

Adults with Disabilities may be at risk...

Who are adults with disabilities?

- adults who have physical, developmental or communication impairments that limit their ability to carry on everyday functions.
- adults with visible or invisible disabilities.
- there are approximately 98,530 disabled adults 15 years of age and older in New Brunswick (Statistics Canada - A Profile of Disability In Canada, 2001. Participation and Activity Limitation Survey. Catalogue # 89-579-XIE.)
- most disabled adults live in households in New Brunswick, on farms, in towns, in their own homes, with family or attendant care. Only about 6% of disabled adults in New Brunswick live in institutions.

Abuse is always wrong. Many forms of abuse are against the law.

Adults with disabilities can take action!

In An Emergency

- Call the police. If you are in danger call 911. (You won't be alone. If you have to go to court, victim services will give you support.)
- Call the Department of Family and Community Services. Look in the Blue Pages of the telephone book under Abuse (provincial government) or at the Abuse Information section of the telephone book on page 2.
- Call an emergency shelter or a woman's transition house. Ask them to send an accessible taxi to pick you up or meet you in an accessible place to give you advice. Ask the shelter to make temporary arrangements if you need help such as a Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) or an American Sign Language (ASL).

Adults with disabilities can get...

Information, Advocacy and Support

- Be sure to keep up relationships with friends and family. Join a support group or service club. Talk to someone you trust like your doctor, counsellor, rabbi or minister about your feelings.
- If you need an advocate call the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons at 1-800-442-4412. The Council can refer you to disability specific organizations, if appropriate. Check out their website at www.gnb.ca/0048.
- For general information on the law, call Public Legal Education 506-453-5369.

Adults with disabilities can use...

Community and Government Services

- The Service NB Call Centre at 1-888-762-8600 can refer you to government services. Look for community agencies that can help you on a short or long-term basis. If you don't have money you may qualify for financial assistance.

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Did You Know...

- disability rates vary across Canada from a high of 17.1% in Nova Scotia, to a low of 8.4% in Quebec. The disability rate in New Brunswick is 14.4%.
- disability increases with age.
- half of disabled adults are at risk of being abused.
- women with disabilities are at greatest risk - 150% more likely to be abused than able-bodied women.
- adults with disabilities are most likely to be abused at the hands of people they know and trust.
- many adults with disabilities do not report abuse because they fear being institutionalized or losing their children.
- services available to other victims of abuse may be inaccessible to the disabled adult because they lack ramps, elevators, sign language interpreters, telephone devices for the deaf, braille or tape brochures, mental disability counselling, attendant care and so on.

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Friends or family can ...

- Keep close ties with disabled relatives and friends and find ways to limit the person's isolation.
- Try to understand what is happening.
- If the person's safety is at risk, tell the police or Family and Community Services.

You can make a difference!

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