

Disrespect of Our Elders: Preventing Native Elder Abuse

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Jacque Gray, Ph.D.
Addressing Elder Abuse
December 10, 2014



“Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders”

—Vision:

“Restore respect and dignity by honoring indigenous elders.”

- ❖ Establish NIEJI
 - Website: www.nieji.org
 - E-Mail: nieji@med.und.edu
 - Phone: 701-777-2023
 - Toll-free Number: 855-834-1572
- ❖ Develop Resources
 - Tribal/State Resource with interactive map
 - Contacting all tribes about Elder Abuse Code
- ❖ Developed Elder Abuse Model Code/MOU
- ❖ Hold a restorative justice conference

NIEJI Goals Cycle 2

- ❖ Maintain and update NIEJI Infrastructure and provide technical assistance to tribes on elder abuse
- ❖ Develop training modules on Elder Abuse
- ❖ Provide educational information and resources on Native American elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation for dissemination on the website
- ❖ Provide a plan for data collection on elder abuse

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 legal types of elder abuse?

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

- ❖ Use of force to threaten or physically injure a vulnerable adult.
- ❖ Signs: Slap, bruises, falls, pressure marks, certain burns or blisters

- ❖ Verbal attacks, threats, rejection, isolation, or belittling acts that cause or could cause mental anguish, pain or distress to a senior adult.
- ❖ Signs: withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, unusual behavioral change

Sexual Abuse

- ❖ Sexual contact that is forced, tricked, threatened, or otherwise coerced upon a vulnerable elder, including anyone who is unable to grant consent.
- ❖ Signs: Bruises around breasts or genitals, unexplained STDs

Exploitation

- ❖ Theft, fraud, misuse, or neglect of authority, and use of undue influence as a lever to gain control over and older person's money or property.
- ❖ Signs: change in finances, altered wills or trusts, loss of property

- ❖ A caregiver's failure or refusal to provide for a vulnerable elder's safety, physical, or emotional needs.
- ❖ Signs: Pressure ulcers, lack of medical care, malnutrition or dehydration.

❖ Desertion of a frail or vulnerable elder by anyone with a duty of care.

- ❖ Spiritual Abuse (Doble 2006)
 - Anything that interferes with spiritual growth including the corruption of another person's value system.

- ❖ Soul Wounding (Duran & Duran, 1996)

❖ Examples

- Elder not taken to ceremonies and spiritual events
- Family not allowed to conduct ceremonies in hospital as elder is dying.
- Ceremonial items taken from the elder's home by visitors (family, friends, others) for use or sale.
- Elders not raised within the community wanting to have ceremonies at end of life and no connections to provide the ceremonies.
- Others?

▶ 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

- ❖ 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

Who is more at risk?

 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

Screening for Abuse

- ❖ Best practice: Everyone should be screened
- ❖ Normalize talking about a difficult topics
- ❖ Native Elders talk about disrespect not abuse
- ❖ Asking questions creates a potential to catch abuse in its early stage and prevent it from escalating

Screening: Ask the Elder

- ❖ “Are you being disrespected? If so, in what ways?”
- ❖ “Has anybody hurt you?”
- ❖ “Are you afraid of anybody?”
- ❖ “Is anyone taking or using your money without your permission?”
- ❖ “Is anyone taking your things without your permission?”

❖ Planning Ahead

- Under what conditions would you want someone to manage your finances?
- Under what conditions would you want to be placed in a long term care setting

