



Elder Abuse Bytes

Issue 6, March 2010

An e-newsletter from the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect
at the University of California, Irvine, Program in Geriatrics

Promoting aging with dignity and eliminating aging in fear.



RESEARCH: Screening for abuse and neglect of people with dementia

Researchers investigated characteristics of people with dementia and their caregivers that are associated with mistreatment in order to inform clinicians about screening for mistreatment. They found that 61 of 129 (47%) participants with dementia had been mistreated by their caregivers. Fifty four (42%) experienced psychological abuse, 13 (10%) physical abuse, and 18 (14%) caregiver neglect. The best indicator of which persons with dementia were mistreated was their own behavior: that is if they committed a physical assault or were psychologically aggressive repeatedly toward the caregiver.

The study does not determine whether these behaviors preceded or followed the mistreatment. Wiglesworth, A., Mosqueda, L., Mulnard, R., Liao, S., Gibbs, L., et al. (2010). Screening for abuse and neglect of people with dementia. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 58(3), 493-500. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123319977/abstract>

POLICY: Health Care Reform Act provides tools for the fight against elder abuse As part of the Health Care Reform Bill, several provisions supported by elder justice advocates were signed into law by President Obama. The **Elder Justice Act** provides dedicated Adult Protective Services (APS) funding, improves training and funding of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and establishes an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to make recommendations to the Secretary of HHS on the coordination of activities of federal, state, local and private agencies and entities relating to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The **Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act** creates a national program of criminal background checks for persons seeking employment in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The **Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act** provides consumers with more information about individual nursing homes and their track record of care, and gives the government better tools for enforcing quality standards. For more information, visit www.elderjusticecoalition.com or www.nccnhr.org

TOOLS: Clinicians' Pocket Guide on Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation

Researchers at the Texas Consortium Geriatric Education Center at Baylor College of Medicine have developed a 4-page pocket guide for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals. Supported by the nonprofit Investor Protection Trust, it includes a list of red flags, tips on how to broach the topic of finances with seniors, and resources to tap if they suspect fraud or exploitation is taking place. Download the pdf: www.centeronelderabuse.org/files/EIFFE_Clinician_Pocket_Guide_11-09.pdf

RESEARCH: Prevalence and correlates of emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse and potential neglect in the United States This computer-assisted phone interviewing study of 5777 Americans over age 60 provides evidence that elder mistreatment is both prevalent and a major public health issue. One in ten respondents reported some mistreatment. Low social support was associated with all types. Acierno, R., Hernandez, M. A., Amstadter, A. B., Resnick, H. S., Steve, K., Muzzy, W., &

Kilpatrick, D. G. (2010). Prevalence and correlates of emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse and potential neglect in the United States: The National Elder Mistreatment Study. American Journal of Public Health, 100(2), 292-5. <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/reprint/AJPH.2009.163089v1.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW... Incidence of crime victimization is higher among people with disabilities U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics found that in 2007, age-adjusted rate of nonfatal violent crime against persons with disabilities was 1.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities. Download the report and data from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/capd07.htm>

TRAINING: National Adult Protective Services Association Conference November 9-12, 2010 in San Diego, California Mark your calendar! This annual conference provides expanded programs for APS line staff and administrators, law enforcement, prosecutors and health care professionals. Presented by NAPSA and UC Irvine Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect. Vendors are welcome to email vendors@apsnetwork.org to learn about exhibitions and sponsorship. For program, registration, and hotel information visit <http://www.apsnetwork.org/Training/conference2010.htm>

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