

Neglect and Abuse in LTC

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Popular Press re LTC facilities

- Peter Townsend (1964) *The last refuge. A survey of residential institutions and homes for the aged in England and Wales.* Routledge.
- Atul Gawande (2014) *Being mortal: Illness, medicine and what matters in the end.* Profile Books Ltd.

About Elder Abuse

“Mistreatment of older adults refers to actions/behaviors or lack of actions/behaviors that cause harm or risk of harm within a trust relationship”

National Initiative for Care of the Elderly (NICE), 2015

Where Elder Abuse Occurs

- In **private households**, where 92% of Canada's seniors live (Statistics Canada, 2011a). Perpetrator may be spouse, lover, sibling, child, friend, neighbour, or paid caregiver
- In **institutional settings** (such as assisted living, licensed care facilities, hospitals) where perpetrators may include
 - Staff
 - Visitors
 - Other residents

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE AND WHERE IT OCCURS

Internationally recognized types are:

- Physical
- Psychological
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect

BC also recognizes self neglect

- Psychological and financial are the most common

Source: Podnieks, Pillemer, Nicholson, et al. 1990; Boldy, Horner, Crouchley, et al, 2005; Ockleford, Barnes-Holmes, Morichellim et al, 2003)

- Poly-victimization may occur
 - Multiple forms - victims may experience more than one type, concurrently or sequentially
 - Multiple perpetrators
 - Gutman, Karbakhsh, Stewart (2024)

Source: Anme & Tatara, 2005; Boldy, Horner, Crouchley et al, 2005; Vida & Des Rosiers, 2002

Estimated prevalence

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a WHO fact sheet titled "Abuse of older people". The page includes a navigation bar with "Health Topics", "Countries", "Newsroom", "Emergencies", "Data", and "About WHO". Below the navigation bar is a table captioned "Table 1: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses". The table compares the prevalence of abuse in community settings (1) and institutional settings (2), further categorized by type of abuse and reporting source.

	Abuse of older people in community settings (1)	Abuse of older people in institutional settings (2)	
Type of abuse	Reported by older adults	Reported by older adults and their proxies	Reported by staff
Overall prevalence	15.7%	Not enough data	64.2% or 2 in 3 staff
Psychological abuse:	11.6%	33.4%	32.5%
Physical abuse:	2.6%	14.1%	9.3%
Financial abuse:	6.8%	13.8%	Not enough data
Neglect:	4.2%	11.6%	12.0%
Sexual abuse:	0.9%	1.9%	0.7%

NEGLECT

Sign in | abuse in LTC homes - Search | https://www.bing.com/search?q=abuse+in+LTC+homes&src=IE-SearchBox&FORM=IESR4N

Mail SFU SFU ca - Simon Fras... iCAN-ACP iCAN-A... -10% Google HP MSN Doc - Sep 7 2022 -... Reader Library High Rate of Elder... Fettig2023.pdf Other favorites

About 12,700,000 results

From cbc.ca

Content

- 'We Couldn't Be...'
- More Residents...
- 'No Tolerance' ...
- 'No Consequen...


CBC
https://www.cbc.ca/news/marketplace/nursing-homes-abuse-ontari... -

85% of Ont. nursing homes break the law repeatedly with almost ...

While physical abuse is fairly clear, **neglect** can take on many forms such as **lack of hydration** or failure to provide baths. Two hundred and twenty-six homes had repeat offences for failing to "ensure that residents are not neglected by the licensee or staff," but many more incidents were filed under **different codes** ... [See more](#)

'We Couldn't Believe What We Saw'

Craiglee Nursing Home was one of at least 248 homes that have been written up twice or more for abuse and 101 homes that have repeatedly failed to report abuse. Craiglee also ... [See more](#)



More Residents Abused After Videos ...

After Von and Mary saw the extent of the abuse, they decided to call police. A personal support worker was arrested and ultimately entered into ... [See more](#)


'No Tolerance' For Abuse, Says Minister

Most homes have not faced any punishment for failure to comply with the law. Only two Ontario homes have been shut down in the last ... [See more](#)

EXPLORE FURTHER

- [Elder Abuse Legislation](#) - Canada.ca [canada.ca](#)
- [Top 30 Ontario long-term care homes with most reported ...](#) [cbc.ca](#)
- [Residents' Bill of Rights: Your rights if you live in a long-term ...](#) [cleo.on.ca](#)
- [Reports of elder abuse soar outside of long-term care in Ontario](#) [theglobeandmail.com](#)
- [Breaking point: assaulted, threatened and abused in Ontario's ...](#) [cbc.ca](#)

