



National Adult Protective Services Association

CITATIONS FROM RESEARCH ON ELDER ABUSE

- **One in nine seniors reported being abused, neglected or exploited in the past twelve months:**
Acierno, R., Hernandez-Tejada, M., Muzzy, W., Steve, K. *National Elder Mistreatment Study Final Report*. March, 2009. 48 & 71. This document is a research report submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice. This report has not been published by the Department. The report is available on the USDOJ website at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226456.pdf>.

This study states: “the rate of financial exploitation is extremely high, with 1 in 20 older adults indicating some form of perceived financial mistreatment occurring at least one time in the recent past. Specific resources and civil remedies (e.g., dedicated prosecutors of financial mistreatment in geographic regions with high numbers of older adults) should be derived. Financial exploitation by family members and by strangers was increased among the more physically disabled adults, indicating perhaps a greater need for monitoring for this subgroup of elders.”

- **Elder abuse is vastly under-reported; only one in 23.5 cases is reported to any agency; for financial abuse it is one in 44 and for neglect it is one in 57.**
Lachs, Mark, et al. (2011) *Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study Final Report*. Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.; Weill Cornell Medical Center of Cornell University and New York City Department for the Aging.

Note: this study found an elder abuse prevalence rate of 7.6% using a similar methodology to Acierno’s study but more stringent definitions of what constitutes abuse. The rate of coronary heart disease in 2006 was also 7.6%. [American Heart Association. Heart Attack and Stroke Statistics 2009 Update at a Glance. <http://www.nanocorthx.com/Articles/HeartDiseaseStrokeStatistics.pdf>.]

- **Abused seniors are three times more likely to die:**
Lachs, M. et al. (1998). *The Mortality of Elder Mistreatment*. Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol 280, No. 5, 428 – 432
- **Elder abuse victims are four times more likely to go into a nursing home:**
Lachs, Mark. Testimony before the Senate Special Committee on Aging. March 2, 2011. Washington, DC.
- **Victims of abuse utilize healthcare services at higher rates:**
Koss, M. P., Heslet, L. *Somatic consequences of violence against women* Arch Fam Med 1992. Sep;1(1):53-9. Archives of Family Medicine, 1, 53-59. (those who had experienced abuse accessed the health care system 2 to 2.5 times as often)
- **90% of abusers are family members or trusted others:**
90% of elder abuse and neglect incidents are by known perpetrators, usually family members. National Center on Elder Abuse, 1994. The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study: Final Report Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families & Administration on Aging, US Department of Health and Human Services
- **95% of seniors live in the community:**
2006 – 2007 census data: 1.8 million people live in nursing homes, 52.4 million people are age 60 and older = 3.4% of seniors in LTC
- **Almost one in ten financial abuse victims will turn to Medicaid as a direct result of their own monies being stolen from them.**
Jilenne Gunther. *The Utah Cost of Financial Exploitation*. March, 2011. Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services.