

Adult Protective Services 2019 Year in Review: Community Cases



Background



There are approximately 185 APS workers across Oregon in state APD field offices and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) offices. They receive and investigate reports of abuse and self-neglect, coordinate with law enforcement and assist older adults and people with disabilities with resources for immediate and long-term protection.

Tracking abuse data is essential to ensure a full understanding of the risk of abuse in Oregon, where it is happening and the types of abuses that are occurring. In 2019, local APS offices received a total of 50,832 calls.

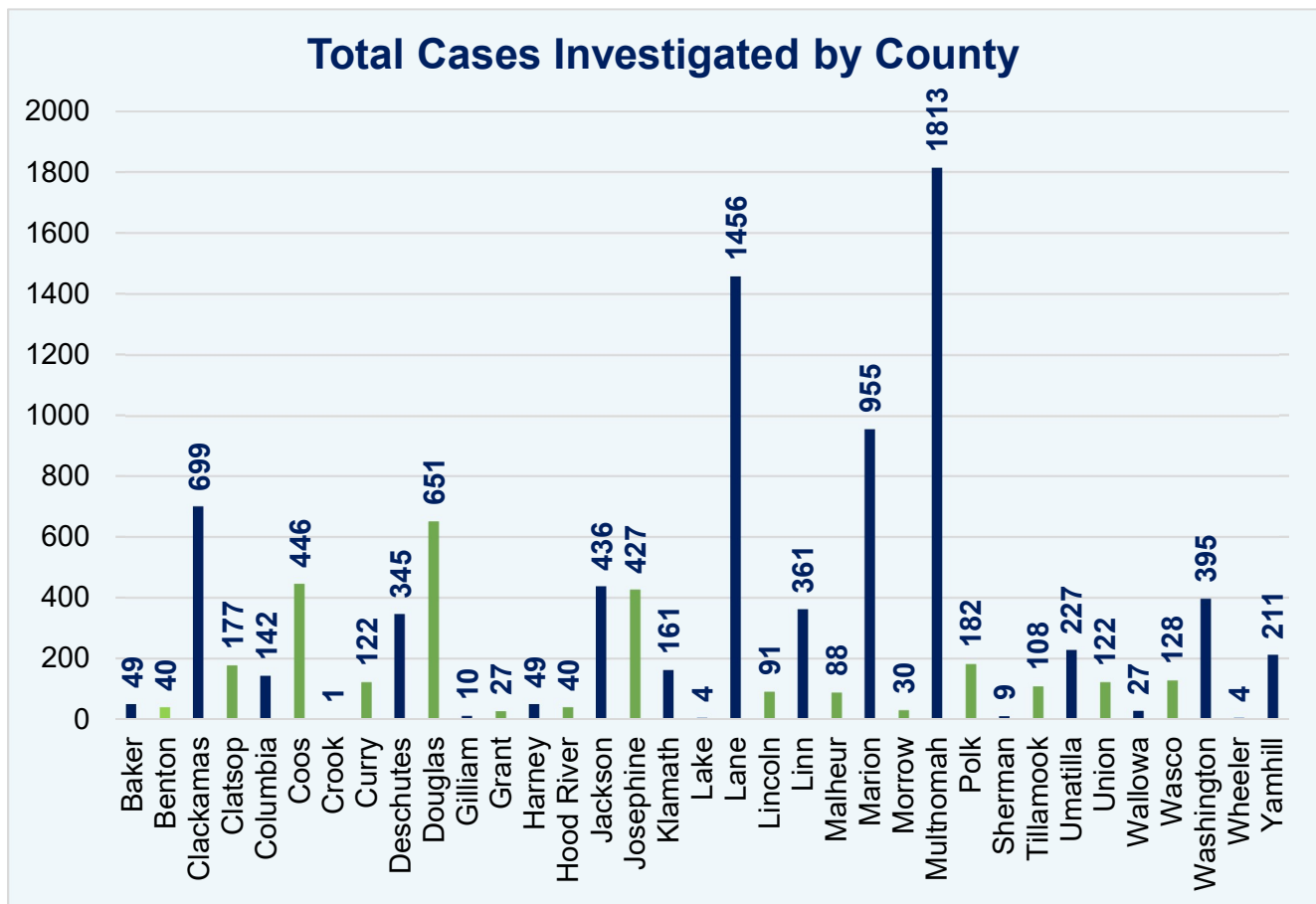
- Many of these are not complaints of abuse, but requests for information, referrals and other services which are provided to the caller.
- Some are reports of abuse, but ones that would be investigated by other agencies. These cases are referred to the appropriate investigative authority.
- Many calls voice a concern but it may not meet the statutory definition of abuse that can be investigated. In these cases, there may be other ways to assist the caller even though an investigation may not occur or there may be other agencies, such as licensing, that need to be aware of the concern.
- The remaining calls voice a concern that do meet the definition of abuse and these are assigned for investigation.

