



What We Know from Elder Abuse Research and Practice Evidence

National Adult Protective Services Association Conference

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- CVR is a one-stop resource for victim service providers and researchers to connect and share knowledge
 - ✓ User-friendly [website](#)
 - ✓ Library of victim research
 - ✓ Directory of researchers
 - ✓ Free research TA
 - ✓ State-of-the-field syntheses
 - ✓ Fellowships, podcasts & more
- Partnership of researchers and practitioners





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Acknowledgements

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Road Map for Today's Talk

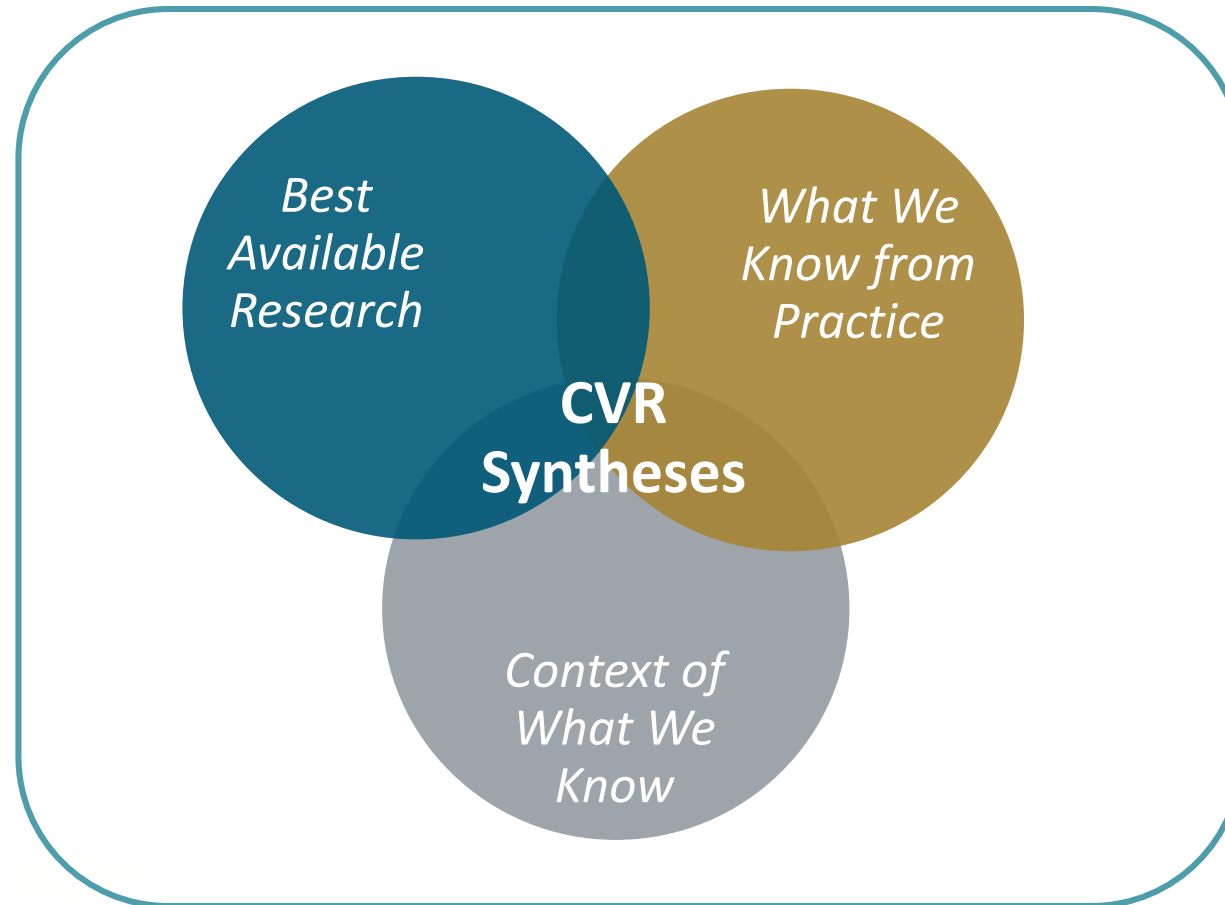
1. Goals and process for CVR's evidence reviews
2. Findings from CVR's Elder Abuse review
3. Group discussions and activity
4. Share-out and Q&A

