

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2005

*A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties*

Introduction: The Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report

In Wisconsin, county agencies receive elder abuse and neglect referrals and respond to them, determining whether a situation of abuse or neglect exists and creating individualized service plans to assist elder persons and help ensure their safety. After concluding each response, county agencies file an incident report with the Department of Health and Family Services. A compilation of all county incident reports from 2005 are the basis of this statewide Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report.

A total of 4,234 cases of suspected abuse and neglect were reported in 2005, an increase of 7.5 percent from 2004. Tragically, 21 were fatal and another 353 were considered life-threatening. About one in 11 incidents (8.3%) involved either a fatal or life-threatening situation.

Growing Awareness of Elder Abuse

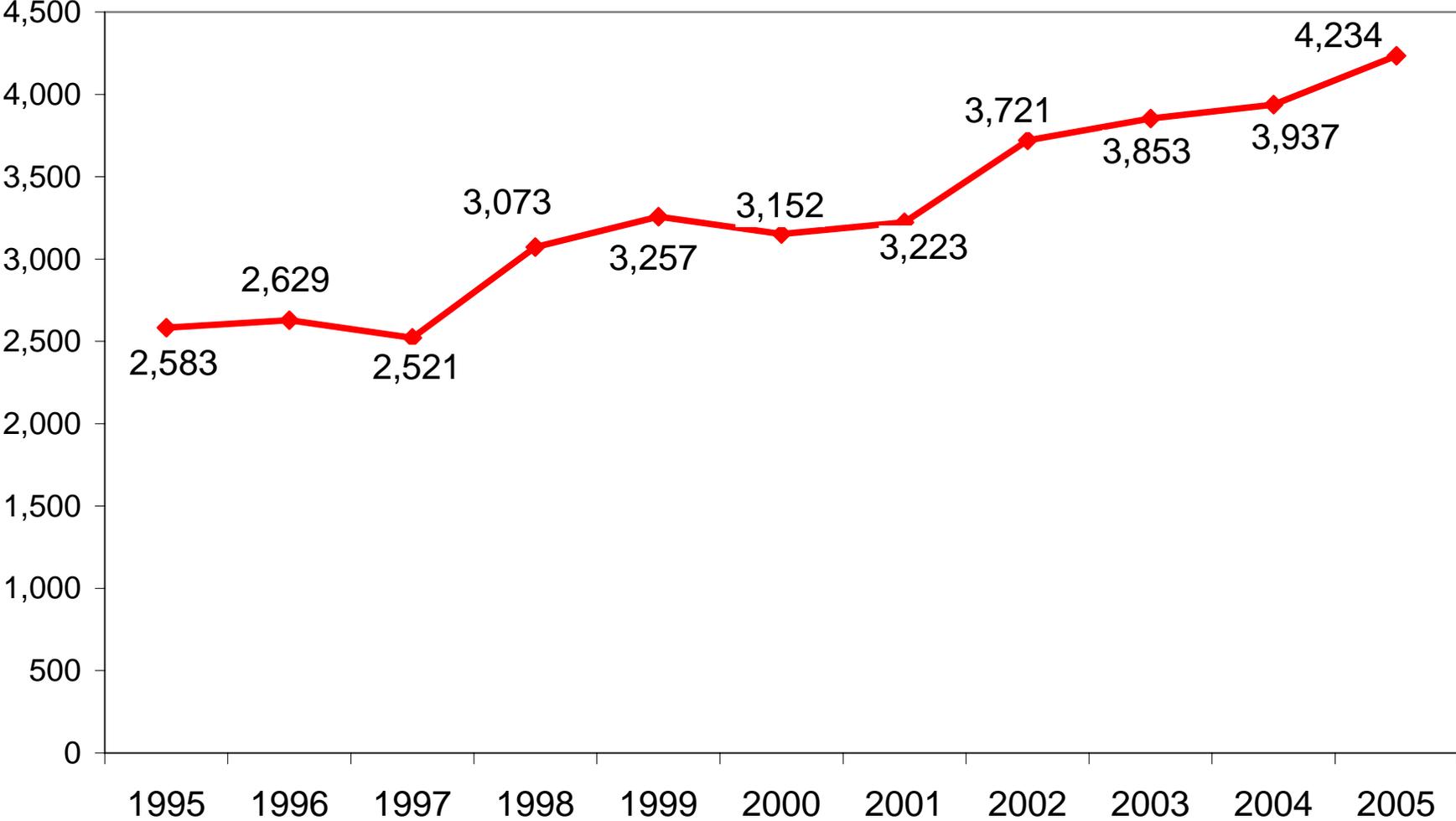
In the absence of a large-scale, nationwide tracking system it is difficult to say how many older Americans are victims of elder abuse. However, smaller sample studies conducted over the past few years confirm what elder abuse experts have long believed: reported elder abuse cases make up only the "tip of the iceberg." This report documents the growing number of reported elder abuse incidents in Wisconsin, and provides information about the types of abuse reported, characteristics of the victims and abusers, and local responses which guide the State's efforts to prevent elder abuse. The increase of reported incidents in Wisconsin signals better communication between law enforcement, health care professionals and social services agencies, which leads to more people recognizing signs of abuse and helping to ensure the safety of our seniors.

