



Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2016

A statewide summary of reports submitted by Wisconsin counties

Division of Public Health
P-00124-16 (11/2017)



Introduction: The Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report

In Wisconsin, county agencies receive elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation referrals and determine whether a situation of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation exists. They create 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 2016 are the basis of this statewide report: *Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report*.



2016 Annual Report

This report documents and summarizes reported incidents in Wisconsin, providing information about:

- The types of abuse and neglect reported.
- The characteristics of elder adults at risk and alleged abusers.
- The local responses that guide the state's efforts to stop elder abuse.

Allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals living in licensed facilities are generally addressed by the Department of Health Services' Office of Caregiver Quality, which is located in the Division of Quality Assurance (DQA).



Your Role in Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Older Adults

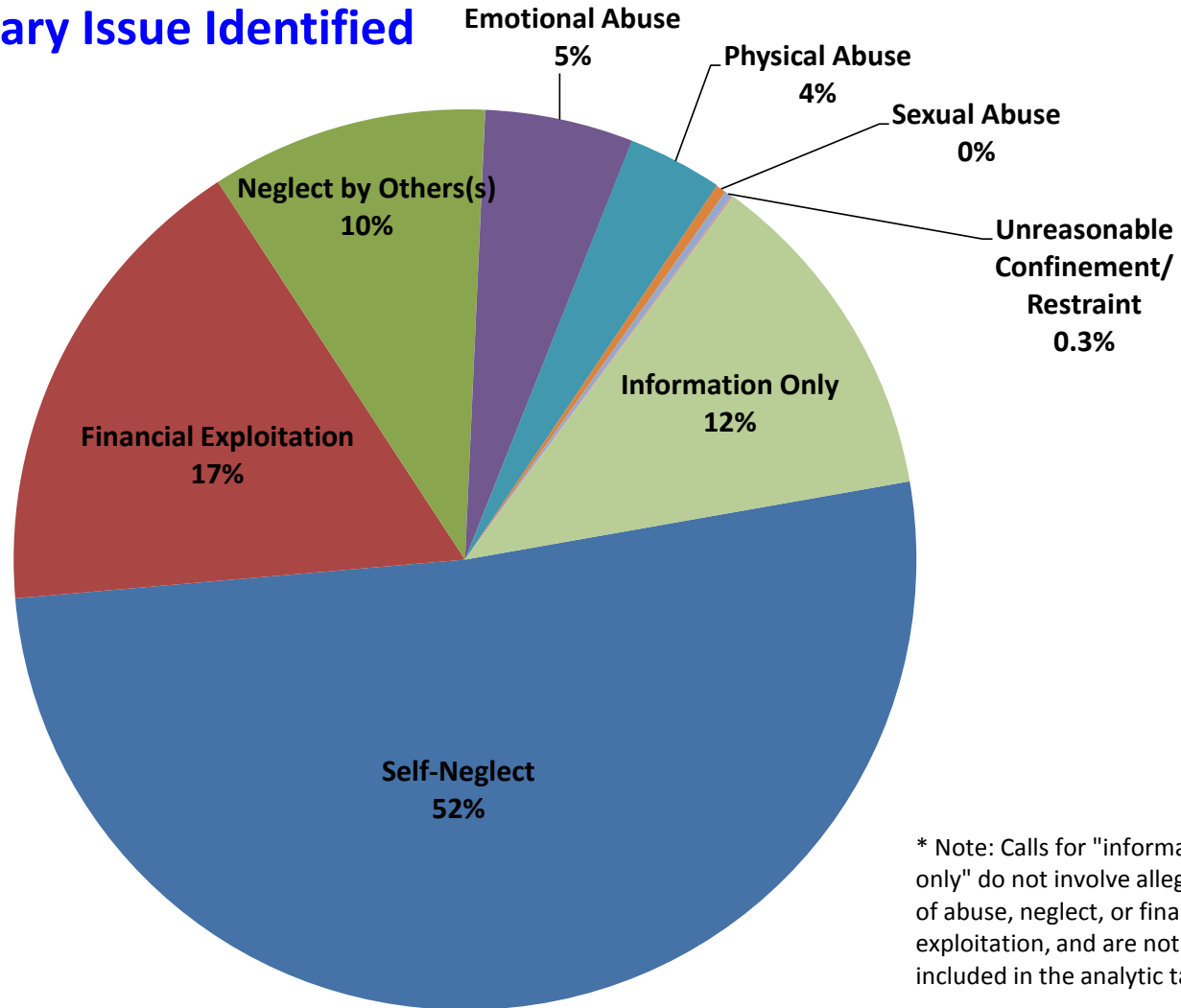
Wisconsin has made great strides in identifying and protecting elders. No one should experience or endure abuse, neglect or exploitation. Let individuals know that you are concerned about them and that they are not alone. There are others who do understand and are there to help them stay safe.

Call your **County Help Line** if you need to talk to someone about suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elder adult at risk (ages 60 and older).

See <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aps/Contacts/aaragencies.htm> for these help line phone numbers.

Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified		
	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	4,106	51.4%
Financial Exploitation	1,371	17.2%
Neglect by Others(s)	792	9.9%
Emotional Abuse	424	5.3%
Physical Abuse	271	3.4%
Sexual Abuse	30	0.4%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	20	0.3%
Treatment without Consent	5	0.1%
<i>Information Only</i>	968	12.1%
Total	7,987	100.0%
<p><i>* Note: Calls for "information only" do not involve allegations of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, and are not included in the analytic tables.</i></p>		

Primary Issue Identified



* Note: Calls for "information only" do not involve allegations of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, and are not included in the analytic tables.

