Elder abuse in Northeast Medicaid MC Region

Elder abuse occurs when a family member or caretaker neglects basic needs, financially exploits an elder, or inflicts physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse. Neglect is the most common type of elder abuse reported to adult protective services, followed by financial exploitation and then emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Self-neglect is an important related issue, but it is beyond the scope of our work because it does not require interpersonal interaction. Consistent with our focus on older people, our conceptual definition of elder abuse involves victims 60+ years old.

Each year, among the 912,200 seniors living in the community in our area…

> 41,700 are abused, neglected or financially exploited*

3,680 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation are filed with adult protective services**

Each year, among the 43,060 seniors living in long term care facilities in our area…

> 2,200 are abused, neglected or financially exploited***

1,062 reports of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in long term care facilities are investigated by the Ohio Attorney General***

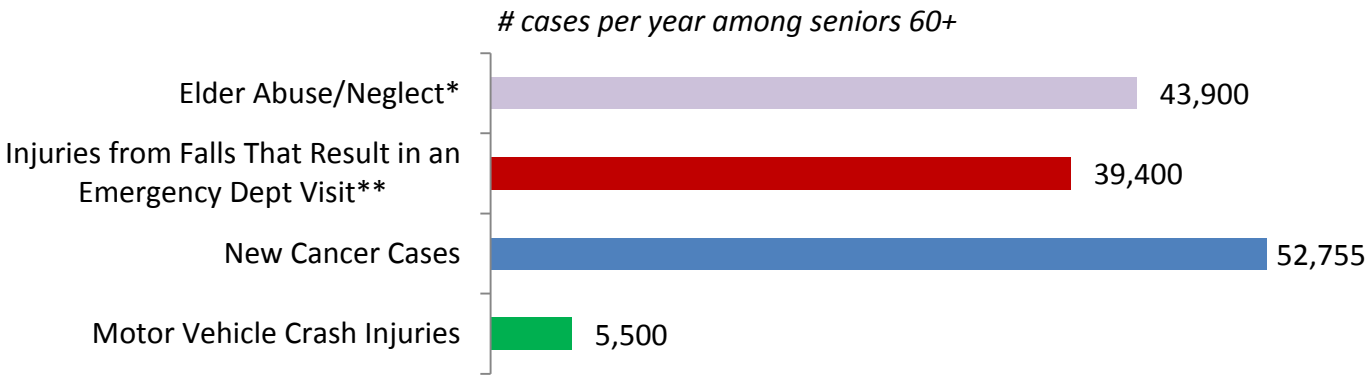
Some notes about these figures

*Rounded, conservative estimate, based on the 95% lower confidence limit of survey data

**Figures for adult protective services are rounded estimates that omit self-neglect. Tallies by report type (e.g., physical abuse) were only available at the state level, so we estimated the number of non-self-neglect reports by applying state-level proportions to county-level total reports. Sometimes multiple reports are associated with a single victim.

*** "n/a" means there are too few seniors to calculate a reliable estimate.

Comparing Elder Abuse to Other Threats to the Health of Seniors in Northeast Medicaid MC Region

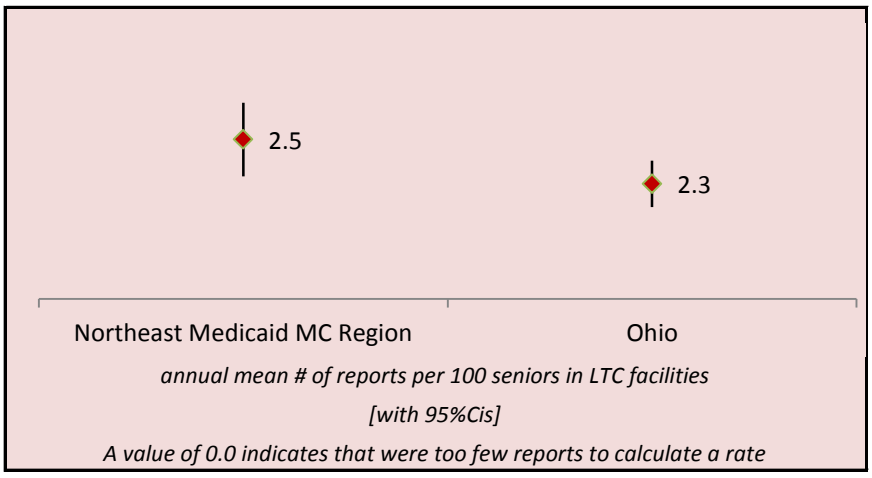


** Rounded, conservative estimate, based on the 95% lower confidence limit of survey data. Includes elder abuse occuring in the community and in long term care facilities.*

*** Estimate interpolated from state and county data.*

Family Violence is COMMON, CONSEQUENTIAL and CHANGEABLE!

Allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation in long term care facilities



Long term care (LTC) facilities that receive Medicaid funding (i.e., virtually all) must report any allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Each year, ODH receives about 4,900 such "self- reported incidents" (SRIs) where the perpetrator is identified as a staff or family member. ODH reviews all SRIs and refers some to the Ohio Attorney General for further investigation. These data represent such referrals. Because data are tallied in the same manner across Ohio, they may be useful to examine geographic differences.

This chart suggests that collectively, the facilities in Northeast Medicaid MC Region have about the same rate of SRIs compared to elsewhere in Ohio. Area differences can be due to the ability of victims or facilities to report incidents, as well as the underlying incidence of violence.

For a discussion of when differences are noteworthy, please refer to our methods report.

This profile is part of a series developed by the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project – a project of the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center with support from the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio.

For more information and a description of how we calculated these figures, please visit: grc.osu.edu/familyviolenceprevention

To talk with someone about elder abuse, contact: Ohio Area Agencies on Aging: 1-866-243-5678

Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center

The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio

Suggested citation: Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center. Elder abuse in Northeast Medicaid MC Region. Columbus, OH: Author; 2014