

in the engagement of residents in complaint investigation and resolution and there were 71.05% fewer activities involved in investigations. Not surprisingly, there was an 80.0% increase in information that the LTCO provided to the media.

COVID PANDEMIC IMPACT ON NEVADA ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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Empirical data regarding Covid pandemic impact on the Nevada Adult Protective Services (APS) Program clients, casework, and staff was gathered and analyzed as part of a multi-faceted program evaluation. Key findings include: 66% of the staff agreed or strongly agreed that the pandemic made their jobs more challenging. Respondents reported Covid-related challenges faced by clients, the program, and themselves as social workers serving older and vulnerable adults. Adverse client impacts observed included increased social and emotional isolation, loss of housing, exacerbation of symptoms of mental illness, necessary services being cut from clients subsequent to testing Covid positive, and fear and reluctance to allow needed visiting service providers, such as home health aides, into their homes. We will discuss the implications of the findings on APS services and clients, and on related health and human services designed to promote the wellness and independence of older and vulnerable adults.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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COVID-19 created a “perfect storm” for financial exploitation directed at older adults. We invited adults aged 60 and older enrolled in gerontology research registries at Virginia Tech, Florida State University, Wayne State University, and University of Pittsburgh to complete an on-line survey about experiences with financial exploitation by strangers. The 997 respondents ranged in age from 60 to 98 ($M = 71.3$; $SD = 6.8$); most identified as White (93.4%), female (64.2%) and living with a spouse/partner (58%). Approximately one-half of respondents (56.87%) reported experiencing a scam attempt about COVID-19 issues. Most contact by scammers was electronic (49%) and frequently occurred two or more times (40%). Most respondents ignored the request (i.e., hung up phone, deleted text/email, threw away mail). However, 9% sent the requested payment, and 4% gave the scammer their personal information. Confidence in financial matters and having attended financial educational programs protected older adults from being scammed.

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Adult Protection and Elder Abuse

CHANGING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE CASE OF ELDER ABUSE

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Since the first confirmed case being identified in January 2020, authorities in Hong Kong have implemented various measures in an attempt to control the spread of the disease. These measures include compulsory quarantining of infected persons and those suspected of exposure, temporary closure of high-risk premises, and suspension of public activities and services, encouraging work-from-home arrangement etc. These measures, however, may exacerbate the impact of known risk factors and create new avenues for elder mistreatment. Life stress, financial strains and work-from-home arrangements increase chances of family conflicts, cessation of public services increases burden in the already stressed caregivers. This study examines the changing intergenerational family relations in the midst of the pandemic. A total of 1200 community dwelling senior citizens participated through responding to a telephone survey. Information was collected on participants' demographic characteristics, perceived disruptions brought about by COVID-19, family relations, physical and mental health, etc. Family conflicts and abuse were commonly reported: 27.8% reported family conflicts, 14.5% psychological abuse, 3.1% physical abuse, 3.9% financial abuse. A large proportion of participants (41.8%), however, also reported improved family relations during the pandemic. Results of logistic regression indicate that advanced age, female gender, poor financial situation were significant predictors for family conflicts and abuse. Contrary to our expectations, pandemic related disruptions in daily lives and perceived safety in the community were not associated in family conflicts and abuse in the present sample.

INCIDENCE AND RISK FACTORS OF ELDER MISTREATMENT IN THE COMMUNITY: A LONGITUDINAL POPULATION-BASED STUDY

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Prior population-based elder mistreatment (EM) risk factor research has focused on problem prevalence using cross-sectional designs, which cannot make causal inferences between proposed risk factors and EM or discern existing cases from new cases entering the population. This study sought to estimate the incidence of EM and identify risk factors for new cases. It is a ten-year prospective, population-based cohort study with data collected between 2009 (Wave 1) and 2019 (Wave 2). Based on Wave 1 random, stratified