Preventing Elder Abuse

More than 1 in 6 elders experience abuse, and this mostly occurs in their own homes, usually at the hands of family members, intimate partners, or trusted caregivers.

Easy access to community resources, supports, and positive relationships is one of the best ways to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, and also reduce the fallout for those who experience either. Below is a range of strategies to prevent elder mistreatment across all levels of society.

1. The Individual
   - Personal strengths, well-being and resilience
   - Supportive environment, food, housing...
   - Education & knowledge
   - Address ageism
   - Reduce risks
   - Educate the public and professionals
   - Change policies to increase access to resources and create safer communities

2. Relationships
   - Positive relationships
   - Emotional and social support
   - Caregiver supports
   - Address ageism
   - Grassroots action
   - Access to community supports & services
   - Training, like Virginia HEAR
   - Screening

3. The Community
   - Supportive environment, food, housing...

4. Society

In Virginia?
Check out the Safety Connector on Virginia Easy Access
www.easyaccess.virginia.gov/safety-connector

References: Atkinson and Roberto (2024); Herrenkohl et al 2022; Virginia APS, 2024; Yon et al., 2017

Virginia HEAR - Helping Elders Access Resources
Elder Justice Learning & Research Hub | Virginia Center on Aging | VCU

www.ElderSafeVA.com