

Elder Abuse Prevention

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Break the Silence and Report Elder Abuse.



INTRODUCTION

Across all races, socio-economic and ethnic groups, elder populations are historically one of the most vulnerable and underserved in the nation. The Pueblo of Pojoaque Elders are vital to our culture and our traditions. They are our teachers, caregivers, and storytellers. They hold a piece of the past that enrich our young generations on the ways of life, they are gifted with great wisdom and connect us to the ancient ones. A major challenge and deficit that the Pueblo of Pojoaque is facing, is the lack of a program that protects elders in our community from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

OBJECTIVES

With elder abuse at an all-time high in the community of Pojoaque, it is very important that we take steps to change the situation and spread awareness. By partnering with the Pojoaque Police Department, this project will work to address these disparities and develop appropriate Law and Order Code to best address the various levels of victims, notably those related to elder abuse. This program will include the wider community in Pojoaque. The goal is to open the program for tribal and non-tribal elders and victims to receive the support and services they need.

METHODS

I took a qualitative approach with the structure of action research, because I will be using the data gathered from this research project to build a program to protect elders from abuse. The paradigm I chose is pragmatic because I am researching real-world issues and trying to find a solution. I relied on document interrogation utilizing police reports because I was unable to interview elders in my community as a result of COVID 19.



RESULTS

- The type of abuse that seemed most prevalent and is highly reported in Pojoaque is verbal abuse.
- Most verbal abuse cases for elder abuse resulted in: intimate relationships, father and son, mother and son altercations, and others just wanted the report documented in case there was harassment or other threats made.
- The incidents seemed to involve mainly Native Americans and Hispanics.
- I noticed that while going over all the police reports alcohol was present in only 2 police reports and suspected in one. The additional information collected will be used to help me figure out the motive behind verbal abuse.



DISCUSSION

- Elder Abuse is more common than we think in our homes, communities, and elder facilities.
- The overall goal is building this program to protect elders who live within the tribal boundaries. This program will serve as an advocate for these elders and help them seek safety.
- I want to interview the 6 individuals that I originally planned to interview in order to get insight from the victims themselves.
- I want the voices of these elders to build the program and allow them to facilitate how we can help them avoid becoming a victim.
- The information that I obtain from these elders, I will use to develop appropriate preventative measures and protocols for law enforcement.