



# **Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2017**

A statewide summary of reports  
submitted by Wisconsin counties

Division of Public Health  
P-00124-17 (06/2018)



# 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 2017 are the basis of this statewide report: *Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report*.



# 2017 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.



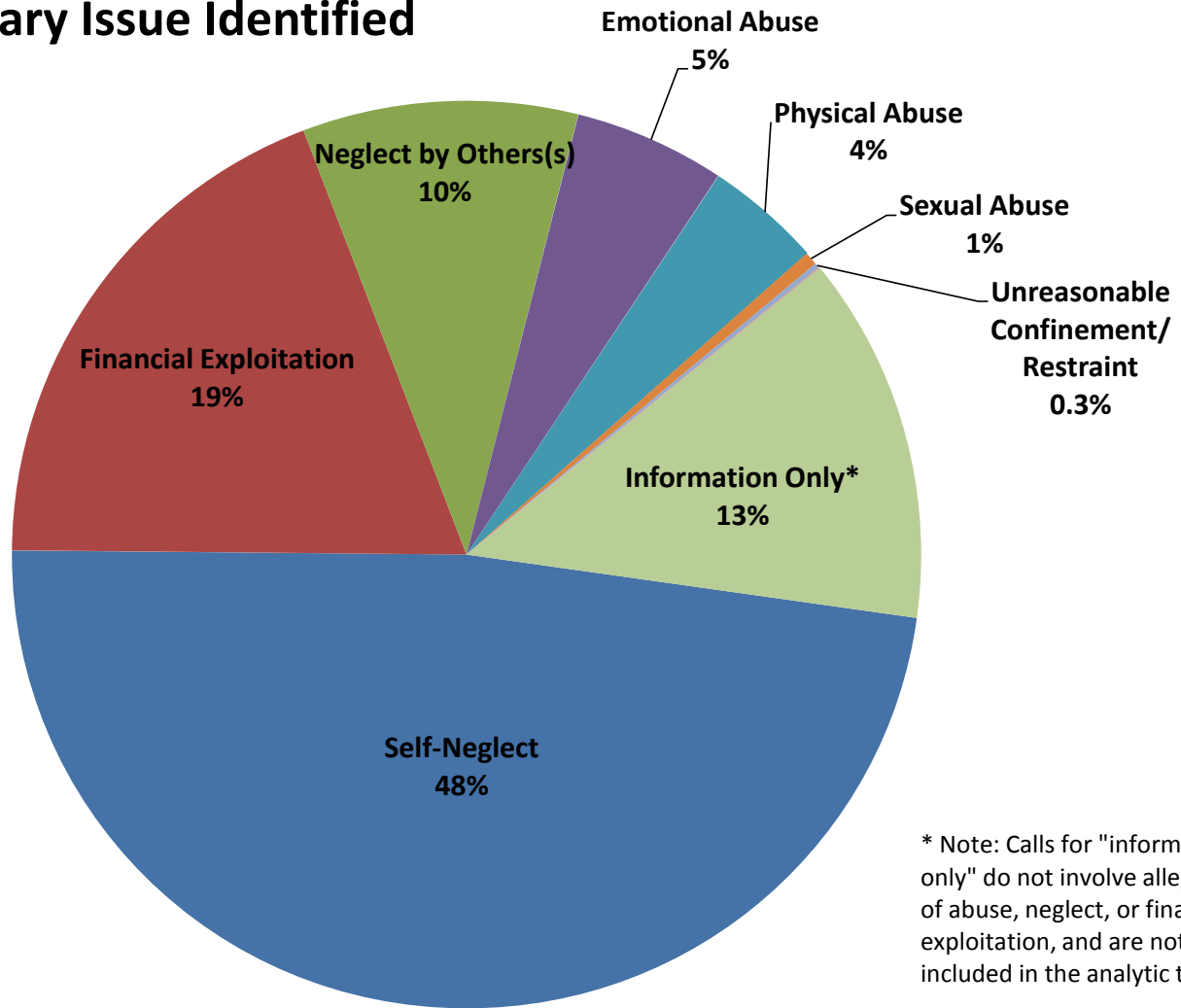
## Primary Reason for Call/Issue Identified

	Number	Percent
Self-Neglect	4,059	47.9%
Financial Exploitation	1,611	19.0%
Neglect by Others(s)	829	9.8%
Emotional Abuse	455	5.4%
Physical Abuse	349	4.1%
Sexual Abuse	40	0.5%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	14	0.2%
Treatment without Consent	4	0.0%
<i>Information Only*</i>	1,108	13.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,469</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* 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



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



<b>Previous Report on This Individual?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	4,304	58.5%
Yes	2,427	33.0%
Unknown	630	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	6,499	88.3%
Other place (specify)	776	10.5%
Place of employment/day svcs	61	0.8%
School	10	0.1%
Transportation	15	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

