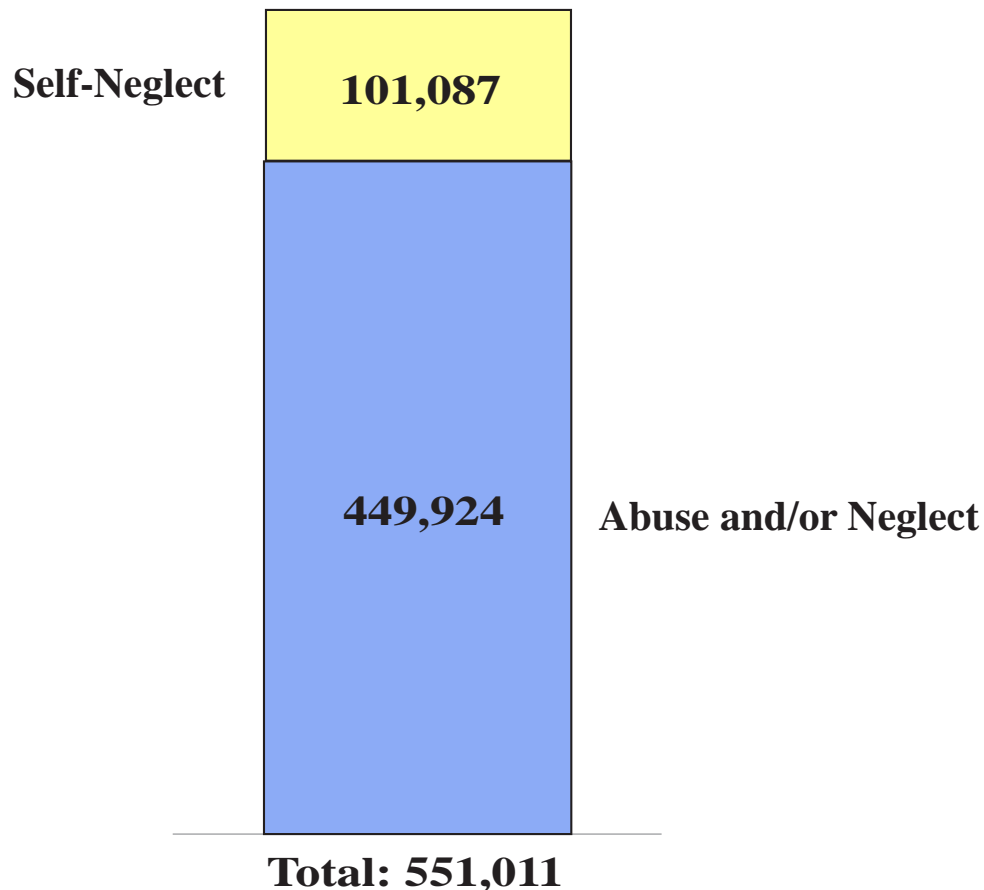


The Facts About... Elder Abuse

Estimated Incidence of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Self-Neglect in the United States, 1996



Source: The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study

Nearly 450,000 elderly persons in domestic settings were abused and/or neglected during 1996, according to The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study (NEAIS). Of this total, 16 percent were reported to and substantiated by Adult Protective Service (APS) agencies. When elderly persons who experienced self-neglect are added, the number increases to more than 550,000 in 1996. Of this total, 21 percent were reported to and substantiated by APS agencies. The study was conducted by the National Center on Elder Abuse at the American Public Human Services Association and the Maryland-based social science and survey research firm, Westat. The Administration for Children and Families and the Administration on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services jointly funded the research.

The Facts About... Elder Abuse

Types of Substantiated Elder Maltreatment		
Maltreatment	Number of Reports	Percentages *
Neglect	34,525	48.7%
Emotional/psychological abuse	25,142	35.4%
Financial/material exploitation	21,427	30.2%
Physical abuse	18,144	25.6%
Abandonment	2,560	3.6%
Sexual abuse	219	0.3%
Other	944	1.4%
Total incidents	70,942**	

* Estimated number of substantiated reports of domestic elder abuse with each type of maltreatment, 1996. Cases of self neglect only are excluded.

