



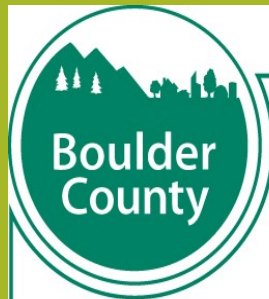
**WORLD ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY**

Building Strong Support for Elders

2022 WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY PRESENTATION



BOULDER COUNTY
**HOUSING
& HUMAN
SERVICES**



**AREA AGENCY
ON AGING**

Community Services Department



CPD
community
protection
division

Quick Facts about the District Attorney's Office

Jurisdiction over all criminal offenses in the 20th Judicial District (Boulder County -- Ward, Ned, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Boulder, etc.)

Over 90 members of staff

11,000 cases per year

2 offices/courthouses (downtown Boulder and Longmont)

Mission of District Attorney's Office

Enhance community safety & improve the justice system.

Do justice in every case – all 11,000 of them.

Programs and efforts to help people and reduce the likelihood of re-offense.

Serving our community.

What is Elder Abuse?

- Physical or sexual abuse, financial exploitation, caretaker neglect
- Difference between criminal case and APS investigations
 - Self-neglect
- In Colorado, crimes against elder abuse focus on victims age 70 or older
 - These are “at-risk” adults under our laws, as are adults 18 and over who have a disability
 - Crimes against “at-risk” adults carry more severe penalties than crimes against the general population

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

It's the abuse and neglect of older people, it takes many forms.

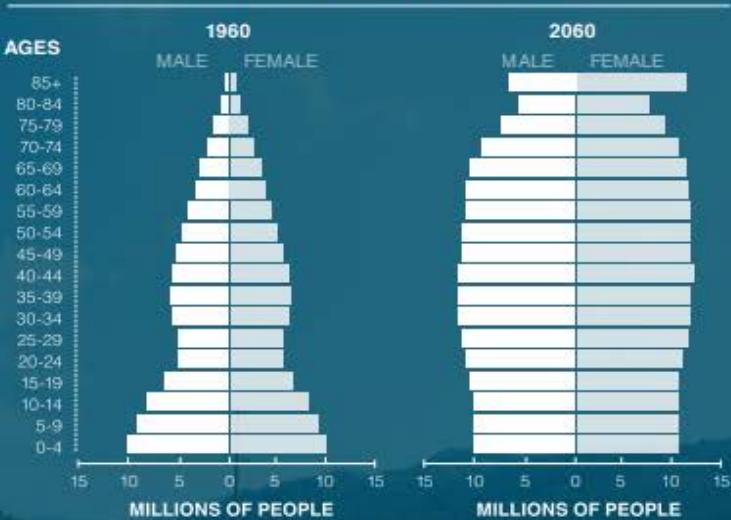
Elder Abuse Statistics

Population of Older Adults

Older adults age 65 or older comprise 14.9% of the total population in the USA.

Projections anticipate the percentage of the population age 65 and older to continue to grow in the coming decades.

From Pyramid to Pillar: A Century of Change
Population of the United States



Prevalence of Elder Abuse

At least 10% of adults age 65 and older will experience some form of elder abuse in a given year, with some older adults simultaneously experiencing more than one type of abuse.



The Majority of Older Adults Live in the Community

As over 90% of older adults reside in the community (as opposed to various forms of congregate living situations), most elder abuse is occurring among older adults living in the community.



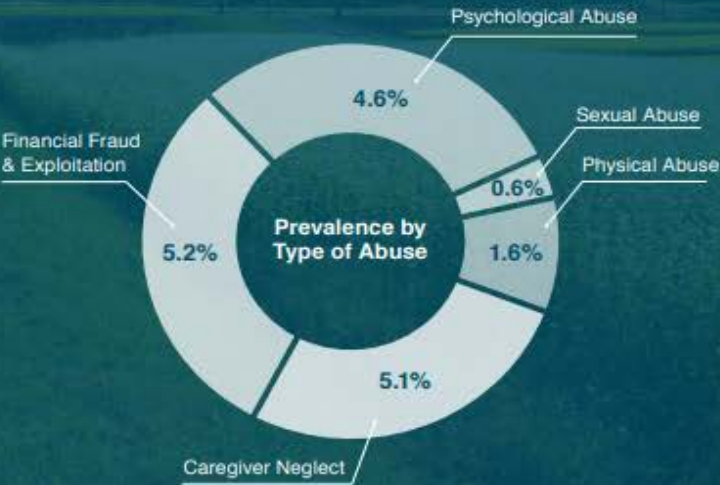
Rate of Underreported by Type of Elder Abuse

