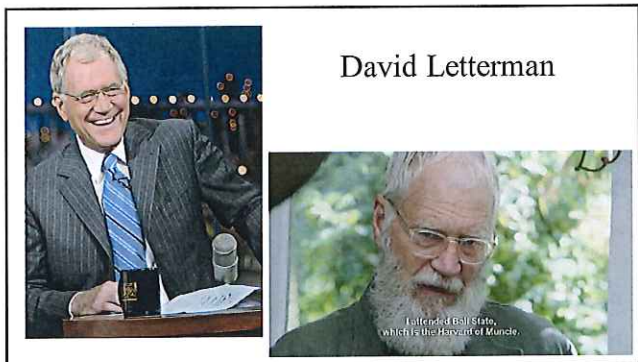






Ronald Dolon
Ball State University



David Letterman

Jim Davis





Ball Mason Jars



Close Encounter's of a Third Kind



What is Financial Exploitation of Older Adults?

- Financial Exploitation is a form of abuse
- Improperly using or accessing the resources of an older adult by depriving an older individual of their assets
- Every 5 years, nearly 37% of older adults will be affected

"The Crime of the 21st Century"

- Financial Abuse costs older Americans **\$36.48 billion per year**
- Family members are the perpetrator 90% of the time
- Nearly **37% of all older Americans** have been victimized
- Six Methods of Financial Exploitation:
 - Prize Scams
 - Insurance Fraud
 - Solicitation
 - Internet Scams
 - Family Scams
 - Identity Theft

Types of Financial Abuse

- **Exploitation:** When businesses, individuals, or charities use pressure to force older adults to make financial mistakes
- **Fraud:** When criminals commit identity theft or con older adults into sending money or sharing personal information
- **Trust Abuse:** When family, friends, or service providers take advantage of a trusted relationship to get money or assets from older adults

Signs of Financial Exploitation

- Inconsistent financial activity
- A caregiver or financial advisor refusing to use funds for necessary expenses, care, or treatment
- A caregiver or financial advisor refusing to discuss your finances with you
- Being asked to sign documents you can't read or understand
- Changes made to your financial document you didn't authorize
- Individuals threatening to place you in long-term care to control you or your finances

Signs of Financial Exploitation (cont'd.)

- Suspicion that your food or medication may have been tampered with, causing you to feel disoriented or compliant
- Feelings of being under threat of harm, neglect, or abandonment if you do not agree to financial arrangements
- Being asked to take on financial responsibilities for someone else, without regarding your own needs or financial ability to do so

Types of Financial Exploitation

- Lottery and Prize Scams
- Medical Care, Insurance, Service Providers
 - Misuse of Medicare/Medicaid
 - Insurance (False Annuities)
 - Medical and Service Abuse
- Internet Schemes
 - Deceptive Emails
 - Spam/Phishing
 - Pop-Ups
 - Targeted Advertisements

Types of Financial Exploitation (cont'd.)

- Banking, Identity Theft, Forgery
 - Forged Signatures or Contracts
 - Investment Schemes
 - Identity Theft
 - Predatory Lending
- Solicitation and Telemarketing Schemes
 - Charity Scams
 - Contractors and Traveling Salesmen
 - Telemarketing Scams
 - Property Use

Types of Financial Exploitation (cont'd.)

- Familial Schemes
 - "Long Lost Relative" Schemes
 - Jail/Probation Money Schemes
 - Manipulation through Deception and/or Guilt

Perpetrators of Financial Exploitation

- **Statistics:** 60% male (ages 30-59); 40% female (typically ages 30-49); 90% of all perpetrators are dependent adult children
- Solicitors/telemarketers/charity scams
- Family members/Power of Attorneys
- Friends/acquaintances/neighbors
- Caregivers/housekeepers/attendants
- Professional con-artists (home repair workers)
- Doctors/nurses/physicians (overcharging insurance)

Perpetrators of Financial Exploitation (cont'd.)

- Pastors/Church members/Clergy
- Bank employees
- Attorneys/accountants/trustees/guardians
- "Sweetheart Scammers," fake friends or lovers
- Medicare representatives
- Funeral homes
- Identity theft
- Strangers

Consequences of Financial Exploitation

- **1 in 20** seniors report being financially exploited
- Elder abuse is vastly under-reported; 1 in 44 cases is reported
- Abused seniors are **3 times** more likely to die and 4 times more likely to enter a nursing facility
- **Almost 1 in 10** financial abuse victims will need Medicaid resulting from their financial losses
- **Cognitive impairment** and help with activities of daily living make victims more vulnerable to financial abuse

Financial abuse can have as significant impact for an elder person as a violent crime or physical abuse (Deem, 2000) (Dessin, 2000).

