

Establishing a Direct Clinical - Law Enforcement Partnership to Address Dementia Crisis Intervention Across Washington State

UW MEDICINE – GARVEY INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH SCIENCES

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2025

Financial Disclosures

- Financial Disclosure: Dr. Domoto-Reilly receives Speakers Bureau compensation from MedBridge

AGENDA



- Overview of Project
- Progress to Date
- Clinician Survey Results
- Law Enforcement Data
- Future Plans
- Discussion & Feedback

Please see the March 14 2025 presentation by Karen Hayes, DNP, CNM, ARNP
<https://depts.washington.edu/mbwc/resources/echo-mar-14-2025>

Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions

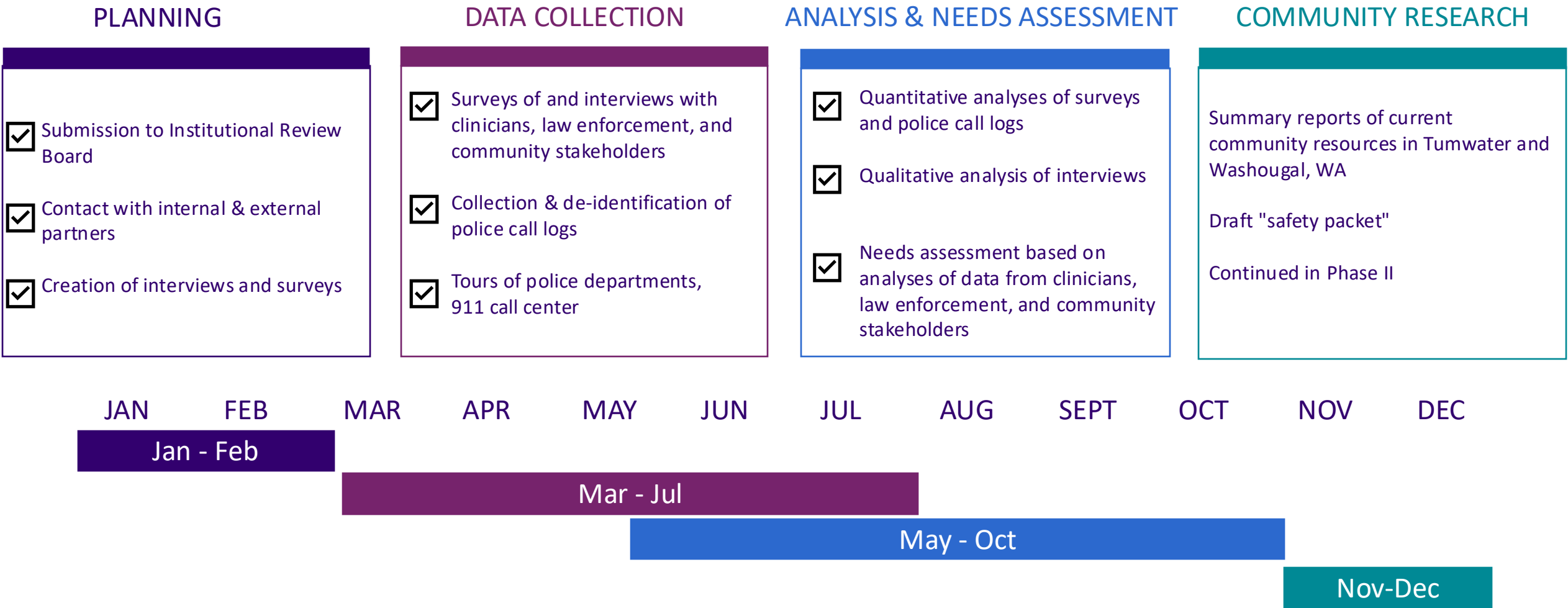
- The mission of the Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions (GIBHS) at UW Medicine is to improve the health for the millions of people at risk for and affected by mental health, substance use, and other brain health disorders. Initial areas of focus include cognitive aging, addictions and the effects of physical and/or emotional trauma on the brain.
- 2024 Innovation Grant opportunity: "innovative partnerships that extend the impact of mental health professionals in Washington state"
 - Partnering with law enforcement professionals to improve the care of individuals experiencing a mental health and/or addiction crisis. Projects must focus on services before detainment.

Clinical and Law Enforcement Partnerships to Address Dementia Crises

- Purpose: Meet with clinicians, law enforcement, and community stakeholders to identify dementia crises potentially requiring law enforcement involvement; determine potential resources and gaps
 - Year 1 Plan
 - Needs Assessment: Interview clinicians, law enforcement, and community stakeholders about experiences with dementia crises potentially requiring law enforcement involvement. Identify gaps.
 - Community Research: Identify existing community resources to assist with dementia crises.
- >> Identify 3 crisis response priorities for Safety Packet development

Clinical and Law Enforcement Partnerships to Address Dementia Crises: Year 1 (2024)

At-a-glance



Methodology



Clinicians

- Surveys with Clinicians from Memory and Brain Wellness Center
 - Completed
- Interviews with Clinicians from Memory and Brain Wellness Center
 - Completed

Law Enforcement

- Develop partnerships with law enforcement agencies in Clark and Thurston Counties
- Gather survey and interview data from officers and law enforcement staff
 - Completed
- Review 911 call logs and data from Tumwater and Washougal
 - Completed

Community Stakeholders

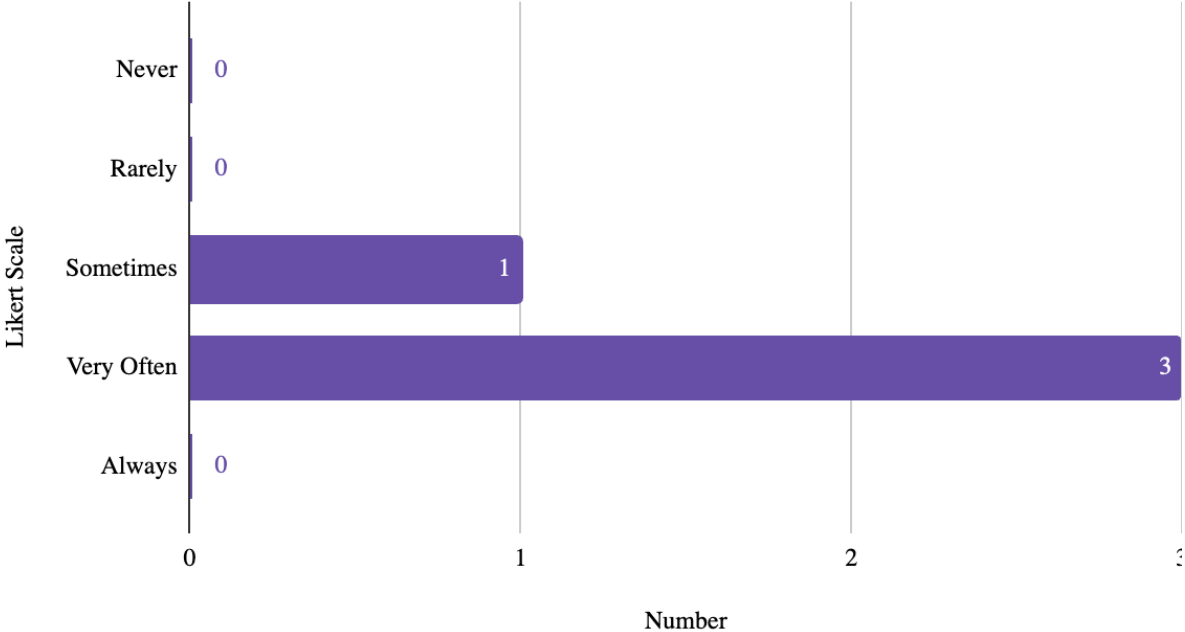
- Surveys with Community Stakeholders
 - Ongoing
- Interviews with Community Stakeholders
 - Ongoing

Clinician Survey Results

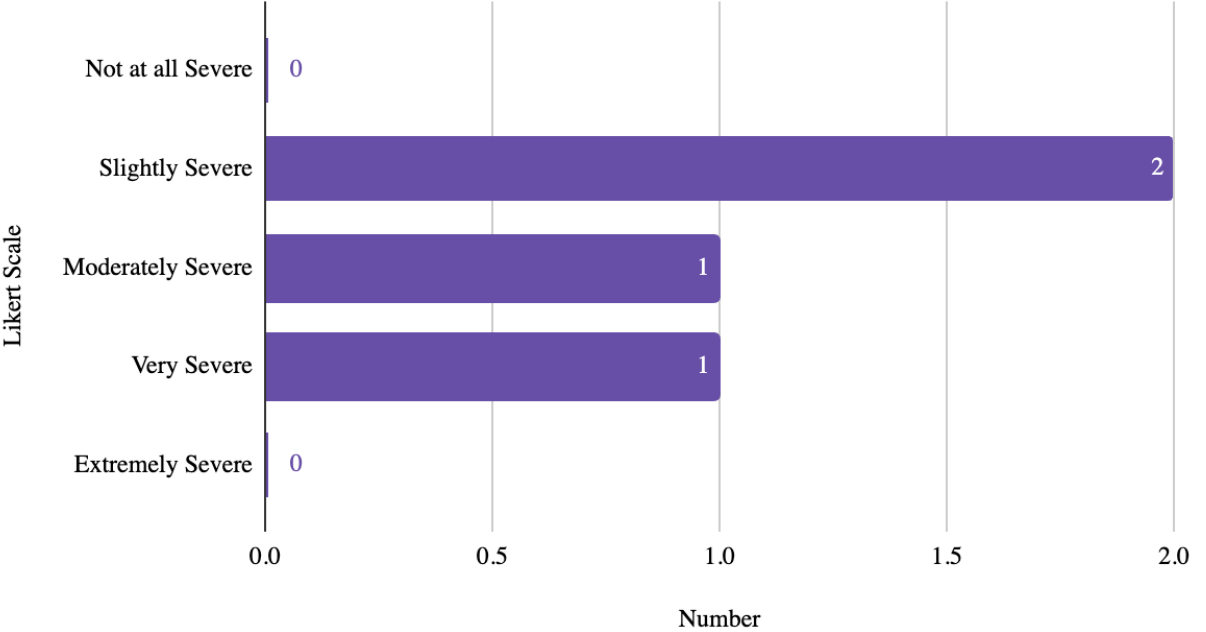
- How often to you hear about a person with dementia involved in...
 - Wandering, Trespassing, Shoplifting, Threatening Behavior, Financial Abuse/Fraud, Firearm Safety, Other
- How severe are these incidents?
- 4 Completed Surveys: 2 MDs, 1 LICSW, 1 ARNP

