As a result of Governor Blagojevich’s Rights Conference July 19-21, 2005. Nationally, the 19th Annual Elder Rights Conference reported suspicious circumstances to the Department. training included how to follow simple guidelines for exploitation, scams and other types of abuse. The caseworkers to bank personnel and senior groups. Training continued to be conducted by elder abuse provider agencies and case coordination units.

Exploitation (Elder Abuse)

As a result of the Self-Neglect Summit, a data collection and separated to discuss training, funding protocols, legislation, data collection, and inter-disciplinary teams. The Department’s goal was for the Summit to serve as a springboard for action in addressing self-neglect within Illinois.

Self-Neglect Survey:
As a result of the Self-Neglect Summit, a data collection sub-committee was formed and began meeting in January 2006. In order to begin the process of collecting data, the sub-committee’s focus was to develop a survey on how many self-neglect cases elder abuse provider agencies and case coordination units came into contact with during the month of June 2006. The surveys were completed on-line and submitted to the Department. The Department contracted with Leonard Schanfield Research Institute with the Illinois Department on Aging to conduct the survey.

How Many Reports of Elder Abuse Were Received?
Chicago received the largest number of reports, 1,424, followed by suburban Cook County with 1,372. The highest for elder abuse reports in the southern tip of Illinois were reported in Crawford County, where 257 reports were made. The survey also found that 1,224 cases were referred to providers for follow up.

Elder Abuse Hotline
Anyone who suspects that an older adult is being mistreated by another should call:

• The Department on Aging’s 24-hour Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-866-800-1409, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).
• ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

The law also encourages any person to report voluntarily for an older adult, and provides a statutory mandate to report when certain conditions exist, including:

• If the older adult is in danger of death or serious physical harm from neglect or abuse.
• The older adult is not capable of reporting the abuse himself/herself.

How Does a Person Make an Elder Abuse Report?

• The Department on Aging’s 24-hour Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-866-800-1409, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

Elder Abuse Hotline

The Elder Abuse and Neglect Program is locally coordinated through 44 provider agencies, which are designated by the Regional Administrative Agencies (RAAs) and oversee the monitoring of services through the RAAs.

What is Elder Abuse?
Elder abuse refers to the following types of mistreatment of any Illinois resident 60 years of age or older: verbal assaults, threats of abuse, physical assault, sexual assault, passive neglect, willful deprivation, active neglect, and confinement. An older adult who requires medication, medical care, shelter, food, therapeutic device, or other physical assistance that they have a right to engage. Elder abuse provider agencies and the Department also provide services to older adults who have been mistreated.

Fiscal Year 2006 Accomplishments

The Elder Abuse and Neglect Program is locally coordinated through 44 provider agencies, which are designated by the Regional Administrative Agencies (RAAs) and oversee the monitoring of services through the RAAs.

March 17 2006 was designated as Elder Abuse Awareness Month by Governor Blagojevich. The Elder Abuse Awareness Month was designed to raise public awareness of elder abuse through the Elder Abuse Hotline. The Elder Abuse Hotline is managed by the Elder Abuse and Neglect Program, which is funded by the State of Illinois.

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Major indicators of abuse that were evident during the assessment process are documented by the elder abuse caseworker using hundreds of abuse indicator codes. Actions of the abuser, e.g., inappropriate supervision for the older adult, not providing needed assistance, (withholding food, water, and/or medications, and refusing services) were found in almost all cases.

Virtually all (98%) of the victim reports were of an adult who was 60 years of age or older. Victims generally experience more than one type of abuse, e.g., financial exploitation is the type of abuse reported most frequently (58% of reports), and is highly associated with emotional abuse, reported in 44% of cases.

Prevalence of Elder Abuse

Since the program became statewide in April 1991, the period of July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 was the only state fiscal year in which reports decreased from the previous year. In Fiscal Year 2006, 9,191 reports of elder abuse were received, an increase of 7.07% from Fiscal Year 2005.

Types of Abuse Reported

In 78% of the cases in which abuse is substantiated, the victim consents to services. Services might include in-home care; adult day care; respite; health services; and services such as counseling. Other interventions might include an order of protection; obtaining a representative payee; having the person change or execute a new power of attorney for financial and/or health decisions; or assisting the client in obtaining other legal remedies. In some cases, services for the abuser are also obtained, including mental illness, substance abuse, job placement or other services related to their problems.

Types of Abuse Reported

Sex of Abuser by Abuse Type

Victim and Abuser Services

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Leading Abuse Indicators

Leading Barriers of Victimization

Four out of five victims suffered from one or more barriers to independent living. More than 25% of victims were functionally impaired, meaning they had difficulty performing daily tasks such as walking, personal care, meal preparation, laundry and housecleaning. Many of these older adults were victims of neglect and deprivation.

Source of Reports

26% of cases were reported by social workers or medical personnel. Family members were responsible for 20% percent of all reports, and victims self-reported in 10% of all cases. Self reports were most likely to occur in physical, sexual, emotional and financial exploitation cases. Older people most often needed others to report for them in cases of neglect and willful deprivation.

Types of Abuse Reported

Abuser’s Relationship to Victim by Abuse Type

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