

RECOGNITION

Session 4: Gender dynamics of violence against older persons

Materials for this session⁸

- Sign-in sheet
- Participant Manual, one for each participant
OR copy of Module 4 for each participant (Manual pages 58-64)
- Trainer Notes
- PowerPoint
- Handout
- Participant Evaluation Form #1
- Compilation and Summary of Data Collected with Evaluation Form #1 (for Trainer's use)

Key points in Module 4

Gender-based violence against older persons

- Women are more likely than men to be victims of violence.
- Most perpetrators of violence are men.
- Based on research and data, the same gender trends apply to older populations.^{9, 10}

*Perpetrators*¹¹

- In 2011, approximately 8,500 Canadians aged 65 years and older were the victim of a violent crime. More than one-third (34%) were victimized by a family member, while just under one in five (19%) were victimized by a casual acquaintance. More than one-quarter (27%) of seniors who had been victimized in 2011 were victimized by a stranger.

⁸ See pages 28-29 in this Guide for a Training Checklist and a list of materials, supplies and equipment for each training session.

⁹ Statistics Canada. (October, 2009) *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2009000-eng.pdf>.

¹⁰ Edwards, Peggy. (2009). *Elder Abuse in Canada: A Gender-Based Analysis*. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada.

¹¹ All information under this heading from: Statistics Canada. (2013). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

- The police-reported rate of older persons victimized by a grown child was one and a half times higher than the rate victimized by spouses, who were the second most common perpetrators of family violence against seniors.
- The rate of older females who were victimized by a spouse was almost double the rate for older males (21 versus 11 per 100,000 population).
- Despite having consistently lower rates of victimization compared to older females, older males were more likely to be victimized by an extended family member.

Victims

- More older women than older men are victims of:
 - Violence (women represent two-thirds of the victims in cases of violence against older persons that come to the attention of community agencies);¹²
 - Sexual and physical violence;¹³
 - Family violence;¹⁴
 - Violence by a spouse, ex-spouse or adult child.¹⁵
- Older men are more likely than older women to be victims of violence by a person outside the family.¹⁶
- The rate of violent crime *reported to police* is higher for older men than for older women.¹⁷ This may be because of under-reporting or problems collecting information on violence against older persons.

Gender and ageism

- Ageism is a factor in gendered violence against older persons.
- Adult sons have power based on gender.
- Adult sons also have power that comes from *not being old*.
- Ageism sees older persons as weak, dependent and past their prime. Society values youth and often views older persons as powerless.

¹² Bain, P. and C. Spencer. (2009, April). *What is Abuse of Older Adults?* Retrieved from: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/WEAAD-Factsheet2-Abuse-EN.pdf>

¹³ Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. (2011, December, 13). *Abuse in Institutions*. Retrieved from: http://www.cnpea.ca/abuse_in_institutions.htm.

¹⁴ Statistics Canada. (2013). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

- Given these attitudes, older persons are often treated as vulnerable, and tend to be victimized most often by adult sons.

Issues faced by older female victims of violence

- In 2011, older women were most likely to be killed by their spouse (41%) or son (36%).¹⁸
- Older women are more likely than older men to be emotionally or financially abused by a child, relative, friend or caregiver.¹⁹
- Women aged 65 and over are slightly more likely than men to report having been emotionally or financially abused.²⁰
- In 2011, the rate of family homicides for senior women was more than double the rate for senior men (4.3 compared to 1.8 per 1,000,000).²¹
- Financial abuse affects older women more than older men. A greater proportion of women than men already live in poverty.²²
- As women live longer than men, there is more chronic disease among older women. This leaves women at a greater risk of injury from violence than men.²³

Issues faced by older male victims of violence

- In 2011, close to 40% of all older victims of violence were men.²⁴
- In 2011, the majority of senior men were killed by their son (72%).²⁵
- In 2009, violent incidents involving older men were just as likely as those involving older women to result in an emotional consequence for the victim (89% versus 92%).²⁶
- Senior men are more likely to be victimized by an acquaintance or a stranger than a family member.²⁷

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. (2013). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. (2012). *Victimization of Older Canadians, 2009*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Statistics Canada. (2013). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

²² Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. (2009, April, 24). Abuse of Older Women. Retrieved from:

http://www.cnpea.ca/abuse_of_older_women.htm.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Statistics Canada. (2013). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Statistics Canada. (2012). *Victimization of Older Canadians, 2009*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

