



Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules

2016 National Indian Council on Aging
Conference

**National Indigenous Elder
Justice Initiative**

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"Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders"



Objectives

- ❖ Brief overview types of elder abuse.
- ❖ Theory behind elder abuse.
- ❖ Know what makes elders vulnerable.
- ❖ Addressing Elder abuse in Indian Country.
- ❖ Purpose and goals for Online Educational training modules.
- ❖ Preview of Gateway and Financial modules.

What is Elder Abuse?

❖ National Center on Elder Abuse

“Any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.”

What types of elder abuse?

- ❖ Physical Abuse
- ❖ Sexual Abuse
- ❖ Emotional/Psychological Abuse
- ❖ Neglect
- ❖ Financial Exploitation
- ❖ Self-Neglect
- ❖ Spiritual Abuse

Poly-victimization

When an elder is harmed through multiple co-occurring or sequential types of elder abuse by one or more perpetrators, or experiences one type of abuse perpetrated by multiple people in a trust relationship with the elder.

❖ **Multiple victimization**

When an elder is abused in the same way repeatedly by more than one person (repeated verbal abuse).

❖ **Multi-faceted Abuse**

When an elder receives more than one type of abuse over a period of time (emotional/psychological, physical, neglect, spiritual)

❖ **Hybrid Elder Abuse**

When an elder suffers from a combination of multiple types of abuse and multiple abusers.

❖ **Co-Occurring forms of Elder Abuse**

When an elder receives more than one type of abuse at once (emotional/psychological, physical, neglect, spiritual)

Why does elder abuse happen?

- ❖ Opportunistic Act
- ❖ Premeditated and calculated
- ❖ Prejudices
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Ignorance
- ❖ Lack of skills
- ❖ Lack of external support

http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/mainpages/Abuse/abuse_why.html

What causes elder abuse?

Caregiver Stress Model says Elder Abuse is due to stress associated with providing care and assistance to frail, highly dependent elderly people.

❖ Doesn't fit all cases!

What makes elders vulnerable?

- ❖ Trusting nature
- ❖ Perceived to be easy to fool or con
- ❖ Have steady source of income
- ❖ Isolation

Why Are Elders Vulnerable?

- ❖ Health Status
 - "vulnerable decision-makers"
 - Limited physical mobility
 - Limited independence
 - Visual Impairment
 - Hearing Loss
 - Depression
- ❖ Cognitive Ability
 - Decreased information processing/problem-solving
 - Declining Memory
 - Difficulty reading/understanding product labels
 - Difficulty interpreting comparative information for decision making.

- Kim, Eun-Jin, and Loren Geistfeld. 2008. **What makes older adults vulnerable to exploitation or abuse?** The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues, 13 (1).

Why Are Elders Vulnerable?

❖ Social Network

- Less social integration, more stress
- Social Isolation because of poor health, retirement, loss of spouse & friends.
- Less friend support with age due to mortality
- Rely on retailers/service providers as a source of social support.
- Lack of social support results in susceptibility because no way to validate information.

•Kim, Eun-Jin, and Loren Geistfeld. 2008. **What makes older adults vulnerable to exploitation or abuse?** The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues, 13 (1).

Health Effects of Elder Abuse

▶ Increased Mortality

- Lachs et al. 1998, Dong et al. 2009




▶ Poorer physical outcomes (probable)

- American Medical Association 1990; Anetzberger 2004; Lindbloom et al. 2007
- Increased pain
- Exacerbation of existing conditions
- Welts, wounds, injuries
- Increased susceptibility to infection

Financial Effects of Elder Abuse

- ❖ Restitution often not forthcoming or too late
- ❖ No time to rebuild assets
- ❖ Loss of choices for older adult; loss of independence
- ❖ Reliance on others for financial support
- ❖ More quickly spending down to Medicaid

