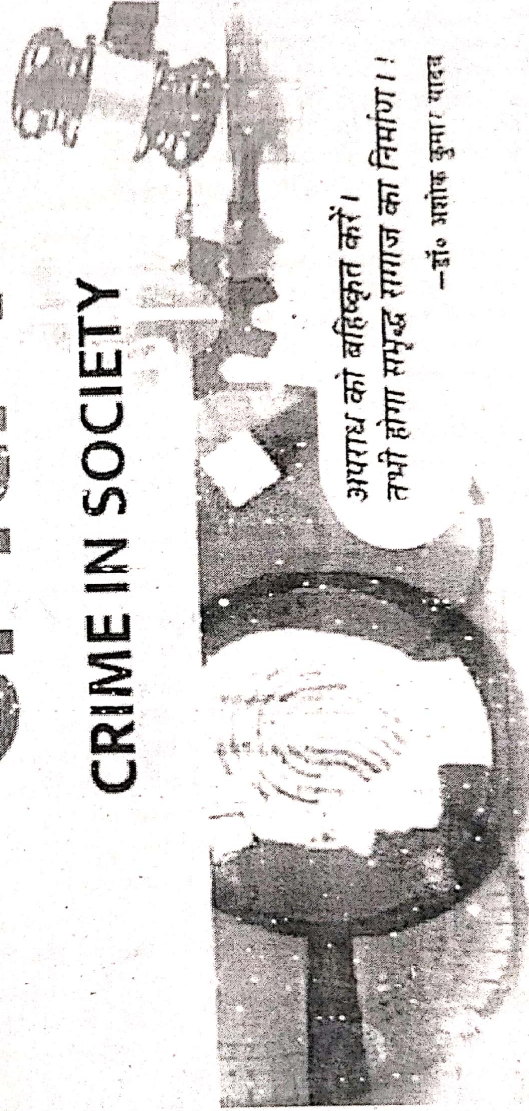


समाज

में

अपराध

CRIME IN SOCIETY



अपराध को बहिष्कृत करें।
तभी होगा समृद्ध समाज का निर्माण।।

—डॉ० अशोक कुमार यादव

डॉ० अशोक कुमार यादव

Chapter-10

Crime Against Older Adults

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Abstract

Although often perceived to be a problem of the young, violence commonly affects older adults, a rapidly growing segment of the population. Violence can be directed toward older adults, self-directed, or perpetrated by older adults against others. Across forms of violence, firearm access increases lethality, and veterans may be a particularly high-risk population. The forms of violence in older adults have some common risk factors and common challenges for prevention. The integration of prevention strategies across the life span, disciplines, and types of violence offers promise for promoting older adult health and well-being.

Looking forward, key areas for attention will include raising awareness about these topics and prioritizing funding for the implementation and evaluation of violence prevention interventions in health care settings and the community. Violence is often perceived to be a problem of the young, but it persists into later life and has a major impact on older adults. The anticipated explosive growth of the US population ages sixty five and older, which is

expected to double to eighty three million by 2050, will increase the urgency of addressing this problem. Unfortunately, violence in older adults has received little attention to date from researchers, policy makers, or providers in the fields of social services, medicine, or criminal justice. Violence takes three main forms in older adults, violence directed toward older adults, self directed violence, and violence perpetrated by older adults against others. In this article, we summarize the available data on each of these forms of violence, including risk factors and challenges as well as strategies for preventing and responding to violence.

Introduction

Although older adults report violent victimization at lower rates than other populations do, perpetrators may target older adults because of their perceived vulnerability or lower likelihood of reporting. While violence may be perpetrated by strangers, a substantial portion is physical or sexual elder abuse, in which the perpetrator is a known person in a position of trust. Based on law enforcement data, 50 percent of older victims of violent crime were assaulted by a family member. This violence includes abuse of a dependent older adult by a caregiver as well as incidents involving an independent older adult.

Violence toward Older Adults

IPV is also an important type of violence toward older adults, although it may also be categorized as elder abuse. As is the case with younger adults, it most commonly involves a female victim and a spouse or partner as the perpetrator. Though many older adult IPV victims have suffered for decades in abusive relationships, others experience it for the first time in later life. This can occur either from a new partner or from a long term partner in the context of cognitive impairment or stress related to care giving. In some cases, the abuse is mutual, with both the partner delivering care and the partner receiving care acting violently toward one another. Recent research from seven US states emphasizes the lethality of IPV among older adults 23 percent of all women killed by their partners were ages fifty and older, and 31 percent of homicides among women ages sixty five and older were IPV related.

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