



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice

AT THE HEBREW HOME AT RIVERDALE

**We are pioneers of safe
shelter for people who
experience elder abuse.**

**It is our mission to
champion justice and
dignity for older adults.**

The Weinberg Center team is deeply grateful to all of our colleagues and community partners for showing up this last year and a half with grace, compassion and care.

By its very nature, our work is complex and often heartbreaking, and the contributing factors of the COVID-19 pandemic, isolation, and the unique challenges faced by non-profit skilled nursing homes could have overcome our field. Instead, we all dug deeper into our work, remaining agile in our responses to client needs and strengthening our community partnerships. We were both resilient and loving.

Healing does not happen in isolation – we must rely on each other and our shared mission and values to move forward. This year, I have taken great pride in the work of our team and our colleagues, and I continue to find strength in the enormous courage of our clients.

Thank you to our families, friends and funders, and every member of the RiverSpring Living team. We look forward to continuing our important and necessary work in the coming months and years.

I am so pleased to share some highlights of our work with you.

With warmest regards,

Joy Solomon, Esq.

Director and Managing Attorney, The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice

Vice President, Elder Justice and Spiritual Engagement, RiverSpring Living

Report to Our Community

January 2020 - June 2021



Weinberg Center resident,
Polly, planting flowers in the
Weinberg Center garden.

2020 2021

Resilience during COVID-19

Some team reflections on a year of COVID-19:

"I'm most proud of our team's resilience and how we continued to support our clients, even in the midst of a pandemic."

– Meredith Levine, LMSW, APHJW-C, Elder Justice Specialist

"I really enjoyed helping residents with their absentee ballots. One resident gave a big sigh of relief when I told her why I was visiting. She said she's finally able to relax knowing that her voice would be heard and her vote counted."

– Tristan Sullivan-Wilson, Esq., Staff Attorney



They Decided to Stay (by Joy Solomon, Esq. & Malya Levin, Esq.)

When two clients decided, just a few days before their long-awaited and carefully planned discharges in late March 2020, to extend their stays indefinitely, the phenomenon was unprecedented. Yet the decisions were made in the context of a far greater unprecedented phenomenon: the global Covid-19 pandemic's battering of New York City and its particularly devastating impact on older people.

Their decision to stay, and what unfolded at the Hebrew Home as the pandemic raged, provides unique insight into the lives of elder abuse victims and the experience of a long-term care community facing a collective cultural trauma.

As the discharge date approached, however, the pandemic's impact on the city escalated rapidly. The Manhattan-bound client was informed her case management services would need to be conducted remotely. Many of her beloved local haunts had closed indefinitely. Friends she was excited to visit were afraid to go out. . .[\(read more\)](#)



The Weinberg Center Team showed up to work everyday. In addition to continued work with Weinberg Center shelter residents, the team: volunteered in the Hebrew Home kitchen, served meals, spent time connecting with residents, joined calls with other elder justice professionals across the country, and more...

From left to right: Joy Solomon, Esq., Director and Managing Attorney; Deirdre Lok, Esq., Assistant Director and General Counsel; Malya Levin, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney; Meredith Levine, LMSW, APHJW-C, Elder Justice Specialist; Glendalee Olivera, LMSW ASW-G, Senior Elder Justice Specialist; Tristan Sullivan-Wilson, Esq., Staff Attorney
Not pictured: Wendy Cheong, Public Health Intern

From January 2020 to June 2021, 75 older adults were referred to the Weinberg Center.

We received referrals from all five boroughs of NYC and Westchester County.

The average age of older adults referred is 74 years old.

