



U.S. Department of
JUSTICE

Annual Report to Congress on Department of Justice Activities to Combat Elder Fraud and Abuse



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Civil Division
Commercial Litigation Branch

United States Department of Justice

Attorney General Statement

As reflected in this year's Report, the Department of Justice remains committed to combatting and addressing all forms of elder abuse, neglect, financial exploitation and fraud. During the reporting period, criminal and civil litigators throughout the Department pursued over 280 enforcement actions against over 600 defendants, many of whom were here illegally or were extradited to be charged in American courts. These alleged offenders, both domestic and transnational, attempted to steal or stole over \$2 billion from over one million older Americans. Further, the Department successfully held to account nursing home operators that provided grossly substandard care to vulnerable Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. We will not tolerate elder fraud and abuse and will aggressively pursue those that target older Americans.

In addition to our enforcement efforts, the Department recognizes that preventing elder abuse and fraud from occurring is the best outcome. For that reason, the Department held over 1000 public awareness and training events throughout the Nation, collectively reaching nearly 15 million Americans. These trainings included the Department's first National Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams Summit, which brought together elder justice professionals from around the country to share best practices on coordinating efforts and leverage available resources to simultaneously hold fraudsters accountable while supporting older victims. Relatedly, the Department engaged in a range of victim services to assist older victims, both while they are in the justice system and into recovery. Such efforts included formula grants to states for elder abuse programming, the federal Victim Witness program, and the recovery or freezing of millions of dollars that fraudsters stole from victims.

The Department takes a multipronged approach to addressing elder fraud and abuse, and is continually adapting to new threats and fraud schemes targeting older Americans. Whatever the threat, it is my pledge to the American people that the Department will continue to aggressively pursue those who harm our cherished older Americans, both domestically and internationally, and invest in the resources to ensure elder justice professionals are prepared to respond compassionately and appropriately to the needs of older victims. Under my leadership, I assure you that the Department is committed to advancing elder justice for older Americans.

Pamela J. Bondi



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Pursuant to the *Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act*, Pub.L. 115-70, the United States Department of Justice (the Department) submits this Annual Report to Congress on its activities to combat elder fraud and abuse from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The Department’s comprehensive approach to promoting elder justice rests on five pillars: Enforcement, Raising Public Awareness, Capacity Building, Victim Support and Recovery, and Sharing Data and Research. These pillars form the chapters of this report.

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Supplemental Materials

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ENFORCEMENT

OVERVIEW

The Department's enforcement efforts include criminal and civil actions against offenders who perpetrated dozens of fraud types upon older Americans. As fraud continues to originate overseas, the Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force is coordinating with foreign law enforcement to capture and extradite these offenders to face charges in the United States. Likewise, the Department continues to actively pursue nursing home operators that provide grossly substandard care to older nursing home residents. The Department's enforcement efforts are described below.



ELDER JUSTICE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Many of the Department's litigating components pursue enforcement actions involving misconduct targeting or disproportionately impacting older adults. These litigating components include the Criminal and Civil Divisions, as well as the United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) nationwide. As required under the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (EAPPA), each USAO has an assigned Elder Justice Coordinator (EJC), responsible for pursuing elder fraud cases and coordinating with state and local officials on elder justice matters.

During the reporting period, the Department pursued 283 criminal and civil enforcement actions involving conduct that targeted or disproportionately affected older adults. Approximately 95% of the cases were criminal in nature and 36% involved international schemes. These cases named over 600 defendants charged with stealing or alleged to have stolen over \$2 billion from over one million victims. Seventy-eight percent of USAOs engaged in some form of elder justice enforcement this reporting period.

A complete listing of the Department's elder justice enforcement actions can be found in [Elder Justice Cases](#).¹ For more information on these cases, please visit the [Elder Justice Initiative Press Room](#).

283 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

608
Defendants

1,034,630
Victims

\$2,363,983,480
Stolen

36%
Foreign Scams

¹ In addition to the cases detailed in [Elder Justice Cases](#), the Department is pursuing other matters not included in this report due to their procedural status (e.g., they are filed under seal). Some of the cases included in this report involve criminal charges that are still pending, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



Top Six Frauds Accounting for the Highest Financial Losses

This reporting period, the Department pursued over 40 different types of elder fraud schemes.² Below are the types of scams with the highest reported loss amounts for older adults according to the [FBI's Internet Crime Report 2024](#) (see chapter titled *2024 IC3 Elder Fraud*). Note that financial losses involving cryptocurrency totaled \$2,839,333,197.

SCAMS WITH THE HIGHEST FINANCIAL LOSSES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Investment
\$1,834,242,515

Tech Support
\$982,440,006

Confidence/Romance
\$389,312,356

Business Email Compromise
\$385,001,099

Personal Data Breach
\$254,187,196

Government Impersonation
\$208,096,366

Visit the Federal Trade Commission's [Scams webpage](#) to learn more about each type of scam.

² Based on three sources of fraud data: [FBI's Internet Crime Report 2024](#), [2024 Annual Report to Congress on Department of Justice Activities to Combat Elder Fraud and Abuse](#), and [2023 Annual Report to Congress on Department of Justice Activities to Combat Elder Fraud and Abuse](#).



TRANSNATIONAL ELDER FRAUD STRIKE FORCE

As part of the work of the **Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force**, the Department continued to prosecute cases and pursue initiatives that disrupt schemes that steal the life savings of older Americans. Substantial victories were achieved in U.S. federal courts against transnational criminal organizations involved in grandparent scams, lottery fraud, tech support fraud, and a variety of other elder fraud schemes.

In addition to successes in U.S. courts, Department prosecutors and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials continued to build relationships with foreign law enforcement that amplify the resources available to combat schemes targeting older Americans. For example, prosecutors and agents collaborated with India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take down tech support and government imposter schemes. In 2024, this collaboration enabled over 215 arrests through eleven joint operations with CBI and local law enforcement. This represented a 700% increase in arrests from 2023, the first full year of the collaboration. FBI conducted hundreds of interviews and continues to support Indian law enforcement efforts and prosecution of call centers perpetrating these frauds. This work is spearheaded by a dedicated FBI assistant legal attaché (ALAT) on the ground in Delhi to address call center cases.

Based on the success of this program, FBI expanded it to Accra, Ghana, where a Criminal Investigative Division ALAT worked to expand collaboration with Ghanaian law enforcement on elder fraud schemes. The ALAT increased intelligence collection to identify targets and support numerous investigations. In June 2025, the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division further expanded the program to Thailand where an ALAT will work on temporary duty assignment against fraud schemes emanating from the region that steal billions of dollars from older Americans through crypto investment schemes.

Strike Force efforts also included working with private industry to identify the most egregious elder fraud schemes and with foreign law enforcement to apprehend foreign-based perpetrators for extradition to the United States.



Extradition of Elder Fraud Defendants

More than ever before, U.S. law enforcement works closely with foreign law enforcement to apprehend fraudsters abroad who are extradited to the United States to face fraud charges. Below are a few examples of defendants extradited from foreign countries:

- **Canada:** A Canadian national accused of operating fraudulent prize notice schemes was extradited to the United States.
- **Dominican Republic:** Three residents of Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, were extradited on charges relating to their participation in a sprawling “grandparent scam” that defrauded older Americans out of millions of dollars.
- **Italy:** An individual was extradited from Italy on charges of sending mass mail solicitations to U.S. victims claiming to be from world-renowned psychics.
- **Jamaica:** A Jamaican national was extradited to the United States for his alleged role in a long-running scheme to defraud a California woman.
- **Peru:** A Peruvian citizen was extradited to the United States on charges that she managed a network of Peruvian call centers that defrauded Spanish-speaking consumers, many of who are older, for more than five years.
- **South Africa:** A citizen of Nigeria was extradited from South Africa for allegedly facilitating romance, lottery, and business email compromise schemes.
- **Spain:** A dual citizen of the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates living in Dubai was extradited from Spain for his alleged role in a tech support fraud scheme.
- **United Kingdom:** A Nigerian national was extradited from the United Kingdom to face charges in the Southern District of Florida for allegedly engaging in a transnational criminal organization that operated an inheritance fraud scheme targeting older U.S. consumers.



THE NATIONAL NURSING HOME INITIATIVE

The National Nursing Home Initiative coordinates and enhances the Department's efforts to investigate and pursue nursing home operators that provide grossly substandard care to their residents. This Initiative focuses on some of the worst quality nursing homes and their owners, operators, and affiliates around the country.

The Department considers a number of factors in identifying problematic nursing homes. For example, the Department often focuses on nursing homes that consistently:

- Fail to provide adequate numbers and skill level of nursing staff to care for their residents based on acuity;
- fail to assess resident care needs in an individualized plan of care;
- fail to adhere to basic clinical nursing protocols;
- fail to provide their residents with enough food to eat, contributing to residents becoming emaciated and weak; or
- inappropriately use physical or chemical restraints to restrain or otherwise sedate their residents.

The National Nursing Home Initiative, coordinated by the Elder Justice Initiative in conjunction with the 94 USAOs around the country, reflects the Department's larger commitment to ensuring patient safety and to stopping fraud, waste, and abuse in our nation's nursing homes. As part of that effort, the Department engaged in significant outreach and coordination with federal partners at the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to identify nursing homes that have significant quality issues. Further, the National Nursing Home Initiative provided training to and coordinated with state Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCUs) and other local partners, including emergency medical services (EMS) and the state long-term care ombudsman (LTCO) to ensure that all entities are working together to identify problematic nursing homes and coordinate investigative efforts.



As a result of these measures, the Department has brought enforcement actions against many nursing home chains and providers that committed fraud, provided medically unnecessary services, and/or failed to care for their residents as required by regulation.

CASE SPOTLIGHT

Civil Matters

U.S. v. American Health Foundation

In June 2025, the United States **settled** a civil False Claims Act case with the American Health Foundation (AHF), its affiliate AHF Management Corporation, and three affiliated nursing homes — Cheltenham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (Cheltenham), The Sanctuary at Wilmington Place (Wilmington Place), and Samaritan Care Center and Villa (Samaritan) for \$3.61 million. This settlement resolved allegations related to billing Medicare and Medicaid for grossly substandard skilled nursing services between 2016 and 2018. AHF is a nonprofit corporation that is headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, and owns and controls nursing homes in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The United States' complaint alleged that the three AHF nursing homes provided grossly substandard services

that failed to meet required standards of care in various ways. For example, the United States alleged that each facility failed to follow appropriate infection control protocols and had problems maintaining adequate staffing levels.

