



Elder Abuse Bytes

January, 2012

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



### **ABA Releases New Volunteer Guardianship Monitoring and Assistance Handbook for Courts**

The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging released a new online resource on volunteer guardianship monitoring and assistance for courts. This handbook, an update on a 20-year-old manual by Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Inc. of AARP, is a concise, four-part, readily accessible electronic designed to guide court staff step by step in developing a volunteer guardianship monitoring and assistance program, recruiting and training volunteers, and compiling community information volunteers and guardians will need.

The handbook is available here:

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law\\_aging/resources/guardianship\\_law\\_practice/court\\_volunteer\\_guardianshipmonitoring.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_aging/resources/guardianship_law_practice/court_volunteer_guardianshipmonitoring.html)

## **An Ecological Synthesis of Research on Older Women's Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence**

Weeks, L. and LeBlanc, K. (2011). *Journal of Women & Aging*. 23(4). 283-304

The authors identify 32 studies that include data collected from older women and synthesized the findings using the ecological model as an organizing framework. Through this synthesis, the authors were able to view a wide range of ways in which older women experience intimate partner violence. The authors concluded that signs of intimate partner violence in older women are often attributed to conditions associated with aging. Social network members and service providers must not always assume that physical or mental health problems are simply attributed to the aging process or being female, but that they can be attributed to other causes, such as intimate partner violence.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08952841.2011.611043>

## **90+ in the United States: 2006-2008**

The United States Census has performed a comprehensive survey of adults over the age of 90. The data was able to give a clearer picture of the 90+ population, which may help to better prepare for their healthcare needs for the future. The findings of the census included the discovery that most of the 90+ population are high school graduates or beyond, Social Security represents almost half of total personal income, and the poverty rate for those 90+ is higher than that of the 65-89 population.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-17.pdf>

## **The National Guardianship Network (NGN) convened the Third National Guardianship Summit: Standards of Excellence**

On October 13-15, the ten National Guardianship sponsoring organizations, with eleven diverse cosponsors, convened the Third National Guardianship Summit at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in Salt Lake City. With 92 delegates, observers, authors, funders and facilitators participating, the Summit was a consensus conference on post-appointment guardian performance and decision-making for adults. The Summit adopted a far-reaching set of recommendations for Guardian Standards, as well as additional recommendations for action by courts, legislatures and other entities.

<http://www.guardianshipsummit.org/>

## **Financial Exploitation of Seniors: Untangling the 'How Much' Conundrum**

Spiegel, D. (2011). *The Washington Lawyer*. 26(3). P28.

This article examines the vulnerability of aging adults to financial crime and exploitation. It goes in depth to discuss which acts they are most vulnerable to and how much they are losing. Unfortunately,

straightforward answers to these questions have proven very difficult to obtain. The author, an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission whose work includes consumer protection issues affecting the elderly, explains that victim research is still at an early stage, and that there is virtually no research regarding predators. He hopes that the Elder Justice Act of 2010 will help to spur data collection on these subjects.

[http://www.dcbart.org/for\\_lawyers/resources/publications/washington\\_lawyer/november\\_2011/stand.cfm](http://www.dcbart.org/for_lawyers/resources/publications/washington_lawyer/november_2011/stand.cfm)

## **Nursing homes should be penalized for overuse of antipsychotic medications for dementia residents, federal investigator says**

In testimony to a Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing, Health and Human Services Inspector general Daniel Levinson proposed penalties – such as barring Medicare payments – to nursing homes that inappropriately use antipsychotics. Overusing the commonly-prescribed off-label antipsychotics has been linked to an increased risk of death in dementia patients. LeadingAge’s Senior Vice President Cheryl Phillips, M.D., pointed out that treating underlying pain in dementia residents can reduce the confusion and agitation that contribute to aggressive behaviors.

[http://www.mcknights.com/nursing-homes-should-be-penalized-for-overuse-of-antipsychotic-medications-for-dementia-residents-federal-investigator-says/article/217910/?DCMP=EMC-MCK\\_Weekly](http://www.mcknights.com/nursing-homes-should-be-penalized-for-overuse-of-antipsychotic-medications-for-dementia-residents-federal-investigator-says/article/217910/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly)

## **Examination of the Extent of Elder Abuse in Western Australia**

This research report was launched for WEAAD 2011 and examined the way in which a selection of government departments and some non-government agencies recorded instances of elder abuse in Western Australia. Three key findings and 26 recommendations were made, including a recommendation that a lead government agency is identified and given the responsibility to develop and coordinate responses to elder abuse across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

[http://www.advocare.org.au/uploaded/files/client\\_added/Examination%20of%20the%20Extent%20of%20Elder%20Abuse%20in%20Western%20Australia.pdf](http://www.advocare.org.au/uploaded/files/client_added/Examination%20of%20the%20Extent%20of%20Elder%20Abuse%20in%20Western%20Australia.pdf)

## **CDC Survey Finds Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Widespread in the United States**

On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, according to new findings by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is one of CDC's newest public health surveillance systems and is designed to better describe and monitor the magnitude of sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence victimization in the United States. It is the first survey of its kind to provide simultaneous national and state-level prevalence estimates of violence for

all states. Additionally, it provides data on several types of violence that have not previously been measured in a national population-based survey.

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/NISVS/>

## Upcoming Elder Abuse Events

**Visit the NCEA booth at the American Society on Aging and n4a conferences!**

- 2012 Aging in America Conference (March 28-April 1)
  - The American Society on Aging's annual conference is recognized as a showcase for programs and projects that can be replicated, a forum for policy discussion and advocacy, and a prime source of information on new research findings in aging.
  - <http://www.asaging.org/aia12>
- 7th Annual Conference (April 13-18)
  - The International Ombudsman Association will hold their 7th Annual Conference in Houston, Texas this year.
  - <http://tinyurl.com/74vkd54>
- 2012 American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting (May 2-5)
  - This year in Seattle, Washington, the American Geriatrics Society invites you to submit a proposal for consideration. The theme is "Patient Safety and Quality"
  - <http://tinyurl.com/7nk4yq3>

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