

Quick Facts about Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation and Undue Influence:

- More than 8.2% of capable seniors in the community have been abused in the last year alone. National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly, “National Survey on the Mistreatment of Older Canadians,” (2015) (www.nicenet.ca).
- Two-thirds of all elder abuse is perpetrated by family members, friends, caregivers and those closest to the senior.
- Prevalence for incapable adults, or adults in long-term care are estimated to be higher.
- Elder financial abuse is highly under-reported: a recent study found that 41 per cent of the older adults in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland and Victoria region alone experienced at least one situation of financial abuse. However only 6.4 per cent of those surveyed self-reported being victimized by such exploitation to another person (http://wpmedia.vancouversun.com/2015/11/vancity_seniors_financial_abuse_report.pdf).
- Dementia is the most significant cause of disability among Canadians older than 65—affecting 20% of older adults by age 80, and more than 40 % by age 90. Currently, approximately 560,000 Canadians are living with dementia. Alzheimer Society of Canada, “Dementia Numbers in Canada,” (www.alzheimer.ca).
- By 2038, this number is expected to increase to 1.1 million people—or 2.8% of the population.
- Canada is currently in the middle of the largest inter-generational transfer of wealth in its history.
- The US has estimated that American seniors lose \$36.5 billion per year from elder financial abuse and exploitation. While there is no similar Canadian study, the estimates track similarly to the US prevalence (<https://www.truelinkfinancial.com/research>).