

# ELDER ABUSE AND ITS IMPACT: *What You Must Know*

The research suggests that...

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MORE THAN **41 MILLION** AMERICANS ARE 65 OR OLDER, AND ELDERS COMPRISE A GROWING PROPORTION OF THE U.S. POPULATION.<sup>1</sup>



**1 in 10** AMERICANS AGE 60+ EXPERIENCED ABUSE OVER ONE YEAR, AND MANY EXPERIENCED IT IN MULTIPLE FORMS.<sup>2</sup>



NEARLY **1 in 2** PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF ABUSE BY OTHERS.<sup>3</sup>

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## ELDER ABUSE IS *underreported*.

The New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study found that for every elder abuse case known to programs and agencies, **23.5** were unknown. In the same study, they examined different types of abuse and found for each case of financial exploitation that reached authorities, **44** cases went unreported. The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse ever comes to the attention of authorities.<sup>4</sup>



ELDER ABUSE COSTS VICTIMS *billions of dollars* EACH YEAR.

The annual financial loss by victims of elder financial exploitation was estimated to be **\$2.9 billion** in 2009, a 12% increase from 2008.<sup>5</sup>

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ELDER ABUSE IS ASSOCIATED WITH *increased rates* OF HOSPITALIZATION IN THE COMMUNITY POPULATION.

Older adults who experienced abuse or neglect were **twice as likely** to be hospitalized than other seniors.<sup>6</sup>



ELDERS WHO EXPERIENCE MISTREATMENT AND SELF-NEGLECT  
FACE A *greater risk* OF DYING SOONER.<sup>7</sup>



SURVIVORS OF ELDER MISTREATMENT  
SUFFER *significantly higher levels* OF  
PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS THAN NON-VICTIMS.<sup>8</sup>



## REFERENCES

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## *In conclusion...*

More research is needed, but it is clear that elder abuse is a major public health problem with significant impact on millions of people. This information sheet provides a common reference point for professionals and the public to use when discussing the problem of elder abuse. The NCEA is at the forefront of the national fight against elder abuse. To learn more and get involved visit <https://ncea.acl.gov>.

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