

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2007

*A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties*

P-00124 (10/2008)

Introduction: The Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report

In Wisconsin, county agencies receive elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation referrals and respond to them, determining whether a situation of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation exists and creating individualized service plans to assist elder adults at risk and help ensure their safety.

After responding to an incident, county agencies file an incident report with the Department of Health Services, using the web-based Wisconsin Incident Tracking System (WITS). A compilation of all county incident reports from 2007 are the basis of this statewide Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report.

Growing Awareness of Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation

In 2007 4,766 cases of suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation involving older adults were reported, an increase of 9 percent over 2006. Tragically, 19 incidents were related to a death, and a total of 303 incidents were considered life-threatening. About one in 11 incidents involved a life-threatening or fatal situation.

The increased number of reported incidents signals better communication between law enforcement, health care professionals and social service agencies, which leads to more people recognizing signs of abuse and neglect and helping to ensure the safety of our older residents.

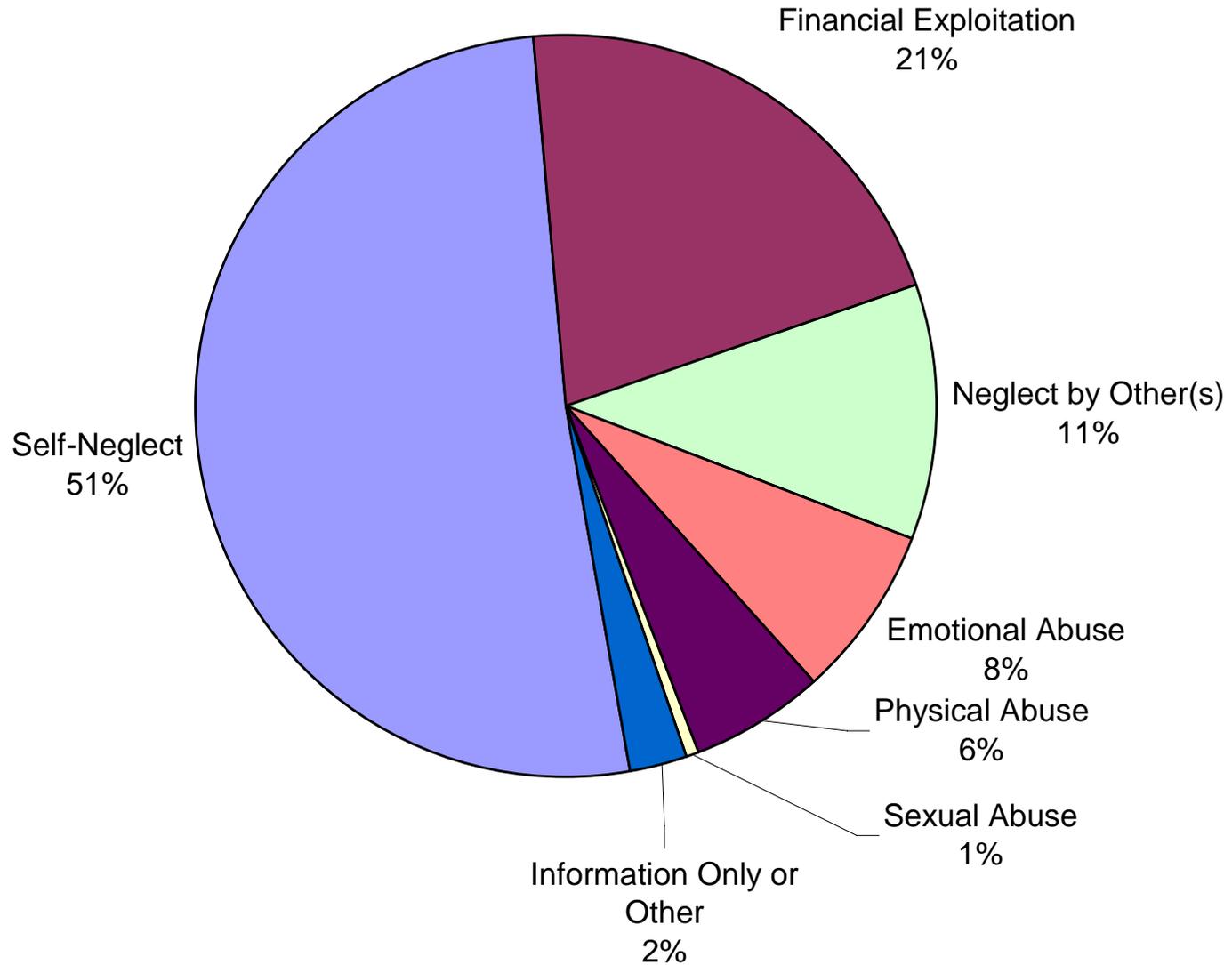
This report documents reported incidents in Wisconsin, providing information about the types of abuse reported, characteristics of the adults at risk and alleged abusers, and local responses which guide the State's efforts to prevent elder abuse.

Primary Reason for Call

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	2,496	51.4%
Financial Exploitation	1,022	21.0%
Neglect by Other(s)	545	11.2%
Emotional Abuse	366	7.5%
Physical Abuse	280	5.8%
Sexual Abuse	34	0.7%
Treatment without Consent	3	0.1%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	20	0.4%
<i>Information Only*</i>	92	1.9%
Total	4,858	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 Reason for Call



Previous report on this individual?

	Number	Percent
No	2,943	62.3%
Yes	1,483	31.4%
Unknown	302	6.4%
Total	4,728	100.0%

Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	4,289	90.0%
Other place	438	9.2%
Place of employment/day services	26	0.6%
School	2	0.0%
Transportation	11	0.2%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Life-Threatening and Fatal Incidents

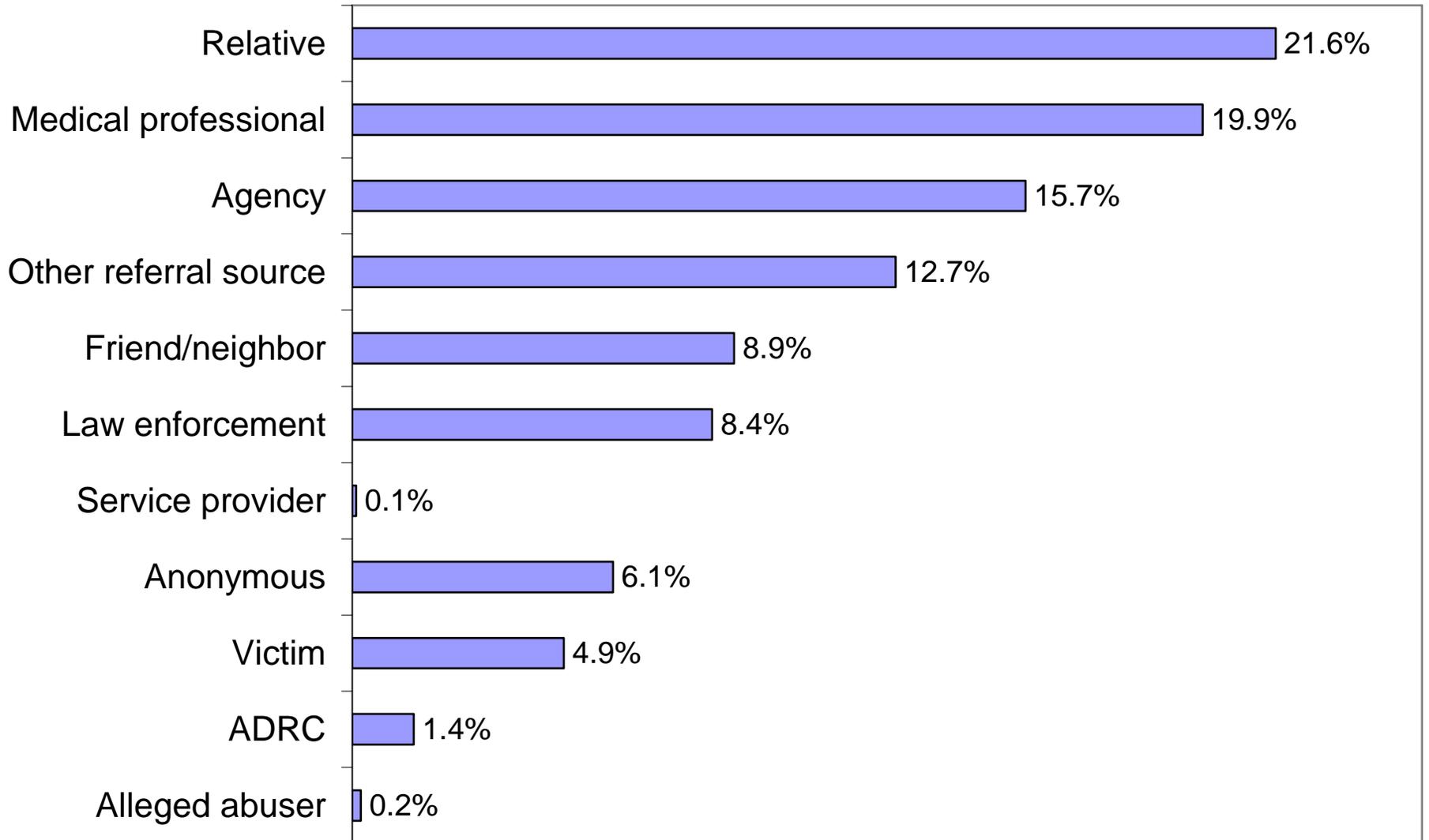
	Number	Percent
Life-threatening incidents (percent of all reports)	303	6.4%
Reports involving persons who have died*	57	18.8%
Deaths that were related to life-threatening incidents*	19	6.3%

*Percents reflect this category's share of all life-threatening incidents.

Referral Source

Referral Source	Number	Percent
ADRC	64	1.4%
Agency	700	15.7%
Alleged abuser	9	0.2%
Anonymous	271	6.1%
Friend/neighbor	397	8.9%
Law enforcement	374	8.4%
Medical professional	884	19.9%
Other referral source	565	12.7%
Relative	960	21.6%
Service provider	4	0.1%
Victim	220	4.9%
Total	4,448	100.0%

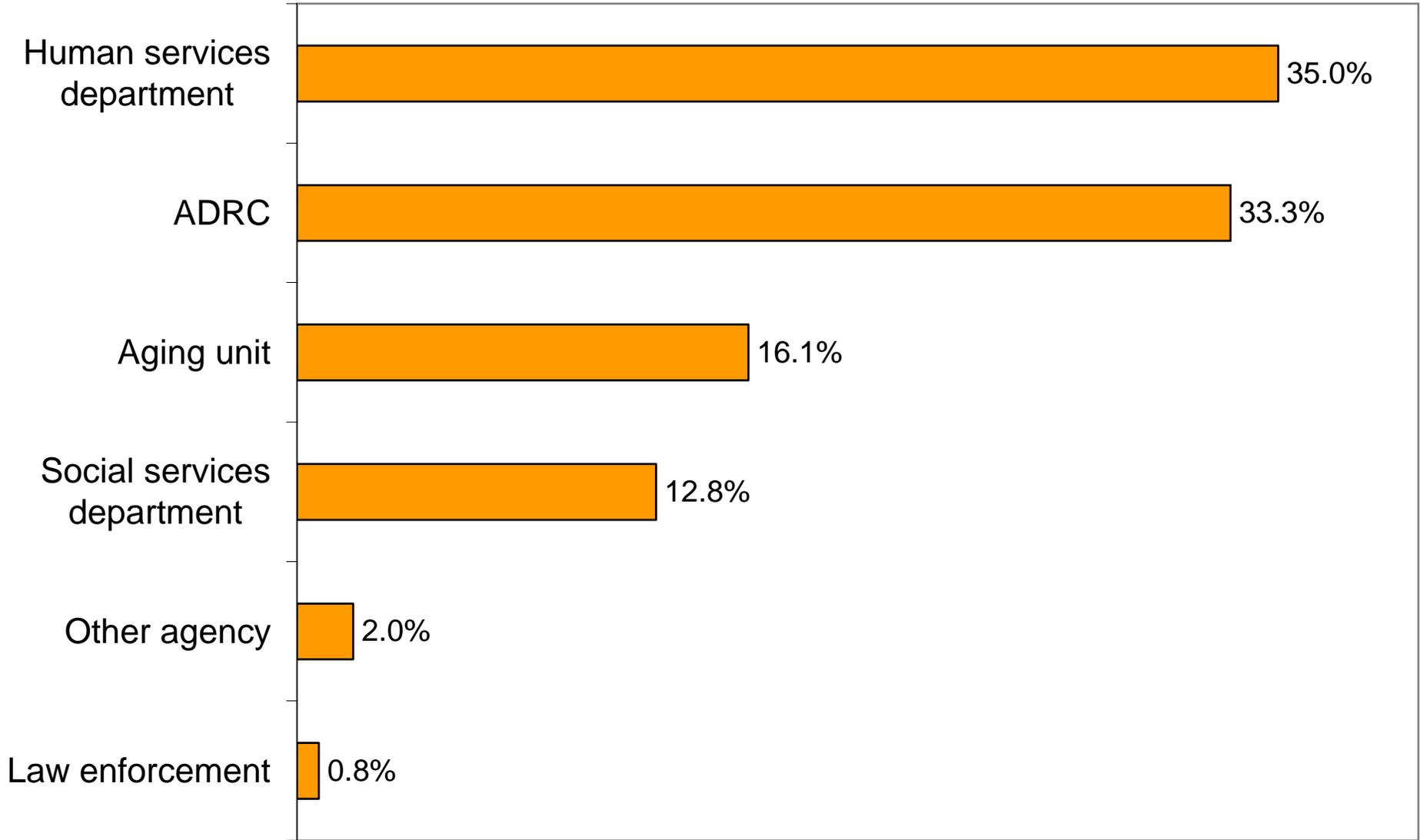
Referral Source



Call Received By

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,573	33.3%
Aging unit	770	16.1%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	8	0.1%
Developmental Disability Board	1	0.0%
Human services department	1,671	35.0%
Law enforcement	37	0.8%
Other agency	93	1.9%
Social services department	613	12.8%
Total	4,766	100.0%

