

Is Abuse In United Kingdom Elderly Health Care Home Increasing Or Decreasing?

A Review

2013

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Introduction

Elderly abuse is often ignored in most societies. During the last few years, child abuse profile is dramatically raised, which led to the introduction of several control measures to recognize and tackle such issues. Older people abuse always stayed in background. Hundred thousands of elder people in UK have been abused at least one time. Now people have started becoming more aware of this issue. Yet, government departments haven't commissioned any special research to find precise figure. These abuses happen in various institutional settings, but frequently in home.

A lot of elder abuse has been reported across the globe. But, recently there has been reported a disturbing increase in elder abuse reports in United Kingdom. As per data analysis made by HSCIC – Health and Social Care Information Centre, approximately four percent increase in alleged abuse cases is being reported in a year. The UK government is advised to undertake special measures to safeguard all vulnerable old adults.

What is elder abuse?

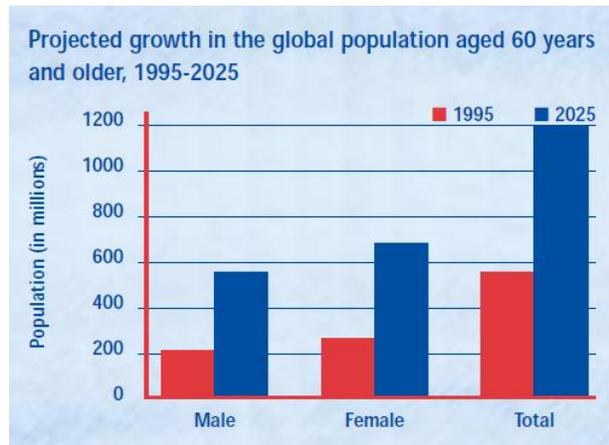
Elder abuse is defined as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where it is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person”. The elder abuse can also be termed as senior abuse, abuse of older adults, elder mistreatment or abuse in later life; abuse of older men and women. This definition was first developed by Action on Elder Abuse in United Kingdom, and was later adopted by World Health Organization.

The definition contains all mainly three components, namely impact, relationship and behavior. The senior abuse can take various forms. There are lot of health consequences and risk factors associated with elderly abuse too.

Until the introduction of initiatives to deal with domestic violence as well as child abuse in the final quarter of the twentieth century, elderly abuse remained private subject. It was perfectly hidden from view of public. No, it has become a significant issue that is probable to grow at a fast rate as several nations are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.

As per reports of World Health Organization in 2002, it is expected to have nearly 1.2 billion people over sixty years in the global population. United Nations have asked all nations now to special control measures to ensure safety of older people and prevent abuse of human rights.

The below bar chart showcases hundred thousands of elder citizens are being neglected, abused and exploited every year. [WHO Elder Abuse – Fact Sheet 2002]



Most of the victims are weak and vulnerable such that they do not have capacity to help themselves or meet the most essential needs. Even though certain prevention laws are passed, their effectiveness is not strong. And therefore, UK is still facing rapid increases in elderly abuses being reported. Most of the abuses aren't reported in fact because lots of elder people are frightened, embarrassed and unable to report such circumstances. The greater proportion of the victims is older women. The accumulation of abuse evidences has indicated that it has turned as a significant societal and public health problem. It exists in developed, under developed and developing nations. Yet, this issue is to an extent underreported globally when compared with the severity. Prevalence estimates subsist in few developed nations only ranging from one to ten percent on the basis of sampling methods, case definitions and surveys. The extent of senior abuse is unidentified correctly, but its moral and social importance is very clear. It insists a worldwide multi-faced reaction that focuses on protection of rights.

□ **Common Abusers:**

The abusers can be men or women and may be friends, relatives, adult children, or other trusted people, institutional abusers like nurses, doctors in hospitals and care takers in board homes, care homes and convalescent homes, too. Therefore, elderly abuse can explained more generally as an intentional, negligent or knowing action by any caregiver or person who cause serious risk and harm to vulnerable adult.

□ **Why elder abuse?**

There are several reasons for the occurrence of elder abuse. It differs with incident. In certain situations, it can be an opportunistic action that is committed by one in order to take advantage of opportunity that results from such situations. Sometimes it can even be calculated or premeditated. Still, there are cases caused by environment or prejudices which make institutional approaches and attitudes. In all these, there is a power element or control which is exercised by perpetrated over abuser.

But, there are even few elder abuses that are result of lack of awareness, external support and skills. This is due to passive neglect most of the times. These unintentional failures are never having any intention to harm. Whatever be the cause, intent or motivation, the impact is significant on the old people and therefore termed as elder abuse.

▪ **At home:**

The main causes for senior abuse at home are poor quality relationships, inability of caregiver to offer required care level, past existence of any family violence patterns, social isolation resulted, physical and mental problems, and many more. Within family circumstances, elderly abuse is very challenging to deal with. It requires a perfect combination of sensitivity, robustness, tact and understanding to tackle such cases. The old people find it very difficult to admit and believe that they are getting abused by family members.

▪ **Institutional settings:**

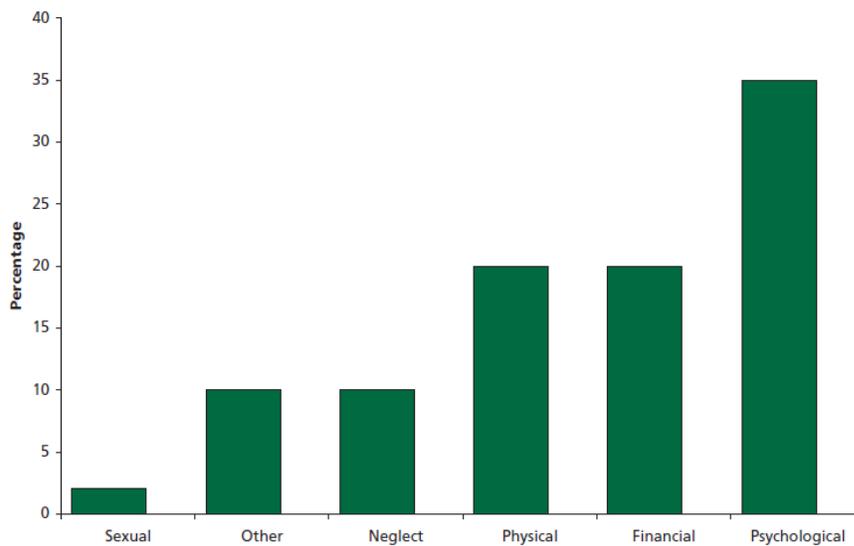
In added settings, the elder mistreatment can be an indication of inadequately run establishment. This happens when the staffs are poorly supervised, improperly trained, or have less support from the management authorities in isolated works. But, it is never a result of low pay offered to staffs. There are in fact thousands of care workers offering good care in United Kingdom. The inadequate care provision funding by local authority, care providers and health care commissions can be a big cause for these elder mistreatment.

▪ **Other reasons:**

Currently, there are few academics investing time as well as energy to do research on various nature of elder abuse. Numerous explanations are put forward by them. Few among them are:

- Stress
- Isolation
- Dependency
- Intergenerational abuse transmission
- Psychological relationship existing between old people and abuser
- Poverty
- Disability discrimination
- Age discrimination
- Minority status
- Communication difficulties.

The bar chart here shows the percentage of abuse by type for the entire global population. [Source: AEA Survey report on elder abuse: 2003]



The domestic mistreatment in elders is never a rare subject in UK. But, unfortunately it is not taken with serious effect as in case of child or other adults' abuses.

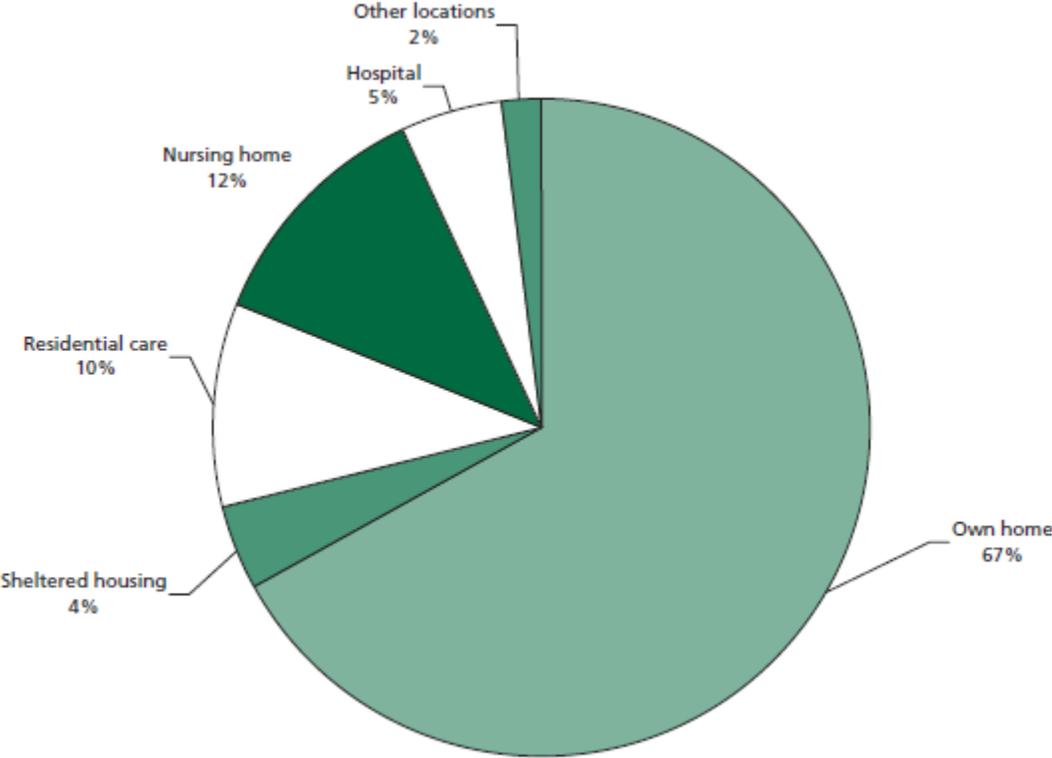
UK Statistics on Elderly domestic abuse

As per data published by UK Health department, the elder abuse counts to more than 500,000 each year. The disturbing fact is that nearly 70% of abuse does come from family members itself. Such abuse incidents aren't just related to any medical conditions like dementia. There are thousands of old people are experiencing sexual abuse, neglect and physical assaults in home. The majority of financial abuse is reported in other large domains of locations such as care homes, nursing homes, residential homes, and day centers.

The majority of mistreated old people are women. It counts to nearly 67%. Now nearly 22 percent of elder men are recognized as victims.

As public in UK are becoming more aware of elder abuse in care homes, it is now turning to have a growing concern. The media plays an important role in proving such awareness to British public. The increase in enquiries of humiliation displays several stories on torment, broken trust, pain and damaged lives by the people who really have to enhance the lives of elder people in UK.