Note that APS investigates allegations of abuse in licensed Adult Foster Care, Assisted Living and Residential Care Facilities as well as in the community. Facility investigations represent approximately 25 – 35% of the APS investigative workload while the remainder are considered Community APS Investigations. The outcomes of facility investigations are maintained and reported on by the office of Safety, Oversight and Quality (SOQ). This report documents Oregon’s Community APS Investigations in 2019.

Community Cases

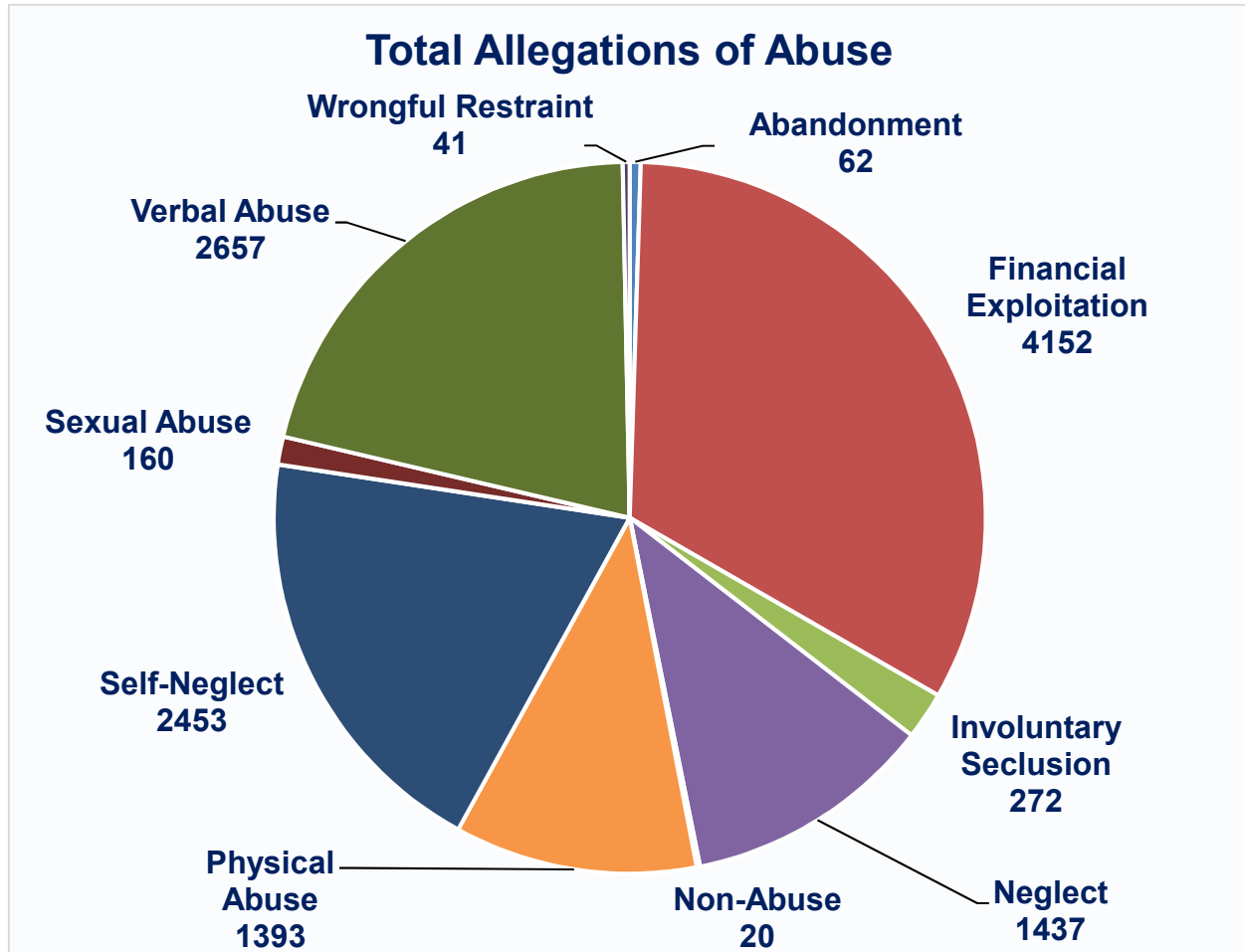
Investigations

