



Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Prevent and Disrupt Transnational Elder Fraud

Goal Leader(s):

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Overview

Goal Statement

Reduce the impact of transnational fraud schemes on older Americans. Through increased disruption and coordination among government and private stakeholders, and outreach to older Americans, the Department of Justice and its law enforcement partners will reduce the devastating effects of transnational elder fraud schemes.

By September 30, 2021, 90% of the U.S. Attorney's Offices (USAOs) will file an elder fraud case or take other action to disrupt elder fraud and 100% of the USAOs will conduct elder fraud outreach. The Department will conduct a least 375 elder fraud-related outreach events for state and/or local government officials (including law enforcement and/or protective and social services); 275 elder fraud-related outreach events with senior citizens and/or organizations representing seniors; and over 155 elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives.

Challenges

- Transnational elder fraud schemes pose a serious threat to the financial security of older Americans.
- Through tech-support, government-imposter, lottery, romance and other types of schemes, fraudsters solicit and extort at least \$3 billion a year from seniors. And such fraud is on the rise – more seniors are reporting being the targets of fraud than at any prior time.
- This trend is driven in large part by transnational criminal organizations, which are committing significant resources and technological tools to increase the effectiveness of their schemes.
- Seniors, consumer groups, private industry, and state and local law enforcement have not received a consistent stream of information about how to identify and stop the progress of transnational elder fraud schemes.
- Inconsistent enforcement attention to elder fraud perpetrators and facilitators across the U.S. has allowed transnational elder fraud schemes to profit and proliferate.

Overview Cont.

Opportunity

- The newly assigned elder justice coordinators (EJCs) designated in each U.S. Attorney's office across the country have been directed to conduct extensive outreach in their respective districts, providing the channel through which comprehensive elder fraud prevention and disruption messaging can flow to local communities. EJCs also work together in a nationwide network to achieve a consistent approach.
- Prioritization of elder fraud in the Department of Justice enables and encourages prosecutors and law enforcement to devote additional resources to investigating, disrupting, and prosecuting transnational elder fraud schemes.

Elder Fraud Leadership & Implementation Team

Core Leadership Team

- Civil Division (CIV) Consumer Protection Branch
- Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EUSAO)
- Office of the Deputy Attorney General (ODAG)

Other Participating DOJ Components

- Antitrust Division (ATR)
- CIV Fraud Section
- Civil Rights Division (CRT)
- Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS)
- Criminal Division (CRM)
- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
- Office of Legal Policy (OLP)
- U.S. Attorneys Offices (USAOs), Elder Justice Coordinators

Other Federal Partners

- Defense Criminal Investigative Service
- Federal Trade Commission
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation
- Senior Corps
- Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General
- Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- U.S. Secret Service

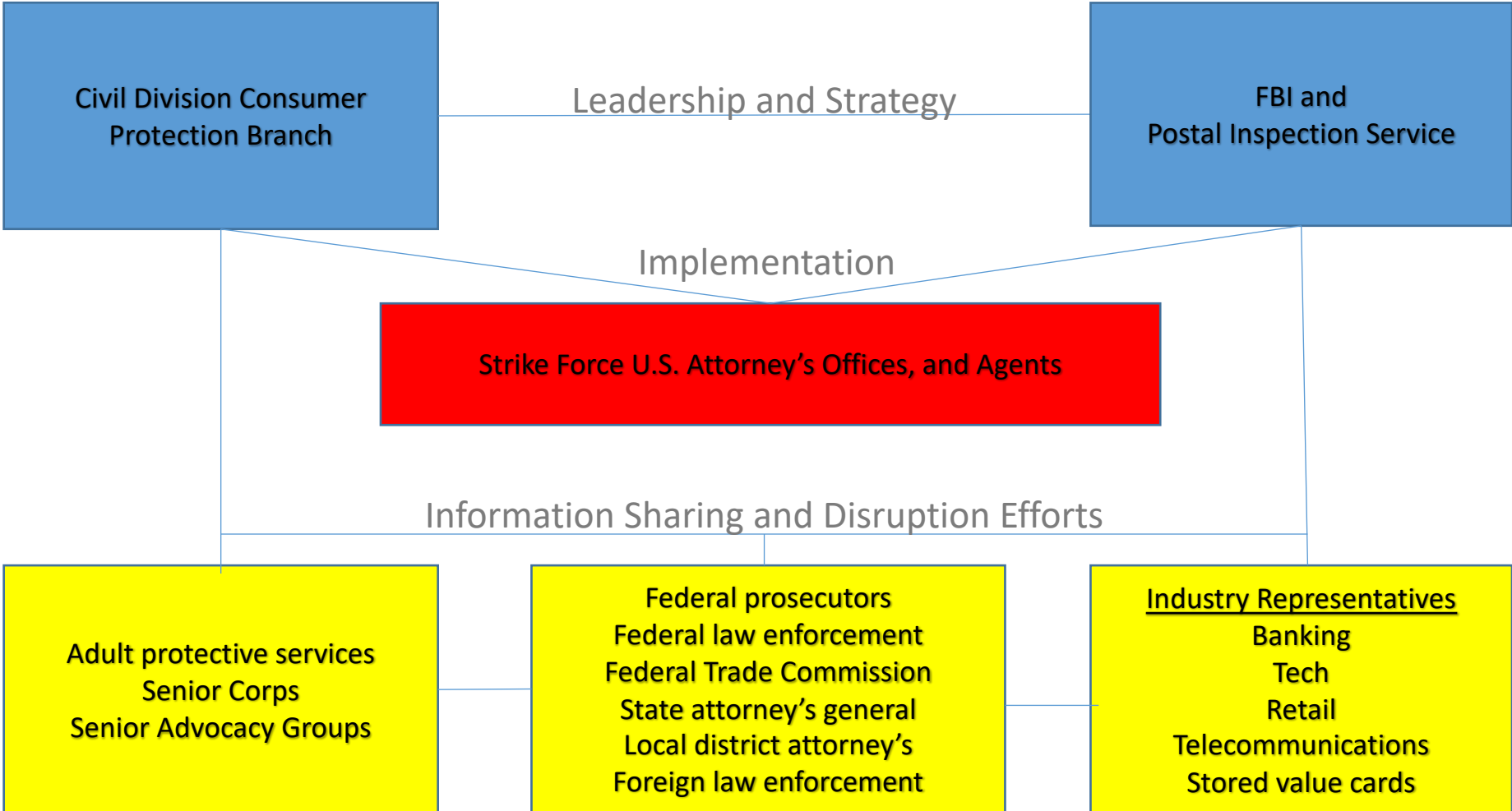
Elder Fraud Leadership & Implementation Team

