AGING & ADULT SERVICES

Adult Protective Services

STILL SKATING ON THIN ICE

OVERVIEW

Many of the supports that were available to Adult Protective Services for over a decade have since been dismantled due to the current economic meltdown and resulting cuts to programs at the State and County level.

December of 2008 **APS lost 75% of its staffing** (reduced from 17 social casework specialists to 6 and from three supervisors to one.)

APS CASELOADS

APS staff in Contra Costa continue to carry some of the highest caseloads in the State.

The State average for an APS worker's caseload is 17-21 cases per month.

Our social casework specialists carry on average <u>50 cases per month</u>.

MORE ON CASELOADS....

On average each case worker receives at least one to two new referrals every day. This averages between 21 and 30 new referrals a month per worker. The Statewide recommended caseload for an APS social worker is no more than 11 new referrals a month and a caseload of no more than 25 cases. Again, our workers average a caseload of 50.

APS STAFFING

- One APS Supervisor
- Seven permanent APS social case-work specialists
- One clerk *

**Awaiting development of a list so second clerk can be hired to replace a retired worker.*

APS INTAKE

Since we last reported to FHS, APS Intake functions have moved from Information & Assistance staff to APS. This requires a dedicated full time intake social casework specialist.

APS REPORTS

- APS receives reports on all types of abuse and neglect of elders and dependent adults.
- APS works closely with law enforcement, the District Attorney, Health Services Department, hospital social workers, the Conservators' office and community based providers on finding resolutions for very complex situations.
- Sorting out the facts in many of these cases takes a great deal of skill, patience and time. Many reports are multi-faceted in that there are allegations of intimidation, physical abuse, neglect, and as we see increasingly, financial abuse.

APS REPORTS of ABUSE

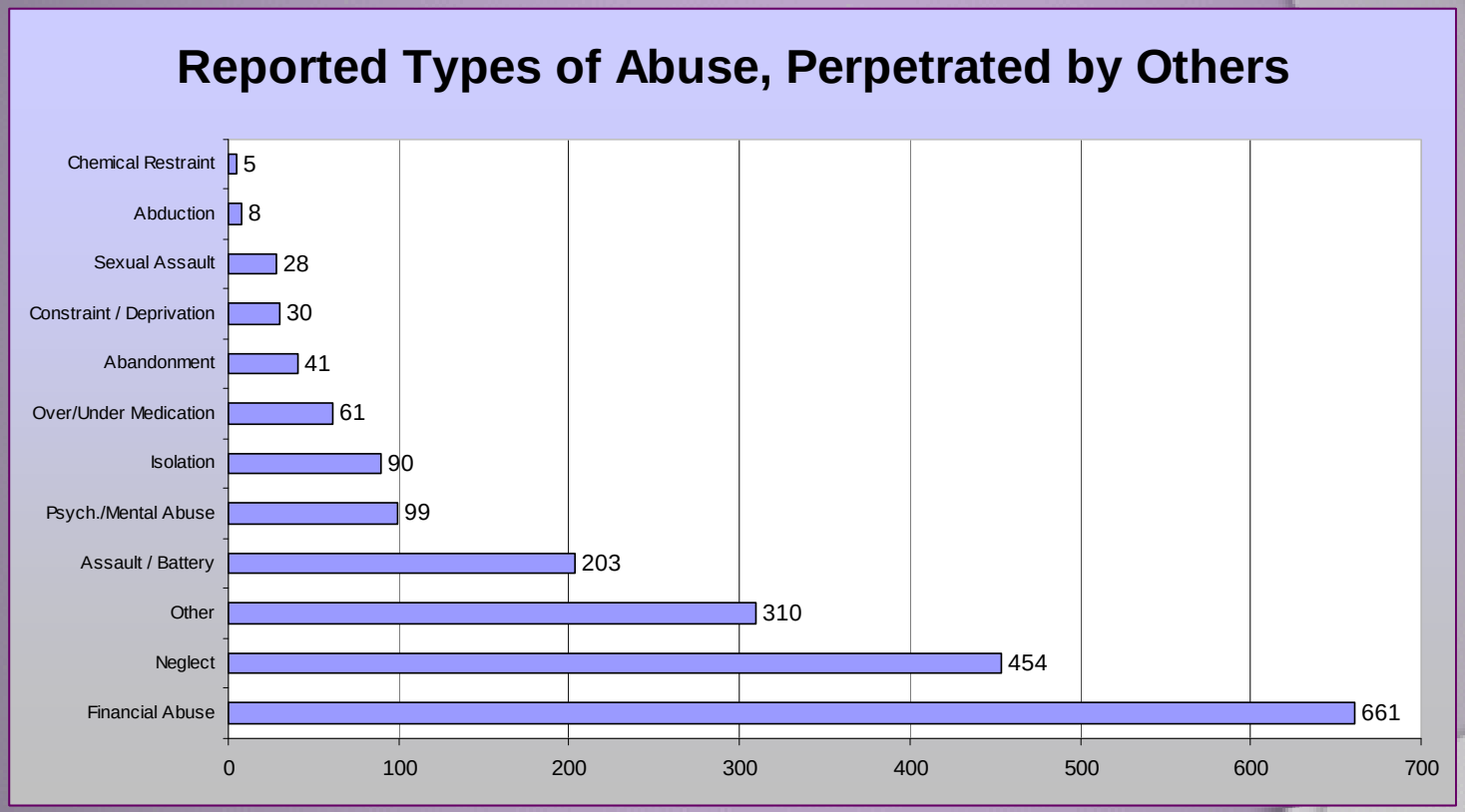
July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, APS handled:

- 661 Reports of Financial Abuse
- 454 Reports of Caregiver Neglect
- 203 Reports of Assault and Battery
- 917 Reports of Self-Neglect (in which there were identified serious health and safety hazards.)

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

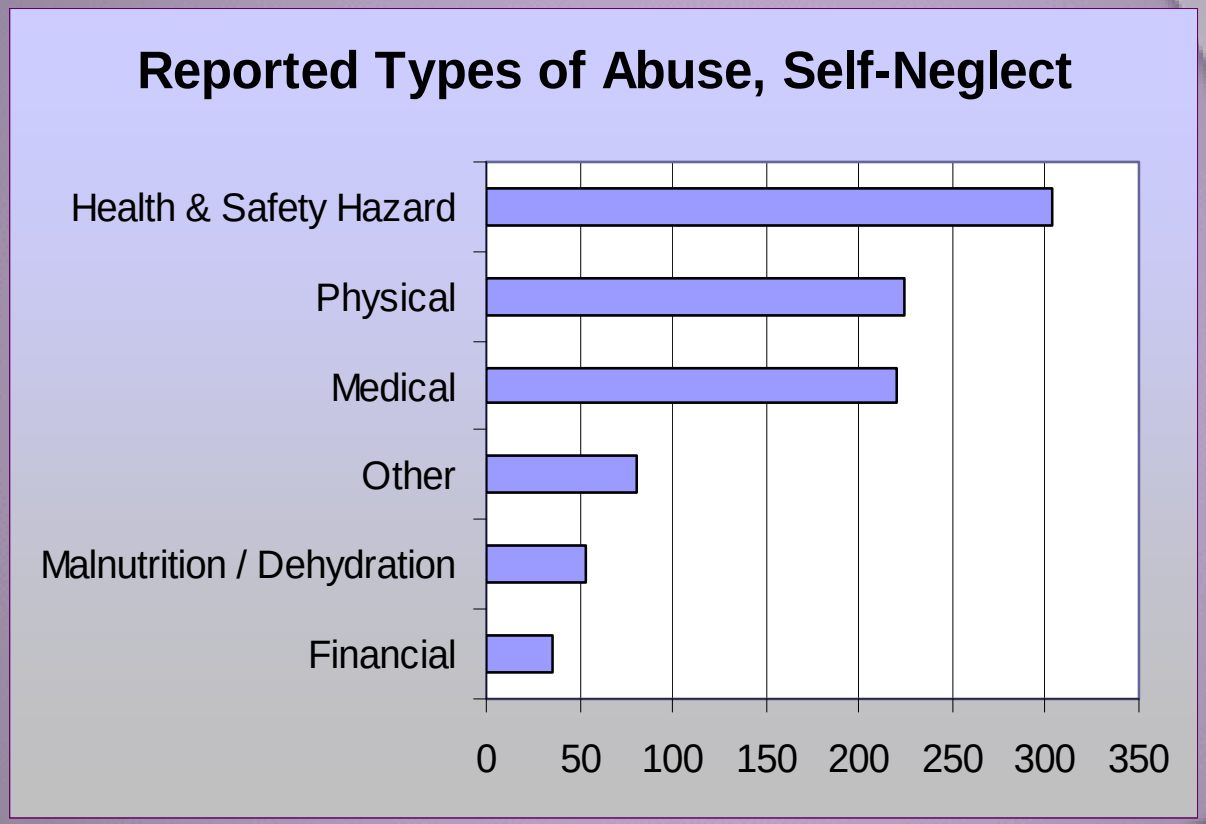
APS Client Demographics		Total Clients	Elder Clients	Dependent Adult Clts
APS clients		1515	1132	383
Elders 86 and over as of date case opened (where DOB is known)		296		
Elders 65-85 as of date case opened (where DOB is known)		668		
Dependent Adults		383		
Female clients		992	768	224
Male clients		523	364	159
Clients living alone		326	237	62

