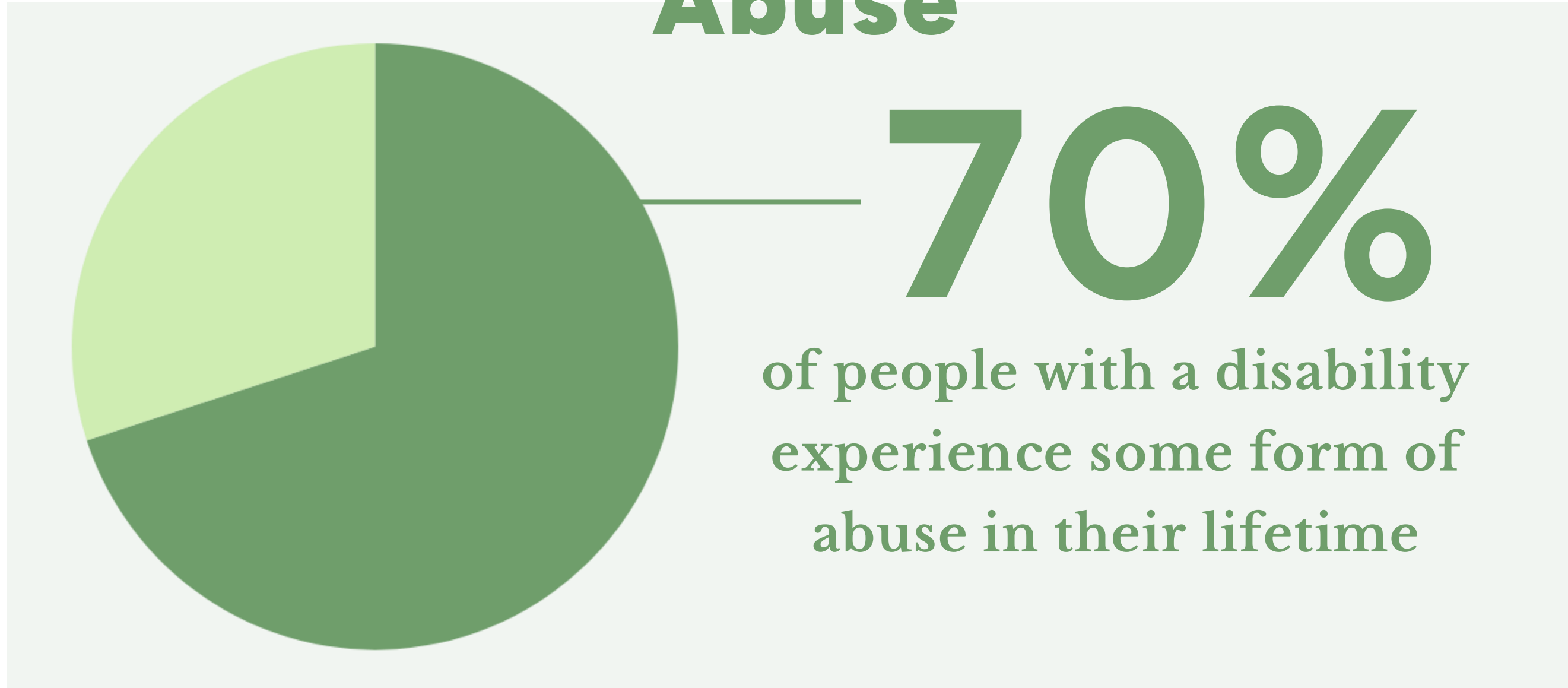




# Abuse: Prevention, Signs, & Reporting

*By: Erin Meottel, Prevention Coordinator*

# Prevalence of Abuse



# Abuse Across the Lifespan

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**Child Abuse**

*Ages 0-18*



# Child Abuse

The nonaccidental harm of a child, threatened harm of a child, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, neglect of a child, or human trafficking of a child by another person.