Clinician Survey Results - Wandering

Frequency of Wandering



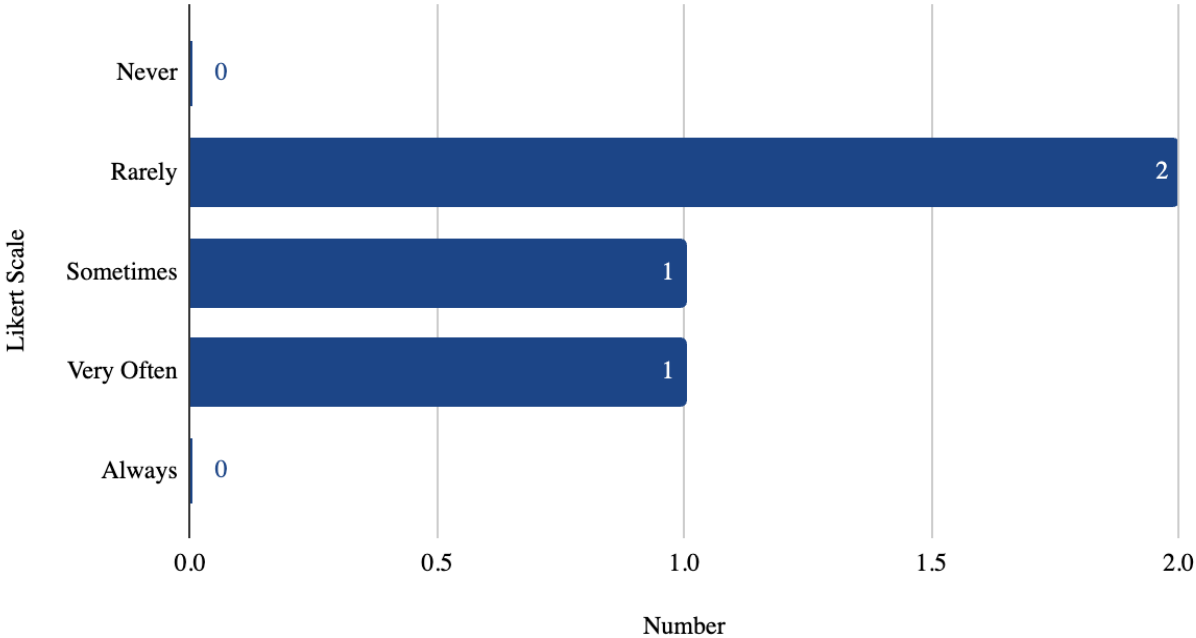
Severity of Wandering



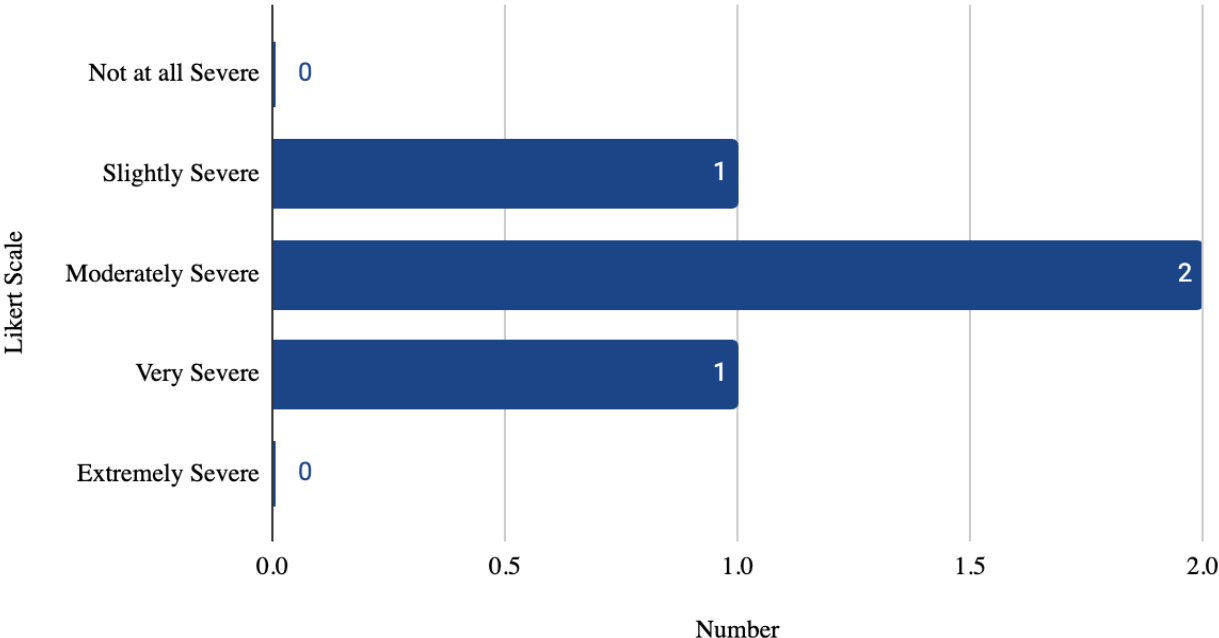
Clinician Survey Results - Trespassing



Frequency of Trespassing



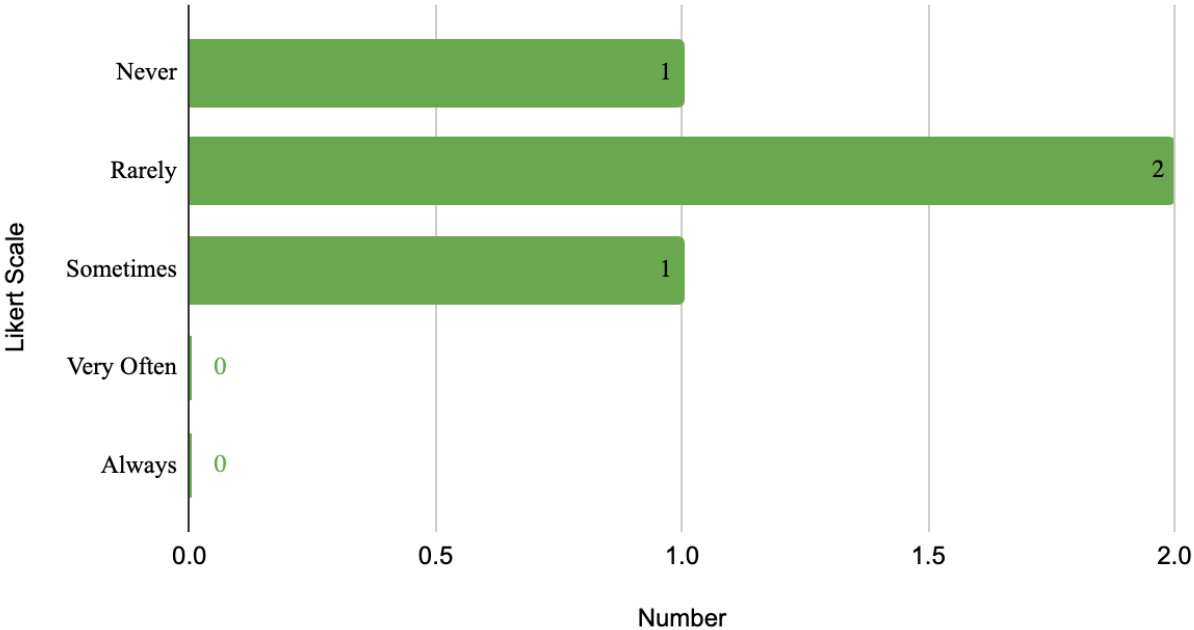
Severity of Trespassing



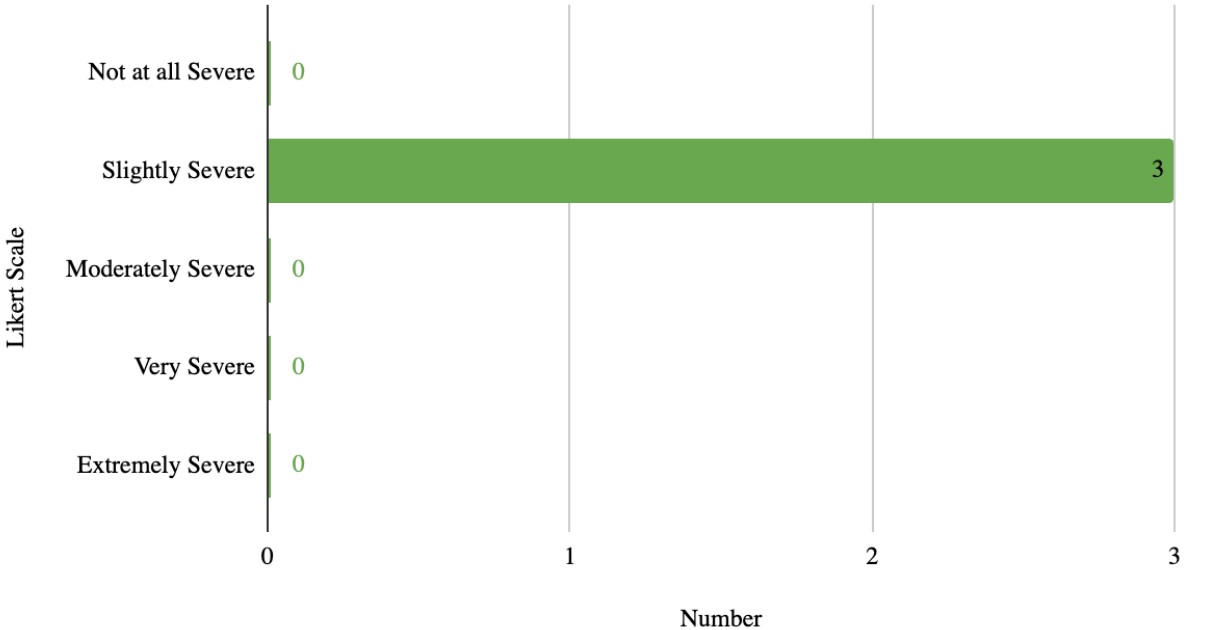
Clinician Survey Results - Shoplifting



Frequency of Shoplifting

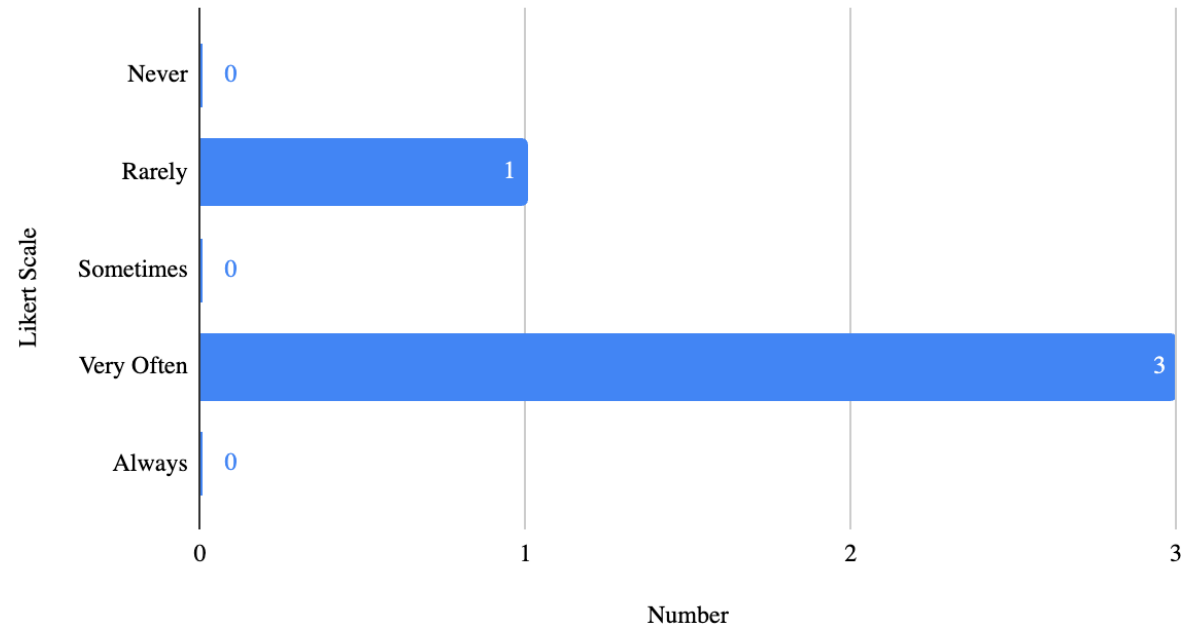


Severity of Shoplifting

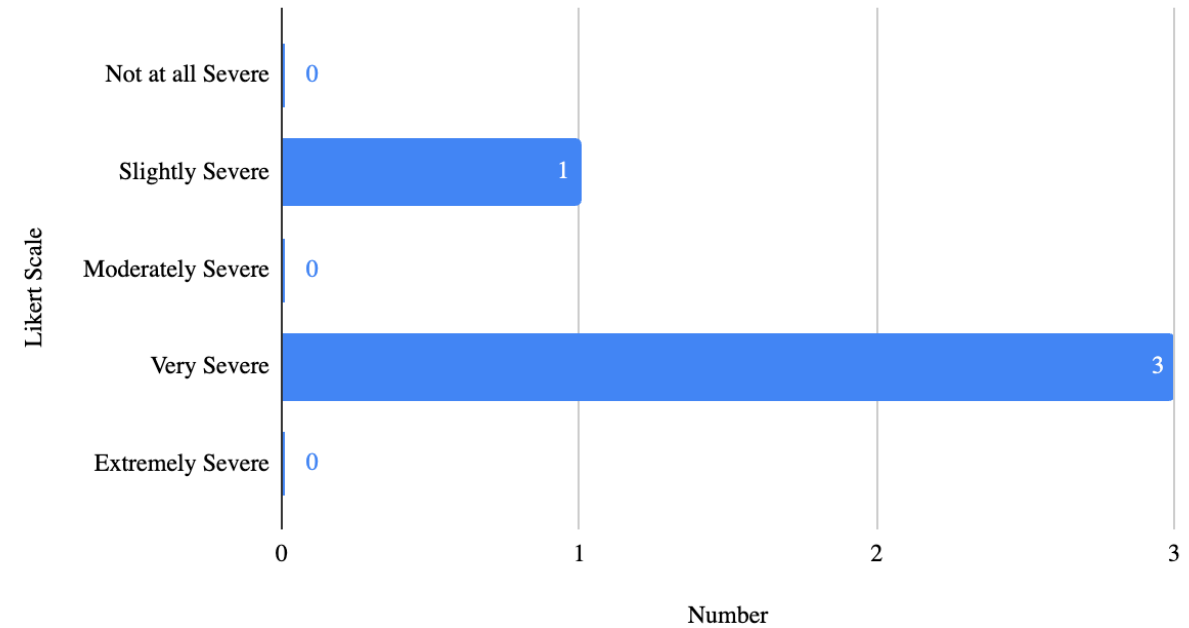


Clinician Survey Results - Threatening Behavior (Including Violence)

Frequency of Threatening Behavior (including Violence)

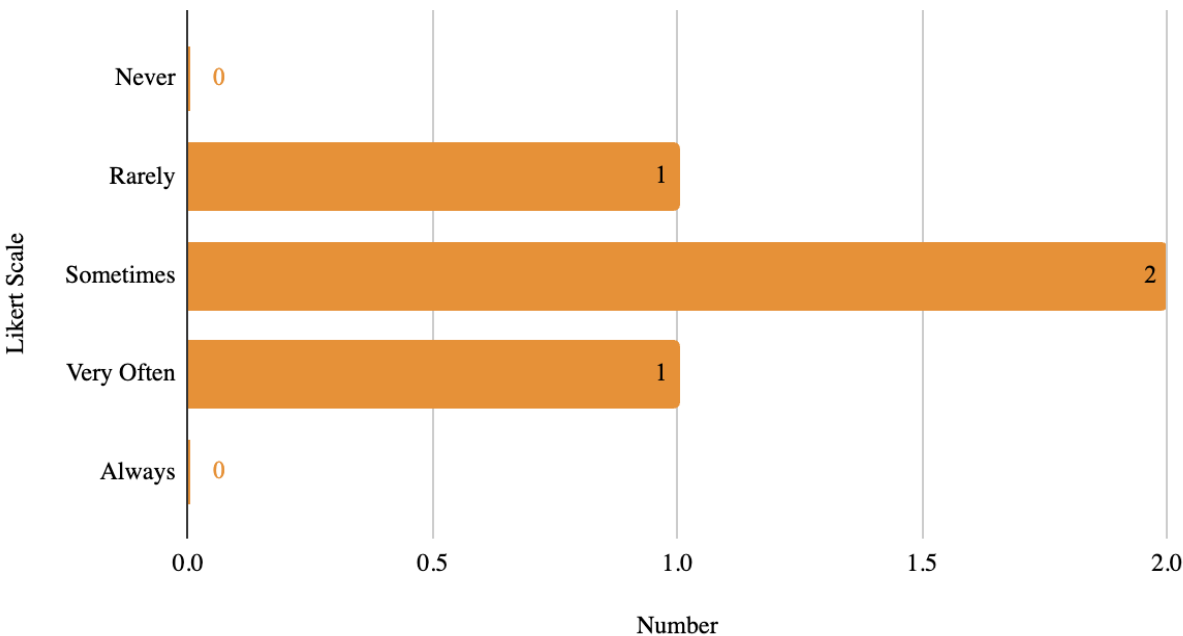


Severity of Threatening Behavior (including Violence)

