



Sometimes the only things
visible are tears...

Action on Elder Abuse



*'a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an **expectation of trust**, which causes harm or distress to an older person....*



Five types of abuse

- **Physical**
Slapping, Hitting, Inappropriate administration of medicines, etc
- **Psychological**
Threatening, using what someone loves or values against them, etc
- **Financial**
Stealing or defrauding someone of goods or property, etc.
- **Sexual**
Forcing someone to participate in sexual actions or conversation against their wishes, etc.
- **Neglect**
Failing to provide food, or heat or clothing, or needed aids for living

UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People - 2007

The overall prevalence of abuse, defined by 'expectation of trust' in the year preceding the survey was

4%

This equates to **342,000** people aged 66 and over, or **1 in every 25** of the population aged 66 and over

UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People - 2007

The overall prevalence of abuse, defined by 'expectation of trust' in the year preceding the survey was

8.6%

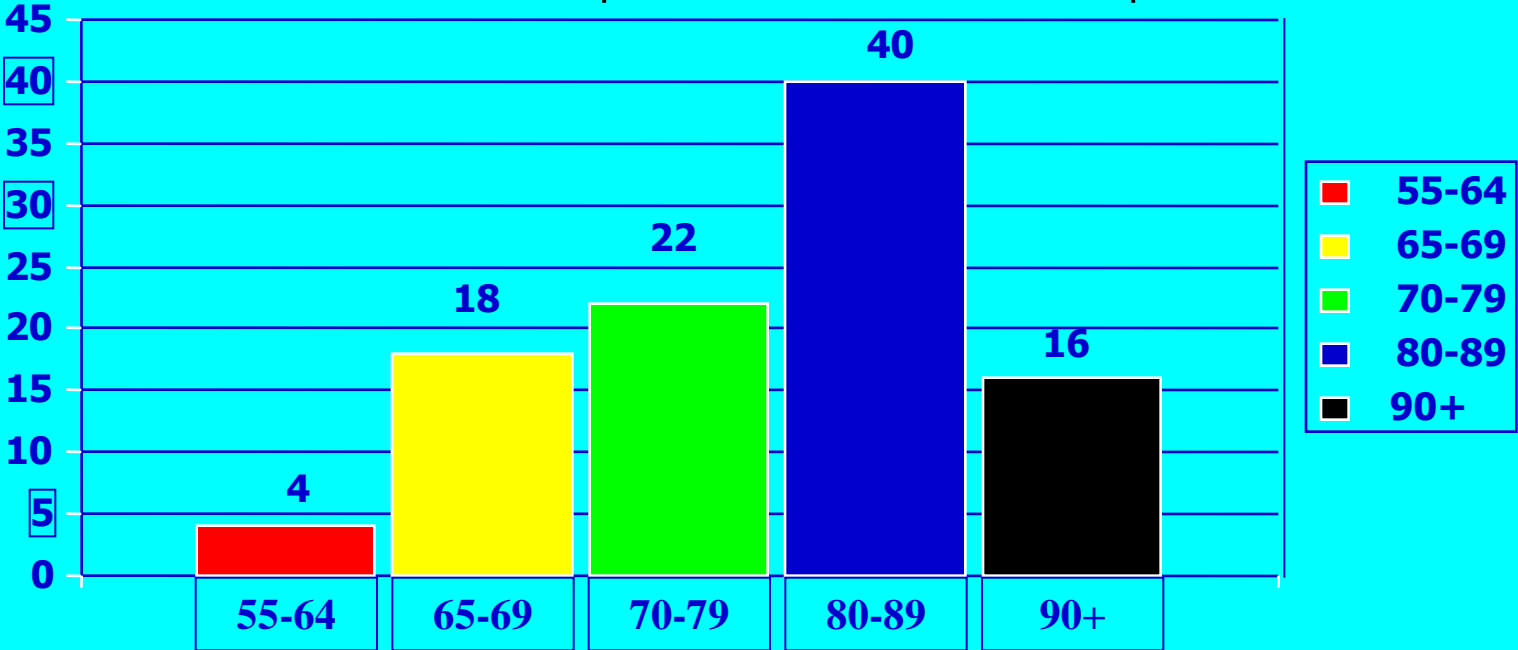
This equates to **500,000** people aged 66 and over.



