



Elder Abuse Bytes, April 2013

The newsletter of the National Center on Elder Abuse



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INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE WORKSHOP: Elder Abuse and its

Prevention – Violence and related forms of abuse against elders is a global public health and human rights problem with far-reaching consequences, resulting in increased death, disability, and exploitation with collateral effects on well-being. Data suggest that at least 10 percent of elders in the United States are victims of elder maltreatment every year. In addition, elders experiencing risk factors such as diminishing cognitive function, caregiver dependence, and social isolation are more vulnerable to maltreatment and underreporting. As the world population of adults aged

65 and older continues to grow, the implications of elder maltreatment for health care, social welfare, justice, and financial systems are great. However, despite the magnitude of global elder maltreatment, it has been an underappreciated public health problem.

The **IOM** will host a 2-day public workshop on global elder abuse and its prevention. Using an ecological framework, this workshop will explore the burden of elder abuse around the world, focusing on its impacts on individuals, families, communities, and societies. Additionally, the workshop will address occurrences and co-occurrences of different types of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and financial, as well as neglect. The ultimate objective is to illuminate promising global and multisectoral evidence-based approaches to the prevention of elder maltreatment.

Logistics: April 17-18, 2013 at the Keck Center in Washington, D.C. One can attend in person or via webinar. For more information:

<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Global/ViolenceForum/2013-APR-17.aspx>

RESOURCE: National Victim Assistance Academy Resource Paper: Elder Abuse

This Resource Paper is part of a series of **National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA)** Track 1: Foundation-Level Training documents. Following a presentation of statistics on the nature and prevalence of abuse of the elderly, this paper defines terms associated with elder abuse, addresses the unique impact/effect of abuse on elderly individuals, and considers perpetrator characteristics, victimization locations, and effective responses for victim support and advocacy.

https://www.ovcttac.gov/downloads/views/TrainingMaterials/NVAA/Documents_NVAA2011/ResourcePapers/Color_Elder%20Abuse%20Resource%20Paper_2012_final%20-%20508c_9_13_2012.pdf

OVC Training Series

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Publications.aspx?SeriesID=41>

TECHNOLOGY: 368+ Smart Phone App

368+ Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Guide is available for Droid devices, iPhone, iPad and mobile web! Designed for California law enforcement, the app includes an easy-to-reference summary of Elder and Dependent Adult Penal Code 368 and other common crimes that can be used in conjunction with a PC 368 arrest. Other first responders may also be interested in the Warning Signs of Abuse and Neglect, as well as Agency Contacts for cross-reporting and providing assistance to the victim. This app is brought to you by a partnership between the [Institute on Aging](#) in San Francisco and

the [Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect](http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/368ElderAbuseCA.asp) at UC Irvine. For a limited time, this app is available free of charge, thanks to supporters like The Archstone Foundation and UniHealth Foundation. To download your free app or to learn more, visit <http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/368ElderAbuseCA.asp>

GUARDIANSHIP: Third National Guardianship Summit

The **National Guardianship Network** is pleased to announce that proceedings of the 2011 Third National Guardianship Summit are now available in a special issue of the *Utah Law Review*. Visit the page below to find all of the background papers commissioned for the Summit as well as the official Summit Standards and Recommendations View and download:

<http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/ulr/issue/current>

LEGISLATION: ABA Guardianship Legislative Update

The **American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging** has posted its 2012 State Adult Guardianship Legislative Update, showing that a total of 23 states passed a total of 31 adult guardianship bills during the year – as compared with 24 states and 35 bills passed in 2011. Michigan enacted a significant measure strengthening rights and promoting limited orders; and six states passed the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act. For the full report:

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_aging/resources/guardianship_law_practice

CENSUS: Alzheimer's Burden and Mortality Increases Worldwide

According to The Lancet's 2010 Global Burden of Disease (GBD 2010) report, the leading causes of death and disability around the world have shifted from infectious diseases to non-communicable diseases, such as Alzheimer's and dementia. This report is the largest systematic effort to describe global burden of disease, injury, and health risk factors. Specifically, the GBD 2010 shows that global mortality due to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias rose by 244 percent between 1990 and 2010. Only deaths from HIV/AIDS and natural disasters rose at a higher rate during the same period. *This point is especially salient for readers of [EA Bytes](#), since research shows that 47% of adults with dementia experience abuse by their caregivers.*

Click here for the Global Burden of Disease Report:

<http://www.thelancet.com/themed/global-burden-of-disease>

View the NCEA's Fact Sheet on Abuse of People with Dementia

http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/Dementia_ResearchBrief_web508.pdf

TRAINING: Assessment of Capacity of Older Adults

The **Rush University Medical Center** and the **ABA Commission on Law and Aging** have released an interactive educational curriculum on assessing the capacity of older adults, funded by The Retirement Research Foundation. The course is aimed at physicians but is valuable and useful as well for other health care clinicians and students.

The curriculum features six modules – the importance of evaluating patients' capacities; key principles and practices; the evaluation process and content; specific capacities and situation; when to conduct an evaluation yourself and when to refer, and working with courts in guardianship proceedings. The curriculum also includes videos, a pocket reference card, a glossary, and a resource list, and is downloadable. Being able to assess capacity can play a vital role in preventing and accurately evaluating cases of elder and dependent adult abuse.

The course will be open starting March 18, 2013. For more information, contact Michelle Hochwert at 312-942-0417 or at Decisional_Capacity@rush.edu. See www.rush.edu/decisionalcapacity.

