



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Division of Aging Services

Aging overview & Elder protections

MaryLea Boatwright Quinn & Anna Thomas

Assistant Deputy Commissioner & FSIU Manager

stronger families

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



Division of Aging Services

— VISION —

LIVING LONGER,

LIVING SAFELY,

living well



Profile of Older Georgians

9% of older Georgians are food insecure.

Georgia is ranked 7th amongst states older adults are moving to.

76% of adults age 50+ wish to 'age in place' -- to remain in their homes as long as possible. 92% of adults born before 1945 wish to do so.

More than 2 million older adults live in Georgia. 10.7% live in poverty.

79.2% of Georgia seniors own a home; 38.6% live alone.

Over 75% of older Georgians receive Social Security.

In 2022, 14.6% of Georgians were 65+, up from 12.7% in 2019.

41.2% of older adults in Georgia have a disability.

Access to home and community-based services (HCBS) can help prevent or delay nursing home placement for some older adults.

In 2022 Georgia grandparents were the primary caregivers of more than 100,000 children.



The “bigger picture” of the flow of funding and administration of Older Americans Act services & supports that have the unified goal of creating communities where we are all *Living longer, Living safely, Living well!*



- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



- Administration for Community Living



- Division of Aging Services

- State Funding, Laws & Regs



- Area Agency on Aging



Older Americans Act in Action



- Senior Centers
- Meals & Nutrition
- Health & Wellness
- Engagement
- Purpose
- HCBS
- & more!



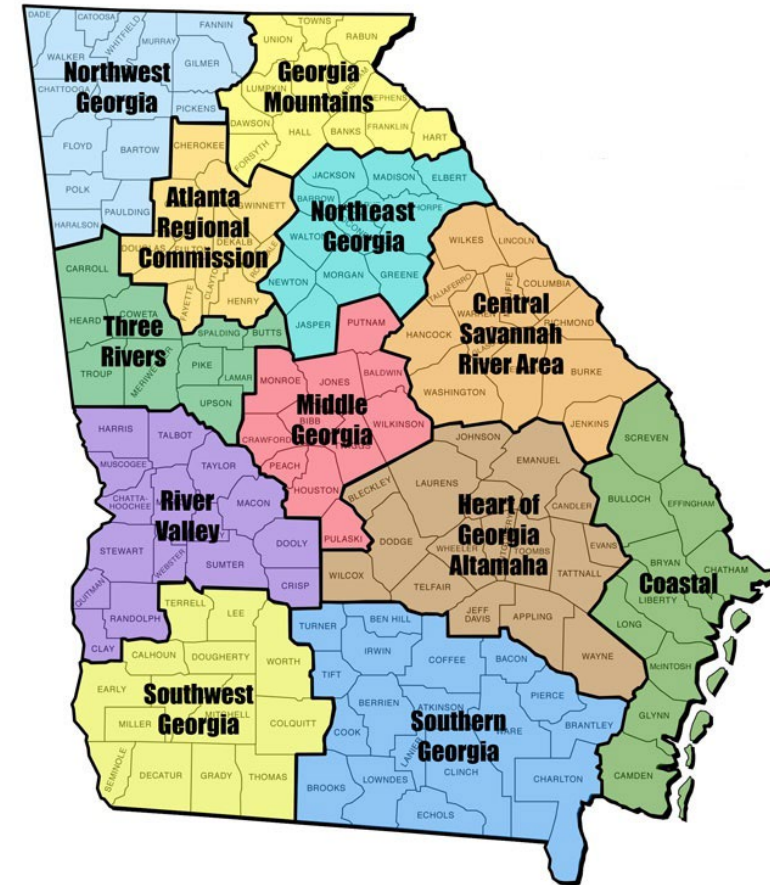


— GEORGIA'S —
Aging & Disability
RESOURCE CONNECTION

Area Agencies on Aging

- 10 are housed in Regional Commissions
- 2 are Non-profits
- (Georgia Mountains = Legacy Link)
- (Southwest Georgia = SOWEGA Council on Aging)
- *AAA Boundaries do NOT match Regional Commission boundaries exactly*

1-866-55-AGING, press option 2



Programs and Services

Rights and Safety

- Adult Protective Services
- Public Guardianship Office
- Forensic Special Initiatives Unit
- Elderly Legal Assistance Program
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Report Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation: 1-866-552-4464, Option 3