Stakeholders

- Adult protective services officials
- Consumer and senior advocacy organizations
- Foreign law enforcement
- Industry representatives from banking, tech, telecommunications, retail, and stored value card industries
- State Attorneys General, local district attorneys, state and local police forces

Strike Force Leadership & Implementation Team

A prominent driver of the Department's priority goal is the Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force. Components include centralized leadership and strategy components (blue), strike force personnel (red), and stakeholders benefitting from information sharing and disruption efforts (yellow).



Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force Participants

Strike Force Districts are federal districts in which the U.S. Attorney's Office and local law enforcement have been designated to focus on transnational elder fraud based upon high levels of enforcement, high concentrations of local money mule activity, and high volume of effective outreach efforts.

- Central District of California
- Eastern District of New York
- Middle District of Florida
- Northern District of Georgia
- Southern District of Florida
- Southern District of Texas

Participating federal law enforcement agencies are those that are working in partnership with the strike force to investigate and prosecute transnational elder fraud.

- Defense Criminal Investigative Service
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation
- Postal Inspection Service
- Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General
- Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
- U.S. Secret Service

Goal Structure & Strategies

STRATEGIES	GOALS	RISKS <i>(External Factors that may affect goal achievement)</i>
<p>Strategy 1: Identify and disrupt elder fraud-related activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the impact of transnational fraud schemes on older Americans, through increased disruption of elder fraud activities. <p>Strategy 2: Conduct elder fraud outreach events for older Americans, industry groups, and state and local government officials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate seniors, organizations representing seniors, state and local government officials, and industry groups on the effects of transnational elder fraud schemes through outreach. 	<p>Strategy 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal: By 2021, 90% of the U.S Attorneys’ Offices will file an elder fraud case or take action to disrupt elder fraud. ➤ Performance Indicator: Percentage of USAOs that filed an elder fraud case or took other action to disrupt elder fraud <p>Strategy 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal: By 2021, all of the USAOs will conduct elder fraud outreach. ➤ Performance Indicator: Percentage of USAOs that conducted elder fraud outreach By 2021, the Department will conduct 375 elder fraud-related outreach events with state and/or local government officials. ➤ Performance Indicator: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with state and/or local government officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of alternative, more effective methods or strategies for disrupting elder fraud schemes and educating the public, requiring the Department to alter its methods or strategies. ▪ Inability to secure effective foreign law enforcement cooperation to investigate and extradite kingpins and other operators of transnational elder fraud schemes. ▪ Perpetrator use of new and emerging technologies and tactics to thwart law enforcement efforts to track, disrupt, investigate, and prosecute schemes

Goal Structure & Strategies

STRATEGIES	GOALS	RISKS <i>(External Factors that may affect goal achievement)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2021, the Department will conduct 275 elder fraud-related outreach events with seniors and/or organizations representing seniors. ➤ Performance Indicator: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with seniors and/or organizations representing seniors • By 2021, the Department will conduct 155 elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives. ➤ Performance Indicator: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives 	

Summary of Progress – FY 20 Q1 & Q2

The FY 2020 – FY 2021 Prevent and Disrupt Transnational Elder Fraud tracks performance measures, as part of the Department’s goal to reduce the impact of fraud schemes on elderly Americans. The Elder Fraud Priority Goal tracks five performance measures. The measures track the progress of the two strategies outlined in the previous slides. All of the measures for this priority goal are new and were established in FY 2020. To date, the Department has exceeded all five of its quarterly targets for Q1 and Q2 FY 2020.

- For Q1 and Q2 FY 2020, the Department exceeded its quarterly targets for percentage of USAOs that filed an elder fraud case or took other action to disrupt elder fraud. For Q1, 66% of 93 USAOs filed an elder case or took an action to disrupt elder fraud. For Q2, the number of USAOs that filed an elder fraud case increased to 70%, exceeding its quarterly target and achieving 77 percent of the total (90%, or 84 USAOs) FY 2020 – 2021 APG. The intent of this measure is to increase the percentage of USAOs that file cases or take other actions to disrupt elder fraud every year.
- For Q1 and Q2 FY 2020, the Department exceeded its quarterly targets for percentage of USAOs that conducted elder fraud outreach. For Q1, 63% of 93 USAOs conducted elder fraud outreach events. For Q2, the number of USAOs that conducted outreach events increased to 72%. The intent of this measure is to increase the percentage of USAOs that conducted elder fraud outreach every year.
- For Q1 and Q2 FY 2020, the Department exceeded its quarterly targets for number of elder fraud-related outreach events with state and/or local government officials. To date, the Department has already conducted 222 outreach events with state and/or local governments, and has already achieved 59 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG. The intent of this measure is to increase the number of outreach events with state and/or local government officials every year.
- For Q1 and Q2 FY 2020, the Department exceeded its quarterly targets for number of elder fraud-related outreach events with seniors and/or organizations representing seniors. To date, the Department has conducted 195 outreach events with seniors and/or organizations representing seniors, and has already 71 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG. The intent of this measure is to increase the number of seniors and and/or organizations representing seniors every year.