Preventing Financial Exploitation

- Avoid storing large amounts of cash
- Refrain from immediately removing money from bank accounts when prompted to do so
- Do not distribute bank account, social security, or credit/debit numbers over the phone
- Check your monthly bank statement
- Shred sensitive financial documents
- Established guidelines with your bank regarding suspicious activity (money or check limits)
- Beware of familial guilt or pressure
- Keep your checkbooks and money orders in a safe place
- Get all agreements in writing, including family, friends, and professionals

Preventing Financial Exploitation (Red Flags)

- Sudden changes in banking practices (unexplained withdrawals or transfers)
- Addition of/initial entry of accompanying name on bank cards
- Unauthorized withdrawals using ATM's
- Abrupt changes in living wills/advanced directives
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuables
- Forged signatures for large sums or assets
- Previously absent relatives abruptly demanding money
- **A direct report of suspected financial exploitation**



Seven Steps to Prevent Financial Elder Abuse

1. Request a copy of a free credit report
2. Remove name from direct-mail listings
3. Avoid posting private information on social media sites; read their privacy policies
4. Remove the name of deceased individuals from mailing lists
5. Opt out of pre-approved credit offers
6. Remove email address from internet or email advertisements
7. Remove name from telemarketing lists

How to Avoid Financial Exploitation

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| • Stop Unwanted Telemarketers
(888.382.1222 or www.donotcall.gov) | • Be a skeptic |
| • Learn how to protect yourself
(www.stopfraud.gov/protect.html) | • Get a second opinion |
| • Avoid isolation | • Keep security information secure |
| • Protect your information | • Leave no trace |
| • Don't let yourself feel pressured | • Have a healthy dose of suspicion |
| • Trust, but verify | • Avoid leaving "breadcrumbs" |

Actual Cases

- A "caregiver" son lived with his 82-year-old mother. He cashed her social security checks while she sat in dirty diapers, ate rotting food, and developed severe bedsores.
- A woman whose caretaker stole her money for 4 years pushed her wheelchair in front of a train. The elder replied, "We were so good of friends... I'm so hurt that I can't stop crying."



Actual Cases

- The daughter of a healthy 78-year-old woman convinced others her mother had Alzheimer's to gain power of attorney after her mother broke her arm. The mother thought her daughter was offering care and support, while stealing her money.
- A woman's checks were stolen by her live-in "caregiving" couple. After neglect, she weighed 80 pounds, had bedsores infested with maggots, and lost both feet to gangrene.



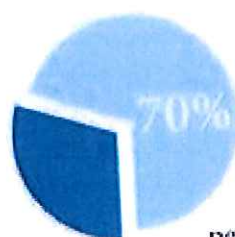


Elder Financial Abuse: A Growing Problem

Elders lose
\$2.9 billion
annually from
financial abuse.



For every case of elder abuse
or neglect reported, **23**
cases go unreported.



