

Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report: 2014

A statewide summary of reports
submitted by Wisconsin counties



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services
Division of Long Term Care
P-00124-14 (11/2015)

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 2014 are the basis of this statewide report: *Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report*.

2014 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

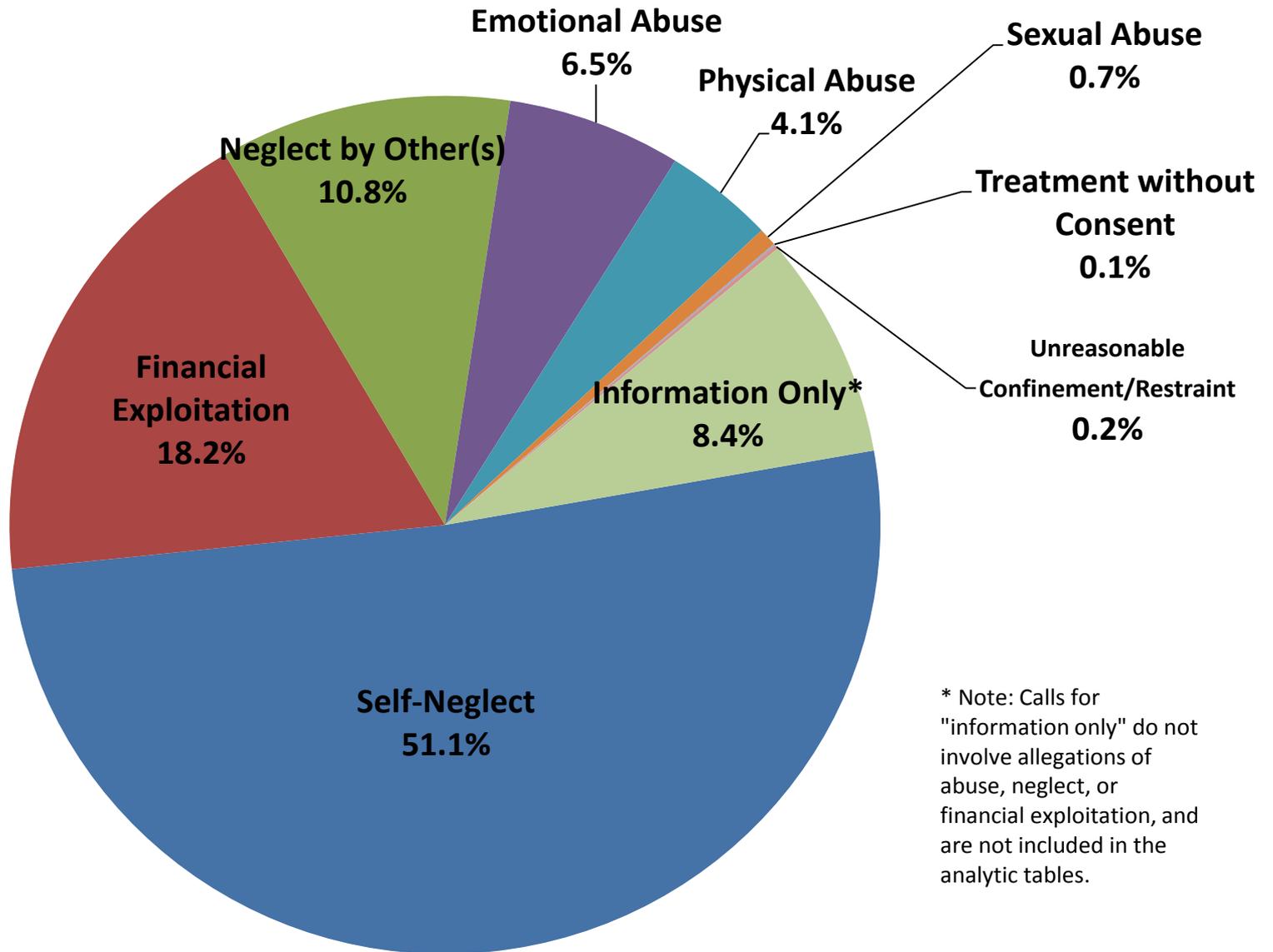
Wisconsin has made great strides in identifying and protecting elders. No one should experience or endure abuse, neglect or exploitation. Let individuals know that you are concerned about them and that they are not alone. There are others who do understand and are there to help them stay safe.

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	3,542	51.1%
Financial Exploitation	1,262	18.2%
Neglect by Other(s)	750	10.8%
Emotional Abuse	448	6.5%
Physical Abuse	283	4.1%
Sexual Abuse	47	0.7%
Treatment without Consent	4	0.1%
Unreasonable Confinement/Restraint	11	0.2%
<i>Information Only*</i>	580	8.4%
Total	6,927	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



Previous Report on This Individual?

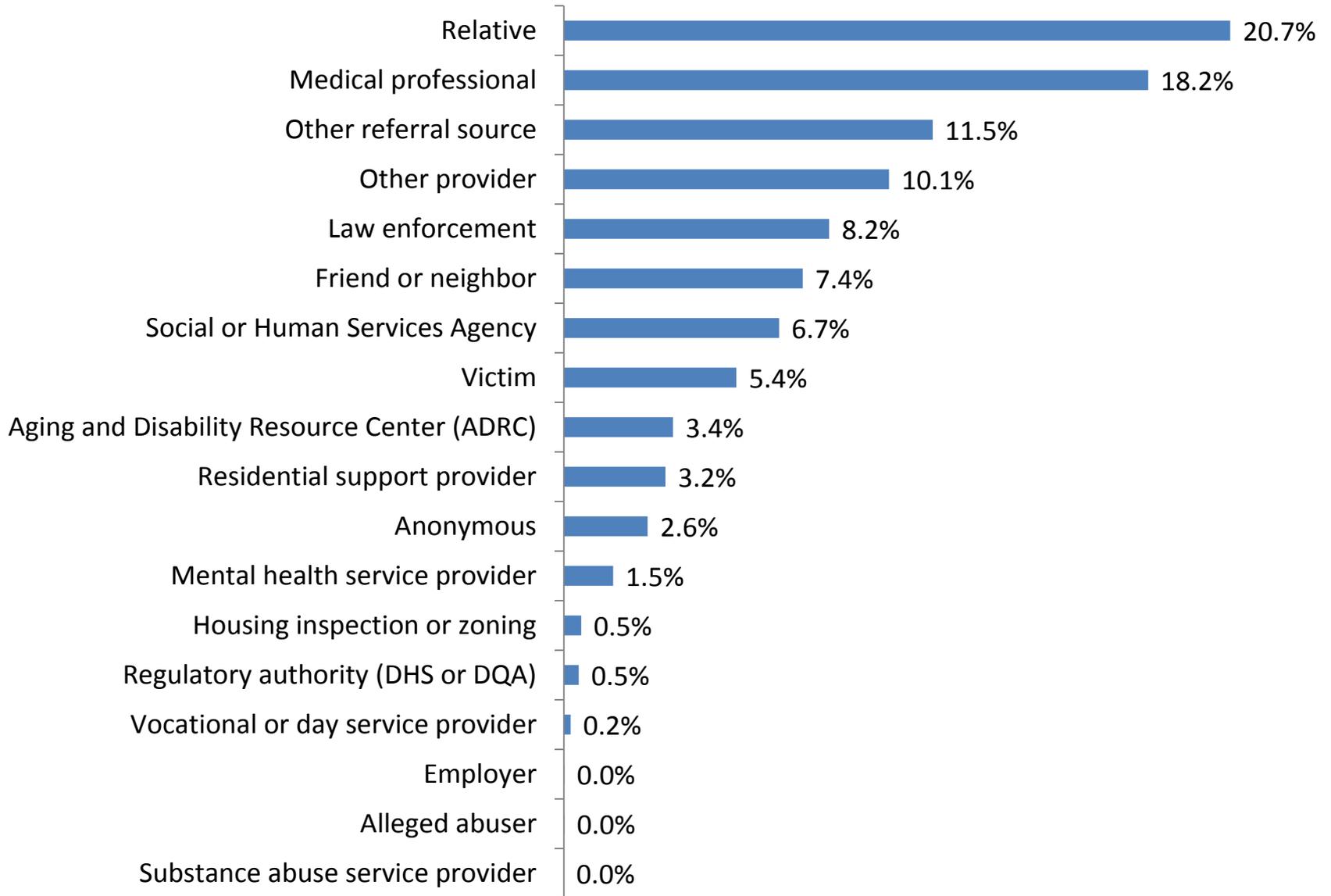
	Number	Percent
No	3,753	60.4%
Yes	1,958	31.5%
Unknown	504	8.1%
Total	6,215	100.0%

