

How prevalent is Adult Abuse?

In Virginia, Adult Protective Services received **17,936** reports in 2011.

- Of those, **15,210** reports were investigated.
- **59% (8,941)** of these cases were substantiated.
- In **48%** of cases, APS determined the client was in need of services and the client accepted.

Where did abuse occur?

- **65%** of abuse, neglect, and exploitation incidents occurred in the victim's own house or apartment,
- **13%** occurred at another person's house or apartment
- **9%** occurred at a nursing facility
- **5%** occurred in an assisted living facility

The National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that *for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect reported to authorities, five or more cases go unreported.*

How to Report Adult Abuse

To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation:

1-888-832-3858

1-888-83-ADULT

24-hour toll-free hotline

Contact your local Department of Social Services and ask to speak with Adult Protective Services
In Staunton and Augusta County, call:

540-942-6648

Shenandoah Valley Department of Social Services

Calls may be made anonymously

Additional Resources

Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

<http://www.vcpea.org/>

National Center on Elder Abuse

<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/>

Greater Augusta Coalition Against Adult Abuse

<http://www.gacaaa.com/>

Funded by:

The Greater Augusta Coalition Against Adult Abuse (GACAAA)

Purpose: to increase the public awareness of elder abuse and encourage anonymous reporting to the proper authorities.

What is Adult Abuse?

Resources for identifying, addressing, and preventing adult abuse.



Preventing Adult Abuse

RECOGNIZE, REPORT,
REDUCE!

Recognize

- Listen to seniors and their caregivers
- Identify warning signs

Report

- Intervene when you suspect abuse by calling your local Adult Protective Services Dept. or the Police

Reduce

- Educate others about how to recognize and report abuse

Types of Adult Abuse

Physical Abuse – the intentional infliction of physical pain or injury.

Mental or Psychological Abuse – the intentional infliction of mental anguish by verbal assault, threat, intimidation, humiliation, or other means.

Sexual Abuse – any unwanted sexual contact. This includes instances in which the adult is unable to understand or communicate.

Neglect – the lack of necessary assistance to keep physically and mentally healthy.

Self-Neglect – the failure to provide one's self with the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, needed medical care, and reasonable financial management.

Financial Exploitation – the illegal use of an adult's resources or property for another individual's profit or advantage.

Signs of Adult Abuse

Abuse

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns
- Prolonged interval between injury and treatment
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities
- Strained or tense relationships between caregiver and elder
- Individual is prohibited from being alone with visitors

Neglect

- Poor hygiene
- Dirt, fleas, lice on person
- Fecal/urine smell
- Pressure sores/ulcers
- Inadequate supervision
- Untreated medical conditions
- Lacks needed dentures, glasses, hearing aids or medications
- Weight loss

Financial Exploitation

- Sudden changes in financial situation
- Financial dependency between older person and caregiver
- Individual is unaware of his/her income
- Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved friends/relatives
- Transfer of property or money

Quick Tips for Caregivers:

- Take breaks!
- Request help from family and friends
- Educate yourself on how to communicate effectively with doctors
- Stay healthy
- Adopt stress reduction practices
- Find a support group for caregivers of the elderly