

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2010

*A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties*



P-00124 (8/2011)

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 2010 are the basis of this statewide Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report.

Growing Awareness of Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation

In 2010, 5,285 cases of suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation involving older adults were reported, a slight (0.6%) decrease over 2009. The decreased total reflects a temporary loss of staff in Milwaukee County, reducing the capacity to respond to referrals. In the balance of the state, the total actually increased by 5.4%, signaling 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.

Tragically, 22 incidents were related to a death, and a total of 357 incidents were considered life-threatening. About one in 14 incidents involved a life-threatening or fatal situation.

2010 Annual Report

This report documents and summarizes reported abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation 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.

A large majority of the elder adults at risk included in this report are community-dwelling. Allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals living in licensed facilities are generally addressed through the DHS Division of Quality Assurance Office of Caregiver Quality.

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 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.

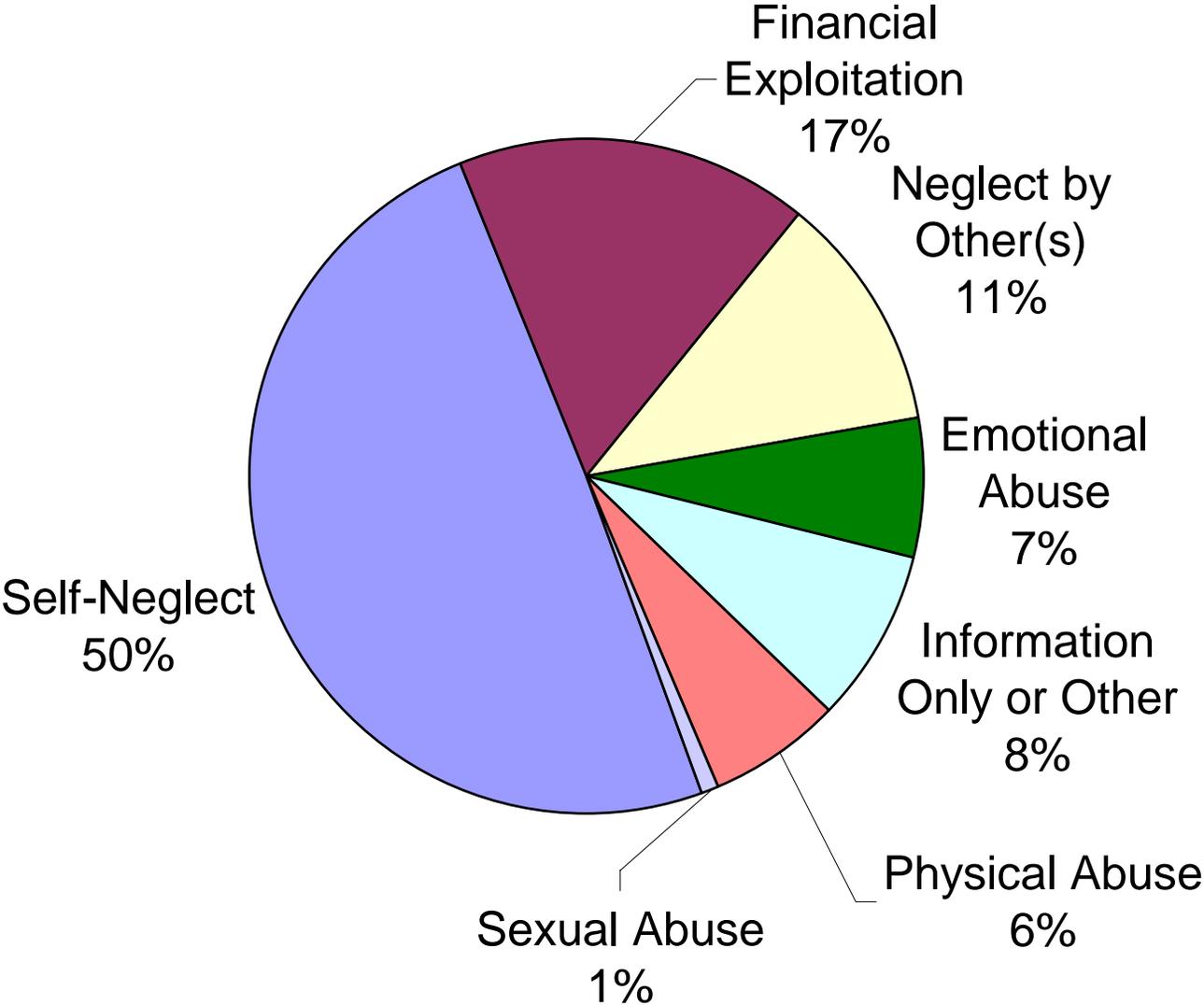
Call your County Help Line if you need to talk to someone about suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elder adult at risk (age 60+). See <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aps/Contacts/aaragencies.htm>

Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	2,849	49.4%
Financial Exploitation	970	16.8%
Neglect by Other(s)	648	11.2%
Emotional Abuse	392	6.8%
Physical Abuse	372	6.5%
Sexual Abuse	38	0.7%
Treatment without Consent	3	0.1%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	13	0.2%
<i>Information Only*</i>	477	8.3%
Total	5,762	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	3,255	62.0%
Yes	1,612	30.7%
Unknown	381	7.3%
Total	5,248	100.0%

