

Follow-Up Questions and Answers

From NCEA & NAPSA's Webcast:
Exploring Evidence-Based Practices in Elder Abuse
Presented on Wednesday, February 4, 2009

These questions were posed during the February 4, 2009 webcast and have been answered by the webcast presenters: Pamela Teaster, Ph.D. Carrie F. Mulford, Ph.D., and Catherine McNamee, MS. If you would like to contact the presenters, they may be emailed at:

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1. Are there any risk assessments currently being used or piloted?

ANSWER: Yes, the NIJ has funded the Council for Crime and Delinquency to develop, and pilot and evaluate an APS risk assessment instrument in the state of New Hampshire. Pilot work will take place in 2010. This instrument is slated to be available in September, 2011.

2. Was there any correlation that physical abuse was a result of financial exploitation?

ANSWER: I'm not sure what project is being referenced here, unfortunately. However, we do currently have a project examining the connection between physical and financial abuse. This study is being performed by Shelly Jackson at the University of Virginia, and results should be available in late 2009. We also have a study that is near completion that has data that could address the correlation between physical abuse and financial exploitation, but we won't be able to tell if one causes the other. Ron Acierno at the Medical University of South Carolina is the lead researcher.

3. Have the on-going studies focused primarily on elders being cared for in institutional/residential settings? What about elders being cared for at home?

ANSWER: The elder abuse portfolio has focused on both populations. In the forensic studies, the bruising and dementia projects focused on people residing in the community. The pressure ulcer study is focusing on residents of nursing homes. There is a gap in the research on at-home care.

4. What practices and policies that are in place now for residential and nursing facilities do you consider at all helpful.

ANSWER: I don't really understand the question. Practices and policies vary by type of facility. Please provide more information about what you would like specifically.

5. What about cases of neglect? Any studies done or in process?

ANSWER: None of NIJ's studies are exclusively focused on neglect. However, Shelly Jackson's work (see answer to question #2) incorporates neglect as it relates to financial abuse. Neglect is also measured in a incidence and prevalence study by Ron Acierno (see answer to question #6).

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6. Any research on psychological/emotional abuse?

ANSWER: Ken Conrad at the University of Illinois-Chicago received funding from NIJ to develop measures of psychological abuse. The results are due out this Spring. Ron Acierno's incidence and prevalence study also measures psychological abuse. Results will be out within the next 6 months.

7. Where will the results of these studies be available?

ANSWER: <http://www.ncjrs.org/>

8. Do any of you provide funding for research in elder abuse and have you or would you consider collaborative research projects with Canadians?

ANSWER: NIJ is the research and development arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, and in that capacity we award research funding in variety of criminal justice areas, including elder abuse. We are statutorily limited in our ability to support research in foreign countries, but area always open to collaboration opportunities.

9. Please give the email to connect with promising practices more slowly. Thanks!

ANSWER: http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx
Look under resources.

10. Comment from participant: There are studies of certified batterer intervention programs (Gondolf et al) and many abusers do not have mental health problems or a past history of violence.

ANSWER: We are aware of the Gondolf study. We've funded a few of them. I believe we were saying that we are unaware of evaluations of batterer intervention programs that focus on elder abuse offenders. We apologize if we were unclear.

11. Will the outcomes or links to the outcomes of the current research being completed and those as they are completed be posted on the List serve?

ANSWER: They will be available on <http://www.ncjrs.org/>

12. Why is there so little emphasis on financial exploitation, given the high number of reported cases?

ANSWER: Financial exploitation is a highlighted priority area for NIJ's elder mistreatment research program, and has been since its inception. However, the institute is limited by what is actually submitted by the field, and which of these applications are of the highest quality in terms of methodological rigor. NIJ staff would be very supportive of supporting additional projects in financial exploitation should we receive high quality proposals in the future.

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13. Do you know of any studies correlating animal abuse and elder abuse? There have been studies relating child abuse and spousal abuse to animal neglect and abuse.

ANSWER: We do not know of any such studies, although they may exist as we have not explored this issue.

14. What are some of the theoretical models on which E.A., evidence based work can be based? We are in the midst of a project with the University of California-Irvine to explicate the theoretical models for elder abuse. We are aware of very little work that has been done in this area. It does seem that there is very little support for the caretaker stress model. Kerry Burnight is the lead researcher on the theoretical models work.

ANSWER: I am not aware of them. The most compressive treatment of theoretical models on EA is the recently published book by Lisa Nerenberg, *Elder Abuse Prevention*, Springer. We have worked from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (2006). *Changes to the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP)*. Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services.

National Council on Aging. (2001). *Using the Evidence Based to Promote Healthy Aging*. Washington, DC: Administration on Aging.

Stein, K. (2007). *A Primer on Outcomes-Based Evaluation for Elder Abuse Projects, Programs, and Training*. Washington, DC: National Center on Elder Abuse.

15. In Virginia there has to be a preponderance of evidence to make the determination that abuse, neglect, or exploitation has occurred. What would you suggest to be the best way to try to get legislation passed to implement a central registry of those individuals found to have abused, neglected, or exploited an elderly or vulnerable adult? This would be similar to the CPS registry now for individuals who have been found to have abused or neglected a child under the age of 18.

ANSWER: Work from data or a study on the topic. I found a number of links vis a vis Google. NAPSA might also be able to help you on this one. Ms. Riddle—the person writing this answer used to live in Roanoke, VA. I have fond memories from there.

16. The Risk Assessment research is focusing on developing a tool as a predictor. This works for abuse by others, but for self-neglectors we very often know that they are at risk. Is the research being done looking at developing a tool that would be more helpful in cases where we know the individual is at risk of future abuse but because of the client's right to choose, he/she refuses services?

ANSWER: The study sample will include people suffering from self-neglect.