Lessons Learned From Research About Elder Abuse and Directions for the Future

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Keynote Presentation

SPRiNG Alliance Symposium at Cedar Village Retirement Community
Mason, Ohio
June 11, 2011
How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all of these.

- George Washington Carver
IN THE FIRST PLACE:
Why Conduct Research on Elder Abuse, Elder Mistreatment, or Elder Maltreatment?

- The microsystem argument
- The mesosystem argument
- The exosystem argument
- The macrosystem argument
Microsystem: Meet Annie...
Meet Anime's Family...
Meet Adult Protective Services

In 2004, with 32 states responding, APS received a total of 253,426 reports of elder abuse on persons aged 60+, and by inference, 381,430 reports across the country.

Ten years earlier, this number was 293,000. This indicates that reports of elder abuse have risen approximately 30% in the last decade.

In Ohio, in 2004, over 12,000 reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
Meet the big issues: Macrosystem
What the Research Tells Us About Prevalence of Elder Abuse


Adult Protective Services

What the Research Tells Us About Protection Services

Adult Protective Services

Examination of Early Abuse: A Week in the Life of Wernagero et al. (in press). An Ecological Systems TEAM. 
Teaster et al. (2006). Abuse of adults age 60+

Lachs et al. (2002). Adult Protective Services use.
Adults 60+
National Sources of Complaints

- Family Members
- Soc. Services
- Friends/Neighbors
- Self
- L-T Care Facility Staff
- Law Enforcement
- Nurses/Nurses' Aides
- Home Health Staff
- Physicians
Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim 60+ (Substantiated Cases*)
What the Research Tells Us About Multidisciplinary Teams


Navarro et al. (2013). Holding abusers accountable
Financial Exploitation
What the Research Tells Us About

Jackson and Hartemester (2012): Pure Financial

America's elders. Occasion, desperation and predation against

Metlife study of elder financial abuse: Crimes of

Metlife Mature Market Institute (2011): The

Trust: Elders, Family, and Finances.

What the Research Tells Us About Outcomes


About
What the Research Tells Us...
What the Research Tells Us About Elder Shelters


Reingold. (2006). An elder abuse shelter program: Build it and they will come, a long term care based program to address elder abuse in the community.

• Outreach
• Services
• Types of Abuse
• Perpetrators
• Victims

That Helps You
What the Research Tells Us
Identifying Areas of Inquiry

How to identify
To whom to listen
How to fund
Whose priorities prevail
What is the ability to flex with the priorities of others?
SPRING ALLIANCE

Abuse

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

The National Adult Protective Services Association

Neglect

Abuse (including The Journal of Elder Abuse and

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

The National Center on Elder Abuse

Resources
Elder Abuse
Can Happen to Anyone...

"To those seniors and especially elderly veterans like myself, I want to tell you this: You are not alone and you have nothing to be ashamed of. If elder abuse happened to me, it can happen to anyone."

Mickey Rooney
Testimony to Senate Special Committee on Aging
March 2, 2011
Hubert Humphrey

need, and the handicapped, those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, those who are in the twilight of life, the aged, those who are in the dawn of life, the children.

The moral test of government is how it treats...
Go Forth and Do Well.  
Go Forth and Do Good.  
But Go Forth.  

Prevent and Intervene When Presented with Elder Abuse!
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Meet Annie's Family...
Exosystem: Meet Adult Protective Services

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What the Research Tells Us About Prevalence of Elder Abuse


Adult Protective Services

Examination of Elder Abuse: A Week in the Life of

Wangmo et al. (in press). An Ecological Systems

Teaster et al. (2006). Abuse of adults age 60+

and nursing home placement.

Lachs et al. (2002). Adult protective service use

What the Research Tells Us About

Adult Protective Services
Adults 60+
National Sources of Complaints

- Family Members
- Soc. Services
- Friends/Neighbors
- Self
- L-T Care Facility Staff
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America’s elders.

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Mettle study of elder financial abuse: Crimes of

Mettle Market Institute (2011). The

trust: Elders, family, and finances.

Mettle Market Institute (2009). Broken
What the Research Tells Us About Outcomes


• Outreach
• Services
• Types of Abuse
• Perpetrators
• Victims

That Helps You
What the Research Tells Us
Identifying Areas of Inquiry

How to identify
To whom to listen
How to fund
Whose priorities prevail
What is the ability to flex with the priorities of others?
• Faith communities
• Theorizing elder mistreatment
• Application of disciplinary models
• Broad societal causes
• Linkages with biology (societal)

Inquiry

Identifying needed areas of

for autonomy, victims and perpetrators,

Costs of mistreatment (e.g., health, respect

Outcomes (e.g., elder shelters)
The importance of practitioners and researchers working together

- Identification of vexing issues
- Access to data and its interpretation
- Neutral assessment and evaluation
- Guidance
- An evidence base to support action
- Interpretation
- Testing what works and what does not
Elder Abuse Can Happen to Anyone...

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those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the
those who are in the twilight of life, the aged,
those who are in the twilight of life, the aged,
those who are in the dawn of life, the children,
those who are in the dawn of life, the children,
The moral test of government is how it treats
Go Forth and Do Well. Go Forth and Do Good. But Go Forth. Prevent and Intervene When Presented with Elder Abuse!