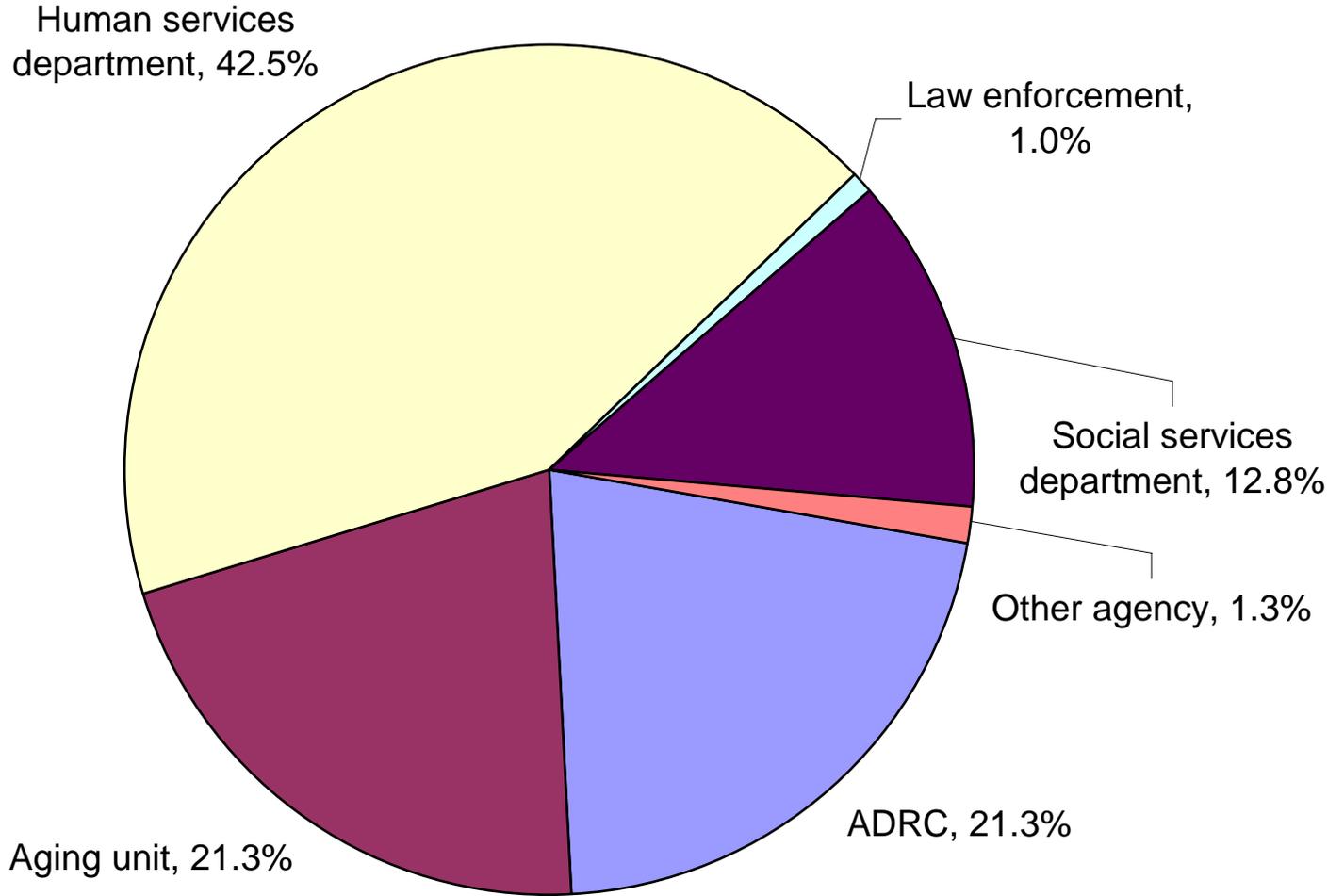
Call Received By...



Initial Investigating Agency

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,014	21.3%
Aging unit	1,013	21.3%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	7	0.2%
Developmental Disability Board	1	0.0%
Housing inspection/zoning	6	0.1%
Human services department	2,024	42.5%
Law enforcement	48	1.0%
Other agency	41	0.9%
Public health dept	3	0.1%
Social services dept	609	12.8%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Initial Investigating Agency



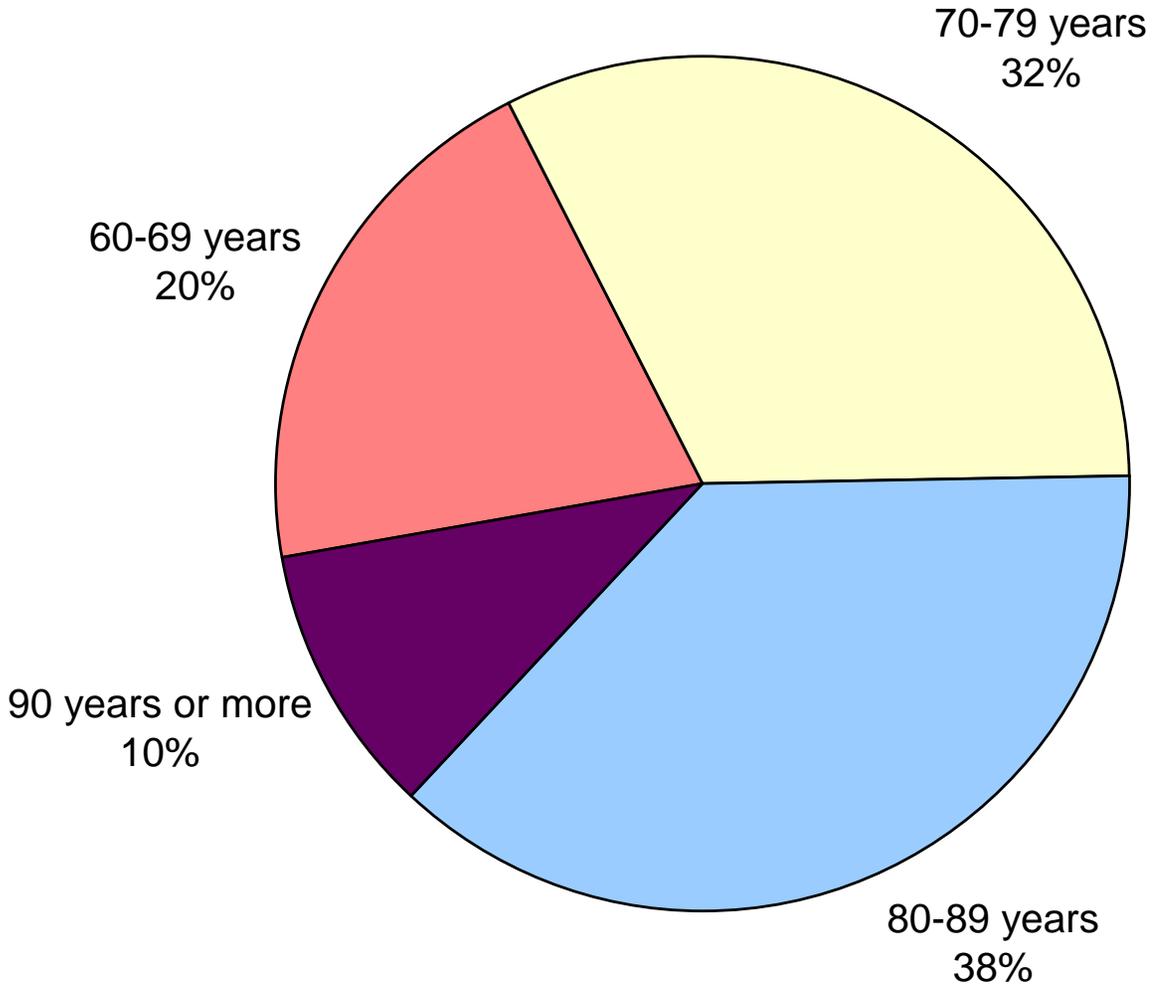
Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	971	20.4%
70-79 years	1,530	32.1%
80-89 years	1,776	37.3%
90 years or more	489	10.3%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	2,950	61.9%
Male	1,810	38.0%
Unknown	6	0.1%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Adult at Risk's Race		
Age	Number	Percent
White	3,917	82.2%
Black/African American	290	6.1%
Native American/Alaska Native	65	1.4%
Asian	14	0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	0.1%
Other race	20	0.4%
Not reported or unknown	455	9.5%
Total	4,766	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.

