

Bullying isn't just on the playground

ANCHOR LEDE

The issue may not be widespread, but experts say bullying can occur in senior living facilities. Shunning, gossip, vandalism and even physical scuffles have been reported across the country.

TAKE VO

OSF HealthCare psychologist Doctor Ari Lakritz says seniors can lash out due to long-held biases, untreated mental health issues or just general crankiness.

He says senior caregivers should step up to correct the problem.

SOT

Dr. Ari Lakritz [ARR-ee // LACK-ritz], OSF HealthCare psychologist

"A clinician not just reacting to different problems in the facility but proactively speaking with residents at least for a few minutes each day. As well as having a really good referral system set up to psychiatrists, psychologists or another type of clinician if mental health concerns really do become a problem with individuals in that facility." (:22)

VO TAG

Facilities can also hold anger management classes or not allow residents to claim things in common areas.

Families should also keep a close eye on their loved ones for mood changes, like a sudden desire to move out. Drop in for lunch, and report bullying if you see it.