

# Youth in Institutional Settings

DRA's abuse/neglect team is focusing on monitoring the conditions in our state's 13 psychiatric residential treatment facilities and holding oversight agencies accountable for a system that is often harming more than helping the children and youth from Arkansas and around the country that have been sent to these facilities to receive treatment.

The PRTF database has been expanded to include more information on the treatment conditions at each facility. Additions include a new type of report, called Medicaid Inspection of Care Reports, as well as continual updates to information already on the database, including police reports, incident reports, and compliance reports. DRA has reviewed more than 1600 documents related to incidents at or inspections of PRTFs this year. This included 453 serious occurrence reports, 362 police reports, and 850 notices of incidents, compliance reports, and surveys from state agencies.

Specific information on the actual services and treatment provided in facilities is often not readily available in the materials provided by the facilities themselves. DRA believes that individuals and their guardians should have as much information as possible when making decisions about treatment options, and that this information should be readily available and easy to access.



Visit the PRTF database to see more information on the treatment conditions at each residential facility.

# Media Outreach

DRA continues to expand its effort to share information with our community. DRA transitioned our three-day virtual conference to quarterly webinars to better serve people with disabilities, their families, supporters, service providers, and the public. The topics included:

- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment | What Parents of Children with Disabilities Need to Know
- Let's Get to Work | The Intersection of Disability & Employment
- Parents: What You Need to Know About Your Child's IEP
- Understanding the Americans with Disabilities Act

Visit the website to view webinars and trainings.



# Access Authority Litigation

DRA investigated an incident in the state prison system where an individual took his own life. Our investigators discovered that the individual previously tried to take his own life and was allegedly assaulted by prison staff repeatedly. We obtained records from multiple sources, including the Arkansas State Police, the state's crime laboratory, and the Arkansas State Hospital. However, the state prison system refused to provide records to us. DRA filed suit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, (Case No. 4:20-CV-1081) to obtain their records under our federal authority. During this effort, the United States Department of Justice filed a Statement of Interest on DRA's behalf. In an interim decision, the court recognized that federal law "authorizes broad access to records that are relevant to [DRA's] investigation into abuse or neglect." Ultimately DRA and the state prison system achieved a comprehensive resolution, authorizing DRA access to records in this case as well as future cases in which DRA has probable cause to believe an individual has been abused or neglected. The state prison system "did not admit liability and [. . .] settled to bring finality to the litigation." As a result, DRA will have enhanced timely access to records, improving the scope and breadth of our investigations.

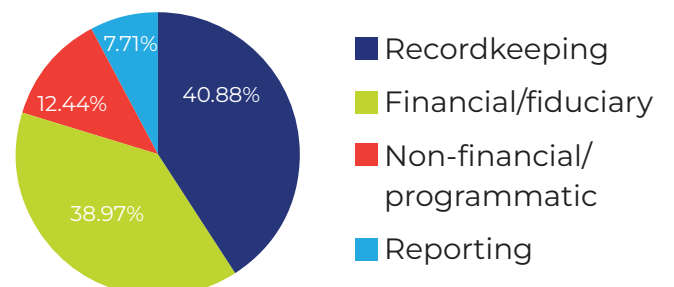
# Representative Payee Overview

At the request of the Social Security Administration, DRA conducts routine payee reviews, educational visits, and reviews based on allegations of payee misconduct. These reviews determine if the selected representative payee is:

- Managing funds so beneficiaries have no unmet needs
- Accounting for all funds received and spent
- Conserving any unspent funds in an appropriate manner
- Complying with mandated accounting and reporting responsibilities

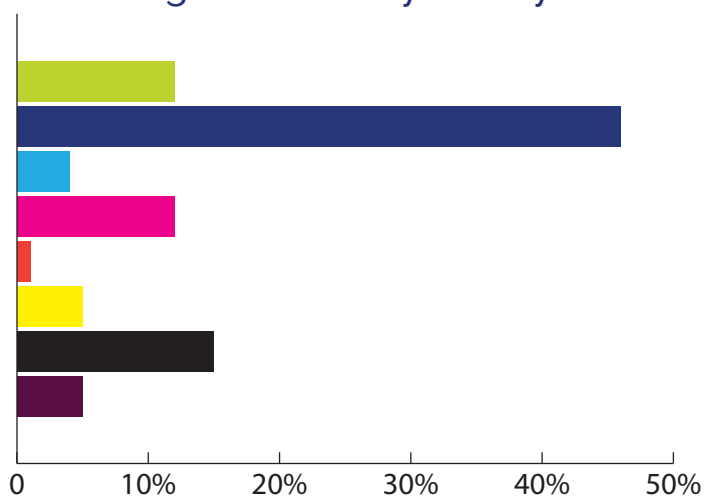
In four years of the Representative Payee program's five-year grant cycle, DRA has completed 152 reviews assigned by SSA.

There are four main types of deficiencies: Financial/fiduciary; non-financial/fiduciary; recordkeeping; and reporting; each containing numerous subtypes.

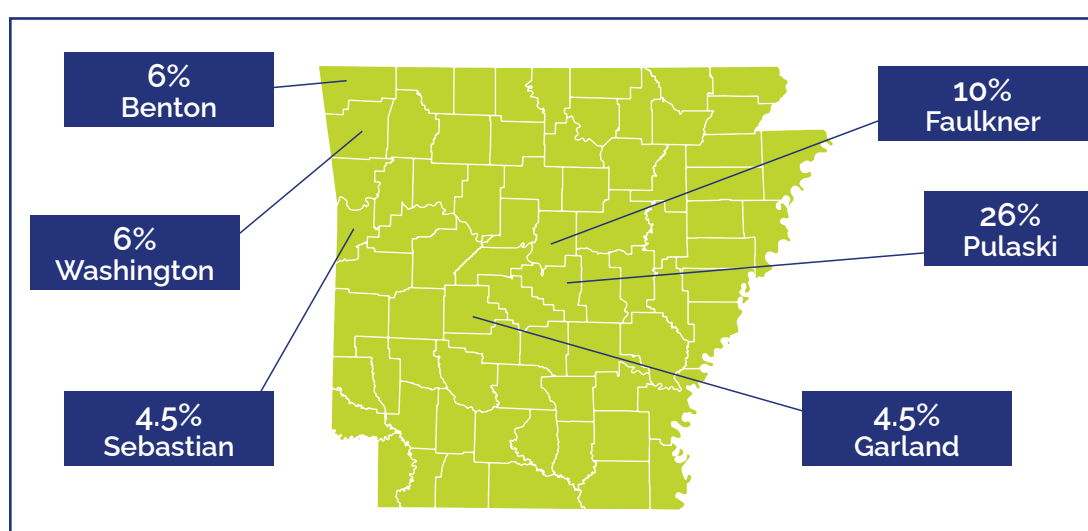


# DRA by the Numbers

Percentage of Cases by Priority



- Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation: 12% of cases
- Employment/Education: 46% of cases (68% of the cases were education cases and 32% were CAP/PABSS cases (Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation))
- Youth Institutionalization: 4% of cases
- Medicaid/PASSE: 12% of cases
- Voting: 1% of cases
- Self-advocacy/Guardianship: 5% of cases
- Outreach/Education: 15% of cases (73% of these cases were ADA/access cases)
- Did not fit a priority but was taken as a case: 5%



# Most Calls by County

60 Counties Requested Service

45% of calls came from urban counties