The pie chart below shows the percentage of abuse caused in various settings. [Source: House of Commons Health Committee: Elder Abuse – Second report of session 2003-'04]



- In care homes

The high levels of abuse as well as neglect have been reported in UK. The increase in figures has brought additional concern regarding domiciliary care quality. There are lots of underreported abuse issues too. Nearly 5% of older population that counts to 350,000 is abused in UK care homes. A quarter among them is being abused by relatives and carers for making changes in the wills, fraud purposes and stealing property. Financial abuses reported in care homes mainly include exploitation, theft and misappropriation, etc. Unluckily, the physical abuse is also increasing each day. Many claim to have been attacked by slap, hit and kicks.

- Domestic Abuse

A greater proportion of elder abuse allegations are being reported to many social workers by health nurses. Out of this, 42% of cases happen at home of victim. The predominant mistreatments consist of neglect, sexual abuse, financial and physical abuse, psychological abuse. The percentages of various abuse issues at home reported are given below.

- Neglect: 1.1%
- Physical abuse: 0.4%
- Financial abuse: 0.7%
- Sexual abuse: 0.2%
- Psychological abuse: 0.4%

HSCIC has reported that abuse cases reported has increased from 108,000 to 112,000 during the period 2012-'13. Out of this, 38% happened in home of victim and 45% in care homes. It is expected that the number of abuse will increase to nearly 457, 600 by 2020 and to 558,700 by 2030. The estimated increase is correlated to ageing of UK population. As men and women over 85 years are rapidly growing group, they are projected to have substantial increase over coming decades.

Definitions of elder abuse

Defining elder abuse -

'Violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons.'

.....No Secrets, DH/Home Office 2000

'A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.'

.....Action on Elder Abuse 1993

Elder abuse can be defined as 'a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.

.....Action on Elder Abuse, Available from <http://www.elderabuse.org.uk>, accessed 07 October 2009.

"Elder abuse is an act of commission or of omission (in which case it is usually described as neglect) and may be either intentional or unintentional. The abuse may be of a physical nature, it may be psychological (involving emotional or verbal aggression) or it may involve financial or other material mistreatment."

.....WHO World Report on Violence and Health 2002

The prevalence of abuse is known to be higher among impaired older people in receipt of care. For instance in a study of family carers of people with dementia, over 50% reported some kind of abusive behavior towards their dependent, with verbal abuse the type most commonly reported

.....Cooper C et al. Abuse of people with dementia by family carers: representative cross-sectional survey *British Medical Journal*, 2009, 338:b155

The effects of mistreatment or neglect can be distressing and wide ranging and can include psychological and emotional problems such as anxiety and depression, physical injuries such as bruises and fractures, and economic impacts such as unrecoverable loss of savings

.....Krug EG et al. *World report*

Elder abuse in United Kingdom: Some Facts

- Women tend to become more victims of elder abuse as compared to men.
- Perpetrators of elder abuse are more often males. However, from males to females, both can equally commit financial abuse.
- Perpetrators of elder abuse are mostly partners, spouses or others;
- The most common mistreatment is neglect, which is followed by some kind of financial abuse.
- Maltreatment reports are greater amongst oldest age groups (85+) as compared to younger groups (65 - 85);
- The occurrence of mistreatment increases with waning health.

Source: Biggs et al, 2009(3).

Types/ Modes of Elder Abuse

The elder people are the weakest individuals in society. Good respect along with dignity has to be given to old people in care homes. Their wisdom and life experience can never be treated as zero. During the times when the elderly people are mentally and physically able, it is a must that they must also be included in the process of decision making. In order to identify the abuses, it is essential to understand the main kinds of elder abuse.

Elder abuse can be various forms. There are mainly six types of elder abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Psychological or Emotional abuse
- Financial abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Other forms
-

Physical abuse

It is basically physical compel or aggression which reflects impairment, pain or injury in the body. The injury can be in different forms like hitting, striking, scratching, slapping, biting, pushing, burning, beating, shaking, shoving, kicking, and pulling hair, shaking, pinching and many more. The elder ones can even be attacked or threatened using weapons such as gun or knife, etc. Sometimes, they may be restrained inappropriately.

Other examples of physical abuse are force feeding, improper drug use, and physical punishment, depriving fundamental requirements such as medicine or food, and more. This kind of elder abuse now accounts to nearly 25 percent of all elder abuses in the world.

The perpetrators can be family members like grandchildren, sons or daughters, relatives, etc. Sometimes, perpetrators can be intimate partners and spouses for attaining power or control over them. But these are categorized as domestic violence most of the times. Commonly, the physical abuse perpetrators are unmarried or unemployed ones who live with elder people. They may have alcohol and other products that can lead to abuse issues. Caregivers are also common physical abuse doers.

Indicators of physical abuse:

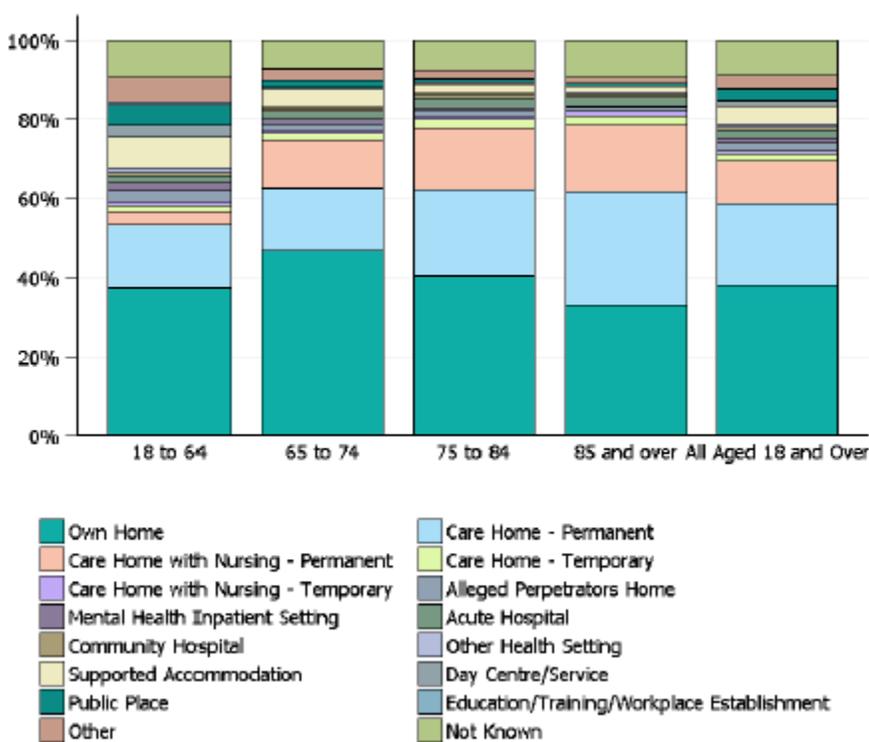
Generally, the physical abuse signs are physical signs and immediate behaviour changes, denial of caregiver in permitting any visitor to meet the elder people alone. The mistreatment can be evident from any of these - rope marks, bruises, welts, bone fractures, black eyes, lacerations, broken bones, open wounds, skull fractures, untreated injuries, cuts, sprains, punctures, bleeding, dislocations, burns from hot water, cigarettes or other appliances, strap marks, abrasion on body parts, broken frames or eyeglasses, internal injuries resulting pain or organ malfunctioning, bilateral bruise on arms, tooth loss, physical reflections of any punishment or restraint, medication overdose findings, traumatic hair loss, reports of prescribed drugs' under utilization, etc.

There are certain behavioural indicators for the physical abuse. There can be situations in which one does not provide explanations on injuries. Other indicators are providing implausible reasons, variations in the reasons provided by family member and caregivers, repetition of like injuries, suspicious hospitalizations, etc. The perpetrators may bring victim to different hospitals or medical facilities in order to provide treatment. This will help in prevention of others to identify the abuse pattern. The delay in giving medical care is another behaviour indicator.

The chart shows the distribution of abuse on basis of location. [Source: Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England October 2009 – March 2010 by NHS The information centre for health and social care]

NASCIS007 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults – National Report, 2009-10

Chart 9 - Distribution of location of alleged abuse for all participating councils, by age



Psychological abuse (Emotional abuse)

The psychological elder abuse is also termed as emotional abuse. It is self willed infliction of emotional and psychological anguish by humiliation, threat and conduct in a verbal or nonverbal basis. This basically happens when an old person faces trauma when being exposed to various

kinds of coercive tactics and threatening actions. It diminished the dignity, self worth and identity of elder person. Nearly 36 percent of the elder abuse in world counts under psychological abuse. It is very hard to identify such abuse. Witnessing it is the only way to find emotional abuse. The manifestation and effects of emotional abuse on victims is much dependent on the cultural values along with the expectations. The main perpetrators of this abuse are caregivers, acquaintances and even family members.

Certain examples of psychological elder abuse are controlling behaviour, humiliation, social isolation, intimidation, name calling, verbal assaults, yelling, embarrassment, ignoring the person, insults, provoking fear, scolding and shouting, removal of power to make decisions, giving silent treatments, inconsideration or trivialization of needs, threats, treating an elder person as infant, property destruction, isolating from regular activities, restricted access or prohibition to telephone, cash, transportation and many other resources.

Indicators of emotional abuse:

Normally, psychologically abused elders may reflect behavioural changes, withdrawal, fear in the abuser's presence and agitation. The symptoms of such abuses are never restricted to being completely withdrawn, nonresponsive and non communicative, sleeping problems, strange behaviour commonly recognized to dementia such as rocking, sucking, and biting, agitation, confused state, exhibits depression, emotionally upset nature, cowers in abuser's attendance, report from elder on the emotional and verbal mistreatment. The somatic changes, considerable gain or loss in weight, stress related state leading to increase in blood pressure, and decline are few physical indicators.

Financial abuse (Property or Material exploitation)

Financial Abuse is improper or unauthorized use of any kind of resources owned by old people for personal or fiscal profit, advantage or gain. It is also known as financial exploitation. The exploitative abuse can be misuse, unlawful taking or concealment of property, funds or assets of old people. It is seen that nearly 30 percent of all abuses accounts to elder fiscal abuse.

