

FACT SHEET: ELDER ABUSE

POPULATION

- ❖ In the US, the population 65 years and over is estimated to increase from 35 million (12.4% of population) in 2000 to 71.5 million (20% of population) in 2030. The population of those aged 85 and over is estimated to more than double, from 4.6 million in 2002 to 9.6 million in 2030. *Baker & Heitkemper, 2005*

ELDER MISTREATMENT

- ❖ It is estimated that between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection. *National Research Council Panel to Review Risk and Prevalence of Elder Abuse and Neglect, 2003*
- ❖ The estimated prevalence of elder abuse is between 2% and 10% in the US. *Lachs & Pillemer, 2004*
- ❖ From 1986 to 1996 there has been a 150% increase in reported incidents of domestic elder abuse nationwide (117,000 reports in 1986 vs. 293,000 in 1996). *National Center on Elder Abuse, 1999*
- ❖ It is estimated that for every new reported elder mistreatment case, there are 5 unreported cases. *National Center on Elder Abuse, 1998*
- ❖ According to 1996 data, the median age of elder abuse victims was 77.9 years. *National Center on Elder Abuse, 1999*
- ❖ According to 1996 data, neglect is the most common form of elder maltreatment in domestic settings (55%), while physical abuse accounted for 14.6% and financial or material exploitation represented 12.3%. *National Center on Elder Abuse, 1999*
- ❖ 90% of elder abuse and neglect incidents involve known perpetrators, usually family members; two-thirds are adult children or spouses. *Kari Sable Burns, n.d.*
- ❖ 42% of murder victims over age 60 were killed by their own offspring. *Kari Sable Burns, n.d.*
- ❖ In 1996, 66.4% of the victims of domestic elder abuse were white, 18.7% were black, and 10% were Hispanic. *National Center on Elder Abuse, 1999*
- ❖ Elder mistreatment occurred in almost one out of every three U.S. nursing homes between 1999 and 2001. *Minority Staff SID, Committee on Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, 2001*

***If you or someone you know is a victim of elder abuse, call the following number for information and referrals: Eldercare Locator (800) 677-1116
In LA County: 24 Hour Elder Abuse Hotlines (877) 477-3646***

For full citations or more information, please contact Billie Weiss, MPH at bpweiss@ucla.edu.