Caregiver Neglect	1:57
Financial Exploitation	1:44
Physical Abuse	1:20
Psychological Abuse	1:12

Definition and Prevalence of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is "An intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult"[i]. It is a term under which five types of abuse are reflected[ii]:

- Caregiver Neglect
- Financial Fraud & Exploitation
- Psychological Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse



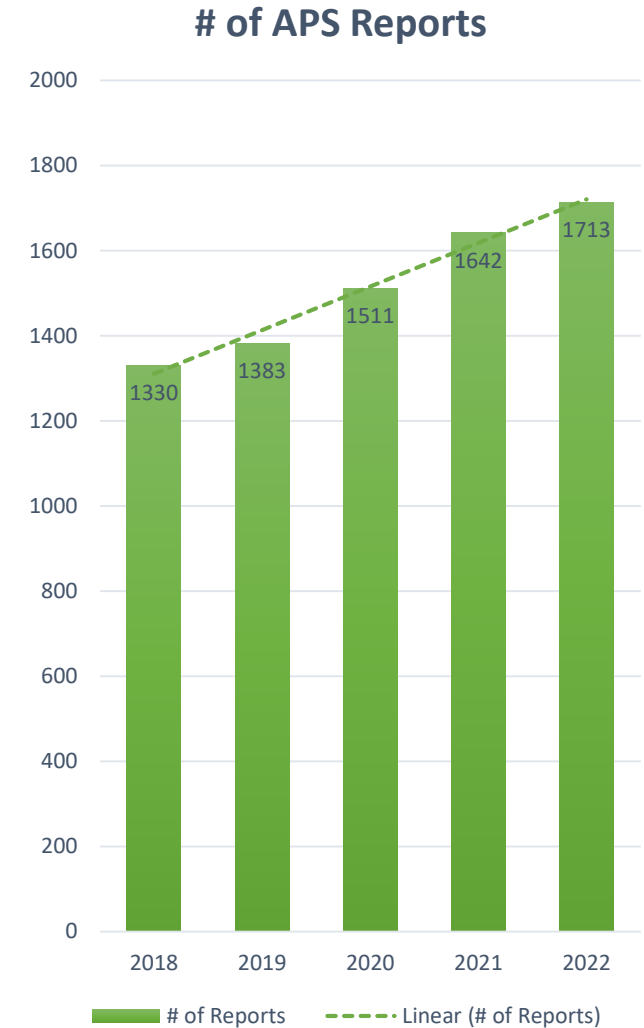
The Consequences of Elder Abuse

The trauma of elder abuse may result in health issues such as a deterioration in health, hospitalization and increased mortality, clinical issues such as depression and suicide, social issues such as disrupted relationships, and financial loss, all leading to diminished independence and quality of life.



