



Disrespect of Our Elders: Preventing Native Elder Abuse

**National Indigenous Elder
Justice Initiative**

Jacque Gray, Ph.D.
Addressing Elder Abuse
December 10, 2014



“Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders”



NIEJI


—Vision:

“Restore respect and
dignity by honoring
indigenous elders.”




NIEJI Goals Cycle 1

- ❖ Establish NIEJI
 - Website: www.nieji.org
 - E-Mail: nieji@med.und.edu
 - Phone: 701-777-2023
 - Toll-free Number: 855-834-1572
- ❖ Develop Resources
 - Tribal/State Resource with interactive map
 - Contacting all tribes about Elder Abuse Code
- ❖ Developed Elder Abuse Model Code/MOU
- ❖ Hold a restorative justice conference



NIEJI Goals Cycle 2


- ❖ Maintain and update NIEJI Infrastructure and provide technical assistance to tribes on elder abuse
- ❖ Develop training modules on Elder Abuse
- ❖ Provide educational information and resources on Native American elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation for dissemination on the website
- ❖ Provide a plan for data collection on elder abuse



What is Elder Abuse?


❖ National Center on Elder Abuse

“Any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.”




What legal types of elder abuse?

- ❖ Physical Abuse
- ❖ Sexual Abuse
- ❖ Emotional/Psychological Abuse
- ❖ Neglect
- ❖ Financial Exploitation
- ❖ Self-Neglect
- ❖ Abandonment




Physical Abuse

- ❖ Use of force to threaten or physically injure a vulnerable adult.
- ❖ Signs: Slap, bruises, falls, pressure marks, certain burns or blisters




Emotional/Psychological Abuse

- ❖ Verbal attacks, threats, rejection, isolation, or belittling acts that cause or could cause mental anguish, pain or distress to a senior adult.
- ❖ Signs: withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, unusual behavioral change




Sexual Abuse

- ❖ Sexual contact that is forced, tricked, threatened, or otherwise coerced upon a vulnerable elder, including anyone who is unable to grant consent.
- ❖ Signs: Bruises around breasts or genitals, unexplained STDs




Exploitation

- ❖ Theft, fraud, misuse, or neglect of authority, and use of undue influence as a lever to gain control over and older person's money or property.
- ❖ Signs: change in finances, altered wills or trusts, loss of property




Neglect

- ❖ A caregiver's failure or refusal to provide for a vulnerable elder's safety, physical, or emotional needs.
- ❖ Signs: Pressure ulcers, lack of medical care, malnutrition or dehydration.




Abandonment

- ❖ Desertion of a frail or vulnerable elder by anyone with a duty of care.




Spiritual Abuse

- ❖ Spiritual Abuse (Doble 2006)
 - Anything that interferes with spiritual growth including the corruption of another person’s value system.
- ❖ Soul Wounding (Duran & Duran, 1996)




Spiritual Abuse

- ❖ Examples
 - Elder not taken to ceremonies and spiritual events
 - Family not allowed to conduct ceremonies in hospital as elder is dying.
 - Ceremonial items taken from the elder’s home by visitors (family, friends, others) for use or sale.
 - Elders not raised within the community wanting to have ceremonies at end of life and no connections to provide the ceremonies.
 - Others?




Health Effects of Elder Abuse




- ▶ **Increased Mortality**
 - Lachs et al. 1998, Dong et al. 2009
- ▶ **Poorer physical outcomes (probable)**
 - American Medical Association 1990; Anetzberger 2004; Lindbloom et al. 2007
- **Increased pain**
- **Exacerbation of existing conditions**
- **Welts, wounds, injuries**
- **Increased susceptibility to infection**




Financial Effects of Elder Abuse


- ❖ **Restitution often not forthcoming or too late**
- ❖ **No time to rebuild assets**
- ❖ **Loss of choices for older adult; loss of independence**
- ❖ **Reliance on others for financial support**
- ❖ **More quickly spending down to Medicaid**

 **Who is more at risk?**

-  People with inadequately treated mental health and / or substance abuse problems are more likely to be abusive
-  People who feel stressed / burdened / resentful are more likely to be abusive
-  Providing care for an older adult who is physically combative and/or verbally abusive

 **Screening for Abuse**


- ❖ Best practice: Everyone should be screened
- ❖ Normalize talking about a difficult topics
- ❖ Native Elders talk about disrespect not abuse
- ❖ Asking questions creates a potential to catch abuse in its early stage and prevent it from escalating



