

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2008

*A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties*

P-00124 (09/2009)

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 a referral, 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 reports from 2008 are the basis of this statewide Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report.

Growing Awareness of Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation

In 2008 4,898 cases of suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation involving older adults were reported, an increase of 2.8 percent over 2007. Tragically, 26 incidents were related to a death, and a total of 376 incidents were considered life-threatening. About one in 12 incidents involved a life-threatening or fatal situation.

The increased number of reports 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.

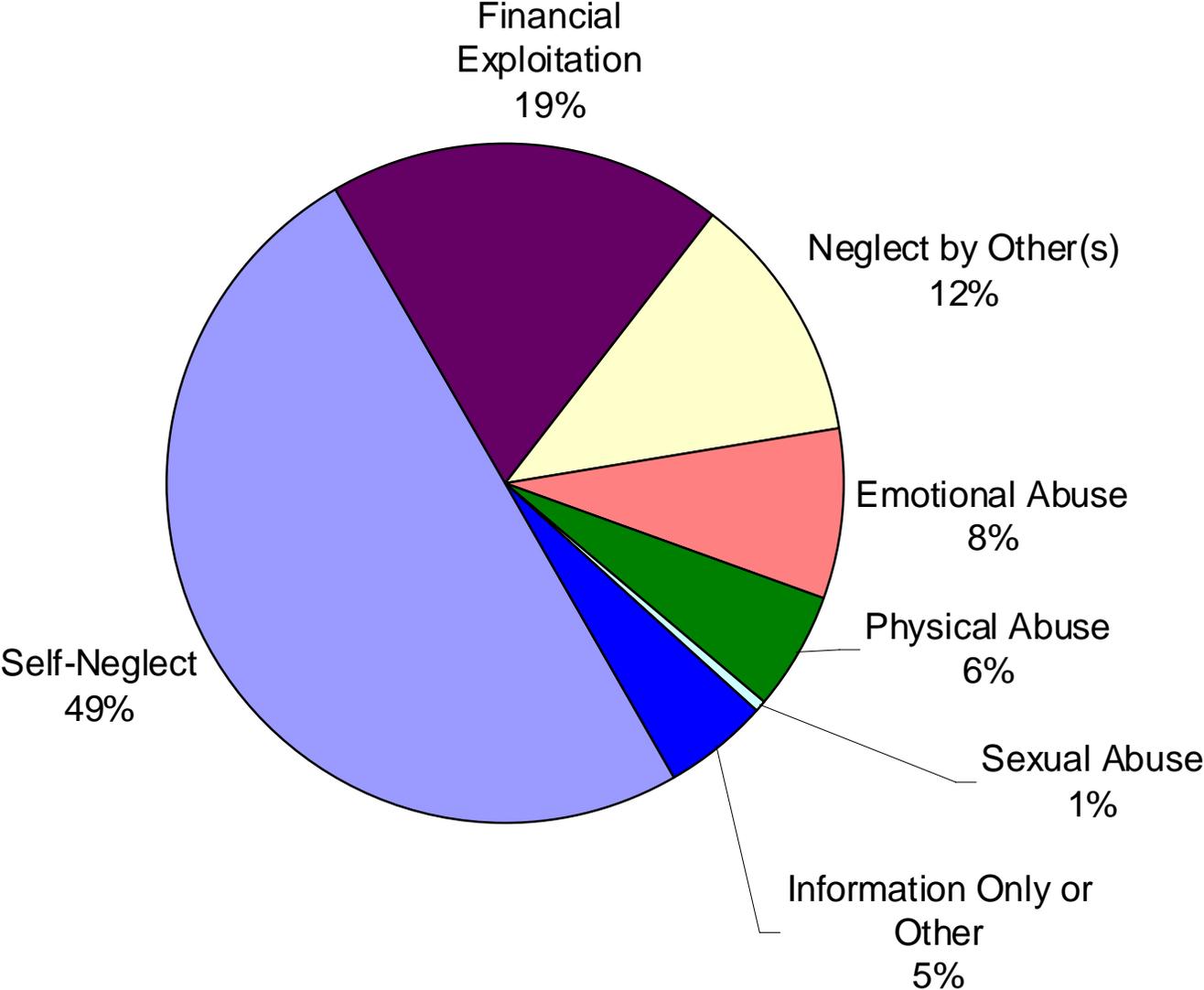
This report documents reported incidents in Wisconsin, providing information about the types of abuse and neglect reported, characteristics of elder adults at risk and alleged abusers, and local responses which guide the State's efforts to prevent elder abuse.

Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	2,570	50.1%
Financial Exploitation	969	18.9%
Neglect by Other(s)	604	11.8%
Emotional Abuse	420	8.2%
Physical Abuse	288	5.6%
Sexual Abuse	29	0.6%
Treatment without Consent	5	0.1%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	13	0.3%
<i>Information Only*</i>	232	4.5%
Total	5,130	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. Wording of this question changed near the end of 2008. Table combines responses to the question titled "Primary Reason for Call" with responses to "Primary Issue Identified."*

Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified



Previous Report on This Individual?

	Number	Percent
No	3,054	62.7%
Yes	1,487	30.5%
Unknown	331	6.8%
Total	4,872	100.0%