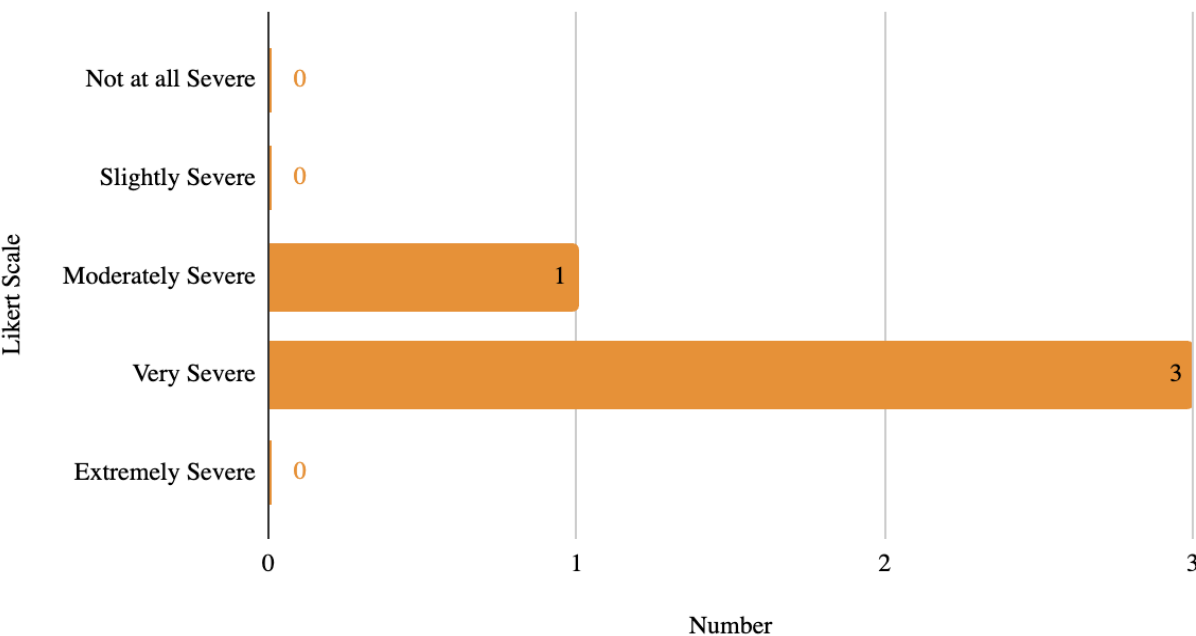


Clinician Survey Results – Financial Abuse / Fraud

Frequency of Financial Abuse or Fraud

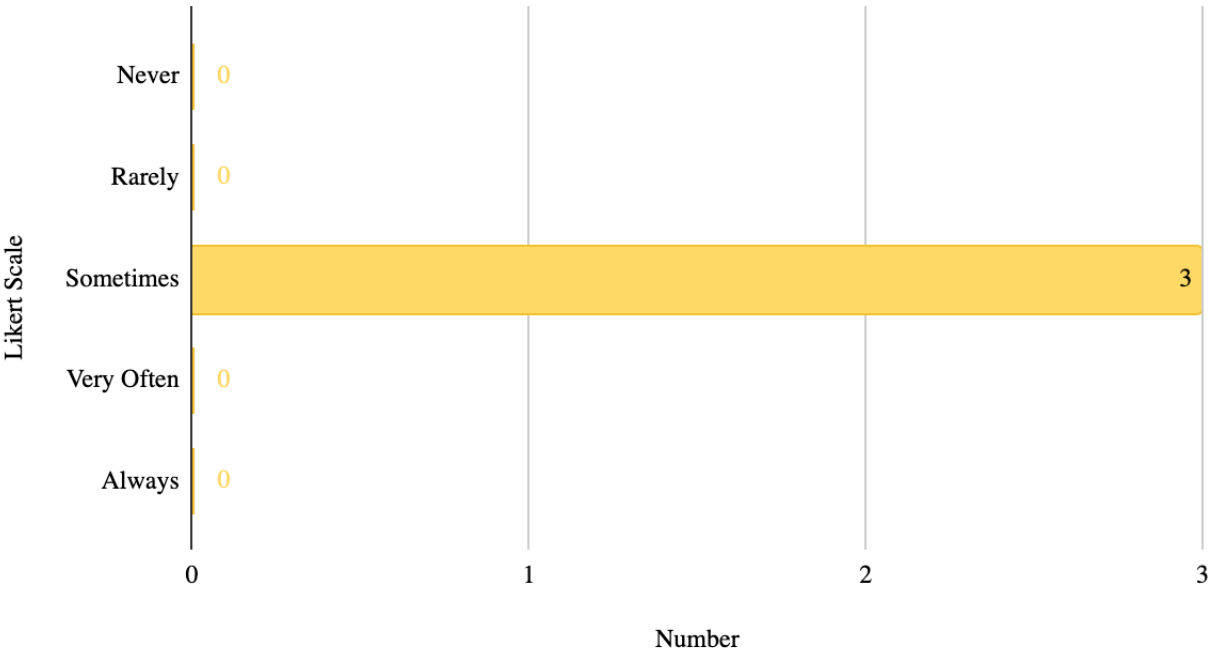


Severity of Financial Abuse or Fraud

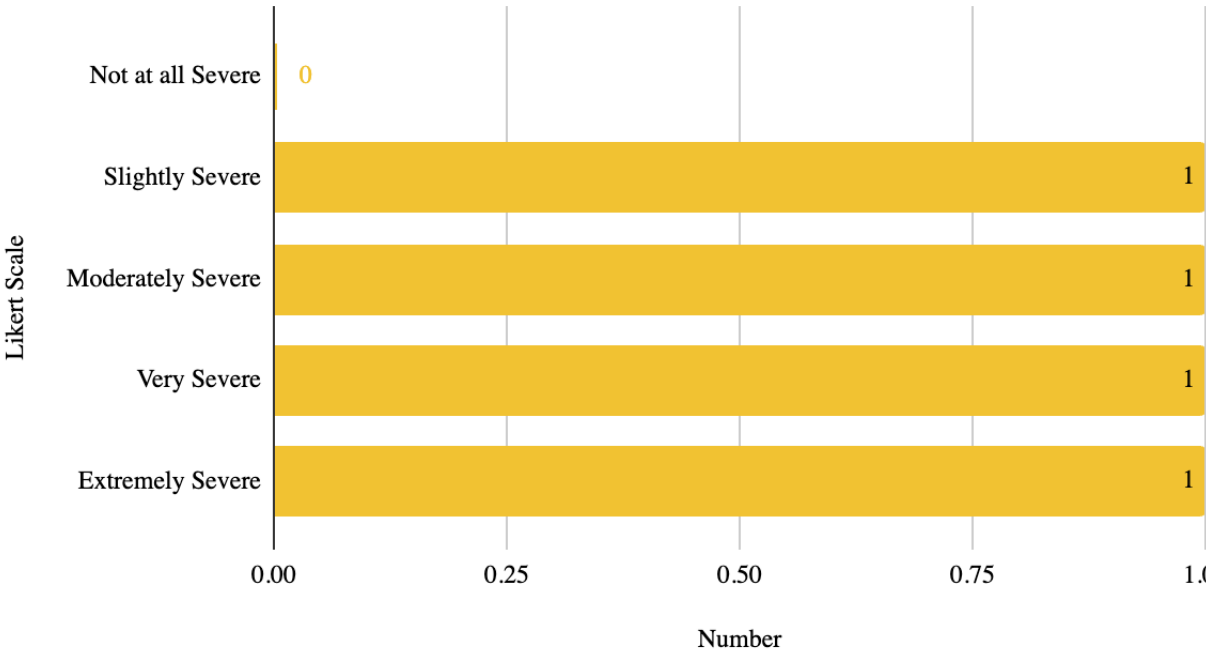


Clinician Survey Results – Firearm Safety

Frequency of Firearm Safety



Severity of Firearm Safety

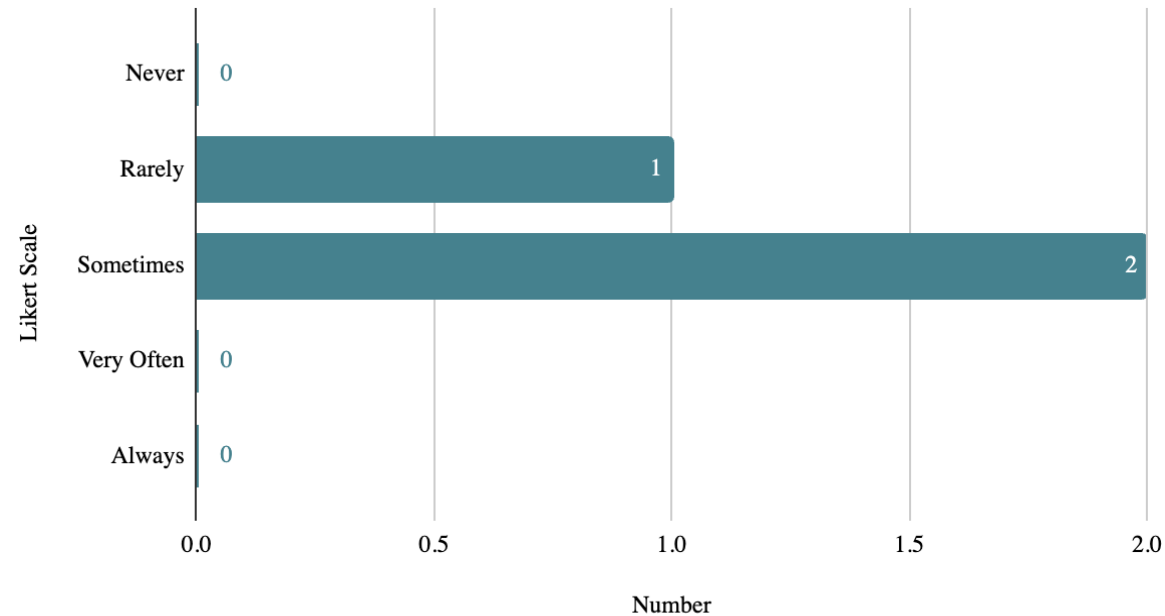


Clinician Survey Results – Other

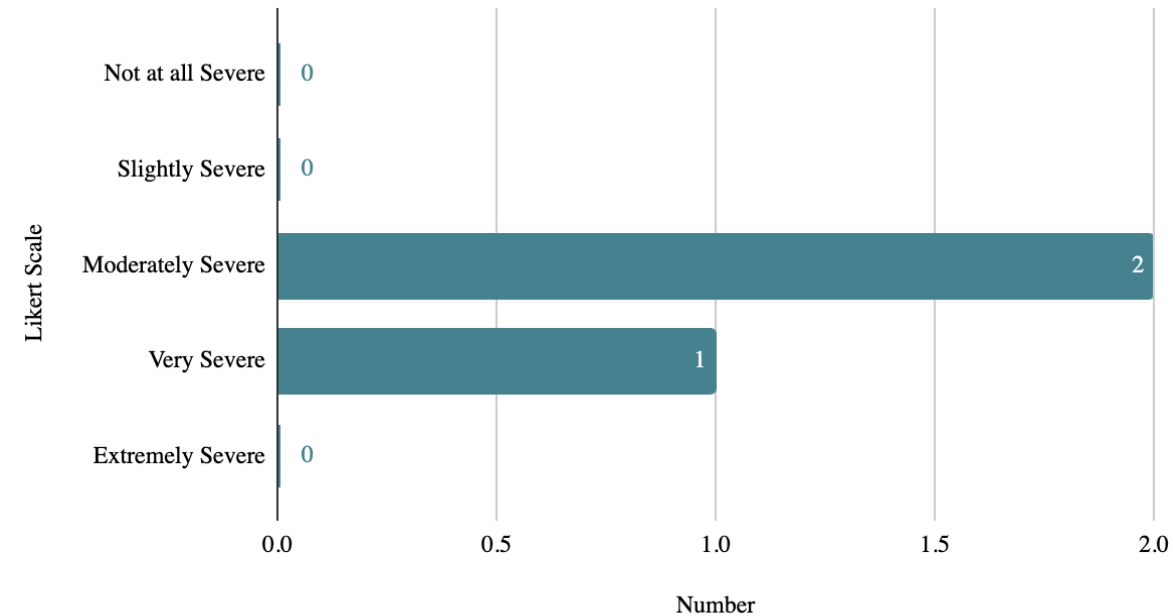
- Safety checks for behavior
- Acute mania
- Self neglect

- Paranoia
- Disrobing
- Hoarding
- Welfare checks

Frequency of Other



Severity of Other



Clinician Interviews, Feedback

- Desire to appropriately prepare families for potential outcomes of a crisis situation
- In a time of crisis it can be difficult for a caregiver to stay calm; modeling de-escalating behaviors can be helpful
- It is reassuring for family members to hear from law enforcement that it is ok for them to call again (especially if things seem to be "normal" by the time help arrives)