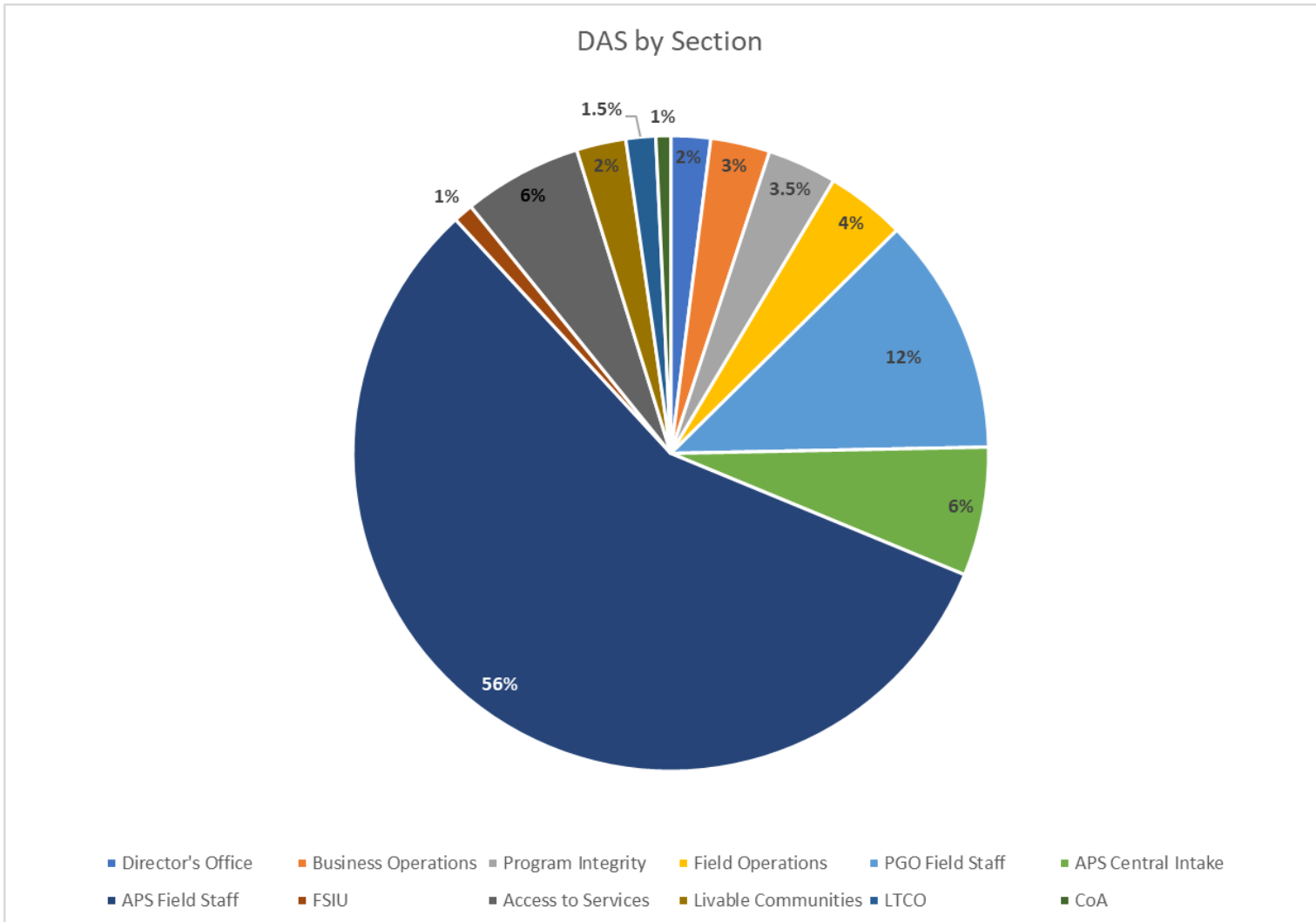
<http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/report-elder-abuse>