²⁷ Statistics Canada. (2012). *Victimization of Older Canadians, 2009*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

RECOGNITION

Session 4: Gender dynamics of violence against older persons

AGENDA

Activity #	Activity	1.5 Hour session	Materials
1	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome participants. • Introduce yourself if necessary. • Participant introductions, if necessary. • Make housekeeping announcements. <p>Guidelines for being together (See some examples on p.14)</p> <p>Today's topic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly explain that this is Session 4 in the <i>Respect Aging</i> training program. Today's topic is <i>Gender dynamics of violence against older persons</i>. <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Agenda. • If participants do not have their own Participant Manual, hand out copies of Module 4. 	10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint slides 1-2 • <i>Participant Manual</i> • OR one copy of Module 4 for each participant
2	<p>Small group activity <i>Brainstorming Stereotypes</i></p>	25 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flipchart • Markers • Masking tape
3	<p>Learning together <i>Gender and violence against</i></p>	10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint slides 3-8

	<p><i>older persons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the slides; refer to the Additional Notes on the slides for more information. 		
4	<p>Activity <i>Gender Stereotyping as a Contributing Factor in Violence against Older Persons</i></p>	35 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint slide 9 • Flipchart • Marker • Handout
5	<p>Wrap-up / Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute <i>Participant Evaluation Form #1</i> and ask participants to complete them. • Do a final go-round. Ask participants to briefly share how the session was for them. • Ask them how they will use what they have learned in their work or interactions with older persons. • Thank participants for their input, sharing and time. • Collect <i>Participant Evaluation Form #1</i>. 	10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participant Evaluation Forms</i>
<i>Total time</i>		90 minutes	

IMPORTANT!

After facilitating this session, please complete the form titled **Compilation and Summary of Data Collected with Evaluation Form #1** (page 226). Your feedback will help us keep project materials relevant, useful and up-to-date. Mail or fax within one week of the session to:

Provincial Training Coordinator
Women's Policy Office/Violence Prevention Initiative
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Confederation Building, 4th floor, West Block
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

PHONE: (709) 729-5009

FAX: (709) 729-1418

EMAIL: vpi@gov.nl.ca

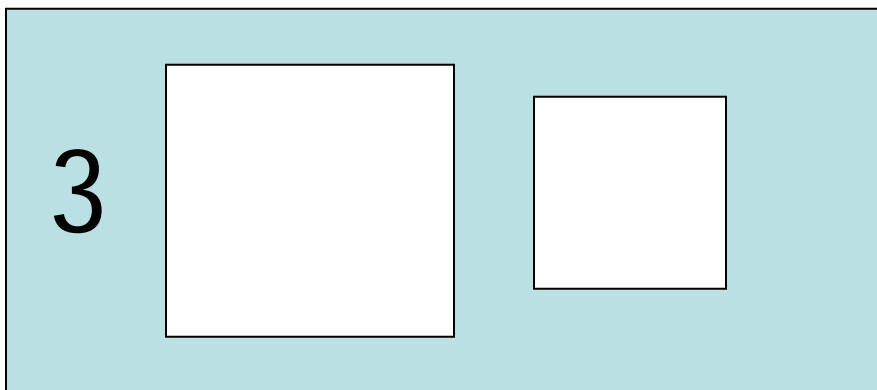
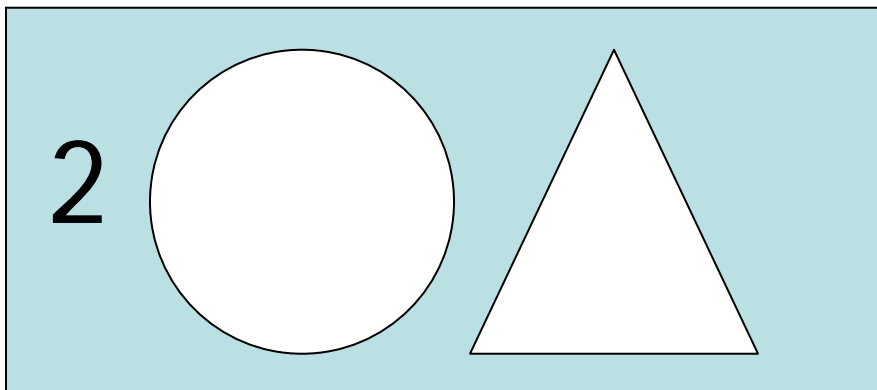
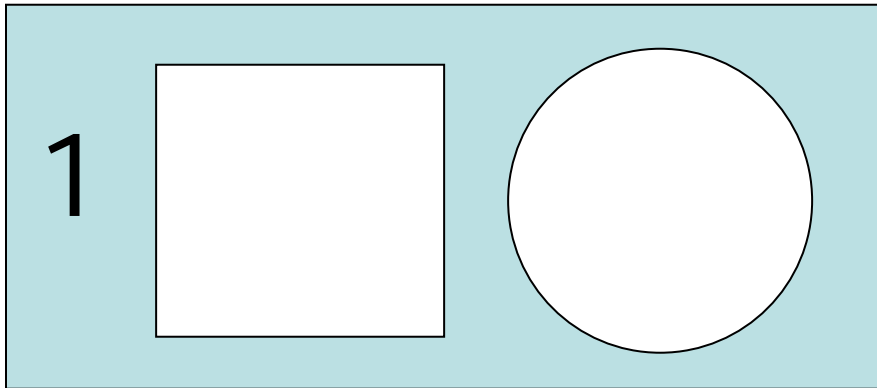
RECOGNITION – SESSION 4 ACTIVITIES