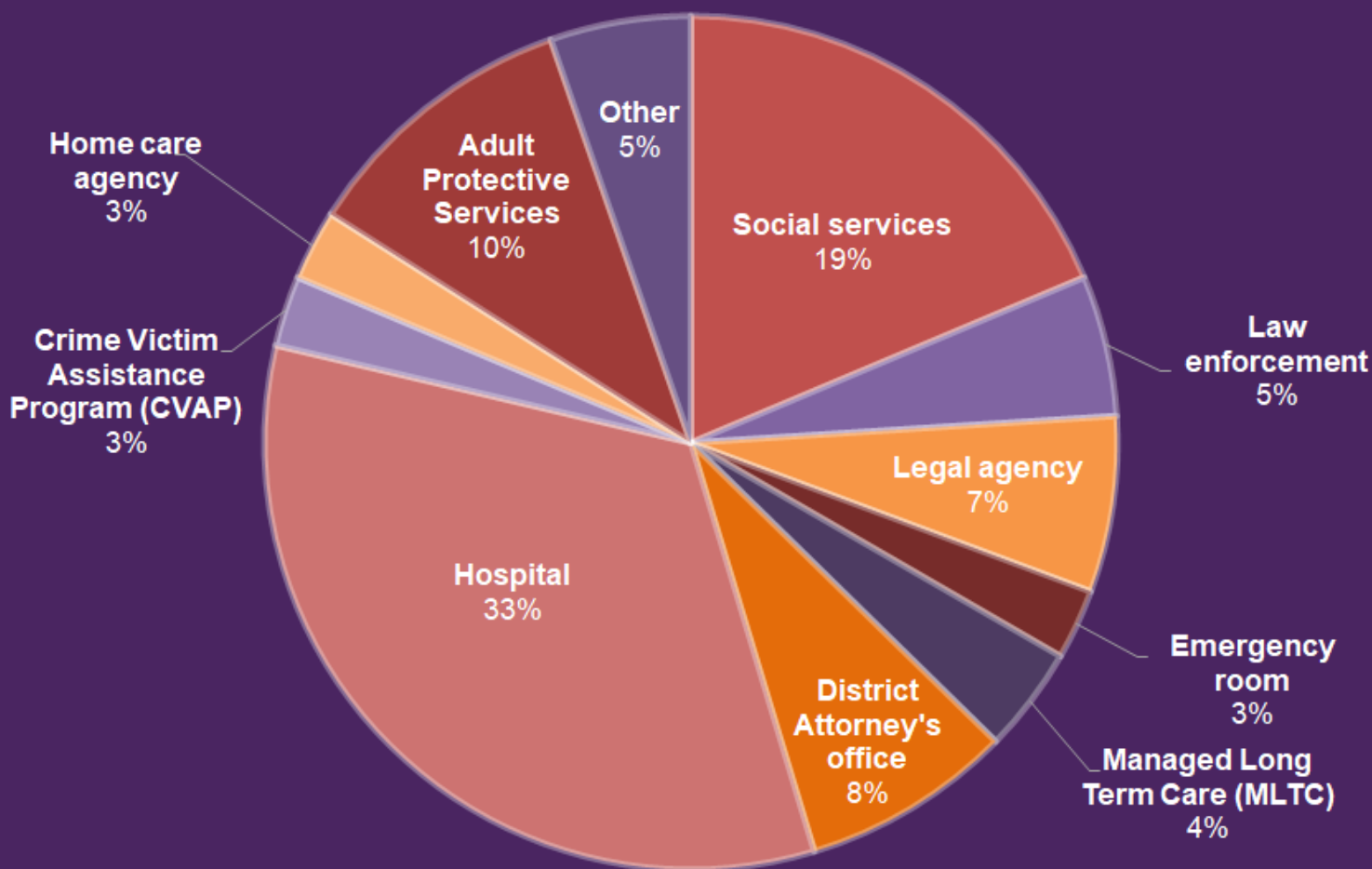
85% of older adults referred are **female**.

This year has made clear the role of all community partners in the coordinated community response to elder abuse.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many service providers were unable to provide in-person services and emergency rooms were at capacity, shelter referrals dropped significantly — meaning older adults were staying in unsafe living situations with people causing them harm.

We all play a vital role in ensuring older adults have access to safe, appropriate resources on their journey to justice.

REFERRALS



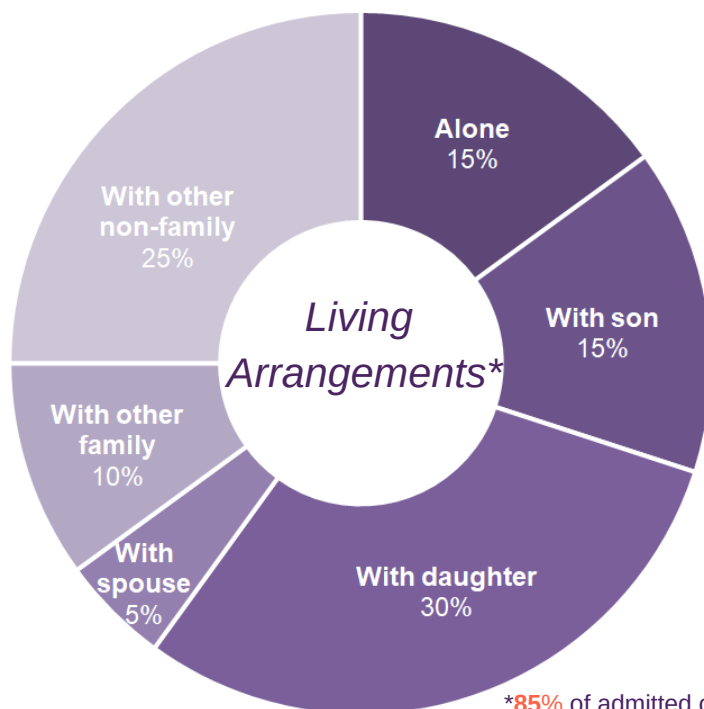
182,057

Since 2005, the Weinberg Center has provided over 180,000 days of shelter to older adults who have experienced abuse.