The United States also alleged that Cheltenham housed its residents in a dirty, pest-infested building; gave its residents unnecessary medications, including antibiotic, antipsychotic, antianxiety, and hypnotic drugs; deprived its residents of their dignity by subjecting them to verbal abuse, leaving them without meaningful activities or stimulation, and failing to safeguard their possessions, including money, clothing, and other personal items; and failed to provide needed psychiatric care. The United States similarly alleged that Wilmington Place had repeated failures relating to resident medications, including the provision of unnecessary drugs, and



that it persistently failed to create and maintain crucial resident care plans and assessments. Finally, the United States alleged that Samaritan had repeated failures related to resident care plans and assessments, and housed residents in a building and on grounds that often were not safe or sanitary.

Contemporaneously with the settlement, the AHF entities agreed to enter into a chain-wide, quality of care Corporate Integrity Agreement (CIA) with the United States Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General, which will remain in effect for five years and address quality of care and resident safety within the AHF entities' skilled nursing facilities. The case was handled by the Civil Division's Fraud Section and the USAO for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

U.S. v. The Villas Nursing Facilities

In July 2025, the United States and the State of Michigan entered into a \$4.5 million settlement with six Detroit-area nursing homes and their ownership companies, Villa Financial Services LLC and Villa Olympia

Investment LLC, over allegations that they accepted taxpayer funds while providing grossly substandard care to their residents. The following six Villa facilities were part of the settlement agreement: Ambassador, Father Murray, Imperial, Regency, St. Joseph's, and Westland. The case originated as a federal whistleblower lawsuit by Villa employees, who claimed they personally witnessed the mistreatment of residents. The complaint alleged that the nursing homes failed to: sufficiently staff the facilities to adequately care for residents; prevent, control, and treat infections; prevent falls by residents; provide for residents' toileting needs so that residents sat or lay in soiled beds and clothes for extended periods; and prevent and treat pressure ulcers, also known as bed sores.

As part of the agreement, Villa will also enter into a five-year quality-of-care CIA with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General. The CIA requires companies to retain an independent quality monitor to review the companies' delivery of care and evaluate their ability to prevent, detect, and respond to patient care problems.



This case was handled by the Civil Division’s Fraud Section and the USAO for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Health Care Fraud Division of the Michigan Department of Attorney General.

Criminal Matters

U.S. v. Comprehensive Healthcare Management Services, LLC

In May 2025, the USAO for the Western District of Pennsylvania obtained more than \$15 million in **restitution** for the convictions of two Pittsburgh area nursing homes for making false statements in connection with the payment of health care benefits and for the purpose of obstructing and impeding the investigation and proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of CMS. Comprehensive Healthcare Management Services, LLC, d/b/a Brighton Rehabilitation and Wellness Center (Brighton) and Mt. Lebanon Operations, LLC, d/b/a Mount Lebanon Rehabilitation and Wellness Center (Mt. Lebanon) were found guilty on six and four counts, respectively, by a federal jury in December 2023.

U.S. District Judge Robert J. Colville imposed the sentences, ordering Brighton to pay \$12,629,257.46 in

restitution to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in addition to serving five years of probation and Mt. Lebanon to pay \$2,721,312.10 in restitution and to serve one year of probation.

Evidence presented at the December 2023 trial established that, acting through high-level personnel and other employees, Brighton and Mt. Lebanon falsified staffing information provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and CMS to show that the facilities were in compliance with the conditions of participation in Medicare and Medicaid.

The false certifications — which included, for example, various employees adding the names of individuals who were not actually working, not providing direct patient care, and, in some cases, not even in the building, to staffing sheets to make it appear that the requisite minimum staffing ratio was being met — enabled the corporations to evade penalties for failing to provide sufficient staffing to meet the needs of the residents. Testimony also established that the facilities continued to push for new patient admissions despite low staffing levels and nurses at the facilities



advising that they could not adequately care for additional residents.

Prior to imposing the sentence, Judge Colville heard testimony and received impact statements from family members of several former residents of the facilities, including a female resident who was seriously injured from a violent physical assault by a male resident when no nursing home staff were present to prevent the abuse or come to the victim's aid. These family members described a significant decline in staffing following acquisition of the nursing homes by the defendant companies and detailed how decreased staffing levels negatively impacted their relatives' care, treatment, health, well-being, and hygiene.

In imposing the sentence, Judge Colville described the defendants' actions as "a tragic set of events" that not only increased the risk of inadequate care for the facilities' patients but also impacted the lives of the facilities' employees and the general public, who expect that health care facilities will operate lawfully. Judge Colville noted that the nursing facilities' actions resulted in the government and taxpayers being defrauded and the loss of care to patients.

U.S. v. KBWB Operations LLC and Breslin

In January 2025, the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch (CPB) announced that KBWB Operations LLC, which did business as Atrium Health and Senior Living (KBWB-Atrium), and former Chief Executive Officer and Managing Member Kevin Breslin of KBWB-Atrium, both **pleaded guilty** to one count of health care fraud and one count of tax conspiracy related to the operation of numerous skilled nursing facilities. Breslin, age 58, of Hoboken, New Jersey, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin on December 17, 2024. KBWB-Atrium pleaded guilty in the same court on January 21, 2025.

According to court documents, from approximately January 1, 2015, to in or about September 2018, KBWB-Atrium operated and owned 23 skilled nursing facilities in Wisconsin, and Breslin was responsible for overseeing all KBWB-Atrium's operations. The primary source of income for the KBWB-Atrium Wisconsin skilled nursing facilities was federal Medicare and Medicaid funds.

According to court documents, the defendants' alleged health care fraud scheme involved unlawfully



diverting Medicare and Medicaid funds intended for the operation, management, maintenance, and care of the residents of the KBWB-Atrium Wisconsin skilled nursing facilities for other purposes and personal expenses. The defendants allegedly prioritized distributions and guaranteed payments to KBWB-Atrium's owners regardless of KBWB-Atrium's financial situation. The defendants' alleged actions resulted in failing to meet the required federal regulations governing skilled nursing facilities, including not operating the KBWB-Atrium Wisconsin skilled nursing facilities in a manner that would enhance residents' quality of life. According to court documents, the defendants also knew that vendors were not being paid for extended periods of time, or some were not paid

at all for their services. Additionally, defendants allegedly failed to pay third-party administrators monies deducted from KBWB-Atrium employees' paychecks for insurance premiums and 401(k) plan contributions.

As a part of the tax conspiracy alleged in court documents, Breslin, acting on behalf of KBWB-Atrium, directed that income taxes and employment taxes withheld from KBWB-Atrium Wisconsin employees' paychecks not be paid over to the IRS. This caused employees to prepare tax returns listing those withholdings as having been paid to the IRS, which was false. This case was handled by CPB and the USAO for the District of Wisconsin, with assistance from the Civil Division's Fraud Section.



CRITICAL NEED TO REPORT NURSING HOME ABUSE

Over the past year, the Department's National Nursing Home Initiative has redoubled its efforts to work with key partners in identifying and reporting abuse in our nation's nursing homes. The Department has worked closely with states' Medicaid Fraud Control Units, State Long-term Care Ombudsmen, Adult Protective Services, and county Emergency Medical Services, and others around the country.

Where to Report

If a resident, family member, or nursing home staff member suspects elder abuse and neglect occurring in a nursing home, they should report that abuse to:

- The Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Home Hotline: 1-800-447-8477
- Your State **Survey Agency**
- Your State **Medicaid Fraud Control Unit**
- Your State **Adult Protective Services**
- Your State **Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

Working together to report abuse can stem the tide of elder abuse occurring in nursing homes across this nation.



ELDER FRAUD CASE SPOTLIGHT

Cryptocurrency Scam

The cryptocurrency scam began in or about October 2023, when an Elyria, Ohio, older adult saw an alert on his MacBook laptop screen telling him his computer was compromised and advising him to call a telephone number to resolve the issue. The person answering the victim's telephone call stated that he was an Apple employee, and falsely stated that the victim's retirement account had been compromised. In particular, the victim was falsely told that three separate transactions - totaling \$90,852.38 - had taken place moving money from his retirement account to "either China or Russia, in addition to one going directly to a casino in Las Vegas." The victim was told that to keep his other/ additional monies safe, he would need to wire that money at the direction of the purported Apple employee or another person, who claimed to be a senior risk and fraud analyst.

The purported Apple employee instructed the victim to download a screen sharing service onto his MacBook. This gave the purported Apple employee access to the victim's

computer. Using this access, the purported Apple employee created an account at a Virtual Currency Exchange (VCE). VCEs are trading and/or storage platforms for virtual currencies.

On three separate occasions between October 18 and November 1, 2023, the victim wired funds - totaling \$425,000.00 - to accounts at the VCEs from his personal bank account. Using his control of the victim's MacBook via the screen sharing software, the purported Apple employee then transferred/stole all, or virtually all, of these funds. As a result of this cryptocurrency fraud scam, the victim lost his entire life savings.

Through several steps of "blockchain analysis," investigators were able to trace a portion of the funds stolen from the victim's VCE accounts (namely, \$105,615) to a cryptocurrency address on the Ethereum blockchain. As part of this analysis, it was determined that the stolen cryptocurrency had been converted to Tether ("USDT") cryptocurrency. USDT is a "stablecoin," a type of blockchain-based currency that is tied -or tethered - to a fiat currency and exists on several



third-party blockchains, including Ethereum. Tether seeks to peg USDT to the U.S. Dollar at a 1:1 ratio.

In December 2023, the USDT tokens at the subject cryptocurrency address were frozen by Tether Limited, Inc. At the time of the freeze, the cryptocurrency address had a balance of 947,883 USDT, valued at approximately \$947,883.00. Thereafter, pursuant to a federal seizure warrant issued on July 31, 2024, 947,883 USDT tokens were transferred by Tether Limited to a U.S. law enforcement-controlled virtual currency wallet.

