

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ElderJustice
INITIATIVE

National Needs Assessment: Elder Abuse Victim Services

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Tamkin Symposium
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Background

Elder abuse can be defined as:

...physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility), either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability (US DOJ, 2014).

CONSEQUENCES OF ELDER ABUSE

- **Financial**

- Billions lost annually
- Poverty and homeless
- Tarnished credit scores
- Difficulty obtaining credit

- **Psychological & Social**

- Loss of independence/security
- Relationship disruptions
- Fearful, depressed, suicidal
- Change of plans for future

- **Health**

- Unable to afford medications or health care treatment
- Financial strain stressful
- Hospitalization
- Institutionalization
- Mortality

- **Secondary Victims**

- Financial support
- Loss of wealth transfer

Services

Systems of Services



COMPARISON

Social Services

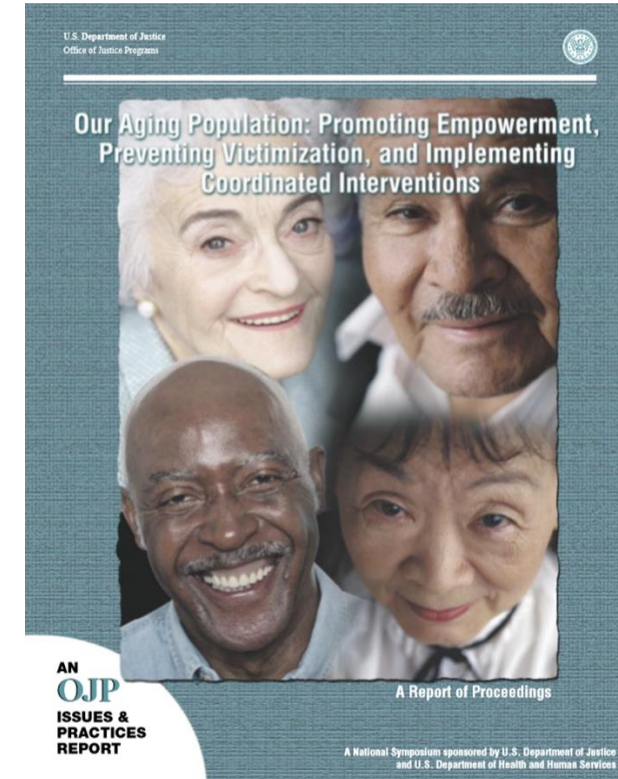
- **Civil and criminal legal** (protective/restraining orders, restitution, law enforcement referral, court accompaniment, eviction notices)
- **Medical** (medical evaluation, medical supplies, home health aide) out-of-home residence (e.g., relocation, voluntary institutional placement, assistance locating a domestic violence shelter)
- **In-home residential** (in-home services, chores/homemaker services, adequate heat and ventilation)
- **Mental health** (counseling, psychiatric, support groups, skills training to address ambivalence)
- **Financial management** (assistance with financial debt/creditors, applying for a representative payee, applying for public benefits, emergency financial assistance)
- **Personal needs** (transportation, food, clothing, hygiene, adult day care)
- **Case management** (coordination of services)

Victim Services

- **Emotional support/listening** (crisis counseling, social support, peer counseling, support groups, and self-help groups)
- **Safety services** (safety planning such as telephone numbers of possible helpers, emergency and transitional housing and shelters, housing, security needs such as personal alarms, locksmith)
- **Professional therapy** (counseling, therapeutic and pharmacological response to depression, psycho-education)
- **Criminal justice advocacy** (assistance with pressing charges and/or prosecution, victim notification services, victim compensation information, court accompaniment)
- **Individual needs assessments/personal advocacy** (emergency funds, transportation services, literacy services or English language assistance, monitoring)
- **Civil legal assistance** (orders of protection, housing issues, divorce, restitution advocacy)

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Our Aging Population (DoJ/HHS 2000)
- EJCC Recommendations (2014) & Request for Comments (2019)
- Elder Justice Roadmap (2014)
- 7 GAO reports
- WHCoA 2015 Report
- 12 Intervention Reviews
- Senate Aging Report on Fraud
- NCSC 2018 (Financial Exploitation by guardians briefs)
- National Resource Center for Reaching Victims (Elder Abuse)
- NCVS (BJS) Victim Services National Survey
- Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services (2013)
- 18 Federal Research Agendas
- Elder Abuse Literature (Pritchard, 2000)
- Victim Services Literature



