

1 2  **Demographics**3  **Implications**

- ❖ 90% of elder abuse is committed by a family member (Barton, 2012).
- ❖ Elders who have been abused are at a 200% higher risk of death than those who have not been mistreated (NCOA, 2014).
- ❖ Nationally, financial abuse costs older Americans \$37 billion year (Bloomberg.com, 2018).
- ❖ The above numbers are thought to be underreported because of love for or fear of the abuser.

4  **Elder Abuse**

- ❖ Elder abuse generally refers to any of the following types of mistreatment that are committed by someone with whom the elderly person has a special relationship (for example, a spouse, sibling, child, friend, or caregiver):

- Physical
- Sexual
- emotional/ psychological
- financial exploitation
- Neglect
- self-neglect
- abandonment.

(NCEA, 2013)

5  **Types of Abuse**

- ❖ There are seven types of elder abuse (NCEA, 2013):

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional or Psychological Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Financial or Material Exploitation
- Neglect
- Self-Neglect
- Abandonment

❖

- ❖ Colonization or abuse impacting the values and identity of a person is soul wounding (Duran & Duran, 1995). This is spiritual abuse (Gray & LaBore, 2018).

6  **Physical Abuse**

- ❖ Physical abuse is defined as the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment (NCEA, 2013).
- ❖ Types of physical abuse may include acts of violence such as striking, hitting, pushing, shaking, slapping, kicking, pinching, or burning. Additionally, inappropriate use of medication, physical restraints, force-feeding, and physical punishment of any kind may

also be physical abuse.

❖ Physical abuse may not be obvious or easily visible.

## 7 **Physical Abuse**

➤ Examples

- Elder hit by adult child
- Elderly man with dementia hitting wife.
- Daughter hits elder stemming from stress of his needs & health
- Drug taking/alcohol use leads to yelling/hitting other family members

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## 8 **Emotional/Psychological Abuse**

❖ Emotional abuse is defined as the infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts (NCEA, 2013).

❖ This may include verbal assaults, insults, threats, intimidation, humiliation, harassment or disrespect.

❖ Examples include:

- Elderspeak (talking to an elder like an infant)
- Giving an elder the “silent treatment”
- Forced isolation
- Threats

## 9 **Emotional/Psychological Abuse**

➤ Examples

- Grown children moving in with elder—drinking, fighting, taking their money, chasing away caregivers
- Confining elder to one room/no interaction with family
- Verbal abuse by young family members
- Children threatening parents/grandparents with nursing home if they couldn't live with elder
- Not listening when elders speak
- Treating them as if they don't matter any more

❖

## 10 **Sexual Abuse**

❖ Sexual abuse is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind (NCEA, 2013).

❖

❖ Sexual contact with any person who has not consented or is incapable of consent is considered sexual abuse.

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❖ Examples include:

- Rape
- Unwanted touching
- Molestation
- Sodomy

- Coerced nudity
- Taking or distributing sexually explicit photographs or videos

#### 11 **Sexual Abuse Examples**

- Grandma raped by male high on meth who broke into her house. Ashamed. Would not report or tell anyone. Finally agreed to go to hospital for exam.
  - Elderly male sexually assaulted by caregiver, wouldn't talk—ashamed
  - Elderly woman raped and killed
  - Leaving an elderly person exposed
- ❖

#### 12 **Financial or Material Exploitation**

- ❖ Financial abuse is defined as the illegal or improper use of an elderly person's funds, property, or assets (NCEA, 2013).
- ❖ Examples include:
  - Cashing checks without authorization or permission
  - Forging a signature
  - Misusing or stealing money or possessions
  - Coercing or deceiving an older person into signing documents (e.g., contracts or will)
  - Improper use of conservatorship, guardianship, or power of attorney

#### 13 **Financial Exploitation Examples**

- Granddaughter wiped out Grandma's bank account.
- Misusing elderly person's monthly check & not paying for food or bills for the one it is intended for.
- Grandson takes Grandpa's personal items
- Niece took Auntie's check
- Grandchildren pressured grandparent for money
- Son borrowed money and didn't pay back
- Granddaughter & boyfriend moved in and supported by elderly grandmother

#### 14 **Neglect**

- ❖ Neglect is defined as the refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elderly or disabled adult. Neglect may include failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities to provide care for a vulnerable adult (e.g., pay for necessary home care services) or the failure on the part of an in-home service provider to provide necessary care (NCEA, 2013).
- ❖ Examples include failure to provide necessities such as food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medication, comfort, personal safety, and other essentials included in an implied or agreed-upon responsibility to a vulnerable adult.