Goals of CVR's Reviews

- Assess **state of the field** in victimization response for different victimization topics
- Systematically synthesize the **best available evidence** from research and practice
- Help service providers *and* researchers understand what the field needs



Framework for Evidence



Modified from: Puddy, R. W. & Wilkins, N. (2011). Understanding Evidence Part 1: Best Available Research Evidence. A Guide to the Continuum of Evidence of Effectiveness, CDC

Questions to Answer

1. Number of victims (prevalence)
2. Risk factors
3. Harms and consequences
4. Prevention and intervention services
5. Policy, practice, and research implications

CVR Synthesis Process



For more about
CVR's methodology,
see our website
[here](#)

Inclusion Criteria

1. Standard screening criteria for both research and practice evidence:

- Available in English
- Produced in 2000 or later
- Within the victimization scope identified by the review team during Step 1

2. Further inclusion criteria by evidence type:

Research

Peer-reviewed research employing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches.

Practice

- Multiple perspectives or consensus
- Repeatedly cited (≥ 3 times)
- Government agency, non-governmental organization or credentialed expert

Findings from CVR's Elder Abuse Review



Definition

Any intentional or negligent act that causes harm or serious risk of harm to an older person

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial (or material) exploitation
- Neglect
- Abandonment

Scope

- Abuse committed by a "person of trust"
 - "Person of trust" could be someone with a personal relationship, such as family or friend, or a legal/contractual relationship, such as caretaker or accountant
 - Excludes self-neglect and fraud/scams committed by strangers
- Search results
 - Yielded 300 research articles
 - Yielded 351 practice items



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Elder Abuse Self-Reported on National Surveys

National Elder Mistreatment Study:

n = 5,777

11%

Self- report

(Acierno et al., 2010)

National Social Life Health and Aging Project (NSHAP)

