Understanding Barriers to Reporting and Facilitating Disclosure of Maltreatment Among Older Adults

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RATIONALE

• Estimates suggest that up to 10% of Canadians aged 65 or older experience some form of maltreatment but only 20% of those victimized report the maltreatment.

• PsycINFO
  • Child Abuse - 44758
  • Elder Abuse - 2094

• Techniques with children:
  • Ground Rules
  • NICHD Protocol Interview
  • Importance of rapport building
PROJECT

• Why aren’t those who are being abused disclosing that abuse?
• Eventual goal – develop procedures to be used by those interviewing suspected victims that better ensure disclosure.
• Series of projects – surveying the general public; interviewing police officers Canada-wide
• This grant
  • Survey of individuals in the province aged 65+ regarding perceived barriers
  • Focus groups/interviews with healthcare professionals regarding treatment received and barriers they perceive to be associated with underreporting.