

Update on the New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study

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New York State Elder Abuse Study: Project Partners

- Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc (Lifespan)
- Weill Medical College of Cornell University (Cornell)
- The New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA)

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The project is being partially funded by the New York State Children and Family Trust Fund, a program administered under the NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Outline

- Previous efforts in collecting prevalence data
- History and importance of elder abuse study in New York State
- Road to prevalence study
- Road to the documented study

Early Prevalence Studies

Pillemer & Finkelhor, 1988 community based representative sample of Metropolitan Boston	Method: telephone survey & face to face interviews	Sample: 2,000 persons 65+	Findings: 2.0% physical, 1.1% verbal, 0.4% neglect. Total: 3.2%
Podnieks, et. Al, 1989 community based representative sample of Canada	Method: telephone survey	Sample: 2,086 persons 65+	Findings: 0.2% physical, 1.1% verbal, 4% neglect, 2.5% financial. Total: 4.0%
Kivela et al. 1992 Population of Finnish born born before 1923	Method: mailed questionnaires	Sample: 1,066 persons who had reached retirement age	Findings: 2% physical, 5% verbal, 2% financial
Ogg, 1993 Omnibus survey of representative sample of British population	Method: face to face interview	Sample: 593 persons 65+	Findings: 2% physical, 5% verbal, 2% financial

More Recent Prevalence Studies

Tang & Yan, 2001 community based sample of Hong Kong	Method: face to face interviews	Sample: 355 people 60+	Findings: 2.0% physical, 20.8% verbal, 17.1% more than one type of abuse. Total: 21.4%
Eisikovits, Winterstein & Lowenstein, 2004 community based sample of Israel	Method: face to face interviews	Sample: 1,045 retired people	Findings: 2% physical or sexual, 8% verbal, 16% neglect, 6.6% financial. Total: 18.4%
O'Keefe et al, 2007 community based sample of United Kingdom	Method: face to face interviews	Sample: 2,100 over 65+	Findings: 0.4% physical, 0.2% sexual, 0.4% verbal, 1.1% neglect, 0.7% financial. Total: 2.6%
Iborra 2008 community based sample of Spain	Method: face to face interviews with caregivers and dependent elderly	Sample: 2,401 64+	Findings: 0.2% physical, 0.3% verbal, 0.3% neglect, 0.7% financial. Total: 0.8%

Early Incidence Study

- **Tatara & Thomas (1998)**. Sentinel research design using representative probability sample of 20 counties: 1) local APS and area agencies on aging; and 2) about 1,100 trained "sentinels" from public and private agencies.

Findings: 1.2% of abused elderly

Road to the Study

Over 20 years of discussion

- NYS has third largest population of those 65+
- No mandatory reporting (APS-Law enforcement exception) so no comprehensive data
- Lacking funds for a valid study

2004 "Target Elder Abuse" NYS Summit

Priority 2 Recommendation:

- "Conduct a statewide research study to define the nature and scope of elder abuse, establish the baseline of prevalence and incidence, and develop a methodology for ongoing data collection and analysis for purposes of policy, planning, program development and evaluation".

Action Steps

1. Create a NYS E.A. Coalition to develop proposal for the study
2. Develop the method for ongoing data collection (key piece included for both studies I)
3. Secure funding for the Study
 - OCFS, (Hoyt) Child and Family Trust Fund provided 3 year funding- referenced Summit
4. Conduct and complete the statewide research study during a 3 year period
 - All 50 states get Federal \$\$ for Child Abuse Prevention programs, only NYS, through Executive or Legislative appropriations, funds Domestic Violence & Elder Abuse pilot programs
 - For future funding of E.A. programs, i.e. cost effective, targeted funding, the Trust Fund chose to provide \$\$ to fund the study thru RFP.

Implications of the Studies

- **Statewide and regional data**
 - Policy, funding implications
 - Is NYS unique? More or less than other studies have found? (1998 National Study)
 - Which type of abuse most prevalent where?
 - What is the gap between reports to APS, Law Enforcement, etc. and self reports?
 - What laws need to be enacted to address the problem?

Implications of the Studies

- Common definitions by agencies
- More education about the problem?
- National attention on this study & applicability to other states
- Your thoughts????

Road to the Prevalence study: Methodology

- Instrument Construction
- Subject Safety
- Data Collection
- Collaboration

Use and Modification of Instruments

- Conflict tactics scale has been preferred instrument in violence research
- Problematic for many forms of elder abuse
- Modified to reflect other actors
- Used gerontological instruments (e.g. ADLs, IADLS)
- Proxy and extensive safety protocols

Creation of New Items: Financial Exploitation

- Every instrument purported to measure financial exploitation in older people reviewed
- No instrument was fully appropriate:
 - Did not capture range of activities
 - Not culturally/socially appropriate
 - Not "modern"
- Consensus technique used to test and generate items
- Unachievable without partnership

Subject Safety

- Extensive protocols to assure individuals who needed assistance could have follow-up
- Approved by several IRBs
- Letters to subjects who wanted them
- Everyone made themselves available
- Fortunately, a non issue!

Data Collection: Cornell Survey Research Institute

- Telephone sample using random digit dialing
- Highly accomplished resource in Ithaca with experience interviewing older people
- Scientifically valid sampling method of NYS
- Over-sampling of diverse communities weighted for regions; English and Spanish
- N=4,000; the largest study ever conducted

Where We Are

- Data collection is done!
- Successful sampling!
- Excellent representation of all regions of New York State weighted by population
- Awaiting reported case study for comparison
- Now comes the fun/hard part!
- Stay tuned...

Road to the Documented Study

- **Challenges in approaching methodology**
 - No mandatory reporting/record keeping
 - System differences within organizations and between geographic areas of state
- Identified Service Areas
- Identified Key Stakeholders (partnership a must)
- Developed Questionnaire
- IRB approval
- Pilot test

Major Service Areas Serving Elder Abuse Victims (in red centralized databases)

- Adult Protective Services
- Aging Services
- District Attorneys
- Elder Abuse Coalition members
- New York State Crime Victims Board funded programs
- New York State Domestic Violence Programs
- Law Enforcement (Domestic Incident Report data)



Developing Questionnaire: Identified Data Fields (for 60+ by county)

- Total number of unduplicated elder abuse(60+)
- Demographic data of victims:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Household composition
 - Poverty
 - Race/ethnicity
- Demographic data of abusers:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Relationship of abuser
- Types of mistreatment
- Referral source
- Disposition – referral to others

Where We Are

- Data collection in process
- Identifying additional programs within service areas
- Interesting outcomes already
 - Raising awareness of need for data systems
- Stay tuned....
