

Criminology, Law Enforcement, Elder Abuse, and Senior Victimization: 2003 to 2007**

Many times, acts of elder abuse are also criminal acts. The study of criminology and the role of law enforcement are significant in holding perpetrators accountable for elder mistreatment and senior victimization. The analysis of elder mistreatment as a crime also holds implications for implementing prevention and intervention initiatives.

The following bibliography highlights research and scholarly articles published 2003-2007** that examine criminological aspects of the victimization of older individuals.*** Investigative and training references, and resources that profile victim and offender characteristics are among the topics featured. Of note, this is a selected annotated bibliography, which does not include all published references related to this topic. To search for additional references on this and related topics, please visit the CANE Web site at: www.cane.udel.edu. To search the CANE Bibliography Series, go to http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/Library/CANE/CANE.aspx.

Most of the reference materials can be obtained through local university and community libraries or interlibrary loan services. Some must be ordered directly through the publisher or production company. When available, contact and pricing information is included with the abstract. Increasingly, many resources are available online, and the web addresses are also included.****If you have difficulty obtaining any of these materials, please contact the CANE office for assistance by emailing cane-ud@udel.edu or telephoning (302) 831-3525.

Articles that have appeared in a previous CANE bibliography are denoted by an asterisk () after the file number.

Some references *published* before 2003 have been included; these references first *appeared in print* during a different year and are denoted by a double asterisk () following the publishing date.

***There is some debate regarding whether the term "elder abuse" extends to acts of victimization perpetrated by strangers, including career criminals. For a more detailed discussion on defining the problem, see *Elder Mistreatment: Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation in an Aging America, Chapter 2: Concepts, Definitions, and Guidelines for Measurement; National Research Council, National Academy Press, 2003*.

****Web addresses may change without notice. If an address provided is no longer accurate, we recommend using a generic search engine, such as Google, to find a current link. If you cannot locate the online publication, contact the CANE offices for assistance by e-mailing cane-ud@udel.edu or telephoning (302) 831-3525.

The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) serves as a national resource for adult protective services, elder rights advocates, law enforcement and legal professionals, public policy leaders, researchers, and citizens. It is the mission of NCEA to promote understanding, knowledge sharing, and action on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

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2007

1. T6726-41

Stiegel, L.

Recommendations for the Elder Abuse, Health, and Justice Fields about Medical Forensic Issues Related to Elder Abuse and Neglect

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 18 (1), 41-81; 2007.

Journal article (scholarship)

As quoted from the abstract: "Increased interest in pursuing criminal and civil actions against alleged perpetrators of elder abuse and neglect has revealed that efforts to assist victims and hold perpetrators accountable are often hampered by the lack of knowledge about the detection and diagnosis of elder abuse and neglect and by the lack of resources for development of research and assistance in these matters. This report sets forth recommendations for the elder abuse, health, and justice fields about medical forensic issues related to elder abuse and neglect. The recommendations were developed by a 'working group' of experts representing an array of disciplines that address the problem of elder abuse and neglect pursuant to a grant project funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The project was conducted by the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, with the assistance of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. This was the final project report submitted to NIJ; it has been updated to include information about the availability of reports and products from other grant projects that are discussed in the report."

2006

2. T6532-38

Blakely, B. & Dolon, R.

Elder Mistreatment (from *Crisis Intervention in Criminal Justice/Social Service*)

Charles C. Thomas Publisher, LTD; Springfield, IL; 2006.

Book chapter (scholarship)

After presenting an overview of the topic of elder mistreatment, this chapter focuses on practical aspects of the identification of and intervention in cases of elder abuse and neglect. The authors create a "novice adult protective services (APS) professional" in order to illustrate obstacles in coordinating an effective response, in raising public awareness, and in engaging mistreated seniors. Pragmatic guidelines are offered to assist the social worker in the process from screening initial referrals to substantiation of allegations to intervention. Comprehensive, multidisciplinary assessment around issues such as physical and mental health status is vital, and the authors recommend a standardized assessment protocol to ensure completeness and accuracy. The use of diplomacy and creativity in gaining the rapport of the client and others is emphasized. Various interventions are described, including legal (such as the establishment of guardianship or of a representative payee appointment), social services (home care or counseling), or medical (diagnosis or treatment). The chapter concludes with a series of study and discussion questions and the appendix lists numerous relevant internet sources.

3. T6569-157*

Burgess, A.

