

Protection of Vulnerable Adults in Wales, 2012-13

This Statistical First Release is the first of an annual series summarising the key findings from the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PVA) data collection for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. The return includes information about the volume of safeguarding activity taking place, the characteristics of adults who may be at risk of harm and the locations in which alleged abuse has taken place. This publication replaces the statistics previously published in the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) adult protection monitoring report. Further details of the background to the data collection are given in the notes.

Further information and full details for individual local authorities are published today in [StatsWales tables](#).

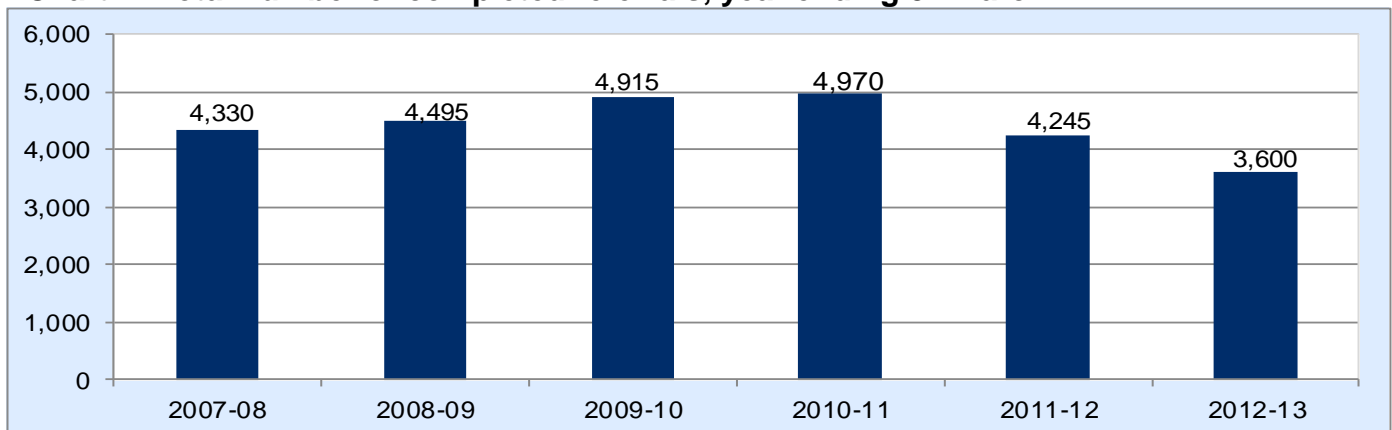
Key results for all referrals for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013:

- A total of 7,545 referrals were reported by 21 local authorities¹. Of these, 3,915 (52 per cent) referrals received met the threshold of significant harm; whereas 2,030 (27 per cent) referrals did not. 1,600 (21 per cent) referrals received were deemed inappropriate.

Key results for completed referrals for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013:

- The reported number of completed referrals for adult protection decreased by 15 per cent between 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- Physical abuse and neglect were the most common types of abuse reported in referrals, occurring in 33 per cent and 31 per cent respectively.
- 63 per cent of completed referrals were for women and 60 per cent were for people aged 65 and over.
- 39 per cent of victims who alleged abuse lived in their own home.
- Staff were most likely to be alleged responsible for abuse in 2012-13 (41 per cent of referrals) followed by relatives (21 per cent).

Chart 1: Total number of completed referrals, year ending 31 March



Source: POVA

¹ Denbighshire was unable to provide information on the total number of referrals received.

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Referrals

In 2012-13, a total of 7,545 referrals were reported by 21 local authorities. Of these, 3,915 (52 per cent) referrals received met the threshold of significant harm; whereas 2,030 (27 per cent) referrals did not and 1,600 (21 per cent) referrals received were deemed inappropriate.

Table 1: Total number of referrals received by local authority, year ending 31 March 2013

	Number of referrals / concerns received that met the threshold of significant harm	Number of referrals / concerns received that did not meet the threshold of significant harm	Number of inappropriate referrals received	Total number of referrals received during the year	Number of completed referrals
Isle of Anglesey	75	35	25	135	105
Gwynedd	170	0	30	200	170
Conwy	310	105	150	565	245
Denbighshire (a)	95
Flintshire	175	75	35	285	155
Wrexham	205	50	60	315	155
Powys	240	25	20	285	255
Ceredigion	70	115	35	225	70
Pembrokeshire	85	10	465	560	95
Carmarthenshire	175	210	30	420	100
Swansea	400	495	60	955	400
Neath Port Talbot	190	95	80	365	175
Bridgend	210	145	0	355	190
Vale of Glamorgan	15	25	50	90	50
Cardiff	110	120	135	360	145
Rhondda Cynon Taf	155	365	40	565	115
Merthyr Tydfil	130	75	20	225	90
Caerphilly	380	10	45	435	340
Blaenau Gwent	150	10	65	225	150
Torfaen (b)	340	..	155	495	130
Monmouthshire	150	15	60	220	145
Newport	175	45	50	270	220
Wales	3,915	2,030	1,600	7,545	3,600

Source: POVA

(a) Denbighshire was unable to provide this data.

