

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ElderJustice
INITIATIVE

Get
Involved,
Get Safe

Stop Elder Abuse and
Neglect



STATISTICS ON ELDER ABUSE

Abused seniors are **3 times** more likely to die than non-abused seniors.^[1]

Cognitive decline is a **risk factor** for elder abuse, including **financial exploitation**.^[2]

Approximately **1 in 10 seniors** is abused **each year**.^[3]

Abused seniors are **more likely** to be **placed in nursing homes** than non-abused older adults.^[4]

Elder abuse is **dramatically underreported**. Only **1 in every 23 cases** is reported to **Adult Protective Services**.^[5]

IMPACT OF ELDER ABUSE

- Suffering, illness, or premature death
- Nursing home and hospital admittance
- Large economic losses
- Caregiver hardship



TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

- Physical
- Psychological
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect/Abandonment



PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Pushing, shoving, hitting
- Kicking, biting, slapping
- Burning, shaking, pinching
- Punching, physically restraining
- Locking a person up
- Not allowing use of restroom
- Over or under medicating
- Using weapons



PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Verbal abuse such as belittling or blaming
- Intimidation and threats (non-verbal and verbal)
- Ridiculing beliefs
- Humiliation
- Isolation
- Stalking



FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Theft of social security/pension check
- Forcing or coercing a senior to withdraw funds
- Deceiving an older adult to get money (in person, by phone, mail, computer, radio, or TV)
- Taking an older adult's property, jewelry, valuables without consent



SEXUAL ABUSE

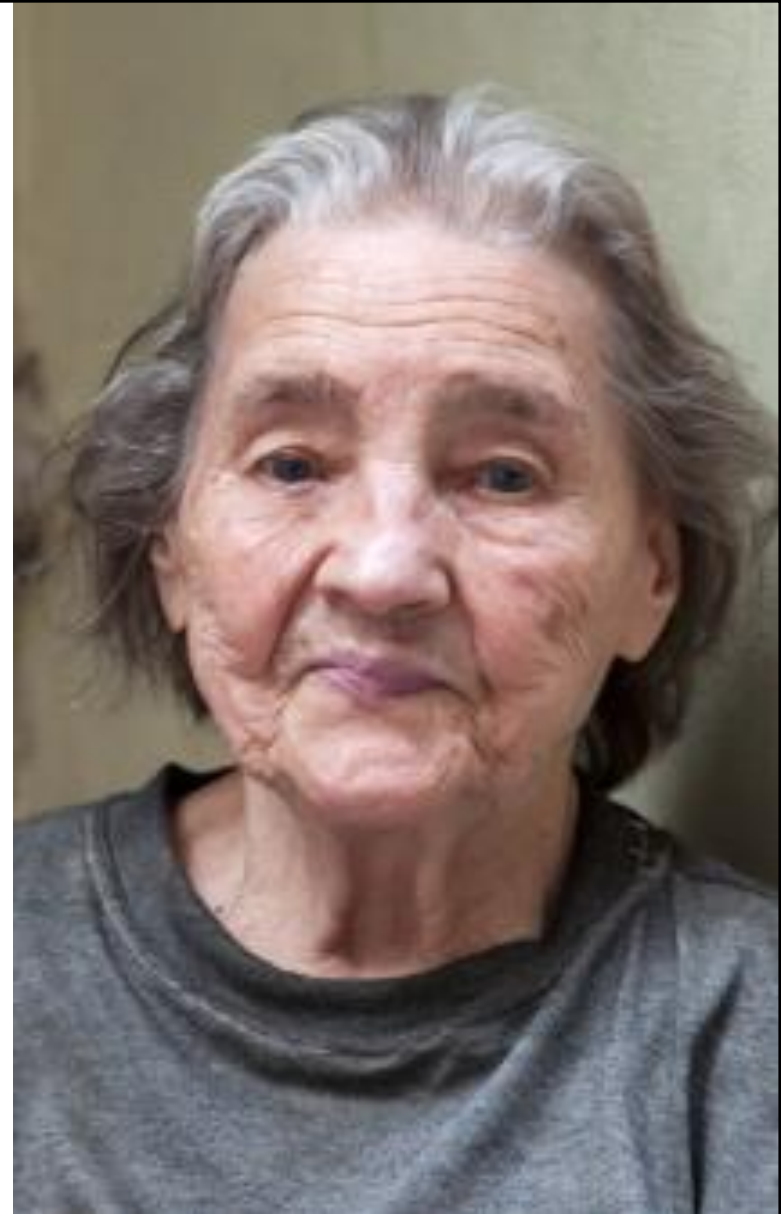
- Nonconsensual sexual contact
- Forced oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse
- Unwanted touching or fondling
- Exhibitionism or forcing an older adult to view or participate in pornography
- Using sexual language



NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT

Failure to provide for the needs of an older adult:

- Food
- Shelter
- Clothes
- Hygiene
- Healthcare
- Social interaction
- Desertion of a senior





What are Some of the Warning Signs of Abuse?