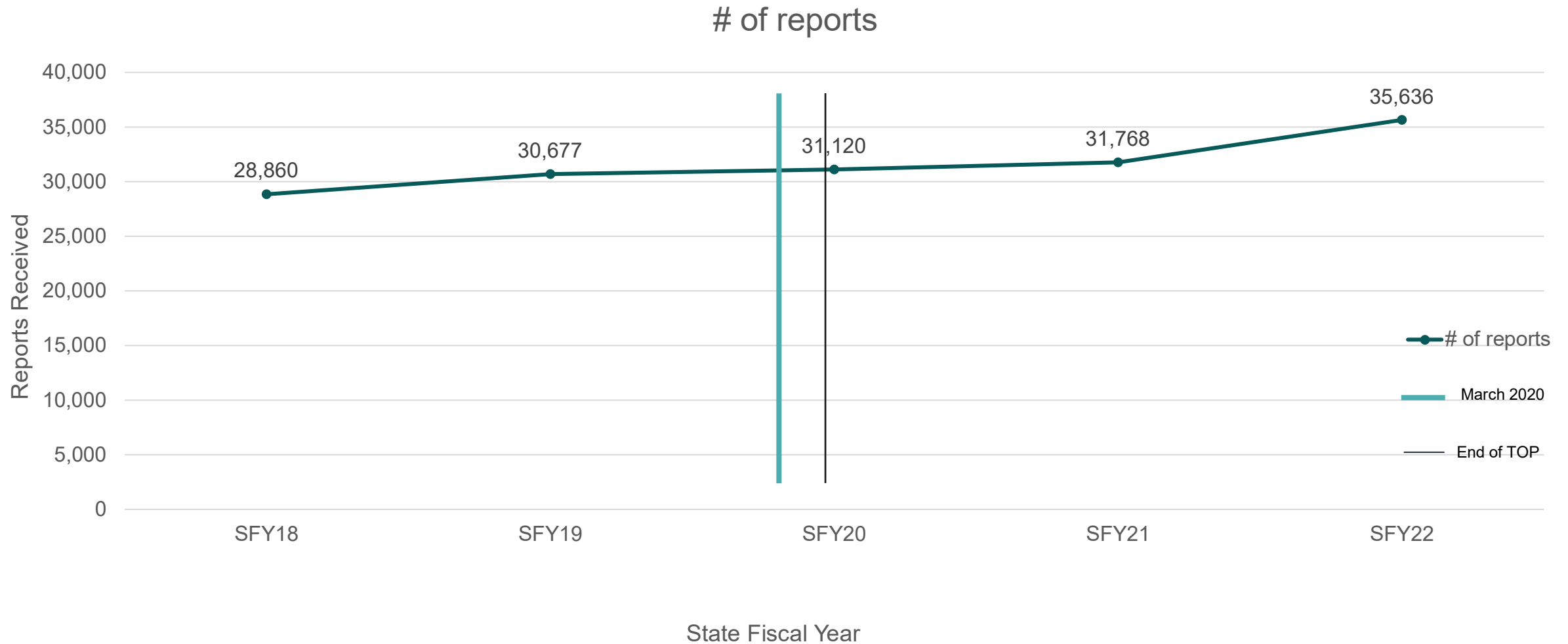
DAS Staffing

69% of our staff
are dedicated to Elder rights &
elder abuse prevention!

When fully staffed we have
almost **400 employees** at the
Division.



APS Report Data



Let's Talk About FSIU



- Housed within the Division of Aging Services
- Joint task force with the GBI
- Mission: protect Georgia's at-risk adults
- Accomplished by:
 - Policy review
 - Identify gaps in services, laws, processes
 - Training and education



Forensic Special Initiatives Unit (FSIU)



Anna Thomas



David Blake



Mark Fellows



Shawonda Wright



What We Do

FSIU supports:

- Primary/secondary responders
- Prosecutors
- Victim Service Providers
- Direct Care Service Providers
- Local, State, Federal Community Partners
- Provide connections
- Education and training