Screening: Ask the Elder

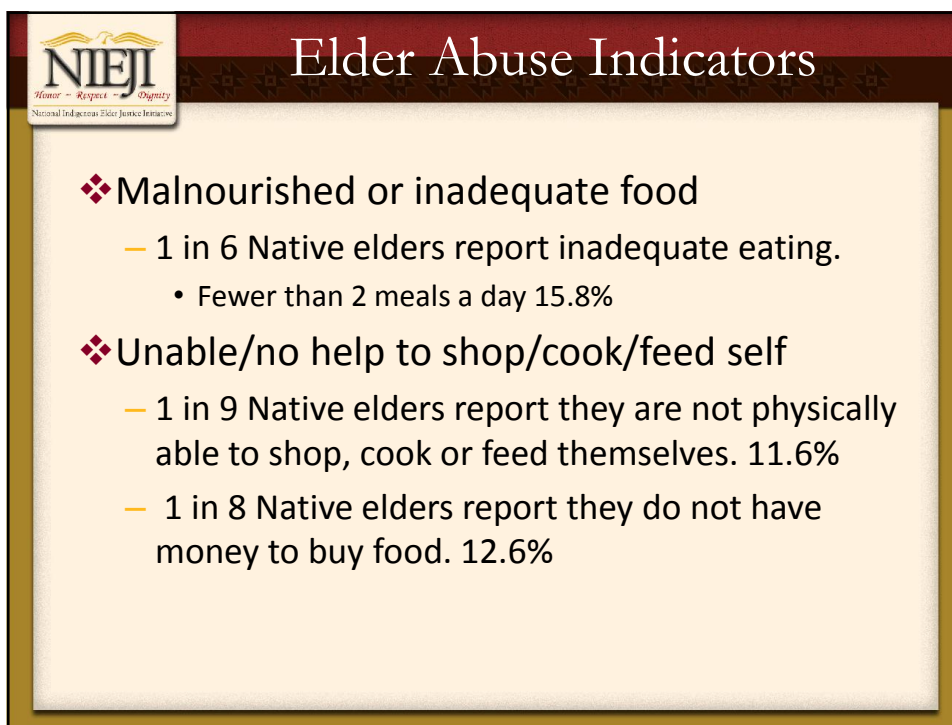
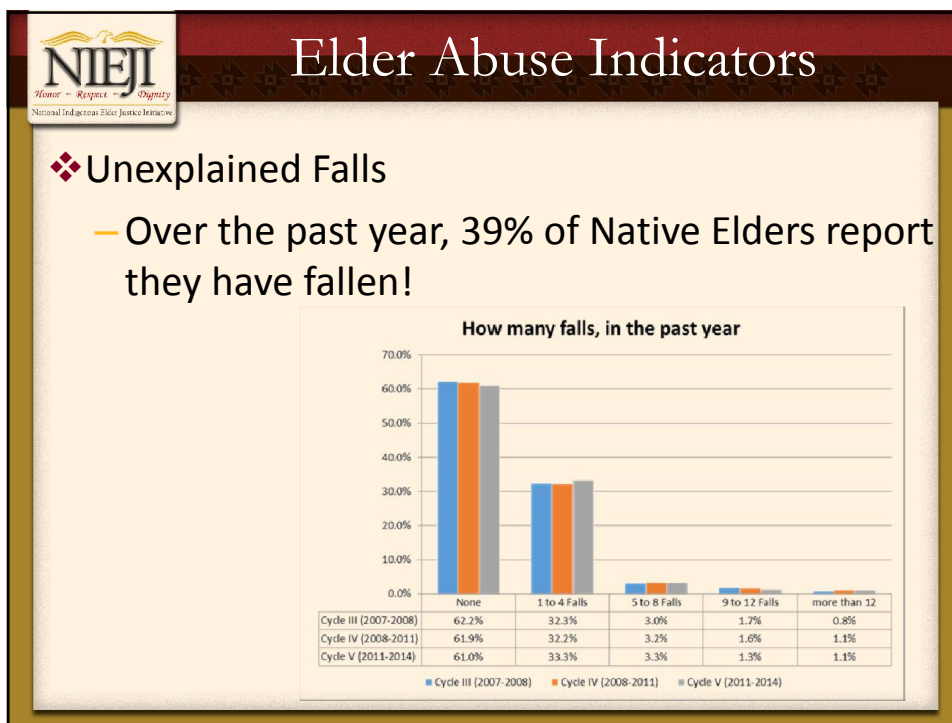
- ❖ “Are you being disrespected? If so, in what ways?”
- ❖ “Has anybody hurt you?”
- ❖ “Are you afraid of anybody?”
- ❖ “Is anyone taking or using your money without your permission?”
- ❖ “Is anyone taking your things without your permission?”

