

Topic: Elder Abuse and Neglect

Title: Abuse in Canada

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Article Summary

Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council (AEAAC) cites Statistics Canada annual General Social Survey of 1999. This survey interviewed 4,000 older Canadians to examine their experience regarding abuse, including emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse, committed against them by their children, caregivers, or spouses.

Statistics Canada found:

- Approximately 7% of seniors reported they had experienced some form of abuse by an adult child, caregiver or spouse in the past 5 years
- Emotional abuse was reported most frequently
- financial abuse was the second most reported form of abuse
- almost 2% of older Canadians reported experiencing more than one form of abuse

By applying these statistics to Alberta's senior population, this means approximately 23,000 Alberta seniors are experiencing one or more forms of abuse. However, we also know that many instances of senior abuse do not go reported.

Furthermore, the Alberta for All Ages - Directions for the Future report states that between 1999 - 2016, Alberta's senior population will increase 60 - 70%, while the general population will only grow by 30%.

"The implication from these statistics is painfully clear: unless we take action through awareness and prevention, the prevalence of elder abuse will continue to grow."

Bullet Points:

- Statistics Canada (1999) found:
 - Approximately 7% of seniors reported they had experienced some form of abuse by an adult child, caregiver or spouse in the past 5 years
 - Emotional abuse was reported most frequently
 - Financial abuse was the second most reported form of abuse
 - Almost 2% of older Canadians reported experiencing more than one form of abuse
 - Approximately 23,000 Alberta seniors are experiencing one or more forms of abuse.
- Alberta for All Ages - Directions for the Future report states that between 1999 - 2016, Alberta's senior population will increase 60 - 70%, while the general population will only grow by 30%.
- "The implication from these statistics is painfully clear: unless we take action through awareness and prevention, the prevalence of elder abuse will continue to grow."



(<https://www.albertaelderabuse.ca>)

MENU

If you or someone you know is at immediate risk or harm call 911

For 24 hour support and referral, call Family Violence Info Line 310-1818

Abuse In Canada

Statistics Canada carries out an annual General Social Survey (GSS) to monitor changes in the health of Canadian as well as to examine social support.

As part of the 1999 GSS, 4000 older Canadians were interviewed to examine their experience regarding emotional and financial abuse as well as physical and sexual violence committed against them by children, caregivers and spouses. The following results were reported:

- approximately 7% of seniors interviewed reported that they had experienced some form of emotional or financial abuse by an adult child, caregiver or spouse within the past five years
- emotional abuse was reported most frequently
- financial abuse was the second most reported form of abuse
- almost 2% of older Canadians reported experiencing more than one form of abuse

What are the implications for older Albertans today?

Applied to Alberta's current senior population, these statistics tell us that approximately 23,000 Alberta seniors are experiencing one or more forms of abuse.

We know that there are many barriers to disclosure and that abuse of older adults is not readily identified by service providers or community members. (Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults- Community Awareness and Response, 2001, p.23).

We know that our population is aging quickly. The Alberta for All Ages - Directions for the Future report stated that

"between 1999-2016 the Alberta seniors' population will increase 60-70%, while the general population will only grow by 30%."

The implication from these statistics is painfully clear: unless we take action through awareness and prevention, the prevalence of elder abuse will continue to grow.

What are the costs of family violence in Canada?

Measuring the economic impact of violence allows us to examine the issue from another vantage point. This data provides us with valuable information when planning prevention and intervention efforts.

Health & Well-being \$1.5 billion

Social Services/Education \$2.3 billion

Criminal Justice \$872 million

Labour/Employment \$577 million

Health/Medical \$408 million

Social Programs \$385 million

Total Cost \$6 billion

(Sources: Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, The Health Related Costs of Violence Against Women in Canada : The Tip of the Iceberg. Tanis Day Ph. D., 1992, 1995)

While these statistics speak to the enormous social price tag of family violence, it is critical that we not forget that economic facts do not measure:

- the human cost of emotional suffering
- decreased quality of life
- in some cases the loss of life

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Thank you to Alberta Seniors and Housing for their ongoing support as a Funder and Partner

Our Values

Our belief is that no one organization has a broad enough scope to address the complex issue of elder abuse in its entirety. A truly effective community response involves many stakeholders working in collaboration.

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