❖ Staying Connected-Check in on one another

- When people who regularly attend events are not there
- Have a buddy system

❖ Being Cautious

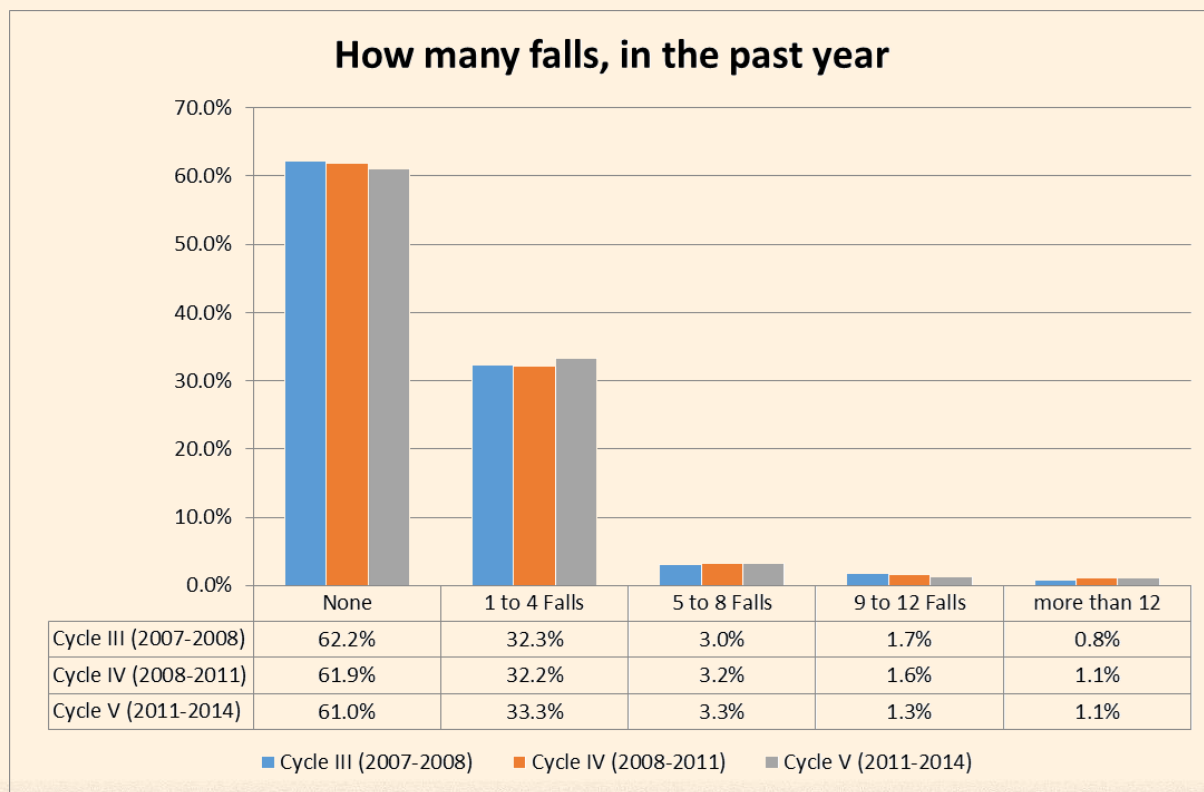
- Don't provide resources without checking out the situation

❖ Reporting Their Suspicions

- If you think abuse may be going on, tell someone.
- Ask authorities to intervene.

❖ Unexplained Falls

- Over the past year, 39% of Native Elders report they have fallen!