Summary of Progress – FY 20 Q1 & Q2

- For Q1 and Q2 FY 2020, the Department exceeded its quarterly targets for number of elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives. To date, the Department has conducted 86 outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives, and has already 55 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG. The intent of this measure is to increase the number of elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives every year.

Highlights:

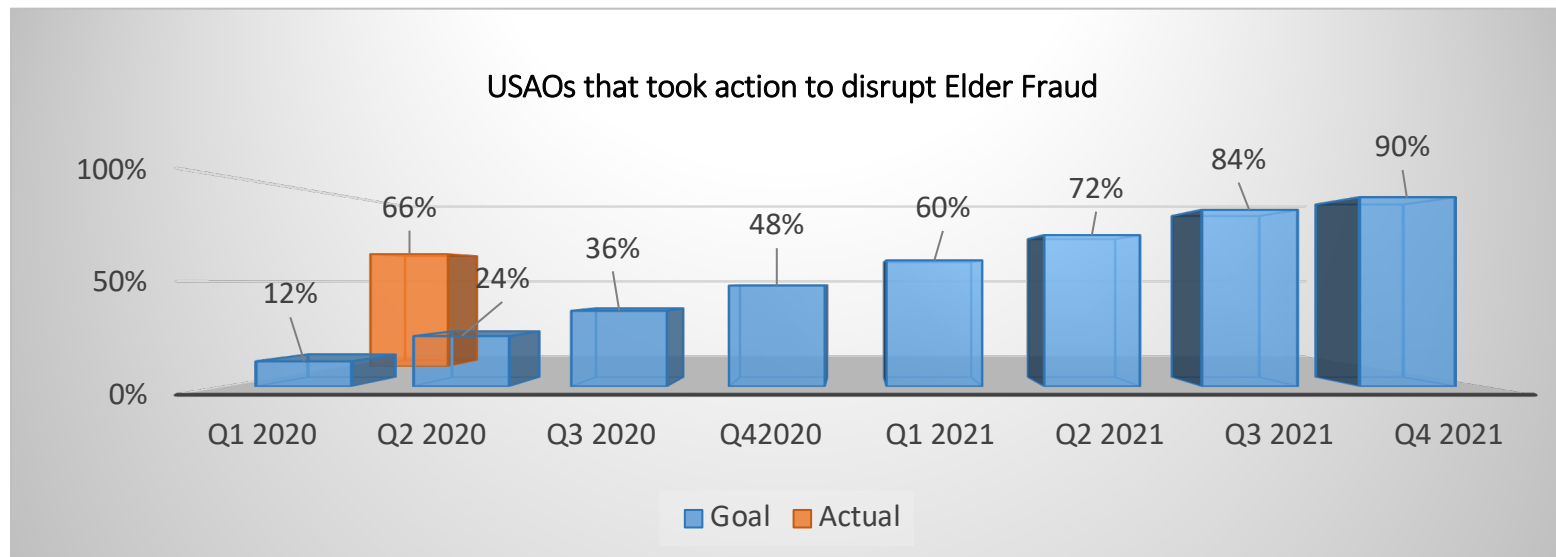
On March 3, 2020, Attorney General William P. Barr and multiple law enforcement partners announced the largest coordinated sweep of elder fraud cases in history, surpassing last year's nationwide sweep. Attorney General Barr, speaking at a senior community center in Florida and surrounded by hundreds of senior citizens, announced that the cases during this sweep involved more than 400 defendants from around the globe, who caused losses of more than \$1 billion dollars. AG Barr stated, "It has become clear that a substantial part of the fraud against elders is conducted by transnational criminal organizations. For this reason, we have now expanded our enforcement efforts to have global reach." In addition to the Department's unprecedented criminal action against the perpetrators, the Department also used civil enforcement tools, bringing landmark civil actions against those allegedly responsible for carrying out hundreds of millions of fraudulent robocalls, leading to massive financial losses to elderly across the nation. "In a one-week period, they placed over 13 million fraudulent robocalls in Florida alone," Barr said. Barr also described the Department's initiative to halt the flow of money to the foreign perpetrators by going after "money mules" who send the money to the foreign perpetrators, disrupting more than 600 money mules during the two-month initiative. Finally, AG Barr, stressing the need to report fraud on the elderly, announced the launch of the department's National Elder Fraud Hotline, where case workers refer the matters to law enforcement where appropriate and provide services to victims as needed. The number is 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311).

On Monday, March 2, 2020 the Department of Justice's Elder Justice Initiative held an outreach and training event at the Bayshore Pointe Nursing and Rehab Center in Tampa, Florida to educate residents, caregivers, and families about how to avoid and where to report financial scams. The Department was joined by our partners in elder justice work, including the Department of Health and Human Services, National Consumer Voice, the West Central District Florida Ombudsman, and volunteer ombudsman.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Percentage of USAOs that filed an elder fraud case or took other action to disrupt elder fraud [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q1 FY 2020

