

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2009

*A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties*

P-00124 (08/2010)

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 2009 are the basis of this statewide Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report.

Growing Awareness of Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation

In 2009 5,316 cases of suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation involving older adults were reported, an increase of 8.5 percent over 2008. Tragically, 28 incidents were related to a death, and a total of 371 incidents were considered life-threatening. About one in 14 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 stop elder abuse.

Your Role in Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Adults-at-Risk

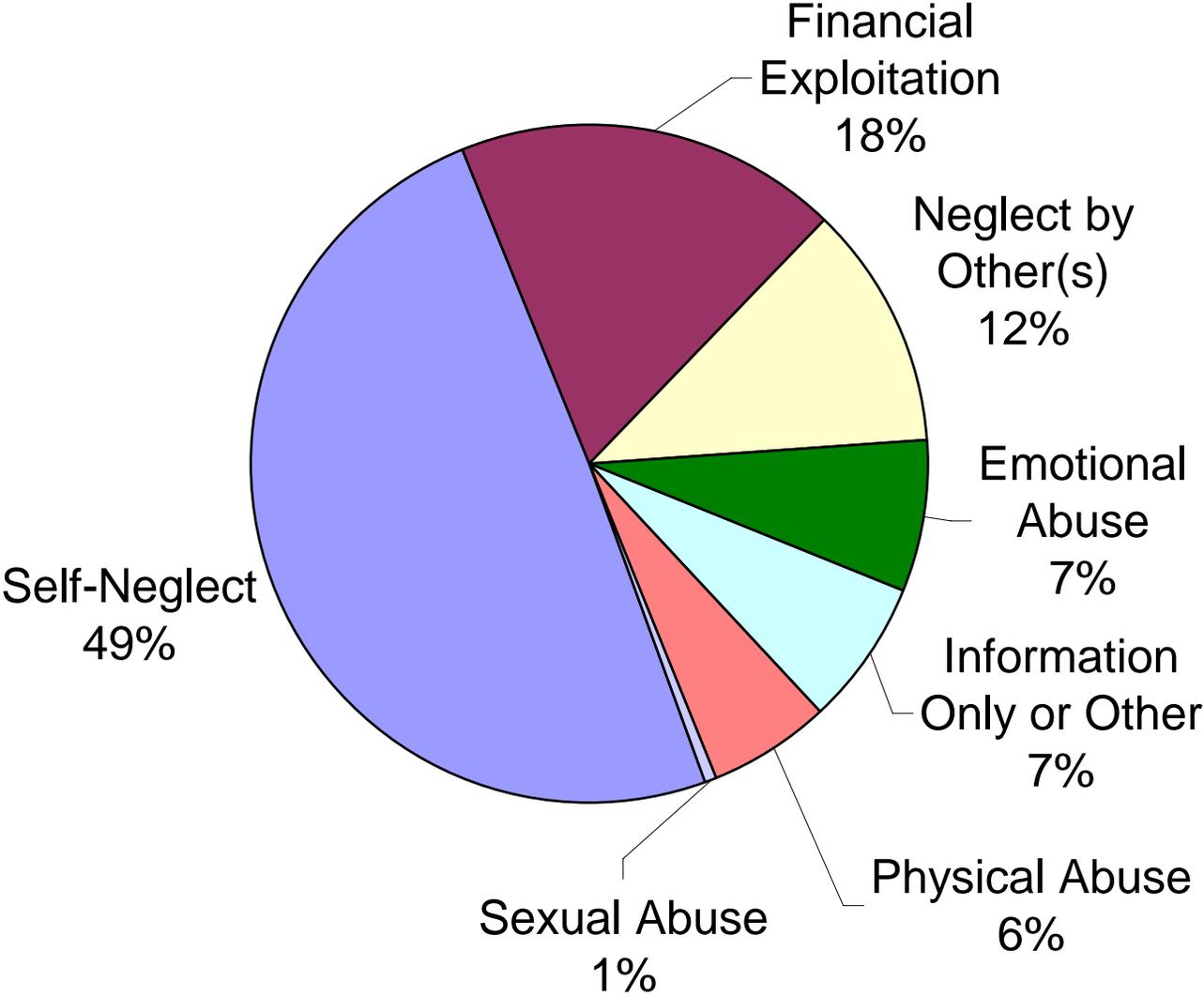
- Wisconsin has made great strides in identifying and protecting adults at risk. No one should experience or endure abuse, neglect or exploitation. Let individuals you are concerned about know they are not alone, and that there are others who understand, will not judge, are there to help them stay safe, and will support them emotionally. Provide reassurance that what they are experiencing is not their fault.
- Call your County Help Line if you need to talk to someone about suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elder adult at risk (age 60+). See <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aps/Contacts/aaragencies.htm>

Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	2,808	49.4%
Financial Exploitation	1,043	18.4%
Neglect by Other(s)	657	11.6%
Emotional Abuse	415	7.3%
Physical Abuse	333	5.9%
Sexual Abuse	36	0.6%
Treatment without Consent	3	0.1%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	21	0.4%
<i>Information Only*</i>	366	6.4%
Total	5,682	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	3,177	60.4%
Yes	1,678	31.9%
Unknown	402	7.6%
Total	5,257	100.0%

