

There are about 49.2 million people in the U.S. 65 or older, which is 17% of the population.¹ Older adults experience the same crimes as everyone else, but may be less likely to recover due to their age. Research has repeatedly shown that crimes against older adults are highly underreported.⁵ A 2010 study found that 1 in 10 respondents reported emotional, physical, or sexual mistreatment;⁵ however, these numbers are likely inaccurate, as **people with degenerative diseases, cognitive disabilities, or those who live in institutional settings are often excluded from surveys.**

Victimization Trends

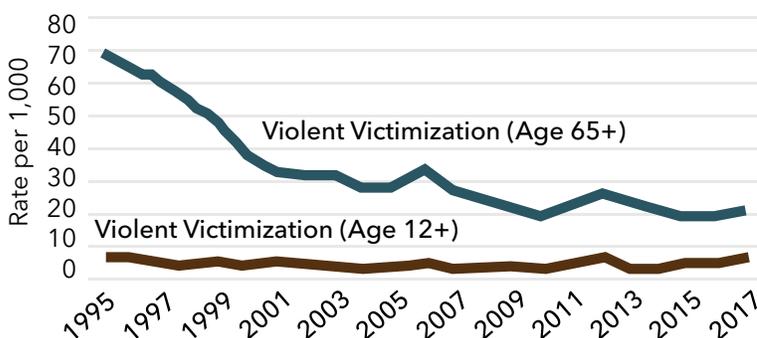
Older adults are less likely to experience violent victimization than younger age groups, yet the impact may be more significant. **From 2015 to 2017, there was a significant increase in the number of victims 65 and older².** The estimated nonfatal assault rate increased 75.4% among men (2002-2016) and 35.4% among women (2007-2016) for those 60 or older, and the estimated homicide rate for men increased 7.1% from 2010 to 2016.⁶

older adults, too. Research indicates that those with cognitive incapacities suffer 100% greater economic losses than those without such incapacities.⁸ **Financial abuse alone costs older adults more than \$2.6 billion annually.⁹**

The majority of older adult abuse is committed by someone familiar to the victim, such as a partner, child, or acquaintance. This can include emotional or physical abuse, sexual assault, or neglect.⁵

Prevalence of Violent Victimization

National Crime Victimization Survey



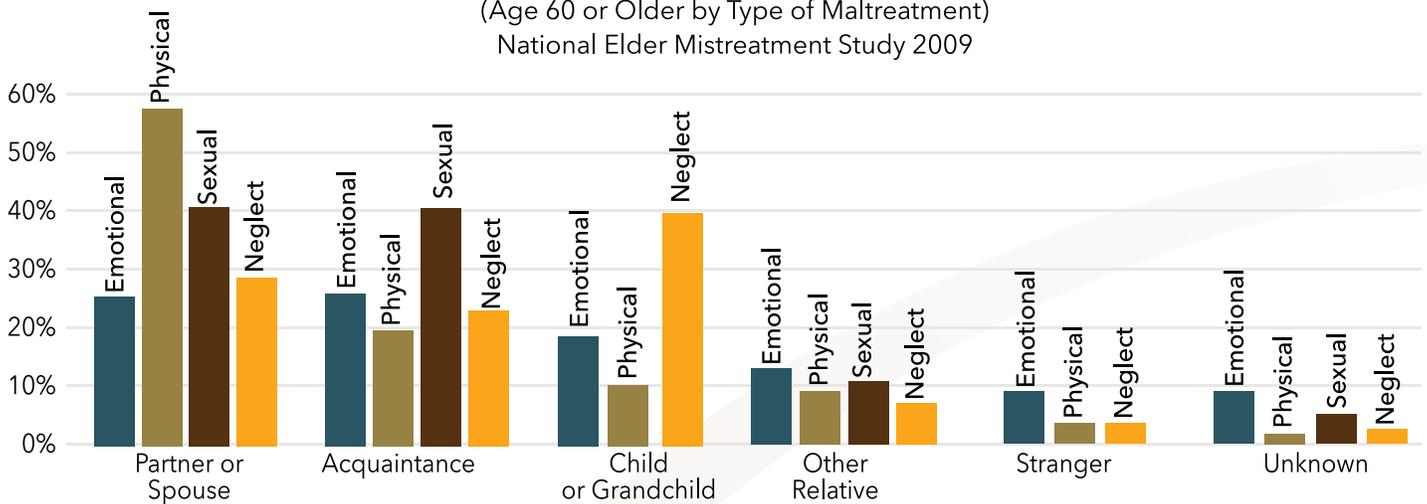
Identity theft among elderly victims increased from 2.1 million in 2010 to 2.6 million in 2014;¹⁰ financial exploitation is a fast-growing form of abuse of

Did You Know?

- Older adults who experience abuse, even modest abuse, had a 300% higher risk of death compared to those who had not been abused.³
- About 11% of older victims of violent crime received assistance from victim service agencies.³

Perpetrator of Most Recent Maltreatment

(Age 60 or Older by Type of Maltreatment)
National Elder Mistreatment Study 2009



Abuse in Assisted Living Settings

An estimated 733,300 older adults receive services from assisted living (AL) facilities daily, yet many national surveys exclude them in estimations of crime and abuse.⁴ A 2013 report* found that verbal, physical, psychological, caregiving, medication, and material exploitation abuse all occurred at some level in AL settings. The study found that resident-to-resident abuse was more prevalent than staff abuse.⁴ These results

are concerning, as abuse is associated with negative health outcomes including fractures, depression, dementia, and malnutrition.⁴ Further, 43% of employees and 41% of residents were likely sexual assault perpetrators. This statistic presents a reality about sexual assault in long-term care facilities that is often overlooked.⁷

*This study does not report on substantiated or reported cases of criminal abuse or neglect, but provides an estimate of what may be occurring based on worker perceptions of abuse in the past 3 months.

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