

Elder Sexual Abuse in Ohio: Supporting the Ohio Attorney General’s Research Commission

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INTROUCTION

- Elder Sexual Abuse (ESA) is a heavily under researched topic. Ageist stereotypes, lack of effective reporting mechanisms, and inconsistent definitions all play a role in the lack of data of SA against elders.
- This poster contains preliminary findings from the Ohio Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission’s report on Elder Sexual Abuse

POPULATION OF FOCUS

- Older adults in Ohio (50+) who are victims of sexual abuse.
- Individuals of all backgrounds and living situations are included in the data acquisition.

DUTIES

1. Completed a literature review to aid the committee in finding related literature
2. Created a table to organize the sources of elder sexual abuse statistics in the state of Ohio
3. Wrote a draft report for the committee that addresses current limitations in research

RESULTS/MAJOR FINDINGS

- There is a lot of variation in what defines an older adult in current literature. For example, Bows (2018) uses 50+, WHO states 60+.
- Many agencies do collect data about ESA, however obtaining comprehensive state and national data is challenging.
- Victimization of older women is greatly underestimated those with impairments excluded in community-based research.

Elder Sexual Abuse is the least reported abuse type to APS nationally.

Elder Sexual Abuse is not only an sexual violence issue, it also overlaps with misogyny, ableism, ageism, and domestic violence.



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Table 1. Agencies in Ohio that Possibly Contain Elder Sexual Abuse Data

Agency	Description	Current Update	Do they have data on elder sexual abuse specifically?
Ohio Criminal Justice Statistics (OCJS)	The Ohio Criminal Justice Statistics is an analysis center run and managed by the Office of Criminal Justice Services. Like their name, one of their functions is to gather data on crimes, arrests, and court cases.	Report contained sexual abuse reports from 2016-2023, however not older adult specific.	Yes
Ohio Department of Health (ODH)	The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is the agency dedicated to protecting and improving the health and well-being of all Ohioans through managing health emergencies, preventing disease, and promoting healthy living.	No substantiation data, but past allegation data is available.	Yes
Adult Protective Services (APS)	Adult Protective Services (APS) is a social services program managed by agencies in Ohio’s county system designed to protect the state’s older adults and adults with disabilities.	2022 - 220 reports of sexual abuse in Ohio 2025 - 290 reports of sexual abuse	Yes
Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)	The Ohio Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) provides a free and independent source of advocacy for vulnerable individuals in every long-term care setting.	Contains reports including the data of sexual abuse complaints.	Pending receipt of data
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)	The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) works under the Attorney General and supplies comprehensive crime lab and criminal record support.	Allowed access to statistics involving human trafficking, domestic violence, and etc. However, none address or assess elder sexual abuse specifically.	No

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to Kylie Meyer and Courtney Reynolds for the opportunity.

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