NICOA General Health Status Survey

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NICOA General Health Status Survey: Perceptions of Elder Abuse

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Purpose of the study

- Assess the general health status and perceptions of elder abuse amongst NICOA conference attendees.
- Method for data collection was a self-administered survey completed on site.
- Convenience sample of 470 attendees.

Population

- Individuals age 55 and over attending the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) conference held August 28-30th, 2004, Milwaukee, WI.
- Age 55 is considered comparable to 65 and over in the general population. (McCabe, 2004)
Data Collected

- Demographics
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Area of the country
- Health Status
  - General health
  - Health risk behaviors
- Elder Abuse
  - Perceptions of various forms of abuse
- Mental Health Status

Demographics - Gender

- Males: 80.1%
- Females: 19.1%
Demographics - Age

- 33.4% 55 to 64
- 39.6% 65 to 69
- 27.0% 70 and over

Demographics - Where do you live?

- 37.3% On/Near Reservation
- 62.7% Urban/Other
Demographics - Marital Status

- Single: 15.0%
- Married: 39.7%
- Widowed: 27.6%
- Divorced: 15.4%
- Separated: 2.4%
General Health Status

- Excellent: 7.7%
- Very Good: 23.6%
- Good: 54.3%
- Poor: 7.7%
- Very Poor: 0.4%
- Disabled: 6.4%

Exercise Regularly: 67.7%
Losing Weight: 52.1%
Avoiding fats/sugar/sodium: 47.7%
Managing stress: 29.6%
Regular checkups: 29.4%
Using seatbelts: 27.4%
Eating grains . .: 42.6%
Stop smoking/using tobacco: 7.7%
Stop/limit alcohol: 8.5%
Reduce/quit smoking: 15.5%
Overall abuse concern averages

Average Abuse Concern by Age
Perceptions of Abuse by Age Group

Perceptions of Abuse by Gender
Gender of Elder Abuse Victims for Selected Types of Maltreatment

From the National Center on Elder Abuse Incidence Study, 1998.

Perceptions of Abuses by Locality

From the National Center on Elder Abuse Incidence Study, 1998.
How many times have you felt hopeless in the past year?

Never: 40.20%
Low (1-6 times/past year): 51.40%
High (7+ times/past year): 8.40%

How many times have you felt overwhelmed in the past year?

Never: 18.30%
Low (1-6 times/year): 59.30%
High (7+ times/year): 22.50%
How many times have you felt sad in the past year?

- Never: 18.30%
- Low (1-6 times/year): 59.30%
- High (7+ times/year): 22.50%

How many times have you felt so depressed that it limited your function in the past year?

- Never: 46.70%
- Low (1-6 times/year): 40.70%
- High (7+ times/year): 12.60%
Average Combined Depression Level by Age

Depression levels by Age
Depression by Gender

Depression by Locality

[Bar charts showing depression levels by gender and locality]
Depression by Abuse Concern

![Graph showing depression levels by abuse concern categories]

**Conclusion/Discussion**

- Further research could include focus groups, other qualitative methods and an improved survey instrument.
- Focus on individual experience vs. perception of the problem.
- Culturally sensitive methods of addressing abuse issue
- Comparison of perceptions vs. actual prevalence/incidence.
- Questions/Comments