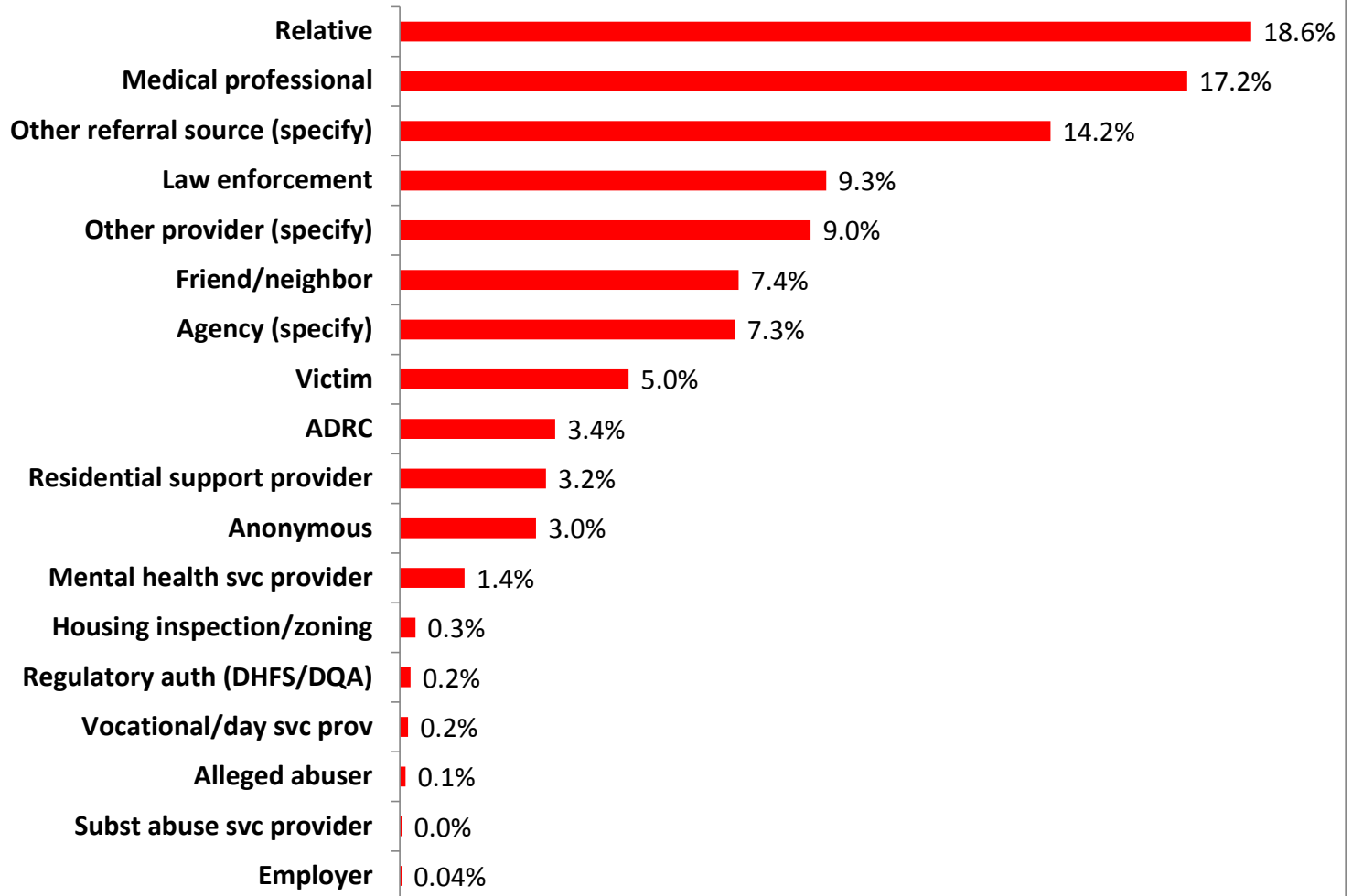




<b>Referral Source</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Relative	1,370	18.6%
Medical professional	1,267	17.2%
Other referral source (specify)	1,047	14.2%
Law enforcement	686	9.3%
Other provider (specify)	661	9.0%
Friend/neighbor	545	7.4%
Agency (specify)	539	7.3%
Victim	368	5.0%
ADRC	250	3.4%
Residential support provider	235	3.2%
Anonymous	219	3.0%
Mental health svc provider	104	1.4%
Housing inspection/zoning	25	0.3%
Regulatory auth (DHFS/DQA)	17	0.2%
Vocational/day svc prov	13	0.2%
Alleged abuser	9	0.1%
Employer	3	0.0%
Subst abuse svc provider	3	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Referral Source



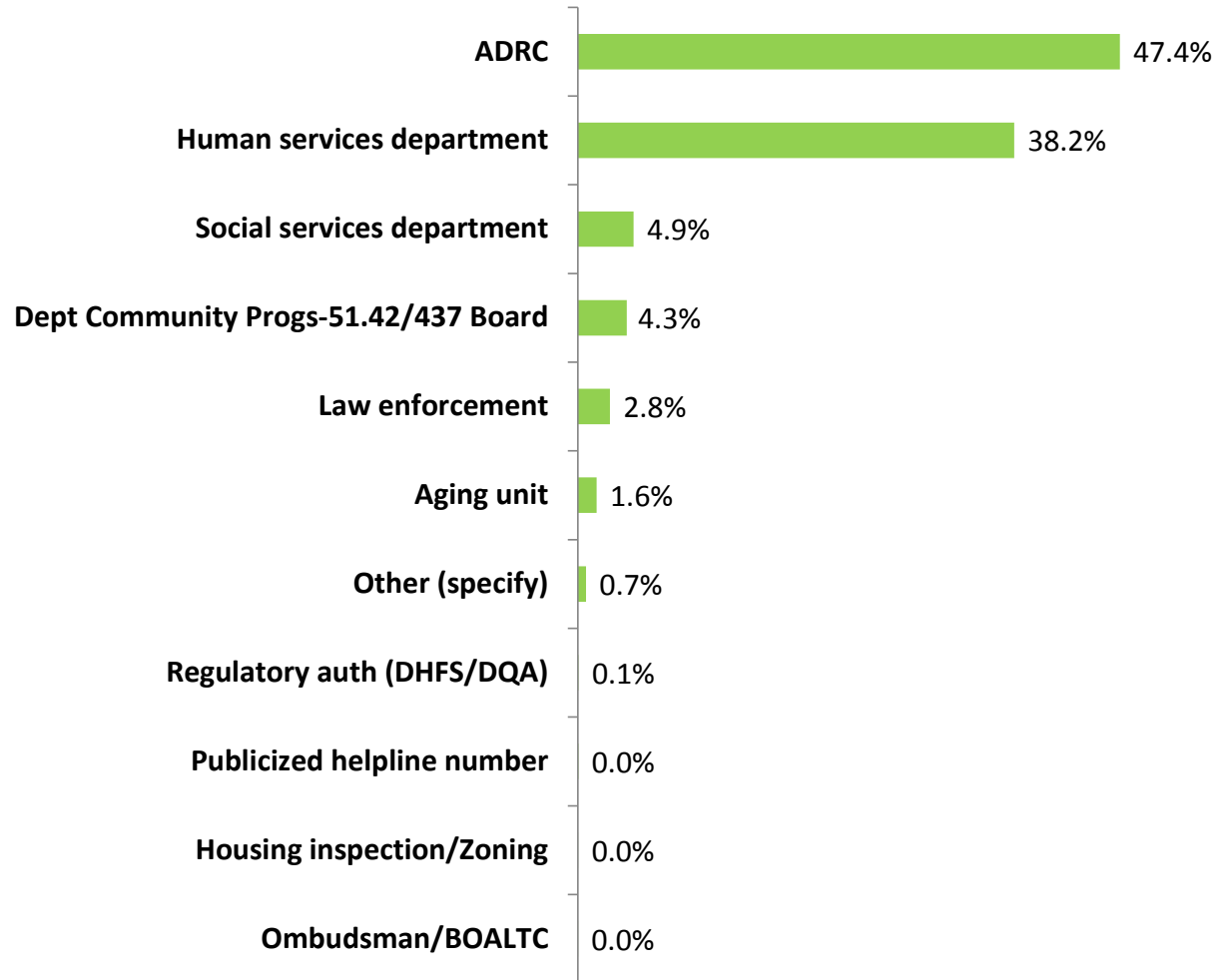


## Call Received By:

	Number	Percent
ADRC	3,489	47.4%
Human services department	2,809	38.2%
Social services department	358	4.9%
Dept Community Progs-51.42/437 Board	315	4.3%
Law enforcement	206	2.8%
Aging unit	121	1.6%
Other (specify)	53	0.7%
Regulatory auth (DHFS/DQA)	4	0.1%
Publicized helpline number	3	0.0%
Housing inspection/Zoning	2	0.0%
Ombudsman/BOALTC	1	0.0%
Animal control/humane society	0	0.0%
Developmental Disability Board	0	0.0%
Publicized helpline number	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Call Received By:



