



# Elder Neglect and the APS Workforce

Kathleen M Quinn

National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)

# National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)

- The only national organization representing adult protective services and clients; 600+ members from every state
- The national voice of vulnerable adults, advocating for the services they need, and providing professional training and information to the APS field
- Grantee for the National Adult Protective Services Resource Center (NAPSRC) funded by the US Administration on Aging
- An annual conference (St. Paul 2013) – a newsletter, various active committees, webinars and more

# Neglect – Elder Justice Act

The term ‘neglect’ means--

(A) the failure of a caregiver or fiduciary to provide the goods or services that are necessary to maintain the health or safety of an elder; or

(B) self-neglect.

# Self-neglect – EJA

The term 'self-neglect' means an adult's inability, due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks including--

(A) obtaining essential food, clothing, shelter, and medical care;

(B) obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, or general safety; or

(C) managing one's own financial affairs.

# About APS

## **Purpose**

- To investigate reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation of adults with disabilities age 18+ (42 states at minimum).
- To intervene to protect and help the victim to extent possible.

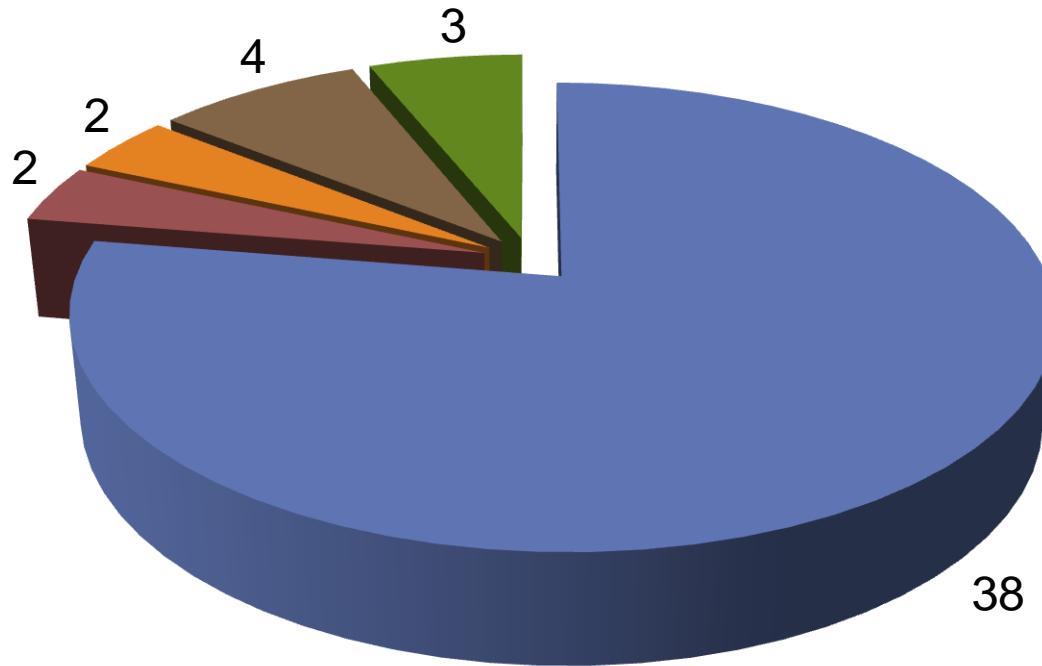
## **Authorization**

- APS is the statutorily authorized entity under each state's laws to receive and investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

# APS ≠ APS

- APS can differ from state to state & county to county:
  - Definitions
  - Client eligibility: age; disability; residence
  - Type of abuser (trusting relationship, e.g.)
  - Mandated reporting
  - Resources

# Age & Vulnerability Criteria



- 18+ vulnerable
- 18-59 vulnerable/60+
- 18-59 vulnerable/65+
- 60+ only
- 2 APS programs

# Case Examples

	State 1	State2
Client Eligibility	+ 65 years old	Vulnerable to abuse
Types of abuse investigated	Physical Sexual Caregiver Neglect Emotional Abuse Financial Exploitation (by a person in a position of trust) Self Neglect	Physical Sexual Caregiver Neglect Emotional Abuse Financial abuse Abduction
Jurisdiction	Client's Own Home	Community and Institutions
Services	Investigation and Crisis management	Investigation, long term case management and conservatorships



# APS Code of Ethics

- Adults have the right to be safe.
- Adults retain all their civil and constitutional rights unless some of these rights have been restricted by court action.
- Adults have the right to make decisions that do not conform with societal norms as long as these decisions do not harm others.
- Adults are presumed to have decision-making capacity unless a court adjudicates otherwise.
- Adults have the right to accept or refuse services.