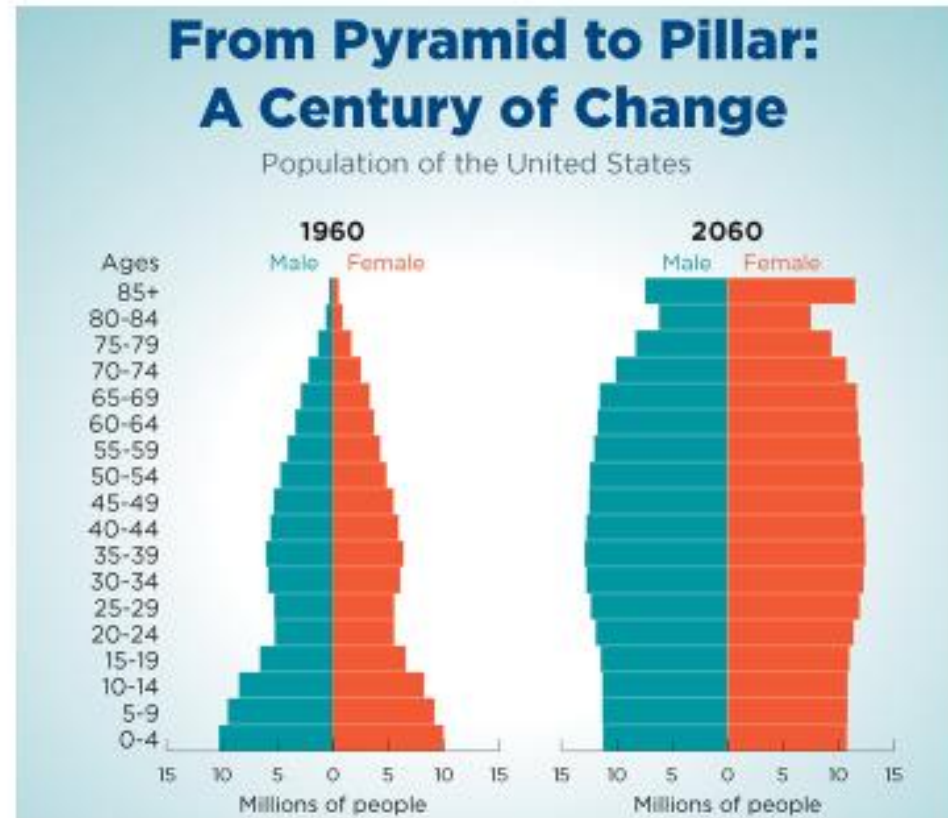
Absence of a National Elder Abuse Victim Services Needs Assessment

National Elder Abuse Victim Services Needs Assessment



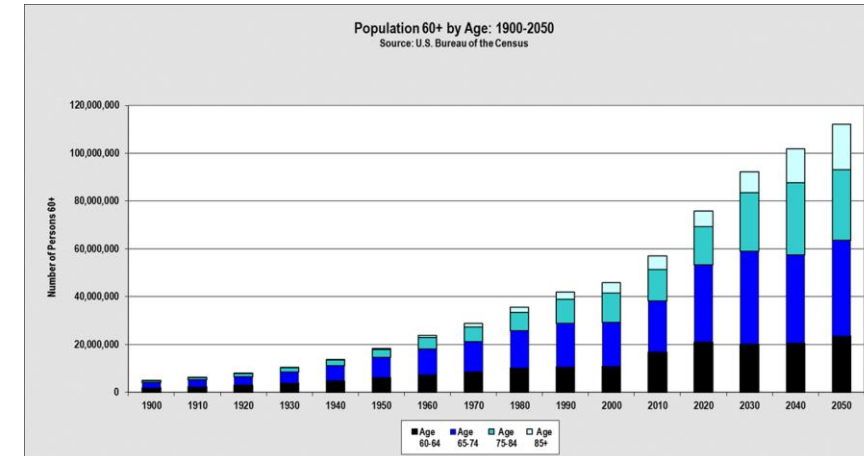
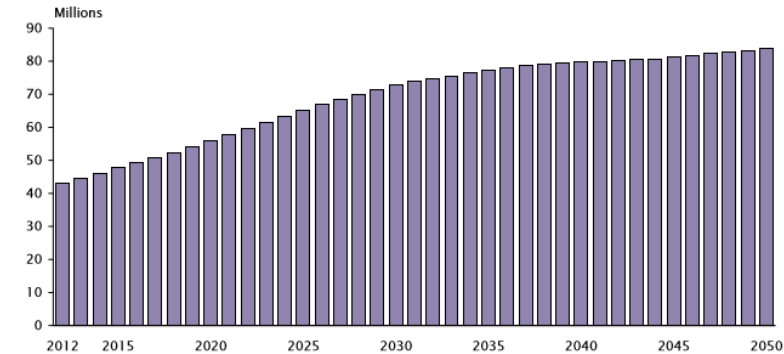
Why Now?