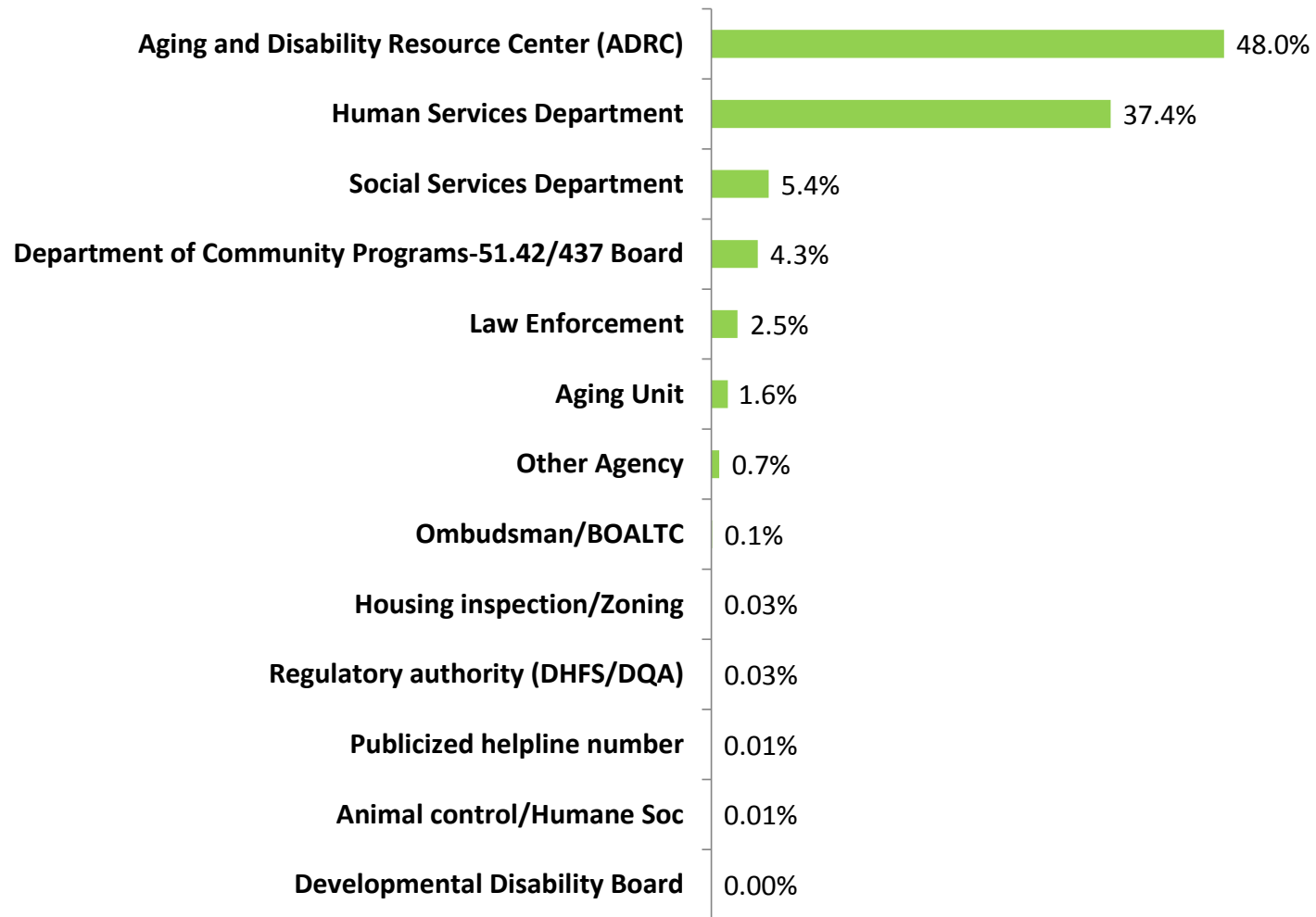
Previous Report on This Individual?		
	Number	Percent
No	4,207	60.8%
Yes	2,137	30.9%
Unknown	571	8.3%
Total	6,915	100.0%

Where Incident Occurred		
	Number	Percent
Place of residence	6,185	88.1%
Other place	779	11.1%
Place of employment/day services	38	0.5%
Transportation	10	0.1%
School	7	0.1%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Referral Source		
	Number	Percent
Relative	1,358	19.3%
Medical professional	1,285	18.3%
Other referral source (specify)	817	11.6%
Other provider (specify)	700	10.0%
Law enforcement	677	9.6%
Agency (specify)	491	7.0%
Friend/neighbor	500	7.1%
Victim	330	4.7%
ADRC	276	3.9%
Residential support provider	212	3.0%
Anonymous	199	2.8%
Mental health svc provider	84	1.2%
Housing inspection/zoning	41	0.6%
Vocational/day svc prov	8	0.1%
Regulatory auth (DHFS/DQA)	29	0.4%
Employer	2	0.0%
Alleged abuser	7	0.1%
Subst abuse svc provider	3	0.0%
Total	7,019	100.0%