Source: Hidden Voices

Age of victim

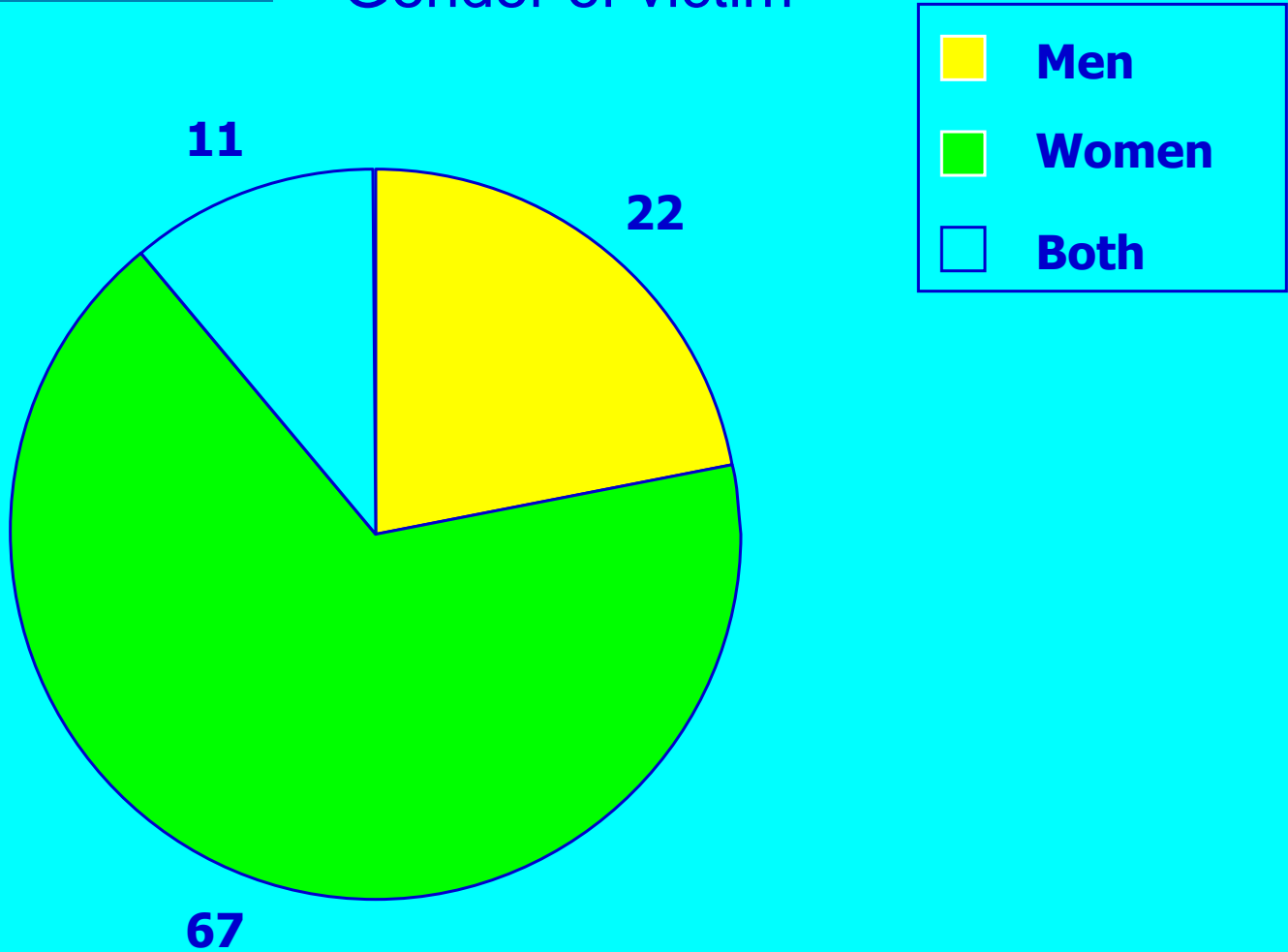
78% of abuse occurs after the age of 70 years