REPORT: Crime against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2011

Harrell, E. (2012). *Crime against persons with disabilities, 2009-2011 – statistical tables* (NCJ 240299). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

This report presents estimates of nonfatal violent victimization against persons age 12 and older with disabilities. Nonfatal violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Findings are based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) from 2009 to 2011. In 2011, the average annual age-adjusted rate of serious violent victimization for persons with disabilities (22 per 1,000) was more than three times higher than that for persons without disabilities (6 per 1,000). <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0911st.pdf>

MEDICATION ABUSE: Researchers find off-label use of antipsychotics remains common

Despite many high-profile tragedies, The Journal of the American Medical Association has published a research letter saying that *more than one-fifth of U.S. nursing home residents take at least one antipsychotic medication, often prescribed for off-label use.* Researchers from the University of Massachusetts – Worcester found that nursing homes in central southern states such as Tennessee and Arkansas were most likely to prescribe antipsychotics, while those in western states were least likely. In July 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services set a goal of reducing antipsychotic use in nursing homes by 15% by the end of 2012. The American Health Care Association, the nation's largest nursing home group, also adopted that goal.

http://www.mcknights.com/off-label-use-of-antipsychotics-remains-a-common-part-of-long-term-care-researchers-show/article/279423/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly

TOOLKIT: Preventing the Misuse of Psychotropic Medications

Prepared by the **Consumer Voice for Quality Long-term Care**, a sub-grantee of the National Center on Elder Abuse, this toolkit contains take-away resources for consumers, family members and advocates detailing the problem of misuse of antipsychotic medications; how to recognize symptoms; the rights of residents under federal and state nursing home laws; and what consumers, family members and advocates can do to combat this problem.

<http://issuu.com/consumervoice/docs/toolkit/16>

HOARDING: The Transition from a Private Matter to the Public Sector

The **National Adult Protective Services Resource Center**, in conjunction with the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, is pleased to release a new Research to Practice (R2P) Brief, titled “Hoarding Cases Involving Older Adults: The Transition From a Private Matter to the Public Sector.” The topic study found that sixty-nine percent of hoarding adults between age 60 and 95 were either widowed, divorced, or had never married. Fifty percent lived with a spouse, partner, or relative, and 60% were socially isolated. The R2P series links cutting-edge research with everyday practice in adult protective services. This, and other Research to Practice briefs are available here:

<http://www.napsa-now.org/resource-center/research/putting-research-into-practice/>

RESEARCH: Developing an Actuarial Risk Assessment to Inform Decisions Made by APS

The **National Institute of Justice** sponsored this New Hampshire study to determine whether an actuarial risk assessment could be developed for use by Adult Protective Services (APS) workers. The aim of the assessment would be to provide APS agencies and personnel with a simple, objective, and reliable instrument to help workers identify high-risk clients and prioritize them for service intervention at the close of an investigation. Similar assessments have been developed for and successfully used by child protection and corrections agencies. View the abstract here:

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=262490>

COURT CASES: Inappropriate touching led to reasonable Immediate Jeopardy citation

A federal appeals court recently upheld Immediate Jeopardy penalties against a North Carolina skilled nursing facility that it agreed did not respond adequately to a resident's inappropriate touching of other residents and staff. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determined the response from Libertywood created Immediate Jeopardy for other residents, and fined the SNF more than \$270,000. CMS levied additional fines of \$100 for each day until the facility's compliance could be confirmed.

Read the full article here:

http://www.mcknights.com/inappropriate-touching-led-to-reasonable-immediate-jeopardy-citation-court-finds/article/283660/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly#

AWARENESS: April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Preventing and Responding to Domestic & Sexual Violence in Later Life: This [special collection](#) brings together selected materials related to preventing and responding to elder abuse, specifically domestic and sexual violence. In doing so, it draws from the work of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and other organizations. By focusing specifically on domestic and sexual violence (DV/SV) in later life, this special collection highlights the complexities of older people's DV/SV experiences and emphasizes collaborative and multi-pronged approaches to addressing DV/SV in later life.

TRAINING: E-Learning Course on Responding to Physical Elder Abuse and Neglect

The **Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect at UC Irvine**, and the **Academy for Professional Excellence at San Diego State University** are proud to present a 2-hour self-paced e-learning course on Physical Elder Abuse and Neglect. Over 13,000 people took the course during its pilot and the comments were overwhelmingly positive. It is now available for free in California, with support from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Project MASTER at the Academy for Professional Excellence is geared toward APS workers and the Multi-Disciplinary Team colleagues. This e-learning would also be of interest to other professionals involved in detection and documentation of elder abuse and neglect.

Find out how to register here:

http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/docs/PhysicalAbuseeLearning_Flyer2013.doc

LEGISLATION: Elder Abuse Issue Brief

The Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect at UC Irvine has created a 2013 Elder Abuse Issue Brief written to educate legislators about elder abuse, related policy recommendations and proposed legislation. The Elder Abuse Issue Brief is free to download, and the center encourages California professionals to share with others to educate them about elder abuse policy issues. We hope that this brief may serve as a template for other states.

Read the full brief here:

http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/docs/COE_IssueBrief2013_final.pdf

FOR UPCOMING ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCES/TRAINING EVENTS

Please visit: <http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Calendar/index.aspx>

Quote of the quarter:

“And yet. One must wager on the future. To save the life of a single child, no effort is superfluous. To make a tired old man smile is to perform an essential task. To defeat injustice and misfortune, if only for one instant, for a single victim, is to invent a new reason to hope.”

Elie Wiesel: [And the Sea Is Never Full: Memoirs](#)

To submit an item for Elder Abuse Bytes, please write to
centeronelderabuse@uci.edu.

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