Main Perpetrators:

Financial abuse mainly occurs in home. The main perpetrators are family members like children, spouse and grandchildren. There can be various reasons why family members behave so. The common reasons are that they may have gambling, fiscal problems or substance abuse, fear that the victim may become sick in future leading to utilization of their savings and depriving perpetrators of inheritance. The family members may be waiting badly to inherit all the money and property with justified feeling that all those are rightfully theirs. Sometimes, the abuser may have a non positive association with victim and feel an entitlement sense. They may also possess

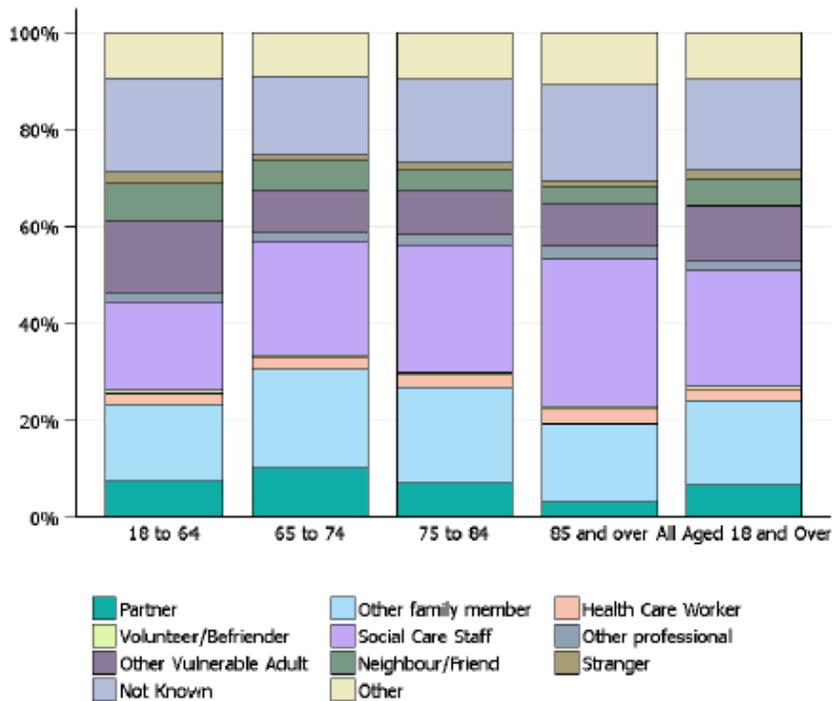
negative feelings to other members on family whom they wish to avoid from inheriting and acquiring assets of older person.

The abusers approaching the old people with intention of exploitations may be fraud or sweetheart scams who agree to love them always. Few may seek employment like counsellors or private care attendants for gaining access. They can even be transient criminals who move from place to place to prevent being apprehended. They recognize the very weak or widowed individuals who are isolated or alone, via travelling near that region or through death announcements in newspapers. Sometimes the abusers can be unscrupulous businesspeople or professionals who may overcharge for various products and services, utilize their respect and trust positions to attain compliance, or may even use unfair and wrong business practices to make financial benefits by exploiting these old people.

The chart shows the distribution of elder abuses based on perpetrators. [Source: Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England October 2009 – March 2010 by NHS The information centre for health and social care]

NASCIS007 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults – National Report, 2009-10

Chart 10 - Distribution of relationship to the alleged perpetrator for all participating councils, by age



Factors that increase the risk factor in victims:

There are specific conditions that can increase the risk in abused old people. They are loneliness, mental disabilities, isolation, recent losses, lack of knowledge in fiscal matters, physical disabilities, lack of knowledge in technology for perfect financial management, unemployed family members, substance abuse issues and more. These are in fact the main reasons why old people have turned into attractive targets for abusers.

Few examples are improper utilization of power of attorney, forgery, theft of possessions or cash, misuse of possessions, utilization of coercion, improper utilization of guardianship, deception to give up money or property, inexplicable fund disappearance, missing of valuable possessions, amendments in financial documents and wills. This kind of exploitation spans a very vast spectrum of conduct which will include forging signature of old people, taking property and money illegally, forcing elder one to sign any document, power of attorney, will or deed via influence and deception.

There are many people who promise a lifelong care to attain the possessions of older people. Once the money or property is got, the family members or caregivers neglect the promise given. The confidence crimes and scams are deceptive fake actions to attain confidence of victim. The perpetrators may call the old people and use scare tactics, exaggerated claims or deception to encourage them give money to abusers' hands. Sometimes, they make various charges against the credit cards of victim with no authorization.

Indicators of Financial abuse:

The main symptoms of Fiscal and material exploitation or abuse include immediate changes in banking practice and accounts, inexplicable withdrawal of huge sums of cash, report from an elder, provision of unwanted services, unpredicted immediate asset transfer to another person, unexpected appearance of earlier detached family relative claiming privileges to possessions and affairs of elder person and finding signature of elder being forged to make fiscal transactions or to attain victim's possessions.

Other indicators are fresh best friends, lawful documents that elder do not understand well at the time signed, non issuance of bank statements, no acknowledgement of cancelled checks, deficiency of amenities that elder can afford, unpaid bills, notice specifying utility discontinuation, unusual bank activities, excess interest of caregiver in elder's money matters, missing of property or other belongings, nonexistence of documents or certification on fiscal

arrangements, addition of extra names on bank account of old people, abrupt changes in wills, and many more.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is a term used for all the sexual contact types done without consent. It may be hard to find it. The nursing care becomes a necessity most of the times. The indicators can be physical. Sexual abuse can be called as abusive sexual contact. This consists of various sexual actions in which the old person is not able to communicate or understand it. Few examples are direct or indirect intentional touching of breast, anus, mouth, genitalia, buttocks, groin and inner thigh. The touch can be through attire too.

It includes several sexual assault types like sodomy, sexual harassment, intercourse with no consent, fondling, touching intimately an elder while bathing, unsuitable sexual comments, exposing oneself, sexually clear photographing, molestation, physical contact wither mentally disable elder person, rape and coerced nudity.

Generally, the perpetrators are attendants, caregivers, other medical facilities employees, family members, relatives, etc. There are cases in which the facility residents attack the fellow residents sexually. The majority of elder people being sexually abused are women. There are reports in which elder men are abused sexually in institutional as well as domestic settings. Apart from old women, the other individuals commonly abused sexually are the elder people who are isolated, have social support deficiency, or possess cognitive and physical disabilities.

Indicators of Sexual abuse:

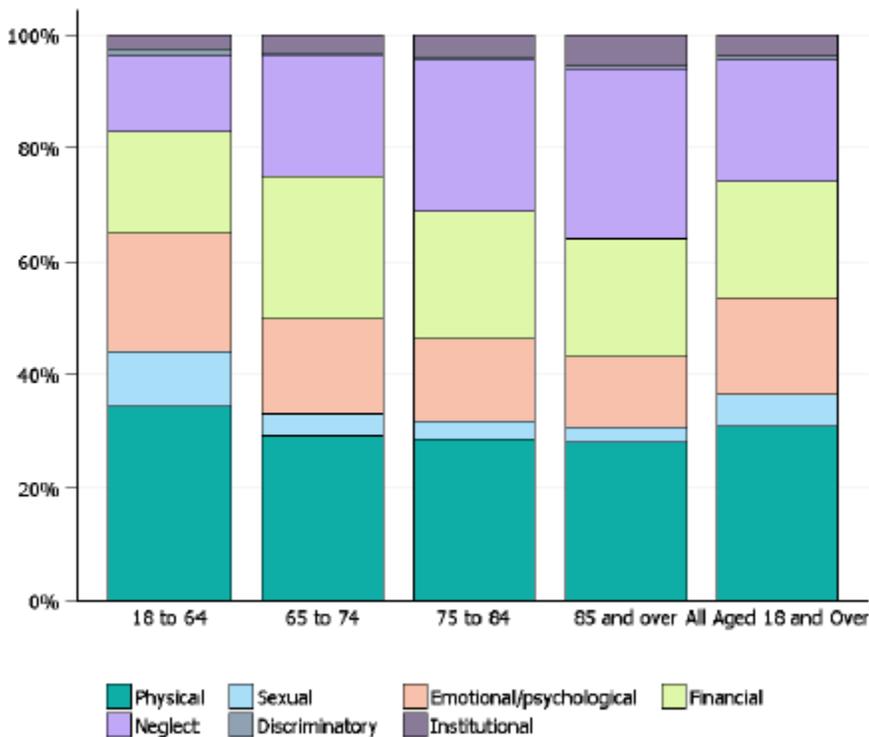
There are few indicators that can be clues for the various sexual abuses in elder people. The bruises near genital area, inner thighs and breasts, anal pain, genital pain, bleeding, unexplained vaginal bleeding, irritation, difficulty in sitting and walking, inexplicable venereal disease, sexually transmitted diseases, various genital infections, underclothing that is stained, bloody or torn, and report form an elder person regarding the rape or sexual assault.

Certain behavioural indicators can be reflected in the interaction and actions of elder people who are sexually mistreated. They are unsuitable sex-role connection maintained by suspect and the elder person, uncommon, inappropriate and violent or forceful sexual behaviour.

The chart shows the distribution of different types of elder abuse by age. [Source: Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England October 2009 – March 2010 by NHS The information centre for health and social care]

NASCIS007 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults – National Report, 2009-10

Chart 7 - Distribution of the nature of alleged abuse for all participating councils, by age



Neglect

Neglect is term used for the refusal or failure of caregiver or liable individual to offer care and physical, social and emotional needs of elder person. The caretakers may not fulfil their duties and responsibilities of providing essential care. It can be either active or passive. Active neglect

is intentional. It implies wilful behaviour of withholding necessities intentionally. This can be motivated by fiscal profits or interpersonal conflicts. Passive neglects are unintentional.

It implies circumstances in which responsible person is not able to fulfil the responsibilities to offer care due to disability, ignorance, illness, lack of maturity and resources, stress, and more.

Nearly 49 % of elder abuse in the world accounts under neglect. Few examples are failure in avoiding unsafe environments and actions, not offering necessary clothing, nutrition, shelter, hygiene and health care, refusal to give water, comfort, medicine, and personal safety, etc. The major perpetrators of neglect are paid attendant, caregivers with inadequate training, energy, skills and time, mentally ill caretakers who have substance abuse, alcohol or other mental issues, family members and relatives, and more.

Neglect always takes lot of victims to risk. The elders who need assistance or high care always are mostly victims of neglect. The stressful condition of caregivers may sometimes lead to neglect often. The lack of family support, fluctuations of care requirement by elder, disturbed sleep and incontinence are few factors that lead to this state.

Table 1 - NCSC complaints 2002-2003

Types of complaint	Number	% of total
Poor care practice	3,583	28
Inadequate staffing	2,896	23
Other	1,771	14
Abuse	1,278	10
Unsatisfactory premises	991	8
Quality of food	880	7
Poor management	798	6
No leisure activity	488	4
Total	12,685	100

Data source: Ev 107

The table indicated the number of cases reported as elder abuse by neglect in year 2002-03. [Source: Elder Abuse: Second report of session 200-04, Volume 1, House of Commons – Health Committee]

Indicators of Neglect:

The main physical indicators of neglect are dirty surroundings, soiled clothing, pitiable dental hygiene, smell, sores and cuts that aren't treated, pitiable personal hygiene and more. Other symptoms are malnutrition, medical mismanagement, animal infestations, unattended health issues, outdated prescriptions, insect infestations, lack of adequate space, utilities and ventilation, dehydration, unmarked and empty bottles, living status which is unsafe such as lack of running water, disrepair, no heater, inadequate sanitation, architectural barriers, improper wiring, substandard cleanliness in home, report given by elder on mistreatment, etc.

The behavioural indicators can be evident in case of victim as well as the abuser or caregiver. Such symptoms in victims are skin rashes, worsening dementia, exhibiting stress by depression, crying or despair, disturbed sleep, loss of appetite, disorientation and confusion, detached nature, regressive or self destructive nature, emotionally numb state, fear towards abuser, dirty nails or skin, odours, improper attire for weather, presence of urine and faeces, lice infested or matted hair, bedsores, apathy, poor energy levels, dry sore mouth and weak skin, mental confusion, absence of required eyeglasses, wheelchairs, dentures, hearing aids, commodes, walkers and braces, and more.

