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Elderly Abuse

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Elderly Abuse

by

Jessica Morris

Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the
Requirement for the
Bachelor of Integrated Studies Degree

Murray State University

2/25/19

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to inform individuals about the rising issues of Elder abuse. The different types abuse includes mental, physical, emotional and exploitation. Each state has their own regulation surrounding abuse. 1993 All states enacted laws addressing elder abuse. The laws are very diverse with many sections. ([Domestic Elder Abuse and the Law](#)

Gerald J. Jogerst, Jeanette M. Daly, Margaret F. Brinig, Jeffrey D. Dawson, Gretchen A. Schmuck, Jerry G. Ingram).

Elder abuse effects many lives across the United States. The lives that it affects are forever changed. Elder abuse is a major concern in healthcare and the United States. This is a major concern because trust and the well-being of individuals health are at risk when abuse happens.

Something that I hope to learn from this project is how to detect abuse. Not all individuals report abuse because of the fear of what the abuser might do. Another thing I hope to learn is the correct way to report abuse in the United States.

Elder abuse has a very large impact on healthcare. Abuse is occurring everywhere in some manner. Once abuse occurs trust is lost in the hope of being safe. Healthcare relies on a certain amount of trust so that individuals can be taken care of in the proper manner.

Individuals that inflict elder abuse has a wide range. It can be a care taker, family member, or Stranger. No matter who is causing the abuse it needs to be dealt with.

This is where people make a home because they no longer can live on their own. Let's help these elderly individuals stay safe.

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National Facts

Elder abuse is a rising issue in the United States. In most abuse cases only 1 in twenty-four cases are reported. There is an estimated number as high as 5 million elder adults are being abused every year. Knowledge about elder abuse is reported to be almost two decades behind child abuse and domestic violence. Something that is a challenge in researching elder abuse is the definitions of elder abuse. Another challenge is the ethical dilemmas because many of the elder people have various mental, physical and social variables. One of the other challenges with researching elder abuse is trying to figure out what type of abuse is more common than the other. Some of the finding from the National center for elder abuse are: (National center of elder abuse)

- One national study that was conducted by Acierno and colleagues found financial mistreatment to be the most commonly reported form of abuse, followed by potential neglect, emotional mistreatment, physical mistreatment and the is sexual mistreatment.
- A New York study found that major financial exploitation was self-reported at a rate of 41 per 1000 surveyed, which was higher than self-reported rates of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse or neglect.
- Burnes and colleagues found emotional abuse to be the most prevalent followed by psychological abuse, and lastly financial exploitation.
- Laumann et al. found verbal mistreatment to be the most common, followed by financial mistreatment and lastly physical mistreatment,

Here is some key fact from the world health Organization:

- Around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community setting during the past year.
- rates of elder abuse are high in institutions such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities, with 2 in 3 staff reporting that they have committed abuse in the past year.
- Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences
- Elder abuse is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing population
- The global population of people aged 60 and older will more than double. From 900 million in 2016 to about 2 billion in 2050

(nursinghomeabuse.org)

((1) Elder abuse prevalence in community settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Yon Y, Mikton CR, Gassoumis ZD, Wilber KH. Lancet Glob Health. 2017 Feb;5(2):e147-e156.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28104184>)

Here are some statistics pertaining to Nursing home Abuse:

- As many as 5,000,000 elders are abused a year
- It is thought that 1 in 10 elders over the age of 60 have been abused

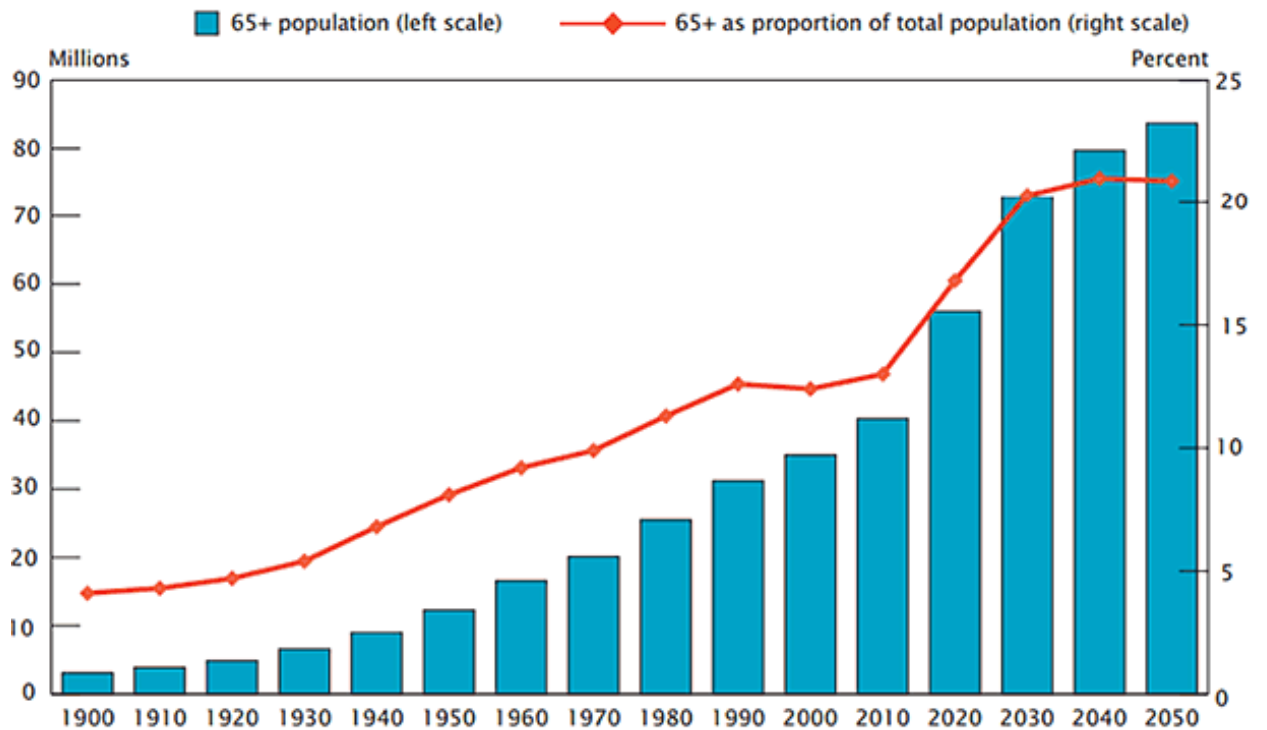
Elder Abuse

- One study reported that as many as 24.3 percent of residents experienced at least one instance of physical abuse while in a nursing home
- Another study estimated only 1 in 14 incidents of elder abuse are formally reported
- The New York State elder abuse prevalence study suggested this number is even more severe, with only 1 in 25 cases of abuse reported
- It is estimated that these figures are low, as many elder abuse victims are unable or unwilling to report abuse
- Data from Adult Protective service indicates a rising number of reported abuse in recent years
- A 2018 study found that Massachusetts has the best protections for the elders overall and South Carolina had the worst protection

(Nursing Home Abuse Justice)

