

## SIGNS OF ELDER SEXUAL ABUSE

*Indicators of elder sexual abuse can be both physical and behavioral, including:*

- New emergence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- New difficulty sitting or walking
- Pelvic injury
- Bruises on inner thighs or around the genital area
- Anal or genital pain, bleeding, or irritation
- Bloody, torn, or stained undergarments
- Extreme agitation
- Withdrawal from social interactions
- Panic attacks, or emerging post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms
- Inappropriate, aggressive, or unusual sexual behavior
- Inappropriate or unusual behavior, appearing as a sex-role relationship, between the victim and the elder sexual abuse suspect
- Suicide attempts

## ELDER SEXUAL ABUSE STATISTICS

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) is one of the most active organizations investigating all forms of sexual abuse. PCAR offers approximately 50 rape crisis centers across the state of Pennsylvania. The organization supplies the public with some of the most detailed research in the United States that focuses on elder sexual abuse.



*Through their continued research, PCAR discovered the following statistics regarding elder sexual abuse:*

- Only about 30% of all elder sexual abuse victims, over the age of 65, report their abusers to the police.
- Females are 6 times more likely than males to experience elder sexual abuse.

- The majority of elder sexual abuse victims, roughly 83.3%, live in nursing homes or adult care facilities.
- While 83.3% of elder sexual abuse victims live in some form of institutional care facility, 26.8% of those victims experienced the actual act of sexual abuse within a family home or the perpetrator's home.
- Approximately 76.2% of elder sexual abuse cases have at least one witness.
- In 81% of elder sexual abuse cases, the perpetrator was the actual caregiver to the elderly person.