

Alberta Results

Findings from the 2015 National Prevalence Study on Mistreatment of Older Canadians

The study

Alberta participated in a national study conducted by the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly. The purpose of the research was to estimate the prevalence and risk factors associated with elder mistreatment.

Defining mistreatment

The study defined mistreatment as including: physical, psychological, sexual, and financial abuse as well as neglect. Respondents were asked a number of questions to determine if they had experienced any of the five forms of mistreatment in the past year.

Participants

Study participants were:

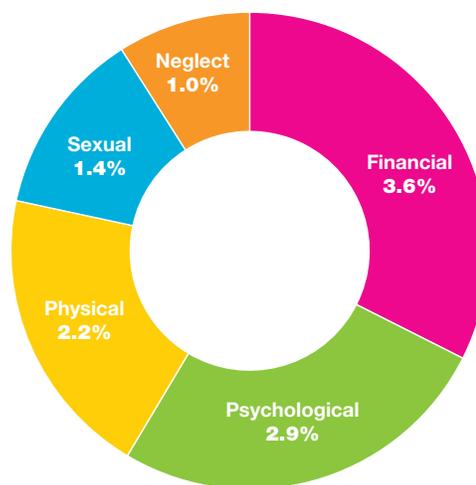
- 55 years of age or older.
- Living in a community dwelling and not an institution.
- English or French speakers.
- Cognitively intact.

The survey was conducted by telephone between July 2014 and August 2015. A representative sampling of 1,501 Albertans participated in the study.

Results

The aggregate prevalence rate for mistreatment in the Alberta sample was 8.9 per cent and 8.2 per cent in the Canadian sample.

Rates for specific forms of mistreatment in Alberta and Canada were similar. Rates in Alberta were as follows:



Risk factors

The Alberta survey found that all forms of mistreatment were correlated with respondents:

- Having higher depression scores.
- Having higher unmet Activities of Daily Living (ADL) or Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) needs.
- Not feeling safe with those closest to them.
- Having been abused as an adult, child, or youth.

ADLs include personal care tasks such as eating and bathing. IADLs include activities such as preparing meals, housework or handling money.

Perpetrators

Perpetrators of all forms of mistreatment were most frequently a spouse/ex-spouse or a child/grandchild. The only exception to this pattern was sexual abuse where, in addition to a spouse/ex-spouse, a friend was identified as a perpetrator.

Asking for help



Respondents were asked to identify a person or professional service they would contact in the event they were victims of elder abuse or were concerned about the welfare of another person. They were then asked if they had ever sought help.

- Respondents would be very or somewhat likely to contact family (86 per cent) or a friend (79 per cent). At least 70 per cent of respondents also said they would be very or somewhat likely to contact professional services such as police (71 per cent) or a doctor (70 per cent). Contacting a social worker (66 per cent) was also likely.
- Respondents who had actually sought help from family and friends were most frequently concerned about someone else rather than themselves.
- When respondents had actually sought help from professionals (doctor, police or social worker) more than 30 per cent of the conversations were about themselves. When a telephone help line was used, 60 per cent of the conversations were about themselves rather than another person.

Services to contact

If you are experiencing mistreatment or you believe a senior is being mistreated, there are services available to help.

- **Police**, if you believe someone you know is being abused and is in imminent danger. Call 911 or a local detachment.
- **Family Violence Information Line 24 hours**, toll-free, available in more than 170 languages for information, advice and referrals. Call 310-1818.
- **Protection for Persons in Care Reporting Line** to report the abuse of an adult in care or support

services from publicly funded service providers including hospitals, seniors lodges, nursing homes, mental health facilities, shelters, group homes, addiction treatment centres, and other supportive living settings. Call 1-888-357-9339.

- **The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee** to report a serious concern about a guardian, co-decision maker, trustee or agent. Call 1-877-427-4525.

Local agencies

Calgary Elder Abuse Resource Line, Kerby Centre. 24 hours to report and for information.
403-705-3250

Camrose Family Violence Action Society, for information or to report.
780-672-0141

Edmonton Seniors Protection Partnership to report and for information.
780-477-2929

Edmonton Seniors Abuse Help Line, 24 hours for support, referrals and crisis intervention.
780-454-8888

Grande Prairie Seniors Outreach for information and resources.
780-539-6255

Lethbridge Elder Abuse Response Network, for complaints or concerns.
403-394-0306

Medicine Hat Branch Senior Support, for information or to report.
403-504-1811 ext. 114

Red Deer Helping Elder Abuse Reduction (H.E.A.R.) Resource Information Line, 24 hours for information and resources.
403-346-6067 or 1-877-454-2580

St. Albert Stop Abuse in Families (SAIF), for information, education and support.
780-460-2195

Strathcona County Elder Abuse Line, 24 hours for support, referrals and information.
780-464-7233

Elder Abuse Shelters

Calgary – Kerby Centre Rotary House
403-705-3250

Edmonton – Sage Seniors Safe House
780-702-1520

Grande Prairie Seniors Outreach for information and resources.
780-539-6255

Red Deer – Elder Abuse Shelter
403-346-6067 or 1-877-454-2580 toll free

Strathcona County Elder Abuse Line, 24 hours for support, referrals and information.
780-464-7233

Additional Information

Deaf or hearing impaired with TDD/TTY units, call 1-800-232-7215 or 780-427-9999 in the Edmonton area.

Mail:
Seniors and Housing
P.O. Box 3100
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4W3
Fax: 780-422-5954