Where Incident Occurred

	Number	Percent
Place of residence	5,678	89.5%
Other place	608	9.6%
Place of employment or day services	39	0.6%
School	7	0.1%
Transportation	15	0.2%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Referral Source		
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	215	3.4%
Alleged abuser	1	0.0%
Anonymous	165	2.6%
Employer	1	0.0%
Friend or neighbor	471	7.4%
Housing inspection or zoning	34	0.5%
Law enforcement	523	8.2%
Medical professional	1,152	18.2%
Mental health service provider	97	1.5%
Other provider	641	10.1%
Other referral source	727	11.5%
Regulatory authority	29	0.5%
Relative	1,314	20.7%
Residential support provider	200	3.2%
Social or Human Services Agency	424	6.7%
Substance abuse service provider	0	0.0%
Victim	340	5.4%
Vocational or day service provider	13	0.2%
Total	6,347	100.0%

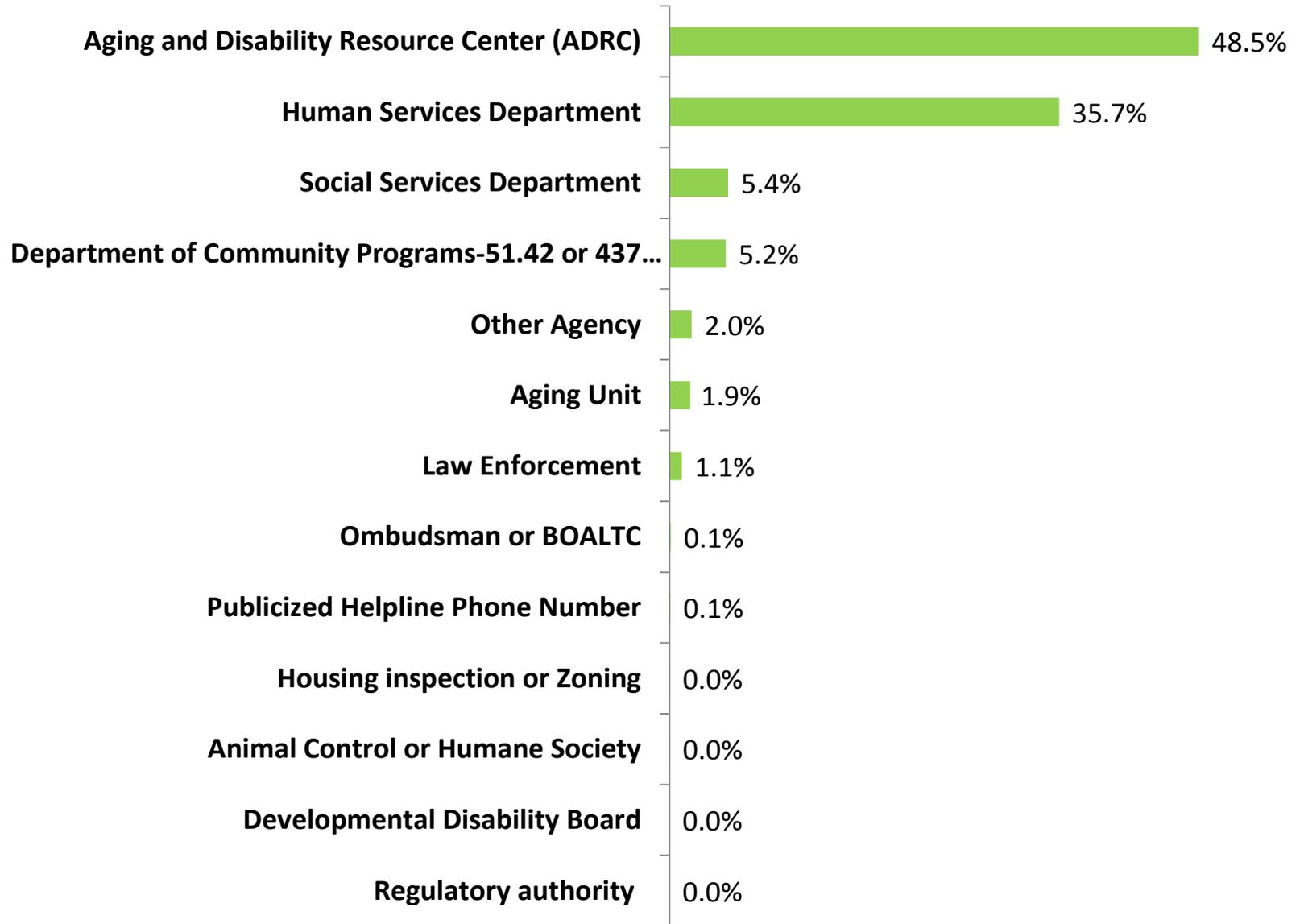
Referral Source



Call Received By:

