




Elder Abuse

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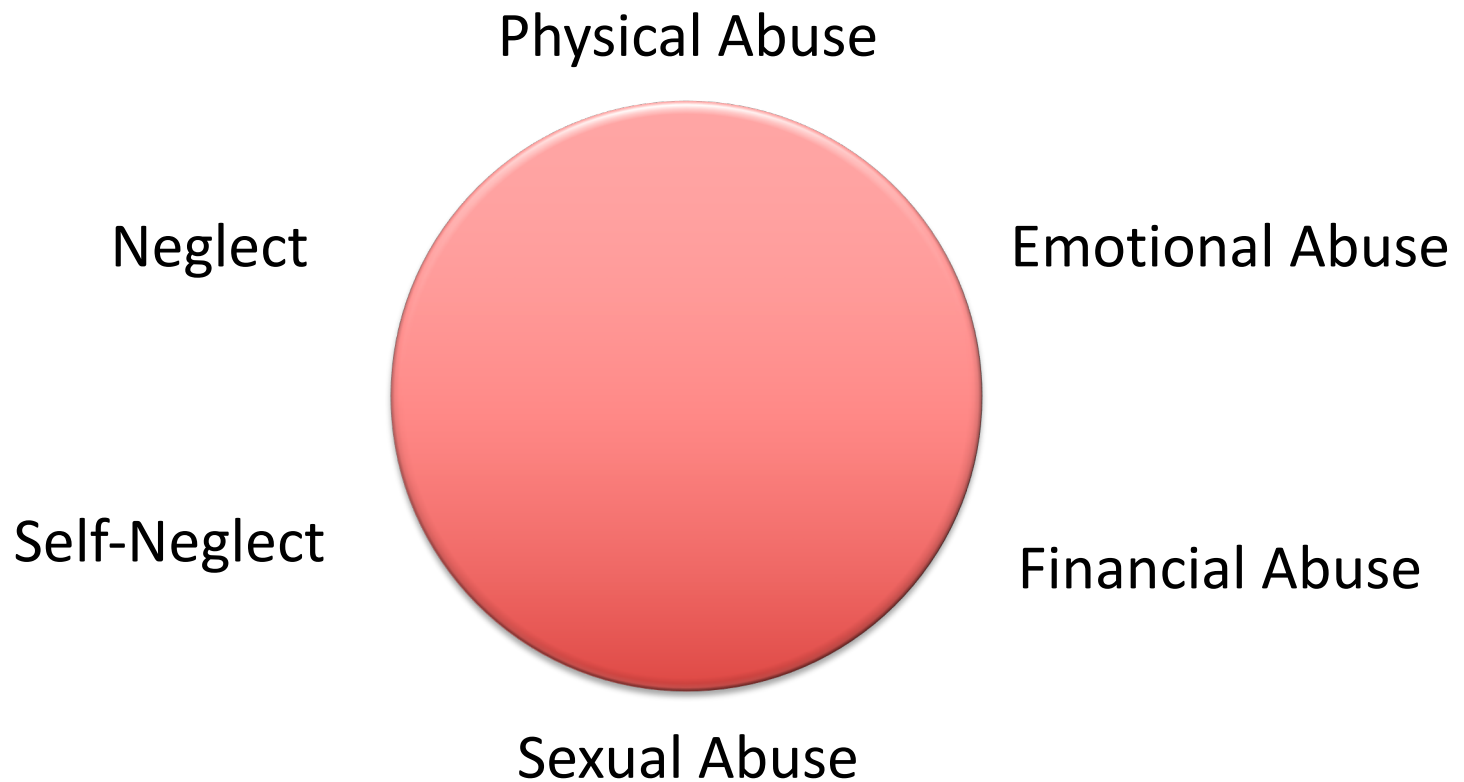


What is “elder abuse”?

“Any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.”

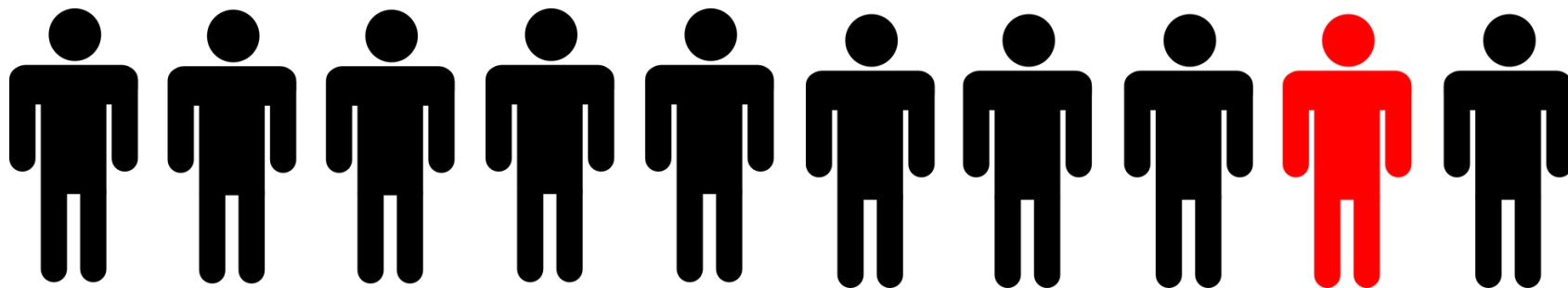
National Center on Elder Abuse www.ncea.aoa.gov

Types of Elder Abuse



WARNING SIGNS

- **PHYSICAL:** unexplained bruises, repeated injuries, broken bones
- **EMOTIONAL:** crying, agitated, ashamed, depressed, withdrawn, afraid
- **SEXUAL:** genital/anal trauma, bleeding, STD's, bruising to breasts, painful urination
- **FINANCIAL:** large bank withdrawals, unpaid bills, missing items
- **NEGLECT:** dehydration, poor hygiene, poor living conditions, left alone in distress



- 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.

Effects of Elder Abuse

Elders who have been abused have a **300% higher risk of death** when compared to those who have not been mistreated.

Estimates of elder financial abuse and fraud costs to older Americans range from **\$2.9 billion to \$36.5 billion annually**.

(This estimate is likely under-reported. Yet, financial exploitation is self-reported at rates higher than emotional, physical, and sexual abuse or neglect.)

What Causes Elder Abuse?

- **AGEISM**
 - Societal attitudes
 - Stereotyping of older adults
 - Lack of awareness

