

Suggested Activities for Adult Abuse Prevention Month

May is Adult Abuse Prevention Month. This list is intended to provide ideas and suggested activities to increase public awareness of this growing social and economic problem.¹

1. Host a bag lunch discussion for an agency, organization, or group in your community on the topic of adult abuse.
2. Distribute fliers and ask that they be displayed in libraries, grocery stores, restaurants, medical offices, hospital waiting rooms, senior centers, faith-based organizations, courthouses, mental health agencies, financial institutions, and other establishments in the community.
3. Ask staff in your agency, members of your church or civic groups, and others to wear a purple ribbon to commemorate victims of adult abuse.²
4. Pick a day in May to reach out to an elderly or disabled adult. Encourage friends and co-workers to do the same.
5. Submit a short notice for church bulletins and/or newsletters or provide inserts for church bulletins and/or newsletters.
6. Arrange to have an article on adult abuse in the local newspaper(s) and use local and state statistics about the prevalence of the problem in Virginia.
7. Call in to radio or TV talk shows when there is an opportunity to make the listening audience aware of the issue.
8. Speak with a health care professional about screening patients for adult abuse.
9. Ask a local supermarket to print a "Stop Adult Abuse" message on grocery bags or provide fliers and ask that they be inserted in grocery bags.
10. Make mandated reporters in your community aware of their legal responsibilities and tell them what, when, and how to report.

¹ Fliers, handouts and other awareness materials may be downloaded from the VDSS Adult Abuse Prevention Month website.

² Purple ribbons can be provided to your group or organization. Please contact Venus Bryant at (804)-726-7533 or email a request to her at Venus.bryant@dss.virginia.gov.