70%
of the
nation's wealth
is controlled by
people 50 or older

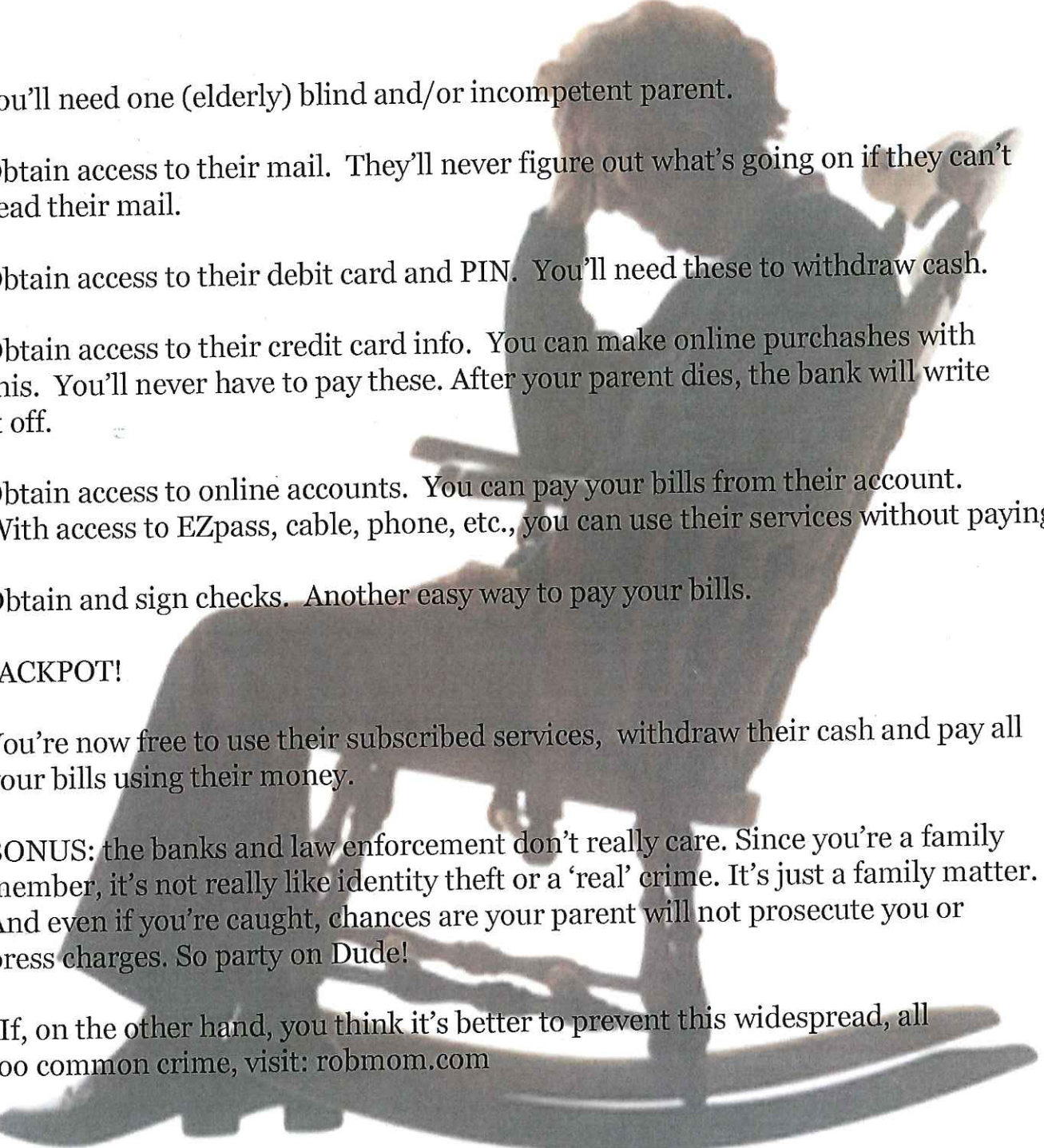
2X

Women are two
times more likely
to be victims.

SOURCES

U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau (2011) The older population: 2010 (Publication C2010BR-09). Washington, DC.
National Committee on the Prevention of Elder Abuse (<http://www.preventelderabuse.org/>).
Administration on Aging < <http://www.oasa.gov/directors/federal/administration-on-aging.shtml> >.
Corvett, Rayer. "How Your Grandmother Could Lose Her Home and Her Savings." *ThinkProgress*, Jan 5 2011. <<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2011/06/05/3145518/widows-financial-insecurity/>>.
National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Virginia Tech, MetLife Mature Market Institute (2011). *The metlife study of elder financial abuse: Crimes of occasion, desperation and predation against america's elders*. Westport, CT.
Men with Care designed by Lemon Lia from the South Project.

EZ MONEY INGREDIENTS

- 
- 1) You'll need one (elderly) blind and/or incompetent parent.
 - 2) Obtain access to their mail. They'll never figure out what's going on if they can't read their mail.
 - 3) Obtain access to their debit card and PIN. You'll need these to withdraw cash.
 - 4) Obtain access to their credit card info. You can make online purchases with this. You'll never have to pay these. After your parent dies, the bank will write it off.
 - 5) Obtain access to online accounts. You can pay your bills from their account. With access to EZpass, cable, phone, etc., you can use their services without paying.
 - 6) Obtain and sign checks. Another easy way to pay your bills.
 - 7) JACKPOT!
 - 8) You're now free to use their subscribed services, withdraw their cash and pay all your bills using their money.
 - 9) BONUS: the banks and law enforcement don't really care. Since you're a family member, it's not really like identity theft or a 'real' crime. It's just a family matter. And even if you're caught, chances are your parent will not prosecute you or press charges. So party on Dude!
 - 10) If, on the other hand, you think it's better to prevent this widespread, all too common crime, visit: robmom.com

RobMom.com

Ball State Immersive Learning

Financial Exploitation

"The crime of the 21st Century"



Listen Up!

Financial abuse costs older Americans \$36.48 billion per year!

It is likely that these numbers are under reported. However, financial abuse is one of the most highly reported forms of abuse.

