

**The author(s) shown below used Federal funds provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and prepared the following final report:**

**Document Title:           The Course of Domestic Abuse among  
Chicago's Elderly: Risk Factors, Protective  
Behaviors, and Police Intervention**

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**Document No.:           232623**

**Date Received:           December 2010**

**Award Number:          2005-WG-BX-0012**

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1: 26.4% of victims compared to 17.7% of non-victims whose PSOs were and Time 2: 26.5% compared to 3.7% for non-victims). Finally, victims were more likely to report that their abusers were dependent on them for childcare or other daily responsibilities in Time 1 (13.4% of victims and 5.4% of non-victims whose PSOs were) whereas the results did not reach significance in Time 2.

### **PSO/Abuser Characteristics**

Respondents were asked a series of questions concerning the personality characteristics of their PSO/abuser in an effort to assess whether certain characteristics are possible risk factors for the occurrence of elder abuse. Responses were categorized into two areas of inquiry—1) PSO/abuser deviance (e.g. substance abuse problems, emotional problems, violence outside home, and psychiatric history); and 2) life stressors (e.g., death in household, serious illness, and lost job).

**Deviance.** As shown in Table 10, statistically significant differences between abusers and non-abusive PSOs were observed on all measures of deviance. Victims were more likely to report that their abusers had destroyed other’s property (13.6%) compared to non-victims (<1%) who reported that their PSOs had. Victims also reported that their abusers had been violent towards others (27%) compared to non-victims (<1%) who indicated that for their PSOs. Also, a significant portion of victims reported that the abusers had been arrested (34.9%) compared to 4.6% among non-victims whose PSOs had.

**Psychological problems.** Significant differences were found across all types of psychological and behavioral problems. For example, nearly 49% of the victims reported that their abusers had emotional problems as compared to just 6% whose PSOs had. Similarly, victims were more likely to report that their abusers had been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons





















































































































































