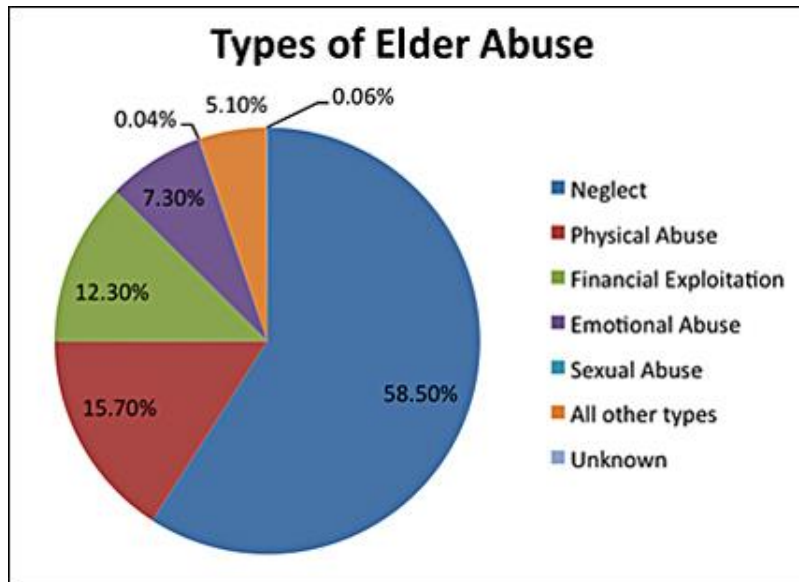
There were 52 studies done in 2017. The estimated 15.7 percent of people aged 60 and older were subject of abuse. 70 percent of the cases that are reported are neglect, 35 percent are emotional abuse cases, 30 percent are exploitation, and 25 percent are physical abuse cases. Most of the cases that are reported are women that are 80 years old or older. These women that are abuses also need either partial or total care being given to them. One reason that elders are vulnerable to abuse is because they are isolated and can be mentally impaired.

Increase in Population



(<https://ncea.acl.gov/whatwedo/research/statistics.html>) This chart shows the increase in population of our elders and the increase in elder abuse. This graph helps understand the percentage of abuse that is happening.

Definitions of abuse



(<http://topmedicalassistantprograms.org/elder-abuse-prevention-guide>)

The definition of elder abuse is different in all fifty states where all different. Some states used the terms abandonment, mental anguish, exploitation, neglect, self-neglect, and sexual abuse. Not all states have laws that define elder abuse. Some of the states that do have laws pertaining to elder abuse are Ohio, Tennessee, Texas

Let's start with explaining a little bit about different states and their types of abuse and definitions. California uses the term abandonment to describe abuse. Abandonment in California means the desertion or willful forsaking of an elder or dependent adult by anyone taking care of or having custody of that person under circumstances that someone would normally still care for the individual.

State Laws



Abusers are often someone close to their victim

76% of abusers are family members

16% of abusers are a partner

44% of abusers are a son, daughter, or their partner

20% of abusers are a friend or neighbour

Source: Age Concern Elder Abuse and Neglect Services reports, July 2016 to June 2017

An example of this would be if a facility was shut down for some reason and all the employees left. The residents left in the facility would be considered experiencing abandonment.

Tennessee refers to elder abuse as elder mistreatment. A few of the term that they use are physical abuse which refers to physically hurting someone or threatening the physically hurt someone. Emotional abuse is mentally hurting someone or causing distress either verbal or nonverbal. Sexual abuse is another type that Tennessee recognizes. This is non-consensual sexual acts of any kind. Exploitation is when someone illegally takes funds, property or assets

from an elder. Neglect is another form which refusal or failure to provide shelter, food, healthcare or protection. Abandonment is also one of the types of abuse in Tennessee. This state defines it as desertion by anyone that assumes custody or responsibility for an elder individual.

These types of abuse can happen in the home or a long-term care facility. In Tennessee abuse that happens in a long-term care facility is considered institutional abuse. The number that you would use to report abuse in Tennessee is 1-888-277-8366.

Many times, several of these different types of abuse can happen at the same time to the same elder person. An individual could cause mental and physical abuse at the same time.

Ohio law defines elder abuse as “The infliction upon an adult by self or others of injury. Unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment, with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental anguish.” (Garofalo, Mann & Schultz L.P.A.) In Ohio they have thousand of cases report every year. They also have thousand that go unreported yearly.

Some statistic that have been found in Ohio are: (Garofalo, Mann & Schultz L.P.A)

- Nearly 1 in 10 elders are a victim of abuse; about 2/3 of the victims are female.
- Neglect is the most common type of elder abuse
- 2/3 of the victims are abused by their children or spouse
- The Older American Act protects elders at a federal level
- Ohio’s Adult Protective Services law protects elders at a state level, creating standard reporting and investigating reports of abuse

Ohio has implemented these laws to help protect their elder community.

Texas is next on my list that has laws that define what elder abuse is. While reading the law for Texas on abuse it breaks it into two sections. One the definition of elder which is any person 65 or older. The second part of the law defines abuse. Neglects, sexual abuse, exploitation, physical, and emotional are all mentioned in this law. In Texas the person that witnesses the abuse must report it and in good faith that person is immune from liability. The person identify will also be confidential. When contacting the ombudsman in Texas you will have to look up the area that you are in so that you can get in contact with the correct office.

In Nevada the definition of elder abuse is a little simpler than other state it states that it is simply the physical or psychological assault on an elder. The two types that are listed for Nevada are neglect and exploitation.

There are hundreds of definitions and laws regarding elder abuse. Every state is different in how they define and deal with elder abuse. Some states are strict on how to report and deal with elder abuse where others are not. Researcher are still looking into studies that might help reduce abuse happening in all states.

There was a study done in New York that estimated that 260000 (1 in 13) elder adults have been a victim of exploitation. 41 out of 1000 had other types of abuse. These types of abuse include physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect. Another service that you can contact in New York is the adult protective service. The number to contact New York ombudsman is 1-855-582-6769.

Georgia is having a major problem when it comes to elder abuse. They are having a great deal of reports but do not have to resource to investigate all the cases. They are also having very low intervention happening when abuse is happening. Here is a chart for you to see just how bad

Elder Abuse

elder abuse is in Georgia. There are many different resources' in the state of Georgia to help with elder abuse. The number to contact Georgia's ombudsman is 1-866-552-4464.

Wisconsin has law in place to help protect the elders also. There is a program that is called the elders right project. This project provides free legal assistance to secure safety, stability, and independence for all elder victims in the Wisconsin area. In the Wisconsin area if the abuser is a caregiver you can contact the department of health service. The area is the office of caregiver quality. The phone number is 1(608)261-8319. You can also contact Wisconsin ombudsman at 1-800-815-0015.

Florida has 13 circuit courts that handle elder problems. As in many states Florida grants immunity to the person reporting abuse. This makes it so they are not guilty of any crimes associated with the report and their identity can not be given out. Florida has many ways that you can report elder abuse. The number for Florida Ombudsman is 1-888-831-0404 and if the elder need legal assistance they can call 1-888-895-7873.

Abuse Facts

THERE ARE 1.4 MILLION NURSING HOME RESIDENTS IN THE U.S.A.