Source: Hidden Voices

Gender of victim

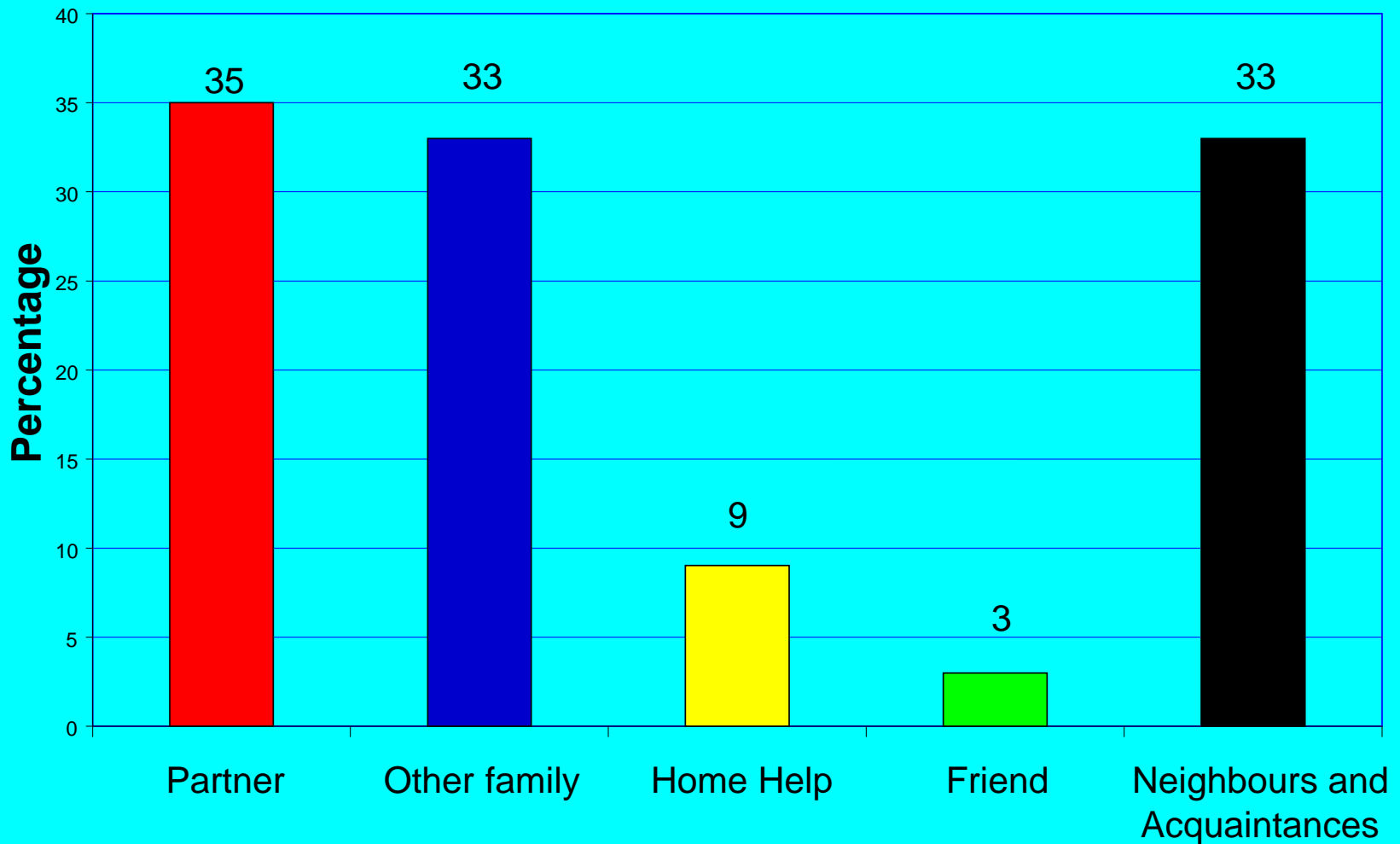




UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People - 2007