High Risk Situations

-  People with inadequately treated mental health and / or substance abuse problems are more likely to be abusive
-  People who feel stressed / burdened / resentful are more likely to be abusive
-  Providing care for an older adult who is physically combative and/or verbally abusive

Identifying Problems and Concerns

- ❖ The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA, 2005), estimated that for every reported case of elder abuse, 14 cases will go unreported.
- ❖ Little is known about how widespread elder abuse is in Indian Country.
- ❖ No infrastructure or coordinated systems currently in place for prevention, protection, and support for the elder.
- ❖ Understanding of what constitutes elder abuse is difficult, as many elders may only consider victimization as physical abuse, increasing risks of other forms of abuse.

NIEJI's Intended Purpose

- ❖ General consensus that people may not know what constitutes elder abuse or neglect.
- ❖ Produce information on how to define and recognize elder abuse in Indian Country.
- ❖ Educate **EVERYONE** on elder abuse and neglect, and learn ways on how to help prevent it.
- ❖ Creation of culturally relevant materials providing viewers with training tools and information about elder abuse and neglect. Specifically geared for formal and informal care providers, law enforcement, and elders themselves.

Online Interactive Educational Modules

- ❖ On June 15th 2016, NIEJI launched the Native American Elder Abuse Online Interactive Educational Modules. Available at www.nieji.org
- ❖ Designed for professional disciplines working with and caring for Native Elders in a variety of settings.
 - Elder
 - Caregiving
 - Social Services
 - Financial
 - Legal
 - Policy
 - Healthcare



Interactive Icons

NIEJI *Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders*

Interactive Icons

Some modules include icons that will allow you to access and interact with the material.

- Clicking the "audio" icon provides an audio recording.
- The "quiz" icon indicates an optional quiz to test your understanding of the topic.
- The "resources" icon provides a link to additional materials on the topic.

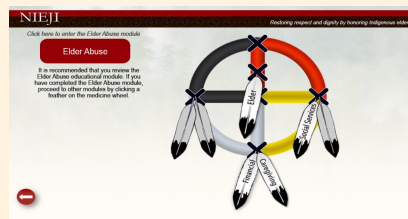
Audio of main screen text plays automatically on each slide. Use the audio on/off button if you prefer no audio.

Navigation controls shown: Rewind, Play/Pause, Backward, Forward, Playbar, Exit, Audio on/off.

 A screenshot of the "Interactive Icons" module. It features a list of icons (audio, quiz, resources) with descriptions. Below this is a section for navigation controls with buttons for Rewind, Play/Pause, Backward, Forward, and a Playbar. There are also buttons for Exit and Audio on/off. Arrows indicate the flow and interaction between these elements.

Current Training Modules

- ❖ Online educational modules on Elder Abuse and Neglect are located on the NIEJI website:
 - We recommend users watch the “Elder” feather icon first as this is an introduction to all other modules.
 - Three completed trainings for professionals in elder care fields; Social Services, Financial, and Caregivers.
 - We are currently working on training modules for Policy, Legal, and Health Care workers.



Online Interactive Educational Modules

- ❖ Modules contains valuable information to gain cultural understanding and best practices in the various disciplines addressing elder abuse and neglect in Indian Country.
- ❖ Each training module includes aims and learning objectives for professionals working closely with Native American elders.
- ❖ Included are ways to identify potential signs and risk factors for elder abuse and neglect, and how to report suspected abuse to proper authorities.
- ❖ Also included are culturally appropriate practices such as use of language while working with Native American elders. All of which will help the professional to address these concerns in a respectful manner which adheres to Native American traditional beliefs and practices.



NIEJI- Online Educational Modules

❖ Lets watch the NIEJI- Elder Abuse online educational module!!!!

— <https://www.nieji.org/training/elder-abuse/>

❖ Lets watch Financial online educational module!!!!



Certificates of Completion

❖ Included is a certificate of completion at the end of each educational module.





For More Information

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Thank You!

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