



ELDER/VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION PUBLIC AWARENESS FACT SHEET



- Each year in the United States, 1 to 2 million reports of elderly and vulnerable adult abuse are made; however, the real number of victims is even higher because most cases are not reported.
- It is estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of elderly and vulnerable adult abuse is reported.
- The Maryland Attorney General's Office, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, investigates and prosecutes incidents of abuse and neglect of vulnerable persons residing in facilities which receive Medicaid funds and in Assisted Living Facilities. **Every year, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit receives between 250 and 500 referrals regarding abuse and neglect of vulnerable persons.** Each referral is reviewed and either investigated for criminal prosecution or referred to the appropriate regulatory agency. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit also provides education and outreach to providers on how to prevent abuse and neglect as well as what to do if abuse or neglect occurs at a facility. For more information on protecting seniors from abuse and neglect, contact the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at 410-576-6521 or at MedicaidFraud@oag.state.md.us.
- The Maryland Department of Aging, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, receives, investigates, and resolves complaints made by or on behalf of long-term care residents. **Of the 2,392 complaints investigated by the Ombudsman Program in 2011, 159 of the investigated reports were alleged resident abuse cases.** For more information about programs and services for seniors, call the Maryland Department of Aging at 410-767-1100, toll-free 1-800-243-3425, or on the web at www.aging.maryland.gov.
- The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Health Care Quality, receives allegations of abuse regarding residents/patients in all licensed and/or federally certified facilities. **In 2011, the Office of Health Care Quality received approximately 866 reports of alleged vulnerable adult abuse.** For more information about Office of Health Care Quality programs, please call 410-402-8108, toll-free 1-877-402-8219, or on the web at www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohcq.
- The Maryland Department of Human Resources, Office of Adult Services, Adult Protective Services Program, investigates allegations of adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of an elderly or disabled vulnerable adult in a community-based setting. **In FY 2011, the Adult Protective Services Program received approximately 6,579 reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults aged 18 years of age and older. Of these cases, 1,883 involved continuing Adult Protective Services case management services to monitor on-going risk factors.** For more information about adult abuse, neglect or exploitation contact the Maryland Department of Human Resources at 410-767-7000, toll-free 1-800-917-7383, or on the web at www.dhr.maryland.gov.
- The Maryland Department of Human Resources, Office of Grants Management, provides community-based services to victims of domestic violence. **In 2011, the Office of Grants Management served 435 victims of domestic violence who were 60 years of age or older.** For more information about services available to victims of domestic violence contact the Maryland Department of Human Resources at 410-767-7000, toll-free 1-800-917-7383, or on the web at www.dhr.maryland.gov.
- The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is a coalition of domestic violence programs, law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens. **The MNADV reported that in 2011, 5 (12%) of the 43 persons killed in domestic violence incidents were 51 years of age or older.** For more information on the coalition's mission and services contact MNADV at 301- 352-4574, toll free 1-800-MD-HELPS, or on the web at <http://mnadv.org>.