Turning research into practice: A case study of the National Centre for the Protection of Older People

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Irish Definition

- A single or repeated act or lack of action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person or violates their human and civil rights.’

- Protecting our Future (2002).
Elder Abuse Services in Ireland

National Steering Committee

Regional Steering Committee

Dedicated Regional Officer
32 Senior Case Workers for the Protection of Older People

Sub committees 1) media and public awareness group, 2) staff awareness and curriculum group, 3) policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines groups and 4) financial abuse of older people group.
• Established in 2008
• Lead by the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems with collaborations from the School of Applied Social Science, School of Public Health and Population Science, the School of Medicine and Medical Science and the Geary Institute.
• Negotiated programme of research.
Structure

NCPOP
Director: Prof Gerard Fealy
Co-Director: Dr. Amanda Phelan
Associate Director: Dr. Attracta Lafferty
Post Doctoral Research Fellow: Dr. Deirdre O'Donnell
Research Assistant: Ms. Carmel Downes
Centre Administrator: Ms. Danika Sharek

HSE Management Committee

HSE Steering Group

Board of Directors

Stakeholders Group
Outputs to date
Current projects

STUDIES

Study 1a: Pilot study to test the reliability of the Elder Abuse Suspicion Index (EASI) in an Irish Context

Study 1b: Pilot study to assess the appropriateness of the Older Adult Financial Exploitation Measure (OAFEM) in an Irish context

Study 2: Caring for older relatives: Caregivers’ experiences of conflict, stress and coping

Study 3: Preventing elder abuse through empowerment – A participatory action research project to design and test an empowerment intervention for the prevention of elder abuse and mistreatment

Study 4: An evaluation of the HSE national training programme for the prevention of elder abuse
REVIEWS

Review 1: Abuse of older people with dementia - A review

Review 2: Abuse in residential care settings

Review 3: A systematic review of intervention and services which address elder abuse
Abuse and Neglect of Older People in Ireland, report on the National Study of Elder Abuse and Neglect

• Guided efforts to address particular abuse types and enabled the HSE to garner support and commitment for action from industry and agencies external to the HSE, e.g., the financial services sector.

• Supported the HSE’s efforts to develop and produce an elder abuse community awareness DVD given that it found that the majority of abuse is perpetrated in the community by family and close relatives.

• Areas where efforts were needed to increase the consciousness of the possibility of abuse were identified by the study.
• The NCPOP research confirmed the validity and accuracy of the HSE’s elder abuse data.

The study attracted significant media and public attention, further raising the awareness of the issue of elder abuse.
Older People in Residential Care Settings: Results of a National Survey of Staff-Resident Interactions and Conflicts

- A National Working Group has been established by the National Elder Abuse Steering Committee to review the findings of this report and act on the recommendations. The overall aim is to reduce the incidence of abuse in residential care settings.
- The Health Information and Quality Authority has invited a representative from NCPOP to participate on the working group for the revision of the National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland.
NCPOP impact

• Other key research published by the Centre has included in-depth interviews with older people about their abuse experiences thereby giving victims a voice. This unique insight will allow the HSE and other organisations to better understand the nature, impact and outcomes of abuse, and thereby create more effective interventions.

• A qualitative study conducted with the HSE Senior Case Workers for the Protection of Older People revealed the many ethical challenges and complex dynamics experienced in managing cases of elder abuse. This will enable the HSE to ensure support for SCWs through professional development, clinical supervision and policy to advance collaborative working.
In relation to voluntary transfers there appears to be a perception that such transfers constitute a low risk. Many jurisdictions therefore allow an exception for such transfers. On closer analysis, the dangers associated with such transactions became clear to the Task Force. There may be inherent difficulties in such cases as recognised by judicial commentary and by the Law Society’s own guidelines. The case for the continuation of this exception was significantly undermined by the findings of the HSE/UCD report instancing abuse of the elderly in Ireland, which study showed that 94% of financial abuse of the elderly is carried out by family members. It further showed that there was a 91% instance of house ownership among elderly Irish people. The different types of financial abuse of the elderly identified in the report included their being forced or misled “to sign over ownership” of a home or property against their will. (Law Society of Ireland, 2012:1)
Outreach Activities
NCPOP Dissemination and engagement
Update of NCPOP website
2013 Conference Papers


Welcome

Welcome to the website of the National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP). The centre is funded by the Health Service Executive to undertake a programme of research into elder abuse in Ireland. Through our collaborative interdisciplinary team we aim to develop a knowledge base of Irish and international research to contribute to the development of policy, practice, and education. The NCPOP website is a resource for all those working with or having contact with older people in areas such as health and social care, legal and financial services, as well as for older people themselves.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference 2013

Please click here for presentation slides
Please click here for video presentations
NCPOP Web Analytics

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Number of visits and unique visitors from January 2013 to September 2013.
Newsletter
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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