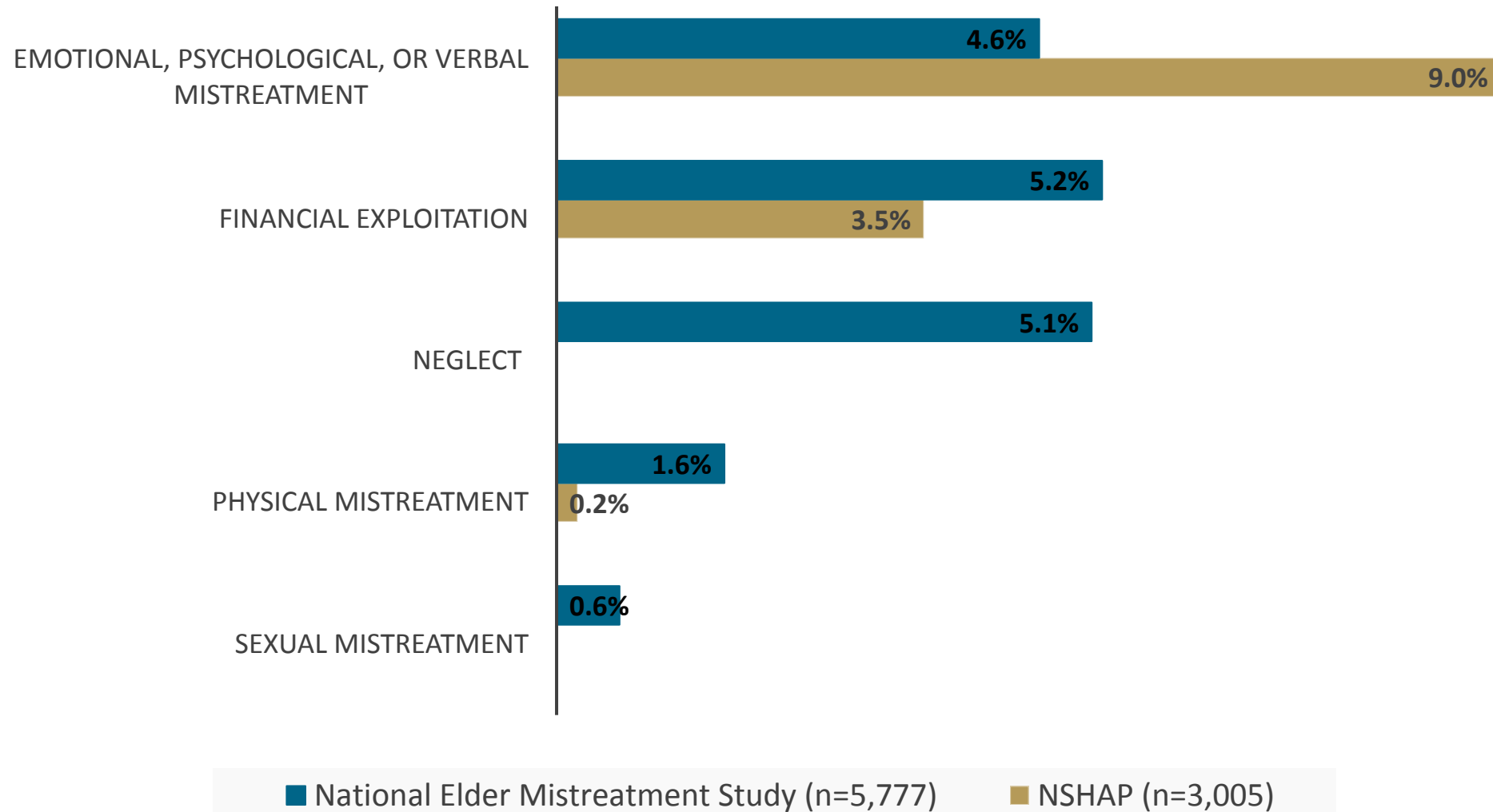
n= 3,005

Wave 1: 23.5%

Self- report

(Schafer & Koltai, 2014)

Elder Abuse Self-Reported by Type of Abuse



Elder Abuse Reported to Social Services

Chicago Health and Aging Project

1993-2010 n = 6,139

2.3%

Reported to social services

(Dong, Simon, & Evans, 2012)

Elder Abuse Reports in 17 states

0.86%

Reported to social services

(Jogerst et al., 2003)

Elder Abuse Detected by Medical Professionals

2012 Nationwide Emergency Department Data

N= 6,723,667

.025%

*using weighted prevalence
(Evans et al., 2017)

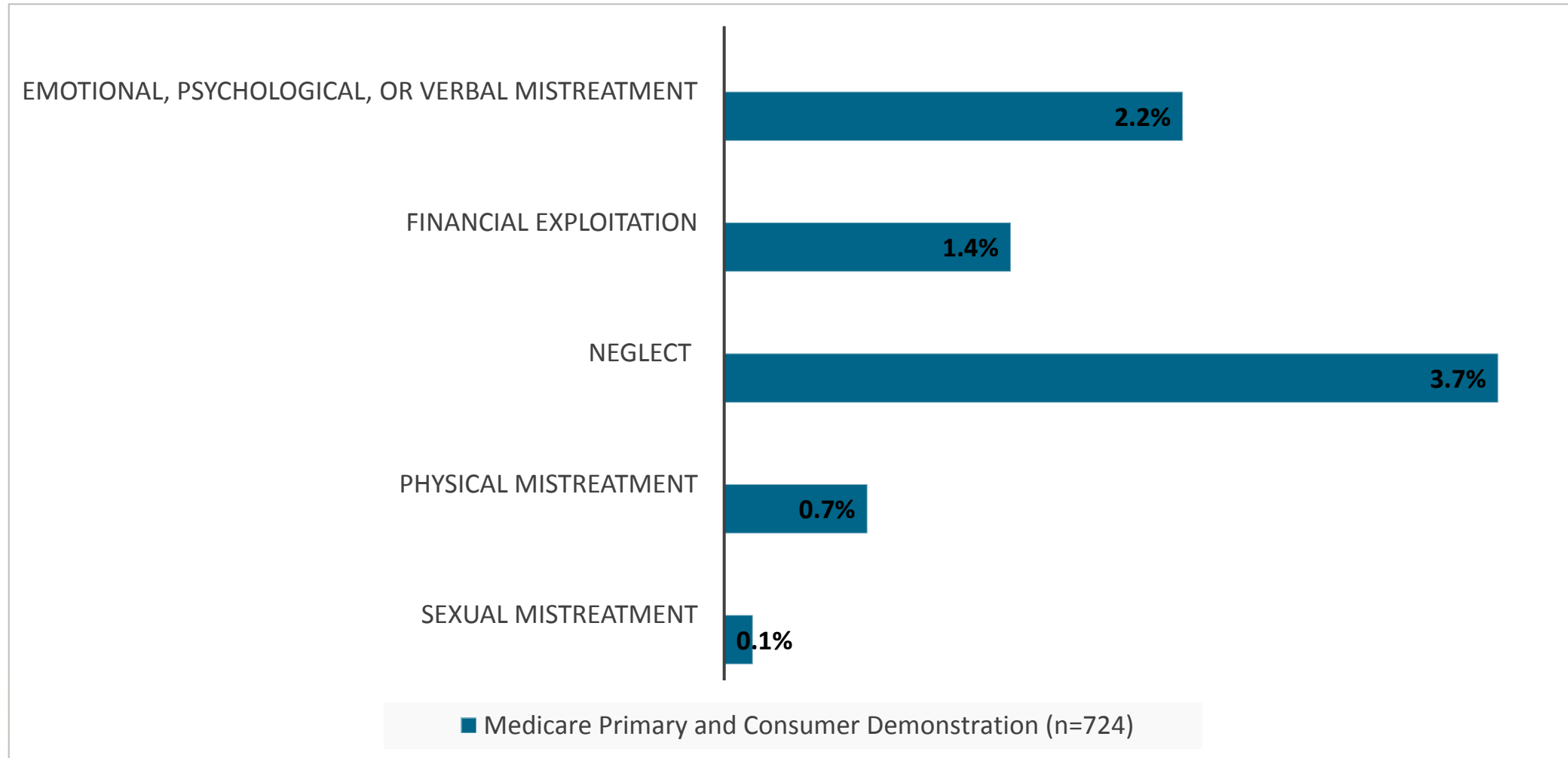
Medicare Primary and Consumer Demonstration

