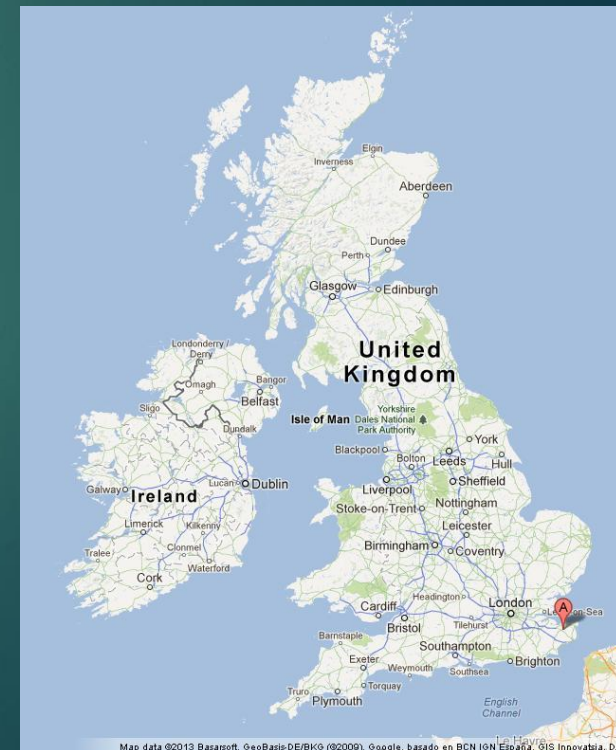


# HOPE for the Risk Assessment and Management of Older Adult Abuse

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- ▶ Introduce the HOPE
  - ▶ Via case study identify the empirically based risk and vulnerability factors for older adult abuse
    - ▶ Consider how these help to assess risk
    - ▶ Consider how these help to inform management
- ▶ Signpost to:
  - ▶ Ongoing work
  - ▶ Tomorrow's workshop

# Terminology

- ▶ Older adult
  - ▶ Older person, senior, elderly
- ▶ Abuse
  - ▶ Cause harm: violence, serious psychological distress, mistreatment
  - ▶ Five WHO types: physical, psychological/emotional, financial, sexual and neglect
  - ▶ Actual, attempted or threatened
  - ▶ Person of trust, responsibility or authority

# Underexamined but Potentially Growing Problem

- ▶ Prevalence: 1 in 6 of adults 60+ years (WHO, 2022)
- ▶ Increasing elderly population
  - ▶ 1 billion in 2019  2.1 billion 2050
- ▶ Limited research and practice\*
- ▶ Areas of advancement relevant to risk assessment
  - ▶ Dynamic of abuse
  - ▶ Risk factors (less protective)

# Older Adult Abuse: Dynamics

- ▶ Perpetrators usually known to the victim
  - ▶ Adult children and spouses
- ▶ Adult child/parent dynamics difficult:
  - ▶ Ambivalence
  - ▶ Protection
  - ▶ Shame & self blame
- ▶ Working with the victim often involves providing support and choices for the accused/offender
  - ▶ Getting victim to see intervention as positive

# Older Adult Abuse: Dynamics

- ▶ The caregiver model is atypical.
  - ▶ Unemployed, substance abuse problems, mental illness and dependent.
  - ▶ Unlike our stereotypical view of the elderly.
- ▶ Phenomenon is broader than a single theory.

# The Need for Risk Assessment

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- ▶ Many screening tools
  - ▶ Aim to identify abuse (assume no reporting)
  - ▶ Assess through victim, suspected perpetrator or observation
- ▶ What do we do when abuse is identified?
  - ▶ Which perpetrators are likely to continue the abuse?
  - ▶ Who will escalate from intimidation or threats to assault, or from assault to life-threatening violence?
  - ▶ Who will act imminently?
  - ▶ How do we select and allocate management strategies?

# Older Adult Abuse: Risk Factors

- ▶ Over 190 studies
- ▶ Risk factors across 4 domains
  1. Nature of Abuse
  2. Perpetrator
  3. Victim
  4. Community and Institution



# Harm to Older Persons Evaluation: HOPE

- ▶ Actual, attempted, or threatened physical or serious psychological harm
- ▶ Against vulnerable older adults
- ▶ Perpetrated by people who are in positions of trust, responsibility, or authority
- ▶ Focus on dynamic risk factors
- ▶ Structured Professional Judgement
- ▶ EAPO training in April



# HOPE

**User Manual for the  
Harm to Older Persons Evaluation**

**Jennifer E. Storey, Stephen D. Hart, & P. Randall Kropp**

# HOPE Risk and Vulnerability Factors

# HOPE: Perpetrator Risk Factors

Case ratings

## P1. Physical Health Problems

- Includes illness and functional impairment.



## P2. Mental Health Problems

- Problems with mental & personality functioning.



## P3. Substance Use Problems

- Serious problems with health or social functioning resulting from the use of illegal drugs or the misuse of legal drugs.



## P4. Dependency

- Perpetrator is dependent on the victim.



# HOPE: Perpetrator Risk Factors

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Case ratings

## P5. Problems with Stress and Coping

- Problems with stress related to an inability to cope with life problems.



## P6. Problematic Attitudes

- Problems with attitudes related to caregiving, older persons or the rights of others.



## P7. Victimization

- Previous abuse experienced or witnessed during childhood or adolescence.



## P8. Problems with Relationships

- Problems establishing or maintaining positive, prosocial intimate and non-intimate relationships.



# HOPE: Victim Vulnerability Factors

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Case ratings

V1. Physical Health Problems

- Includes illness and functional impairment.

X

V2. Mental Health Problems

- Problems with mental & personality functioning.

✓

V3. Substance Use Problems

- Serious problems with health or social functioning resulting from the use of illegal drugs or the misuse of legal drugs.

X

V4. Dependency

- Victim is dependent on the perpetrator.

X

# HOPE: Victim Vulnerability Factors

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Case ratings

V5. Problems with Stress and Coping

- Problems with stress related to an inability to cope with life problems.



V6. Problematic Attitudes

- Serious problems with victim's minimization of and inconsistent attitudes toward perpetrator, their behavior, and the risks they pose.



V7. Victimization

- Previous abuse experienced or witnessed by the victim.



V8. Problems with Relationships

- Including problems with the perpetrator and others, and the victim's living arrangements with these individuals.



# How might this inform management?

- ▶ Ronnie
  - ▶ Substance use problems
  - ▶ Dependency
  - ▶ Problems with stress and coping
  - ▶ Problematic attitudes
  - ▶ Victimization
  - ▶ Problems with relationships
- ▶ Peter
  - ▶ Mental health
  - ▶ Problems with stress and coping
  - ▶ Problematic attitudes
  - ▶ Problems with relationships

# How might this help to assess risk level?

- ▶ The HOPE guides the evaluator
  - ▶ In considering risk factors across 4 domains
    - ▶ Nature of Abuse
    - ▶ Perpetrator
    - ▶ Victim
    - ▶ Community and Institution
  - ▶ In reaching a judgment about risk, level of management and imminence
    - ▶ Low, moderate or high



# Ongoing Work

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- ▶ Additional short version of the HOPE
  - ▶ From comprehensive risk assessment to triage?
  - ▶ Practitioner views: Workshop tomorrow 10:30-12 EST (\*limited spaces)
- ▶ Current NIH/NIA grant with colleagues at USC's Keck School of Medicine
  - ▶ *Risk Screening & Primary Prevention of Elder Abuse in People Living with Dementia.*
  - ▶ Develop risk assessment tool
    - ▶ Focus: medical field & victims with dementia