



Elder Abuse Bytes

August, 2012

**The newsletter of the National Center on Elder Abuse**



### **RESEARCH: USC Study Examines Abuse of Low-Income Latino Elders**

A recent study by researchers at the University of Southern California Davis School of Gerontology studied elder abuse in low-income Latino communities. The study found that more than 40 percent of Latino elders had suffered some form of abuse, but only 1.5 percent of victims said they had ever reported abuse to authorities. With limited English proficiency, ethnically segregated neighborhoods and cultural traditions that include reluctance to discuss problems outside the family, Latino elders are often overlooked in aging research, despite making up 6.7 percent of the U.S. population aged 65 and older. Across all demographic groups, more than 5 million cases of elder abuse are estimated to occur annually in the United States.

Read more:

<http://news.usc.edu/#!/article/37867/usc-study-examines-abuse-of-low-income-latino-elders/>

## **NCEA WEBINAR SERIES: Elder Abuse in Diverse Communities.**

The National Center on Elder Abuse has launched a series of webinars on “Elder Abuse in Diverse Communities.” The first installment in the series was presented by Dr. Ailee Moon from UCLA on August 15 and covered “Elder Abuse in the Asian-Pacific Islander (API) Community.” Dr. Moon used her expertise as a researcher in gerontology to comment on the unique challenges elder abuse imposes on the API Community. To hear the recording, visit the [NCEA You Tube account](#). Upcoming webinars will cover the topic of elder abuse in Latino/a, African American, Indigenous Peoples and the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities. The next in the series will focus on elder abuse in the Latino/a community and will be presented by Dr. Alejandro Garcia from Syracuse University in New York. A date has been set for November 2012. Notices about the webinars will be sent to the NCEA listserv. For the direct link to the Elder Abuse in the Asian-Pacific Islander Community webinar: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlj6IQTqOR0&list=PLFB92CF63F60BB14B&index=3&feature=plpp\\_video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlj6IQTqOR0&list=PLFB92CF63F60BB14B&index=3&feature=plpp_video)

## **RESEARCH: Loneliness accelerates aging and can be lethal for seniors, according to studies by Cornell and UCSF**

Social isolation has been identified as a risk factor for elder abuse. New research from around the country has been conducted on the effects of loneliness on seniors. A new study at Cornell University published by *Psychology and Aging* has shown that the social pain of loneliness produces changes in the body that mimic the aging process and increase the risk of heart disease. Loneliness was also shown to accelerate the process of the change in heart function that occurs with normal aging. The study concluded that the persistence of loneliness over time may set the stage for health problems in later life. According to a second study by the University of California in San Francisco, loneliness in seniors can be deadly. In a study of 1,600 seniors, doctors found that people who reported being lonely were more likely to suffer a decline in health or die over a six-year period than those who were content with their social lives. “The biggest things I hear from my adult patients is, ‘I don’t want to bother anyone,’” says Stanford geriatrist Dr. VJ Periyakoil. This is a valuable reminder of the human need for meaningful social connections.

Read more on the Cornell study:

<http://seniorhousingnews.com/2012/06/11/lonely-hearts-club-study-finds-aging-process-accelerated-by-loneliness/>

Loneliness accentuates age differences in cardiovascular responses to social evaluative threat. Ong, Anthony D.; Rothstein, Jeremy D.; Uchino, Bert N. *Psychology and Aging*, Vol 27(1), Mar 2012, 190-198. doi: [10.1037/a0025570](https://doi.org/10.1037/a0025570)

<http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/pag/27/1/190/>

Read more on the UCSF study:

<http://www.sfgate.com/health/article/Loneliness-lethal-for-seniors-UCSF-study-says-3643188.php>

Loneliness in Older Persons: A Predictor of Functional Decline and Death

Carla M. Perissinotto, MD, MHS; Irena Stijacic Cenzer, MA; Kenneth E. Covinsky, MD, MPH  
*Arch Intern Med.* 2012;172(14):1078-1084. doi:10.1001/archinternmed.2012.1993

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1188033>

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Washington, D.C.**

Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, officially recognized the growing senior population, as well as the desperate need for funding and services to ensure that seniors receive proper care and do not fall victim to the common problem of elder abuse. On June 14, she announced the creation of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council which brings together departments across government, like the Department of Justice and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to make sure elder abuse remains a priority at the federal level. Sebelius also announced a \$5.5 million initial investment under the Affordable Care Act, to be made available to organizations testing innovative elder abuse prevention programs.

