



Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment & MAARC Update  
Senate Aging and Long-Term Care  
Committee  
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# What is the Vulnerable Adult Act?

- Creates our statewide system to protect vulnerable adults
- Defines who is a vulnerable adult and what is maltreatment:
  - Abuse, Neglect & Financial Exploitation
- Establishes 3 Lead Investigative Agencies responsible for responding to allegations of maltreatment

# What is Maltreatment?

## Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

## Neglect

Lacks food, shelter, clothing, health care or services necessary to maintain health, comfort or safety

## Financial Exploitation

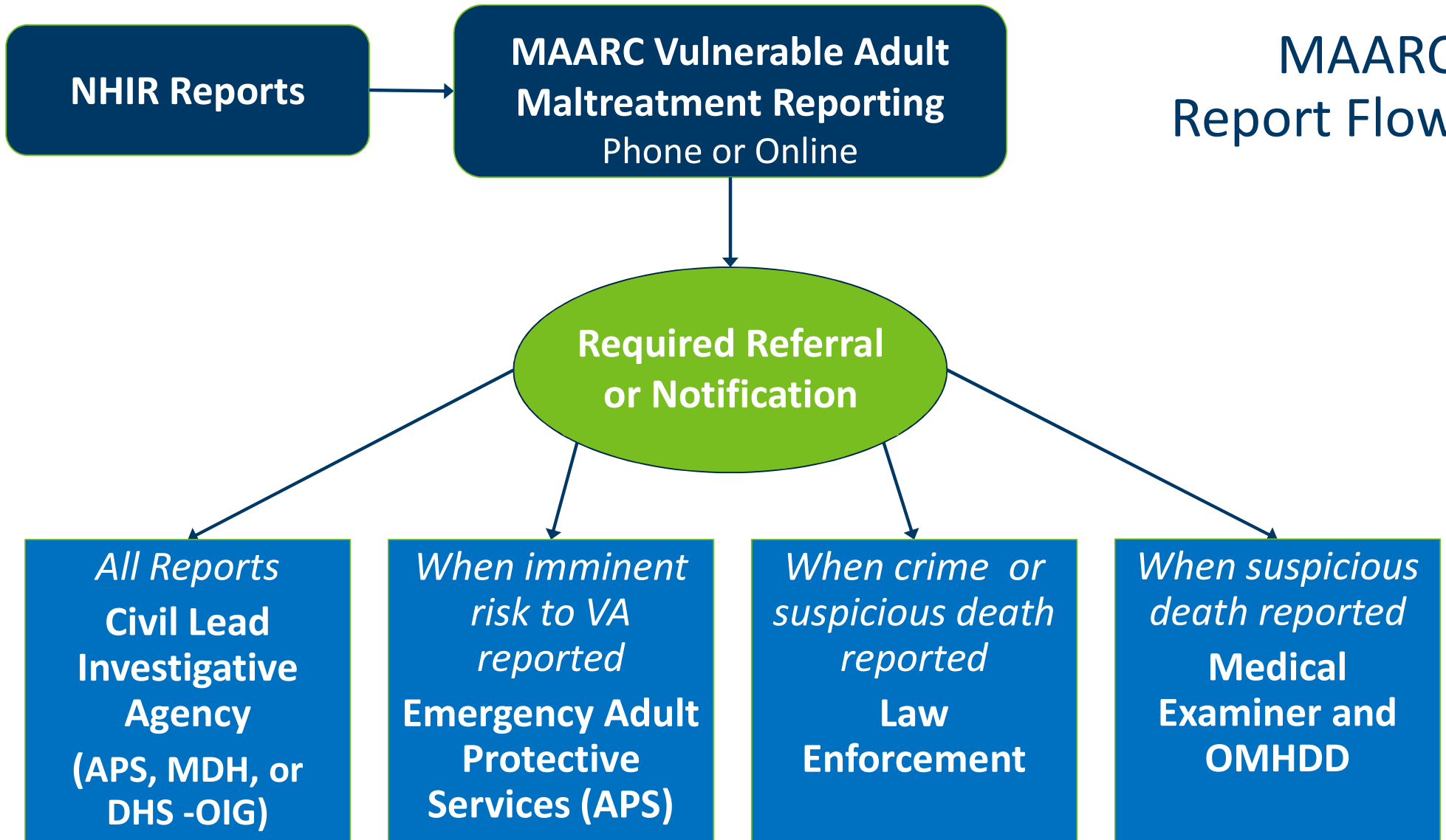
- Stealing property or assets
- Drug diversion
- Deception or fraud; forced services

# Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center

- 24/7/365 Centralized Reporting
- One number to report all suspected Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment
- Immediate referrals to lead investigative agencies
- Immediate Required Notifications

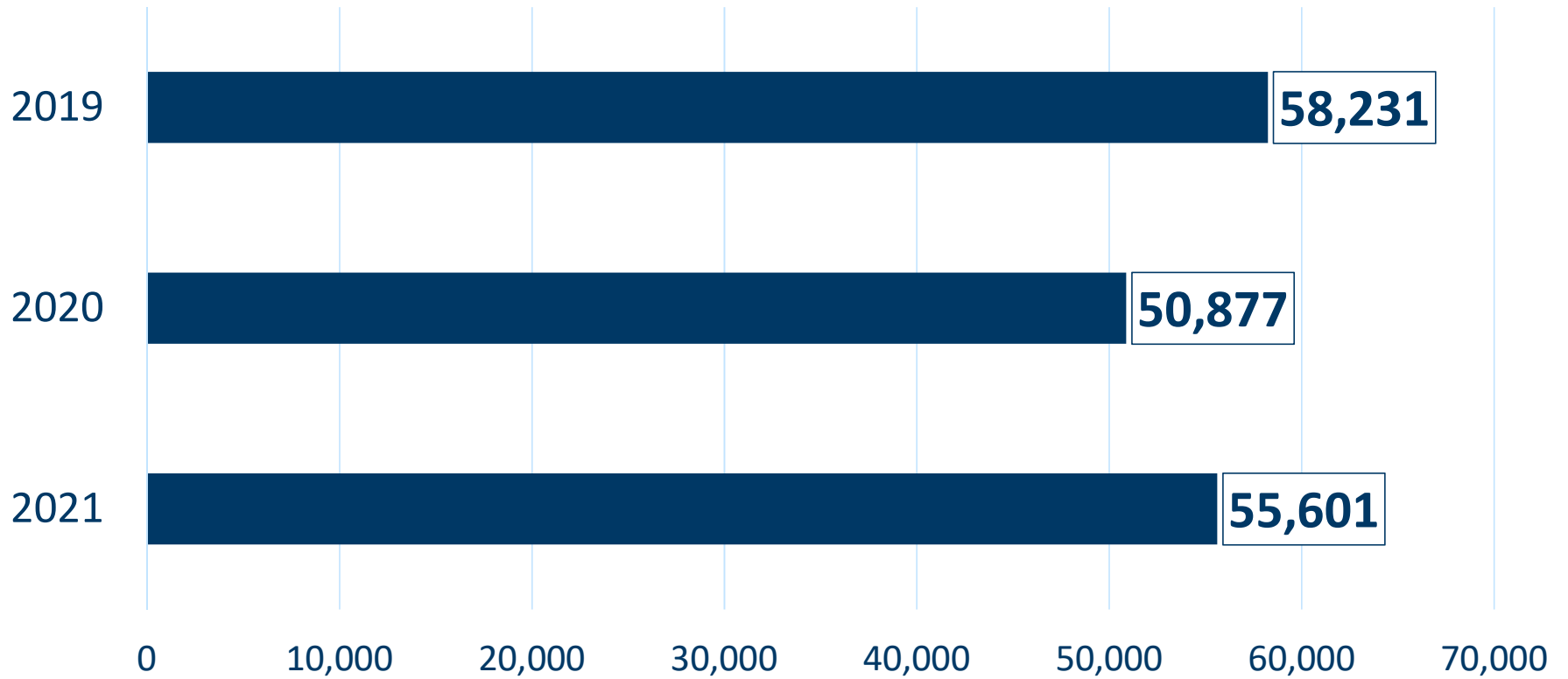


# MAARC Report Flow



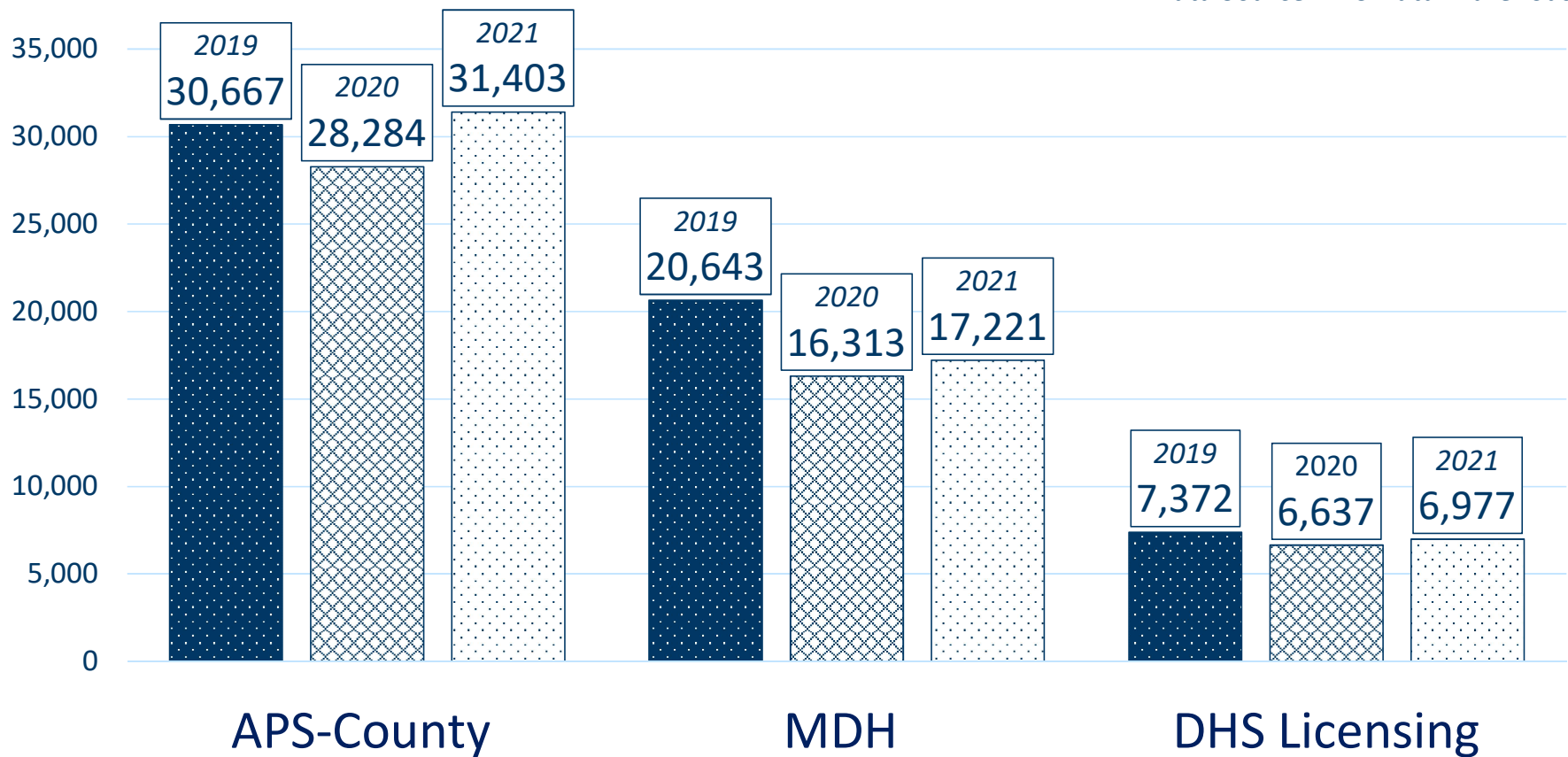
# Vulnerable Adults Reported to MAARC CY 2019 – 2021

