

NEED TO KNOW

Abuse and neglect of a senior is any action or inaction by ANY person that causes harm to a senior.

Elder Abuse can occur in every demographic group. In 2018, there were 32 reported and investigated cases of alleged senior abuse which include: physical, psychological and sexual abuse, financial exploitation and neglect. Any senior may be a victim of elder abuse regardless of income, gender, ethnicity race or education. Often times many cases of abuse are not reported because elders are afraid or unable to tell friends, police or family. The impact of abuse can be especially serious for elders, who tend to be weaker and more vulnerable than younger adults. Escaping an abusive situation may be particularly challenging for elders who often depend on caretakers or family members for their care. Mandated reporters MUST report actual or suspected physical abuse.

2019 Theme:

“Lifting Our Voices”

Reported Cases of Senior Abuse by Year

	2016	2017	2018
Substantiated	18	24	17
Unsubstantiated	10	9	13

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse:

Any act of violence causing injury or physical discomfort, including sexual assault & forcible restraint.

- Unexplained injuries in areas normally covered (bruises, burns, bites)
- Untreated / unexplained medical problems
- History of “accidents”
- Dehydration

Psychological abuse:

Any Action or comment causing emotional anguish, fear, or diminished self-esteem or dignity.

- Fear
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Withdrawal
- Reluctance to talk openly fearful interaction with caregiver
- Caregiver speaking on behalf of the person and not allowing privacy

Financial Abuse:

Theft or exploitation of a Senior’s money, property or Assets (fraud, forgery, misuse of Authority)

- Standard of living not in keeping with I income or assets
- Theft of property
- Unusual activity in bank accounts
- Forged signatures on cheques
- Forcing a person to sign over property or add them to a will

Neglect:

Failure to provide basic or personal care needs (food, water, required medications.)

- Failure to provide basic or personal care needs
- Lack of attention
- Abandonment
- Undue confinement
- Inadequate supervision or safety precautions
- Withholding medical services/treatment