



## ELDER ABUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PREVENTION FACT SHEET

### National Facts and Figures



- Each year, estimates suggest **5 million** older adults experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Estimates also indicate that official reports are made for only **1 in 5** cases of elder abuse.
- Elders throughout the United States lose an estimated **\$2.6 billion** or more annually due to financial abuse and exploitation.
- Older Adults who have been abused have a **300% higher risk** of death when compared to those who have not been mistreated.
- Abusers are **both** women and men. In almost **60%** of elder abuse and neglect incidents, the perpetrator is a family member. Two-thirds of perpetrators are adult children or spouses.
- Recent studies show nearly **half of people** with dementia experienced abuse or neglect.
- Interpersonal violence also occurs at **disproportionately higher** rates among adults with disabilities
- Abuse occurs in every demographic and can **happen to anyone** – a family member, neighbor, friend, and even you.
- Survivors of elder abuse suffer significantly higher levels of **psychological distress** than people who have not experienced elder abuse.
- Elder abuse includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. Perpetrators include: children, family members, spouses, staff of assisted living, nursing homes, state staff of long term care and other facilities.
- More than 41 million Americans are 65 and older and represent the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.
- If you see an older adult being abused or neglected, report it. Do not assume someone else will.
- Or if you are an older adult who is being neglected or exploited, tell at least one person. Tell your Doctor, a friend, or a family member whom you trust. Or, call one of the numbers in this fact sheet.

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### Maryland Statistics and Resources

Maryland Department of Human Resources, Office of Adult Services, Adult Protective Services: investigates allegations of adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of an older or disabled vulnerable adult in a community-based setting. In FY 2016, the Adult Protective Services Program received approximately 7,117 reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults 18 years of age and older. Of these cases, 1,633 involved continuing Adult Protective Services case management services to monitor and assist in reducing on-going risk factors. For more information: contact the Maryland Department of Human Resources **410-767-7000**, **1-800-917-7383** toll free, or [www.dhr.maryland.gov](http://www.dhr.maryland.gov).

Maryland Department of Aging, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program: receives, investigates, and resolves complaints made by or on behalf of long-term care residents. Of the 3,671 complaints investigated by the Ombudsman Program in FY 2016, 164 of the investigated reports were alleged resident abuse cases. For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Aging **410-767-1100**, **1-800-243-3425** toll free, or [www.aging.maryland.gov](http://www.aging.maryland.gov).

Maryland Attorney General's Office, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: investigates and prosecutes incidents of abuse and neglect of vulnerable persons who receive Medicaid and reside in assisted living or other long-term care facilities. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit received 230 referrals regarding abuse and neglect of vulnerable persons in FY 2016. Each referral is reviewed and either investigated for criminal prosecution or referred to the appropriate regulatory agency. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit also provides education and outreach to providers on how to prevent abuse and neglect as well as what to do if abuse or neglect occurs at a facility. For more information on protecting seniors from abuse and neglect, contact the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at **410-576-6521** or at [MedicaidFraud@oag.state.md.us](mailto:MedicaidFraud@oag.state.md.us).

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Health Care Quality: receives allegations of abuse and neglect regarding residents/patients in all licensed and/or federally certified facilities. In 2016, the Office of Health Care Quality received approximately 935 reports of alleged neglect and 1290 reports of alleged vulnerable adult abuse. For more information about Office of Health Care Quality programs call **410-402-8108**, toll-free **1-877-402-8219**, or at [www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohcq](http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohcq).

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), provides community-based services to victims of domestic violence. In 2016, the GOCCP served more than 266 victims of domestic violence who were 60 years of age or older. For more information about services available to victims of domestic violence, contact the GOCCP at **410-821-2828**, toll-free **1-877-687-9004**, or at [www.goccp.maryland.gov](http://www.goccp.maryland.gov).

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is a coalition of domestic violence programs, law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens. The MNADV reported that in 2016, 5 (9%) of the 55 persons killed in domestic violence incidents were 51 years of age or older. For more information on the coalition's mission and services contact MNADV at **301- 429-3601**, toll free **1-800-MD-HELPS**, or at <http://mnadv.org>.