1 OUT OF 10 NURSING HOME RESIDENTS are Abused.

9 OUT OF 10 Nursing Homes in the U.S.A. are UNDER-STAFFED.

92% OF NURSING HOMES were cited for DEFICIENCIES

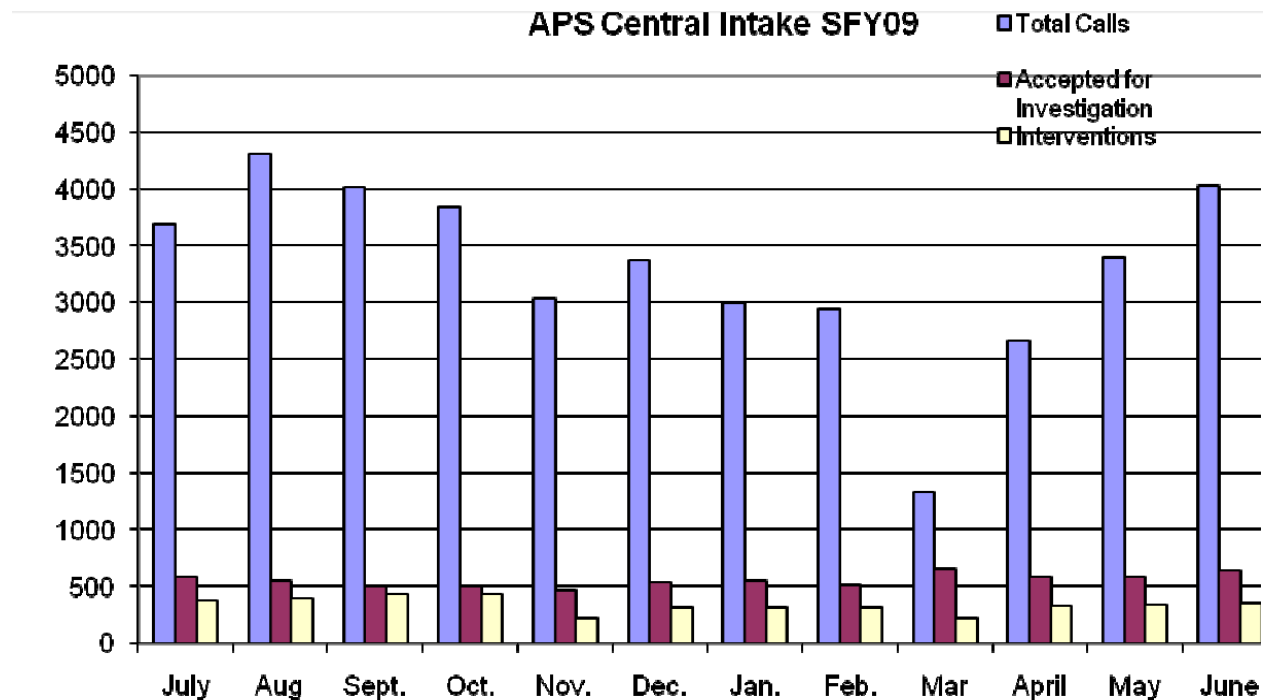
25% 25% of Nursing Home Citations were for DEATH OR INJURY TO RESIDENTS.

92% EMPLOY CONVICTED FELONS.

SENIOR JUSTICE LAW FIRM

average actual number of
daily direct nursing care for
each nursing home resident

13



<https://sites.google.com/site/olderadultsanddomesticviolence/artifact-4/matrix/resume?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1>)

There was a study done in 2017 and based on the evidence from 52 studies in 28 countries with diverse cultures which also included low- and middle-income countries that 15.7 percent of elders over 60 were subject to abuse in the past year. Based on systematic review and meta-analyses of studies that have been done over the past year institution abuse is more prevalent than in a community setting.

There was a study that I looked at that looked at the reasons that abuse happens. In the study it showed that a major reason that abuse might happen is because the caregiver is under a great amount of stress. This causes the abuse on the elder that the caregiver is taking care of.

Elder Abuse

Another reason that the abuse might happen is there are problems happening in the caregiver's life and it is changing the caregiver's attitude.

This graph shows the study stated above percentages.

	Elder abuse in community setting (1)	Elder abuse in institutional settings (2)	
Type of abuse	Reported by older adults	Reported by older adults and their proxies	Reported by staff
Overall Prevalence	15.7%	Not enough data	64.2% or 2 in 3 staff
Psychological abuse	11.6%	33.4 %	32.5%
Physical abuse	2.6%	14.1%	9.3%
Financial abuse	6.8%	13.8%	Not enough data
Neglect	4.2%	11.6%	12.0%
Sexual abuse	0.9%	1.9%	0.7%

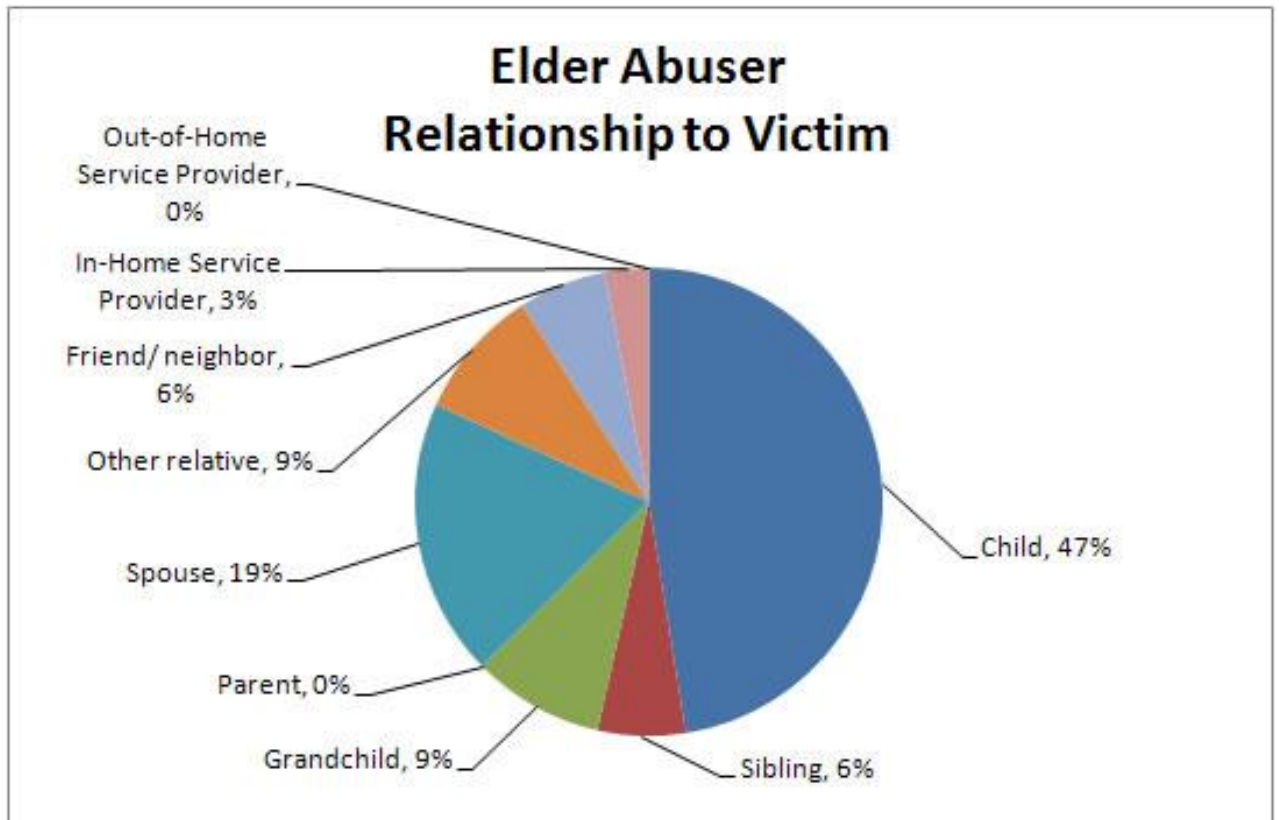
(<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/elder-abuse>)

Abuse happens in many different settings. The setting that it can happen in are the home where the elderly adult lives, Nursing home, or in public. I want to talk about the nursing home setting just a little bit. A study on physical abuse was conducted in Michigan. The study was conducted by a telephone survey. In this study 452 people in the nursing home environment participated. When the telephone survey was analyzed it showed the 24.3 percent had at least one incident involving abuse. The individuals that were looked at in this survey had limitations in activity's in daily living, behavioral difficulties, and were previously victimized.