The abuser may express frustration, anger and exhaustion. The elder may be isolated by caregiver from family members, relatives, friends, and outside world. The frequent changes in health care and social providers, refusal to ask for economic assistance and services and resisting the outside help are other behavioural indicators seen in abuser.

Other forms of elder abuse

Abandonment

It is an elder abuse in which elder person is deserted by caregiver. It can be sometimes categorized as active neglect. The main abandonment symptoms desertion of old people at any institutions like nursing facilities, hospital, or public locations like shopping centres; and reports from the victims.

Self Neglect

The self neglect and elder abuse are in fact separate ones. But, they have connected sets of interactions as well as behaviours. In self neglect, the cause of harm is own behaviour of person. The self neglect is also important as elder abuse as both are compromising health, life quality, threatening longevity, etc. Due to different causes, elderly people may sometimes fail to give

essential care themselves and this will result in self neglect. It occurs when elder refuse or fail in addressing the fundamental emotional, social and physical requirements.

Few examples are self care tasks like clothing, shelter, safety precautions, nourishment, shelter, right medication, financial management, etc. In self neglect, there aren't perpetrators. The refusal of care by elder person is main cause of self neglect. This will threaten the safety and health of the person.

The indicators of self neglect are malnutrition, pitiable personal hygiene, improperly attended and untreated medical state, unsafe and hazardous living arrangements, unsanitary living space, improper clothing, homelessness, etc.

Systemic Abuse

The society has made special systems that indirectly lead to systemic abuse. This can result in elder abuse too. The highly prevalent abuse is senior discrimination because of their age. This is generally combined with extra factors such as geographic location, gender, economic status, race, ability, colour, sexual orientation, language, religion and ethnic background.

Domestic Violence

It is an increasing violence pattern or intimidation by intimate partner for attaining control or power. The domestic violence can begin in young or older age. The strained relationships mostly face such issues. This may even lead to psychological abuse too.

The table shows the elder abuse statistics of United Kingdom in year 2010.

Statistic Verification	
Source: National Center on Elder Abuse, Bureau of Justice Statistics	
Research Date: 6.18.2013	
Elderly Abuse Statistics	Data
Number of elderly abuse cases in 2010	5,961,568
Percent of elderly population abused in 2010	9.5 %
Demographics of Elderly Abuse Victims	Percent
Percent of female elder abuse victims	67.3 %
Median age of elder abuse victims	77.9
Percent of white victims	66.4 %

Percent of black victims	18.7 %
Percent of hispanic victims	10.4 %
Breakdown of Reported Elder Abuse Cases	
Neglect	58.5 %
Physical Abuse	15.7 %
Financial Exploitation	12.3 %
Emotional Abuse	7.3 %
Sexual Abuse	0.04 %
All other types	5.1 %
Unknown	0.06 %
Family Perpetrated Elderly Abuse	
Percent of Adult Protective Service cases that involve elderly abuse	68 %
Percent of elderly abuse perpetrated by adult children or spouses	66 %
Percent of murder victims over 60 who were killed by their own offspring	42 %
Percent of murder victims over 60 who were killed by their spouses	24 %
Nursing Home Abuse	
Percent of nursing homes that lack adequate staff to properly care for patients	91 %
Percent of nursing homes that have been in violation of elderly abuse laws	36 %

Why elderly people need care homes?

Today, the increasing number of elder people has become a big growing issue. With the introduction of nuclear family thought, it has led to a drop in number of younger populace and escalation in number of elder ones. Therefore, the number of individuals required to take good care of elder ones have decreased.

In the present time, a family is having maximum of two children only. Sometimes, the family members may perhaps be working at different places. In such circumstances, it can be difficult to take care of elder people at home since they aren't present at the home. Leaving the job just to care the elderly people is never a wise decision in today's living conditions.

Elderly people always require love as well as care. In present world, most children find it hard to care the old parent well due to various reasons. This can lead to depression. Sometimes, elder ones may require assistance from other person in order to fulfil even their personal requirements. If the children are not present, it will certainly be very hard to manage the medication and daily routine of old people. The feeling of loneliness can also arise then as old people will have to sit idle the whole day at home. The big reason is the shortage of mobility. This will influence their relationships with other people. Thus, it will result in a worse situation. Because of certain physical or mental incapability, elder people may be unable to make more or new friends if at home. Sometimes, their old friends might have moved or even passed away. Therefore, all old people require more care as well as attention in each moment of their life.

Care homes are one of the best concepts which have been initiated to solve such issues of elderly individuals. This in fact has transferred the conventional elderly care from family to organizations. Care home will have essential facilities for offering special care to elder people. This will provide comfort and happiness to younger generation due to feeling that their parents are well protected and in the right hands. Care homes will provide opportunity to old people to sustain relationships with like aged individuals. It will also provide various services which target in enhancing the entire quality of old lives.

Every old people must also get respect, compassion and freedom. Being sensitive to pain, old people may find it difficult to stay with younger children. The emotional changes that can frequently occur in old people may not be tolerated by the family. Old men and women can be very irritated and upset about being a dependent person, particularly after a whole lifetime of doing everything themselves. Care homes can aid seniors in retaining independence and sense of freedom to an extent. They can keep all physical possessions with them. There isn't any need of placing in any storage. This will help in stress reduction, health improvement, good relationship

building, psychological wellbeing, etc. Therefore, care homes will be a good choice so that it can give elder ones more comfort and happiness too.

Is Abuse in United Kingdom Elderly health Care home increasing or decreasing?

The UK population is ageing. As per Office of National Statistics, the fraction of individuals over 65 years increased from 15 to 17 percent during the period 1985-2010, which implies a rise of 1.7 million people. This is expected to reach approximately 23 percent by the year 2035.

The most priority for social care system is increase in number of individuals above 85 years that has become two fold from 690,000 in 1985 to 1.4 million in 2010. It is projected to reach 3.6 million that is 5 percent of UK population by the year 2035. This has in fact now become a main reason for the emergence of the big issue - adult social care and its funding in future.

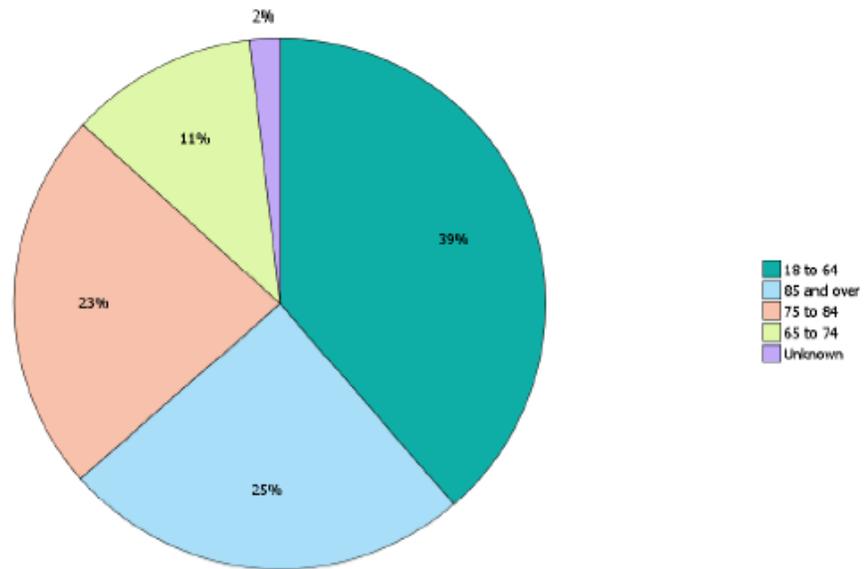
The reports of elder abuse cases are the clear evidences for the rise in abuse of old men and women in United Kingdom care homes. The statistics of 2012 has revealed that more than 370 thousands of elder people were abused in homes. United Kingdom has been facing this serious issue for past years.

Even though several efforts were undertaken, there is no much decrease in the abuse reported. As each day pass by, new cases reports with elder abuse matter. A disturbing rise in elder abuse is seen in year 2013 that counts to nearly 4% as specified by HSCIC.

The figure below shows the distributions of referrals on basis of age and gender in 2009-10. [Source: NHS – Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England, October 2009 to March 2010: Experimental Statistics]

NASCIS007 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults – National Report, 2009-10

Chart 1 - Distribution of referrals for all participating councils, by age, including "unknowns"

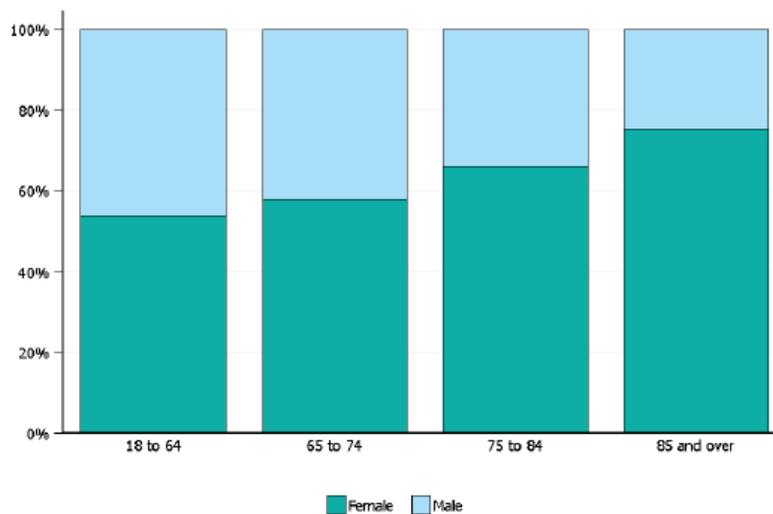


Data Source: AVA Table 1.

Experimental Statistics - These data are based on a voluntary collection over the period 1st October 2009 to 31st March 2010.

NASCIS007 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults – National Report, 2009-10

Chart 2 - Distribution of referrals for all participating councils, by gender, for each agegroup



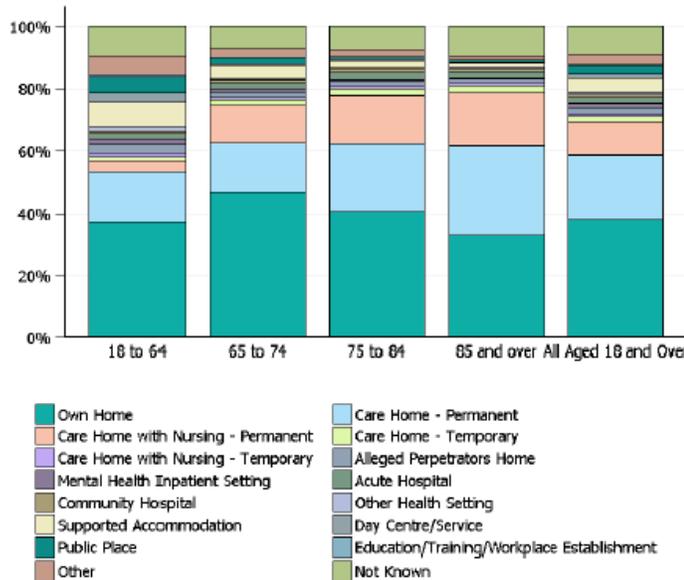
Data Source: AVA Table 1.