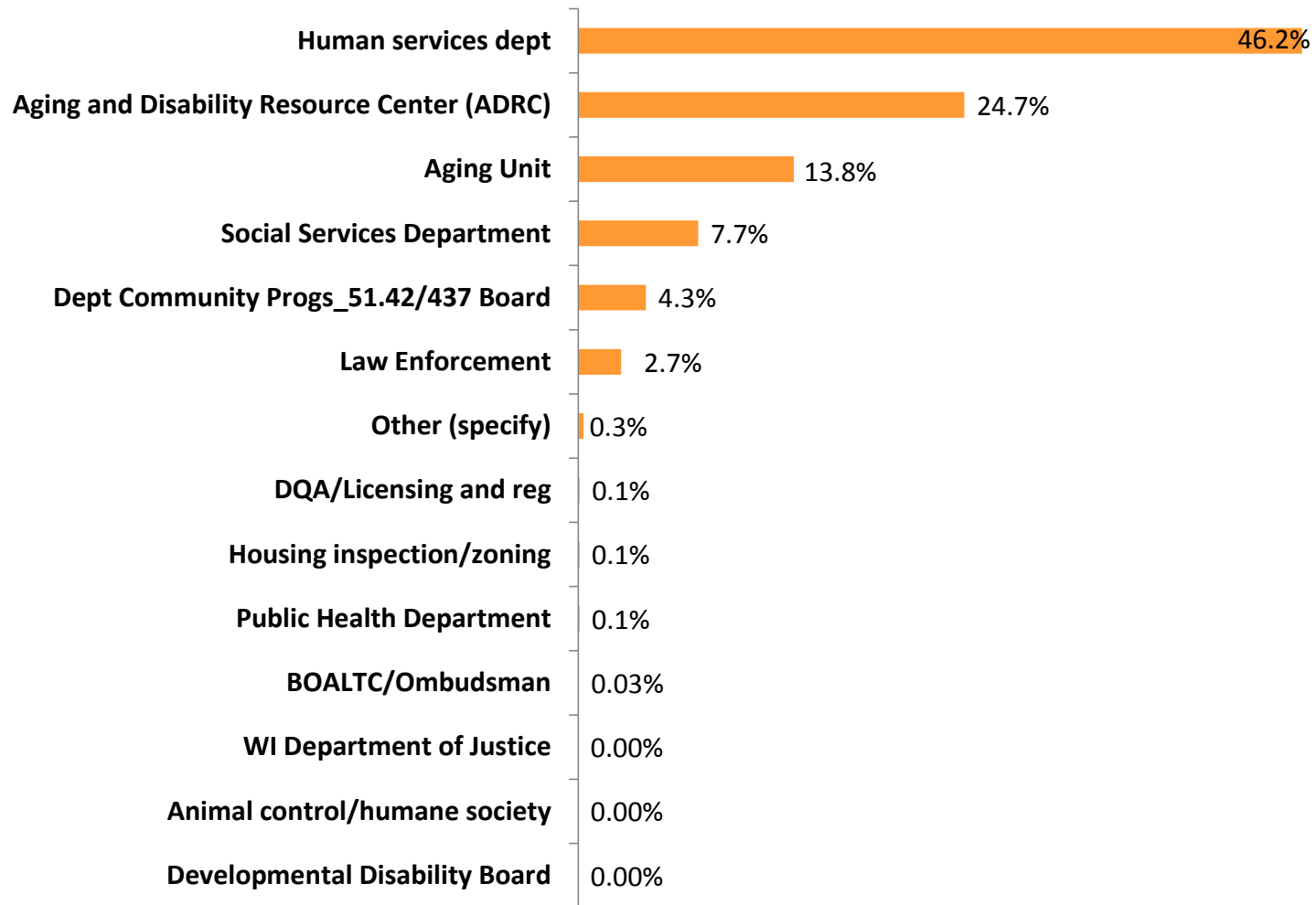
Call Received By:		
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	3,370	48.0%
Human Services Department	2,624	37.4%
Social Services Department	376	5.4%
Department of Community Programs-51.42/437 Board	305	4.3%
Law Enforcement	172	2.5%
Aging Unit	109	1.6%
Other Agency	52	0.7%
Ombudsman/BOALTC	4	0.1%
Regulatory authority (DHFS/DQA)	2	0.0%
Housing inspection/Zoning	2	0.0%
Animal control/Humane Soc	1	0.0%
Developmental Disability Board	1	0.0%
Publicized helpline number	1	0.0%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Call Received By:



Initial Investigating Agency		
	Number	Percent
Human services dept	3,246	46.2%
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,732	24.7%
Aging Unit	967	13.8%
Social Services Department	538	7.7%
Dept Community Progs 51.42/437 Board	303	4.3%
Law Enforcement	192	2.7%
Other (specify)	23	0.3%
DQA/Licensing and reg	6	0.1%
Public Health Department	5	0.1%
Housing inspection/zoning	5	0.1%
Developmental Disability Board	0	0.0%
BOALTC/Ombudsman	2	0.0%
Animal control/humane society	0	0.0%
WI Department of Justice	0	0.0%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	6,326	90.1%
Yes	413	5.9%
Unknown	280	4.0%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	310	75.1%
Yes	100	24.2%
Unknown	3	0.7%
Total	413	100.0%

Note: Percents represent share of all life-threatening incidents.

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	46	46.0%
No	36	36.0%
Unknown	18	18.0%
Total	100	100.0%

Note: Percents represent share of all incidents involving a death.

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	20	43.5%
Yes	15	32.6%
Unknown	11	23.9%
Total	46	100.0%

Note: Percents represent share of all incidents with death related to incident.

