

Ending Nursing Home Violence

A Call to Action

Nursing home resident left with brain bleeding after alleged assault by carer



An 81-year-old woman who was allegedly assaulted by a carer at a North Plympton nursing home thought she was going to die and tried to fight back. The elderly woman remains in Flinders Medical Centre with severe bruising to her face, neck and head, a laceration on the back of her head and bleeding in her brain.

Laura Lundquist, 98, indicted in strangling of nursing home roommate Elizabeth Barrow, 100

Laura Lundquist, a 98-year-old nursing home resident, faces second-degree murder charges that allege she strangled and suffocated her 100-year-old roommate, Elizabeth Barrow



How Much Violence Is There in Nursing Homes?

Staff → Resident Violence

Resident → Resident Violence

Resident → Staff Violence

Limitations of any Estimates

- Very few studies
- Rates from prevalence studies underestimate the size of the problem
 - Social desirability
 - Difficulty of observation
 - Inadequate record-keeping of incidents

Staff → Resident Violence

Staff report in the past year:

- 36 % witnessed physical violence by staff
- 81 % witnessed verbal aggression by staff
- 10 % reported engaging in physical aggression
- 40 % reported engaging in verbal aggression

Source: Pillemer and Moore, 1989

Resident → Resident Violence

Resident-to-Resident Elder Mistreatment (RREM) study

- 10 skilled nursing facilities in New York City area
- 2011 residents assessed
- In-depth staff interviews and resident interviews/assessments

Lachs, M. S., Teresi, J.,...& Pillemer, K. (2016)

Total Prevalence (past month)

Experienced RREM

No	1613	80.2%
Yes	398	19.8%

Physical RREM

Experienced RREM

No	1896	94.3%
Yes	115	5.7%

What This Means

In a given month, 74,000 U. S. nursing home residents will experience a violent altercation

Verbal RREM

Experienced RREM

No	1689	84.0%
Yes	322	16.0%

Sexual RREM

Experienced RREM

No	1984	98.7%
Yes	27	1.3%

Other RREM

Experienced RREM

No	1799	89.5%
Yes	27	10.5%

Resident → Staff Violence

In 2-week period:

- 7.6 % of residents violent toward staff
- 12.3 % of residents verbally aggressive toward staff
- 15.6 % of residents aggressive toward staff overall

Lachs, M. S., Rosen, T., Teresi, J., Eimicke, J. P., Ramirez, M., Silver, S., & Pillemer, K. (2013)

Morbid and Mortal

- Injuries: Fractures, dislocations, bruises
- Frailty of residents makes minor incidents potentially very harmful
- Negative psychological consequences of experiencing *or* observing violence
- Likely increased mortality risk
- Negative effects on staff

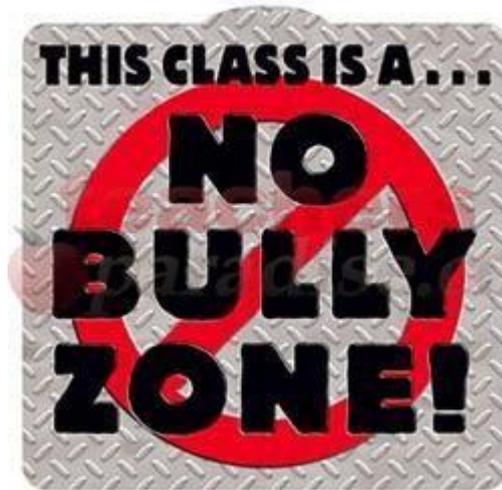
Three Barriers to Change

- Acceptance
- Ignorance
- Inaction

“What Can You Do?”

- Violence seen as routine feature of nursing home life

BROADWAY
Against Bullying
New York



THE PLEDGE
TO END BULLYING



SEARCH

WHAT IS BULLYING

CYBER BULLYING

WHO IS AT RISK

PREVENT BULLYING

RESPOND TO BULLYING

GET HELP NOW

FEATURES

Build a Safe School Environment

49th State Passes Anti-Bullying Law

▶ [How to Talk About Bullying](#)

What Bystanders Can Do



Ignorance

- Systematic reviews show almost no progress in research on the topic of nursing home violence
- Existing research is scarce and methodologically very weak
- We lack an evidence base to combat nursing home violence

Inaction

Acceptance

+

Ignorance

=

Inaction

Residential Child Care Project Violence Prevention Model



Therapeutic Crisis Intervention

- Crisis Communication and Active Listening
- Behavior Support Techniques
- Emotional First Aid
- Conflict Cycle
- Managing Aggressive Behavior
- Nonverbal Communication
- Protective techniques

The Way Forward

- Change the norm of acceptance
- Campaign specifically focused on violence
- Strengthen data collection on extent and causes
- Carry out outcome evaluation studies

The Way Forward

- Develop a comprehensive and data-driven national action plan
- Enforce existing laws and review their quality
- Set baselines and targets, and track progress

We Need a Name

- ?????