There was a total of 10,033 investigations of abuse in community settings during calendar year 2019. The chart below lists the total cases investigated by each county.



Allegations

Of the 10,033 community cases investigated in 2019, there were a total of 12,647 separate allegations of abuse. The prevalence of each type of abuse is indicated in the chart below.



The percentage of allegations that were substantiated are as follows:

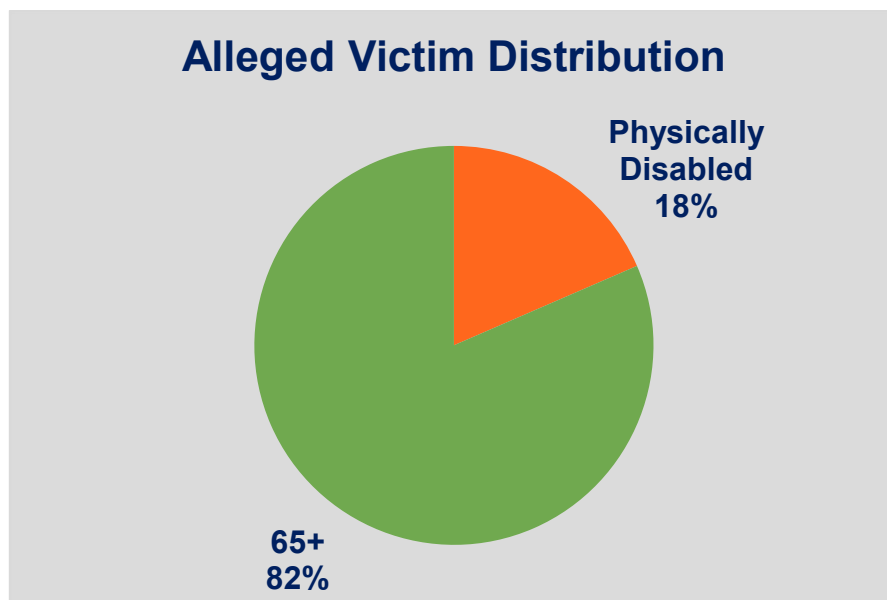
Abuse Type	Substantiation Rate
Abandonment	11.3%
Financial Exploitation	20.6%
Involuntary Seclusion	10.7%
Neglect	14.8%
Non-Abuse	0.0%
Physical Abuse	28.4%
Self-Neglect	19.1%
Sexual Abuse	10.0%
Verbal Abuse	27.2%
Wrongful Restraint	9.8%