Law Enforcement Survey Results

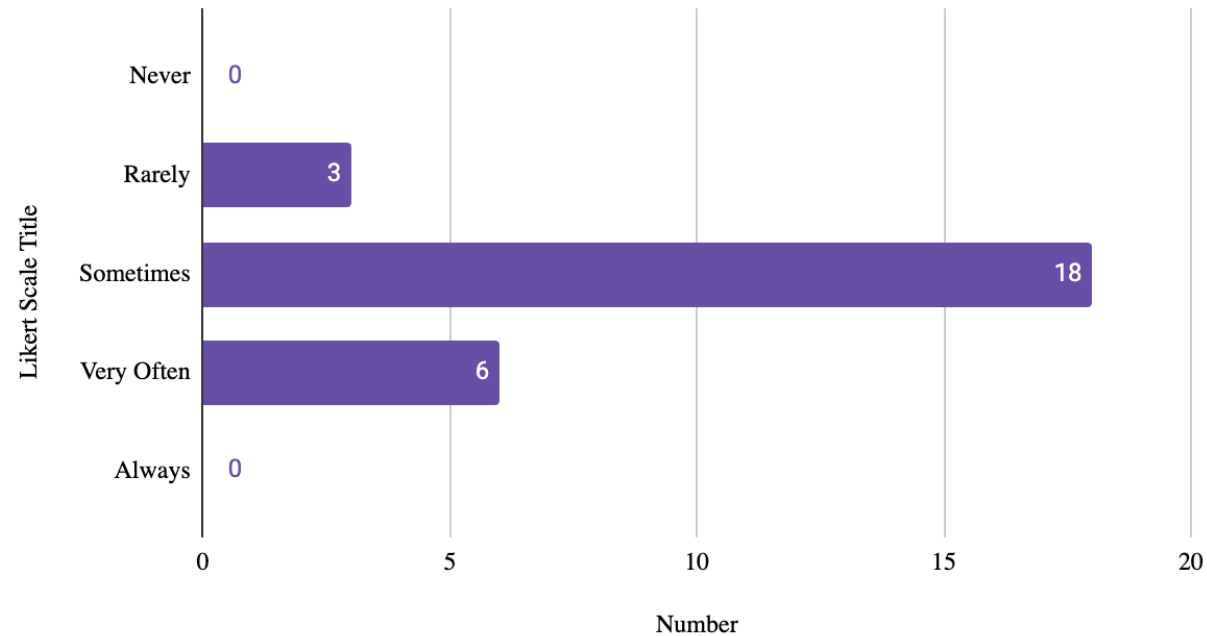
- 28 Completed Surveys
 - 25 Law Enforcement Officers
 - 3 911 Call Center Employees
- Years In Law Enforcement
 - Range: <1 yr to >30 yrs
 - Mean: 13.34 years



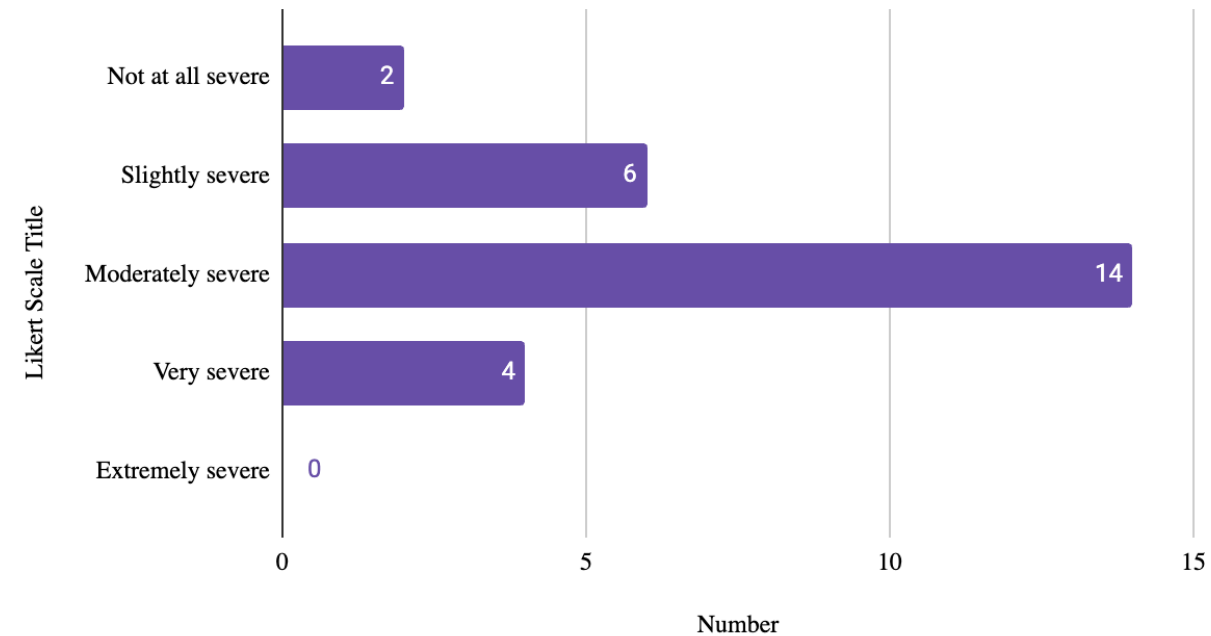
Law Enforcement Survey Results - Wandering