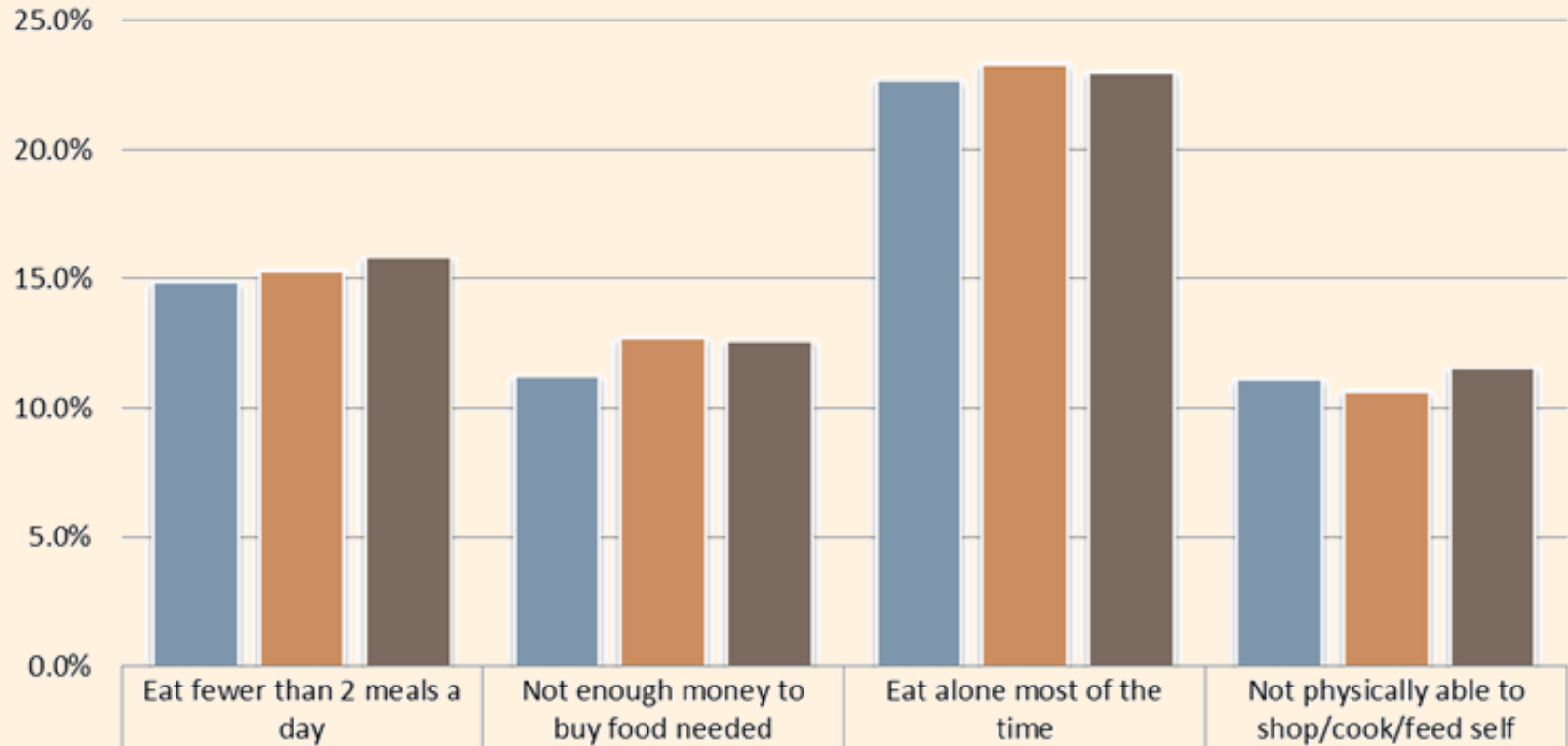


Elder Abuse Indicators

- ❖ Malnourished or inadequate food
 - 1 in 6 Native elders report inadequate eating.
 - Fewer than 2 meals a day 15.8%
- ❖ Unable/no help to shop/cook/feed self
 - 1 in 9 Native elders report they are not physically able to shop, cook or feed themselves. 11.6%
 - 1 in 8 Native elders report they do not have money to buy food. 12.6%