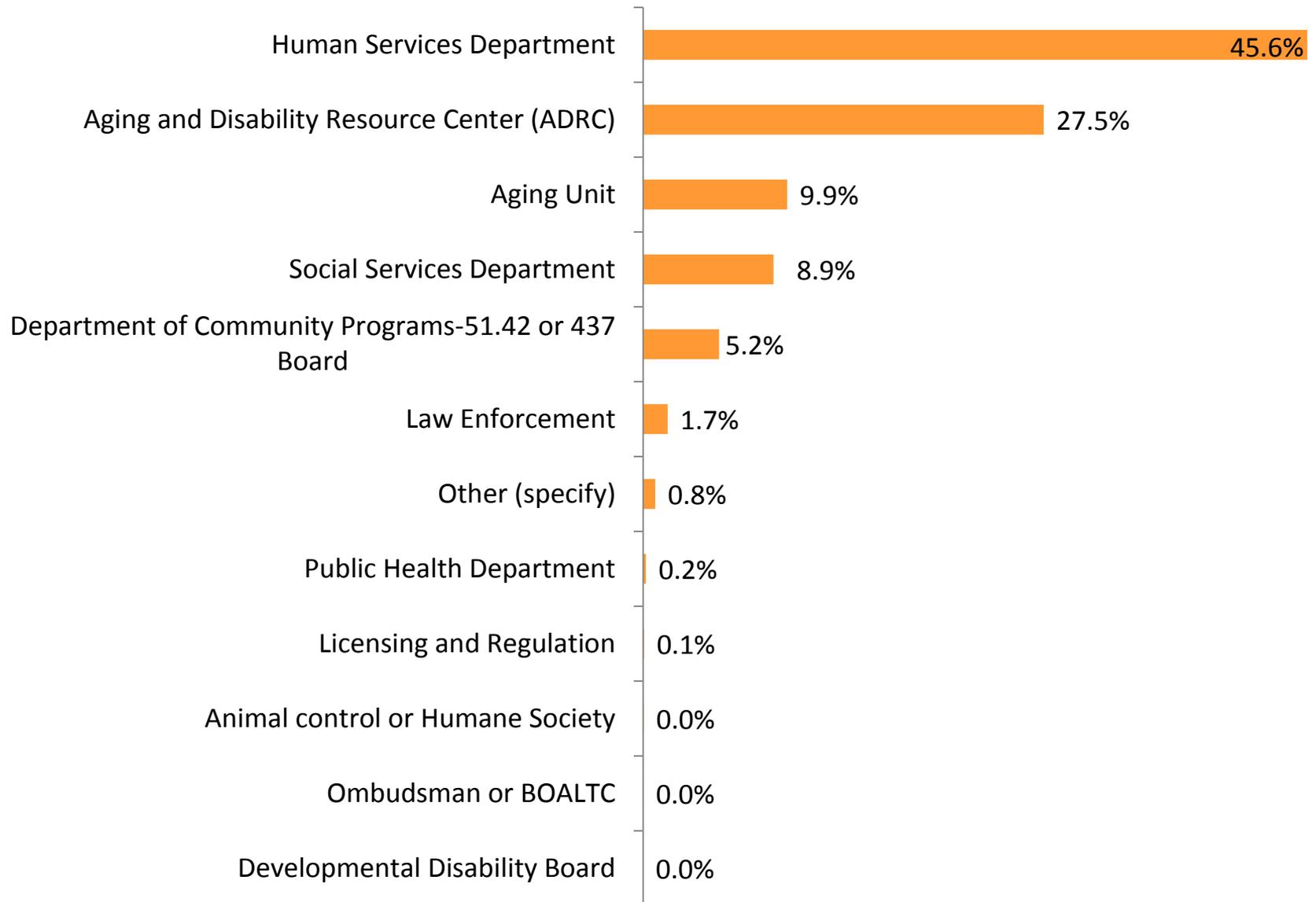
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	3,079	48.5%
Publicized Helpline Phone Number	5	0.1%
Animal control or Humane Society	1	0.0%
Housing inspection or zoning	2	0.0%
Ombudsman or BOALTC	7	0.1%
Regulatory authority	0	0.0%
Aging Unit	120	1.9%
Department of Community Programs-51.42 or 437 Board	327	5.2%
Developmental Disability Board	0	0.0%
Human Services Department	2,266	35.7%
Law Enforcement	71	1.1%
Other Agency	128	2.0%
Social Services Department	341	5.4%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Call Received By:



Initial Investigating Agency		
	Number	Percent
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	1,746	27.5%
Aging Unit	628	9.9%
Animal control or Humane Society	2	0.0%
Department of Community Programs-51.42 or 437 Board	331	5.2%
Developmental Disability Board	0	0.0%
Human Services Department	2,895	45.6%
Law Enforcement	107	1.7%
Licensing and Regulation	4	0.1%
Ombudsman or BOALTC	1	0.0%
Other (specify)	53	0.8%
Public Health Department	12	0.2%
Social Services Department	568	8.9%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Initial Investigating Agency



Was Incident Life Threatening?		
	Number	Percent
No	5,666	89.3%
Yes	405	6.4%
Unknown	276	4.3%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Has Elder Adult at Risk Died?		
	Number	Percent
No	335	82.7%
Yes	69	17.0%
Unknown	1	0.2%
Total	405	100.0%

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

Was Death Related to the Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	26	37.7%
Yes	28	40.6%
Unknown	15	21.7%
Total	69	100.0%

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

Was Death Directly Caused by Incident?		
	Number	Percent
No	12	42.9%
Yes	9	32.1%
Unknown	7	25.0%
Total	28	100.0%