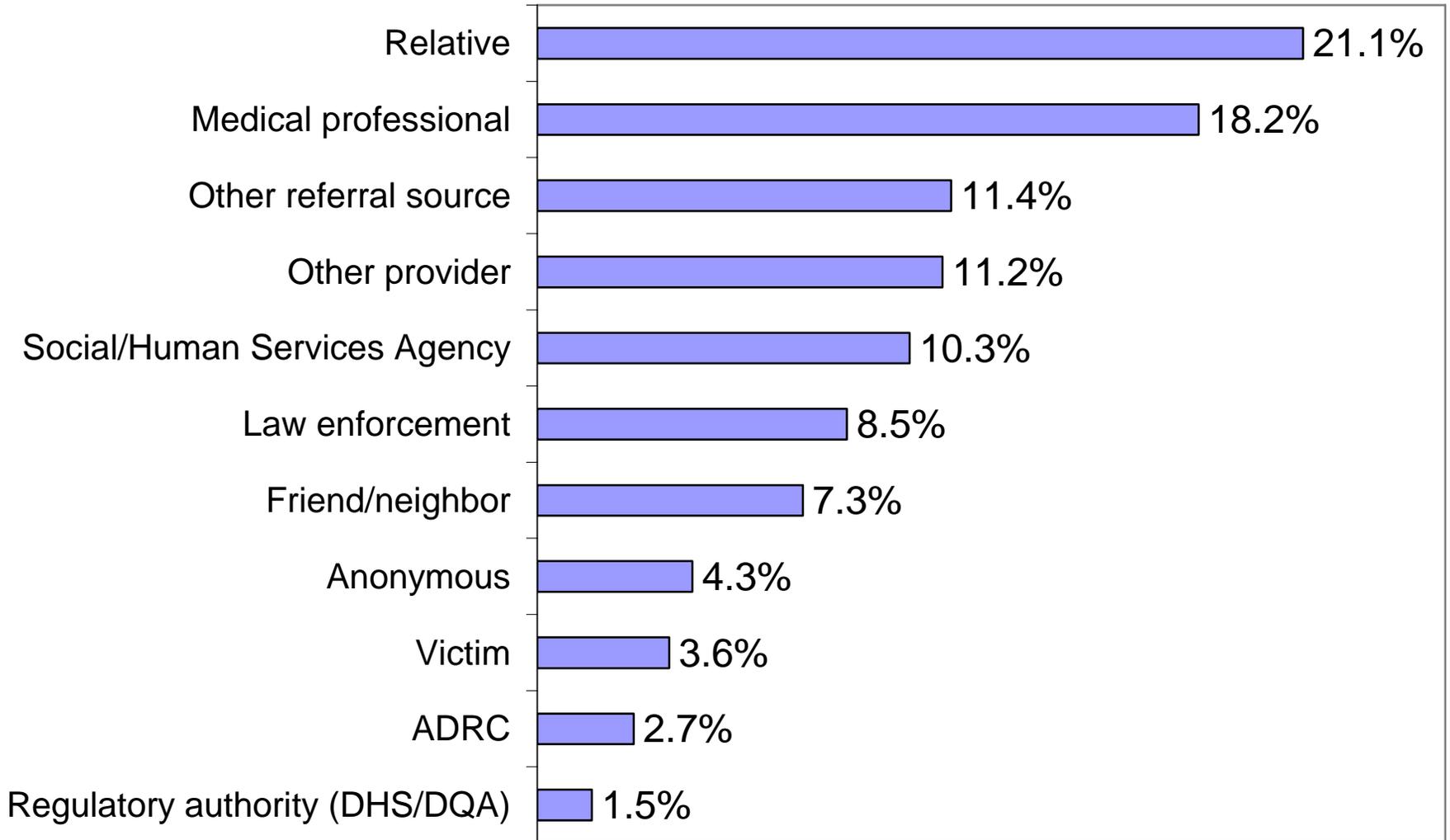
Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	4,818	90.6%
Other place	450	8.5%
Place of employment/day services	32	0.6%
School	3	0.1%
Transportation	13	0.2%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Referral Source

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	141	2.7%
Social/Human Services Agency	545	10.3%
Alleged abuser	5	0.1%
Anonymous	227	4.3%
Employer	1	0.0%
Friend/neighbor	389	7.3%
Housing inspection/zoning	33	0.6%
Law enforcement	453	8.5%
Medical professional	968	18.2%
Mental health service provider	65	1.2%
Other provider	378	7.1%
Other referral source	567	10.7%
Regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	80	1.5%
Relative	1,121	21.1%
Residential support provider	137	2.6%
Substance abuse service provider	3	0.1%
Victim	193	3.6%
Vocational/day service provider	10	0.2%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Referral Source



