

# The Facts of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.

## Here are some facts that everyone should know.

- > About 1 in 10 Americans age 60+ have experienced abuse.<sup>1</sup>

- > 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>

- > Without accessible, quality health and public services, our population becomes more at risk for abuse as we age.

- > The impact of elder abuse is felt by people of all ages.

The costs of elder abuse are high for the affected individuals and society alike. Elder abuse reduces older people's participation in the life of our communities. It also creates health care and legal costs, which are often shouldered by public programs like Medicare and Medicaid, and reduces older people's participation in the life of the community.<sup>3</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>

- > 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 older people.<sup>2</sup>



*It is up to **all of us** to prevent and address elder abuse!*

Our country's value of justice for all requires that we construct strong supports that help people of all ages. Ending isolation, creating and improving transportation, law enforcement, senior centers and social services can help stop abuse.

## REFERENCES

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