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Abuse in Long-Term Care Homes: A Disturbing Reality


The mistreatment of vulnerable residents in long-term care (LTC) homes is a deeply concerning issue. Let's shed light on this distressing situation:

- Extent of the Problem:**
 - A **data analysis** of Ontario's LTC homes reveals that **85%** of these facilities have repeatedly broken the law with **virtually no consequences** ¹.
 - These violations include serious offenses such as **physical abuse, inadequate infection control, unsafe medication storage**, and more ¹.
- Hidden Camera Exposes Abuse:**
 - Von, whose mother was a resident at Craiglee Nursing Home in Scarborough, Ontario, installed a hidden camera in her room.
 - Shockingly, the footage captured **physical and emotional abuse** by at least four different care workers ¹.
 - Von described it as "like a horror film" and something he can never unsee ¹.
- Normalized Non-Compliance:**

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[Got it](#)



Resident-resident aggression



“Negative, aggressive, and intrusive verbal, physical, sexual, and material interactions between LTC residents that in a community setting would likely be unwelcome and potentially cause physical or psychological distress in the recipient.”

– MacDonald et al. (2015)

More than 10,000 Canadians abused annually by fellow nursing home residents

Toronto's Frank Piccolo was among the 10,000 Canadians abused by fellow residents in long-term care every year, a crime for which no one pays a penalty.

By Sandie Rinaldo Special to the Star

🚩 Saturday, February 9, 2013 | ⌚ 7 min to read



Frank Piccolo

Toronto Star (2013): <https://tinyurl.com/ynfdrnfa>

<https://tinyurl.com/2u7a3km8>

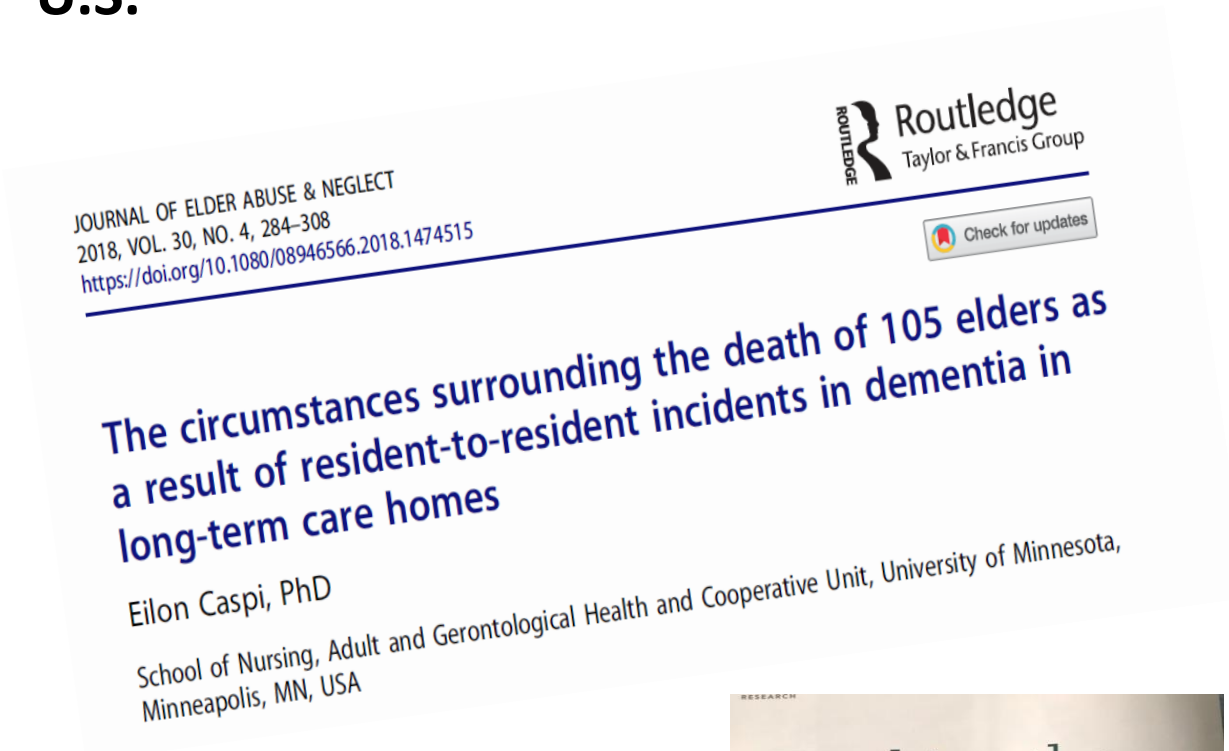
1st Study on Fatal RRI in Canada and U.S.

Resident-to-Resident Abuse: A Scoping Review*

Lynn McDonald,^{1,2} Christine Sheppard,¹ Sander L. Hitzig,² Tal Spalter,² Avantika Mathur,² and Jason Singh Mukhi²

“One-third of reported abuse cases”

McDonald et al. (2015)
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25752919/>



Common triggers

- Invasion of personal space
- Unwanted entries into one's bedroom
- Taking personal belongings from others
- Reaching a breaking point
- Conflicts between roommates

Underlying theme:

Unmet needs / situational frustrations Intersecting with residents' cognitive processing disabilities

- **Behavioral Expressions** labeled as “Aggressive” in people with dementia are mostly...
- **Expressions of unmet human needs**
- Have **meaning, purpose & function** *to the person...*
- Attempts at **communication** that need be explored with validation – Judy Berry
- Attempts at **gaining control** over unwanted, frustrating, frightening or threatening situations
- Attempts at **preserving identity & dignity**

Source: Caspi (2013; 2023)

WHO infographic



- Risk of abuse and fear of retaliation may be greater among marginalized groups e.g. LGBT+ residents, indigenous older adults or those from ethnic minorities in a particular facility.

International Perspectives on Aging 37

Claire Robson · Jen Marchbank · Gloria Gutman · Makaela Prentice

Elder Abuse in the LGBTQ2SA+ Community

The Impact of Homophobia and Transphobia

This book describes and analyzes the lived experience of elder abuse from the queer community. It discusses the experiences by transwomen, gay men and lesbians of financial abuse, physical and sexual abuse, homophobic abuse, and neglect within partner relationships, residential care, in home care, and religious organizations. Queer and trans elders have been described as 'The Silent Generation', since they have lived through times when their sexual and gender identities were criminalized and pathologized. The book shows that they are far more at risk to suffer abuse and neglect by those they should be able to trust, since they are more likely to have encountered all key risk factors, such as isolation, previous abuse and trauma, and mistrust of the health care system. Their vulnerability has been overlooked and this book addresses that gap. As such, this book provides a great resource to anyone working with elders, including medical professionals, care providers, police, counsellors, and policy makers.

ISBN 978-3-031-33316-3



► springer.com

Robson · Marchbank · Gutman ·
Prentice



Elder Abuse in the LGBTQ2SA+ Community

International Perspectives on Aging 37
Series Editors: Jason L. Powell, Sheying Chen

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Elder Abuse in the LGBTQ2SA+ Community

The Impact of Homophobia and
Transphobia

 Springer

Context and type of abuse covered in the study on which book is based

- In-home care
 - Inappropriate touching & neglect Trudy
 - Neglect & failure to recognize her lesbian widowhood (neglect or psychological abuse?) Zoe
- Faith based organizations
 - Ostracism and spiritual abuse Grace
- Residential care
 - Neglect, over medication, harassment & physical abuse Michele
 - Neglect Donald
- Within Romantic Relationship
 - Financial abuse, emotional abuse (death threats) Bruce
 - Financial abuse, emotional/psychological abuse Pam
- Within Lesbian Community
 - Financial abuse, theft Flygirl

“A Sense of Learned Helplessness”

Among staff

– GLTCRC (2020)

Resident A: 72 y/o man in severe stage of Alzheimer’s disease

Resident B: 77 y/o man with vascular dementia & severe cognitive impairment

Resident B repeatedly entered other residents’ bedrooms over 3 months

Resident A pushed him b/c “he came into his bedroom and took his cookies”

Multiple rib fractures & subdural hematoma → Died 2 weeks later

“The **GLTCRC** was **struck by the normalization** of violent behaviours and the level of resident-on-resident, and resident-on-staff violence in the Responsive Behavior Unit”

Zero tolerance for abuse of children and for domestic abuse. Why not for elder abuse?

- A way forward: Promising approaches to abuse prevention in institutional settings (Macdonald et al 2008)

- Reviewed law and regulation across Canada

Indicated (page 6) in report to PHAC that the language of “zero tolerance” was beginning to surface in the law and regulation in some jurisdictions.

- What evidence is there that this trend has continued and that the CSA environmental standards and the HSO operational standards reviewed and updated in 2021-22 and discussed at the Friesen conference have in fact improved the situation?

Who is asking? When will have some answers? from whom?

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