Number of Reports Received

Year	Number	% Change over previous year
2005	4,234	7.5%
2004	3,937	2.2%
2003	3,853	3.5%
2002	3,721	15.5%
2001	3,223	2.3%
2000	3,152	-3.2%
1999	3,257	6.0%
1998	3,073	21.9%
1997	2,521	-4.1%
1996	2,629	1.8%
1995	2,583	1.2%

Note: The total number of elder abuse reports in 2005 reflects an increase of 7.5% over the number of reports received for 2004.

Number of Reports Annually

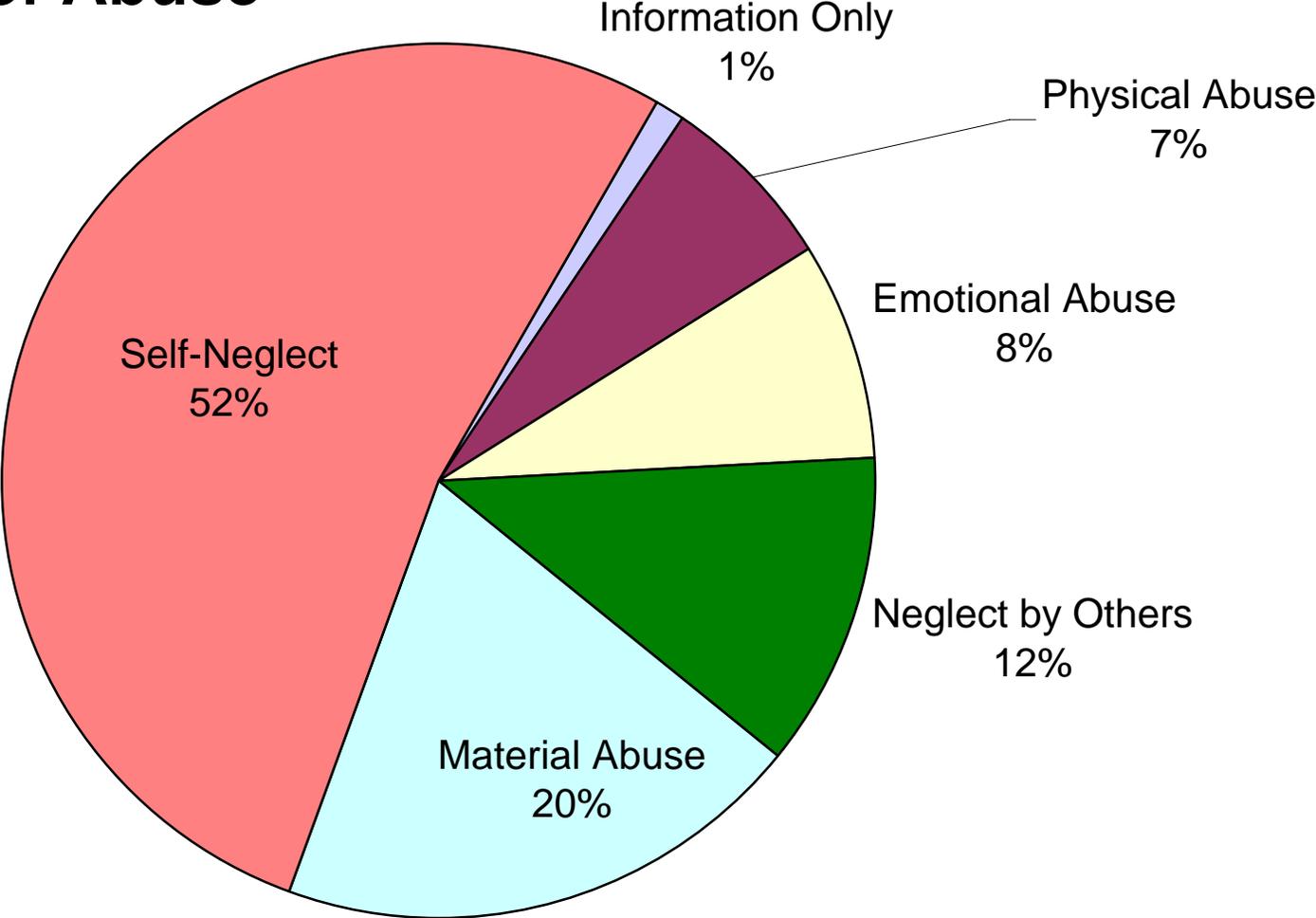


Types of Abuse Reported

Type of abuse	Number	Percent of Incidents
Self-Neglect	2,236	52.8%
Material Abuse	835	19.7%
Neglect by Others	487	11.5%
Physical Abuse	285	6.7%
Emotional Abuse	342	8.1%
Information Only	49	1.2%

