

# HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

One Vision One Mission One Team



## HRPS Older Adult Support Team



## HRPS Older Adult Support Team:

- 3 Seniors Crime Investigators
  - Older Adult Support Officer
    - District Social Workers
- District Community Response Officers
  - Victim Services Unit
  - Front Line Officers



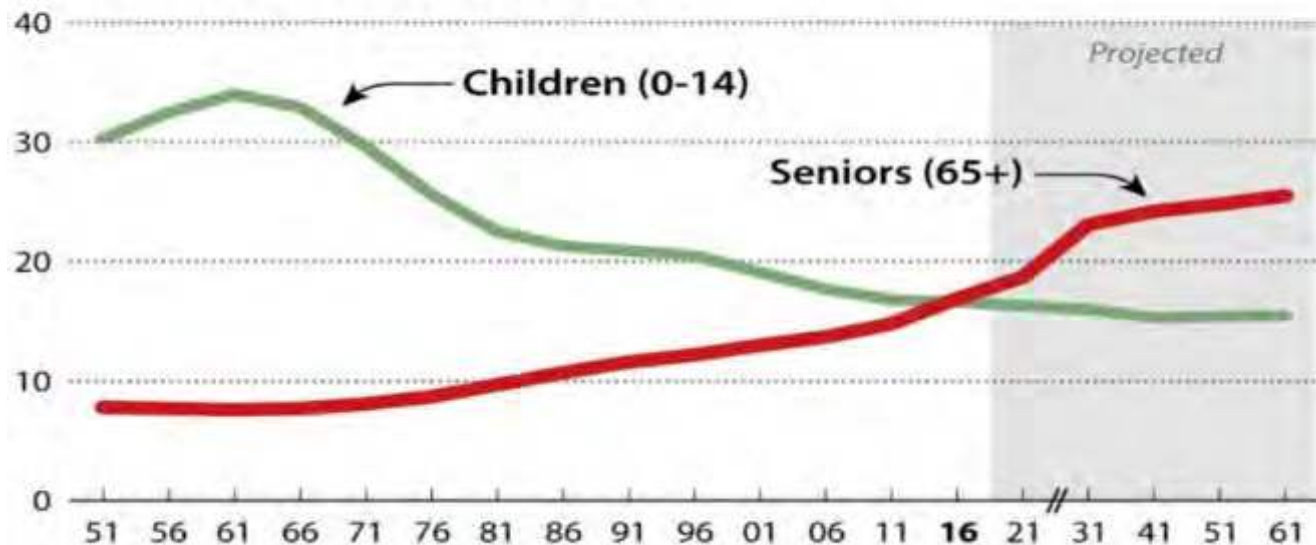


## Older Adults in Halton Region

### MORE SENIORS THAN CHILDREN

*In 2016, for the first time, the share of seniors (16.9%) exceeded the share of children (16.6%).*

#### PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THE CANADIAN PRESS

- Seniors make up nearly 1 in 5 Canadians—and this population is growing

## Why This Matters

- Increased interaction with older adults
- Important as early recognition prevents/reduces harm

### Spotting the Signs of Elder Abuse

Each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited.

Here are signs that an older adult in your life may be experiencing abuse:

#### Physical

Unexplained injuries or physical signs of punishment or restraint, such as bruises, scars, or burns

#### Emotional

Depression, anxiety, or changes in behavior

#### Neglect

Preventable health problems such as bedsores or unclean living conditions

#### Abandonment

Leaving an older adult who needs help alone without planning for their care

#### Sexual

Changes in mood, becoming withdrawn, or other physical signs

#### Financial

Changes in banking or spending patterns

If you suspect an older adult is being abused, talk with them and report what you see to an authority.