By a [Complaint in Forfeiture](#) filed on November 26, 2024, the United States sought to forfeit the entire 947,883 USDT cryptocurrency. In the complaint, the United States alleged that the additional cryptocurrency contained in the address -i.e., the cryptocurrency above the victim's traceable loss -also is subject to forfeiture as the proceeds of other fraud(s). Additionally, the complaint alleged that such "other funds" were involved in money laundering violations.

By an Order dated April 24, 2025, the district court entered a Final Order disposing of the funds as follows:

The traceable amount of the defendant property - \$105,615.00 - was paid by the United States Marshals Service ("USMS") to the victim.

The remaining approximately \$842,268.00 of the defendant property was finally forfeited to the United States.

With respect to the victim's remaining loss amount (\$319,385.00), which the FBI was not able to trace to the subject cryptocurrency address, the Court advised the victim that he could choose to submit a Petition for Remission or Mitigation to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Criminal Division, seeking remission of the \$319,385.00 from the forfeited property.

Thereafter, the victim did, in fact, submit a petition to the DOJ seeking remission of the \$319,385.00 from the forfeited property. On or about August 18, 2025, the DOJ notified the victim that his petition for remission had been approved. The victim's remaining loss will be paid to him, and he will have a full recovery of \$425,000.00.

Learn how to avoid
CRYPTOCURRENCY SCAMS



Investment Scam

Investment scams are a type of fraud where a perpetrator convinces victims to provide the perpetrator monies to invest in a purported company, business venture, or asset. The perpetrator usually promises the victims strong returns, typically “guaranteed” and far beyond the average returns that could be anticipated for investment in comparable ventures or assets. But the investment the victim is convinced to put money toward does not exist. Instead, the perpetrator pockets the victims’ money for themselves, typically spending it on personal expenses and (sometimes) paying partial returns to other victims to “lull” those victims into continuing to think their investment is legitimate. This “Ponzi-like” trait allows the perpetrator to avoid the victims reporting the matter to law enforcement and often causes the victims to “invest” even more money with the perpetrator, thereby increasing the losses to the victims. Investment scammers often target older adults because they usually have more assets than younger persons and often have a limited number of family frequently around them to assist in financial matters. Investment scammers often know their victims for years before

defrauding them. The prior relationship allows the scammer to pick the best targets: those that have available funds, trust the perpetrator, and are less likely to discover the fraud.

In March 2024, the USAO for the Southern District of Iowa indicted William Jack Berg with numerous wire fraud and money laundering charges for his investment scam of over a dozen investors, most of whom were older adults. Berg pleaded guilty and was **sentenced** to 9 years in prison. Berg was also ordered to pay more than \$1.6 million in restitution. According to court documents and evidence presented at the October 2024 sentencing, Berg, age 52, defrauded approximately 17 victims by purporting to be a financial advisor in central Iowa, St. Louis, Missouri, and elsewhere. Over an eight-year period, Berg deceived victims to invest in companies he created and controlled, and took over \$2 million from victim investors during his approximate eight-year scheme, promising to invest those monies in the companies for the benefit of the investors. To further his fraud, Berg provided his victims with fictitious investment agreements, account statements, and created a website for one of the sham investment companies.



Berg did not invest the victims' monies. Instead, Berg used most of the victims' money for his own expenses, including cars, travel, and diamond jewelry. Once alerted to his federal indictment, Berg attempted to destroy documents and fled to Iowa. The FBI and its partners apprehended Berg weeks later in Kansas.

Learn how to avoid
INVESTMENT SCAMS

Romance Scam

For several years, the FBI, along with the USAO for the Southern District of New York, investigated a criminal enterprise based in West Africa (the "Enterprise") for a series of fraud schemes, including romance scams, targeting vulnerable individuals across the United States.

The Enterprise conducted the romance scams by using messages sent via email, text messaging, or online dating websites that tricked the victims — many of whom were older and targeted because they often lived alone, desired companionship, and had substantial savings based on their years of employment, savings, and investments — into believing the victim

was in a romantic relationship with a fake identity assumed by members of the Enterprise. Once members of the Enterprise had gained the trust of the victims after weeks and months of regular communication using fake identities, they used false pretenses such as the need for financial assistance for a medical emergency or legal fees to receive a family inheritance, which caused the victims to send money to bank accounts that the victims believed were controlled by their romantic interests, but in fact the bank accounts were controlled by members of the Enterprise. The Enterprise was able to successfully execute these scams, which resulted in the loss of millions of dollars, based on the highly coordinated efforts of numerous international co-conspirators.

On November 18, 2024, defendant Bashiru Ganiyu was **sentenced** to 13 years in prison for his role in the Enterprise as a money launderer, following an April 2024 trial conviction on one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, and one count of conspiracy to receive stolen money. Ganiyu helped launder nearly \$12



million in stolen funds and sent the funds to other members of the Enterprise or abroad at the direction of his co-conspirators. Between 2020 and 2022, the defendant received money sent by more than 40 victims — many of whom were older adults — under false pretenses into ten bank accounts held in the name of his purported business located in the Bronx, New York. At least four of the defendant's older victims testified at trial, describing how they were tricked into entering an online relationship with individuals, who gained their trust over time through daily contact and repeated promises of love, only to learn later that those promises were false and large portions of their retirement accounts had been depleted. In addition to the prison term, the defendant was ordered to forfeit \$11,744,115.07 and pay restitution of \$7,675,785.32.

Learn how to avoid
ROMANCE SCAMS

Government Impersonation Scam

Perpetrators of government impersonation fraud frequently use call centers in India to contact potential victims in the United States, often

older adults, and claim some type of suspicious activity on a bank account, Amazon account, or similar type of account. Likely victims are then transferred to a fake official claiming to be with the Federal Trade Commission, Social Security Administration, the Treasury Department, or a U.S. Attorney, who uses fear and time pressure to create anxiety in the victim. Sometimes the imposter claims that accounts opened in the victim's name have been linked to criminal activity like money laundering and sometimes they just claim that the person has been hacked, and that their savings and investments are at risk. The government imposter then says that the only way to resolve possible criminal charges and protect the person's assets is to deposit the assets with the government for safekeeping. The government impersonators often instruct the victims to remove their savings from the bank or purchase large amounts of gold online, package the cash or gold in a box, and deliver the box with their property to another "government agent" who meets the victim at their residence or at a nearby parking lot of a Target, Walmart, or similar retailer.



These fraudsters cannot perpetrate their offenses unless there are couriers positioned throughout the United States to receive the victims' property and transfer it to other members of the conspiracy. On May 7, 2024, the USAO for the Western District of Texas (WDTX), Austin Division, with the assistance of FBI Supervisory Agent Loren Miller in the Austin, Texas, Field Office, obtained a grand jury indictment charging Moinuddin Mohammed with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and false statement for his role acting as a courier for the scheme. Mr. Mohammed was tied to almost \$7 million in victim losses. Mr. Mohammed pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering and was **sentenced** to 97 months in prison on February 20, 2025.

The USAO WDTX also filed charges against two other couriers involved in the same scheme. Kishan Patel was charged via complaint on August 27, 2024, with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering, indicted on the same charges on September 17, 2024, and pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering and was sentenced

to 63 months in prison on June 26, 2025. Druv Mangukiya was charged via complaint on November 6, 2024, with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering, indicted on the same charges on December 3, 2024, and pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering. Mr. Mangukiya's sentencing remains pending. Mr. Patel and Mr. Mangukiya were tied to approximately \$3 million in victim losses.

The above investigations led to the identification of a fourth defendant, Bhavesh Kumar Thakkar. Mr. Thakkar played a higher and much more significant role in the scheme. The investigation showed that Mr. Thakkar coordinated the receipt of victim property from couriers nationwide and coordinated his activities with co-conspirators in foreign countries. To date, Mr. Thakkar has been tied to between approximately \$150 and \$200 million in victim losses. Mr. Thakkar was indicted in the WDTX on May 6, 2025, and charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, and he was later arrested in California. He was ordered detained pending his trial, which has



PREVENT VICTIMIZATION BY KNOWING HOW SCAMS WORK

Each year, millions of older Americans become victims to some type of financial fraud or internet scheme, such as romance scams or tech support scams. Criminals gain their targets' trust or use tactics of intimidation and threats to take advantage of their victims. Once successful, scammers are likely to continue their efforts because of the prospect of significant financial gain. One way to prevent victimization is to know how scams work.

The 4 Ps of How Scams Work

Scams come in many varieties, but they typically work the same way:

1. Scammers pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust
2. Scammers say there is a problem or a prize
3. Scammers pressure you to act immediately
4. Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way

For more information, see Federal Trade Commission's Office of Inspector General [Recognizing Scams](#).

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam, call the [National Elder Fraud Hotline](#) at 833-FRAUD-11.



not yet been resolved. All defendants are aliens to the United States, citizens of India.

Learn how to avoid
**GOVERNMENT
IMPERSONATION SCAMS**

Grandparent Scam

The USAO for the Western District of Kentucky and a multi-agency investigative team led by IRS Criminal Investigation, have been engaged since 2021 in the investigation and prosecution of an international grandparent scam, whereby co-conspirators in the United States, Canada, and Panama target older adults across the United States, convincing them a loved one is in distress.

As part of this grandparent scam, scam callers based in Canadian call centers convinced older victims that their grandchild or other family member had an emergency, usually a car accident, and urgently needed money from the victim. The call centers focused on different geographic areas of the United States week to week, sending co-conspirators posing as “couriers” to

collect cash from victims at their homes and to guard cash proceeds in local hotel rooms. Additional co-conspirators would then collect the cash and launder the criminal proceeds, both through traditional banks, using nominee business accounts, and through cryptocurrency exchanges.

On June 12, 2025, defendant Phillippe Gravel-Nadon, a Canadian citizen who was extradited from Colombia to face the federal indictment, was **sentenced** to more than five years in prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud conspiracy for his role in the scam. Gravel-Nadon was considered a “manager or supervisor” within the conspiracy, as he coordinated travel for and directed the activities of co-conspirators in the United States from Panama. In addition to the prison term, the defendant was ordered to pay \$963,290 in victim restitution. The wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy charged in the Western District of Kentucky spanned from August 2020 to May 2021 and impacted hundreds of victims across the United States who lost over \$3 million in total during the Indictment period. Through cross-district and international cooperation, the investigative team in Kentucky has



been able to assist in the investigation and prosecution of additional targets engaged in the scheme, across a broader timeframe and scope.