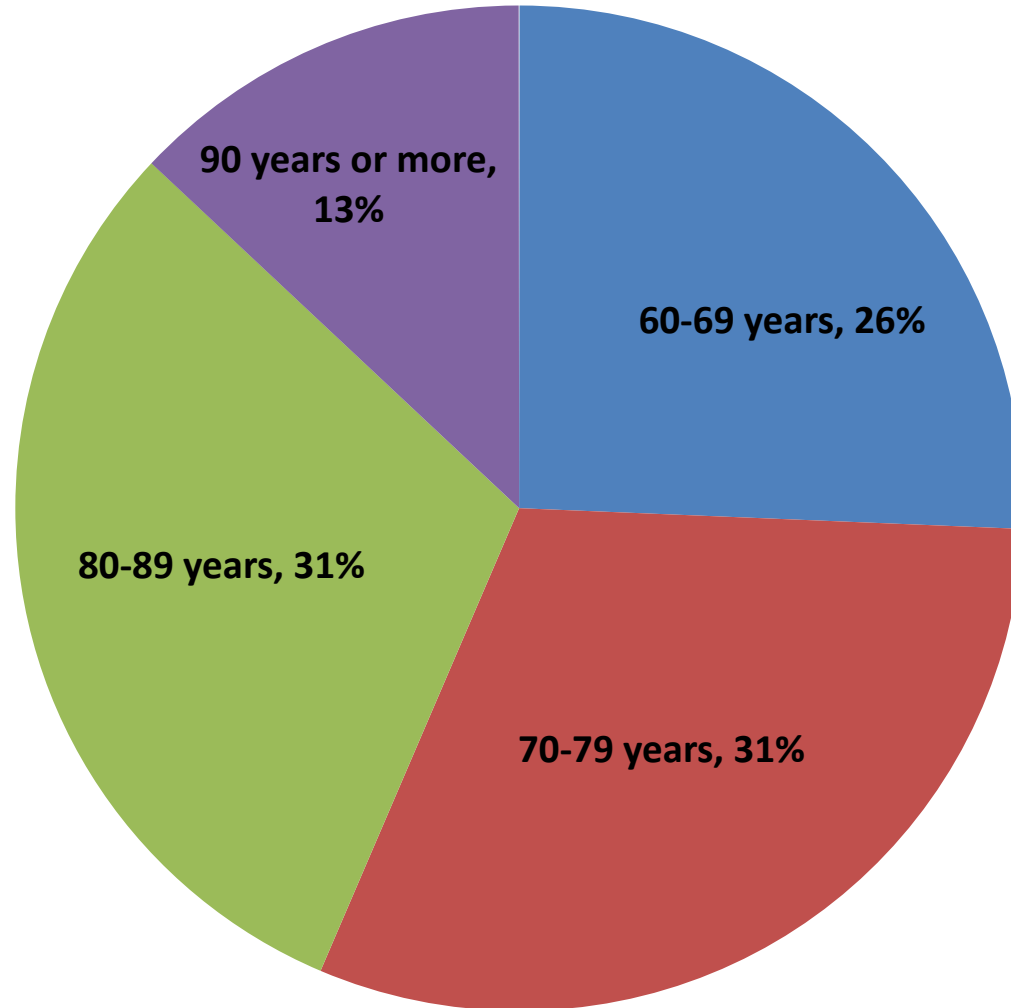
Elder Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	1,801	25.7%
70-79 years	2,161	30.8%
80-89 years	2,145	30.6%
90 years or more	912	13.0%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	4,187	59.7%
Male	2,827	40.3%
Unknown	5	0.1%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Race		
	Number	Percent
White	5,262	75.0%
Black/African American	278	4.0%
Native American/Alaska Native	96	1.4%
Other race	34	0.5%
Asian	27	0.4%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	0.1%
Not reported or unknown	1,317	18.8%
Total	7,019	100.0%

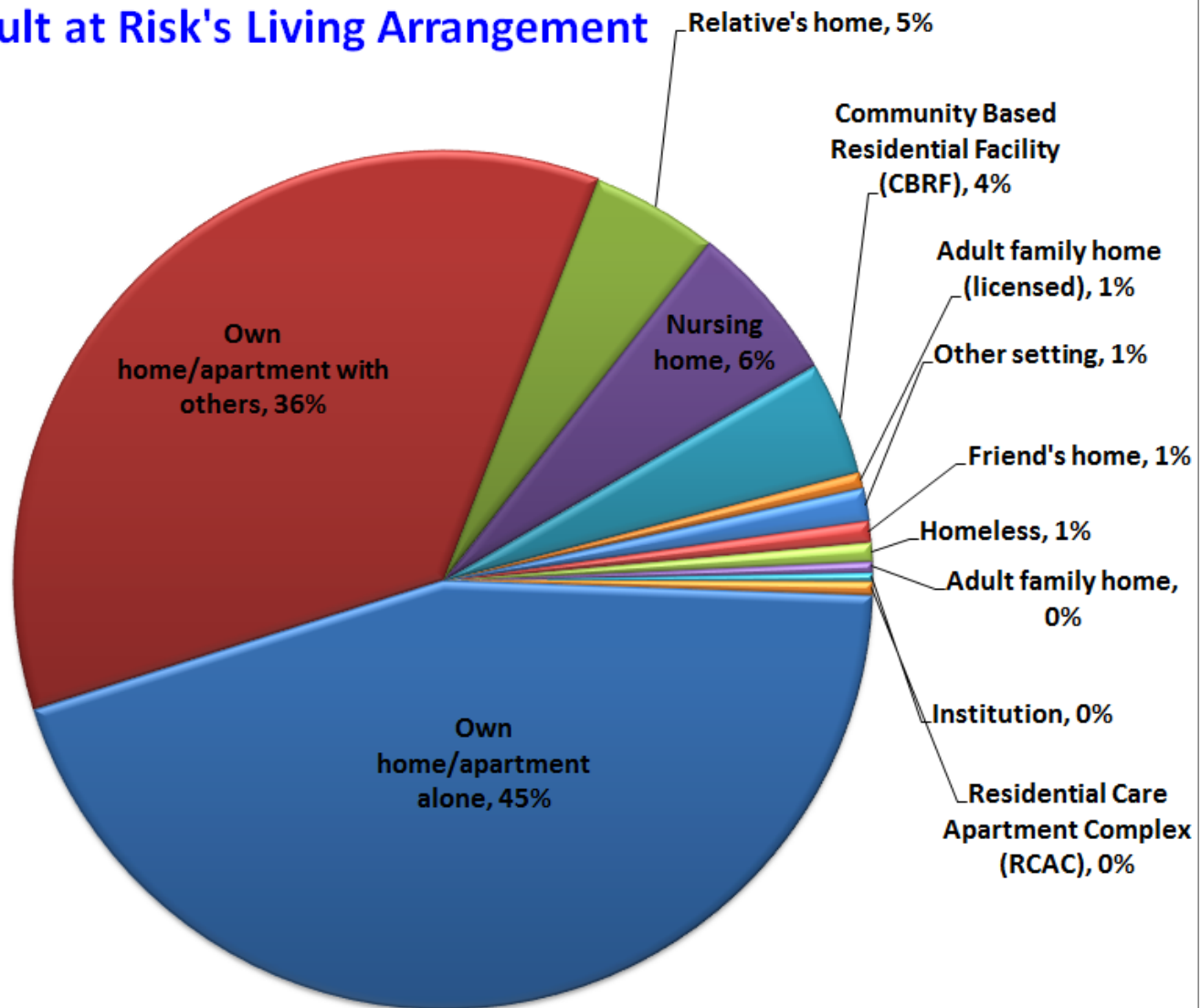
Notes: Race and Ethnicity are optional fields, so some reports are missing this information. Although data may be incomplete, percents represent the share of all complete reports that showed each race/ethnicity category.

Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement		
	Number	Percent
Own home/apartment alone	3,128	44.6%
Own home/apartment with others	2,509	35.7%
Relative's home	336	4.8%
Nursing home	423	6.0%
Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)	300	4.3%
Adult family home (licensed)	44	0.6%
Other setting	88	1.3%
Friend's home	55	0.8%
Homeless	49	0.7%
Adult family home	30	0.4%
Institution	22	0.3%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	35	0.5%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

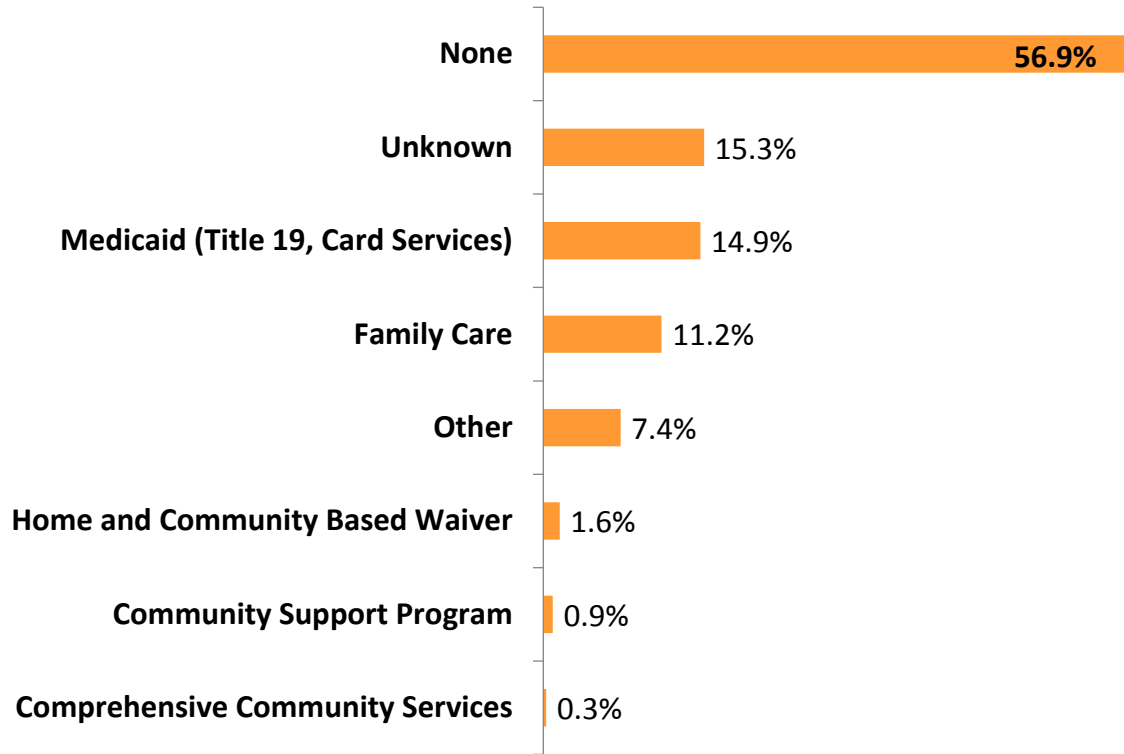


County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Elder Adults at Risk

	Number	Percent
None	3,993	56.9%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	1,049	14.9%
Family Care	789	11.2%
Unknown	1,074	15.3%
Other	516	7.4%
Home and Community Based Waiver	109	1.6%
Community Support Program	63	0.9%
Comprehensive Community Services	18	0.3%

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

County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Elder Adults at Risk



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

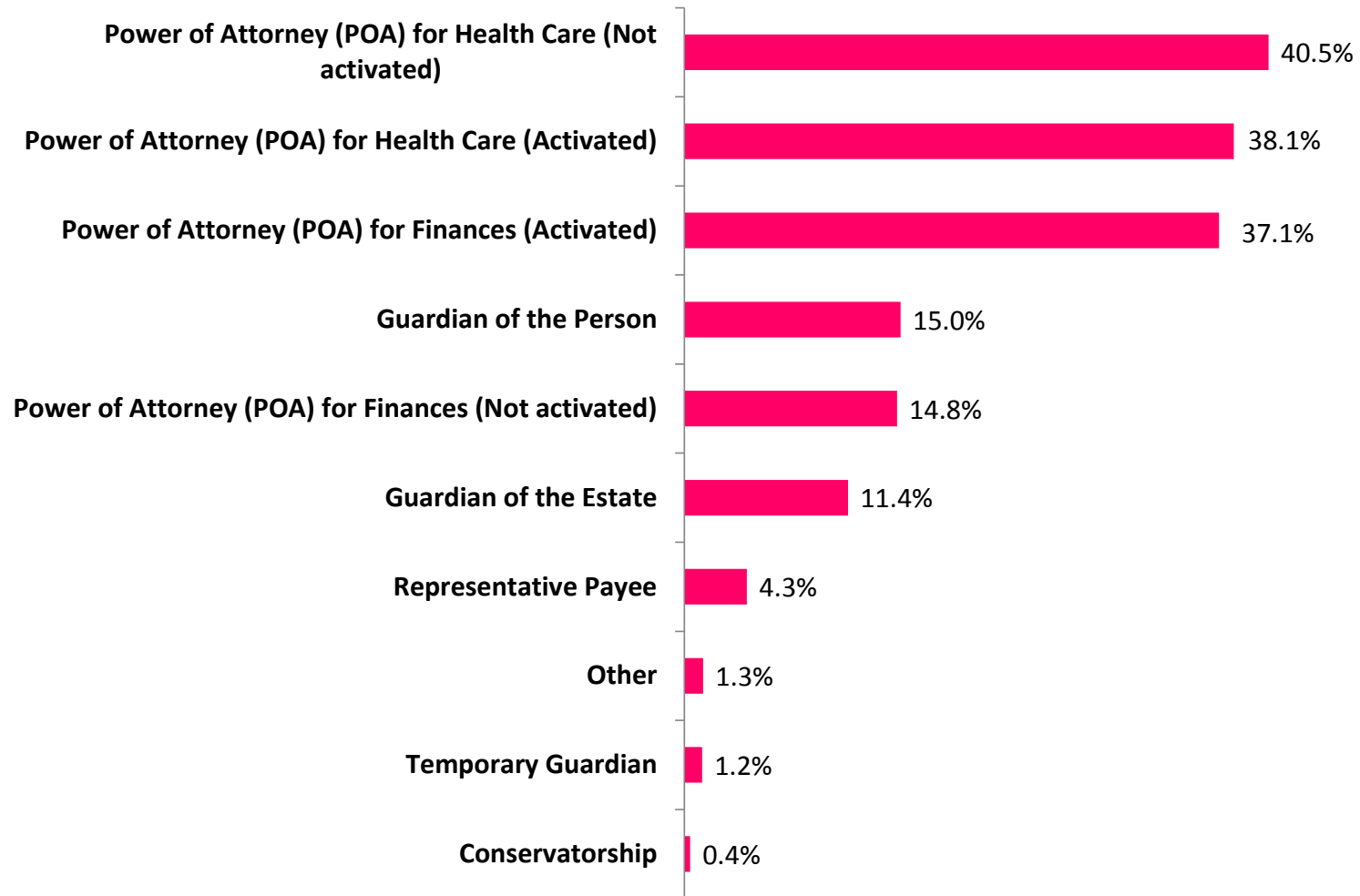
	Number	Percent
No	3,654	52.1%
Yes	2,440	34.8%
Unknown	925	13.2%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	989	40.5%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	930	38.1%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	905	37.1%
Guardian of the Person	366	15.0%
Guardian of the Estate	277	11.4%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	360	14.8%
Representative Payee	106	4.3%
Other	32	1.3%
Temporary Guardian	30	1.2%
Conservatorship	10	0.4%

Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision-maker (n=2,225). Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker



Elder Adult at Risk's Characteristics		
	Number	Percent
Frail elderly	3,194	45.5%
Dementia	1,887	26.9%
Mobility impaired	1,287	18.3%
Medically fragile	1,040	14.8%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	735	10.5%
Other medical condition	825	11.8%
Developmental disability	163	2.3%
Disoriented and confused	889	12.7%
Physical disability	576	8.2%
Diabetes	569	8.1%
Homebound	533	7.6%
Incontinent	496	7.1%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	368	5.2%
Alcohol abuse	371	5.3%
Stroke-related condition	318	4.5%
Chronic mental illness	204	2.9%
Deaf/hard of hearing	333	4.7%
Other characteristic	224	3.2%
Morbidly obese	183	2.6%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	208	3.0%
Blind/visually impaired	209	3.0%
Chronic alcoholic	159	2.3%
Unemployed	83	1.2%
Brain injury	85	1.2%
Drug abuse	59	0.8%
Communication disorder	40	0.6%
Financially dependent on abuser	39	0.6%
Functionally illiterate	25	0.4%
Limited English proficiency	24	0.3%
<i>None of the listed characteristics</i>	425	6.1%
<i>Percents refer to share of all elder adults at risk having this characteristic. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.</i>		

