

# POLICY ON ELDER ABUSE



## OVERVIEW:


Elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.



Elder abuse can happen anywhere, in the person's home, in a facilities responsible for person's care

### Six Types of Elder Abuse Exist

<b>Physical</b> Hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, burning, or force causing injury	<b>Sexual</b> Engaging in sexual act without consent	<b>Emotional</b> Harming self-worth or emotional well-being, name calling, & scaring
<b>Neglect</b> Failing to meet basic needs like food, housing, clothing, & medical care	<b>Abandonment</b> Leaving elder alone or no longer providing care	<b>Financial</b> Illegally misusing an elder's money, property, or assets

Learn how signs of elder abuse differ from normal aging to prevent elder abuse before it happens. 

## Statistics

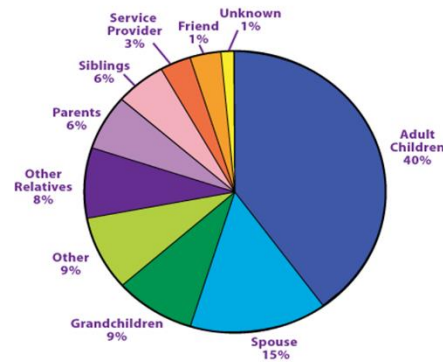
Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused each year. One study estimated that **only 1 in 14** cases of abuse are reported to authorities.



## Long Term Effects of Elder Abuse

- Increase Mortality and morbidity
- Increased depression and cognitive decline
- Costs to older Americans range from **\$2.9 billion** to **\$36.5 billion** annually.

### Breakdown of Confirmed Perpetrators



National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators  
National Center on Elder Abuse

## Ways to Prevent Elder Abuse

1. Open Communication
2. Education
3. Reporting elder maltreatment to Adult Protective Services (APS).

## Policies on Elder Abuse:

The federal government and the states, the District of Columbia, and some territories all have statutes to protect older adults from abuse, but the vast majority of elder abuse legislation in America is state legislation

### Current federal laws are:

1. The Older Americans Act enacted in 1965.
2. Elder Justice Act: The EJA was passed as a part of the Affordable Healthcare Act and for the first

time, the EJA unifies the federal systems to respond to **elder abuse** through training, services, and demonstration programs.

### State Law on Elder abuse

1. The American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging
2. Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (EAGLE). **Click** the link below for a Specific State Laws

<http://eagle.trea.usc.edu/state-specific-laws/>.

## CONCLUSION

Elder abuse is real, educating seniors, professionals, caregivers, and the public on abuse is critical to prevention.

## References

- .National Council on Aging, retrieved from: <https://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/elder-justice/elder-abuse-facts/>
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