Read her full announcement here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/speeches/sp20120614.html>

This year, the White House hosted a day-long symposium on elder abuse, attended by elder abuse experts from all over the country, including the co-directors of the National Center on Elder Abuse. Also in attendance were the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, and the Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee. All of our rabble-raising finally managed to get us some attention from the President of the United States! This year, he issued an official proclamation recognizing June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Read his own words here:

[http://centeronelderabuse.org/docs/WEAAD\\_Proclamation.pdf](http://centeronelderabuse.org/docs/WEAAD_Proclamation.pdf)

**Around the country...**

We cannot ignore the tremendous efforts made by those around the country on the local level. Thank you for sending us pictures of your WEAAD events. We're so proud of the elder justice

movement! View the full album here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.388348651223958.87263.233041530088005&typ e=3>

<http://pinterest.com/ncea/advocates-take-a-stand-in-the-fight-against-elder-/>

In Cyber-space...

Thanks to your continued support, the National Center on Elder Abuse has reached over 500 fans! If you haven't liked us yet, please feel free to visit our page and spread the word:

<http://www.facebook.com/NationalCenteronElderAbuse>

### **LAY FIDUCIARIES: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans is pleased to announce a new project to produce a set of concise plain language guides for "lay fiduciaries." The Bureau awarded the contract to the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging to produce a national guide, four state-specific guides, and a replication manual for other states. These user-friendly "how-to" guides will be for agents under powers of attorney, guardians, trustees, Social Security representative payees, and VA fiduciaries. They will explain what a fiduciary does and will provide guidance on record-keeping, prudent investment requirements, limitations on co-mingling funds, and other critical basics to manage a vulnerable adult's money. They will also offer advice on spotting financial exploitation and protecting assets from unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices by third parties.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau aims to publish these guides by 2013, and will make them available online and in hard copy format. For more information contact Naomi Karp at [Naomi.karp@cfpb.gov](mailto:Naomi.karp@cfpb.gov)

### **CRIME AND THE ELDERLY: Houston professor investigates trends for elderly and crime**

While the elderly represent the fastest growing segment of the population, too little is known about the nature and scope of crime impacting this generation. Victoria Titterington of Sam Houston State University is trying to change that with a series of studies that examine the elderly and crime. She has investigated homicide and the elderly in three major cities, as well as overall and spousal sex ratios of homicide offending in Texas. Titterington found that female seniors are at a greater risk for abuse than older men, and that compared to younger victims, older homicide victims are significantly more likely to be female, to be killed by family members, and to be killed in the course of a robbery or other felony.

Read more about her research here:

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-05-shsu-professor-trends-elderly-crime.html>

### **MORE CRIME STATISTICS: Violent Crime Against the Elderly Reported by Law Enforcement in Michigan, 2005-2009**

Department of Justice Statistician Erica Smith completed a comprehensive report on violent crimes against the elderly in Michigan from 2005-2009. She found that half of violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan involved serious violence - murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and kidnapping. Three out of 10 elderly victims of reported violence were victimized by their own child or grandchild, and the rate of reported violence against elderly men was 1.4 times higher than the rate for elderly women. Smith, E. (2012). *Bureau of Justice Statistics*.

Find the complete report here:

<https://ncjrs.gov/App/AbstractDB/AbstractDBDetails.aspx?id=260592>

### **RESOURCE: National Council on Aging now offers Home Equity Advisor in Spanish**

NCOA's site that helps older homeowners use and protect the equity in their homes is now available in Spanish. The site—developed by NCOA and made possible by a grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation—has all the features of the English version, including a Quick Check to give users an individualized report with information, tools, and advice.

Visit the Spanish site here:

[http://es.homeequityadvisor.org/?utm\\_source=NCOAWeek\\_120501&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=NCOAWeek](http://es.homeequityadvisor.org/?utm_source=NCOAWeek_120501&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek)

Visit the English site here:

[http://www.homeequityadvisor.org/?utm\\_source=NCOAWeek\\_120501&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=NCOAWeek](http://www.homeequityadvisor.org/?utm_source=NCOAWeek_120501&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek)

### **COMMUNITY: Federal nursing home-to-community transition program falling woefully short, researchers say**

The Money Follows the Person program, launched by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2007, was meant to transition nursing home residents out of institutional care and into their own communities. Unfortunately it is not meeting the projected transfer rates,

and many participants quickly transferred back into a nursing facility not long after moving out. "The states need the dollars to make the investment in the infrastructure, but you don't get the dollars till you move people. But you can't move people without the infrastructure. There was a chicken and egg problem," said Barbara Edwards, director of CMS' disabled and elderly health programs.

