



D57 Battery and Abuse in the Elderly: A Review of 100 Cases

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the incidence and prevalence of elder abuse, the different types of elder abuse including physical, sexual, and financial, and the types of crimes committed against the elderly in 100 cases prosecuted through the San Diego District Attorney's office.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by presenting key aspects of elder abuse and the legal issues surrounding it as well as highlighting the need for close collaboration between the nursing, medical, and legal communities.

Awareness of elder abuse is becoming more prevalent as the population of America ages. Since the 1970s when Congressional hearings on elder abuse were held in the United States, more funding and research has focused on elder mistreatment, originally under the umbrella of Family Violence. Multiple aspects of abuse in the elderly have been examined including tools for detection, assessment, and documentation. Studies have also been done on the circumstances surrounding abuse as well as theories of causation and characteristics of the abuser.

Physical, sexual, and financial abuse of the elderly is being identified and prosecuted at an increasing rate in the California court system. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between victims of elder abuse and those convicted of crimes stemming from the abuse.

A review of 100 cases of elder abuse prosecuted through the San Diego District Attorney's Office was done to answer questions regarding relationship between victim and offender, types of abuse, and criminal case outcome. All of the defendants had been convicted of crimes stemming from incidents of elder abuse. The relationship between type of abuse and type of abuser was also examined. Research findings are presented as well as recommendations for further nursing and medical awareness in cases of elder abuse, and cites the need for close collaboration between the medical and legal communities.

Elder, Abuse, Relationship