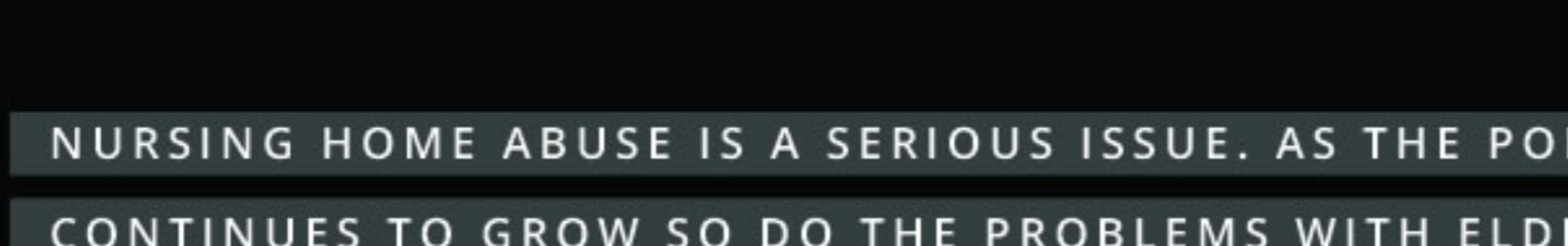


Elderly Abuse

IN THE

UNITED STATES

dangerously close to home



NURSING HOME ABUSE IS A SERIOUS ISSUE. AS THE POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW SO DO THE PROBLEMS WITH ELDER ABUSE.

1 out of 10

U.S. NURSING HOMES

had **violations** that caused residents **harm, serious injury**, or placed them in jeopardy of **death**.

abused elders have a **300% HIGHER**

risk of death

Physical Effects

Emotional Effects

BONE OR JOINT PROBLEMS

FEELING WORTHLESS

DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS

DEPRESSION OR ANXIETY

CHRONIC PAIN

PARANOIA

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

INCREASED STRESS

HEART PROBLEMS

FEELING ISOLATED



For every **one** case of elder abuse reported experts estimate that as many as

23 cases go undetected.

Who is at Risk?

1

COMPROMISED MENTAL STATE

Elders with dementia and alzheimers are especially vulnerable to abuse as they may become confused, forget situations or be manipulated.

2

DISABLED WOMEN

In a survey of sexually assaulted women age 55 and over, 33% of the women had physical disabilities and 52% had a psychiatric diagnosis.

3

HIGHLY DEPENDANT

Elders who are highly dependant on their caregiver are more vulnerable to abuse and less likely to come forward.

The Anatomy of an Abuser

OF AN

20%

OF ALL CARETAKERS

expressed fears that they might become violent with the people they cared for.

FEELING OF BURDEN

MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL ISSUES

QUICK TO ANGER & INABILITY TO COPE

EXPOSURE TO ABUSE AS A CHILD

INADEQUET TRAINING

FREQUENT DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE

90% OF ALL ABUSERS were **family members**

most often adult children, spouses and partners.

Learn to Spot

THE WARNING SIGNS

1

Physical Abuse

Any type of violent contact, physical punishment, withholding medication or restraining the victim.

Bruises or grip marks around the arms or neck

Rope marks or welts on the wrists and/or ankles

Repeated unexplained injuries

Dismissive attitude or statements about injuries

Refusal to go to same emergency department for repeated injuries



2

Emotional Abuse

The use words to intimidate, manipulate, isolate, coerce, threaten or demean an individual.

Uncommunicative and unresponsive

Unreasonably fearful or suspicious

Lack of interest in social contacts

Evasive or isolated

Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior



3

Sexual Abuse

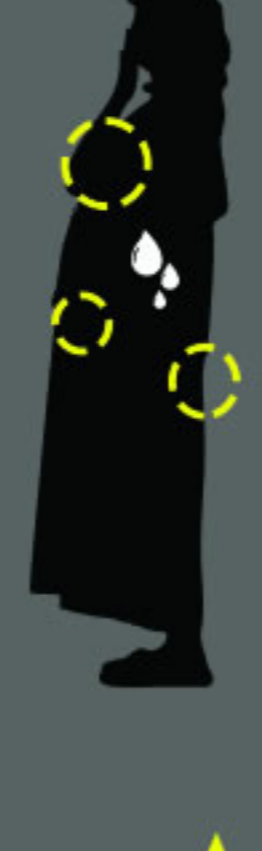
Includes molestation, inappropriate photography, coerced nudity or, in worst cases, rape.

Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding

Torn or bloody underwear

Bruised breasts or buttocks

Venereal diseases or vaginal infections



4

Financial Abuse

Fraud, forced property transfer, taking money under false pretenses, scamming, forgery or denying access to funds.

Life circumstances don't match what is known about the individual's financial assets

Large withdrawals from bank accounts, accounts that have been switched

Unusual ATM activity

Signatures on checks don't match the victim's



5

Neglect

Denying a dependent individual access to food, water, medications, clothing, and assistance with daily activities or hygiene.

Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food and water, or clean and appropriate clothing

Person with dementia left unsupervised

Untreated pressure bedsores

Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)

Sunken eyes or loss of weight

95% OF RESIDENTS

in nursing homes reported that they had been neglected or seen someone else neglected.

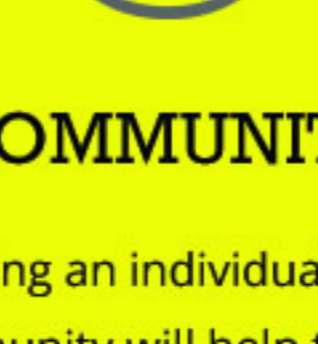


Abuse Prevention



EDUCATION

Increased public awareness and more efficient caretaker training programs are essential to ending the cycle.



COMMUNITY

Increasing an individual's sense of community will help them feel less isolated and encourage them to come forward about abuse.



TIME OFF

Elders should periodically be cared for by someone else to allow their caregiver to take a break.

Sources

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