



sccadvasa
South Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SOCIAL ISOLATION IN OLDER ADULTS

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ISOLATION & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Intersection of domestic violence & isolation exists in virtually every abusive relationship.
- Critical to how the abusive partner sustains their control.
- Begins with the abusive partner inserting emotional wedges between the victim and their family & friends

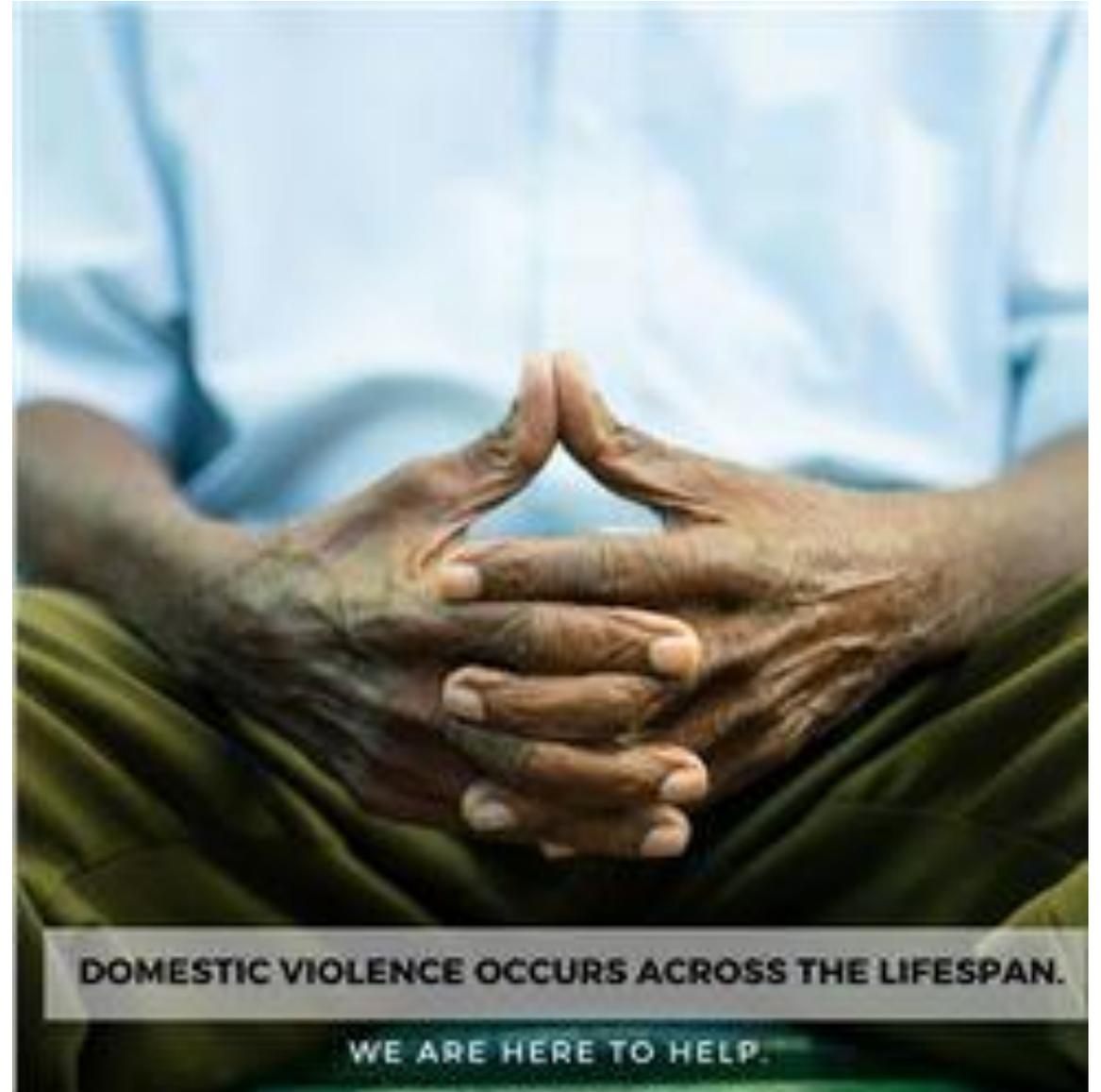
ABUSE IN LATER LIFE

The National Center for Abuse In Later Life (NCALL) defines abuse in later life as the willful abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an older adult who is age 50+ that is perpetrated by someone in an ongoing relationship (e.g., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim as well as sexual abuse by any offender, including strangers.

PREVALENCE

1 in 10 respondents reported emotional, physical, or sexual mistreatment or potential neglect in the past year. The most consistent correlation of mistreatment across abuse types were low social support and previous traumatic event exposure.

Prevalence and Correlates of Emotional, Physical, Sexual, and Financial Abuse and Potential Neglect in the United States: The National Elder Mistreatment Study Ron Acierno, PhD, Melba A. Hernandez, MS, Ananda B. Amstadter, PhD, Heidi S. Resnick, PhD, Kenneth Steve, MS, Wendy Muzzy, BS, and Dean G. Kilpatrick, PhD



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN LATER LIFE

- A significant segment of elder abuse is intimate partner violence (60%).
- 42% report experiencing physical violence from an intimate partner during their lifetime (NISVS, CDC)

VIOLENCE CAN BE PRESENT IN:

- Long term relationships
- New relationships
- Late onset in long term relationships

NCALL Abuse in Later Life Power and Control Wheel



BARRIERS TO SERVICE

Some older people who are abused may turn down the services they're offered.

A VICTIM MAY DECLINE SERVICES BECAUSE...

- Fears being killed or seriously injured
- Fears that accepting any services will decrease autonomy
- Wants to retain the relationship with the abuser
- Fears accepting services may get the abuser into trouble
- Denies that the situation warrants assistance or intervention
- Embarrassment/Shame
- Believes services are “welfare”
- Is not allowed outside assistance by the abuser
- Lacks transportation to participate

WHAT ELSE MAY IMPACT SURVIVORS' CHOICES?



YOUR INVOLVEMENT



Visit regularly to build trust



Offer transportation



Focus on enhancing safety in home



Respect refusal but leave door open for future services

QUESTIONS TO ASK



Has your partner ever made you feel uncomfortable or fearful? Or that you couldn't trust them?



Has anyone tried to hurt you?



Are you often lonely or sad?



Has anyone forced you to do anything you didn't want to do?



Has anyone called you names or said something that made you feel bad about yourself?

SUMMARY

1 out of 10 people over age 65 are abused.



Victim's safety is paramount.



Abuse can happen at any age – and as our population ages, these cases will only increase.



There are a lot of reasons why an individual may choose not to report, receive services, or to stay with their abuser.