Elder Abuse Indicators

Food Challenges

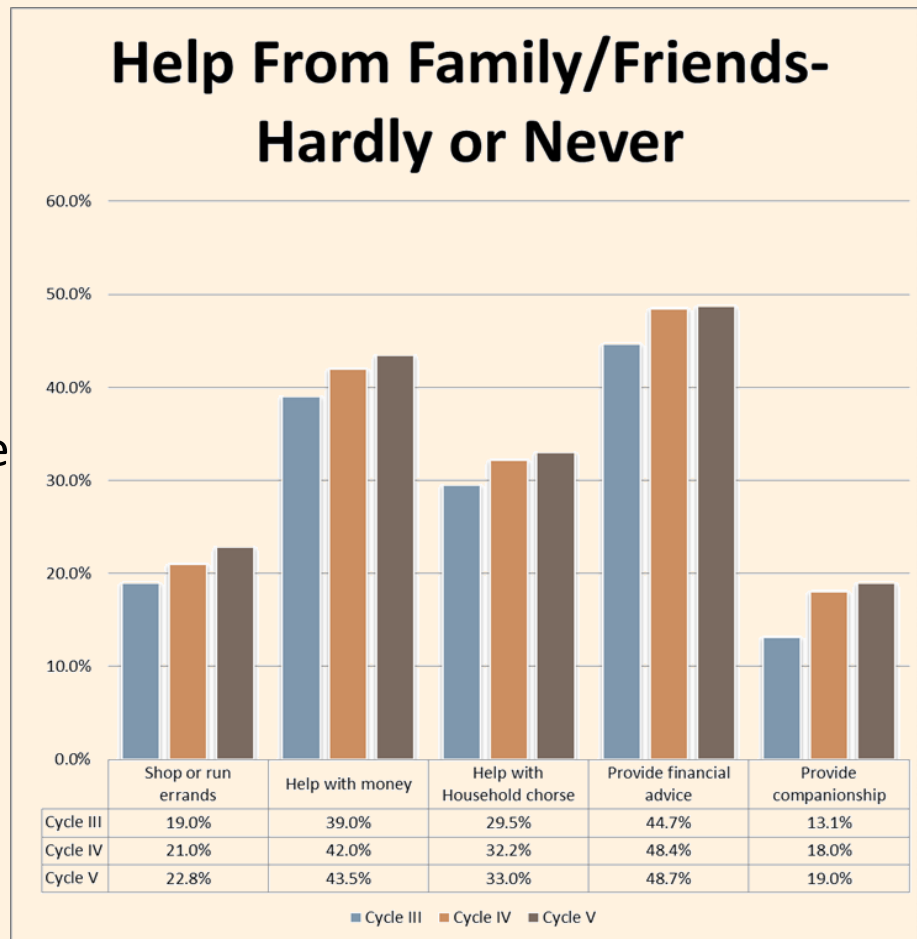


Cycle III	14.9%	11.2%	22.7%	11.1%
Cycle IV	15.3%	12.7%	23.3%	10.6%
Cycle V	15.8%	12.6%	23.0%	11.6%

■ Cycle III ■ Cycle IV ■ Cycle V

❖ Family & Friends Never Help:

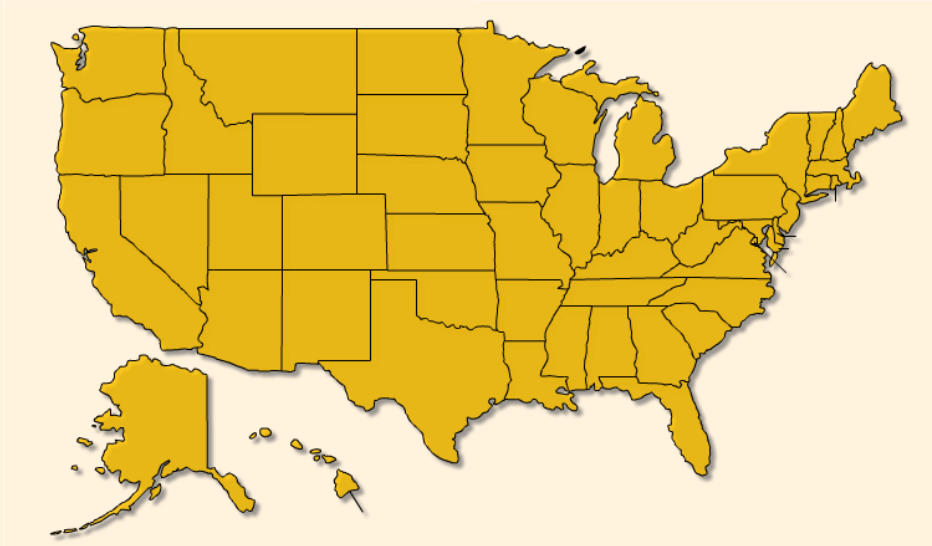
- Shopping/errands
 - 22.8%
- With money
 - 43.5%
- With housekeeping or chores
 - 33.0%
- Provide business/financial advice
 - 48.7%
- Provide companionship
 - 19.0%



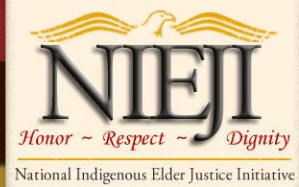
Elder Abuse Indicators

Use of Resources For All Tribes		
	<u>Now Use</u>	<u>Would Use</u>
Elder Abuse Prevention	1.1%	12.7%
Financial Assistance	3.4%	27.1%
Legal Assistance	2.2%	23.5%
Transportation	9.5%	35.2%
Caregiver	6.0%	32.4%
Congregate Meals	15.3%	15.9%
Home Delivered Meals	14.0%	36.0%
Personal Care	2.6%	20.5%
Home Health Care	4.2%	32.6%
Home Modification	2.5%	27.7%