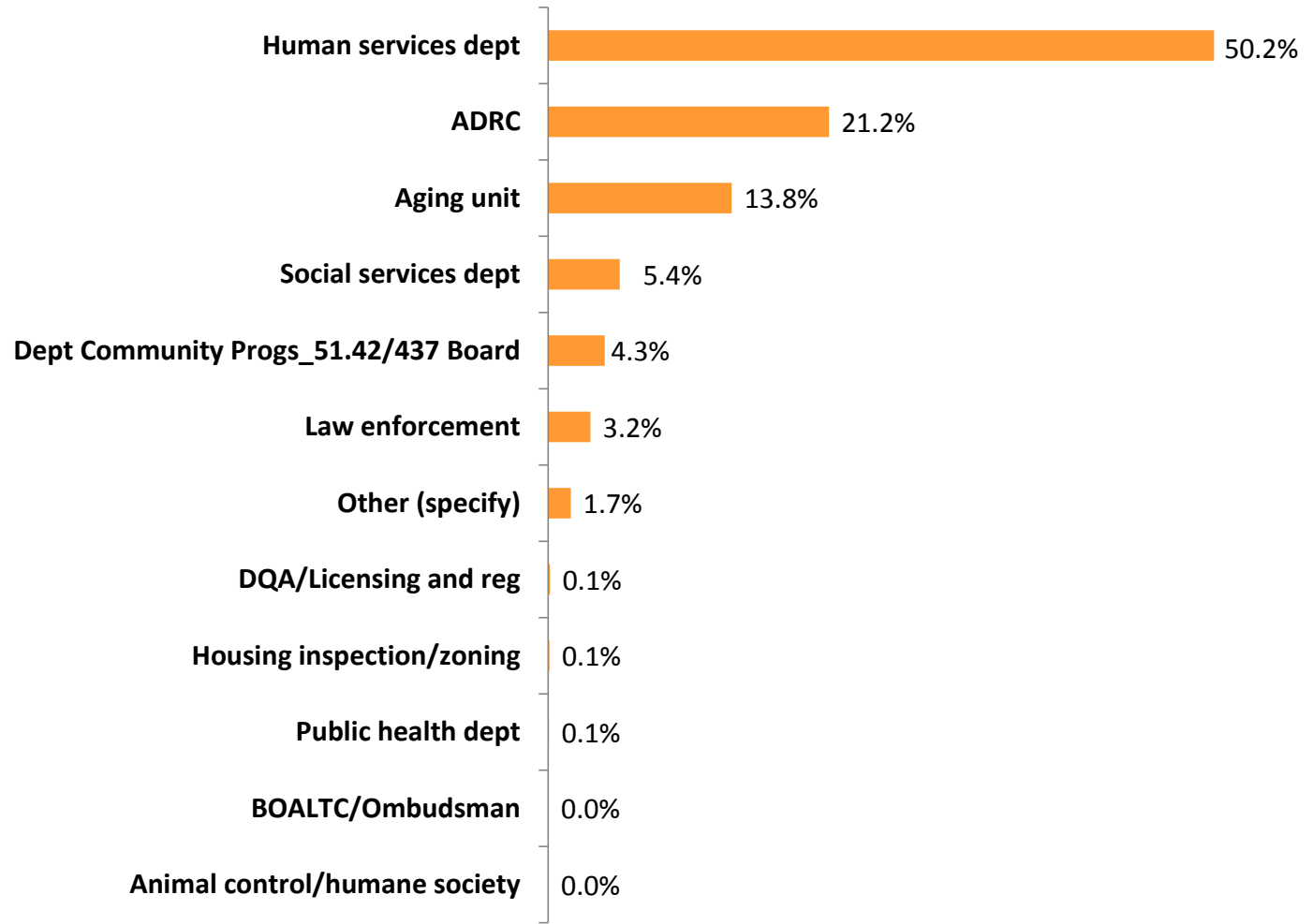


## Initial Investigating Agency

	Number	Percent
Human services dept	3,692	50.2%
ADRC	1,557	21.2%
Aging unit	1,018	13.8%
Social services dept	397	5.4%
Dept Community Progs_ 51.42/437 Board	313	4.3%
Law enforcement	234	3.2%
Other (specify)	125	1.7%
DQA/Licensing and reg	10	0.1%
Housing inspection/zoning	7	0.1%
Public health dept	4	0.1%
Animal control/humane society	2	0.0%
BOALTC/Ombudsman	2	0.0%
Developmental Disability Board	0	0.0%
Animal control/humane society	0	0.0%
WI Department of Justice	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Initial Investigating Agency





<b>Was Incident Life Threatening?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	6,673	90.7%
Yes	417	5.7%
Unknown	271	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	326	78.2%
Yes	90	21.6%
Unknown	1	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

<b>Was Death Related to the Incident?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	39	76.5%
No	23	45.1%
Unknown	28	54.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

<b>Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	20	51.3%
No	12	30.8%
Unknown	7	17.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

