

accounting for more than half of the cases. Chronic verbal abuse, the form of psychological abuse measured in the study, accounted for about one-third of the cases. The dominance of financial exploitation was mentioned by several witnesses. A typical statement from witnesses was: "grandma gets her welfare cheque and suddenly the grandchildren are there every welfare day and the cheque disappears."⁴³

Couture argued that: "Today what we are seeing is the tip of the iceberg."⁴⁴ At the *Centre de défense des aînés et des aînées*, he indicated that "on average, two cases a day are reported."⁴⁵ He also presented other data on the prevalence of abuse in the Montreal area: "No reliable statistics exist, but if you pool various local studies, such as the ones done by the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce local community services centre, the Jewish Family and Child Services study and the study carried out by the *Centre des services sociaux Montréal métropolitain*, you'll find that 15% to 80% of all old people are the victims of abuse, exploitation, neglect, or violence. The last figure of 80% was arrived at by the *Regroupement des aînés* in Jonquière, which carried out a survey of its 2,000 clients: 80% of the 400 people who responded to the questionnaire stated that they had suffered from financial exploitation."⁴⁶

The Committee believes that good data collection is an essential base for good policy decisions. The Committee is aware that a national survey on wife assault and violence against women is being undertaken on behalf of Health and Welfare by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Statistics Canada. This telephone survey will include women up to 70 years-of-age. The Committee believes that the Ryerson study provides an excellent starting point for determining the magnitude of abuse of older Canadians but agrees with witnesses that additional statistics to determine the incidence and circumstances surrounding the abuse are necessary.

⁴³ Scott, 1:8.

⁴⁴ Couture, 4:20.

⁴⁵ Couture, 4:21.

⁴⁶ Couture, 4:20.