Learn how to avoid
GRANDPARENT SCAMS

Lottery Fraud

Perpetrators of lottery fraud claim that victims have won a lottery and persuade victims to send money to pay various fees and taxes associated with the lottery. These fraudsters cannot perpetrate their offenses unless they have access to the names and contact information of American consumers. On June 11, 2025, the CPB filed an Information in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida charging Troy Murray also known as “Steve Dixson” with conspiracy to commit wire fraud for providing lottery fraudsters with the identities of older American victims to defraud. CPB also filed Troy Murray’s agreement to plead guilty. According to court documents, Troy Murray sold to lottery fraud scammers, including Jamaicans, his lead list database containing the names and personal information of over seven million older American consumers. Scammers then used these

lists to defraud those older victims. Additionally, Cutter Murray, Troy Murray’s son, pled guilty to one count of money laundering for receiving and then laundering \$1.6 million of the fraudulent funds Troy Murray obtained. Several purchases were in excess of \$10,000.

On June 9, 2025, CPB filed court documents charging Dennis Anderson and Frank Angelori for facilitating additional Jamaica-based elder fraud. According to court documents, Anderson and Angelori were lead list brokers and business partners, who from as early as 2015 until at least March 2020, knowingly sold lists containing consumer names and contact information of mostly older Americans to Jamaican clients who perpetrate lottery fraud on older Americans.

Learn how to avoid
SWEEPSTAKES/LOTTERY SCAMS

Prize Notice Scams

CPB obtained significant victories in the prosecutions of multiple scammers who mailed fraudulent prize notices to U.S. consumers, many of whom were older and vulnerable. The prize



notices falsely claimed the recipients were entitled to receive a large cash prize in exchange for payment of a fee. CPB secured the conviction at trial of a fraudster who stole more than \$2.6 million in payments from victims who responded to fraudulent prize notices. CPB also obtained guilty pleas from two fraudsters who each stole millions of dollars in payments from prize notice victims. CPB and the USAO for the District of Nevada indicted a fraudulent prize-notice defendant and successfully **extradited** another prize-notice defendant from Canada.

Finally, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction

and sentence of two prize-notice fraudsters who raised an advice of counsel defense at trial, claiming they could not be found guilty of fraud as attorneys had reviewed and approved their mailings. The Second Circuit held that in light of the overwhelming evidence of the defendants' fraudulent intent, the jury could reasonably have found the defendants sought legal advice in bad faith for the purpose of establishing a sham defense.

Learn how to avoid
PRIZE SCAMS



RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

OVERVIEW

The best defense to elder fraud and abuse is prevention, and components within the Department engaged in a wide array of public awareness activities aimed at preventing fraud, abuse, and neglect of our nation's older adults. Over the reporting period, various components of the Department participated in nearly 1200 public awareness and training events, reaching nearly 15 million Americans. Public awareness can be as simple as a website posting or as complex as producing a public awareness event. A few of the Department's key public awareness activities are highlighted below, and a detailed list of events that Department components arranged or participated in is available in [Elder Justice Public Awareness and Professional Training](#).



THE DEPARTMENT COMMEMORATES WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

According to the FBI, in 2024 nearly 150,000 older Americans placed a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), with losses totaling \$4.89 billion. On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) this year, U.S. Attorney General Bondi recommitted the Department to protecting older Americans against fraud schemes that often leave older adults destitute. The press release, titled [Justice Department Highlights Enforcement Efforts Protecting Older Americans from Transnational Fraud Schemes in Recognition of 2025 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#), inventories the domestic and transnational elder fraud schemes the Department has disrupted through various enforcement actions.

FBI PUBLIC AWARENESS EVENTS

In support of the Department's [Elder Justice Initiative](#), the FBI conducted various forms of community outreach to raise public awareness of elder fraud and abuse and provided training, resources, and tools to adults of all age demographics. The FBI provided elder fraud presentations to a multitude of audiences to include academia, adult protective service agencies, financial institutions, medical providers, religious organizations, and news and media outlets. A complete listing of the FBI's training and outreach efforts can be found in [Elder Justice Public Awareness and Professional Training](#).

FBI Headquarters

On October 31, 2024, a Supervisory Special Agent from the FBI's Financial Crimes Section participated in a segment on ABC's Tamron Hall Show to warn about online scams, titled [FBI Special Agent Julia Macbeth's Stern Warning About Online Scams](#). The FBI discussed the proliferation of cryptocurrency investment scams and warned about the devastating impact on victims of all ages. The FBI



FBI on the Tamron Hall Show



also discussed its Take a Beat campaign to increase awareness about a variety of scams and to provide tips on how avoid victimization. The ABC segment reached approximately 1.4 million viewers.

FBI Baltimore

On October 1, 2024, a Supervisory Special Agent was interviewed by WMAR-2 News for a segment titled **Marylanders are Losing Millions to Crypto Investment Scams**. The FBI described cryptocurrency investment schemes, sometimes referred to as “pig butchering”, and warned against additional crypto-related fraud schemes described in the IC3 Cryptocurrency Fraud report.



FBI Birmingham

On January 8, 2025, a Supervisory Special Agent conducted an elder fraud awareness presentation at an event hosted by the Jefferson County Community Services Department in Bessemer, AL. The briefing included current trends, case examples, warning signs, preventative measures, and an overview of the **FBI's IC3 portal**.



FBI elder fraud presentation in Bessemer, AL



FBI Pittsburgh

On April 4, 2025, FBI Pittsburgh and local law enforcement partners participated in a press conference titled **FBI Warning Pittsburgh Area Seniors of Ongoing ‘Grandparent Scams’**, warning Pittsburgh area older adults of an ongoing grandparent scam. The purpose of the press conference was to announce the indictment and arrest of one of the scammers, to spread awareness of the scam, and to prevent additional victimization of Pittsburgh residents. The press conference and accompanying news articles reached an audience of over 1 million viewers.



Pittsburgh FBI and local law enforcement hold a press conference on Grandparent Scam

FBI Washington

On August 12, 2024, a Supervisory Special Agent in the Washington Field Office was interviewed by ABC7 News in a segment titled **FBI Special Agent Warns of Rise in Scams Targeting the Elderly**, discussing a rise in scams targeting older Americans. Topics of discussion included red flags surrounding scams such as impersonation scams and cryptocurrency investment scams. The FBI also provided recommendations to prevent victimization of vulnerable adults. The ABC segment reached approximately 1.2 million viewers.





FBI interviewed by ABC7 News about elder fraud

FBI St. Louis

On August 29, 2024, a Public Affairs Officer in the FBI's St. Louis Office was interviewed by Fox 2 News in a segment titled **FBI Warns of Targeted Gold Scam to Drain 401(k) Accounts**, about gold bar scams that were being used to drain older adult's retirement accounts. Media interest was prompted by a warning from a St. Louis area business that specializes in selling rare coins. On three separate occasions, the business refused to sell the coins to older customers who they believed were being scammed.



FBI interviewed by Fox 2 News about gold bar and gold coin scams

A Word on Prevention

The Department is perhaps most well-known for its enforcement actions and victim services. However, all components within the Department engage in public outreach, underscoring the Department's commitment to preventing elder fraud and abuse. While the Department does its best to identify offenders and enforce the laws, and to the extent possible, freeze or return money unlawfully taken from older victims, the best approach remains public awareness to prevent these crimes from happening in the first place.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

No-Cost Elder Justice Public Outreach Materials

Join the Department in preventing elder fraud and abuse. Ensure your community is aware of scams targeting older residents. A recent article titled [Scams Against Seniors](#) (April 2025) provides six ways law enforcement can prevent elder fraud in their community, published in the Sheriff and Deputy Magazine. Everyone can engage in fraud prevention.

- Disseminate prevention flyers such as [Government Imposter Scam flyer](#) and [Elder Justice flyers](#) to your community (available in seven languages)
- [Order](#) no-cost fraud prevention materials in bulk from the Federal Trade Commission
- Play on public access channels a 2-minute Public Service Announcement (PSA) for older Americans on [reporting elder fraud](#)
- Share with all residents the phone number to the [National Elder Fraud Hotline](#) (833-FRAUD-11) and/or share the Hotline's [flyer](#)
- Visit the Elder Justice Initiative's [Public Outreach webpage](#) for downloadable PowerPoints, supporting materials, and training videos to give a community presentation
- Share how Artificial Intelligence is being used in scams
 - [How Scammers Are Using Artificial Intelligence & How We Can Fight Back](#) (Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing)
 - [Emerging Threat: Artificial Intelligence](#) (Senate Special Committee on Aging)



CAPACITY BUILDING

OVERVIEW

This reporting period, the Department engaged in a range of efforts to enhance the capacity of state and local elder justice professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. The Department facilitates these elder justice professionals working collaboratively through the support of elder abuse multidisciplinary teams, coordinated community response teams, and elder justice coalitions. These and other capacity building efforts are described below. A complete listing of the Department's training efforts can be found in [Elder Justice Public Awareness and Professional Training](#).



THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO ELDER JUSTICE

First National Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Summit

On May 29-30, 2025, the Elder Justice Initiative's Multidisciplinary Team Technical Assistance Center (MDT TAC), in cooperation with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), hosted the first (virtual) National Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Summit. The MDT Summit highlighted best practices and developing trends to encourage the adoption of practices to improve older victims' access to justice, engagement, system experience, recovery, and long-term well-being while holding offenders accountable through prosecution. Importantly, representatives from MDTs (in all phases of development from planning to established) attended the Summit. The nearly 400 attendees were educated by subject matter experts in trauma-informed

Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams: Individual-Level Response

Elder abuse multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are groups comprised of members with varied but complementary experience, qualifications, and skills (e.g., adult protective services, law enforcement, physicians, and psychologists), bound by a common purpose, working collaboratively to achieve a shared goal: offender accountability and victim recovery. Elder abuse MDTs typically have members who work directly with victims. There are myriad variations of elder abuse MDTs, including Financial Abuse Specialist Teams (FASTs) that focus on investigating elder financial exploitation, and enhanced MDTs (EMDTs), which integrate into the MDT forensic accountants and clinicians who can administer decision-making capacity assessments.



practices, prosecuting elder abuse, person-centered practices, best practices when communicating with older victims, managing confidentiality, state elder justice initiatives, and program evaluation (see [Agenda](#)). The Summit culminated with a presentation on the [RISE model](#), a model that integrates all the information learned in the previous sessions. An evaluation found that 95% of attendees agreed/strongly agreed that the Summit increased their knowledge of elder abuse MDT best practices.

