In 79% of the cases in which abuse is substantiated, the victim consents to services. Services might include in-home care, adult day service, respite, health services and services such as counseling. Other interventions might include an order of protection, obtaining a representative payee, having the person change or execute a new power of attorney for financial and/or health decisions, or assisting the client in obtaining other legal remedies. In some cases, services for the abuser are also obtained, including mental health, substance abuse, job placement or other services related to their problems.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of cases were reported by social workers or medical personnel. Family members were responsible for 20% percent of all reports, and victims self-reported in 9% of all cases. Self reports were most likely to occur in physical, sexual, emotional and financial exploitation cases. Older adults most often needed others to report for them in cases of neglect and willful deprivation.

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of abusers were either the spouse, child or other relative.

Major indicators of abuse that were evident during the assessment process are documented by the elder abuse caseworker using hundreds of abuse indicator codes. Actions of the abuser, e.g., inappropriate supervision for the older adult, not providing needed assistance, (withholding food, water, and/or medications, and refusing services) were found in almost all cases. Controlling the older adult’s finances and unusual financial transactions were documented in 47% and 18% of the reports, respectively.

Seventy percent (70%) of the victims were female and 30% were male. Three out of five victims suffered from one or more barriers to independent living. Thirty-six percent (36%) of victims were functionally impaired, meaning they had difficulty performing daily tasks such as walking, personal care, meal preparation, laundry and housecleaning. Many of these older adults were victims of neglect and deprivation.

Seventy percent (70%) of abusers were male and 49% were female. Fifty-one percent (51%) of abusers were male and 49% were female.

Almost one in four victims are age 86 or older. In 79% of the cases in which abuse is substantiated, the victim consents to services. Services might include in-home care, adult day service, respite, health services and services such as counseling. Other interventions might include an order of protection, obtaining a representative payee, having the person change or execute a new power of attorney for financial and/or health decisions, or assisting the client in obtaining other legal remedies. In some cases, services for the abuser are also obtained, including mental health, substance abuse, job placement or other services related to their problems.