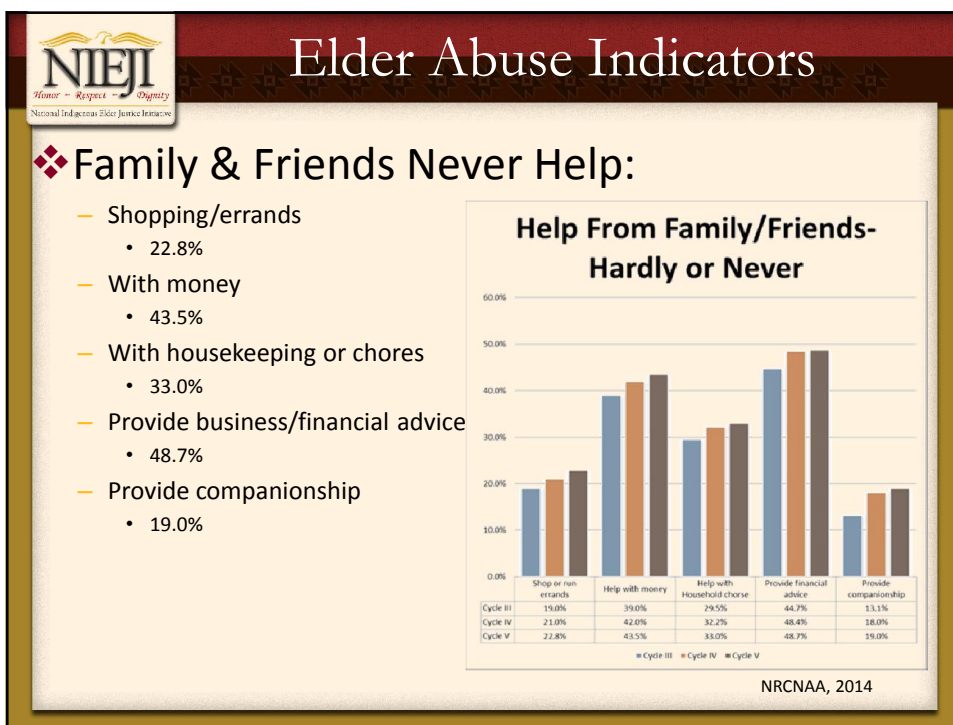
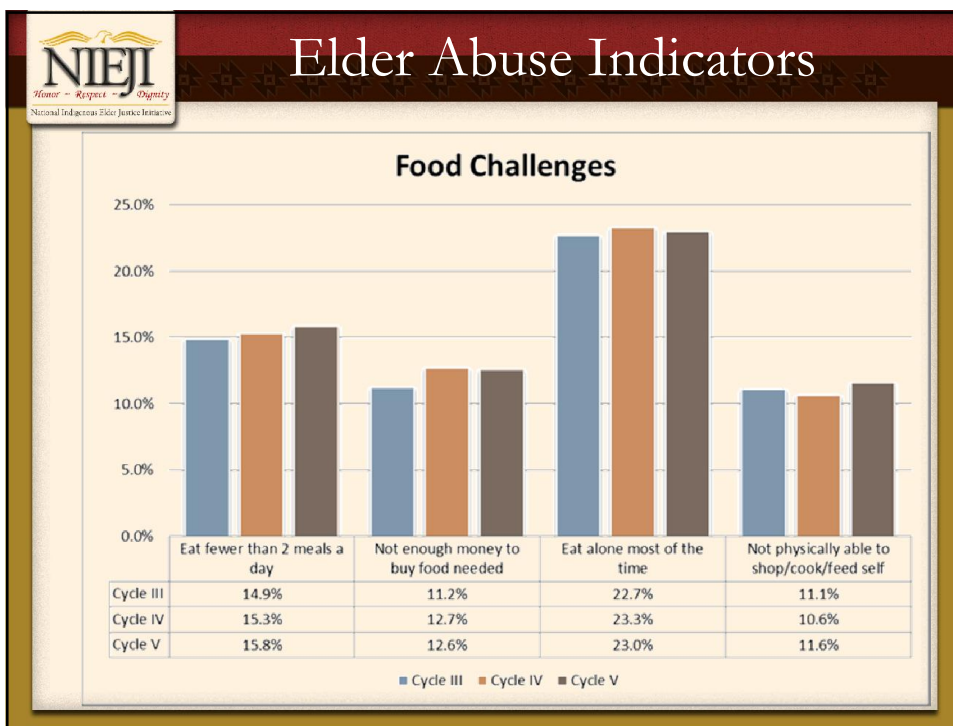
Mosqueda and Dong, JAMA 306:5:532-540 (Aug, 2011)