Experimental Statistics - These data are based on a voluntary collection over the period 1st October 2009 to 31st March 2010.

The next chart will specify the elder abuse comparisons on basis of locations in 2009. Care homes have great play in elder abuse. [Source: NHS – Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England, October 2009 to March 2010: Experimental Statistics]

NASCIS007 Abuse of Vulnerable Adults – National Report, 2009-10

Chart 9 - Distribution of location of alleged abuse for all participating councils, by age



Data Source: AVA Table 5.

Experimental Statistics - These data are based on a voluntary collection over the period 1st October 2009 to 31st March 2010.

The elevation in number of elder abuse reports has offered a new description to this social issue as the ‘hidden national scandal’. The major proportion of elderly people in UK is being ill treated routinely. Their troubles are most often dismissed and neglected. The rapid growth and scale of elder abuse in United Kingdom has demanded countless radical changes to monitor and punish the people who misuse their positions and relationships.

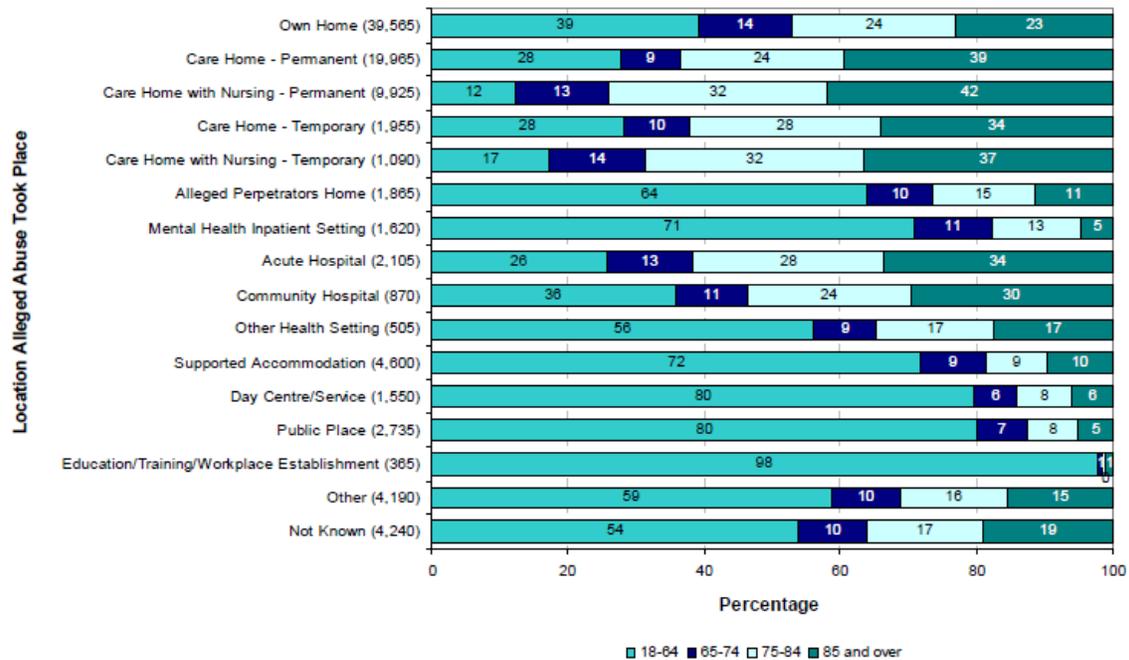
The below given charts display the statistical figures of elder abuse referrals and alerts on the basis of gender and location during the period 2010-’11. [Source: NHS- Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England 2010-11: Experimental statistics – Final Report]

Table 2.2: Number of alerts and referrals combined, 2010-11

England	Number
Total number of alerts (including unknowns)	94,515
Total number of referrals where no alerts were recorded (including unknowns)	43,100
Alerts and referrals combined	137,615

1. Based on alerts data submitted by 101 councils
2. Based on referrals data submitted by the remaining 51 councils

Figure 3.16: Location of alleged abuse by age group of vulnerable adult, 2010-11



Referrals by age group and gender of vulnerable adult, 2010-11

Age group	Male	Female
18-64 (37,240)	47	53
65-74 (11,080)	43	57
75-84 (21,545)	35	65
85 and over (25,190)	25	75
All Ages	38	62

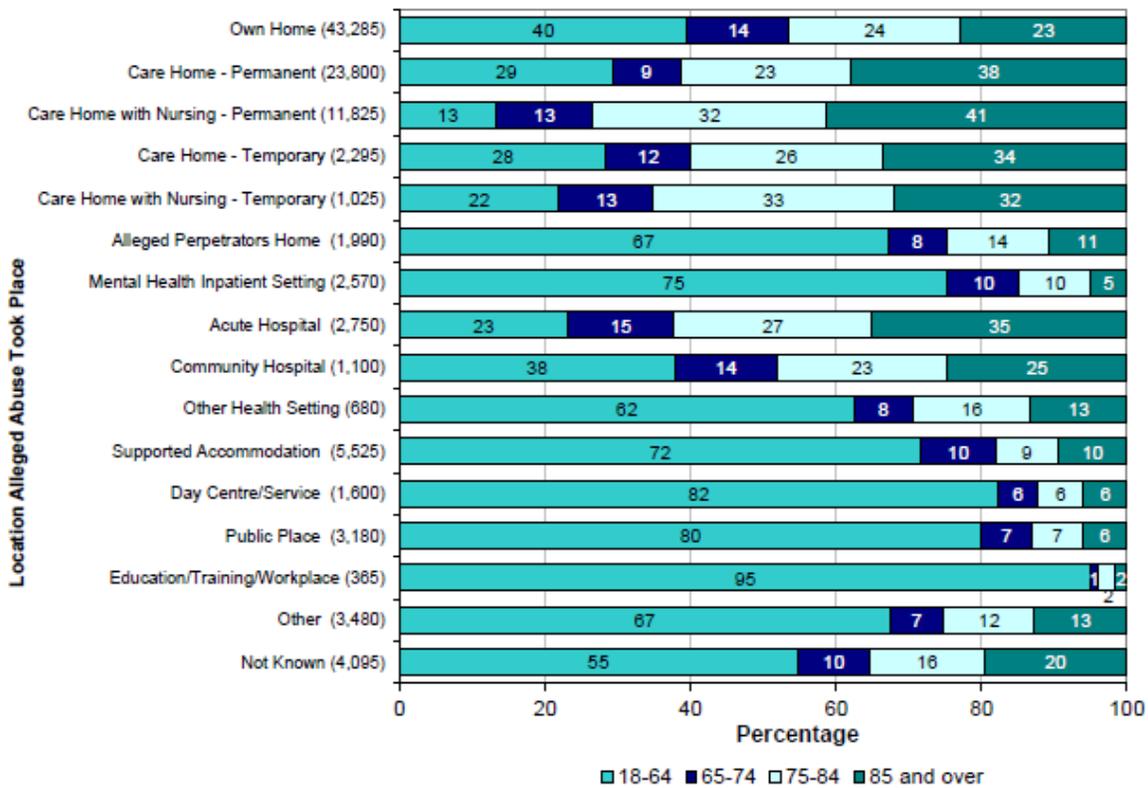
The increase in the elder abuse is clear from the statistical data attained every year. The below given charts are the information on elder abuse alerts and referrals of year 2011-'12. [Source: Source: NHS- Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England 2011-12: Experimental statistics – Final Report]

Number of alerts and referrals combined, 2011-12 in England	Number
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Total number of alerts (including unknowns)	1,35,990
Total number of referrals where no alerts were recorded (including unknowns)	30,680
Alerts and referrals combined	1,66,670

The below chart shows the extent of elder abuse in care homes in 2011-'12.

Figure 3.16: Location of alleged abuse by age group of vulnerable adult, 2011-12



Source: AVA Table 5a

The below given are few facts published by Age UK in ‘Later Life in the United Kingdom’, November 2013.

UK Population:

- 22 million people over 50 years (one third of UK population)
- Approximately 14.5 million people over 60 years
- 10.8 million people over 65 years
- More than 1.4 million people over 85 years

- Nearly 640,000 individuals turned 65 in 2010, which increased to 800,000 in 2012. It is expected to have a gradual decrease to 650,000 in 2017.
- Greater number of people over 60 years than people under 18

Population projections

- Number of individuals over 60 is expected to pass twenty million by 2031
- In 20 years, people over 65 will rise to approximately 48.7 to 50 percent, which is more than 16 million. Percentage of people over 65 will increase from present 17.2% to 22.4 percent in 2032.
- Fraction of UK population over 60 is expected to increase from current 22% to approximately 29 percent in 2033 and 31 percent in 2058.
- 1 in 3 individuals in United Kingdom will be over 60 years by 2083.
- In coming 20 years, people of 85+ will double and will approximately treble in coming 30 years. Population of 75+ will double in coming 30 years.
- Approximately 1 in 5 people in UK now will live to celebrate their 100th birthday.
- As per national statistician, the population of United Kingdom is ageing slowly than other equivalent nations.

Within Elderly people

- Nearly 3.8 million elderly people are living alone in UK now, out of which 70 percent is women.
- About 2.5 million people of 75+ live alone, out of which 1.8 million are women
- 58 percent of women widows belong to the age group of 75+.
- 16 percent of people in England belong to black and minority ethnic groups; 8 percent of them are over 60 years.
- There were about 2772 prisoners over 60 as per statistics of March 2010 in Wales and England.

Age Discrimination

- About 60 percent of elderly people in United Kingdom agree to the existence of age discrimination in their daily lives.
- 53% of adults in UK agree that people treat old people as child once they reach old age.
- Approximately 52 percent old men and women agree that carers don't pay essential attention to requirements of elderly people.
- Nearly 68 percent old people have the same opinion that politicians consider elder people as low priority.
- As per reports of patients at stroke during the period 2004-'06, only 4% of old aged patients were provided MRI scan.

National Health Services

Almost 31% of general public is confident that elderly people are treated with great dignity in hospital, while 64 percent think that health and care staffs do not treat elder people always with essential esteem for their dignity.

Hospital care

- 15 million adults were admitted in hospitals in 2012, out of which 6 percent that counts to 7 million were elderly people.
- Nearly 32 percent of old people admitted in hospitals were found to be facing malnutrition during admission time in the year 2008.
- In 2007, 18 percent of old people staying in hospital said that they weren't provided with essential support.
- In England, 21% of adult inpatients in the year 2010 said they weren't treated properly with respect for their dignity. There has not been an improvement in this fact since 2002.
- Out of the total old adults admitted in hospital, 24 percent have possible major depression and 8 percent have definite major depression.

Malnutrition

- 1.3 million Old men and women suffer from malnutrition. Greater proportion of them (93 percent) lives in communities.
- One third of elder people in care homes and hospitals are at risk of malnutrition. In case of care homes, figure was 37 percent in 2008.

Depression

The depression is affected by 22% and 28% of elderly men and women respectively. This counts to two million old people in England. As per estimates of Royal College of Psychiatrists, 85% of elderly individuals with depression do not get any help from NHS. The depression affects 40 percent of elderly people in care homes. The bad general health can in a way related with depression and several risk factors like being away from family and friends, less satisfaction with accommodation and finances.

