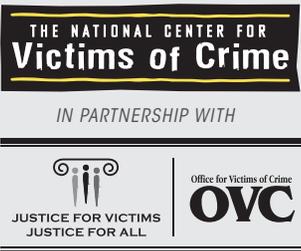


# Elder Abuse

**ELDER ABUSE** is any physical, sexual, or psychological abuse of an older person (generally age 60 – 65 years and older), and also encompasses neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation. Elder abuse may be perpetrated by another person or an entity, and can occur in any setting—at home, in an institution, or in the community.<sup>D</sup>

Older adults may be particularly targeted due to age or disability: isolation, reliance on caregivers, or decreased physical or mental capacity can increase older people's exposure and vulnerability to abuse. In addition, older adults—especially those on the brink of retirement—may be exploited financially due to their perceived resources. Reliable data on elder abuse is scarce due to very low reporting rates, a lack of research, and the hidden nature of this crime.

**NOTE:** Data collection year provided where known. Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.



> **12.4%** of the U.S. population is age 65+<sup>H</sup>

> Elder abuse affects an estimated **5 million** people each year<sup>D</sup>

About **2/3** of elder abuse victims are **women**<sup>D</sup>



As few as **1 in 24** cases of elder abuse is **reported** to authorities<sup>D</sup>

Compared to their non-abused peers, elder abuse victims are:<sup>D</sup>

**3X** more likely to **die prematurely**

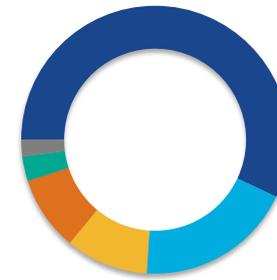
**3X** more likely to be **hospitalized**

**4X** more likely to be admitted to a **nursing home**



Injuries to older adults from violent crime account for **\$5.3 billion** annually in direct **medical care**<sup>G</sup>

## Offender of Physical Mistreatment:<sup>A</sup>



- Partner/spouse (57%)
- Acquaintance (19%)
- Child/grandchild (10%)
- Other relative (9%)
- Stranger (3%)
- Victim refused to answer (2%)

Roughly **half** of people with **dementia** are abused or neglected by caregivers<sup>F</sup>

## Types of abuse

self-reported by caregivers across studies<sup>F</sup>



**60%**  
**Verbal abuse**



**14%**  
**Neglect**



**5-10%**  
**Physical abuse**

**1.6%** of older adults report any kind of **physical mistreatment** over the course of a year<sup>A</sup>

**vs**

**5.2%** report **financial exploitation** by a family member<sup>A</sup>

## Elder Abuse *continued*



Older adults lost **\$2.9 billion** to **financial exploitation** in 2009, up 12% from the year prior<sup>E</sup>

People age 65+ are **34% more likely to lose money** to financial fraud than people in their 40s<sup>C</sup>

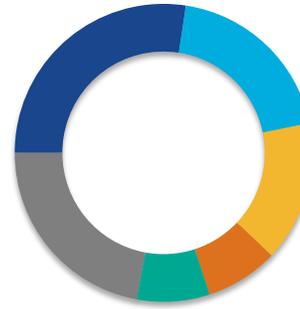
Older adults with **cognitive impairments** experience **2X** the economic losses of peers without such incapacities<sup>D</sup>



**1 in 10** people age 60 or older who live at home suffer **abuse, neglect, or exploitation**<sup>D</sup>

More than **50%** of **nursing home staff** admit to physical violence, mental abuse, or neglect of older patients<sup>E</sup>

**5.1%** of the 190,592 complaints filed against **nursing homes** in 2013 were for **abuse, neglect, or exploitation**<sup>B</sup>



### Types of Complaints:<sup>B</sup>

- Physical abuse (27.4%)
- Psychological abuse (19.4%)
- Gross neglect (15.3%)
- Financial exploitation (7.9%)
- Sexual abuse (7.9%)
- Resident-on-resident physical or sexual abuse (22.1%)

### SOURCES

- A** Ron Acierno et al., "National Elder Mistreatment Study," (U.S. Department of Justice grant report, NCJ 226456, March 2009), <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226456.pdf>
- B** Administration on Aging, National Ombudsman Reporting System Data Table B2, [http://www.aaa.acl.gov/AoA\\_Programs/Elder\\_Rights/Ombudsman/National\\_State\\_Data/2013/docs/2013\\_B-2\\_NF-Comp\\_Full\\_for\\_web.xlsm](http://www.aaa.acl.gov/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/Ombudsman/National_State_Data/2013/docs/2013_B-2_NF-Comp_Full_for_web.xlsm)
- C** "Financial Fraud and Fraud Susceptibility in the United States," (New York: Applied Research & Consulting LLC, 2013), [http://www.firrafoundation.org/web/groups/sai/@sai/documents/sai\\_original\\_content/p337731.pdf?utm\\_source=MM&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Foundation\\_News\\_091213\\_FINAL](http://www.firrafoundation.org/web/groups/sai/@sai/documents/sai_original_content/p337731.pdf?utm_source=MM&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Foundation_News_091213_FINAL)
- D** National Center on Elder Abuse, *The Elder Justice Roadmap*, (Washington, DC: Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014), [http://www.ncea.acl.gov/library/gov\\_report/docs/ejrp\\_roadmap.pdf](http://www.ncea.acl.gov/library/gov_report/docs/ejrp_roadmap.pdf)
- E** ---"Abuse of Residents of Long Term Care Facilities" *Research Brief*, [http://www.ncea.aaa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/NCEA\\_LTFC\\_ResearchBrief\\_2013.pdf](http://www.ncea.aaa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/NCEA_LTFC_ResearchBrief_2013.pdf)
- F** ---"How at Risk for Abuse Are People with Dementia?" *Research Brief*, [http://www.ncea.aaa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/Dementia\\_ResearchBrief\\_web508.pdf](http://www.ncea.aaa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/Dementia_ResearchBrief_web508.pdf)
- G** ---"Statistics/Data," <http://www.ncea.aaa.gov/library/data>
- H** Carrie A. Werner, "The Older Population: 2010 Census Brief," (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011), <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf>