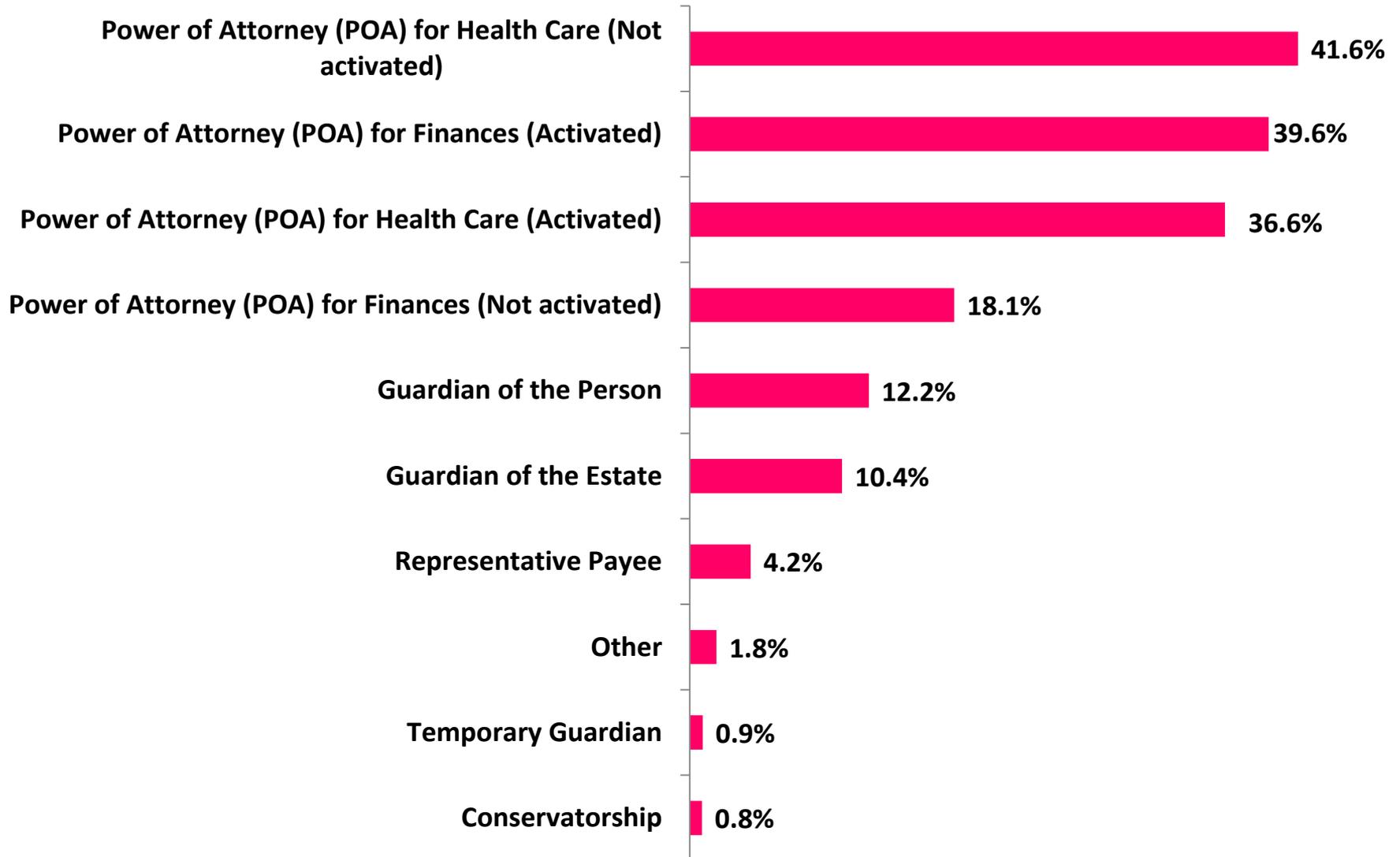
	Number	Percent
No	2,950	51.0%
Yes	2,141	37.0%
Unknown	694	12.0%
Total	5,785	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	18	0.8%
Guardian of the Person	262	12.2%
Guardian of the Estate	223	10.4%
Representative Payee	89	4.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	847	39.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	387	18.1%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	783	36.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	890	41.6%
Temporary Guardian	19	0.9%
Other	39	1.8%

Note: Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision-maker (n=2,141). Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker



Elder Adult at Risk's Characteristics		
	Number	Percent
Frail elderly	2,688	46.5%
Dementia	1,561	27.0%
Mobility impaired	964	16.7%
Medically fragile	846	14.6%
Disoriented and confused	820	14.2%
Other medical condition	756	13.1%
Physical disability	542	9.4%
Diabetes	539	9.3%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	524	9.1%
Homebound	493	8.5%
None of the listed characteristics	361	6.2%
Incontinent	360	6.2%
Deaf/hard of hearing	299	5.2%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	297	5.1%
Alcohol abuse	291	5.0%
Stroke-related condition	250	4.3%
Other characteristic	236	4.1%
Blind or visually impaired	177	3.1%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on Adult at Risk	175	3.0%
Chronic mental illness	173	3.0%
Chronic alcoholic	156	2.7%
Morbidly obese	132	2.3%
Developmental disability	127	2.2%
Brain injury	69	1.2%
Unemployed	53	0.9%
Drug abuse	46	0.8%
Communication disorder	40	0.7%
Functionally illiterate	31	0.5%
Financially dependent on abuser	30	0.5%
Limited English proficiency	19	0.3%
<i>Percents refer to share of all elder 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	107	3.5%
25 to 44 years	574	18.8%
45 to 59 years	874	28.6%
60 to 79 years	508	16.6%
80 years or older	190	6.2%
Unknown	803	26.3%
Total	3,056	100.0%
<i>Total includes all alleged abusers; some incidents involve more than one.</i>		

Alleged Abusers' Gender		
	Number	Percent
Male	1,509	49.4%
Female	1,435	47.0%
Unknown	112	3.7%
Total	3,056	100.0%

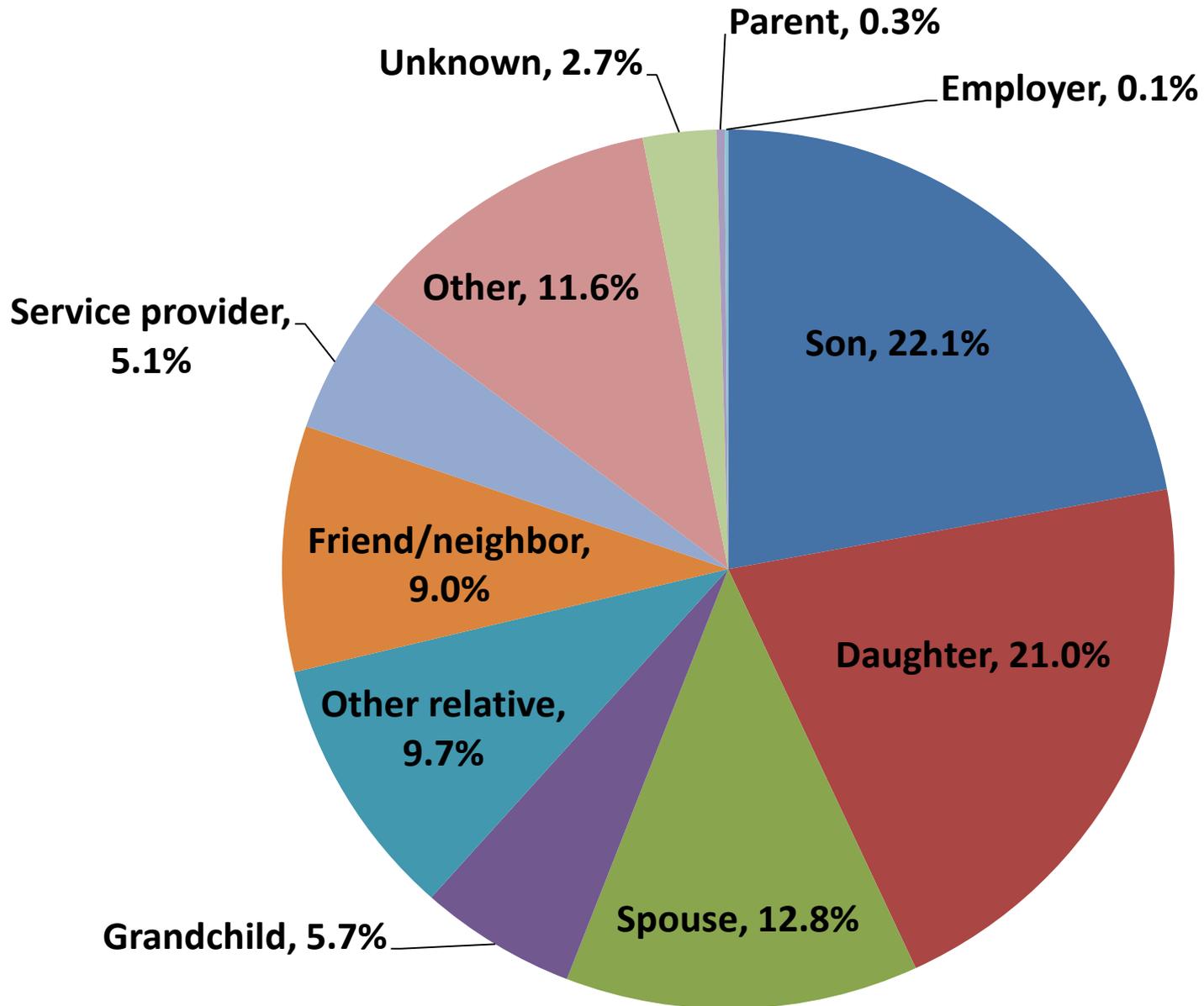
Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Son	675	22.1%
Daughter	642	21.0%
Spouse	391	12.8%
Grandchild	174	5.7%
Other relative	295	9.7%
Friend/neighbor	276	9.0%
Service provider	156	5.1%
Other	353	11.6%
Unknown	81	2.7%
Parent	9	0.3%
Employer	4	0.1%
Total	3,056	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,417	46.4%
No	1,534	50.2%
Unknown	105	3.4%
Total	3,056	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	1,458	47.7%
No	1,516	49.6%
Unknown	82	2.7%
Total	3,056	100.0%