Elderly Victims of Sexual Abuse and Their Offenders

Unpublished paper produced with funds from the U.S. Department of Justice; December 2006

Online report (research)

In this exploratory "hypothesis generating" study, data from a convenience sample of 284 cases of actual or suspected elder sexual abuse referred for investigation were analyzed and compared. Victim characteristics, offender characteristics, crime characteristics, and case dispositions were examined. In addition, data was obtained through interviews conducted with 25 convicted inmates. Of the cases examined, nearly 54 percent had been referred to APS, and 46 percent had been referred to law enforcement. In addition to gathering descriptive data on elder sexual abuse crimes, victims, and offenders (including motivational intent), and identifying institutional responses to allegations of sexual abuse, the study examined differences between the APS and the criminal justice responses. In cases where there was a known relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, APS investigations were less likely to result in criminal investigations, physical examinations of the elder, and referrals for prosecution than were cases referred to law enforcement. Dementia was present in 70 percent of the cases referred to APS compared to 43 percent referred to law enforcement. Victims with dementia were more likely to have been abused by someone they knew. Multidisciplinary and collaborative efforts, particularly among health care practitioners, criminal justice and law enforcement professionals, and APS professionals were recommended to increase prevention, detection, and intervention. (Note: This report is accessible online at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/216550.pdf>.)

4. T6548-5*

Cooper, G. & King, M.

Interviewing the Incarcerated Offender Convicted of Sexually Assaulting the Elderly

Journal of Forensic Nursing; Vol. 3 (2), 130-133, 146; Fall 2006.

Journal article (scholarship)

This article provides guidelines for conducting research-based forensic interviews with offenders convicted of elder sexual assault. Recommendations include: conducting a detailed pre-interview assessment (including mental health and criminal history assessments, and a thorough review of the case material); co-interviewing to enhance the personal safety of the involved researchers; emphasizing to the perpetrator that the purpose of the interview is to gain an understanding of his or her behavior, rather than to criminally investigate (while understanding the responsibility to report any unsolicited admissions of guilt for additional crimes); and developing an interview protocol to be used consistently with each participant to enhance the reliability of findings as well as the study's replicability. (Note: This article is part of an issue dedicated to the topic of elder abuse.)

5. S6386-11*

Dubble, C.

A Policy Perspective on Elder Justice Through APS and Law Enforcement Collaboration

Journal of Gerontological Social Work; Vol. 46 (3/4), 35-55; 2006.

Journal article (scholarship)

In this overview, the historic, economic, political, ideological, and societal aspects of policies that promote collaboration between adult protective services (APS) and law enforcement in

response to elder mistreatment are examined. The impact of the right to self-determination upon legal interventions (such as reporting issues, prosecution) is one of the topics considered. Efforts of the AARP and the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) to promote awareness of elder mistreatment are highlighted. The conclusion discusses the need for and the costs associated with policies that reflect elder justice.

6. T6623-9

Koehler, S., Shakir, A., & Omalu, B.

Cause of Death among Elder Homicide Victims: A 10-Year Medical Examiner Review

Journal of Forensic Nursing; Vol. 2 (4), 199-204; Winter 2006.

Journal article (research)

This article describes the forensic epidemiological characteristics of 49 homicide victims aged 65 and over who were examined by the Allegheny Medical Examiner's Office in Pennsylvania from 1996 through 2005. Elder homicides accounted for 5.6 percent of all homicides occurring during this time period. White females comprised nearly 37 percent of all victims, followed by white males (34.7 percent), and black males and black females (both at 14.3 percent). Death was most commonly caused by blunt force trauma (accounting for 17 deaths). Homicides were next most commonly caused by gun shot wounds and stabbing. Other homicides were caused by strangulation, asphyxiation, and non-contact events, such as triggering cardiac death, dehydration and malnutrition, smoke inhalation related to arson, and a combination of methods.

7. T6540-5

Marleau, J., Auclair, N. & Millaud, F.

Comparison of Factors Associated with Parricide in Adults and Adolescents

Journal of Family Violence; Vol. 21 (5), 321-325; July 2006.

Journal article (research)

Parricide (which is estimated to account for two to four percent of all homicides in western countries that have studied the phenomenon) is the murder of a parent by one's son or daughter. This article reports the results of a study comparing the profiles of two distinct groups of parricides: those involving adult perpetrators (n=43) and those involving adolescent perpetrators (n=12). Distinctions were noted. All adult perpetrators suffered from severe mental illness (including psychosis), were more likely to have a history of violent behaviors, and were more likely to have threatened their victims prior to committing parricide. The adolescents were less predictable, were more likely to present with symptoms of personality disorder rather than psychosis, were more likely to have experienced suicidal ideation, and were more likely to have witnessed intrafamilial violence.