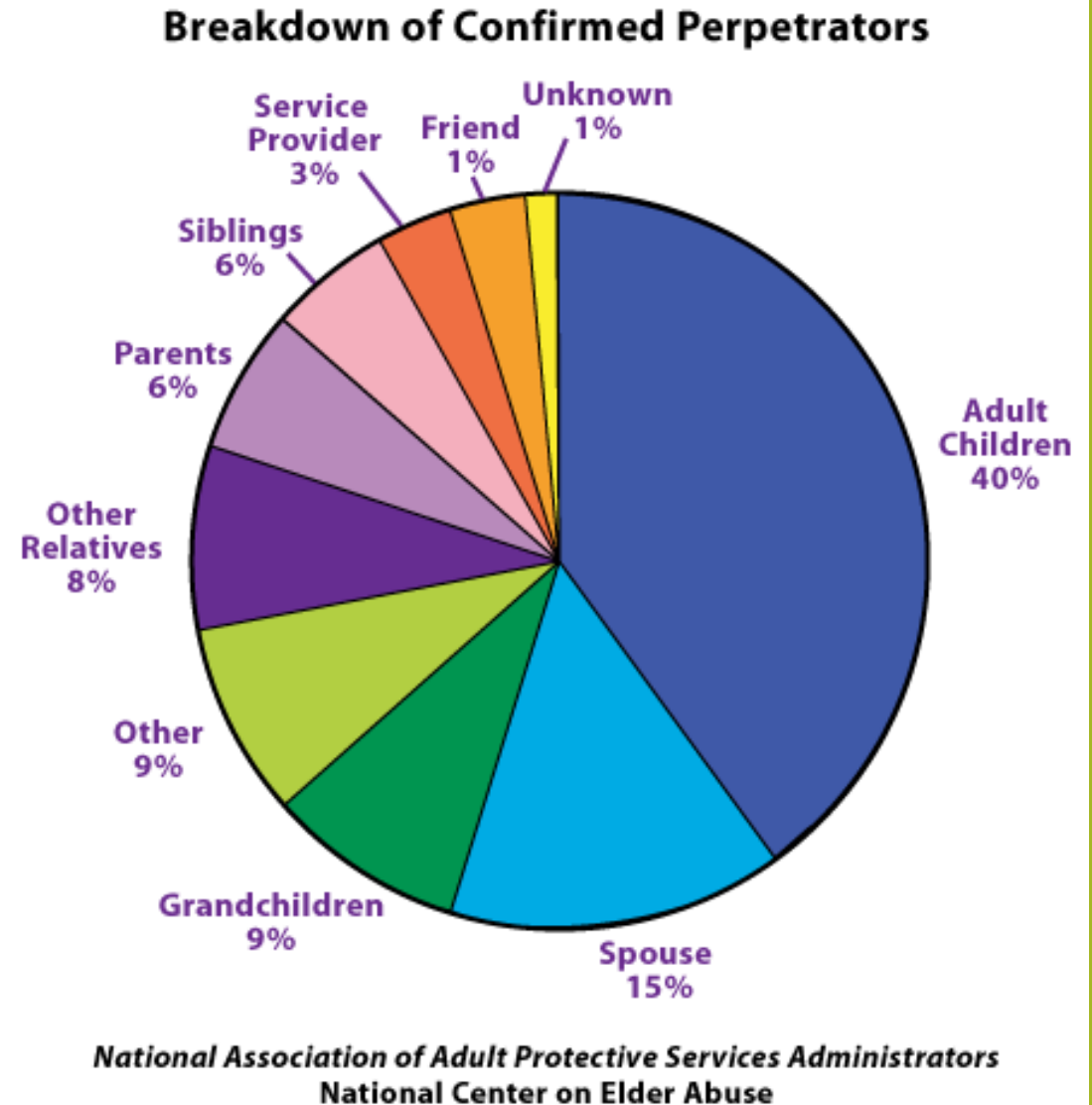
Rocky Mountain High

- Colorado is the second fastest aging state in the nation with a projection that by 2023, Coloradans aged 60+ will outnumber Coloradans age 18 years and younger.
- Since '18, there has been a 29% increase in APS reports