State/Tribal Hotlines



- [Alabama](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Arkansas](#)
- [California](#)
- [Colorado](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Delaware](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Hawaii](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Illinois](#)
- [Indiana](#)
- [Iowa](#)
- [Kansas](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
- [Louisiana](#)
- [Maine](#)
- [Maryland](#)
- [Massachusetts](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Minnesota](#)
- [Mississippi](#)
- [Missouri](#)
- [Montana](#)
- [Nebraska](#)
- [Nevada](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)
- [New Jersey](#)
- [New Mexico](#)
- [New York](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [North Dakota](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Oklahoma](#)
- [Oregon](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)
- [South Carolina](#)
- [South Dakota](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [Texas](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Vermont](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Washington](#)
- [West Virginia](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)
- [Wyoming](#)



State/Tribal Resource Locator

North Dakota

State Hotlines

- **North Dakota Aging Services Division**

1-701-328-4601

1-800-451-8693

- **Region I**

Counties Served: Divide, McKenzie, Williams

1-800-231-7724

1-701-572-9111

- **Region II**

Counties Served: Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Renville, Ward

1-701-857-8500

1-888-470-6968

- **Region III**

Counties Served: Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner

1-888-607-8610

1-701-662-5050

- **Region IV**

Counties Served: Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Walsh

1-888-256-6742

1-800-845-3731

- **Region V**

Counties Served: Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Traill

1-888-342-4900

1-701-235-7335

- **Region VI**

Counties Served: Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman, Wells

1-800-260-1310

1-701-253-6400

- **Region VII**

Counties Served: Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux

1-888-328-2662

1-888-328-2112

- **Region VIII**

Counties Served: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, Stark

1-888-227-7525

How to help?

- ❖ Join with NIEJI, ACL & NCEA to address Elder Abuse in Indian Country
- ❖ Work with tribal government to get elder abuse into tribal code.
- ❖ Spread the word—share information about elder abuse, signs, resources.
- ❖ Assist in identifying the problem locally
- ❖ Support elder abuse prevention & community awareness
- ❖ Plan Activities for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15

❖ Please include information on the importance of partnership/collaboration as related to your topic.

- National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative
- National Resource Center on Native American Aging
- National Center on Elder Abuse
- National Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect
- Administration on Aging/Administration for Community Living
- Adult Protective Services Resource Center
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Human Services
- Indian Health Services, Behavioral Health

Primary References:

- ❖ American Medical Association. (1990). White paper on elderly health. Report of the Council on Scientific Affairs. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 150(12): 2459-2472.
- ❖ Dong, X.Q., Simon, M.A., de Leon, C.M., Fulmer, T., Beck T. Hebert, L. Dyer, C., Paveza, G. Evans, & D.Gorbien, M. (2009). Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, Special Issue: Violence and human rights* 302(5): 517-526
- ❖ Jackson, M. Y. & Sappier, T. (2005). Elder Abuse Issues in Indian Country. Washington, D.C.: Administration on Aging.
http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/pdf/Elder_Abuse_issues_in_Indian_Country_June2005.pdf
- ❖ Lachs, M.S., Williams, C.S., O'Brien, S., Pillemer, K.A., & Charlson, M.E. (1998). The morality of elder mistreatment. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280(5): 428-432.
- ❖ Lindbloom, E.J., Brandt, J. Hough, L.D., & Meadows, S.E. (2007). Elder mistreatment in the nursing home: A systematic review. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* 8(9): 610-616.



Contact Information

❖ National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

❖ [Http://www.nieji.org](http://www.nieji.org)

❖ Toll Free: 1-855-834-1572

❖ info@NIEJI.org

❖ Jacque Gray, Ph.D., Director

❖ Direct Phone: 701-777-0582

❖ Jacqueline.gray@med.und.edu

Jennifer Cross, JD, Program Coordinator

701-777-6780

Jennifer.a.cross@med.und.edu



For More Information

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Phone: 701-777-2023

Toll-free Number: 855-834-1572

E-mail: info@nieji.org

Website: www.nieji.org

Thank You!

Wado!