



Defining, Assessing and Reporting Abuse

University of Illinois at Chicago



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Purpose

The purpose of this PowerPoint is to enhance your existing knowledge of abuse.



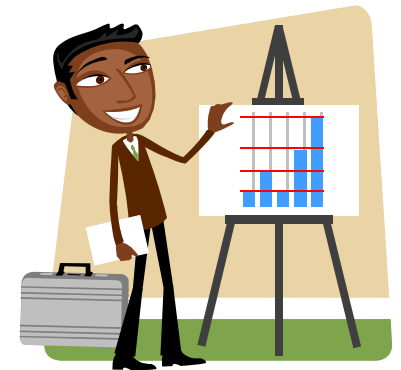
Elder Abuse Statistics

- IL elder abuse victims = 76,000 persons over the age of 60².
- 75% of abusers are family members, including spouse (12%), child (42%), or other relative (21%)³.
- Most commonly forms of elder abuse = emotional abuse & financial exploitation³.



Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

- In 2005, 110,795 children were reported for abuse or neglect in IL⁶.
- In 2005, 64 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in IL⁶.



Definitions

- Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Neglect in Adults with Disabilities
- Child Abuse & Neglect



Abuse

“Physical abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty or willful deprivation, but does not include reasonable direction of a minor child by a parent or person *in loco parentis*⁷.”



Elder Abuse

Under the umbrella of elder abuse:

- **Physical abuse** - inflicting pain or injury upon an older adult⁴.
- **Sexual abuse** - touching, fondling, intercourse, or any other sexual activity with an older adult, when the older adult is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened or physically forced⁴.

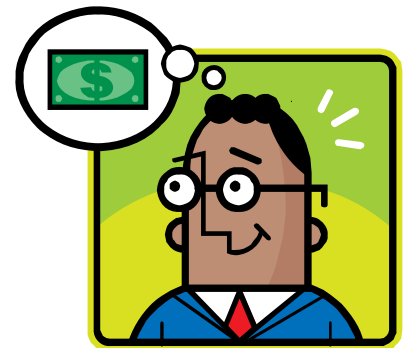
Elder Abuse cont.

- **Emotional abuse** - verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment or intimidation⁴.
- **Confinement** - restraining or isolating and older adult, other than for medical reasons⁴.
- **Passive neglect** - the caregiver's failure to provide an older adult with life's necessities⁴.



Elder Abuse conti.

- **Willful deprivation** - exposing an older adult to the risk of physical, mental or emotional harm by denying him/her medication, medical care, shelter, food, therapeutic device or physical assistance⁴.
- **Financial exploitation** - misuse or withholding of an older adult's resources by another, leading to a disadvantage of the older adult and advantage of someone else⁴.



Neglect in Adults with Disabilities

Neglect - the failure to exercise the degree of care toward a high-risk adult with disabilities⁷:

- a). the failure to take reasonable steps to protect a high-risk adult with disabilities from acts of abuse;
- b). the repeated, careless imposition of unreasonable confinement;



Neglect in Adults with Disabilities cont.

- c). the failure to provide food, shelter, clothing, and personal hygiene to a high-risk adult with disabilities who requires such assistance;
- d). the failure to provide medical and rehabilitative care for the physical and mental health needs of a high-risk adult with disabilities; or
- e). the failure to protect a high-risk adult with disabilities from health and safety hazards.

Child Abuse & Neglect

Child abuse - the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in their home or someone who works with or around children¹.

- Mistreatment must cause injury or must put the child at risk of physical injury¹.
- Child abuse can be physical (e.g., burns, broken bones), sexual (e.g., fondling, incest) or emotional¹.



Child Abuse & Neglect conti.

Neglect - is when a parent or responsible caretaker fails to provide adequate supervision, food, clothing, shelter or other basics for a child¹.