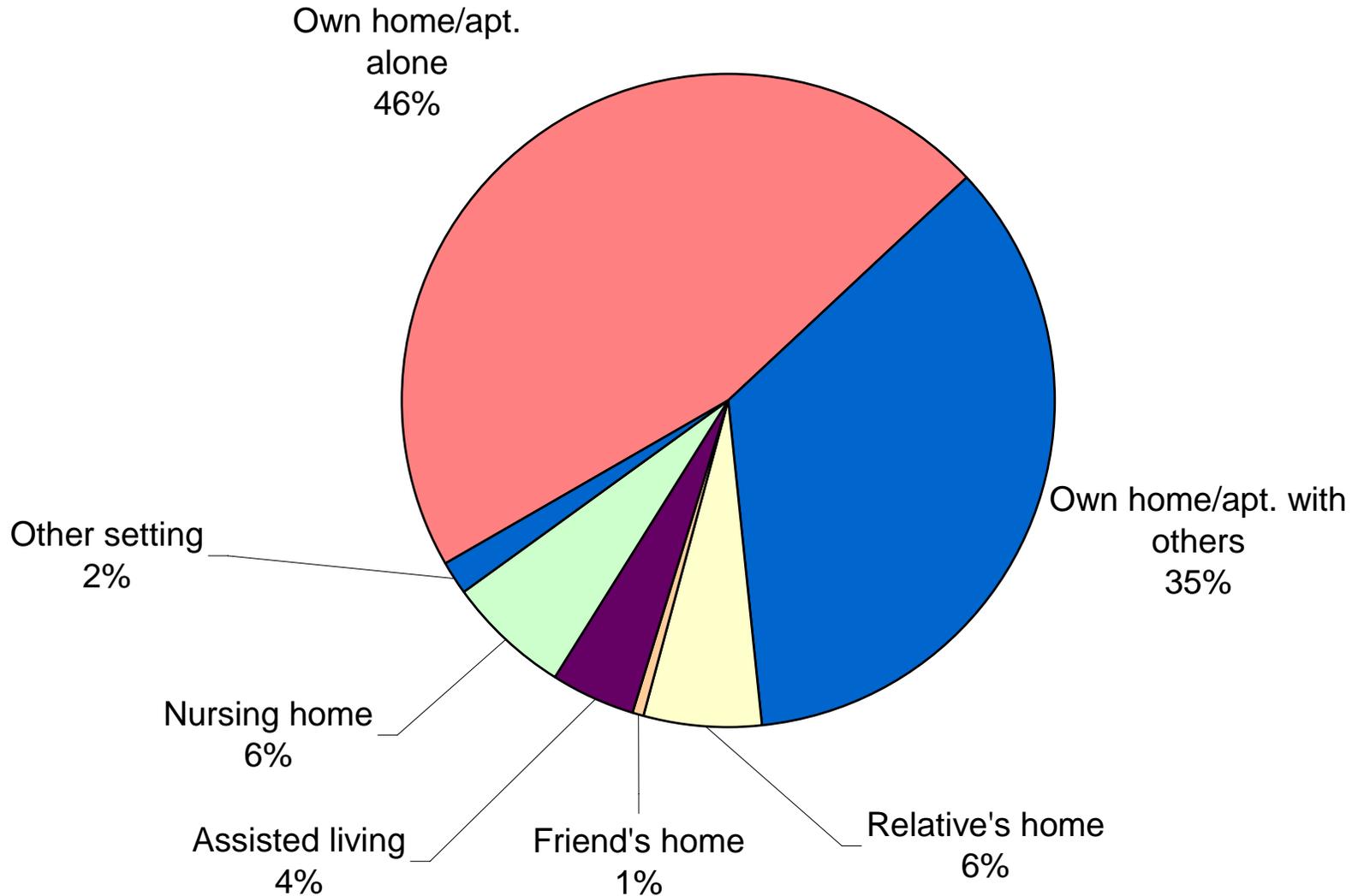
Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home/apartment alone	2,214	46.5%
Own home/apartment with others	1,682	35.3%
Relative's home	274	5.8%
Friend's home	34	0.7%
Adult family home	13	0.3%
Adult family home (licensed)	15	0.3%
Nursing home	290	6.1%
CBRF	136	2.9%
RCAC	32	0.7%
Homeless	23	0.5%
Other setting	45	0.9%
Institution	8	0.2%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement



County/State funded programs that have served this AAR

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	44	n/a
Comprehensive Community Services	8	n/a
Family Care	140	n/a
Home and Community Based Waiver	246	n/a
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	407	n/a
Unknown	423	n/a
Other	295	n/a
None	3,372	n/a

Note: This new question was added to WITS partway through 2007. Thus, not all reports include this information for this year, so percents are not calculated. Multiple responses were allowed.

Does Adult at Risk have substitute decision maker?