8. S6458-5*

Morgan, E., Johnson, I. & Sigler, R.

Public Definitions and Endorsement of the Criminalization of Elder Abuse

Journal of Criminal Justice; Vol. 34 (3), 275-283; 2006.

Journal article (research)

This article reports upon the findings of a longitudinal cross-sectional study conducted to measure public definitions of elder abuse and the willingness to endorse criminal sanctions for perpetrators. Data was collected through random sample surveys conducted in the area of Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1986-1987 (n=117), again in 1991-1992 (n=134), and in 1996-1997

(n=159). Results suggest that the public perceptions of what constitutes physical elder abuse remained constant over time. Perceptions of neglect and psychological abuse also appeared relatively constant, with some exceptions. For example, not spending time with the elder was viewed as more neglectful in the earlier survey results compared to later findings. Perceptions of financial abuse appeared less consistent over time. Support for the criminalization of elder abuse increased throughout the course of the study, as participants endorsed the creation of misdemeanor and felony statutes, and prison sentences for punishment of perpetrators.

9. S6295-00*

NASD Investor Education Foundation, in cooperation with WISE Senior Services and AARP
Off the Hook Again: Understanding Why the Elderly Are Victimized by Economic Fraud Crimes

NASD Investor Education Foundation, with WISE Senior Services and AARP; Washington, D.C.; July 2006.

Online report (research)

This study examines "why certain elderly investors are more susceptible to investment fraud than others, exposes the various tactics used by criminals to exploit seniors and offers strategies to help seniors avoid becoming victims....The research results dispel common myths about who's actually being targeted and offers effective strategies on how seniors can avoid these costly financial traps. Researchers for the project analyzed undercover tapes of fraud pitches and surveyed victims and non-victims to determine how they differ. The researchers used their findings to develop practical messages to increase fraud awareness among seniors. Some of the key research findings include: Investment fraud victims are more financially literate than non-victims; Investment fraud criminals use a wide array of different influence tactics, from friendship to fear and intimidation tactics, to defraud the victim; fraud pitches are tailored to match the psychological needs of the victim; Investment fraud victims are more likely to listen to sales pitches; Investment fraud victims are more likely to rely on their own experience and knowledge when making investment decisions; fraud victims experience more difficulties from negative life events than non-victims; investment fraud victims are more optimistic about the future; investment fraud and lottery victims dramatically under-report fraud...." The authors recommend that financial literacy and fraud prevention programs include education on persuasion tactics. (Note: To access the report and related materials, including a PowerPoint presentation and an audio file of real-life fraud pitches, visit <http://www.finrafoundation.org/resources.asp>.)

10. S6155-4*

National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Research, Development, and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Justice

Victim Satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System

NIJ Journal; No. 253; January 2006.

Journal article (research)

This brief article summarizes the findings from three NIJ-funded research projects: "Victim Satisfaction with Criminal Justice Case Processing in a Model Court Setting;" "Forgoing Criminal Justice Assistance: The Non-Reporting of New Incidents of Abuse in a Court Sample of Domestic Violence Victims;" and "Effects on Victims of Victim Service Programs Funded by the STOP Formula Grants Program." In sum, the research suggests that victims of domestic

violence (DV, also known as intimate partner violence or IPV), may be so dissatisfied with the criminal justice system intervention that they are unlikely to contact the police the next time they need assistance. Among the women who chose not to report subsequent abuse were women who were least likely to have resisted the arrest of the offender during the previous incident, and those who were most likely to believe that the police action had negatively affected their safety. Among other findings, this research suggests that mandatory arrest policies have not resulted in more cases of DV being prosecuted. (Note: Although this article is not specific to elders, it may hold implications for assisting victims of elder mistreatment. It is accessible online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/253/victim.html>.)

11. S6463-4*

Nusbaum, N., Cheung, V., Cohen, J., Keca, M. & Mailey, B.

Role of First Responders in Detecting and Evaluating Elders at Risk

Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics; March 2006.

Journal article (research)

Observing that first responders (such as police, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel) may have interactions with elders who live in relative isolation, this study was designed to evaluate their approach to vulnerable elders who may be victims of (or at risk for) elder abuse and neglect. One-hundred eighty-six first responders from northern Illinois completed a brief survey regarding their interactions with elders during the previous six months. More than half had encountered at least one elder that they believed may have been abused or neglected, and more than three-fourths estimated that they had met an elder who posed a danger to self or others, but very few (2 percent) had screened the elders for potential risk. Immediately following the survey, first responders participated in an educational intervention designed to promote awareness and routine screening. The results of the survey indicate that although first responders have potential to identify abused, neglected and at risk elders, a structured approach to screening for these conditions is warranted.