*Data Source: APS Data warehouse*

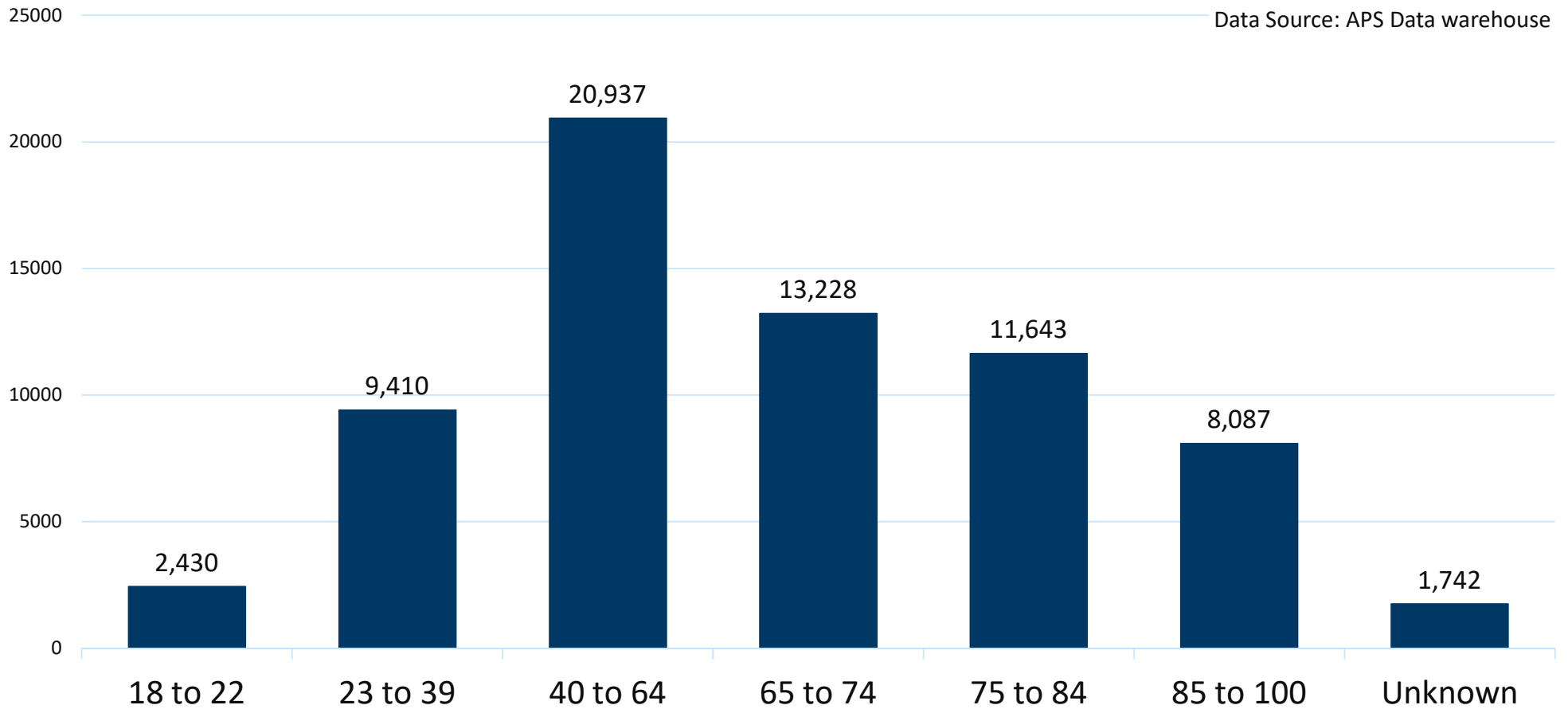


# Vulnerable Adults Reported to MAARC by LIA - CY 2019 - 2021

Data Source: APS Data Warehouse

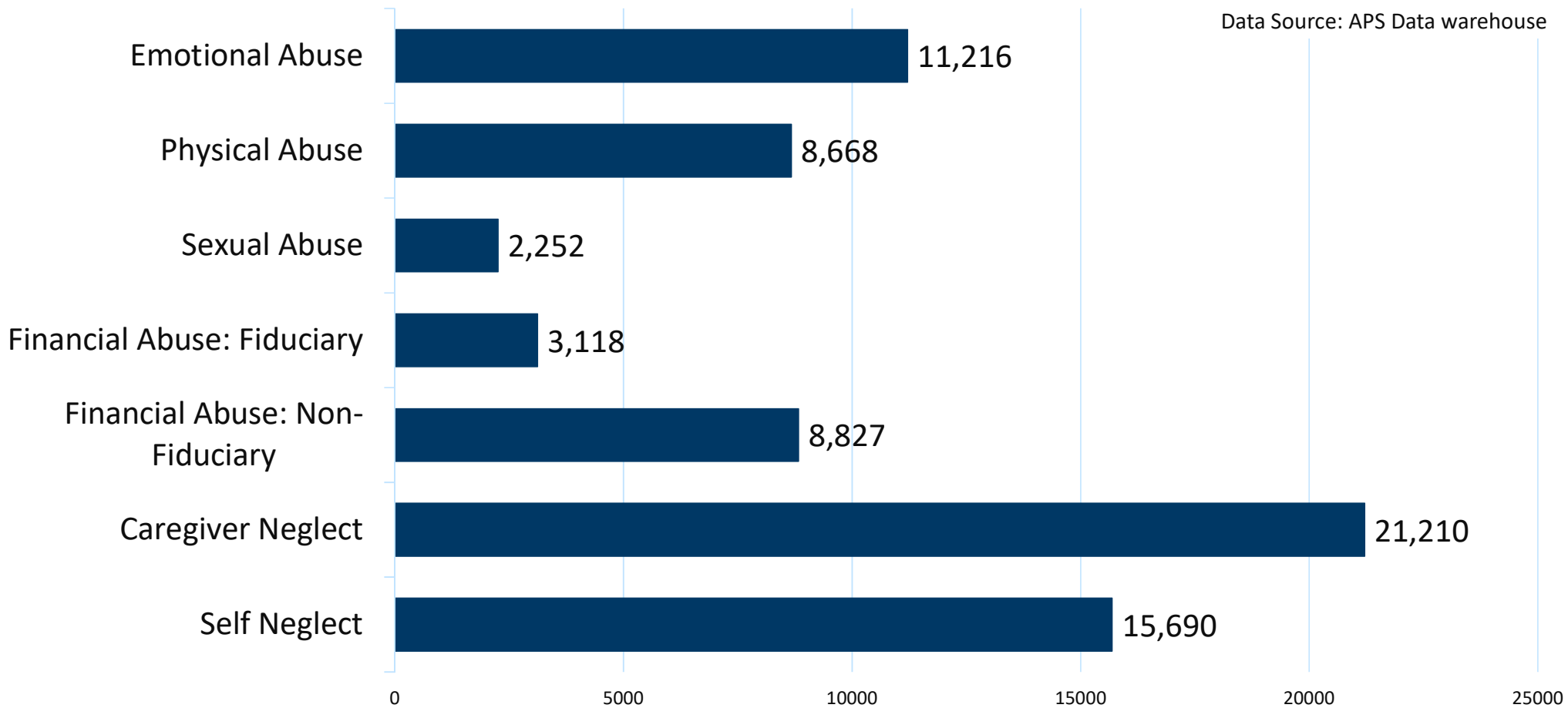


# 2021 Vulnerable Adult Alleged Maltreatment by Age: All LIAs





# 2020 Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Allegations by Type



# APS Dual Role: Services and Investigation

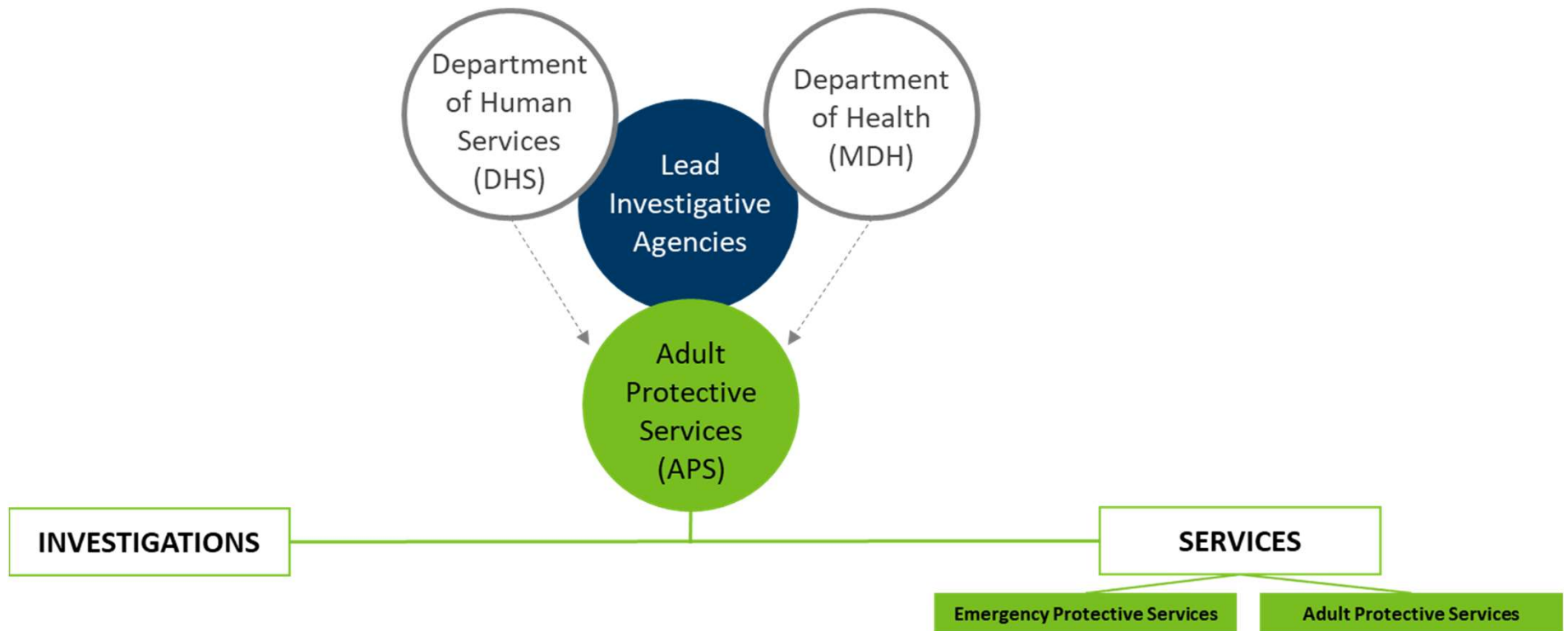
APS dual mandate: engage vulnerable adults and support persons to offer services *and* investigate alleged maltreatment

This dual role can potentially be in conflict.

- APS works *with* a vulnerable adult, provides supports, services, and solutions
- APS investigates vulnerable adult and supports including family or friends to determine the allegation and assign blame (or not)



# Minnesota's Adult Protection System (APS)



# Adult Protective Services – DHS Role

## MN Adult Protection System County Administered/State Supported

### DHS APS Role:

- Operating the reporting system
- Supporting compliance with statutes, rules, policies and quality
- Serving as a resource for training and consultation
- Promoting statewide consistency and person-centered outcomes for vulnerable adults



# Adult Protection - Program Funding

- Lack of sustained federal and state funding for county Adult Protection Services
  - First federal funding was limited, onetime grants in early COVID relief bills
  - Tribal Nations- no dedicated state or federal funding
  - State funding mechanisms are limited grants (through DHS) to county adult protection agencies
- Legislature added partial state funding in 2012 and 2019
- Currently most county adult protection services rely heavily on county funds for the majority of their operating expenses

# Vulnerable Adult Act Redesign

## Key Takeaways

- MN's Adult Protection System lacks statewide consistency
- Balance shift is needed for a response that supports safety and prevention
- Data Sharing – protect privacy while allowing access to necessary information to support safety
- Lack of a stable funding system contributes to differences in service response



[Recommendations and stakeholder input for redesigning the Vulnerable Adult Act \(2020\)](#)

# Thank you!

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