



Elder and Vulnerable Adult Justice Program

Fastest Growing Segment of the Population is Aged 85+

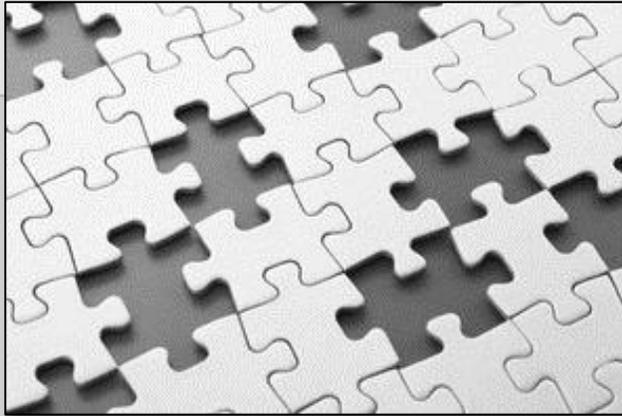


1 in 6 will be over age 60 by 2025

Knowledge about Elder Abuse lags **20 years behind** the fields of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.



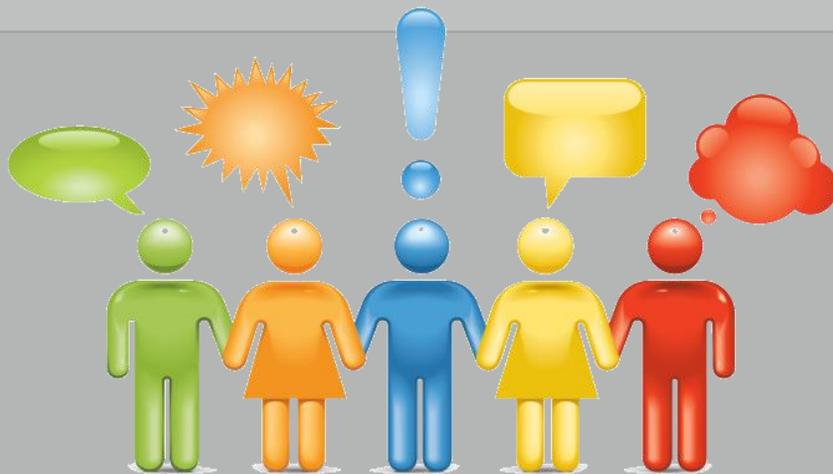
Gaps in the Current System



Data shows that for every 1 case of Elder Abuse Reported, there are **24 Un-Reported Cases!**

In 2015, the DFPS Data Book shows:

- 20,437 Intakes
- 8,268 Found Valid (40%)
- 2,168 Referred to Law Enforcement (11%)



Neither APS nor HHSC tracks how many of the referrals to law enforcement result in coordinated investigation.

We May be Missing the Signs of Abuse



The signs of Elder Abuse can be missed by professionals due to:

- A lack of awareness, and
- Inadequate training on detecting abuse.



The elderly may be reluctant to report abuse themselves due to:

- **Fear of retaliation,**
- **Lack of physical and/or cognitive ability to report, or**
- **Because they do not want to “get the abuser in trouble.”**

Solutions



1. Create a framework of policies and procedures for addressing crimes against this population.

2. Assess, create and implement education, training and resources to assist first responders.



3. Create a consistent **regional method** for tracking data on elder and vulnerable adult victims of crime.