

# FACT SHEET

## Adult Protective Services (SFY 2007)

Ohio's 88 county departments of job and family services are required to investigate and evaluate all reports of suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults age 60 and older. All of Ohio's counties submitted abuse, neglect and exploitation statistics for the State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007.

### Adult Protective Services

There were 16,843 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation for individuals age 18 and older from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Of this total -

- 15,676 (93 percent) were for individuals age 60 and older;
- 1,062 indicated an emergency existed;
- 7,848 individuals needed protective services;
- 4,515 individuals agreed to receive services;
- 2,118 refused services;
- 973 were unable to refuse or agree to services;
- 135 were court ordered services;
- 107 services needed but they were not available.

These adults may be handicapped due to aging or they may have physical or mental impairments which prevent them from providing for their own care and protection. As the elderly population increases, reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation increase. When funding and services are available, adults who experience abuse, neglect and/or exploitation are offered support for protection and self-sufficiency.

### Types of Maltreatment

There are various types of maltreatment. They include physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Abuse is the infliction upon an adult (by one's self or others) of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish. There were a total of 2,141 reports of abuse; of these 1,973 reports were for seniors age 60 and older. Other types of maltreatment include neglect and exploitation.

**Physical** abuse includes pushing, hitting, slapping, pinching and other ways of physically harming a person. It can also mean placing an individual in incorrect positions, force feeding, restraining or giving medication without their knowledge.

**Sexual** abuse includes rape or other unwanted sexual contact, but it can also mean forced or coerced nudity, exhibitionism, and other non-touching sexual situations.

**Emotional** abuse occurs when an elderly person is threatened, humiliated, intimidated or otherwise psychologically hurt.

**Neglect** is the failure of an adult to provide the goods or services necessary for his or her own safety and/or well-being such as, avoiding physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness or the failure of a caretaker to provide such goods or services. Neglect is divided in to two categories— self-neglect and neglect by others.

**Exploitation** is the unlawful or improper act of a caretaker using an adult or his/her resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit or gain.

- County departments of job and family services received 12,284 reports of neglect.
- Self neglect accounted for 8,582 reports; of those 7,908 were for individuals age 60 and older
- There were 3,702 reports of neglect by others; of these 3,484 were for elderly persons age 60 and older.
- There were 2,418 reports of exploitation; of which, 2,311 were for elders age 60 and older.

## Adult Protective Services (SFY 2006)

Page 2

The following information was submitted by county departments of job and family services for State Fiscal Year 2006 and represents statistics provided by 87 of Ohio's 88 counties (99 percent).

### Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in Ohio

From July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, county departments of job and family services received a total of 15,761 reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation for adults 18 years of age and older. Of this total, 14,797 were for elders age 60 and over.

- 2,018 were reports of abuse; of which 1,859 were reports of elders age 60 and over.
- 11,529 were reports of neglect; there are two categories of neglect--self neglect and neglect by others.
- 8,048 were reports of self-neglect; of which, 7,493 were reports of elders age 60 and over.
- 3,481 reports were of neglect by others; of which 3,321 were reports of elders age 60 and over.
- 2,214 were reports of exploitation; of which 2,124 were reports for elders age 60 and over.
- 897 reports indicated an emergency existed;

A total of 7,579 individuals were in need of protective services; of which

- 4,389 agreed to receive services
- 2,087 refused services
- 126 services needed, but they were not available
- 810 were unable to refuse or agree to services