“Overall, children with disabilities are more than twice as likely to experience violence compared to those without disabilities”

Global estimates indicate that nearly 1 in 3 (roughly 31.7%) children with disabilities have experienced some form of violence



# Types of Child Abuse

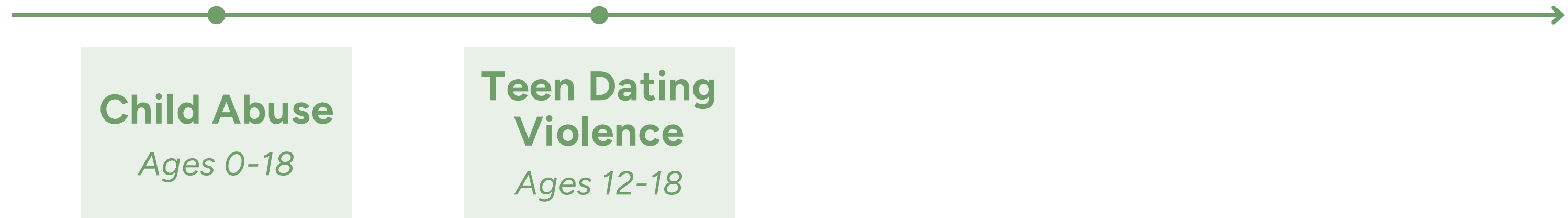
**Physical**

**Sexual**

**Emotional**

**Neglect**

# Abuse Across the Lifespan



# Teen Dating Violence

Teen dating violence includes physical, psychological or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship.

“Youth with disabilities between the ages of 12 and 19 experience physical violence – including physical abuse, rape or sexual assault from a stranger or partner– almost 6 times more likely than youth without a disability.”



# Types of Teen Dating Violence

**Physical**

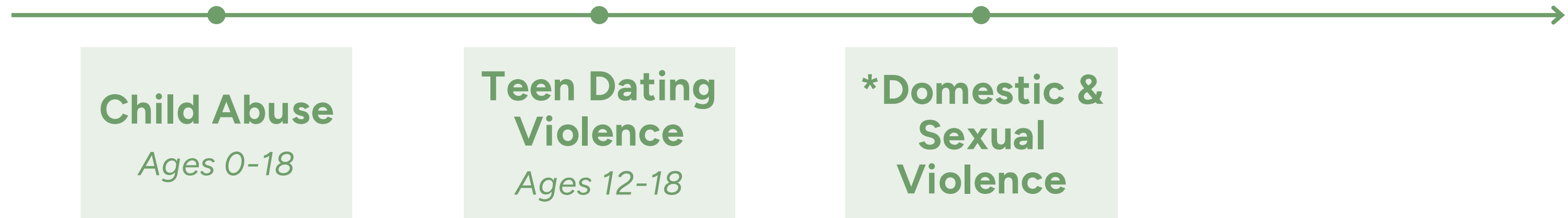
**Sexual**

**Psychological**

**Digital**

**Stalking**

# Abuse Across the Lifespan



# Domestic & Sexual Violence

“A pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another person. It can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person”

Data shows that people with disabilities experience domestic violence at 5 times the rate of those without disabilities.

Individuals with disabilities are 3 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than their peers.



# Types of Domestic Violence

**Physical**

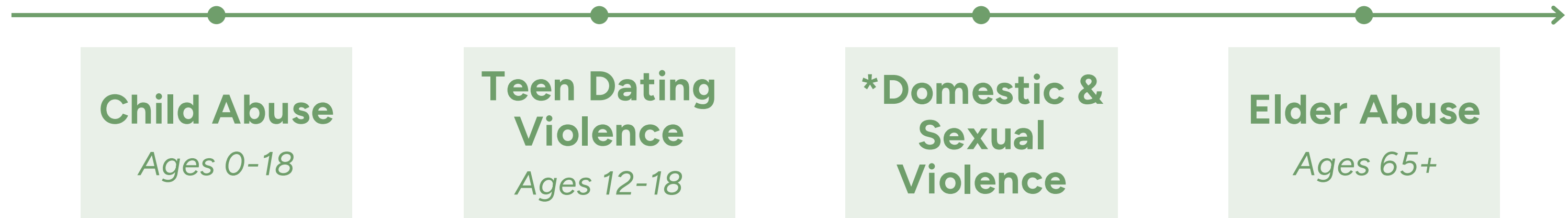
**Sexual**

**Emotional**

**Digital**

**Financial**

# Abuse Across the Lifespan



# Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is an intentional or negligent act by any person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult.

“Around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.”

Approximately 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported to the authorities.



# Types of Elder Abuse

**Physical**

**Sexual**

**Emotional**

**Neglect or  
Abandonment**

**Finanical**

# Warning Signs

# Children and Teens

Sudden fear of a person  
(adults, partner, caregivers,  
etc) or specific place

Sudden or unexplained  
personality or performance  
changes

Changes in sleep patterns  
or difficulty sleeping

Dehydration, poor hygiene  
or grooming, chronic  
hunger, hoarding resources

Sudden unusual interest in  
or knowledge of sexual  
matters

Unexplained or repeated  
injuries

Lack of necessary aids  
(wheelchair, AACs, glasses,  
etc)

Sudden refusal to go to  
school or other favored  
activities



# Adults and Elder Adults

Unexplained or repeated injuries

Sudden, unexplained bank withdrawals, missing funds, or altered legal documents

Unusually fearful, submissive, or avoidant of specific caregivers

Improper medication management (over or under medicating someone)

Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others

Caregivers limiting access to friends, family, or telephone/social contact

Broken, damaged, or missing aids (hearing aids, wheelchairs, etc)

Frequent or excessive monitoring of someone's behavior

Unsafe living conditions



# Prevention Strategies

# Prevention Continuum

*A systematic process that promotes healthy environments and behaviors and reduces the likelihood or frequency of violence occurring.*

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## Primary

Approach that takes place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization

## Secondary

Immediate responses after violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences and intervening to prevent violence from occurring again

## Tertiary

Actions that focus on addressing the long-term consequences of violence occurring in the first place



# Prevention Strategies

*Reducing Risk Factors and Increasing Protective Environments*

## Individual

Biological factors  
or personal  
history

Examples: Disability,  
income level, substance  
use, history of abuse,  
previous exposure to  
traumatic events or  
injury

## Relationship

Close circle of friends,  
family members, and  
partners who influence  
behavior

Examples: High conflict  
and poor communication,  
power and control  
imbalances, financial  
strain, isolation, weapon  
access

## Community

The economic, social,  
& environmental  
conditions within a  
community

Examples: Limited  
educational, job, &  
economic opportunities, low  
levels of community  
engagement, high rates of  
local crime and violence,  
inadequate access to basic  
services

## Societal

Large-scale,  
structural, or  
cultural conditions

Examples: Public policies,  
economic systems,  
harmful cultural norms,  
discrimination and  
marginalization of specific  
groups

# Prevention Strategies

*Reducing Risk Factors and Increasing Protective Environments*

## Individual

Prevention strategies at this level promote attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that prevent violence. Specific approaches may include conflict resolution and life skills training, social-emotional learning, and safe dating and healthy relationship skill programs.

## Relationship

Prevention strategies at this level may include parenting or family-focused prevention programs and mentoring and peer programs designed to strengthen parent-child communication, promote positive peer norms, problem-solving skills and promote healthy relationships.

## Community

Prevention strategies at this level focus on improving the physical and social environment in these settings (e.g., by creating safe places where people live, learn, work, and play) and by addressing other conditions that give rise to violence in communities (e.g., neighborhood poverty, residential segregation, and instability, high density of alcohol outlets).

## Societal

Prevention strategies at this level include efforts to promote societal norms that protect against violence as well as efforts to strengthen household financial security, education and employment opportunities, and other policies that affect the structural determinants of health.



# Prevention Strategies

*Accessible education for all age groups*

Child focused programming,  
curriculum, and conversations

Parent, caregiver, or other trusted  
adult education

Training for professionals in  
disability spaces

Focus on teaching abuse prevention  
skills, empowerment, and building  
safety networks



# Reporting

## Self-Advocate

Remember it is not your fault

Share with a trusted person  
when you are ready

Connect to Local Resources

Practice self-care as needed

**Other (Professional,  
Caregiver, Family Member,  
etc.)**

T.A.L.K by RAINN

Mandatory Reporting  
Responsibility

Connect to Local  
Resources

Safety Planning

# Erin Meottel

## *Prevention Coordinator*

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