The Majority of Older Adults Live in the Community
As over 90% of older adults reside in the community (as opposed to various forms of congregate living situations), most elder abuse is occurring among older adults living in the community.

Definition and Prevalence of Elder Abuse
Elder abuse is “An intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult”[i]. It is a term under which five types of abuse are reflected[ii]:

- Caregiver Neglect
- Financial Fraud & Exploitation
- Psychological Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse

Prevalence of Elder Abuse
At least 10% of adults age 65 and older will experience some form of elder abuse in a given year, with some older adults simultaneously experiencing more than one type of abuse.

The Consequences of Elder Abuse
The trauma of elder abuse may result in health issues such as a deterioration in health, hospitalization and increased mortality; clinical issues such as depression and suicide; social issues such as disrupted relationships, and financial loss, all leading to diminished independence and quality of life.

Population of Older Adults
Older adults age 65 or older comprise 14.9% of the total population in the USA.

Projections anticipate the percentage of the population age 65 and older to continue to grow in the coming decades.

Prevalence of Elder Abuse Statistics
At least 10% of adults age 65 and older will experience some form of elder abuse in a given year, with some older adults simultaneously experiencing more than one type of abuse.

Rate of Underreported by Type of Elder Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Abuse</th>
<th>Rate of Underreporting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver Neglect</td>
<td>1:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Exploitation</td>
<td>1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>1:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological Abuse</td>
<td>1:57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elder Abuse Statistics

- Caregiver Neglect
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Rural Statistics

Most of America is Rural

Rural areas cover 97% of the nation’s land area.

Baby Boomers are Migrating to Rural Communities

In the coming decade, there are projections that the number of rural older adults will continue to increase as baby boomers migrate from the big city to rural communities and small towns across America.

Outmigration of Young People

There is a higher percentage of older adults in rural areas in part because of the outmigration of young people from rural to urban areas.

Dementia Rate Higher Among Rural Older Adults

Rural older adults are more likely to exhibit some of the risk factors associated with elder abuse, most prominently dementia.

Elder Abuse is Reported Less in Rural Communities

According to one report, the rate of reporting is lower in rural communities when population is factored in, with a ratio of 26.1 among rural compared to 24.1 among urban (per 1000) residents.

Comparison of Older Adults in Rural vs. Urban Areas

As of July 2017, 19 percent of the rural population was 65 years or older, compared with 15 percent in urban areas.

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Rural Elder Abuse Research

Elder abuse in rural and tribal communities within the United States is an understudied and complex issue. A multidisciplinary perspective is necessary to successfully grapple with issues of rural and tribal elder abuse which have both public health and legal implications. The following research is pulled from many overlapping disciplines, published in the United States that pertain to issues related to elder abuse among rural or tribal older adults.


Elder Abuse in Rural America


Addiction and Opioids

Care Facilities

Caregiving and Caregivers

Domestic Violence and Interpersonal Violence
Vandenbuer, E., & Robinson, B. I. (2013). “They could not believe that a 65-year-old man would still beat his wife”: Professionals’ perspectives on...


Financial Exploitation

Food Security

Healthcare

Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Teams

Teledentistry


Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity

Public Health


Social Isolation

Telehealth