# Neglect & Self-Neglect

- Most frequent types of APS cases
- 36% of all reports to APS\*  
299,650 of 821,737 reports  
Self-neglect = 60% of all neglect

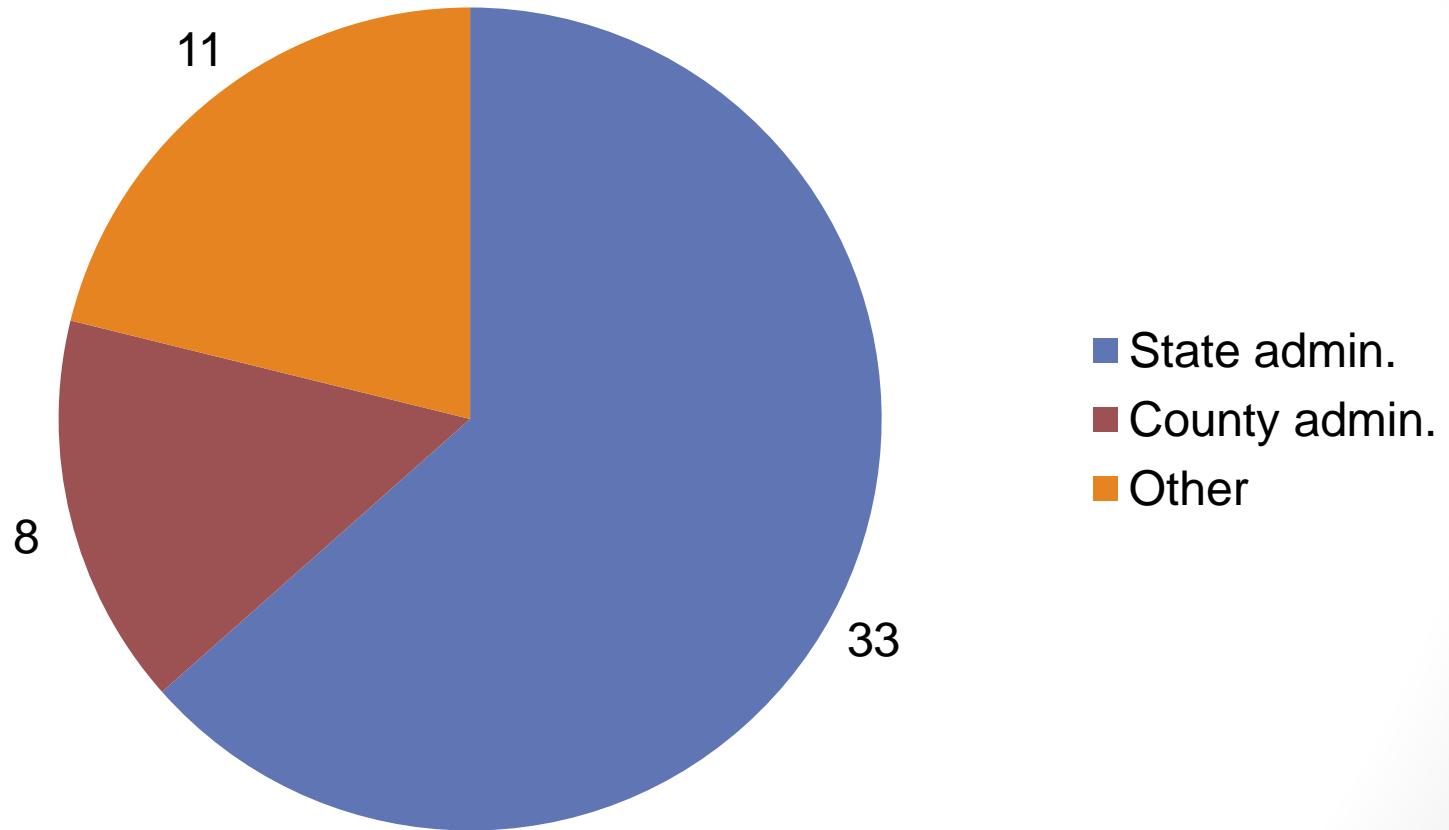
\* 47 states & DC reporting for all reports  
29 states reporting for self-neglect  
31 states reporting for neglect by others

Source: *Adult Protective Services in 2012: Increasingly Vulnerable*. National APS Resource Center. [www.napsa-now.org/resource-center](http://www.napsa-now.org/resource-center)

# Neglect & Self-Neglect

- Neglect is the most underreported of all types of elder abuse
- Victims by definition often unable to report
- Abusers may be:
  - after the victims' money and assets
  - Incompetent/unable to provide adequate care
  - motivated by power and control
- Self-neglect carries significant risk of increased mortality and abuse by others in future

# APS Administrative Homes



# APS Administrative Homes

- County-administered states:

California

North Carolina

Minnesota

Ohio

New Jersey

South Carolina

New York

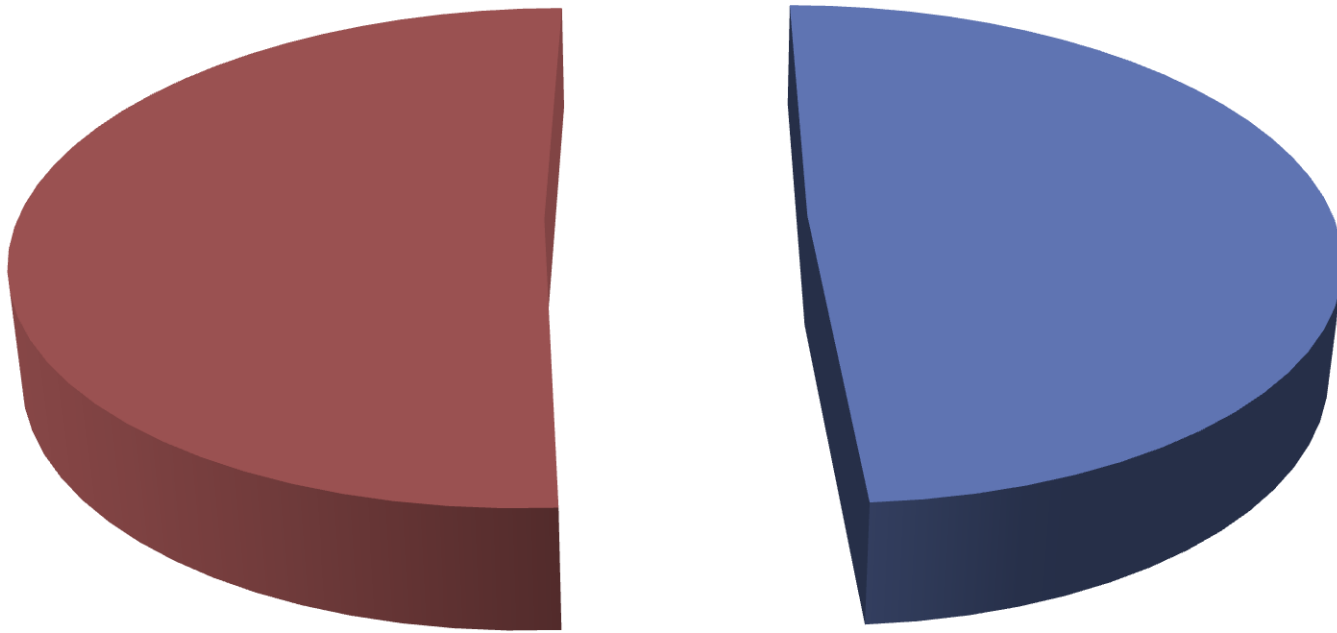
Virginia

- Other:

Contract agencies

Prosecutor offices

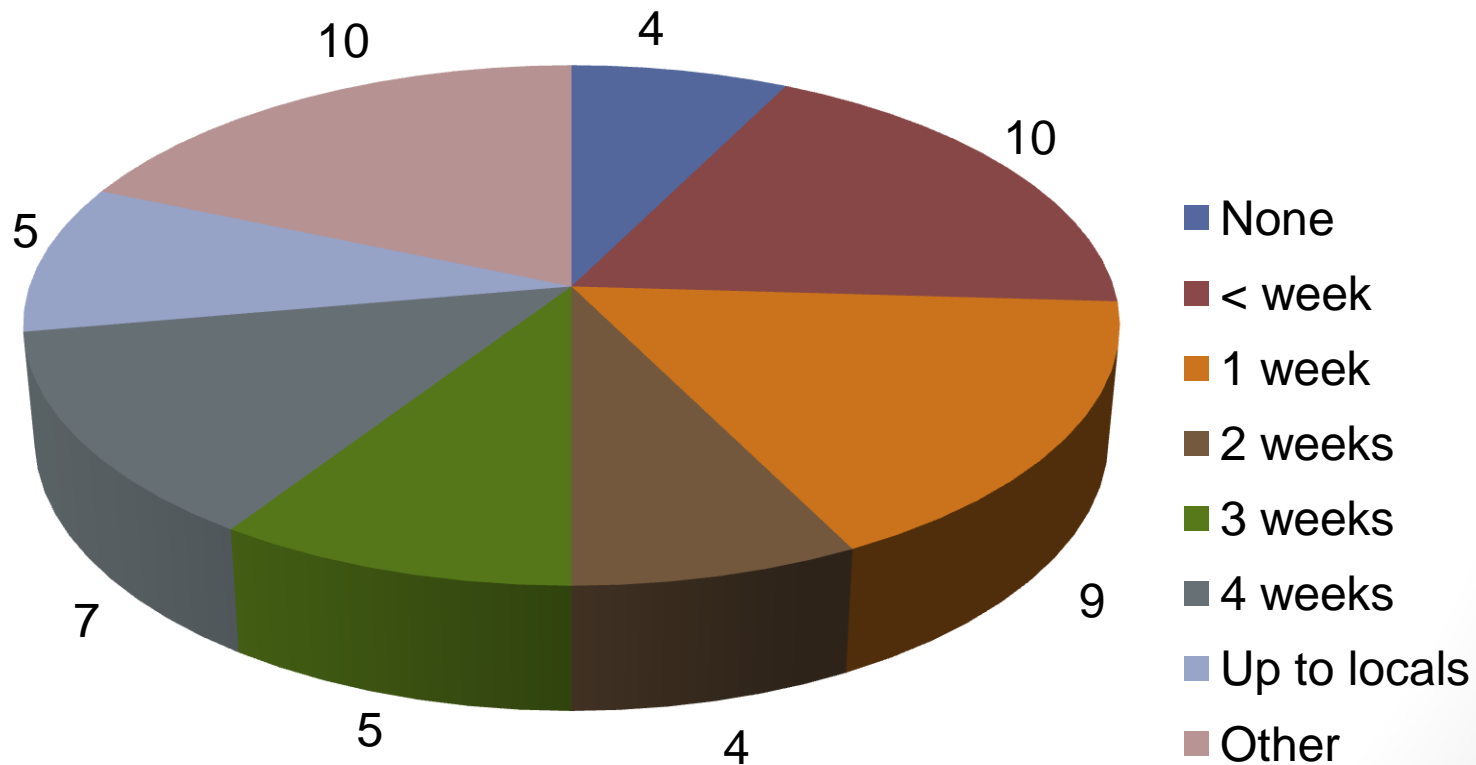