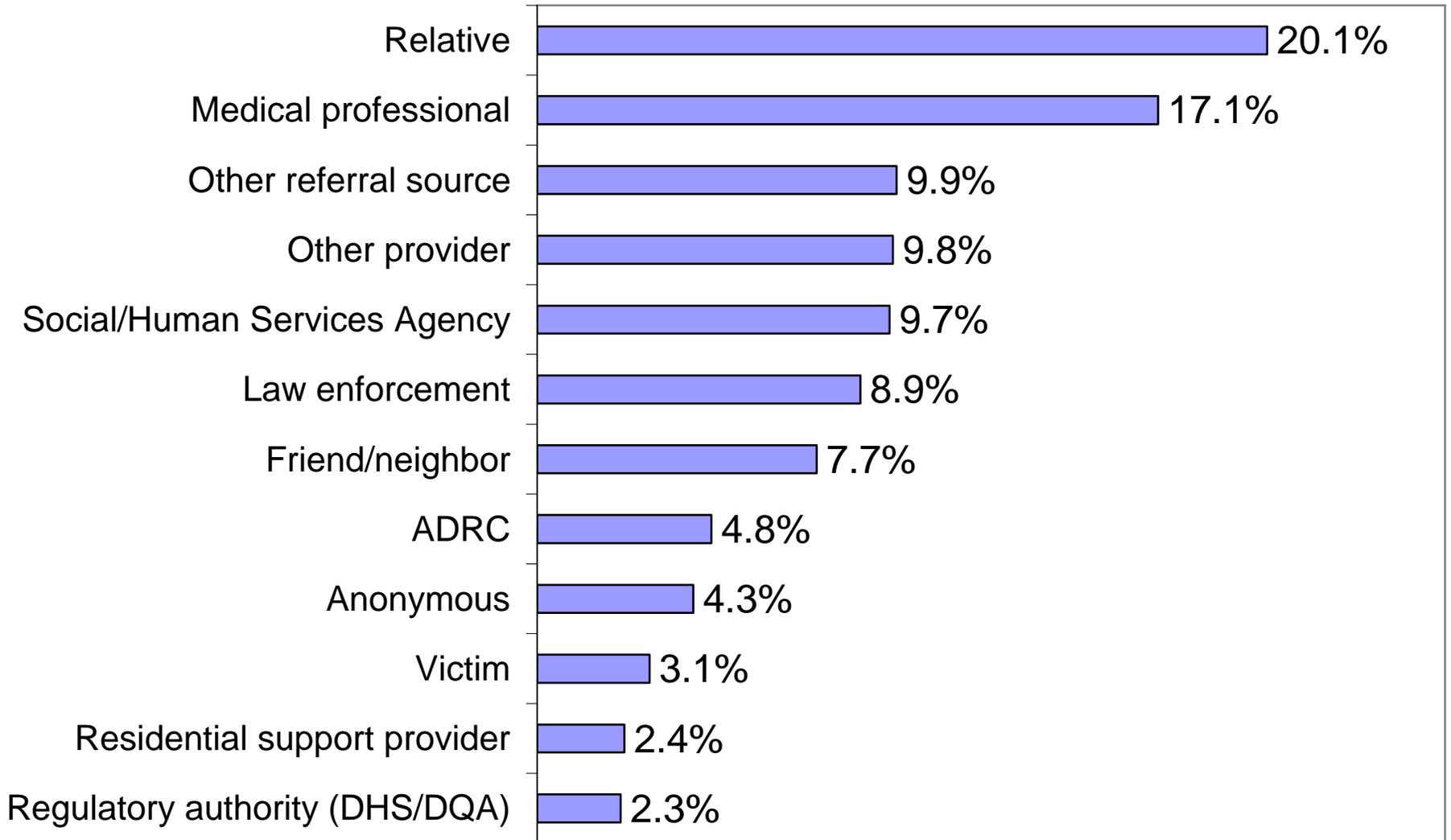
Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	4,755	90.0%
Other place	465	8.8%
Place of employment/day services	38	0.7%
School	13	0.2%
Transportation	14	0.3%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Referral Source

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center	252	4.8%
Social/Human Services Agency	513	9.7%
Alleged abuser	3	0.1%
Anonymous	227	4.3%
Employer	3	0.1%
Friend/neighbor	406	7.7%
Housing inspection/zoning	31	0.6%
Law enforcement	470	8.9%
Medical professional	902	17.1%
Mental health service provider	69	1.3%
Other provider	435	8.2%
Other referral source	488	9.2%
Regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	121	2.3%
Relative	1,063	20.1%
Residential support provider	125	2.4%
Substance abuse service provider	5	0.1%
Victim	165	3.1%
Vocational/day service provider	7	0.1%
Total	5,285	100.0%

