

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



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



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

Required MOU Partners

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

OVW Abuse in Later Life Program Grantees



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Why Focus on Older Victims?





10,000 Americans turn 65 every day.

Alzheimer's Association, 2015; Brookings, 2014; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015; Census, 2015

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

United States Census Bureau, 2015

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_demographics/Pages/2012/05/2012-05-01.aspx



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

Kauffman et al., 2015



About 2/3 of elder abuse victims are women.

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



Abuse in Later Life



Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Neglect
- Abandonment

Perpetrators

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

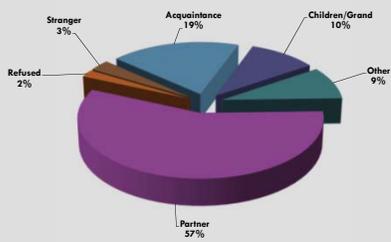
Studies have consistently shown that the majority of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators.

Isler et al., 2003



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Perpetrators of Most Recent Physical Mistreatment Event



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Ron Acierno, et al. 2009 National Elder Mistreatment Study

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)

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



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

Advocacy Services

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

Outreach



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



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

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)

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"

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

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

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

Know the Basics

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DV/SA Programs

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

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.

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?

Advocates Providing Leadership

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

Resources Available

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- Resource List that includes electronic links to Abuse in Later Life Resources
- NCALL website: www.ncall.us

37 Final Questions



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