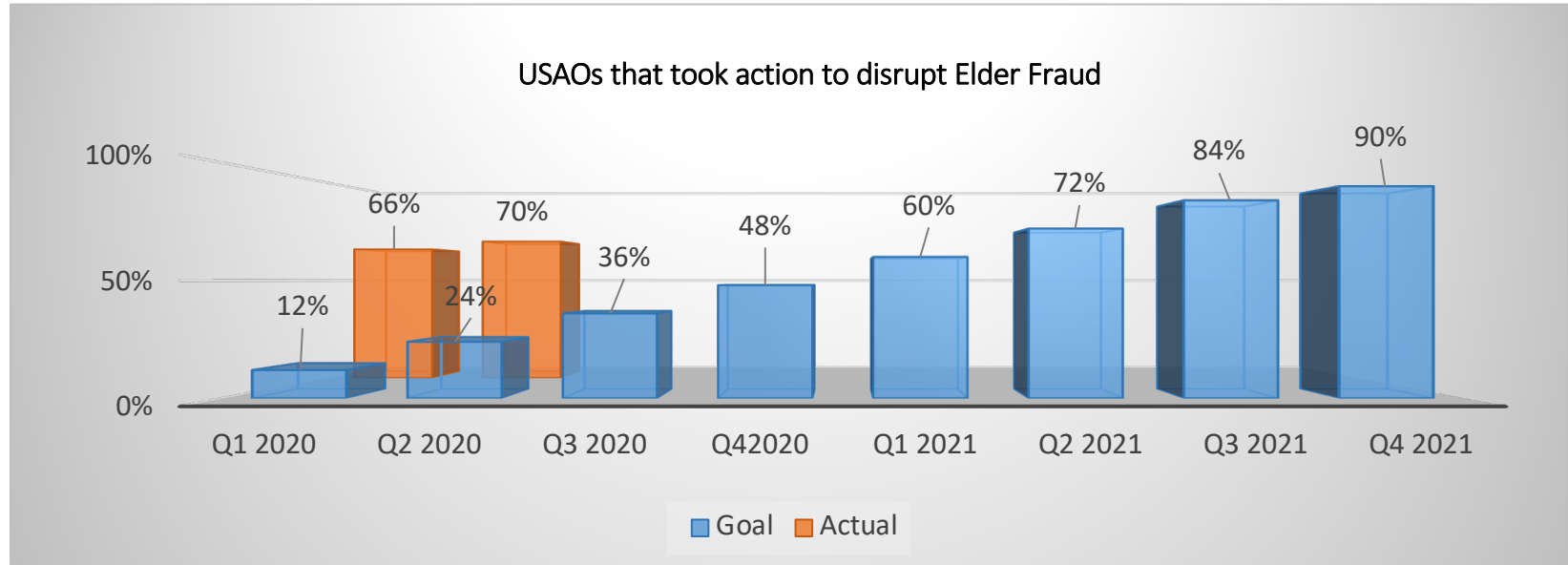


- For Q1, 61 of 93 USAOs filed an elder case or took an action to disrupt elder fraud, exceeding its quarterly target and already achieving 73 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG.
- For Q1, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Georgia announced an indictment of an individual for his alleged role in a romance scam and business email compromise fraud; and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida announced an indictment against alleged perpetrators of a veteran and social security benefit redirection scam, which involved extensive use of money mules; and
- For Q1, the Department’s Consumer Protection Branch announced the indictment of six individuals for an alleged mass mailing fraud scheme in which a co-conspirator was charged with knowingly receiving payments from elderly victims and supplying them to scheme leaders.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Percentage of USAOs that filed an elder fraud case or took other action to disrupt elder fraud [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q2 FY 2020

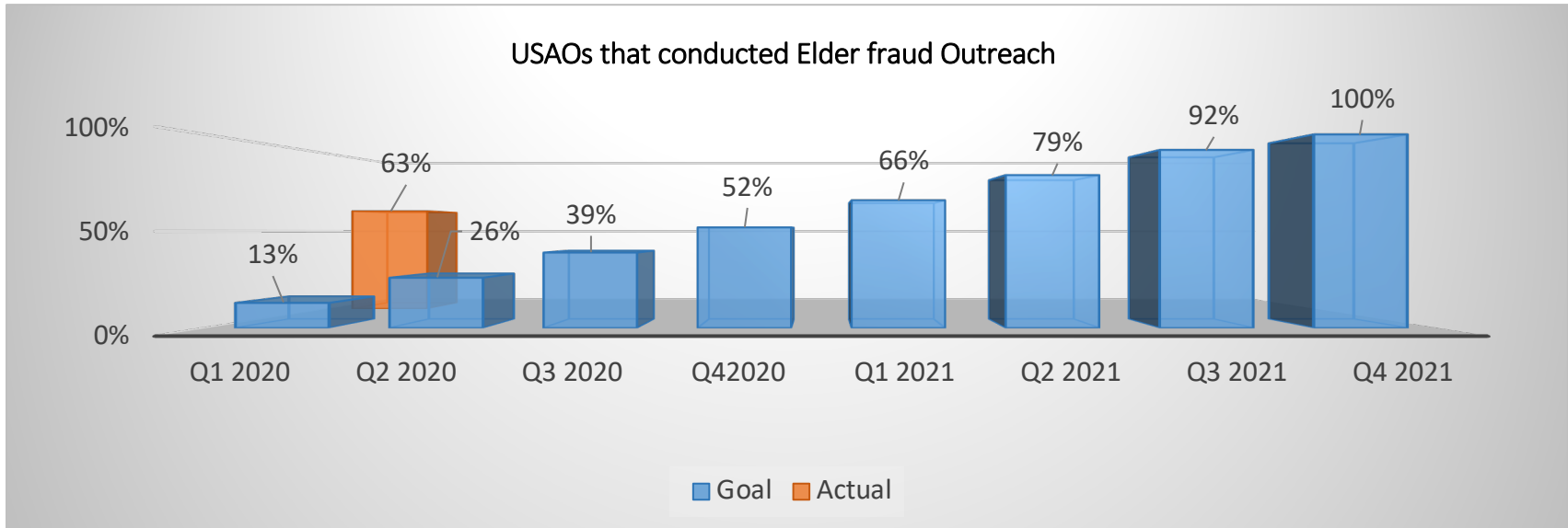


- For Q2, 65 of 93 USAOs filed an elder case or took an action to disrupt elder fraud, exceeding its quarterly target and achieving 77 percent of the total (90%, or 84 USAOs) FY 2020 – 2021 APG.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Percentage of USAOs that conducted elder fraud outreach [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q1 FY 2020