Do Alleged Abusers Have Any Legal or Substitute Decision-Maker Status?		
	Number	Percent
Any legal or substitute decision-maker status listed	963	31.5%
No status listed	2,093	68.5%
Total	3,056	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	8	0.3%
Guardian of the Person	111	3.6%
Guardian of the Estate	95	3.1%
Temporary Guardian	3	0.1%
Representative Payee	44	1.4%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	442	14.5%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	113	3.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	373	12.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	278	9.1%
Other legal status	41	1.3%
Unknown legal status	339	11.1%
No legal status	1,748	57.2%

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	170	5.6%
Blind or visually impaired	5	0.2%
Brain injury	6	0.2%
Chronic alcoholic	42	1.4%
Chronic mental illness	43	1.4%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	135	4.4%
Communication disorder	0	0.0%
Deaf/hard of hearing	13	0.4%
Dementia	61	2.0%
Developmental disability	27	0.9%
Diabetes	19	0.6%
Disoriented and confused	35	1.1%
Drug abuse	187	6.1%
Financial dependence: elder adult at risk on abuser	534	17.5%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on elder adult at risk	32	1.0%
Frail Elderly	139	4.5%
Functionally illiterate	2	0.1%
Homebound	11	0.4%
Incontinent	7	0.2%
Limited English proficiency	1	0.0%
Medically fragile	36	1.2%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	154	5.0%
Mobility impaired	33	1.1%
Morbidly Obese	29	0.9%
Physical Disability	81	2.7%
Stroke-related condition	9	0.3%
Unemployed	319	10.4%
Other medical condition	54	1.8%
Other characteristic	267	8.7%
None of the listed characteristics	1,507	49.3%
<i>Multiple responses were 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	156	5.4%
No, one alleged abuser only	2,731	94.6%
Total (all reported incidents with at least one abuser)	2,887	100.0%

Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	3,113	53.8%
Unsubstantiated	1,879	32.5%
Unable to Substantiate	793	13.7%
Total	5,785	100.0%

