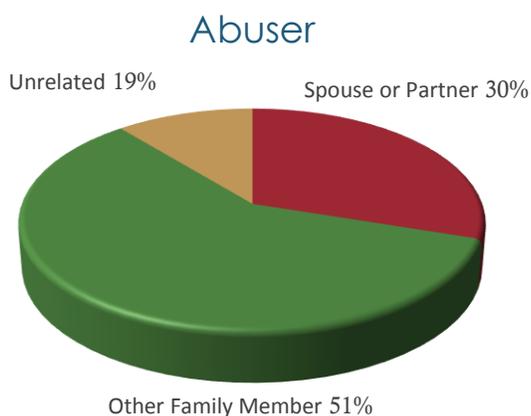


The Sage Seniors Safe House provides temporary (60 days) accommodation for men and women 60 years of age and older who are in need of refuge after leaving an abusive situation. Qualified social work staff provide the holistic case management, peer support, professional and practical assistance, and connections to community resources that help residents deal with all the areas of their lives that have been impacted by abuse. Safe House staff and residents are fully supported by Sage's broader programming, including our Life Enrichment activities, Housing program, and Volunteer Services.

January – November 2015:

65 older adults have stayed in our Safe House



Most of the seniors who have stayed at our Safe House this year have experienced abuse in **more than two** of these domains:



Average wait-time (from date of intake to acceptance into the Safe House) is **10 days**.

510 calls were made to the Safe House Intake Line requesting information or admission.

Why a Safe House for Seniors?

Most shelters focus on women and children fleeing abuse from a partner, which can be a very different situation for those experiencing elder abuse. The majority of people assisted by the Sage Seniors Safe House in the last two years were abused by a family member who was not their spouse/partner. Our clients also include single men and couples. A single senior woman* can, if space is available, find safety in a women's shelter, however shelters will deny access to someone they feel has complex health needs – which is the case for many of the seniors in Sage's Safe House.

Safe House provides the security and safety needed for seniors to embark on the road of recovery from abuse. Other shelters operate on a communal living model that can be very stressful for seniors. Our Safe House model employs the use of individual living units that allow for the privacy and independence needed to engage in their best lives free from abuse. Seniors are provided with the support necessary to navigate complex and confusing systems successfully, while maintaining their level of independence and dignity. The vast majority of the seniors who access the Safe House do not return to their abuser.

*Men do not have the option of staying at a women's shelter.

Elder abuse is a highly complex social and public health issue. The personal, social, and economic implications of elder abuse are significant to the victims, their families, and the local community, as well as to the health and justice systems.

4 - 8 % of older adults are likely to experience abuse in Canada

What increases length of stay?

- Access to affordable housing
- Finding pet-friendly homes
- Need for Designated Assisted Living
- Need for accessible housing
- Need or desire to relocate outside of Edmonton
- Access to income
- Unstable health issues

86% of the people we served in the Safe House **did not** return to the abusive person.

How does it work?

Everyone who enters the Safe House completes a care plan with their assigned social worker. This Care Plan identifies needs and goals related to health, finances, housing, safety planning, employment or volunteer work, social and emotional supports, personal relationships, and independence. People who come to the Safe House often have unresolved health issues to address: Safe House social workers connect clients to the necessary medical resources, weekly contracted nursing support, a psychiatric nurse from Geriatric Psychiatry, Home Care, and other specialists. When financial abuse has occurred, the Safe House social workers assist in securing bank accounts and initiate changes to relevant information required by pension and benefits administrators. And while it can be challenging to secure suitable housing for clients given current vacancy rates and long wait lists, our social workers maintain collaborative relationships with service providers to ensure that our seniors are able to move from the Safe House into safe, appropriate housing that meets the full range of their needs.

The **Safe House Follow Up Program** provides continuity of services for clients who are transitioning into the community. A familiar and trusted staff member works with clients to ensure that they are safe in their new environment and able to access community supports once they leave the Safe House.

The **Seniors Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR)** group is a skill building support group for current residents and past clients that blends peer support with learning relevant life skills and about the cycle of abuse.

Sage's Seniors Safe House is the only program in Northern Alberta that offers this support to seniors.

Average stay = 78 days

90% of clients who stayed with us for more than 60 days were waiting for appropriate housing.