



# Abuse & Neglect

Developed from DES Recognizing and Reporting Maltreatment and Abuse Last updated 04/28/2021



# Introduction

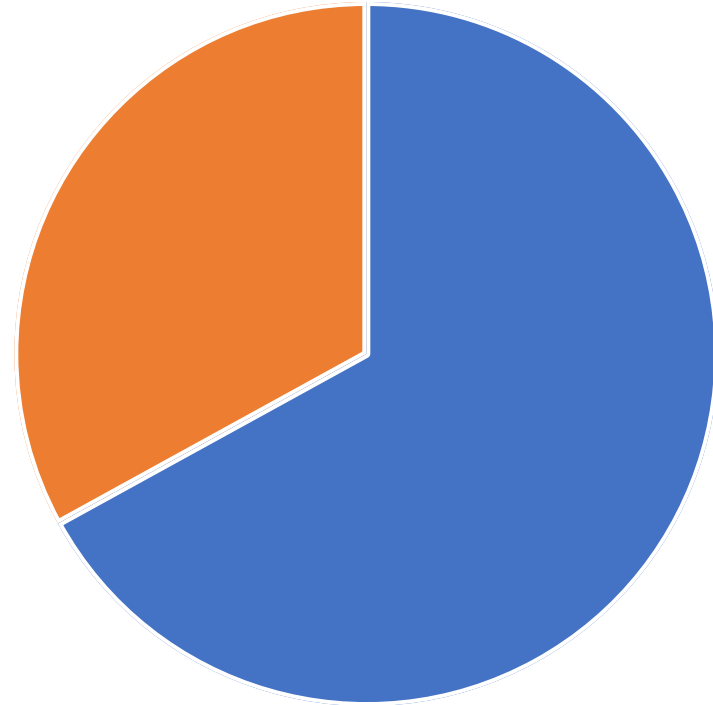
People with developmental disabilities are at greater risk of abuse and neglect.

This means they are vulnerable and require the families and the providers who work with them to be aware of signs and symptoms of abuse, maltreatment, and neglect.

# Abuse Statistics

What fraction of people with developmental disabilities do you think have or will experience some form of abuse at some point in their lives?

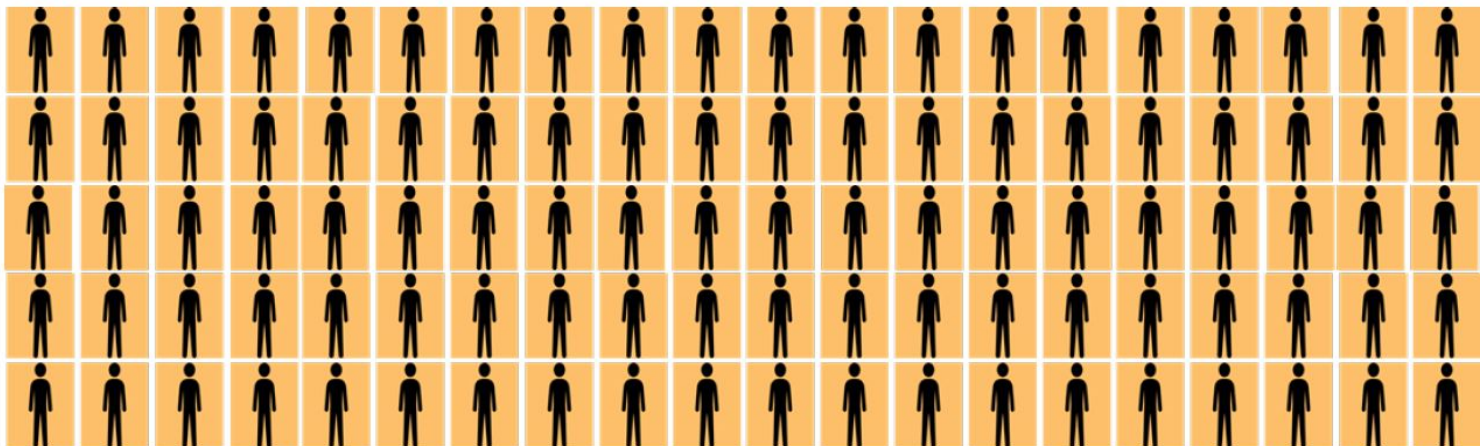
Answer = 67% which is  $\frac{2}{3}$  of all people with developmental disabilities.



