

NEW YORK STATE ELDER ABUSE PREVALENCE STUDY

Lifespan of Greater Rochester Inc. was recently awarded a grant to conduct a statewide elder abuse prevalence study. The project is a partnership between **Lifespan**, the New York City Department for the Aging (**NYC DFTA**), and **Cornell University**. Principal investigators will be **Mark Lachs**, MD (Cornell) and **Jackie Berman**, PhD, (DFTA).

This will be the first in-depth, statewide study of elder abuse prevalence in the nation. The project is funded, in part, through the **New York State Children and Family Trust Fund**, a program administered under the **NYS Office of Children and Family Services**.

Participation by all members of the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse will be crucial to the success of this study. Everyone on the general Coalition membership e-mail list will be kept informed as we move forward with plans for the study.

Objectives:

- **Conduct a scientifically rigorous survey** of the prevalence of all forms of third party mistreatment of community-dwelling adults age 60 or over, throughout New York State.
- **Survey** NYS Adult Protective Services (APS), other governmental agencies, and non-governmental agencies who deal with elder abuse **to estimate the prevalence of identified elder abuse cases**.
- **Estimate rates of elder abuse underreporting** through a comparison of survey data.
- **Identify demographic and other characteristics** of elder abuse cases in NYS and determine referral patterns.

Method:

- **Random-sample telephone survey** of a statistically significant sample of older New Yorkers conducted by Cornell Survey Institute.
- **Survey of gatekeepers and intervention agents:** APS, Offices for the Aging, direct service providers, law enforcement, DA Offices, domestic violence providers, etc.
 - **Lifespan** will survey upstate counties; **NYC DFTA** will survey downstate counties.

Expected products and impacts:

- **Reliable data** concerning the extent and nature of elder abuse in New York State.
- Identification of **regional differences** and **social/economic characteristics** in elder abuse cases.
- Data to advocate for **legislative and policy changes**.
- Data to use to petition for **adequate resources** to respond to elder mistreatment.
- Platform for **review and reprioritization** of the NYS Elder Abuse Action Agenda developed during the 2004 Elder Abuse Summit.