12. T6570-15

Payne, B. & Gainey, R

The Criminal Justice Response to Elder Abuse in Nursing Homes: A Routine Activities Perspective

Western Criminology Review; Vol. 7 (3), 67-81; 2006.

Journal article (research)

Eight-hundred and one Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) cases of nursing home abuse investigated between January 1997 and May 2002 were analyzed from a criminological perspective of the Routine Activities Theory. This theory suggests that three conditions must be present for a crime to occur: a motivated offender; the absence of a capable guardian or authority figure; and a suitable target. Over two-thirds of the cases involved physical abuse, and nearly ten percent involved sexual abuse. In cases that documented the offender's occupation, 73 percent were aides, 12.3 percent were nurses, and approximately 13 percent were characterized as "others." Among the cases where motivation for the offender was implied, almost half (47.9 percent) of the abuses were committed by perpetrators categorized as serial offenders, or individuals who have an abusive history; 27.5 percent were committed by pathological/tormentor types; and 25 percent were committed by perpetrators characterized as "stressed-out." In addition to ongoing efforts to reduce stress and improve conditions for staff, the researchers emphasize

the need for additional preventative measures. Recommended strategies include: more effective screening, hiring, and training practices, and empowering the “place manager” or the authority on site charged with monitoring the vulnerable (supervising nurses, for example) to report problems. (Note: This article is accessible online at: <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/v07n3/67.payne/payne.pdf>.)

13. T6594-3

Safarik, M. & Wurtz, D.

Investigation, Science, and Research Partner to Solve Elderly Woman's Shocking Homicide

Journal of Forensic Nursing; Vol. 2 (3), 127-129; Fall 2006.

Journal article (scholarship)

This case study of the investigation of a sexual homicide of a 92 year old woman demonstrates the successful coordination of law enforcement tactics, forensic evidence collection, and behavioral analysis. Ultimately, a questionnaire customized to the specifics of this case (and based upon data gathered through the analysis of previously committed, similar homicides studied by the lead author) lead to the focus on the perpetrator. DNA evidence sealed the conviction. Note: This article is part of an issue dedicated to the topic of elder abuse.)

14. T6574-10

Yorker, B. et al.

Serial Murder by Healthcare Professionals

Journal of Forensic Sciences; Vol. 51 (6), 1362-1371; November 2006.

Journal article (research)

This study analyzed serial murders of patients perpetrated by 90 health care professionals throughout the world. Cases from the 1970's through 2006 were identified through a search of the Lexis-Nexis legal data base. The geographic location, perpetrator and victim characteristics, crime characteristics, the health care setting, the method of murder, toxicology, legal outcomes, and interventions were analyzed. When available, researchers studied court transcripts, depositions, audio and video tapes, toxicology reports and additional evidence. Among the findings, 45 of the defendants were convicted of murdering a total of 317 victims, and nine others were convicted of, or pled to, lesser charges. An additional 2113 suspicious patient deaths were attributed to these convicts. Twenty-four other defendants have been indicted. Nursing personnel were responsible for 86 percent of the cases (54 registered nurses or RNs; 7 licensed practical nurses or LPNs or licensed vocational nurses or LVNs; and 16 nurse's aides); two perpetrators were physicians; and one was a respiratory therapist. Women comprise 49 percent of those convicted and 55 percent of those prosecuted; however, males were disproportionately (highly) represented among the nurses convicted. The majority of murders occurred in hospitals (70 percent), and 20 percent occurred in nursing homes. According to the researchers, "...Patients who were critically ill, very old, very young, or otherwise vulnerable were most likely to be victims...however, quite a few victims were ambulatory with intact cognition...." The methods most frequently used to commit the murders were (in order) injections, suffocation, drowning, air embolus, oral medications, tampering with medical equipment, and poisoning. Successful prosecutions have relied upon confessions, toxicology results, eye witness testimony, and other physical evidence. Recommendations based upon this study include the need for routine collection of epidemiological, toxicological, and psychological information surrounding patient deaths, and the need for enhanced patient protection balanced against the protection of

employee rights. Current practices that allow easy access to uncontrolled medications should be reevaluated. (Note: This article is not specific to elders.)

2005

15. S6382-9

Beard, H. & Payne, B.

The Portrayal of Elder Abuse in the National Media

American Journal of Criminal Justice; Vol. 29 (2), 269-284; 2005.