(b) Torfaen were unable to separate the number of referrals / concerns received that did not meet the threshold of significant harm and the number of inappropriate referrals, and recorded all of them as inappropriate referrals

Although many referrals will take less than a year to complete, they are spread throughout the year and as a result completed referrals in the year will not necessarily equate to the number of reported referrals meeting the threshold, as some referrals will be received or completed outside the reporting period. The

remaining tables in this release refer to referrals that were completed in the year, irrespective of when they were received.

The number of completed referrals for adult protection fell from 4,245 in 2011-12 to 3,600 in 2012-13. This represents a reduction of 15 per cent.

Table 2: Number of completed referrals by local authority, year ending 31 March

	2011-12		2012-13	
	Number of referrals	Per 10,000 population aged 18 and over	Number of referrals	Per 10,000 population aged 18 and over
Isle of Anglesey	115	20	105	19
Gwynedd	145	15	170	17
Conwy	220	23	245	26
Denbighshire	240	33	95	13
Flintshire	185	15	155	13
Wrexham	245	23	155	14
Powys	160	15	255	24
Ceredigion	75	12	70	11
Pembrokeshire	140	15	95	10
Carmarthenshire	125	9	100	7
Swansea	645	34	400	21
Neath Port Talbot	165	15	175	16
Bridgend	245	22	190	17
Vale of Glamorgan	110	11	50	5
Cardiff	190	7	145	5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	220	12	115	6
Merthyr Tydfil	80	17	90	19
Caerphilly	335	24	340	24
Blaenau Gwent	75	13	150	27
Torfaen	180	25	130	18
Monmouthshire	160	22	145	20
Newport	190	17	220	20
Wales	4,245	17	3,600	15

Source: POVA

The reduction in the number of completed referrals was not distributed evenly across Wales. The number of completed referrals in Blaenau Gwent doubled between 2011-12 and 2012-13, from 75 referrals to 150 referrals. The most significant reduction in completed referrals was in Denbighshire where the total fell by 60 per cent between 2011-12 and 2012-13.

However, this is the first annual data collection using revised guidance and the present results should be interpreted as an indication of the level of referrals compared to previous data published by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, rather than a firm trend. Therefore care should be taken when comparing 2012-13 data with previous years. See notes for further comments on the context of this data collection.

In 2012-13, the rate of completed referrals received per 10,000 population aged 18 and over was highest in Blaenau Gwent (27 per 10,000) and Conwy (26 per 10,000).

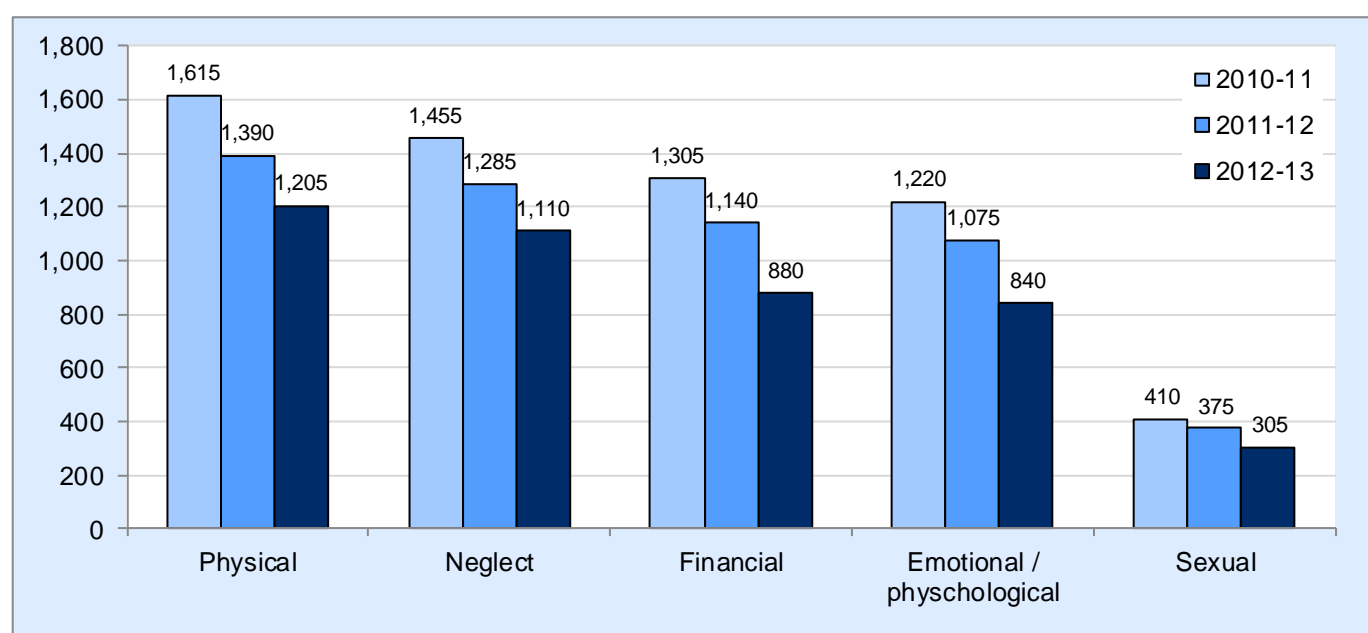
Table 3: Number of completed referrals by type of abuse, 31 March (a)

