



Innovations from the US: Best Practices for Addressing Elder Abuse

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Presentation Disclaimers

- “Innovation” means policy or practice newly important to the field in the US since 2000
- “Best practice” is in the eye of the beholder based upon potential contribution to the field
- Two innovation examples will be given for each of several leading policy or practice areas



Major Innovation Influences

Societal forces

- criminalization of unacceptable behaviors
- medicalization of problems
- value placed on individualism and materialism
- aging of the baby boomers


Funding sources


- National Institute of Justice
- National Institute on Aging
- Archstone Foundation
- Administration on Aging




Seven Leading Policy/Practice Areas with Select Innovation Illustrations

- **Enhanced coalition building**
 - Elder Justice Community Coalitions
 - State elder abuse summits
- **More multidisciplinary cooperation**
 - Elder fatality review teams
 - Mental health linkages

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- **Improving criminal justice**
 - Elder abuse forensic centers
 - Elder friendly courts
 - **Better screening**
 - Understanding bruising
 - Applying conceptual mapping to elder abuse forms

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- **Focusing on underserved populations**
 - Elderly disaster victims
 - Older men
 - **Programs for victims or perpetrators**
 - Stop Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Program (STEM)
 - Striking Back: Elder Financial Abuse Prevention

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- **Responder education and training**
 - Fraud prevention training
 - Domestic violence in later life cross-training



Innovation Impediments

- Inability “to think outside the box”
- Not exploring other fields for ideas
- Looking for a “gold standard”
- Allowing limited funding to be a deterrent
- The “bandwagon effect”