Numbers Don't Lie

Financial exploitation is a form of abuse

Family members are the most common perpetrators

90%

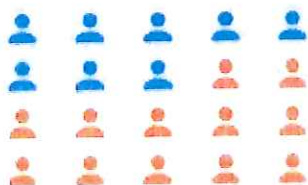


Prevalence

True Link:

36.9%

of all older Americans have been victimized



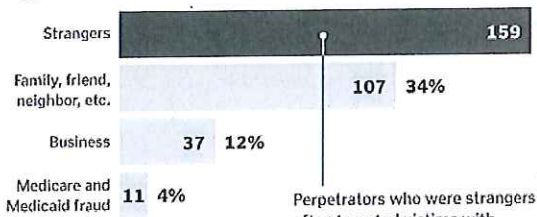
5X current ways older adults are being victimized

National Council on Aging, Elder Abuse Facts
True Link Financial, 2015

Financial Exploitation of Older Adults

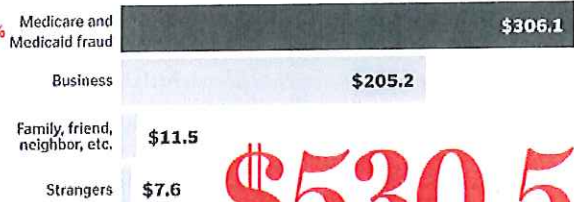
25

Type of case



Perpetrators who were strangers often targeted victims with visible vulnerabilities, including limited mobility, displays of confusion, or living alone.

Total dollars reported | In millions



\$530.5

Total dollar loss reported

Strangers

Includes home repair scams, all phone scams, criminal (robbery, burglary)

Family, friend, neighbor, etc.

Includes caregivers (paid/unpaid, family/non-family, facility/home), befriending

Business

Includes insurance, banking, attorneys, contractors, nursing home administrators (legitimate businesses)

PROFILES | What we know about the victims and perpetrators

MALE FEMALE

The victim

Women more vulnerable

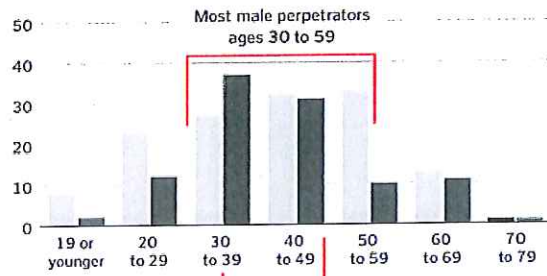
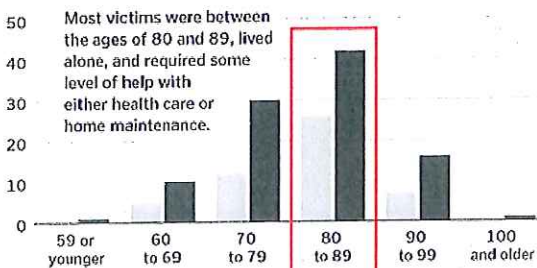
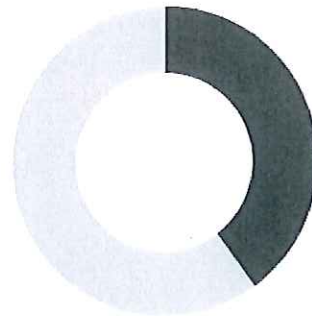
Women were nearly twice as likely to be victims of elder financial abuse as men.



The perpetrator

Most perpetrators were men, who ranged from 30 to 60 years old.

60%



Most female perpetrators ages 30 to 49.