Note: Emotional abuse is included in this report even though not required by law. Practitioners have observed that maltreatment which is self-inflicted is just as potentially harmful as maltreatment inflicted by others. Of the 21 fatalities reported in 2005, 12 involved self-neglect.

Types of Abuse

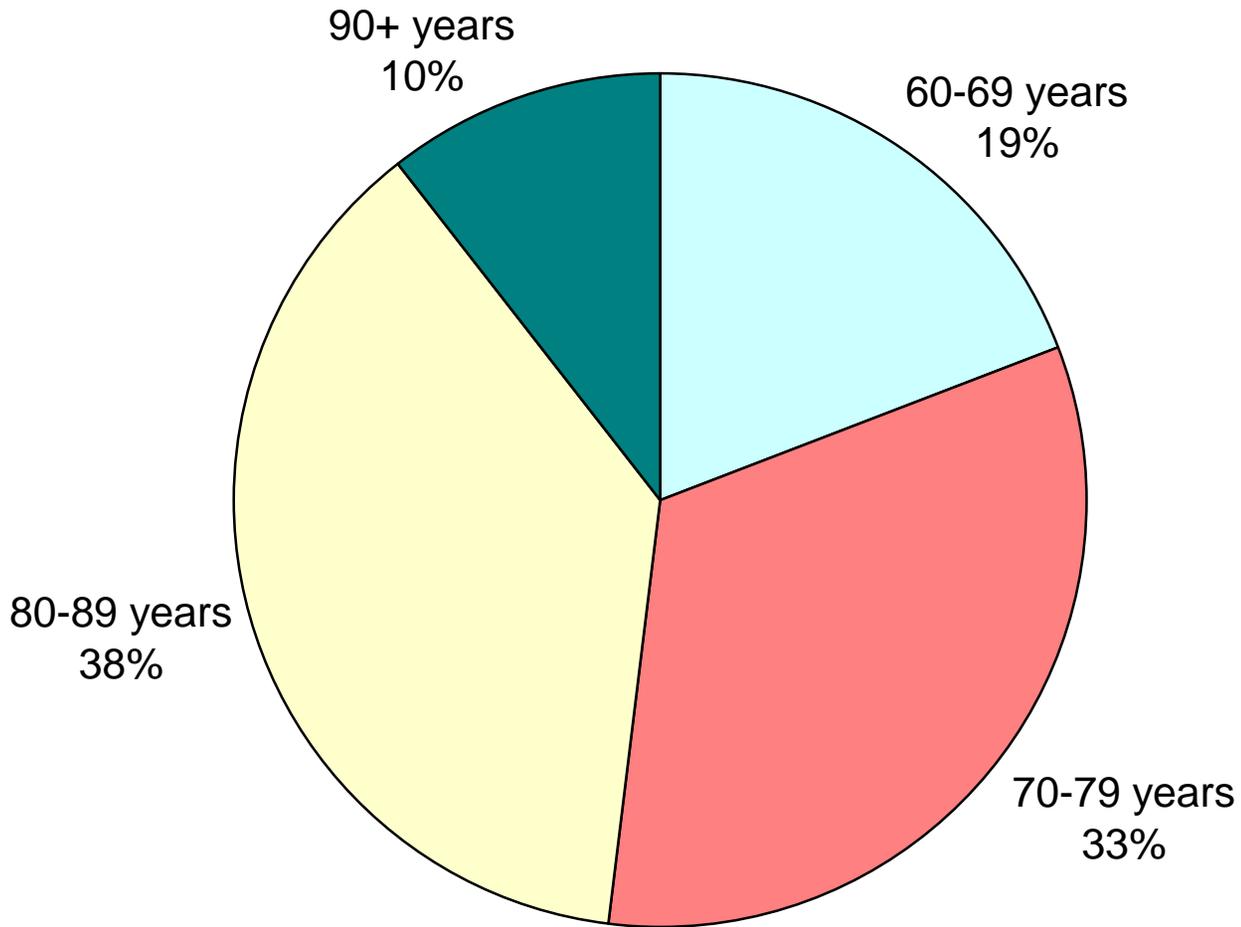


Age of Victim

Age	Number	Percent
Under 60	20	0.5%
60-69 years	802	18.9%
70-79 years	1,384	32.7%
80-89 years	1,587	37.5%
90+ years	441	10.4%

Note: The largest group of victims, by age cohort, are 80 through 89 years old.