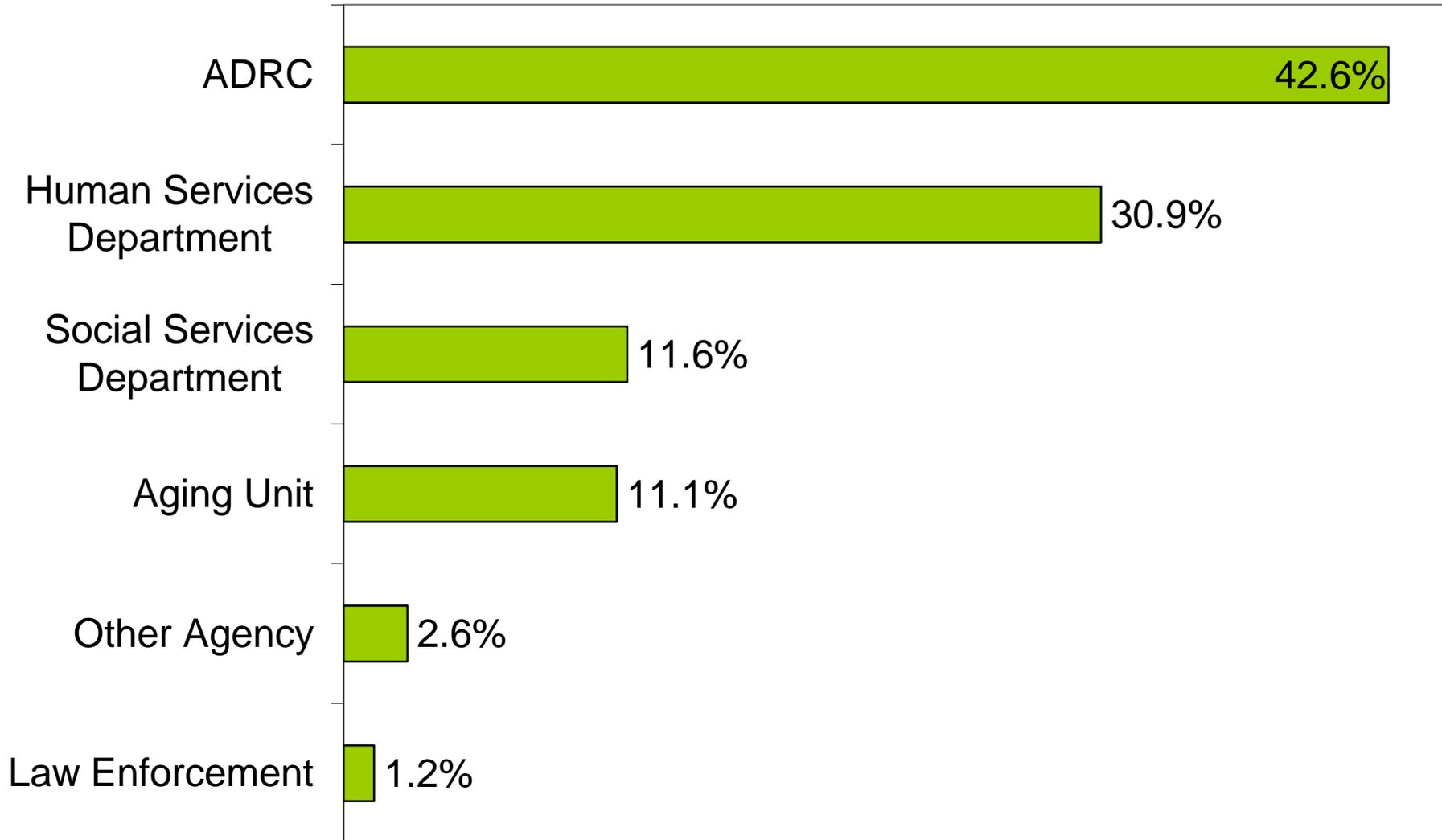
Call Received By

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	2,264	42.6%
Aging Unit	592	11.1%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	55	1.0%
Human Services Department	1,641	30.9%
Law Enforcement	66	1.2%
Other Agency	83	1.6%
Social Services Department	615	11.6%
Total	5,316	100.0%

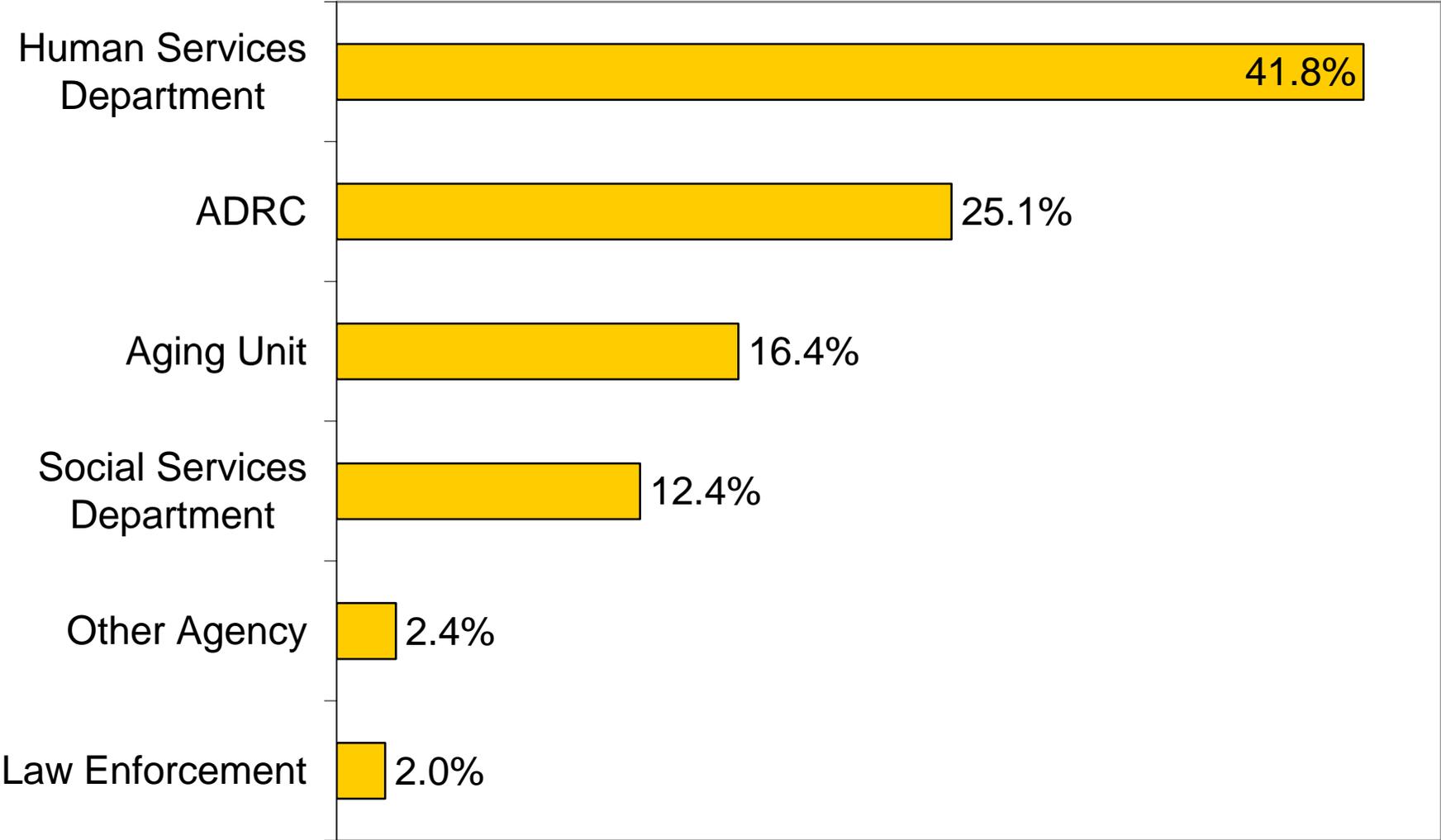
Initial Investigating Agency

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,332	25.1%
Aging Unit	870	16.4%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	53	1.0%
Housing Inspection/Zoning	3	0.1%
Human Services Department	2,224	41.8%
Law Enforcement	105	2.0%
Other Agency	61	1.1%
Public Health Department	11	0.2%
Social Services Department	657	12.4%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Call Received By



Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	4,813	90.5%
Yes	371	7.0%
Unknown	132	2.5%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	303	81.7%
Yes	65	17.5%
Unknown	3	0.8%
Total	371	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents.</i>		

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	23	35.4%
Yes	28	43.1%
Unknown	14	21.5%
Total	65	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	12	42.9%
Yes	6	21.4%
Unknown	10	35.7%
Total	28	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