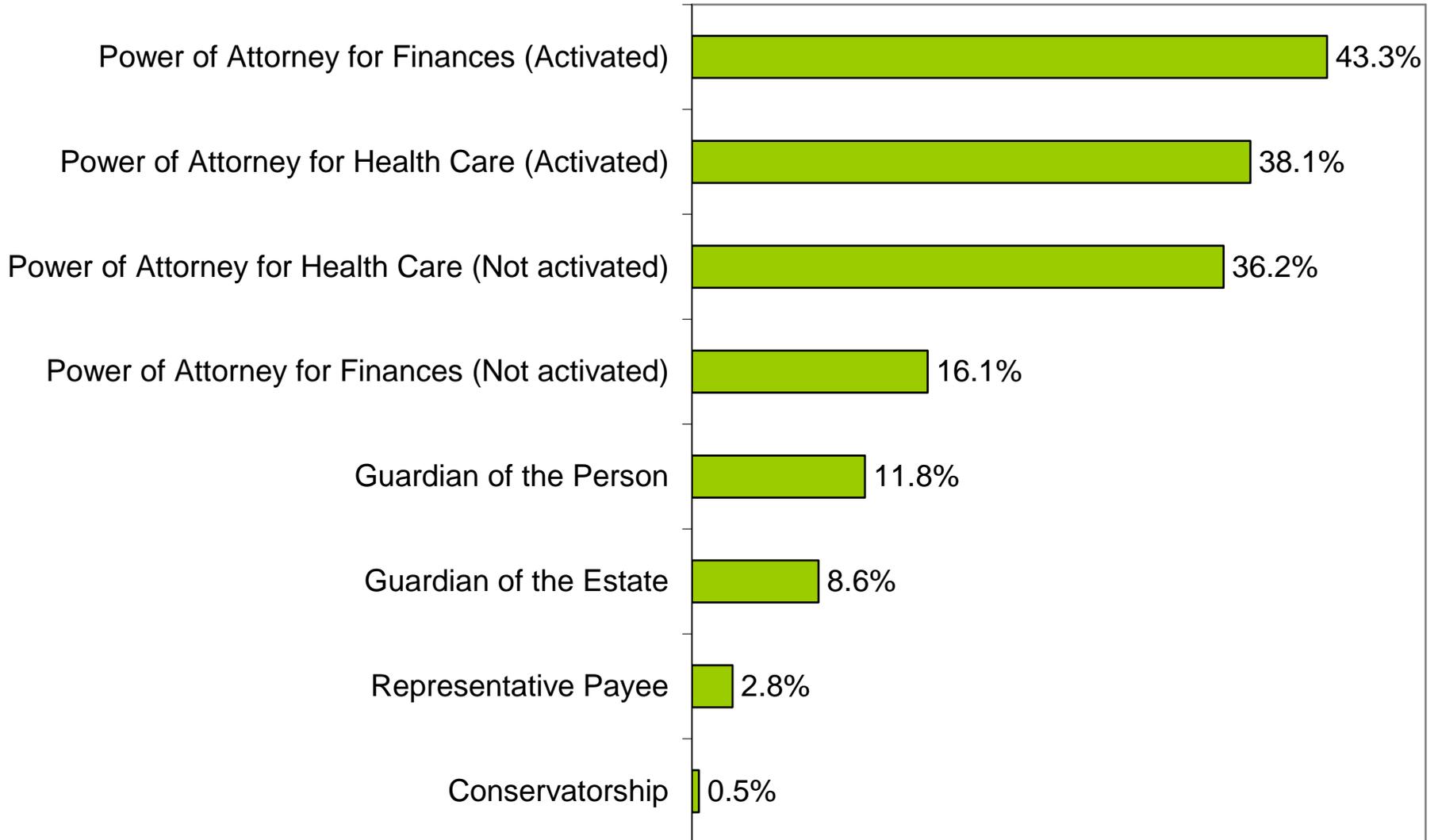
	Number	Percent
No	2,984	62.6%
Yes	1,264	26.5%
Unknown	518	10.9%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	6	0.5%
Guardian of the Person	149	11.8%
Guardian of the Estate	109	8.6%
Representative Payee	35	2.8%
Power of Attorney for Finances (Activated)	547	43.3%
Power of Attorney for Finances (Not activated)	203	16.1%
Power of Attorney for Health Care (Activated)	481	38.1%
Power of Attorney for Health Care (Not activated)	458	36.2%
Total	n/a	n/a

Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision maker who have this kind. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%

Type of Substitute Decision Maker

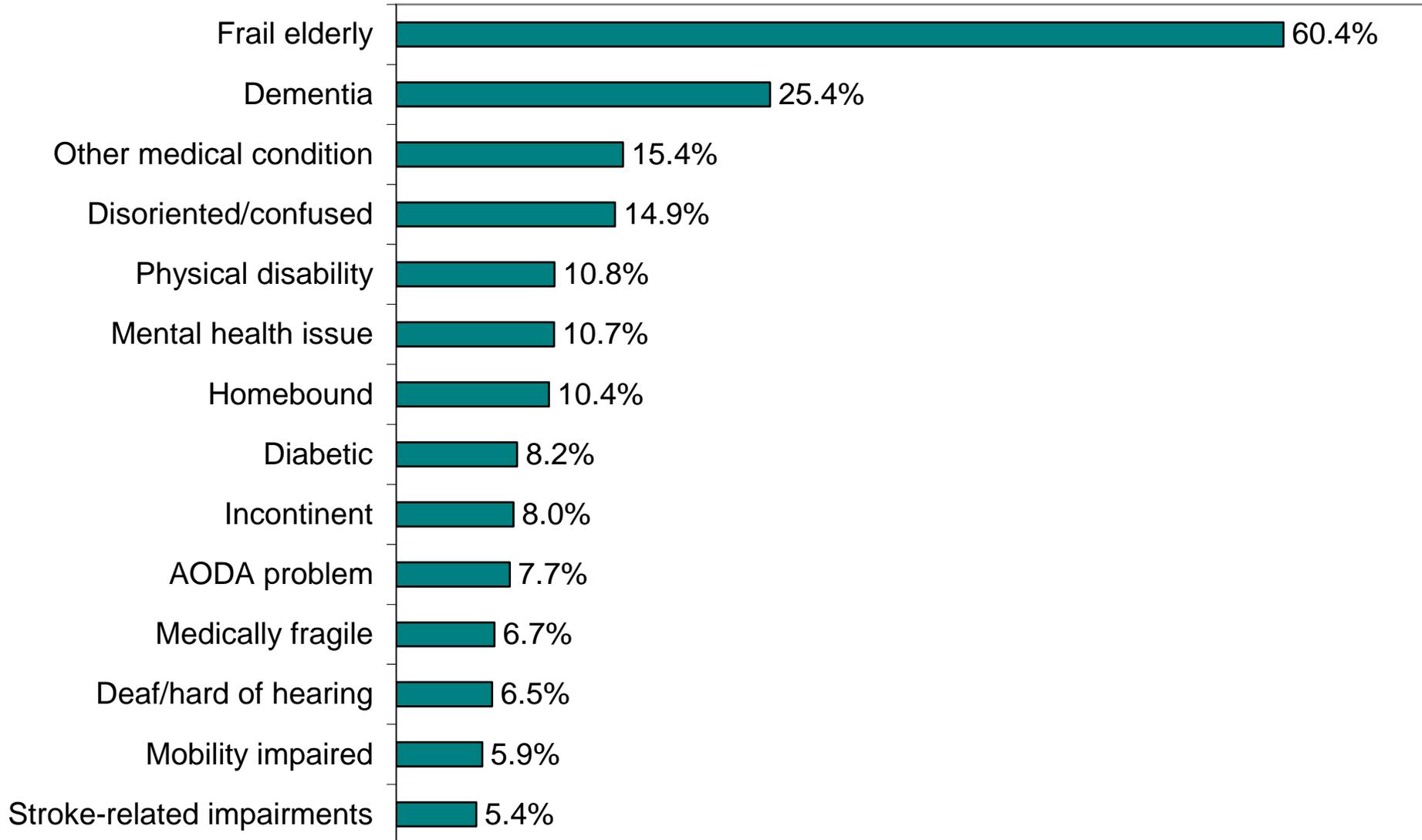


Adult at Risk's Characteristics

Characteristic	Number	Percent
AODA problem	368	7.7%
Deaf/hard of hearing	311	6.5%
Dementia	1,212	25.4%
Diabetic	392	8.2%
Disoriented/confused	709	14.9%
Frail elderly	2,877	60.4%
Homebound	495	10.4%
Incontinent	380	8.0%
Medically fragile	318	6.7%
Mental health issue	511	10.7%
Mobility impaired	279	5.9%
Other medical condition	735	15.4%
Physical disability	513	10.8%
Stroke-related impairments	259	5.4%

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

Adult at Risk's Characteristics



Age of Alleged Abuser(s)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 25 years	110	5.1%
25 to 44 years	547	25.3%
45 to 59 years	847	39.2%
60 to 79 years	489	22.6%
80 years or older	167	7.7%
<i>Unknown*</i>	336	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Note: Abusers with unknown ages are excluded from these percents.</i>		
Total	2,160	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Gender