Projected Growth of the 65+ Population



<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/cb18-41-population-projections.html>

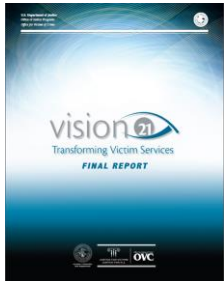
Figure 1.
Population Aged 65 and Over for the United States: 2012 to 2050



Elder Abuse is a Significant Social Problem

Prevalence and Correlates of Emotional, Physical, Sexual, and Financial Abuse and Potential Neglect in the United States: The National Elder Mistreatment Study

Ron Acierno, PhD, Melba A. Hernandez, MS, Ananda B. Amstadter, PhD, Heidi S. Resnick, PhD, Kenneth Steve, MS, Wendy Muzzy, BS, and Dean G. Kilpatrick, PhD



CRIMINAL AND ADULT PROTECTION FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES: HOW DO THE STATUTES MEASURE UP TO EXISTING RESEARCH?

Kevin E. Hansen,[†] Jonathan Hampel,^{††} Sandra L. Reynolds,^{†††} and Iris C. Freeman^{††††}

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Elder Justice Act of 2009”.

NAMRS
NATIONAL ABUSE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE SYSTEM

NAMRS FFY 2017
Report 3: Case Component

September 27, 2018



OVC FY 2017 Field-Generated Innovations in Addressing Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation

Applications Due: June 28, 2017



Older Adults are Increasingly Participating in the Criminal Justice System

VOLUME 49 WINTER 2012 NUMBER 1
**AMERICAN
CRIMINAL
LAW REVIEW**

ELDER (IN)JUSTICE: A CRITIQUE OF THE CRIMINALIZATION
OF ELDER ABUSE

Nina A. Kohn



Public Law 115–70
115th Congress

An Act

To prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response
to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Elder Abuse
Prevention and Prosecution Act”.

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Infusion of VOCA Victim Assistance Programming Funds

Fiscal Year	Prv. Yr. Deposits	Cap	Fiscal Year	Prv. Yr. Deposits	Cap
2000	\$985,185,354	\$500,000,000	2010	1,745,677,602	705,000,000
2001	776,954,858	537,500,000	2011	2,362,337,940	705,000,000
2002	544,437,015	550,000,000	2012	1,998,220,205	705,000,000
2003	519,466,480	600,000,000	2013	2,795,547,045	730,000,000
2004	361,341,967	621,312,500 ¹	2014	1,489,682,811	745,000,000
2005	833,695,013	620,000,000 ¹	2015	3,591,493,390	2,361,000,000
2006	668,268,054	625,000,000	2016	2,639,961,928	3,042,000,000
2007	649,631,046	625,000,000	2017	1,486,357,496	2,573,000,000
2008	1,017,977,475	590,000,000	2018	6,584,504,474	4,436,000,000
2009	896,316,825	635,000,000 ²	2019	444,832,641	3,353,000,000
¹ Includes rescissions.					
² Does not include \$100 million in Recovery Act funding					



VOCA-FUNDED ELDER ABUSE PROGRAMS

**OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS**

**OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

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VOCA-Funded Elder Abuse Programs

October 12, 2017

In the last two years, Congress significantly raised the financial cap on Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, quadrupling Fiscal Year 2016 funding that is available to states to support victim services. In addition, the new [VOCA Formula Victim Assistance Rule](#)—finalized in August 2016—clarified and expanded states' allowable uses of VOCA victim assistance funding. With this tremendous increase in funding and the new Rule that clarifies and expands how states may expend the funding, states are looking to support all victims, including victims of elder abuse.

