

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

NO COLOUR – NO GENDER
“A Hidden Crime”

FACILITATOR’S GUIDE 2021

**Get educated and advocate for our
older adults!**



This project is funded in part
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Canada¹³¹

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Introduction

Elder Abuse Prevention Across the Generations

The Project:

With the support and funding of a New Horizons Grant, CHATS-Community & Home Assistance to Older adults has developed this 6-module curriculum which is available in six languages: English, French, /Chinese, /Farsi, /French/Italian & Russian.

The goal is to reduce harm to/increase the safety of older adults

Target Audience:

Older adults, 2SLGBTQ+, Visible Minorities and others; any potential community members at risk of/engaged in committing abuse.

Learning Objective:

Build capacity to identify risk factors, raise awareness and provide basic knowledge of elder abuse prevention. Participants will be confident in supporting someone in an abusive situation.

Delivery:

At this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions the education will be provided through Zoom until otherwise authorized

Module Content

Each module will have the following included:

- Definitions
- Statistics
- Warning Signs
- Risk Factors
- How you can help
- Safe Responses
- Safety Planning
- The signal for help
- Community Resources
- Consequences

You will note that some slides are repeated in all modules. The repetitive aspect of information will help participants retain the knowledge and re-inforce the importance of elder abuse prevention across the generations.

Before you begin:

Check list:

- Review and practice the modules at least once before presenting, particularly if it is your first time presenting
 - o Make notes of anything you want to “remember” to say or explain
- Set up the zoom call,
 - o send only the registration link out when promoting the workshop
 - o send out the zoom link to registered participants so that you have an idea of attendance in advance
 - o make sure you attach the feedback form when you send out the zoom link (this can be downloaded from the CHATS website) <https://chats.on.ca/elder-abuse-presentations-and-infographics/>
- Start the meeting early to verify
 - o Your background is selected
 - o Your video and audio are working
 - o Your presentation is already opened on your desktop
 - o Turn “off” recording if you do not wish to record the workshop
- Housekeeping
 - o Ask everyone to remain muted, if they have a question, put it in the question section, or comments in the CHAT box – you, or your co-host, will check it every 15 minutes or have your co-host monitor on your behalf
 - o If a participant wishes to speak urgently allow them to unmute
 - o Review confidentiality statement and get a show of hands from all participants to ensure that confidentiality is kept in the event someone shares personal information
 - o Remind the participants about the feedback form and thank them, in advance, for taking the time to attend and fill out the form

Preparation of Module Delivery:

Now that you are ready to present, here are some things to consider:

- Start off telling the group that you are not there to tell them what to do, you are there to provide basic information with the hope that afterwards they will have the knowledge and understanding of how they can safely assist someone experiencing Elder Abuse
- How to deal with someone who wants/keeps interrupting
- If a participant discloses that they or someone they know is/are being abused, consider mentioning at the beginning that you are available after the workshop and get their information to follow up immediately after
- How to respond to someone who “challenges” what you are saying
- What to do if asked a question to which you do not have the answer

Review all the videos at least one time in advance to make sure that you are prepared to discuss the content without judgement and in a supportive manner

The Videos:

Ageism Module:

This video should dispel the myths and stereotypes about aging and older adults. It will show why older adults matter and what they contribute to our everyday lives.

Like any younger person, they shop, they use services (which employ people), and they pay taxes.

They also volunteer; in fact, many organizations would be hard pressed to function without their older volunteers. (CHATS included with over 450 Volunteers). According to Statistics Canada, volunteers over 65 years of age contribute about 223 hours a year, compared to the national average of 156 hours.

Older adults also give generously: they make more charitable donations per capita than any other age group.

Older adults babysit; they look after grandchildren. One can only imagine what would happen to our economy if, suddenly, no grandparents were available to look after grandchildren.

Older adults do housework, home maintenance and yard work — not just for themselves, but for others as well. They provide transportation or run errands for others.

Finally, older adults have years of life experience, memories and wisdom earned over a lifetime. They are excellent historians and mentors, bringing an important perspective to the issues faced every day.

Sexual, Physical & Psychological Module:

This module is sensitive and may cause distress or be a trigger for individuals who have experienced sexual, physical, or psychological trauma. This video shows a real-life scenario where abuse was unreported, and why.

- Per the page before the video, please remind people that if they feel that this topic could cause distress or trigger, to take a ten-minute break (no judgements).
- This video was done by CBC's "The National" and the link is in the notes in case anyone wishes to copy it to view on their own.

Financial Abuse Module:

Show the entire video and then lead the group in a quick discussion:

- What behaviours were observed?
- What types of abuse were happening?
- What Risk Factors were observed?
- Any ageist comments?

Response 1 discussion:

- How would you feel if this were you, being spoken to your friend in that manner?
- Do you think that there might be some "victim blaming"?
- Would you call on that friend if you need help?
- Notice the facial expressions.

Response 2 discussion:

- Did you notice that Beth acknowledges the boundaries and is being respectful?
- Beth showed "concern" and "listened," thereby offering support in a general way
- If you were the Professor would you feel more comfortable opening to Beth when you are ready?
- Notice the facial expressions

Imminent Danger always call 911

Resource	Phone Number
211 Ontario	call 211
310 Cope (Mental Health Crisis Work 24/7)	1-888-695-0070
Addiction Services York Region	1-800-263-2288
Alzheimer Society of York Region	905-726-3477
Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County	705-722-1066
Canadian Centre for Men and Families	289-317-0145
Canadian Mental Health Association	1-866-531-2600
Centre for Addictions and Mental Health	1-800-463-2338
CHATS-Community & Home Assistance to Older adults	1-877-452-4287
Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario	416-916-6728
Law Society Referral Service	1-855-947-5255
Legal Aid Ontario	1-800-668-8258
LOFT Bradford House - Supportive Housing	905-775-7060
Ontario Caregiver Helpline	1-833-416-2273
Ontario Crime Stoppers	1-800-222-8477
OPP Alliston	705 434-1939
Older adults Safety Line	1-866-299-1011
Older adults' INFO line	1-888-910-1999
South Simcoe Police	905-775-3311
Women's Support Network	1-800-263-6734
York Regional Police - Older adult Safety Officer	1-866-876-5423 ext. 6697

Note: there is a link to this file on our website:

<https://chats.on.ca/elder-abuse-presentations-and-infographics/>

Conclusion

We are not perfect and not all presenters are comfortable with this topic. As citizens of this Province and Country it is important that we advocate for our neighbours, friends, and families. With this education it is our hope to raise awareness on how all individuals can identify and be supportive in an Elder Abuse situation.



For further inquiries about this project please feel free to contact Sharron Spencer (Project Lead) or anyone on the Caregiver Support Team at CHATS-Community & Home Assistance to Older adults

This guide is a work in progress and will be modified from time to time as presenters make suggestions. Feedback on the guide should always be encouraged.

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