



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Reported elder abuse cases on the rise in Illinois

Reports of elder abuse are increasing at an alarming rate despite a multiyear decline in Illinois crime, according to an analysis of the state and national problem of elder abuse using data obtained from the Illinois Department on Aging, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and the National Center on Elder Abuse.

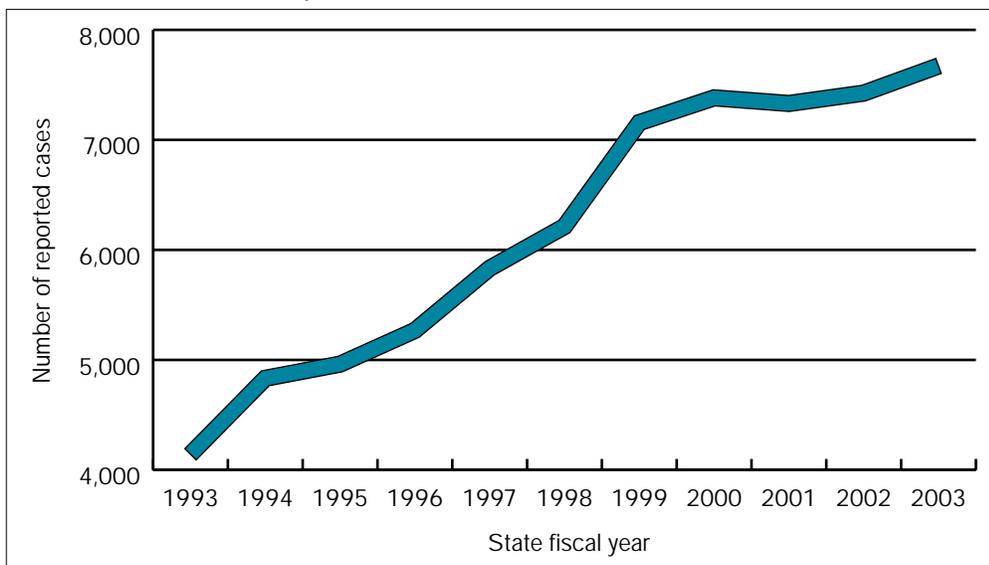
Between state fiscal years 1993 and 2003, the number of reported cases of elder abuse in Illinois increased 85 percent (Figure 1), from 4,142 to 7,672. The most common form of abuse was financial exploitation (34 percent), followed by emotional abuse (28 percent), passive neglect (22 percent), and physical abuse (10 percent). Deprivation was reported in 3 percent of the cases (Figure 2).

The highest percentage of elder abuse victims lived in their own home (80 percent), were white (75 percent), female (70 percent), widowed (48 percent), physically impaired (41 percent), and between the ages of 76 and 85 (39 percent).

The highest percentage of alleged elder abusers were white (72 percent), were not likely to be a caregiver of the elderly victim (49 percent), were children of the victim (42 percent), and financially dependent on the victim (22 percent).

Figure 1

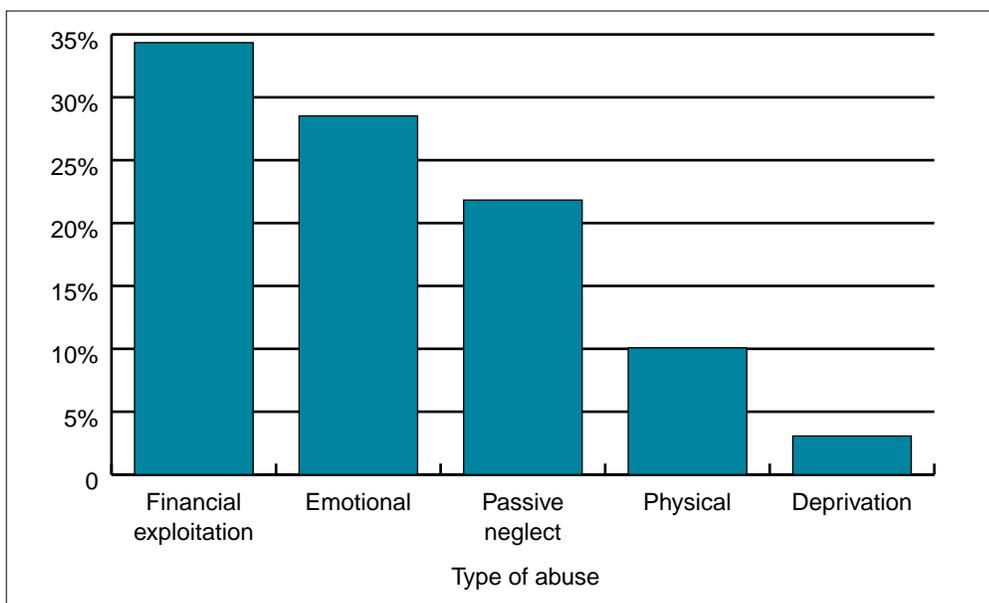
Reported cases of elder abuse in Illinois



Source: Illinois Department on Aging

Figure 2

Types of abuse reported in elder abuse cases, SFY03



Source: Illinois Department on Aging

Research at a Glance

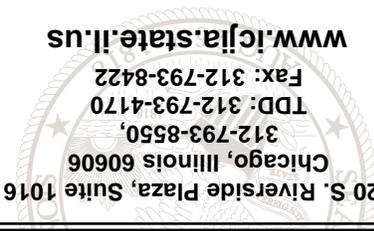
Reported elder abuse cases on the rise in Illinois

- Reports of elder abuse are increasing at an alarming rate despite a multiyear decline in Illinois crime.
- Between state fiscal years 1993 and 2003, the number of reported cases of elder abuse in Illinois increased 85 percent.
- Elder abuse victims analyzed were typically widowed, white, physically impaired women between the ages of 76 and 85.
- Children of the victims were perpetrators in 42 percent of reported elder abuse cases in Illinois in state fiscal year 2003.

Reported crime rates in Illinois per 100,000 population, SFY03

Crime	1993	2003	Change
Murder	12	7	-39%
Sexual assault	65	46	-29%
Robbery	379	188	-50%
Aggravated assault	613	329	-46%
Total violent index crimes	1,068	571	-47%
Crime	1997*	2003	Change
Crimes against children	318	314	-2%
Domestic crimes	1,069	987	-8%
Hate crimes	4	2	-43%
Crime	SFY93	SFY03	Change
Child abuse and neglect	1,070	770	-28%
Child sexual abuse	105	65	-38%
Elder abuse	213	391	84%

*First full year of data collection.



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