

Elder Abuse Prevention Consensus Workshop
May 14, 2007
NYC

CITRA and Weill Cornell Medical College's Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology sponsored the Elder Abuse Prevention Consensus Workshop. Those attending—thirty-two select researchers, practitioners and policy experts—generated the following 41 recommendations covering 14 domains.

Attitudes

1. Determine older people's attitudes about elder abuse. (Stratify those above age 60.)
2. Determine attitudes about the elder abuse over the last 100 years, how were those values incorporated into the cultural norms and how is this changing?
3. Determine which older people consider themselves elderly and if they use age as criteria or do they use something else like function or health?

Culture

4. Determine how culture impacts on perspectives of elder abuse.
5. Determine if culture impacts on how to confront abusers.

Datasets

6. Determine how best to utilize existing NYC datasets.
7. Determine what search criteria should be used for the NYC NYPD database.
8. Evaluate data collected by different agencies to do a retrospective study.

Definitions

9. Define or classify what constitutes a relationship as being one of elder abuse.
10. Define "trust" for research purposes.
11. Refine definitions of elder abuse for research purposes to bridge gaps between research and practice.

Detection

12. Evaluate patterns of spending among older adults, develop an algorithm and develop a software program to determine if an older adult is being financially exploited.

Evaluation of Programs

13. Determine if the NYC publicly funded programs are effective.

14. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of programs that project out from policy models.

Forensics

15. Determine if dentistry be utilized to detect bite wounds.

16. Determine if criminal intent be determined when an older adult dies, especially in cases of neglect.

17. Determine if someone is accurately informing about elder abuse.

18. Determine if a victim or abuser is deceiving in a verbal report.

19. Determine the impact memory loss has on a criminal investigation.

Interventions

20. Research providers' understanding of the concept "vulnerable adults" and determine if this understanding has an impact on service delivery.

21. Ascertain outcome measures to utilize in research to determine if interventions are effective.

22. Determine which prevention methods result in increased reporting.

23. Determine the best approaches to use when confronting abusers.

24. Does a systematic approach to care work?

25. Evaluate the effectiveness of voluntary vs. involuntary intervention programs for abusers.

26. Determine if caregiver support prevents psychological and physical abuse.

27. Determine if there is a relationship between grandparents raising grandchildren and elder abuse.

28. Determine how practitioners and researchers can gain access to victims and abusers for research purposes.

29. Determine which interventions work with people who have dementia vs those who are not cognitively impaired.

Policy

30. Determine how agency policies impact on the care of elder abuse victims.

Public Education

31. Determine if public awareness campaigns are effective.

Reporting

32. Survey agencies about their contacts with law enforcement and what police do with the calls to determine how many calls result in convictions.

33. Determine how best to frame Domestic Incident reports (DIR) for research.

Risk Factors

34. Ascertain if the risk factors identified in the research review are accurate.
35. Determine if loneliness/isolation influences the connection between older men and younger women in relationships that end up abusive.
36. Determine if there is a link between elder abuse and animal abuse.
37. Explore prevalence of grandkids abusing grandparents, risk factors for this and the interventions.

Screening

38. Determine if inquiring about abuse increase victim disclosure.
39. Develop reliable and validated screening tools.

Training

40. Determine if training improves the effectiveness of professionals and gatekeepers.
41. Determine if training about cognitive impairment in older adults improve elder abuse investigations.