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

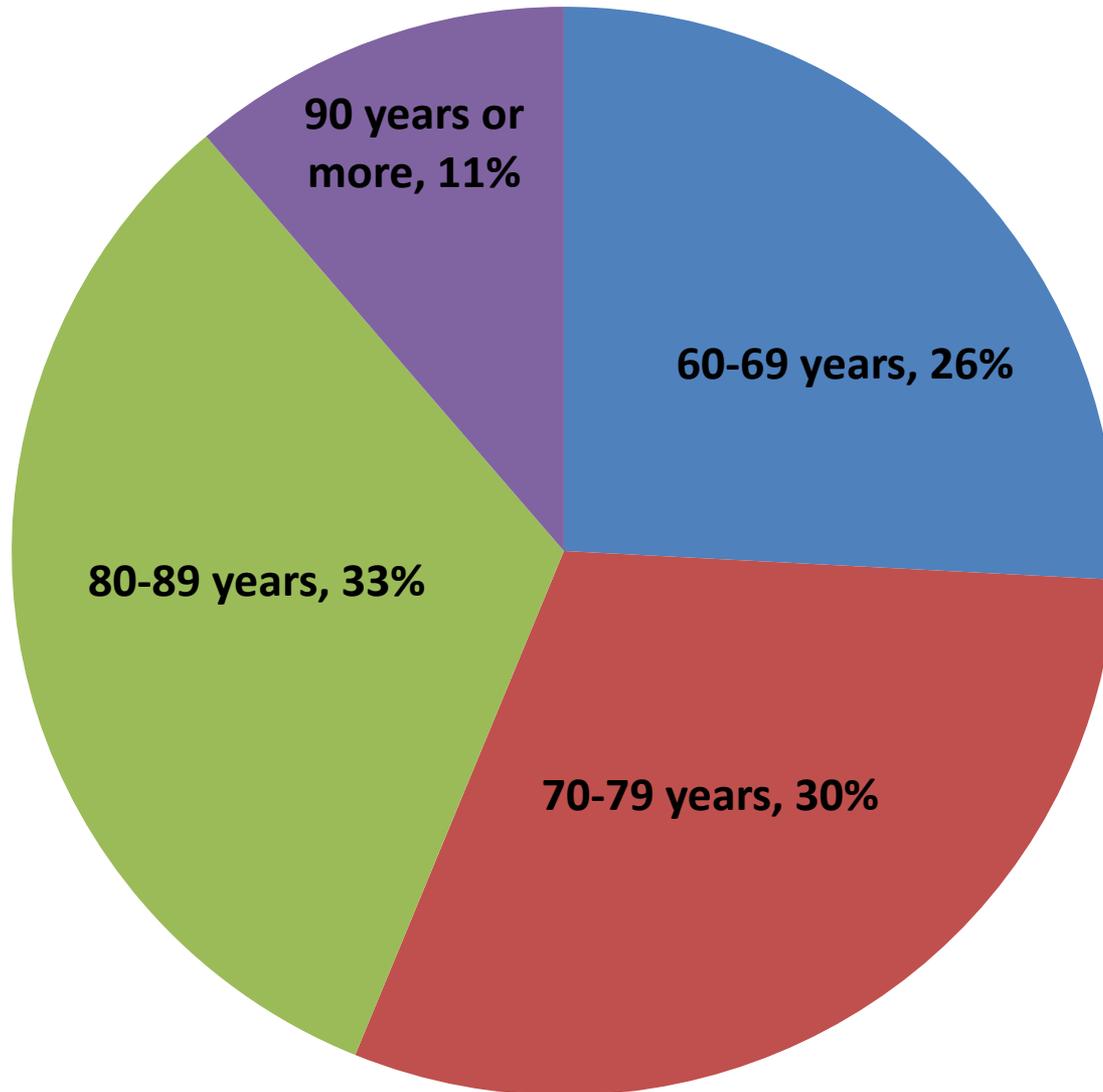
Elder Adult at Risk's Age		
	Number	Percent
60-69 years	1,640	25.8%
70-79 years	1,925	30.3%
80-89 years	2,070	32.6%
90 years or more	712	11.2%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	3,866	60.9%
Male	2,477	39.0%
Unknown	4	0.1%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Race		
	Number	Percent
White	4,694	74.0%
Black or African American	330	5.2%
Native American or Alaska Native	68	1.1%
Asian	17	0.3%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	7	0.1%
Other race	47	0.7%
Not reported or unknown	1,184	18.7%
Total	6,347	100.0%

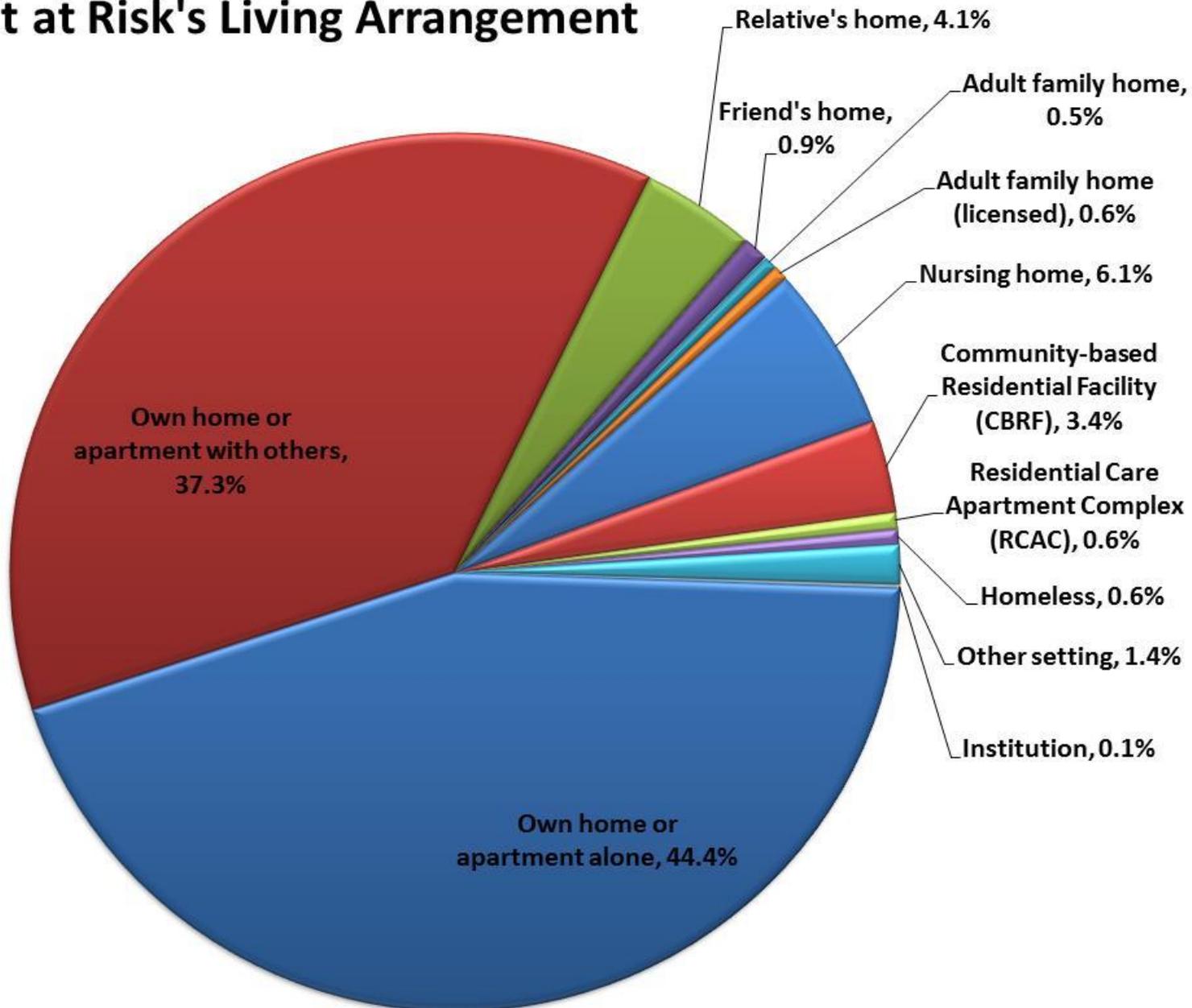
Notes: Race and Ethnicity are optional fields, so some reports are missing this information. Although data may be incomplete, percents represent the share of all complete reports that showed each race/ethnicity category.