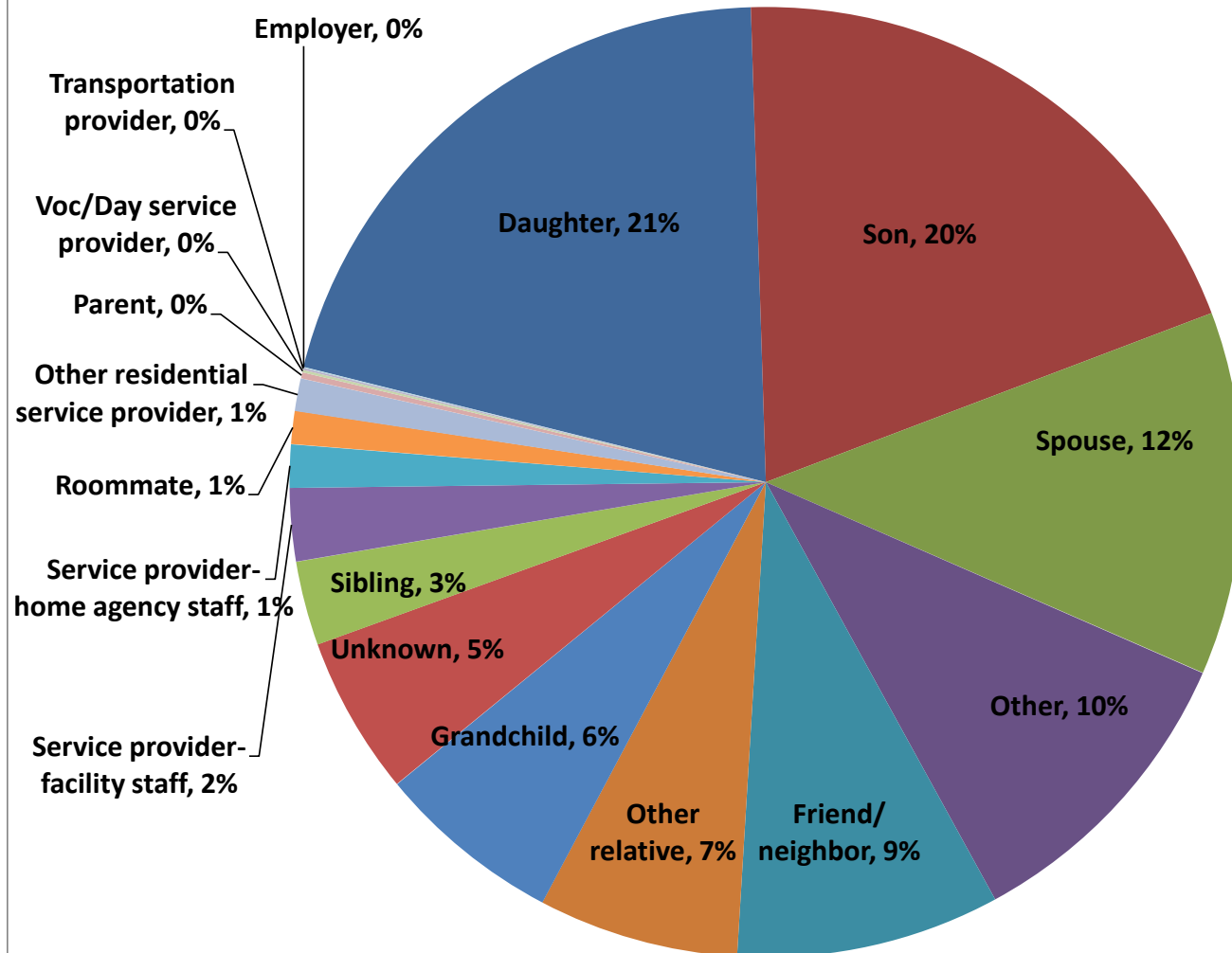
Alleged Abusers' Gender

	Number	Percent
Female	1,680	49.2%
Male	1,491	43.7%
Unknown	242	7.1%
Total	3,413	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Daughter	703	20.6%
Son	673	19.7%
Spouse	422	12.4%
Other	357	10.5%
Friend/neighbor	305	8.9%
Other relative	232	6.8%
Grandchild	215	6.3%
Unknown	184	5.4%
Sibling	98	2.9%
Service provider-facility staff	85	2.5%
Service provider-home agency staff	50	1.5%
Roommate	38	1.1%
Other residential service provider	38	1.1%
Parent	7	0.2%
Voc/Day service provider	3	0.1%
Transportation provider	2	0.1%
Employer	1	0.0%
Total	3,413	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?

	Number	Percent
No	1,762	51.6%
Yes	1,536	45.0%
Unknown	115	3.4%
Total	3,413	100.0%

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

	Number	Percent
No	2,418	70.8%
Yes	995	29.2%
Total	3,413	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Legal Status		
	Number	Percent
No legal status	1,923	56.3%
Unknown legal status	489	14.3%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	430	12.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	396	11.6%
Guardian of the Person	105	3.1%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	271	7.9%
Guardian of the Estate	86	2.5%
Representative Payee	34	1.0%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	94	2.8%
Other legal status	62	1.8%
Conservator	2	0.1%
Temporary Guardian	2	0.1%
<i>Percents represent share of all abusers who have this legal status. Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.</i>		

Alleged Abusers' Characteristics		
	Number	Percent
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	587	17.2%
Unemployed	286	8.4%
Other characteristic	265	7.8%
Drug abuse	194	5.7%
Alcohol abuse	185	5.4%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	172	5.0%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	171	5.0%
Frail Elderly	116	3.4%
Physical Disability	60	1.8%
Other medical condition	54	1.6%
Developmental disability	26	0.8%
Chronic alcoholic	56	1.6%
Chronic mental illness	47	1.4%
Mobility impaired	45	1.3%
Medically fragile	45	1.3%
Dementia	49	1.4%
Financial dependence: adult at risk on abuser	25	0.7%
Morbidly Obese	20	0.6%
Disoriented and confused	23	0.7%
Diabetes	17	0.5%
Deaf/hard of hearing	19	0.6%
Incontinent	12	0.4%
Homebound	10	0.3%
Stroke-related condition	10	0.3%
Blind/visually impaired	6	0.2%
Brain injury	6	0.2%
Limited English proficiency	4	0.1%
Communication disorder	2	0.1%
Functionally illiterate	0	0.0%
<i>None of the listed characteristics</i>	1,824	53.4%
<i>Multiple responses were allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		
<i>Percents refer to share of all alleged abusers.</i>		

More than One Alleged Abuser?		
	Number	Percent
No, one alleged abuser only	3,257	95.4%
Yes	156	4.6%
Total	3,413	100.0%

