

# Understanding Barriers to Reporting and Facilitating Disclosure of Maltreatment Among Older Adults

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# RATIONALE

- Estimates suggest that up to 10% of Canadians aged 65 or older experience some form of maltreatment but only 20% of those victimized report the maltreatment.
- PsycINFO
  - Child Abuse - 44758
  - Elder Abuse - 2094
- Techniques with children:
  - Ground Rules
  - NICHD Protocol Interview
  - Importance of rapport building

# PROJECT

- Why aren't those who are being abused disclosing that abuse?
- Eventual goal – develop procedures to be used by those interviewing suspected victims that better ensure disclosure.
- Series of projects – surveying the general public; interviewing police officers Canada-wide
- This grant
  - Survey of individuals in the province aged 65+ regarding perceived barriers
  - Focus groups/interviews with healthcare professionals regarding treatment received and barriers they perceive to be associated with underreporting.