** Total incidents do not equal totals across abuse categories because more than one substantiated type of abuse was often reported for an incident.

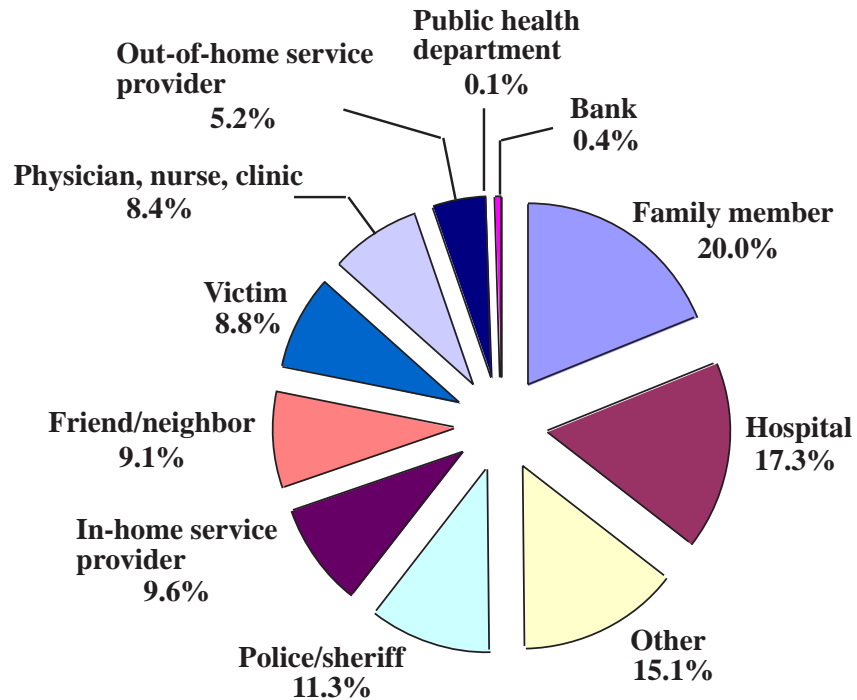
Source: The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study

- **Physical abuse** is the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment. Physical punishments of any kind are examples of physical abuse.
- **Sexual abuse** is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person.
- **Emotional or Psychological abuse** is the infliction of anguish, pain or distress.
- **Financial or material exploitation** is defined as the illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets.
- **Abandonment** is the desertion of an elderly person by an individual who had physical custody or otherwise had assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder or by a person who had physical custody of an elder.
- **Neglect** is defined as the refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder.
- **Self-neglect** is characterized as the behaviors of an elderly person that threaten his or her own health or safety. This excludes a situation in which a mentally competent older person makes a conscious and voluntary decision to engage in acts that threaten his or her health or safety.