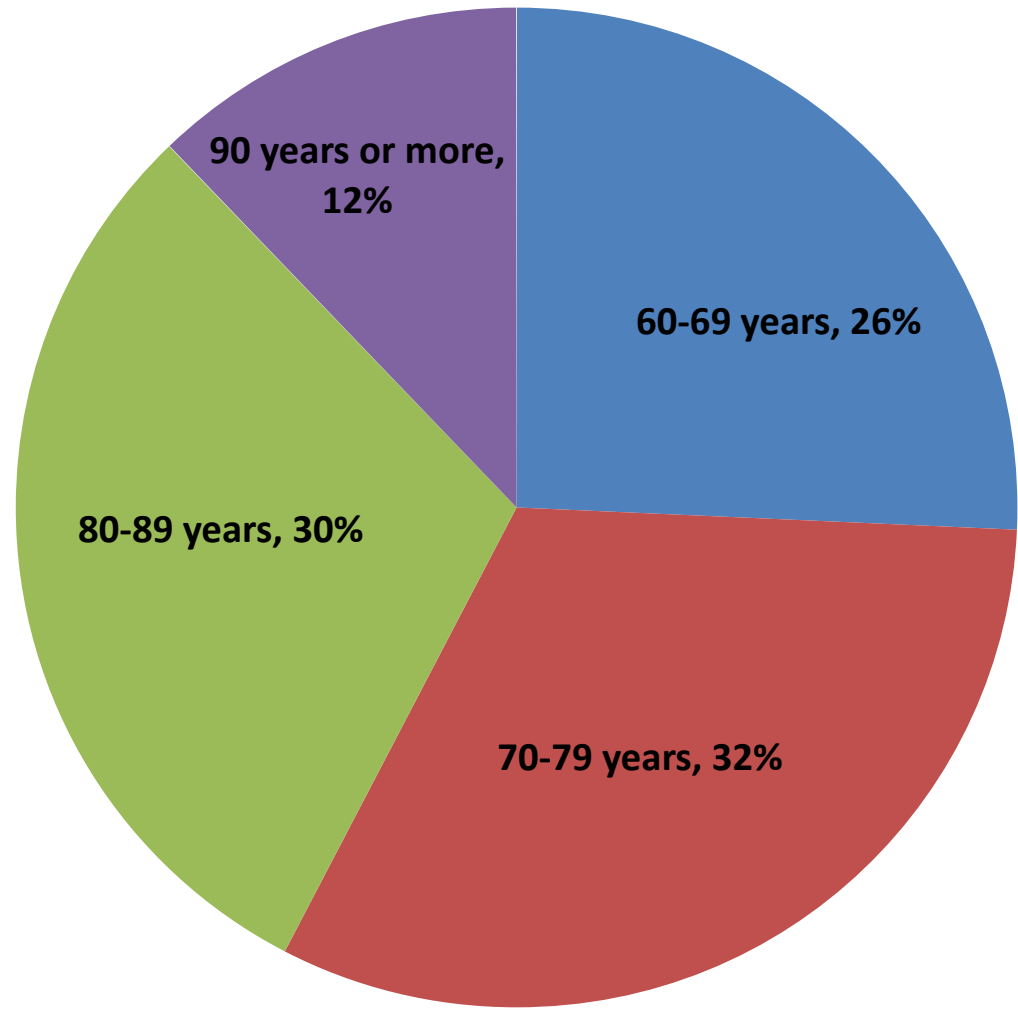


<b>Elder Adult at Risk's Age</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
60-69 years	1,893	25.7%
70-79 years	2,351	31.9%
80-89 years	2,221	30.2%
90 years or more	896	12.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Elder Adult at Risk's Gender</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	4,377	59.5%
Male	2,974	40.4%
Unknown	10	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Elder Adult at Risk's Race</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	5,196	70.6%
Black/African American	337	4.6%
Native American/Alaska Native	87	1.2%
Other race	40	0.5%
Asian	22	0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	11	0.1%
Not reported or unknown	1,668	22.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<i>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.</i>		





### Elder Adult at Risk's Age



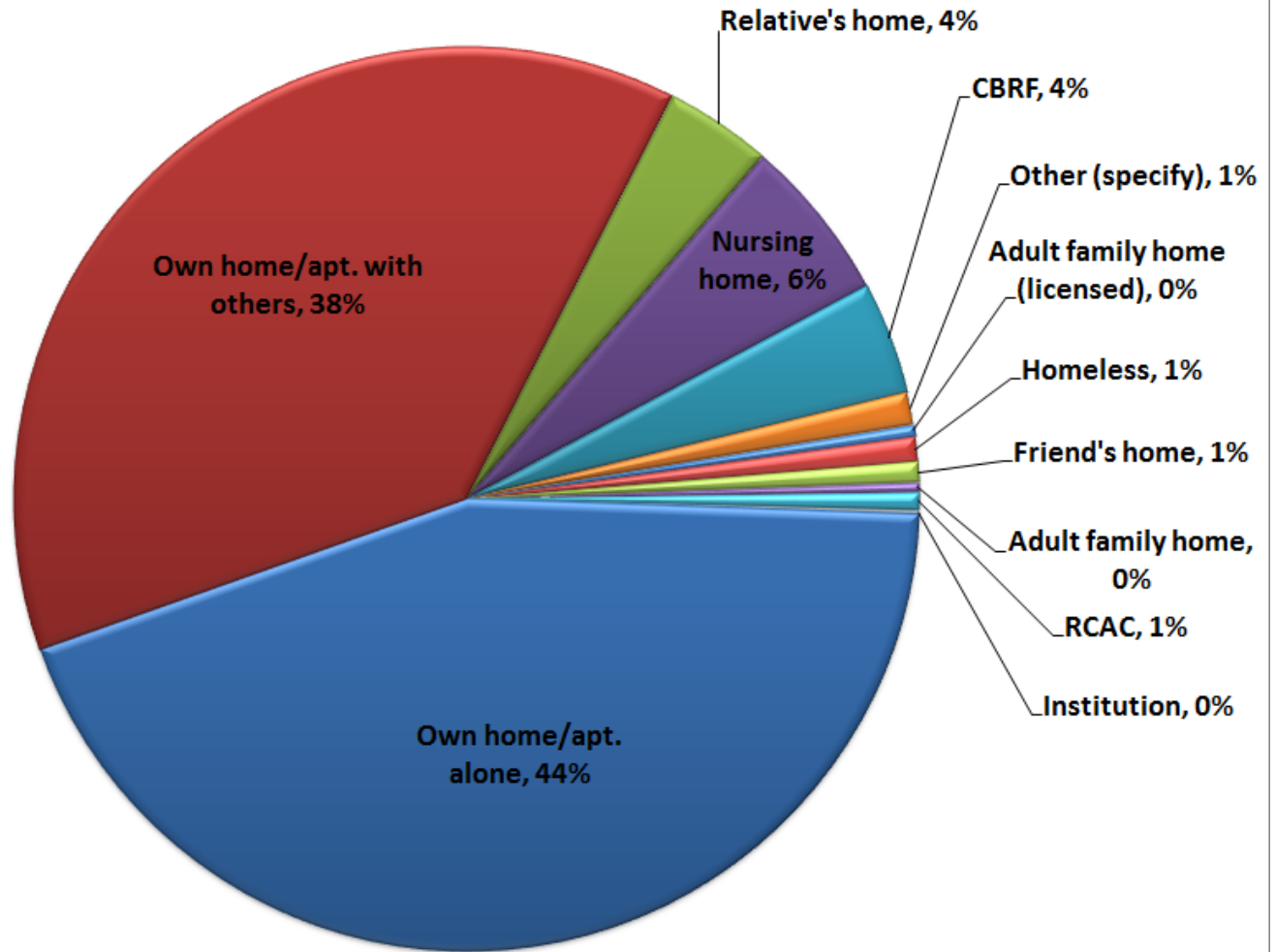


## Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

	Number	Percent
Own home/apt. alone	3,242	44.0%
Own home/apt. with others	2,791	37.9%
Relative's home	281	3.8%
Nursing home	432	5.9%
CBRF	298	4.0%
Other (specify)	85	1.2%
Adult family home (licensed)	31	0.4%
Homeless	66	0.9%
Friend's home	53	0.7%
Adult family home	25	0.3%
RCAC	46	0.6%
Institution	11	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement





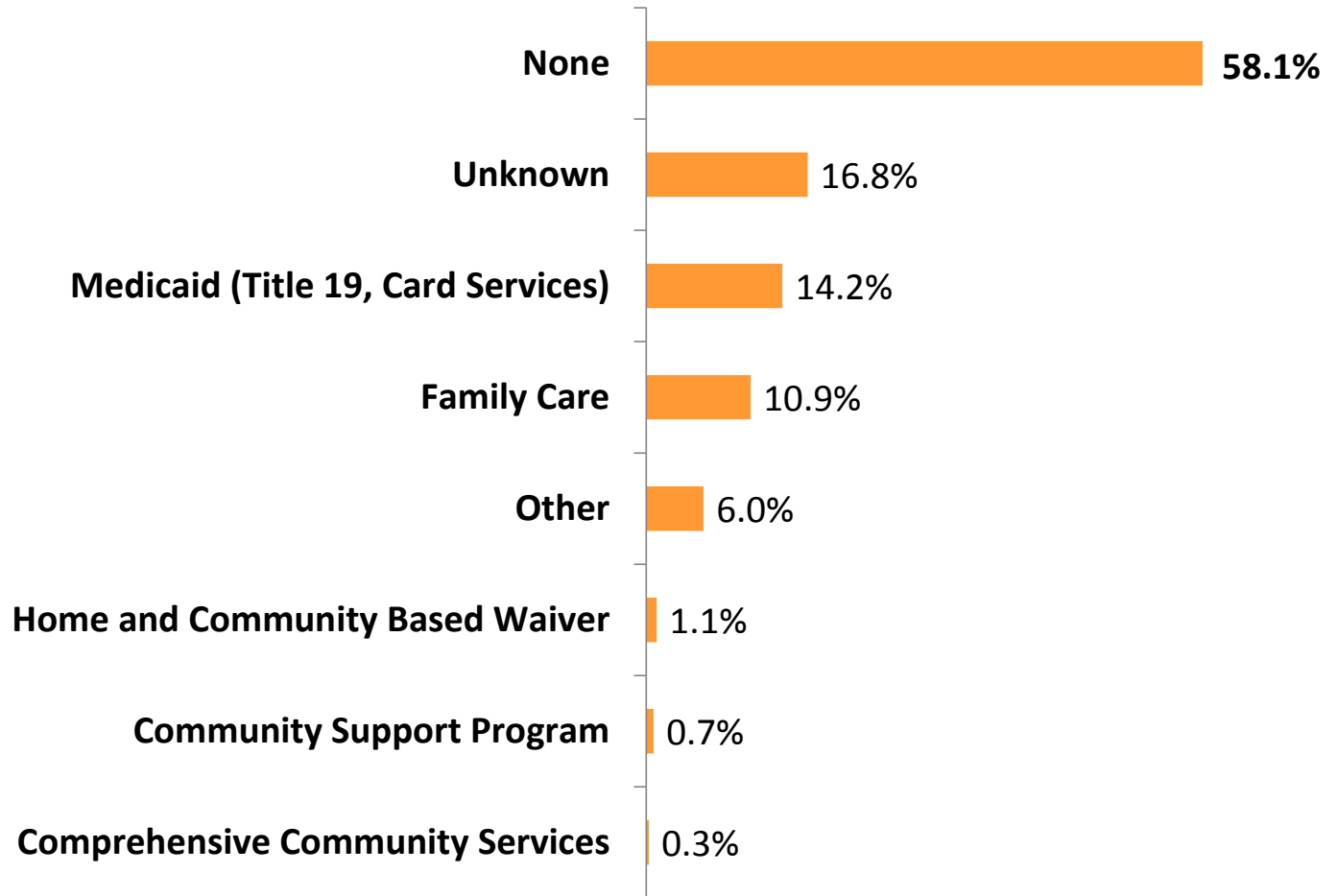
## County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Elder Adults at Risk

	Number	Percent
None	4,277	58.1%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	1,046	14.2%
Unknown	1,240	16.8%
Family Care	802	10.9%
Other	439	6.0%
Home and Community Based Waiver	79	1.1%
Community Support Program	55	0.7%
Comprehensive Community Services	19	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	3,641	49.5%
Yes	2,628	35.7%
Unknown	1,092	14.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