#### 15 **Neglect**

- Examples
  - Elderly uncle confined to home/family wouldn't provide support

- Failing to obtain proper medical treatment for grandma
- Family locks grandpa in a room at home
- Not visiting or taking grandparents to gatherings



#### 16 **Self-Neglect**

❖ Self-neglect is characterized as the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety. (NCEA, 2013).

❖ Signs and symptoms of self-neglect include but are not limited to dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene.

#### 17 **Self-Neglect**

➤ Examples

- Uncle's electricity has been turned off because he didn't get the bill paid and all of his food has spoiled in the refrigerator.
- Grandma doesn't take her medications because they cost too much.
- Auntie is unable to take care of herself but won't tell anyone and get help.
- Grandpa continues to drink alcohol until he passes out or falls. Won't let anyone help him or get treatment.

#### 18 **Abandonment**

❖ Abandonment is defined as the desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder, or by a person with physical custody of an elder (NCEA, 2013).

❖ Signs and symptoms of abandonment include but are not limited to:

- The desertion of an elder at a hospital, a nursing facility, or other similar institution
- The desertion of an elder at a shopping center or other public location
- An elderly person's own report of being abandoned

#### 19 **Abandonment**

➤ Examples

- Family goes away leaving Grandma without food or drinking water.
- Grandpa is not left with any resources for personal hygiene.
- Leaving Grandma at a shopping center and not coming back for hours to find her.
- Leaving Grandpa who has dementia at the IHS clinic alone to wait for his appointment.



#### 20 **Spiritual Abuse**

❖ Spiritual abuse is defined as harmful interference with spiritual growth including the corruption of another person's value system. (Gray & LaBore, 2018).

❖ Examples include:

- Preventing Grandma from attending spiritual activities or ceremonies
- Theft of Grandpa's ceremonial items to sell or use without permission

– Comments or activities which are damaging to the elderly person's spirit or sexual abuse as a spiritual activity

21  **What causes elder abuse?**

- ❖ Caregiver Stress?
- ❖ Violent society?
- ❖ Entitlement?
- ❖ Greed?
- ❖ Ageism?
- ❖ Power and control?
- ❖ All of the above?

22  **Why does elder abuse happen?**

- ❖ Trusting nature
- ❖ Perceived to be easy to fool or con
- ❖ Have steady source of income
- ❖ Isolation
- ❖ Other?

23  **Health Effects of Elder Abuse**

- ▶ Increased Mortality
  - Lachs et al. 1998, Dong et al. 2009
  -
- ▶ Poorer physical outcomes (probable)
  - American Medical Association 1990; Anetzberger 2004; Lindbloom et al. 2007
  - Increased pain
  - Exacerbation of existing conditions
  - Welts, wounds, injuries
  - Increased susceptibility to infection
- ❖

24  **Financial Effects of Elder Abuse**

- ❖ Restitution often not forthcoming or too late
  - ❖
- ❖ No time to rebuild assets
  - ❖
- ❖ Loss of choices for older adult; loss of independence
  - ❖
- ❖ Reliance on others for financial support
  - ❖
- ❖ Intergenerational transfer of wealth impacted
  - ❖
- ❖ More quickly spending down to Medicaid
  - ❖

25  **High Risk Situations**

- ❖ People with inadequately treated mental health and / or substance abuse problems are more likely to be abusive
- ❖
- ❖ People who feel stressed / burdened / resentful are more likely to be abusive
- ❖
- ❖ Providing care for an older adult who is physically combative and/or verbally abusive

26  **Asking about Elder Abuse**

- ❖ NOT Abused
- ❖ Disrespected.
- ❖ Bothered.

