



Elder Mistreatment: Progress and Barriers

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Where We've Seen Progress



Definitions

- From definitional disarray to greater consensus



National Research Council Definition

“Elder mistreatment” refers to:

(a) intentional actions that cause harm or create a serious risk of harm (whether or not harm is intended) to a vulnerable elder by a caregiver or other person who stands in a trust relationship to the elder or (b) failure by a caregiver to satisfy the elder’s basic needs or to protect the elder from harm. “Mistreatment” conveys two ideas: that some injury, deprivation, or dangerous condition has occurred to the elder person and that someone else bears responsibility for causing the condition or failing to prevent it.



Prevalence

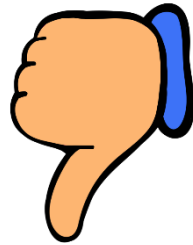
- Substantial body of evidence from population-based surveys in the U. S. and internationally
- Generally similar rates found
- Differences largely based on definitions used (especially lack of thresholds)

Risk Factors



Large-scale population-based studies have identified risk and protective factors

Risk Factors



Lack of prospective studies



Where We've Failed Miserably

- Evidence based treatment and prevention strategies



The Need

- We must now devote unswerving attention and resources to developing and rigorously testing prevention programs, treatments, and interventions



The Problem

- **We have not discovered a single effective evidence-based intervention for elder mistreatment of any kind, and those few interventions that have been rigorously evaluated using controlled designs have found negative consequences for victims.**



Barriers to Research

- IRB and HIPAA issues
- Access to patients/clients for research
- Funding (maybe...)
- Lack of researcher interest and engagement