

HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA



Here. To keep vulnerable people safe.

Adult Protection

Hennepin County **Human Services**

Annual Report • October 2019



Adult protection

Hennepin County's Adult Protection Services investigates allegations of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of people considered vulnerable due to cognitive, physical or emotional impairments. The services we provide include:



Conducting initial investigations of maltreatment

including self-neglect

Gathering evidence related to reports, made by the public, professionals, neighbors or other concerned people



Making connections to health and supportive services

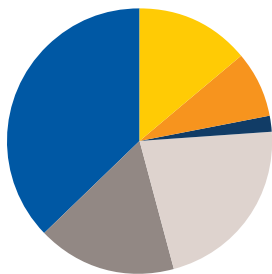
Providing protective services to reduce maltreatment and provide a support system



Coordinating legal interventions

up to and including the appointment of surrogate decision-makers such as legal guardians

Taking a range of legal actions against perpetrators on behalf of vulnerable adults, and to ensure the safety of older adults and people with disabilities



Report types investigated 2018

Emotional abuse, 228, 14%

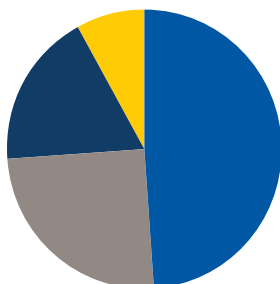
Physical abuse, 123, 8%

Sexual abuse, 31, 2%

Financial exploitation, 357, 22%

Caregiver neglect, 283, 17%

Self neglect, 610, 37%



Investigation findings 2018

Inconclusive, 49%

No determination*, 25%

Substantiated, 18%

False, 8%

* A finding of no determination happens when investigators learn during the investigation that the person is not a vulnerable adult, that the person's whereabouts are unknown, an assessment is not possible or the person has died.

Our accomplishments

Hennepin County's Adult Protection Services has set nine objectives to evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts to protect vulnerable adults. Seven of these measures achieved our benchmark goals.

Objective	% reached	2018 status
Ensuring housing is appropriate to the individual's needs	100	Met
Ensuring that the vulnerable adult's basic needs are provided	99	Met
Ensuring that the vulnerable adult's financial resources and assets are being properly managed	96	Met
Arranging community, family and social support for the vulnerable adult	98	Met
Arranging service system support for the vulnerable adult	98	Met
Obtaining vulnerable adult's participation in actions to resolve maltreatment problems	60	Met
Arranging or pursuing legal action to ensure the safety of the vulnerable adult	50	Met
Reducing likelihood that the perpetrator will continue to abuse the vulnerable adult	72	Unmet*
Stopping maltreatment of the vulnerable adult	88	Unmet**

*Goal is 80 percent. Many variables outside of county control.
 **Goal is 90 percent. Many variables outside of county control.

A collaborative approach

Adult Protection Manager Carmen Castaneda chairs a multidisciplinary team that brings professionals from across disciplines and systems into the same room, at the same time, to solve problems together with a holistic and person-centered approach. The team meets monthly; membership represents:

- Local law enforcement, including the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
- Hennepin County Medical Center's Geriatric Medicine Clinic
- Hennepin County and Minneapolis City Attorneys' Offices
- Hennepin County's COPE mental health crisis program

In focus

Responding to the opioid crisis

Adult Protection is seeing increasing maltreatment reports and other effects from the opiate abuse crisis. Older adults often are victims of medication theft or experience financial exploitation to support others' addictions. Laws intended to prevent opioid abuse could have the unintended consequence of restricting access to needed pain management for older adults and people with terminal illnesses.

Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control researchers found a 33.3% increase in older adult deaths from heroin between 2014 and 2015. That's a larger increase than heroin deaths for all ages, which rose 21%. In Hennepin County, opioid overdoses have killed roughly 700 people since 2012.

Continuous improvement

Hennepin County Adult Protection is investing in professional training for all staff. In 2019, Adult Protection employees will participate in the Adult Protective Services Workforce Innovations Core Curriculum through San Diego State University's Academy for Professional Excellence. This is a 23-module certificate program that develops staff knowledge in the areas of state regulations, investigative interviewing, documentation and report writing, and enhanced clinical knowledge in working with persons with substance abuse disorders, mental illness, cognitive impairments and self-neglect.

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- Carmen Castaneda, program manager, Adult Protection