SOURCE: The MetLife Study of Elder Financial Abuse

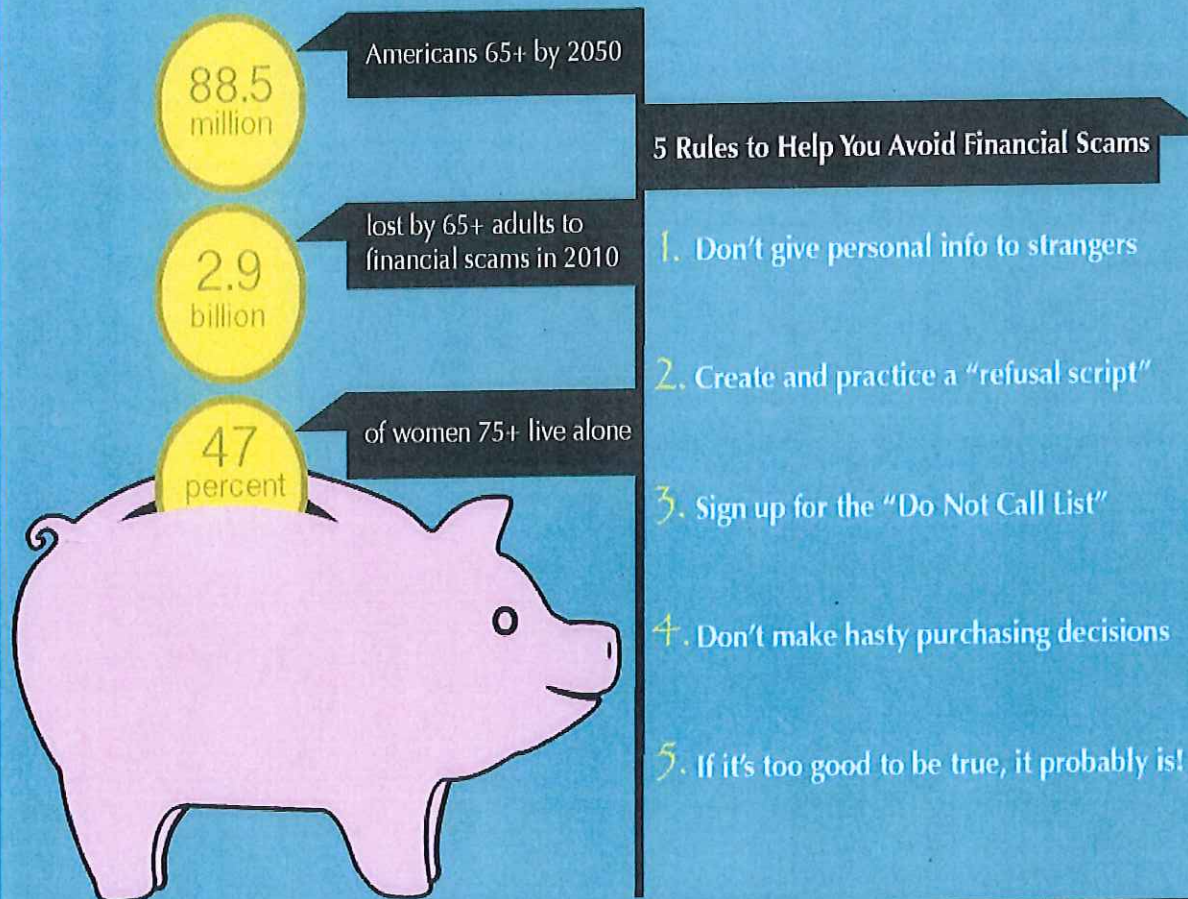
JAMES ABUNDIS/GLOBE STAFF



Be WISER

about Financial Scams

www.wiserwomen.com



Educate Yourself!

- ☒ Know what types of scams are out there by visiting the Better Business Bureau: www.bbb.org/us/scams
- ☒ Know the profile: Scammers are mostly men who target mostly women at least 80 years old who live alone.
- ☒ Know that anyone can fall victim to financial scams!

How to Avoid Financial Exploitation Checklist

WHAT You Can Do	HOW You Can Do It	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Done!
Stop unwanted telemarketers	Add your name to the National Do Not Call Registry. Call 888.382.1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov .	
Learn how to protect yourself	Read about frauds and scams at www.stopfraud.gov/protect.html .	
Avoid isolation	Keep in touch with others, take up a hobby, visit friends & family, volunteer or visit a senior center.	
Protect your information	Do not share personal information with anyone you do not know and trust.	
Don't let yourself feel pressured	If someone is pressuring you to make a large purchase or other financial decision, take a break and get advice from someone you trust.	
Trust, but verify	If someone you don't know asks you to "trust me," think twice, especially if they want you to provide them with money, credit card numbers or other personal information.	
Be a skeptic	If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!	
Get a second opinion	Don't sign any documents that you don't completely understand. If you need help, seek advice from a lawyer or trusted advisor.	
Keep security information secure	Do not provide your Social Security number, account numbers, personal identification or other financial information to anyone you don't know and trust in-person, over the phone or online.	
Leave no trace	Always tear up or shred financial records when you no longer need them. Never throw them in the trash or recycling intact.	
Have a healthy dose of suspicion	If someone you don't know calls or shows up at your door and asks for information, DON'T give them access to you or your information.	
Avoid leaving "breadcrumbs"	Don't leave signs that you will be traveling. For example, avoid leaving notes on the door for delivery persons and don't share your travel plans on social media.	