



Vermont Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Team

Current Teams in Vermont

- Child Fatality Review Team
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
- Maternal Mortality Review Team
- Elder Justice Working Group
 - Issues surrounding the elderly population
 - Over prescribing of psychotropic drugs in nursing homes
 - Subcommittees formed
 - Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults
 - Fatality review of vulnerable adults

S.40

(1) The Team shall develop and implement policies to ensure that the deaths of vulnerable adults in Vermont are analyzed using uniform procedures established by the Team. The Team may review the death of any person who meets the definition of a vulnerable adult in title 6902 and:

- (A) was the subject of an adult protective services investigation; or
- (B) whose death came under the jurisdiction of, or was investigated by, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; or
- (C) whose death was due to abuse or neglect or acts suggesting abuse or neglect.

Vermont Medical Examiner Law

Statutes Annotated Title 18, Chapter 107

- ❑ from violence
- ❑ suddenly when in apparent good health
- ❑ when unattended by a physician
- ❑ by casualty
- ❑ by suicide
- ❑ as a result of injury
- ❑ when in jail or prison, or any mental institution
- ❑ in any unusual, unnatural or suspicious manner
- ❑ in circumstances involving a hazard to public health welfare or safety

Vulnerable adult

- Definition under Vermont law (33 V.S.A. 6902)
 - Is 18 or older **and**
 - Is a resident of a licensed facility such as a nursing or community care home **or**
 - Is a patient of a psychiatric unit or hospital **or**
 - Has received personal care services for > 1 month **or**

Vulnerable adult

- Is impaired due to brain damage, infirmities of aging, or a physical, mental or developmental disability
- Impairment of the ability to provide care without assistance including provision of food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, supervision or management of finances **or**

Vulnerable Adult



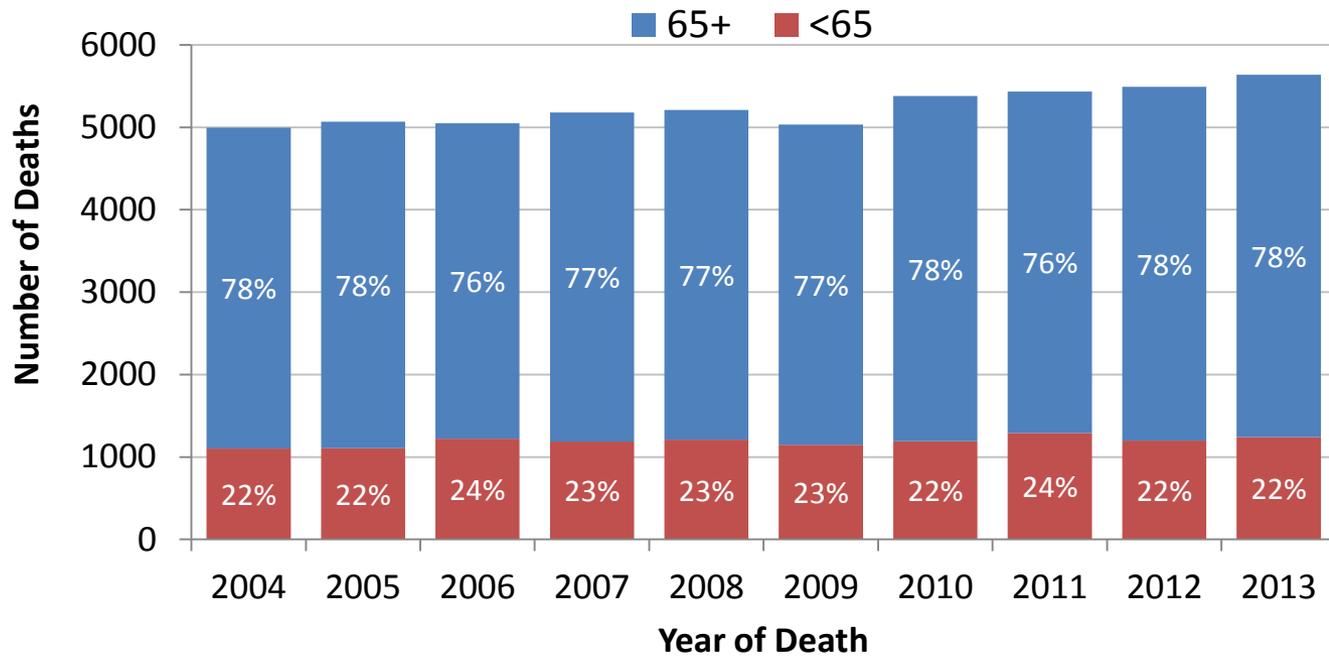
- An impairment of the individual's ability to protect him/herself from abuse, neglect or exploitation

Is there a need?