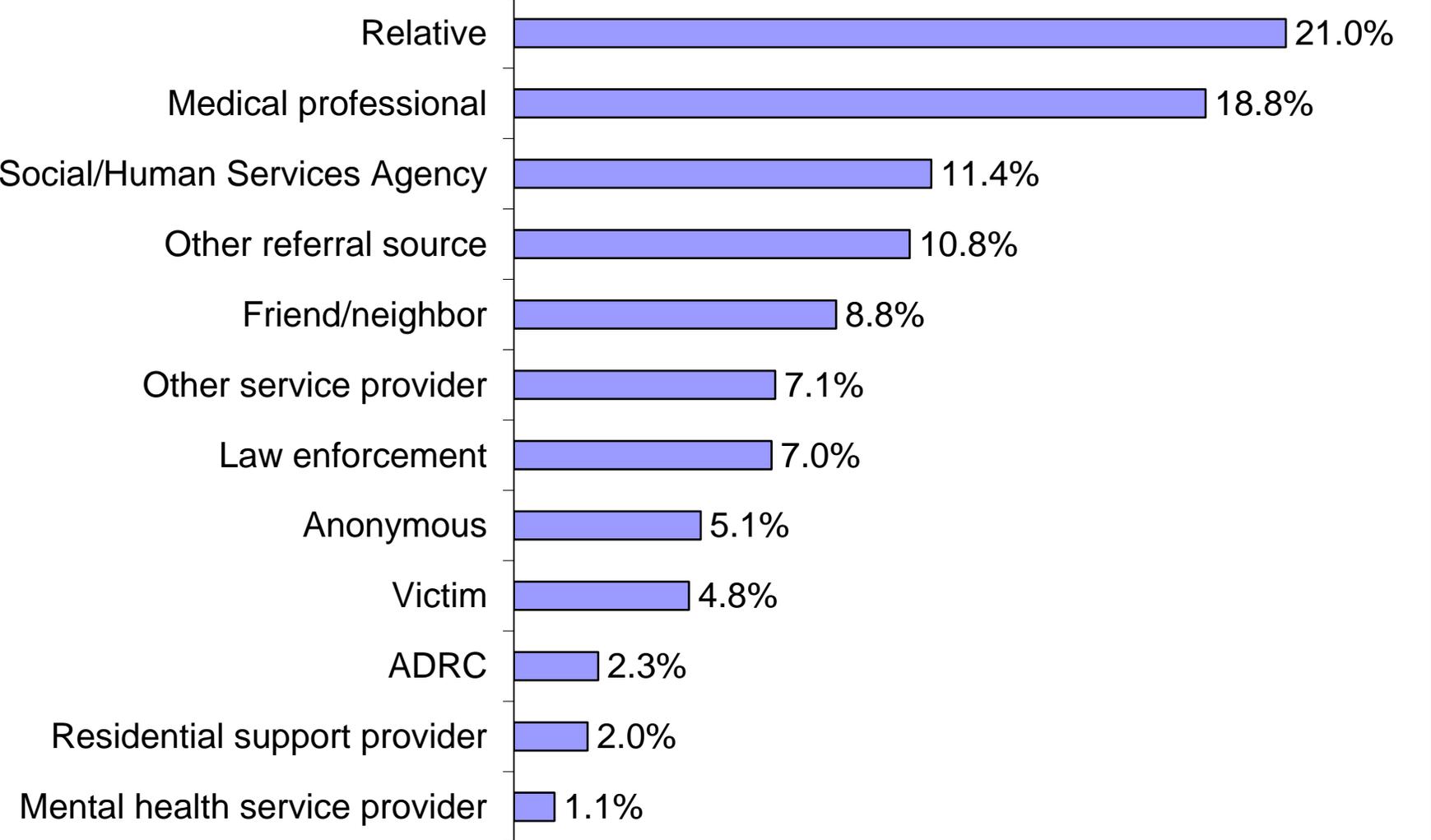
Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	4,437	90.6%
Other place	407	8.3%
Place of employment/day services	46	0.9%
Transportation	8	0.2%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Referral Source

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	112	2.3%
Social/Human Services Agency	556	11.4%
Alleged abuser	10	0.2%
Anonymous	249	5.1%
Employer	4	0.1%
Friend/neighbor	429	8.8%
Housing inspection/zoning	35	0.7%
Law enforcement	343	7.0%
Medical professional	921	18.8%
Mental health service provider	54	1.1%
Other provider	339	6.9%
Other referral source	446	9.1%
Regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	32	0.7%
Relative	1,028	21.0%
Residential support provider	98	2.0%
Substance abuse service provider	4	0.1%
Victim	233	4.8%
Vocational/day service provider	5	0.1%
Total	4,898	100.0%

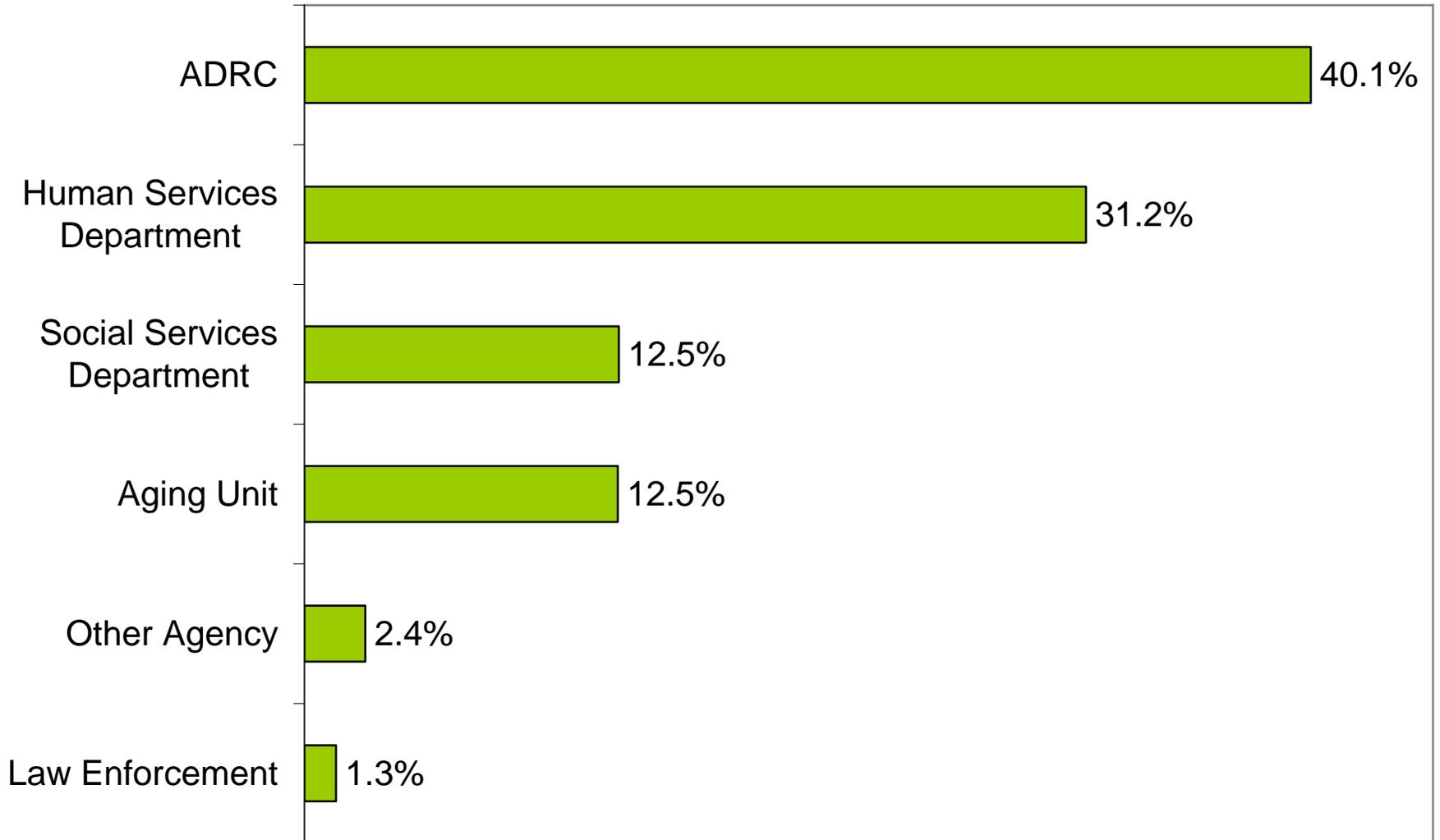
Referral Source



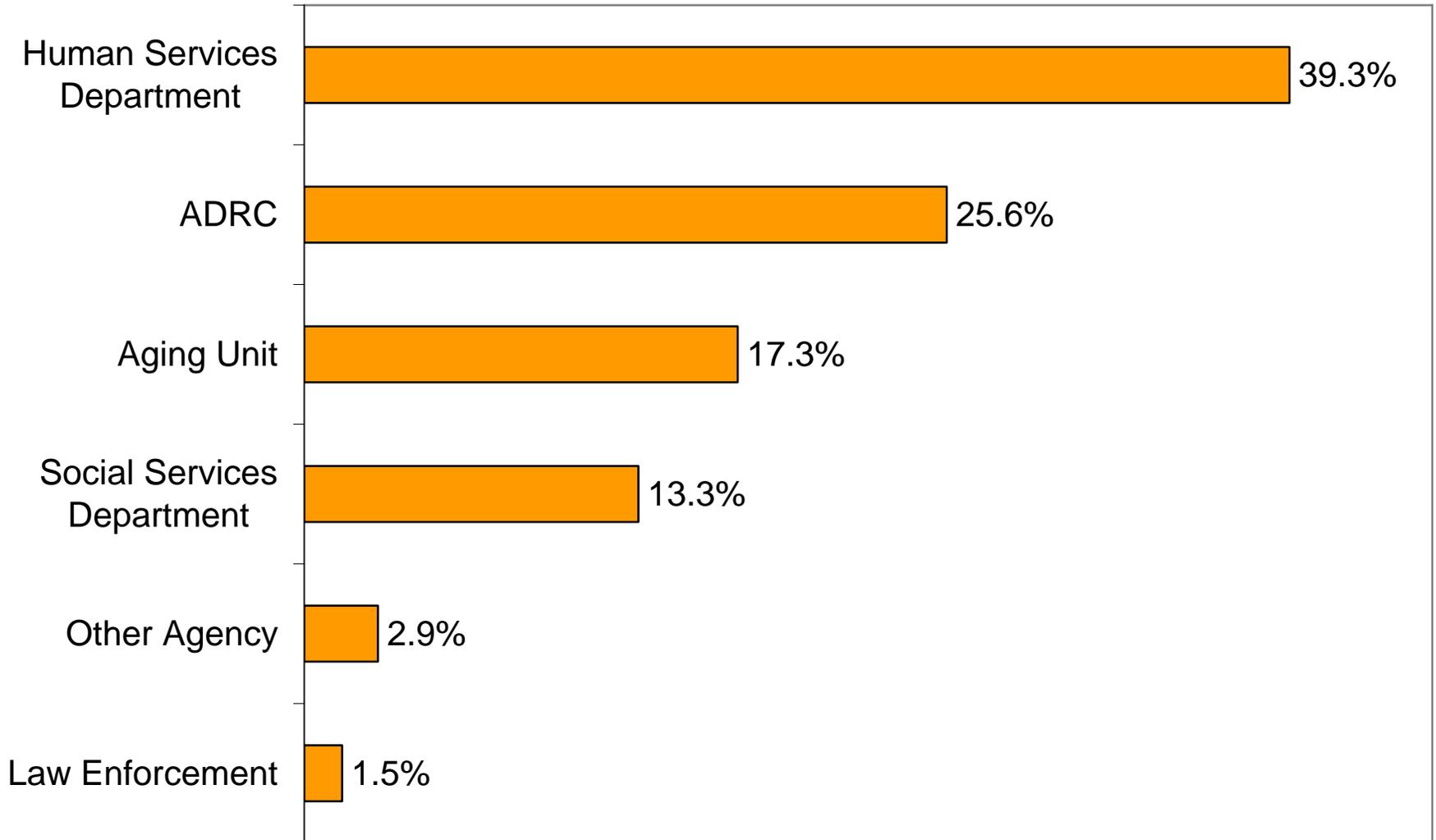
Call Received By		
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,965	40.1%
Aging Unit	612	12.5%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	18	0.4%
Human Services Department	1,526	31.2%
Law Enforcement	62	1.3%
Other Agency	101	2.1%
Social Services Department	614	12.5%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Initial Investigating Agency		
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,255	25.6%
Aging Unit	847	17.3%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	30	0.6%
Housing Inspection/Zoning	3	0.1%
Human Services Department	1,925	39.3%
Law Enforcement	74	1.5%
Other Agency	108	2.2%
Public Health Department	3	0.1%
Social Services Department	653	13.3%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Call Received By



Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	4,402	89.9%
Yes	376	7.7%
Unknown	120	2.4%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	297	79.0%
Yes	79	21.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	376	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents</i>		

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	43	54.4%
Yes	26	32.9%
Unknown	10	12.7%
Total	79	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	5	19.2%
Yes	16	61.5%
Unknown	5	19.2%
Total	26	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

