



Elder Abuse Incidence and Prevalence Research

Elder Abuse Research For
Non-Researchers: Part 2 of 2

2012



Special Guest:
Mark S. Lachs,
MD, MPH

Podcast Sponsor



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, Program in Geriatrics

A resource for education, research, and promising practices in stopping abuse

Podcast Speakers

Moderator: Mary Twomey, MSW

Co-Director of the NCEA

- Co-Director of the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine
- **Guest Speaker: Dr. Mark Lachs**
- Geriatrician and Researcher at Weill Cornell Medical College, NY
- Director of New York City Elder Abuse Center



Difference Between Incidence And Prevalence

Incidence

- Number of people in a given population who experience a problem over a specified period of time (e.g. one year)

• Prevalence

- Number of people who have had a specific experience over the course of their lifetime

Everyone who is incident is prevalent

Why Is Incidence And Prevalence Hard To Specify?

Statistical reasons

- Elder abuse is typically ongoing
- Difficult to know when the event was experienced
- Uniqueness of elder abuse
 - Practical difficulties
 - High degree of cognitive impairment

Patients can't convey mistreatment experience

Why Is Incidence And Prevalence Hard To Specify?

Research in elder abuse difficult

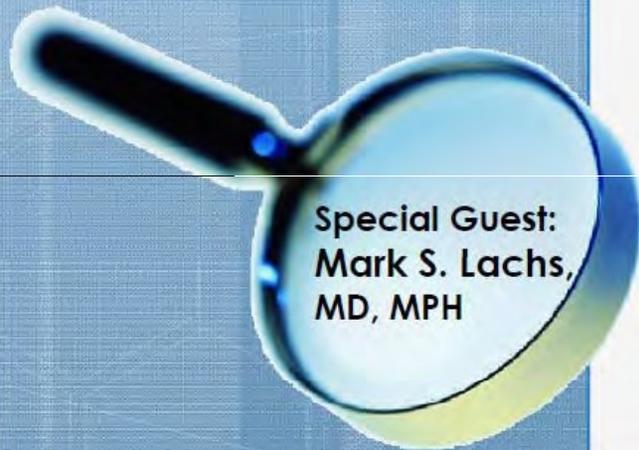
- Incidence/prevalence studies underestimate frequency
- Studies can exclude cognitively impaired
- Underreporting of elder abuse a problem
 - Isolation of elders a risk factor
 - System can involve only victim and abuser
Limited opportunity to detect mistreatment

Why Is Incidence and Prevalence Important?

Helps us to understand magnitude of the problem

- Understand global mistreatment
- What kinds of mistreatment are escalating?
 - E.g. find that financial exploitation is most common
 - Can apply limited resources accordingly

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- Tips For Evaluating Research Studies
- Understanding Incidence vs. Prevalence
- Challenges and Future Directions in Elder Abuse Research

2012

Music: "1234" performed by Feist

Learn About Recent Incidence and Prevalence Studies

"Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study Final Report"

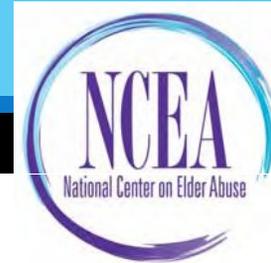
<http://www.lifespan-roch.org/documents/UndertheRadar051211.pdf>

- Summary of Findings from New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study--by Anne Marie Cook, Lifespan of Greater Rochester

http://nymuniblog.com/?page_id=952

- "Extent of Elder Abuse Victimization" summary of National Elder Mistreatment Study funded by the National Institute of Justice

<http://www.nij.gov/nij/topics/crime/elder-abuse/extent.htm>



Learn More And Get Involved

Visit NCEA at www.ncea.aoa.gov for:

Elder abuse research

- Downloading education and public awareness tools
- Getting involved and making your voice heard!
- Mark Lachs, M.D. at Weill Cornell Medical College
<http://www.med.cornell.edu/research/mlachs/biography.html>
- Visit Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine, Program in Geriatrics at www.centeronelderabuse.org