



## BACKGROUND

As the U.S. population ages, dementia-related behavioral crises such as wandering, aggression, or impaired judgment are leading to more interactions with public safety systems. Police are often the first responders, despite limited dementia-specific training. Behaviors like shoplifting or trespassing may be misinterpreted as criminal activities, increasing the risk of harmful outcomes. There is a critical need for trauma-informed tools and cross-sector training to ensure safer, more appropriate responses.

## METHODS

### SURVEY DATA

**Clinicians:** (n=4; 2 MDs, 1 LICSW, 1 ARNP).

The survey explored the frequency and severity of incidents involving patients with dementia, such as wandering, trespassing, shoplifting, threatening behavior, financial abuse/fraud, and firearm safety concerns.

**Law Enforcement:** (n=28, law enforcement & emergency dispatch employees)

Partnered with the Tumwater and Washougal Police Departments.

**Community Stakeholders** (ongoing; n=3)

Surveys and interviews with community stakeholders are ongoing to assess perceptions of safety, support systems, and unmet needs. Participants included leaders in organizations assisting people living dementia, and individuals with different background, including (but not limited to), working within memory care centers and acting as caretakers for loved ones.

### 911 CALL LOG DATA

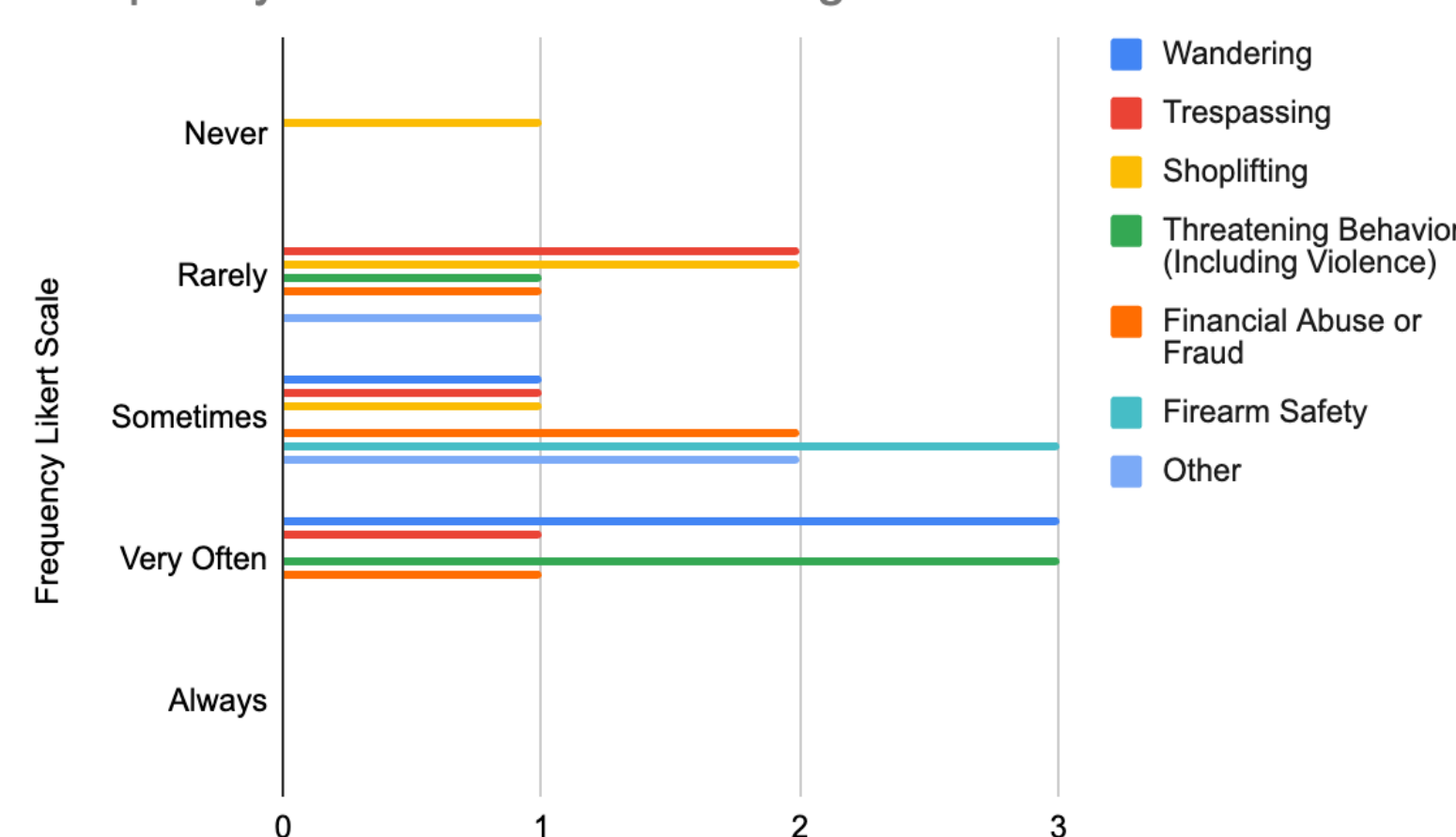
**911 Call Logs:** (n=421; 333 from area 1, n+88 from area 2).

Of these calls, the large majority were unrelated to Dementia (289 or 68.65%). Of those relevant to this study, 48 were for wandering (11.4%), 25 were for driving (5.94%), 18 were for other (4.28%), and 15 were for threatening behavior (including violence) (3.56%)

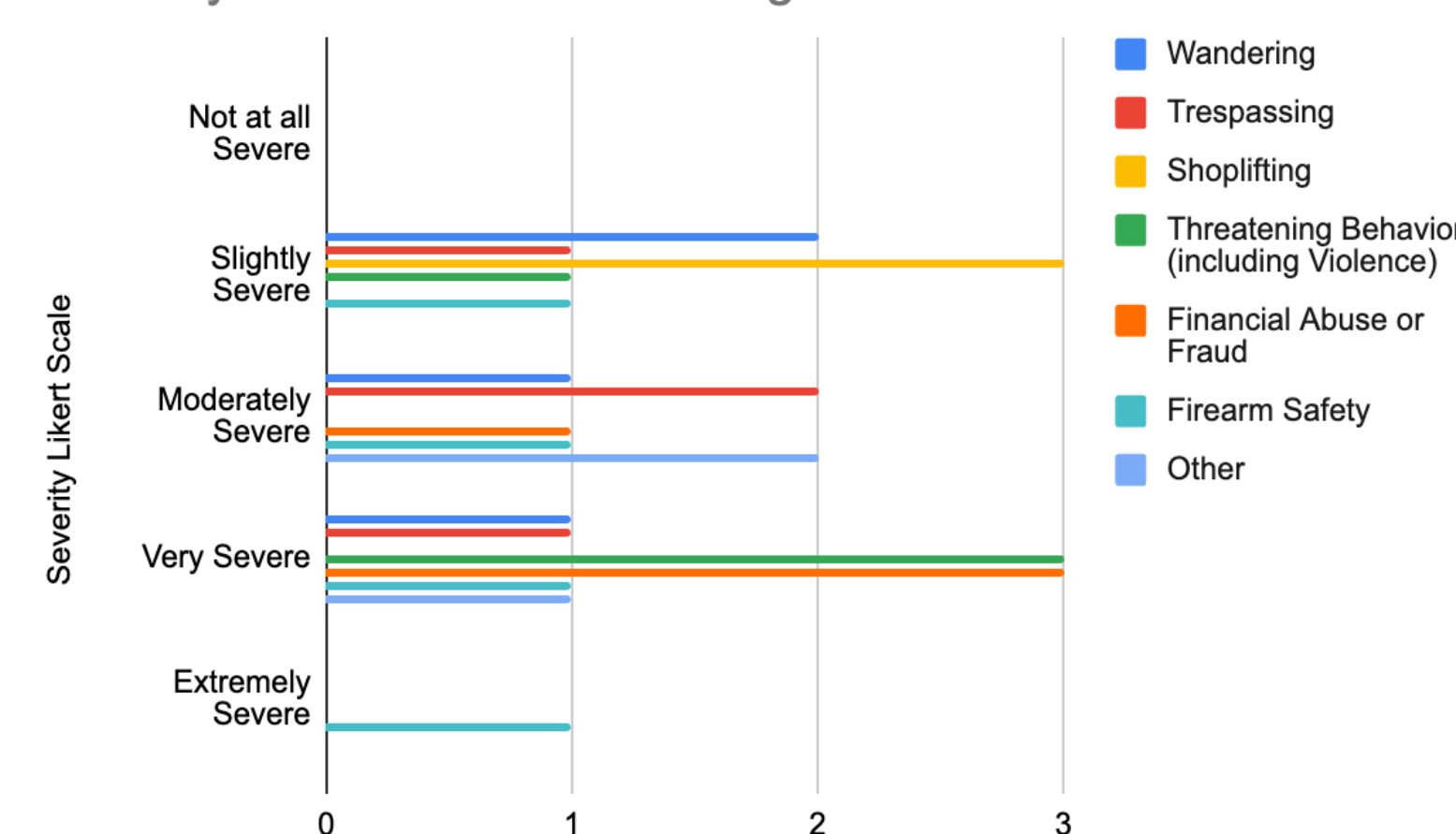
## RESULTS

### Clinician:

Frequency of Incidences According to Clinicians

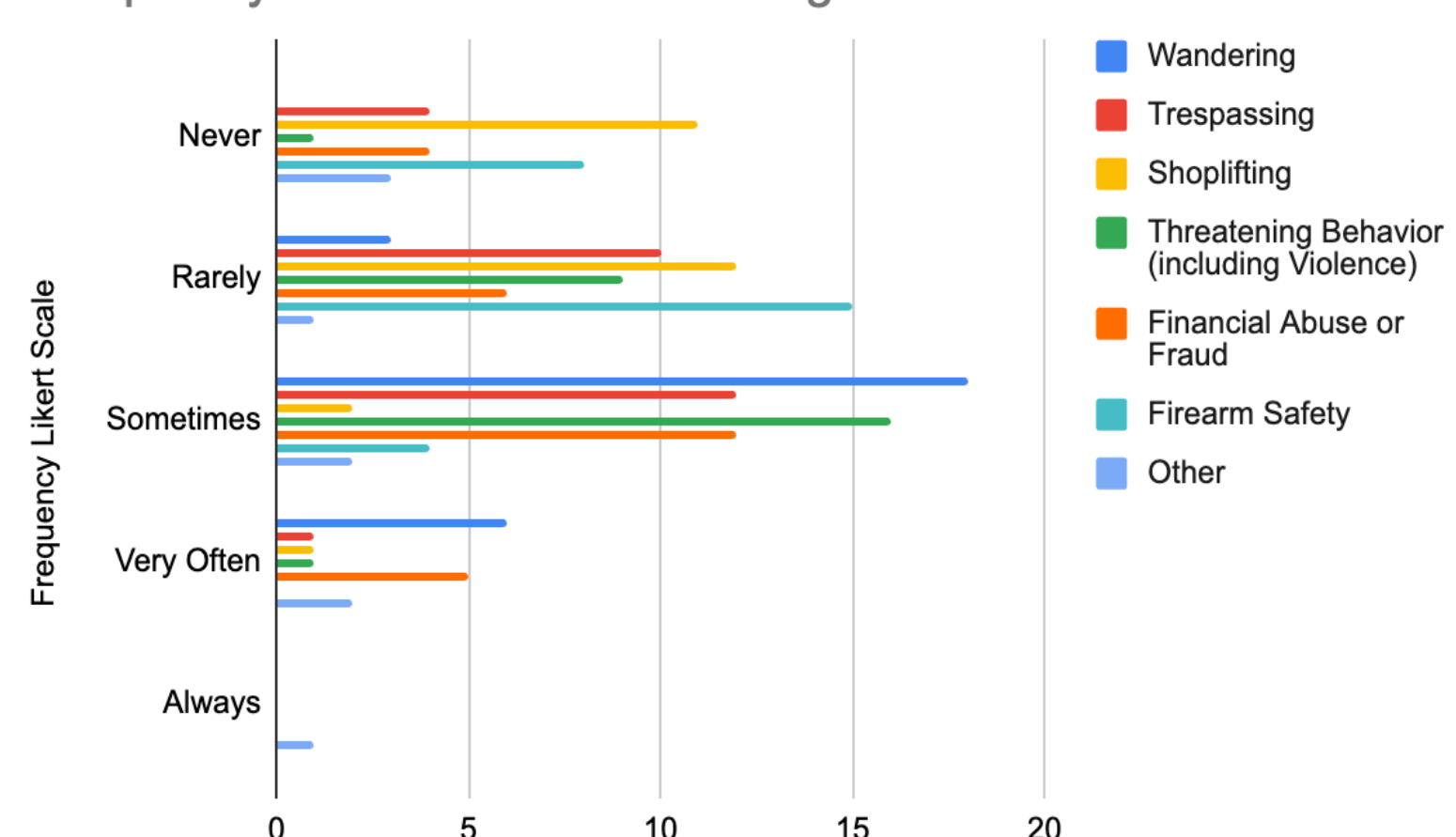


Severity of Incidences According to Clinicians