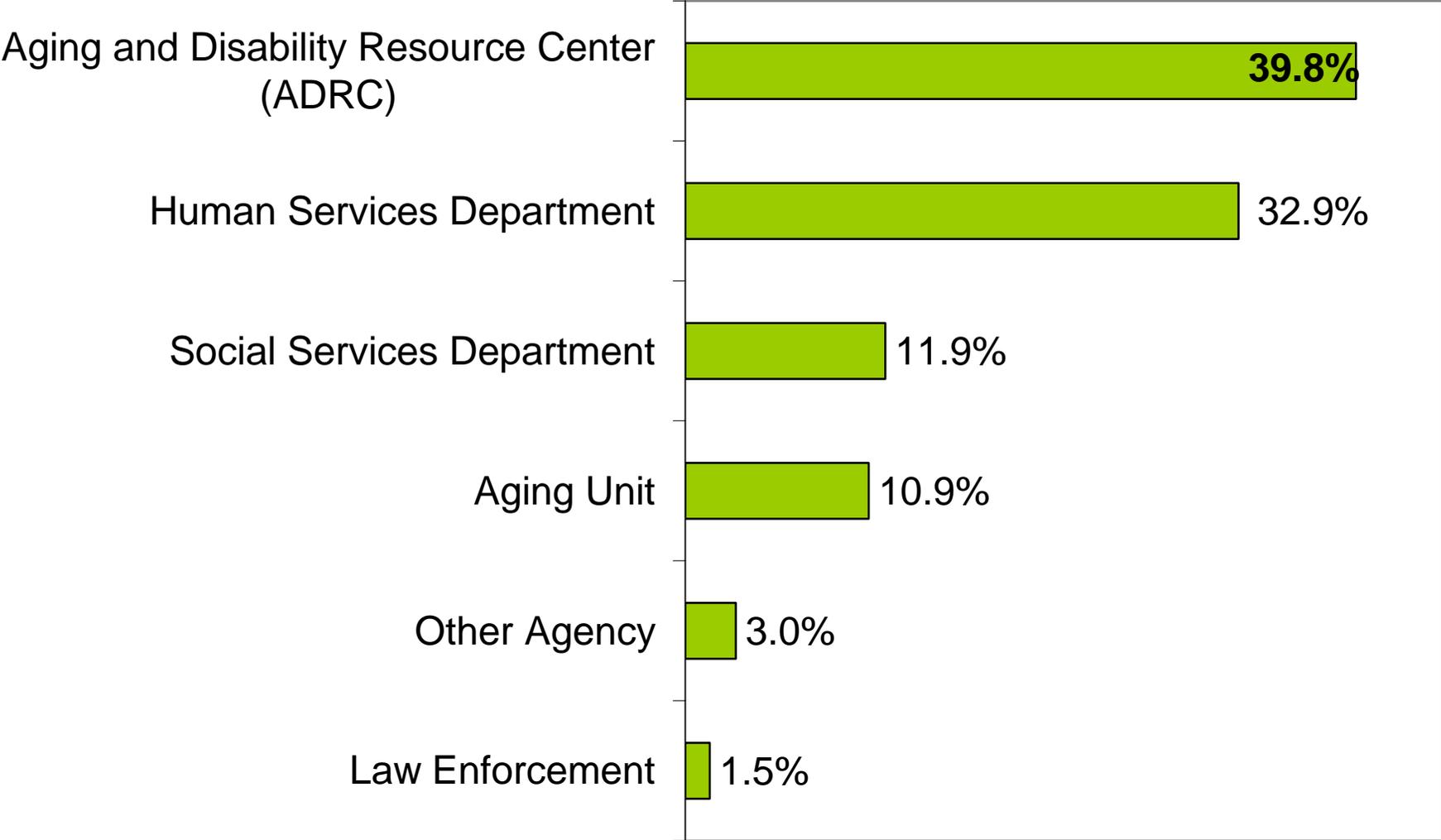
Referral Source



Call Received By

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	2,105	39.8%
Aging Unit	576	10.9%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	74	1.4%
Human Services Department	1,737	32.9%
Law Enforcement	77	1.5%
Other Agency	86	1.6%
Social Services Department	628	11.9%
Total	5,285	100.0%

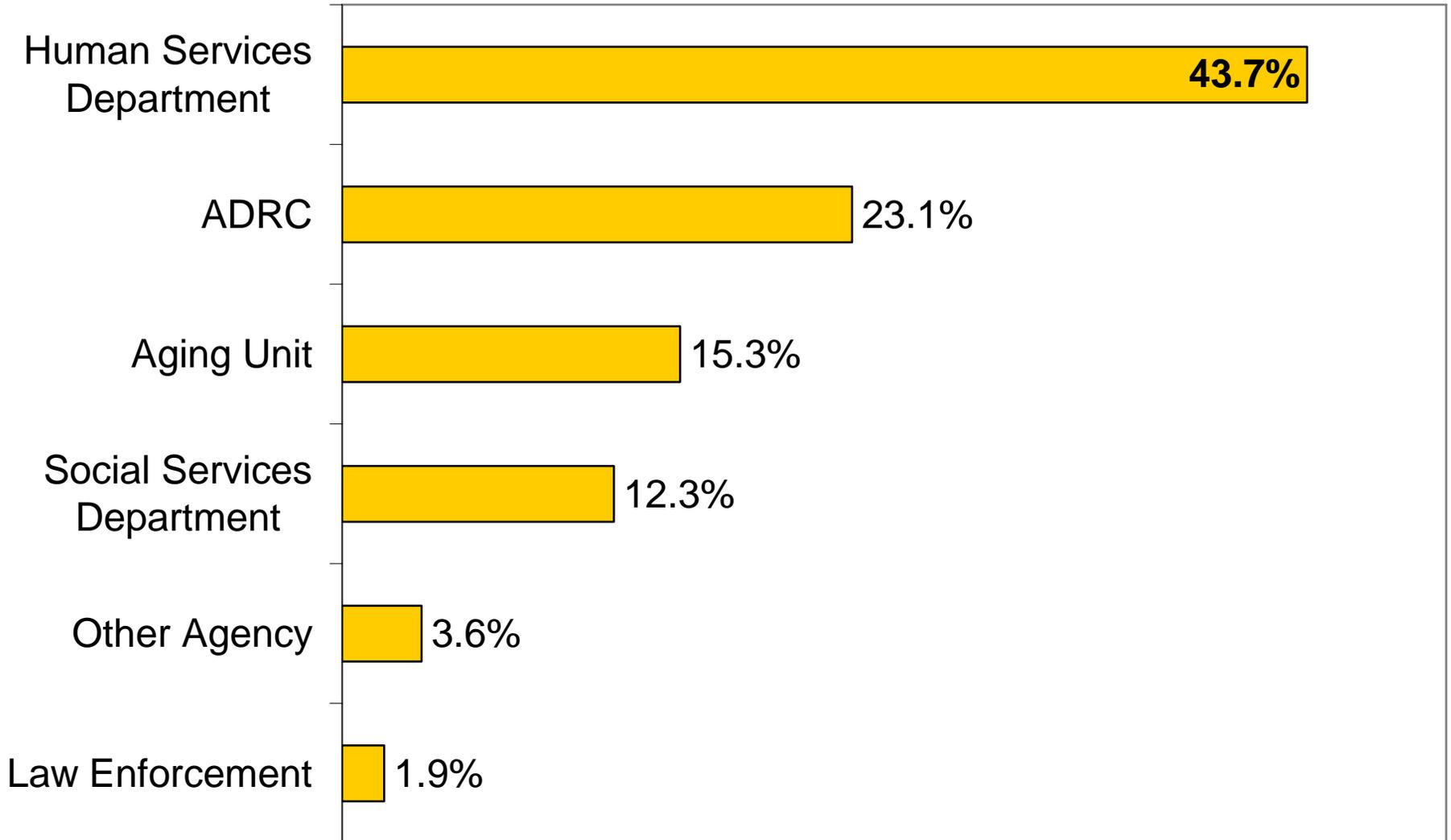
Call Received By



Initial Investigating Agency

	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,225	23.2%
Aging Unit	809	15.3%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	71	1.3%
Housing Inspection/Zoning	5	0.1%
Human Services Department	2,312	43.7%
Law Enforcement	103	1.9%
Other Agency	109	2.1%
Public Health Department	3	0.1%
Social Services Department	648	12.3%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	4,730	89.5%
Yes	357	6.8%
Unknown	198	3.7%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	294	82.4%
Yes	62	17.4%
Unknown	1	0.3%
Total	357	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents.</i>		

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	27	43.5%
Yes	22	35.5%
Unknown	13	21.0%
Total	62	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.</i>		

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	10	45.5%
Yes	9	40.9%
Unknown	3	13.6%
Total	22	100.0%
<i>Note: Percents represent share of all incidents with death related to incident.</i>		

