

We'll begin shortly. While you wait...

### *Abuse in later life: an Advocate's Response*

Presented by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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Wednesday, May 18, 2016

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### ABUSE IN LATER LIFE: AN ADVOCATE'S RESPONSE

Praxis International - Rural Violence Against Women  
Wednesday, May 18, 2016

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### OVW Abuse in Later Life Program



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### OVW Abuse in Later Life Program

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- 9 communities a year
- \$400,000 for 3 years
- Projects
  - Provide training and cross training
  - Create or enhance a CCR team
  - Develop victim services

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## Required MOU Partners

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- Law enforcement
- Prosecutors' office
- Adult protective services/aging network
- Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services

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## OVW Abuse in Later Life Program Grantees



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## Why Focus on Older Victims?



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10,000 Americans turn 65 every day.

Alpert, J., Kimmelman, M. A., Brinkman, J. H., Bennett, S. E., Stone, C., Mory, W. J., & Kimmelman, J. J. (2008).

Older women comprise more than half (55.8%) of the adult population age 65 and older.

United States Census Bureau. (2012).

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Racial and ethnic minority populations have increased from 5.7 million in 2000 (16.3% of the elderly population) to 8.5 million in 2011 (21% of the elderly).

They are projected to increase to 20.2 million in 2030 (28% of the elderly).

[http://www.aarp.org/aging\\_statistics/Pages/2012/05/20120501.aspx](http://www.aarp.org/aging_statistics/Pages/2012/05/20120501.aspx)



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1 in 10 community-residing older adults reported experiencing elder abuse in the past year.

Kimura et al. (2005).



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About 2/3 of elder abuse victims are women.

Division of Elder Abuse, Inc. 800 Grand Medical Center of Grand Rapids, 1000 1st St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



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## Abuse in Later Life



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## Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Neglect
- Abandonment

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## Perpetrators

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- Intimate partners
- Adult children, grandchildren, other family
- Caregiver

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Studies have consistently shown that the majority of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators.

Isari et al., 2003



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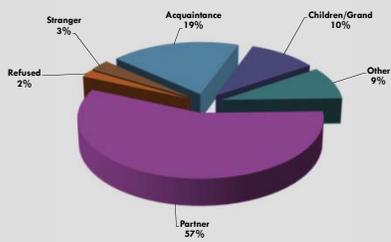
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## Perpetrators of Most Recent Physical Mistreatment Event



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Ron Acierno, et al. 2009 National Elder Mistreatment Study

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## Abuse in Later Life Power and Control Wheel



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Wheel adapted with permission from Domestic Abuse Intervention Project P & C Wheel, Duluth, MN. (2006)

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## Barriers with Traditional DV/SA Services

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- No training on aging and the special needs of older people
- First contact requirements
- IPV only services
- Off site visits
- Length of stay
- Victim medical needs
- Outreach methods

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## Working with Older Survivors




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## Survivor Centered

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- Understand generational influences/history
- Respect cultural and generational differences
- Recognize and respect relationship with offender
- Understand historical & lifetime trauma
- Clearly understand impact of trauma
- Slow down

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## Advocacy Services

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- Aging network
- Mandatory reporting & APS
- Guardianship & POA's
- Dementia and other cognitive issues

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## Outreach



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25 Collaboration

"...two or more people working together to achieve the same thing"  
- Cambridge Dictionaries Online



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Informal Methods of Collaboration

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- Joint interviews
- Warm referrals & follow-up
- Sharing knowledge and resource information between agencies
- Working on a project, fundraiser, or public awareness campaign together

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Formal Methods of Collaboration

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- Multi-disciplinary case review teams (MDT)
- Community Coordinated Response: often focused on Systems Change (CCR)
- Topic specific Teams
  - Fatality review teams
  - Financial Abuse Specialize Teams (FAST)

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## Benefits of Collaboration

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- Victim safety & comfort
- More resources for victims
- Better understanding of agencies roles and services
- New ideas about how to approach a case
- Shared ownership and responsibility for case outcomes
- Less "finger pointing"

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## Challenges in Collaboration

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- Abuse vs caregiver stress
- Understanding of safety planning
- Mandatory reporting
- Understanding of confidentiality
- Wanting advocate to speak for victim
- Lack of knowledge about VAWA protections

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## Opportunities for Collaboration

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- Cross training
- Victim safety planning with victim and possibly family members
- Long term support
- Support groups for older victims
- Health needs of victim/perpetrator
- Emergency and transitional housing

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## Importance of Dual Response

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### Well Elderly

- DV Programs address victims safety and advocacy
- Aging Network and Elder Abuse addresses elder care needs

### Victims Who Have Competency Issues

- DV/SA Programs can provide information and support to caring family members
- Aging Network and Elder Abuse Services can focus on complex needs and services for victim

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## Know the Basics

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### DV/SA Programs

- Empowerment philosophy
- Long term support
- Peer support
- Confidential services
- Unique services

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## Aging Network

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- Adult protective services/elder abuse agencies investigate allegations of abuse/neglect
- State and Area Agencies on Aging Services provide transportation, chore services, respite care, and many other services
- Ombudsmen are advocates for residents of institutional facilities. Every state is required to have an Ombudsman Program.

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### Engage, Motivate and Coordinate ...

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- What can you do to address abuse in later life?
  - What changes might you make within your agency?
  - What additional agencies will you reach out to?

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### Advocates Providing Leadership

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- Collaboration
- Outside the "system"
- Lethality and safety
- Long term support
- Empowerment & inclusion
- Survivors voices

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### Resources Available

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- Resource List that includes electronic links to Abuse in Later Life Resources
- NCALL website: [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)

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37 Final Questions



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Contact Information 

Ann Turner  
Elder Victim Services & Advocacy Coordinator  
National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL),  
a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin  
[aturner@ncall.us](mailto:aturner@ncall.us)  
715-483-2521  
[www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)

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