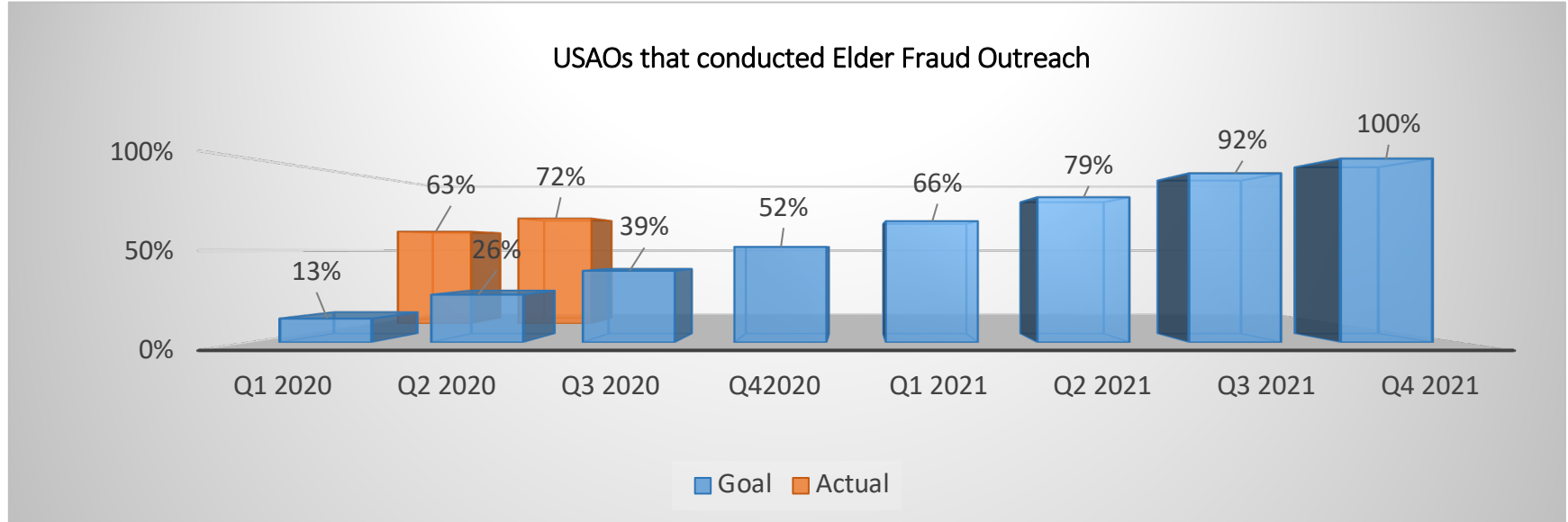


- For Q1, 59 of 93 USAOs conducted elder fraud outreach.
- For Q1, the Department exceeded its quarterly target and had already achieved 63 percent of the total FY 2020-2021 APG.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Percentage of USAOs that conducted elder fraud outreach [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q2 FY 2020

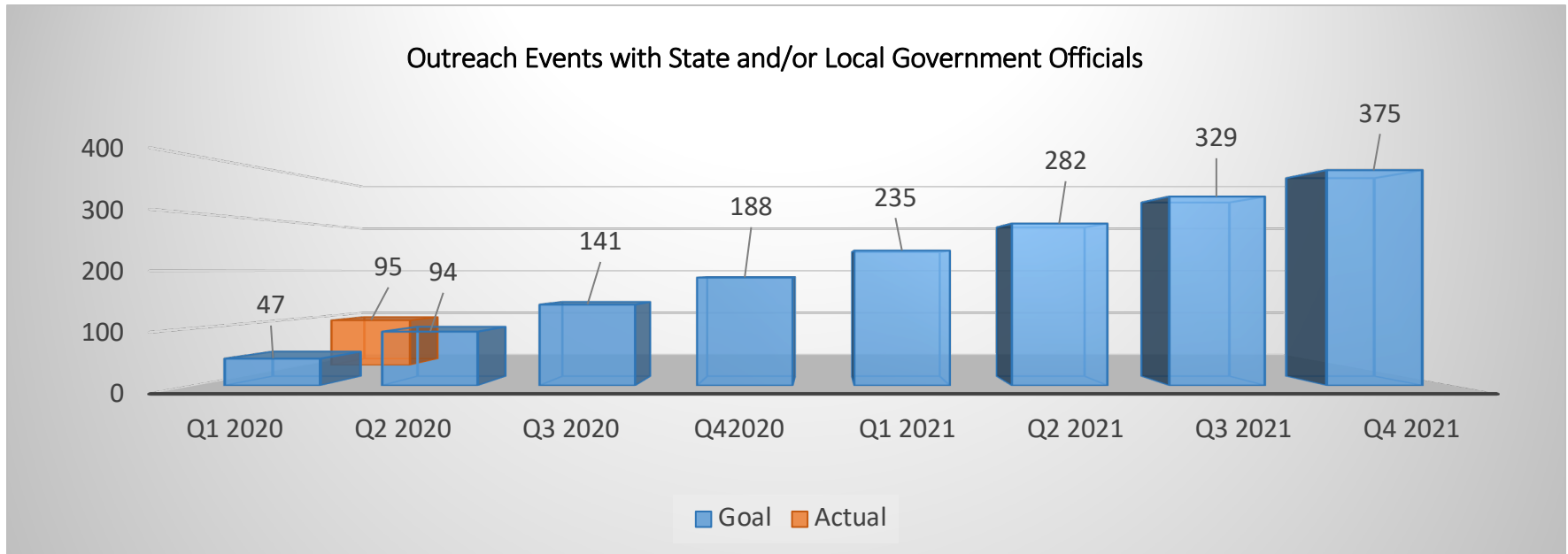


- For Q2, 67 of 93 USAOs conducted elder fraud outreach.
- For Q2, the Department exceeded its quarterly target, and increased the number of events conducted between Q1 and Q2.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with state and/or local government officials [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q1 FY 2020