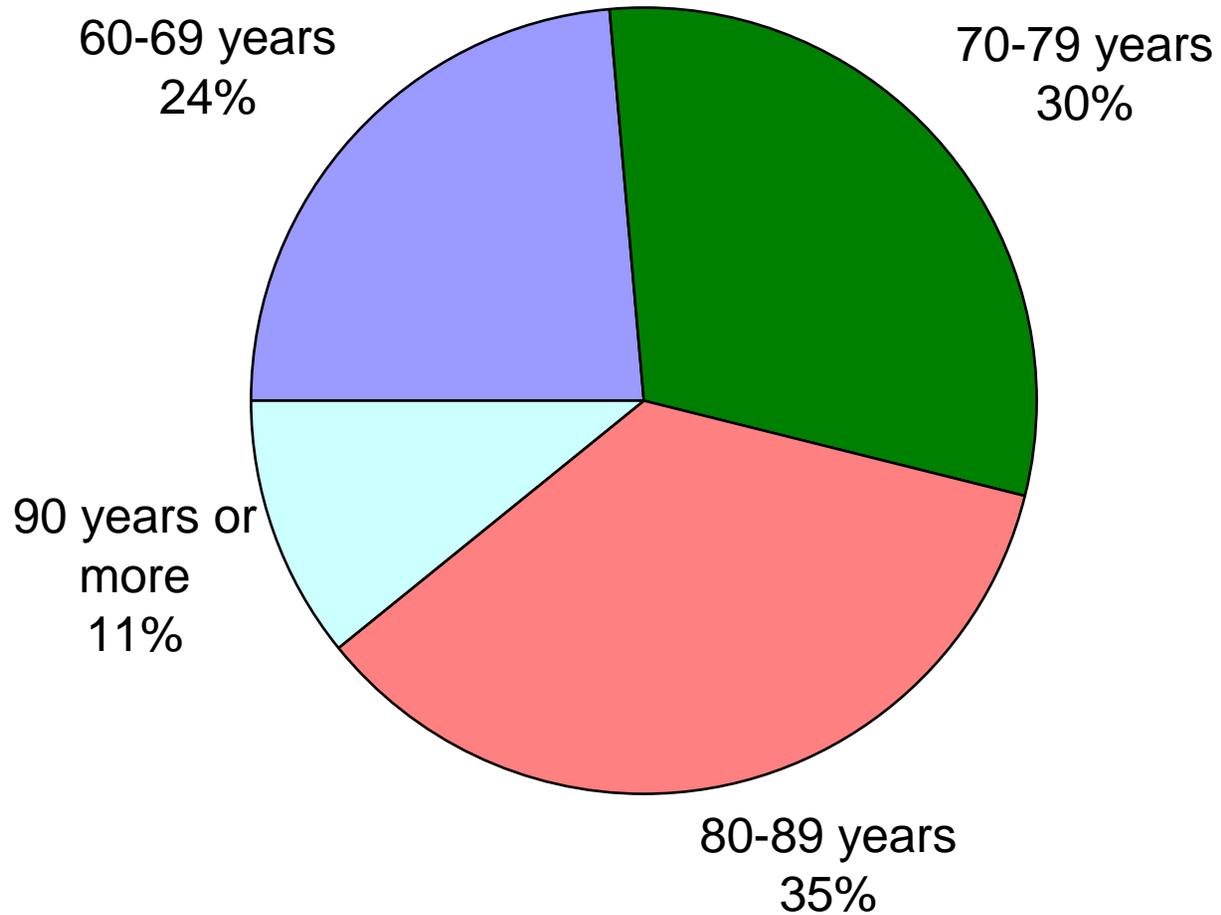
Elder Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	1,253	23.7%
70-79 years	1,601	30.3%
80-89 years	1,854	35.1%
90 years or more	577	10.9%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	3,234	61.2%
Male	2,049	38.8%
Unknown	2	0.0%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Race		
	Number	Percent
White	4,067	77.0%
Black/African American	215	4.1%
Native American/Alaska Native	73	1.4%
Asian	15	0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7	0.1%
Other race	33	0.6%
Not reported or unknown	875	16.6%
Total	5,285	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.

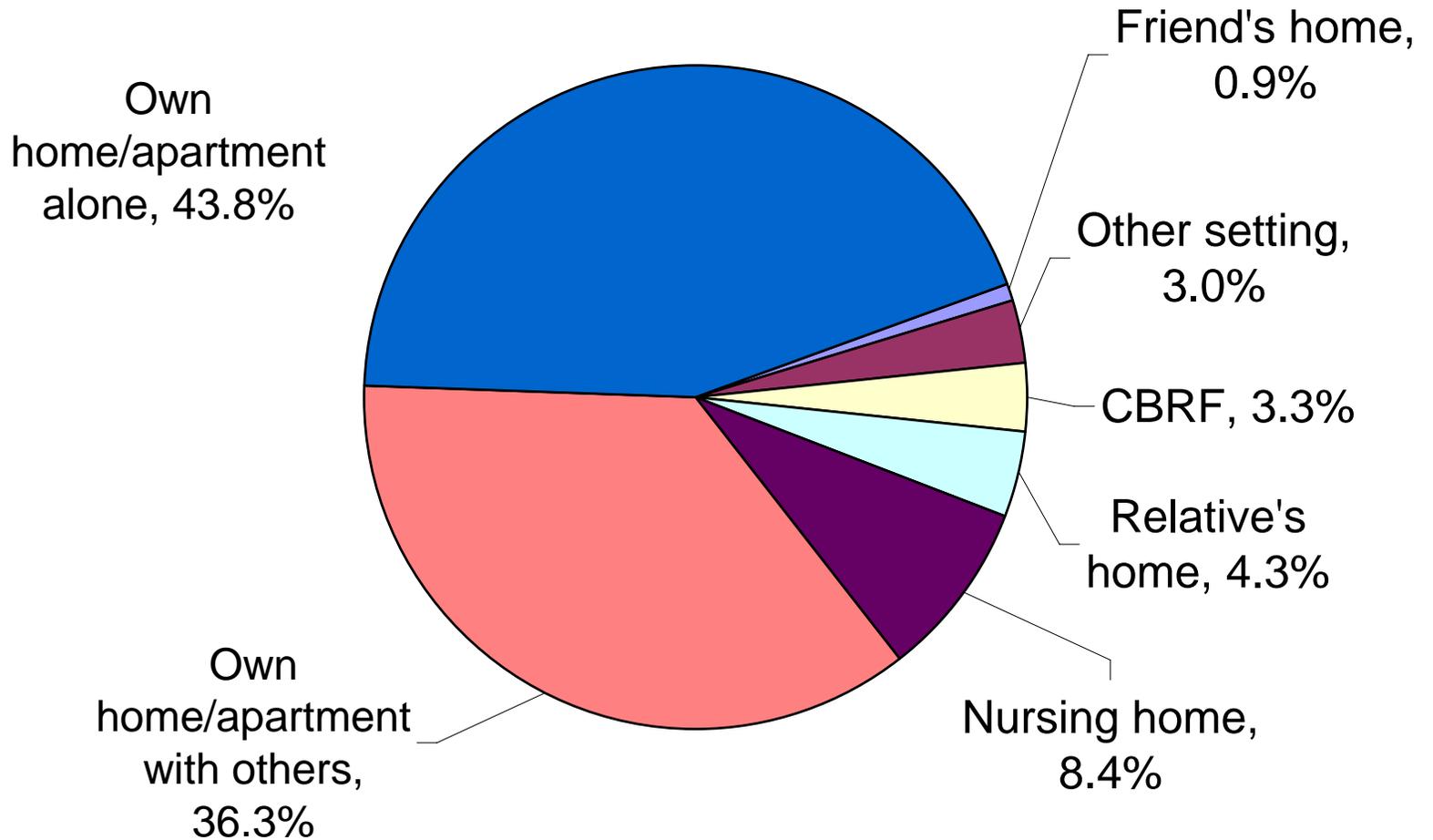
Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home/apartment alone	2,315	43.8%
Own home/apartment with others	1,920	36.3%
Relative's home	227	4.3%
Friend's home	45	0.9%
Adult family home	16	0.3%
Adult family home (licensed)	18	0.3%
Nursing home	443	8.4%
Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)	175	3.3%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	44	0.8%
Homeless	31	0.6%
Other setting	46	0.9%
Institution	5	0.1%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