Age of Victim



Victim's Gender

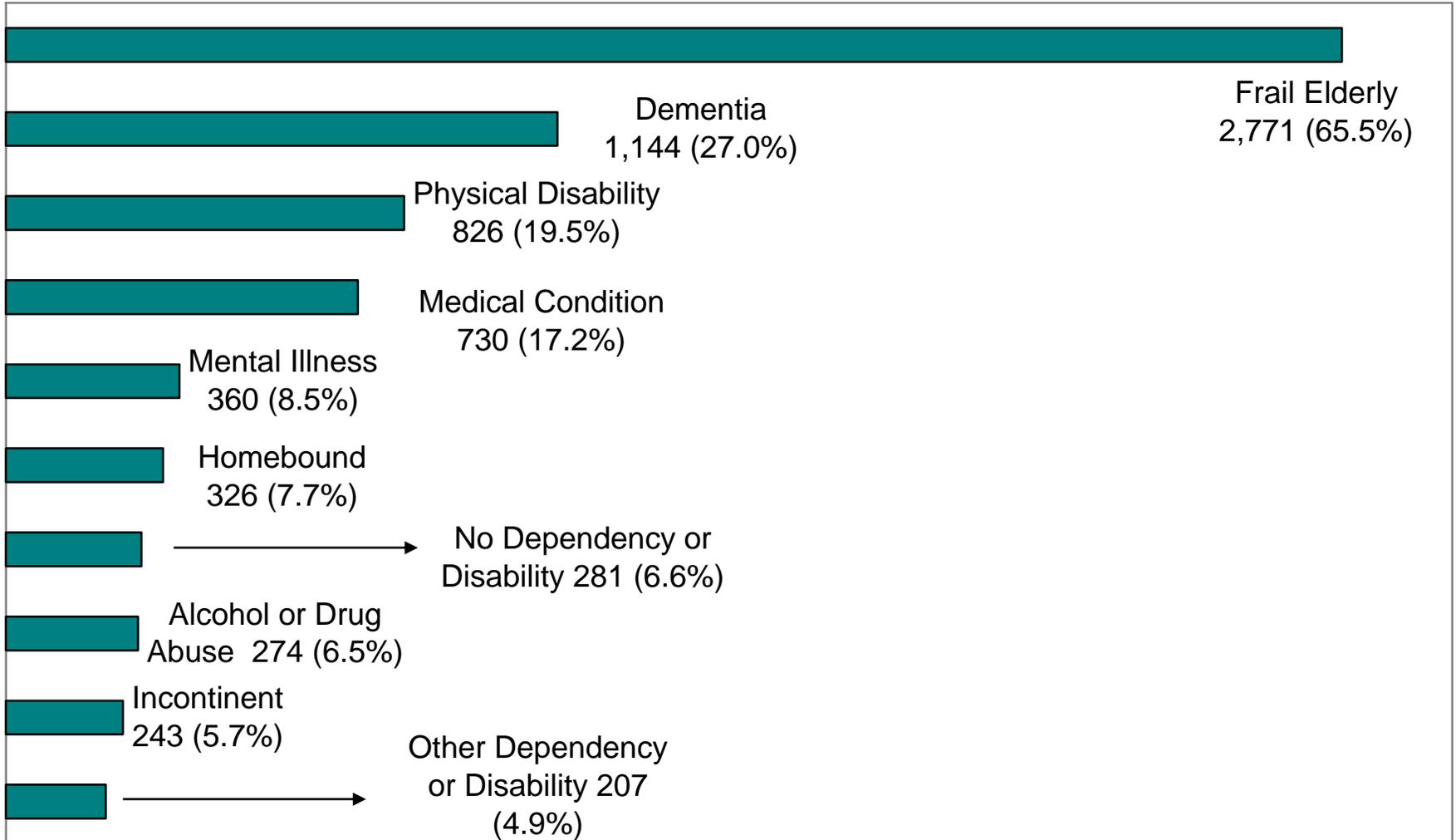
	Number	Percent
Male	1,546	36.5%
Female	2,688	63.5%

Victim Characteristics

	Number	Percent
Frail Elderly	2,771	65.5%
Dementia	1,144	27.0%
Physical Disability	826	19.5%
Medical Condition	730	17.2%
Mental Illness	360	8.5%
Homebound	326	7.7%
Incontinent	243	5.7%
Alcohol or Drug Abuse	274	6.5%
Other Dependency or Disability	207	4.9%
No Dependency or Disability	281	6.6%

Note: Total is greater than 100% because a victim may have more than one client characteristic.

