



Supporting Communities Strengthening Adult Protective Services

- We believe in a just society that recognizes that all people are equal. No matter how old we are, we are entitled to be treated as full members of our communities.
- We are all aging, and we are living longer. We are fortunate to be in a period of time where we can say that we are living longer and healthier lives. This is Ohio's Longevity Era.
- Policies that connect us to our communities at all stages of life are the most effective strategy for curtailing elder abuse and neglect. Without these policies, social isolation occurs, putting us at greater risk of neglect and abuse.
- When our communities are connected they prevent and are capable of immediately addressing elder abuse.

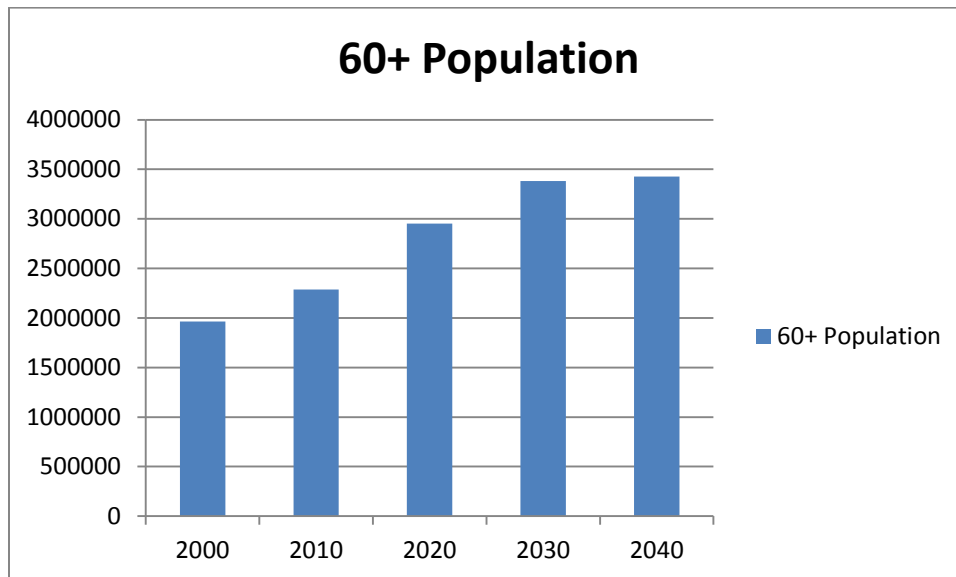
Our communities are social structures that need strong, integrated supports to make these connections for us as we age. All of these supports are needed to keep the structure sound and to effectively prevent and address elder abuse and neglect.

Adult Protective Services is among the supports we rely on to be there for us as we age.

- This support has been bolstered with recent changes to the law that have improved understanding of elder abuse, included more mandatory reporters, fortified the state and local systems, connected interrelated supports, and increased resources to enable local systems to do more.
- The transformation of APS has resulted in a system that is becoming more responsive to our communities and is better able to respond quickly to elder abuse and neglect.

We support increased investments to bolster and reinforce the effectiveness of these important social structures to prevent elder abuse and neglect.

- Increase support for adult protective services to enable local communities to make more connections, strengthen existing connections and to find better ways to respond quickly to elder abuse and neglect. Bring local investment to at least \$10 million per fiscal year with a base allocation of \$65,000 per county with the remainder distributed by formula, so that every county can employ full-time staff and offer support services to become more responsive to the needs of our communities.



Bolstering adult protective services will allow communities to respond more quickly to reports of elder abuse and neglect.

- By 2030, Ohio's population age 65 and older will increase by 40% compared to 2015.
- Prolonged social isolation can equal the health risks of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.
- An estimated 100,000 or more cases of elder abuse and neglect occur each year, with only a fraction reported to adult protective services.
- Financial losses (annually estimated as \$36.5 billion per year nationally) can bankrupt the victim and even other family members, causing them to turn to publicly funded programs to provide for their basic needs.
- One in ten financial abuse victims will turn to Medicaid as a direct result of their own monies being stolen from them.
- Victims of elder abuse and neglect are four times more likely to be admitted to a nursing home and three times more likely to be admitted to a hospital.