Elder Adult at Risk's Age



Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement		
	Number	Percent
Own home or apartment alone	2,817	44.4%
Own home or apartment with others	2,366	37.3%
Relative's home	263	4.1%
Friend's home	58	0.9%
Adult family home	32	0.5%
Adult family home (licensed)	35	0.6%
Nursing home	386	6.1%
Community-based Residential Facility (CBRF)	216	3.4%
Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)	39	0.6%
Homeless	37	0.6%
Other setting	92	1.4%
Institution	6	0.1%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Elder Adult at Risk's Living Arrangement

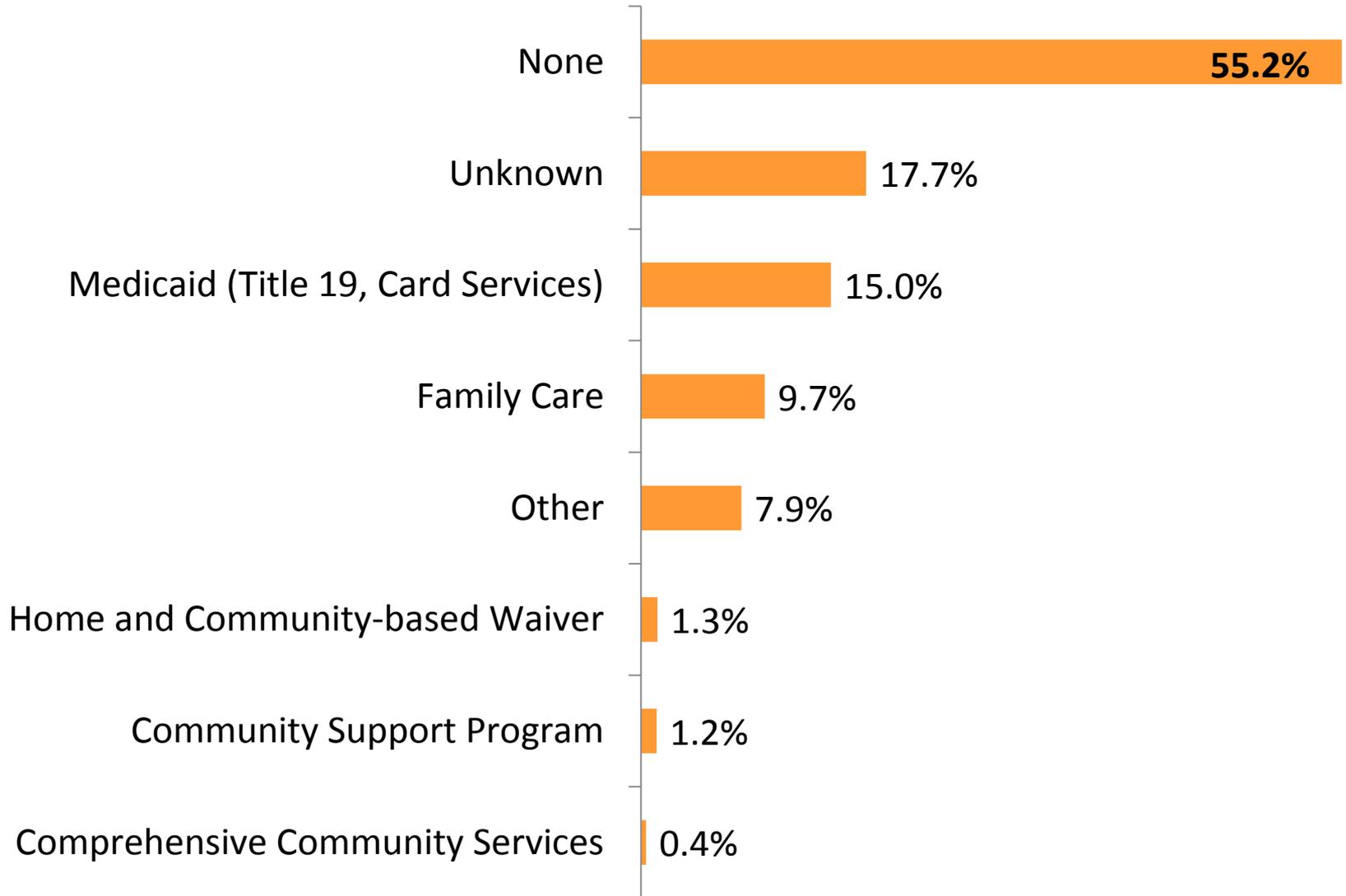


County and State-funded Programs That Have Served Elder Adults at Risk

	Number	Percent
Community Support Program	77	1.2%
Comprehensive Community Services	24	0.4%
Family Care	618	9.7%
Home and Community-based Waiver	81	1.3%
Medicaid (Title 19, Card Services)	949	15.0%
Unknown	1,125	17.7%
Other	501	7.9%
None	3,504	55.2%

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?

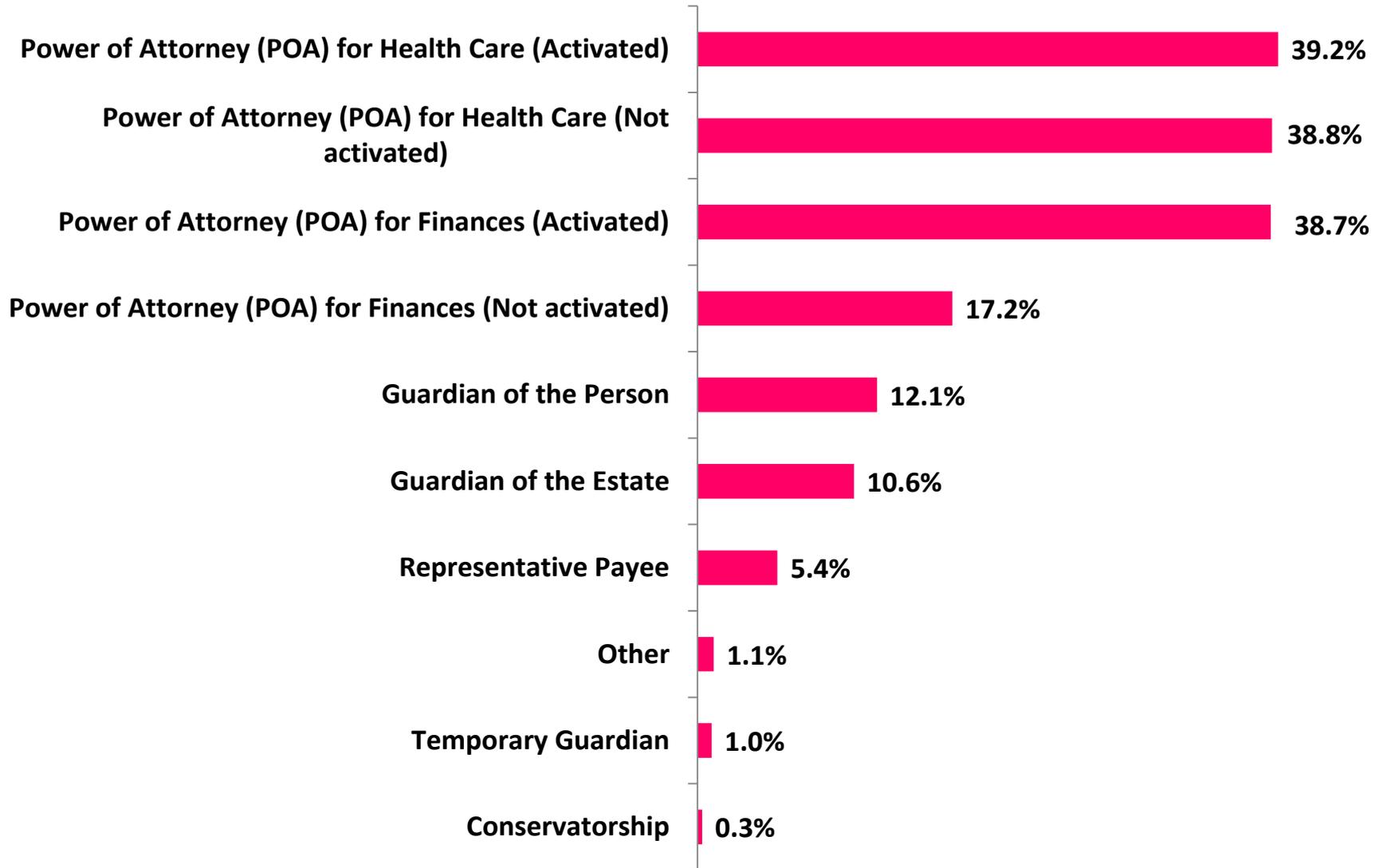
	Number	Percent
No	3,246	51.1%
Yes	2,184	34.4%
Unknown	917	14.4%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker