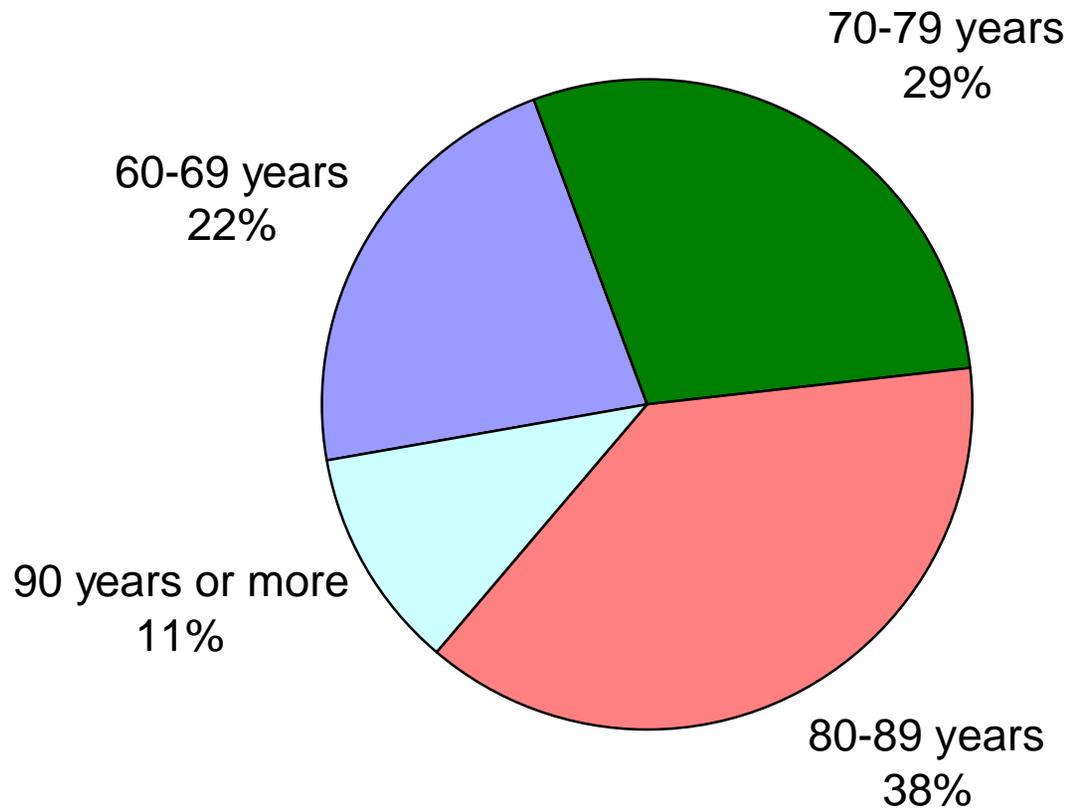
Elder Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	1,083	22.1%
70-79 years	1,425	29.1%
80-89 years	1,844	37.6%
90 years or more	546	11.1%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	3,029	61.8%
Male	1,868	38.1%
Unknown	1	0.0%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Race		
Age	Number	Percent
White	3,884	79.3%
Black/African American	272	5.6%
Native American/Alaska Native	76	1.6%
Asian	12	0.2%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	0.0%
Other race	26	0.5%
Not reported or unknown	626	12.8%
Total	4,898	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.

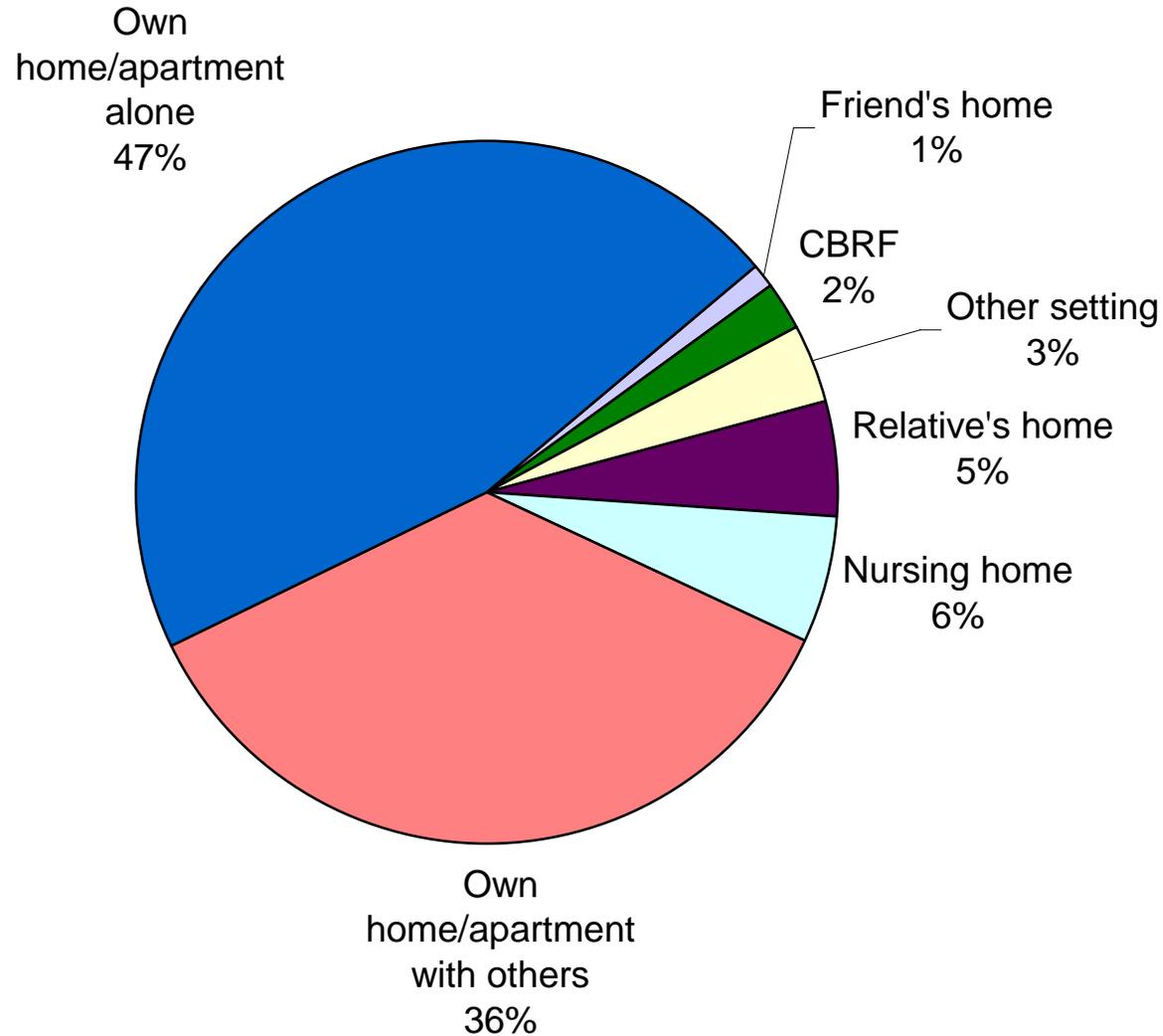
Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home/apartment alone	2,262	46.2%
Own home/apartment with others	1,748	35.7%
Relative's home	261	5.3%
Friend's home	49	1.0%
Adult family home	22	0.4%
Adult family home (licensed)	17	0.3%
Nursing home	287	5.9%
Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)	121	2.5%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	33	0.7%
Homeless	26	0.5%
Other setting	65	1.3%
Institution	7	0.1%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