Victim Characteristics

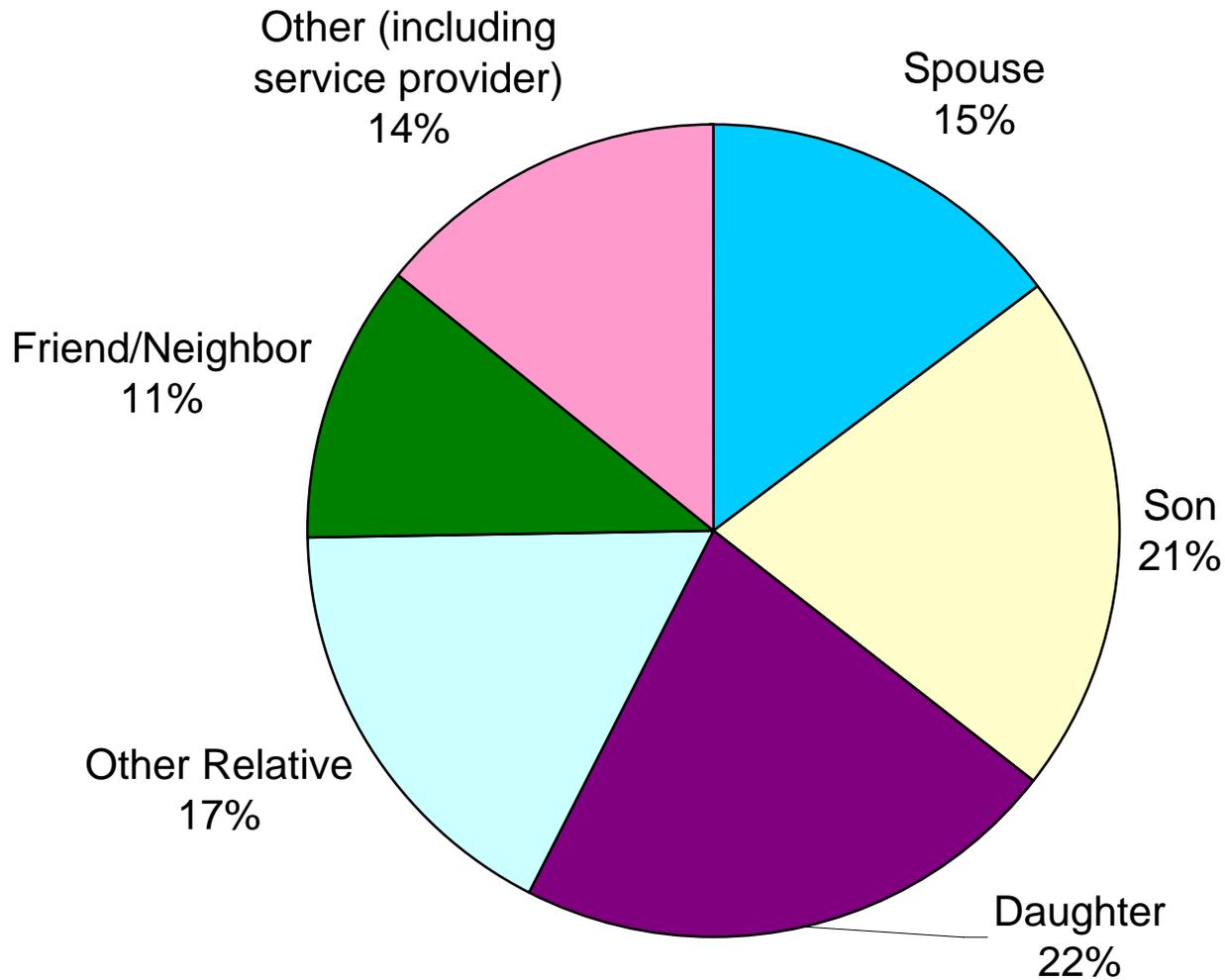


Alleged Abuser's Relationship to Elder Person

	Number	Percent
Spouse	319	14.6%
Son	448	20.6%
Daughter	478	21.9%
Other Relative	369	16.9%
Friend/Neighbor	243	11.1%
Other (including service provider)	307	14.1%

Note: Data on abusers reflect total reports made, not number of substantiated cases. The number of alleged abusers includes situations in which there was more than one abuser. In 2005, of the 4,234 cases reported, 2236 involved self-neglecting elders. In the remaining cases, over 74% of the alleged abusers were relatives of the victim.