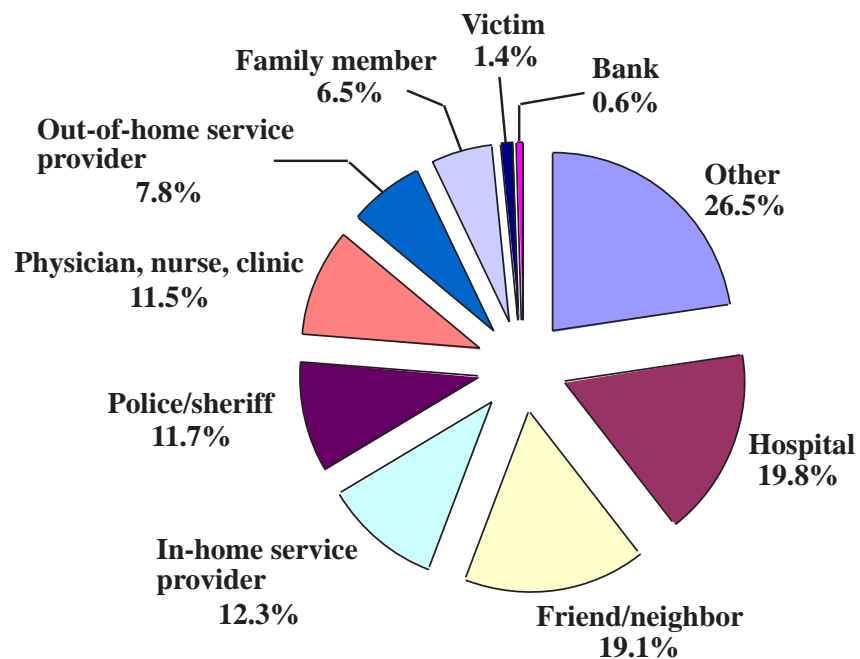
Source: The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study

The Facts About... Elder Abuse

Reporters of substantiated abuse by others



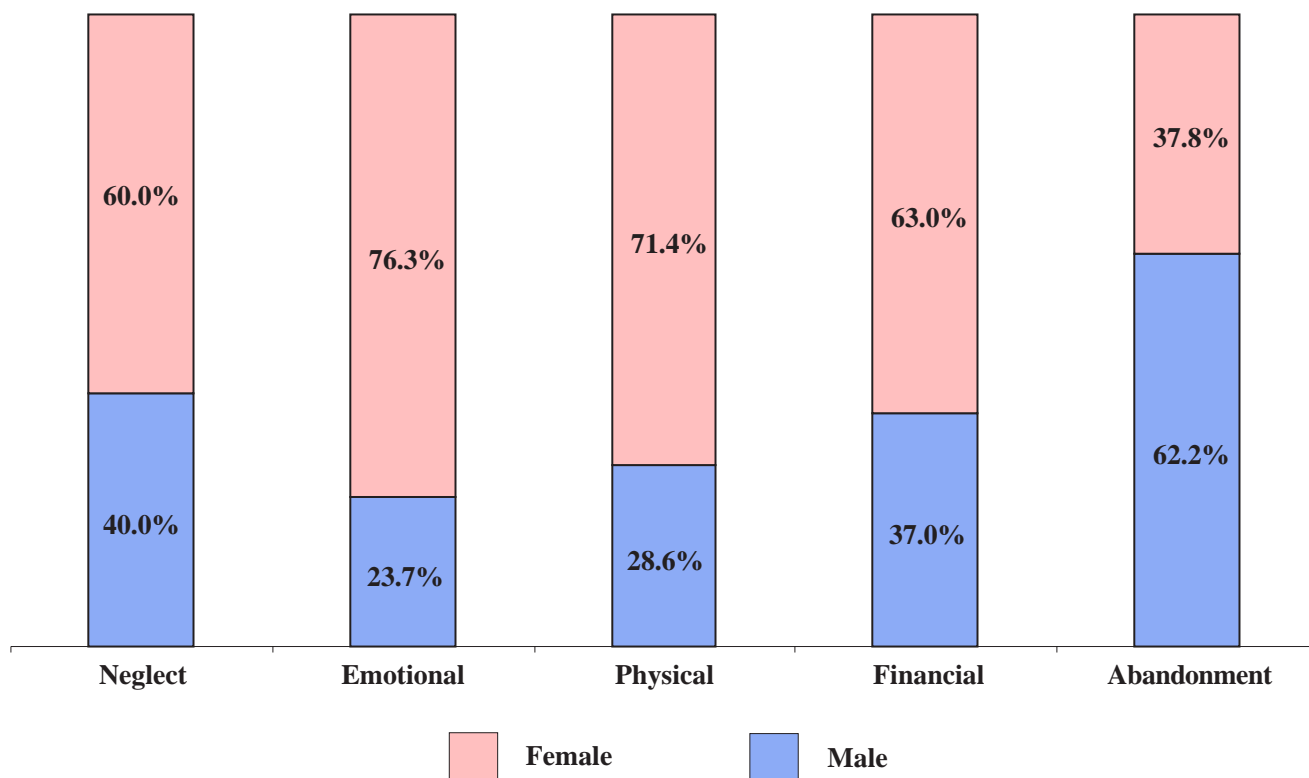
Reporters of substantiated reports of self-neglect



