Elder Abuse Data Standardization

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What to expect today…

1. Alberta's Elder Abuse Strategy
2. Elder Abuse and Family Violence
3. Data Standardization
4. Abuse Variables
5. Demographic variables
6. Service and referral variables
7. Aligning Data Collection

Alberta's Elder Abuse Strategy

Goal 1 Improved Awareness

Goal 2 Skilled Service Providers

Goal 3 Coordinated Community Responses

Goal 4 Protective Laws and Policies

Goal 5 Data, Information Sharing, Research and Evaluation

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Elder Abuse Updated Definition, 2022

Elder abuse is any intentional or reckless act or willful and negligent disregard, occurring within a relationship of family, trust or dependency, directed at someone 65 years of age or older that:

- Causes physical harm;

- Causes emotional or psychological harm;

- Involves the misappropriation or misuse of money or other personal possessions or personal or real property;

- Subjects an individual to non-consensual sexual contact, activity or behavior; or

- Fails to provide the necessities of life.

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Goal 5: Data, Info-Sharing, Research and Evaluation

Actions:

- Standardization of Abuse Data - Cross-Ministry Working Committee
- Applying data standardization to Elder Abuse Prevention Grants & Programs
- Prevalence study

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Family Violence and Elder Abuse

Similarities

Victims can be in romantic relationships, divorced, children (birth, step, adopted or foster), grandparents, or individuals with guardians or caregivers.

Risk factors:

- Exposure to prior abuse/victimization
- Low academic or educational achievement
- Unemployment
- Financial insecurity
- Relationship variables such as marital conflict, fights, tension, control or dominance
- Personality variables such as low self-esteem, anger or hostility issues
- Substance use
- Mental health

Differences

Older adults might experience abuse by persons outside of the family.

Most common type of family violence: physical violence.

Most common types of elder abuse: psychological abuse, financial abuse, and neglect.
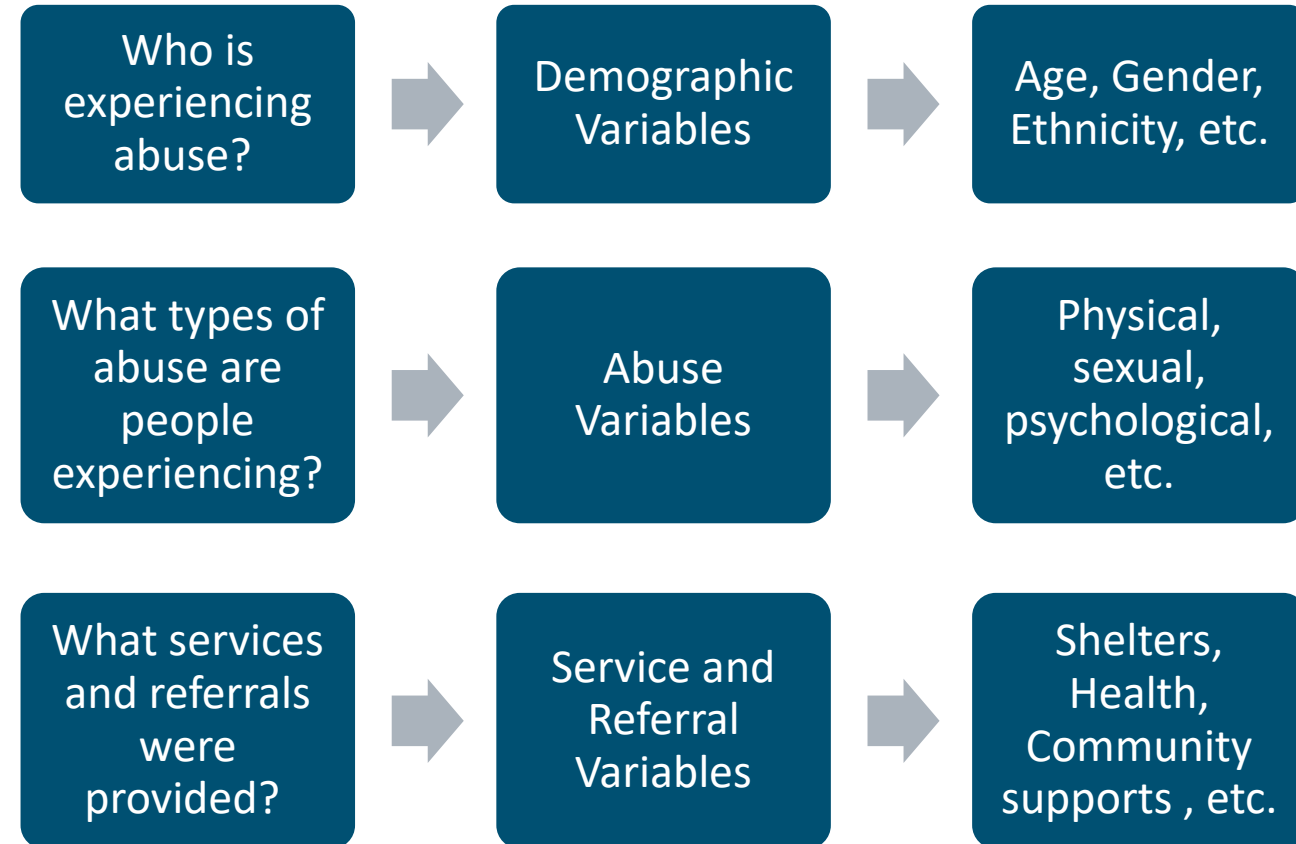
Risk factors elder abuse includes:

- isolation
- inability to cope with long-term caregiving
- institutional conditions
- ageism and lack of knowledge about the aging process
- complex comorbidities (related to age)

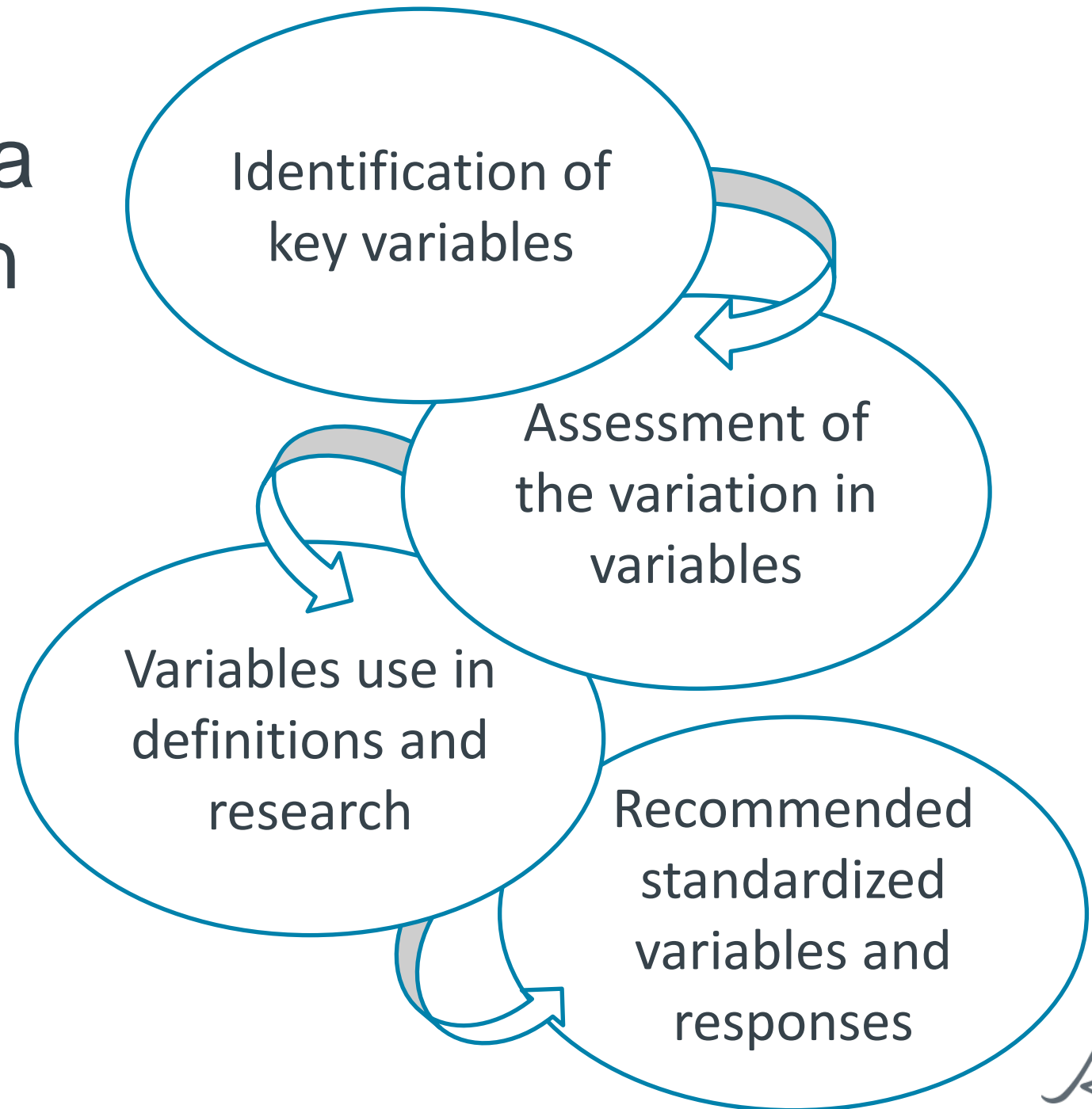Alberta

Data Standardization

The goal is clear, consistent, and comparable data elements,

variables, definitions, and formats for **aggregate data** so variables

can be compared across supports, programs, grants and research.

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Standardization of Abuse Data

- Standardization of demographic and abuse data benefits:
  - helpful in comparing information across settings,
  - minimizing reporting burden,
  - optimizing data sharing

- Good data collection and analysis also support strong policy and programmatic responses, including primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.

Who is experiencing abuse?	→	Demographic Variables	→	Age, Gender, Ethnicity, etc.
What types of abuse are people experiencing?	→	Abuse Variables	→	Physical, sexual, psychological, etc.
What services and referrals were provided?	→	Service and Referral Variables	→	Shelters, Health, Community supports, etc.

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Process of Data Standardization