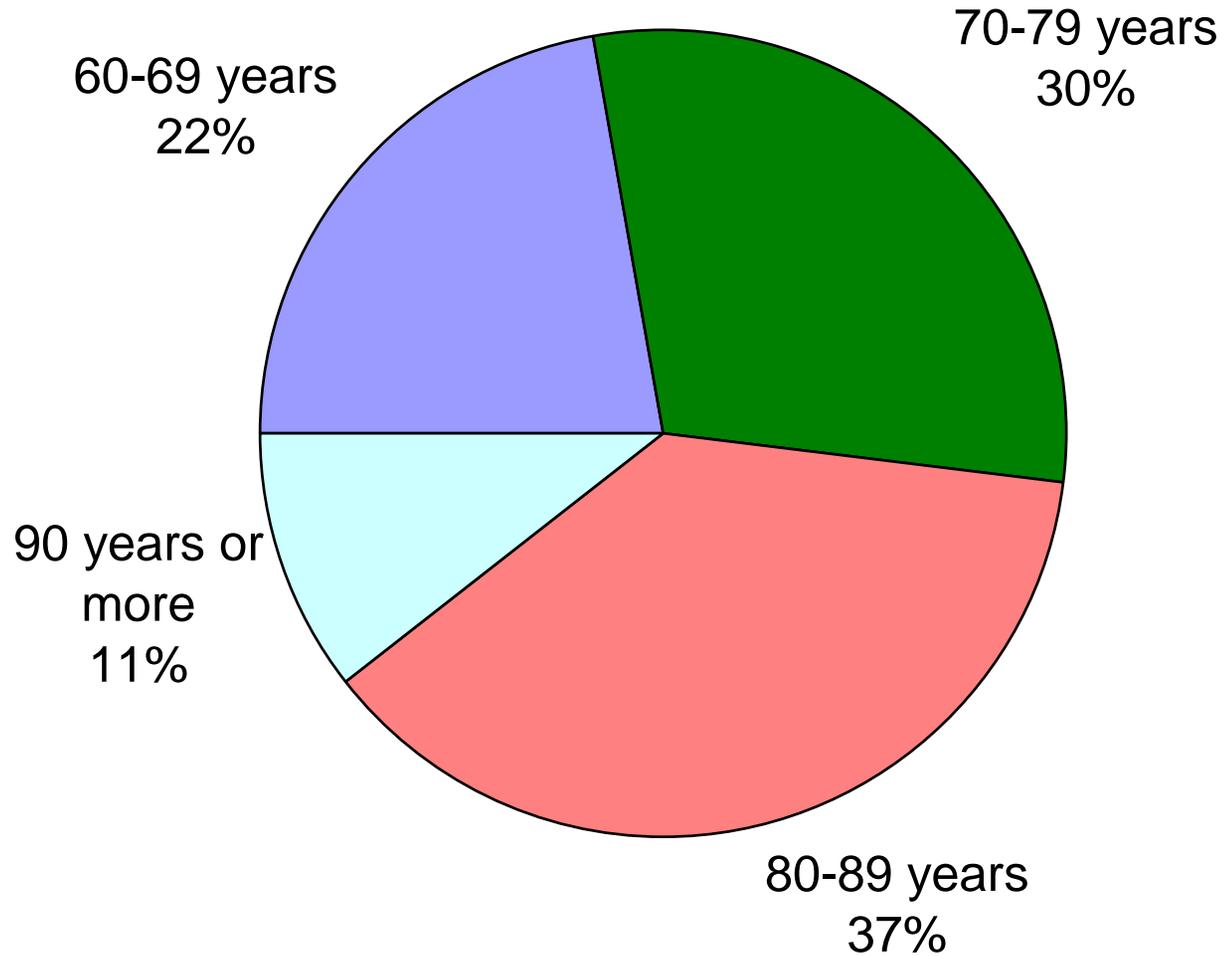
Elder Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	1,178	22.2%
70-79 years	1,585	29.8%
80-89 years	1,992	37.5%
90 years or more	561	10.6%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	3,198	60.2%
Male	2,114	39.8%
Unknown	4	0.1%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Race		
	Number	Percent
White	4,162	78.3%
Black/African American	260	4.9%
Native American/Alaska Native	73	1.4%
Asian	15	0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	0.1%
Other race	32	0.6%
Not reported or unknown	769	14.5%
Total	5,316	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.

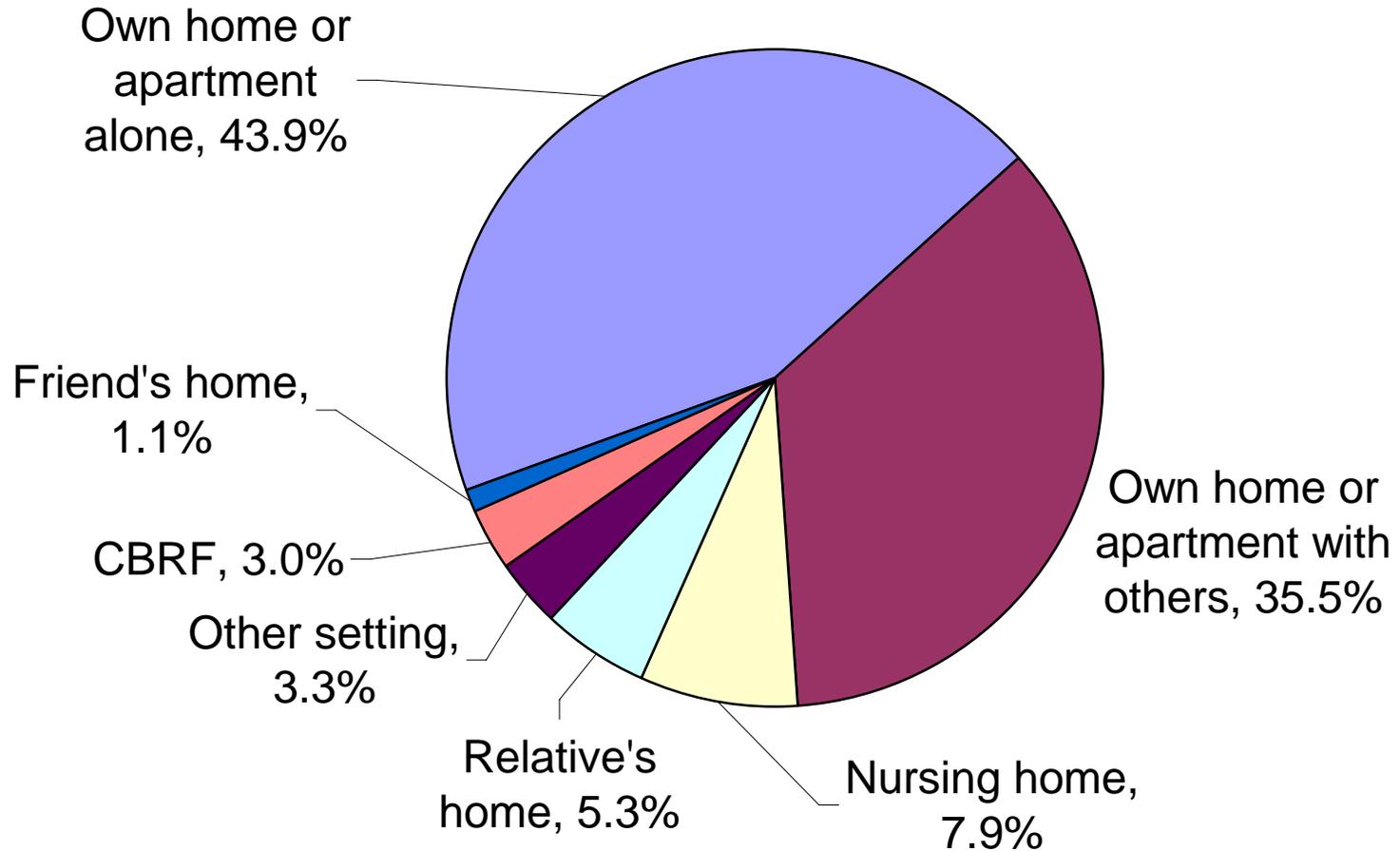
Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home/apartment alone	2,334	43.9%
Own home/apartment with others	1,885	35.5%
Relative's home	282	5.3%
Friend's home	57	1.1%
Adult family home	16	0.3%
Adult family home (licensed)	24	0.5%
Nursing home	419	7.9%
Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)	161	3.0%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	43	0.8%
Homeless	24	0.5%
Other setting	64	1.2%
Institution	7	0.1%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

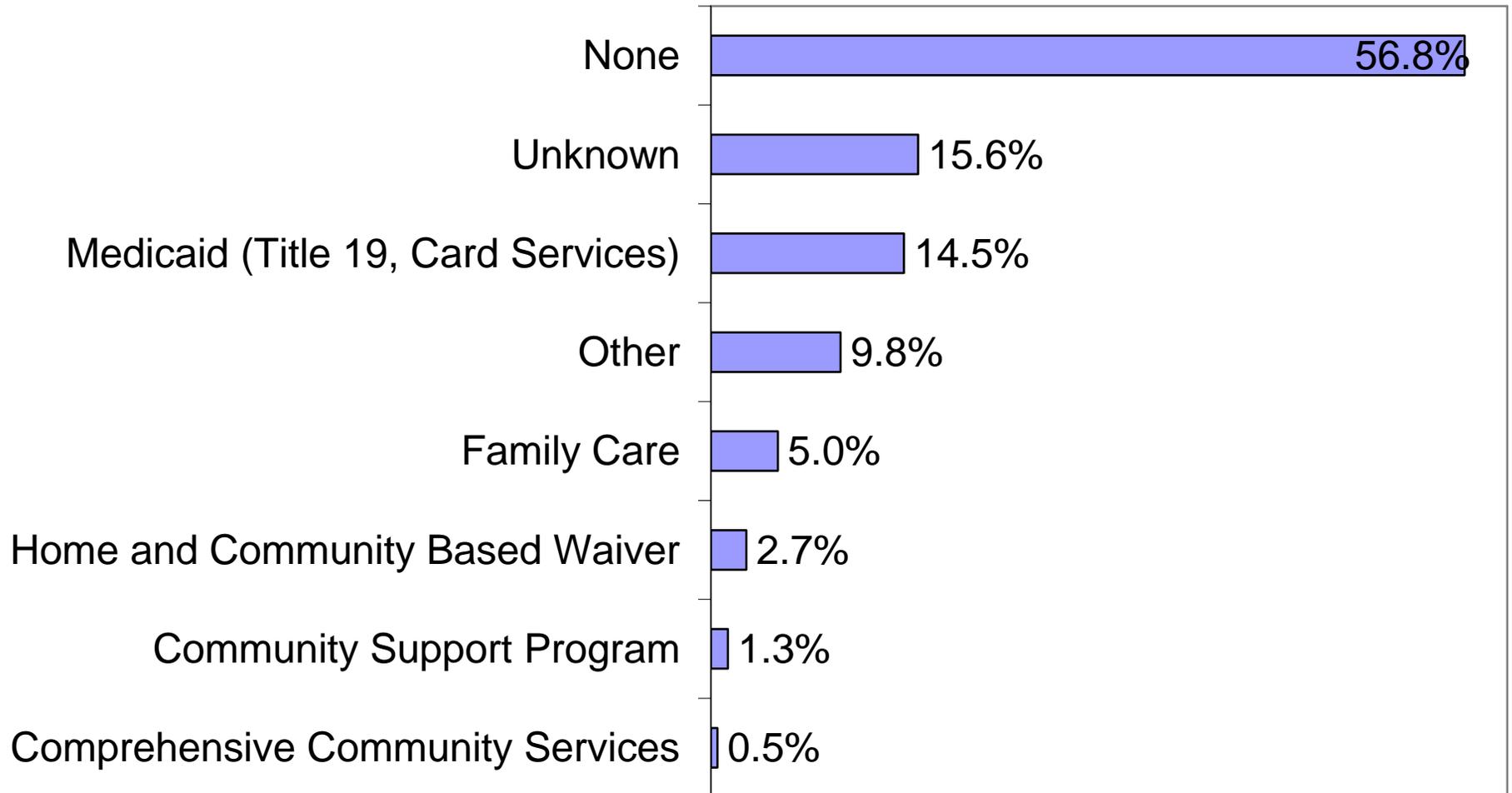


County/State Funded Programs That Have Served This Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	68	1.3%
Comprehensive Community Services	26	0.5%
Family Care	268	5.0%
Home and Community Based Waiver	142	2.7%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	773	14.5%
Unknown	830	15.6%
Other	519	9.8%
None	3,018	56.8%

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?

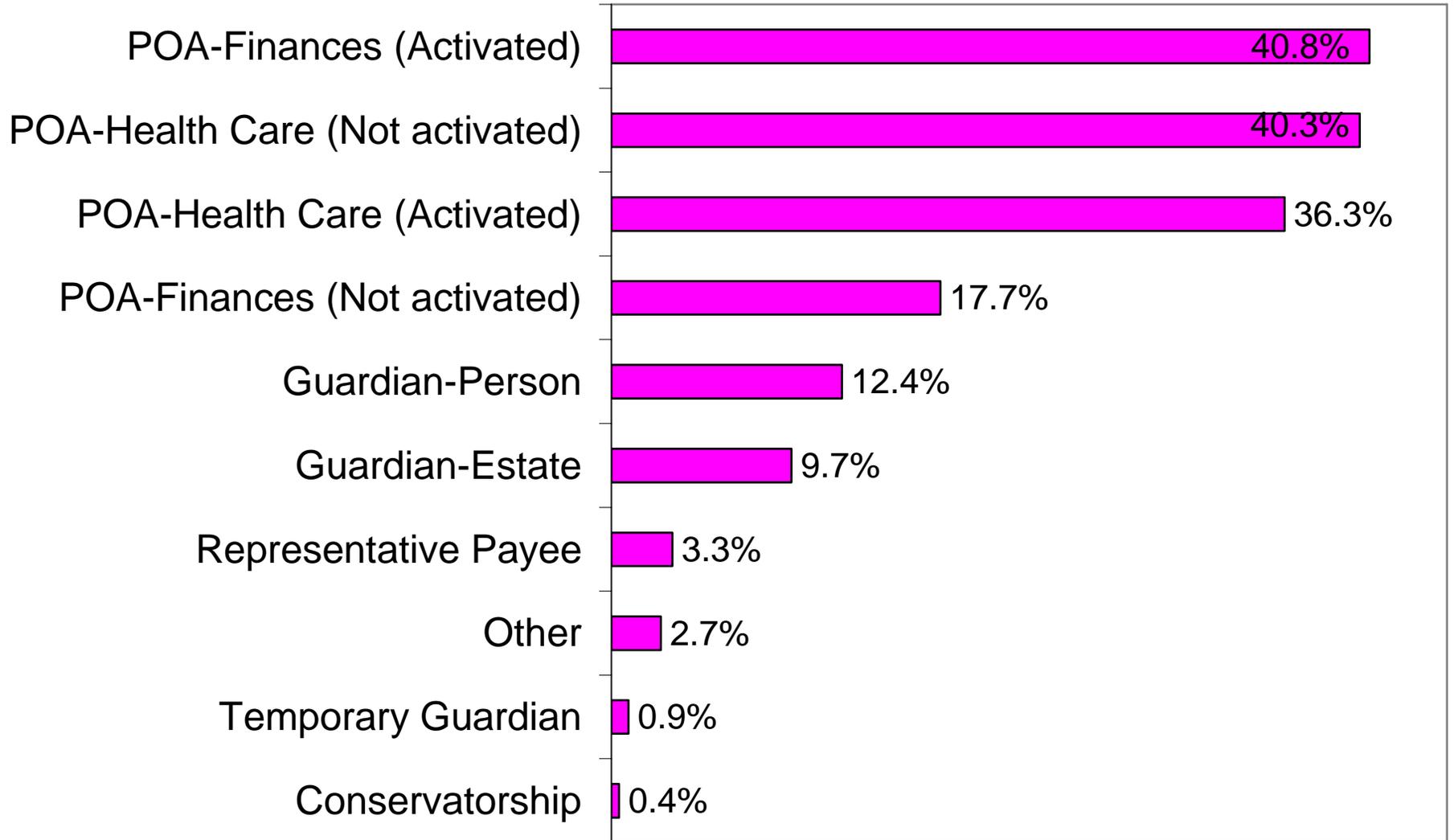
	Number	Percent
No	2,899	54.5%
Yes	1,732	32.6%
Unknown	685	12.9%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	7	0.4%
Guardian of the Person	215	12.4%
Guardian of the Estate	168	9.7%
Representative Payee	57	3.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	707	40.8%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	307	17.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	628	36.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	698	40.3%
Temporary Guardian	16	0.9%
Other	46	2.7%

Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision-maker (n=1732). Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Type of Substitute Decision-Maker



Elder Adult at Risk's Characteristics

	Number	Percent
Frail elderly	2,776	52.2%
Dementia	1,443	27.1%
Disoriented and confused	864	16.3%
Medically fragile	757	14.2%
Mental illness/Chronic mental illness	722	13.6%
Mobility impaired	680	12.8%
Other medical condition	676	12.7%
Other characteristic	835	15.7%
Diabetes	502	9.4%
Alcohol or drug abuse	481	9.0%
Homebound	464	8.7%
Physical disability	461	8.7%
Incontinent	378	7.1%
Deaf/hard of hearing	284	5.3%
None of the listed characteristics	275	5.2%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	272	5.1%
Stroke-related condition	240	4.5%
Blind/visually impaired	173	3.3%

Percents refer to share of all elder 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	95	3.3%
25 to 44 years	502	17.6%
45 to 59 years	831	29.2%
60 to 79 years	578	20.3%
80 years or older	245	8.6%
Unknown	597	21.0%
Total	2,848	100.0%
<i>Total includes all alleged abusers; some incidents involve more than one.</i>		

Alleged Abusers' Gender		
	Number	Percent
Male	1,360	47.9%
Female	1,385	48.8%
Unknown	95	3.3%
Total	2,840	100.0%

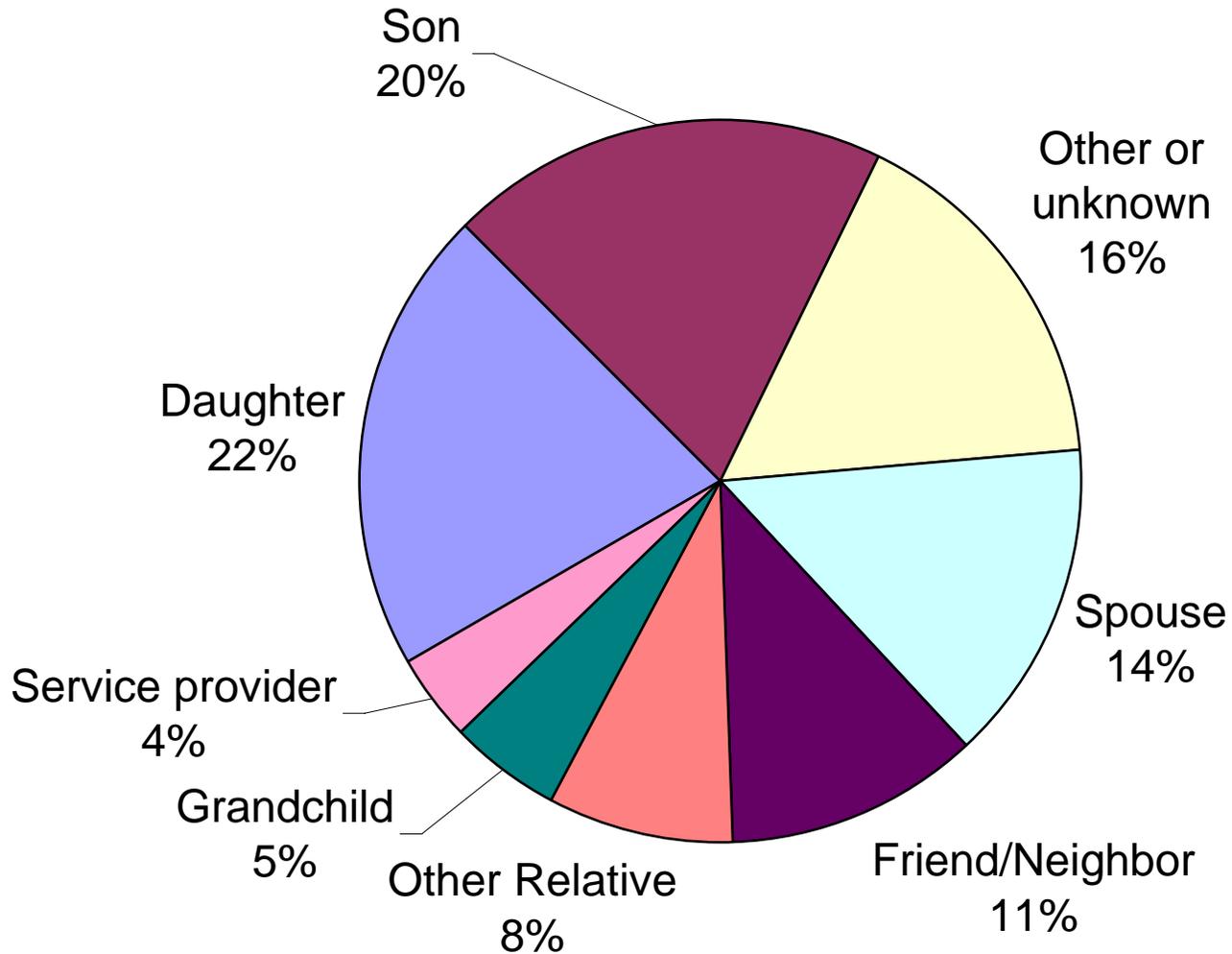
Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Daughter	596	20.9%
Son	562	19.7%
Other or unknown	466	16.4%
Spouse	404	14.2%
Friend/Neighbor	326	11.5%
Other Relative	237	8.3%
Grandchild	146	5.1%
Service provider	109	3.8%
Total	2,846	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,323	46.5%
No	1,407	49.5%
Unknown	114	4.0%
Total	2,844	100.0%

Alleged Abuser's Relationship to Elder Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,438	50.5%
No	1,351	47.5%
Unknown	57	2.0%
Total	2,846	100.0%

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

	Number	Percent
Any legal/substitute decision-maker status listed	839	29.5%
No status listed	2,009	70.5%
Total	2,848	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	5	0.2%
Guardian of the Person	86	3.0%
Guardian of the Estate	69	2.4%
Temporary Guardian	2	0.1%
Representative Payee	25	0.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	361	12.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	101	3.5%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	318	11.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	265	9.3%
Other legal status	44	1.5%
Unknown legal status	407	14.3%
No legal status	1,591	55.9%

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	430	15.1%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	144	5.1%
Dementia	124	4.4%
Disoriented and confused	69	2.4%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on elder adult at risk	498	17.5%
Frail Elderly	168	5.9%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	225	7.9%
None of the listed characteristics	1,293	45.4%
Other characteristic	534	18.8%
Other medical condition	59	2.1%
Physical Disability	78	2.7%
Unemployed	307	10.8%

More than One Alleged Abuser?

	Number	Percent
Yes	136	4.8%
No, one alleged abuser only	2,712	95.2%
Total	2,848	100.0%

Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	2,915	54.8%
Unsubstantiated	1,668	31.4%
Unable to Substantiate	733	13.8%
Total	5,316	100.0%

Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	348	6.5%
Investigation not accepted	314	5.9%
Mental health commitment	61	1.1%
Outreach continues	515	9.7%
Protective services placement	272	5.1%
Referral made to other agency	486	9.1%
Referral made to state agency	16	0.3%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry (DHS/DQA)	17	0.3%
Referral to law enforcement/Department of Justice	292	5.5%
Referral to detoxification services	22	0.4%
Referral to protection/advocacy agencies	66	1.2%
Referral to regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	37	0.7%
Services needed are not available	32	0.6%
Services not needed	811	15.3%
Services offered but not accepted	1,070	20.1%
Services offered-all accepted	675	12.7%
Services offered-some accepted	1,308	24.6%
Response/investigation continues	76	1.4%
Other legal action	163	3.1%
Other disposition	443	8.3%

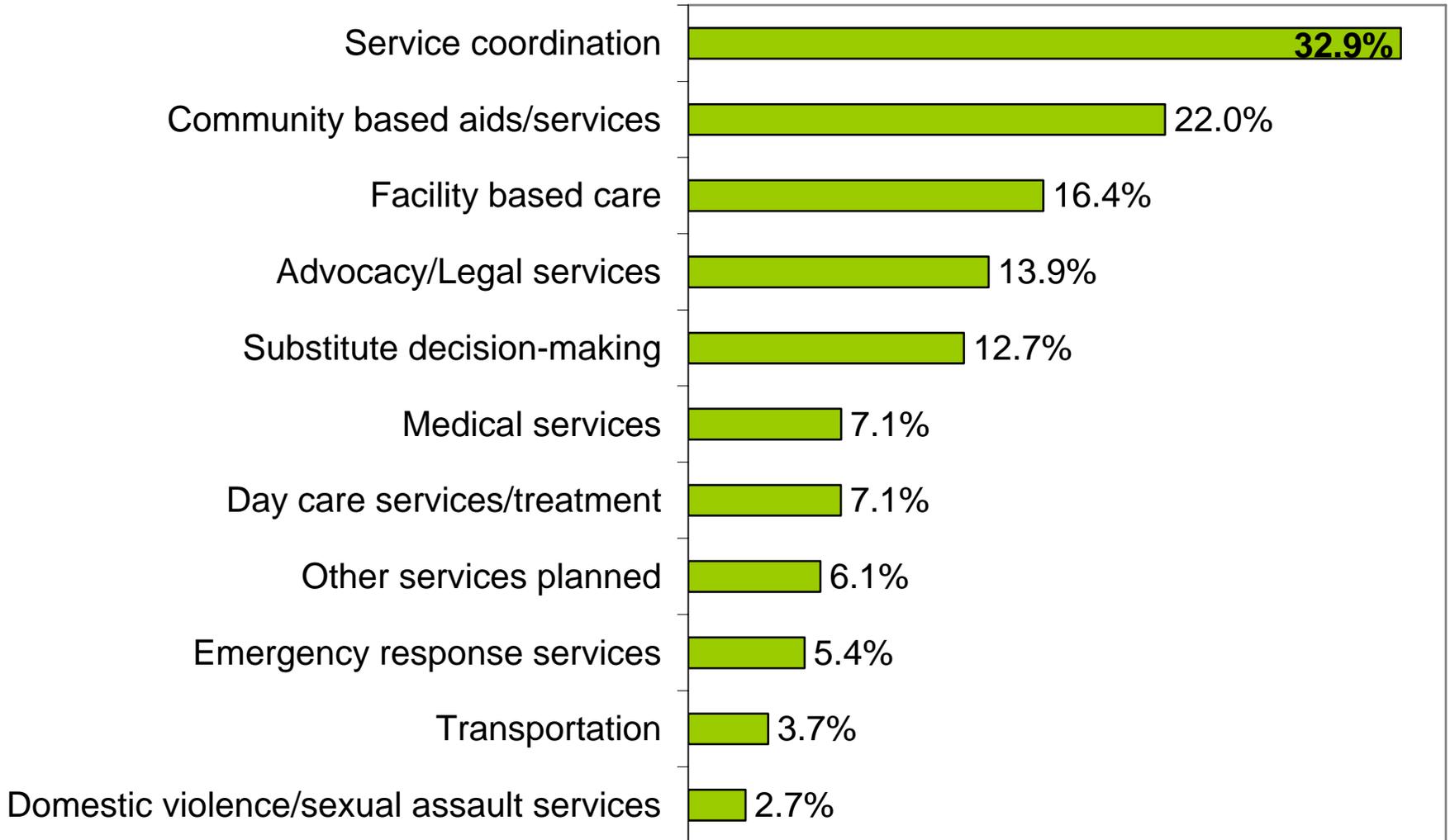
Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.

Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Advocacy/Legal services	738	13.9%
Community based aids/services	1,171	22.0%
Day care services/treatment	375	7.1%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	141	2.7%
Emergency response services	286	5.4%
Facility based care	872	16.4%
Medical services	376	7.1%
Service coordination	1,750	32.9%
Substitute decision-making	677	12.7%
Transportation	196	3.7%
Other services planned	325	6.1%

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

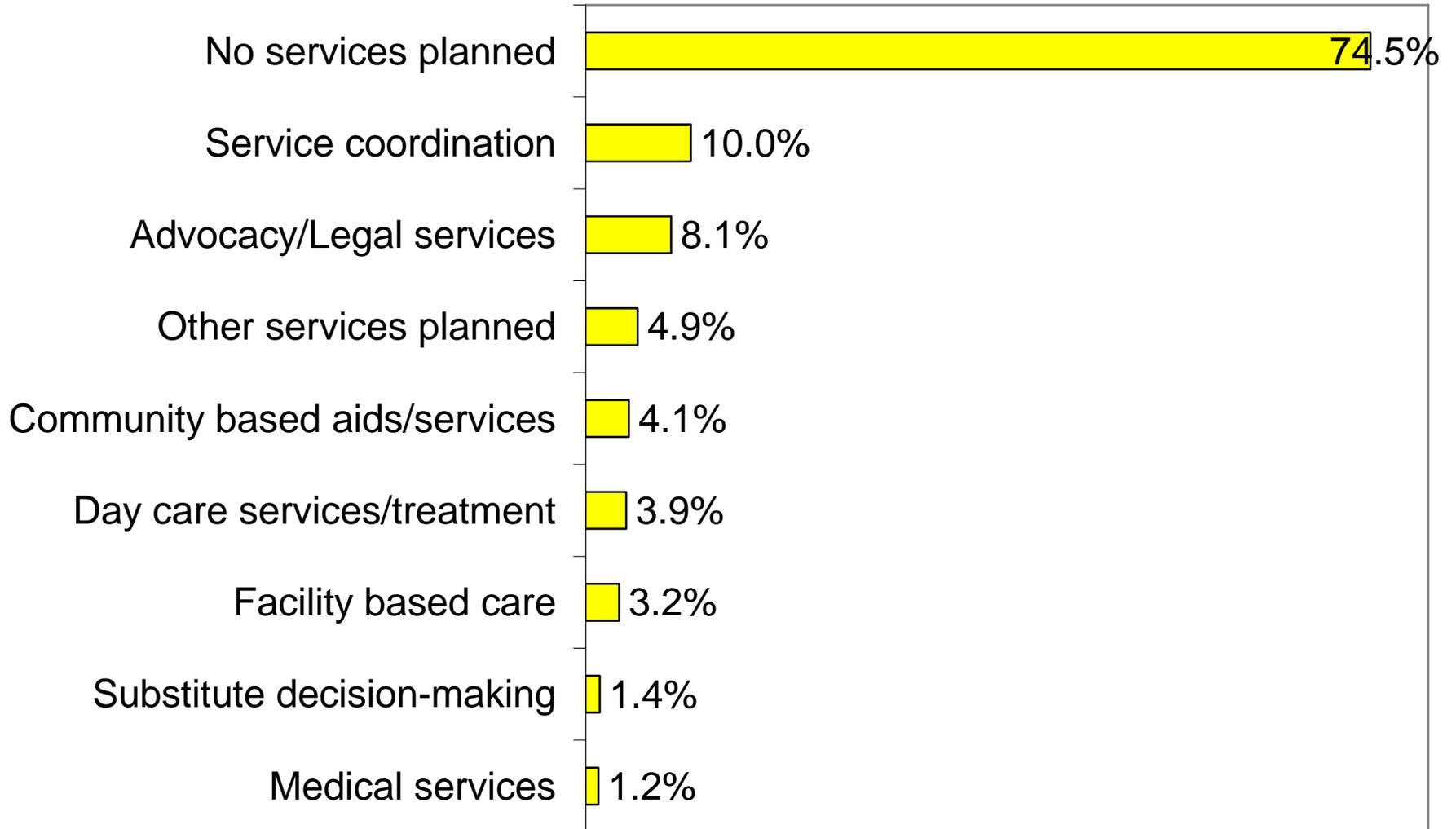


Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

Service	Number	Percent
No services planned	1,868	74.5%
Advocacy/Legal services	204	8.1%
Community based aids/services	103	4.1%
Day care services/treatment	97	3.9%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	1	0.0%
Emergency response services	21	0.8%
Facility based care	80	3.2%
Medical services	31	1.2%
Service coordination	251	10.0%
Substitute decision-making	34	1.4%
Transportation	12	0.5%
Other services planned	90	3.6%

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=2,508).

Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)



Contact Information

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