

NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE MISTREATMENT OF OLDER ADULTS IN CANADA

National
Initiative for the
Care of the
Elderly

Annual NICE
Knowledge
Exchange 2013

WHY A PREVALENCE STUDY MATTERS

- A national prevalence study of Canada and each province provides estimates as to who is at risk for maltreatment and the size of the problem in Canada.
- Accurate data about abuse and neglect ensures accuracy in screening, classification, and appropriate treatment, and prevention (McDonald, Dergal & Collins 2012).

WHAT PREVALENCE DATA TELLS US

- **Prevalence studies tell us:**
 - The magnitude of abuse & neglect in Canada;
 - The distribution of the issue in Canada;
 - Trends over time of abuse and neglect;
 - The factors correlated with abuse and neglect;
 - The factors that predict abuse and neglect
 - Targets for intervention

WITH NUMBERS IN HAND:

- The data will help federal and provincial policy makers:
 - Develop evidence-based policies,
 - Provide baseline data for future policy and program evaluations to assess if things improve,
 - Will make possible international comparisons,
 - Provide data that will accurately estimate how many human and financial resources are required to prevent and solve the problem.
 - All Canadians benefit directly and indirectly from the protection of older adults through awareness and the savings of human and economic costs as reflected in taxes.

EXISTING PREVALENCE DATA (CANADA)

- **Podnieks et al (1990); 1989 data**
 - 2,008 randomly selected older adults in Canada
 - 4% reported some form of abuse
 - 2.5% financial; 1.4% verbal aggression; 0.5% physical abuse
- **Pottie Bunge (2000), criminal victimization questions in GSS**
 - 4,324 older adults in Canada, 65+
 - 7% psychological; 1% financial
 - 9% of older men, 6% of older women reported being victims of emotional or financial abuse

Podnieks, E.; Pillemer, K.; Nicholson, J. P.; Shillington, T. & Frizzel, A. F. (1989): A National Survey on Abuse of the Elderly: Preliminary Findings, Toronto, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute; Pottie Bunge, V. (2000). Abuse of older adults by family members. In V. Pottie Bunge & D. Locke (Eds.), *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile* (pp. 27-30). Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada.

**DEFINING & MEASURING
ELDER ABUSE
PREPARATORY WORK**

2009-
2011

DEFINING & MEASURING ELDER ABUSE STUDY (2009 – 2011)

- **Choosing Conceptual Definitions**
 - Systematic review of prevalence studies (14 community; 9 institutions)
 - Three focus groups were held (two in English, one in French)
 - Three dyad interviews (two in English, one in French)
 - Consensus meeting (2 days) with major Canadian stakeholders across Canada representing researchers, practitioners and policy makers to develop conceptual definitions.

- **Validation of Surveys**
 - Cognitive Testing of Instruments (40 in-person interviews in the community in French and English)
 - Completed Telephone Survey of those abused and not abused
 - 267 telephone interviews
 - Institutional Survey (32 face-to-face interviews)

DEFINING & MEASURING ELDER ABUSE STUDY (2009 – 2011)

■ Data Analyses

- ‘known groups’ validation method used

■ Ethical Considerations

- Interviewer Training & Resource Manual
- Resources & Support for Participants

DEFINING & MEASURING ELDER ABUSE STUDY (2009 – 2011)

- **267 respondents (community-dwelling)**
 - **122 (46%) experienced abuse or neglect in past 12 months**
 - **85 (69%) had experienced only one type of abuse**
- **“Known groups” analysis**
 - **“Known abuse” group more likely to respond positively to 20/25 specific types of abuse mentioned most frequently**
 - **“Known abuse” group responded positively to 3.5x more items than those in known “non-abuse” group**

DEFINING & MEASURING ELDER ABUSE STUDY (2009 – 2011)

- **Experiencing abuse and feeling abused**
 - **122 (46%)** responded “Yes” to one/several abuse items
 - **78 (64%)** felt abused
 - **44 (36%)** did not feel abused
 - **Evaluative coding of open-ended questions**
 - **Why did they not feel abused?**
 - Not a vulnerable adult
 - Non-trusted person was the perpetrator
 - Only one incident
 - Worked out issues
 - Abuser was mentally incapacitated

**NATIONAL SURVEY ON
THE MISTREATMENT OF
OLDER ADULTS IN
CANADA**

2012-
2015

NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE MISTREATMENT OF OLDER ADULTS IN CANADA

- **Funded by New Horizons for Seniors Program,
Human Resources and Skills Development
Canada**
 - 2012 – 2015
- **Study objectives**
 - Provide national estimates of who is at risk for abuse
 - Provide national estimates of the size of the problem
 - Provide data for decision-making on service provision
and policy development

NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE MISTREATMENT OF OLDER ADULTS IN CANADA

- **Representative sample**
 - 5,000 (+) adults, aged 55+
 - Living in private dwellings in Canada
 - Random-digit dialing
- **Abuse and neglect**
 - Physical
 - Psychological
 - Financial
 - Sexual

NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE MISTREATMENT OF OLDER ADULTS IN CANADA

■ Provincial Oversampling

- British Columbia (n=500)
- Ontario (n=550)
- Quebec (n=750)
- Alberta (in progress)

■ Data analysis

- Basic descriptives
- Evaluative coding

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

- **“Pocket” tool summary of key study results**
 - Paper and digital versions
 - Disseminated to...
 - NICE members & partners
 - General public
- **Academic conferences and publications**

RESEARCH TEAM

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QUESTIONS?

■ Contact

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