Abuser's Relationship to Elder Person

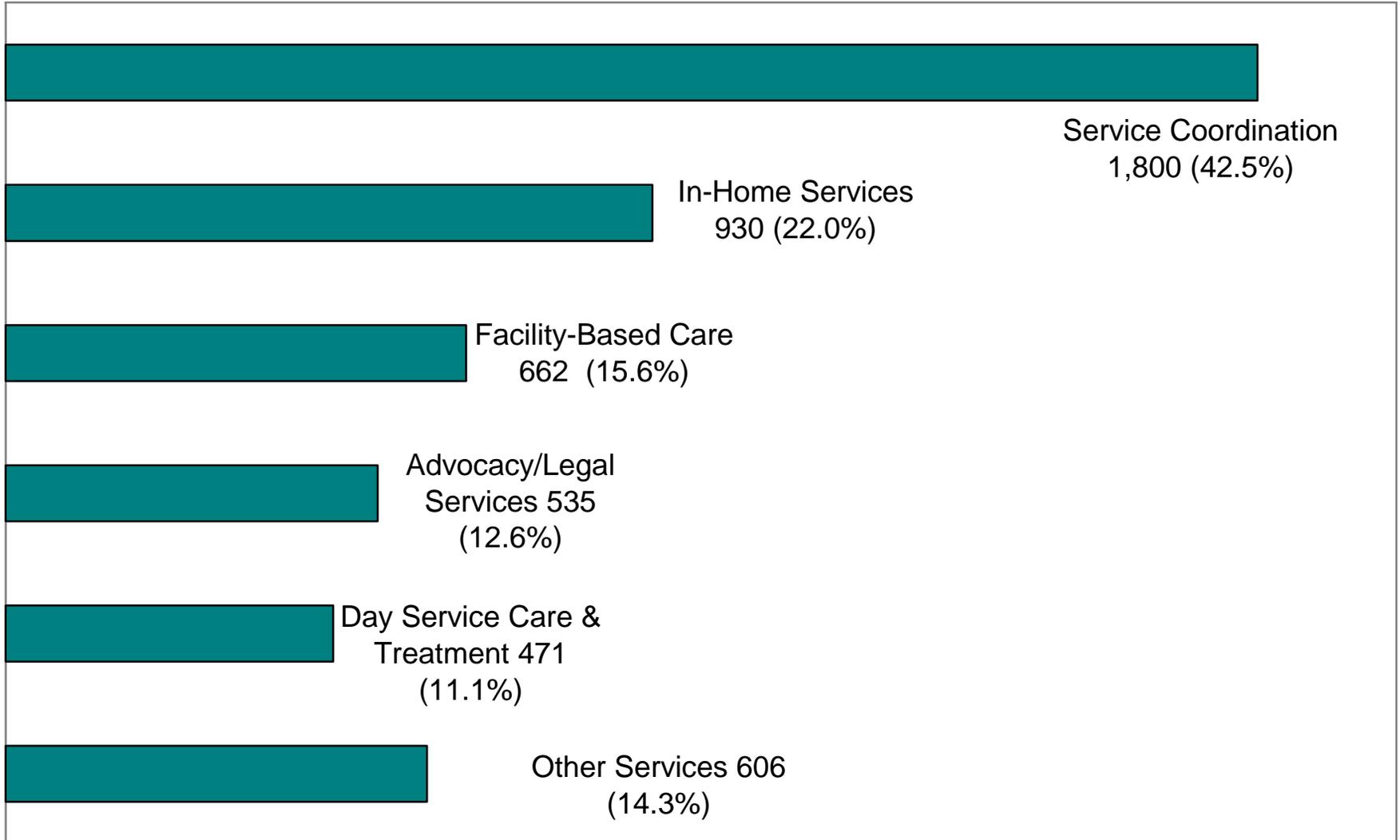


Array of Services Planned

	Number	Percent
Other Services	606	14.3%
Advocacy/Legal Services	535	12.6%
Day Service Care & Treatment	471	11.1%
Facility-Based Care	662	15.6%
In-Home Services	930	22.0%
Service Coordination	1,800	42.5%

Note: Services were planned in 79% of the cases (3,331 of 4,234 cases total). An average of 1.7 services per case were planned by county staff.