Elder Abuse

Most of the old people have reported that their requirements are not met by the care homes now. Each year, as mentioned earlier, nearly 342,000 elderly people in private households are abused in UK. In case of care homes, approximately 500,000 elder people are abused each year, which is roughly five percent of UK older population. More than fifty old people are abused or neglected in homes by family members, neighbours, friends, care workers, etc every hour. On the basis of study till 2008, based on ten thousand phone calls to help line, fraction of calls related to various

kinds of elder abuse were: psychological (34%), sexual (3%), financial (20%), and physical (19%). Nearly 44% callers even reported multiple abuses. Loneliness and isolation have been great issues of old people.

In 2013, English councils referred 108,000 cases on elder abuse. This figure rose to 112,000 in the year 2012/13. Approximately three fifths of 112,000 cases being referred by the British councils were basically for elder abuse in homes. Most among them were people who required care services very badly as they suffer disability, mental illness and other ailments. Family and care workers are the major alleged abusers as per the reported cases. Age UK findings display the increase in elder abuse perfectly. Even when there is an improving awareness of elder abuse is being contributed to public in United Kingdom, issues related to safeguarding concerns of old men and women has increased considerably. Vulnerable people are taken as no-one to be turned to for any assistance.

HSCIC figures shows that 38 percent of elder abuse occurred in home while 45 percent in care homes. In approximately 6 percent of reported case, abuser was partner of old person; in 16 percent, it was some other family member; and 37 percent by care worker. As per the figures analysed by Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), it is found that the neglect and physical abuse are the usual abuse types that are reported. Care workers and members of family are alleged abusers most likely.

Now elder people in UK are subjected to mistreatment on a daily basis at home because of epidemic of many rogue carers. In northern part of England, several thousands of old men and women who need assistance at home are neglected, robbed and tormented by the individuals who're paid to take care of them. Recently in October 2013, a Sunday Post survey of councils in Lancashire, North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire has disclosed the shocking figure of abuse reports, that ranges from physical and sexual attacks to robbery. During the last 5 years, the number of allegations made against the paid carers visiting homes of old people counts to 2,817. This implies that there were at shocking 11 cases per week. The exact figure is expected to be considerably higher as some council didn't take in allegations in opposition to sub contracted care staffs. And others didn't provide a complete 5 year picture.

Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England - Total England Figures
 Provisional data for the reporting period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013
 Table 5a: Number of referrals by location alleged abuse took place and age group of vulnerable adult¹

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Rounded Numbers²

Location alleged abuse took place:	18 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 and over	Total 18 and over
Own Home	16,435	5,980	10,105	10,380	42,900
Care Home - Permanent	6,340	2,065	5,405	8,950	22,765
Care Home with Nursing - Permanent	1,890	1,655	4,120	5,480	13,140
Care Home - Temporary	715	310	815	1,070	2,910
Care Home with Nursing - Temporary	200	140	360	415	1,110
Alleged Perpetrators Home	1,215	165	270	240	1,890
Mental Health Inpatient Setting	2,145	260	265	125	2,795
Acute Hospital	735	420	800	955	2,910
Community Hospital	355	150	315	355	1,175
Other Health Setting	345	65	95	105	605
Supported Accommodation	3,990	535	590	630	5,745
Day Centre/Service	1,090	85	130	130	1,435
Public Place	2,270	195	210	200	2,880
Education/Training/Workplace Establishment	295	5	5	10	320
Other	2,285	300	365	410	3,360
Not Known	2,505	525	865	990	4,880
Total	42,810	12,855	24,710	30,440	1,10,815

The table above shows number of referrals by location alleged abuse and age group of vulnerable people in the year 2012-'13. [Source: HSCIC-Abuse of vulnerable adults in England 2012-13, Provisional report, Experimental Statistics]

Again, disclosures have come revealing that abuse of elder people across UK has soared by twenty eight percent, out of which only one third of accused faced justice till now. The Secretary of North West Pensioners Association, Derek Barton has acknowledged the toll of elder abuse as 'national disgrace'. As each day pass by, weak individuals over 65 are being at more risk from being ill treated.

The latest report states that Cumbria County council subcontracting the social care staff has 325 abuse claims since 2009. Only 13 among them had police involvement, 8 faced criminal prosecutions and cautions, that includes 3 police actions after claims of ignoring disabled pensioners during 2011-'12. During last year, only 3 staffs were offered cautions over fiscal unlawful activity. In North Yorkshire council, 349 among 2,293 allegations were completely substantiated. During the year 2009-'10, in Northumberland council, only one carer was locked up for robbery and deception linking an individual with learning difficulties.

The introduction of zero tolerance approach has not yet brought any value in the society till now, which is clear from the increase in elder abuse in United Kingdom. The Charity Director – Age UK, Ms. Caroline Abrahams has expressed her fear on the fact that there are many cases unreported; and people need to be encouraged well to report suspected issues to police or social service departments immediately.

The ministers of UK are asked by organizations to ensure that best attainable protection to all vulnerable adults. Stress has been provided again to the zero tolerance approach in case of elder abuse of any kind, whether it is financial manipulation, neglect, mental or physical cruelty. Hundreds of people are now coming forward to make allegations on the issue with concerns. Thus permits councils, regulators and police to investigate more robustly and swiftly.

Due to the increase in elder abuse, new inspectors are being appointed for social care which can hold the regional areas to account for elderly abuse. Certain measures are now undertaken by social organizations such as introducing new directors for hospitals and care homes to initiate reduction in elder abuse. Policies are planned to provide more awareness among people to encourage the reporting of such suspected incidents of elder abuse.

To increase the number of referrals is considered as positive step in reducing the elder abuse.

News Articles on Elder Abuse In UK Elderly Health Care Homes

28 years old obese nurse ill-treated elderly populace and was sentenced for 9 months

This is the most heinous act a nurse could do to her patients. Fiona Salmon a heavy weight lady, mishandled pensioners by sitting on them, without even caring for their mental as well as physical agony. She tortured them brutally with her emotional remarks and by pinching them with her prickly nails. She hit the inhabitants of hospital by her hefty palm, which was horrendous. The torture was not enough for her and she continued to dig her nails, punched them heavily on their faces and sometimes squeezed deodorant on their faces, acting like a monster.

But shockingly, she showed no repentance or shame, when went for trial. John Neligan who made a hearing of this case at Truro Crown Court sentenced her to jail for 9 months. This stone care- home worker was proudly standing in the court without showing any signs of guilt or remorse on her angry face.

Once, she pathetically threw a vulnerable 99 years old lady out of her bed. She even drove her wheelchair out of the room. This callous act was an atrocious one and made the judge irritated. In another case, she physically stroked and verbally thrashed an old aged cancer patient who was 89. The extremely callous act was supported by another incidence where in this heavy weight Salmon whacked an 85 years old occupant.

Staff of care assistant could not utter even a single word when they watched this live horror show. She was sitting on the legs of resident and the resident was howling in pain. He was helpless and could not throw her away. Residents said that she used to treat patients of low mental capacity with huge hatred saying that their breath stinks like dog's mess.

Salmon was appointed as a care worker at a Nursing home in Cornwallis, St Ives Cornwall. Salmon was found accountable for 7 charges of mal-treating the residents and was jailed on 9th May at Truro Crown Court.

Judge said that her attitude is atrocious and she will never be able to work in future for the welfare of man-kind. The judge was swept by the emotions of residents and said-“You were appointed to assist the people as they were themselves helpless. But you added fuel to the fire by augmenting their mental as well as physical agony. All the seven people were supposed to be treated with extreme care and gravity, but your presence deprived them of all this. You abused them in a callous and unsympathetic way. You are so insensitive and such a great deceiver that you are not accepting any of these charges. I can see no regret on your face; instead you are saying that you have performed all your duties very well. You should feel sorry for this shameless act”.

Salmon belonged to Camborne in Cornwall and attempted these abusing acts in a nursing home of St. Ives for a period of 8 months amid June 2011 to January 2012. A campaign was carried to show protest for the atrocity against older and feeble people.

Her staff colleague presented the evidence of the frightening incidences which she has seen with her naked eyes. Once, on the crack of dawn, Salmon Fiona rinsed a resident’s face with flannel so roughly and stringently that it caused bleeding in her nose. This staff member also watched Fiona compressing talcum powder onto the lady’s face. Not only this, she called her a filthy creature with hatred. The humiliating behavior of Fiona has created havoc among the residents. Her activities were very humiliating. She was least bothered about them and treated them disrespectfully. She called them a burden on earth and made them feel guilty for the inconveniences she was facing.

Stephanie Fielding, her colleague informed that in a trial, a patient didn’t want to stay on bed as it was very painful for her but, Fiona made her do it forcefully by sitting forcefully on her calves. The patient busted with tears and pleaded her to stay away. Fiona boisterously laughed on her for couples of minutes and left the place only when Stephanie said her to do so.

Everyday growing cases, like this, forced the judge to implement the laws and conclude, where in- The hospitals which present a false picture of the mortality rate figures will be imposed with a heavy fine and severe penalties, if they were found concealing the wicked acts of their Mid-staffs activities.

Roaring cases of ill- treatment in National Health Service shows that 160,000 patients are facing severe trauma and their state is declining more and more instead of recovery.

Judge Neligan said it was ‘extremely unlikely’ that she would ever be considered as a concerned care worker again in the future. Jo Martin defended Salmon Fiona by saying that she has been tired working days and nights and is undergoing from a phase of bad relationships and hence needs a break from the tiring service.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2322659/Jailed-28st-care-worker-abused-elderly-residents-sitting-them.html>

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Humiliations faced in Britain's Care Homes by elderly residents; one out of every three living in a dreadful condition

Deplorable Government surveys depict massive catastrophes

A survey was conducted by **NHS** and was found that one out of three is trapped in outrageous circumstances and is scared of disclosing the reality to police or charity workers.

- 50% of the patients are left in a filthy state.
- Survey conducted on 63,000 stated that 1 in 10 go to sleep empty stomach.

Patients undergoing a vulnerable state say they feel very insecure and do not get enough food. The food is not nutritious and is of meager quantity. They are either left unwashed or are not properly washed after the nature's call. Additionally, many complaints were observed from the residents of care homes who frequently faced physical threatening and mental trauma. Surveys conducted on half a million individuals to reveal the real situation of the older ones stated that the food and drink provided do not suffice them and their health is deteriorating sharply day by day instead of recovery. Charities claimed that the reports further show massive declines and forecasted that the severity of the problem is observing height as cash-strapped neighboring authorities aims care budgets for further additional cut.

Approximately 1.5 million individuals in England declared that their reason of shifting to these care homes is because they are facing chronic health issues or are completely dependent on drugs and they can obtain basic care funds partially or completely by local authorities.

Research conducted by The Adult Social Care Survey, Department of Health Regulator of the Care Quality Commission, NHS's Health and Social Care Information, allegedly stated in their studies that the staffs are always insufficient. They are either absent or are in inadequate number. Many live examples to site with, Anne Joyce who is 89 and is suffering from bone cancer and dementia is facing woefully inadequate attention from the carers over last three years.

