NCEA NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE

High School Students Q&A on Ageism

What is ageism?

Ageism refers to stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel), and discrimination (how we act) toward others or ourselves, based on age. Ageism affects everyone, at every age; however, it most commonly affects older adults.

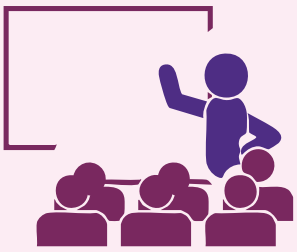


What does ageism look like?

- Excluding, ignoring, belittling, or treating older adults like infants
- Referring to older adults as dependent, mean, or inept
- Forcing an older adult to retire or failing to hire or promote them
- Denying medical treatment

Why should ageism matter to high school students?

It affects people you love and care about. It will affect you, too. You're aging. In addition to undermining dignity in aging, ageism tears at the very fabric of a fair and just society. It can also contribute to elder abuse.



What can you do to reduce ageism?

- Spend quality time with older family and community members
- Foster meaningful cross-generational connections
- Volunteer with older adults to help reduce loneliness and isolation
- Educate friends and classmates about ageism
- Challenge and call out ageist assumptions, jokes, and references



Everyone at every age deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Don't stand by, stand up to ageism and elder abuse.

Keck School of Medicine of USC

We stand united against elder abuse

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Elder Abuse Prevention: What High School Students Should Know

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. Common types of elder mistreatment include physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, or financial abuse, neglect, or self-neglect. Multiple forms of abuse can happen at the same time.

Did You Know?



- 1 in 10 community-dwelling older adults experiences abuse every year.



- 1 in 3 older adults with dementia experiences abuse.



- Only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported.



- Elder abuse has health, financial, and social impacts.



- Elder abuse occurs across all cultures, contexts, and communities.



- Older adults who are abused have a 3x higher risk of death.

What does elder abuse look like?

Elder abuse can happen in any setting. Examples include:

- Threatening, humiliating, or harassing an older adult
- Physically harming an older adult
- Spending an older adult's money without permission
- Refusing or neglecting to provide food, medication, or basic care to an older adult
- Leaving an older adult in unsafe living conditions
- Intentionally Isolating or abandoning an older adult

Educate others about the signs and impacts of abuse.

Where can I report abuse?

Programs such as Adult Protective Services (APS) are here to help.

Contact your local APS through Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or visit www.eldercare.acl.gov.

In case of emergency, call 911 or your local law enforcement.

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