Identification of key variables

Assessment of the variation in variables

Variables use in definitions and research

Recommended standardized variables and responses

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Recommended Variables

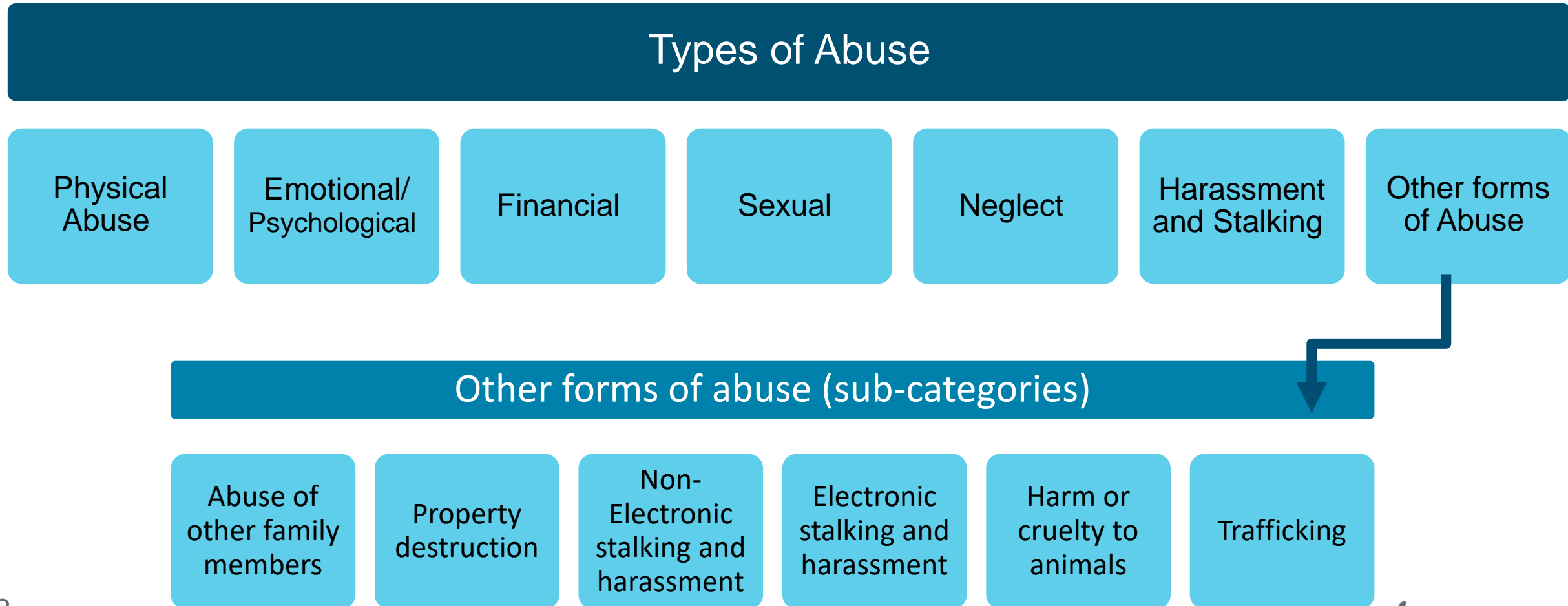| Abuse Variables	Demographic Variables	Support and Service Variables
• Type of Abuse • Victim Abuser Relationship	• Gender • Age • Marital Status • Visible Minority • Indigenous Identity • Immigrant Status • Geographic	• Services Variables • Referral Variables

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Abuse Variables

Type of Abuse – Recommended Variables

Types of Abuse						
Physical Abuse	Emotional/ Psychological	Financial	Sexual	Neglect	Harassment and Stalking	Other forms of Abuse

Other forms of abuse (sub-categories)					
Abuse of other family members	Property destruction	Non-Electronic stalking and harassment	Electronic stalking and harassment	Harm or cruelty to animals	Trafficking

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Types of Abuse

Prevalence Study Alberta 2023/24 Elder Abuse Rates by Type

Type	Rate
Emotional	7.2%
Neglect	3.8%
Financial	2.1%
Physical	1.4%
Sexual	0.6%

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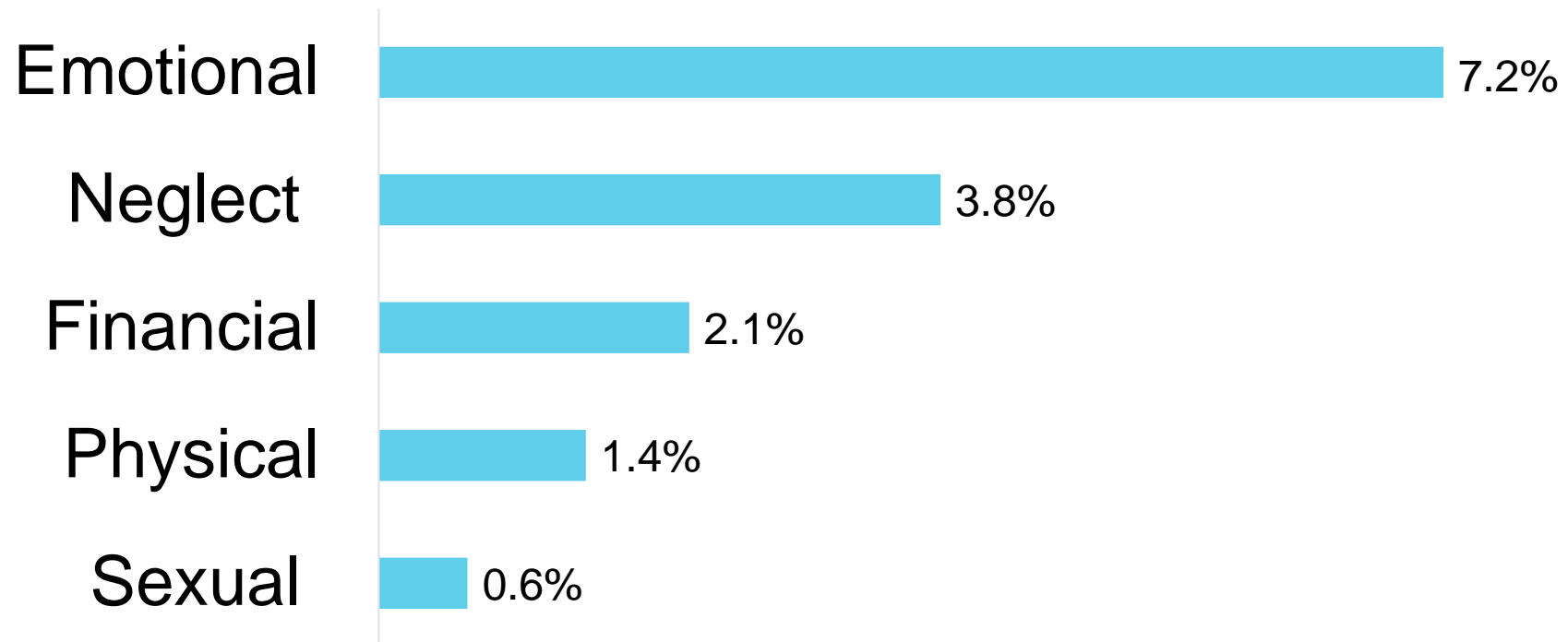
Recommended Standardized Victim-Abuser Relationship Variables

Victim Abuser Relationship				
Intimate Partner	Immediate family member	Extended family member (Cousin, Aunt/Uncle)	Non-family relationship of trust	Stranger

Intimate Partner		
Current Married Spouse	Current Common Law Spouse	Current Dating Partner
Former Married Spouse	Former Common Law Spouse	Former Dating Partner

Immediate Family Member		
Parent	Child	Sibling
Grand Parent	Grand Child	

Non-Family Member	
Friend	Neighbour
Caregiver (Paid or unpaid)	Other service provider /professional

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Review of Victim-Abuser Relationship

Abuse Area	Ministry/Agency	Relationship in Definition
Elder Abuse	ALSS	'occurring within relationship of family, trust or dependency'
	Justice	'special relationship'
Family Violence	IR and Public Health Agency of Canada	family members and intimate relationships
	Justice and CFS	only family members
Domestic Violence	PSES	Intimate partners
	Justice	Intimate Partners and Family
	SA and Red Tape Reduction	Current or past spouse or partner; interdependent adult partner; dated; a person with care/custody pursuant to an order of a court; biological or adoptive parent; a person related by blood, marriage or adoption
Intimate Partner Violence	Justice Canada	current or former spouse, common-law partner and dating partner
Sexual Violence	Arts Culture and Status of Women	person committing the act may be known or a stranger

Who caused harm?

Prevalence Study Alberta 2023/24 Elder Abuse Perpetrators by Type of Abuse

Emotional abuse and physical abuse

Most often a current or former spouse/partner.