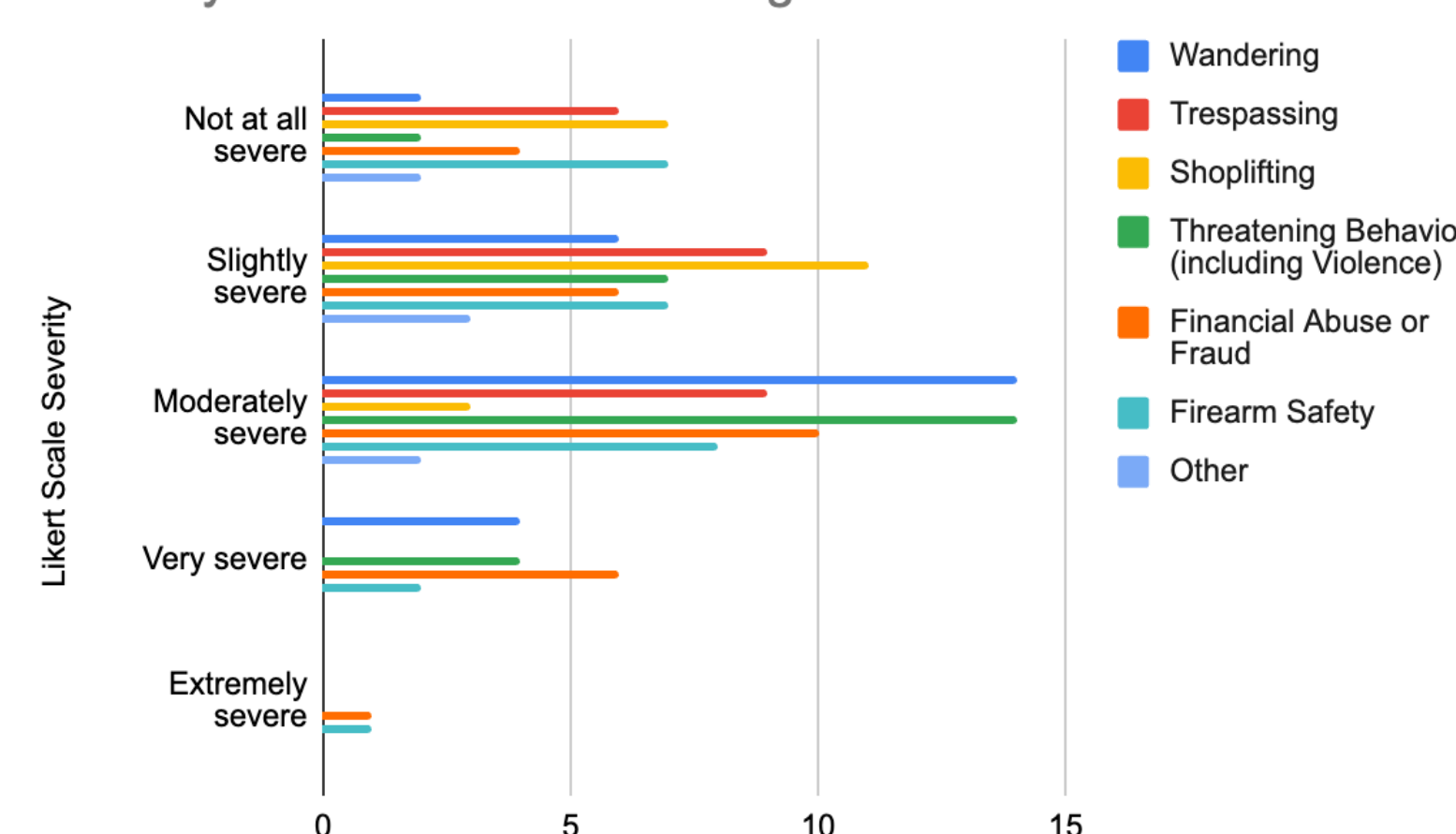


### Law Enforcement:

Frequency of Incidences According to Law Enforcement

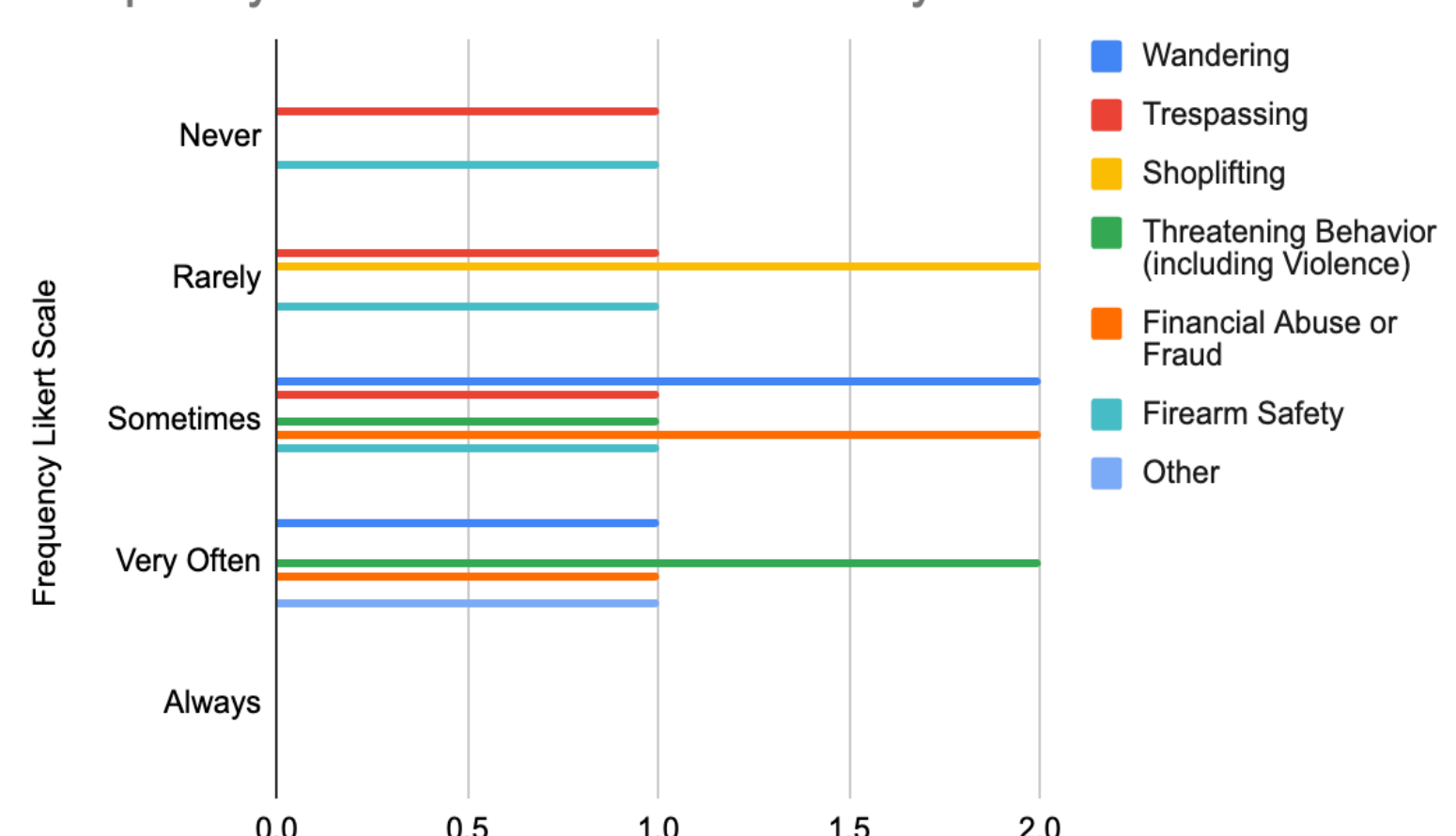


Severity of Incidences According to Law Enforcement

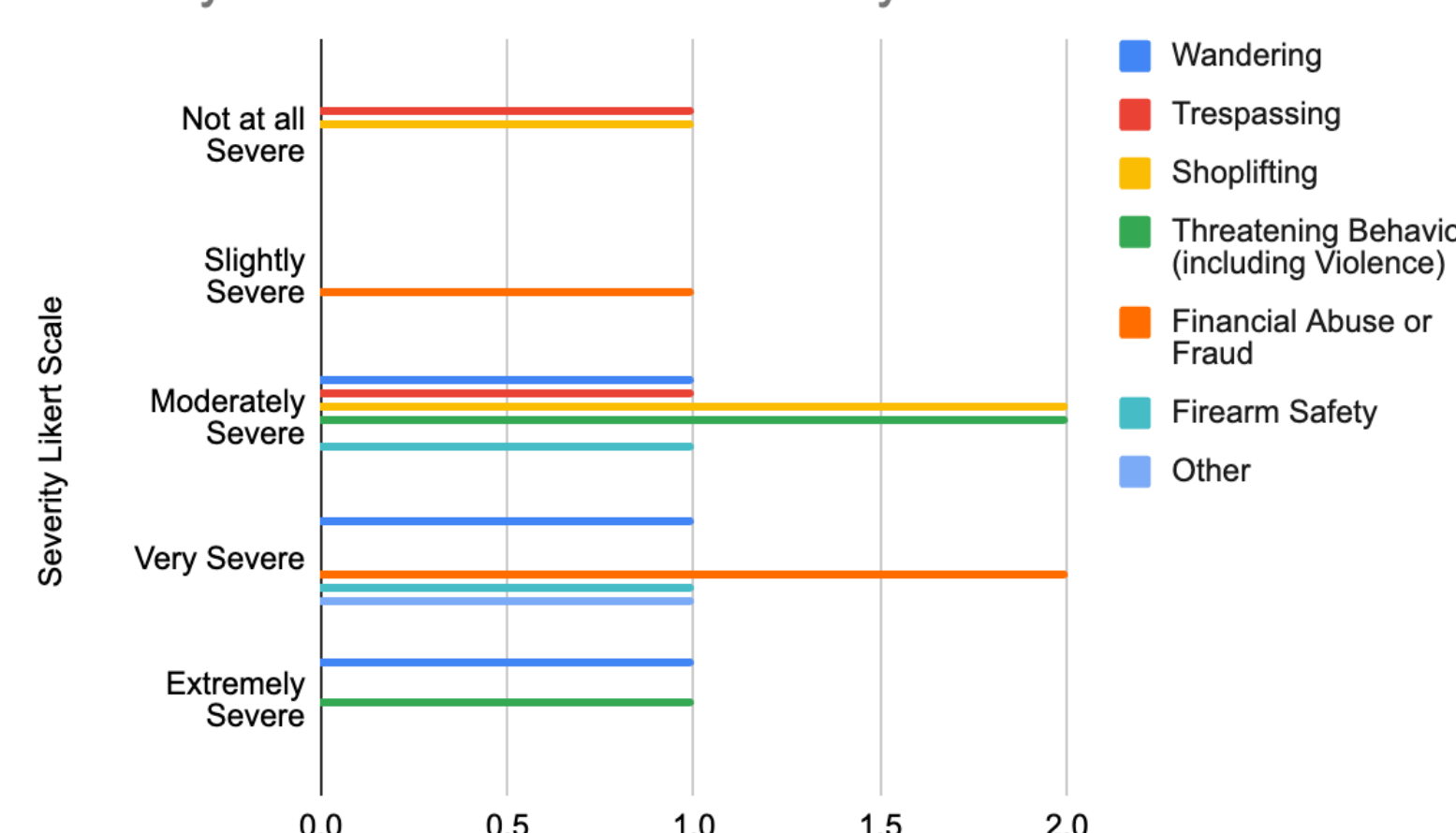


### Community Stakeholders:

Frequency of Incidences for Community Stakeholders



Severity of Incidences for Community Stakeholders



## DISCUSSION

- **Wandering** was the most frequently reported safety concern by all groups, suggesting a need for early identification and coordinated prevention strategies.
- Other shared safety concerns included **threatening behavior, financial abuse/fraud, and unsafe driving (other)**

The alignment of priorities between clinicians and law enforcement suggests a strong opportunity for **cross-sector collaboration, including co-response planning and joint training initiatives**. There is a clear need for **translated, community-tailored safety materials and dissemination through trusted channels**, such as first responders and medical clinics.

## CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE WORK

### CONCLUSIONS

Make translated, culturally sensitive safety materials accessible in multiple languages and available at ERs, clinics, and other healthcare spaces. Engage police officers and other first responders in the distribution of safety materials.

Work closely with community partners for additional dissemination opportunities in local communities and among individuals directly impacted by dementia. Create a single online repository that can be linked to by trusted partners

### FUTURE DIRECTION

Work with first responders to develop additional training opportunities; and extend reach beyond current partnerships with police precincts.

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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