To support the Summit, the MDT TAC undertook several preparatory projects:

- **Definitions and Characteristics of Common Elder Abuse Networks:** Developed the first publication of its kind to establish a shared language for the field and to help emerging teams identify suitable MDT models for their communities.
- **MDT Guide and Toolkit v2:** Released May 15, 2025, the MDT Guide and Toolkit has been updated with new content, including a new chapter on trauma-informed and victim-centered responses.
- **National Elder Abuse MDT Listening Session Report:** Conducted ten listening sessions with 101 participants to gather field-driven perspectives that directly informed the Summit agenda and materials.
- **MDT Literature Review:** Compiled existing research and promising practices to guide discussions and planning among MDTs.
- **Status Updates and Recommendations from MDTs Across the Country:** Collected and synthesized feedback from MDTs nationwide, highlighting current initiatives, challenges, and areas for growth.
- **MDT Statutory Review:** Updated in May 2025 to reflect the latest MDT statutory activity among the states.

MDT Summit materials and recorded sessions are available on the Elder Justice Initiative website's [National Elder Abuse MDT Summit](#) page.





NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM SUMMIT

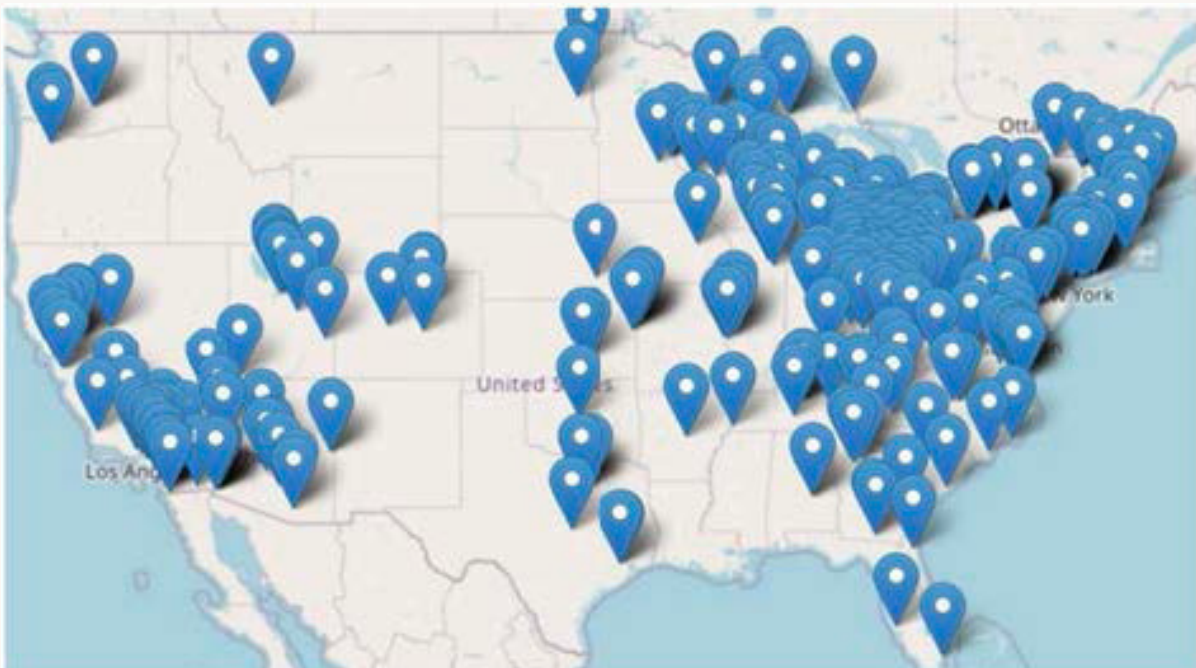
Advancing Dignity and Well-Being

May 29-30, 2025 | Washington, DC

In addition to the MDT Summit, the MDT TAC provided twenty-four targeted consultations to MDTs nationwide. These consultations addressed a range of needs, including team formation, problem-solving in collaborative practice, and strategies for sustainability. Through national convenings, professional education, tailored consultation, and the development of critical resources, the MDT TAC has advanced the elder abuse multidisciplinary response. The year's accomplishments represent significant progress toward building a shared foundation, promoting innovation, and enhancing the effectiveness of elder abuse MDTs nationwide.

Join the Elder Justice Network Locator Map

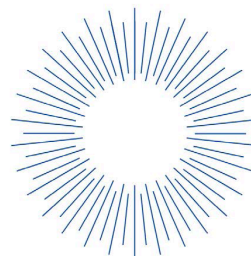
To have your MDT listed on the Network Locator Map, please email talitha.j.guinn-shaver@usdoj.gov or visit [How to Participate](#)



National Elder Abuse MDT Training and Technical Assistance Center

While the MDT TAC is a national resource, the OVC-funded **National Elder Abuse MDT Training and Technical Assistance Center** (the Center), managed by Weill Cornell Medical and its partners, provided technical assistance to OVC-funded EMDTs. The Center helped the EMDTs to strengthen their case review process, address emerging needs, and improve outcomes for older victims and elder justice professionals. Since the inception of the program, OVC has funded 29 EMDTs across the country. Of the remaining 12 EMDTs, notable accomplishments during this reporting period include:

- **Tribal teams.** Tremendous progress was made by the two Tribal teams, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and Kenaitze Indian Tribe, with strong support of our Tribal Technical Assistance Consultants, Drs. Jacqueline Gray and Wendelin Hume. The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska obtained approval by their Tribal Council for a Policies and Procedures document, and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe has been hiring staff for the project and beginning the process of reviewing formal partnership documents.
- **Training.** Key training themes identified through the various interactions with teams have led to eight training webinars. These have included themes such as how to organize training for EMDTs, pathways to sustainability, alternatives to guardianship, performance management, and working with Tribal Communities. In all, close to 60 individuals attended these webinars. The Center has developed translational content that bridge themes covered across the webinars such as program evaluation and data tracking.
- **Peer leadership.** The Peer Leadership Group is a monthly forum for all EMDT Coordinators to engage directly with one another to discuss successes and challenges experienced while building and sustaining teams. For example, members would hear about how other members successfully engaged with



National
Elder Abuse
MDT Training
and Technical
Assistance
Center



a hard-to-reach organization or made promising contact with a faith-based community, thereby learning from one another.

- **Series of briefs.** As a response to teams looking to build out their processes, the Center published five e-briefs: Strengthening Partnerships; Engaging Specialists; Case Finding; Monitoring Client Outcomes; and Ensuring Sustainability.

ADDITIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Collaborative efforts like elder abuse MDTs are critical to leveraging limited resources and producing better outcomes for professionals and those they assist. Other forms of collaboration have the same goal but target their efforts differently. That is, coordinated community response teams focus on changing how agencies within a community that respond to victims of elder abuse coordinate their response and services, while elder justice coalitions focus change at the state level, ensuring elder justice professionals have the tools, training, and resources they need to respond effectively. Coordinated community response teams and elder justice coalitions are described in greater detail below.

Coordinated Community Response Teams: Community-Level Response

Coordinated community response (CCR) teams provide a multidisciplinary approach and response to issues around

- sexual assault
- domestic violence
- abuse in later life

by creating an infrastructure that facilitates local systems-level change.

CCR teams focus on improving the policies, procedures and practices of various agencies within a community to address elder abuse while working to create a seamless response to older survivors.



Abuse in Later Life Coordinated Community Response Teams

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) promotes CCR teams through the Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program ([Solicitation](#)) facilitated by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) providing technical assistance to the CCR teams. In addition to four grants receiving continuing funds (AZ Department of Economic Security (Phoenix, AZ), County of Contra Costa (Martinez, CA), County of Boulder (Boulder, CO), The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)), during the reporting period OVW awarded eight new Abuse in Later Life Program grants to:

- Center for Domestic Peace (San Anselmo, CA)
- Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health (Williamsburg, VA)
- County of Alamance (Graham, NC)
- County of Macomb (Mount Clemens, MI)
- CRIS Healthy Aging (Danville, IL)
- Hope Justice Project (Presque Isle, ME)
- Retreat Inc. (East Hampton, NY)
- St Croix County (Hudson, WI)

National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions

In FY 2022, OVC supported Lifespan of Greater Rochester to establish the first-ever National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions (NCSTEJC) designed to assist with building broad-based, multidisciplinary coalitions to identify and address elder justice issues specific to their state and Tribal communities. NCSTEJC offers ongoing training and technical assistance to new and existing coalitions and serves as a clearinghouse for resources and information concerning elder justice issues, programs, and advocacy. In the spring of 2023, the NCSTEJC selected [eight coalitions](#) from a competitive pool of applicants that it continues to serve.



Elder Justice Coalitions: State-Level Response

A coalition is a formal relationship among more than two organizations (members representing law enforcement, adult protective services, victim services, and many other elder justice professional organizations) which enables them to work together on a specific issue or project. Quite often the coalition will have its own funds and staff, either allocated from members' own organizational budgets and human resources or funded by an external source. Elder justice coalitions do not provide direct services but rather are focused on facilitating the work of elder justice professionals through methods such as information sharing, identifying service gaps, updating members about new services, resources, and legislation, advocating for needed change, and providing training.

During this reporting period, technical assistance provided by NCSTEJC and its partners, Dr. Jacqueline Gray, the Minnesota Elder Justice Center, and the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services, continued to support the development of new statewide and Tribal elder justice coalitions and strengthen existing ones. In April 2025, NCSTEJC convened the eight coalitions for a two-day Summit held in Fort Worth, TX, titled **The Joy of Collaboration: The Care and Feeding of Partnerships to Sustain a Robust and Resilient Coalition**, focused on the importance of cultivating connections to ensure coalitions remain strong and adaptable for the future.