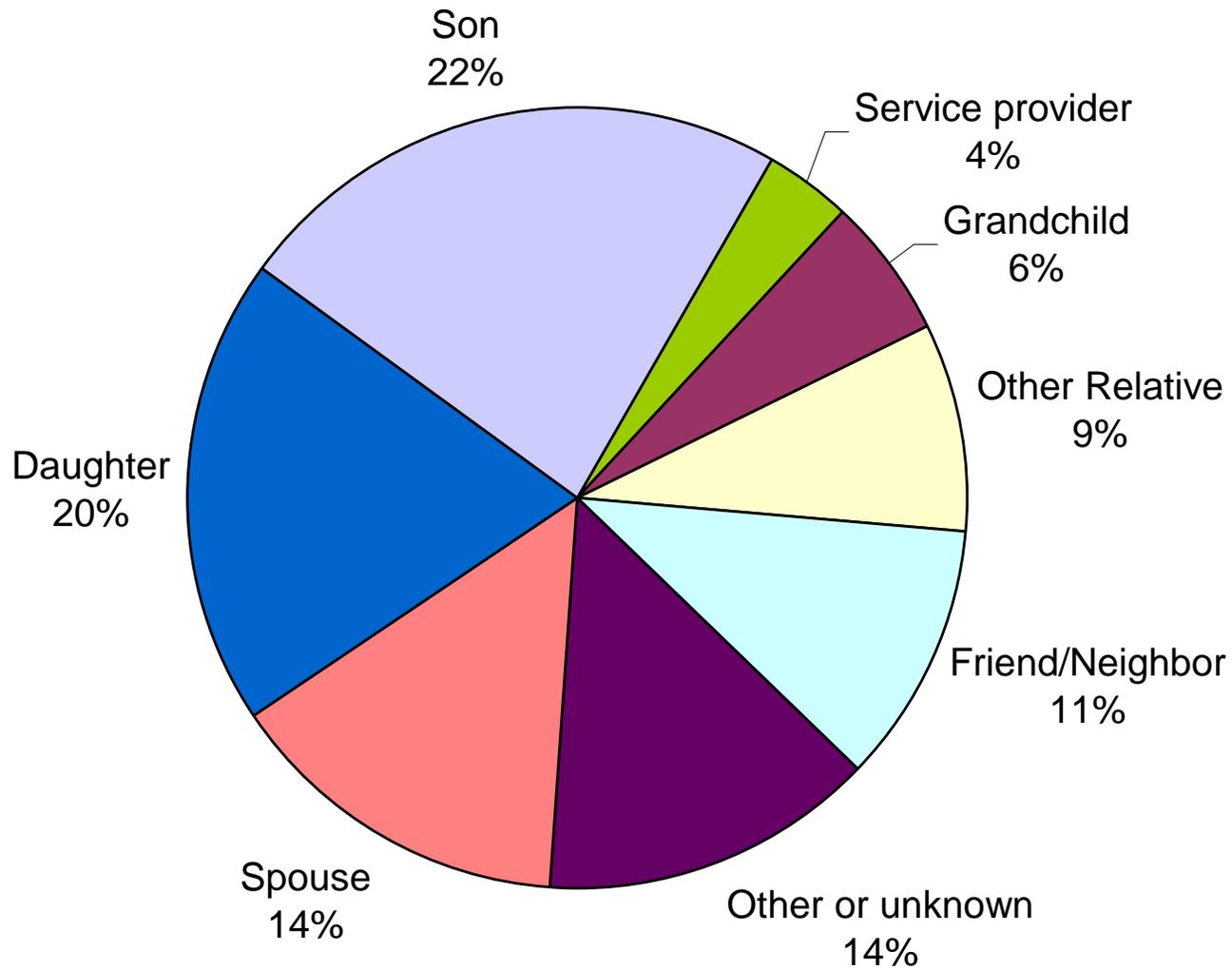
	Number	Percent
Male	1,170	46.9%
Female	1,260	50.5%
Unknown	65	2.6%
Total	2,495	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Adult at Risk		
Relationship	Number	Percent
Son	581	23.3%
Daughter	487	19.5%
Spouse	360	14.4%
Other or unknown	346	13.9%
Friend/Neighbor	269	10.8%
Other Relative	215	8.6%
Grandchild	150	6.0%
Service provider	88	3.5%
Total	2,496	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	1,156	46.3%
No	1,258	50.4%
Unknown	82	3.3%
Total	2,496	100.0%

Do Alleged Abusers Live with Adult at Risk?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	1,226	49.1%
No	1,224	49.0%
Unknown	46	1.8%
Total	2,496	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships



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

	Number	Percent
Any legal/substitute decision maker status listed	936	37.5%
No status listed	1,560	62.5%
Total	2,496	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

Legal Status	Number	Percent
Conservator	3	0.1%
Guardian of the Person	54	2.2%
Guardian of the Estate	37	1.5%
Temporary Guardian	3	0.1%
Representative Payee	23	0.9%
Power of Attorney for Finances (Activated)	297	11.9%
Power of Attorney for Finances (Not activated)	86	3.4%
Power of Attorney for Health Care (Activated)	248	9.9%
Power of Attorney for Health Care (Not activated)	189	7.6%
Other legal status	43	1.7%
Unknown legal status	280	11.2%
No legal status	1,560	62.5%

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

Alleged Abusers' Characteristics

Characteristic	Number	Percent
AODA problem	354	14.2%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	71	2.8%
Deaf/hard of hearing	19	0.8%
Dementia	51	2.0%
Diabetes	25	1.0%
Disoriented/confused	40	1.6%
Financially dependent on adult at risk	390	15.6%
Frail elderly	142	5.7%
Homebound	17	0.7%
Medically fragile	21	0.8%
Mental health issue	205	8.2%
Mobility impaired	17	0.7%
Other medical condition	67	2.7%
Physical disability	85	3.4%
Unemployed	271	10.9%

Percents refer to share of all alleged abusers having this characteristic. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

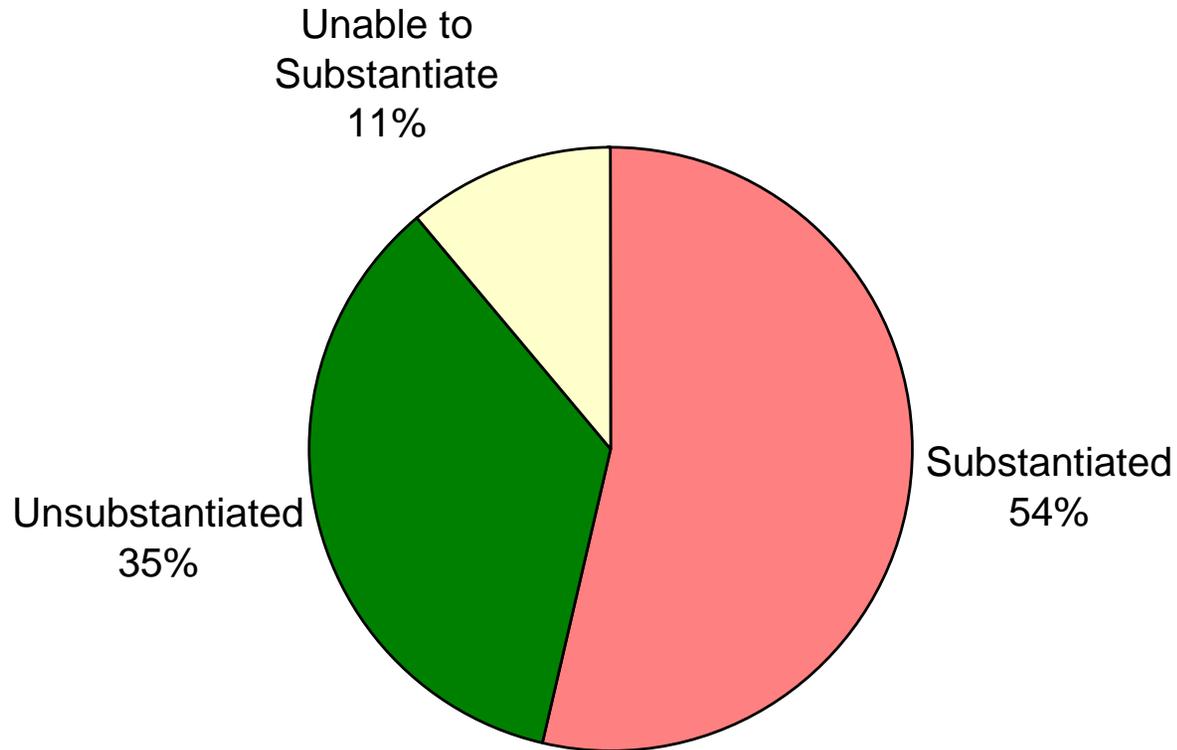
More than One Alleged Abuser?