Jacqueline from Wormley, Hertfordshire, who is an Art Gallery owner informed that whenever they complaint about insufficient staff, they were told that the care home is complying with the Government guidelines, although the staff was always inadequate and do not even met the patient's basic requirements like toileting. Staff is also untrained in dementia and do not prove to be fruitful in any of the ways. If the patient declines for any tea or water, they leave the patient unattended and do not ask again for that. When the patient suffers from dehydration and can't fight infections, they are least bothered about it.

A son asserted- In her mother's unit, 5 staff members were supposed to be actively present to take care of 28 patients, but not more than 3 were ever seen. Patient keeps waiting for more than 40 minutes but they never turn up for either patient or to follow the government policies. Talking about her mother, he said that watching all this, she has come in a depressing state and feels very insecure. A spokesperson was boasting about his **Barchester Care home** that his home care meets all the government guidelines and his patients' health majorly improves over there. Wellbeing, health and protection are their primary concerns. The highly qualified staffs' appointed by them presents dedication and sincere services. The residents are given access to indoor and outdoor excursions which makes them happy.

While-

1. 50% of the patients reported about their physical and mental abuses.
2. 1 in 10 affirmed that they starve while 1 in 100 claimed that they get undernourishment and are in a risky state.
3. ½ dependent on carers maintained that they are left in an unhygienic condition, as basic washing duties are not well performed.
4. 1000's said they are left ignored and are underestimated for their personalities.

England's 152 local authorities conducted a survey on 300 people who were in social care and were randomly picked

63,000 participated in the polling procedure amid January- March 2012.

- 1/3 said that they do not want to discuss it because of safety reasons.
- 2% completely denied going for the survey.

The report did not mention their reasons of fear. In the survey of 2,500 people, 4% complaint drastically for the nutrition provided. Among the registered cases, 9.2% were from Westminster and 8.8% from Manchester.

An additional survey on 630 people declared-

1% people get insufficient food.

44% are unsatisfied with cleanliness of the place.

6% relented for the inadequate personal cleaning procedures offered by the carers.

1% feels them as impoverished and is called as burden on earth by the carers.

Liz Kendall, Labour's Care spokesperson called the care industry as a damn condemnation remark for England which offers it a huge profit of £17in an year. Proper measures should be taken by the government and the information should be shared with providers, commissioners and their families. Insufficient funding and elevated turnovers of carers connote that the people staying in these homes are not even aware of the help they are getting around the corners of world. The sympathy is declining gradually everywhere.

Michelle Mitchell who is charity director General at Age UK stated that ignorance by the government in coordinating the social care for such a long time has been a reason for this deterioration. Human rights, dignity and health of the people have met crucial conditions. People are deprived of the dignity and do not feel confident of standing with honour in a highly civilized society.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said- “Quality care should be offered and no hidden place should be left for the culprits and robbers who take enough money but do not offer enough care. £ 7.2billion has been invested over 4 years to raise the standard of the residents which they have a complete right to expect”.

However there are certain good examples where in a pensioned accountant Richard had two strokes in 2 years and was offered residential care area to live with his wife in Darlington, Co Durham. Couple feel very comfortable when watched by the authority 4 times in a day and were properly dressed, fed and laid on bed. These partly funded assistants are appointed by the local authority only. Helen who maintains a diary revealed that she has seen 56 different carers in past one year, out of which only 6 were men. These carers are highly paid and some of them do provide excellent services while some appointed are completely untrained. The frustration is heightened when the carers go for some of your work and do not turn back, whether it is making a cup of coffee or anything else.

In many cases, patient who cannot move on their own and needs assistance for all the trivial things are left badly ignored. Sometimes patient keeps on waiting for hours for the carers, but the carers treat them with an extreme vindictive attitude?

The system should be shuddered completely as it needs lot of attention. All the names mentioned here are not the real ones, as the residents are worried that if reality is divulged, they might have to face bad repercussions. The figures which are discussed above are not the actual figures but, the situation is worse than that. The pitfalls are heart breaking and proper measures should be taken to minimize the grim situation and make our old people feel safe.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2257703/Scandal-neglect-Britains-care-homes-NHS-survey-63-000-elderly-residents-reveals-living-fear-abuse.html>

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Vulnerable elderly abuse cases soar to thousands in care homes

Experts say - The appalling cases of abuse is seeing the heights with time. Thousands of registered and unregistered cases depicting the trauma have been put into notice.

According to England's Care Watchdog more than 1,000 cases were registered in the beginning of six-months of the year. They were suspected of sharing their trauma with friends and relatives. These cases were divulged by the relatives or friends of the residents who were undergoing abuse by the care workers.

Based on the data provided by **Social Services chief**-An alarming number of 60,000 of alert calls that went straight away to the local councils each year is pathetic.

The old age people were consistently tied with the beds and chairs in pitiable condition with wires around their faces. Some were not allowed to go to lavatory or were punished for food while some went to the lavatory by concealing themselves. This was the height of insensitivity which was observed in pathetic care homes.

1,043 calls were registered by **CSCI** in the last 6 months by March where in 506 residential homes were provided necessary private and government assistance. However, no National statistics has been made on the logged cases to raise concerns. CSCI disclosed a published audit wherein it was mandatory for all 4000 residential homes of England with elderly and disabled to follow the guidelines strictly. They will be trained with proper training and would be judged with a star rating. It will include sedatives usage, staff training and social activities of the residents.

248 care homes were registered with heart throbbing and sensational cases where in 85 years old lady's fingernails were ripped off by a care worker. An old man was burnt with cigarettes and many other cases like that. To investigate into all the possible cases by these care homes, charities are asking older people to stand and raise their voice, so that necessary and preventive measures against these care homes can be taken, similar to child protection laws. But, social workers and police are failing to meet the standards because of involuntary support of the residents. **Gary Fitzgerald, chief executive of the charity Action** on elderly abuse stated that if the suggestions of relatives and friends are taken into account, more than 500,000 cases are registered in the entire Britain.

Elderly abuse successively soaring high, no penalties to culprits

- 300 elderly abuse incidences reported each day in 2012
- Includes ignorance, physical torture and mental agony
- One-third of tormenting cases are performed by care workers
- Alterations to Care Bill insisted to take executors to justice

Approximately 28% of the elderly are facing injustice, physical trauma, mental agony, insecurity and thus are very frightened. The culprits are roaming free after making physical, mental and emotional tortures. Old age people are very scared even to share their emotions freely with anybody as they are completely dependent on these care workers. Finding them helpless and insecure the courage of carers has crossed their limits.

In the last third quarter, 300 cases were reported to the local authority every day. The number of case were 82,000 in 2011 while it augmented to 105,000 in 2013 which is 28% of increase from the previous year. One-fourth of the reported cases were faced by people above 85 and they are more worried about themselves. The abuse carried out by entrusted home helpers and care home staff was sometimes very heinous and these people are not left with any other option except lamenting on the grave situation.

The abuse was not limited up to physical attacks only, but covered others aspects such as mental torture and financial manoeuvring. The report is presenting merely few percent of the graveness, and the cruelty done is far more than that. Many cases are not disclosed for certain other reasons. Approximately one-third of supposed abusers are from care-workers and half of the incidents reported are from residential care homes.

More...

An ex-police officer aged 50 pointed fingers at a 75 years old lady heart patient with panic and stringent remarks asserting that going for sex was on her own consent. Former health secretary Andy Burnham was sacked up when he tried to fight against the devastating cases going on in the care homes. He was blamed for not executing his duties well. A visible effort was demanded for an alteration in the **Care bill** undergoing actively in parliament, to make sure that innocent are brought to justice as soon as possible.

Age UK- an organization which was looking into this matter in depth said that due to the ignorance of corporate sectors, in penalizing the care homes or active care agencies is one of the contributing factors in motivating the abuse cases. Based on the research figures-One-fourth of incidents that were reported to the local authorities were of physical abuse while one-third cases were of negligence.

18% of the cases were reported for financial abuses where the care workers demanded for access to bank accounts and 13% faced emotional and physical abuse. Sexual abuse was not left behind in the picture with a figure of 2.4%. With residents suffering from half of the abuse cases - the torture was carried by one-third of the staff members on approximately one-half of the residents. Though old age people are taking precautionary measures to safeguard themselves as they strictly feel that nobody would turn up for help on the demand of time. They feel themselves as most vulnerable.

This kind of abuse is unacceptable and a zero-tolerance approach should be seen to fight financial manipulations, physical cruelty or mental torment. A big number of cases are not

brought in the supervision of the police and we are promoting higher level of encouragement to crime by not disclosing it. The soaring reported abuse incidents are due to the ignorance of the concerned head, which does not provide enough time for an elderly people. The deteriorating standards of care homes is now more degraded because of insufficient time offered to each resident living over there. The help merely visits for 15 minutes and vanishes even before the older people could say anything.

The dignity of the old people is vanishing and in many parts of the world many campaigns are carried out against poor services and care offered. In summers of 2013, 910 care homes were offered strict official warnings when the health watchdog underwent unacceptable standard codes of concerns for the most vulnerable ones.

Stringent official warnings by the Care Quality Commission were issues when the standard care codes were found broken according to the law. If these care homes are not found on the right track even after warnings, they will be watched under trial periods or will face closures.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1924962/Thousands-of-elderly-abused-in-care-homes.html>

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Elderly abuse successively soaring high, no penalties to culprits

300 elderly abuse incidences reported each day in 2012

- Includes ignorance, physical torture and mental agony
- One-third of tormenting cases are performed by care workers
- Alterations to Care Bill insisted to take executors to justice

Approximately 28% of the elderly are facing injustice, physical trauma, mental agony, insecurity and thus are very frightened. The culprits are roaming free after making physical, mental and emotional tortures. Old age people are very scared even to share their emotions freely with anybody as they are completely dependent on these care workers. Finding them helpless and insecure the courage of carers has crossed their limits.

In the last third quarter, 300 cases were reported to the local authority every day. The number of case were 82,000 in 2011 while it augmented to 105,000 in 2013 which is 28% of increase from the previous year. One-fourth of the reported cases were faced by people above 85 and they are more worried about themselves. The abuse carried out by entrusted home helpers and care home staff was sometimes very heinous and these people are not left with any other option except lamenting on the grave situation.

The abuse was not limited up to physical attacks only, but covered others aspects such as mental torture and financial maneuvering. The report is presenting merely few percent of the graveness, and the cruelty done is far more than that. Many cases are not disclosed for certain other reasons. Approximately one-third of supposed abusers are from care-workers and half of the incidents reported are from residential care homes.

More...

An ex-police officer aged 50 pointed fingers at a 75 years old lady heart patient with panic and stringent remarks asserting that going for sex was on her own consent. Former health secretary Andy Burnham was sacked up when he tried to fight against the devastating cases going on in the care homes. He was blamed for not executing his duties well. A visible effort was demanded for an alteration in the **Care bill** undergoing actively in parliament, to make sure that innocent are brought to justice as soon as possible.

Age UK- an organization which was looking into this matter in depth said that due to the ignorance of corporate sectors, in penalizing the care homes or active care agencies is one of the contributing factors in motivating the abuse cases. Based on the research figures-One-fourth of incidents that were reported to the local authorities were of physical abuse while one-third cases were of negligence.