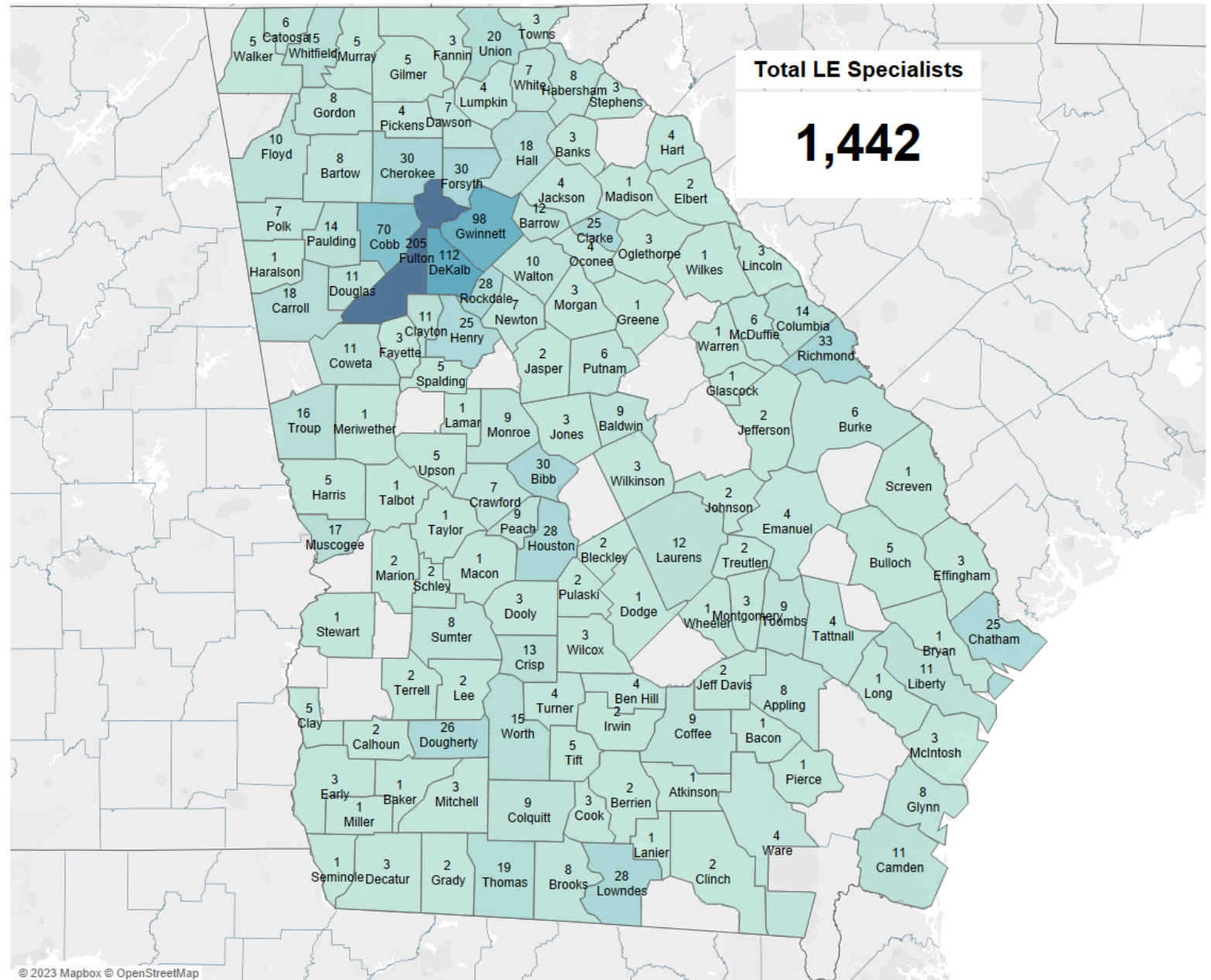
- **CACTS (Certified Adult Crime Tactics Specialists)**
Monthly, 2-day ANE boot camp
Criminal Justice
- **REACT**
Monthly 1-hour ANE & Mandated Reporting overview
Mandated Reporters
- **FACT**
1-2 hour ANE & APS Collaboration overview
Hospital SW, Discharge Planners
- **REINACT**
Training on suspicious deaths
Coroners and Medical Examiners



