

# Abuse in the Elderly

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According to data published by the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) 5-6% of elderly living situations of domestic violence and 10%, institutional violence, of which only one of every 5 is known (iceberg phenomenon) [1,2].

Studies in several countries have found that the elderly are seen as a fringe group and the overall picture is that they are useless and unproductive, prevailing in various age groups negative stereotypes [3,4].

The incidence of abuse is much higher than the statistics may indicate, because many cases go unnoticed [5]. This is mainly due to fear of public exposure of the fact, not break the family status, fear of reprisals or losing the affection of the abuser and not be physically or mentally able to ask for help and hope that the abuse ends [6,7].

Abuse is defined as the use of physical imposition, mental or moral coercion by an individual or a group of subjects against himself or another person or group of victims and thus constitutes a threat, a denial to life and human dignity [8]. This is manifested in a variety of spaces; places or people who exercise or suffer this phenomenon for decades been regarded as non-existent and today has become a social problem [9].

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