Frequency of Wandering

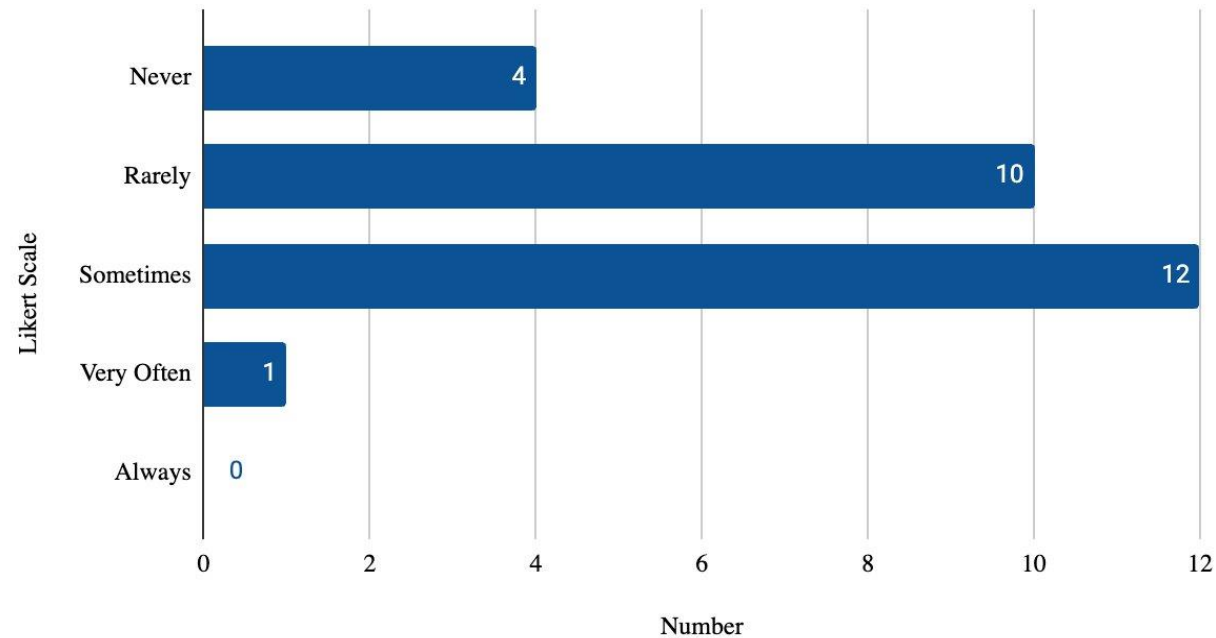


Severity of Wandering

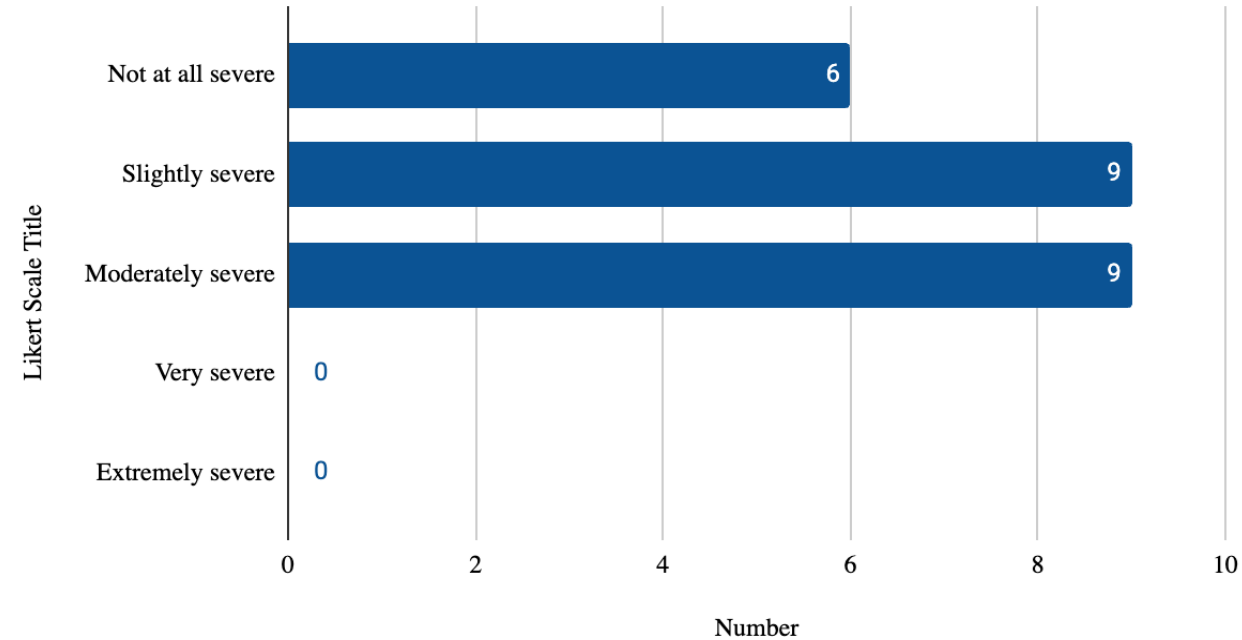


Law Enforcement Survey Results - Trespassing

Frequency of Trespassing

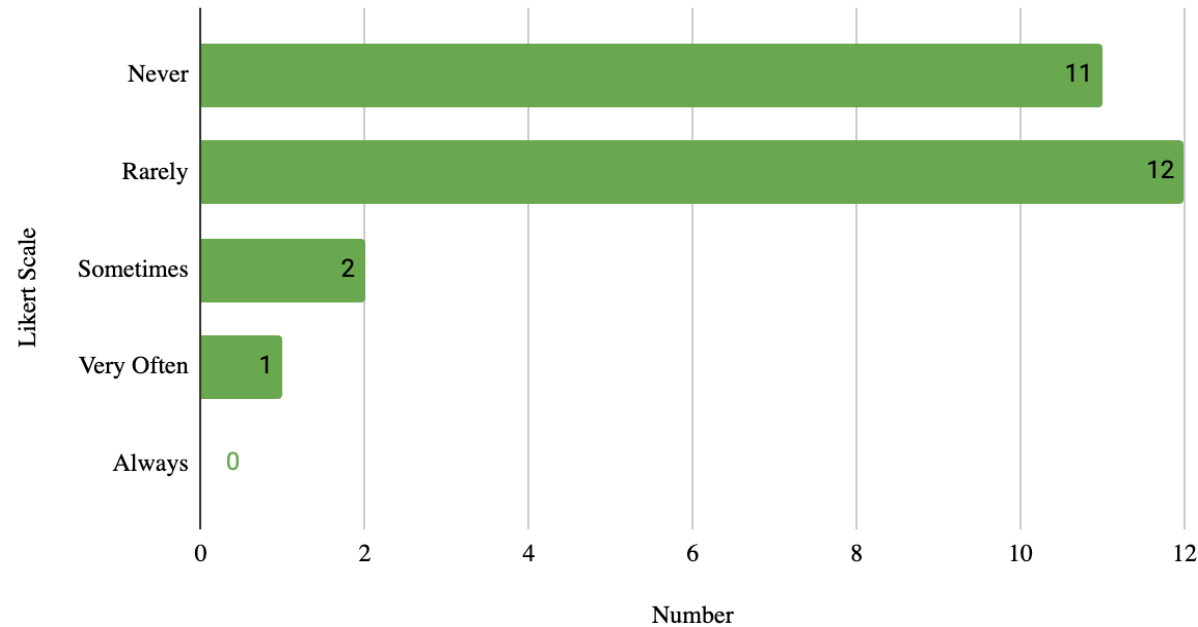


Severity of Trespassing

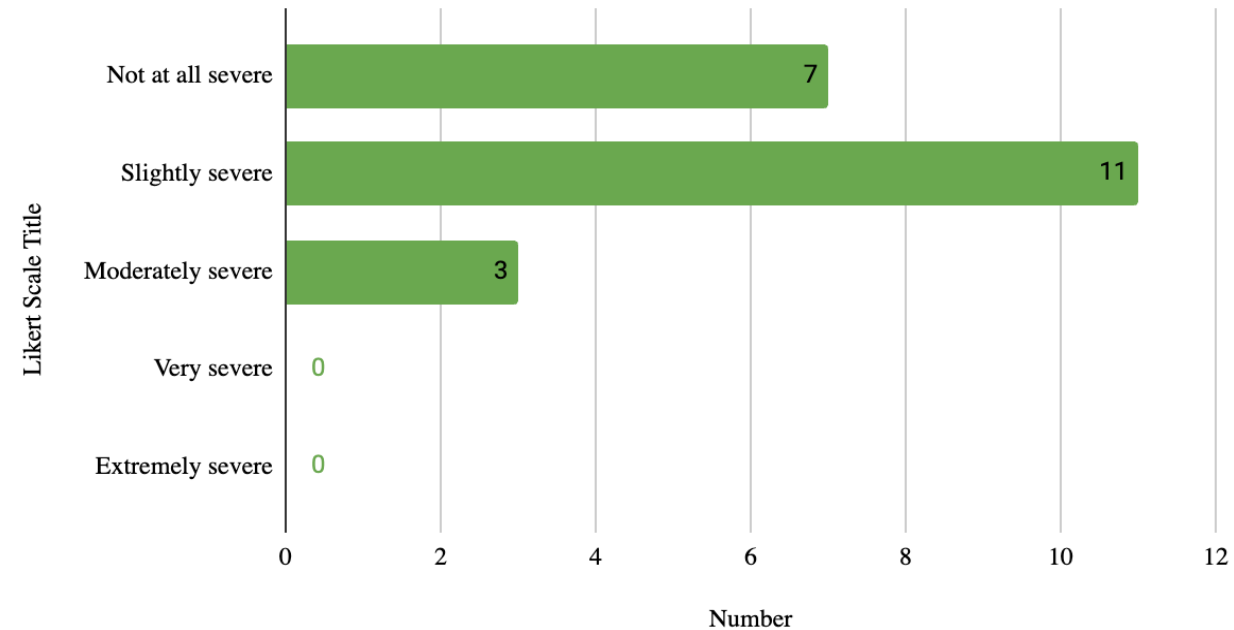


Law Enforcement Survey Results - Shoplifting

