

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

4. Society

2. Relationships



Positive relationships



Emotional and social support



Caregiver supports



Address ageism



Grassroots action



Access to community supports & services



Screening



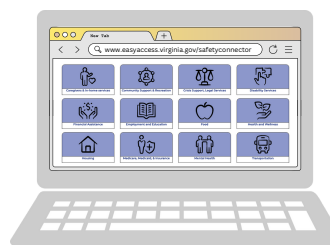
Training, like Virginia HEAR

3. The Community

In Virginia?

Check out the **Safety Connector** on Virginia Easy Access

www.easyaccess.virginia.gov/safety-connector



VIRGINIA

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