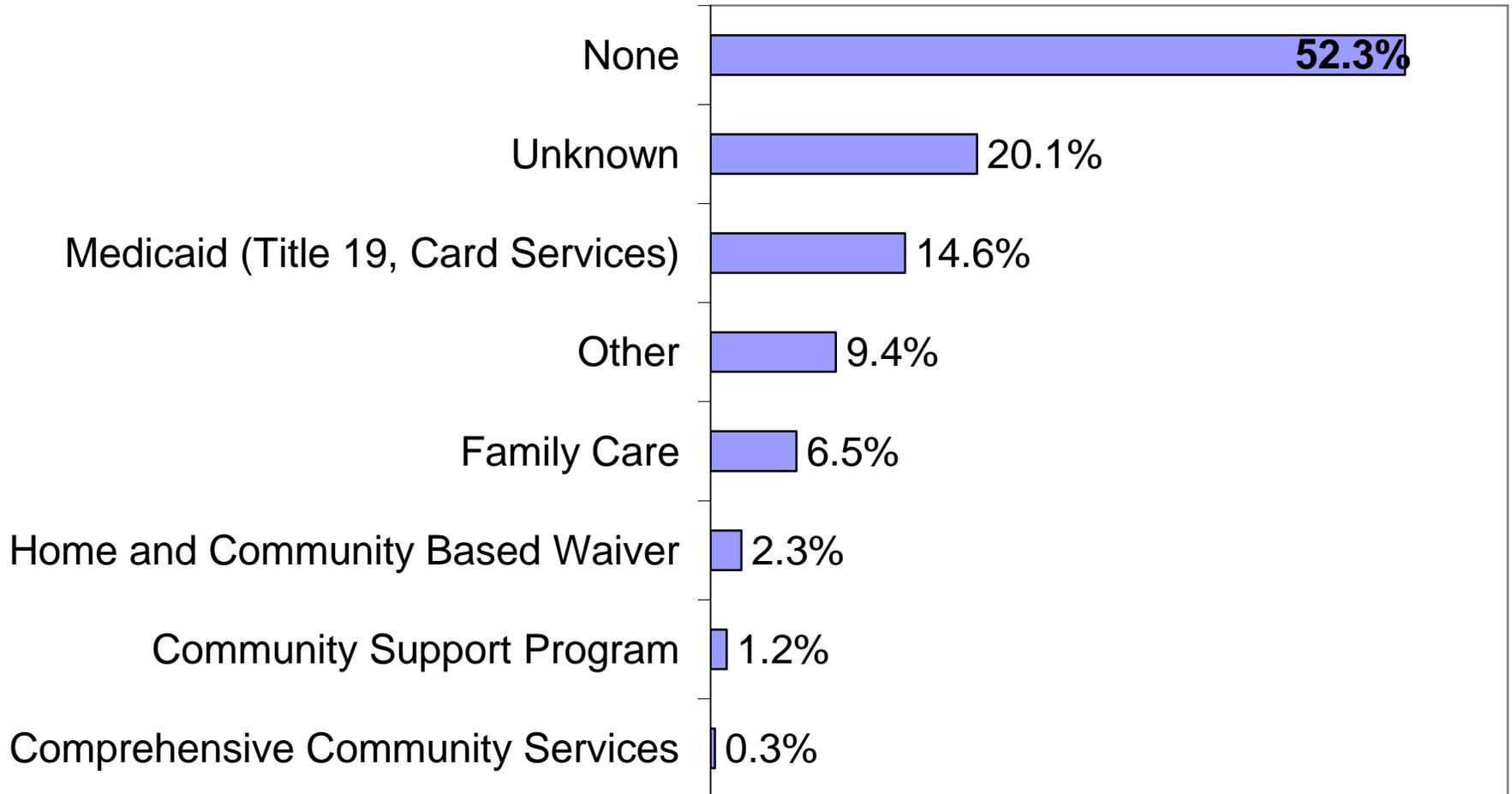


County/State Funded Programs That Have Served Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	64	1.2%
Comprehensive Community Services	17	0.3%
Family Care	342	6.5%
Home and Community Based Waiver	123	2.3%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	774	14.6%
Unknown	1,060	20.1%
Other	499	9.4%
None	2,762	52.3%

