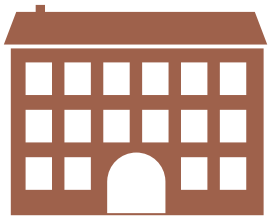
NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE

RESEARCH BRIEF

Abuse of Residents of Long Term Care Facilities

Elder and vulnerable/dependent adult abuse affects millions of people in the U.S. It occurs regularly in the community and in long term care settings such as nursing homes and board and care homes/assisted living facilities (we use the term board and care herein). It has been reported that *"a vast reservoir of undetected and unreported elder mistreatment in nursing homes may exist"* (Bonnie & Wallace, 2002). Research indicates that more than 40% of people over the age of 65 will enter a nursing home before they die. (Murtaugh, Kember, Spillman, & Carlson, 1997)

How Many Long Term Care Facilities Are in the U.S.?



16,639 Nursing Homes with 1,736,645 beds
(NORS, 2010)

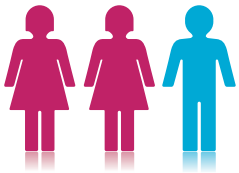
52,681 Board & Care Homes with 1,212,015 beds
(NORS, 2010)

How Many People Live in Long Term Care Facilities?

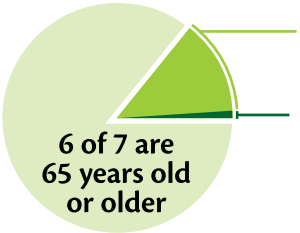
3.2 million Americans resided in nursing homes during 2008
(CMMS, 2009)

According to the National Center for Assisted Living (2008), **"more than 900,000 people nationwide live in assisted living settings."**

Who Lives in Long Term Care Facilities?

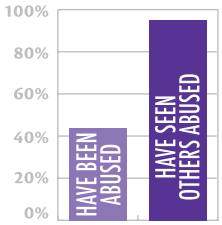


2 out of 3 are female



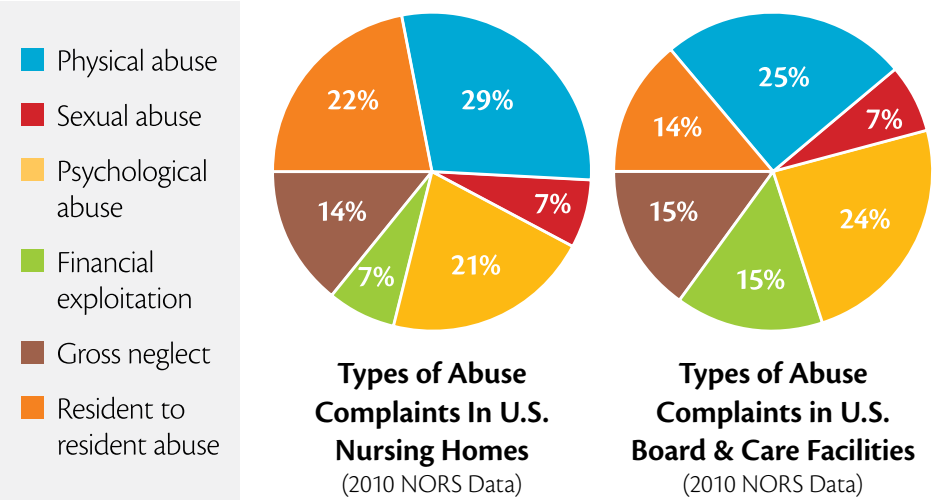
How Prevalent Is Elder and Vulnerable/Dependent Adult Abuse?

- Nearly **1 in 3 U.S. nursing homes were cited for violations** of federal standards that had potential to cause harm or that had caused actual harm to a resident during the two years 1999-2001. Nearly 1 out of 10 homes had violations that caused residents harm, serious injury, or placed them in jeopardy of death. (2001 U.S. House of Representatives Report)
- In a study of 2,000 interviews of nursing home residents, **44% said they had been abused and 95% said they had been neglected or seen another resident neglected**. (Broyles, 2000)



- Over **50% of nursing home staff admitted to mistreating (e.g. physical violence, mental abuse, neglect) older patients** within the prior year in one study. Two thirds of those incidents involved neglect. (Ben Natan, 2010)
- One survey of certified nursing assistants (CNA) found that **17% of CNAs had pushed, grabbed, or shoved** a nursing home resident. **51% reported they had yelled** at a resident and **23% had insulted or sworn** at a resident. (Pillemer & Hudson, 1993)
- **7% of all complaints** regarding institutional facilities reported to long term care Ombudsmen **were complaints of abuse, neglect, or exploitation**. (NORS Data 2010)

What Types of Abuse Are Occurring?



Types of Abuse Complaints In U.S. Nursing Homes
(2010 NORS Data)

Types of Abuse Complaints in U.S. Board & Care Facilities
(2010 NORS Data)

Protections of Long Term Care Residents Need Strengthening

"Our work shows that nursing home residents need both stronger and more immediate protections. More should be done to protect nursing home residents." (U.S. GAO Report to Congress, 2002)

"Studies of the process States use to detect, investigate, resolve, and prevent elder mistreatment in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and board and care homes are deeply flawed. As a result, the estimates of elder abuse and neglect are lower than the actual prevalence, and the processes must be strengthened to protect residents." (U.S. DHHS/OIG Report, 2006)

"The universal lack of resources, the enormous variation across jurisdictions, and the low priority given to elder abuse and neglect make it difficult to see how significant progress can be made without some federal standards and financial support for investigating, detecting, resolving and preventing elder abuse in residential care." (Hawes, C. & Kimbell, A., 2010)

Keck School of Medicine of USC

For more information: **www.ncea.aoa.gov**

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