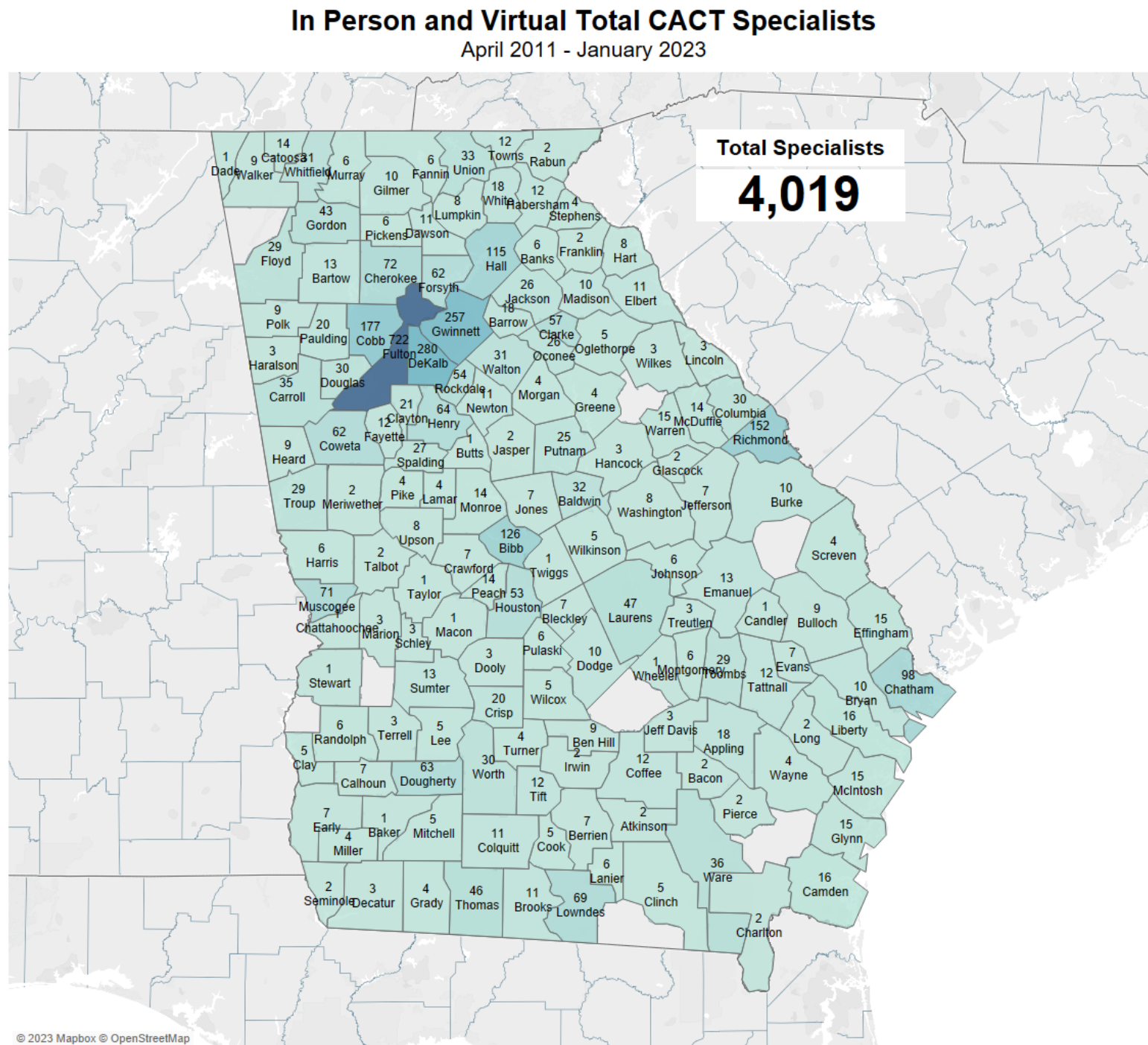
CACTS

Law
Enforcement
Only

In Person and Virtual Total Law Enforcement CACT Specialists April 2011 - January 2023



