



D51 Picking on the Elderly: An Unfair Fight — Elder Abuse and Neglect Through the Death Investigator's Eyes

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to identify the risk factors and trends in elder mistreatment; understand the importance of prevention programs; identify possible abuse or neglect related deaths; and, develop methods for prevention. Suggestions for educational resources will be provided to assist in public awareness and prevention.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by exploring the aging population and the mistreatment elders can succumb to. Emphasis will be placed on identification and prevention methods. Though many elder deaths may be considered "natural" due to their age, the individual and their surroundings must be examined wholly to rule out mistreatment. This includes their current living situation, caregivers, and the individual's own physical and mental abilities. Older individuals usually have fewer support systems, ranging from financial, emotional and physical support, and the impact of abuse and neglect is, subsequently, magnified. This lecture will include several case studies that will highlight common risk factors and key points to consider when investigating elder deaths. Collaboration with outside agencies is an integral part of an abuse and neglect investigation and suggestions into cooperative efforts will be provided. Elder Fatality Review Teams are a collaborative, multi-agency effort to reduce elder abuse or neglect deaths, increase awareness and decrease the incidence of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Information regarding initiating an Elder Fatality Review Team will also be explored.

As the aging population grows, so does the amount of Abuse and Neglect mortality rates. By the year 2030, it is estimated that elders over age 65 will grow to 71.5 million or 20% of the U.S. population. This presentation explores the aging population and the mistreatment they can succumb to. Emphasis will be placed on identification and prevention methods. This lecture will include several case studies that will highlight common risk factors and key points to consider when investigating elder deaths. Collaboration with outside agencies is an integral part of an abuse and neglect investigation and suggestions into cooperative efforts will be provided.

This presentation is recommended for medical personnel, law enforcement, death investigators and individuals working with or caring for the elderly.

Investigation, Elder, Abuse