Below are examples of VOCA-funded elder abuse programs and the VOCA offices that funded them. Visit OVC's [elder abuse/mistreatment page](#) for more information on this topic.

The programs listed below are not equipped to respond to calls for immediate assistance, such as calls intended for Adult Protective Services.

If you experience an emergency, call 911. Find your state's reporting agency at <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/find-support-elder-abuse>.

State	VOCA-Funded Elder Abuse Program	VOCA Administrator
Alabama	<p>Elderly and Disabled Adult Victim Services (EDAVS) provides direct short-term services to elderly and disabled victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The project provides short-term in-home sitter or homemaker services to ensure victims' safety and avoid unnecessary out-of-home placement and short-term placement funding for adults requiring emergency out-of-home placements including nursing home, assisted living, and foster care.</p> <p>Tammy Fuller, EDAVS Coordinator Adult Protective Services—Department of Human Resources Phone: 334-353-4901 Email: Tammy.Fuller@dhr.alabama.gov</p>	<p>EDAVS is funded by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.</p> <p>Contact VOCA Administrator Derek Yarbrough, at 334-353-3252 or derek.yarbrough@adeca.alabama.gov for more information.</p>
California	<p>The Elder Abuse Forensic Center provides additional services in medicine and neuropsychology to provide comprehensive services and achieve better outcomes for the elder and dependent adult population in Riverside County.</p> <p>David Franklin, CEO, EDAVS</p>	<p>The Elder Abuse Forensic Center is funded through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.</p> <p>Contact Leigh Bills, MSW, Victim Services Division Chief, at leigh.bills@caloes.ca.gov or 916-845-8800; and Diana Medina, Chief</p>

Text size: Feedback

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Calendar Directory E-Mail Updates

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[FAQs](#)

Visit the [VOCA Administrators FAQs](#) page for answers to frequently asked questions.

[Laws and Policies](#)

[Meeting Summaries](#)

RELATED RESOURCES

- [Match Waiver Template](#)
- [Innovative Practices for Victim Services \(Full Report\)](#)
- [Innovative Practices for Victim Services \(Flier\)](#)
- [2018 Crime Victims Fund Allocations](#)
- [Crime Victims Fund Allocations Archive](#)
- [Awards Made by OVC](#)
- [VOCA nationwide performance reports](#)
- [U.S. Resource Map](#)
- [Current Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Archived Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Managing Grants](#)
- [National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators](#)
- [National Association of Crime Compensation](#)

**OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

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The Use of VOCA Victim Assistance Program Funds for APS Intake Workers

August 16, 2017

In all states, some form of adult protective services (APS) exists to receive reports of elder abuse. Some states utilize a statewide hotline for receiving reports of elder abuse (intake), while other states maintain a system of local level intake. Intake is conducted, among other things, to determine whether victim services should be the only referral or whether a more system-delivered response is indicated (i.e., an APS investigation).

The person responsible for initially fielding reports of elder abuse is the APS intake worker. In some states, the intake worker has no other responsibilities, while in other states the intake worker alternatively functions as an APS caseworker.

New York State Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention Services Survey: Report of Findings

JUNE 2016

PREPARED BY:

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Weill Cornell Medical College

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Vice President for Program
Lifespan of Greater Rochester



Methods

COVERS ALL FORMS OF ELDER ABUSE

Financial exploitation

Financial fraud

Caregiver neglect

Physical abuse

Sexual assault

Psychological and verbal abuse

Multiple forms of abuse by the same person

Excludes self-neglect

INCLUSIVE TIMELINE



Elder Abuse Victims Services Stakeholders

- Victims
- Professionals
- Federal Agencies
- Family & Friends

Needs Assessment to Cover: *Community Dwelling Older Adults*

The Department of Justice recognizes the tremendous harms endured by residents of long-term care facilities and in no way mean to diminish their importance by their exclusion in this needs assessment, but the federal and state regulatory system within which they operate, and consequently the available services, are beyond the purview of the current needs assessments.