18% of the cases were reported for financial abuses where the care workers demanded for access to bank accounts and 13% faced emotional and physical abuse. Sexual abuse was not left behind in the picture with a figure of 2.4%. With residents suffering from half of the abuse cases - the torture was carried by one-third of the staff members on approximately one-half of the residents. Though old age people are taking precautionary measures to safeguard themselves as they strictly feel that nobody would turn up for help on the demand of time. They feel themselves as most vulnerable. This kind of abuse is unacceptable and a zero-tolerance approach should be seen to fight financial manipulations, physical cruelty or mental torment. A big number of cases are not brought in the supervision of the police and we are promoting higher level of encouragement to crime by not disclosing it.

The soaring reported abuse incidents are due to the ignorance of the concerned head, which does not provide enough time for an elderly people. The deteriorating standards of care homes is now more degraded because of insufficient time offered to each resident living over there. The help merely visits for 15 minutes and vanishes even before the older people could say anything. The dignity of the old people is vanishing and in many parts of the world many campaigns are carried out against poor services and care offered. In summers of 2013, 910 care homes were offered strict official warnings when the health watchdog underwent unacceptable standard codes of concerns for the most vulnerable ones. Stringent official warnings by the Care Quality Commission were issues when the standard care codes were found broken according to the law. If these care homes are not found on the right track even after warnings, they will be watched under trial periods or will face closures.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2445112/Elderly-abuse-soars-28--culprits-face-justice.html>

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Reasons behind Elder Abuse in Elderly Health Care Homes

The elder mistreatment is a very complex issue. Numerous reasons exist for senior abuse. They differ with every incident. In certain situations, it is opportunistic act done by a person who tries to take opportunity which arises. In other circumstances, it is calculated and premeditated; and sometimes, it is resulted by prejudices or environment which produces institutional attitudes as well as approaches. It is seen in every cases that there exist a component of power. And, the control is being exercised by perpetrator over victim. There are several possible factors which lead to elder abuse. It mostly depends on the situations of both victim and perpetrator. There are various causes which a person might engage in mistreating an old man or woman. In health care homes, the abusers can be caregivers, other people with whom old individuals have contact, and other old fellow beings themselves. The common factors are family situations, caregiver problems, cultural issues, lack of respect for old people, few societal attitudes, lack of social acceptance for women, etc.

- **Caregiver Stress**

There can be cases in which caregivers don't possess essential skills, support and resources. Sometimes caregivers may not be prepared, resulting in a stressful experience and elder abuse. The external stress factors can also cause senior abuse. Similar matters just as in case of spousal and child abuse, the senior abuse can happen due to financial issues, family problems, job stress of care giver and more. Lack of support is a big issue most of the times leading to passive neglect in which isn't any intention to harm. They are just unintentional failures. Poorly run establishment is a major cause for elder abuse. It happens when staffs are poorly supervised or improperly trained. Sometimes they may have to work in isolation with lack of assistance form management. Elder abuse isn't much linked to low pay of staffs as there is clear evidence of hundreds of care workers who offer good care in United Kingdom. But this elder abuse is related to improper care provision funding by regional authority as well as health care commissioners.

- **Personal issues of abuser**

In certain cases, there can be caregivers having problems like substance abuse, alcoholism, health issues, drug addiction, inadequate income, dependence, family conflict, emotional problems, behaviour problems, etc. They will be more likely to turn into abusers when compared to those having no such issues. Abusers can be dependent on victims for financial or other kinds of support. Sometimes, they can have issues with mental illness, chemical dependency, psychological problems, etc. When caregivers with these issues live with older people, the risk for elderly abuse can be more.

- **Intergenerational violence**

There are several individuals who learn violence as an acceptable behaviour form. If such people take the caregiver role, it will return the mistreatment that they have suffered in childhood. Family situations can cause problems in care homes too. The domestic violence which happened in family can even continue in older age. This will sometimes cause one elder person to abuse another one.

- **Impairment or dependency of elder adults**

It is found that people having weak health are more probable to be mistreated when compared to people with reasonably good health. The caregivers that are dependent fiscally on elder people may abuse sometimes. The caregivers in care homes can sometimes be burdened by providing care and support to old people who are physically or mentally impaired, sick, etc. In such circumstances, the caregivers can sometimes feel as trapped or helpless, uncertain of which resources can be approached for help. The cost to offer support and care for mentally or physically impaired old people can lead to physical and fiscal issues to caregivers. The lack of essential resources to offer good care will increase the risk of elder abuse.

- **Social isolation**

This is a cause that can cause elder, spousal and child abuse. Social isolation is an indicator of possible abuse and contributing cause. Age discrimination in care homes can also lead to big issues. Sometimes, the elder abuse may not be intentionally done to risk or harm the old people. Situations or circumstances lead to elder abuse at times. Disability discrimination, psychological relation between victim and abuser, age discrimination, communication difficulties, and minority status, and more are the other reasons.

Cultural issues play an important role in elderly abuse. Certain communities and individuals have less respect for old people. The elder men and women are considered as disposable by them. This can lead to more abuse risks. Few religious and ethical belief systems allow ill treatment of women. People who are part of these systems will never see certain action as mistreatments. In such situations, an actual abuse may not be identified as mistreatment or abuse.

Actions on Elder Abuse in Elderly Health Care Homes

Elderly mistreatment will never end on its own. People have to step in to stop in somehow. For effective responses and prevention of elder abuse, the strengthening of local capacity is needed. The most important step is to report the elder abuse to concerned organization, help centers and police on time. It is essential to become aware or educated well about what the senior abuse is and the ways to prevent it. To act efficiently against elder abuse, it is necessary to learn to recognize the signs of mistreatment. Regular visits to care homes and sharing can be the best ways to recognize the symptoms of elder abuse, if any. It is essential to know the seniors' rights and to let the old people know about them. Listen to old people and take time to know the current state and provide suggestions to safeguard them. The UK government has again stressed the no tolerance approach towards the elder abuse. Caregiver stress has been found as the biggest reason for the elder abuse in care homes. Special actions and measures are undertaken to control such situations. Proper support and assistance has to be ensured to the caregivers at care homes. The ministers of UK government are asked by several organizations to make certain that the best obtainable protection is given to all elderly adults. Again, stress has been provided to the zero tolerance approach in case of various elder types, whether it is financial manipulation, neglect, mental or physical cruelty. Hundreds of people are now coming forward to make allegations on the issue with concerns. This permits councils, regulators and police to investigate more robustly and swiftly. Due to the increase in elder abuse, new inspectors are being appointed for social care which can hold the regional areas to account for elderly abuse. Certain measures are now undertaken by social organizations such as introducing new directors for hospitals and care homes to initiate reduction in elder abuse. Policies are planned to provide more awareness among people to encourage the reporting of such suspected incidents of elder abuse. To increase the number of referrals is considered as positive step in reducing the elder abuse. As the entire process is complex, a multifaceted approach is required that involves combination of service responses, information and community education, and lawful interventions. Service responses consist of coordinated support from community and health service agencies, complaint and compliance mechanisms and justice remedies. Policies with health priorities of old people are set to deliver the excellent healthcare outcomes in care homes.

- **Assessment**

The national services will take proper reports from old men and women who are facing such situations of elder mistreatment in care homes. People assisting elderly people or suspecting chances of elder abuse are requested to report it to the concerned government officials and police. The regional area agencies will assist the old people in offering essential services of aged protection. Assessments are also utilized to make comprehensive plans in meeting the needs of care receivers and to address their problems.

- **Education & Training**

The medical personnel, nurses, doctors, etc. can play an important role in helping the victims of senior abuse. Statistics reveal that old people visit the physician frequently. For the past few

years, there has been improvement in the awareness of senior ill treatment. But, there is only less reports from part of physicians. The reasons behind the lack of reports by physicians are lack of knowledge on current state laws related to elder abuse, concern about ruining relationship with old people and angering abuser, probable court appearances, lack of time, cooperation and reimbursement. Through proper education as well as training on senior abuse, the professionals in health care sector can help old abuse victims. Increased community awareness, old people empowerment by educating rights, active engagement of professionals in identifying and responding to elder abuse and coordinated multi agency support are given much importance. Practical guidance for managers, workers and practitioners in health services and community agencies is provided to prevent elder abuse. A range of resources is to be offered to strengthen service system response. Educating and training of individuals in criminal justice system like police, judiciary, prosecutors, on senior abuse, and increased legislation to safeguard old people, will aid in reducing elderly abuse. This will help in offering enhanced assistance to abuse victims. The involvement of community in responding to senior abuse can contribute to safety of old people. Communities can make various which are structured to meet requirements of old men and women. Some examples are creation of certain Financial Abuse Specialist Teams, private attorneys, professionals, law enforcement team, etc. to manage problems of elderly people.

- Services for caregivers

Caregivers may find it stressful at times, which may lead to elder abuse. Lack of resources and support are common reasons for senior ill treatment. A myriad of certain services can be made to meet caregivers' requirement to meet assistance and support. This will reduce stress and isolation of caregivers and help them in handling tough situations. Services have to be funded by states via revenue funds as a part of community based care programs. Support programs, education, care management and training are made effective these days. Policymakers are taking special care for needs of caregivers. Respite programs are undertaken to provide employees and volunteers to assist caregivers so that it help care givers to have a break. Health promotion programs as well as informational materials particularly for caregivers are provided to reduce caregiver stress, financial and legal planning and behavior management.

- Criminal Penalties and Civil restitution

Several laws addressing criminal penalties are set for different types of senior abuse. Training is provided to the law enforcement prosecutors and officers on senior abuse and methods to utilize civil and criminal to bring the abusers in front of justice. The elder abuse victims possibly will be entitled to fiscal compensation and civil restitution for every loss such as medical bill payment, further care and treatment, pain, suffering, and more. Caregiver can be responsible for elder abuse sometimes. Agencies may play a critical role in detecting, investigating, and resolving and preventing cases of elder abuse in residential care. In case of filed elder abuse reports, investigations will be properly done. Further legal actions are promised by the government.

CONCLUSION

Numerous measures are being announced by UK government to reform the elderly social care and safeguarding. The introduction of new regional agencies will definitely lead to the reduction of elder abuse in care homes. Medical assessors are to be appointed for identification, support and monitoring of activities in care homes.

The equality of human rights has to be promoted well in the case of elderly people too. The matter of senior abuse has yet to be researched to the minute detail in order to clarify the complete extent of the issue.

The inadequacy in present regulation of elderly abuse is the big subject to be concerned. Proper training for caregivers in care homes will be expanded to add elements which will aid the people in recognizing abuse and to make certain that they are well informed on ways to report senior mistreatment when encountered. Health departments are recommended to review the effectiveness and frequency of inspection National Health Services establishments offering care to elderly people.

The UK government has announced measures to inquire into allegations of elder abuse. Apart from the funding issues associated with adult care, special attention is now paid in identifying, challenging and preventing senior abuse. Several proposals are brought by government around adult safeguarding to reduce the probability of elder abuse occurrence.

The introduction of measures is essential to make staffs and caregivers in care homes aware of their responsibilities to care as well as to report the senior abuse and to permit the proceedings in confidential manner.

Promote rights of elderly people and prevent elder abuse!