(<https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2011.608056>)

Another study that I found was conducted in ten states. This study was also conducted in the nursing home setting. This study however focused on resident to resident abuse. Nurse aids filled out a questioner. There were 4451 questionnaire's that were sent back from nurse aids. In this study it showed that resident to resident abuse occurs in a much higher rate than previously thought. Verbal, physical and material abuse were among the highest types of abuse occurring among residents. The most uncommon that occurred was sexual abuse.

(<https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2012.661685>)



Another place that abuse happens is in the home. He is a graph to help see who is or can be an abuser. Nationwide approximately one to two million will be abused.



(<https://sites.google.com/site/olderadultsanddomesticviolence/artifact-4/matrix/resume?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1>)

There was a study conducted by random digit dialing. A computer assisted interview was conducted over the telephone. Once the data was analyzed there was 5777 individuals that responded. Which all the respondents have experienced abuse. 4.6 percent experienced emotional abuse. 1.6 percent was physical abuse. 0.6 percent was sexual. 5.1 percent being potential neglect, and 5.2 percent being current financial abuse by a family member.

This data shows that sexual abuse is one of the lowest types abuse to be seen when conducting a study like this. The highest type abuse once again is financial abuse. In the other study this is also true.

1 in 10 that reported abuse type had low social support and experiences traumatic events on a normal basis. From what was found from this study it shows that if individuals would make changes in social support that it would make abuse percentages drop.

(Ron Acierno, et al)

There was a study conducted with community residing older adults. The age that this study looked at was 57 through 85. 3005 individuals participated in this study. The design of this study was a multistage area probability design. When they started the study, they asked the participants if they had experienced any type of mistreatment if so, what was the relationship with the individual that caused the mistreatment. The three abuse that they named in this study were verbal, financial, and physical.

The finding of this study were the following. 9 percent had verbal abuse, 3.5 percent had financial abuse, and .2 percent experienced physical abuse. All the individual that were involved in this study stated that the abuse was from a family member. The study also showed that physical abuse was higher in women and individuals with physical problems. It was lower for Latino's. Financial abuse was higher in African American and lower in Latino than white and lower with someone in a relationship or with a spouse. (Edward O. Laumann, Sara A. Leitsch, Linda J. Waite)

A study was done that was designed to calculate the presence of elder abuse in the United States and Wisconsin. In the study the National elder abuse incidence study was obtained, and the Wisconsin data was obtained from the department health and family service for this study. The census was also obtained for the United States census bureau. With all this information They analyzed it and figure that 2.7 per one thousand (236,479 cases) in the United States and 1.6 per

Elder Abuse

thousand (2629 cases) in Wisconsin had experienced abuse and reported it. All the information was from 1996. 1990-1998 the rate of elder abuse kept rising in Wisconsin. This study stated that more work needs to be done to find out what is causing the abuse and why it is happening.

(Risco Romero C, Paniagua Vici oso Mdel C,)

NURSING HOME ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Asking a loved one to move into an assisted living facility or nursing home can be a difficult decision to make but in some cases it is necessary. Such facilities may be required because of health needs, financial costs, or personal limitations. If you have a loved one who is residing in a nursing home, then you need to know that the nursing home owes your loved one a duty of care.

SIGNS OF NURSING HOME ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

Nursing Home Abuse can take the form of physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse.

Physical Abuse may be evidenced by bruises, cuts, burns, or physical restraint.

Sexual Abuse

Emotional Abuse can occur through humiliation, insults, and threats.

Financial Abuse occurs when nursing home employee exploit residents by stealing or unduly influencing them for financial gain.

Nursing Home Neglect is evident when a resident's health and safety are compromised because of the nursing home's failure to provide reasonable care.




COMMON SIGNS OF NEGLECT INCLUDE:

Bedsore	Dehydration
Deterioration of health	Fall injuries
Dirty bedding, clothes, or rooms	Infection
Malnutrition	Poor hygiene
Residents wandering off the premises	Suffocation

Other red flags of abuse or neglect are the delay or refusal of personal access to your loved one during normal visiting hours. Also, notice if employees refuse to give you privacy or whether they continually monitor your visit.

NURSING HOME STATISTICS:

According to CDC statistics, in the United States there are:

 16,100 Nursing Homes	 1.7 Million Beds	 1.5 Million Residents
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90% Up to 90% of nursing homes do not have adequate staff to provide the necessary level of care.

44% In a study of 2,000 nursing home residents, 44% stated that they had been abused and 95% stated that they had been neglected or have seen neglect.

1 in 3 1 in 3 nursing homes violate federal safety standards.

\$75 Million Nursing homes receive more than \$75 million every year from government programs like Medicaid and Medicare.

CALL d'OLIVEIRA & ASSOCIATES at 1-800-992-6878

There are signs that individuals need to look for when trying to detect abuse. Whether in a nursing home or in a family how the signs are the same.

Types of abuse Flyer

Six Types of Elder Abuse Exist

Physical Hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, burning, or force causing injury	Sexual Engaging in sexual act without consent	Emotional Harming self-worth or emotional well-being, name calling, & scaring
Neglect Failing to meet basic needs like food, housing, clothing, & medical care	Abandonment Leaving elder alone or no longer providing care	Financial Illegally misusing an elder's money, property, or assets

Learn how signs of elder abuse differ from normal aging to prevent elder abuse before it happens.

