

National Study of Abuse of Older People Prevalence Survey in New Zealand



Infographic #1: Prevalence

Study Methodology

Survey of over 5,000 community-dwelling respondents aged 55+, designed to provide nationally representative picture of abuse of older people (AOP).

One in six

older New Zealanders experienced some form of AOP

Types of harm

Most common — Least common

Psychological	Financial	Cultural & spiritual	Physical	Neglect	Sexual
12.4%	4%	3.2%	2.8%	1.2%	0.9%

Gender

Little difference in prevalence rates between men and women

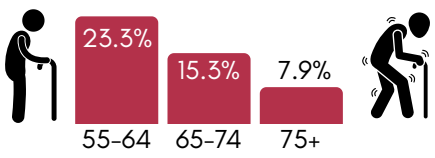
17.5%

15.8%

Few differences across different types of harm, except:

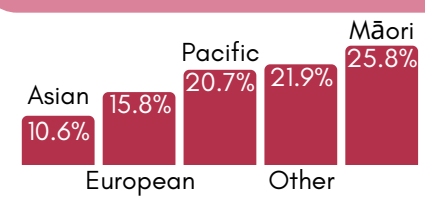
Sexual harm rate for women three times higher than for men

Age



Overall prevalence rate decreases with age
Similar trend across different types of harm

Ethnicity



Higher rates of nearly all forms of harm faced by Māori

Asians consistently reported the lowest rates

Rainbow

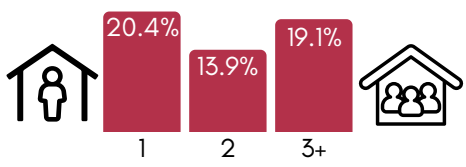
32.4%

16.4%

LGBTQ+ prevalence rate higher than non-LGBTQ+
Similar pattern across different types of harm

Most common harm: psychological

Household



Highest prevalence rate for people living alone
Similar pattern across different types of harm

Most common harm: psychological

Living with partner

14.3%

21.3%

Overall prevalence rate lower among those living with a partner

Home ownership

14.4%

28%

Home ownership associated with lower prevalence rate

Support

Number of people that can be relied on

> 5	3-5	< 3
13.8%	17.4%	22.6%

Ease of getting help

Easy	Possible	Difficult
13.0%	34.9%	48.6%

Stronger support network associated with lower harm rates

Past harm

32.4%

12.2%

Those who had experienced past harm from someone they knew were more likely to have experienced AOP in the last year

Disability

Overall prevalence rate much higher for those with high functional limitations

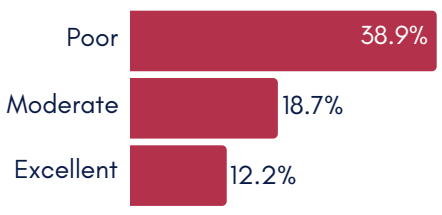


Most prevalent harm types:

Psychological
Financial
Neglect

Physical health

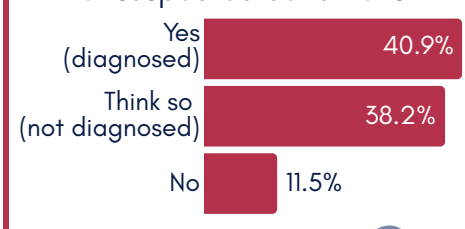
Overall prevalence rate much higher for those with poor health



Similar pattern across different types of harm

Mental health

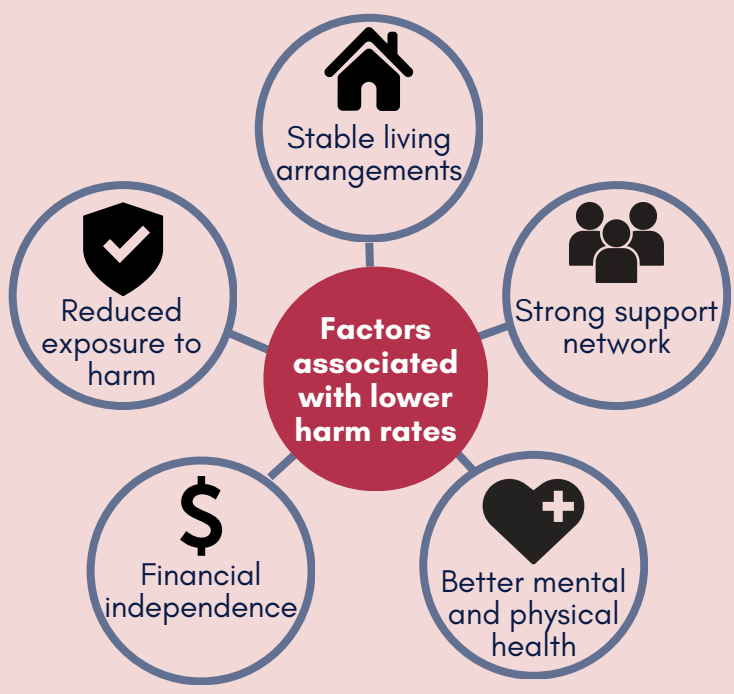
Overall prevalence rate much higher for those with diagnosed or suspected conditions



Most common harm: psychological

Summary

Initiatives to lower harm rates can be formulated to ensure safe housing, strong community ties, accessible health care, financial stability, and safer environments for older people.



Read full report at https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/research/abuse-of-older-people

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