Journal article (research)

This study examines how elder abuse is reported and characterized in the national media. Researchers examined the LexisNexis news database (from 1999 through 2003) and identified 530 relevant articles covering all geographic regions of the U.S. Content analysis revealed a number of themes: processing themes, which identified how the case was processed through the justice system; conceptual themes, which address the magnitude and nature of elder mistreatment; civil law issues; program implementation; and legislative actions. Most of the articles described issues related to the criminal justice process, which suggests that elder abuse in the media is viewed predominantly as a crime problem rather than a social problem. Of note, elder sexual abuse and intimate partner violence among older couples were rarely reported, as were cases of neglect. Implications for increased public awareness and education and policy implementation are considered.

16. T6567-9

Brandl, B., Heisler, C. & Stiegel, L.

The Parallels Between Undue Influence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 17 (3), 37-52; 2005.

Journal article (scholarship)

The authors present an overview of undue influence (UI) as a mechanism for financial exploitation with patterns of manipulation that parallel tactics identified in domestic violence (DV), stalking, and the "grooming" behaviors of some sexual predators. UI is a process, not a single event, in which the perpetrator uses "their role and power to exploit the trust, dependence, and fear of others." Although an elder may have the mental capacity to make decisions regarding his or her finances, a number of variables can increase one's vulnerability to UI: significant personal loss; changes in physical, cognitive, or emotional status; certain personality characteristics (such as naivety, or fearfulness); isolation; medication usage and/or substance abuse; etc. Seven parallels are considered: the exploiter and the victim are involved in an ongoing relationship; victims are often targeted and groomed (the act of gaining the victim's confidence) by their perpetrators; exploiters typically use a stealth campaign to influence, coerce, and exploit victims; perpetrators often use charm and deception to manipulate victims and others; exploiters deny, minimize, and justify their behaviors; victims often appear willing participants; victims often experience trauma responses (such as helplessness, guilt and self-blame, denial, etc.) and some reactions impede investigation. The analysis is synthesized into guidelines to enhance the law enforcement and criminal justice response to such cases.

17. S6394-13*

Dietz, T. & Wright, J.

Age and Gender Differences and Predictors of Victimization of the Older Homeless

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 17 (1), 37-60; 2005.

Journal article (scholarship)

In general, rates of specific crimes among people who are homeless differ from those among the population in general. Rape and homicide rates, for example, are significantly higher. Employing the Routine Activities Perspective as a theoretical framework, this descriptive study addresses age and gender differences in criminal victimization rates of the homeless. The framework postulates that risk for criminal victimization is based upon three factors: the absence of capable guardians (such as the police); the presence of motivated offenders; and vulnerable targets. Data was drawn from the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients (NSHAPC). Older adults were defined as anyone aged 50 and over. Although increasing age appears to be a protective factor against criminal victimization within the general population, it does not appear to be among the homeless population; older homeless individuals reported rates of victimization consistent with younger homeless individuals. Older women were as likely as older men to report being robbed or physically assaulted. Having a variety of health problems, including mental illness and substance abuse, was also associated with greater risk for victimization.

18. P5845-4

Klaus, P., for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

Crimes against Persons Age 65 or Older, 1993-2002 (Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report)

Bureau of Justice Statistics; Washington, D.C.; January 2005.

Online (report)

This publication reports characteristics and trends involving crimes against individuals aged 65 and over from 1993 through 2002, and offers comparisons to victimization of individuals in other age groups. Data was drawn from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the Uniform Crime Reports. Of the findings, elders experienced much lower rates of victimization than younger groups. Nonfatal violent crime rates were 4 per 1,000 for this age group; elder head of households experienced property crimes at a rate of 93 per 1,000; and personal larceny (such as purse snatching) was the only category of crime experienced at rates similar to other age groups. Homicide rates declined slightly for the elderly from 1993 through 1998 and have remained constant since that time. (Note: This report is available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cpa6502.pdf>.)

19. S6423-21

Safarik, M. & Jarvis, J.

Examining Attributes of Homicide Toward Quantifying Qualitative Values of Injury Severity

Homicide Studies; Vol. 9 (3), 183-203; August 2005.

Journal article (research)

Although the qualitative study of injuries can reveal information about the dynamics between offender and victim, relatively little data is gathered on the nature of injuries incurred during homicides. This article reviews the modification and implementation of injury severity scales in the analysis of data from a sample of 128 elderly female homicide victims (aged 60 or older). In a previous study, these cases were comprehensively reviewed for information on the physical, sexual, behavioral, and psychological details of the homicides. Multivariate analysis was

conducted to determine if there was a relationship among offender characteristics, the offender-victim relationship, and the offender's geographical proximity to the victim and the degree of injuries inflicted during the homicide. Of note, greater severity of injuries appeared associated with younger offenders and offenders who lived in closer proximity to their victims. Implications for criminal investigations are considered.

2004

20. S6298-25*

Bachman, R., Lachs, M. & Meloy, M.

Reducing Injury Through Self-Protection by Elderly Victims of Violence: The Interaction Effects of Gender of Victim and the Victim/Offender Relationship

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 16 (4), 1-24; 2004.

Journal article (research)

Although crime statistics suggest that older individuals are less likely to be victims of violent crimes than younger individuals, when victimized they appear to sustain more serious injuries than younger victims. In this study, data from robbery and assault cases (excluding sexual assault) reported in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS, 1992 through 2000) is analyzed to understand the general effect of self-protective behaviors on the risk of injury; whether the type of self-protective behavior has an impact; and whether the effects of such behaviors vary by the type of offender involved. Physically self-protective measures included physically attacking or threatening the offender, using or threatening to use a weapon against the attacker, chasing the attacker or running away from the scene. Nonphysical resistance included stalling, arguing or reasoning with the offender, trying to get attention from others, calling the police, or screaming or yelling. Of significance, male and female elders who physically resisted known offenders (intimates and acquaintances) were more likely to sustain injuries than those who either did not resist, or resisted nonphysically. Those who resisted nonphysically were more likely to avoid injury than those who resisted physically or took no self-protective action. However, when attacked by a stranger, victims who took no action were at greatest risk for injury, followed by those who resisted physically. Results suggest that nonphysical self-protective behaviors decreased the risk of injury with both known and unknown offenders, but appeared particularly effective when dealing with offending strangers.

21. S6294-16*

Lachs, M., Bachman, R., Williams, C., Kossack, A., Bove, C. & Leary, J.

Older Adults as Crime Victims, Perpetrators, Witnesses, and Complainants: A Population-Based Study of Police Interactions

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 16 (4), 25-40; 2004.

Journal article (research)

Drawing upon the New Haven EPESE study (Established Populations for Epidemiological Studies in the Elderly), the goal of this research was to examine the nature and extent of law enforcement contacts among older community members. Police records from the cohort's catchment area for 1985 through 1995 were analyzed to identify interactions between participants and law enforcement. The following details were abstracted from the records of the elders who had police involvement: their role (victim, perpetrator, complainant, or witness); type of crime; participant's relationship to perpetrator; whether or not a weapon was used; number of

offenders; whether there was physical contact between the victim and offender; and if the victim required medical attention. These details were merged with the corresponding EPESE records to provide a police-health data set including demographic characteristics, psychological/social characteristics, medical indicators, and functional ability. Twenty-nine percent of the cohort members had at least one police contact during this time frame, for a total of 1,651 incidents. Most commonly, participants were victims (57.5 percent), followed by complainants (7.5 percent), offenders (4.2 percent), and witnesses (3.4 percent). (Participants were also categorized as "other" and nearly 20 percent had multiple contacts involving various roles.) Of the incidents wherein participants were victims, 21 percent involved violence, including 42 episodes occurring in nursing homes, primarily involving resident-to-resident abuse. Larceny and burglary were the most common types of nonviolent crimes. Being male, African-American, and/or younger members of the cohort appeared associated with a statistically greater likelihood of police contact. An interesting finding was that cohort members who had police contact were less functionally impaired than those with no contact. (Note: This article draws upon the same data set as that of P5541-12, item #24 of this bibliography.)

22. R6058-3*

Palmer, A.

Law Enforcement and Adult Protective Services Working Together: A Team Approach to Elder Abuse Cases

Age in Action; Vol. 19 (3), Summer 2004.

Journal article (scholarship)

This article highlights the Central Virginia Task Force on Older Battered Women (OBW Task Force), a regional coalition of aging, domestic violence (DV), law enforcement, and legal services agencies dedicated to raising awareness of the needs of women who experience domestic violence/intimate partner violence and sexual assault in later life. Established in 1998, the project focuses on developing collaborative and interdisciplinary community responses to address violence against older women. A case study is presented from Henrico County that illustrates how adult protective services (APS) and the police department conducted a joint investigation of a sexual assault of a 65 year old assisted living facility resident. The following key elements for successful collaboration were identified: the need for all members to understand and respect the expertise and distinct role of each member; the need for investigators to attempt to conduct joint interviews whenever possible; and to the need to ensure that time and resources are shared effectively. (Note: This article is available online only at: <http://www.vcu.edu/vcoa/ageaction/AGESu04.htm>.)

