

Elder Care and Abuse Awareness
In our Community...and in Our Congregations
June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month
2017 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15

When we think of our elders, most of us think of relationships of love, respect - and maybe even special hugs! However, it is reported that 1 in 10 older adults in the U.S. are abused annually – with serious under-reporting! Abuse and neglect happens not only in the general community and care facilities...but in homes where you would expect loving relationships. It's important, therefore, for us to realize and even promote Elder Abuse Awareness.



Definition: Elder abuse is defined as 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. So, abuse can be active harm...or passive neglect.



Types: Elder abuse includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and abandonment.

Perpetrators: Abusers include adult children, other family members, and spouses—as well as friends, hired caregivers, staff at hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living, and other facilities.

Causes: Abuse is sometimes a result of anger and a tendency for violence in the abuser. However, abuse (or neglect) may come about as a result of frustration, impatience, or fatigue in a caregiving situation – sometimes with a hired caregiver, but increasingly by a spouse or adult child caregiver...even when there have been loving relationships in the past.

What to look for: Bruises, cuts, scratches, burns may be visible results of harming. But symptoms also include signs of neglect/lack of care: lack of hygiene, dried feces, loss of weight, dehydration, bed-sores, dirty clothes, etc...

Elder Abuse is more than physical abuse.
It can also be financial or emotional.

**If you, or a senior
you know, is in trouble,**



**CALL
Toll-Free
1-855-542-1336**

Elder Abuse Prevention
Support Line

Speak directly to a
Peer Support Volunteer.
- Fully Confidential



Reporting: Anyone who becomes aware of elder abuse can report the situation. Those with responsibility for the welfare of people are mandatory reporters. Mandatory reporting is established by law in many states for police, 1st responders, healthcare professionals and healthcare providers and often clergy.

Reporting is usually to the state Adult Protective Services or the Department of Aging.

For more information go to these links:

<https://www.agingcare.com/articles/elder-abuse-facts-145341.htm>

<http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-2015/elder-abuse-assisted-living.html>

Worth of All Persons is one of the
Enduring Principles of Community of Christ.
It is belief in a God who views all people as having
inestimable and equal worth regardless of age. God
wants all people to experience wholeness of body,
mind, spirit, and
relationships.

Courtesy of

Community of Christ Health Ministries Association

www.hmacofchrist.org 816-833-1000, ext 1262