Signs of Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

Physical Indicators⁴

- Unhealed injuries
- Injuries incompatible with adult's statement
- Cuts, lacerations or puncture wounds
- Bruises, welts, discolorations, especially multiple in various stages of healing
- Dehydration, malnourishment or weight loss without medical reasoning
- Pale or poor skin hygiene
- Sunken eyes or cheeks
- Broken bones



Signs of Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation cont.

Financial Indicators⁴

- Unpaid bills with adequate income
- Food, clothing & care needs not met
- Complaints of theft of property or money
- Missing checks, jewelry or other valuables
- Suspicious changes in titles to property
- ATM transactions by homebound elder
- Utility shut-offs or threats of shut-offs
- Large telephone bills run up by caregiver
- Checks for food written over the amount
- Large or unusual bank transactions



Signs of Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation cont.

Behavioral Indicators of Client⁴

- Withdrawn, depressed, helpless
- Hesitates to talk openly
- Gives unbelievable stories about injuries or events
- Denies problems
- Appears fearful of caregiver
- Has lost touch with family/friends other than caregiver



Signs of Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation cont.

Family & Caregiver Indicators⁴

- Indifference or hostility to client
- Excessive blaming of client
- Problems with alcohol or drugs
- Previous history of violence
- Failure to comply with care plan
- Social isolation of client
- Conflicting accounts of incidents
- Threats and intimidation of client



Signs of Child Abuse & Neglect¹

- Broken bones, bruises, cuts & burns
- See someone hitting the child with an object
- See marks on child's body that does not appear to be an accident
- If child tells you he/she has been harmed by someone
- If child appears malnourished
- If child is inappropriately dressed for the weather
- If child is left alone



Reporting Abuse

- * *Refer to policy and procedures' manual for reporting cases of abuse.*



Participant/Family Reporting Abuse

* Inform MFP participants and family members on the ways he/she can report abuse:

1. Call 911.
2. Call appropriate hotline (see next page).
3. Call MFP Transitional Coordinator.



Hotline/Helpline Numbers

Elder Abuse Hotline	1-866-800-1409 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)
Senior Helpline	1-800-252-8966 1-888-206-1326 (TTY)
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-252-2873 217-785-4020
DHS Helpline	1-800-843-6154 1-800-447-6404 (TTY)
MH Hotline	309-673-7373 1-800-273-TALK



Abuse Case Study

- An MFP transition coordinator transitioned Sally Hively from the Great Lakes nursing facility 3 months ago.
- Sally is a 72 year-old widower who is currently living with her son.
- **Past Medical History**: Hypothyroidism, arthritis and frequent falls.
- At Great Lakes, Sally enjoyed playing cards with other residents, going to the hairdresser and attending church services.



Case Study: After Transition

- Since transition, you have noticed the following changes in Sally's physical appearance and mood:
 - Loss of fullness in her cheeks
 - Withdrawn during visits
 - Appears depressed
 - Has lost touch with her hobbies
 - Hesitates to talk openly about her days in the community

Are these signs of abuse or neglect?



What type of elder abuse is Sally experiencing?

Answer: Yes, these are signs of elder abuse.

- Confinement – restraining or **isolating** an older adult, other than for medical reasons.
- Sally could be experiencing other forms of abuse, but further investigation into this case is warranted to make a proper diagnosis.

What are your next steps?



Case Study: Next Steps

- Refer to your policy and procedures' manual for reporting cases of abuse.
- Provide Sally with the elder abuse hotline number.



Comprehension Questions

1. What are the various forms of abuse in the elderly?
2. Define neglect in adults with disabilities.
3. Define child abuse.
4. Name the signs of financial exploitation.
5. How often should I assess an MFP participant for abuse?



Answers

1. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, confinement, passive neglect, willful deprivation and financial exploitation.
2. See Neglect in Adults with Disabilities (Slides 10 & 11)
3. Child abuse - the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in their home or someone who works with or around children¹.
4. See Financial Indicators (Slide 15)
5. Assess for signs of abuse at **every** house visit.



References

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