2003

23. P5623-25

Heisler, C. & Stiegel

Enhancing the Justice System's Response to Elder Abuse: Discussions and Recommendations of the "Improving Prosecution" Working Group of The National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect; Vol. 14 (4), 31-54; 2002.**

Journal article (scholarship)

This article elaborates upon two of the recommendations identified through the "Improving Prosecution" working group session of the National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse (December 2001, Washington, D.C.): "improving the legal landscape by strengthening elder abuse laws" and "increasing awareness within the justice system." The following topics were considered: the role of the federal and state governments in increasing elder abuse reporting and enhancing prosecution; the need for expert witnesses, support, and technical assistance; the identification of barriers to accessing the criminal justice system; the improvement of outcomes in criminal cases; and the need for training of law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, coroners, court personnel, and advocates. The authors also provide a historical perspective on the response of the criminal justice system to elder abuse, which was initially minimal, based in part upon the underreporting of the problem.

24. P5404-88*

Johnson, K., for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Financial Crimes Against the Elderly (Problem-Oriented Guides for Police - Problem-Specific Guides Series No. 20)

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); Washington, D.C.; 2003.

Online (guidebook)

Part of the series of Problem Specific Guides for the police, this publication provides a comprehensive overview of financial elder abuse and guidelines for customizing a law enforcement approach to address the problem on a local level. The topic of financial exploitation is broadly divided into those acts committed by strangers and those committed by friends, family, and caregivers, by means of coercion, intimidation, undue influence, deception and/or emotional abuse. The author describes abuses of Power of Attorneys, living trusts, joint accounts, and transfers of titles. Factors that contribute to financial crimes, including victim vulnerabilities, are also discussed. The greatest predictor of future victimization is previous victimization, which is in part due to the practice of generating and sharing "sucker lists" among perpetrators. Understanding the victim's mental capacity and the issue of consent are vital in terms of investigation. In describing perpetrator characteristics, the "boiler-room" mobility structure of telemarketing fraud is highlighted. In order to tailor the response to financial elder abuse in a given community, law enforcement needs to analyze the current types of abuse occurring, and will need to develop multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary efforts. The guideline includes a detailed list of questions that responders should ask when assessing the crime(s). Pre- and post-intervention measurements are needed in order to determine the effectiveness of the implemented response, and quantifiable recommendations are provided. The publication also identifies strategies that have proven ineffective, such as "stand alone" information dissemination, mandatory reporting legislation, bonding telemarketers, and increasing sentences in existing legislation. (Note: This publication is available online at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=963>.)

25. P5541-12*

Lachs, M. et al.

The Clinical Epidemiology of Crime Victimization in Older Adults: A Multidisciplinary Pilot Study

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 13 (3), 79-90; 2001.**

Journal article (research)

Researchers identified a gap in the literature regarding the impact of crime on the health and mortality of elderly victims. In this pilot observational cohort study, gerontology and criminology professionals collaborated to explore these trends using data from the New Haven Established Populations for Epidemiologic Studies of the Elderly (EPESE). At its inception in 1982, the stratified sample consisted of 2,812 community dwelling individuals aged 65 and over. Two-hundred randomly selected participants were matched with police records to determine the rate of police involvement. Among the findings, 47 elders (23.5 percent) had 86 police department contacts. In these contacts, the elder was the victim 43 percent of the time, the complainant 30 percent of the time, the alleged offender 10.5 percent of the time, and the witness 9.3 percent. Most frequent complaints involved burglary, followed by contacts with cognitively impaired or mentally ill elders. As quoted from the abstract: "...this methodology can detect a relative risk of mortality after crime of 1.4 with 90 percent power at an alpha level of 0.05 when all cohort members are matched to police records...." From this data, it appears that elders have a higher prevalence rate of contact with police than with either APS professionals or professionals from other aging services fields. The findings suggest that a similar methodology can be applied to the study of other health outcomes of crime by drawing upon data from police records. (Note: This article draws upon the same data set as that of S6294-16, item #20 of this bibliography.)

26. P5421-73*

National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI)

National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI) Handbook

National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI); 2003.