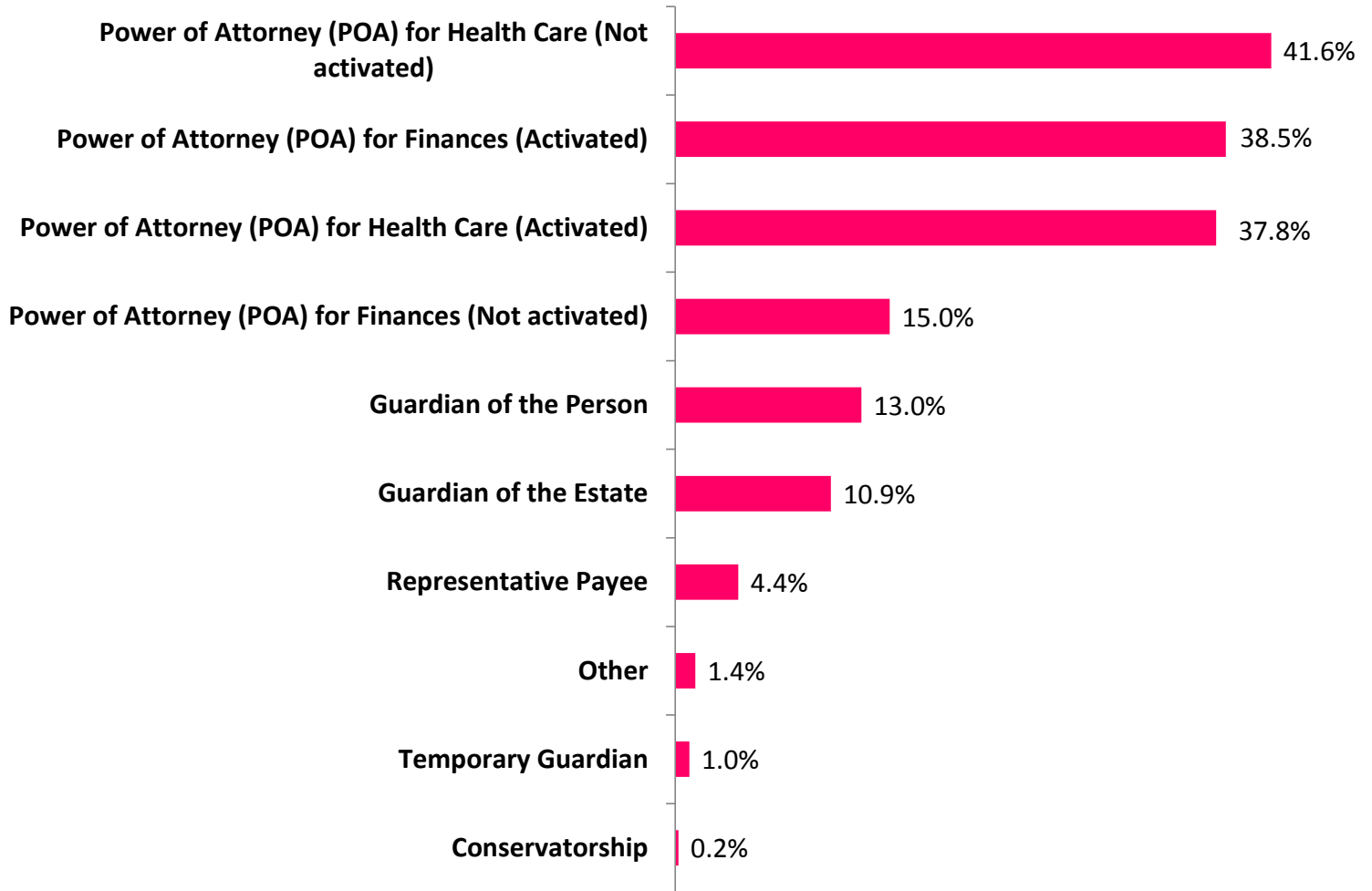
### Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	1,094	41.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	1,011	38.5%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	993	37.8%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	394	15.0%
Guardian of the Person	342	13.0%
Guardian of the Estate	286	10.9%
Representative Payee	116	4.4%
Other	37	1.4%
Temporary Guardian	26	1.0%
Conservatorship	6	0.2%

*Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision-maker (n=2,628). 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	3,232	43.9%
Dementia	2,042	27.7%
Mobility impaired	1,360	18.5%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	826	11.2%
Medically fragile	979	13.3%
Disoriented and confused	927	12.6%
Other medical condition	734	10.0%
Developmental disability	142	1.9%
Diabetes	635	8.6%
Alcohol abuse	378	5.1%
Incontinent	464	6.3%
Homebound	459	6.2%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	341	4.6%
Chronic mental illness	256	3.5%
Stroke-related condition	298	4.0%
Other characteristic	270	3.7%
Deaf/hard of hearing	301	4.1%
Physical disability	54	0.7%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	231	3.1%
Morbidly obese	183	2.5%
Unemployed	118	1.6%
Chronic alcoholic	151	2.1%
Blind/visually impaired	189	2.6%
Drug abuse	65	0.9%
Brain injury	67	0.9%
Communication disorder	41	0.6%
Financially dependent on abuser	36	0.5%
Functionally illiterate	20	0.3%
Limited English proficiency	26	0.4%
<i>None of the listed characteristics</i>	572	7.8%

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





### Alleged Abusers' Gender

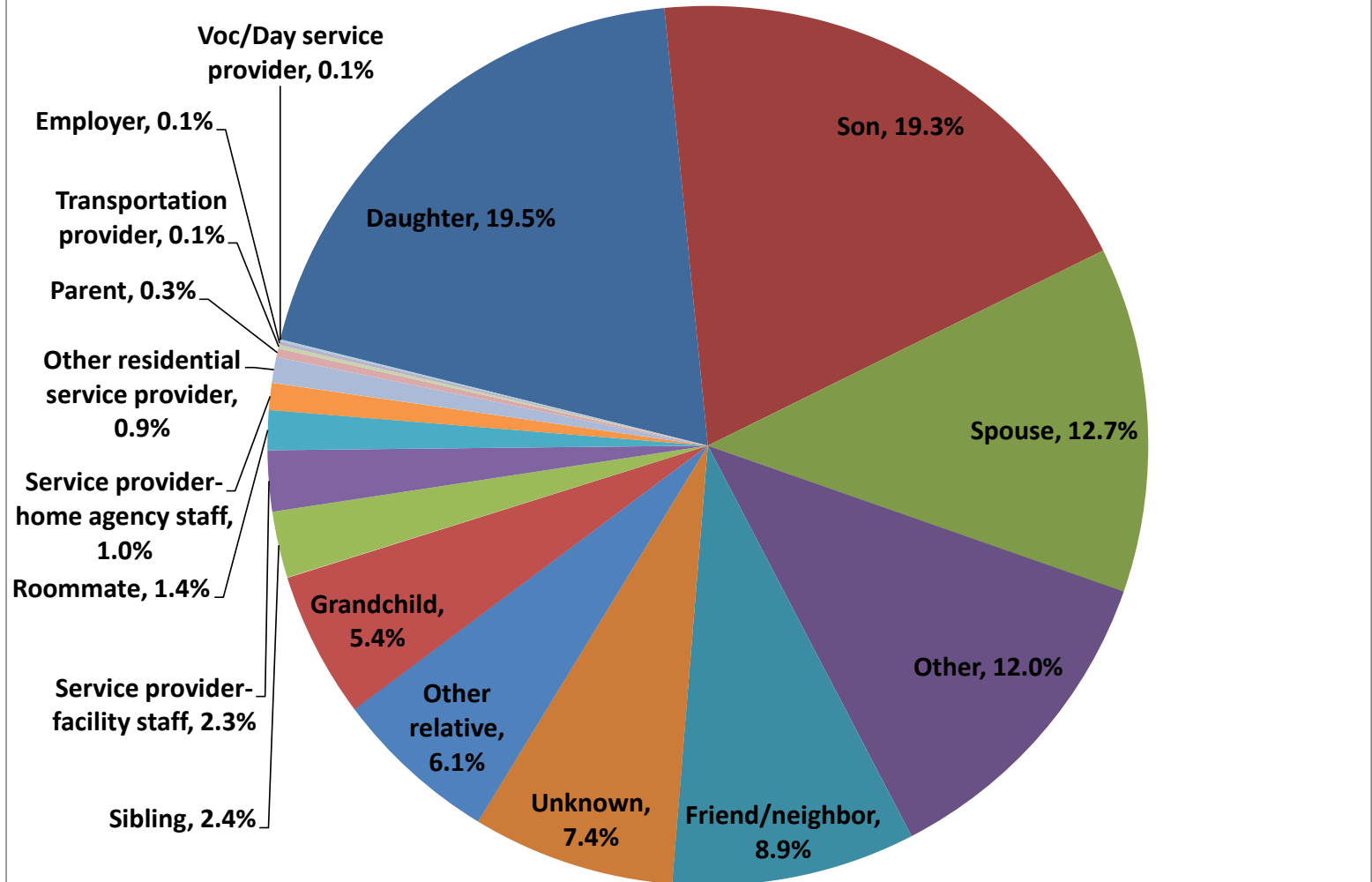
	Number	Percent
Female	1,764	46.3%
Male	1,669	43.8%
Unknown	375	9.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Daughter	744	19.5%
Son	734	19.3%
Spouse	483	12.7%
Other	456	12.0%
Friend/neighbor	340	8.9%
Unknown	283	7.4%
Other relative	231	6.1%
Grandchild	204	5.4%
Sibling	93	2.4%
Service provider-facility staff	86	2.3%
Roommate	55	1.4%
Service provider-home agency staff	38	1.0%
Other residential service provider	36	0.9%
Parent	12	0.3%
Transportation provider	5	0.1%
Employer	5	0.1%
Voc/Day service provider	3	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk





<b>Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	1,958	51.4%
Yes	1,685	44.2%
Unknown	165	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Do Alleged Abusers Have Any Legal or Substitute Decision-Maker Status?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	2,746	72.1%
Yes	1,062	27.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Alleged Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
No legal status	2,090	54.9%
Unknown legal status	627	16.5%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	450	11.8%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	428	11.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	295	7.7%
Guardian of the Person	123	3.2%
Guardian of the Estate	102	2.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	97	2.5%
Other legal status	51	1.3%
Representative Payee	48	1.3%
Temporary Guardian	3	0.1%
Conservator	2	0.1%

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



<b>Alleged Abusers' Characteristics</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	651	17.1%
Unemployed	351	9.2%
Drug abuse	292	7.7%
Other characteristic	281	7.4%
Alcohol abuse	272	7.1%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	253	6.6%
Challenging/dangerous behavior	176	4.6%
Frail Elderly	141	3.7%
Dementia	86	2.3%
Physical Disability	65	1.7%
Mobility impaired	62	1.6%
Chronic alcoholic	54	1.4%
Chronic mental illness	47	1.2%
Medically fragile	42	1.1%
Other medical condition	36	0.9%
Disoriented and confused	33	0.9%
Developmental disability	32	0.8%
Financial dependence: adult at risk on abuser	27	0.7%
Morbidly Obese	25	0.7%
Diabetes	24	0.6%
Deaf/hard of hearing	21	0.6%
Stroke-related condition	17	0.4%
Brain injury	14	0.4%
Incontinent	10	0.3%
Blind/visually impaired	9	0.2%
Homebound	7	0.2%
Limited English proficiency	5	0.1%
Functionally illiterate	1	0.0%
Communication disorder	0	0.0%
<i>None of the listed characteristics</i>	<i>1,906</i>	<i>50.1%</i>
<i>Multiple responses were allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		
<i>Percents refer to share of all alleged abusers.</i>		



<b>More than One Alleged Abuser?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No, one alleged abuser only	3,669	96.3%
Yes	139	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	3,892	52.9%
Unsubstantiated	2,365	32.1%
Unable to Substantiate	1,104	15.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Services offered-not accepted	1,615	21.9%
Services offered-some accepted	1,608	21.8%
Services not needed	1,333	18.1%
Services offered-all accepted	977	13.3%
Guardian referral	679	9.2%
Outreach continues	536	7.3%
Protective services placement	499	6.8%
Referral made to other agency	477	6.5%
Investigation not accepted	422	5.7%
Other disposition	383	5.2%
Referral to law enforcement/Department of Justice	274	3.7%
Other legal action	143	1.9%
Referral to regulatory authority (DHS/DQA)	60	0.8%
Response/investigation continues	48	0.7%
Referral to protection/advocacy agencies	46	0.6%
Mental health commitment	42	0.6%
Services needed are not available	20	0.3%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry (DHS/DQA)	16	0.2%
Referral to detoxification services	15	0.2%
Referral made to state agency	9	0.1%

