

## **Abstract**

**Title:** Examining the prevalence of elder abuse and its relationship with personality traits of elders and their family caregivers among elderly residents in Lorestan province during the years 2021-2022

**Introduction:** Elderly individuals, as one of the vulnerable groups, receive special attention. Among the many issues that have received less attention is the problem of elder abuse, which is experienced by many elderly people in various societies as one of the most hidden forms of violence in the family. In Iran, the issue of elder abuse has been investigated under various titles, but it has not been studied with regard to the personality traits of the elderly and their caregivers in a specific culture. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of elder abuse and its relationship with personality traits of elders and their family caregivers among elderly residents in Lorestan province.

**Materials and methods:** This was a cross-sectional study conducted on 499 elderly individuals and their caregivers in Lorestan Province during the years 2021-2022. A multi-stage cluster sampling method was used, and participants were selected from elderly individuals who had an active electronic record in the health centers of the province. Data were collected using a three-part questionnaire, including demographic characteristics of the elderly, a questionnaire on maladaptive behaviors, and two questionnaires for measuring the personality traits of the elderly and their caregivers. The data were analyzed using SPSS21 statistical software.

**Results:** The results of the table show that 56.7% of elderly men and 43.3% of women were present. Most of the elderly were illiterate. Out of the total participating elderly, 37.7% have experienced some form of mistreatment, among which psychological mistreatment had the highest prevalence with 25.3%. Only a limited number of studied elderly had a very high emotional stability. Elderly with high emotional stability, low psychological distress, high extraversion, and greater popularity reported less significant experiences of elder abuse. Also, caregivers who had extraversion had less mistreatment or elder abuse incidents.

**Conclusion:** The study provides valuable insights into the characteristics of elderly individuals and their family caregivers in Lorestan Province, Iran. The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to address the maladaptive behaviors of elderly individuals and to support family caregivers in their caregiving roles.

**Keywords:** Elder Abuse, Elderly, Personality Traits, Family Caregivers, Lorestan