Type of abuse	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Physical	1,615	1,390	1,205
Neglect	1,455	1,285	1,110
Financial	1,305	1,140	880
Emotional / psychological	1,220	1,075	840
Sexual	410	375	305

Source: POVA

(a) Referrals can have multiple types of abuse.

Chart 2: Number of completed referrals by type of abuse, 31 March (a)



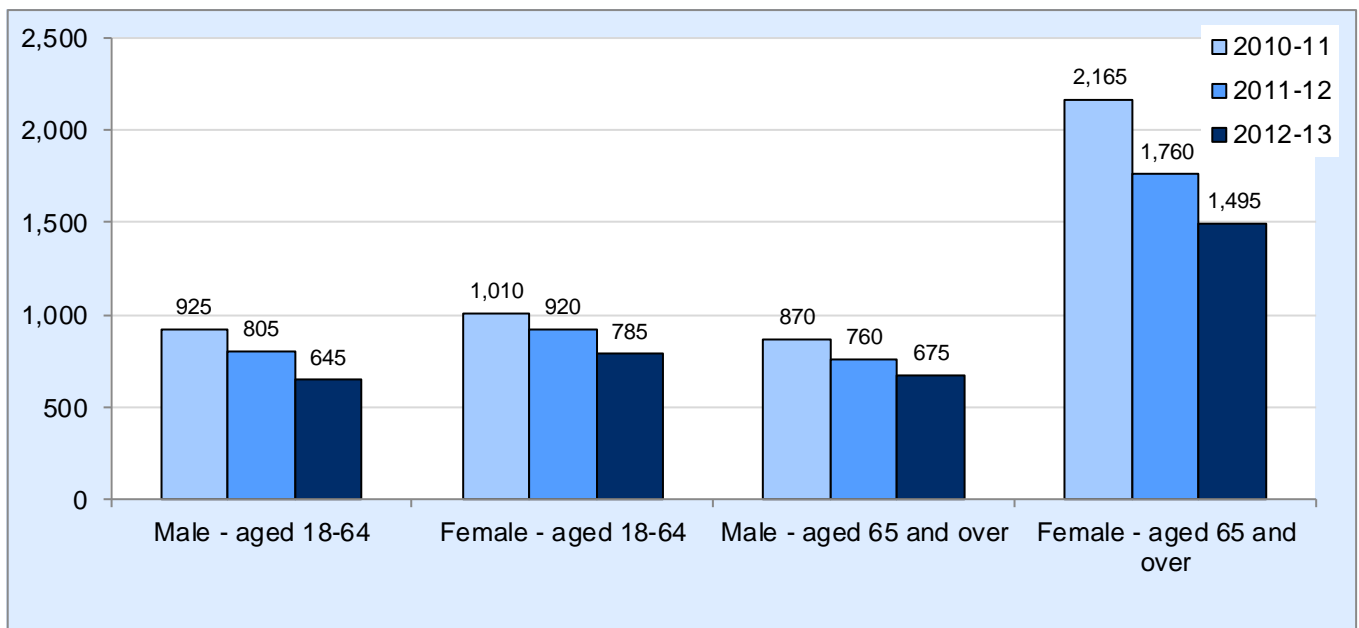
Source: POVA

(a) 2010-11 and 2011-12 based on 21 authorities.

Reported figures continue to show that physical abuse is the most commonly referred concern, occurring in 33 per cent of referrals. This is closely followed by neglect and financial abuse, occurring in 31 and 24 per cent respectively.

The proportion of referrals by type of abuse across the five categories of abuse is similar to findings in the last three years, which were published in CSSIW's [2010-12 Adult Protection Monitoring Report](#).