Array of Services Planned

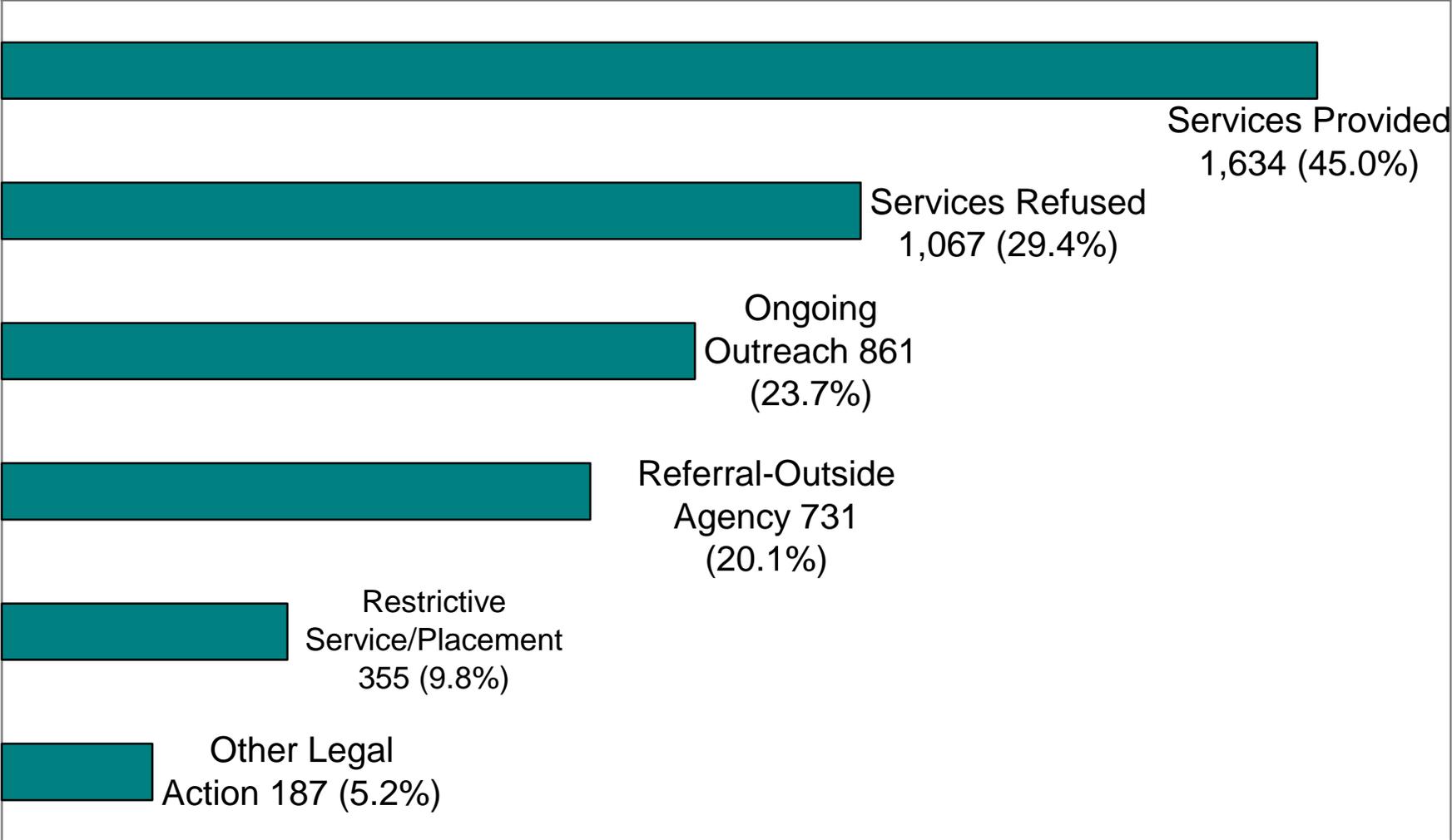


Actions Taken

	Number	Percent
Services Provided	1,634	45.0%
Services Refused	1,067	29.4%
Restrictive Service or Placement	355	9.8%
Referral to Outside Agency	731	20.1%
Ongoing Outreach	861	23.7%
Other Legal Action on Behalf of Victim	187	5.2%

Note: The percents in this table include only those cases in which needs were identified. In over 29% of these cases, the victims refused the services offered, as is their right as competent adults under Wisconsin law. The remaining individuals accepted one or more services from various agencies.