The Perpetrators

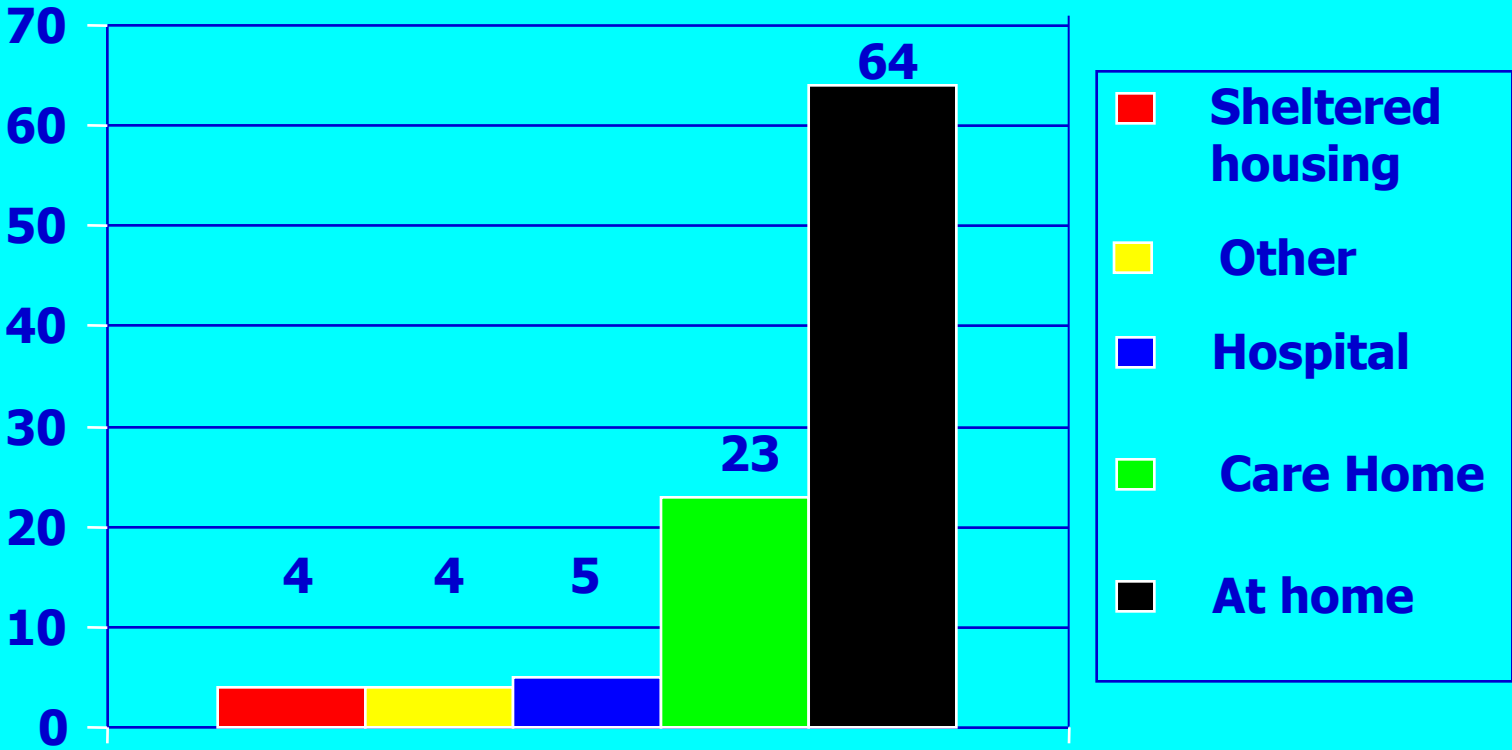
Percentage of all respondents who had experienced abuse in the last year