Activity 2: Brainstorming Stereotypes

1. Divide participants into four groups. Assign one of the four questions below to each group.
 - a. What stereotypes have you heard about *older female victims* of violence?
 - b. What stereotypes have you heard about *older male victims* of violence?
 - c. What stereotypes have you heard about *female perpetrators* of violence against older persons?
 - d. What stereotypes have you heard about *male perpetrators* of violence against older persons?
2. Ask each group to appoint a recorder and a reporter.
3. Have each group brainstorm answers to their question. Have the recorders write the responses on a flipchart (tell groups to work quickly, they have five minutes).
4. Bring the large group back together. Ask reporters to present their groups' responses.
5. After questions A and B have both been presented, ask the whole group what they notice about the different responses.
6. Do the same after questions C and D.
7. Then ask the group what they notice about the responses to questions A and C (females) and questions B and D (males).
8. There are no right or wrong answers. The point is to show gender perceptions and stereotypes.

Activity 4: Gender Stereotyping as a Contributing Factor in Violence against Older Persons²⁸

1. Show PowerPoint slide 9 with these three sets of shapes.



²⁸ Adapted in part from Violence Awareness Action Training, Violence Prevention Initiative, Women's Policy Office, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. In each *set* of shapes, ask participants to label each shape as either female or male. Give them no other information. Ask participants to call out their answers. Record the results on a flipchart.
3. Ask participants:
 - Why did you label the shapes as you did?
 - How might gender stereotypes be related to violence against older persons?
4. Discussion points:
 - Most of us have pre-conceived notions about gender qualities;
 - Socialization creates stereotypes, which are fixed opinions about all members of a given group;
 - We are all taught to behave in different ways, depending on our gender;
 - Stereotypes separate groups of people and make them unequal. This makes some people more likely to experience violence; and,
 - Gender role stereotypes encourage males to assume power and control over females.
5. *[If there is time]* Read - or ask a volunteer to read - the following story from *Stories from the Front Lines* from the handout or Module 4 (page 63). Ask participants to identify any gender dynamics that might be present in the story.

“Maxine had been abused by her husband for 50 years. When she was 75 years old, home care services were put in place to help Maxine and her husband with physical chores. The home care workers noticed that Maxine often had new bruises on her face or arms.

A social worker was called in and spent a considerable amount of time talking to Maxine about the situation. She offered her a place of safety, which Maxine refused. However, Maxine did start attending a support group for women living with violence, and after several months she decided to leave her husband. Maxine moved into a women’s shelter and then was helped to find her own apartment in another community.”

RECOGNITION – SESSION 4 HANDOUT

HANDOUT: MAXINE'S STORY

Maxine had been abused by her husband for 50 years. When she was 75 years old, home care services were put in place to help Maxine and her husband with physical chores. The home care workers noticed that Maxine often had new bruises on her face or arms.

A social worker was called in and spent a considerable amount of time talking to Maxine about the situation. She offered her a place of safety, which Maxine refused. However, Maxine did start attending a support group for women living with violence, and after several months she decided to leave her husband. Maxine moved into a women's shelter and then was helped to find her own apartment in another community.