	Number	Percent
Yes	128	5.1%
No, one alleged abuser only	2,368	94.9%
Total	2,496	100.0%

Was hurt or harm substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	2,560	53.7%
Unsubstantiated	1,679	35.2%
Unable to Substantiate	527	11.1%
Total	4,766	100.0%

Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

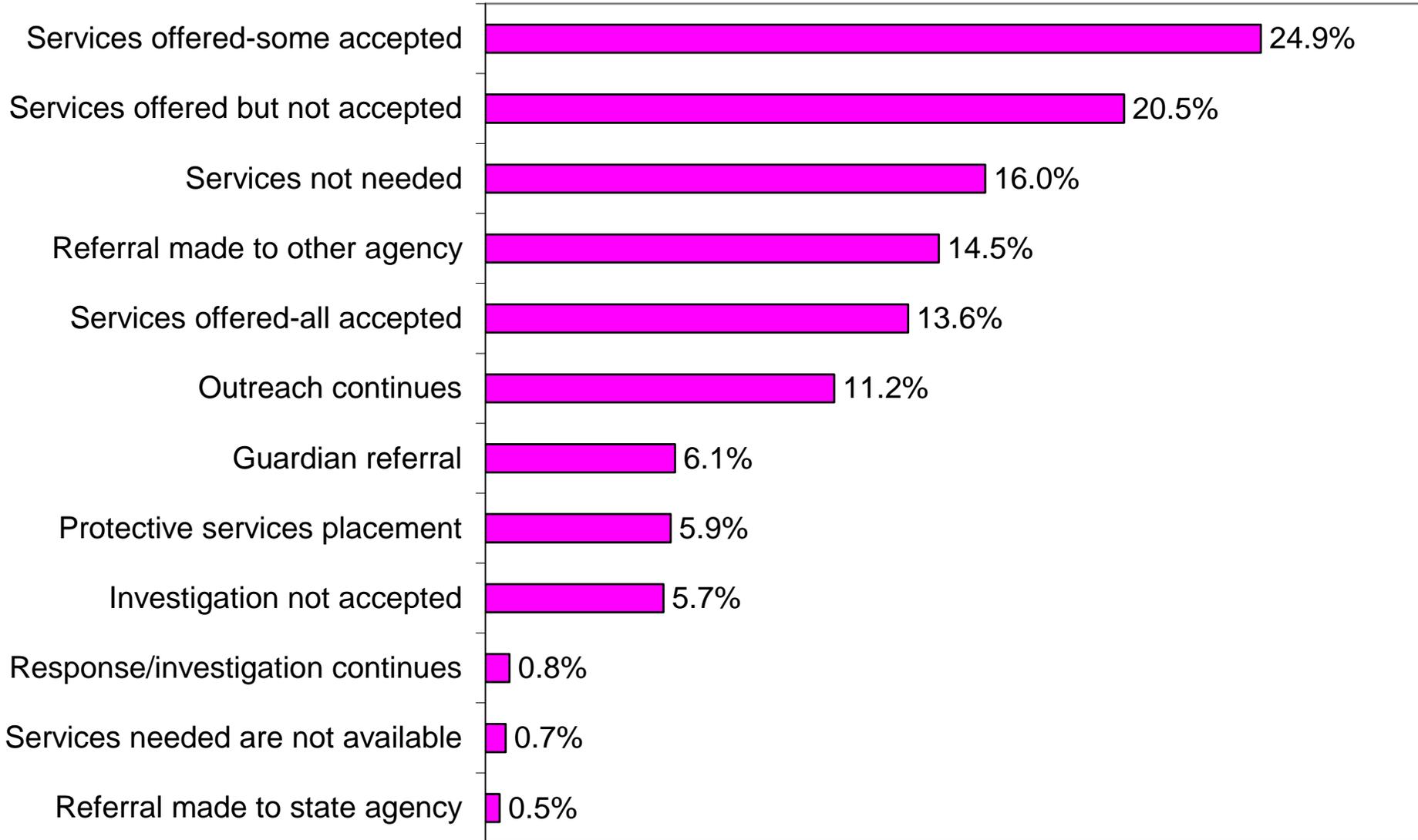


Actions Taken

Action	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	290	6.1%
Investigation not accepted	272	5.7%
Outreach continues	533	11.2%
Protective services placement	283	5.9%
Referral made to other agency	693	14.5%
Referral made to state agency	22	0.5%
Response/investigation continues	37	0.8%
Services needed are not available	31	0.7%
Services not needed	764	16.0%
Services offered but not accepted	976	20.5%
Services offered-all accepted	646	13.6%
Services offered-some accepted	1,185	24.9%

