



## The Experiences, Perceptions, and Help-Seeking Behaviors of Elder Mistreatment among Asian American and Pacific Islander Older Adults Participating in Senior Community Service Employment Program

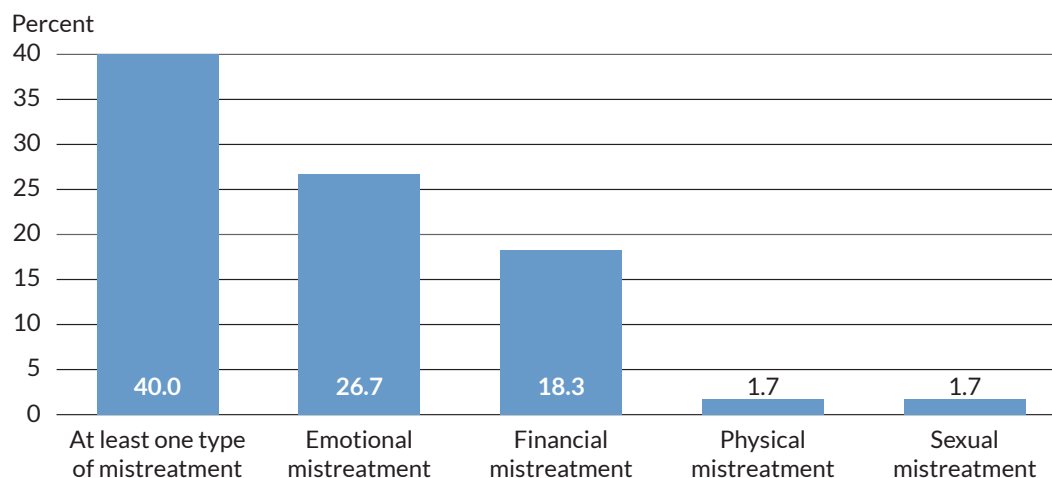
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The current study examines Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) older adults' life experiences focusing on their elder mistreatment experiences, perceptions, and help-seeking behaviors. This report is based on 60 anonymous survey responses collected in 2013 from the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants at National Asian Pacific Center on Aging's program sites in Los Angeles and Orange County, CA.

### Experiences of Elder Mistreatment

- At least one type of elder mistreatment was experienced by 40% of the study participants with emotional mistreatment being the most frequently reported type of mistreatment (26.7%), followed by financial (18.3%), physical (1.7%), and sexual (1.7%) mistreatment.
- SCSEP participants in the study maintained independent living, implying that they have a low risk of being neglected. For example, over 60% reported that they handled most household chores on their own, and more than 80% of the sample reportedly took care of their bills such as utilities and rents.

### Types of Elder Mistreatment Experienced (N=60)



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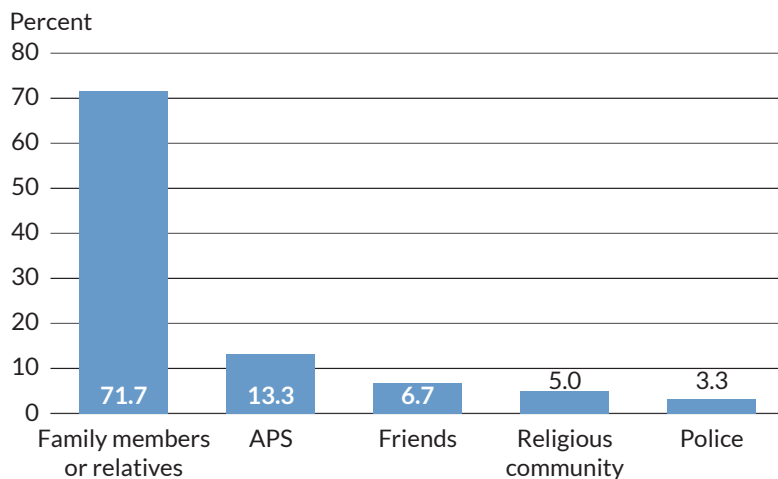
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## Perceptions and Help-Seeking Behaviors of Elder Mistreatment

- Participants' responses varied in their perceptions about different types of elder mistreatment. For the majority of study participants (78.3%), family members telling them about sending them to nursing homes against their will was perceived as elder mistreatment. However, only 38.3% of the older adults considered it to be elder mistreatment when their adult children borrowed money from them and didn't pay it back.
- Family was the AAPI older adults' top-rated choice in obtaining help in case of elder mistreatment (71.7%).
- A high rate of the study participants (73.3%) weren't aware of Adult Protective Service (APS) prior to participating in the study. After learning about APS, most of them reported that they were likely to seek help from APS if they encountered elder mistreatment.
- Over 60% of the sample couldn't identify specific organizations (or professionals) where they could obtain help if they encountered elder mistreatment.

### Preferred Source of Help (N=60)



While a large number of the AAPI older adults considered seeking help from APS (90%), the majority of the older adults chose family as their top choice for obtaining help in case of elder mistreatment (71.7%).

## Implications

The study findings suggest the importance of early detection and intervention toward emotional and financial mistreatment among AAPI older adults. Moreover, the findings imply that elder mistreatment services for AAPI communities must be culturally tailored, which also consider the perceptions and help-seeking preferences of AAPI older adults. Such services can be more effective when collaborative efforts take place among AAPI community based agencies, community leaders, and APS.

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