

Elder Abuse in Family Settings: Findings from Western Nepal

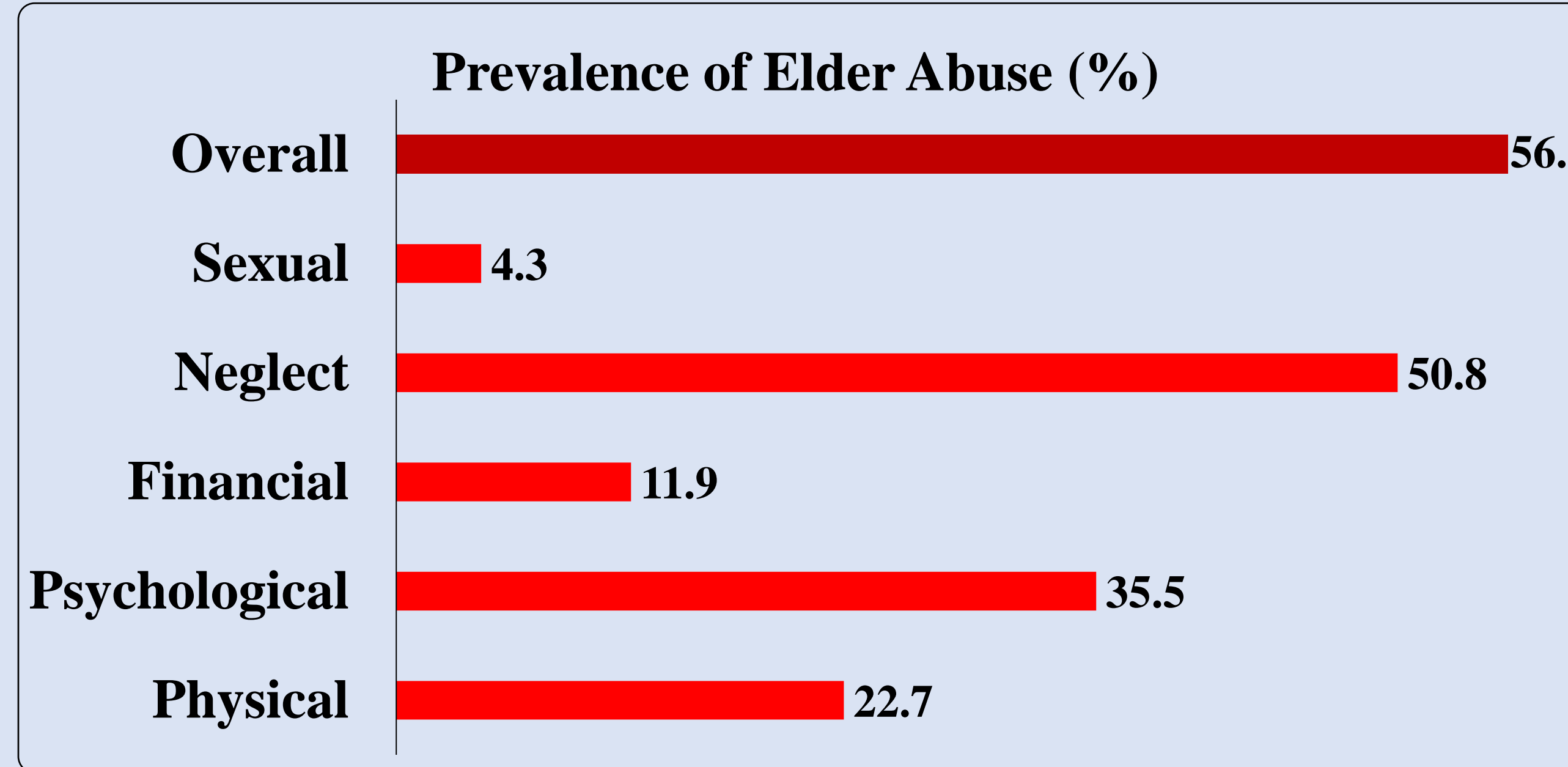
Aman Shrestha¹, Bharat Kafle², Preeti Bhattarai², Pratik Bhattarai³, Saruna Ghimire⁴

BACKGROUND

- In Nepal, issues of older adults are considered societal taboos and are often obliterated.
- Traditional values promoting filial piety hinder the acknowledgment and reporting of elder abuse, particularly within family settings in Nepal.
- First comprehensive study spanning all three ecological regions of Gandaki Province, Nepal.
- Aims: (1) estimate the prevalence of elder abuse by family members; (2) identify factors associated with such abuse