SOME WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

- Physical - unexplained bruises, repeated injuries, broken bones
- Psychological - crying, agitated, ashamed, depressed, afraid
- Financial - large bank withdrawals, unpaid bills, missing items
- Sexual - genital-anal trauma, bleeding, STD's, bruising to breasts, painful urination
- Neglect – dehydration, poor hygiene, poor living conditions
- Abandonment – seeing a vulnerable elder left alone in distress

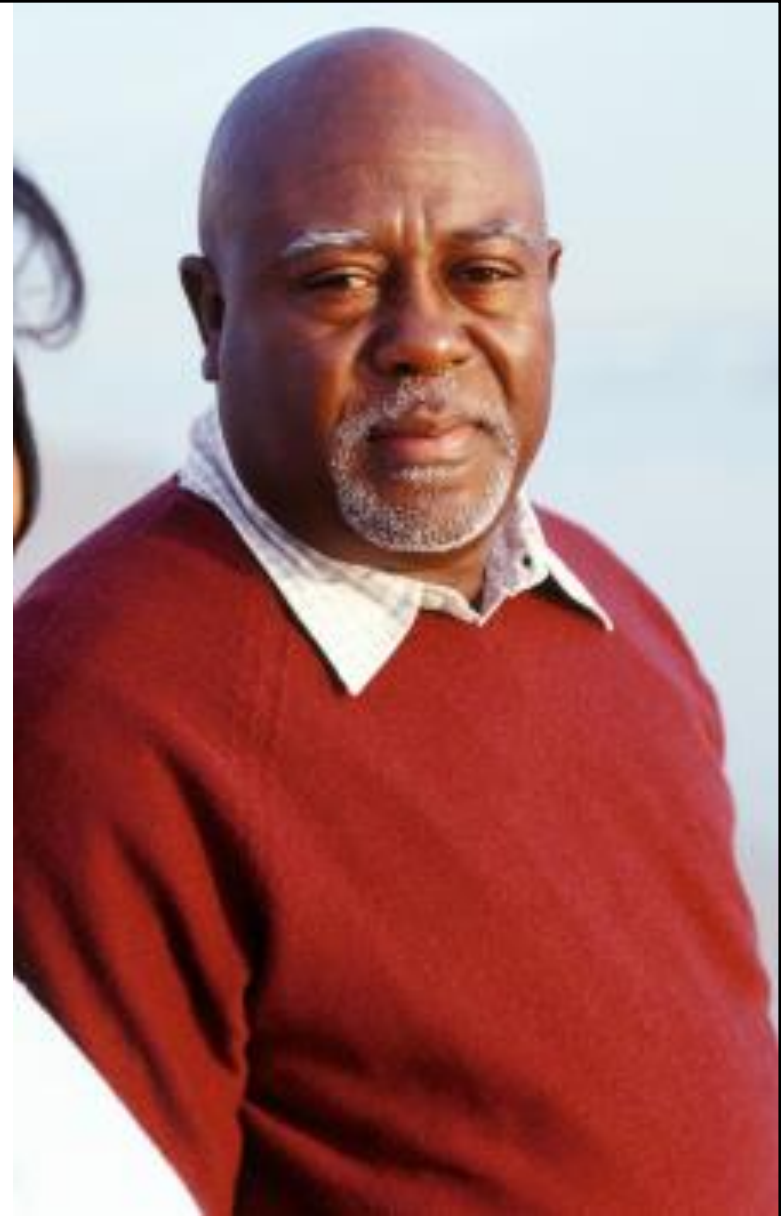
CAUSES OF ELDER ABUSE

- Ageism
- Societal attitudes
- Stereotyping of seniors
- Lack of awareness



OTHER CAUSES OF ELDER ABUSE

- Intergenerational violence
- History of domestic violence
- Entitlement
- History of mental illness of the caregiver or the older adult
- Addictions- drugs, alcohol, gambling



PERPETRATORS OF ELDER PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Family Members 57.9%
- Friends and neighbors 16.9%
- Home Care Aides 14.9%



PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE

- Listen to older adults
- Intervene when you suspect abuse
- Call Adult Protective Services
- Call the Ombudsman
- Call the police to make a report or do a welfare check
- Watch for signs
- Get involved



TIPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

- Keep financial affairs in order
- Stay connected
- Call for help
- Get a Civil Restraining Order
- File criminal charges
- Get a cell phone or alert pendant
- Watch out for each other



RESOURCES

For all types of elder abuse help, please see:

The Elder Justice Initiative elderjustice.gov

The National Center for Victims of Crime www.ncvc.org

Victim Connect Hotline 1-855-484-2846, 9am-7pm Monday-Friday

RESOURCES

Physical Abuse Resource:

The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Psychological Abuse Resource:

National Adult Protective Services Association www.napsa-now.org

Financial Abuse Resources:

Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau www.consumerfinance.gov/

Military Consumer Protection Day (for veterans) www.military.ncpw.gov

RESOURCES

Sexual Assault Resource:

National Sexual Violence Resource Center 1-877-739-3895

Neglect and Abandonment Resources :

Neglect in nursing homes, see map of ombudsman resources at National Consumer Voice, <http://theconsumervoice.org>

Other neglect or abandonment: see map of Adult Protective Services at The National Adult Protective Service Association www.napsa-now.org

CONCLUSION



REFERENCES

Information for this presentation was obtained from:

- The National Center on Elder Abuse
- The National Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- The National Institute of Justice
- The Census Bureau
- Elder Abuse Detection and Intervention; Brandl, B.; Dyer, Bitondo, C.; Heisler, C.; Marlatt, Otto J.; Stiegel, L.; Thomas, R.
- The National Council on Aging

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5 Lachs, M. S., Williams, C. S., O'Brien, S., & Pillemer, K. (2002). Adult protective service use and nursing home placement.

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