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

Public Programs that have served Elder Adult at Risk



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

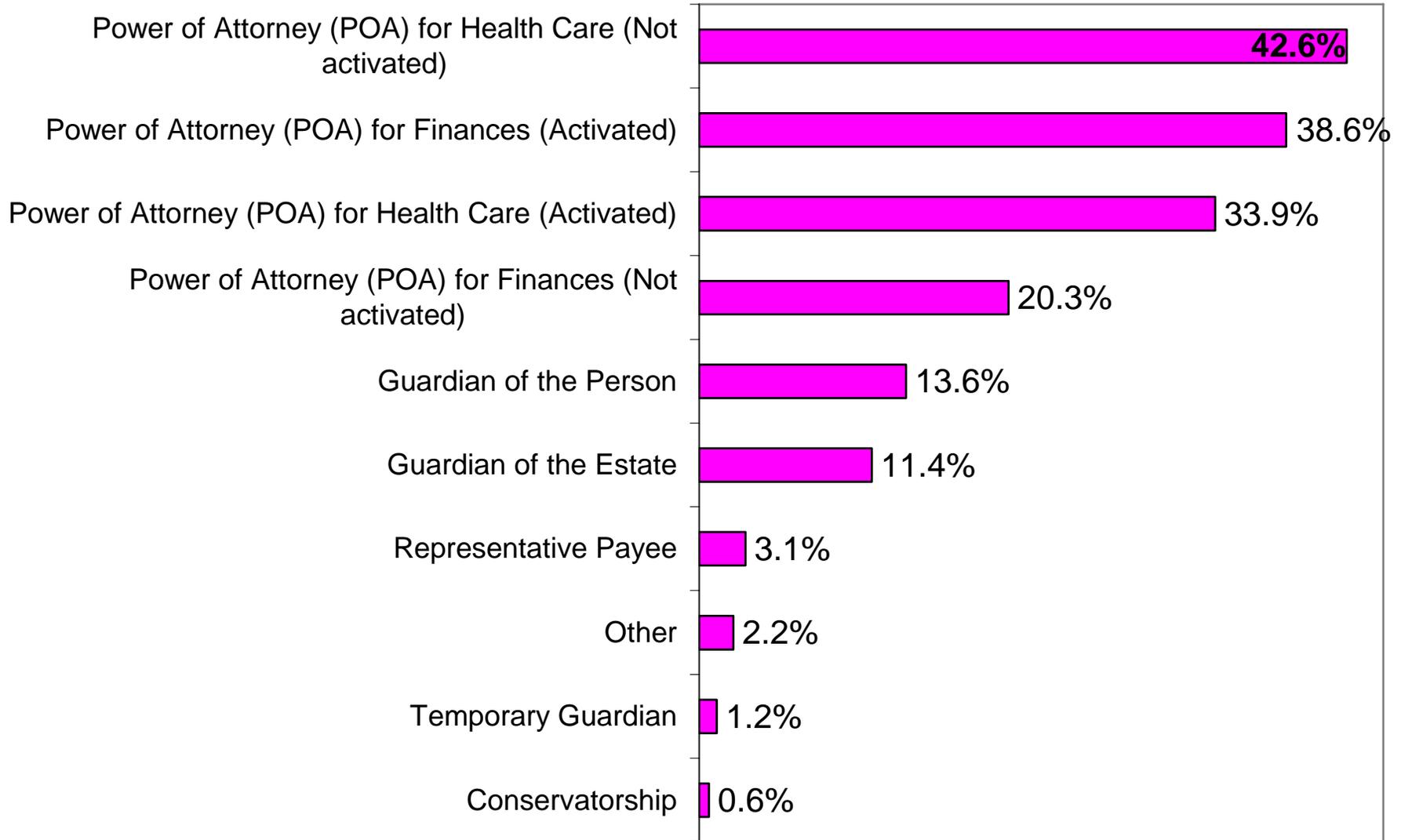
	Number	Percent
No	2,900	54.9%
Yes	1,735	32.8%
Unknown	650	12.3%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	11	0.6%
Guardian of the Person	236	13.6%
Guardian of the Estate	197	11.4%
Representative Payee	53	3.1%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	670	38.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	353	20.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	589	33.9%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	739	42.6%
Temporary Guardian	20	1.2%
Other	39	2.2%

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	2,774	52.5%
Dementia	1,430	27.1%
Disoriented and confused	850	16.1%
Other characteristic	839	15.9%
Medically fragile	764	14.5%
Mobility impaired	692	13.1%
Other medical condition	597	11.3%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	516	9.8%
Diabetes	513	9.7%
Physical disability	433	8.2%
Homebound	425	8.0%
Incontinent	337	6.4%
Deaf/hard of hearing	294	5.6%
None of the listed characteristics	273	5.2%
Chronic alcoholic	253	4.8%
Stroke-related condition	242	4.6%
Alcohol abuse	234	4.4%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	194	3.7%
Blind/visually impaired	176	3.3%
Chronic mental illness	156	3.0%

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	100	3.5%
25 to 44 years	490	17.4%
45 to 59 years	849	30.1%
60 to 79 years	513	18.2%
80 years or older	244	8.6%
Unknown	627	22.2%
Total	2,823	100.0%

Total includes all alleged abusers; some incidents involve more than one.

Alleged Abusers' Gender

	Number	Percent
Male	1,396	49.6%
Female	1,318	46.8%
Unknown	100	3.6%
Total	2,814	100.0%