Source: Hidden Voices

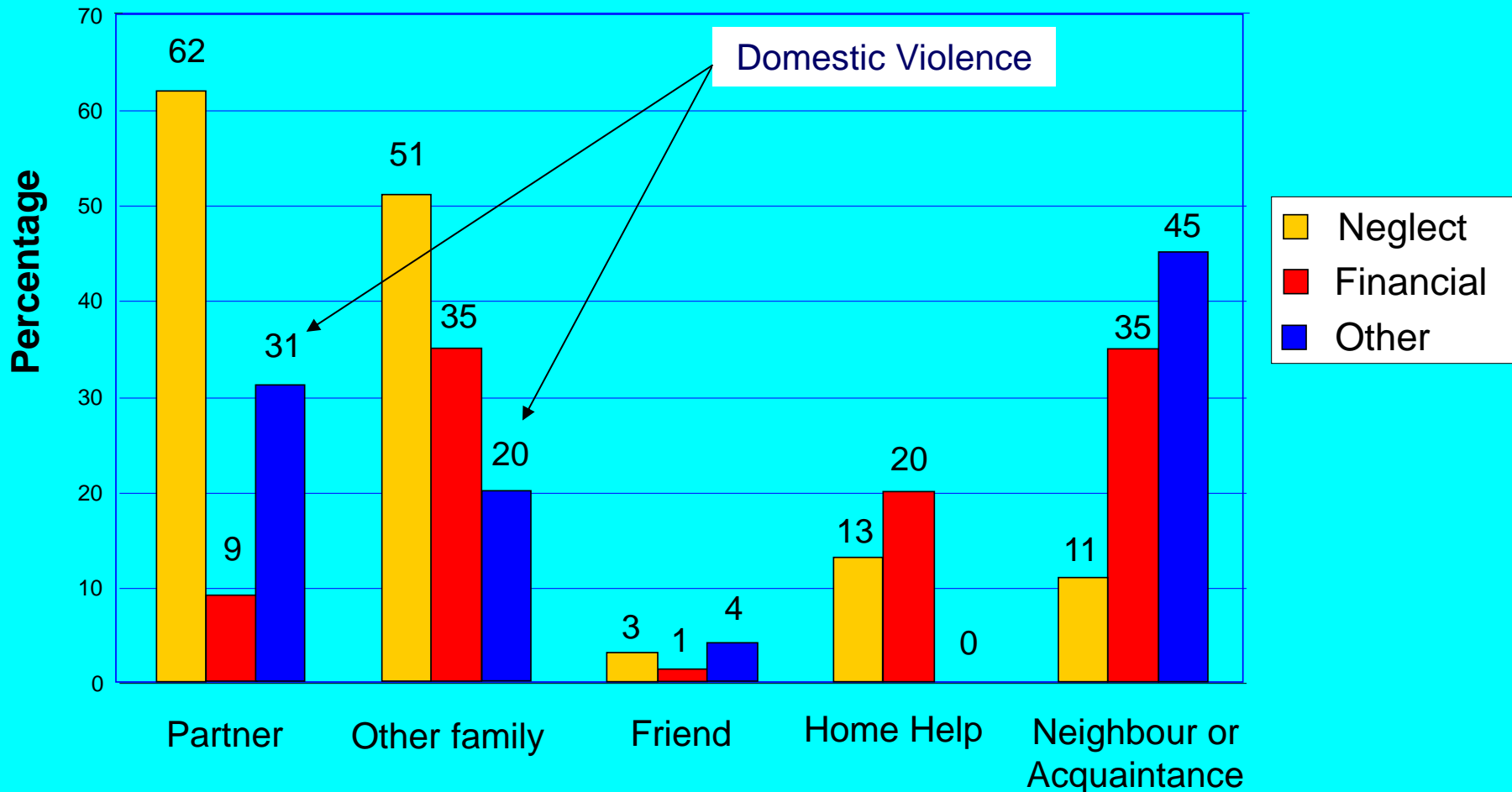
Where abuse occurs



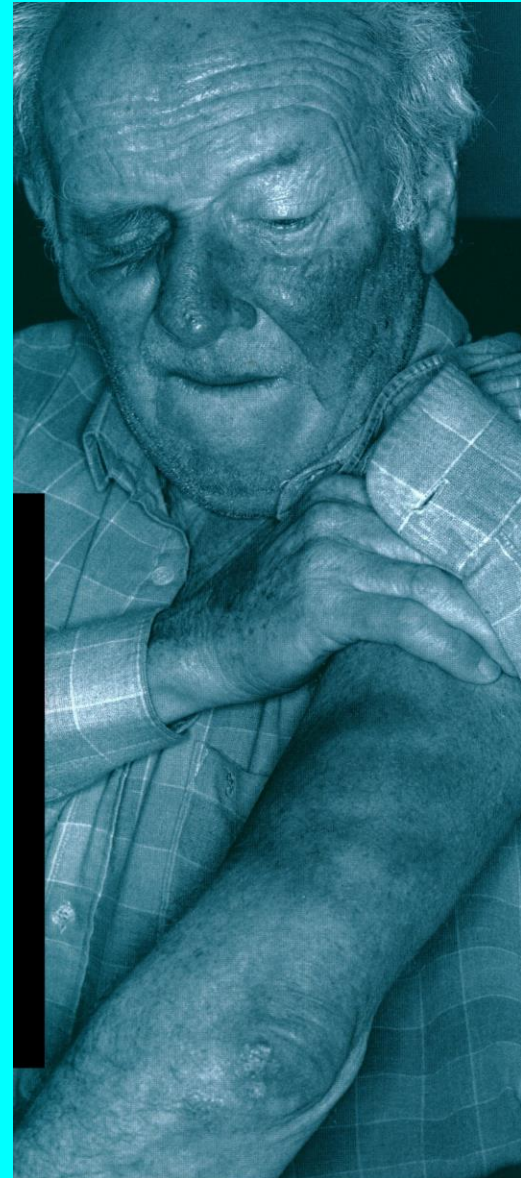
UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People - 2007