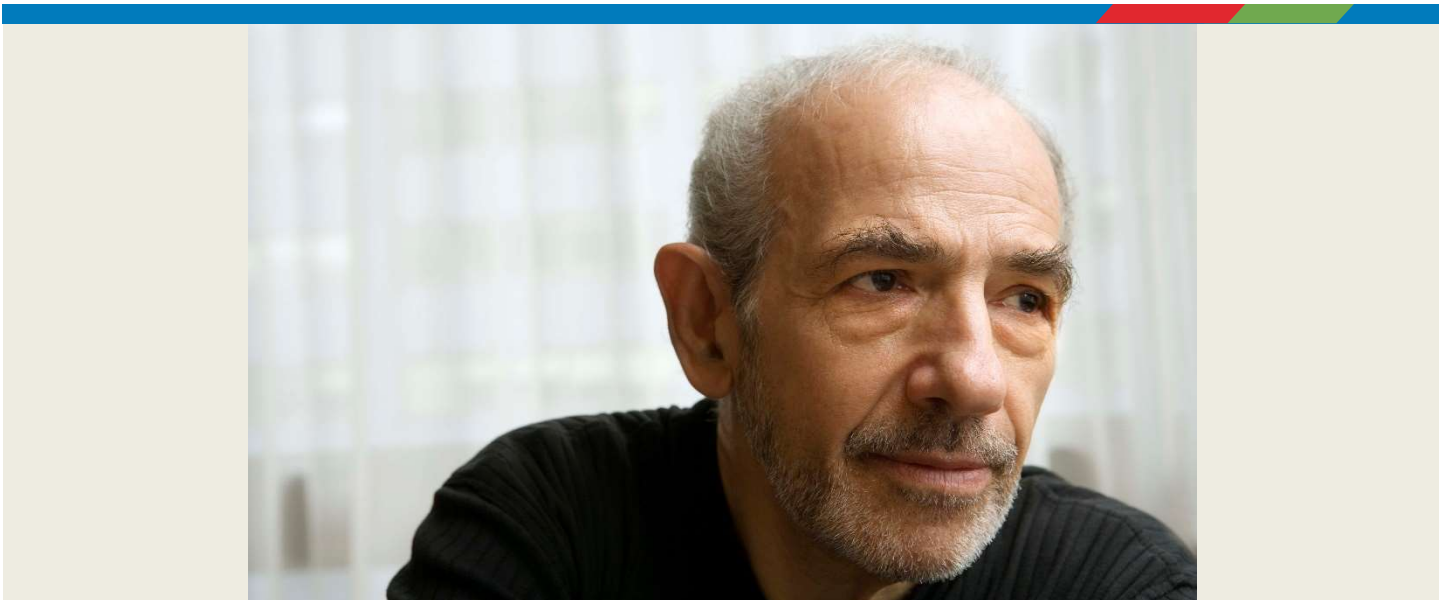
The Victims

Investigators are not required to capture the alleged victim’s gender or age, but oftentimes do capture this information during an investigation. For the cases that had the alleged victim’s gender identified, there were 5,344 female and 3,130 male alleged victims. Additionally, there were four alleged victims who identified as either transgender or non-binary.

The table below portrays the age of the alleged victims for each of the cases that had an age identified.

Alleged Victim's Age	Number of Alleged Victims
19-30	47
30-39	90
40-49	208
50-59	681
60-64	781
65-69	1370
70-74	1557
75-79	1655
80-84	1365
85-89	1094
90-94	684
95-99	210
100+	40





Alleged perpetrators are generally identified by one of the following categories: Familial (Adult Child, Sibling, Spouse, etc.), Professional (Caregiver, Landlord, Medical Professional, etc.), Situational (Roommate, Stranger/Unknown, etc.) and Social (Acquaintance, Friend, Neighbor, etc.). Over two-thirds of alleged perpetrators are family members. The top two alleged perpetrator relationships are adult child and spouse.

Conclusion

We encourage you to use the information in this report to better understand community adult abuse in Oregon. Think about how you can volunteer in your community to help vulnerable Oregonians to live independently and safely. Whether it is delivering meals, checking in on isolated adults or making phone calls, there are ways you can impact a person's life and help keep them safe.

Learn more

- Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse flyer:
<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/Documents/Why-Should-I-Care-About-Elder-Abuse.pdf>
- Are you a mandatory reporter of abuse? Review this brochure to find out more about being a mandatory reporter: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/Documents/Reporting-Abuse-Older-Adults-People-Physical-Disabilities.pdf>
- If you become aware of an older adult or a person with a physical disability who may be in an abusive situation or if you suspect abuse, neglect or financial exploitation has occurred, call Oregon's **Safeline: 1-855-503-SAFE-(7233)** to report it.
 - ✓ Review these websites that have more information:
 - ✓ National Adult Protective Services Association:
<https://www.napsa-now.org/about-napsa/>
 - ✓ National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse:
<http://www.preventelderabuse.org/>
 - ✓ Oregon Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities website: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/SPPD/Pages/index.aspx>
- Follow DHS-APD on Twitter (@OregonDHSAPD) and find DHS-APD on Facebook.

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