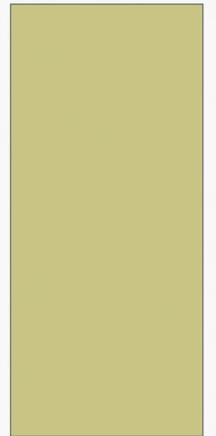


ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

Legal Aid of North Carolina



LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA

- Provide free legal assistance to low-income North Carolinians in **civil cases** involving **basic human needs** like safety, shelter, income and more.



SENIOR LEGAL HELPLINE

- Legal Aid of North Carolina's Senior Law Project provides free civil legal help to North Carolinians who are 60 years of age or older.
- Can assist with: wills/advance directives, public benefits, consumer issues, housing, and elder abuse and financial exploitation.
- Toll-free hotline: **1-877-579-7562**
9-11 AM and 1-3 PM
Monday- Friday



ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Any fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized act that **uses the resources of an older adult** for monetary or personal gain, or **deprives an older adult of rightful access to and use of their own benefits and resources.**



EXAMPLES

- Misuse of an older adult's personal checks, credit cards, or bank accounts
- Stealing
- Forging an older adult's signature
- Identity theft
- Abuse of a financial POA
- Scams

THE STATISTICS

\$2.9
BILLION

annual financial loss to elder
financial abuse.

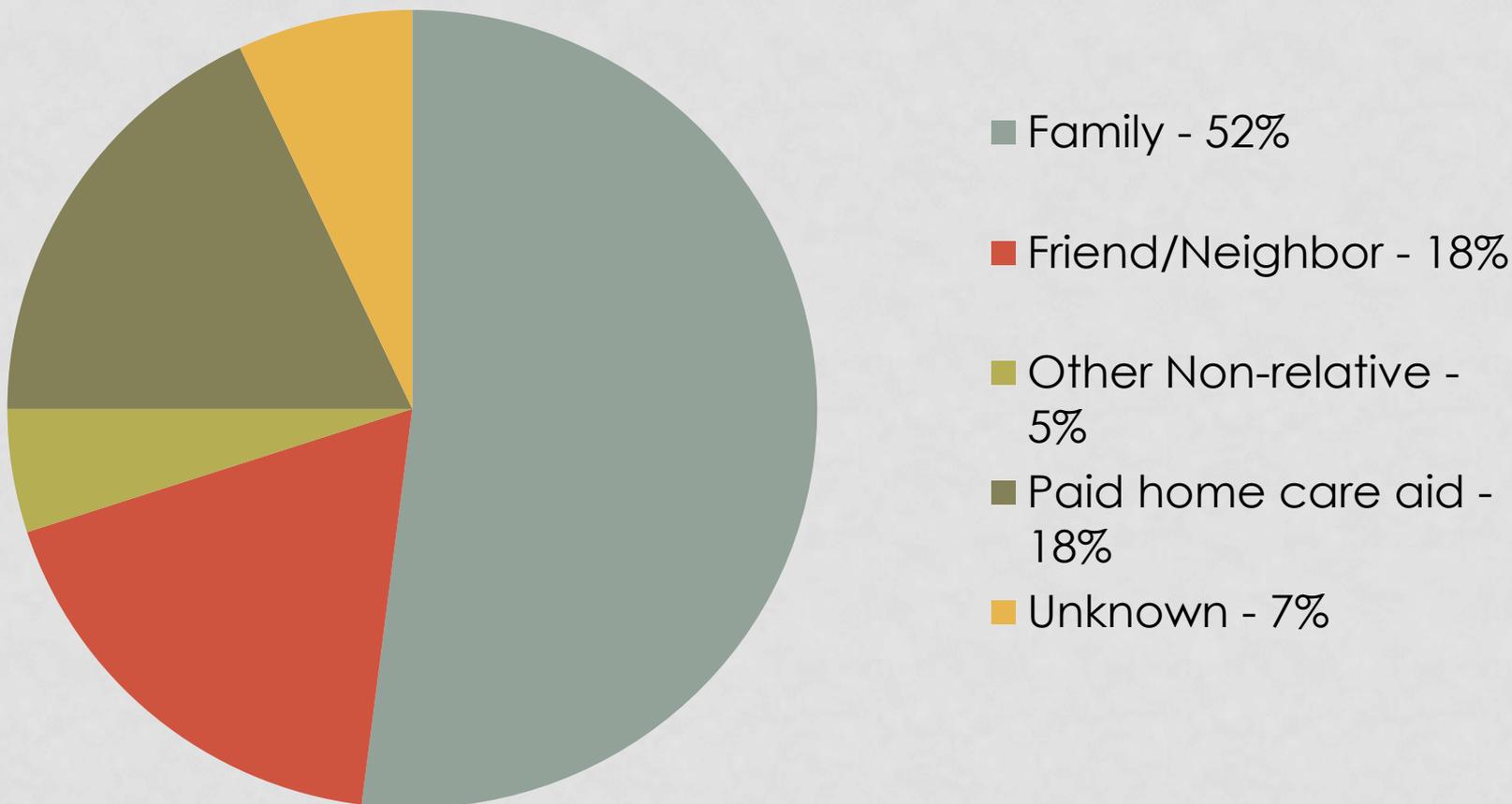
Highest rate of any elder
mistreatment.

1 in 20

Older adults will be
affected by financial
abuse after age 60.

The MetLife Study of Elder Financial Abuse (June 2011), at 2, available at metlife.com/assets/cao/mmi/publications/studies/2011/mmi-elder-financial-abuse.pdf

PERPETRATORS OF FINANCIAL ELDER ABUSE



Janey C. Peterson et al., *Financial Exploitation of Older Adults: A Population-Based Prevalence Study*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (2015).

IDENTIFYING ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

Risk Factors:

Individuals with diminished capacity, such as older adults with dementia

Social isolation

Family history of domestic violence

IDENTIFYING ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

Older adults with diminished capacity are at a greater risk for elder abuse.

- Particularly at risk for financial exploitation
- Danger of undue influence
- Dementia is a primary risk factor for abuse

SIGNS OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Financial activity
- Unpaid bills
- Different Signatures
- Disappearances of funds or valuable possessions
- New individuals taking an interest
- Sudden transfers
- Sudden changes

ROLE OF LEGAL AID ADVOCATES

- Prevention
- First Responder
- Intervenor
- Coordinator
- Protector

REPORTING

- Report your concerns
- **It's the law!**
- § 108A-102



REPORTING

- Elder abuse can occur anywhere. In the home, nursing homes, and other institutions.
- Report your concerns
- To report suspected abuse, contact adult protective services at the department of social services in the county where the adult is living
- If you are suffering from abuse, **tell someone!**
- www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/local
- NC Division of Aging and Adult Services:
(919)855-3400
- If the situation is life threatening or there is immediate danger, call **911**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Report suspected abuse
- Keep in contact with your older friends, neighbors, and family members
- Spread the word about what you have learned today
- You can learn more at www.ncea.aoa.gov.

LEARN MORE

- For more information, visit these helpful sites:

National Consumer Law Center

<http://www.nclc.org/special-projects/older-consumers>

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/older-americans>

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

<http://www.ncall.us/content/training-materials>

NC Attorney General Office of Consumer Protection

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/Consumer>

National Center on Elder Abuse

<https://ncea.acl.gov>