## Social Isolation

### Major contributor to vulnerability

- Loss of supports or independence
- Limited social contact

### Increase risk of:

- Mental health decline
- Abuse
- Frauds/Scams





## What we do:

- **Investigations 65+ or Vulnerable Persons:** Financial crimes (frauds, scams, theft), physical assaults, abuse and neglect
- **Follow-Ups:** Review officer reports involving those 65+, well-being checks as required
- **HRPS Liaison:** field calls from members of the community, working groups and agencies related to older adult abuse, concerns and general queries
- **Connection to resources/supports:** Liaise with hospitals, social workers, community supports
- **Public Education Presentations/Community Engagement/Programs:** presentations, speaking engagements – volunteer group

## What we do:

- **Committees/Organizations:** Halton Region Situation Table, Law Enforcement Agencies and Partners Protecting Seniors (LEAPPS), Halton Elder Abuse Prevention Network (HEAPN), Halton Hoarding Coalition, Alzheimers Action Table
- **Events:** Santa for Seniors, Seniors Fairs, Shred It Events, flag raising ceremonies



## Social Worker Support:

- District social workers review occurrences involving older adults and determine the best course of action to offer relevant supports to reduce the need for police involvement.





## Elder Abuse

.. a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person” (*World Health Organization-WHO*)

### 8.2% Of Seniors In Canada Are Abused

- Emotional abuse 26.2%
- Financial abuse 25.2%
- Physical abuse 21.4%
- Sexual abuse 15.5%
- Neglect 11.7%

## Fraud & Financial Exploitation

Most common crime affecting seniors

- Phone and online scams
- Door-to-door scams
- Power of Attorney abuse

Warning Signs:

- Sudden financial stress
- Fear, confusion, secrecy
- New person exerting control



*Reported fraud losses among seniors in 2024 exceeded \$130M, likely underestimates the true impact*

## Elder Abuse & Neglect

Often hidden and underreported

- Physical, emotional, or financial abuse
- Neglect by caregivers or family



### Red Flags:

- Unexplained injuries
- Poor hygiene or unsafe living conditions
- Fearful behaviour around others



*Police –reported family violence against seniors increased nearly 50% over recent years*

*-Healthy Aging Core*

## Missing Persons & Wandering

- Higher risk for seniors with cognitive impairment
- No waiting period to report concerns

### Important:

- Quick action saves lives
- Establish baseline behavior
- Register Vulnerable Seniors
- Utilize GPS tracking devices





## Vulnerable Person Registry (VPR)

A service that allows a family member or caregiver to provide information to police which can help during an emergency

Details such as physical description, habits or specific needs can help police locate or interact with the person

### Who is a Vulnerable Person?

May have a medical, mental health or physical condition which can pose a danger to themselves or others (i.e.: a person with Alzheimers Disease, Autism Spectrum Disorder, an acquired brain injury, with a mental condition)

Managed by our Victim Services Unit



## Community Partners & Supports

- Halton Women's Place
- Joseph Brant Hospital Peel/Halton
- Kerr Street Mental Health Association (Care-A-Van Network)
- Ontario Health at Home (formerly Links2Care)
- Salvation Army, (Lighthouse Shelter) Assessment
- SA-VIS (Sexual Assault and Violence) Intervention Services of
- Halton Elder Abuse Prevention Network (HEAPN)
- St. Joseph's Health Care (Oakville, Milton, Halton) Seniors Mental Health Outreach Program
- Victim Services (HRPS) Using
- Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) (HRPS)
- Wesley Housing
- Wesley Housing Program
- Fire Prevention Officers (Community Paramedics Program)
- MOB (Services)
- Transportation Services (Care-A-Van, Handi-Van)



## How to Report...

Non-emergency (reports): 905-825-4747

Emergency (immediate safety risk): 9-1-1

Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)



BY TELEPHONE



## Questions?





## Contact information...

D/Cst Dwain NEWHAM #9111

Social Worker – Emily Stein

District #3 Burlington x2344

D/Cst Gillian CLARKE #9867

Social worker – Ilana Greene

District #2 Oakville x2221

D/Cst. Mike FABAC #9382

Social worker – Alison Polan

District #1 Milton/Halton Hills x2418

Cst. Allison THERIAULT #7263

Community Services – Older Adult Support

Headquarters x5243