	Number	Percent
Conservatorship	7	0.3%
Guardian of the Person	265	12.1%
Guardian of the Estate	231	10.6%
Representative Payee	118	5.4%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	846	38.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	376	17.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	857	39.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	848	38.8%
Temporary Guardian	21	1.0%
Other	24	1.1%

Percents represent share of all those with any kind of substitute decision-maker (n=2,141). Multiple responses are allowed, so percents do not total 100%.

Type(s) of Substitute Decision-Maker



Elder Adult at Risk's Characteristics

	Number	Percent
Alcohol abuse	293	4.2%
Blind or visually impaired	158	2.3%
Brain injury	71	1.0%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	327	4.7%
Chronic alcoholic	133	1.9%
Chronic mental illness	209	3.0%
Communication disorder	40	0.6%
Deaf or hard of hearing	319	4.6%
Dementia	1,605	23.2%
Developmental disability	130	1.9%
Diabetes	499	7.2%
Disoriented and confused	840	12.1%
Drug abuse	51	0.7%
Financially dependent on abuser	31	0.4%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on Adult at Risk	156	2.3%
Frail elderly	2,973	42.9%
Functionally illiterate	24	0.3%
Homebound	490	7.1%
Incontinent	408	5.9%
Limited English proficiency	25	0.4%
Medically fragile	964	13.9%
Mental illness (mentally ill)	607	8.8%
Mobility impaired	1,076	15.5%
Morbidly obese	179	2.6%
Physical disability	633	9.1%
Stroke-related condition	268	3.9%
Unemployed	72	1.0%
Other medical condition	815	11.8%
Other characteristic	261	3.8%
None of the listed characteristics	397	5.7%

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
Male	1,586	48.8%
Female	1,537	47.3%
Unknown	126	3.9%
Total	3,249	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult-at-Risk

	Number	Percent
Son	716	22.0%
Daughter	685	21.1%
Spouse	443	13.6%
Grandchild	216	6.6%
Other relative	297	9.1%
Friend or neighbor	306	9.4%
Service provider	431	13.3%
Other	101	3.1%
Unknown	8	0.2%
Parent	45	1.4%
Employer	1	0.0%
Total	3,249	100.0%

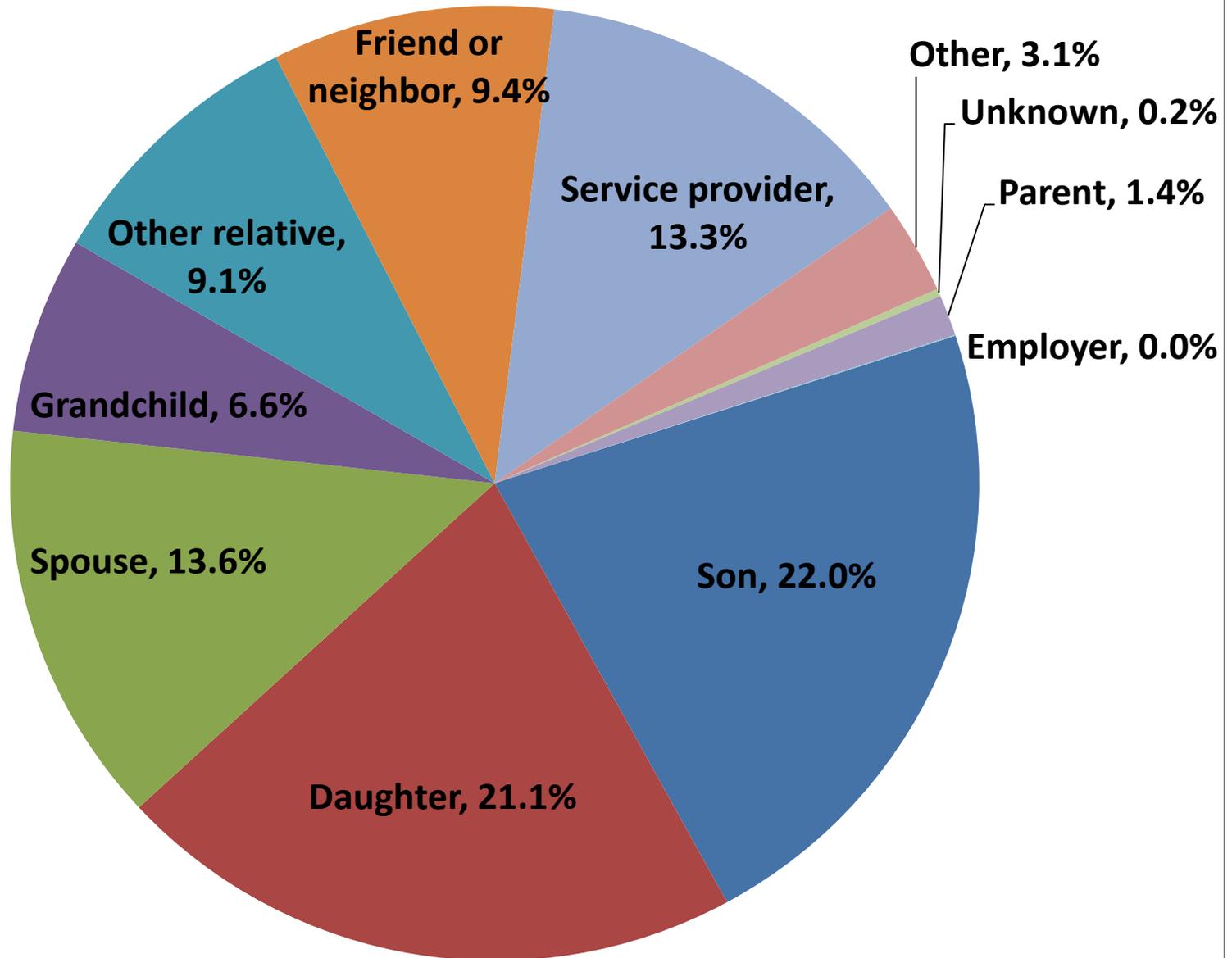
Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk

	Number	Percent
Son	716	22.0%
Daughter	685	21.1%
Spouse	443	13.6%
Grandchild	216	6.6%
Other relative	297	9.1%
Friend or neighbor	306	9.4%
Service provider	431	13.3%
Other	101	3.1%
Unknown	8	0.2%
Parent	45	1.4%
Employer	1	0.0%
Total	3,249	100.0%

Are Alleged Abusers Caregivers?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1,423	43.8%
No	1,670	51.4%
Unknown	156	4.8%
Total	3,249	100.0%

Alleged Abusers' Relationships to Elder Adult at Risk



Do Alleged Abusers Live with Elder Adult at Risk?		
	Number	Percent
Yes	1,570	48.3%
No	1,588	48.9%
Unknown	91	2.8%
Total	3,249	100.0%
Do Alleged Abusers Have Any Legal or Substitute Decision-		
	Number	Percent
Any legal/substitute decision-maker status listed	2,265	69.7%
No status listed	984	30.3%
Total	3,249	100.0%

Abusers' Legal Status

	Number	Percent
Conservator	3	0.1%
Guardian of the Person	93	2.9%
Guardian of the Estate	79	2.4%
Temporary Guardian	3	0.1%
Representative Payee	52	1.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Activated)	429	13.2%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Finances (Not activated)	118	3.6%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Activated)	412	12.7%
Power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care (Not activated)	258	7.9%
Other legal status	54	1.7%
Unknown legal status	472	14.5%
No legal status	1,787	55.0%

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	173	5.3%
Blind or visually impaired	5	0.2%
Brain injury	12	0.4%
Chronic alcoholic	36	1.1%
Chronic mental illness	42	1.3%
Challenging or dangerous behavior	131	4.0%
Communication disorder	1	0.0%
Deaf or hard of hearing	12	0.4%
Dementia	59	1.8%
Developmental disability	15	0.5%
Diabetes	27	0.8%
Disoriented and confused	32	1.0%
Drug abuse	199	6.1%
Financial dependence: adult at risk on abuser	29	0.9%
Financial dependence: alleged abuser dependent on adult at risk	539	16.6%
Frail Elderly	118	3.6%
Functionally illiterate	2	0.1%
Homebound	8	0.2%
Incontinent	4	0.1%
Limited English proficiency	5	0.2%
Medically fragile	59	1.8%
Mental Illness (mentally ill)	178	5.5%
Mobility impaired	54	1.7%
Morbidly Obese	30	0.9%
Physical Disability	66	2.0%
Stroke-related condition	15	0.5%
Unemployed	294	9.0%
Other medical condition	71	2.2%
Other characteristic	311	9.6%
None of the listed characteristics	1,659	51.1%

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

Percents refer to share of all alleged abusers.

More than One Alleged Abuser?

	Number	Percent
Yes	194	6.0%
No, one alleged abuser only	3,055	94.0%
Total (all reported incidents with at least one abuser)	3,249	100.0%

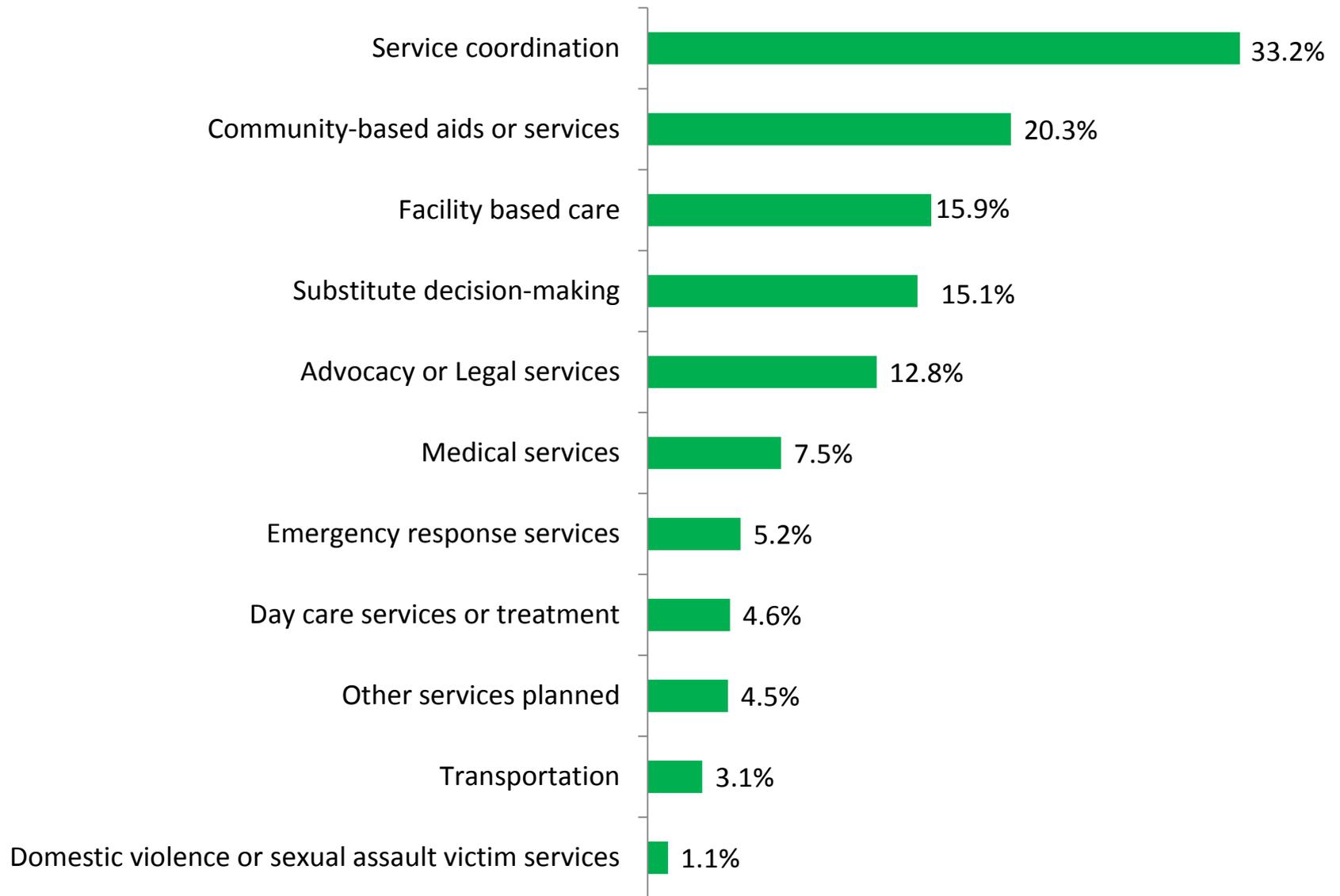
Was Hurt or Harm Substantiated?