Chart 3: Number of completed referrals by age and gender of alleged victim, year ending 31 March



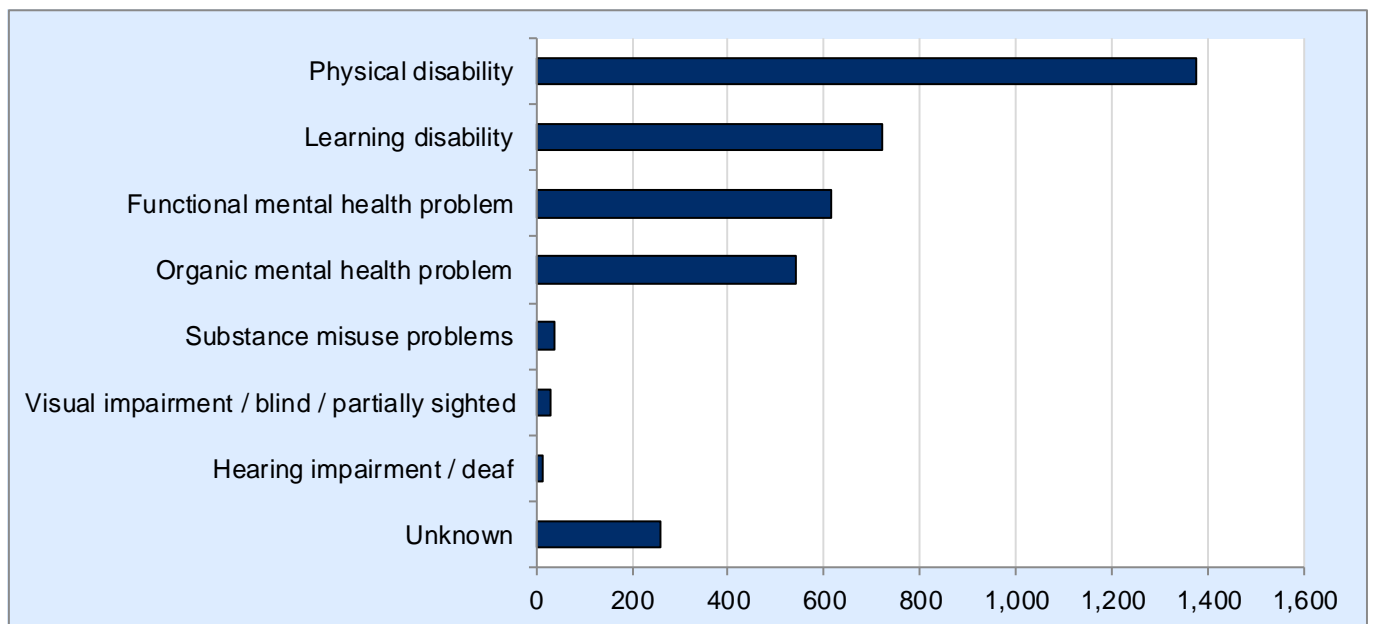
Source: POVA

Adults aged 65 and over accounted for 60 per cent (2,170) of all completed referrals.

The most common victims of alleged abuse continue to be women aged 65 and over, who made up 41 per cent (1,495) of all completed referrals in 2012-13. Women aged between 18 and 64 accounted for 22 per cent (785) of all referrals.

These proportions are similar to the 2010-11 and 2011-12 breakdowns.

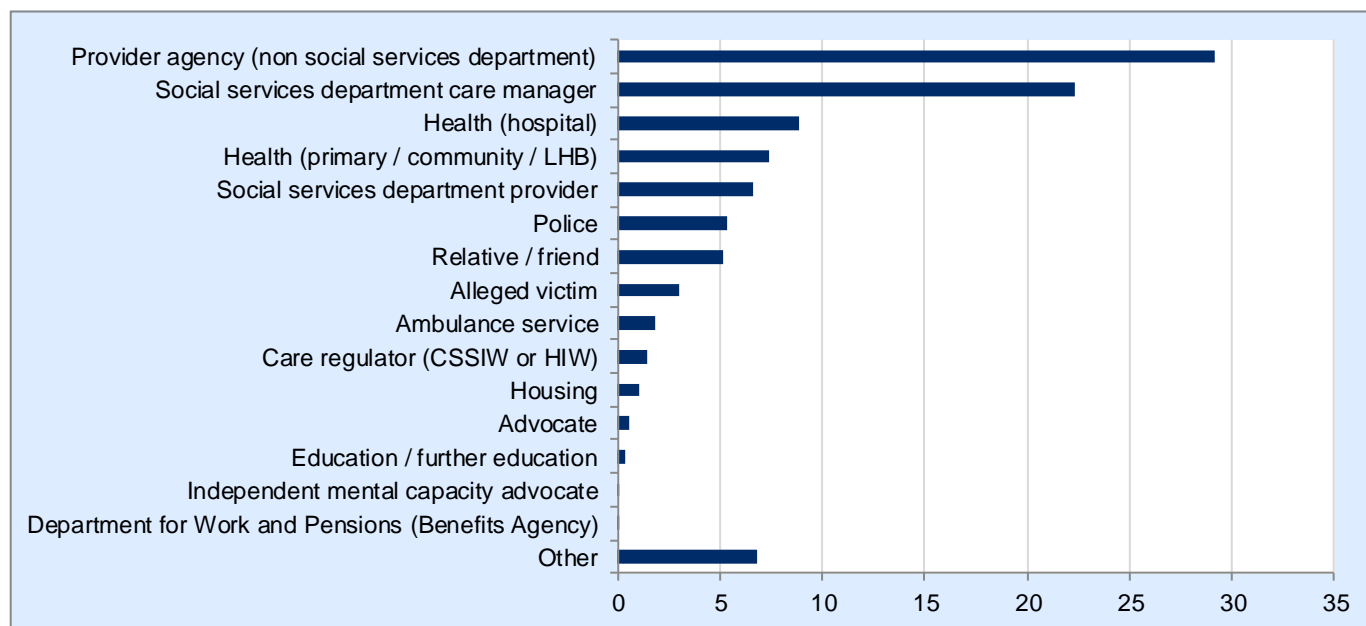
Chart 4: Number of completed referrals by main category of vulnerability, 31 March 2013