Read more:

[http://www.mcknights.com/federal-nursing-home-to-community-transition-program-falling-woefully-short-researchers-say/article/243228/?DCMP=EMC-MCK\\_Weekly](http://www.mcknights.com/federal-nursing-home-to-community-transition-program-falling-woefully-short-researchers-say/article/243228/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly)

### **NURSING HOMES: Young people in nursing homes denied basic human rights**

News of a more positive nursing home-to-community program comes to us from Australia where a recent study has found success in moving young people (under 50 years old) with disabilities out of nursing homes. The study found that moving out of nursing homes enriched the lives of people with disabilities: they went outside more often, had more opportunities to make everyday choices, had more contact and spent less time in bed. The authors claimed that the lack of access to adequate equipment and the limits on freedom of expression in nursing homes also means some young people are denied their basic human rights.

Read more:

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-07-young-people-nursing-homes-denied.html>

### **RESOURCE: CMS launches program to improve nursing homes' dementia care**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced a partnership with providers, care givers and patients aimed at improving the care and use of antipsychotic medications for patients in nursing homes. According to CMS, reducing the unnecessary use of antipsychotic drugs is a significant challenge in improving dementia care. The partnership has set an ambitious goal of reducing use of antipsychotics in nursing homes by 15 percent by the end of this year.

Learn more here:

<http://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/cms-launches-program-improve-nursing-homes-dementia-care>

### **TECHNOLOGY: New app lets users search nursing home deficiencies by keyword**

A new consumer-targeted Internet tool allows users to search the federal nursing home inspection reports and deficiencies by keyword, city and facility name. The Nursing Home Inspect database covers nearly 118,000 deficiencies at 14,565 homes. Users can now search the

database by keywords such as “elopement” or “pressure sore” or “mistreat.” In an effort to prevent users from misinterpreting data, ProPublica, the designer of the database, cautions users that the database contains information focused on facilities’ problems, rather than their accomplishments or improvements. For more information:

[http://www.mcknights.com/new-app-lets-users-search-nursing-home-deficiencies-by-keyword/article/254641/?DCMP=EMC-MCK\\_Weekly](http://www.mcknights.com/new-app-lets-users-search-nursing-home-deficiencies-by-keyword/article/254641/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly)

## **UPCOMING WEBINAR: Misuse of Anti-Psychotic Medications in Long-Term Care**

Date: Thursday, September 6, 2012

Time: 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT/12:00pm MT/11:00am PT

Duration: 90 minutes

Inappropriate medication of consumers receiving long-term services and supports across care settings can take many forms, including the misuse of psychotropic drugs as chemical restraints.

Join us for a dialogue around this important issue that will include a discussion of the dangers and signs of inappropriate psychotropic drug use, successful alternative person-centered treatments and therapies, resources for more information, and current national and state-level efforts to reduce inappropriate medications. This webinar is presented under a grant from the NCEA.

Presenters:

Morris Kaplan, Esq., NHA,

Mary Evans, M.D., C.M.D.

Claire Curry, J.D.

Register Now! (Webinar lines are limited. Please use one line per agency, if possible)

[cc.readytalk.com/r/y4v1m3gpmqjh](http://cc.readytalk.com/r/y4v1m3gpmqjh)

## **CURRENT EVENTS: The NCEA Newsfeed Archive**

The National Center on Elder Abuse is proud to present the NCEA Newsfeed, a semi-weekly compilation of current events related to elder abuse, gathered from around the world. Topics covered include the full range of types of elder abuse, including elder financial exploitation, neglect, and undue influence. The NCEA Newsfeed is sent to the NCEA listserv, a forum for professionals working in the area of elder mistreatment to share and solicit information to improve prevention and response efforts for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. If you are looking for a past newsfeed item, you can access the NCEA Newsfeed archive by visiting

<http://nceagov.posterous.com/>



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The NCEA provides information about the following funding opportunities related to elder abuse, adults with disabilities, aging, violence prevention and related topics as a service to the elder justice movement.

