

## What Are The Impacts of Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse can have long term effects on the health and well-being of older persons. It can harm their physical and mental health, damage social and family relationships, cause devastating financial loss, lead to early death, and more. Abuse of any form can leave the abused person feeling isolated, fearful, and depressed.

Elder abuse not only impacts the individuals who experience it, but also the wider community. It can cost our broader society in health care and social service costs.

To book an education session for seniors or community organizations, visit:

<https://eapon.ca/education>

## Reporting

*We are all responsible for preventing and addressing elder abuse.*

### **Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**

Call if you suspect elder abuse and/or if a criminal act has happened. You will remain anonymous. You do not appear in court.

### **Long-Term Care ACTION Line 1-866-434-0144 [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca)**

### **Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA) 1-855-275-7472 [www.rhra.ca](http://www.rhra.ca)**




Elder Abuse  
Prevention  
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For more information

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario  
416-916-6728 | Toll-free : 1-833-916-6728  
[www.eapon.ca](http://www.eapon.ca) | [admin@eapon.ca](mailto:admin@eapon.ca)  
@EAPreventionON

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# What Is Elder Abuse?

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Elder Abuse is defined by the World Health Organization as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.” Often, an older person may experience more than one type of abuse at the same time.

## Types of Elder Abuse

### Financial Abuse

Financial abuse is the most common form of elder abuse reported. It is defined as any improper conduct, done with or without the informed consent of the older adult that results in a monetary or personal gain to the abuser and/or monetary or personal loss for the older adult.

### Neglect

Neglect is not meeting the basic needs of the older person. It can include the intentional withholding of care or the basic necessities of life or the unintentional failure to provide proper care to an older adult due to lack of knowledge, experience.

### Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse is any action, verbal or non-verbal, that lessens a person’s sense of identity, dignity and self-worth.

### Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is any sexual behavior directed toward an older adult without that person’s full knowledge and consent; it includes coercing an older person through force, threats, or other means into unwanted sexual activity.

### Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is any act of violence or rough handling that may or may not result in physical injury but causes physical discomfort or pain.

## Why Does Elder Abuse Matter In Ontario?

Elder abuse is a serious and growing injustice in our community. The magnitude and extent of the elder abuse cases occurring in Ontario is not fully known, due in part to limited data collection and underreported cases.