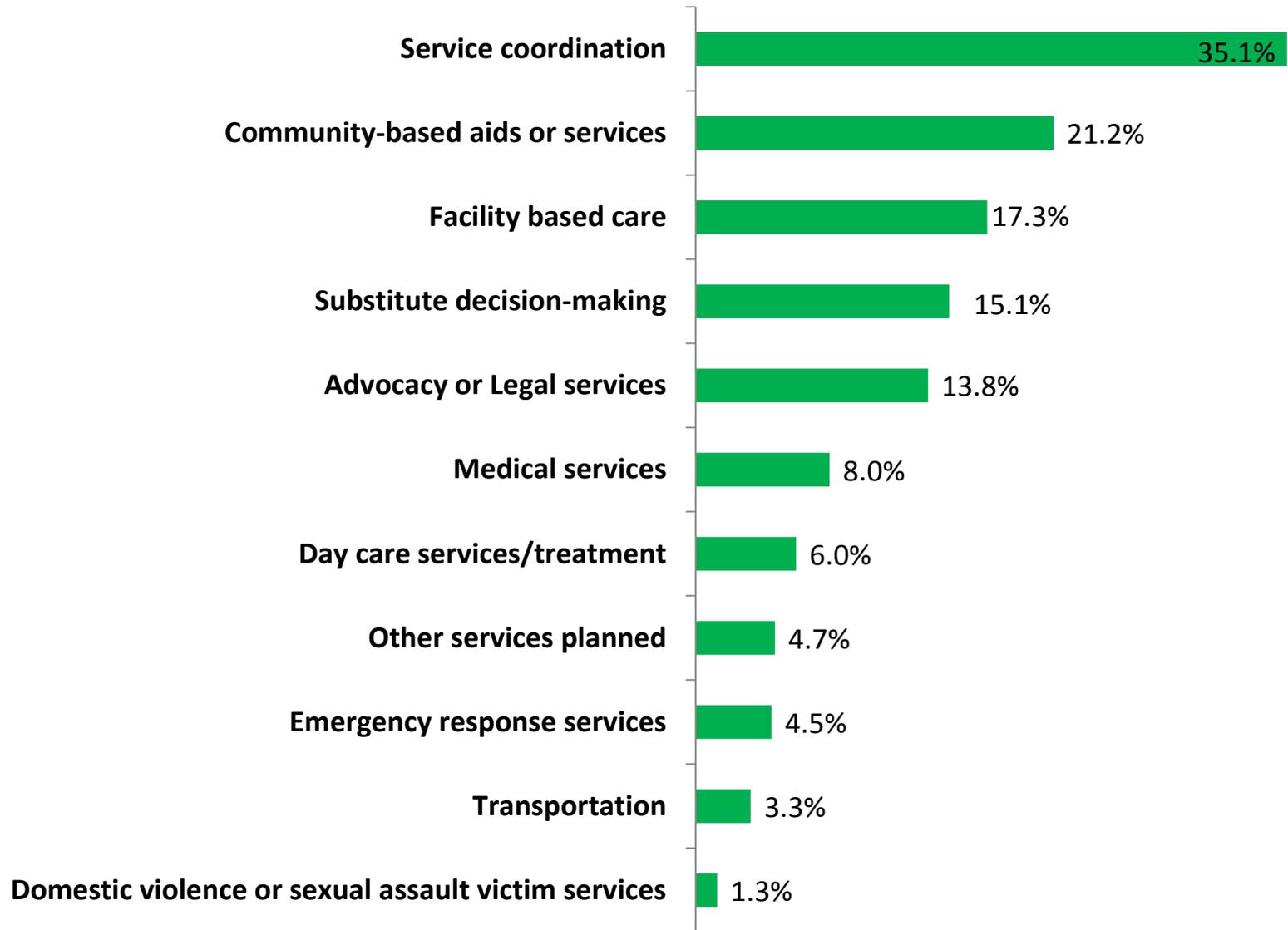
Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	445	7.7%
Investigation not accepted	262	4.5%
Mental health commitment	50	0.9%
Outreach continues	521	9.0%
Protective services placement	333	5.8%
Referral made to other agency	442	7.6%
Referral made to state agency	15	0.3%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry	16	0.3%
Referral to law enforcement or Department of Justice	297	5.1%
Referral to detoxification services	9	0.2%
Referral to protection or advocacy agencies	38	0.7%
Referral to regulatory authority	24	0.4%
Services needed are not available	27	0.5%
Services not needed	879	15.2%
Services offered, but not accepted	1,328	23.0%
Services offered-all accepted	821	14.2%
Services offered-some accepted	1,427	24.7%
Response or investigation continues	52	0.9%
Other legal action	121	2.1%
Other disposition	345	6.0%
<i>Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		

Services Planned for Elder Adult-at-Risk

	Number	Percent
Advocacy/Legal services	798	13.8%
Community based aids/services	1,229	21.2%
Day care services/treatment	345	6.0%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	74	1.3%
Emergency response services	260	4.5%
Facility based care	1,001	17.3%
Medical services	460	8.0%
Service coordination	2,031	35.1%
Substitute decision-making	871	15.1%
Transportation	189	3.3%
Other services planned	272	4.7%