Source: POVA

Adults including people over the age of 65 with a physical disability or frailty accounted for 38 per cent (1,375) of all completed referrals, and adults with a learning disability accounted for 20 per cent (725) of completed referrals.

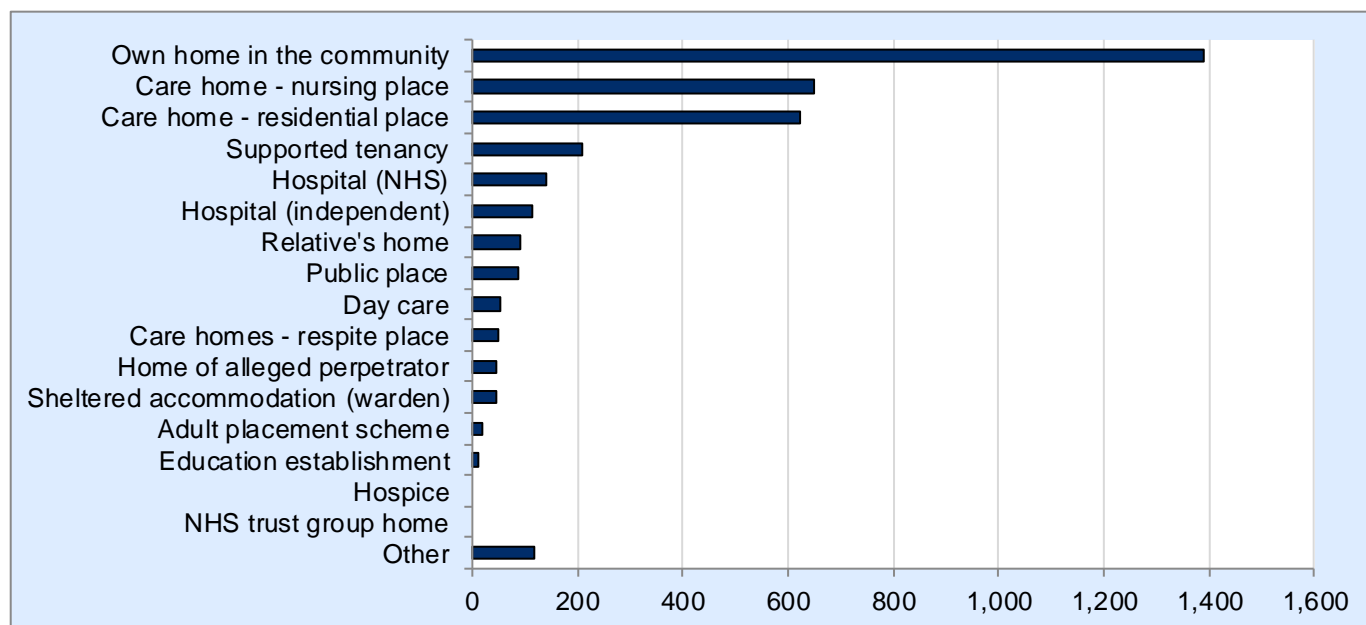
Chart 5: Percentage of completed referrals by source of first referral, 31 March 2013



Source: POVA

Over half (51 per cent) of referrals came from provider agencies (29 per cent) and social services department care managers (22 per cent).

Chart 6: Number of completed referrals by place of alleged abuse, 31 March 2013



Source: POVA

The alleged abuse was more likely to occur in the vulnerable adult's own home in the community, accounting for 39 per cent of all locations cited, or care homes (residential and nursing homes) accounting for 35 per cent.

