

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



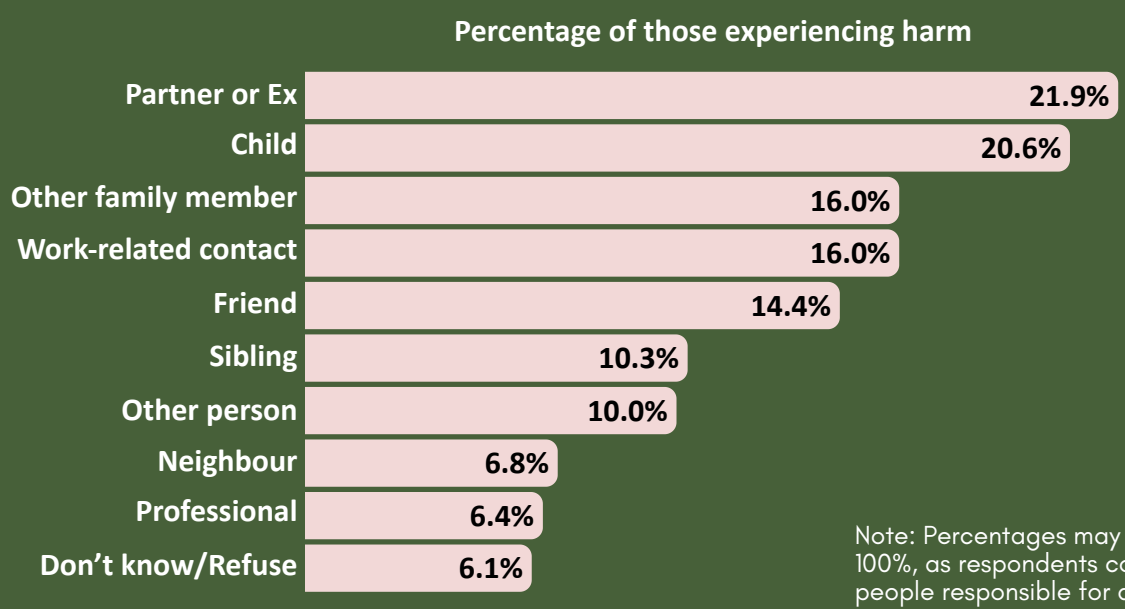
Infographic #2: People responsible for harm and help-seeking

Study Methodology

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

Who is responsible for harm to older people in New Zealand?

Partners or ex-partners were most often identified as responsible for harm, followed by children, other family members and work-related contacts.



Note: Percentages may add to more than 100%, as respondents could identify different people responsible for different types of harm.

Characteristics of people responsible for harm

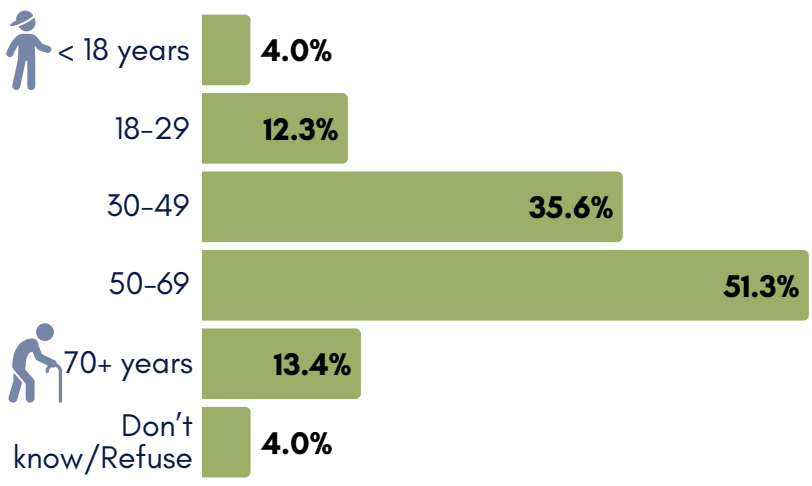
The main person responsible for harm was more likely to be a man for some types of harm.

	Psychological	Financial	Cultural & spiritual	Physical	Neglect	Sexual
Women	52.0%	42.7%	44.5%	27.3%	28.2%	11.9%
Men	47.5%	56.7%	53.8%	72.5%	63.6%	87.6%

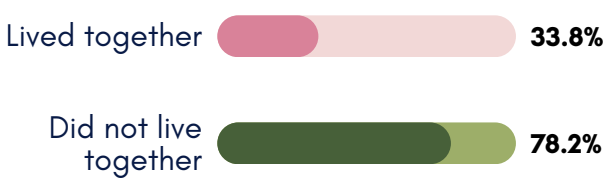
Most people responsible for harm were aged between 30 and 69 years, with over half (51.3%) aged 50 to 69.

50-69 years Had highest share across all harm subtypes, in particular:

- Sexual: 51.1%
- Psychological: 47.2%
- Cultural & spiritual: 40.7%



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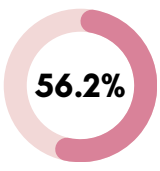
In most cases, those responsible for harm did not live with the person experiencing harm, in particular:

- Cultural & spiritual: 81.9%
- Sexual: 75.4%

Help-seeking and responses to harm



Just over half of those who were harmed sought help



Those who did not seek help mostly said:

- Want to handle it myself
- Private matter
- Don't need help

Those who sought help relied on:

- Family/whānau
- Health/social/counselling services
- Friend/neighbour
- Police/legal/government services

The most common action taken was to speak directly to the person responsible for harm (54%), particularly for:

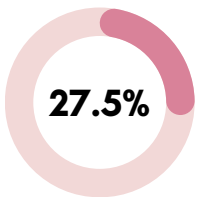
- Financial

30% reported taking no action, particularly for:

- Cultural & spiritual

27% broke contact, particularly for:

- Sexual



About a quarter of those who experienced harm (27.5%) said they would have liked additional help or advice.

Most common needs

- Emotional support
- Counselling
- Information and advice

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

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