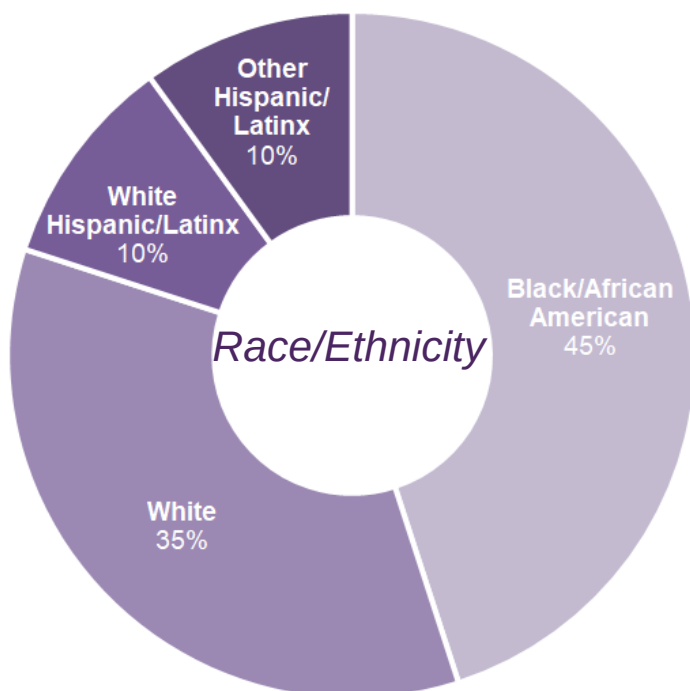
Professionals can make a referral at 800-56-SENIOR (800-567-3646)

ADMISSIONS

Once admitted into shelter, the Weinberg Center's multidisciplinary team develops a **holistic, trauma-informed action plan** based on each client's particular circumstances and goals. Our clients also receive individualized, comprehensive clinical care.



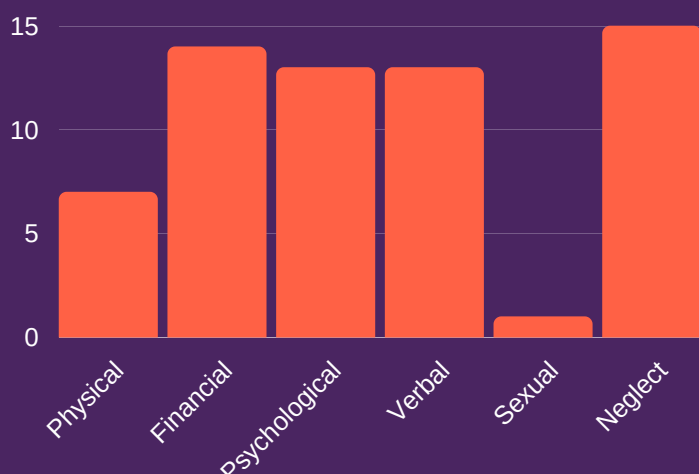
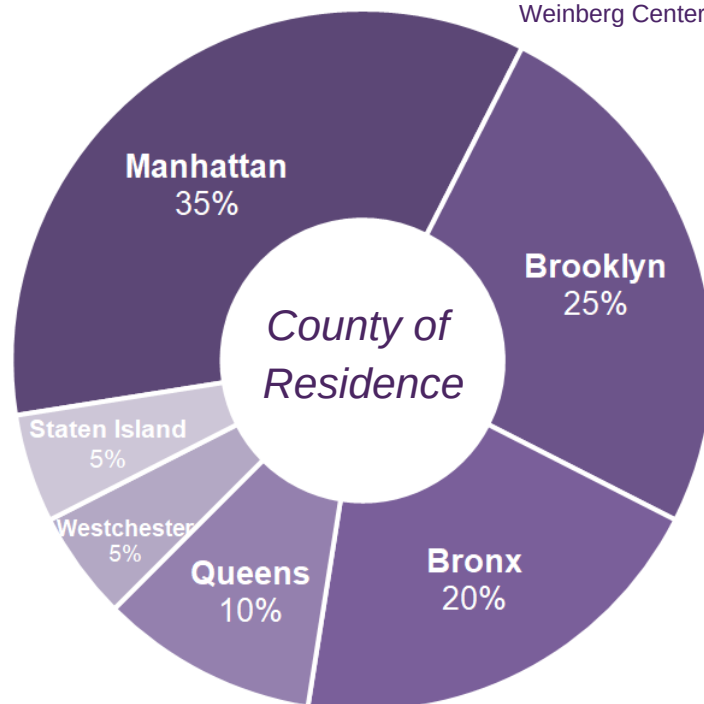
*85% of admitted older adults were living with their alleged abusers when referred to the Weinberg Center.