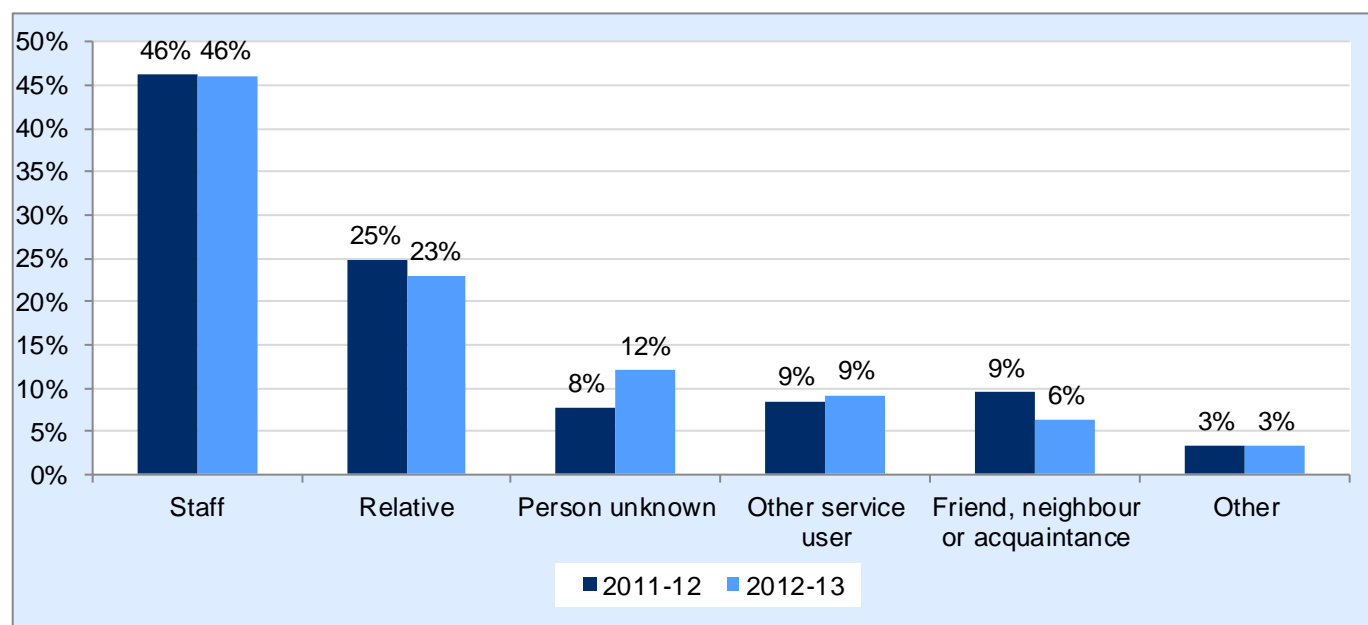
Table 4: Number and percentage of referrals by place of alleged abuse, year ending 31 March 2013 (a)

	Number	Per cent
Own home in the community	1,390	39
Care home - nursing place	650	18
Care home - residential place	625	17
Supported tenancy	210	6
Hospital (NHS)	140	4
Hospital (independent)	115	3
Relative's home	90	3
Public place	85	2
Day care	55	1
Care homes - respite place	50	1
Sheltered accommodation (warden)	50	1
Home of alleged perpetrator	50	1
Adult placement scheme	20	1
Education establishment	10	-
NHS trust group home	*	*
Hospice	*	*
Other	120	3
Total completed referrals	3,600	..

Source: POVA

(a) Multiple responses allowed.

Chart 7: Percentage of completed adult protection referrals by person alleged responsible for abuse, year ending 31 March (a)



Source: POVA

(a) Referrals can have multiple alleged perpetrators.

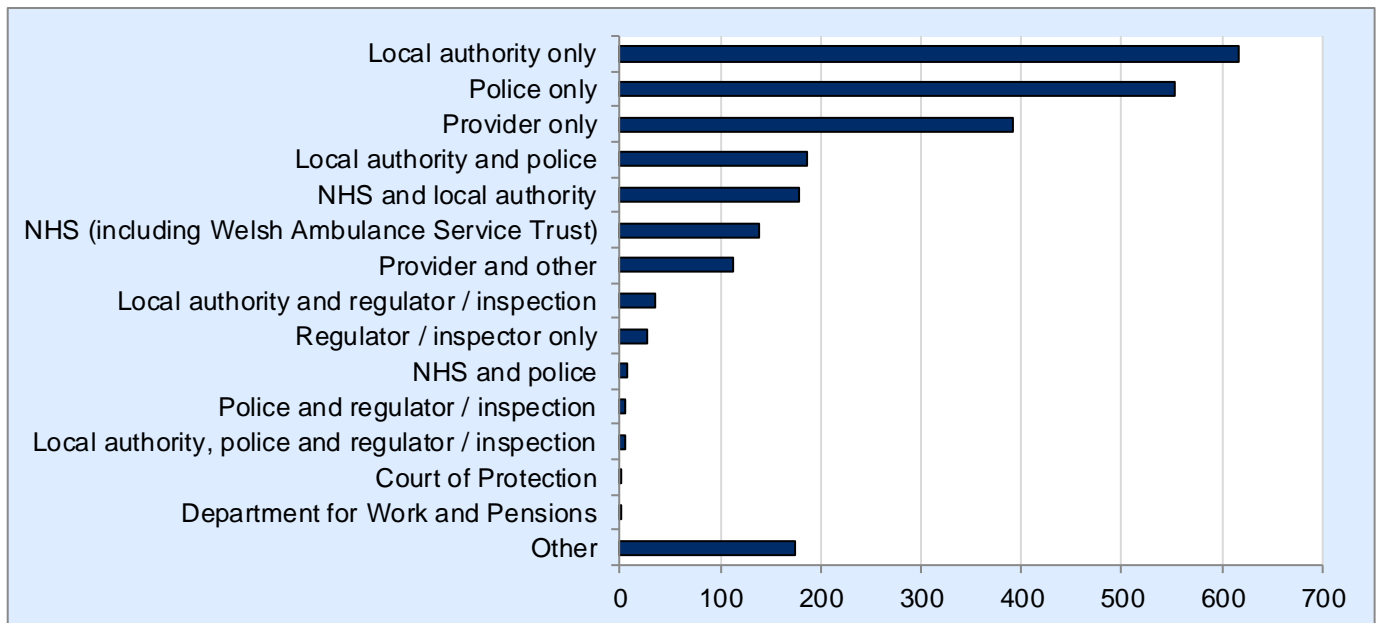
(b) Torfaen only recorded 2012-13 information for alleged perpetrators where the abuse was admitted or proven.

In 2012-13, the source of harm was most likely to be cited as a member of staff (46 per cent of perpetrators) or a relative (23 per cent).

Investigations

All adult protection investigations should start with a multi- agency decision about the best way to proceed and which agency is taking the lead. The response to a referral should be shaped by strategy decisions, strategy meetings and case conferences to support decision making and planning necessary to investigate allegations of abuse and protect vulnerable adults. Each investigation can be analysed according to the agency nominated to lead it.

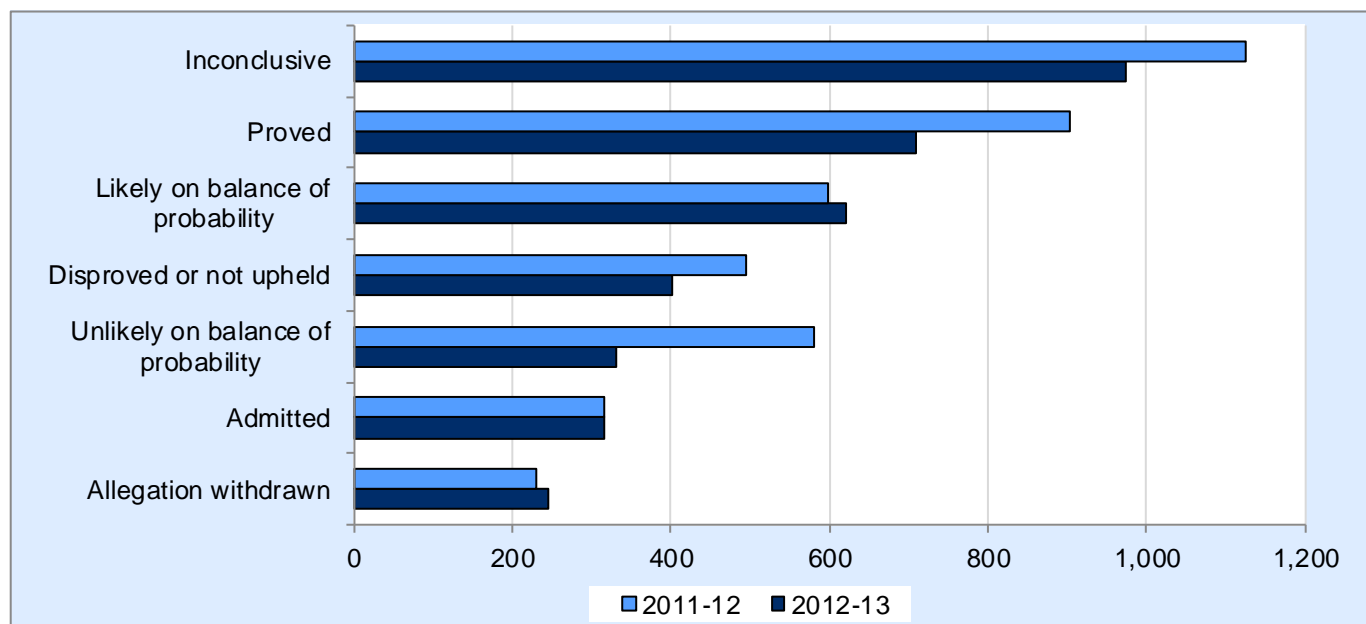
Chart 8: Number of completed referrals by type of investigation, year ending 31 March 2013



Source: POVA

Around two thirds of completed referrals (2,440 or 68 per cent) proceeded to a formal investigation. In 2012-13, local authorities were the lead agency in the majority of cases, accounting for 615 investigations. The next most frequent investigation types were led by the police and providing agency accounting for 550 and 390 investigations (23 per cent and 16 per cent) respectively.

Chart 9: Number of completed referrals by status of allegation, year ending 31 March



Source: POVA

The percentage of inconclusive investigations, from 1 April 2012 to 30 March 2013, was 27 per cent, an increase of one percentage point compared to 2011-12. Over the same period there was a slight decrease in the percentage of proved allegations, down to 20 per cent (21 per cent in 2011-12).

It should be noted that an inconclusive outcome does not necessarily mean that no action has been taken. It is likely that in some cases a risk assessment was made and immediate protection measures were taken arising from a strategy discussion and/or strategy meeting as part of care management rather than proceeding to a formal investigation.

Outcomes

The monitoring process requires outcomes to be identified from each investigation, highlighting different outcomes for:

- Victims of abuse
- Those alleged to be responsible for the abuse;
- Service providers; and
- Service commissioners or purchasers

For each party more than one outcome could be recorded. It should also be noted that final outcomes may not be clear cut at the point which the data is collected.

Table 5: Outcomes for alleged victims, year ending 31 March 2013 (a)

	Number	Per cent
Risk reduced / improved safeguards to client / property	1,910	53
Risk removed	950	26
Increased monitoring by care manager	780	22
Adult protection plan	770	21
Not applicable	450	13
Provider support	270	8
Action refused by alleged victim	210	6
Other additional services	175	5
Alleged victim changed accommodation	135	4
No action	120	3
Referred to multi agency risk assessment conference	35	1
Referral for advocate	20	1
Preparation for court	15	-
Referred for counselling	15	-
Referral for independent mental capacity advocate	15	-
Referred to victim support	10	-
Application for criminal injuries compensation	*	*
Other	515	14
Total completed referrals	3,600	..

Source: POVA

(a) Multiple responses allowed.

The most common outcome for the alleged victim from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 was risk reduced/improved safeguards to client/property (mentioned in 53 per cent of referrals), followed by risk removed (26 per cent), increased monitoring by care manager (22 per cent) and adult protection plan (21 per cent).

Notes

1.1 Context

The release examines key findings for 2012-13, providing an analysis of the information and description of trends. It considers what the data has to tell us about the pattern of adult protection allegations in Wales and how these are responded to by the agencies responsible. It is intended to contribute to an improvement in outcomes for those people who are in need of protection from abuse. The purpose of the data collection is to provide information which can assist stakeholders in recognising and preventing future harm.

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate (CSSIW) has reported that a number of local authority leads on the protection of vulnerable adults have suggested that the level of referrals in the statistics for 2012 - 13 reflects improved recording practices and a more proactive and proportionate approach to dealing with inappropriate referrals that do not meet the threshold of significant harm. CSSIW will continue to closely monitor adult safeguarding concerns through their regulatory work and inspection of local authorities including the forthcoming national review of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

1.2 Data collection

Prior to 2012-13, most local authorities used a database system to record the details of individual referrals, and these were then shared with the Welsh Government at the end of each year. The remaining authorities supplied data on a pre-defined form. In each year, this form asked for counts of referrals for each of a series of aspects (e.g. category of vulnerability, abuse type, status of allegation and so on), often broken down by age and gender. The individual records were extracted from the databases and aggregated up for each year and local authority so that they corresponded to the counts requested by the pre-defined form.

This resulted in a complete set of such counts for all local authorities in Wales for each year, which formed the basis of the analysis in previous reports produced by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (see the 2013 report at <http://cssiw.org.uk/our-reports/national-thematic-report/2013/adult-protection-monitoring-report/?lang=en>).

For the year 2012-13 onwards, a single form for the collection of data from all 22 local authorities in Wales is being used. This new data collection is supported by improved guidance that has been developed in conjunction with local authority adult protection co-ordinators with the intention of getting a more consistent and comparable dataset. There have been some changes to the form which mean that comparisons with previous years cannot be made for all tables and charts, but where possible comparisons are shown in this report and on StatsWales.

The form applies an extensive series of validation checks to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent. Guidance notes for the completion of the form can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/protection-vulnerable-adults-data-collection/?lang=en>

1.3 Symbols and rounding conventions

All the figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for confidentiality. Where figures have been rounded there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

The following symbols are used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- * the data item is disclosed or not sufficiently robust for publication.

2. Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

2.1 Relevance

The statistics are likely to be used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult protection trends. These statistics can be used in a variety of ways. Some of the key users will be:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Local authorities;
- The third sector (e.g. charities);
- The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- The Department for Education in England.

These statistics can be used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales;
- to assist in research on adults protection.

2.2 Accuracy

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2012-13 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2013.

2.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected the POVA form for the financial year 2012-13 between April and May 2013. Data in this release refers to final 2012-13 data. This release was published in February 2014, meeting the planned date of publication.

2.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on StatsWales, a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data. Please select the following link:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Adult-Services/Protection-of-Vulnerable-Adults>

2.5 Comparability

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures.

2.6 Related links

A similar statistical release for England can be accessed on the Health and Social Care Information Centre website: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk>

3. Revisions

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to the next release.

4. Contact information

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