Neglect and financial abuse

Adult children were the most likely perpetrators.
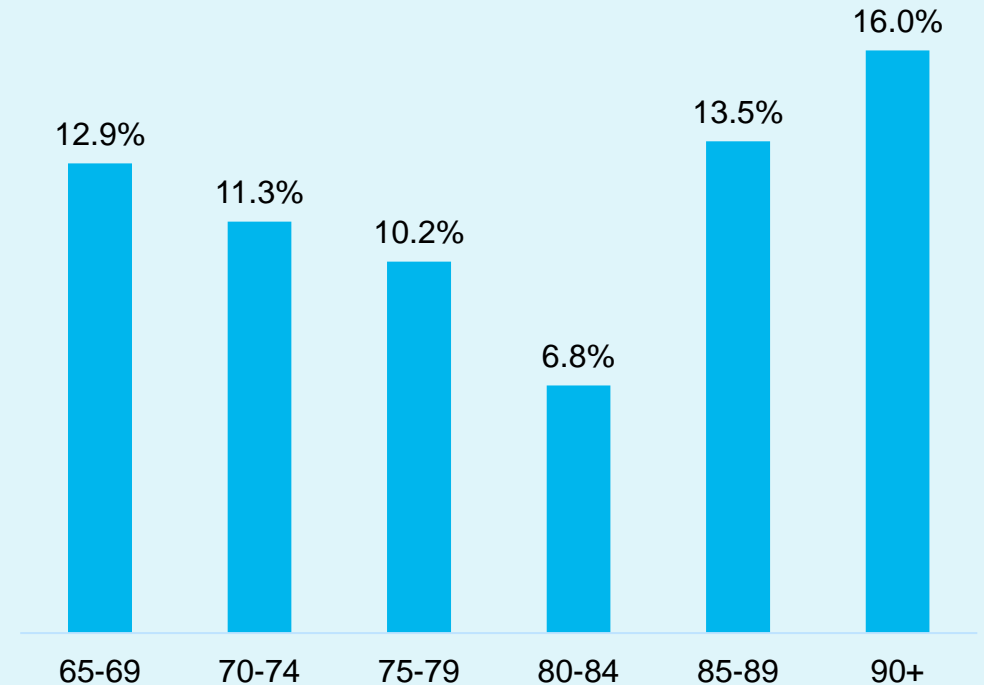
Sexual abuse

Perpetrator was often a friend.

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Demographic Variables

Age

Five-year age groups:
- ❏ 65 to 69 years
- ❏ 70 to 74 years
- ❏ 75 to 79 years
- ❏ 80 to 84 years
- ❏ 85 to 89 years
- ❏ 90 to 94 years
- ❏ 95 to 99 years
- ❏ 100 years and over

Research

➢ Older seniors at higher risk of all forms of elder abuse.

Gender

Open-ended question:

- ❑ Please specify your gender
- ❑ Prefer not to respond

Aggregate the data into categories:

- ❑ Man
- ❑ Woman
- ❑ Transgender
- ❑ Non-binary/non-conforming
- ❑ Another option not specified
- ❑ Prefer not to respond

13.2%

9.4%
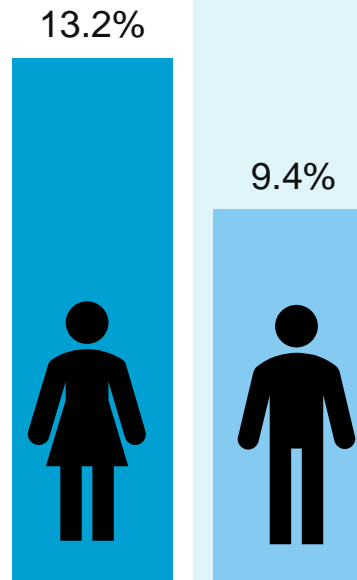
Research

- ➢ Elder abuse prevalence study – 13% of senior women experienced abuse compared to 9% of senior men

- ➢ 9% of older men and 6% of older women reported being victims of emotional or financial abuse.

- ➢ Gender-based violence research shows higher rates of family violence among senior women than senior men.

- ➢ Transgender individuals were 1.7 times more likely to experience Intimate Partner Violence.

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Marital Status

Recommended marital status categories:

- ❑ Married
- ❑ Living common law
- ❑ Dating
- ❑ Never married /Single
- ❑ Separated
- ❑ Divorced
- ❑ Widowed

Research

- ➢ Alberta prevalence study found seniors who were divorced or separated had a higher prevalence rate (15.7%) than other marital status groups.
- ➢ 9.4% of seniors who were separated or divorced experienced mistreatment in a UK prevenance study.
- ➢ Being widowed, or unmarried was associated with lower risk of elder abuse.
- ➢ Higher rates of homicide by spouse for legally separated and common-law partner in comparison to legally married.
- ➢ Higher rates of IPV in married versus dating couples.