27  **Screening for Abuse**

- ❖ Best practice: all clients should be screened at intake
- ❖
- ❖ Normalize talking about a difficult topic
- ❖
- ❖ Potential to catch abuse in its early stage and prevent it from escalating

28  **Screening: Ask the Elder**

- ❖ "Has anybody hurt you?"
- ❖
- ❖ "Are you afraid of anybody?"
- ❖
- ❖ "Is anyone taking or using your money without your permission?"

29  **Financial Abuse: Talk to Elders**

- ❖ Planning Ahead
- ❖
- ❖ Staying Connected
- ❖
- ❖ Being Cautious
- ❖
- ❖ Reporting Their Suspicions

30  **Elder Protection Team**

- ❖ The Elder Protection Team addresses the issues of elder abuse and is dependent upon the resources of each specific tribe. Possible responsibilities of an Elder Protection Team may include:
  - Educating the community and conducting prevention activities
  - Building collaboration and trust among professionals, elderly and families

- Providing empathetic listening
- Implementing an effective method for responding to elder abuse while maintaining confidentiality
- Reporting suspected abuse and intervening when necessary
- Restoring respect of elderly
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### 31 **Members of an Elder Protection Team**

- ❖ The Elder Protection Team always includes the elder. Due to the complexity of elder abuse, the makeup of the team is individualized, will vary and may include:

### 32 **Elder Vulnerability**

- ❖ Physical changes and old age reduce the ability to conduct activities of daily living and maintain independence.

### 33 **Levels of Prevention**

- ❖ There are many ways to help prevent elder abuse and neglect. There are three levels of prevention, *primary prevention*, *secondary prevention* and *tertiary prevention*.
  - Primary prevention involves education of everyone about what elder abuse is and how to prevent it.
  - Secondary prevention involves work done with elders who are at risk ~ this may include a range of preventative measures such fall prevention or safety scans of the elder's home to setting up ways of preventing exploitation.
  - Tertiary prevention is how to prevent elder abuse that has happened to someone before from happening again.

### 34 **Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules**

Identifying Problems and Concerns

- ❖ The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA, 2005), estimated that for every reported case of elder abuse, 14 cases will go unreported.

- ❖ Little is known about how widespread elder abuse is in Indian Country.

- ❖ No infrastructure or coordinated systems currently in place for prevention, protection, and support for the elder.

- ❖ Understanding of what constitutes elder abuse is difficult, as many elders may only consider victimization as physical abuse, increasing risks of other forms of abuse.

- ❖

### 35 **Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules**

NIEJI's Intended Purpose

- ❖ General consensus that people may not know what constitutes elder abuse or neglect.

- ❖

- ❖ Produce information on how to define and recognize elder abuse in Indian Country.
- ❖
- ❖ Educate EVERYONE on elder abuse and neglect and learn ways on how to help prevent it.
- ❖ Creation of culturally relevant materials providing viewers with training tools and information about elder abuse and neglect. Specifically, materials geared for formal and informal care providers, law enforcement, and elders themselves.

### 36 **Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules**

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, NIEJI launched the Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules. Available at [www.nieji.org](http://www.nieji.org)

Designed for professional disciplines working with and caring for Native Elders in a variety of settings.

- Elder
- Caregiving
- Social Services
- Financial
- Legal
- Policy
- Healthcare
- Pharmaceuticals Coming soon!

### 37 **Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules**

- ❖ Modules contain valuable information to gain cultural understanding and best practices in the various disciplines addressing elder abuse and neglect in Indian Country.
- ❖ Each training module includes aims and learning objectives for professionals working closely with Native American elders.
- ❖ Ways for professionals to identify potential signs and risk factors for elder abuse and neglect, and how to report suspected abuse to proper authorities.
- ❖ Also included are culturally appropriate practices such as use of language while working with Native American elders. All of which will help the professional to address these concerns in a respectful manner which adheres to Native American traditional beliefs and practices.

### 38 **Current Training Modules**

- We recommend users watch the "Elder" feather icon first as this is an introduction to all other modules.
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- Six completed trainings for professionals in elder care fields; Policy, Legal, Healthcare, Social Services, Financial, and Caregivers.



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- We are currently working on training modules for Pharmacy workers.
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39  **Certificates of Completion**

- ❖ Included is a certificate of completion at the end of each educational module.

40  **References**

41  **Resources**

42  **For More Information**

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Thank You!

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