Total Attendees



Physical

Financial

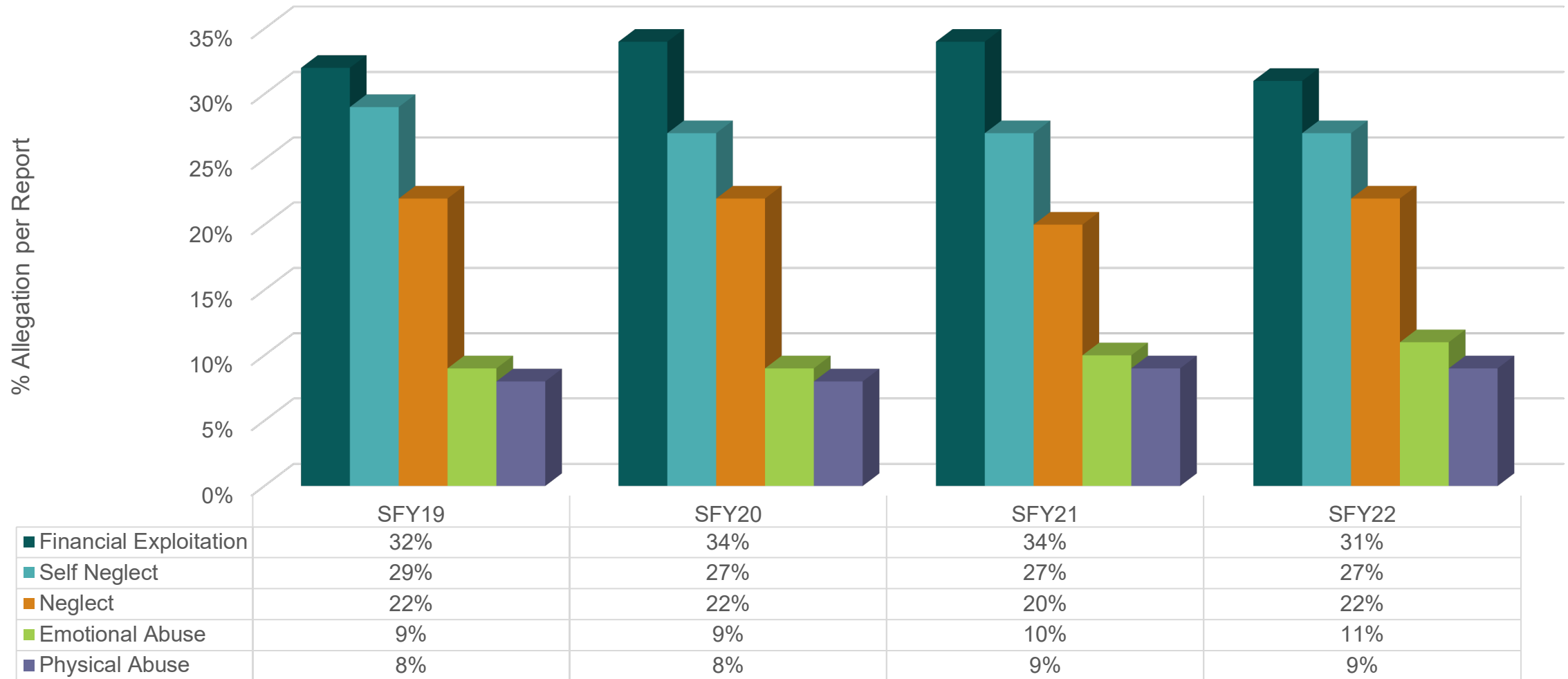
Neglect

Emotional

Sexual



Allegations Reported by Type



Financial Abuse

May include but not limited to:

- ✓ Forced to withdraw large sums of money
- ✓ Power of Attorney
- ✓ Use of threats to get money
- ✓ Change of legal documents
- ✓ Loss of savings
- ✓ Forging signatures
- ✓ Using coercion or deception to gain trust
- ✓ Spending Social Security benefits/VA benefits for own use



Possible Signs of Financial Abuse

- New “person of trust” isolates the victim
- Change in status: used to save every penny, now they are withdrawing money every week
- Appoint someone new to handle their affairs
- Missing jewelry
- Quick deeds of family property or businesses