# Column1



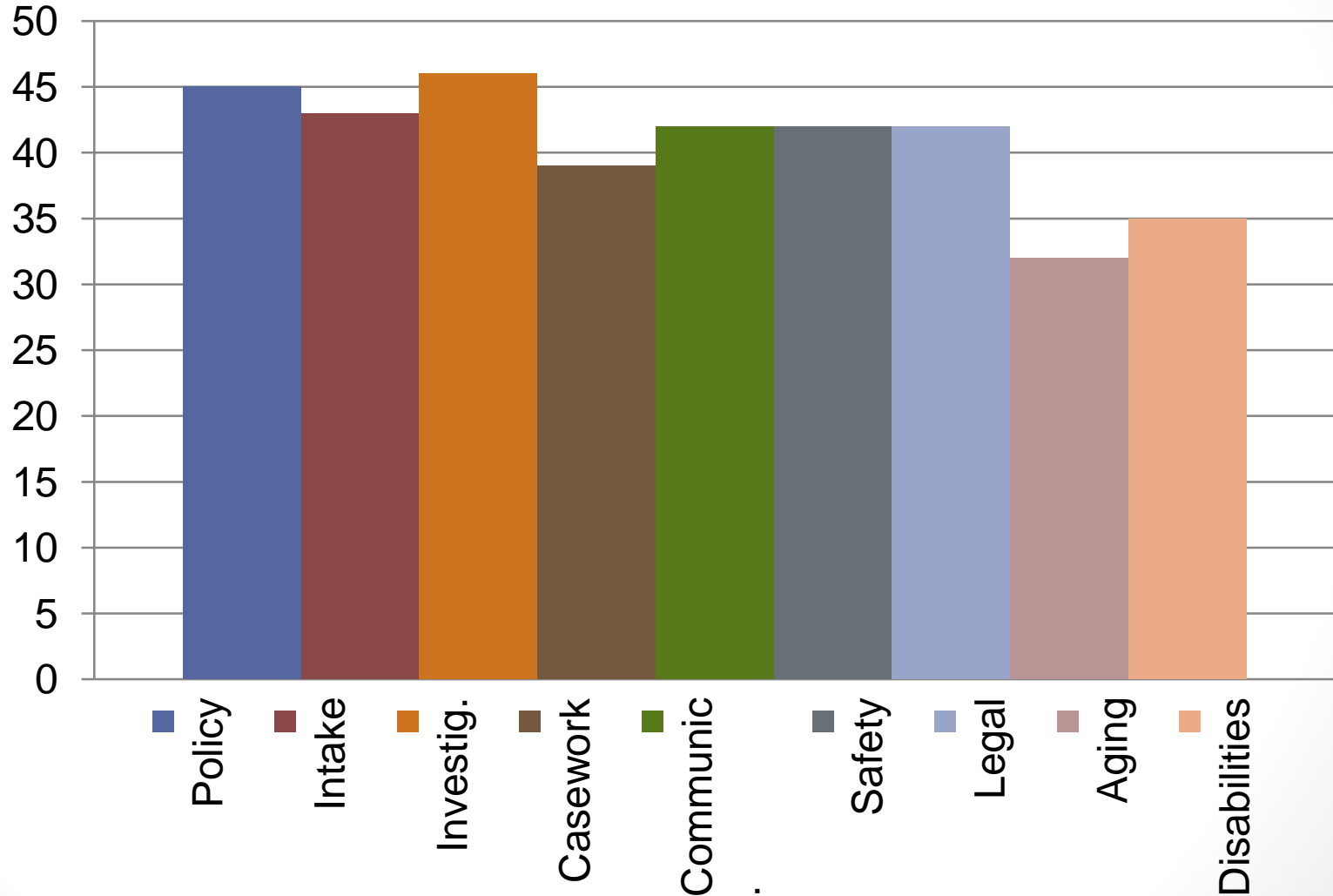
■ SUA ■ DHS/Indep.