METHODS

- **Victims Focus Groups**
- **National survey of professionals**
- **Survey of federal agencies**
- **National survey of friends and family**
- **Abusive Adult Child/Older Parent Forum**

OLDER VICTIMS FOCUS GROUPS

- 6 regions round the U.S.
- APS Clients



OLDER VICTIMS FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

- **Type of Abuse**
- **Agencies Involved**
- **Age, Race/ethnicity, etc.**
- **Timeline Specific (Incident→Investigation/Prosecution→Recovery)**
 - **Services Received**
 - **Perceived Service Needs**
 - **Missing Services**
 - **Major Concerns throughout Timeline**

SURVEYS

- Professionals
- Federal Agencies
- Family & Friends
 - All use stakeholder specific surveys



35 PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Adult protective services (APS)

Federal, state and local law enforcement

Judges

State and Local Prosecutors/District Attorneys

Geriatricians/physicians

Emergency Department Physicians

Psychologist/Psychiatrists/Neuropsychologists

Aging Services Networks (AAAs)

Mental Health Professionals

Civil Legal Aid Attorneys

Elder Law and Estate Planning

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Housing Advocates

Elder Justice Coalitions

Family Justice Centers

Occupational Therapists

Systems-based victim witness

Community-based victim services

Domestic Violence Advocates

Sexual Assault Advocates

Forensic Nurses/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)

State Financial Regulatory Agencies

Guardianship Programs

Alzheimer's Association

State Offices on Rural Health

Probation and Parole Officers (community corrections)

Helplines/Hotlines

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)

Coroners

Fire Department

Animal Advocates

Research and evaluation

Forensic accountants or certified public accountants

Independent Living Centers

Older LGBTQ

PROFESSIONAL'S SURVEY

- **Profession Specific**
- **Type of Abuse**
 - **Timeline Specific**
 - ❖ **Victims Need?**
 - ❖ **Profession Specific Ability to Offer**
- **Rural Service Needs**



21 FEDERAL AGENCIES

- US DHHS National Institute on Aging
- US DHHS Administration for Community Living
- US DHHS Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services
- Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Federal Trade Commission
- Social Security Administration
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- USDOJ Office for Victims of Crime
- USDOJ Office on Violence Against Women
- USDOJ Federal Bureau of Investigation
- USDOJ Executive Office of US Attorneys
- USDOJ COPS Office
- US Department of Labor
- US Department of the Treasury
- US Department of Veterans Affairs
- US Postal Inspection Service
- US Securities and Exchange Commission
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Department of the Interior
- USDOJ National Institute of Justice

FEDERAL AGENCY SURVEY

- **Agency Specific Focus (Research; Service; Regulation;)**
- **Type of Abuse Covered by agency**
 - **Timeline Specific**
 - ❖ **Victims Needs Covered by Agency**

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- **Recruitment**
- **Type of Abuse**
- **Relationship to Victim**
- **Timeline Specific**
 - **What Services were Used**
 - **What Services were Needed**

ABUSIVE ADULT CHILD/OLDER PARENT FORUM

Anetzberger, 1987; Band-Winterstein, 2015; Greenberg, McKibben, & Raymond, 1990; Pillemer, 2005

Roundtable Discussion

10 Professionals

Summary Report

FORUM QUESTIONS

- Based on your unique perspective, what do you perceive as the causal factors involved in this situation – where aging parents are providing care for an abusive yet impaired adult child?
- Given that, what are the foundational service needs for this unique situation? (Go around the room and let everyone talk before opening up the conversation.)
- What would be the next element needed to build upon that strong foundation (and so on until we've saturated ideas).
- Are there any programs like this already in existence that we could build upon?
- What would be needed to ensure compliance – if that's even possible? If voluntary, what are the incentives? If mandatory, what would that look like?
- Who should build it? Who should manage it? Who do we want it affiliated with – what is the message?

WORK PRODUCTS

Forum Summary Report

Final Report

Recommendations

FINAL REPORT AUDIENCE

Office for Victims of Crime

VOCA Victim Assistance Programming Administrators

Other Federal Agencies

State and Local Agencies and Organizations

OMB

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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We welcome your feedback

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The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