Handbook

To quote from the Introduction: "This handbook is designed to assist law enforcement officers and senior citizens interested in implementing a comprehensive crime prevention program for older persons...." It explains what Triad is, how it works, and how to design and implement such a program in local communities. Triad is a three-way coalition between police chiefs, sheriffs, and older and retired leaders to reduce crime against older residents, which was first formed in 1988. The handbook provides practical guidelines on developing the advisory council, often known as SALT or Seniors and Lawmen Together, which is a key to the success of any Triad. Initially, the representatives must survey the area seniors to determine what needs must be addressed (violent crime, financial exploitation, etc.), and conduct ongoing evaluation of the objectives identified. Triad offers advocacy and support to older victims of crime at all stages of intervention (from reporting through court room procedures), combats vulnerability (through prevention and education programs), may develop reassurance programs (such as Adopt a Senior, senior buddy systems, or telephone reassurance programs), and fosters a greater understanding of the needs of older citizens among police officers through training. A detailed discussion regarding the needs of older victims who have Alzheimer's dementia is included. Appendices include such forms as cooperative agreement, departmental policy, a sample letter of invitation, evaluation forms, survey forms, and informational forms on various programs. (Note: This publication is available online. Access through the http://www.sheriffs.org/default_html.htm and linking on National Association of Triads, Inc.)

27. S6188-10*

Payne, B.

Justification for Punishing Crimes Against the Elderly: Perceptions of Police Chiefs, Nursing Home Professionals, and Students

Journal of Offender Rehabilitation; Vol. 38 (1), 33-51; 2003.

Journal article (research)

In this study, participants from two different occupational groups (police chiefs and nursing home professionals) along with sociology and criminal justice students were surveyed regarding their beliefs on punishment and rehabilitation of elder abuse offenders, and the implications that these results hold for the processing of cases of elder mistreatment. Respondents were asked to rank six different abuse scenarios (including institutional intentional and unintentional abuse, white collar crime, and theft) in terms of perceived severity, then to indicate what consequences he or she would recommend for the offender and why. Justifications included the following categories: specific deterrence, general deterrence, rehabilitation, retribution, incapacitation, and victim compensation. In general, police chiefs and students were more likely to hold punitive attitudes, while nursing home personnel demonstrated more rehabilitative attitudes. The author points out that these results suggest the need to foster an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach when designing interventions for abusers.

28. P5483-17*

Payne, B.

Understanding Differences in Opinion and ‘Facts’ Between Ombudsmen, Police Chiefs, and Nursing Home Directors

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect; Vol. 13 (3), 61-77; 2001.**

Journal article (research)

Little research has been conducted regarding the readiness of various disciplines to work together in addressing elder abuse. This study focuses on the philosophical differences and perceptions/misperceptions of three occupational groups that address elder abuse in nursing home settings: ombudsmen, police chiefs and nursing home directors. The research considers whether the three groups differ in their opinions on issues regarding elder abuse, and whether they vary in their knowledge of elder mistreatment. Seventy-three nursing home professionals, 119 police chiefs, and 203 ombudsmen from four states completed the mailed survey, a 20-item instrument which included the following scales: crime facts; nursing home facts; victim attribution opinions; media prevention opinions; crime and punishment opinions; a general fact scale; and general opinion scale. Among the results, the groups varied in their perceptions of the extent of both elderly victimization and the extent of victimization within nursing homes, as well as in their beliefs regarding the “appropriate” response of the criminal justice system. The research also assessed gender differences; male ombudsmen appeared more likely to blame the victim and underestimated the scope of institutional abuse than did female ombudsmen. The study also revealed that a number of the differences were related to misinformation versus opposing attitudes. (Note: This article draws upon the same data set as that of P5686-21, item #28 of this bibliography.)

29. P5686-21*

Payne, B. & Berg, B.

Perceptions About the Criminalization of Elder Abuse Among Police Chiefs and Ombudsmen

Crime & Delinquency; Vol. 49 (3), 439-459; July 2003.

Journal article (research)

Employing general systems theory, researchers analyzed the differences in sanctions favored by police chiefs and ombudsmen for six different types of elder mistreatment. One-hundred nineteen police chiefs from four states and 203 ombudsmen from 26 states were surveyed by mail. The survey described six scenarios of abuse, including incidents of institutional abuse and neglect as well as incidents of street crime and fraud. Respondents were asked to rank order the perceived appropriateness of four sanctions: administrative reprimand, fines, probation, and jail time. They were also asked to rank order the severity of the offenses. While ombudsmen rated patient offenses as most serious, police chiefs rated street crimes as most severe. In addition, they were also asked for agreement or disagreement on five statements regarding policy in addressing elder abuse. While both groups appear to support the criminalization of elder abuse and agree that it should be a priority of the criminal justice system, they differed as to what sanctions were most appropriate for most offenses. Policy implications are considered. (This article draws upon the same data set as that of P5483-17, item #27 of this bibliography.)

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