

Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation



- Physical Abuse- inflicting physical pain
- Sexual Abuse- touching, fondling, intercourse, or any other sexual activity with an older adult, when the older adult is unstable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened, or physically forced.
- Emotional abuse- verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, or intimidation
- Confinement- restraining or isolating an older adult, other than for medical reasons.
- Willful Deprivation- denying an older adult medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device, or other physical assistance, and exposing the elder to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm- except when the older, competent adult has expressed a desire to go without such care.
- Financial Exploitation- the misuse or withholding of an older adult's resources by another.

ANE Signs and Symptoms

- Physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, burns
- Emotional Abuse- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, or unusual depression; strained or tense relationships; frequent arguments between the caregiver and older adult.
- Financial Abuse- Sudden changes in financial situations.
- Neglect- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, unusual weight loss.
- Verbal or Emotional abuse- Belittling, threats, or other uses of power and control by individuals.

Why Elders Do Not Report

- Fear Loss of Independence
- Fear of Retaliation
- Do not want to get a loved one in trouble
- All the reasons others do not- shame, feel it is her/his fault, etc.

Who Abuses?

- Perpetrators include children, other family members, and spouses- as well as paid staff in-home and at nursing homes, assisted living, other facilities.
- High percentage of perpetrators are adult male children often with drinking or drug problem living with an older parent/grandparent

Prevalence & Scope of Problem

- 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse
- Estimated 5 million elders abused annually
- Only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse are reported to authorities (State Hotlines or Law Enforcement)

- 300% increased risk of death within 18 months for elder who is abused
- No national or state data repository to understand scope of problem and numbers impacted



Kansas

- 2.9 million total population
- 462,000 or 15.9% are 65+
- 46,200 65+ Kansans abused annually (estimate)

Older Adults 80+ most likely to need long-term care

More Females than Males receiving long term care- higher percentage of population.

Financial Abuse

- \$2.9 billion to \$36.5 billion estimated annual costs to older adults of elder financial abuse
- While financial abuse is underreported, it is still self-reported at higher rates than other abuse or neglect

Why Are Aging Adults Vulnerable?

- Social Isolation
- Cognitive impairment: Dementia, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury, Intellectual/ Developmental Disability
- Recent studies show that nearly half of those with dementia experienced abuse or neglect- often unable to report or not believed if they report.
- Interpersonal violence also occurs at disproportionately higher rates among adults with disabilities.
- Older adults are “perceived” to be vulnerable which makes them a target
- Lack of geriatric trained mental and physical health care providers to identify harm

Elder Abuse Reporting and Data

- In a Facility- KDADS Hotline
- At Home- DCF/APS
- Law Enforcement- Affordable Care Act required reporting to LE by facilities
- In a Facility- advocate for residents Long Term Care Ombudsman
- APS Current ANE info posted to their website, not KDADS, not LTCO, not Law Enforcement

Oversight Agencies

- Ks Department for Children and Families/ Adult Protective Services

- Ks Department for Aging & Disability Services/all Adult Care Facilities and HCBS Waiver Programs
- U.S. HHS/CMS Nursing Facilities (regulations)
- Attorney General
- Medical fraud, includes abuse, neglect
- Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation



Sign

Date