

Elder Abuse: Understanding the Issue

MGS Webinar
May 15, 2018

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The Minnesota Elder Justice Center

- ▶ We Provide:
 - ▶ Free, Confidential Support and Advocacy for Victims
 - ▶ Professional Education & Training
 - ▶ Prevention & Outreach
 - ▶ Public Policy & Systems Change

- ▶ **Mission** - Mobilizing communities to prevent and alleviate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults.

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Elder Abuse: toward a definition...

- ▶ In general, elder abuse is any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult.

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Prevalence

- ▶ 1,000,000 – 2,000,000 adults in later life in U.S. are victims of abuse¹
- ▶ 1 in 10 persons over the age 60 are victims of elder abuse²
- ▶ Victims of elder financial abuse in U.S. lose **at least** \$3 Billion each year³
- ▶ Elders who experienced abuse had a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who had not been abused.⁴

¹ National Center of Elder Abuse: 2005 Elder Abuse Prevalence and Incidence

² National Institute of Justice: Elder Abuse as a Criminal Problem

³ Blacato, Robert: Violence Against Older Women and The Elder Justice Act; 3/04/12

⁴ Dong, X, Simon, M., Mendes de Leon, C., Fulmer, T., Beck, T., Hebert, L. (2009). Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 302(5), 517-526. doi:10.1001/jama.2009.1109

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Types of Abuse

- ▶ Domestic Violence Late in Life
- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Emotional abuse
- ▶ Sexual abuse
- ▶ Spiritual abuse
- ▶ Financial Exploitation
- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Self Neglect

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Where does Elder Abuse Occur?

- ▶ Facility settings
- ▶ Public settings
- ▶ Private residences
- ▶ Studies show that nearly 60% of reported maltreatment of older adults is perpetrated by a family member.

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Our Approach

- ▶ Older Adults and Vulnerable Adults
 - ▶ MN Vulnerable Adult Act
- ▶ Intervention – Stopping Abuse that is Occurring
- ▶ Prevention – Strategies to Reduce and Eliminate Abuse

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Lead Investigative Agencies in Minnesota

- ▶ APS
- ▶ MDH – OHFC
- ▶ DHS – Licensing
- ▶ Law Enforcement

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Two Categories of Vulnerable Adults in MN

► Categorical

- Receives services licensed by DHS, MDH
- Facilities or services

► Functional

- Impaired, cannot meet basic needs
- Cannot protect themselves from maltreatment

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Numbers of Reports in MN

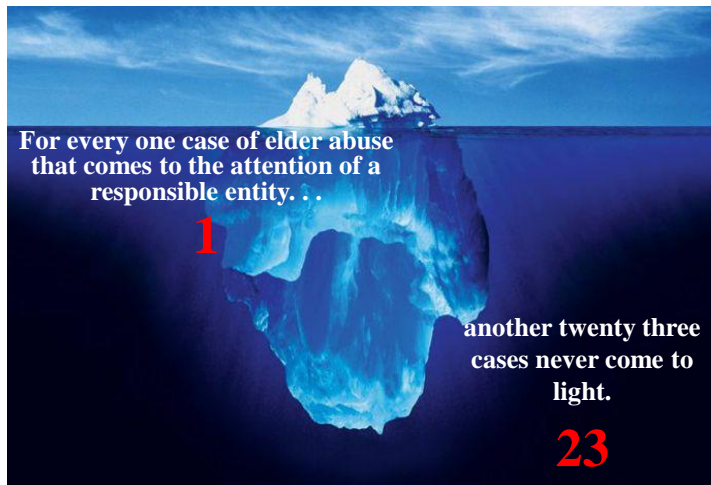
► In 2017 - 57,180 Total **Reports** of Maltreatment/Abuse*

- APS – 27,969 reports
 - Investigated - 7,963 investigations
 - True – 742
 - False – 3,170
 - Inconclusive – 2,154
 - Unable to Investigate – 1,897
- OHFC – 22,961 reports
- DHS Licensing – 6,250 reports

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<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/adult-protection/>

Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



Source: NYS Elder Abuse Prevalence Study; Weill Cornell Medical College, NYC Department for the Aging; Lifespan; (2011)
Slide courtesy of Life Long Justice

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Preventing Abuse & Maltreatment in Facilities

- ▶ Same Goal, Sometimes Different Approaches
- ▶ Training of Staff & Management
- ▶ Culture of Zero Tolerance of Abuse & Maltreatment
- ▶ Individualized Abuse Prevention Plans

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Preventing Abuse & Maltreatment in Facilities

- ▶ Accountability
 - ▶ When something bad happens, it helps prevent future potential incident or maltreatment
- ▶ Protections for Consumers/Patient/Resident – similar to other industries and settings
- ▶ Regulations for Owners

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Future Training and Conversations

- ▶ Complex problem, complex solutions – not a one size fits all
- ▶ Different approaches and solutions for elder abuse in the community when loved ones are perpetrators

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Join Us to Learn More...

- ▶ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference – June 13, 2018
 - ▶ Full day conference with CEUs, POST, CLEs
 - ▶ \$80 – Earle Brown Heritage Center
 - ▶ www.elderjusticemn.org

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Contact Us

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