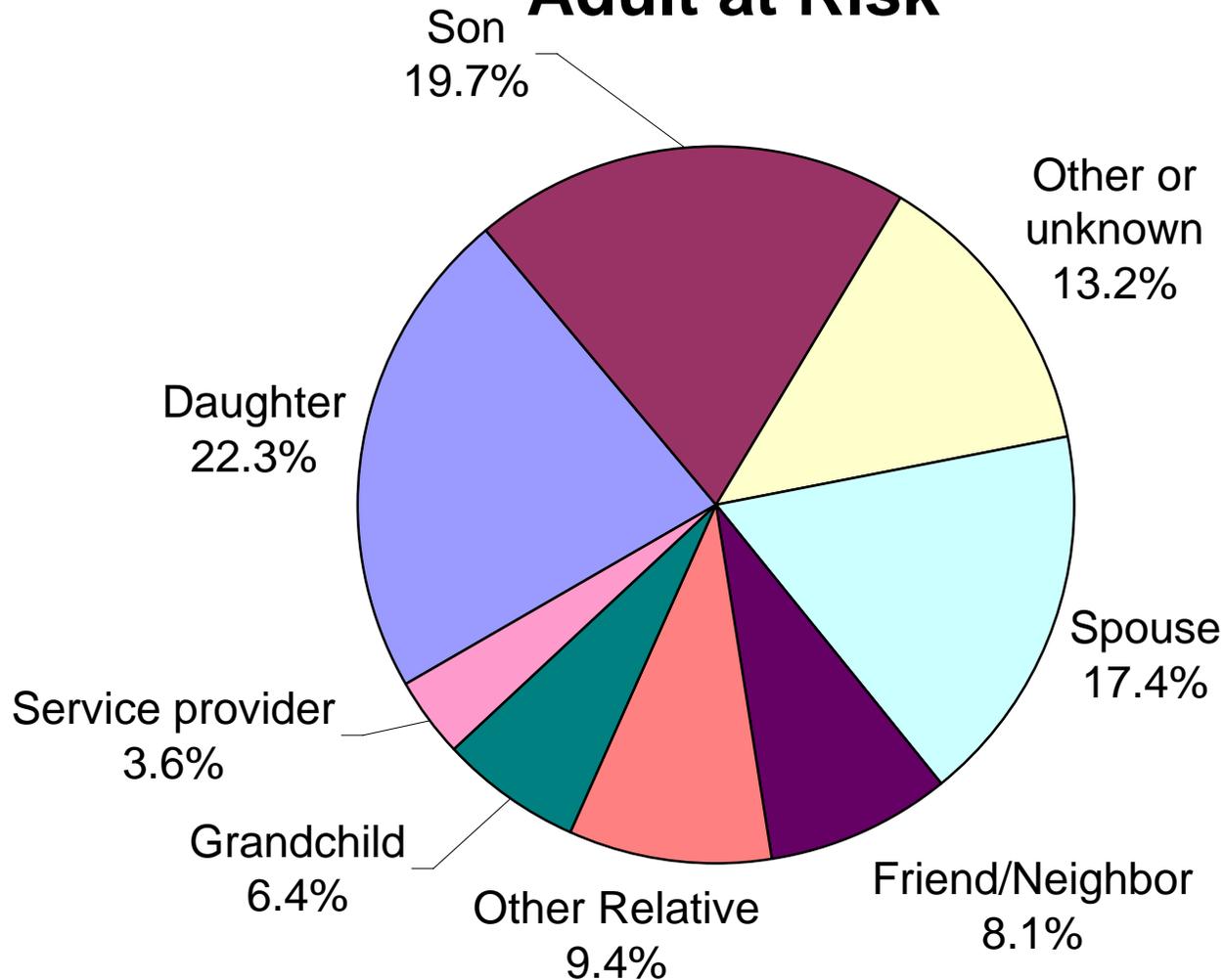
Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Daughter	627	22.3%
Son	555	19.7%
Other or unknown	373	13.2%
Spouse	489	17.4%
Friend/Neighbor	229	8.1%
Other Relative	264	9.4%
Grandchild	179	6.4%
Service provider	100	3.6%
Total	2,816	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,261	44.8%
No	1,444	51.3%
Unknown	110	3.9%
Total	2,815	100.0%

Alleged Abuser's Relationship to Elder Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,457	51.9%
No	1,286	45.8%
Unknown	62	2.2%
Total	2,805	100.0%

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

	Number	Percent
Any legal/substitute decision-maker status listed	812	28.8%
No status listed	2,011	71.2%
Total	2,823	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	1	0.0%
Guardian of the Person	78	2.8%
Guardian of the Estate	65	2.3%
Temporary Guardian	3	0.1%
Representative Payee	35	1.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	355	12.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	112	4.0%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	277	9.8%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	274	9.7%
Other legal status	64	2.3%
Unknown legal status	375	13.3%
No legal status	1,619	57.4%

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	372	13.2%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	166	5.9%
Dementia	141	5.0%
Disoriented and confused	77	2.7%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on elder adult at risk	494	17.5%
Frail Elderly	204	7.2%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	191	6.8%
None of the listed characteristics	1,260	44.6%
Other medical condition	65	2.3%
Physical Disability	62	2.2%
Unemployed	335	11.9%

More than One Alleged Abuser?

	Number	Percent
Yes	132	4.9%
No, one alleged abuser only	2,559	95.1%
Total	2,691	100.0%

Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	2,893	54.7%
Unsubstantiated	1,636	31.0%
Unable to Substantiate	756	14.3%
Total	5,285	100.0%

Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	359	6.8%
Investigation not accepted	311	5.9%
Mental health commitment	57	1.1%
Outreach continues	499	9.4%
Protective services/placement	286	5.4%
Referral made to other agency	463	8.8%
Referral made to state agency	12	0.2%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry (DHS/DQA)	12	0.2%
Referral to law enforcement/Department of Justice	267	5.1%
Referral to detoxification services	22	0.4%
Referral to protection/advocacy agencies	54	1.0%
Referral to regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	50	0.9%
Services needed are not available	31	0.6%
Services not needed	788	14.9%
Services offered but not accepted	1,038	19.6%
Services offered-all accepted	808	15.3%
Services offered-some accepted	1,197	22.6%
Response/investigation continues	83	1.6%
Other legal action	152	2.9%
Other disposition	465	8.8%

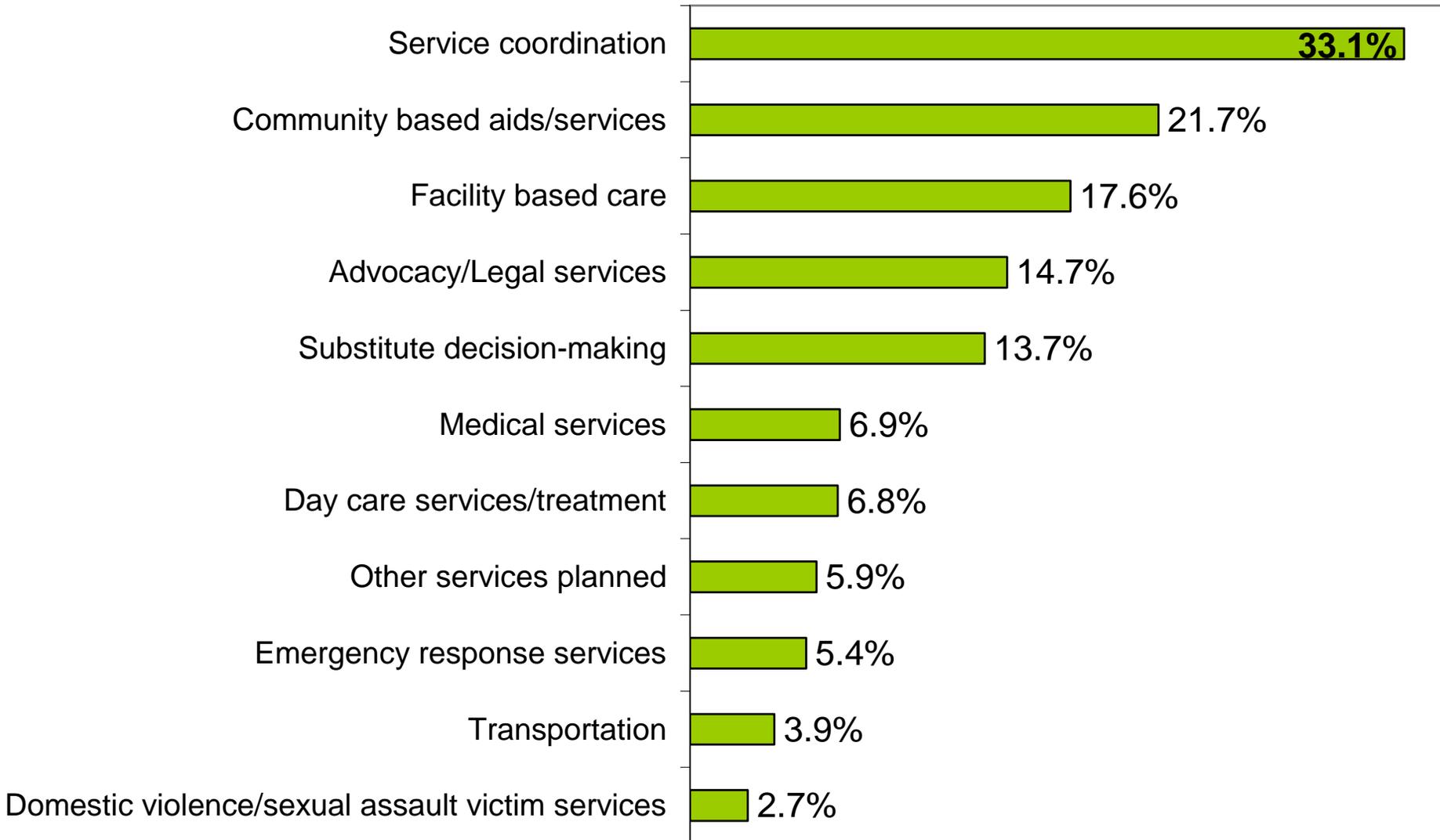
Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.

Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Advocacy/Legal services	777	14.7%
Community based aids/services	1,148	21.7%
Day care services/treatment	362	6.8%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	142	2.7%
Emergency response services	285	5.4%
Facility based care	932	17.6%
Medical services	367	6.9%
Service coordination	1,750	33.1%
Substitute decision-making	722	13.7%
Transportation	207	3.9%
Other services planned	310	5.9%

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

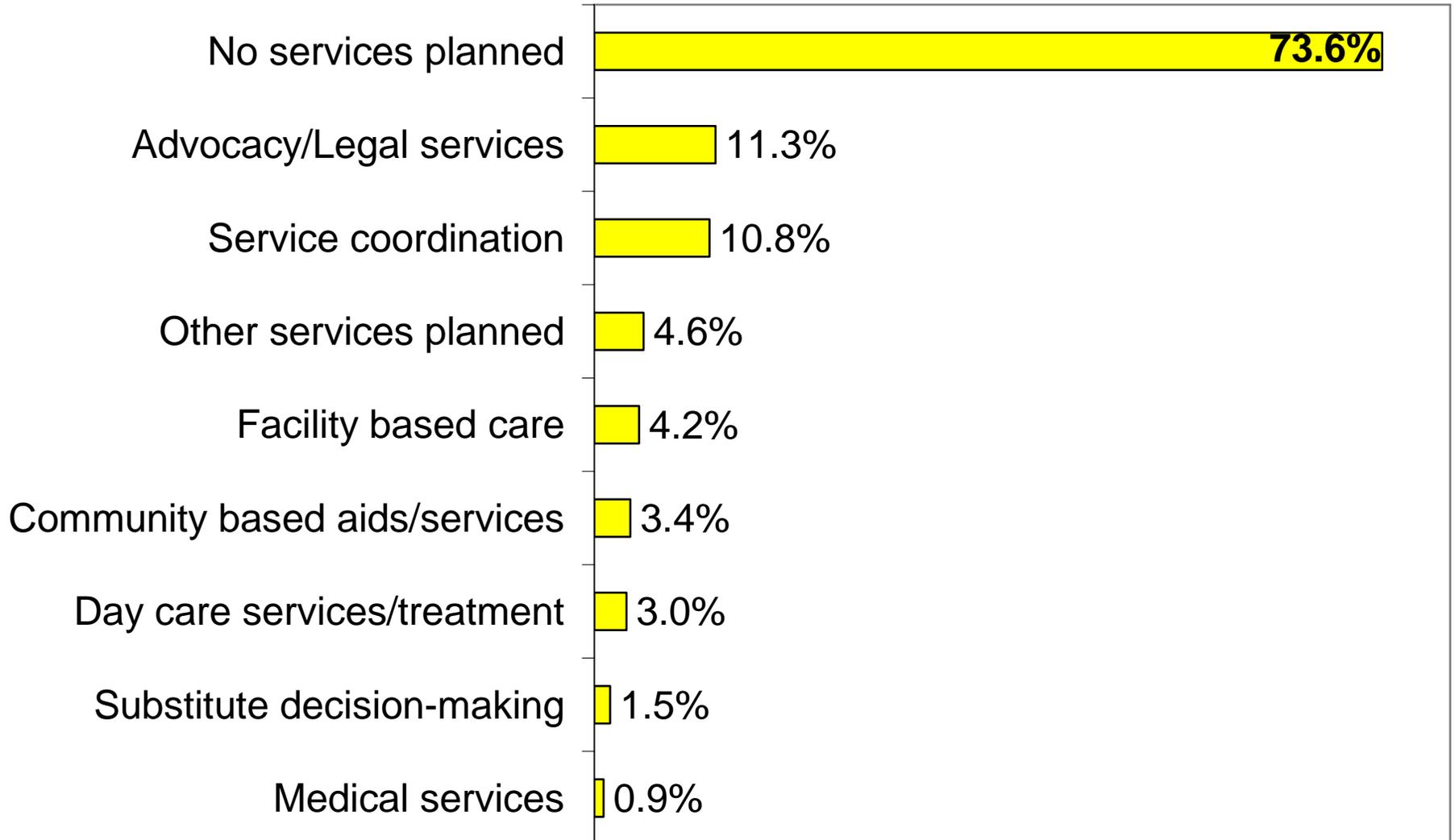


Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

Service	Number	Percent
No services planned	1,794	73.6%
Advocacy/Legal services	276	11.3%
Community based aids/services	82	3.4%
Day care services/treatment	73	3.0%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	0	0.0%
Emergency response services	18	0.7%
Facility based care	1,794	4.2%
Medical services	276	0.9%
Service coordination	82	10.8%
Substitute decision-making	73	1.5%
Transportation	8	0.3%
Other services planned	87	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

Jane A. Raymond, 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

Voicemail: 608-266-2568

FAX: 608-267-3203

Email: jane.raymond@wisconsin.gov