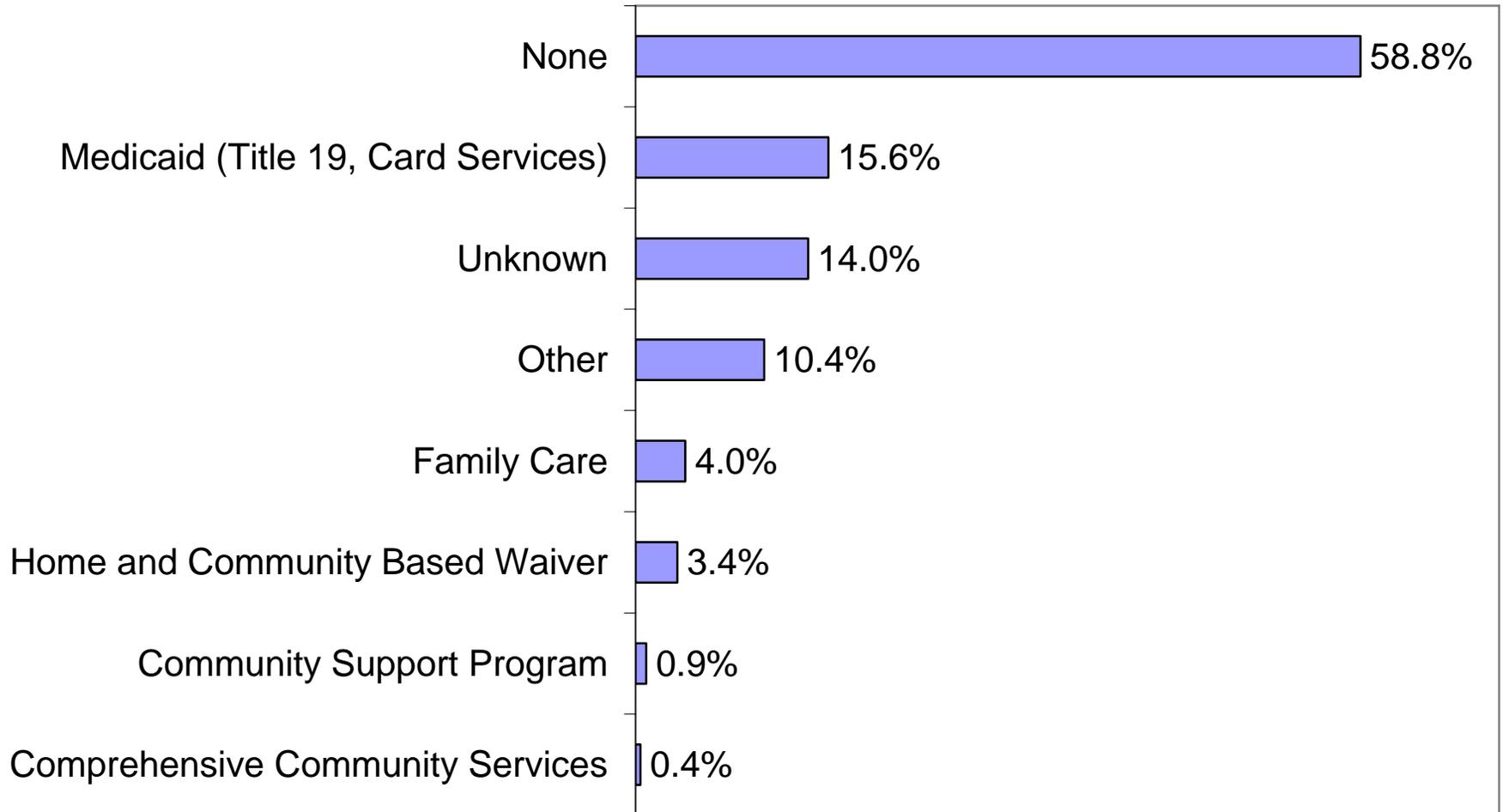


County/State Funded Programs That Have Served This Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	42	0.9%
Comprehensive Community Services	19	0.4%
Family Care	197	4.0%
Home and Community Based Waiver	166	3.4%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	766	15.6%
Unknown	685	14.0%
Other	511	10.4%
None	2,878	58.8%

