

Statistics

* Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused each year. One study estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of abuse are reported to authorities.

In almost **90%** of elder abuse and neglect incidents, the perpetrator is a member of the family. Two thirds of perpetrators are adult children or spouses. Domestic abuse by a spouse or partner may be a continuation of a long-lasting pattern of abuse in an elder's relationship.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender elders face high rates of victimization, yet may not report abuse for fear of further discrimination. Because they are less likely to have children and more likely to be single, their support networks may be smaller, so less available to help when abuse occurs. ~SAGE

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR NURSE IF YOU NEED HELP. THEY WILL CONTACT BEACON SOCIAL WORKERS TO ASSIST YOU.

More Resources & Info

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE of an ELDERLY OR VULNERABLE ADULT:

Call your local **Department of Social Services (DSS)** in the county where the elderly or disabled adult lives. Ask for **ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS.)** After hours, call your local law enforcement; they'll connect you with the on-call APS worker. **You can call anonymously.**

Orange County APS: (919) 245-2800
Durham County APS: (919) 560-8600
Chatham County APS: (919) 642-6988
Wake County APS: (919) 212-7264
Alamance County APS: (336) 229-2908
Lee County APS: (919) 718-4690

NC Aging and Adult Services

"Aging and Adult Services works to promote the independence and enhance the dignity of North Carolina's older adults, persons with disabilities and their families." Provides information and referral for a wealth of resources: **919-855-4800**

www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/adult-services

Elder Care Locator

Locates local resources for elders & caregivers

1-800-677-1116

www.eldercare.gov

NC Legal Aid Senior Legal Helpline

1-877-579-7562

HDF5339 06/12/17

UNC HOSPITALS BEACON PROGRAM



Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse and

Neglect

www.med.unc.edu/beacon

(984) 974-0470

Monday-Friday

8am-4:30 pm

Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse/Neglect and the Beacon Program

What Is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse includes physical, sexual or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting, either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted because of age or disability.

What is Neglect?

Neglect occurs when an older or disabled adult lives alone but cannot take care of their own basic physical and mental needs, or when their caregiver is not providing the necessary services the person requires for physical and mental health.

Who is a Vulnerable Adult?

A person 18 or older, who is physically or mentally unable to take care of themselves or make responsible decisions for their wellbeing. This may be because of intellectual or developmental disabilities, brain damage, or other illness. The vulnerable adult has to rely on someone else to help them, and may be harmed if the person they are relying on abuses the vulnerable adult, or neglects to assist them.

Types of Abuse

Physical: pushing, slapping, hitting, pulling hair, burning, biting, choking/strangulation, using a weapon or item to physically harm you, breaking/smashing things, hurting pets.

Emotional/Verbal: name-calling, putting you down, humiliating you, insulting you in private or in public, threatening you, isolating you.

Psychological: controlling you, invalidating your reality, making you feel you're "crazy", destroying your self-confidence, making you feel that everything is your fault, playing mind games.

Sexual: forcing you to have unwanted touch or sexual contact, drugging you or getting you intoxicated in order to have sexual contact, forcing you to do things you are uncomfortable with sexually.

Confinement: restraining or isolating you, other than for medical reasons. Not allowing privacy.

Passive Neglect: your caregiver's failure to provide you with life's necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.

Willful Deprivation: denying you medication, medical care, food, shelter, a therapeutic device or other physical assistance, and exposing you to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm.

Financial Exploitation: illegal/improper use of funds, property, or assets. Cashing checks without authorization, stealing money or possessions, making you sign documents you're not fully informed about, taking/using your medications, etc.

Resources for Victims of Fraud & Scams:

Call the NC Department of Justice toll free at **1-877-5-NOSCAM (1-877-566-7226)**. Helps victims of scams targeting elders, including home repairs, products and services, sweepstakes, telephone/internet scams, investment fraud, fake calls from government agencies such as the IRS, etc.

What is the Beacon Program?

The UNCH Beacon Program's social workers help patients and hospital employees who are experiencing, or have experienced, abuse or neglect. We provide support, information, referrals and resources that empower individuals and families to make their own decisions regarding their options and safety. **Your confidentiality is assured.**

What services does the Beacon Program provide?

- ⇒ Evaluation
- ⇒ Safety Planning
- ⇒ Elder/Vulnerable Adult/Domestic Abuse Information
- ⇒ Resources and information about issues/topics affected by abuse (i.e. legal, etc.)
- ⇒ Referrals to health care providers
- ⇒ Referrals to community agencies

Who is eligible to use Beacon Program?

Any UNC Health Care patient or employee who is experiencing, or has experienced, abuse is eligible. Services are provided at UNC Hospitals and its clinics, in person, and over the phone.

How do I contact the Beacon Program?

(984) 974-0470

Monday-Friday 8am-4:30 pm

Or ask your UNC Health Care provider.