National Center for State and Tribal
Elder Justice Coalitions



THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTORS, AND JUDGES

In addition to investing in state and local communities to build networks to support older victims and to improve coordination among elder justice professionals, the Department is committed to developing resources and tools for elder justice professionals on the front line of combatting elder fraud and abuse. Some of these efforts are described below.

Training and Resources for Law Enforcement

EAGLE (Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement)

The **EAGLE** is an online tool designed to help law enforcement officers to effectively identify, investigate, intervene, and resolve potential elder abuse situations. The EAGLE



was developed with input and user testing by law enforcement. In the reporting period, the EAGLE website was visited by 15,859 unique users, with a user from every state in the nation visiting the EAGLE website, and 85,999 single instances of a user viewing a specific page on a website. The EAGLE e-Newsletter, which highlights tools available on the EAGLE and related new information of interest to law enforcement, had 1,079 new subscribers in the past reporting period, with a total of 1,866 subscribers.

SIGN UP to receive the EAGLE e-Newsletter

EAGLE-Based Training for Law Enforcement

In addition to the EAGLE, the Department supported a wide array of training opportunities for state and local law enforcement to learn how to effectively utilize the resources and tools available in the EAGLE. Some of these trainings included the following:



- The **EAGLE Tactical Training** curriculum was developed to provide law enforcement trainers the tools they need to provide an Elder Abuse 101 training to law enforcement officers, adaptable to any state. EAGLE Tactical training had 161 downloads.
- Trainers from the National Center on Elder Abuse provided in-person or virtual training derived from the EAGLE to 557 law enforcement officers and other elder justice professionals at conferences, local training, and webinars. In addition to virtual trainings, live trainings were conducted in Albuquerque, NM, Wisconsin Dells, WI, San Antonio, TX, Gatlinburg, TN, Anaheim, CA, Orlando, FL, and Riverside, CA.
- Also based on the EAGLE, the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) developed the first elder abuse **EAGLE Online Training** certified by the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST). During the reporting period, 280 law enforcement officers completed the EAGLE Online Training course. Since 2020, over 2,000 officers have taken and passed the EAGLE online course.

557

Law enforcement officers received the live/virtual EAGLE training

280

Law enforcement officers completed the EAGLE online training

Forensic Interviewing Skills Training for Law Enforcement and Other Elder Justice Professionals

The Elder Justice Initiative supported the development of the SAFE (Safe Accessible Forensic Interviewing with Elders) Training. Developed to meet the growing need for victim-centered interview techniques for use with older adults in criminal contexts, SAFE is grounded in forensic interviewing best practices with considerations and adaptations to account for age-related changes in cognition, underlying neuropathology (e.g., dementia), and individual disability. In 2024, SAFE training was provided to state and local law enforcement and their partners in 14





SAFE Training provided in Massachusetts

communities across the country. In FY 2025, the Elder Justice Initiative sponsored additional SAFE Trainings to 23 communities across the nation including Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.



SAFE Training provided to elder justice professionals in Austin, Texas

The 1-Day, 2-Day, and 4-Day SAFE Training materials are available on the Elder Justice Initiative website's **SAFE Training** page. Materials include the PowerPoint, an instructor manual, and the participant manual. For inquiries about the training, contact the **Elder Justice Initiative**.



Elder Abuse Training Videos for Law Enforcement

With support from OVW, in 2021 NCALL developed a series of online training modules for law enforcement. The 23 short (15- to 20-minute) e-learning modules offer law enforcement officers, investigators, and other first responders an opportunity to access training on elder abuse at any time, from anywhere. The information in these modules enhance investigative skills, help law enforcement work effectively with older victims, and provide tools that can help keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. Access to the modules is available at [Elder Abuse Investigations: Training for Law Enforcement and Other Investigators](#) or through the [EAGLE](#). Over the past reporting period, 1302 individuals completed the online training.

Training and Resources for Prosecutors

Training on Prosecuting Elder Abuse

Held June 10–13, 2025, in Houston, Texas, OVW supported a three-and-a-half day training on prosecuting elder abuse. The 50 state and local prosecutors attending the National Institute on the Prosecution of Elder Abuse (NIPEA) received instruction on elder abuse dynamics as well as practical skills for successful prosecution. The NIPEA training addressed the complex challenges prosecutors face — balancing offender accountability with the impact of prosecution on victims.



In addition to case evaluation and litigation skills, the curriculum covered the benefits of developing a coordinated, victim-centered community response; explained common injuries and relevant medical evidence; provided guidance on working with medical experts; explored ethical issues prosecutors confront; and addressed the development and enhancement of victim services. This event was



co-hosted by OVW, NCALL, and Aequitas. For more information, visit the [NIPEA](#) webpage.

Decision-Making Capacity Listening Session with Prosecutors

The recognition that the diminished decision-making capacity of some older adults can affect criminal cases in which they are victims or witnesses provided the impetus for the Elder Justice Initiative to host the **Elder Justice Decision-Making Capacity Symposium** in April 2022. To better understand how prosecutors navigate this challenging area of the law, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), with support from the Elder Justice Initiative, hosted a listening session on September 20, 2024, with 30 prosecutors from across the country. NDAA issued a report, **Prosecutors' Challenges in Elder Abuse Cases: Navigating Decision-Making Capacity and Consent Defenses**, with the following key findings:

- ***Lack of training & education.*** Many justice system professionals — including prosecutors, law enforcement, and judges — lack the specialized training necessary to fully understand and address decision-making capacity in elder abuse cases.
- ***Resource barriers.*** Prosecutors frequently struggle to find clinicians with the expertise to conduct reliable decision-making capacity assessments, especially in rural areas. Cost, limited provider training, and reluctance to participate in trials add additional challenges.
- ***Gaps in medical evidence.*** Even when medical records are available, they often lack meaningful documentation of the victim's decision-making capacity. The shortage of qualified experts compounds this challenge.
- ***Legal complexities.*** State elder abuse laws vary widely in scope and clarity. In some jurisdictions, statutes are absent, vague, or too narrow — complicating application and enforcement.
- ***Need for cross-sector collaboration.*** Effective prosecution depends on stronger collaboration among clinicians, healthcare providers, financial institutions, adult protective services, and law enforcement to support more thorough investigations, informed charging decisions, and more effective interventions.



NDAA and the Elder Justice Initiative will be developing training for prosecutors to address these findings.

Training and Resources for Judges

Enhancing Judicial Skills in Abuse in Later Life Cases: National Judicial Education Workshop on Guardianship and Elder Abuse

On March 11-12, 2025, OVW sponsored judicial training on guardianship and elder abuse. The training, held in Washington, D.C., provided an interactive and engaging space for 20 judges to grapple with guardianship-related issues and elder abuse cases, obtain peer support, and refine tools to manage guardianship cases in which abuse is an issue or a possibility. The training was provided by Futures Without Violence and The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.



Judicial training provided by staff of Futures Without Violence and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Judicial Guardianship Worksheet Project

In 2019, the Elder Justice Initiative supported the development of the Judicial Guardianship Worksheet, a 2-page fillable and printable PDF that provides judges



with a checklist of relevant factors to consider in adjudicating guardianship cases. In 2023, the Elder Justice Initiative and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) funded the implementation of the Worksheet in the District of Columbia and a jurisdiction in Virginia, both recipients of ACL's [Elder Justice Innovation Grants to the Highest State Courts](#). All materials and helpful resources are available on the Elder Justice Initiative website's [Help for Judges Hearing Guardianship Cases](#) page. According to the [Judicial Guardianship Worksheet Project](#) final report:

- Most judges and court affiliated professionals (examiners, investigators, attorneys appointed as guardian ad litem, court appointed counsel, and counsel representing petitioners) exposed to the Worksheet were enthusiastic about using the tool in their guardianship case reviews. A minority expressed skepticism that diminished as they had the opportunity to use the tool in their practice.
- Judges used the Worksheet as a reference tool for structured holistic consideration of evidence, particularly in complex or ambiguous cases. The Worksheet helps judges and court affiliated professionals organize their thinking, contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of unmet needs, flag missing information, and prompt deeper inquiry. Further, the Worksheet may help to standardize expectations of affiliated professionals who submit reports to the court.
- Judges felt that Worksheet training for court-affiliated professionals would result in more complete and accurate reports to the court regarding a respondent's retained abilities. It may also encourage consideration of whether less restrictive alternatives had been explored.
- Initial responses to the [Less Restrictive Alternatives \(LRA\) Guide](#) were positive, with judges and court affiliated professionals anticipating it would inform thinking about the viability of less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. Most indicated that they intended to integrate the LRA Guide into their practice.



VICTIM SUPPORT & RECOVERY

OVERVIEW

The Department supports older victims of elder fraud and abuse in myriad ways. These include efforts to prevent older adults from being victimized, to recover and return fraudulently obtained monies, to refer older victims to available resources and services, and to work with older victims who participate in the criminal justice system. A complete listing of victim service events and training can be found in [Elder Justice Public Awareness and Professional Training](#).



FBI'S OPERATION LEVEL UP

Operation Level Up is the FBI's proactive approach to identify and notify potential victims of cryptocurrency investment fraud and prevent further financial loss. Operation Level Up began in January 2024 with the support of agents from the FBI and the United States Secret Service (USSS).

Cryptocurrency investment fraud, commonly referred to as pig butchering, is a confidence-based scam, and is one of the most prevalent and damaging fraud schemes today. In these types of scams, fraudsters target victims online and develop a friendship or relationship before introducing a fraudulent investment opportunity in cryptocurrency. Victims are coached to invest more and more money into what appears to be an extremely profitable platform, only to be unable to withdraw their funds.

According to the **FBI's Internet Crime Report 2024**, there was a 29% increase in cryptocurrency investment frauds from 2023. Of this amount, IC3 received complaints from more than 8,000 older adults who sustained losses of over \$1.6 billion.

In Operation Level Up, sophisticated investigative techniques have enabled agents to identify potential victims early in these schemes. These efforts have likely resulted in significant savings to victims across the United States.

As of June 30, 2025:

- The FBI notified **6,475 victims** of cryptocurrency investment fraud.
- **77%** of those victims were unaware they were being scammed.
- The estimated savings to victims was approximately **\$400,906,991**.
- **64 victims** were referred to an FBI victim specialist for suicide intervention.