Source: *The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study*

The Facts About... Elder Abuse

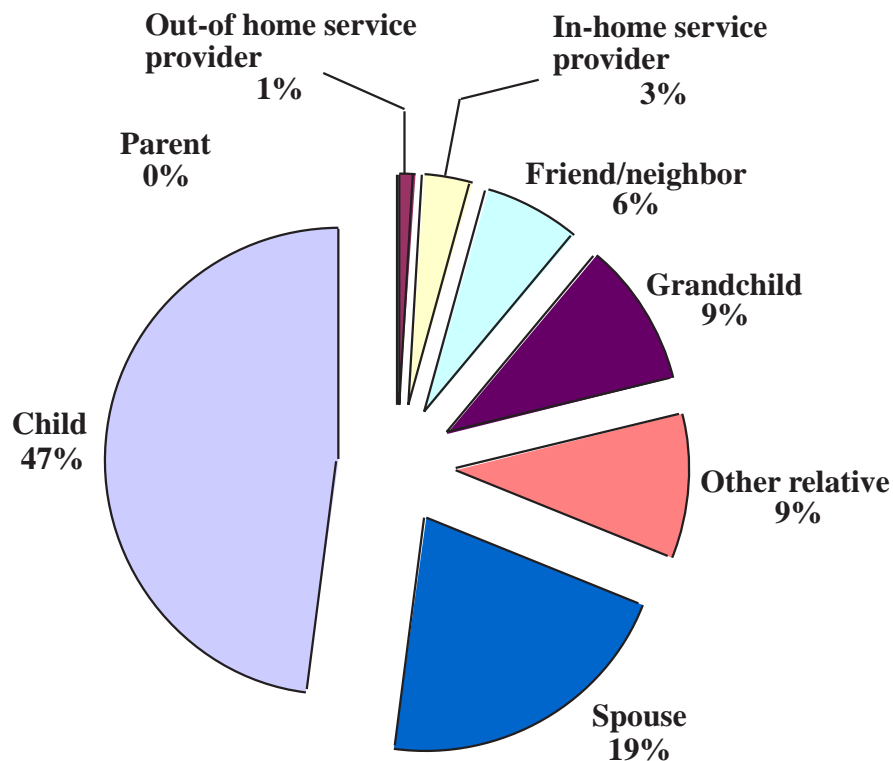
Gender of elder abuse victims for selected types of maltreatment



Source: *The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study*

The Facts About... Elder Abuse

Relationship of perpetrators to victims of domestic abuse



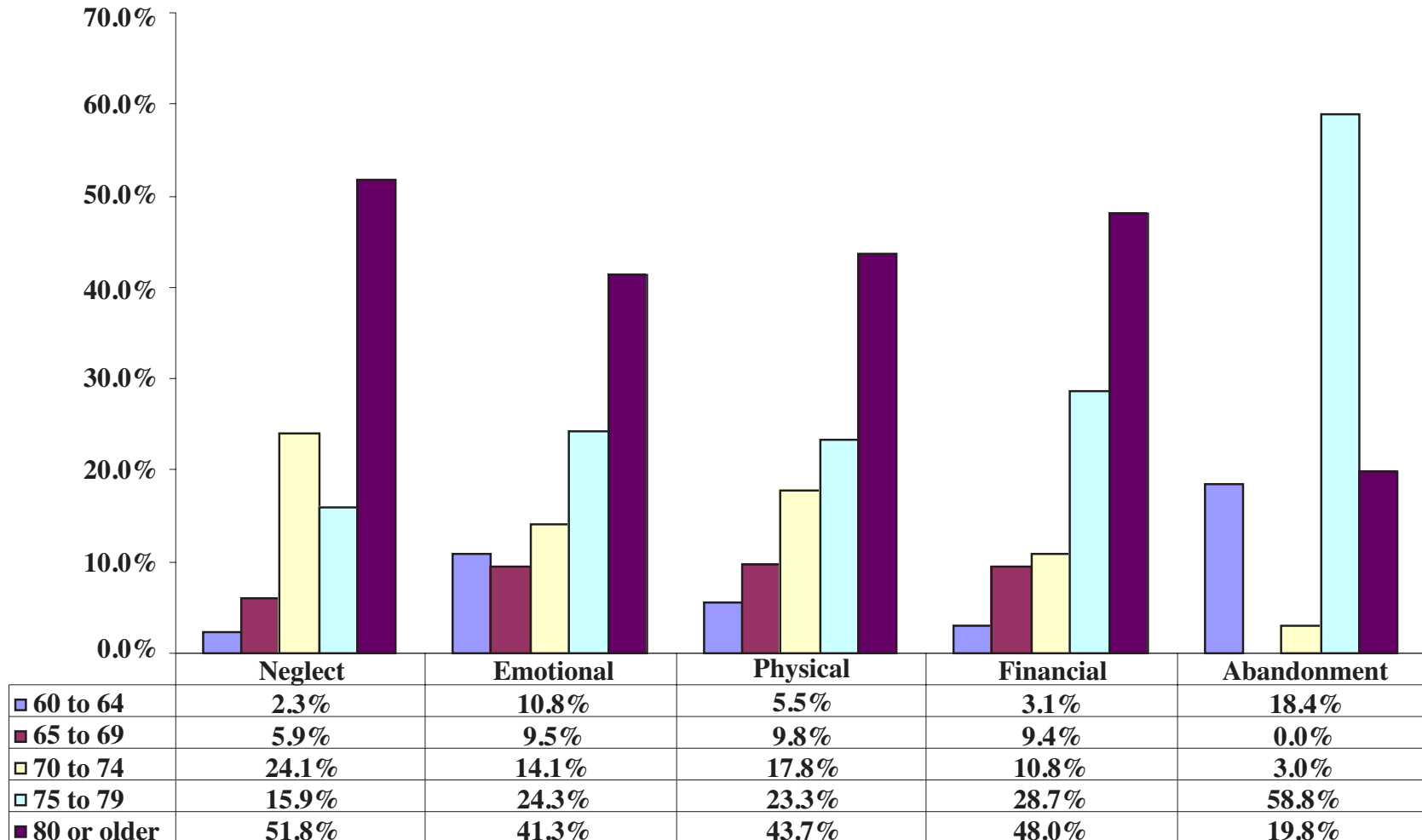
Source: *The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study*

Relationship of Perpetrators to Victims of Domestic Elder Abuse for Selected Types of Maltreatment					
Relationship	Type of Abuse				
	Neglect	Emotional or Psychological	Physical Abuse	Financial or Material	Abandonment
Child	43.2%	53.9%	48.6%	60.4%	79.5%
Sibling	8.7%	1.8%	4.7%	1.3%	0.0%
Grandchild	8.8%	8.9%	5.6%	9.2%	6.6%
Parent	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Spouse	30.3%	12.6%	23.4%	4.9%	6.4%
Other relative	3.7%	11.7%	5.4%	9.7%	0.0%
Friend/neighbor	0.6%	10.3%	10.2%	8.7%	0.0%
In-home service provider	4.2%	0.9%	0.2%	1.7%	7.4%
Out-of-home service provider	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	4.1%	0.0%

Source: *The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study*

The Facts About... Elder Abuse

Ages of elder abuse victims for selected types of maltreatment



Source: The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study