



Domestic Violence in Later Life Research Reviews Published

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Most academic and many non-academic papers and articles on elder abuse start with a literature review, a short recap of the major findings of previous studies. These reviews give the context within which the new study or analysis takes place, and provide a basis for readers to understand how the new study differs from or replicates previous studies and findings.

Creating these research reviews may have just gotten easier due to the publication of a set of charts and articles created under the auspices of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life/Wisconsin Coalition on Domestic Violence (WCADV) and the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and underwritten, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging.

The new charts, developed by Bonnie Brandl of WCADV and Loree Cook-Daniels, then consultant to NCEA, cover more than 50 research studies related to domestic violence in later life. The studies were all conducted in the U.S. or Canada, and were published from 1988 to 2002. The charts show each article's author(s) and year of publication, sample size and demographics, type(s) of abuse covered, and selected findings. Findings are often direct quotes and always include the page number on which they were found. As the bibliography includes the Clearinghouse for Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE) file number and ordering instructions for each article, the whole package is designed to help researchers and others quickly locate exactly what they need.

The charts should also be useful to policymakers and practitioners who may be called upon to give statistics on various elder abuse topics. Because the charts include sample sizes and demographics and the type(s) of abuse studied, they should help clarify why some studies' data differ so much from "similar" studies, and allow users to pick the most relevant studies and findings.

To make the charts more user-friendly, the studies were divided into the following topics:

- 1) Prevalence and incidence
- 2) Relationship between abuser/abused
- 3) Cultural issues
- 4) Sexual abuse
- 5) Homicide/suicide
- 6) Victim characteristics
- 7) Abuser characteristics
- 8) Causation theories
- 9) Services and interventions
- 10) Types of abuse

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Although each of the 50+ studies is listed under all of the relevant topics, only the findings related to the given topic are highlighted. The whole document runs to more than 70 pages, and is currently available online at <http://www.wordbridges.net/elderabuse/research/2002-09-02R.pdf>.

For those who want a bit more interpretation, Brandl and Cook-Daniels also wrote eight articles on the various topics. These articles reprint the relevant chart, but also include narrative on generalized findings, the limitations of the studies, potential implications, and - in some cases - additional resources. Each article is available in two formats: html (which creates what looks like a web page) and .pdf, which can only be opened and read with an Adobe Acrobat reader (available free from the website). The National Center on Elder Abuse is also developing a printed version of the research reviews; AAR will let its readers know how to obtain a copy when it's available. For now, the articles are available on the WordBridges website:

Abusers

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-03R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-03R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Causation theories

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-04R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-04R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Culture

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-05R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-05R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Prevalence and incidence

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-06R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-06R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Relationships

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-07R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-07R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Services and interventions

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-08R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-08R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Types of abuse (includes sexual assault and homicide/suicide)

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-09R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-09R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Victims

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-10R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-10R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)