

# Campaign to Save \$800,000 for Elder Abuse Services: Elder Abuse Hurts in Queens

*Queens*

Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, Inc., April 2011.  
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Anecdotes from all New York City boroughs can be found at [www.cscs-ny.org](http://www.cscs-ny.org)  
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**Findings from “Under the Radar”, a New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study, 2010.**

- 76 out of every 1,000 older New Yorkers are victims of elder abuse in a one year period.
- 9% of all NYC residents, age 60+, are elder abuse victims. This is about 120,000 people.
- Applying an incidence rate estimated by a study to the general population of older New Yorkers, an estimated 260,000 older adults in the state have been victims of at least one form of elder abuse in the past year.
- The findings of the study also point to a dramatic gap between the rate of elder abuse events reported by older New Yorkers and the number of cases referred to and served in the formal elder abuse service system.
- Overall the study found an elder abuse incidence rate in New York State that was nearly 24 times greater than the number of cases referred to social services and law enforcement or legal authorities who have the capacity as well as the responsibility to assist older adult victims.
- “Under the Radar” had two parts of methodology: a Self-Reported Study and a Documented Case Study. In the Self-Reported Study, the most common form of elder abuse reported is financial abuse. In the Documented Case Study, psychological and physical abuse are the most common forms of abuse reported.

**Study administered by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, and conducted by Lifespan of Greater Rochester, The New York City Department for the Aging, and the Weill Cornell Medical College.**

*The Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS) promotes the quality of life, independent living, productivity, and dignity of mature older adults in New York City. CSCS champions elder rights. For more information visit the CSCS web site at [cscs-ny.org](http://cscs-ny.org).*



<p>(continued)</p>		<p>management social worker and the JASA LEAP worker held a case conference to assess Ms. P's ongoing needs and coordinate services. During this meeting, Ms. P seemed confused and disoriented. At times, she became agitated when talking about her country of origin (Latvia). Ms. P's mental status was placing her at greater risk and a referral was issued to Adult Protective Services (APS). JASA LEAP staff are in contact with APS to continue to coordinate Ms. P's safety, upcoming psychiatric evaluation and current life situation. A guardianship application has also been submitted. Some of her financial assets have been restored, and the Queens DA is working on transferring the deed to her home back to Ms. P from her abuser.</p>
	<p>Leroy Comrie</p>	<p>Ms. L. is a 78 year old woman who was verbally and psychologically abused by her 27 year old grandson. He was addicted to crack cocaine, often destroyed property in her home and forced her to withdraw funds for drugs at the ATM in the early morning hours. With the help of JASA LEAP staff, the client secured a two year Order of Protection and is receiving individual counseling and participating in a monthly support group. JASA's social worker was also able to get the grandson to enter an inpatient drug treatment program.</p>
	<p>Leroy Comrie</p>	<p>Ms. A is a 74 year old woman who was verbally and physically abused by her husband, an alcoholic. Ms. A was referred to JASA by the Social Services Coordinator in her Senior Housing site. JASA LEAP obtained a two-year Order of Protection. Ms. A also takes part in individual counseling, monthly support group, and is provided transportation to and from these meetings. JASA, working through the Family Court, was also able to mandate that Mr. A enter a detox and rehab treatment program.</p> <p>Ann D, is a 68-year-old African American woman who sought JASA's assistance because she was being emotionally and financially abused by her 23 year-old grandson, Robert D. Ann had raised her grandson - his mother was a chronic drug abuser and did</p>