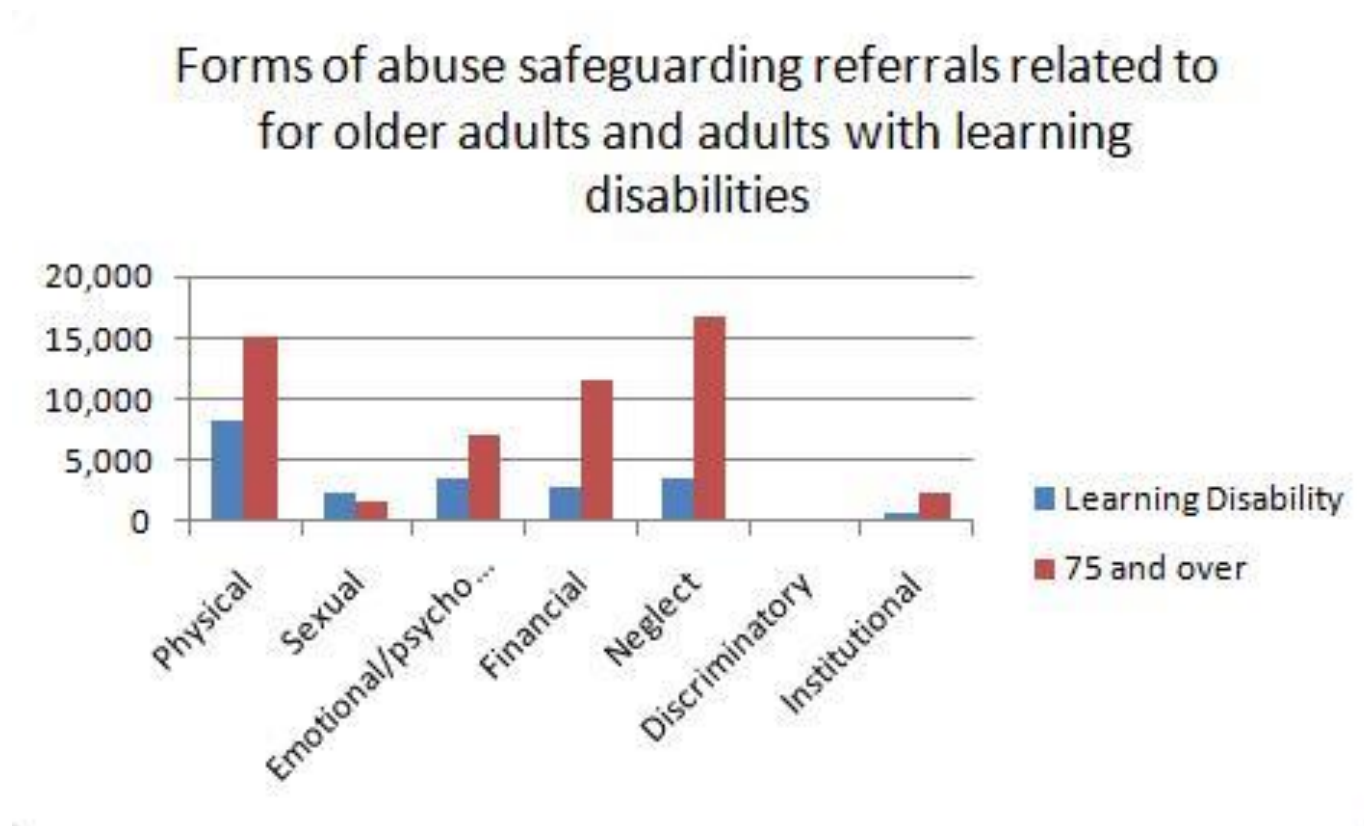


VetoViolence

Red flags for abuse

These signs may indicate deeper problems.

Physical abuse:



Indicators of physical abuse:

- multiple fractures or injuries in various stages of healing
- bruises clustered together and in regular patterns, especially in unusual locations such as the neck or groin.

Lashes from a belt can cause injuries extending over several planes, such as the front, side, and back of the legs.

Elder Abuse

- bilateral bruises or parallel injuries, “control marks,” a sign of forceful restraining. Frequent shaking causes parallel injuries on the upper arms.
- injuries to the trunk, abdomen, genitalia, buttocks, and upper thighs, which may signal sexual abuse.

Forced sexual activity can cause visible injuries, pain, or itching in the genital region; evidence of sexually transmitted disease; fractured teeth; and ecchymosis of the uvula.

- injuries around the face, ears, and neck, including tooth fractures and whiplash injuries.

(Accidental bruises usually affect the forehead, knees, shins, and elbows; senile purpura marks typically appear on the forearms and backs of the hands.)

- burns to the soles, palms, or buttocks or circular cigarette or cigar burns. Being tied up or restrained can cause rope burns on the extremities, neck, or torso.
 - patterned injuries that can give clues to the size and the shape of the object that caused them, such as belt buckles or hands
 - sprains or dislocations caused by pulling or pushing
 - patchy hair loss, redness, and swelling over the scalp or areas of hemorrhaging just below the scalp line, which can occur with violent hair pulling
 - a history of frequent visits to the ED or a delay between the time of injury and going to the ED.
- Repeated falls, fractures, or bruises in various stages of healing, and a verbal report of physical abuse are high risk indicators of abuse.
- withdrawn behavior or flinching when approached

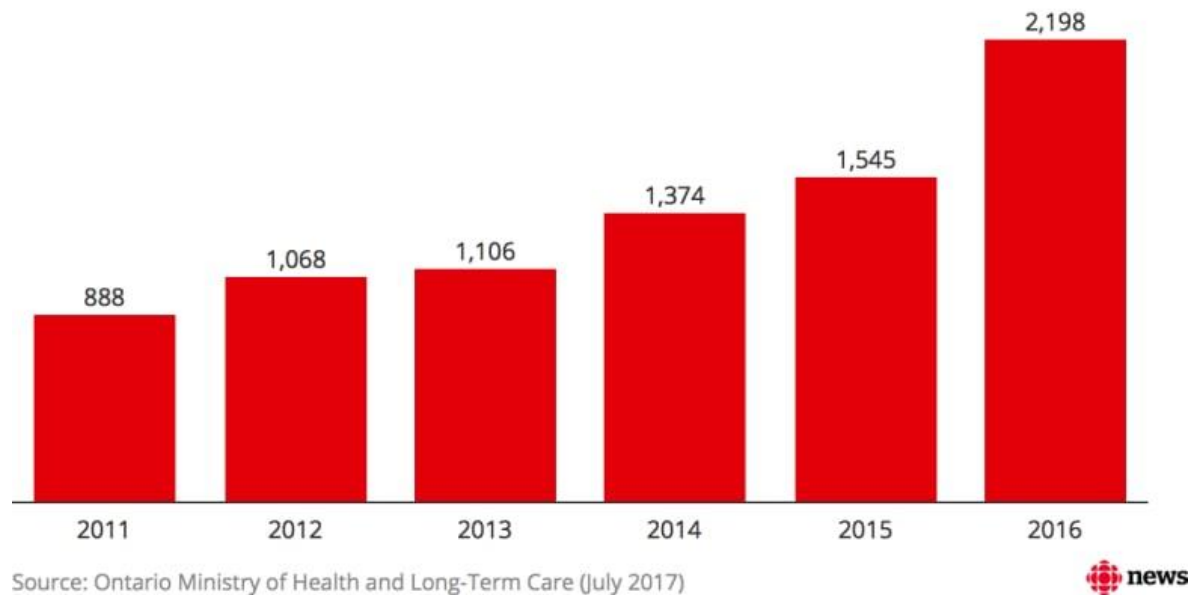
Form of Physical Abuse Perpetrated by Partner Sometimes or Frequently	% of respondents reporting it (N = 52)
Pushing, shoving, or grabbing	79
Restraining or blocking exit	77
Punching, hitting, or striking with hands or fists	64
Slapping	54
Kicking	46
Throwing objects at	42
Driving recklessly with respondent in the car	42

(by [Gregory Merrill](#))

Neglect:

Reported abuse and neglect by caregivers

Staff-to-resident abuse or neglect incidents reported by long-term care facilities



(<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/elderly-care-violence-marketplace-investigates-1.4493215>)

Indicators of neglect:

- deterioration of health
- dehydration, malnutrition, or cachexia (severe wasting)
- pressure ulcers or contractures
- dirt and odor on the body or clothing
- assistive devices missing or in poor repair, such as broken glasses
- inappropriate dress
- fleas or lice
- urine burns

Elder Abuse

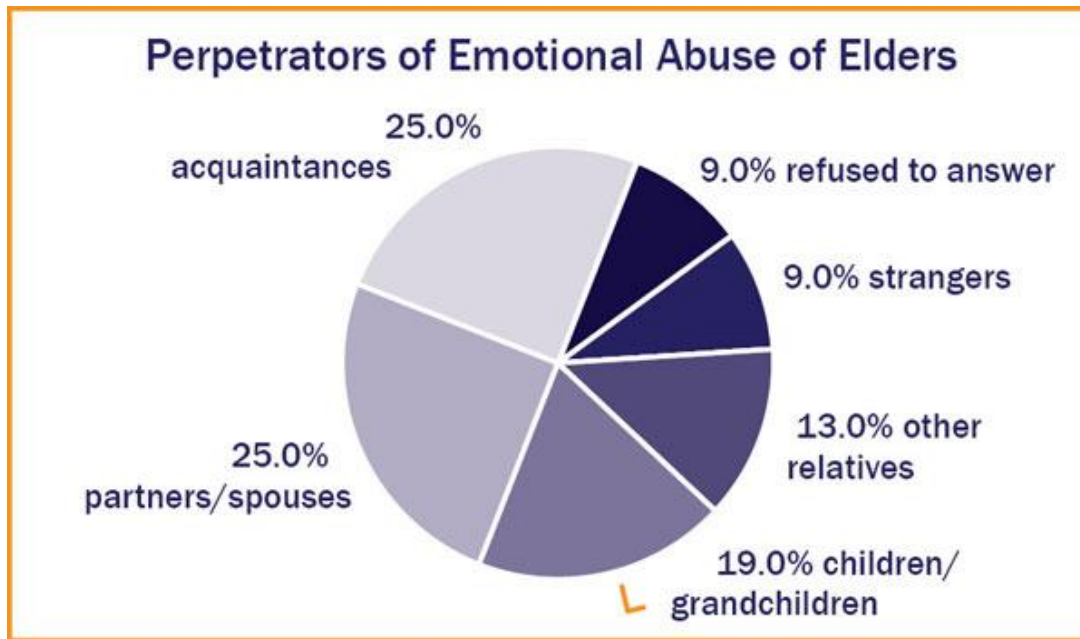
- listlessness and fatigue
- any indication that the older person was left in an unsafe situation or alone for long periods
- poor personal hygiene