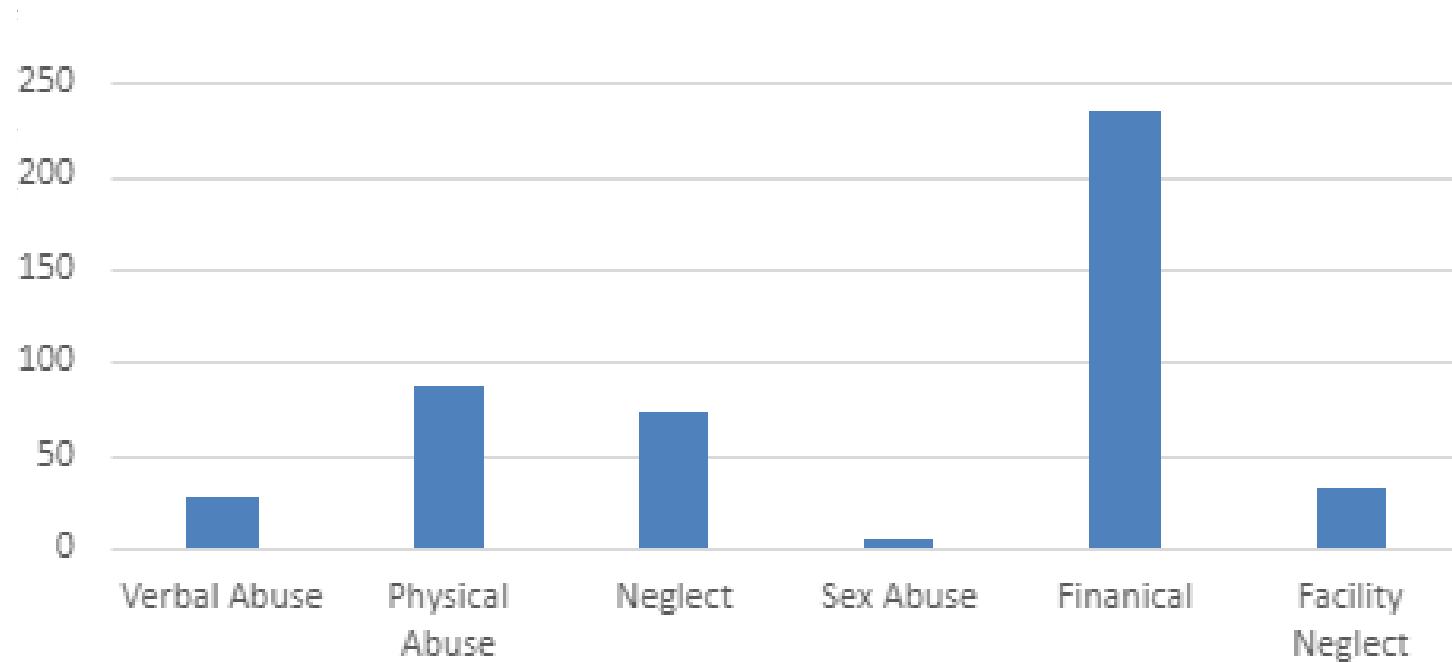
Who perpetrates elder abuse?

- Family members, caregivers, staff at nursing homes, assisted living and other facilities, strangers
- In over 75% of incidents, the perpetrator is a family member