(continued)	Leroy Comrie	<p>not provide consistent parental care. As Robert entered his late adolescent years, he pulled away from his grandmother and began using drugs and alcohol. They had many arguments and Robert began to threaten his grandmother physically. He and his friends also stole money from her. Ann reported she was “desperate” by the time she reached JASA. The JASA LEAP social worker assisted Ann in obtaining an order of protection removing her grandson from her home.</p> <p>Ann needed additional assistance from an attorney to assist her in obtaining a permanent order of protection. The LEAP attorney stepped in at this point. On the day that Ann had to return to court both the JASA LEAP social worker and attorney were with her in the courtroom. JASA LEAP staff were successful in helping Ann obtain a permanent order of protection that barred her grandson from returning to her home for a total of five (5) years. The program also helped with the installation of window bars - in the past some of her grandson’s friends had reached into the back window to open her door and gain entrance to her home. Ann reported that she felt that for the first time in several years she had her life back. She could now address her own care; she suffers from kidney disease and must have dialysis treatment. Ms. D. continues to receive services from a social worker relating to entitlements.</p>
	Ruben Wills	<p>Ms. J is a 64-year-old married woman who contacted JASA Queens LEAP about her 28-year-old son (AA) who lived with client and her husband. Client’s son was abusive verbally and psychologically. AA would throw things and break things in the home when he did not get his way or if something went wrong in his day-to-day life. On three separate occasions AA stole jewelry from client and brought the jewelry to a pawn shop. Ms. J became aware of this only when a notice from the shop was sent to her home and client saw it before AA was able to conceal it from her. Needless to say, she lost most of the jewelry.</p> <p>Ms. J came to LEAP in June of 2010 but was reluctant to pursue an order of protection at that time; she wanted to give her son another chance. She returned to LEAP in December of 2010 and this time she was determined that AA would be leaving</p>

<p>(continued)</p>	<p>James Genarro</p>	<p>her home. Ms. J worked with a LEAP social worker and together they developed a plan of action as well as a plan to keep client safe from AA. Together they went to the Family Court where client received a temporary, exclusionary order of protection and given a date to return to court. JASA's social worker and Ms. J returned to court on the scheduled date and all parties went before the Family Court judge who gave client a two-year exclusionary order of protection.</p> <p>Since that date positive changes have occurred in the family. Ms. J attends the LEAP Elder Abuse Support Groups that are held bi-weekly at the LEAP office in Queens. Through the group, Ms. J has been able to receive support from others as well as be supportive of other women who are in a similar situation. Ms. J was also happy to report that AA has gotten a job and is beginning to lead a more responsible life. AA has rented a room and has been paying his rent and supporting himself for the first time in many years. Because AA is no longer in her home, Ms. J says that she is able to enjoy her home and spend more time with her husband and family.</p> <p>James C is a 79 year-old man who was referred to LEAP by the Family Justice Center. Mr. C came to the JASA Queens LEAP office in a highly emotional and vulnerable state; he reported that he was being emotionally and physically abused by his mentally ill adult son. Mr. C. had taken care of his son all of his life but due to his advancing age and deteriorating physical condition, he could no longer tolerate his son's violent behavior and he was concerned that in the event of his disability and/or death, his son was ill-prepared to care of himself. Mr. C did not know what to do.</p> <p>The social worker's first priority was to keep Mr. C safe. Although initially reluctant, Mr. C agreed to seek an order of protection. The social worker accompanied him to Queens Family Court and Mr. C. was given a two-year exclusionary order of protection and his son was removed from the home. Mr. C's brother allowed his nephew to move into the apartment he was vacating. JASA also referred Mr. C's son to Adult Protective Services (APS) and an APS worker has already met with him.</p> <p>By coming to LEAP Mr. C. was able to keep himself safe and obtain information and a referral to an agency that can offer his son the help and assistance he desperately</p>
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<p>(continued)</p>	<p>Daniel Halloran</p>	<p>needs. The LEAP social worker continues to provide support to Mr. C and he says that he is very appreciative of the services LEAP has provided to him.</p> <p>Ms. M is an 80 year-old woman who contacted LEAP because she was being verbally abused by her daughter-in-law. Ms. M allowed her son and his wife to live with her because her son was out-of-work and he and his family could no longer afford to live independently. Ms. M and her daughter-in-law (GG) were not getting along; GG spoke disrespectfully to Ms. M and began to take control over her home. GG threw out Ms. M's possessions, including small appliances such as a toaster and a mix-master. GG claimed they were old and needed to be replaced; Ms. M felt that even if that was the case it was not GG's place to throw anything out. GG also ripped up the carpet that was on the client's living-room floor. As arguments escalated, they often involved GG throwing things. When Ms. M contacted LEAP she was distraught. JASA's social worker provided family counseling and set goals for the family in an effort to keep peace. Ultimately Ms. M decided she wished to pursue an order of protection and the LEAP social worker went with her to Family Court. Ms. M received a two-year exclusionary order of protection. Her son and daughter-in-law left her home and have not returned. Ms. M continues to consistently attend LEAP's Elder Abuse Support Group.</p>
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## **THE FACE OF ELDER ABUSE**

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