Elder Abuse

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/elderabuse.html

Many older people are victims of elder abuse. It is the mistreatment of an older person, usually by a caregiver. It can happen within the family. It can also happen in assisted living facilities or nursing homes.

The mistreatment may be

- Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse
- Neglect or abandonment
- Financial abuse - stealing of money or belongings

Possible signs of elder abuse include unexplained bruises, burns, and injuries. There may also be bed sores and poor hygiene. The person may become withdrawn, agitated, and depressed. There may be a sudden change in the person's financial situation.

Elder abuse will not stop on its own. Someone else needs to step in and help. If you think that an older person is in urgent danger, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, contact adult protective services.

NIH: National Institute on Aging

Start Here

- Fifteen Questions and Answers about Elder Abuse [http://www.ncca.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/FINAL%206-06-05%203-18-0512-10-04qa.pdf] (National Center on Elder Abuse) - PDF
- Preventing Elder Abuse and Neglect in Older Adults [http://www.healthinaging.org/resources/resource:preventing-elder-abuse-and-neglect-in-older-adults/] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)

Overviews

- Elder Abuse [http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/EA_Prevention/whatisEA.aspx] (Administration on Aging)
- Frequently Asked Questions (Elder Abuse) [http://www.ncca.aoa.gov/faq/index.aspx] (National Center on Elder Abuse)

Prevention/Screening

- Preventing Elder Abuse by Family Caregivers [http://www.ncca.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/caregiver.pdf] (National Center on Elder Abuse) - PDF
- Role of Professionals and Concerned Citizens [http://www.preventelderabuse.org/elderabuse/professionals/] (National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse)

Specific Conditions

Center on Elder Abuse

- Physical Abuse [http://www.preventelderabuse.org/elderabuse/physical.html] (National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse)

Related Issues

- Adult Protective Services [http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Stop_Abuse/Partners/APS/index.aspx] (National Center on Elder Abuse)
- Role of Culture in Elder Abuse [http://www.preventelderabuse.org/elderabuse/issues/culture.html] (National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse)

Research

- Study Identifies Basis for Sense of Trust in Older People [http://www.nia.nih.gov/newsroom/announcements/2012/12/study-identifies-basis-sense-trust-older-people] NIH (National Institute on Aging)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)


Directories


Organizations

- Administration on Aging [http://www.aoa.gov]
- National Center on Elder Abuse [http://www.ncea.aoa.gov]
Also available in Spanish [http://www.nia.nih.gov/Espanol/]

**Newsletters/Print Publications**
- NCEA Newsletter [http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/About/StayInTouch/Newsletter/] (National Center on Elder Abuse) - PDF

**Law and Policy**

**Statistics**
- 2004 Survey of Adult Protective Services: Abuse of Adults 60 Years of Age and Older [http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/APS_2004NCEASurvey.pdf] (National Center on Elder Abuse) - PDF

**You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:**

The primary NIH organization for research on *Elder Abuse* is the National Institute on Aging [http://www.nia.nih.gov]

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