Frequency of Shoplifting

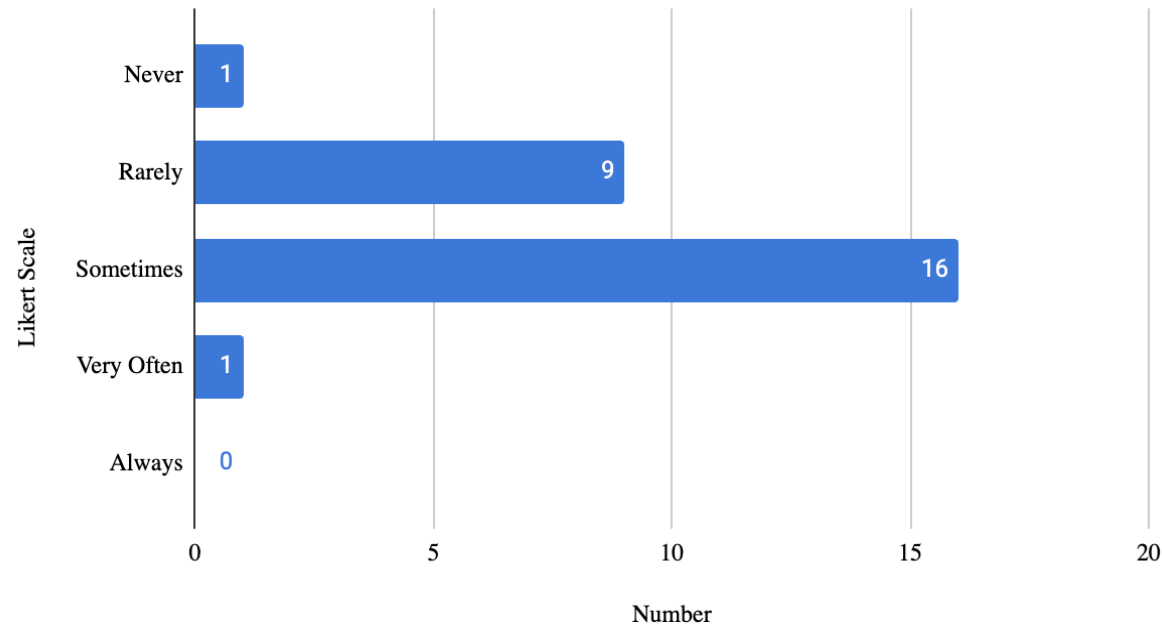


Severity of Shoplifting

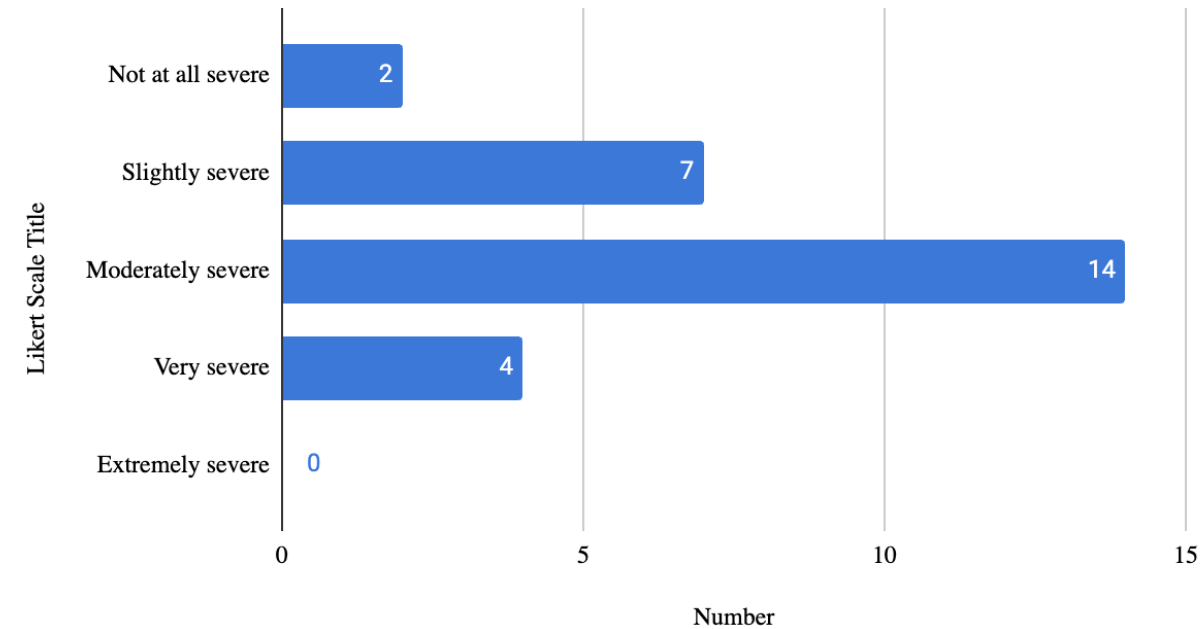


Law Enforcement Survey Results - Threatening Behavior (Including Violence)

Frequency of Threatening Behavior (Including Violence)

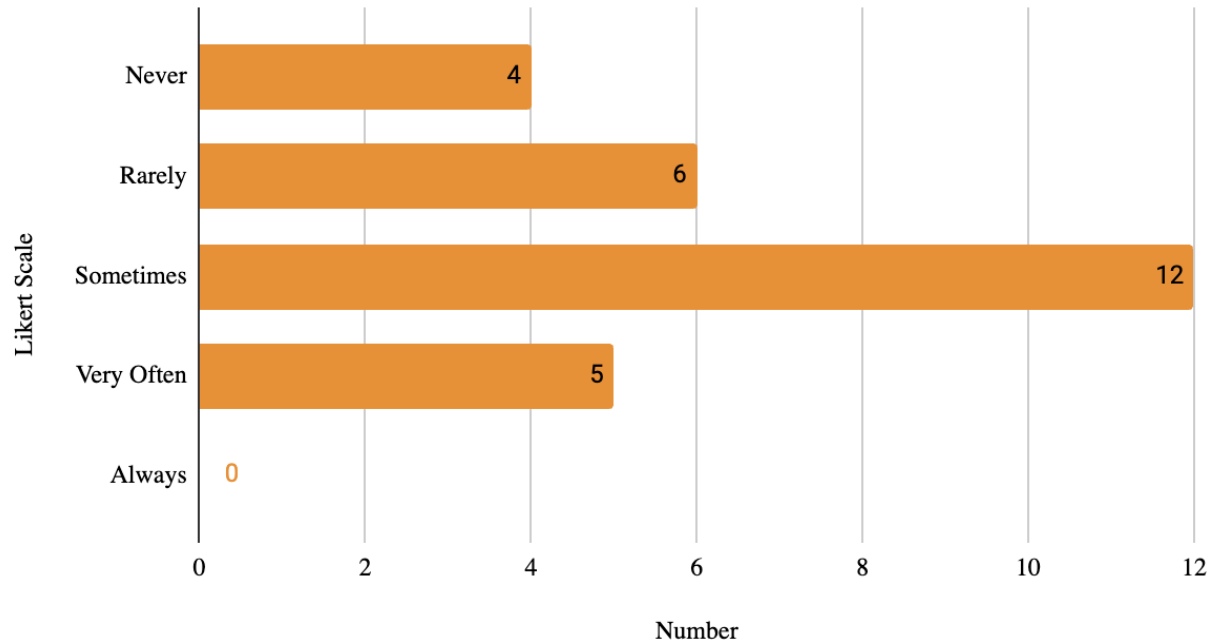


Severity of Threatening Behavior (Including Violence)

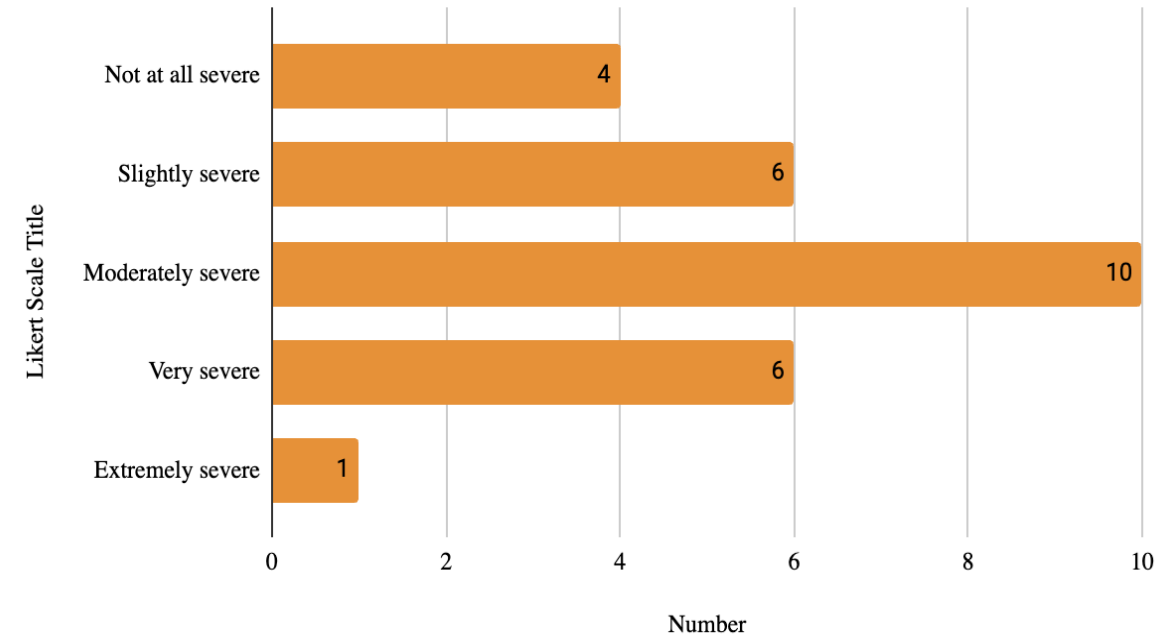


Law Enforcement Survey Results – Financial Abuse or Fraud

Frequency of Financial Abuse or Fraud

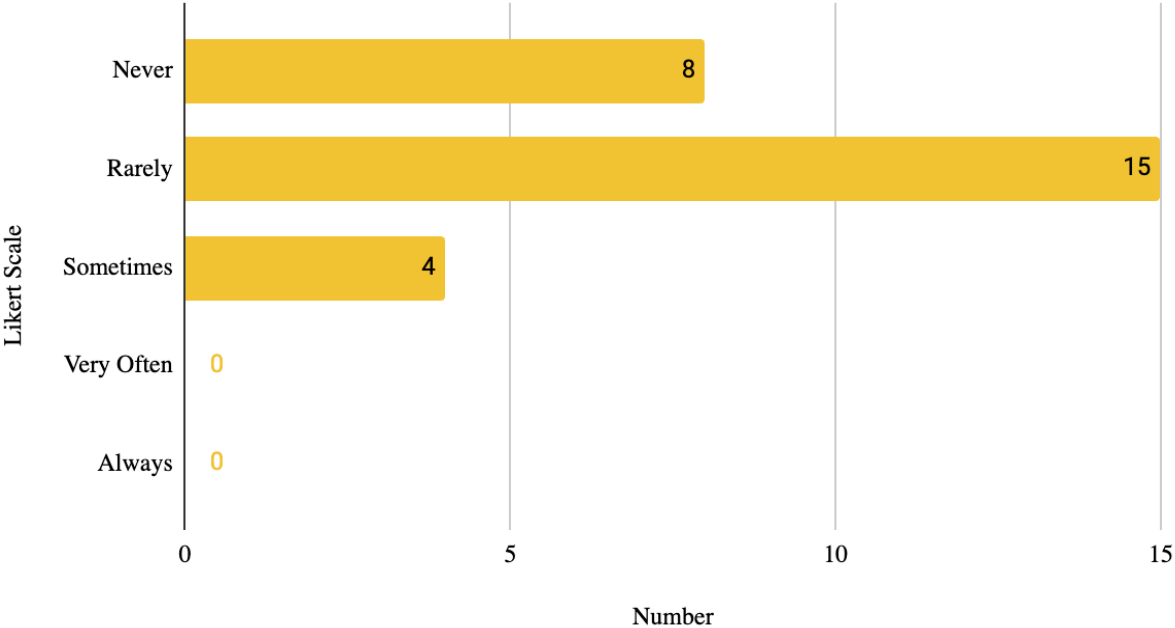


Severity of Financial Abuse or Fraud

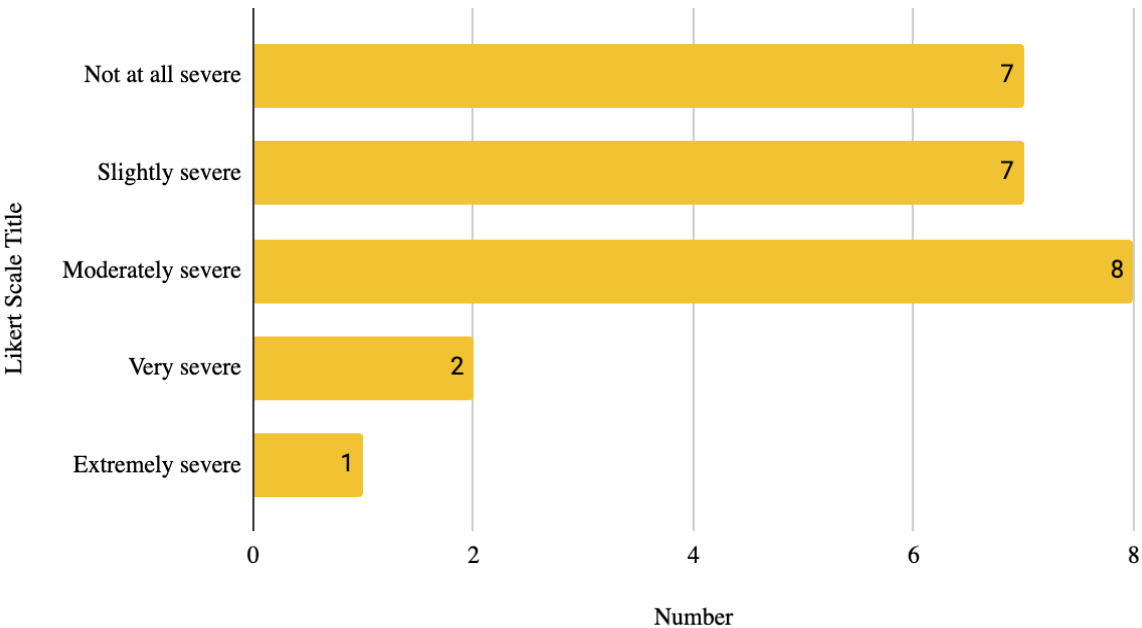


Law Enforcement Survey Results – Firearm Safety Incidences

Frequency of Firearm Safety Incidences



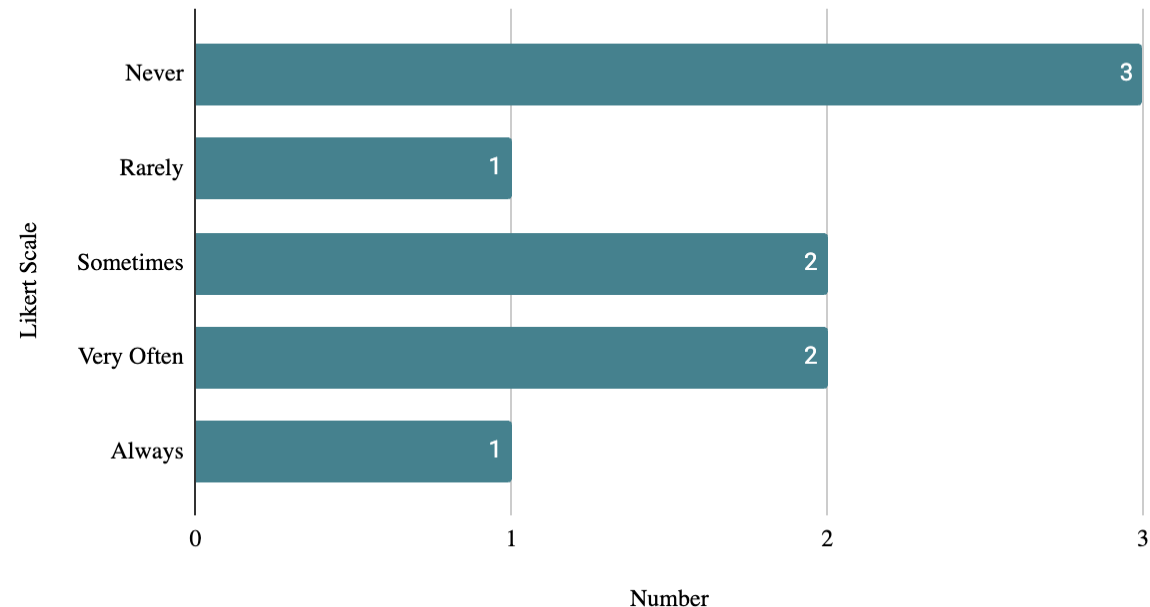
Severity of Firearm Safety Incidences



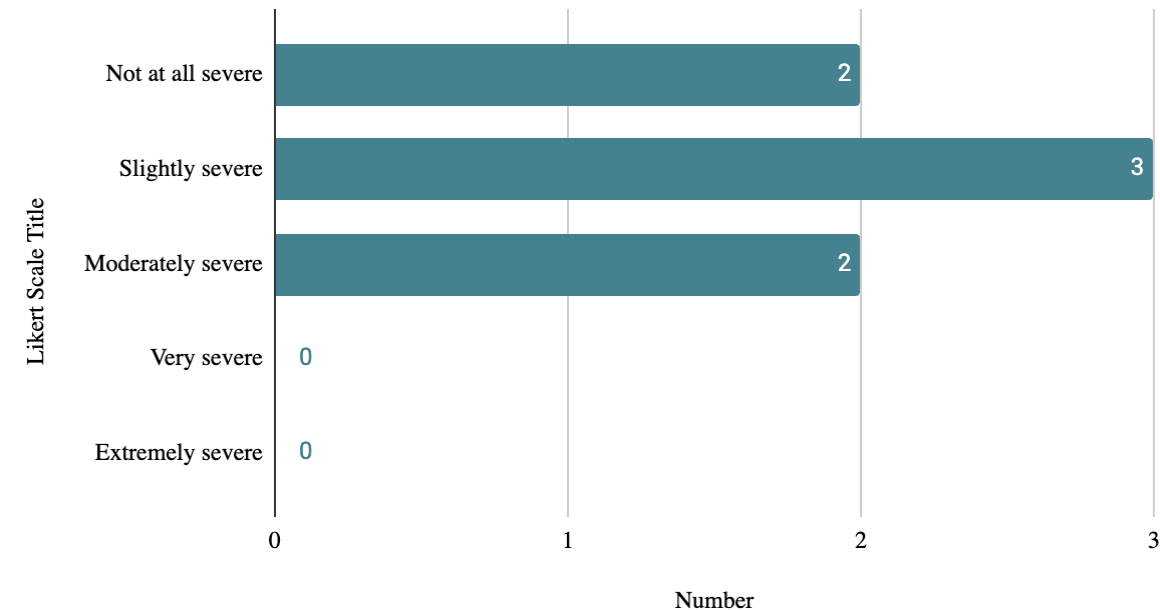
Law Enforcement Survey Results – Other

- Medical assistance
- Assistance with Activities of Daily Living
- Automobile accidents
- Issues with staff at Assisted Living facilities
- Confusion
- Repeated 911 calls
- Fear of family members
- Welfare checks / Family unable to contact

Frequency of Other Incidences



Severity of Other Incidences



Themes from Interviews with Washougal Police Department

- Wanting others to understand abilities and limits of law enforcement to address issues
 - Protecting people's individual rights
 - Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Requirements
- Knowledgeable about issues of capacity & de-escalation
- Most common issues include wandering and violence against caregivers
- Calls often from Adult Family Homes or family members
- Community-Based Policing (pro-active, collaborative)
- Differing opinions on crisis service availability

Themes from Interviews with Tumwater Police Department

- Wanting others to understand abilities and limits of law enforcement to address issues
 - Protecting people's individual rights
 - Preventing trauma
- Most common issues include wandering and violence against caregivers
- Calls often from Adult Family Homes
- Provide resources for people to advocate for themselves
 - Interested in additional resources to directly distribute

Themes from Interviews with 911 Call Center Personnel

- Multiple internal/external databases available to dispatch
 - Historical info for number/address ranges from 90 days – 2 years ago
 - Smart911 allows community members to supply their own information
- Specific protocols to determine which services to dispatch
 - Multiple standard questions for callers
 - Details about the current situation determines whether to send fire, medical, and/or law enforcement

Law Enforcement Feedback

- Encourage families to acquire GPS Trackers, cellphone information
- It is helpful for the family to provide information to 911 & law enforcement that a person in a certain residence has dementia
- Ensure that all caregivers are aware of basic information routinely requested by 911 dispatchers
- Additional information also helpful
 - A person's routines
 - Tips to promote good reactions (or to avoid bad ones)

Development of Safety Packet

- Top safety priorities for both clinicians and law enforcement:
 - Wandering
 - Threatening behavior
 - Financial abuse/fraud
- Potential inserts:
 - Firearm safety
 - Local resources, e.g. Whatcom County Project Lifesaver
- Potential distribution:
 - Clinics, police stations/officers, emergency rooms, community events

Trifold Draft

Alzheimer's Association

Do you or a loved one with Dementia and need urgent support?

The Alzheimer's Association offers a 24/7 Helpline, available 365 days a year, at no cost to you!

1-800-272-3900



Call the 24/7 Helpline day or night to:

- Speak confidentially with master's-level care consultants who can offer support, answer questions, help in a crisis, and provide information on issues people face every day
- Access support and resources for legal, financial, and care decisions
- Local programs and resources
- Receive assistance in your preferred language

www.alz.org



Common Dementia Crises

People with Dementia may become the victims of crimes, or act out due to their confusion. It is important to prepare effectively to keep yourself and your loved ones safe



Wandering

- People with Dementia may leave their home without warning, or walk off during an outing