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

Actions Taken

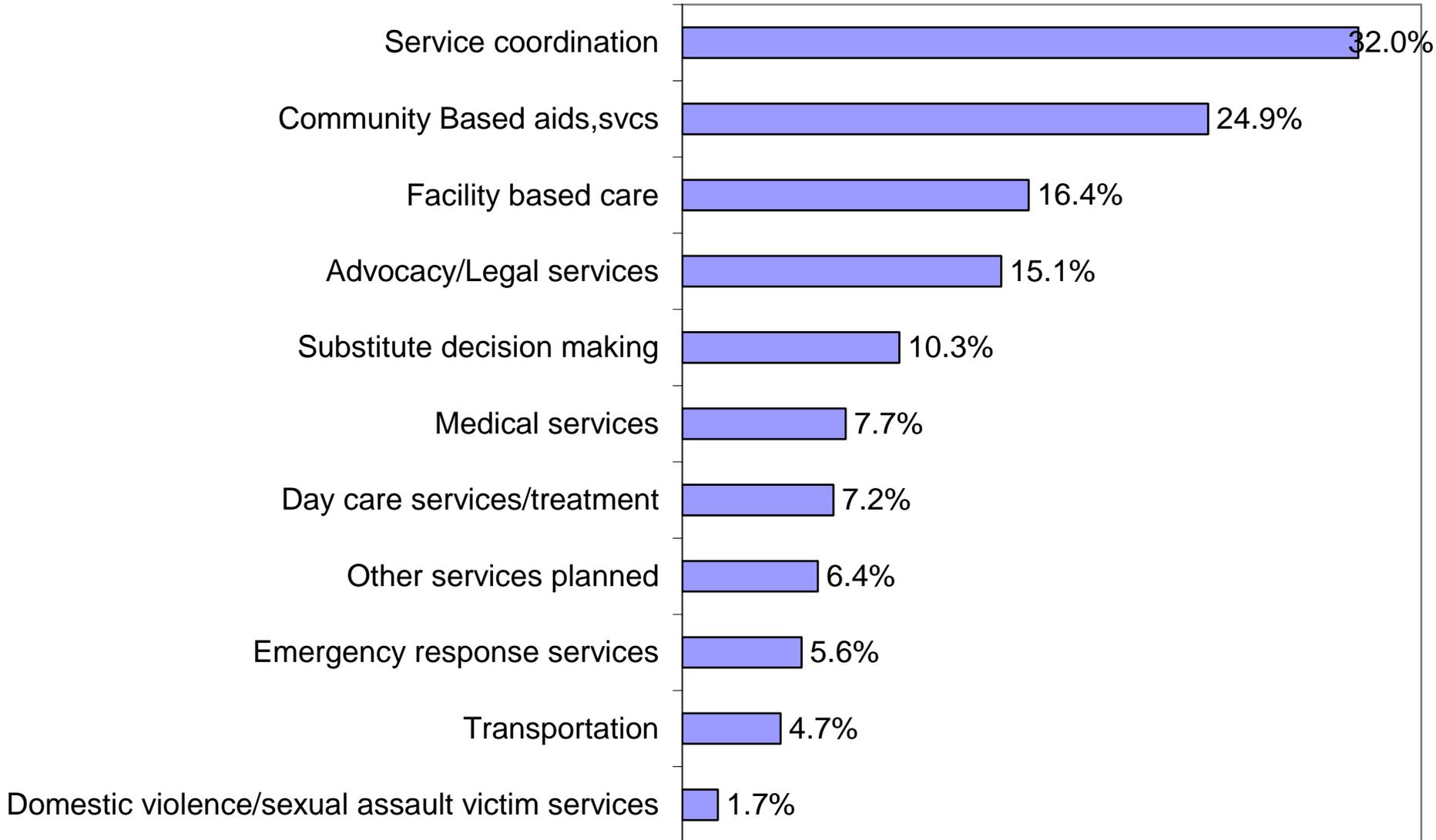


Services Planned for Adult at Risk

Service	Number	Percent
Advocacy/Legal services	720	15.1%
Community Based aids, services	1,187	24.9%
Day care services/treatment	341	7.2%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	80	1.7%
Emergency response services	269	5.6%
Facility based care	782	16.4%
Medical services	369	7.7%
Service coordination	1,526	32.0%
Substitute decision making	490	10.3%
Transportation	222	4.7%
Other services planned	306	6.4%

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



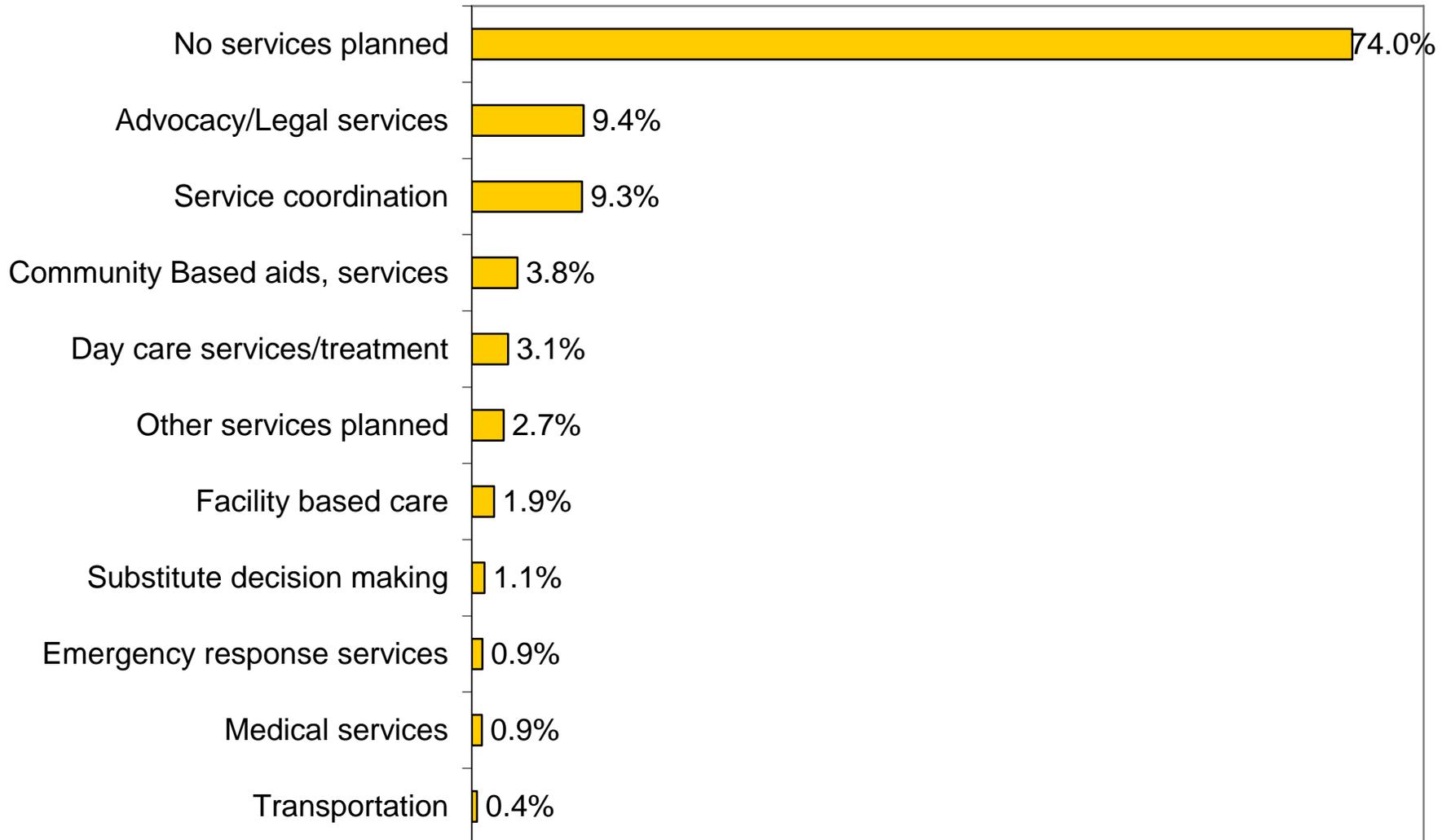
Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

Service	Number	Percent
Advocacy/Legal services	221	9.4%
Community Based aids, services	90	3.8%
Day care services/treatment	72	3.1%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	0	0.0%
Emergency response services	21	0.9%
Facility based care	44	1.9%
Medical services	20	0.9%
No services planned	1,740	74.0%
Service coordination	218	9.3%
Substitute decision making	25	1.1%
Transportation	10	0.4%
Other services planned	63	2.7%

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

Percents refer to share of all incidents in which abuse was alleged (n=2,351).

Services Planned for Abusers



Contact Information

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Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources

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