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

Public programs that have served this Elder Adult at Risk



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

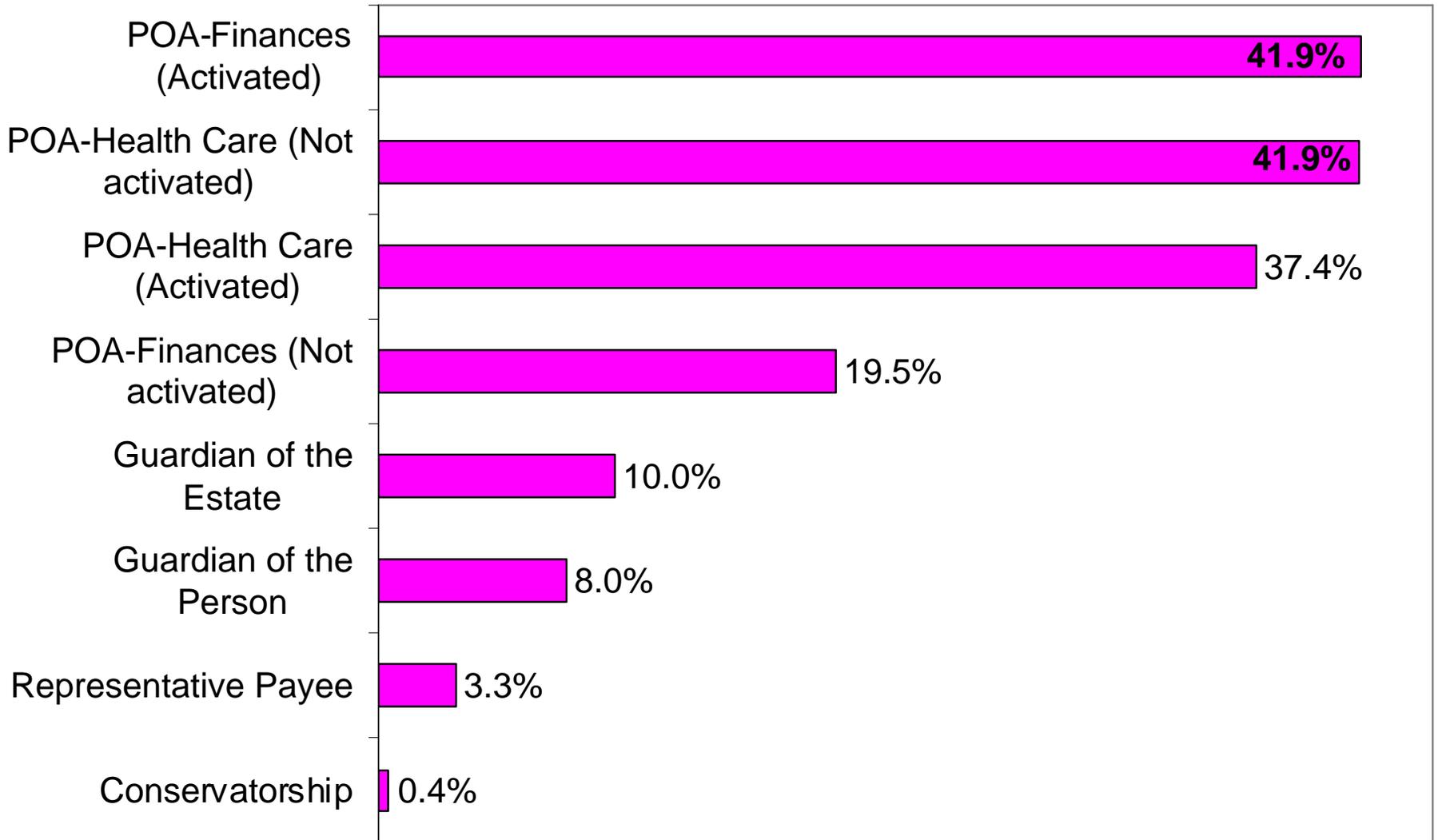
	Number	Percent
No	2,816	57.5%
Yes	1,443	29.5%
Unknown	639	13.0%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	6	0.4%
Guardian of the Person	115	8.0%
Guardian of the Estate	145	10.0%
Representative Payee	47	3.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	605	41.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	281	19.5%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	540	37.4%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	604	41.9%

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

Type of Substitute Decison-Maker



Elder Adult at Risk's Characteristics

	Number	Percent
Alcohol or drug abuse	395	8.1%
Blind/visually impaired	182	3.7%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	199	4.1%
Deaf/hard of hearing	268	5.5%
Dementia	1,288	26.3%
Developmental disability	88	1.8%
Diabetes	425	8.7%
Disoriented and confused	783	16.0%
Frail Elderly	2,745	56.0%
Homebound	484	9.9%
Incontinent	340	6.9%
Medically fragile	644	13.1%
Mental Illness (MI)/Chronic MI	551	11.2%
Mobility impaired	611	12.5%
Physical Disability	360	7.3%
Stroke-related condition	211	4.3%
Other medical condition	633	12.9%
Other characteristic	424	8.7%
None of listed characteristics	260	5.3%

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

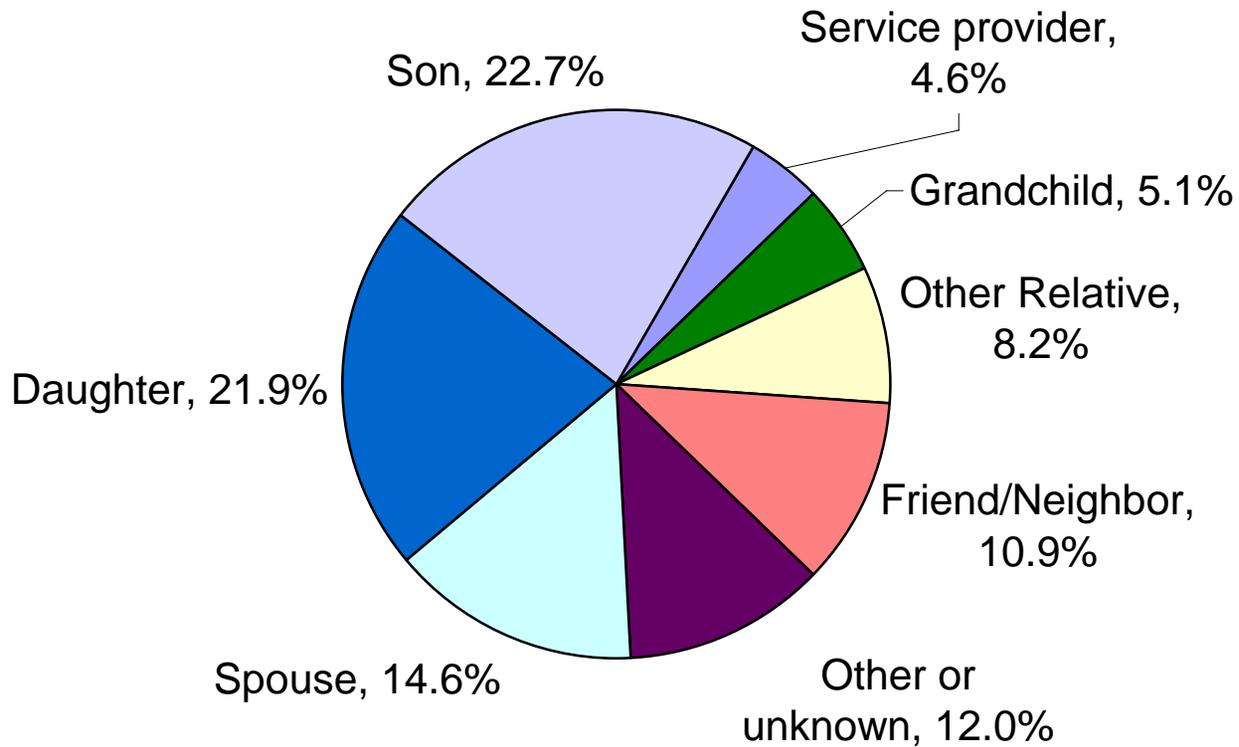
Age of Alleged Abuser(s)		
	Number	Percent
Under 25 years	90	3.4%
25 to 44 years	509	19.3%
45 to 59 years	879	33.4%
60 to 79 years	482	18.3%
80 years or older	170	6.5%
Unknown	502	19.1%
Total	2,632	100.0%
<i>Total includes all alleged abusers; some incidents involve more than one.</i>		