# Abuse Statistics

## Abuse and Neglect Case Outcomes

Out of 100 cases of abuse against people with developmental disabilities:



# Abuse Statistics

- That means that only 5 instances of 100 incidents of abuse were prosecuted.
- 95 out of 100 or 95% of instances of abuse went unprosecuted.
- We are all mandated reporters. This means that we are required by law to report suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation to the police and/or a protective services authority.



# Objectives

- Define maltreatment
- Recognize abuse
- List common characteristics of perpetrators

# Characteristics

- Powerlessness
- Dependency
- Compliance
- Inability to prevent, escape, or tell someone about abuse
- Lack of body ownership
- Desire to fit in
- Denial or failure to recognize signs of abuse

# Abuse



Abuse is the intentional infliction of pain or injury to a member.

- Intentional infliction of physical harm
- Injury caused by negligent acts or omissions
- Unreasonable confinement or unlawful imprisonment
- Sexual abuse or sexual assault

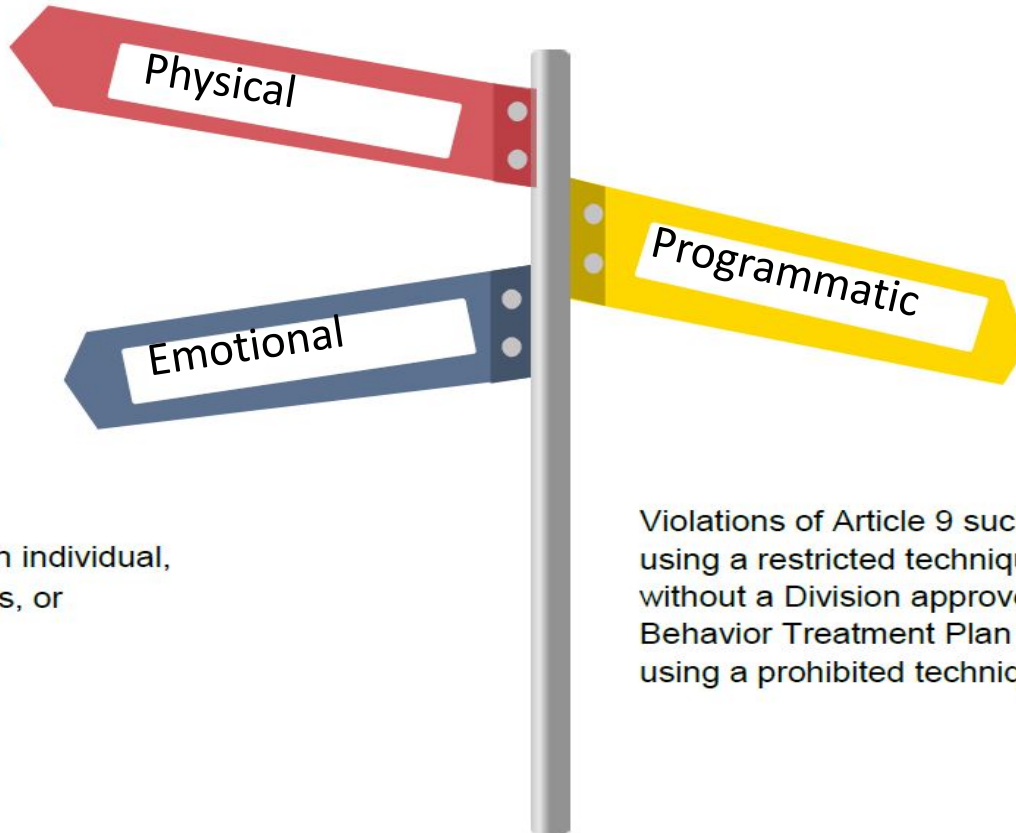


# 3 Categories of Abusive Treatment



# 3 Categories of Abusive Treatment

Includes hitting, kicking, pinching, slapping, pulling hair, sexual abuse



Ridiculing or demeaning an individual, making derogatory remarks, or cursing at an individual

Violations of Article 9 such as using a restricted technique without a Division approved Behavior Treatment Plan or using a prohibited technique

# Neglect

A pattern of conduct without the person's informed consent resulting in deprivation of food, water, medication, medical services, shelter, cooling, heating or other services necessary to maintain minimum physical or mental health.