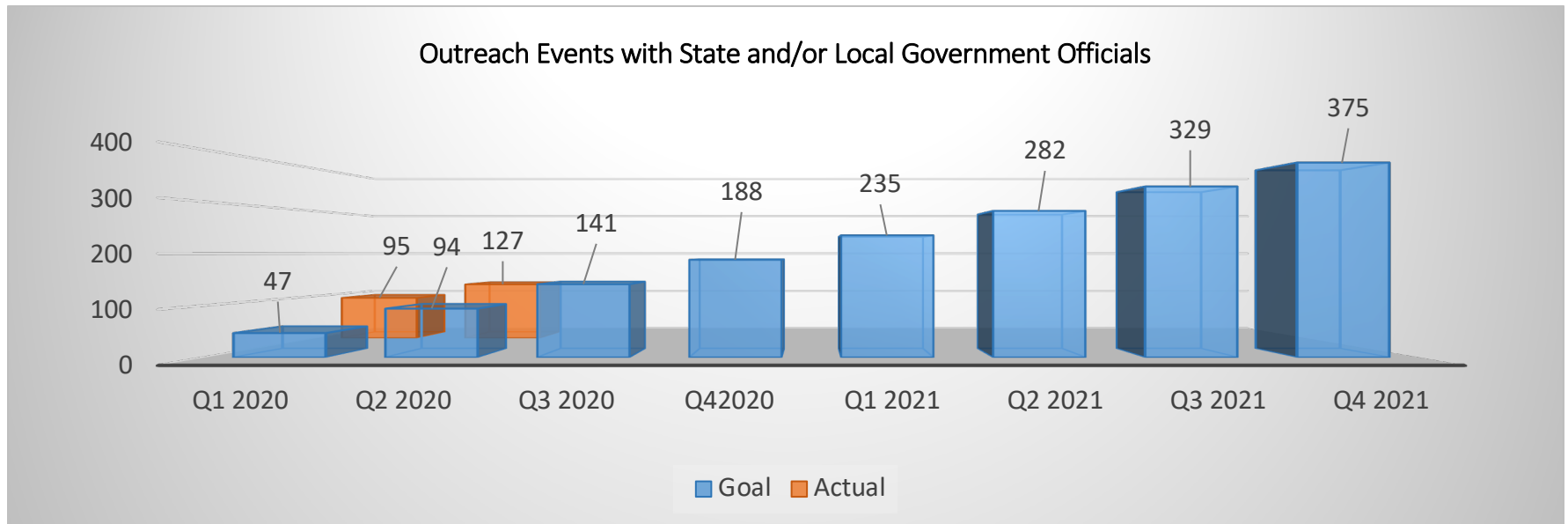


- For Q1, there were 95 elder fraud related outreach events with state and/or local governments officials. The department has also provided online access to materials that can be used in community outreach events, to educate seniors and their loved ones about the signs of elder fraud and financial abuse.
- For Q1, the Department exceeded its quarterly target and has already achieved 25 percent of the total FY 2020 - 2021 APG.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with state and/or local government officials [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q2 FY 2020