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 Elder Adult-at-Risk



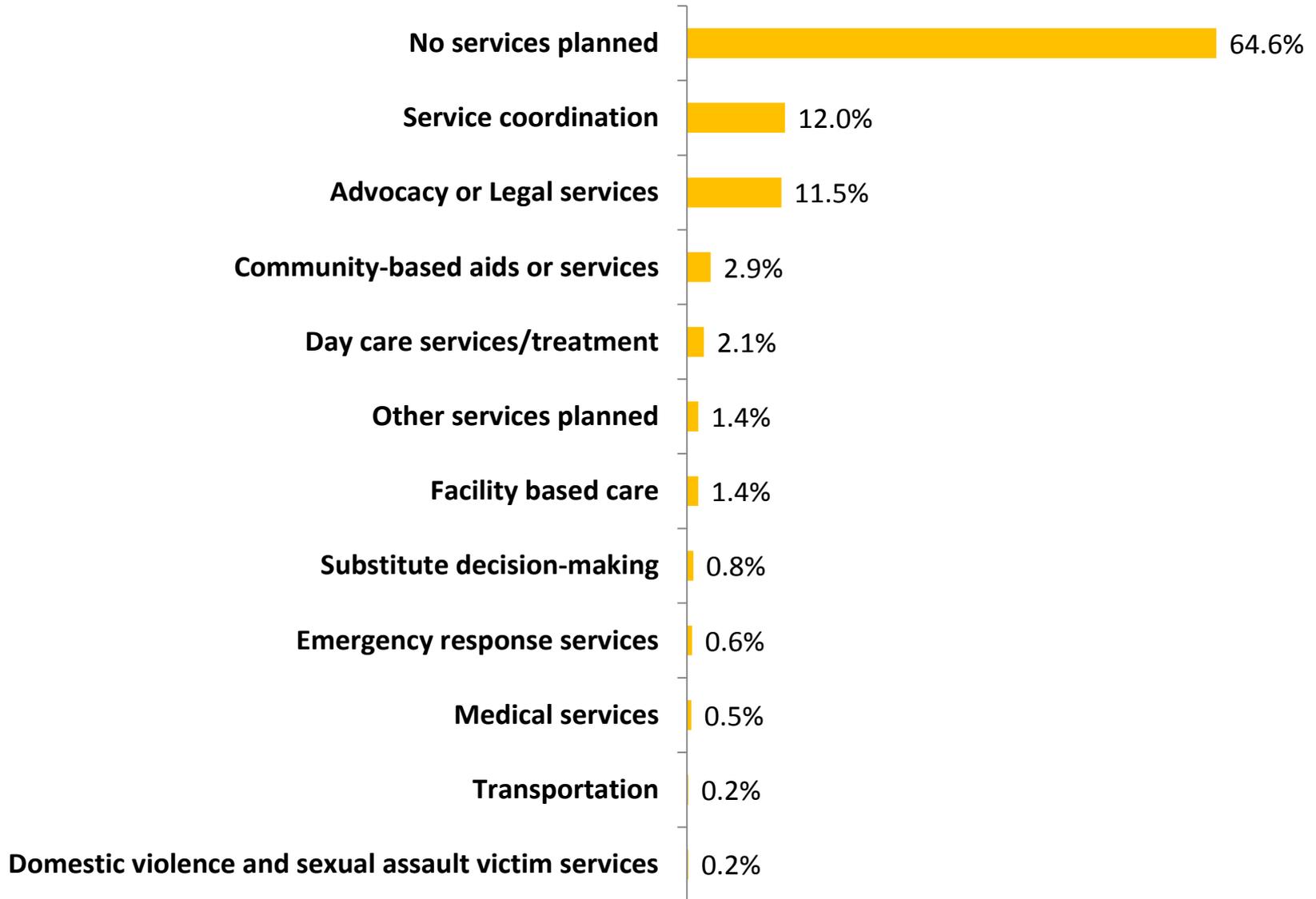
Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

Service	Number	Percent
No services planned	1,922	64.6%
Advocacy/Legal services	343	11.5%
Community based aids/services	86	2.9%
Day care services/treatment	62	2.1%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	5	0.2%
Emergency response services	19	0.6%
Facility based care	41	1.4%
Medical services	16	0.5%
Service coordination	356	12.0%
Substitute decision-making	23	0.8%
Transportation	5	0.2%
Other services planned	41	1.4%

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

Percents refer to share of all incidents in which abuse or neglect was alleged (n=2,977).

Services Plan for Alleged Abuser(s)



Contact Information

Stan Shemanski, Advocacy and Protection Systems Developer

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Division of Long Term Care

Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources

P.O. Box 7851, Madison WI 53707-7851

Phone: 608-266-2568

FAX: 608-267-3203

Email: stanley.shemanski@wisconsin.gov