PRESENTERS

Patrice Earnest, Director, Eldercare Locator

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Why Should We Care About Elder Abuse?
Abused seniors are **3x more likely to die** than non-abused seniors.

**COGNITIVE DECLINE IS A RISK FACTOR FOR** elder abuse, including **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**.

Approximately **1 in 10 seniors** is abused **each year**.

Abused seniors are **more likely to be placed in nursing homes** than non-abused seniors.

Elder abuse is **dramatically underreported**. Only **1 in every 23 cases** gets reported to Adult Protective Services.
WHY CARE?

➢ All victims deserve respect
➢ Older population is increasing
➢ Effects of aging cause vulnerabilities
➢ Elder abuse is under reported
➢ Lack of awareness about Elder Abuse
➢ Societal attitudes do not support older victims
WHY CARE?

- Elder abuse cases can fall through the cracks
- Older victims may be afraid of retaliation, may be ashamed, may be fearful of being institutionalized
- Often more than one type of abuse is occurring
- Older victims are twice as likely to suffer injury
- Mortality rate for abused older victims is 3x higher than those not abused
THE WAVE IS COMING

U.S. Senior Population 1900 – 2050*

Percent Age 65 and Over


0.00% 5.00% 10.00% 15.00% 20.00% 25.00%


*population projection
What Is Elder Abuse?
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 a senior to get money (in person, by phone, mail, computer, radio, or TV)
- Taking a senior’s property, jewelry, valuables without consent
SEXUAL ABUSE

• Nonconsensual sexual contact

• Forced oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse

• Unwanted touching or fondling

• Exhibitionism or forcing a senior to view or participate in pornography

• Using sexual language
NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT

Failure to provide for the needs of a senior:

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

• Addictions- drugs, alcohol, gambling
PERPETRATORS OF ELDER PHYSICAL ABUSE

• Family Members 57.9%

• Friends and neighbors 16.9%

• Home Care Aides 14.9%
WHEN SPEAKING WITH OLDER ADULTS

- Be Respectful
- Be Patient
- Be empathetic
- Ask if it is safe to talk, have an exit plan
- Lower the pitch of your voice
- Use the terminology that they use
- Check for comprehension
- Offer options, resources
- Use gender neutral language
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

➢ Educate yourself
➢ Read EJI stories of abuse
➢ Use our EJI resource locator
➢ Respect the caller’s wishes
➢ Address safety issues
➢ Be supportive and non-judgmental
➢ Be culturally sensitive
➢ Check out all resource options
Elder Abuse Resources
The National Aging Service Network

622 Area Agencies on Aging

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
1-800-677-1116
www.eldercare.gov
2016 Call Statistics

Total Calls – 308,637

Emails – 3,222

Chats - 1,922
2016 Caller Demographics

- 73% Females
- 72% Older adults seeking services
- 12% Under 60 years of age
- Learned of Services (Top 5):
  - 60% Federal, state or local government (Social Security, Medicare, FEMA, VA, HUD, & State Medicaid office)
  - 12% Partner/professional organizations
  - 10% Internet Search
  - 7% Insurance providers
  - 3% Newspaper, Radio, TV, & Social Media
Key Findings from the 2016 Eldercare Locator Data Report

- Transportation assistance and home & community based support were the most requested service needs that comprised 43% of all calls into the Eldercare Locator.

- Over 22,000 calls were handled as complex or crisis contacts.

- The number of calls to report suspected elder abuse has increased with over 7,000 calls received during 2016.
Eldercare Locator Database

Elder Abuse Prevention

**Adult Protective Services**

- **Address:** 801 East Main Street
- **City:** Richmond
- **State:** VA
- **Zip:** 23219
- **Website:** [http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/aps.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/aps.cgi)
- **Information Phone:** (888) 832-3858
- **State Phone:** (888) 832-3858
- **Languages:** English
- **Description:** APS investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults 60 years of age or older and incapacitated adults age 18 or older.
- **Special Notes:** Service available 24 hours a day. To report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation, call your local department of social services or the 24-hour, toll-free Adult Protective Services hotline at: (888) 832-3858.
- **Directions:** View on map
Eldercare Locator Resource Center Store

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
2016 Home for the Holidays Campaign

EXPAND YOUR CIRCLES
Prevent Isolation and Loneliness As You Age

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
The Eldercare Locator
National Call Center

1-800-677-1116
www.eldercare.gov
Thank you!
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Introducing the EJI Website

Elder Justice Initiative
Home
- Older Americans, Families, and Caregivers
- Financial Exploitation
- Prosecutors
- Law Enforcement
- Victim Specialists
- Multidisciplinary Teams
- Researchers
- EJI Outreach
About EJI
Contact Us
Search EJI

ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE (EJI)

REPORT ABUSE OR FIND HELP

New on ElderJustice.gov

EJI launches the MDT Toolkit and Guide for elder abuse case review MDTs
The mission of the Elder Justice Initiative is to support and coordinate the Department of Justice’s enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target older adults.

The initiative does so by:

- Promoting justice for older adults
- Helping older victims and their families
- Enhancing state and local efforts through training and resources
- Supporting research to improve elder abuse policy and practice
BUILDING FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL CAPACITY TO FIGHT ELDER ABUSE

PROMOTING JUSTICE FOR OLDER AMERICANS

SUPPORT RESEARCH TO IMPROVE ELDER ABUSE POLICY & PRACTICE

HELPING OLDER VICTIMS & THEIR FAMILIES