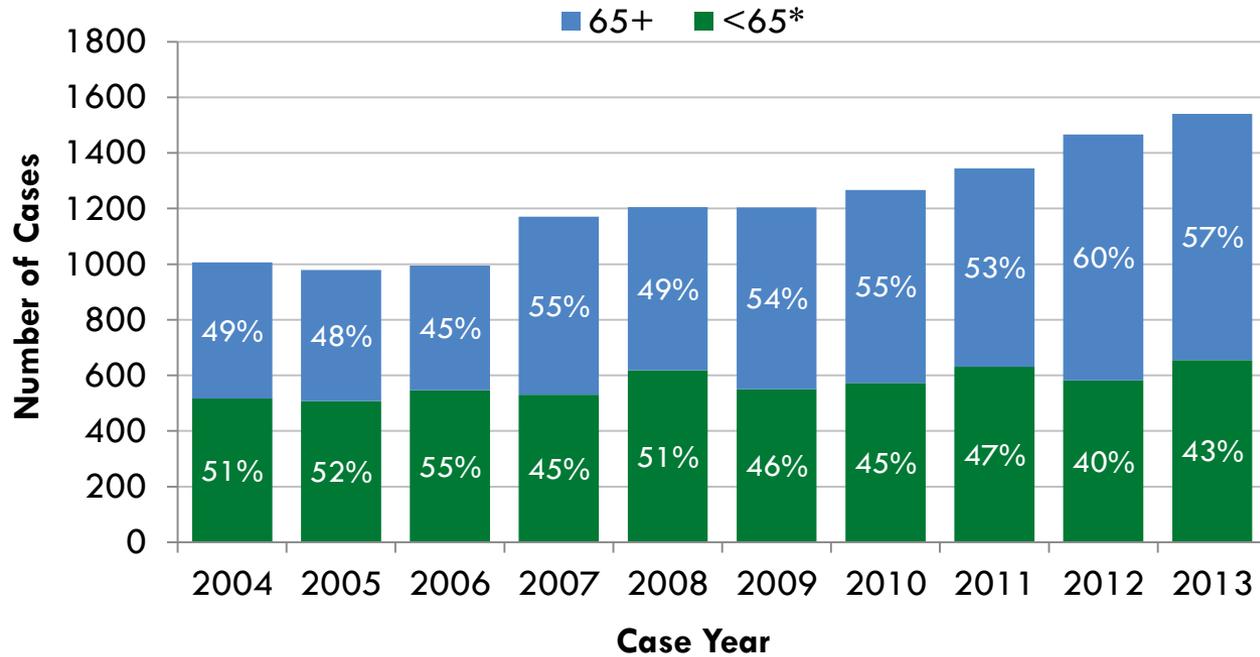
- U.S. Census Bureau: projection that more than 62 million Americans will be age 65 or older in 2025
- Over 500,000 adults over the age of 60 are abused or neglected in the United States every year
- 1 in 14 cases are reported

Centers for Disease control <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/ElderAbuse>