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





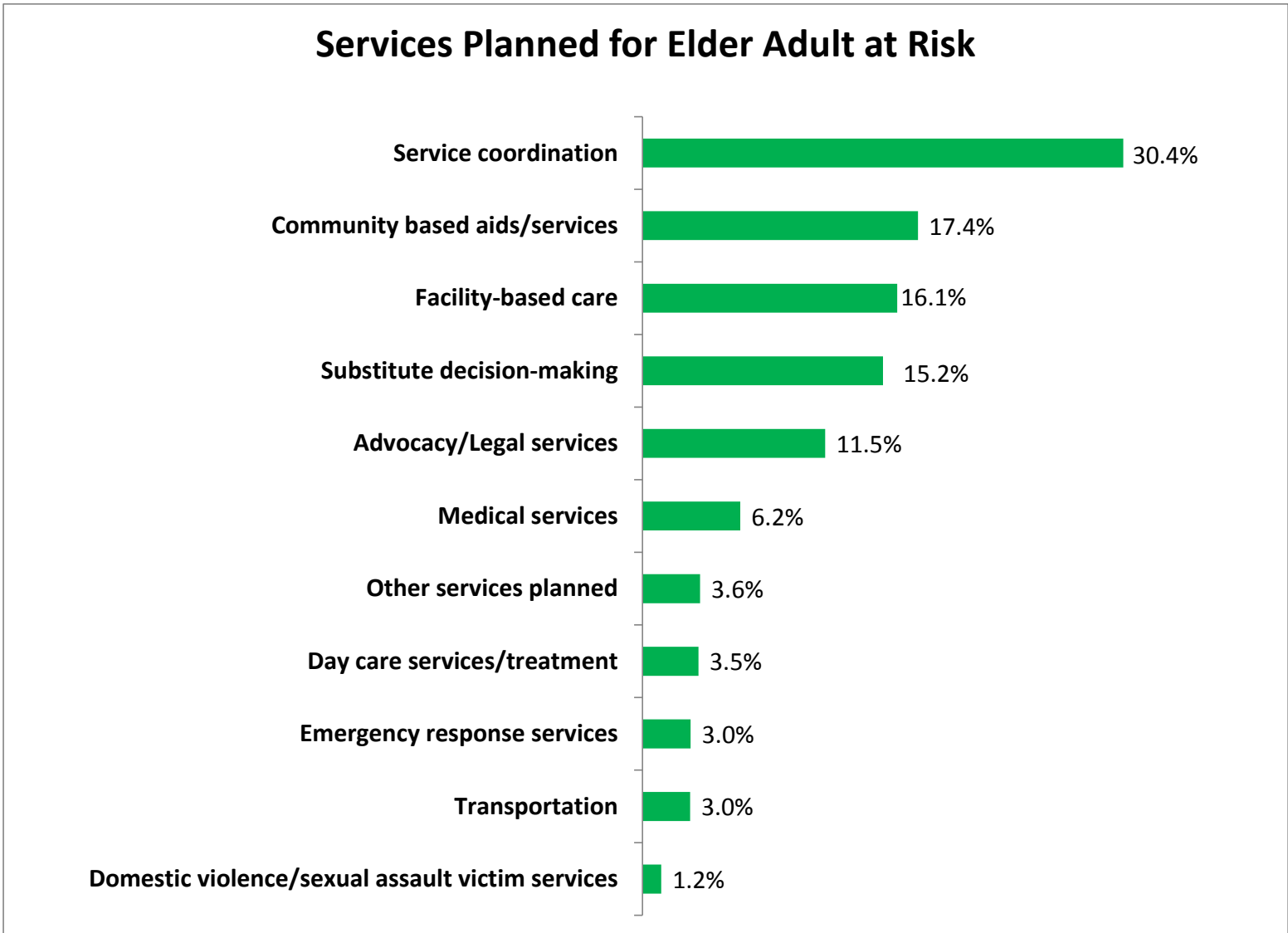
## Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Service coordination	2,238	30.4%
Community based aids/services	1,282	17.4%
Facility-based care	1,186	16.1%
Substitute decision-making	1,119	15.2%
Advocacy/Legal services	850	11.5%
Medical services	455	6.2%
Other services planned	268	3.6%
Day care services/treatment	260	3.5%
Emergency response services	224	3.0%
Transportation	221	3.0%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	87	1.2%

*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)

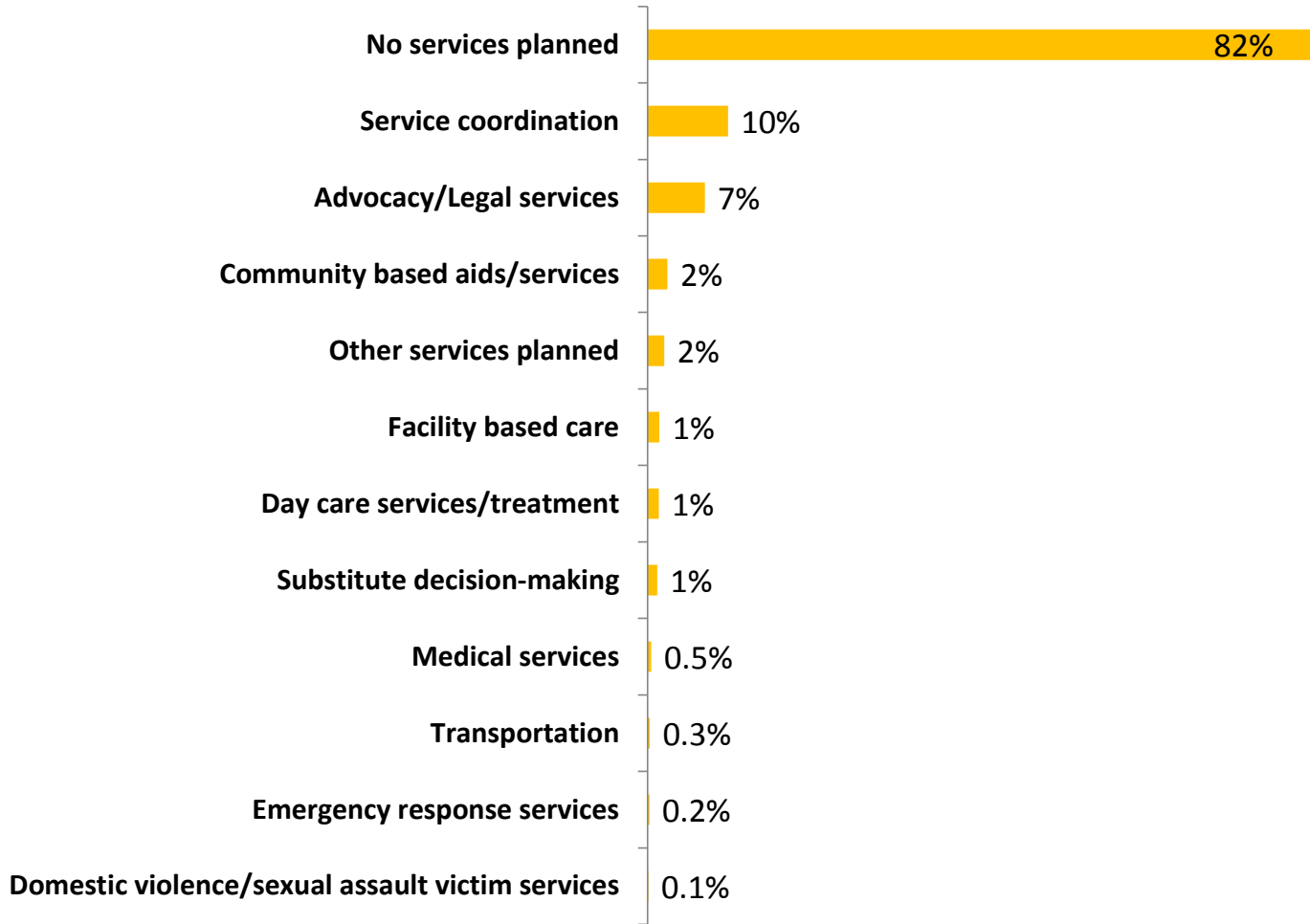
Service	Number	Percent
No services planned	2,716	82.3%
Service coordination	329	10.0%
Advocacy/Legal services	234	7.1%
Community based aids/services	81	2.5%
Other services planned	68	2.1%
Facility based care	48	1.5%
Day care services/treatment	46	1.4%
Substitute decision-making	39	1.2%
Medical services	15	0.5%
Transportation	9	0.3%
Emergency response services	7	0.2%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	3	0.1%

*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=3,302).*



## Services Plan for Alleged Abuser(s)





## Contact Information

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**Adult Protective Services Coordinator**

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