Elder Abuse: A Policy Analysis
Cortni Davis, BSW Student, School of Social Work

Elder abuse is a growing social problem in the United States. It takes on many forms, and is prevalent throughout various cultures. Elder Abuse Reporting Laws have been enacted throughout various states to prevent and intervene in elder abuse cases. California’s Financial Abuse Reporting Act of 2005 is one among many laws in the United States which was formed to help ensure social justice for the elderly citizens of America.

Between 2000 and 2004, elder abuse cases reported to APS increased by 19.7% (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2006)

**Ethnicities of Elder Abuse Victims**

- Caucasian: 77.1%
- African-American: 21.2%
- American Indian & Alaskan Native: 0.5%
- Asian: 0.5%
- Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander: 0.2%
- Other: 0.2%

Source: APS, 2006

**Prevention and Intervention**

- Financial Abuse Reporting Act of 2005
  - Requires unions and banks in California to report any reasonable suspicion of financial elder abuse
  - Financial institutions provide employee training about financial abuse

- Other Elder Abuse Protection Laws
  - Collect reports and manage statistical data
  - Increase community education and referrals
  - Interface with court and law enforcement

**Most Prevalent Types of Elder Abuse Cases Investigated by APS**

- Self-Neglect: 26.7%
- Caregiver Neglect: 12.5%
- Financial Exploitation: 23.7%
- Emotional Abuse: 20.8%
- Physical Abuse: 13.6%

Source: NCEA, 2006