Some victims have reported that — prior to being notified by the FBI about the scam — they were in the process of liquidating their 401K plan savings, selling their home, or obtaining a large loan. One older victim was surviving on disability pay; he



had already paid the scammers \$1,200 and would have cut into money he needed for food to pay more.

VICTIM ASSET RECOVERY

Criminal Division's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section

After an investigation pursued by the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section's (MLARS) Bank Integrity Unit and the USAO for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Department returned over **\$18.5 million** in forfeited funds to approximately **3,000 victims** in the second distribution of phase two of the Western Union remission. Western Union originally entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the Department in 2017 for violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and aiding and abetting fraud schemes that generally targeted older adults and other vulnerable groups. These fraudulent schemes included grandparent, lottery, sweepstakes, and romance scams. To date, the Criminal Division has disbursed more than **\$420 million** to approximately **175,000 victims** in the Western Union matter. The victims, many of whom are older adults, will recover the full amount of their losses through this Department compensation program.

In the Bernie Madoff securities fraud case, MLARS coordinated recoveries to older victims, distributing its 10th and final distribution of over **\$131.4 million** to victims, bringing the total to over **\$4.3 billion** from forfeited funds to **40,930 victims** in 127 countries. The victims **recovered nearly 94%** of their total losses.

In addition to large-scale forfeiture and remission matters like Western Union and Madoff, in the past year, MLARS has returned nearly **\$8 million** in forfeited funds to victims of a variety of financial crimes and scams that often target older adults, including government imposter schemes, romance scams, and investment fraud. This figure has doubled compared to the previous two reporting periods. A key trend has been the growing use of cryptocurrency in fraudulent schemes.



Using Asset Forfeiture to Compensate Crime Victims

The Department's Asset Forfeiture Program plays a critical role in disrupting and dismantling illegal enterprises, depriving criminals of the proceeds of illegal activity, deterring crime, and restoring property to victims. One of the primary goals of the Asset Forfeiture Program is to "recover assets that may be used to compensate victims," and "[w]henever possible, prosecutors should use asset forfeiture to recover assets to return to victims of crime..." Since 2000, the government has transferred more than \$12 billion in forfeited funds to victims.

FBI's IC3 Recovery Asset Team

The FBI established the IC3 Recovery Asset Team in February 2018 to streamline communication with financial institutions and assist FBI field offices with freezing funds for victims who made transfers to domestic accounts under fraudulent pretenses. This process is called the Financial Fraud Kill Chain (see [Domestic Financial Fraud Kill Chain Process](#) and [International Kill Chain Process](#)). The Recovery Asset Team functions as a liaison between law enforcement and financial institutions as they conduct statistical and investigative analyses. During the reporting period, 56% of elder fraud losses reported to the FBI's IC3 were frozen.

370

Incidents (Ages 60 & Older)

\$38,331,059

Fraud Loss

\$21,433,130

Frozen Assets

56%

Success Rate



THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING

When Americans report attempted or completed fraud to the Federal Trade Commission, analysts can use that information to:

- identify hotspots and direct targeted outreach to those areas,
- recognize trends in scam methods and prepare responses for those trends, and
- uncover new scams and disseminate public outreach materials around those scams.

Reporting is critical, whether you are a victim who lost money, or a victim who almost lost money. Please call the [National Elder Fraud Hotline](#) at

833-FRAUD-11

Hotline staff can help you make a report to the Federal Trade Commission or the FBI's IC3.

Note. If a scammer has taken your money, a report to the [FBI's IC3](#) has the potential to freeze your funds, although freezing funds cannot be guaranteed.

THE USAO VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM

The USAO Victim Witness (VW) Program provides victims of federal crime with the rights and services they are entitled to under the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA), 18 U.S.C. § 3771, and Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA), 34 U.S.C. § 20141. Each of the 94 USAOs has a VW Unit that is managed by a VW Coordinator and, in some offices, supplemented by additional VW professionals, including victim assistance specialists and assistants. VW professionals come



from diverse backgrounds, including federal, state, local, and Tribal victim service fields, and have experience in helping a variety of victims, including older adults. VW professionals assist victims in a variety of ways throughout the criminal justice process, including court accompaniment, crisis intervention, court preparation, referrals for social, mental health, and housing services, and assistance with victim impact statements. VW professionals are skilled at developing rapport with victims and understanding the unique needs of vulnerable victims, including older adults. This enables VW professionals to effectively offer emotional support, encourage meaningful victim participation, and assist victims in comprehending the criminal justice process.

NATIONAL ELDER FRAUD HOTLINE

The **National Elder Fraud Hotline** (the Hotline), funded by OVC, is a national resource for older adults who are or may be victims of financial fraud. The Hotline is staffed with experienced case managers who provide personalized support to assist callers in reporting suspected fraud to the relevant agencies and offer resources and referrals to other appropriate services as needed. If requested by the caller, case managers will also assist callers in submitting a complaint form to the FBI's IC3 for Internet-facilitated crimes, or the Federal Trade Commission, when applicable. Since inception in 2020, the Hotline has received 202,050 calls, staff have assisted 86,008 callers, and staff have submitted or assisted with 20,090 complaint forms submitted to the FBI's IC3 (15,769) or the Federal Trade Commission (4,321).

During this reporting period, the Hotline received 62,913 calls, of which 34,019 were received during operating hours, and 23,515 of which reached Hotline staff. Another 8,591 voicemail messages were received, and Hotline staff made 8,745 outbound calls to return voicemails or follow up with callers. Hotline staff submitted or assisted callers with 9,348 complaint forms, which reported fraud to the Federal Trade Commission or the FBI's IC3. For more information, see the infographic below.





62,913 calls

Total Calls to Hotline

June 30, 2024—July 1, 2025

Most Common Fraud Types (n=36,243)



Identity
Theft

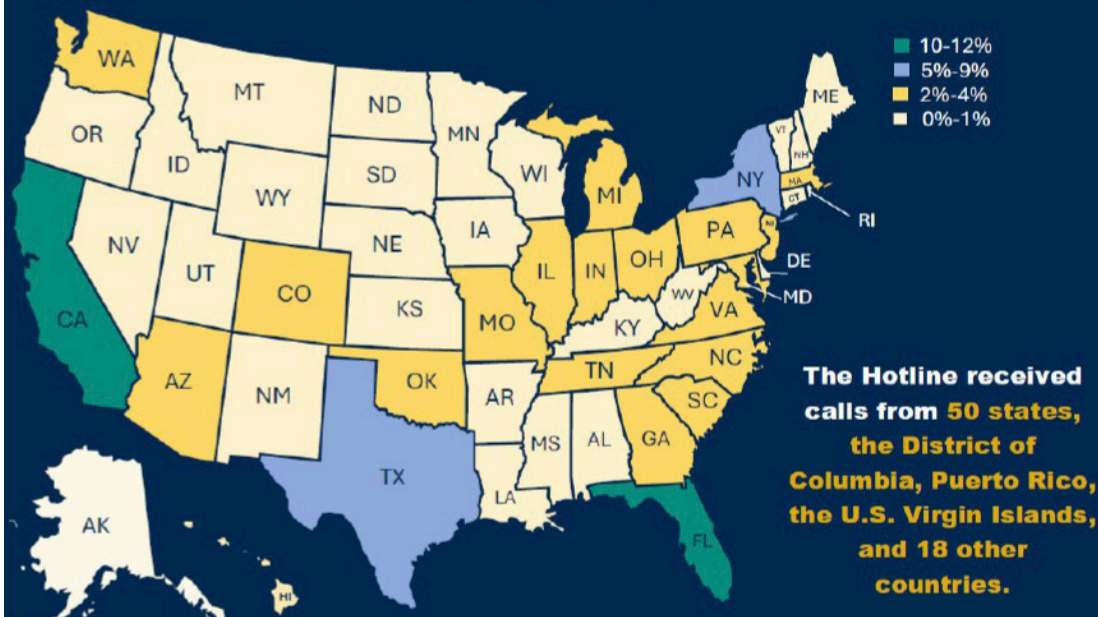


Business
Imposter



Romance/
Confidence/
Celebrity

Percentage of Callers by State (n=17,844)



Number of Calls by Month



Average
Daily Calls
Handled
92 calls

7,744 Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) forms
2,029 Submitted on behalf of caller; 5,715 Guidance provided
1,180 Federal Trade Commission (FTC) forms
1,158 Submitted on behalf of caller; 22 Guidance provided
15,317 Callers received resources or referrals



OVC VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM

The OVC Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula grant program provides funding to State Administering Agencies (SAAs) for crime victim compensation and victim assistance programs. The SAAs distribute VOCA victim assistance

funding to subgrantee organizations across the country that address the emotional, advocacy, and financial needs of victims of crime. Victim compensation funding is used to reimburse victims for services received in the aftermath of the crime, such as medical services, counseling, transportation, funeral and burial costs, and time lost from work. Through these programs, OVC hopes to improve case outcomes and hold more offenders accountable, while minimizing additional trauma and restoring safety and security to older victims of crime.³



Victim Assistance Programming

Between July 2024 and March 2025, 4,319 VOCA victim assistance subgrantee organizations provided services ranging from individual advocacy, crisis intervention, and therapy to civil legal assistance, transportation, and emergency shelter to 192,536 new victims aged 60 and older.

Victim Compensation Programming

Between July 2024 and March 2025, there were 9,529 individuals aged 60 and older who applied for crime victim compensation benefits. In addition, VOCA-funded organizations paid 793 compensation claims related to elder abuse or neglect.

³ Note that OVC grantees submit quarterly performance measures and therefore the reporting period for OVC ended in March 2025.



SHARING DATA & RESEARCH

OVERVIEW

An important aspect of the Department's elder justice efforts involves elder justice data and research to better understand the issue and inform policy. In this report, projects supported by the Elder Justice Initiative, the FBI's IC3, and the National Institute of Justice are highlighted.



FIRST NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE VICTIM SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT



The Elder Justice Initiative supported ICF in conducting the first **National Elder Abuse Victim Services Needs Assessment**.

