



STATISTICS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Elder Abuse in Canada

For the first time in its history, Canada now counts more people aged 65 and over than youth 14 and under. (Figure from Statistics Canada's 2016 census)

Two recent national studies estimate that **between 4.5% and 7.5% of Canadian seniors report experiencing some form of abuse**. 7.5% of Canadians over the age of 55, that's 695,248 Canadians. (Figures from The National Survey on the Mistreatment of Older Adults in Canada – Prevalence Study, 2014-2015)

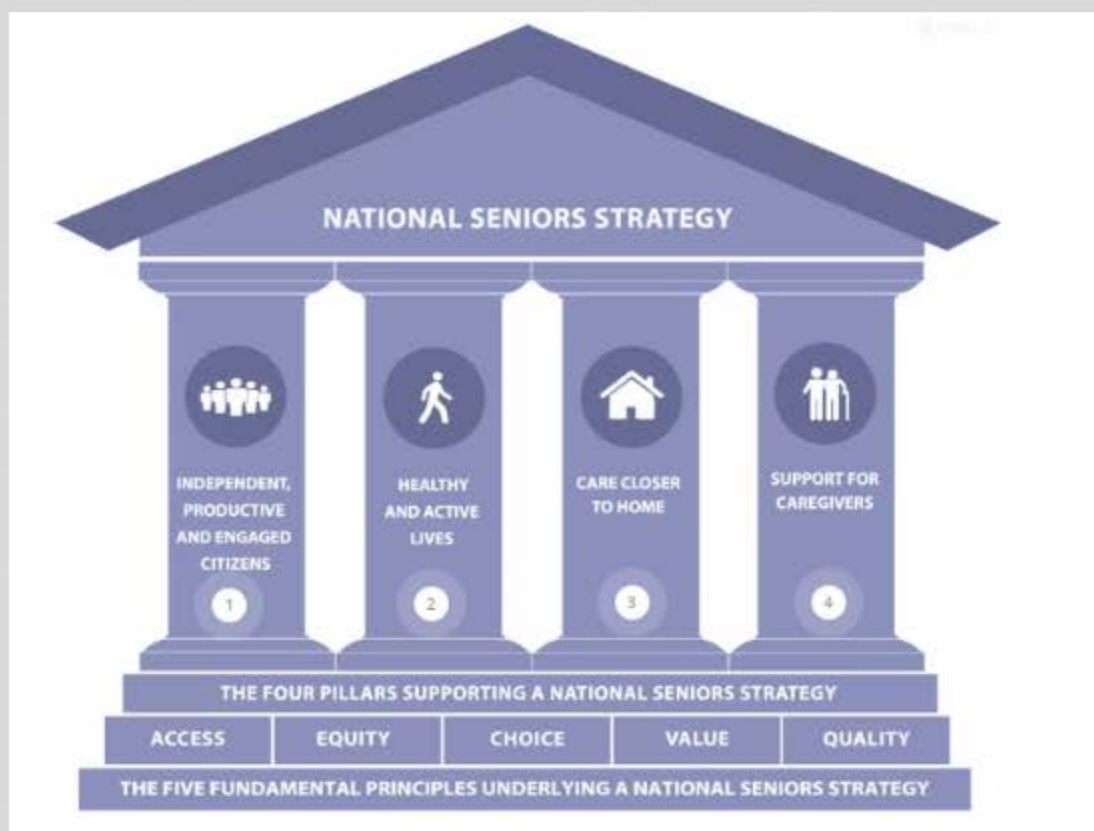
Elder Abuse is known as “the invisible crime” as it is **one of the most under reported crimes** in our country. It is estimated that **up to 10%** of seniors experience a form or more of elder abuse.

Recommendations for a National Seniors Strategy

The World Health Organization's strategy on Ageing and Health focuses on 4 key points:

- Encouraging healthy ageing
- Enabling functional ability
- Combatting Ageism
- Addressing inequalities

The four pillars of a national strategy according to www.nationalseniorsstrategy.ca:





STATISTICS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Our Recommendations

Devise a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach involving seniors (including seniors living with disabilities and dementia), researchers, gerontologists and other healthcare professionals, elder abuse prevention professionals, community development stakeholders, seniors-serving organizations, elder law experts, social workers, urban planners, educators, financial sector professionals, LGBTQI2S+ advocates, caregivers (formal and informal), and more.

Recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all answer. The word “seniors” fails to acknowledge the variety of people, life experiences, and age groups -spanning over four decades- currently living in Canada.

Develop national awareness campaigns about ageism and elder abuse.

Encourage public discourse around aging and what it means for Canadians and how to stay informed and safe (as individuals and as communities) against risks of elder abuse:

1- Ageism - Help people recognize ageist clichés and assumptions and how they negatively affect our views of older people and our self-perception. Recognize their impact on professional and personal lives, as well as impact on responses to older adults' needs (availability and relevance of services, etc.).

2- Elder Abuse - Find new ways to talk about elder abuse by offering specific, solutions-oriented messages. Elder abuse is on the cusp of public awareness. We know it is prevalent, we know it is likely to grow as the older population increases, we cannot afford to have it stay in the margins of public consciousness.

Place emphasis on improving social inclusion of older adults:

- Develop strategies to fight social isolation and combat ageism.
- Encourage development of age-friendly cities and intergenerational initiatives
- Develop and expand caregiving, housing and transportation support and solutions

Provide sustained financial support for CNPEA. CNPEA's hub was developed thanks to New Horizons for Seniors funding. It has established itself as a mobilizing force for elder abuse prevention stakeholders. We want to be able to pursue our mission of connecting and sharing knowledge across provinces and territories; offering easy access to valuable information and initiatives that can be adopted and applied across the country, while preventing redundancy; and fostering dynamic collaborations to guarantee that older adults can have a safe, healthy and enjoyable later life.