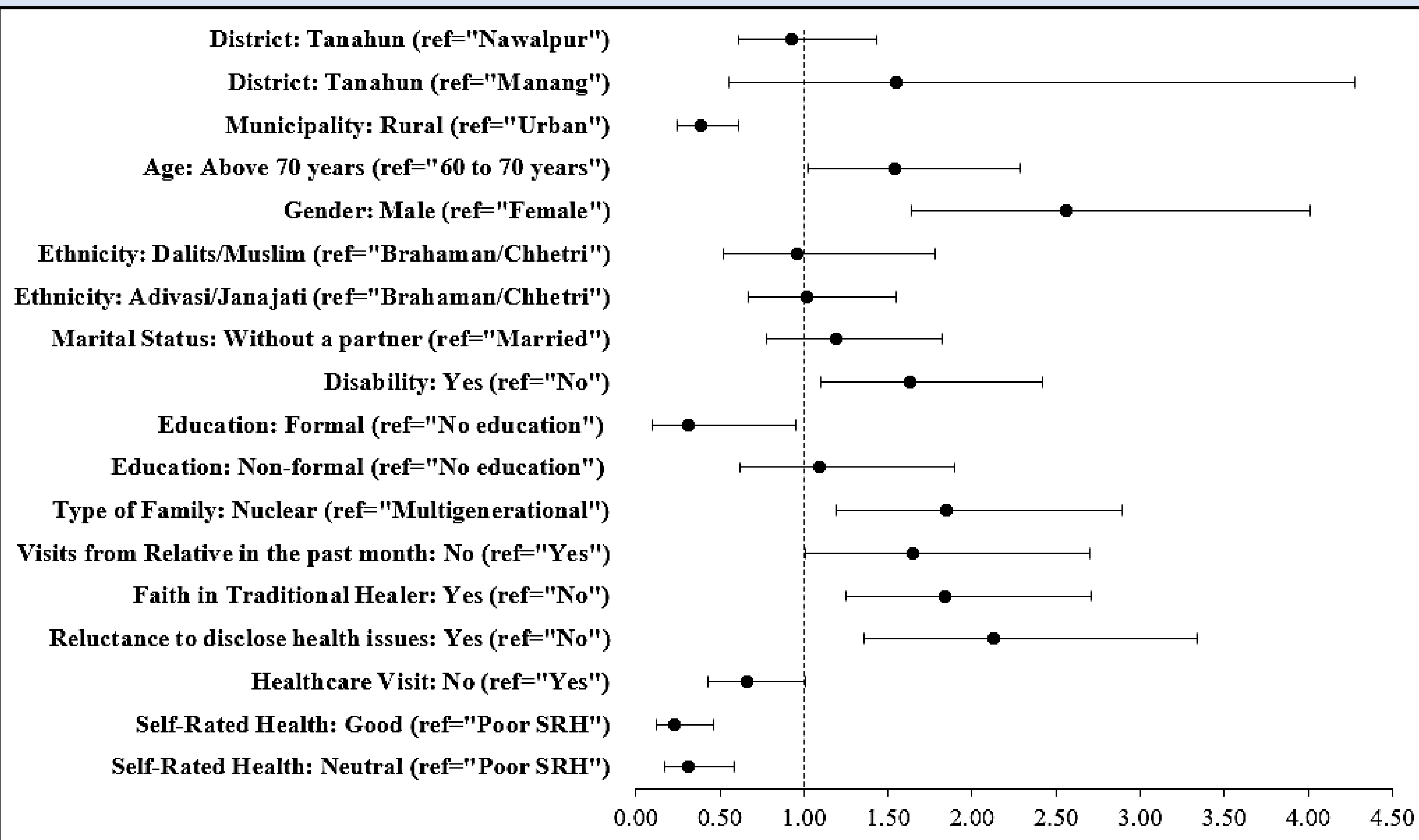
METHODS

- N = 612 (final analytic sample)
- Primary data collected between November 2019 and May 2020 in Nawalpur (Tarai), Tanahun (Hills), and Manang (Mountains) in Gandaki province of western Nepal.
- Included older adults ≥ 60 years; permanent residents in the study area and able to communicate in Nepali language.
- Association between elder abuse and the predictors tested using Pearson Chi-square, Mann-Whitney, and multivariable logistic regression.



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Over half of the older adults reported experiencing abuse from their family members.



RESULTS

- Prevalence of overall abuse and all its subtypes, except for financial abuse, were statistically significant and higher among males than females.
- Gender and reluctance to disclose health issues to family members were the strongest predictors of elder abuse in western Nepal.

DISCUSSION

- If these results were to be applied generally and I weren't asked to humbly rule out the possibility of a myriad of different confounds and limits, then it would imply that the high prevalence of older abuse indicates detrimental effects on health and well-being of older adults, and thereby require a solid plan of actions and policy considerations to address the issue.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

- None

AFFILIATIONS

1. PhD Program in Gerontology, University of Maryland Baltimore & University of Maryland Baltimore County, Maryland, USA
2. Karnali Academy of Health Sciences, Nepal
3. Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Nepal
4. Miami University, Oxford, USA

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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