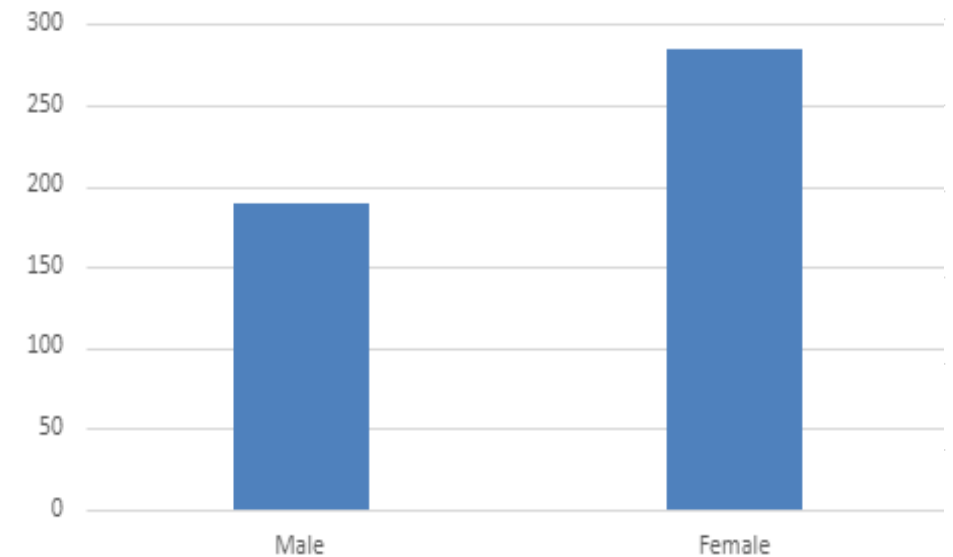


Elder Abuse Within Boulder County

Type of Abuse
55+ 2019-2021

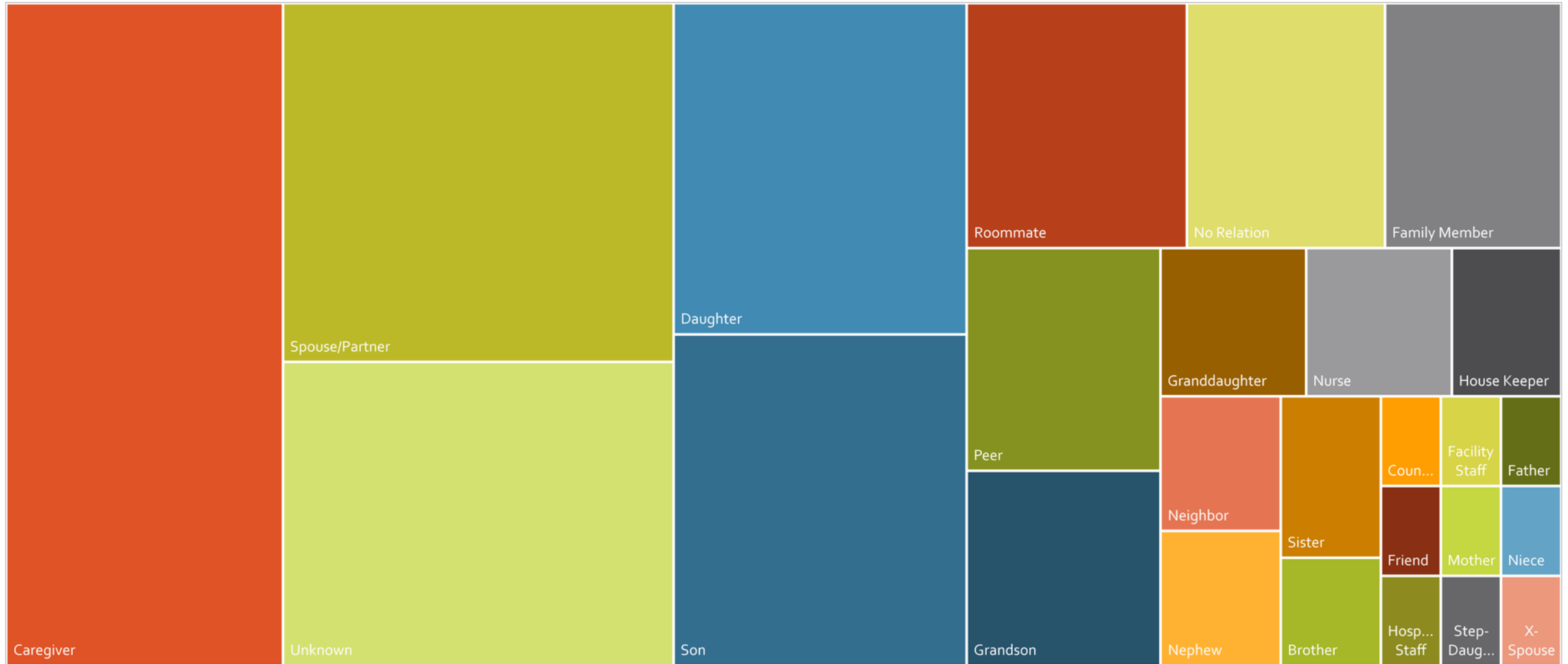


Gender of Victim
55+ from 2019-2021



Perpetrator Relationship to At Risk Adult Boulder County 2019-2021

- Brother
- Caregiver
- Counselor
- Daughter
- Facility Staff
- Family Member
- Father
- Friend
- Granddaughter
- Grandson
- Hospital Staff
- House Keeper
- Mother
- Neighbor
- Nephew
- Niece
- No Relation
- Nurse
- Peer
- Roommate



Types of elder abuse punished by our criminal laws:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial exploitation
- Caretaker neglect



Groups at Risk

- Women & people 80 years and older are more likely to experience abuse.
- Common risk factors for abuse in later life:
 - *Dementia*
 - *Mental health and/or substance abuse issues of an older adult and/or perpetrator*
 - *Social isolation*
 - *Poor physical health*
- Elder abuse affects older people across **all** socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races and can occur anywhere when they are disconnected from social supports.

Signs of Physical Abuse:



- Signs of injury: bruises, scratches, burns, broken bones, welts, cuts, sores, restraint; injuries in various stages of healing
- Unexplained broken personal items
- Unconvincing explanations of injuries, broken items
- Repeated visits to the ER
- Fear of being alone with someone
- Isolation of older adult from other family members, visitors, medical care

Signs of Sexual Abuse:



- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Difficulty in walking, sitting, standing
- Bruises, pain, bleeding, or injuries
- Sexually transmitted diseases.

