

Elder abuse goes largely unreported. The National Center on Elder Abuse reports that only 1 in 14 cases are reported to authorities.¹

Most perpetrators are known to the victim.²

Over 33,000 of Maine's elders are abused each year.³

Elders who experienced abuse, even modest abuse, had a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who had not been abused.⁴



Elder abuse impacts all Maine communities, and prevention is possible.

1. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Elder Abuse. (2005). *15 Questions & Answers About Elder Abuse*. Retrieved from: www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/FINAL%206-06-05%203-18-0512-10-04qa.pdf

2. National Center on Elder Abuse, Westat, Inc. (1998). *The national elder abuse incidence study: Final report*. Washington D.C.

3. Office of Justice Programs. (2011). Elder abuse and mistreatment. Retrieved from http://ojp.gov/newsroom/factsheets/ojpfs_elderabuse.html

4. Dong X, Simon M, Mendes de Leon C, Fulmer T, Beck T, Hebert L, et al. (2009). Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 302(5), 517-526.

Any of the organizations listed here can help with information and resources if you or someone you know may be the victim of elder abuse.

Adult Protective Services, Maine Department of Health & Human Services

www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/aging/resource/aps.htm

Nationwide 24-hour, toll-free:

1-800-624-8404

TTY (24/7): Maine relay 711

Maine Office of Securities

www.investors.maine.gov

1-877-624-8551

Legal Services for the Elderly

www.mainelse.org

1-800-750-5353

Sexual Assault Support Centers

www.mecasa.org

1-800-871-7741

TTY: 1-888-458-5599

Domestic Violence Resource Centers

www.mcedv.org

1-866-83-4HELP

TTY: 1-800-437-1220

Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging

www.maine4a.org

1-877-353-3771



www.elderabuseprevention.info

Committed to ending elder abuse in Maine

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People depicted in this brochure are models and are being used for illustrative purposes only.

Committed to ending elder abuse in Maine



**Maine Council
for Elder Abuse
Prevention**



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Who We Are

The mission of the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention (MCEAP) is to support collaborative efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. MCEAP promotes a unifying vision which addresses elder abuse, and drives this vision by advocating for public policy, supporting collaboration between existing resources, and facilitating cross disciplinary communication. MCEAP acts as a resource for training and education efforts among existing stakeholders.



33,000 Maine elders are abused each year. Prevention is possible if we all work together.

MCEAP is comprised of over 40 organizations and individuals from across Maine. All members are committed to ending elder abuse in Maine.

Elder Abuse Prevention

It's possible to end elder abuse in Maine.

Elder abuse is a community problem with community solutions. Educated communities are empowered communities: learning the warning signs of elder abuse and where to go for help are important first steps in community education and elder abuse prevention.

It is important for community members to become advocates and speak out on behalf of those who cannot. Engaging people through grassroots organizing, campaigning for public awareness, and celebrating observances such as **Elder Abuse Awareness Day** (June 15th), or **Older Americans Month** (May), are great ways to get involved and to work toward elder abuse prevention.



What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of ethnicity, social status, or gender. The following types of abuse are the major categories of elder mistreatment:

- **Physical Abuse:** Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind, or coercing an elder to witness sexual behaviors.
- **Financial Exploitation:** Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.
- **Neglect:** Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable elder.
- **Abandonment:** The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

Although there are different types of abuse, it is common for an elder to experience more than one type of mistreatment at the same or different times.⁵

Almost 90% of elder abuse is perpetrated by family members.⁶

5. National Council on Elder Abuse. (2013). *FAQs*. Retrieved from www.ncea.aoa.gov/faq/index.aspx

6. National Council on Aging. (2013). *FAQs on elder abuse*. Retrieved from <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/elder-justice/faqs-on-elder-abuse.html>