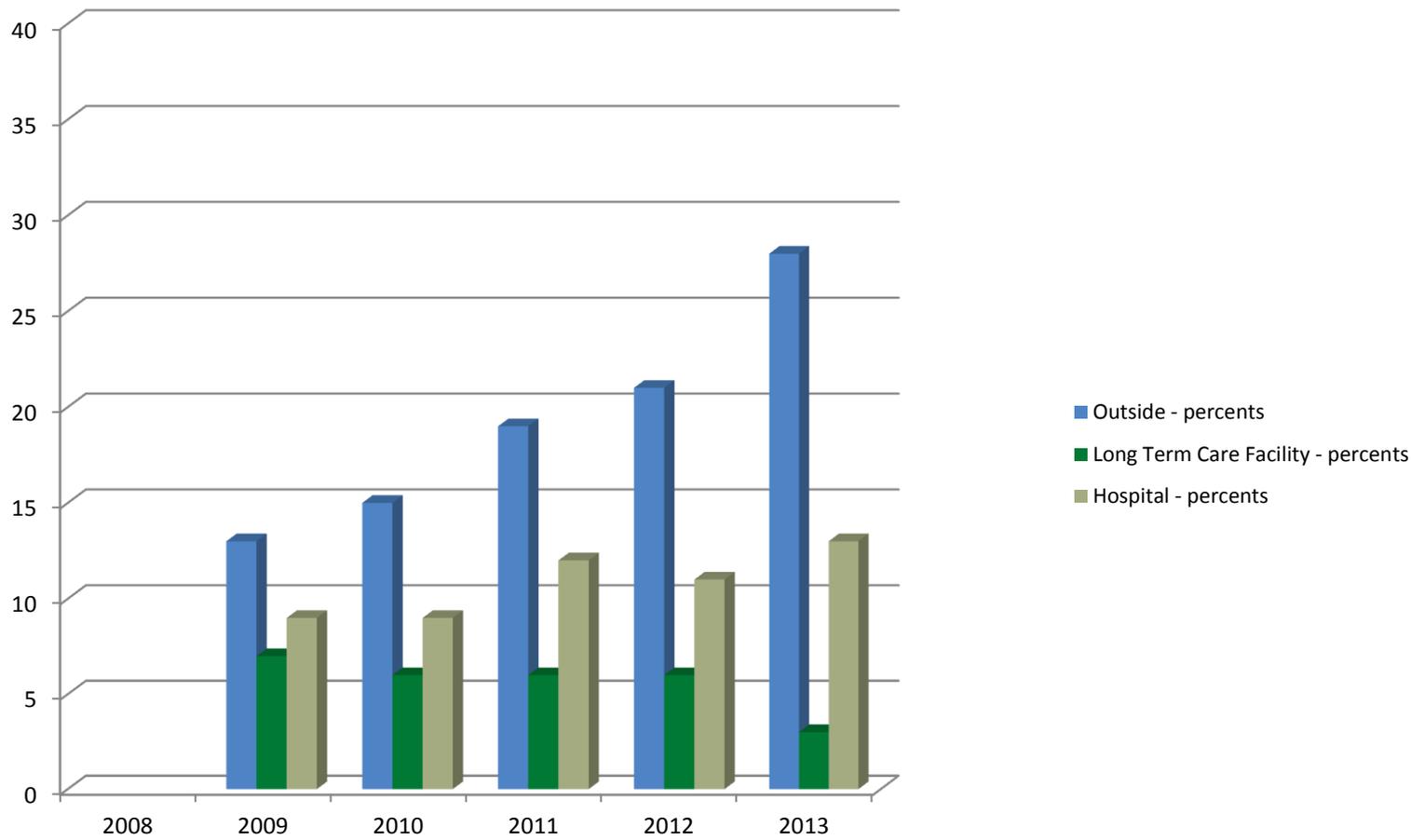
VT Resident Deaths by Year and Age



VT OCME Cases by Year and Age



*Includes cases where age is not applicable (e.g. non-human remains)



Summary of Accidental Deaths

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Accidental Deaths	299	311	307	291	293	333	333	328	374	350
Motor Vehicle*	87	74	81	57	62	74	63	70	78	81
Drugs/Overdoses**	34	49	60	52	52	51	37	60	53	66
Falls (age ≥ 65)	118	100	106	137	109	134	158	132	160	151
All Other Accidental Deaths	60	88	60	45	71	74	75	66	83	52

* Includes motorcycles; does not include pedestrians, ATVs or snowmobiles.

** For more detail on Drug/Overdose deaths, please see Drug Related Deaths Table on page 15.

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- Retrospective reviews
 - Members sign confidentiality clause
 - Agencies would be allowed to share information
 - The team will compile an annual report each year that shall be made available to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Goal



- Analyze the trends and patterns of abuse and neglect related fatalities of vulnerable adults in Vermont.
- Educate the public, service providers and policymakers about abuse and neglect-related fatalities of vulnerable adults
- Recommend policies, practices and services to promote interagency collaboration and to improve systemic responses to abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults