

**The Committee recommends:**

5. That the federal government, through the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Statistics Canada, undertake a national survey to collect accurate data on the abuse in Canada of men and women over 65 years of age.
6. That this national survey be followed by regular data collection in other national surveys to determine if the problem is changing over time.
7. That data on the extent and nature of abuse in institutional settings be collected as part of any national survey.

Work within Health and Welfare Canada and across the other departments who received funds from the initiative is coordinated by Health and Welfare. Its Assistant Deputy Minister meets regularly in an interdepartmental Steering Committee on Family Violence, composed of the other departmental assistant deputy ministers. The Family Violence Prevention Division in particular works closely with other divisions of Health and Welfare Canada and with the other departments to coordinate federal efforts on mistreatment of older Canadians. In addition, Treasury Board receives an annual report from the Minister of Health and Welfare on activities undertaken by all departments receiving funding from the initiative.

The Committee agrees that elder abuse is a high priority and that the 10% allocation of funds provides a necessary stimulus for initial examination of the issue. Members heard from witnesses about projects related to elder abuse that had received funding and about efforts to consult on this issue along with other aspects of family violence. They did however feel somewhat concerned that, partly because of the number of departments involved in the initiative, there was difficulty in establishing if the money so allocated has been spent on that particular issue.