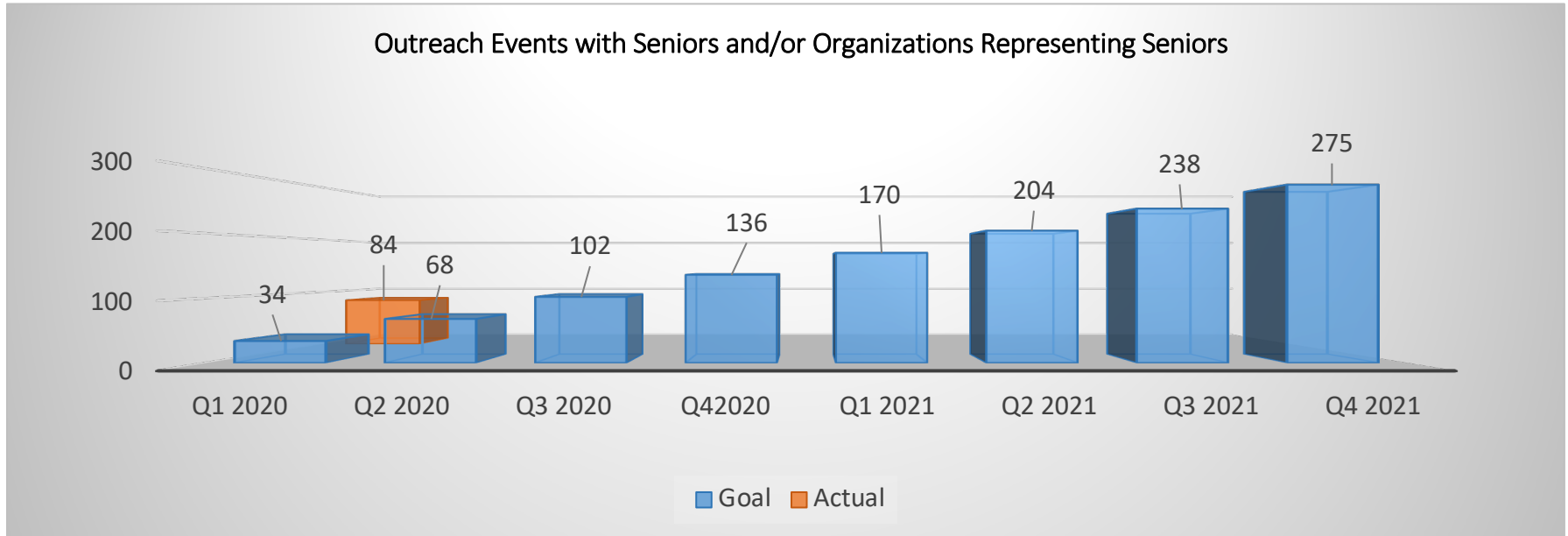


- For Q2, there were 127 elder fraud related outreach events with state and/or local governments officials.
- For Q2, the Department exceeded its quarterly target (94). To date, the Department has conducted a total of 222 outreach events with state and/or local governments, and has already achieved 59 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with seniors and/or organizations representing seniors [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q1 FY 2020

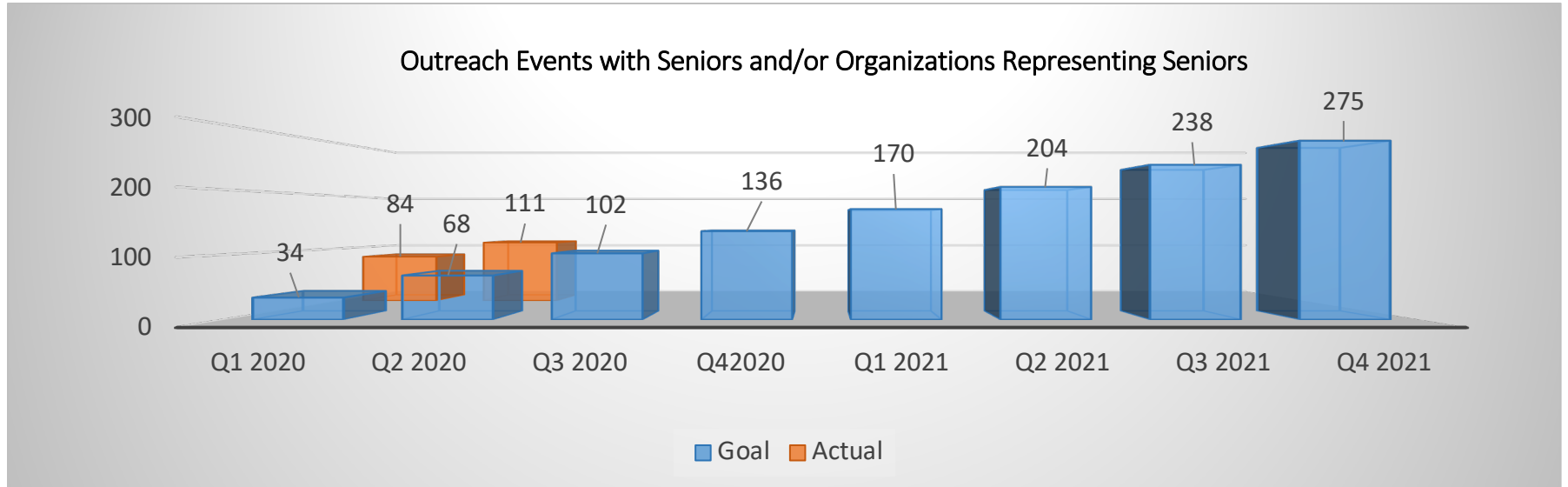


- For Q1, the Department reports 84 elder fraud related outreach events involving seniors and/or organizations representing seniors. An example of which is the public service announcement and social media campaign created in collaboration with AARP and the Oak Ridge Boys.
- For Q1, the Department exceeded its quarterly target and has already achieved 30 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with seniors and/or organizations representing seniors [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q2 FY 2020