(by [Sokolove Law](#))

This picture is showing one kind of neglect as there are many that can happen.

Emotional abuse:



(http://topmedicalassistantprograms.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/elder_abuse_stats.jpg)

Indicators for emotional abuse:

- confusion and disorientation
- paranoia, depression, or anger
- fear of strangers
- exhibiting fear in own environment
- ambivalence toward caregiver
- being quiet when caregiver is present
- low self-esteem
- hunger for attention and socialization

Financial abuse: (<https://www.lawgarcia.com/elder-financial-abuse-infographic/>)



Indicators of financial abuse:

- unexplained loss of pension checks
- lack of adequate food and medications
- anxiety about personal finances
- little or no knowledge about financial status
- missed utility bill payments

Elder Abuse

- checks being signed by someone else without permission
- pressure by someone else to endorse checks
- failure by someone else to provide contracted services
- sudden, unexplained inability to answer mail, pay bills, and cash checks

(nursingcenter.com)

(Nursing2004: October 2004 - Volume 34 - Issue 10 - p 47–51)

Questions to ask

There are several questions that need to be asked but need to be approached so that they are answered truthfully. Here is a list of question that can be used to help in determining where abuse is occurring:

Ask the right questions

Screen your patient for abuse with these questions:

- Has someone hurt you?
- Did someone do this to you?
- Has anyone ever touched you without your consent?
- Does anyone yell at you or threaten you?
- Who cares for you at home?
- Are you afraid of your caregiver?

To identify potential neglect and financial abuse, ask these questions:

Elder Abuse

- Are you satisfied with your living situation?
- What's a typical day like?
- Who gives you your medications?
- Who helps you with your bath and meals?
- Has anyone ever withheld food or medications from you?
- What happens when you and your caregiver disagree?
- Do you feel safe where you live?
- Have you been left alone for long periods?
- Who manages your finances?
- Has anyone taken your possessions or money without your permission?

To assess an injury, ask these questions of the patient and her caregiver individually:

- When did it happen? How did it happen?
- How much time elapsed between the injury and the time you sought medical attention?
- How often has this happened? (Nursing2004: [October 2004 - Volume 34 - Issue 10 - p](#)

[47-51](#) Article)

What to look for from abuser

There are many reasons that elder abuse happens in nursing home setting, understaffing is one. The type of abuse that occur when understaffing is happening is neglect. When neglect happens because of understaffing it cause a chain reaction. It causes other problems. Some of them problems are more falls can be occurring, or bedsores from residents not being taken care of properly. When a nursing home is understaffed it cause undo stress on the workers. This also causes worker to either rush through task that need to be done. Important steps can be missed when doing this and abuse can happen. (<https://www.nursinghomeabusecenter.com/elder-abuse/causes/>)

Personal issues can also cause someone they become an abuser. Personal issues like money problems, bills, or illness can affect the caregivers work and cause abuse. Some common personal problems that cause caregivers to abuse elder are:

- Being under excessive stress due to chronic fatigue
- Having an overwhelming amount of daily responsibilities
- Suffering from illicit drug abuse, including the excessive use of alcohol
- Having psychological problems, including bipolar disorder and depressive symptoms
- Anxiousness related to limited financial resources

Elder Abuse

When looking at who is doing the abuse there are things to look for in their behavior and history.

This list will help Identify signs that a caregiver may be an abuser:

- Having a history of mental illness, substance abuse, family violence or criminal behavior
- Failing to show affection toward the older person
- Keeping the elderly person from talking to visitors alone
- Being indifferent, angry or aggressive toward the elderly person
- Being flirtatious, coy or inappropriate
- Speaking about the elder as if they were a burden
- Withholding affection from the elderly person
- Having conflicting explanations of physical incidents (@2019nursinghomeabusecenter)

(nursinghomeabusecenter.com)

Some theories behind why people become abuser are:

(<https://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/elder-abuse/pages/understanding-causes.aspx>)

- Abusers have learned from the behavior of others around them that violence is a way to solve problems or obtain a desired outcome.
- Abusers feel they don't receive enough benefit or recognition from their relationship with the elderly person, so they resort to violence to obtain their "fair share."

Elder Abuse

- A combination of background and current factors, such as recent conflicts and a family history of "solving" problems through violence, influences the relationship.
- Abusers use a pattern of coercive tactics to gain and maintain power and control in a relationship.
- Many factors in elder abuse arise through individual, relationship, community and societal influences.
- Elder abuse can be attributed to both the victim's and the abuser's social and biomedical characteristics, the nature of their relationship, and power dynamics, within their shared environment of family and friends.

In almost sixty percent of abuse cases the abuser is a family member.

DATA COMPILED BY
HASBROOK & HASBROOK
SHOW NURSING HOME
ABUSE AND NEGLECT
RISING IN OKLAHOMA
AND ACROSS THE NATION

Elder Abuse



Each year thousands of adult Oklahomans suffer abuse, neglect and exploitation by family members and other caregivers. Many victims are elderly, frail and vulnerable, cannot help themselves and depend on others to meet their basic needs.

Officials with Adult Protective Services (APS) in the Oklahoma Department of Human Services say the number of elderly Oklahomans being abused or neglected is rising about 3% a year.

Some experts believe that for every one case of nursing abuse, exploitation or neglect that is reported, about five more go unreported.

Referrals investigated by APS staff have increased steadily over time. From fiscal year 1992 to fiscal year 2002, referrals increased 133%.

 The Law Firm of Hasbrook & Hasbrook has created this informative graphic in a bid to educate Oklahomans on the issue of elder abuse. We hope that by providing this information we can help people become more aware of the problem and that this knowledge will help reduce the number of elderly Oklahomans who are victimized by abusers, whether they be relatives, strangers or caregivers, including nursing home personnel.

QUESTIONS we are frequently asked:

- 1. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT A PARENT OR OTHER RELATIVE IS NOT GETTING GOOD CARE AT A NURSING HOME?**
First, talk to the nursing home administrator about your concerns. Tell them that you are unhappy with the care being provided and that you are documenting what you are concerned about and that you will report it. And make sure you do report it to the state health department.
- 2. WHO ELSE CAN I REPORT MY CONCERNS TO?**
 - Department of Human Services, Nursing Home Investigation Unit at (405) 521-2281
 - Office of State Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Unit at (405) 521-4274
 - Office of the State Ombudsman at (405) 521-6734
 - Oklahoma State Department of Health (800) 234-7258
- 3. CAN AN ATTORNEY HELP ME WITH MY CONCERNS?**
If the nursing home does not satisfy your concerns, in addition to filing a report with the state health department, you may want to contact an attorney who can investigate the situation and advise you on your options.