- It may be helpful to for them to carry a tracker and/or medical alert bracelet



Threatening Behavior & Violence

- People with Dementia may get confused, and may react with anger or violence, especially if scared
- It can help to learn what calms them, and use these methods in a tense moment



Financial Abuse and Fraud

- People with Dementia may fall victim to financial abuse or scams
- Work with your loved one to protect their finances



Issues with Driving

- People with Dementia will lose their ability to drive
- Caregivers should monitor access to vehicles and driving safety

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Avoiding & Preparing for Dementia Crises



If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with Dementia, help your family prepare for any emergencies with this information

WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Trifold Draft

Use Smart911 to Keep First Responders Up to Date

Multiple counties in Washington State, including Clark, King, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties, use Smart911 so families can notify first responders of important information.

Smart911 is free, private, and secure.

Sign up in minutes and help keep your loved ones with Dementia safe in an emergency

- Address Details
 - Help first responders access the home and locate emergency shut offs
- Household & Family Members
 - Make sure all of your family are accounted for
- Medical Information
 - Tell first responders about medical conditions, medications, and important medical equipment
- Animals in the Home
- Emergency Contacts



Smart911®

Smart911.com

or

Download the Smart911 App



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

Dementia Action Collaborative

The Dementia Action Collaborative is a group of public and private partners in Washington State committed to preparing for the growing number of people living with Dementia

Available Resources include:

- **Tip Sheets for Family & Care Partners in multiple languages**
- **Dementia Roadmap**
- **Dementia Legal Family Toolkit**
- **Family Caregiver Learning Portal**

[www.dshs.wa.gov/
altsa/dac/
dementia-friendly-
communities-
resources](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/dac/dementia-friendly-communities-resources)

Local Resources

Local Resources will depend on your county and location. Below are some resources throughout the state or locations to find assistance in your area

- **Area Agencies on Aging**
 - **Information, Resources, and Support for Families & Caregivers**
 - **Information on In-Home & Kinship Caregivers**
 - **Resources for WA CARES & Medicare**
- **Local Alzheimer's Association Chapters & Resources**
- **Local Organizations**



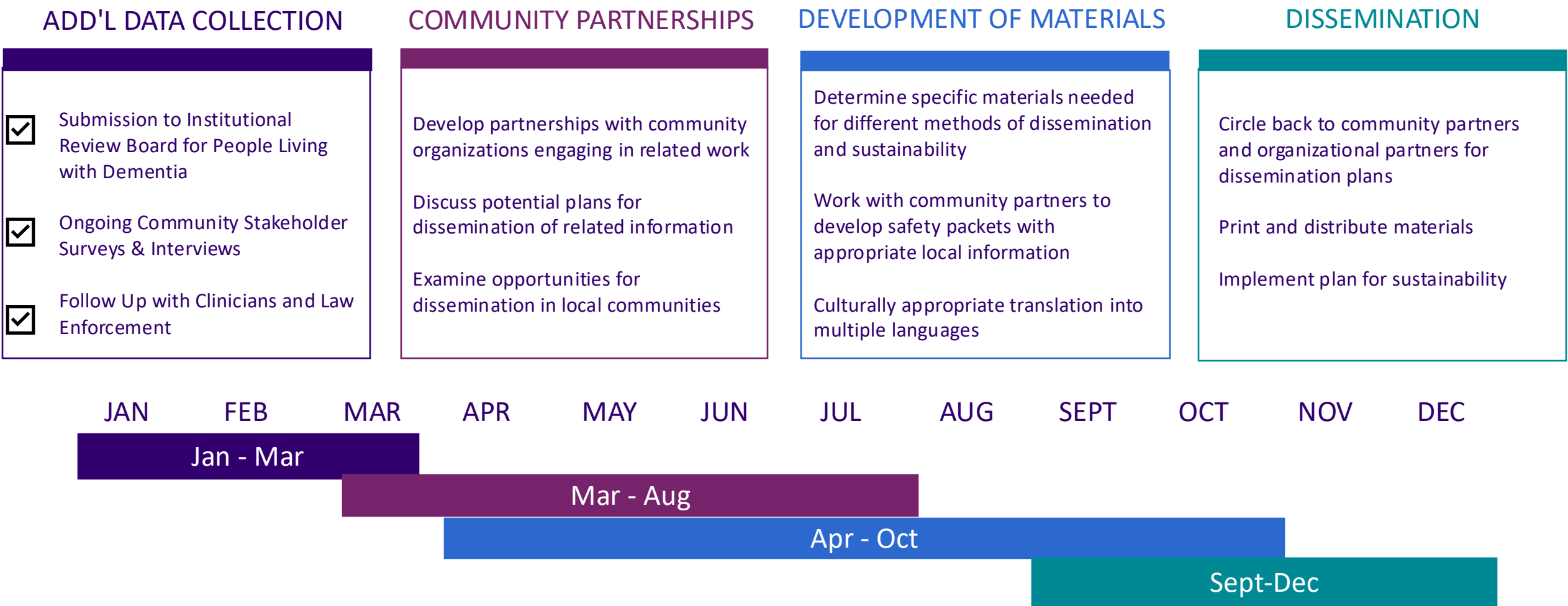
This work was supported by the UW Medicine Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions.

Clinical and Law Enforcement Partnerships to Address Dementia Crises

- Year 2 Plan
 - Additional interviews with community stakeholders
 - Partnerships with other organizations for packet inclusion
 - Multi-lingual/cultural translations
 - Dissemination of materials & community engagement

Clinical and Law Enforcement Partnerships to Address Dementia Crises – Year 2 (2025)

At-a-glance



Questions for ECHO Community: Utility

- Would a trifold safety packet be useful for your practice?
- Do you know if your communities use Smart911? Would it be a useful resource?
- Which languages would be most useful for your communities?

Questions for ECHO Community: Dissemination

- Which distribution methods would you prefer?
 - Printed trifold? Inserts?
 - Paper copies? Website link to electronic version?
 - Would a Smartphrase be helpful?

Additional Feedback from ECHO Community

- What else should be included?
- Any questions/feedback for us to bring back to our law enforcement and community stakeholder partners?

Thank you!

