



# Elder Abuse in Nursing Homes

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## Abstract

This research looks at the frequency of physical, verbal and sexual abuse in nursing homes that hired staff are suspected of committing. Research show that the elderly population is growing, and so is the issue of elder abuse in nursing homes. It is hoped that results from this study will help highlight the issue of elder abuse, and lead to policy solutions.

## Research Questions

- What is the frequency of physical, verbal and sexual abuse among residents living in nursing homes?
- How often are staff involved in elder abuse?

## Methodology

The current research utilized a literature review method to examine the issue of elder abuse among nursing home residents. Relevant articles published between 2009 and 2019 were retrieved from google scholar data base and summarized to shed light on this topic.

## References

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## Challenges of Elder Abuse Research

- **Definitions:** Determine which definition to use in the research; there is no one single definition used nationwide.
- **Institutional Review Boards (IRB):** This can be time consuming due to the lack of familiarity with the topic.
- **Identifying the type of elder abuse:** Differentiating the different types of elder abuse. Which **type of abuses** to focus on during the research (knowing the difference between each).
- **Ethical Dilemma:** Managing confidentiality of individuals involved based on information gathered.
- **Methods used to collect the data:** Being able to choose what research method would best fit the information you are seeking to find.

## Why Research is Important

Fig 1 Showing population growth for 65 years + estimations

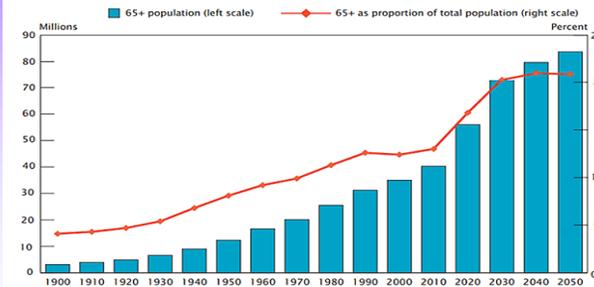
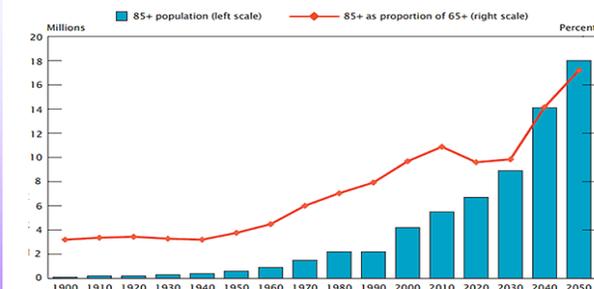


Fig 2 Showing population growth for 85 years + estimations



## Conclusions

Research highlights that educating staff and families about elder abuse helps increase their ability to identify and address instances of abuse or suspected abuse. There is a correlation between the frequency of elder abuse in nursing homes and staff involvement, along with other factors, such as the culture of the environment and work stressors. In order to connect the frequency of the abuse and eliminate the issue, everyone including the staff, law enforcement and the state's department of health may need to work together to discuss methods and policy change to combat elder abuse. Over the years, with more time dedicated to elder abuse research there have been policies and laws incorporated to combat the issue.

## Future Work

This research is currently in progress. There is a written proposal completed to continue to the next steps. Next steps include receiving IRB approval, and conducting a case study with nursing home staff from various nursing homes in the greater Rochester area.

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