Ethnicity/Race

Open-ended data collection and then categorization of aggregate responses.

Simplified Option:
- ❑ Non-Visible Minority
- ❑ Visible Minority

Detailed Option:
- ❑ Black (e.g., African, African Canadian,)
- ❑ East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean)
- ❑ Indigenous (First Nation, Inuk/Inuit, Metis)
- ❑ Latin American (Hispanic or Latin American)
- ❑ Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, Afghan, Egyptian)
- ❑ South Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani)
- ❑ Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian)
- ❑ White (European descent)
- ❑ Another Race Category

Research

- ➢ Canadian research reports that elder abuse rates are higher in visible minority groups.
- ➢ In a study of Chinese Canadian, 4.5% of the participants reported experiencing at least one incident of maltreatment or neglect within the past year.
- ➢ This is lower than the overall prevalence of elder abuse (10%) from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA).
- ➢ The CLSA also found that older adults identifying as black or reporting financial need were at heightened elder abuse risk.

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Indigenous Identity

For the Indigenous variables it is suggested to include the Statistics Canada variable for indigenous identity and indigenous group.

Indigenous Group (select all that apply)

- ❑ First Nations
- ❑ Inuk/Inuit
- ❑ Métis
- ❑ Do not know
- ❑ Prefer not to answer

Research

➢ Indigenous peoples, in particular Indigenous women and children, are more likely to experience family violence than non-Indigenous people.

Immigrant Status

Immigrant status
- ❑ Non-immigrant (also known as Canadian citizens by birth)
- ❑ Immigrant
- ❑ Non-permanent resident

Years since immigration
- ❑ 1 year or more but less than 3
- ❑ 3 years or more but less than 5
- ❑ 5 years or more but less than 8
- ❑ 8 years or more but less than 10
- ❑ 10 years or more but less than 20
- ❑ 20 years or more

Research

➢ Research suggests that many older adults who immigrated to Canada are financially dependent.

➢ Many sponsors use this dependency to exert control.

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Geographic location

Detailed Option:

- Edmonton
- Calgary
- Grande Prairie
- Lethbridge
- Medicine Hat
- Red Deer
- Wood Buffalo
- Brooks
- Camrose
- Canmore
- High River
- Lacombe
- Lloydminster
- Okotoks
- Strathmore
- Sylvan Lake
- Wetaskiwin
- Rural

High Level Group Option:

- Edmonton
- Calgary
- Medium to Large Population Areas
- Small Population Areas (Pop under 30,000)
- Rural Areas (Outside of CMA CA)

Research

➢ Rural rates of intimate partner violence against women are significantly higher than rates if IPV in urban areas across Canada.

➢ Lethbridge had the highest rate of family violence for female seniors.

Elder abuse was the highest in small (13%) and medium/large urban centers (12%) while lowest in rural areas (10%).

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Service and Referral Variables