(Hasbrook & Hasbrook)

As someone that has worked in the health care setting at different times, I have witness first hand individuals who cause abuse to elder people. Its not right no matter what is happening. There was an instant that I witness where abuse was happening. There was a wonderful older lady that didn't want to put clothes on one day. She insisted she wanted to stay in her night

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gowned. As the care giver where getting everyone ready for breakfast she was being a little difficult for the care giver. The caregiver asked her to help her take he night gown off and she stated that she didn't want to. What the caregiver should have done was talk to the lady and make sure that was what she wanted and to document that she refused to get dressed. Instead the caregiver got a very disrespected tone with the older lady. The older lady did not give in and the care giver tore her gown into two pieces off the lady. All the caregiver would say was your daughter is going to be mad if you don't get dressed. I witness physical abuse that day. She was abused just because the caregiver was young and really didn't care what the resident wanted. All she thought about was that this old lady just does not want to listen to me.

How to report abuse

If you see elder abuse or any type of abuse happening, please report it. It is mandatory for doctors to report abuse but they rarely do report it.(**Michael A. Rodríguez, MD, MPH,**)

There are several ways that you can report abuse. I am going to give you step by step the correct way to report it and to who to report it to. All 50 states have different various ways and rules of how to report abuse. There are no federal laws regarding elder abuse.

The first thing you need to do is if the abuse is life threatening or they are in immediate danger call 9-1-1. If it is not immediate Then tell someone anyone. This could be a friend, family member, anyone that you trust. An individual can also call adult protective services, long-term care ombudsman, or the police. Tell a doctor or home health provider these individuals are mandated reports for abuse. Individuals can report abuse anonymously if needed by going to the

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internet watch website or can call 1-800-677-1116. They are in the office Monday- Friday from 9am to 8pm eastern times. (<https://www.hhs.gov/>)

When you call to report an abuse, you do not have to prove it is happening. They may ask a few questions so they can get a better understanding of the situation. The question they may ask might be:

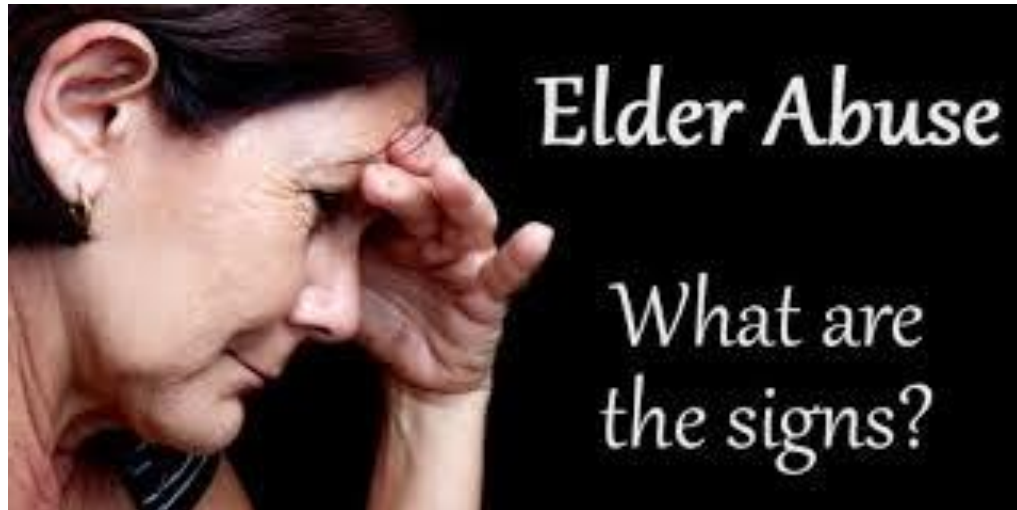
- Are there any unknown medical problems (Confusion or memory loss)?
- What kind of family or social support is around?
- Have you seen or heard yelling, screaming, hitting, or other abusive behavior?

Once you report the abuse, they may ask you for your name and address, but you do not have to give it. The reporter will still fill the report of abuse. They can not give out your information for any reason. The individual taking the report is not aloud to tell or repeat any information to the person that is being investigates. (<https://ncea.acl.gov/suspectabuse/gethelp-reportingabuse.html>)

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There are 12 steps to take when you think abuse is happening.

1. Recognize the type of elder abuse.



Is the abuse physical, sexual, neglect, exploitation, emotional, abandonment, or self-neglect?

2. Look for elder abuse signs.



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Burse change in behavior, signs of assault, loud fights, tensions between elder and caregiver, or poor hygiene. There are many other signs for a list of all other signs you can look them up online.

3. Talk with the elder person.



(Copyright: Katarzyna Bialasiewicz photographee.eu Information extracted from [IPTC](#) Photo Metadata)

Some elder people will deny when they are being abused. This is particularly true when it is a family member causing the abuse. You still report even if they deny the abuse.

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4. Talk to the elder family.



If it is not the family causing the abuse, they may be able to intervene quicker.

5. Report the abuse.



(Photo11: Getty Images/iStock photo)

Call for help. Call 9-1-1 if you think that the elder is in immediate danger. If it is not life-threatening you can call 1-800-677-1116.

6. Make a report.



(**Creator:** Rudyanto Wijaya Information extracted from [IPTC](#) Photo Metadata)

There are many things to think about when you are making a report about abuse.

Some information that you need to think about when making a report is:

- Name and address and contact information of the elder being abused.
- Information about the elder's support system.
- Who the abuser might be or who you think is doing the abusing.
- Any medical condition the elder might have.
- Any information about the abuse.
- Keep a report every time abuse happens. (what happens and the kind of abuse that is happening)

7. Wait is the next step.



(https://www.bochettoandlentz.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Bochetto-Lentz-July-Blog-elder-1425733_1920.jpg)

The adult protective services will start an investigation and might assign a case manager to the case

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8. Now the next step is to prevent any more abuse from happening.



[\(https://www.crossroadshospice.com/hospice-palliative-care-blog/2013/june/15/elder-abuse-how-to-recognize-the-signs/\)](https://www.crossroadshospice.com/hospice-palliative-care-blog/2013/june/15/elder-abuse-how-to-recognize-the-signs/)

Look for risk factor of abuse

9. Speak with the elder and the caregiver.



By visiting and calling more often you can get a better sense of what is happening in the environment.

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10. Protect your self



(Cyndy Marsh)

IF you are the elder and want to protect yourself from abuse here are some steps to follow.

- Get your legal and financial affairs in order.
- maintain regular contact with family and friends.
- If you are unhappy tell someone.
- If you are being abused tell someone so they can help you.

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11. If you are a caregiver ask for help.



(Copyright: nito500/123RF)

If you feel angry or stressed in your caregiving job, ask for help so you are not abusing who you are supposed to be taking care of.

12. demonstrate that there are alternatives for the elder.



(by Erin Welborn)

Sometimes elders won't report abuse because they think that there are no other caregivers, or they think they are being difficult and no one else will care for them.

(Clinton M. Sandvick, JD)

Cases about abuse

Not just one of these steps are important that all are important when it comes to an elder being abused. There are many help lines that people can call to report abuse. Remember if you think someone is being abused report it. Keep reporting it till something is done. Try to help protect that elder person.

