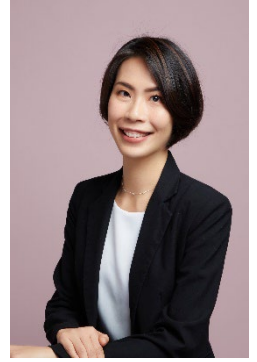


**Webinar Title**

Achieving the Promise of Health Equity by Addressing Social and Structural Determinants of Elder Mistreatment

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**Author(s)**

Chang ES, Jhaveri S, Hancock DW, Teresi JA, Ramirez M, Eimicke J, Czaja S, Pillemer K, Lachs M, Rosen T. (2023). Exploring overt racial and ethnic conflict in resident-to-resident aggression in long-term care facilities.

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**Citation (with Web link or DOI)**

JAMDA 25(4): 565-571. doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2023.09.023

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**Summary of Research (500 word max)**

Existing research on elder mistreatment often focuses on individual or dyadic models within caregiving contexts. However, recent studies highlight the significant impact of social determinants of health (SDOH) on caregiving experiences. By applying an SDOH perspective, we can gain a deeper understanding of how elder mistreatment intersects with various cultures and caregiving dynamics. Indeed, there are many ways to define and measure SDOH, including understanding all the non-medical factors and environmental conditions where individuals are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that ultimately affect health. This talk will center around a key social determinant of my ongoing research program in the elder abuse space, which is societal-based discrimination in the form of ageism and racism. We will first discuss the role of ageism, operating in both structural and individual levels, in impacting older persons' health, access to health, and health and societal burdens that are relevant to elder mistreatment. We will then also address the role of racism across different care settings, including resident-to-resident mistreatment in long-term care facilities. Last, we will review current knowledge about SDOH-related mechanisms in elder mistreatment across healthcare and caregiving settings and explore potential public health strategies for equity-driven programs and policies designed to address the needs of caregivers.

**Practice & Policy Implications**

**(e.g.: How can this research inform the Adult Protective Services field? What additional data is needed? What may be possible next steps?) (500 word max)**

Initiatives to improve population health in the context of elder mistreatment prevention and intervention would benefit from taking into account social-based discrimination, in the forms of ageism and racism. Currently we know of no intervention that specifically focuses on or includes racial/ethnic issues or how to effectively address them. Acknowledging the potential impact of racial/ethnic conflict and targeting it for intervention may also improve interactions between residents and staff. Nursing home staff members, many of whom are from underserved minorities, are commonly subjected to aggression from residents, which includes overt racial/ethnic epithets and other conflicts. Although also normalized and tolerated, this aggression may have a deep impact on staff members. Focusing on intervening in and preventing race/ethnicity-related aggression also can increase staff awareness and in turn lead to better detection, reporting, and case planning around this issue and bring significant impact for practice and policy changes.

**Further Reading**

- Chang ES, Monin J, Zelterman D, Levy B. Structural and Individual Ageism Predicts Elder Abuse Proclivity and Perpetration. *Innovation in Aging*. 2021;5(Supplement\_1):88-89. [doi:10.1093/geroni/igab046.338](https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igab046.338)
- Chang ES, Monin JK, Zelterman D, Levy BR. Impact of structural ageism on greater violence against older persons: a cross-national study of 56 countries. *BMJ Open*. 2021;11(5):e042580. Published 2021 May 13. [doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042580](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042580)
- Chang ES, Kanno S, Levy S, Wang SY, Lee JE, Levy BR. Global reach of ageism on older persons' health: A systematic review. *PLoS One*. 2020;15(1):e0220857. [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0220857](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0220857)
- Chang ES, Monin JK, Isenberg N, Zelterman D, Levy BR. Implicit and Explicit Dehumanization of Older Family Members: Novel Determinants of Elder Abuse Proclivity. *Stigma Health*. 2023;8(1):40-48. [doi:10.1037/sah0000370](https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000370)