Actions Taken



Life-Threatening and Fatal Incidents

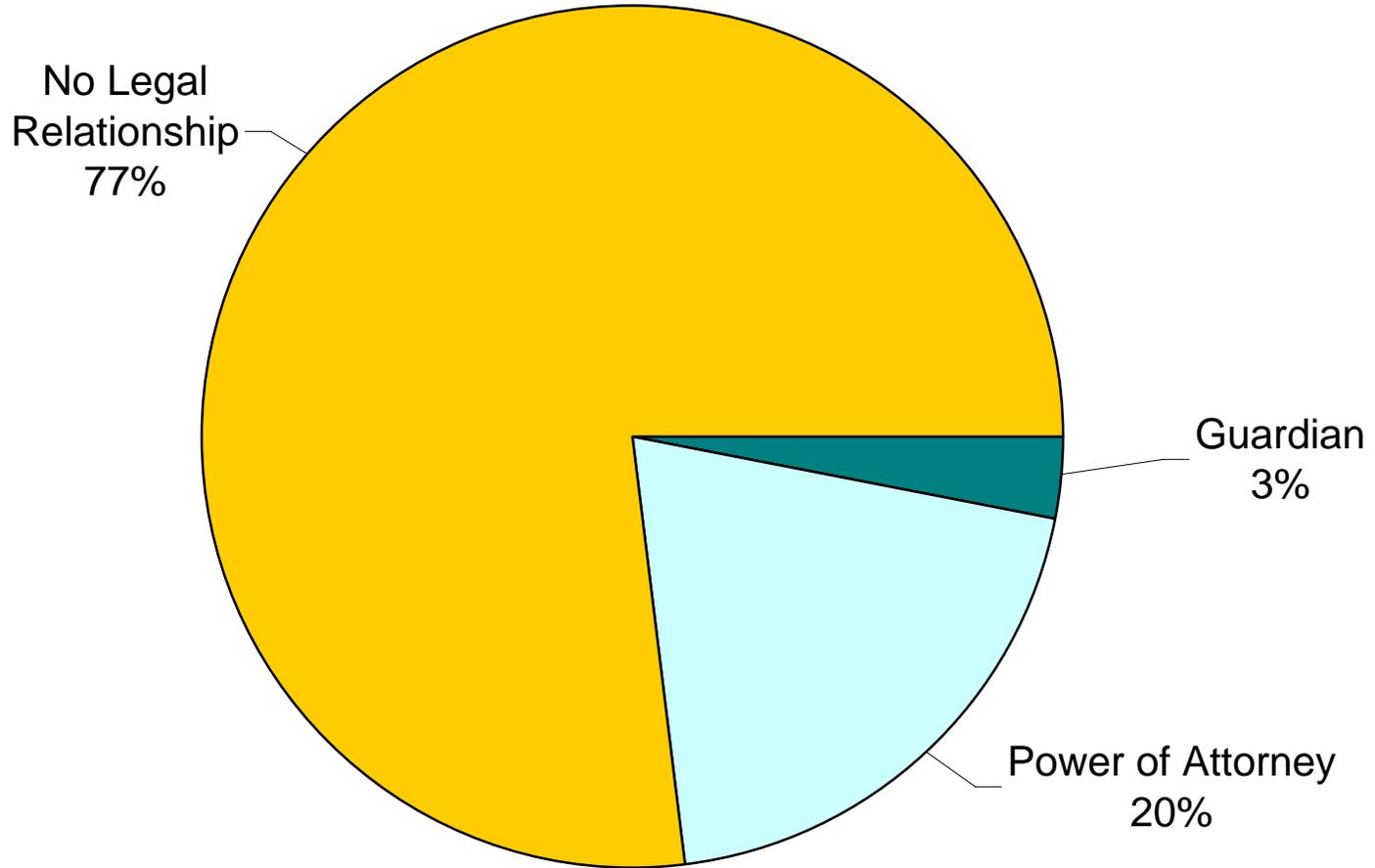
	Number	Percent
Life-Threatening Incidents	353	8.3%
Fatal Incidents	21	0.5%
Fatalities as percent of life-threatening incidents		6.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Guardian	58	2.7%
Power of Attorney	409	18.8%
Conservator	2	0.1%
None	1577	72.3%

Note: The number of alleged abusers includes situations in which there was more than one abuser.

Abusers' Legal Status



Substantiation of Neglect or Abuse

Type of Abuse	Number Substantiated	Percent Substantiated	Number Unsubstantiated	Percent Unsubstantiated	Number Unable to Substantiate	Percent Unable to Substantiate
Self-Neglect	1,305	58.36%	677	30.28%	254	11.36%
Material Abuse	358	42.87%	339	40.60%	138	16.53%
Emotional Abuse	164	47.95%	125	36.55%	53	15.50%
Neglect by Others	155	31.83%	257	52.77%	75	15.40%
Physical Abuse	154	54.04%	92	32.28%	39	13.68%

Note: This table shows the substantiation rates by type of abuse. A total of 49 calls were for "Information Only," and are not reflected in this table.

Substantiation of Neglect or Abuse