Service Variables

- ❑ Crisis response/Intervention
- ❑ Outreach
- ❑ Resource/Helpline/Crisis Line/Crisis Centre
- ❑ Situation/Danger Assessment
- ❑ Safety Planning
- ❑ Counselling/Group Therapy/Psychoeducation
- ❑ Police and Court Support/Justice and Legal Support
- ❑ Income support/Financial Services/Government Benefits
- ❑ Shelters/Accommodation
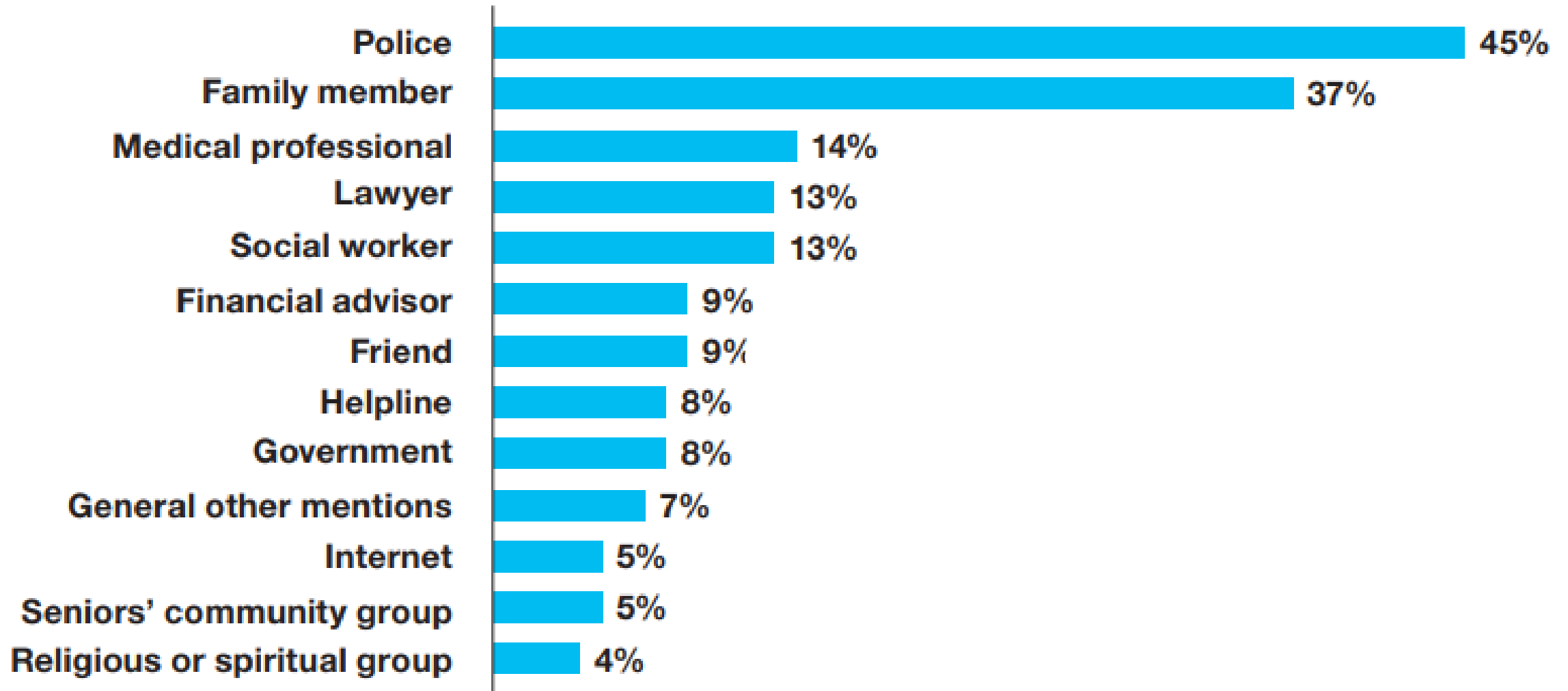- ❑ Other Direct Services, please specify.

Referral Variables

- ❑ Family/Sexual violence Support/Services organizations
- ❑ Health/mental Health organizations
- ❑ Government Benefits (income support/benefits)
- ❑ Justice/Legal service organizations
- ❑ Helplines/ Crisis Lines /Crisis Centre
- ❑ Culturally Relevant/Appropriate Service Organizations
- ❑ Transportation Service Organizations
- ❑ Shelter/Accommodation Service Organizations
- ❑ Language/Translation Service Organizations
- ❑ Other Services providing organizations. Please Specify.

Where would you seek help? (Prevalence Study)

Police	45%
Family member	37%
Medical professional	14%
Lawyer	13%
Social worker	13%
Financial advisor	9%
Friend	9%
Helpline	8%
Government	8%
General other mentions	7%
Internet	5%
Seniors' community group	5%
Religious or spiritual group	4%

Collect similar information

Recognize patterns

Identify opportunities

Improve services for Albertans