# Neglect

According to the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), neglect may include:

- Intentional lack of attention
- Intentional failure to report maltreatment
- Lack of supervision
- Intentional failure to carry out a prescribed treatment
- Sleeping on duty
- Abandoning shift

# Abuse & Neglect

People with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused and neglected than the general population. They are more likely to experience the following:

- Multiple forms of abuse and neglect
- Multiple perpetrators of abuse
- Abuse and neglect over a long period of time
- Lack of appropriate health care
- Concerns and reports overruled by authority figures
- Ignoring, misunderstanding , or misinterpreting signs of symptoms of abuse.

# Maltreatment

## Abuse

Something you  
**DO**  
that causes harm

## Neglect

Something you intentionally  
**DO NOT DO**  
which causes harm

# Exploitation



**Exploitation**

Illegal or improper use of a vulnerable person's resources, money, or possessions for another's profit or advantage.

## Exploitation



Use of a child by a parent, guardian or custodian for material gain which may include forcing the child to panhandle, steal or perform other illegal activities.

*Department of Child Safety*



# Exploitation

Photographs of a member without written consent are forbidden. Staff are prohibited from taking pictures with cameras of any kind; this includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, a personal camera, a camera phone or tablet.



# Social Media

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## **What impact does Social Media have on exploitation and abuse?**

- Photos may be shared and/or altered
- Levels of privacy-oversharing information
- People pretending to be other people
- Boundaries – is he or she really your friend?
- Financial exploitation
- Security and safety could be compromised

# Responding to Abuse & Neglect

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We are all **MANDATED** reporters. This means that ALL known or suspected abuse and/or neglect **MUST** be reported.

- **Adult Protective Services** (if person is 18 years old or older) call (602) 542-0010
- **Child Protective Services** (if the person is 17 years old or younger) call (888) SOS-CHILD which is (888) 767-2445
- DDD also requires an incident report. This is form # DD-191-FF. You can google the form or contact the agency you work with to help with this.



# Responding to Abuse & Neglect

- Abuse & Neglect is prohibited in all services and programs operated by the Department of Economics Securities (DES) and Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), and anyone doing so is subject to dismissal and prosecution.
- You are a mandated reporter, by law. This means that you have a legal obligation to report any reasonable suspicion that abuse, neglect, or exploitation are occurring.

# Article 9: Red Light

There are 6 prohibited training techniques that cannot be used:

1. Use of seclusion rooms (locked time out)
2. Overcorrection
3. Noxious stimuli (things that are unpleasant, such as fingernail scraping on chalkboard, washing mouth out with soap, or purposely wearing a perfume that you know they do not like).



# Article 9: Red Light



4. Physical or mechanical restraints when used as a negative consequence to a behavior.

5. Behavior modifying medication if:

- Prescribed “as needed” (PRN)
- Interfering dosages
- In a residential setting – without a behavior plan

6. Psycho surgery, insulin shock, electroshock or experimental drugs.

# Recognizing Abuse

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## Bruises

Non-accidental or suspicious bruising usually looks like the object that caused them such as hands, fingers, or other objects. They may have a pattern and are often located on the fatty parts of the body such as the buttocks, lower back, upper arms, and/or thighs.



# Hand Marks or Lash Marks



**Hand Marks**





# Grasp Marks & Finger Marks

These grasp marks were made by encircling the arm of a child who was grabbed by a frustrated caregiver.



# Burns

A burn can be accidental or intentional.

Accidents do happen and sometimes people will pull things down and burn themselves. It is important to pay attention to how they are reporting the injury happened, does the story match the injury?