Behavioral signs:

- Scared, timid
- Depressed, withdrawn
- Sudden avoidance or fear of people
- Doesn't want to be touched
- Resistance to certain caregiving tasks.

Caretaker Neglect: who is a “caretaker”?



It can be a person who:

- has assumed responsibility of the care of an older adult
- has identified themselves as the older adult's caretaker.

Can be a family member, home health provider, facility staff, or a neighbor who has agreed to provide recurring assistance to help the older adult meet basic needs.

Signs of caretaker neglect:

Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration

Untreated physical problems, such as bed sores

Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding

Being left in dirty, soiled clothing

Unsafe living conditions (no heat or running water; faulty electrical wiring, other fire hazards)

Being left alone when unable to self care or protect self

Failure to provide food and water

Improper use of medications in order to “control” the adult

Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker or cane, teeth or dentures, hearing aids, medications)

Signs of Financial Exploitation:

Exploitation means taking an at-risk elder's money or other assets against their will or without their knowledge. In other words, stealing from the adult.

It also means deceiving, harassing, intimidating or using undue influence to get the elder to do something against their will.

- Deviations in financial habits
- Unusual, unexplained increased banking activity
- Unpaid bills piling up
- New or unusual checks written
- Personal belongings missing
- Uncharacteristic gifts for care or companionship
- New/odd/misplaced comments regarding changes to life-planning instruments



Elder Abuse: Financial Exploitation by a Family Member




Watch later



Share



Watch on  YouTube

Case Example Debrief:

Great example of cases we see regularly. Not strangers, nuances, complex, financial, exploitation, family, caregiver.

- At-Risk – Age & Dementia
- Niece/Family Member
- Consolidate Accounts
- Quit Claim Deed of Home
- Isolation
- Reports of Concern
 - Bank
 - Family
- Evidence

Reporting

Why are there Mandatory Reporters?

Certain categories of professionals must report abuse, exploitation or caretaker neglect of “at-risk elders.”

“At-risk elder” = anyone 70 years of age or older

It's the law



Who is required to report?

**Many categories of professionals.
Here are just a few:**

- Anyone who provides health care or mental health services
- Staff and consultants for care facilities, agencies, homes, including long-term care facilities, home care agencies, and home health providers
- Social workers
- Law enforcement, Fire, EMS
- Personnel of banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions
- Pharmacists

Mandatory reporting:



Everyone is URGED to report:

Urged reporting:



**Adult Protection and Senior Services in Boulder County:
(303) 441-1309**

Per statute, Sections 18-6.5-108 and 26-3.1-102, C.R.S.

Efforts to Prevent Elder Abuse

Boulder County Area Agency on Aging (BCAAA)

- Created the Justice Coalition for ALL (Abuse in Later Life) to recognize/address instances of abuse in later life
- In partnership with Changing the Narrative, reducing discrimination against individuals due to their age
- Reducing isolation through the Respite & Companion Volunteer Program and Choices@Home programs which provide necessary caregiver respite or in-home non-medical care.

Boulder Older Adult Services

- Designated as a Colorado Lifelong City, laying a foundation that assures all residents of Boulder are valued as they live, work and age in the Boulder community.
- Local and regional partnerships to provide a wide range of services to the older adult community.

Longmont Senior Services

- Providing bilingual Resource Specialists to assist community members in accessing supportive services
- Licensed professional counselors available for individual, couples, and family counseling
- Supportive services for caregivers looking to discuss family care needs

What Can YOU DO?

- Keep in contact with your older friends, neighbors, and relatives frequently
- Be aware and alert for the possibility of abuse
- Ask questions and listen
- Talk about the issue of abuse in later life to increase identification and reporting of abuse
- Reduce the culture of ageism and a fear of growing older by challenging injustice and ageist stereotypes
- Volunteer with organizations who work to enhance services for older adults
- Determine if you are a mandatory reporter of elder abuse and seek information
- If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in later life, encourage them to report it to Adult Protective Services at 303-441-1309

Questions?

DA Community Protection Division: 303-441-3700

Adult Protective Services: 303-441-1309

Area Agency on Aging Resource Line: 303-441-1617

Call us for assistance!