



Senior Services Division

Elder Abuse Prevention



This report is intended to identify and understand public health issues affecting older adults age 60+ living in Davis County. The goal of this report is to increase awareness of these conditions and their impact on individuals and communities, identify groups most affected by these issues, and establish strategies for improvement.

Overview of Elder Abuse Prevention

Elder abuse is any act or lack of action that causes harm to an older adult at the hands of a trusted person. Abuse can happen to anyone, but older adults who are socially isolated, and people with disabilities or dementia, are more vulnerable. There are several forms of abuse that can occur among older adults, with some simultaneously experiencing more than one type of abuse.

Physical abuse refers to illness, injury, or death resulting from the intentional use of physical force. **Sexual abuse** is forced or unwanted sexual interaction, including unwanted sexual contact or non-contact acts such as sexual harassment. **Emotional or psychological abuse** refers to verbal or nonverbal behaviors that cause fear or distress, such as humiliation, threats, or harassment. **Financial exploitation** is the misuse or mishandling of property, possessions, or assets without the older adult's consent, under false pretense, or through coercion or manipulation. **Neglect** is the failure to meet an individual's basic needs, including food, water, hygiene, or medical care. Self-neglect is also a common form of neglect.

Data: [CDC About Abuse of Older Persons](#), 2024; [Cleveland Clinic](#), 2023; [NAPSA](#), 2025; [NIA](#), 2023

Over 10% of U.S. adults age 65+ will experience some form of abuse every year, with approximately 10 cases of elder abuse being reported in Utah each day. **Adult Protective Services (APS)** investigates cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults in Utah. In 2024, APS received 931 abuse allegations in Davis County, amounting to 6.2% of the total allegations reported in Utah. The two most common allegations were financial exploitation and caretaker neglect, followed by emotional abuse. Of the allegations received, 457 cases were opened, and 24 allegations were supported. Supported cases mean that APS found that there is a reasonable basis to conclude that abuse occurred. The other cases were found to be inconclusive, undetermined, or without merit. The majority of supported allegations concerned financial exploitation and self-neglect.

Outcomes of APS Investigations in Davis County (2024)



Data: [AARP](#), 2023; [DCHD CHA](#), 2023; [DCHD CHIP](#), 2024; [DCHD Senior Services Annual Report](#), 2024; [DOJ](#), 2024

Unfortunately, many cases of elder abuse go unreported. An assessment conducted in 2021 gave the most common reasons why Utahns do not report abuse, including:

- Fear of retaliation
- Don't know what APS or law enforcement will do
- Want to resolve the issue themselves
- Perpetrator is a family member
- Don't want to get a family member in trouble
- Embarrassed/ashamed

Data: [DCHD CHA](#), 2023



Key Findings

67

The average age of an elder abuse victim in Davis County in 2024₅



3 out of 5 victims of elder abuse reported to APS in Davis County in 2024 were women₅

26.9%

26.9% of allegations reported to APS in Davis County in 2024 named a caretaker as the perpetrator₅

\$83,000

Average loss of a U.S. older adult who experienced financial exploitation in 2024₈

1 in 24

It is estimated that only 1 in 24 older adults experiencing abuse report it₁₀

Current Progress and Strategies for Improvement

Coalition for Abuse Prevention of the Elderly

The Coalition for Abuse Prevention of the Elderly (CAPE) is a multi-disciplinary team hosted by Davis County Senior Services. The purpose of CAPE is to increase community awareness of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable and older adults. The CAPE team includes representatives from Adult Protective Services, Davis Behavior Health, the Utah Department of Aging and Adult Services, the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, AARP, Safe Harbor, law and financial firms, the Davis County Sheriff's Office, and several cities within Davis County. This multi-disciplinary approach allows for information sharing and more creative approaches to specific elder abuse cases. CAPE has been an incredibly useful resource for those that work with vulnerable older adults in Davis County.

CAPE Measures (2024)		
Cases Reviewed	20	
Active Participants	41	
Training Presentations	4	
Major Themes of Cases	Health Neglect Dementia	Housing Hoarding Exploitation
	Legal Issues	

Data: [DCHD Senior Services Annual Report](#), 2024

Senior Medicare Patrol

Senior Medicare Patrol Measures (2022-2024)			
Measure	2022	2023	2024
Counselors	7	14	12
Counselor Hours	892	611	720
Outreach Events	100	65	55

Data: [DCHD Senior Services Annual Report](#), 2024; [FBI](#), 2024; [NCOA](#), 2024

Financial exploitation is one of the most common forms of abuse experienced by older adults. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that 1,762 Utah adults age 60+ experienced financial exploitation in 2024, losing over \$44 million.

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program assists Medicare participants and their families to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, or abuse. SMP is comprised of trained staff and volunteers who provide regular outreach and education events to increase public awareness. Individuals can also bring their complaints to trained SMP staff, who will determine whether fraud, errors, or abuse is suspected.

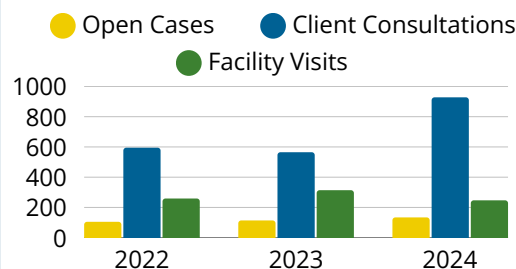
Long-term Care Ombudsman

Abuse and exploitation of older adults can occur anywhere, including long-term care facilities such as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and short-term rehabilitation.

Long-term Care Ombudsmen advocate for residents living in long-term care facilities. Ombudsmen investigate and help to resolve concerns regarding many aspects of resident life, including quality of care, resident rights, and federal and state regulatory requirements. Ombudsmen also regularly participate in CAPE and assist APS with investigating cases of elder abuse.

Data: [DCHD Senior Services Annual Report](#), 2024; [NIA](#), 2023

Long-term Care Ombudsman Measures (2022-2024)



If a loved one has a "feeling" about a situation, but is not sure if abuse is occurring, they can contact Utah's Adult Protective Services online at Daas.utah.gov/adult-protective-services/ or call **1-800-371-7897**.

APS is trained to address abuse among older adults and will be able to help.

Local Resources		
Adult Protective Services	Daas.utah.gov/adult-protective-services/	1-800-371-7897
Coalition for Abuse Prevention of the Elderly (CAPE)	Daviscountyutah.gov/docs/librariesprovider5/reports-and-assessments/division-annual-reports/2024-senior-services-annual-report.pdf	801-525-5050 opt. 5
Davis County Aging Resources	Daviscountyutah.gov/health/aging-and-adult-services/aging-resources	801-525-5050
Davis County Ombudsmen Hotline	Daviscountyutah.gov/health/aging-and-adult-services/long-term-care-ombudsman-2-0	801-525-5060

1. AARP. 2023. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
2. CDC About Abuse of Older Persons. 2024. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
3. Cleveland Clinic. 2023. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
4. DCHD Community Health Assessment. 2023. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
5. DCHD Community Health Improvement Plan. 2024. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
6. DCHD Senior Services Annual Report. 2024. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)

7. Department of Justice. 2024. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
8. Federal Bureau of Investigation Internet Crime Report. 2024. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
9. National Adult Protective Services Association. 2025. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
10. National Council on Aging. 2024. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)
11. National Institute on Aging. 2023. Accessed June 4, 2025. [\(View\)](#)