N= 724 older adults with
physical impairment

7.5%

(Friedman et al., 2015)

Elder Abuse Detected by Medical Professionals by Type of Abuse



Demographic Risk Factors

- Gender (women)
- Mixed evidence on age
- Minority sexual orientation and gender (LGBT)
- Race (people of color)



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More Risk Factors

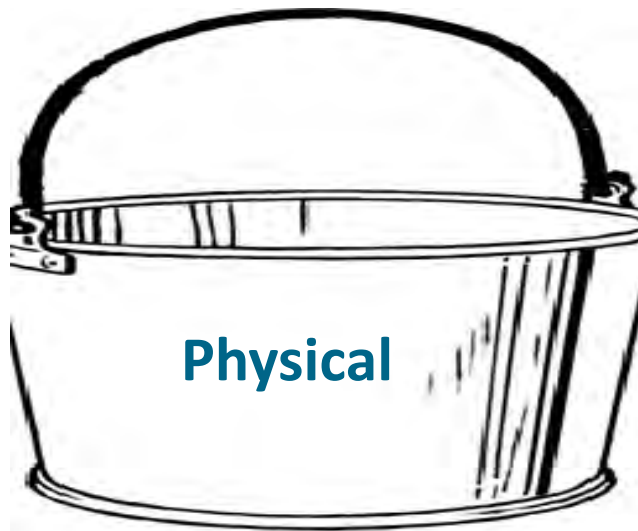
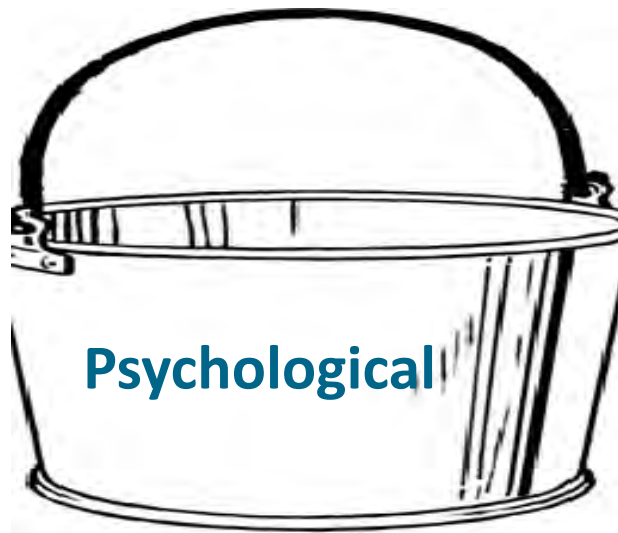
Social