Elder abuse has long term affects of people. Bures and broken bones heal. Elder people that suffer from abuse may need help to deal with the pain inside. The elder may never be who they where before they where abused. They may need someone to talk to about what happened to them. They may suffer from depression. They may fear that someone is going to hurt them again. They may also believe that it was their fault that the abuse happened. They need people around them that will help them through the hard time and reassure them that it was not their fault. The after math of elder abuse can be life-threatening if it is not treated. Some effects are that once an elder has been abused their chance of death is almost 300 percent higher than if not abused. financial abuse and Freud cost older American's from 2.9 billion to 36.5 billion yearly. Financial abuse is one of the highest self-reported abuses that occur.



https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwi_w5-Sws7hAhVBaq0KHUd8AqUQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.justice.gov%2Fusao-ri%2Felder-justice&psig=AOvVaw1HGgGpeswF59Ou6b6Mr-DG&ust=1555294620686200

Elder abuse is something terrible that happens to individual for many reasons that will never be understood. I want to share with you a few stories that I have read in my research.

The first case that I am going to tell you about took place in Stoughton, Mass on Feb 21, 2019. This was one of the worst cases of abuse that the police have ever seen in the 20 to 25 years that they have worked with the force. The caregiver was 48 years old. She was a Registered Nurse. She was also believed to be the elder's Niece. The elder was 75 years old. She was found in a basement room no bigger than the size of a cell. The thermostat was turned off. The temperature was 51 in the room that the elder lady was staying in. When she was found open bedsores were discovered on her body. She was also very dehydrated and malnourished. The caregiver had an aid that came to the home to care for her. When the aid was talked to, she stated "That she complained to her place of employment and wanted to be removed from the case." The

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place of employment never did anything about the situation. They also made no statement to the police. The caregiver was charged with permitting serious injury to an elder and posted bail. The bail that was posted was 25,000 and she was released. The elder is currently in the hospital.

This next report is one of the worse I have ever read. Charleston, West Va. April 25, 2018. The daughter of the elder was arrested and charged with neglect of an incapacitated adult. She was caring for her mother in a home that was unlivable. The daughter had called 9-1-1 when her mother was having shortness of breath and loss of appetite. When the emergency responders arrived at the home they stated “The conditions of the home were horrible. There was trash all over the home inside and feces on the floor. The odors were nauseating.” When the responders got to the elder lady, she was laying in the bed covered in feces and urine. The responders went to move the lady and their blankets were bonded to the woman. Her head was stuck in her arm. She had severe bed sores on the right side of her body. When they arrived at the hospital the lady had severe sepsis, dehydration, multiple areas of skin breakdown, was in respiratory failure, and pneumonia. When investigating this abuse case, they found that the elder lady had not been to the doctor in eight years and the last time she was in the hospital was in 2003. This lady ended up dying from the abuse that she had encountered.

In Genesee County, Michigan at an unlicensed adult foster care home an elder was found dead on a couch on March 2 in 2010. There were two ladies that cared for this elder in the home one was 70 years old and the lady’s granddaughter which was 34. The elder was 71. When she was found, she weighed 64 pounds. The police said that she had been dead for 2 to 4 hours before they were called. All that the elder had to eat was a fruit peel that was found when an autopsy was done. When the finding came to the police the elder had died from severe bedsores,

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malnutrition, and dehydration. The ladies that were caring for her were paid 800 a month and she was living there since 2005. The elder lady never received any kind of medical attention in the time that she was at this foster care home. The only time that the appointed guardian was called was three days before she passed. The reason for the call was because the elder was not eating. The two ladies that ran this foster care home were charged with felony murder and vulnerable adult abuse, and neglect of duties.

Exploitation of elderly person and forgery is what happened to an 89-year-old man. His adopted son did this to him why he was in and out of the hospital for four years. The 89-year-old man possibly is going to lose his house because of this. The son pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 15 years. Most likely he will only spend 2 years in jail. He is supposed to pay all the money back also. The total amount that the son took was \$90,000 from his father. The son spent the money on living expenses. The living expenses he was talking about was a BMW luxury sport sedan.

Problems from abuse

Some problems resulting from elderly abuse are:

- Abused elders are 300 percent more likely to die than individuals who have not been abused
- Violent crime injuries are responsible for 5.3 billion in annual medical care cost
- losses of 2.9 billion per year have been linked to financial elder abuse
- individuals with mental impairments tend to have 2 times the amount of financial loss

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- Hospitalization is three times as likely to occur if an elder is abused.
- abuse can also lead to future disabilities and medical issues
- elders who have been abused are 4 times more likely to end up in a nursing home

(Nursing Home Abuse Justice)



Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline
1-800-392-0210
Make a difference. **Make the call.**

Elder abuse is a rising concern in the United State. Every state has a different definition of what is it and how to deal with it. There is no reason that elder abuse should ever happen, but it does. Some elder abuse cases end in death and some end in with the need for mental of physical help that the abuse caused. Elders are someone who should be loved and taken care of. Not someone who should be looked at as a problems or way to get more money. These individuals have families and loved one. They are not just an item that you can do with what you please. Many cases of elder abuse go unreported because of fear. The studies need more information so that the awareness of elder abuse can be documented better. Please if you see or hear abuse report it. If there is a suspicion of abuse tell someone. Help the individuals that are

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going through the abuse. Think of it as if it were your family or friend. Don't just turn and think someone else will do something. You can make a difference. Don't wait it might be too late if you wait. Save a life. Report what you see and hear. Help the older loved ones.



Lesson Learned

There are many things that can be learned in writing this paper. The first thing learned with this paper is that the research on elder abuse is very complicated. There are many obstacles that must be taken into consideration when trying to conduct the research. Another thing learned in this paper is that there is not one definition for elder abuse. Many different words are used to define elder abuse. Individuals need to be taught that there are many different signs to look for when detecting or looking for abuse. A great deal of abuse happens in a long-term care setting as well as in the home where elders live. There are many reasons that abuse happens to elders.

Conclusion

There is a great deal of information that was found for this paper. In the first half of the paper there is a great deal of statistic's about elder abuse. Such as 1 in 14 cases are reported. That leaves a great number of abuse cases that are not being reported. There are laws in every state regarding abuse. No one state has the same laws regarding abuse though. Each state also defines abuse in different ways. The laws also have the procedure on how to report cases of abuse. The procedures must be followed when reporting cases of abuse.

There are many signs to watch for when looking at abuse. Does the elder have burses, memory loss, broken bones, or any other physical injuries that may have been inflicted. Is the elder quite when around one certain person, do they constantly say they are sorry. These are all signs that should be red flags when dealing with elder abuse.

If you fear that someone is in immediate danger you should call 9-1-1 right away. If they are not in immediate danger than tell someone what you see and think is happening, talk to the family, call the support numbers for that state, and report the abuse to the authorities. You may be able to make a difference in the elder's life. You may even save their life by reporting the abuse. Be the one to make a difference.

Important number for abuse

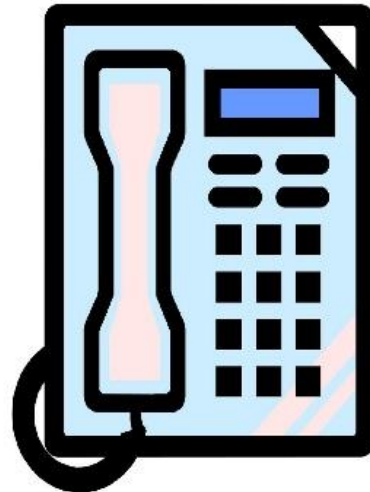
Elder Abuse

A hidden epidemic

By Paul Shipp
KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES

Important Phone Numbers

- **1-800-922-5330** is the Statewide Hotline and accepts reports 24 hrs a day.
- You can FAX written reports directly to the Statewide Hotline at **785-296-0470**.
- When appropriate a report should be made to a local law enforcement agency (THE POLICE).



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