Community Outreach

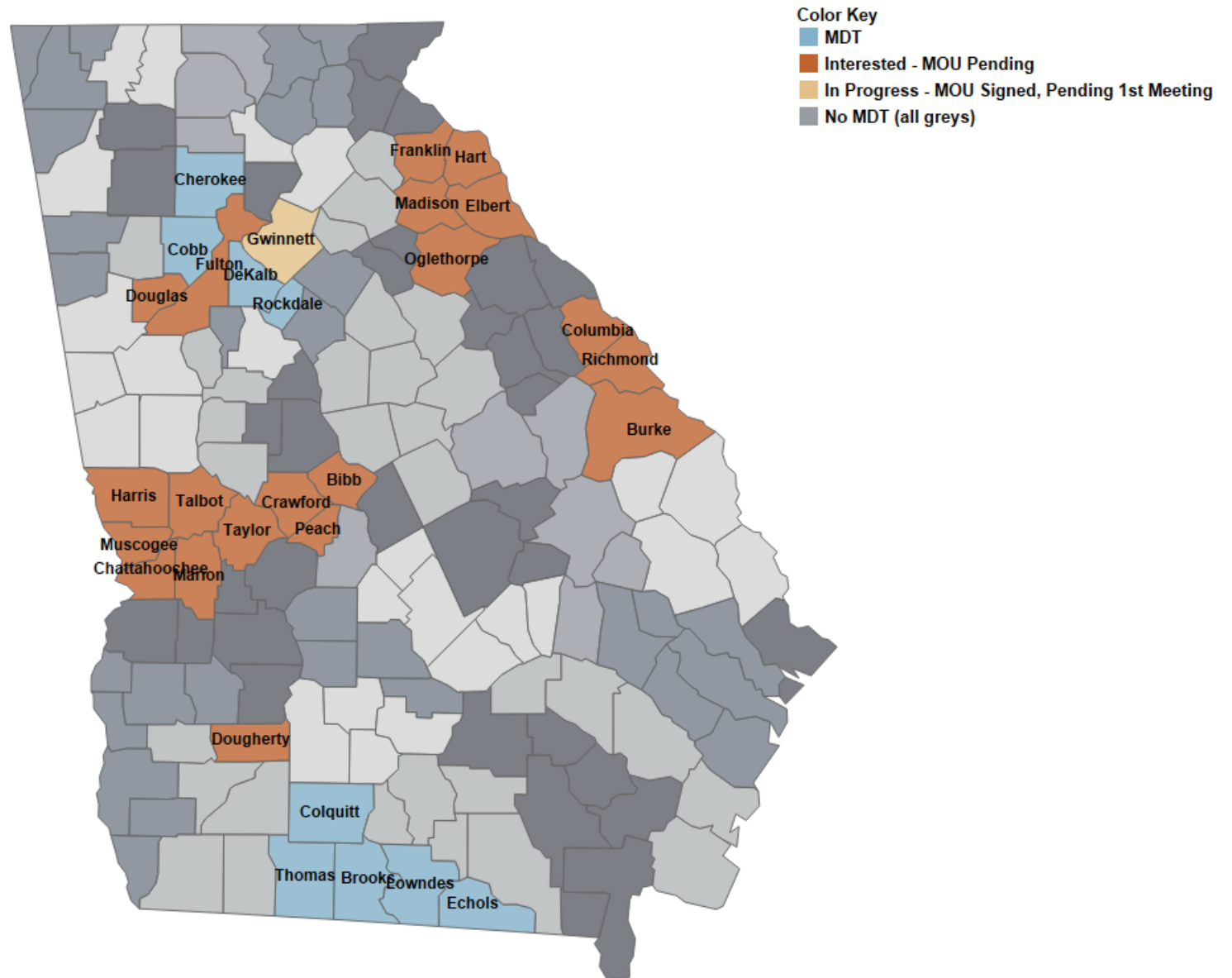
- Senior Center Members
 - Scams
 - Online Safety
- Senior Center Staff and Volunteers
 - Signs of elder abuse
 - How to report possible abuse
 - Engaging with Adult Protective Services
- Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs
 - Collaborating to prevent elder abuse



Multidisciplinary Teams by Judicial Circuit

As of January 2023

- Formed by District Attorneys or their designee
- Key players at one table
- Follow the pattern of DV and Child Abuse MDTs
- Data shows increases in arrests of perpetrators, increase in access to services, and overall combined community collaboration



To Register for CACTS

Visit our website <https://aging.georgia.gov/programs-and-services/forensic-special-initiatives-unit>

FSIU@dhs.ga.gov



Register for
Training

REGISTER HERE



Questions?

MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, MSW, LCSW

Assistant Deputy Commissioner

DHS- Division of Aging Services

Marylea.boatwrightquinn@dhs.ga.gov

404.272.5202

Anna Thomas

Manager, FSIU

DHS- Division of Aging Services/GBI

Anna.Thomas1@dhs.ga.gov

404.883.4871