# APS Investigator Training

## Weeks of Pre-Service Training in States

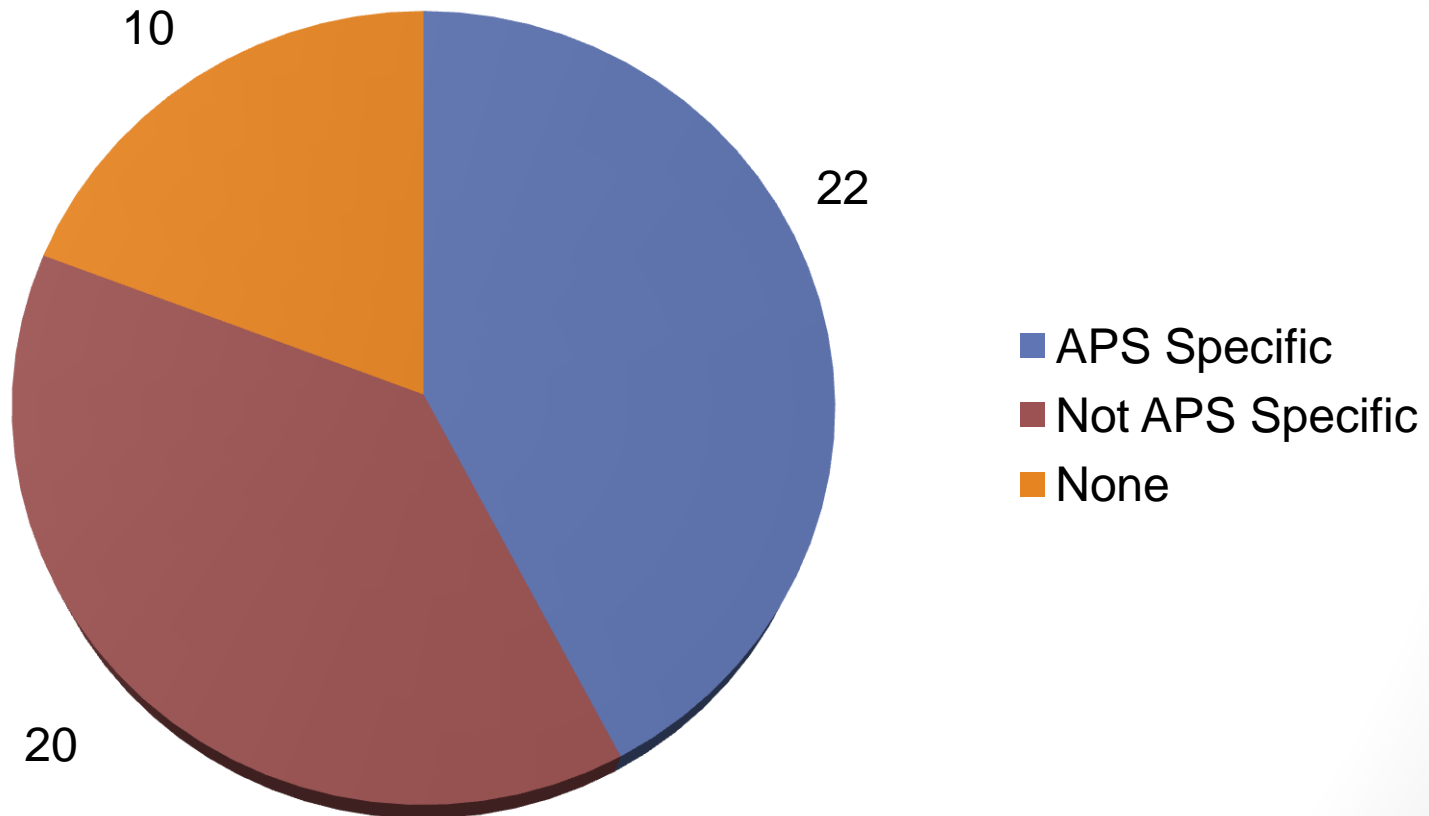


# Investigator Training - Content



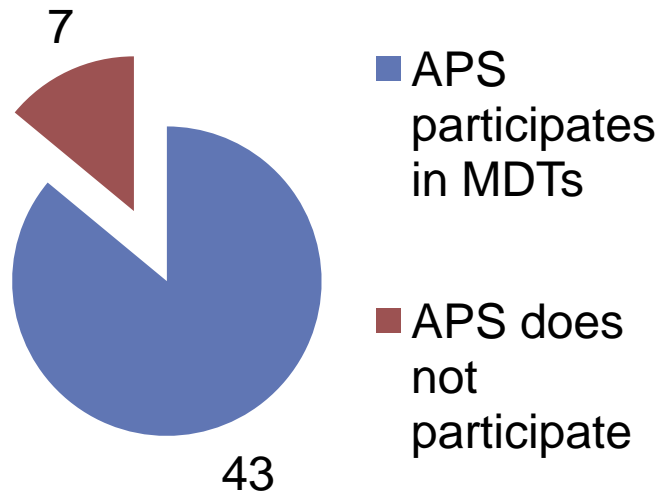


# APS Supervisor Training

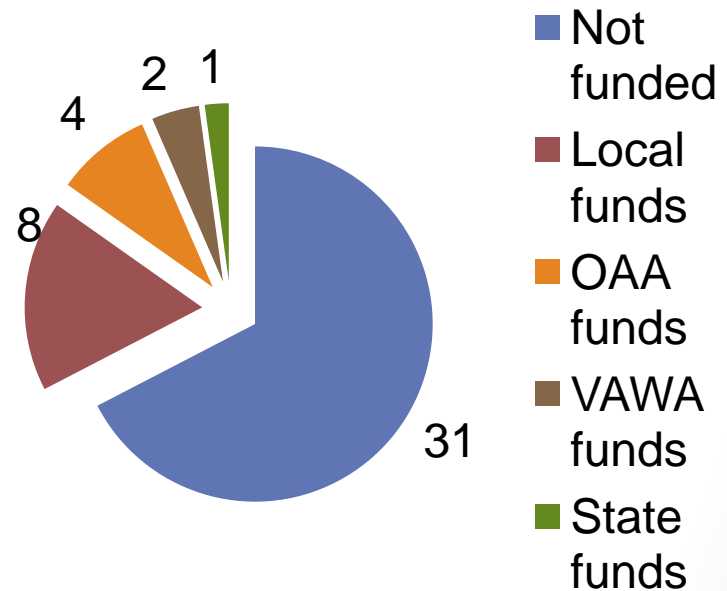


# APS Multi-Disciplinary Work


## States





## Funding



# Challenges: Cases \$\$\$

- More cases with more complexity
- Many cases with multiple types of abuse and multiple abusers
- Increased awareness  more reports

## Funding – State Level

- 48% of APS staffs were cut since 2008 
- 87% of APS programs had increased reports and higher caseloads since 2008 

# Challenges

## Funding – SSBG

- 2/3s of states use SSBG for APS (\$216M)
- SSBG reduced by 10.2% last half FY2013
- Amount available will continue to be reduced by 5.1%/year as long as sequestration lasts
- SSBG may be entirely eliminated in final budget deal

## Funding – Direct federal support for APS

- Elder Justice Act: \$100M authorization  
\$ 0 appropriation

# Challenges Reported by States

- 29 states state the lack of adequate funding and staffing as one of their most serious challenges
- Other serious issues cited:
  - Lack of/decreased support for training
  - Dearth of community services (esp. MH)
  - Need for improved data collection
  - Lack of prosecutions

# Responding to Challenges

- Underway:
  - Identify evidence-based practices for APS
  - Learn how APS best copes with budget cuts
  - Continue providing latest research to APS practitioners
  - Create a sustainable, national core competency training program for APS investigators/caseworkers and supervisors
  - Translate all 23 APS core competency curriculum modules into accessible and affordable modalities
  - Establish national standards for APS programs
  - Continue offering only national, annual conference for the field

# Responding to Challenges

- In planning stages:
  - Update recommended national caseload standards
  - Participate in evidence-based research into APS services
  - Lay foundation for national APS data system
  - Continue to expand APS training and networking opportunities

# Strengthen APS Workforce

- ***Resources - #1***
- Recognition – role, responsibilities, achievements
- Training
- Research
- Multi-disciplinary work
- Public Awareness





***Thank you***

Kathleen M Quinn

National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)

[kathleen.quinn@napsa-now.org](mailto:kathleen.quinn@napsa-now.org)