ICF conducted national surveys and focus groups with elder justice professionals and individuals who have experienced elder abuse to explore (1) services available for individuals who have experienced elder abuse, (2) gaps in services, (3) barriers to providing and accessing services, and (4) the resources elder justice professionals need to better serve individuals who have experienced elder abuse. Some highlights are below:

- The top five reported gaps in services included: caregiver services, mental health services, housing assistance, fraud/scam support, and emergency financial assistance.
- Individuals who have experienced elder abuse said the main barriers to receiving assistance included difficulty in navigating the process of getting help (including having to go to many different organizations), feelings of shame and/or embarrassment, the organizations they connected with were unable to help with the specific type of maltreatment they were experiencing (e.g., elder fraud), and a lack of trust in the victim service or criminal justice systems.
- Elder justice professionals described their top five barriers to providing services as clients refusing services, lack of sufficient financial resources to meet demand for services, lack of long-term services, lack of general public awareness, and lack of transportation.
- Only 41% of professionals reported being currently part of a multidisciplinary team supporting individuals who have experienced elder abuse, although more than half of participants (63%) agreed that their organization needs training and technical assistance related to multidisciplinary approaches to collaboration.



Findings from the needs assessment provide valuable insights on how to better provide services to individuals who have experienced elder abuse and the professionals who support them. The areas of potential improvement include:

- ***Improve reporting mechanisms:*** Participants discussed challenges associated with reporting elder abuse, especially elder fraud. Using the report’s findings, as well as conducting additional research to explore victim’s experiences with reporting, may improve reporting mechanisms.
- ***Increase awareness of services:*** There is a general lack of awareness of victim services for elder abuse and coordination among providers, as well as challenges with navigating complex systems of care. Increasing professionals’ awareness and understanding of the services available in their communities may help create networks of providers to better meet the needs of individuals who have experienced elder abuse.
- ***Improve service provision for individuals who have experienced elder fraud:*** Participants who experienced elder fraud described challenges in reporting the crime and identifying and accessing services that meet their needs. Exploring how to tailor existing services to better support individuals who have experienced elder fraud and identifying opportunities for developing new services specifically for older fraud victims could improve service provision.

For additional information, please read:

- **Supporting Older Adults Who Have Experienced Fraud: Findings from the National Elder Abuse Victim Services Needs Assessment**
- **Gaps in Services**
- **Path Forward: Recommendations from the National Elder Abuse Victim Services Needs Assessment**



THE FBI'S IC3 2024 ELDER FRAUD REPORT

The FBI's IC3 receives and tracks thousands of complaints daily, reported by victims of fraud, their family members, and law enforcement officers. This reporting is key to identifying, investigating, and holding those responsible accountable for their actions.

In 2024, the FBI's IC3 Elder Fraud report (published as a chapter in the [FBI's Internet Crime Report 2024](#)) concluded that total losses reported to the IC3 by those over the age of 60 topped \$4.89 billion (\$2,839,333,197 involved cryptocurrency), an almost 43% increase in reported losses from 2023. There was also a 46% increase in complaints filed with IC3 by older victims, to more than 147,127. Residents of California, Florida, Texas, and New York sustained the highest losses to elder fraud schemes, with losses exceeding \$1.97 billion.

As demonstrated in the graphic on the next page, the type of fraud most frequently reported was not always the type of fraud resulting in the highest financial loss. The graphic on the next page is derived from the 26 forms of fraud⁴ listed in the report.

⁴ Business Email Compromise (BEC) is a scam targeting businesses or individuals working with suppliers and/or businesses regularly performing wire transfer payments. Fraudsters carry out these sophisticated scams by compromising email accounts and other forms of communication such as phone numbers and virtual meeting applications, through social engineering or computer intrusion techniques to conduct unauthorized transfer of funds.



**Top Five
Most Reported Frauds
(in descending order)**

**Phishing/Spoofing
23,252**

**Tech Support
16,777**

**Extortion
12,618**

**Personal Data Breach
9,827**

**Investment
9,448**

**Top Five
Highest Fraud Loss
(in descending order)**

**Investment
\$1,834,242,515**

**Tech Support
\$982,440,006**

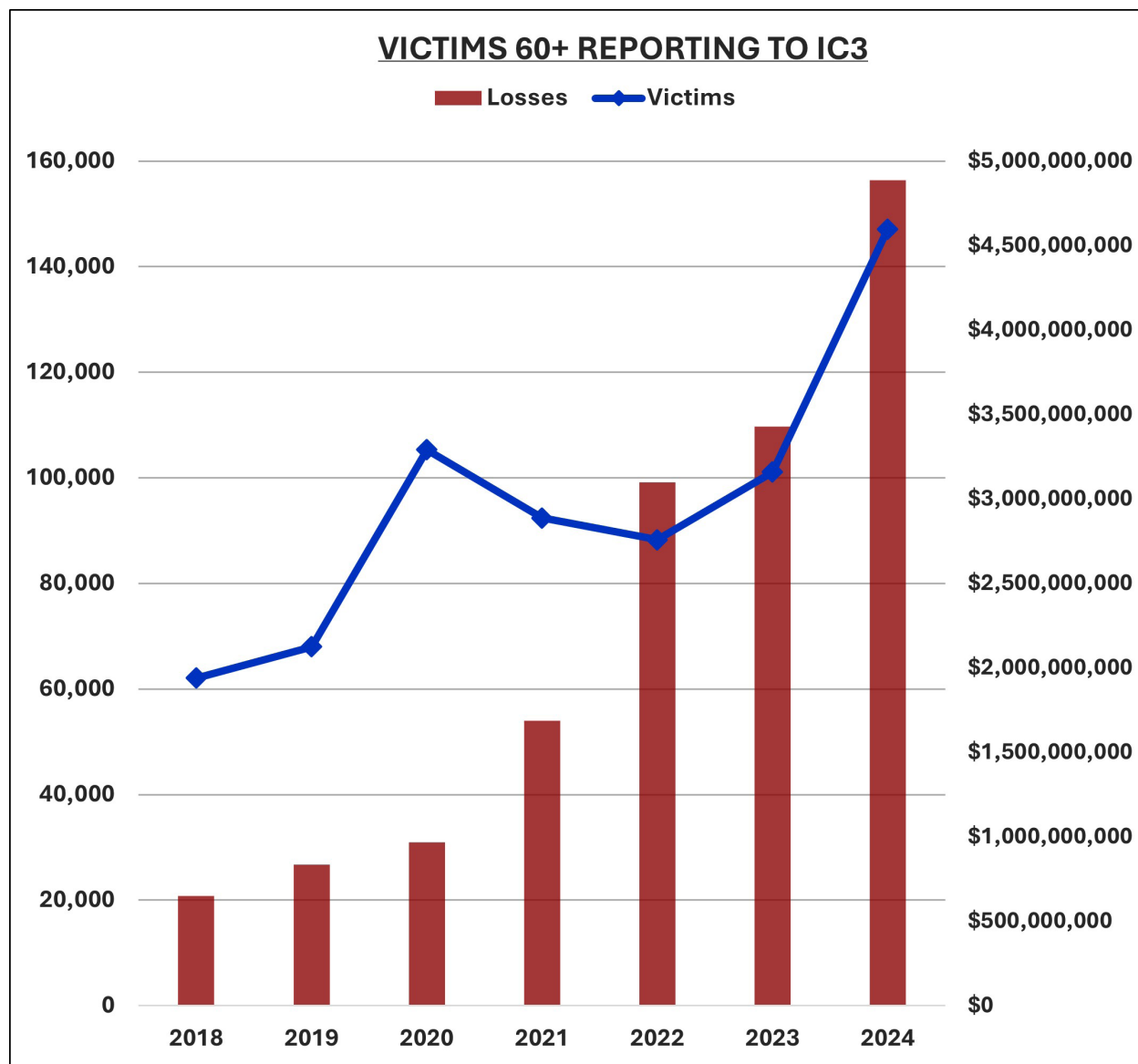
**Confidence/Romance
\$389,312,356**

**Business Email Compromise
\$385,001,099**

**Personal Data Breach
\$254,187,196**



This graph reflects that year over year, a greater number of older adults are reporting elder fraud to IC3, and older adults who do report are collectively losing a greater amount of money. Elder fraud is a crisis in America, with devastating consequences for victims.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research arm of the Department and has been funding elder abuse research since 2001. NIJ maintains a webpage listing all NIJ-funded **elder abuse/financial exploitation awards**. During the reporting period, NIJ received two final reports, summarized below.



Prevention of Financial Abuse Among Elders Affected by Cognitive Decline: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Rural Michigan (September 2024)

The authors created a theory-based prevention program and then tested the efficacy of the intervention through randomized control trials across three categories: elder justice professionals, caretakers of persons living with dementia, and older adults living with cognitive decline. For each of the three categories, the treatment group received 2.5 hours of training, six facilitated in-home sessions (except professionals), and a fact sheet, whereas the control group received a one-hour training course and a fact sheet. All participants completed six outcome measures (caretakers also completed a caregiver burden measure). The research took place during the COVID-19 pandemic which likely contributed to the mixed results.

- Caretakers of persons living with dementia, and older adults living with cognitive decline in the intervention group did increase their scores on competency of working with Adult Protective Services (APS), suggesting that families affected by dementia need education and assistance navigating APS services.
- Caregiver burden decreased more significantly for those in the intervention group compared to the control group, generating preliminary evidence in support of an intervention program that combines the use of education, training, and case management services.



- Among professionals, there were no lasting differences between the intervention and the control group across the six outcomes.
- The remaining results were mixed, indicating the need for additional research.

Improving the Identification of and Responses to Victims of Elder Mistreatment (October 2024)

In 2023, RAND and RTI International convened an expert panel to identify knowledge and resource gaps and explore strategies to improve the identification of and responses to elder mistreatment. The workshop participants identified the highest-priority needs in this area, including research to support evidence-based and holistic approaches, while also supporting the widespread adoption of effective programs to reach the greatest number of older adults who have been victimized. The expert panel noted the following key findings:

- There is a lack of evidence-based interventions to respond to and support older adults who are at risk of or are experiencing different types of mistreatment;
- There is insufficient evidence about the impacts of the full variety of programs on elder mistreatment outcomes;
- Victims of elder mistreatment sometimes lack holistic support and do not receive necessary services; and
- There are adoption and implementation challenges for prevention, detection, and intervention strategies.