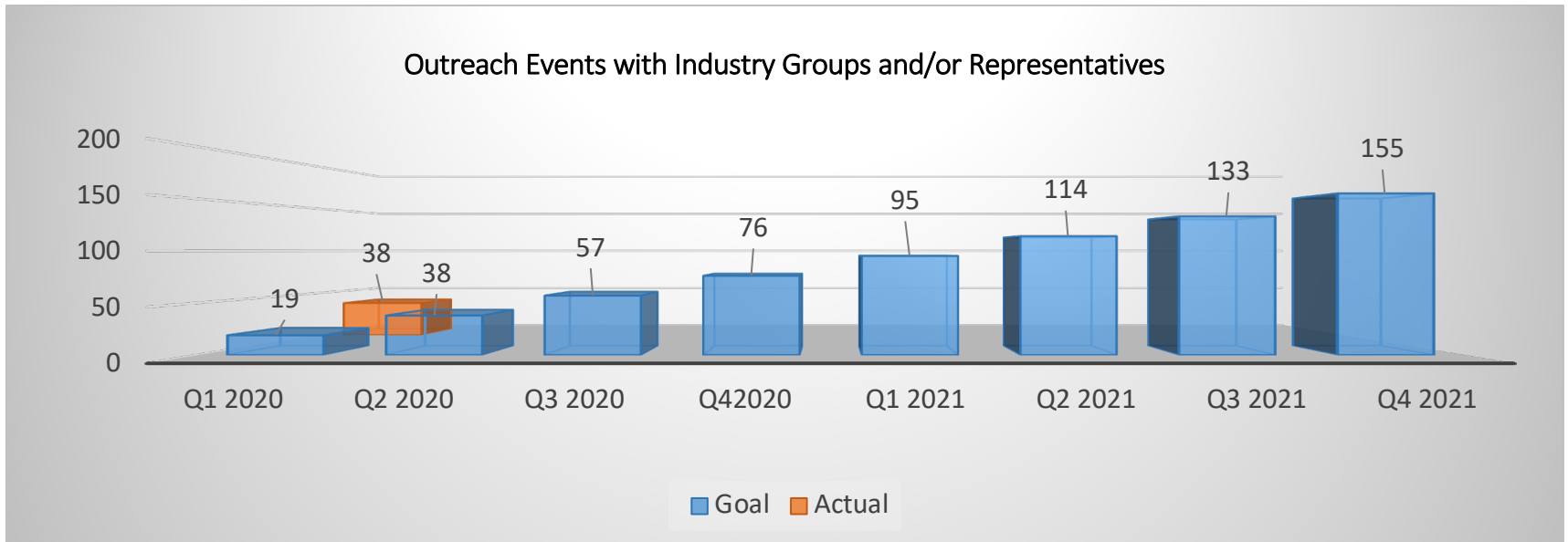


- For Q1, the Department reports 111 elder fraud related outreach events involving seniors and/or organizations representing seniors.
- For Q2, the Department exceeded its quarterly target (68). To date, the Department has already achieved 71 percent of the total FY 2020 – 2021 APG.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q1 FY 2020

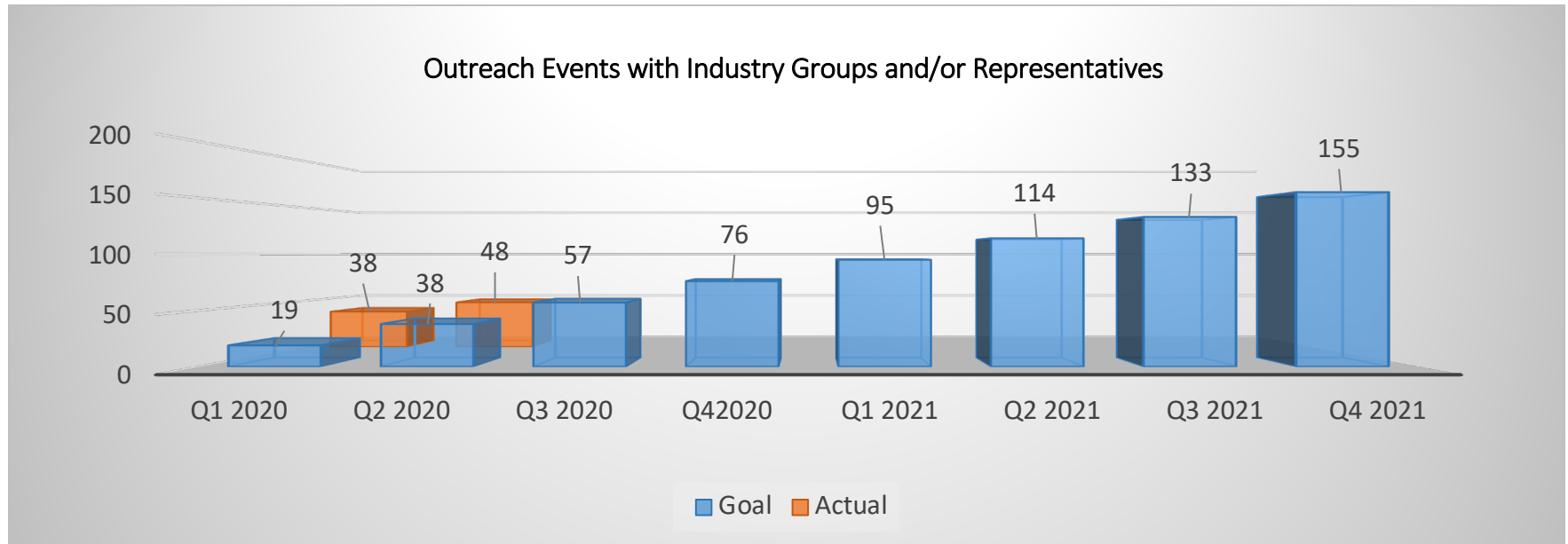


- For Q1, the Department reports 38 elder fraud related outreach events involving seniors and/or organizations representing seniors. These industry groups include banks and other private sector partners.
- For Q1, the Department exceeded its quarterly target and has already achieved 24 percent of the total FY 2020-2021 APG goal.

Key Indicators

Performance Measure: Number of elder fraud-related outreach events with industry groups and/or representatives [USAO, CIV]

Progress Update – Q2 FY 2020



- For Q2, the Department reports 48 elder fraud related outreach events involving seniors and/or organizations representing seniors. These industry groups include banks and other private sector partners.
- For Q2, the Department exceeded its quarterly target (38). To date, the Department has already achieved 55 percent of the total FY 2020-2021 APG goal.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

The Consumer Protection Branch and Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys will collect data from the U.S. Attorney Offices and other components across the Department of Justice. The reporting process will be built on information channels already in place for various data calls and congressional reports. An additional data sharing platform is being created to allow for more consistent, efficient, and unified reporting.

The Department anticipates that data collected will be both accurate and reliable, given that the reporting bodies principally will include the U.S. Attorney's Offices. We will be imposing an increased reporting requirement to provide information on a quarterly basis, rather than once or twice per year. This additional burden on busy U.S. Attorney's Offices may, at times, result in undercounted statistics. But the Department will strongly encourage personnel to accurately and completely report relevant information in a timely manner.