	Number	Percent
Substantiated	3,398	53.5%
Unsubstantiated	2,017	31.8%
Unable to Substantiate	932	14.7%
Total	6,347	100.0%

Actions Taken to Assist Elder Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Guardian referral	445	7.0%
Investigation not accepted	262	4.1%
Mental health commitment	50	0.8%
Outreach continues	521	8.2%
Protective services placement	333	5.2%
Referral made to other agency	442	7.0%
Referral made to state agency	15	0.2%
Referral to Caregiver Misconduct Registry	16	0.3%
Referral to law enforcement or Department of Justice	297	4.7%
Referral to detoxification services	9	0.1%
Referral to protection or advocacy agencies	38	0.6%
Referral to regulatory authority	24	0.4%
Services needed are not available	27	0.4%
Services not needed	879	13.8%
Services offered but not accepted	1,328	20.9%
Services offered-all accepted	821	12.9%
Services offered-some accepted	1,427	22.5%
Response or investigation continues	52	0.8%
Other legal action	121	1.9%
Other disposition	345	5.4%
<i>Percents refer to share of all reports showing this action. Multiple responses are allowed so numbers do not add up to 100%.</i>		

Services Planned for Elder Adult at Risk		
	Number	Percent
Advocacy or Legal services	814	12.8%
Community-based aids or services	1,291	20.3%
Day care services or treatment	292	4.6%
Domestic violence or sexual assault victim services	72	1.1%
Emergency response services	330	5.2%
Facility based care	1,008	15.9%
Medical services	474	7.5%
Service coordination	2,105	33.2%
Substitute decision-making	959	15.1%
Transportation	194	3.1%
Other services planned	285	4.5%
<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



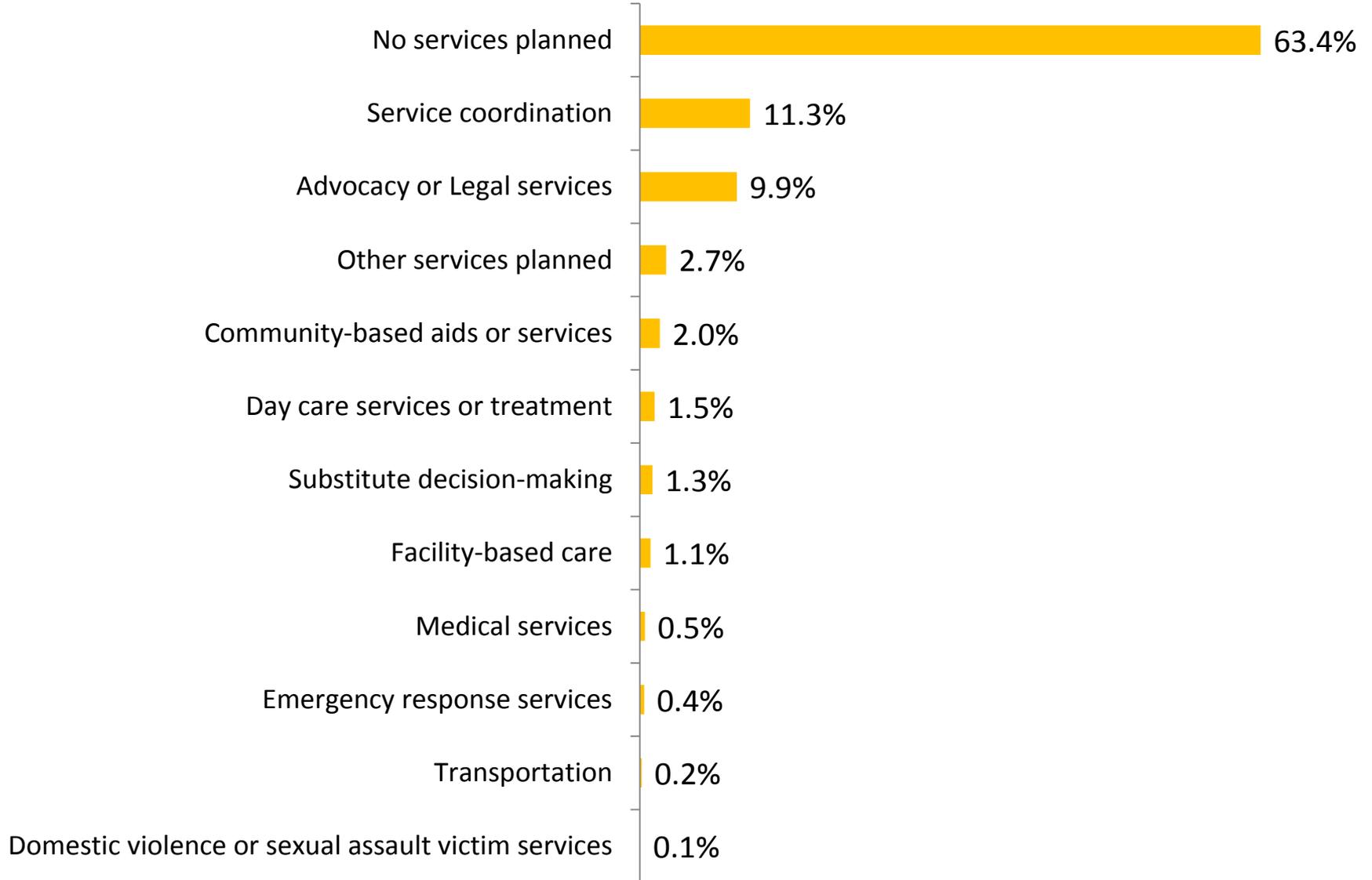
Services Planned for Alleged Abuser(s)

Service	Number	Percent
No services planned	2,061	63.4%
Advocacy/Legal services	322	9.9%
Community-based aids/services	66	2.0%
Day care services/treatment	49	1.5%
Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services	2	0.1%
Emergency response services	14	0.4%
Facility-based care	35	1.1%
Medical services	17	0.5%
Service coordination	366	11.3%
Substitute decision-making	42	1.3%
Transportation	6	0.2%
Other services planned	87	2.7%

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=2,977).

Services Plan for Alleged Abuser(s)



Contact Information

Stan Shemanski, 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

Phone: 608-266-2568

FAX: 608-267-3203

Email: stanley.shemanski@wisconsin.gov