

Elder Abuse Risk Factors Podcast

*Put the risk factors to use!
Learn them and prevent abuse.*

Georgia Anetzberger, PhD,
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Carol Dayton, MSW,
ACSW, LISW



interviewed by Mary Twomey, MSW



Presented by

- National Center on Elder Abuse
- National Adult Protective Services Association
- National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse



Podcast Speakers



- ◆ **Georgia J. Anetzberger, PhD, ACSW, LISW**, is President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. She is the immediate Past-Editor of the *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. She also is a consultant in private practice, Lecturer in the Health Care Administration Program at Cleveland State University, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, and Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America.

Podcast Speakers



- ◆ **Carol Dayton, MSW, ACSW, Licensed Independent Social Worker**, began her career at the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging in Cleveland Ohio with a joint appointment to the research department and the casework department over 40 years ago. Her commitment to find bridges between research and practice has been a theme as her work has continued in aging, including serving currently as the Co-Chair of the joint Research Committee of the National Association of Adult Protective Services and the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. Prior to retiring in 2005, Carol was the Chief of Adult Protective Services for the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services

Podcast Moderator



◆ Moderator: Mary Twomey, MSW

- ◆ Co-Director of the NCEA
- ◆ Co-Director of the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine



Importance of Risk Factors

- ◆ Risk factors help explain the occurrence of elder abuse
- ◆ Goal is to prevent elder abuse by identifying and reducing risk factors while increasing protective factors
- ◆ Critical for communities and elders themselves to be knowledgeable of risk factors
 - ◆ Despite the major role of identifying risk factors in preventing elder abuse, most elder abuse studies still focus on prevalence and incidence



Types of Elder Abuse Risk Factors

- ◆ Elder abuse is complex and risk factors vary among forms of elder abuse, setting of abuse, and relationship between victim and perpetrator
- ◆ Selected studies examining elder abuse risk factors:
 - ◆ National Elder Mistreatment Study (Acierno, 2010)
 - ◆ Nursing Home Abuse Risk Prevention Profile and Checklist (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2005)
 - ◆ Screening for Abuse and Neglect of People with Dementia (Wiglesworth, 2010)
 - ◆ "Under the Radar" Study (Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc., 2011)

Forms of Elder Abuse and Risk Factors



- ◆ **Emotional:** Low social support, physical dependence, prior traumatic experiences
- ◆ **Physical:** substance abuse, mental illness, social isolation, and unemployment of perpetrator. Low social support of victim
- ◆ **Sexual:** low social support, prior traumatic events
- ◆ **Neglect:** low income, poor health, inadequate social support
- ◆ **Financial:** physical disability



Setting Risk Factors—Facility

- ◆ Care Facility Risk Factors:
 - ◆ No abuse prevention policies
 - ◆ Inadequate staff training and screening
 - ◆ High staff turnover
 - ◆ History of complaints
 - ◆ Resident overcrowding



Setting Risk Factors—Resident



- Facility Resident Risk Factors:
 - Unmet needs
 - No visitors
 - Physical dependency
 - Cognitive impairment



Risk Factors For Victims and Perpetrators

◆ Victims

- ◆ Dementia, problem behaviors (physical assault and psychological aggression), and physical impairment

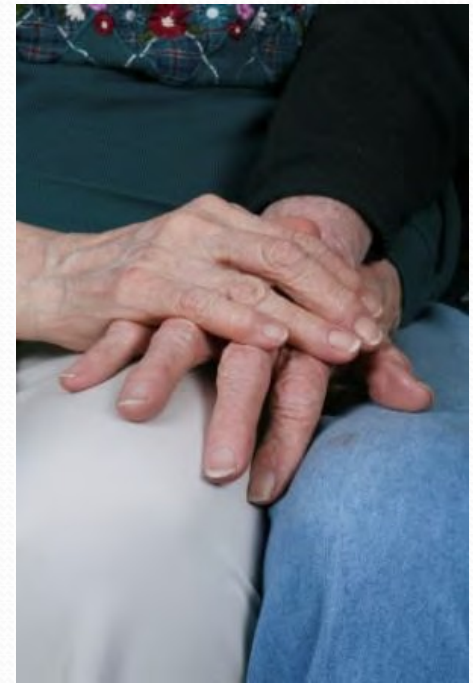
◆ Perpetrators

- ◆ Psychiatric institutionalization, diagnosis of mental illness, substance abuse, hostile disposition, financial or housing dependence on victim



Concerns for the Future

- ◆ Rehabilitative programs for both victims and perpetrators are needed
- ◆ Severe lack of funding at the federal, state, and local levels (ex. lack of appropriations for Elder Justice Act)
- ◆ Older Americans Act needs to be reauthorized
- ◆ Need for increased communication with the middle-aged to understand the process and risks of aging



Thanks for listening

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Georgia Anetzberger, PhD, ACSW, LISW and Carol Dayton, MSW, ACSW, LISW interviewed by Mary Twomey, MSW

Powerpoint creator: Jimmy Diaz, UC Irvine Social Ecology Intern
Engineers: Alisha Chan, BA and Elaine Chen, MS



Additional Resources

- ◆ Check out our other Elder Abuse Research podcasts on YouTube and iTunes University at UC Irvine!
 - ◆ Evaluating Research Studies (with Mark Lachs, MD, MPH)
 - ◆ Elder Abuse Incident and Prevalence (with Mark Lachs, MD, MPH)
 - ◆ Emotional Memory in People with Dementia (with Aileen Wiglesworth, PhD)
- ◆ Visit our website for additional Webinars and Podcasts
www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Webinar/index.aspx



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National Center On Elder Abuse (NCEA)

- ◆ Directed by US Administration on Aging
- ◆ Helps ensure that elders and adults with disabilities live with dignity and without abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- ◆ Based at UC Irvine's Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse And Neglect in the Program in Geriatrics
- ◆ A resource for education, research, and promising practices in stopping abuse
- ◆ www.ncea.aoa.gov



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Elder Abuse Risk Factors: Part One

(22 min) When we talk about “risk factors of elder abuse,” what do we mean? Why is it important to understand risk factors? What are the key research findings on risk factors, and which are most predictive of abuse?

Elder Abuse Risk Factors: Part Two

(16 min) What key points should workers in the field keep in mind about elder abuse risk factors and protective factors? Which areas related to risk factors most urgently need to be studied next? What are some policy implications of what we know about elder abuse risk factors?



www.napsa-now.org



www.preventelderabuse.org

www.ncea.aoa.gov