From January 2020 to June 2021, **20** older adults were admitted into the Weinberg Center.

80% of admitted older adults are **female**.

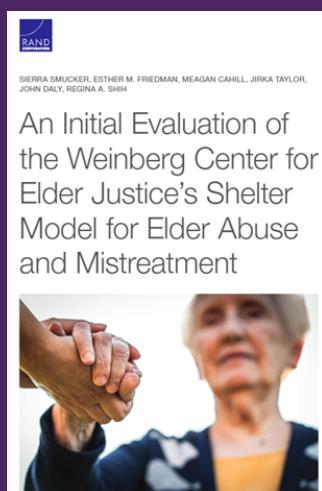
Age range: **60-90**



POLYVICTIMIZATION

It is common for older adults to experience multiple, co-occurring, or sequential types of abuse by one or more abusers. In fact, the large majority (**95%**) of our clients report experiencing more than one type of abuse.

Independent Evaluation of the Weinberg Center Shelter Model by the RAND Corporation



The evaluation results are promising and exciting, highlighting the unique strengths of the shelter's multidisciplinary model and the concomitant unique benefits provided to victims. Initial analysis showed the potential for significant cost savings associated with clients receiving services through the shelter model. . . ([read more](#)).



Trauma-informed Responses to Elder Abuse

A seminal document that frames the importance of trauma-informed responses to elder abuse and shares recommendations for the field regarding education and training, professional practice, research, and policy strategy. . . ([read more](#)).



CLIENT SERVICES

See the impact of the Weinberg Center shelter model through [Carmen's journey to justice](#).

Social services highlights:

- Case management
- Professional testimony on behalf of clients
- Biopsychosocialspiritual and legal evaluations
- Applications for benefits and entitlements, including for housing and Medicaid
- Individual counseling
- Advocacy on behalf of clients to legal, clinical, and other social service professionals

Legal services highlights:

- Orders of protection
- Trauma-informed advance directives
- Guardianship proceedings
- Court room advocacy
- Safety assessments
- Eviction proceedings
- Partnerships with the Judiciary
- Collaboration and leadership in MDTs (multi-disciplinary teams)

15

Publications

12

Awards &
Leadership Positions

47

Training, Outreach
& Education Events

2,021

People Trained

What we are excited about:



SPRING Alliance & the Shelter Movement

The elder abuse shelter movement continues to grow, with **22** communities operating or working to create shelter across **13** states and Canada.

This year, SPRiNG (Shelter Partners: Regional. National. Global.) Alliance partners virtually gathered for the SPRiNG Alliance Symposium. Our partners have worked collaboratively to respond to the changing needs of older adults, creating a Racial Justice Working Group and a dynamic resource: [Detecting Elder Abuse Remotely](#).

Learn more about the SPRiNG Alliance and starting a shelter [here](#).

Elder Justice Resource Guide

The Weinberg Center and the NY State Unified Court System's Division of Policy and Planning co-authored the [Elder Justice Resource Guide](#), the most up to date and user friendly guide of its kind. This Guide provides educational information, best practices, and concrete resources across the state for older adults experiencing abuse. *See Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's [message](#) about the Guide.

Mediation Training

The Weinberg Center team is committed to training professionals to identify and respond to cases of elder abuse. The team has partnered with Elder Decisions® to provide an elder abuse training to all mediators completing the Elder / Adult Family Mediation Training.

End-of-Life and Elder Abuse

The entire Weinberg team has worked to ensure that client wishes and values are reflected in their care at end-of-life, including through: continuing our trauma-informed advance directives initiative, [writing on legal issues](#) regarding surrogate decision making at end-of-life, and celebrating the Elder Justice Specialist, Meredith's advanced palliative and hospice care social worker certification.

Learn more about our work at theweinbergcenter.org

THANK YOU

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