Abusers and Type

Percentage of those who had been identified as abusers in the last year



Causes and factors



Factors that may lead to elder abuse:

Social Isolation

Patterns of family violence

Alcohol, drug and mental health problems

Poor quality long term relationships

Dependency

Factors that may lead to elder abuse in institutional settings:

Poor staffing levels and working conditions

Lack of training, supervision and support

No procedures or policies on abuse

Poor communication

Reasons for the hidden nature of abuse

Denial.

Hope.

Shame.

Guilt

Finances.

Practicalities.

Dependent children, pets, others.

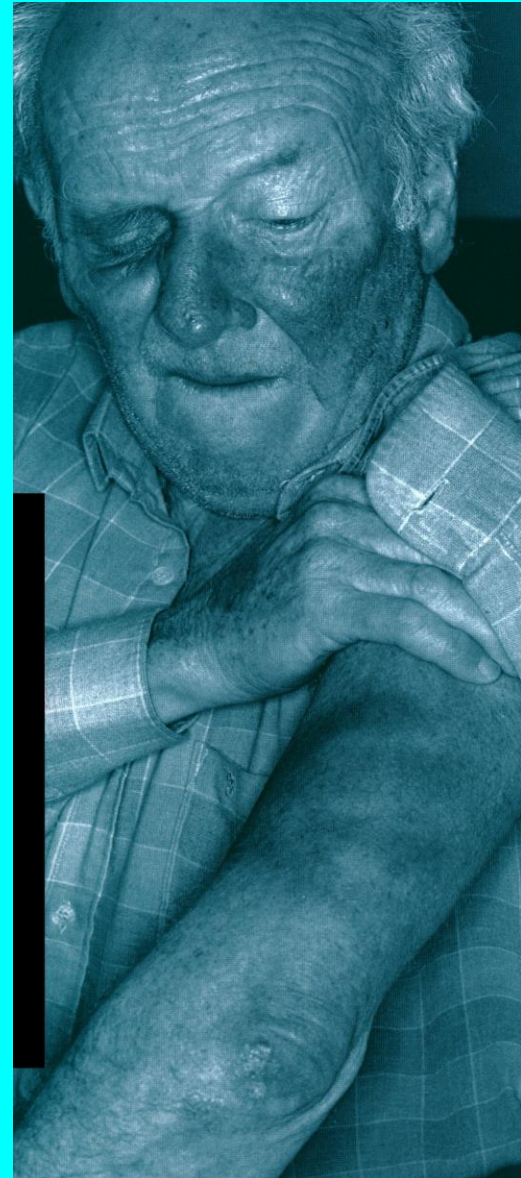
Fear.

Religion.

Culture.

Limited or lack of mental capacity.

Interventions





Background:

No Secrets: Section 7 guidance to Local Authorities

- has no jurisdiction over any other statutory agency – social policy driven

- has no dedicated funding

- cannot place a single duty on a single person

- provides not a single power to act



Interventions

Where Relationship Cause Culture

In family situations – strategies for both abuser and victim

Screening / Detection

Independent confidential advice and guidance

Coordinated, integrated approaches:

- Legal, medical/social, education, empowerment

Practical services followed by empowerment and support

Thinking about Outcomes: Lord Justice Munby

*Physical health and safety can sometimes be bought at too high a price in happiness and emotional welfare. The emphasis must be on sensible risk appraisal, not striving to avoid all risk, whatever the price, but instead seeking a proper balance and being willing to tolerate manageable or acceptable risks as the price appropriately to be paid in order to achieve some other good – in particular to achieve the vital good of the elderly or vulnerable person's happiness. **What good is it making someone safer if it merely makes them miserable .***

Thinking about Outcomes: Lord Justice Munby

Intervention which is proportionate to the harm, or real possibility of future harm, and which has the overall effect (outcome) of improving the life of the adult, including their safety, happiness and mental well-being.

“If the State is to justify removing vulnerable adults from their relatives, partners, friends or carers it can only be on the basis that the State is going to provide a better quality of care than that which they have hitherto been receiving



Elder Abuse Helpline **080 8808 8141**

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