Alleged Abusers' Gender		
	Number	Percent
Male	1,301	49.6%
Female	1,237	47.1%
Unknown	87	3.3%
Total	2,625	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Son	597	22.7%
Daughter	576	21.9%
Spouse	384	14.6%
Other or unknown	317	12.0%
Friend/Neighbor	288	10.9%
Other Relative	217	8.2%
Grandchild	133	5.1%
Service provider	120	4.6%
Total	2,632	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	1,248	47.5%
No	1,272	48.4%
Unknown	109	4.1%
Total	2,629	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,289	49.0%
No	1,285	48.9%
Unknown	55	2.1%
Total	2,629	100.0%

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

	Number	Percent
Any legal/substitute decision-maker status listed	701	26.6%
No status listed	1,931	73.4%
Total	2,632	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	0	0.0%
Guardian of the Person	47	1.8%
Guardian of the Estate	38	1.4%
Temporary Guardian	1	0.0%
Representative Payee	19	0.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	307	11.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	103	3.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	272	10.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	239	9.1%
Other legal status	53	2.0%
Unknown legal status	357	13.6%
No legal status	1,569	59.6%

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 or drug abuse	386	14.7%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	133	5.1%
Communication disorder	5	0.2%
Dementia	89	3.4%
Developmental disability	26	1.0%
Disoriented and confused	38	1.4%
Financial dependence: abuser on elder AAR	456	17.3%
Frail Elderly	126	4.8%
Limited English proficiency	28	1.1%
Medically fragile	40	1.5%
Mental Illness(MI)/Chronic MI	196	7.4%
Mobility impaired	38	1.4%
Physical disability	53	2.0%
Unemployed	227	8.6%
Other medical condition	64	2.4%
Other characteristic	322	12.2%
None of the listed characteristics	1,290	49.0%

Multiple responses allowed - numbers do not add up to 100%. Percents refer to share of all alleged abusers.

More than One Alleged Abuser?

	Number	Percent
Yes	150	5.7%
No, one alleged abuser only	2,482	94.3%
Total	2,632	100.0%

Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	2,775	56.7%
Unsubstantiated	1,541	31.5%
Unable to Substantiate	582	11.9%
Total	4,898	100.0%

Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	338	6.9%
Investigation not accepted	233	4.8%
Mental health commitment	51	1.0%
Outreach continues	543	11.1%
Protective services placement	248	5.1%
Referral made to other agency	412	8.4%
Referral made to state agency	10	0.2%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry (DHS/DQA)	24	0.5%
Referral to law enforcement/Department of Justice	260	5.3%
Referral to detoxification services	13	0.3%
Referral to protection/advocacy agencies	72	1.5%
Referral to regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	21	0.4%
Services needed are not available	36	0.7%
Services not needed	700	14.3%
Services offered but not accepted	955	19.5%
Services offered-all accepted	679	13.9%
Services offered-some accepted	1,307	26.7%
Response/investigation continues	72	1.5%
Other legal action	136	2.8%
Other disposition	350	7.1%

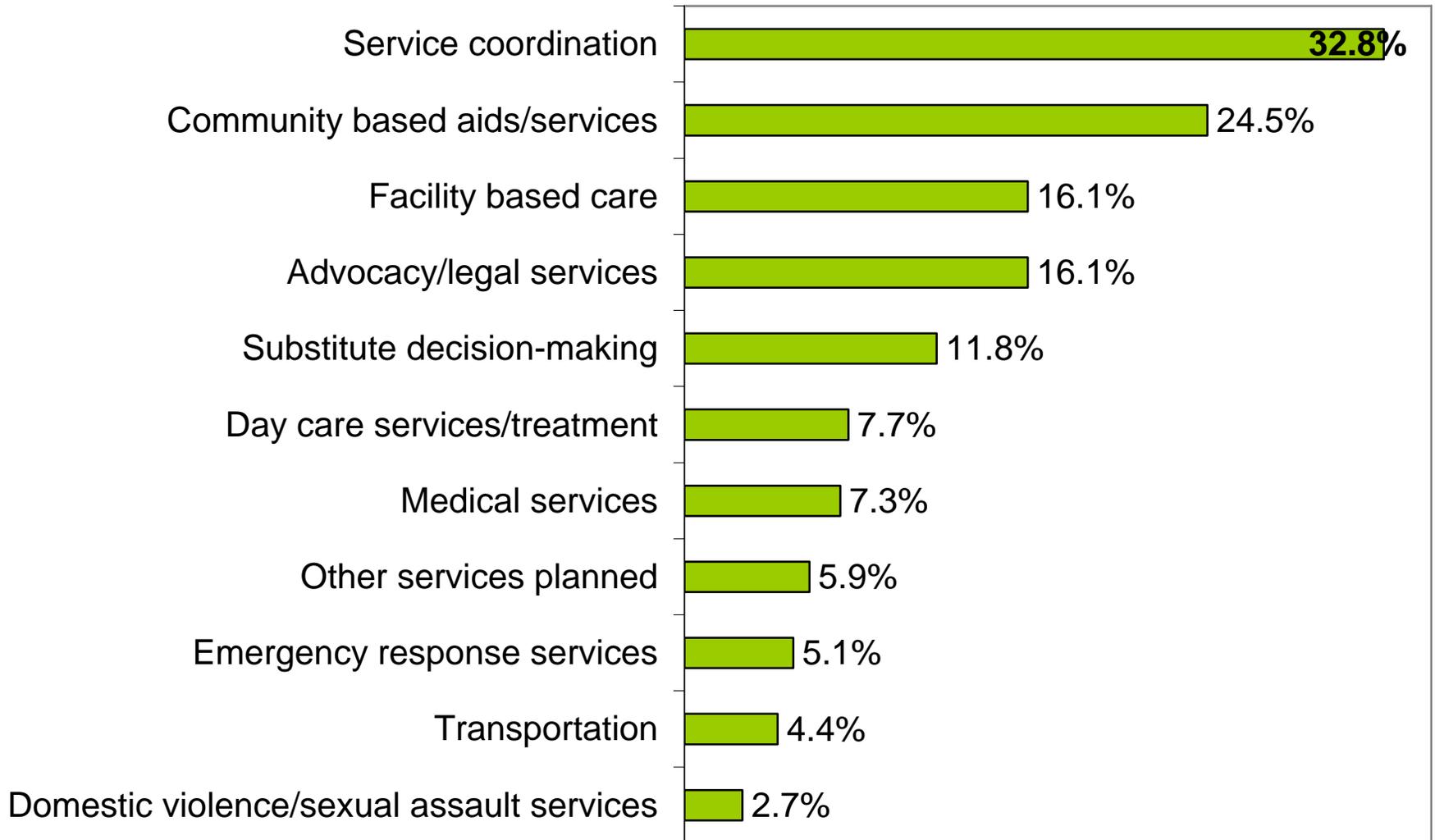
Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.

Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Advocacy/legal services	788	16.1%
Community based aids/services	1,200	24.5%
Day care services/treatment	376	7.7%
Domestic violence/sexual assault services	133	2.7%
Emergency response services	250	5.1%
Facility based care	788	16.1%
Medical services	358	7.3%
Service coordination	1,605	32.8%
Substitute decision-making	579	11.8%
Transportation	214	4.4%
Other services planned	287	5.9%

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

Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk



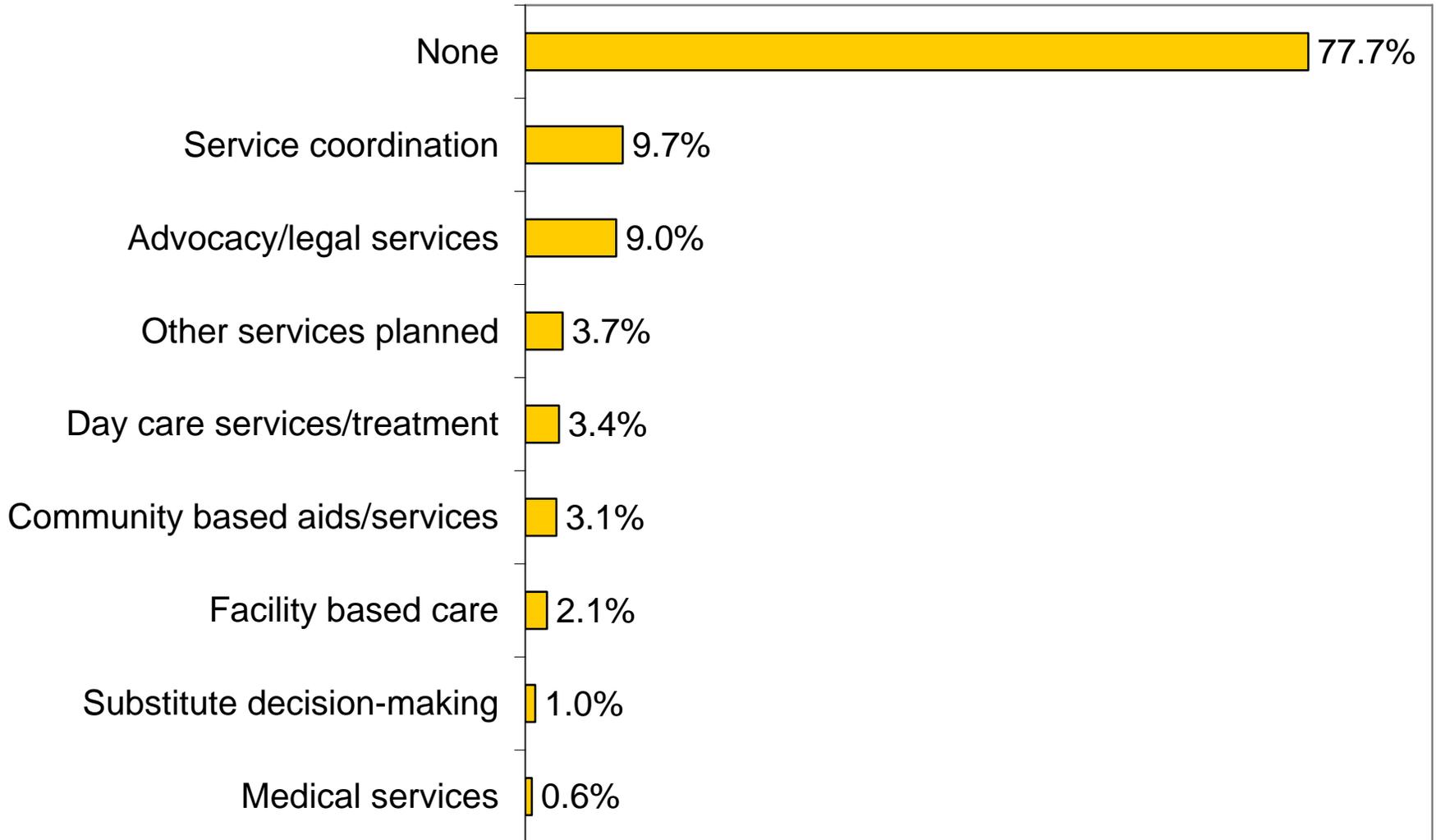
Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

	Number	Percent
Advocacy/legal services	210	9.0%
Community based aids/services	72	3.1%
Day care services/treatment	78	3.4%
Domestic violence/sexual assault services	3	0.1%
Emergency response services	15	0.6%
Facility based care	50	2.1%
Medical services	15	0.6%
Service coordination	225	9.7%
Substitute decision-making	23	1.0%
Transportation	5	0.2%
Other services planned	63	2.7%
None	1,809	77.7%

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

Percents refer to share of all incidents in which abuse, neglect or financial exploitation was alleged (n=2,328).

Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)



Contact Information

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