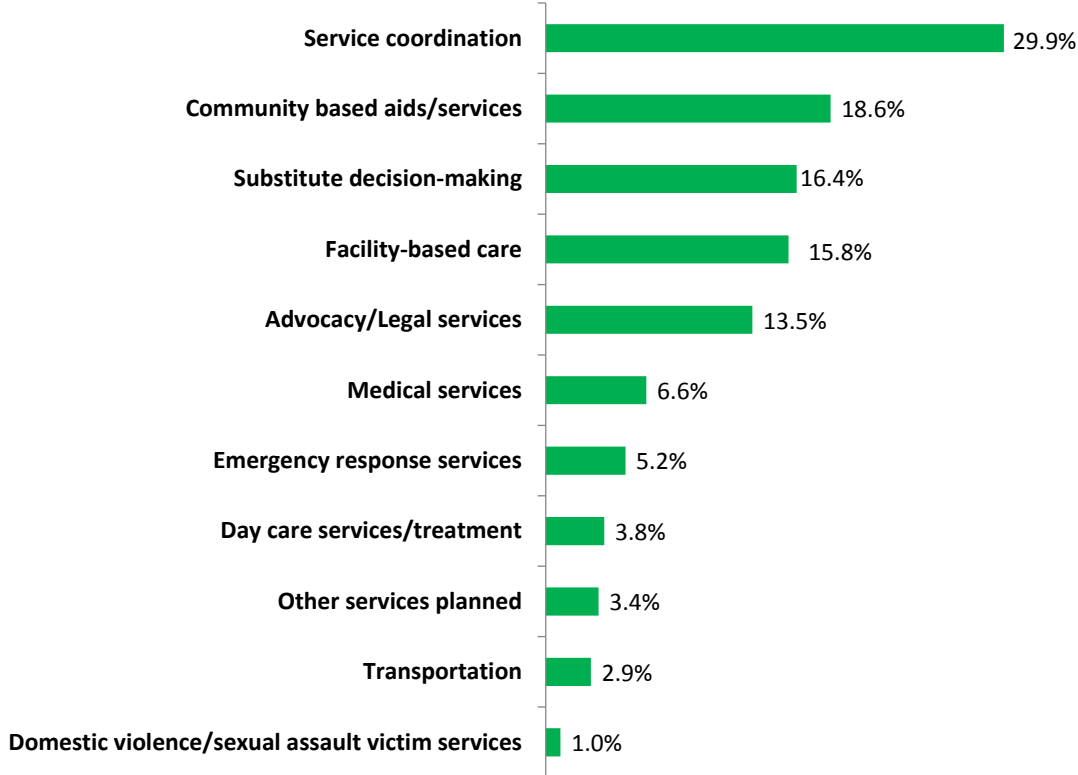
Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?		
	Number	Percent
Substantiated	3,759	53.6%
Unsubstantiated	2,250	32.1%
Unable to Substantiate	1,010	14.4%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Services offered-some accepted	1,703	24.3%
Services offered-not accepted	1,457	20.8%
Services not needed	1,190	17.0%
Services offered-all accepted	938	13.4%
Guardian referral	616	8.8%
Outreach continues	589	8.4%
Referral made to other agency	527	7.5%
Protective services placement	441	6.3%
Investigation not accepted	370	5.3%
Referral to law enforcement/Department of Justice	336	4.8%
Other disposition	312	4.4%
Other legal action	153	2.2%
Referral to protection/advocacy agencies	45	0.6%
Mental health commitment	41	0.6%
Response/investigation continues	51	0.7%
Referral to regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	45	0.6%
Services needed are not available	19	0.3%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry (DHS/DQA)	24	0.3%
Referral to detoxification services	10	0.1%
Referral made to state agency	14	0.2%

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

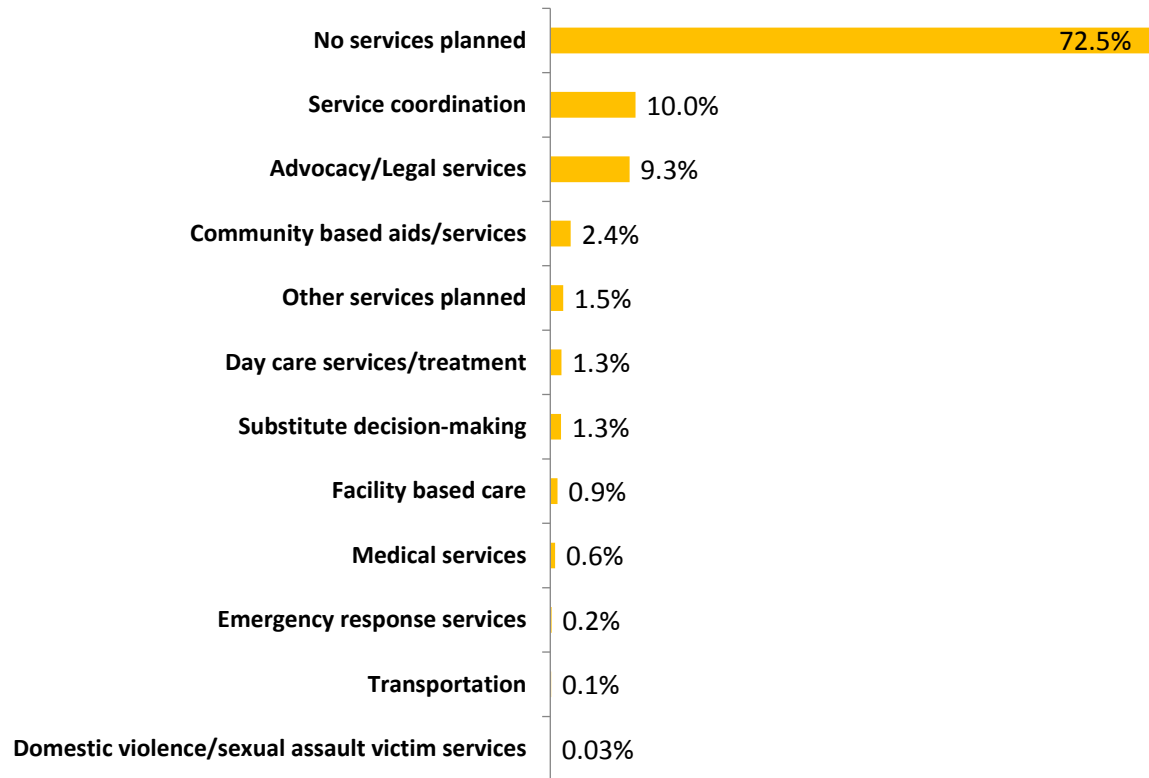
Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Service coordination	2,096	29.9%
Substitute decision-making	1,148	16.4%
Community based aids/services	1,303	18.6%
Facility-based care	1,110	15.8%
Advocacy/Legal services	945	13.5%
Medical services	460	6.6%
Emergency response services	364	5.2%
Day care services/treatment	267	3.8%
Other services planned	241	3.4%
Transportation	206	2.9%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	67	1.0%
<i>Percents refer to share of all reports showing this service planned. Multiple responses were allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%</i>		

Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk



Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)		
Service	Number	Percent
No services planned	2,290	72.5%
Service coordination	317	10.0%
Advocacy/Legal services	295	9.3%
Community based aids/services	76	2.4%
Other services planned	48	1.5%
Day care services/treatment	42	1.3%
Substitute decision-making	40	1.3%
Facility based care	27	0.9%
Medical services	18	0.6%
Emergency response services	5	0.2%
Transportation	3	0.1%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	1	0.0%
<i>Multiple responses were allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		
<i>Percents refer to share of all incidents in which abuse or neglect was alleged (n=3,044).</i>		

Services Plan for Alleged Abuser(s)





Contact Information

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