Look for burns that are unusual shapes, unusually large, or in unusual places. Here are some examples of types of burns:

- Scalding or immersion burn
- Cigarette lighter burn
- Steam iron burn

# Other Signs of Abuse & Neglect

- Cuts
- Fractures
- Bone breakage (face or skull should be regarded as suspicious, also spinal fractures)
- Poor hygiene
- Medication Issues
- Skin infections
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Sunburn
- Frequent illness/stress related illnesses
- Untreated long-term illness



## Other Signs of Abuse & Neglect cont.

- Sexually transmitted diseases in a person not known to be sexually active
- Malnourishment
- Failure to thrive
- Frequently dirty
- Body odor
- Rotting teeth

# Emotional Signs of Abuse & Neglect

- Depression
- Sudden unexplained changes in behavior, maybe even extreme
- Poor self-esteem
- No longer seems to have fun with activities, or is no longer joyful
- Withdrawal
- Random or lots of relationships, promiscuity, maybe even prostitution
- Violent artwork or play
- Trying to report abuse to caregiver, whether with words or actions.



# Environmental Signs of Maltreatment

- Living conditions poor, filth in house, lots of clutter, garbage, rotten food, and waste (animal or human)
- Clothing is dirty or in disrepair
- Insect, rodent, or other animal infestation.
- Bad odors, or lack of clean air
- Does not go to school or other programs anymore, without any explanation as to why.
- Animals that live in the home also look abused or neglected.
- Living conditions are unsafe, house in disrepair (holes in floor, open outlets, bare wires, no water, no electric, no heat/air)
- No caregiver, or caregiver cannot be located



# Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

- Sexualized behavior
- Sexualized aggression
- Inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Excessive, hurtful or sophisticated masturbation
- Wearing tight or revealing clothing, or wear multiple layers of clothing
- Abrupt change in behavior in response to personal safety
- Reluctance to undress for P.E. class
- Continual avoidance of bathrooms
- Pregnancy, sexual transmitted diseases, and/or unexplained genital or rectal bleeding





# Abuse Happens

- It is important to know that abuse is widespread and not confined to any one cultural, regional, or economic group.
- It happens in rural areas, towns, suburbs and cities.
- All socio-economic levels (regardless of income) and the abuse is usually perpetrated by someone known to the victim.
- An abuser can look like anyone or be anyone. However, there are some personality characteristics that are common among abusers.



# Profile of an Abuser

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- Frustration with authority, which can lead to displaced aggression toward weaker persons
- Impulsive
- They themselves may have a history of being abused or neglected as a child
- They have a need to control others
- A need to feel as though they are the authority. They will make decisions for the person, tell them what to do, and expect them to obey without question. The abuser may treat the individual like a servant, child, or even as his or her possession.
- They lack attachment to the victim
- They devalue the victim

# Permission to Touch

- Too often people are given the message that private areas only include the “privacy triangle” (genitals, bottom, and breasts). Individuals with developmental disabilities might take this message literally.
- Touching another person **anywhere** is off limits without that person’s consent. **Every** part of the body is private, even the palm of the hand.
- There are times when touch is necessary to aid with personal care. We need to do this in ways that are respectful.

# Permission to Touch

How would you feel if a total stranger started touching you?

- Vulnerable?
- Scared?
- Intimidated?
- Angry?

As a care giver, you can decrease these feelings when providing care.

- Introduce yourself
- Ask permission

Allowing the individual to feel safe and in control of the situation is always more important than the task at hand.

- Explain the task
- Ask
- Wait for response
- If yes, proceed (can be verbal or non-verbal) – If no, ask if someone else can help, or can we do this later? If still no, then that must be respected.
- Explain
- Fade assistance

# Final Thoughts

- It is not your duty to investigate, only report. Leave the investigating to the professionals.
- Do not leave your client (the member) alone or unattended.
- Do not have unauthorized people with you while you are caring or working with your client.
- Services are only to be held in the member's home or out and about in the community. Clients are not allowed to go to your home unless you have a Respite Certified Home, or unless you live in the same house with the member.



# Quiz

Thank you for completing this training. To receive credit for this, you must complete the quiz (linked separately). You must score at least an 80% on the quiz, or you will have to complete the training.