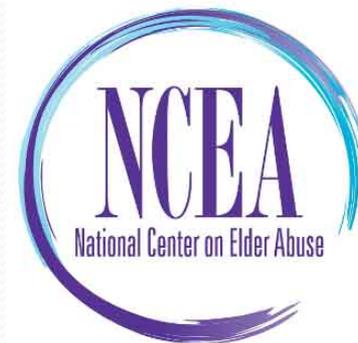


An Introduction to Elder Abuse for Professionals:

Abuse in Later Life (Related Phenomenon)



Understanding Abuse in Later Life

Learning Objectives

At the end of this presentation, you will be able to:

- Describe the dynamics of abuse in later life
- Describe abuser tactics
- Identify strategies to respond to abuse in later life

Case Example 1

- Beatrice and Johan have been married for over 50 years. Both are in their seventies and live on a farm.
- Throughout the marriage Johan has beaten his wife, controlled the finances, prohibited Beatrice from leaving the farm without his permission, and alienated her family.
- Beatrice confides to her daughter that Johan has become “even worse” and pointed a shotgun at her and said he would kill her. The daughter called police.

Case Example 2

- Agnes is 87 and in good health. Her grandson, Buddy, is habitually unemployed. He has lived with Agnes rent free for several years.
- Buddy demands that Agnes provide him with money, clean the home and make his meals. He has threatened to hurt her if she refuses.
- Agnes has vision problems and does not feel safe driving. Buddy is supposed to drive her to appointments and shopping. He often refuses and instead takes Agnes' car and disappears. He often yells at her and calls her derogatory names.
- Agnes noticed that several pieces of valuable jewelry were missing. She asked Buddy about them and he struck her with a bat, breaking her arm. She loves Buddy but is now afraid of him and afraid to tell anyone what has happened.

Abuse in Later Life

- Victims age 50 and older in an ongoing relationship with an expectation of trust with the abuser
 - Intimate partners
 - Family members
 - Some caregivers
 - Persons in legal positions of trust over the victim and/or their assets persons in authority
- Power and control dynamics, including entitlement thinking

Abuse in Later Life Does not Include:

- Self-neglect
- Stranger crimes against persons 50 and older, such as burglary, scams, and identity theft

Add your area's statutes

Consider adding state, tribal, or territorial statutes relating to abuse in later life definitions and crimes (including domestic violence and sexual assault) here. These may be found in criminal law, protective services, or other, statutes.

Consider discussing reporting laws in the Response Section (slide 20).

Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life

- Spouses/partners were most common perpetrators of physical and emotional abuse in later life (Lifespan of Greater Rochester et al., 2011).
- Older women who are physically abused are most likely to be harmed by spouses/partner (Acierno, 2010).

Extent of Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life

- Pervasive problem
- For many it has occurred for decades
- Often includes multiple forms and acts
(Bonomi et al., 2007; Fritsch et al., 2005; Fisher and Regan, 2006)

Intimate Partner Relationships

- Spouse, partners, and same-sex relationships in
 - Long-term relationships
 - New relationships
 - Late onset abuse
 - New health condition?
 - History of power and control?

Adult Children and Grandchildren as Abusers

- Protect the child rather than considering personal safety
 - Want contact with children and grandchildren
 - Fear child will be homeless if turned away
- Guilt, shame or embarrassment
- Lonely and isolated
- May feel abuse related to poor child raising

Abuse in Later Life Dynamics

Understanding Power and Control

- Power and control
 - Coercive
 - Manipulative
 - Focused on fulfilling the controller's needs, not the older person's
 - Feeling of entitlement

Power and Control Wheel for Abuse Later in Life



Created by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), a project of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) 307 S. Paterson St., Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703; (608)255-0539; www.ncall.us; www.wcadv.org
 This diagram is adopted from the Power and Control/Equality wheels developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN



Victim Safety

All responses and interventions must consider and prioritize victim safety.

What You Can Do

- **Recognize the signs of abuse in later life**
- **Ask**
- **Report or refer**

If The Older Adult Can Answer Questions, Consider Asking:

- Is anyone hurting you or scaring you?
- How are decisions about your life made?
- How often do you see your family and friends?
- Who makes decisions about your finances?
- Are you afraid? Are there things your (son, spouse, etc.) does that make you fearful?
- Can you safely disagree with your (abuser)?

*Ask privately, in an area where you will not be overheard

Report - Refer

REPORT

- 911 or law enforcement (life threatening or possible crime)
- Adult protective services
- Licensing board (if abuse occurs in a facility)

REFER

- Domestic violence or sexual assault organization
- Aging network agency
- Ombudsman (if abuse is in a facility)

Add your area's reporting law

Consider inserting slides
describing the local jurisdiction's
elder abuse/
vulnerable adult reporting law.

Add your local information

Consider inserting local resources, programs, and contact information here.

Additional Resources

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**
1-800-799-SAFE
- **National Sexual Assault Hotline**
1-800-656-HOPE
- [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life](#)
- [National Center on Elder Abuse](#)

For more information, visit us!

ncea.aoa.gov

Also on Facebook, Twitter,
YouTube

centeronelderabuse.org

Also on Facebook, YouTube



For additional resources, visit www.ncea.aoa.gov



This slide set was created for the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life for the National Center on Elder Abuse and is supported in part by a grant (No. 90AB0002/01) from the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration on Aging or DHHS policy.”