

Elderly Maltreatment in Rural Communities and Indian Country: How Is It Different?

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Virginia Legal Aid Conference

"Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders"



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Objectives

- NIEJI Resources
- Common rural & indigenous issues
- ❖Indigenous specific issues
- Rural specific issues
- Next steps



NIEJI Resources



"Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders"



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Native Elder Protection Team Toolkit

A <u>step-by-step guide</u> for developing a successful model for addressing elder abuse in Indian Country. The <u>Toolkil</u> is designed to help you identify and implement a tribal elder protection team.

Online Interactive Education

- · Caregiving
- · Elder Abuse
- · Financial Information
- Healthcare
- Legal
- · Policy
- Social Services



Funder

NIEJI is funded by the Administration for Community Living to provide research, education, and training for the identification and prevention of elder abuse in Indigenous communities. This program serves American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian elders in an effort to improve their quality of life. The project is housed at the University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health.

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NIEJI Resources

- **Elder Abuse** Types of elder abuse and the warning signs
- Tribal Elder Protection Team Toolkit

A step-by-step guide for developing a successful model for addressing elder abuse in Indian Country

- News & Events News, events, conference and seminars
- Publications
- Newsletter articles, research reports and other documents
- Presentations

Presentations/poster presentations from related meetings and conference

- Product Examples
- Items created by elder abuse prevention grantees
- **Websites & Tools** Related websites



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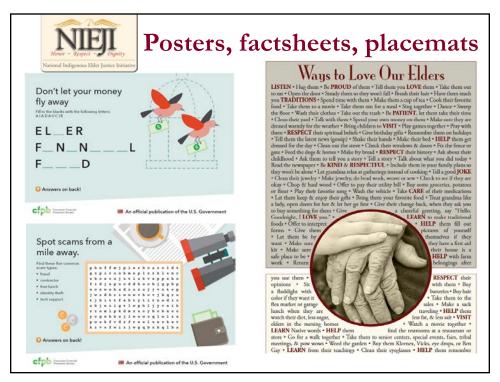
NIEJI Resources

- **❖State/Tribal Hotline Map**
- Training: Online Interactive Modules
 - Elder Abuse
 - Financial
 - Social Services
 - Caregiving

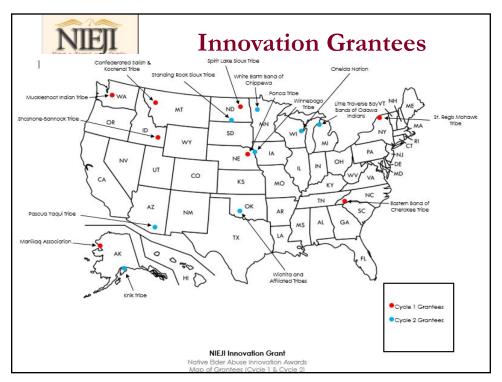
- Policy
- Healthcare
- Legal
- Medication Issues

❖NIEJI Innovation Grant

- Native Elder Abuse Innovation Awards
- Native Elder Maltreatment Survey











Elder Abuse



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What is 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."

NCEA, 2013



Types of Elderly Abuse

- Physical
- Emotional/Psychological
- Sexual
- **❖**Neglect
- **❖**Self-Neglect
- Abandonment
- Spiritual

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Where is the Research?

- ❖Rural Elder Abuse & Neglect, 2005
 - Depression & Caregiver Burden among Rural Elder Caregivers
 - Maine, 62 caregivers At-Risk, Isolation
 - Rural Vs. Urban Victims of Violence: The Interplay of Race & Religion
 - Illinois 1990-1995; similar needs, but rural more extensive with Transportation, education, and services than urban
 - Rural Physician Attitudes Toward the Elderly: Evidence of Ageism?
 - Florida, 212 practitioners, ageist perceptions of nursing home residents and those over 85 years



Native Elder Maltreatment Survey

- ❖ Data from 5 tribes, 27 different tribal affiliations
 - 373 Completed Surveys
 - Ages 50-101 years
- Native Elderly indicate greater Financial Exploitation and Neglect than Psychological and Physical abuse.
- Women show more neglect and financial exploitation.

Wheeler & Gray, 2019

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What Are the Numbers?

- Unexplained falls:
 - 39% of elders have fallen in the past year
- ❖Malnourished/Inadequate Food:
 - 1 in 6 Native elders report eating less than 2 meals/day
- Unable/no help to shop/cook/feed self
 - 1 in 9 Native elders report they are unable to shop, cook or feed themselves
 - 1 in 8 Native elders report they do not have the money to by food.

NRCNAA, 2015



What Are the Numbers?

Native Elders report they need help with:

Errands/shopping	22.8%
❖ Money	41.5%
Housekeeping/Chores	33%
❖Business/Financial Advice	48.7%
♦ Companionship	19%

NRCNAA, 2015

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Elderly Resources/Services

Service	Now Use	Would Use
Elder Abuse Prevention	1.1%	12.7%
Financial Assistance	3.4%	27.1%
Legal Assistance	2.2%	23.5%
Caregiver	6.0%	32.4%
Personal Care	2.6%	20.5%
Home Health Care	4.2%	32.6%
Home Modification	2.5%	27.7%
Transportation	9.5%	35.2%
Home Delivered Meals	14%	36% CNAA, 2015

Who Commits Elder Abuse?

- Intimate partners
- Adult children and other family members
- Caregivers
- Fiduciaries
- Others who are or put themselves in positions of trust or authority
- Strangers

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Why Does Elder Abuse Occur?

Persons motivated by:

- Greed
- Benefits of predatory behavior (sexual/ financial)
- Power & Control dynamics (similar to younger domestic violence)
- Good intentions (caregivers who cause harm even if trying to provide care)
- Physical/mental health conditions (cannot control behavior)



Rural & Indigenous Issues

- Response
- Transportation
- Lack of Caregivers
- Access to Services

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Who Are the Victims?

- Any older adult (generally 60+ but depends upon tribal definition)
- Disproportionately affected:
 - Persons who are isolated, living in poverty or who have cognitive impairments (e.g., dementia)
 - ➤ Women (2/3)
 - > Residents of long-term care facilities



Indigenous Issues

- Elder Abuse Codes
- Cross Jurisdictional Issues
- Restorative Justice Approaches
- Spiritual Abuse

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Native Elder Abuse: The Basics

- Many times Native elders do not consider themselves abused.
- The terms more often used are
 - Disrespect
 - Mistreated
- ❖ A "Native Elder" is...
 - Varies from tribe to tribe, but usually
 - Over 55 years of age
 - Knowledgeable of the culture
 - Wisdom from life or education
- "Elderly" only addresses the person's age



Why to Native Elderly?

- ❖ Native Values such as...
 - -Generosity
 - -Take care of today.
 - -Family Role or position
 - Respect for Elders

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Vulnerability of Native Elderly

- ❖ Dependence upon others for assistance.
- ❖Don't want caregivers to go to jail.
- Forgiving of family members.
- Spent their lives taking care of family so vulnerable to family needs/expectations holding greater importance.
- ❖IHS seeing different providers every time they go in for health care.



Rural Non-Indigenous Issues

- Transportation
- Education
- Services

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Next Steps

- Research/Data
- Cross-Cultural Training
- Cross-Jurisdictional Agreements



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