
Elder Abuse: Why It's Important to Understand the Data



Elder Abuse Happens Wherever Older Adults Live

Only 4.5 % (about 1.5 million) of older adults live in nursing homes.

Only 2 % (1 million) in assisted living facilities.

The majority of older adults (93.5 %, or 33.4 million) live in the community.

Prevalence of Elder Abuse

1 in 10 Americans age 60 and over have experienced some form of elder abuse.

Elder abuse includes:

- Financial exploitation
- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Intentional neglect (withholding of needed care)

Up to 5 million Americans are abused every year.



Elder Abuse is Under-Reported; Financial Impact is in the Billions

- Only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse are reported to authorities.⁽¹⁾ For cases of financial abuse, only 1 in 44 case are ever reported.⁽²⁾
- It is estimated that 37% of seniors are affected by financial abuse in any five-year period.⁽³⁾
- The annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion.⁽¹⁾



(1) National Council on Aging, Get the Facts on Elder Abuse, <https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-elder-abuse>

(2) National Adult Protective Services Association, <https://www.napsa-now.org/get-informed/exploitation-resources>

(3) The True Link Report on Elder Financial Abuse 2015, <http://documents.truelinkfinancial.com/True-Link-Report-On-Elder-Financial-Abuse-012815.pdf>

Perpetrators of Elder Abuse Crimes

- In almost 60% of elder abuse and neglect incidents, the perpetrator is a family member. ⁽¹⁾
- Two thirds of perpetrators are adult children or spouses. ⁽¹⁾
- It is estimated that \$6.67 billion is lost annually to abuse by someone trusted by an older adult, such as a family member, a paid helper, a friend, lawyer, accountant or financial manager. ⁽²⁾



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Financial Abuse is Progressive

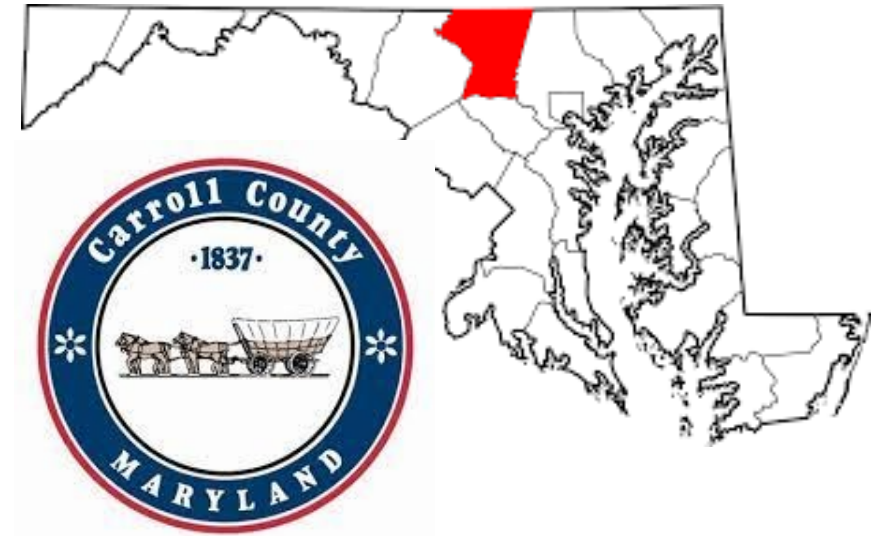
- Financial exploitation is often progressive. What seems like an isolated incident is often the first step in a financial exploitation progression. ⁽¹⁾
- Seniors who lose as little as \$20 in a year to exploitation could be expected to lose \$2,000 a year to various types of fraud. ⁽¹⁾
- Being the victim of any form of elder abuse has detrimental health impacts. According to the NCOA, elders who have been abused have a 300% higher risk of death compared to those who have not been mistreated. ⁽²⁾

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Growing Older Adult Population

- The number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060.
- The population percentage of Americans age 65-and-older will rise from 16% to 23% during that time.
- In Carroll County, the percentage of residents age 65 and older increased from 12.4% in 2010 to 16.4% in 2019.



Today's Speakers

- **Dave Rolle**, Carroll County State's Attorney's Office Investigator – Frauds and scams targeted at older adults.
- **Richard Adams III**, Esq. of O'Byrne Law – Estate planning tips to help protect older adults from potential financial exploitation.
- **Jeffrey H. Myers**, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Aging – Banks' role in preventing and detecting financial exploitation of older adults.
- **Jill Rosner**, Rosner Healthcare Navigation – Health deficits and social isolation as risk factors for potential elder abuse.
- **Gina Valentine**, Chief, Carroll County Bureau of Aging & Disabilities – County resources for older adults; where and how to report suspected elder abuse.

