



TOGETHER

ELDER ABUSE  
SOLUTIONS

# HOPE Community of Practice

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# Agenda

- Literature review (Fagg, 2024, MSc dissertation)
- 10 Protective factors
  - ❖ Definition
  - ❖ Evidence
  - ❖ Examples?
- Case consultation



# Literature Review Method

- Question:
  - ❖ What are the protective factors that reduce/mitigate the risks of older adult abuse?
- 38 studies
  - ❖ By comparison Storey (2020) on risk factors included 198 studies
- The review identified 10 protective factors



# Social Support

- Includes support from: family, friends, broader social networks.
- Older adult needs to 'feel' supported (perception is key).
- Why?
  - ❖ Support networks decreased likelihood of abuse through deterring perpetrators and providing support
  - ❖ Buffer against stress, depression, and health issues, factors commonly linked to an increased risk of abuse
- Link to the HOPE
  - Lack of social support is a risk factor



# Community Support

- Includes:
  - ❖ Dense social network structures in the older person's communities,
  - ❖ High levels of social cohesion,
  - ❖ Living in well-maintained areas and communities in high physical order,
  - ❖ Strong sense of community
    - Helped older adults develop resilience and self-mastery
- Community-based services addressing older adult abuse offer significant protection by providing resources and support
- Link to the HOPE
  - ❖ Responsivity factors



# Psychological Resilience

- The ability to effectively cope with and adapt to stress
- Relevant to older adults
  - ❖ With and without dementia
  - ❖ Who had experienced IPV earlier in life and developed resiliency through that experience
- Link to HOPE
  - ❖ Victim Stress and Coping





# Cultural Values

- Most influential in communities where respect for older adults is deeply ingrained
- E.g., in traditional Indian and Asian American cultures, the emphasis on respecting older adults contributes to positive social support networks within tight-knit family structures.
- Also, the concept of *Familism*:
  - ❖ Emphasises the importance of family unity and prioritising the well-being of family members over individual needs



# Educational Attainment

- Higher educational attainment is protective for the victim and caregivers.
  - ❖ Older adults with less than a primary education are 83% more likely to experience abuse
- Why?
  - ❖ Largely due to the positive impact of education on economic independence
- Intervention
  - ❖ Caregiver education programs focused on older adult abuse and resilience reduced abuse levels and dependence.





# Socioeconomic Status

- Higher socioeconomic status
  - ❖ Stable income levels (vs financial strain which is a risk factor)
  - ❖ Affluent neighbourhood environments
  - ❖ Factor is closely linked to educational attainment
- Link to the HOPE
  - ❖ Problems with Affordability



# Living Arrangements

- Country dependent
  - ❖ Egypt and India – living with family is protective
  - ❖ USA – living with others is a risk factor
    - Living with a spouse in New York was protective
  - ❖ Ireland – living in intergenerational households increased risk
  - ❖ Canada – living with non-perpetrators is protective
- Link to the HOPE
  - ❖ Problems with Relationships



# Caregiver Resilience

- High resilience and employing emotion-focused or solution-focused coping strategies is protective.
- Why?
  - ❖ Caregivers are then better equipped to manage stress and avoid abusive behaviours.
  - ❖ Caregiver burden is a risk factor, but those with high resilience were less susceptible to the stress.
- Intervention:
  - ❖ Educational programs designed to enhance resilience among caregivers of dementia patients are effective in decreasing the incidence of abuse
- Link to the HOPE
  - ❖ Problems with Stress and Coping

# Overall Wellbeing

- Good physical and mental wellbeing are protective
- For both older adults and their caregivers
- Why?
  - ❖ Those without ongoing health issues are less reliant on others for care
- Link to the HOPE
  - ❖ Problems with Physical Health
  - ❖ Problems with Mental Health

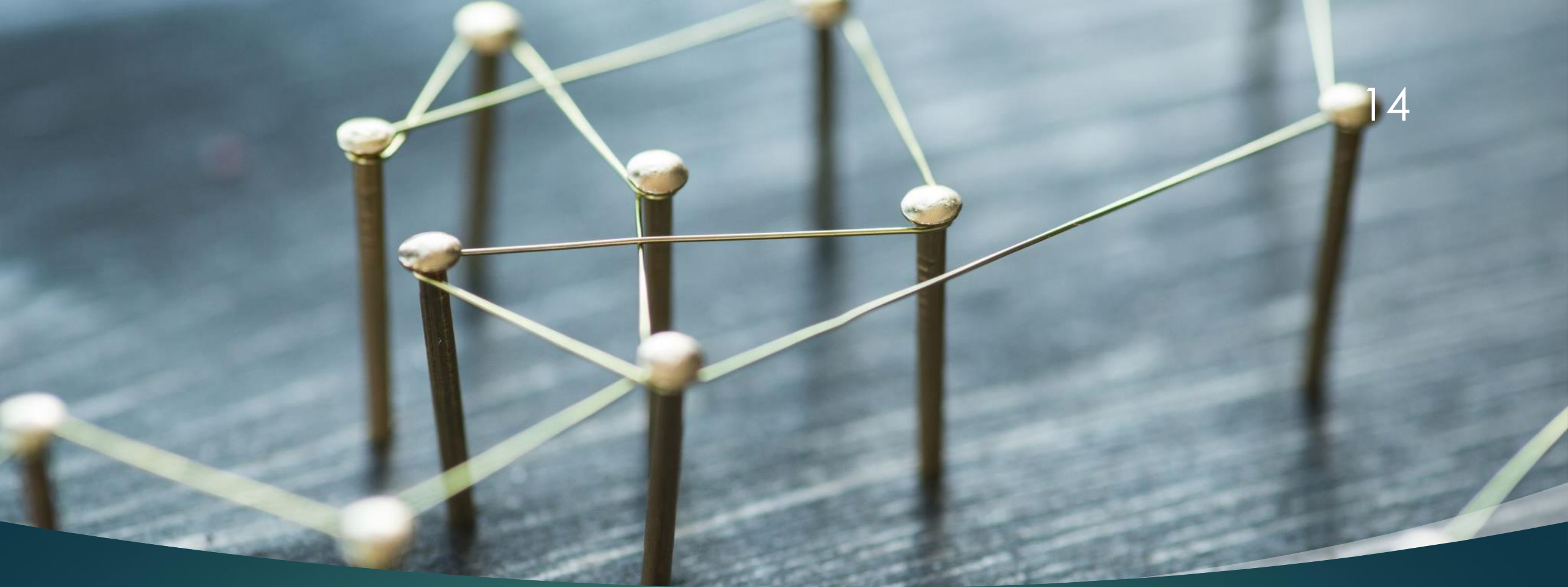


# Victim Personality Traits

- High levels of agreeableness and extraversion, combined with low neuroticism and high emotional stability.
- Why?
  - ❖ These traits help maintain more harmonious and supportive relationships
  - ❖ High neuroticism is linked to experiencing greater emotional instability and stress
- Link to the HOPE
  - ❖ Problems with Stress and Coping
  - ❖ Problems with Relationships







# Questions and Discussion Points