- Isolation and Loneliness
- Low Socioeconomic Status
- Dependency on others for care

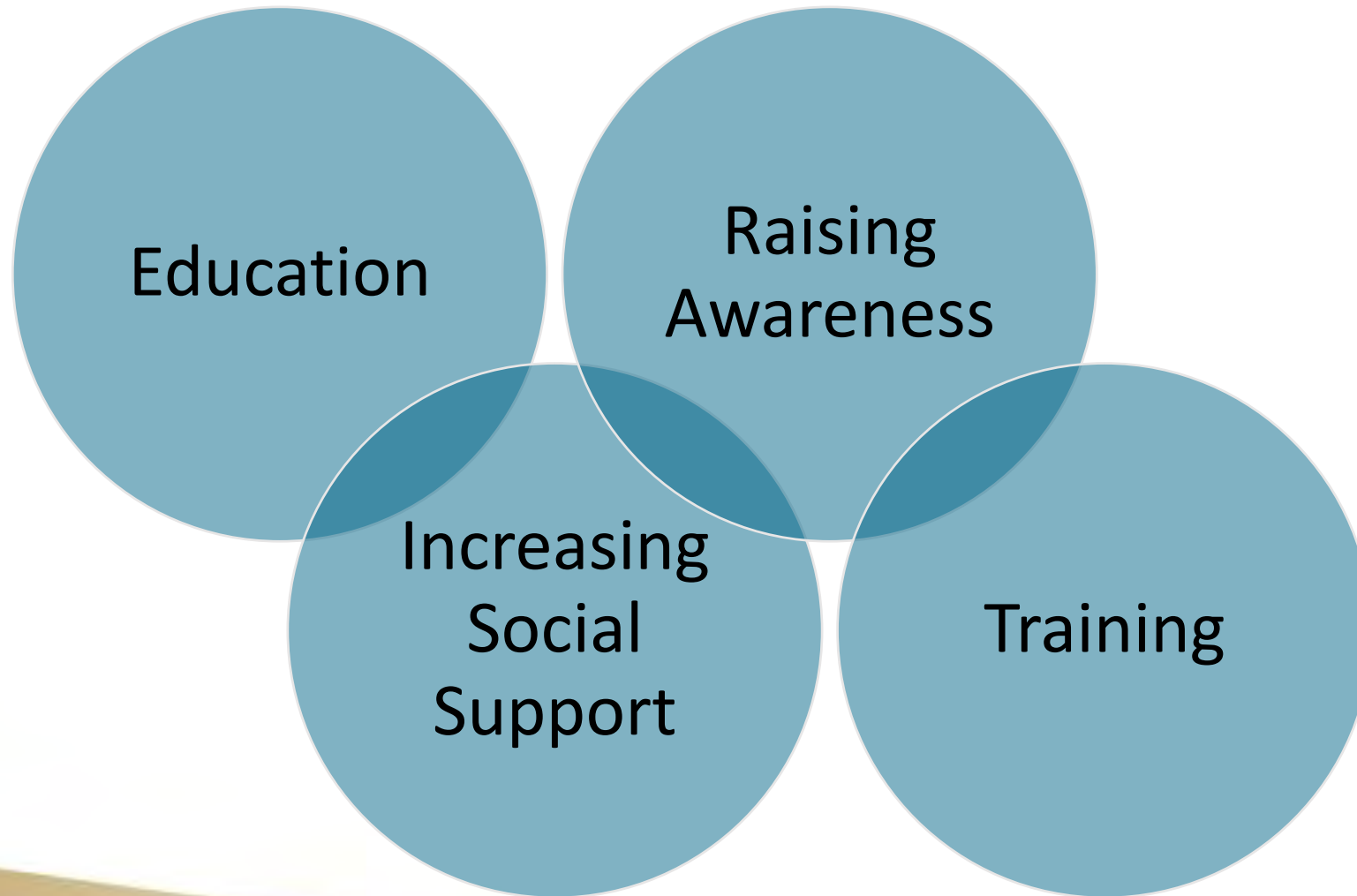
Physical/Mental

- Physical Health Impairment
- Cognitive Impairment (e.g. Alzheimer's dementia)
- Mental/ behavioral health issues (e.g. substance abuse)