- The Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund, administered by Cities of Service with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies to help *cities use volunteering to tackle pressing local challenges*. Grant sizes will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 with larger amounts reserved for cities with multiple projects. Any mayor whose city is a member of the Cities of Service coalition is eligible to apply on behalf of the city and its partners. For more information: [www.citiesofservice.org/resources/volunteer/request-for-proposals](http://www.citiesofservice.org/resources/volunteer/request-for-proposals) **Deadline: August 31, 2012**
- The Marisla Foundation focuses on supporting women's programs dealing with homelessness, substance abuse, *domestic violence* and vocational training. The objective of the Marisla Foundation's Human Services Program is to assist women, primarily regarding their physical, mental and financial health. Giving is national in focus, but the Marisla Foundation shows preference for California funding. Last year, the Foundation distributed \$36 million in grants. Funding is limited to nonprofits. For more information: <https://online.foundationsource.com/public/home/marisla> **Deadline: October 15, 2012**
- The Johnson Controls Foundation announced program grants to support education, health and hospitals, community funds, *social services*, including *aid to the handicapped*, care of children, *and the aged*; and civic, arts, and cultural organizations. Johnson Controls tends to focus in areas where they have a presence, but will fund on a national basis. Extra consideration is given to organizations or institutions in which Johnson Controls employees are involved and are contributing their time and/or money. Funds can be applied to annual campaigns, building/renovation (bricks and mortar), capital campaigns, continuing support, emergency funds employee matching gifts, employee-related scholarships, general/operating support, matching/challenge support, and seed money. The Foundation distributed \$6.7 million in grants in 2011. Funding is limited to nonprofits. For more information: <http://www2.johnsoncontrols.com/CorpValues/foundation.htm#foundation> **Rolling Deadline**



## UPCOMING ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCES/TRAINING EVENTS (in chronological order):

- The **Consumer Voice** recently announced a brand new "**Advocacy in Action**" day of training, sharing and advocating, **September 10, 2012** in Washington, DC and they will host our day of training in conjunction with the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) National Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Conference starting September 11th.** *Visit the NCEA booth at HCBS!*
- **The 19th Annual New York State Adult Abuse Training Institute** will be held **October 2-4, 2012**, Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, **Albany, New York** . This year's theme is Broken Trust: How to Recognize and Respond to Financial Exploitation. Oct 2 : Financial Exploitation Summit. More information: <http://www.compassionandsupport.org/pdfs/news/10212-AATIconf.pdf>
- **2012 NAPSA Conference: Ending Adult Abuse: On the Horizon? (October 16-18).** This educational event in Phoenix, Arizona will be followed by the 3rd Annual Elder Financial Exploitation Summit on October 19, 2012. Email [info@apsnetwork.org](mailto:info@apsnetwork.org) for more information. *Visit the NCEA booth at NAPSA!*
- **Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving**, 25th Annual National Summit, Enabling Caring Communities: Promoting Evidence-Based Programs Across the Lifespan, **October 24-25, 2012**, Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, GA For more information go to: <http://www.rosalynncarter.org/>
- **American Public Health Association's 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition, October 27-31, 2012** in San Francisco, California. The theme this year is *Prevention and Wellness Across the Life Span*. For details, visit: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/>  
*Visit the NCEA booth at APHA!*
- **The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP)** will release their **2012 Tool Kit on Dementia Education** on **November 1, 2012**. For the fifth year, they will host Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week February 14-21, 2013 <http://www.nccdp.org/staff-education-week.htm>
- **The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies** is having its 28th Annual Meeting **November 1-3** at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles, CA at L.A. Live. The theme this year will be Beyond Boundaries: Innovations to Expand Services and Tailor Traumatic Stress Treatments. <http://www.istss.org/Home1.htm>
- **The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Adult Protective Services Conference** in San Antonio, Texas will take place **November 13-16<sup>th</sup>**. The conference has attracted people from almost every state in the U.S., as well as attendees from Japan, Canada, England, Australia, and Mexico.

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adult Protection/Adult Protective Services Conference/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adult%20Protection/Adult%20Protective%20Services%20Conference/default.asp)

- **The Gerontological Society of America's Sixty-Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting, *Charting Frontiers in Aging***, will take place from **November 14-18, 2012**, in San Diego, California. For details, visit: <http://www.geron.org/annual-meeting>
- **California District Attorneys Association 2012 National Elder Abuse Symposium (December 4-7, 2012)** Guest speakers to include Paul Greenwood, San Diego County Deputy District Attorney, Bob Nichols, Retired Marin County Deputy District Attorney. [http://www.cdaa.org/training/seminar-conference-registration?regevent action=register&event id=35](http://www.cdaa.org/training/seminar-conference-registration?regevent%20action=register&event%20id=35)

### Quote of the quarter:

"Old age is like climbing a mountain. You climb from ledge to ledge. The higher you get, the more tired and breathless you become, but your views more extensive."

*Ingrid Bergman*



For regular news articles, research updates, and to connect with colleagues, be sure to "LIKE" the National Center on Elder Abuse on FACEBOOK!

[click here](#)

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