TYPES OF ABUSE Perpetrated by Others



TOTAL ABUSE BY OTHERS = 1,990

TYPES OF ABUSE
Self-Neglect



TOTAL SELF NEGLECT = 917

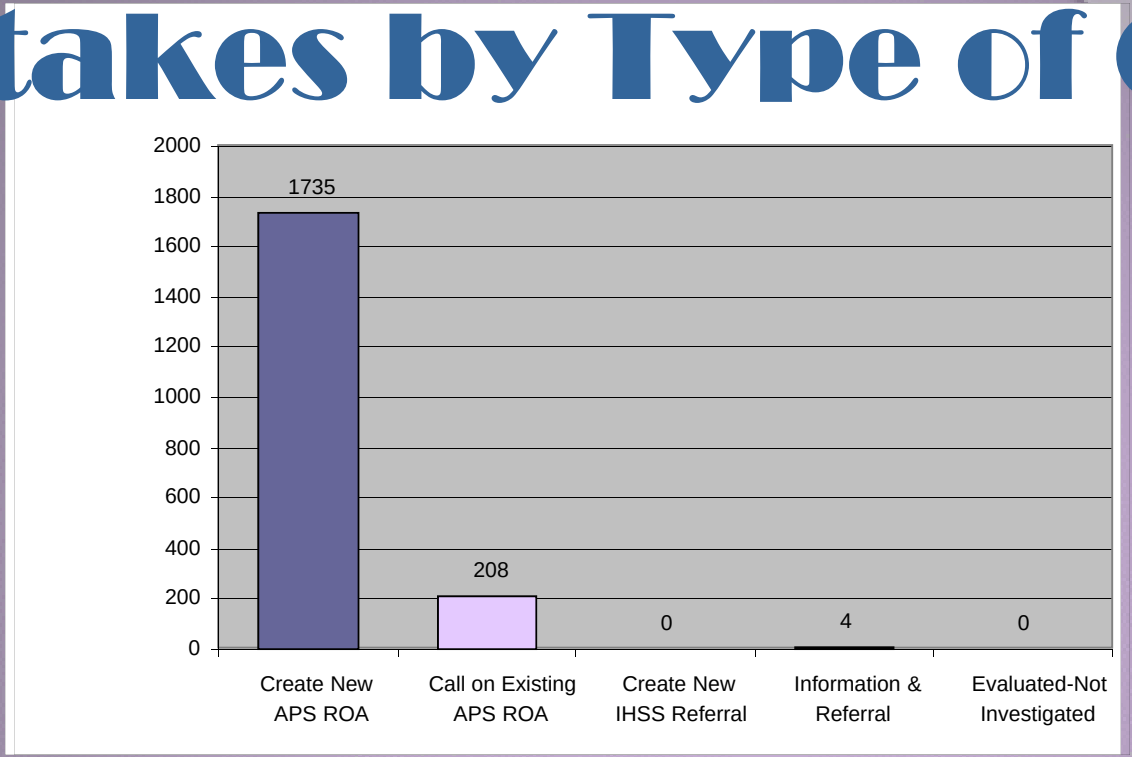
ECONOMIC HARD TIMES

It is no surprise that during the past few years we have seen an increase in the reports of financial abuse (and it is the type of abuse most reported.) We expect this trend to continue as long as there are such severe economic circumstances for families.

APS RESPONSE TIMES FY 2010-2011

FY 2010-2011	1,735 New Reports of Abuse 208 Reports of Abuse on Existing Cases.
Immediate	**4 Referrals**
Three Day (Two to Five Days)	**44 Referrals**
Ten Day	**1,179 Referrals**
NIFFI (No face-to-face interview.)	**428 Referrals**
Assessed out	**79 Referrals (Generally because they did not meet legal criteria for an APS investigation.**

Intakes by Type of Call



Report Period		7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011			
Type of Call	Create New APS ROA	Call on Existing APS ROA	Create New IHSS Referral	Information & Referral	Evaluated-Not Investigated
Number of Intakes	1,735	208	0	4	0

OPEN CASES

Generally APS cases in this county are open an average of four to six months. This is TWICE as long as in most other neighboring counties as our staffing is significantly less than our neighbors.

THE ICE IS MELTING

According to the last U.S. Census:

➔Almost 11% of the 36 million residents in California are 65 or older.

➔Contra Costa County residents over age 54 constitute 11.5% of the county's population, or about 118,000 individuals.

➔The 65+ age group is expected to increase by 37%.

➔The fastest growing segment of the population in Contra Costa County is the 85+ age group. Over the next 10 years, this group is predicted to skyrocket by 55%.

Given these stark faces, we recognize that Contra Costa will need staff to handle ever increasing caseloads. One unit to handle all of the APS referrals is clearly not enough today, and it won't be enough tomorrow.

We are definitely skating on thin ice ....and the ice is melting.

AGING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

John Cottrell
Director, Aging & Adult Services
(925) 313-1605
jcottrell@ehsd.cccounty.us