



# Individuals at Risk

## Did you know...

- Between one to two million vulnerable adults are abused or neglected in our country every year.
- For every report of abuse of an older adult or an adult with a disability five reports are not made.
- The abuse can be financial, physical, emotional and sexual, and can also include neglect.
- People over 85 are the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States; this is also the segment most vulnerable to abuse and neglect.
- The number of abuse victims has been rising steadily over the past decade and the rise is expected to continue.
- Most older adults live in their own homes and, therefore, most elder abuse occurs by people known to the vulnerable adult. The vast majority is perpetrated by family members.

## Things anyone can do...

- Learn the signs of elder abuse and neglect.
- Call or visit an elderly loved one and ask how he or she is doing.
- Provide a respite break for a caregiver.
- Ask your bank manager to train tellers on how to detect elder financial abuse.
- Ask your doctor to ask you and all other senior patients about possible family violence in their lives.

**Fortunately, elder abuse is preventable, but prevention requires research, education, advocacy and public awareness.**

*Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect*