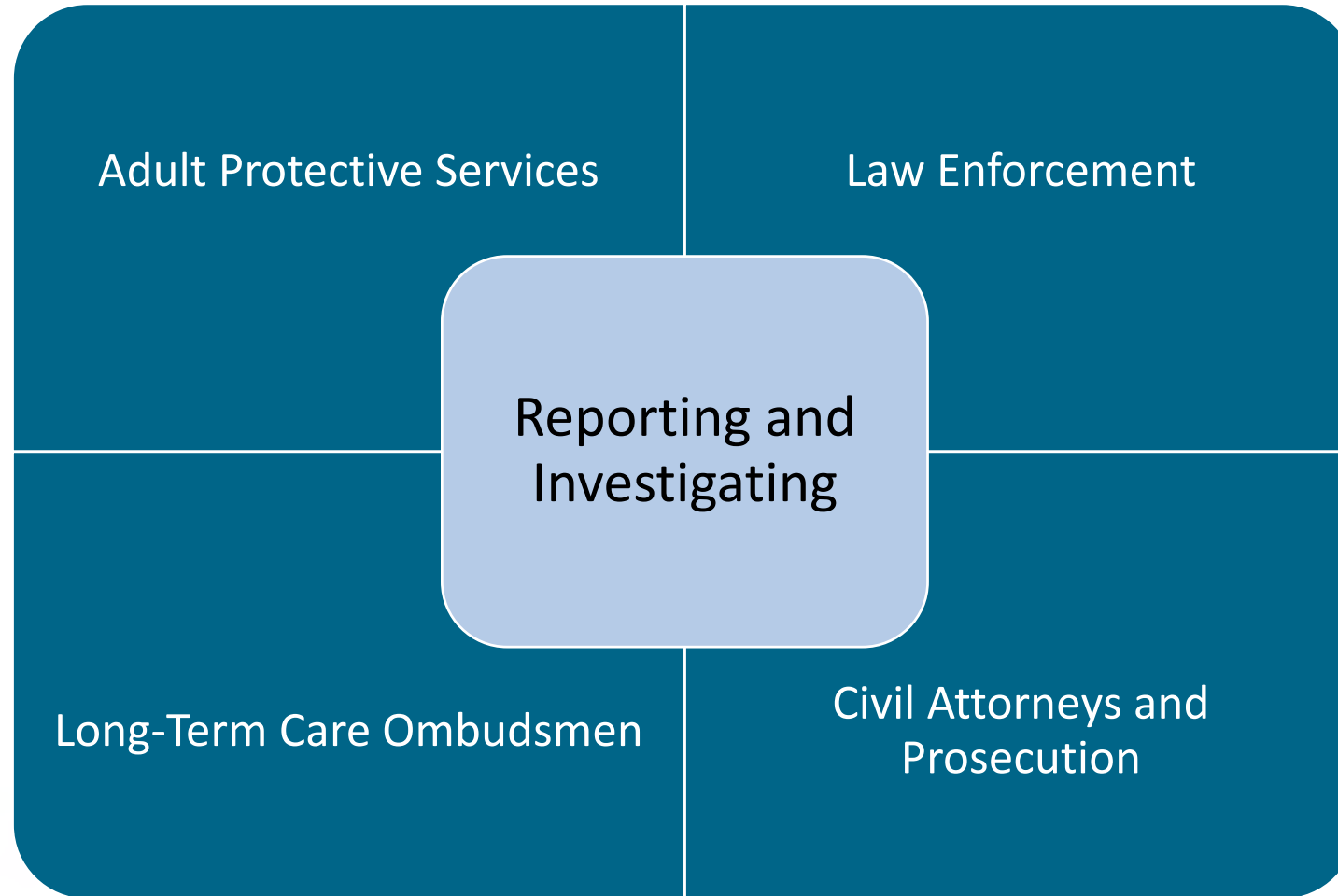
Harms and Consequences



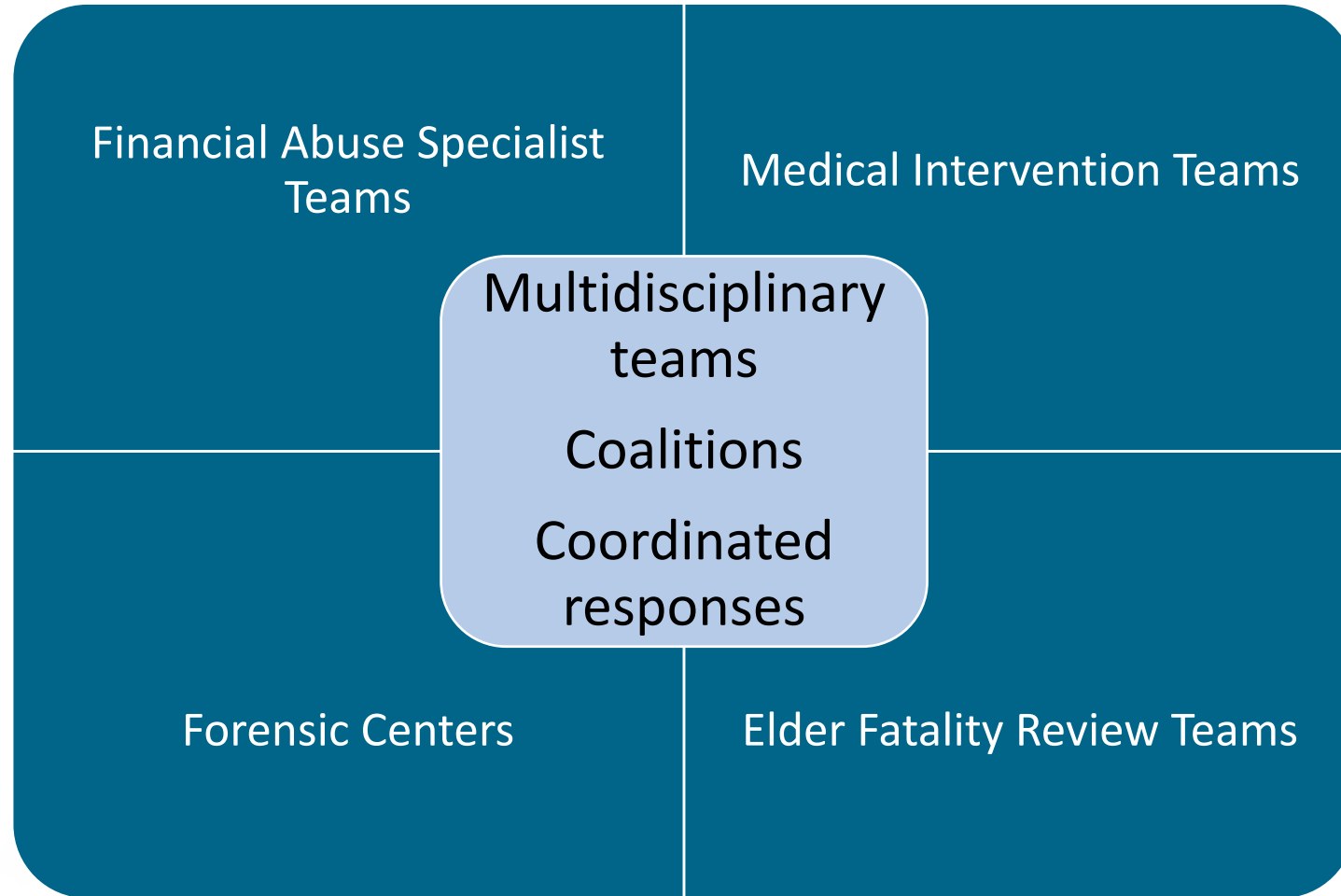
Prevention



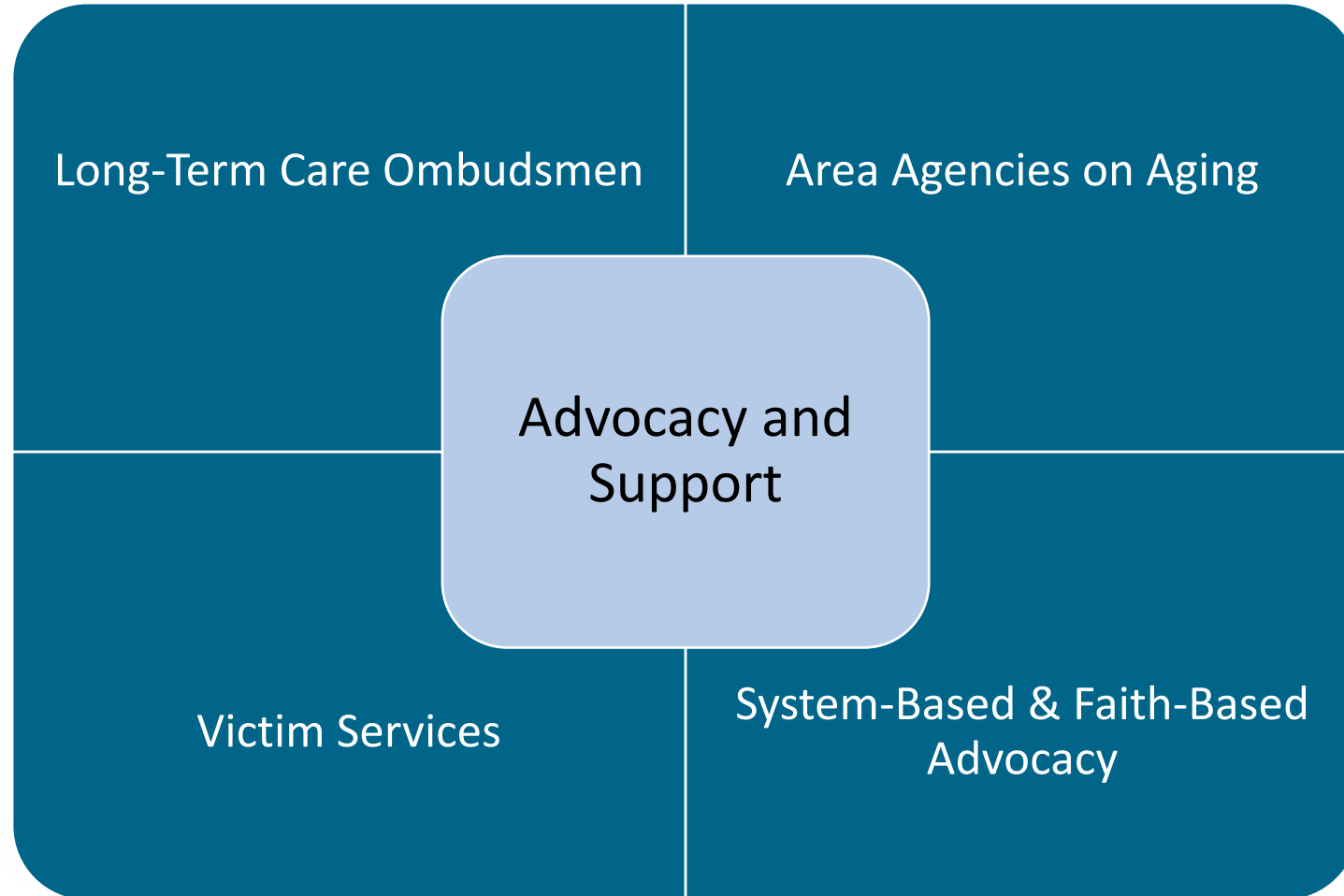
Services and Interventions



Services and Interventions



Services and Interventions



Barriers to Accessing Services



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- Physical and cognitive limitations
- Shame and embarrassment
- Fear of retaliation
- Dependence on abuser
- Self-blame
- Lack of awareness
- Cultural norms/responses

Services for Vulnerable Older Adults

LGBT

- Self-help and peer-based social support
- Partnerships with LGBT service providers

Native Americans

- Restorative justice

Latinx

- Community-based advocates

Asian Pacific Islanders

- Religious institutions
- Community-based organizations

African Americans

- Religious communities

Key Legislation

- Elder Justice Act (2010)
- Older Americans Act (1965)
- Older Americans Reauthorization Act (2016)
- Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (2013)
- Mandatory Reporting Laws
- Power of Attorney and Guardianship Laws

Where the Field Needs to Grow

- Include input from older adults in all efforts
- Improve policies and oversight of substituted decision-making
- Identify and evaluate other effective interventions and programs



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Where the Field Needs to Grow



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- Increase research and prevention around cognitive incapacity
- Increase research, culturally appropriate training, resources, and evidence-based victim services for diverse racial and ethnic populations

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- Who do you partner with in the community, in the state, on a national level to address elder abuse?
- How do services in your community adapt to serve culturally, socially, and economically diverse older adults?
- What is working well to prevent and respond to elder abuse in your practice?
- What overarching barriers do practitioners face in addressing elder abuse?

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Building an evidence base for victim services



Thank You

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