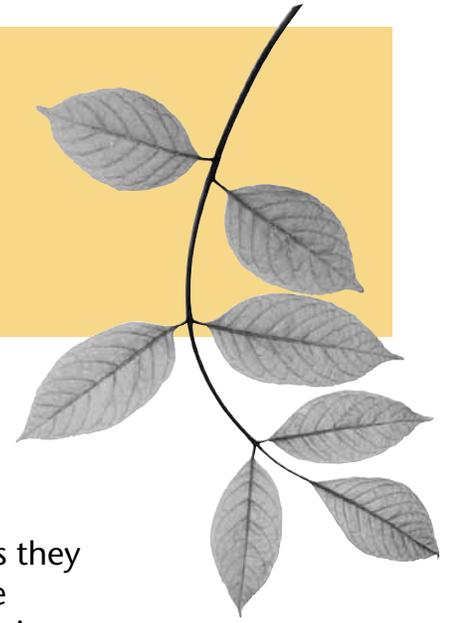


Current trends: abuse and neglect of older persons



Below are some current trends in the abuse and neglect of older persons.

Aging in place

Many older persons are choosing to remain in their home as long as they are safely able to do so. As independent living increases, so does the opportunity for isolation and possible abuse. Respite, home-care services, and community support encourage independence and decrease isolation and opportunities for abuse.

Healthier lifestyle choices

Older persons who adopt healthy lifestyles live longer and enjoy a higher quality of life. A healthier person is less dependent on others to provide care and is therefore less vulnerable to abuse.

Technology

With today's widespread access to the Internet, information is truly at one's fingertips. The ability to stay connected and communicate with friends, family and professionals has never been easier. The Internet and other technologies provide access to resources and information. However, as money or assets can now be accessed by phone, the Internet or bank machines, extra preventive or safety measures need to be taken to ensure that the older person is not victimized.

Caregivers

There is a greater awareness among caregivers that abuse and neglect of older persons is a problem. There is also more emphasis on the training and education of qualified care providers and more ways to hold care providers accountable. Additional resources, such as programs and support groups, are also available to caregivers.

Immigration

Seniors are being sponsored to Canada by their adult children. Some immigrant seniors face extra challenges, such as a new language, different cultural practices and loss of friends. Some may also be expected to contribute to the family income in very physically demanding jobs. In addition, some may receive reduced or no financial compensation when employed in the community or the family business. Extra supports may be required to ensure that immigrant older persons are not taken advantage of and that they receive the support, including health services, that they are entitled to.



Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity

You are not alone — help and support are available

Seniors' Services/Adult Protection Unit: phone 456-3946; toll-free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 3946