Talk to Elders About the Future

- ❖ Planning Ahead
 - Under what conditions would you want someone to manage your finances?
 - Under what conditions would you want to be placed in a long term care setting
- ❖ Staying Connected-Check in on one another
 - When people who regularly attend events are not there
 - Have a buddy system
- ❖ Being Cautious
 - Don’t provide resources without checking out the situation
- ❖ Reporting Their Suspicions
 - If you think abuse may be going on, tell someone.
 - Ask authorities to intervene.







Elder Abuse Indicators

Use of Resources For All Tribes

	<u>Now Use</u>	<u>Would Use</u>
Elder Abuse Prevention	1.1%	12.7%
Financial Assistance	3.4%	27.1%
Legal Assistance	2.2%	23.5%
Transportation	9.5%	35.2%
Caregiver	6.0%	32.4%
Congregate Meals	15.3%	15.9%
Home Delivered Meals	14.0%	36.0%
Personal Care	2.6%	20.5%
Home Health Care	4.2%	32.6%
Home Modification	2.5%	27.7%

NRCNA, 2012



Resource Locator

State/Tribal Hotlines



- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky

- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota

- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming




State/Tribal Resource Locator

North Dakota

State Hotlines

- **North Dakota Aging Services Division**
1-701-328-4601
1-800-451-8693
- **Region I**
Counties Served: Divide, McKenzie, Williams
1-800-231-7724
1-701-572-9111
- **Region II**
Counties Served: Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Renville, Ward
1-701-857-8500
1-888-470-6968
- **Region III**
Counties Served: Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner
1-888-607-8610
1-701-662-5050
- **Region IV**
Counties Served: Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Walsh
1-888-256-6742
1-800-845-3731
- **Region V**
Counties Served: Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Traill
1-888-342-4900
1-701-235-7335
- **Region VI**
Counties Served: Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman, Wells
1-800-260-1310
1-701-253-6400
- **Region VII**
Counties Served: Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux
1-888-328-2662
1-888-328-2112
- **Region VIII**
Counties Served: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Durn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, Stark
1-888-227-7525



How to help?

- ❖ Join with NIEJI, ACL & NCEA to address Elder Abuse in Indian Country
- ❖ Work with tribal government to get elder abuse into tribal code.
- ❖ Spread the word—share information about elder abuse, signs, resources.
- ❖ Assist in identifying the problem locally
- ❖ Support elder abuse prevention & community awareness
- ❖ Plan Activities for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15



Partnerships

- ❖ Please include information on the importance of partnership/collaboration as related to your topic.
 - National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative
 - National Resource Center on Native American Aging
 - National Center on Elder Abuse
 - National Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect
 - Administration on Aging/Administration for Community Living
 - Adult Protective Services Resource Center
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Human Services
 - Indian Health Services, Behavioral Health



Primary References:

- ❖ American Medical Association. (1990). White paper on elderly health. Report of the Council on Scientific Affairs. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 150(12): 2459-2472.
- ❖ Dong, X.Q., Simon, M.A., de Leon, C.M., Fulmer, T., Beck T. Hebert, L. Dyer, C., Paveza, G. Evans, & D.Gorbien, M. (2009). Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, Special Issue: Violence and human rights* 302(5): 517-526
- ❖ Jackson, M. Y. & Sappier, T. (2005). Elder Abuse Issues in Indian Country. Washington, D.C.: Administration on Aging. http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/pdf/Elder_Abuse_issues_in_Indian_Country_June2005.pdf
- ❖ Lachs, M.S., Williams, C.S., O'Brien, S., Pillemer, K.A., & Charlson, M.E. (1998). The morality of elder mistreatment. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280(5): 428-432.
- ❖ Lindbloom, E.J., Brandt, J. Hough, L.D., & Meadows, S.E. (2007). Elder mistreatment in the nursing home: A systematic review. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* 8(9): 610-616.



Contact Information

- ❖ National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative
- ❖ [Http://www.nieji.org](http://www.nieji.org)
- ❖ Toll Free: 1-855-834-1572
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For More Information

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Thank You!
Wado!