



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice

AT THE HEBREW HOME AT RIVERDALE

Report to Our Community

JANUARY 1, 2017 – DECEMBER 21, 2017

We are pioneers of safe shelter for people who experience elder abuse. It is our mission to champion justice and dignity for older adults.

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share that we have changed our name to **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice**. As a national leader in elder abuse prevention for over thirteen years, we have learned that older adults who experience abuse, and indeed all older adults, need to be seen and heard, and have access to appropriate services. In particular, older adults experiencing abuse require specialized medical care, practical legal assistance, compassionate care management, individualized therapeutic intervention, caring community, strong transitional support, and nurturing relationships.

Our innovative work in elder abuse prevention will continue, as we expand our reach, empowering older adults and confronting ageism, with a commitment to shelter, the SPRING Alliance, legal services and initiatives, partnerships and collaborations, and education and outreach. Our success is made possible by all of our community partners and allies in the field, each and every member of RiverSpring Health, and the encouragement and guidance of the RiverSpring Health Board of Trustees. We are grateful for all your support. It is because of you that we are able to share our successes from this past year as we continue to grow and expand our reach to provide justice for all.

Joy Solomon, Esq.
Director and Managing Attorney



All of RiverSpring Health's 1,500 employees help to make the Weinberg Center a success! Thank you.

Congratulations to the Hebrew Home on its 100 years of compassion and caring.



From left to right: Marlene Riquelme, MPH, Public Health Specialist; Malya Levin, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney; Glendalee Olivera, LMSW, ASW-G, Senior Elder Justice Specialist; Brooke Santoro, LMSW, Elder Justice Outreach Specialist; Deirdre Lok, Esq., Assistant Director and General Counsel; Joy Solomon, Esq., Director and Managing Attorney

Community based elder abuse is a pervasive public health and criminal justice issue affecting 1 in 10 older adults in the US.



For every 1 case of abuse that is reported, 23 more go unreported.



90% of cases involve a family member as the perpetrator of abuse, resulting in older adults needing shelter and medical care due to unsafe living situations.



The Weinberg Center provides short-term housing, comprehensive healthcare, legal advocacy, and therapeutic services for older adults 60 years and older experiencing abuse. **Since inception through December 2017, we have provided 109,308 days of shelter.**

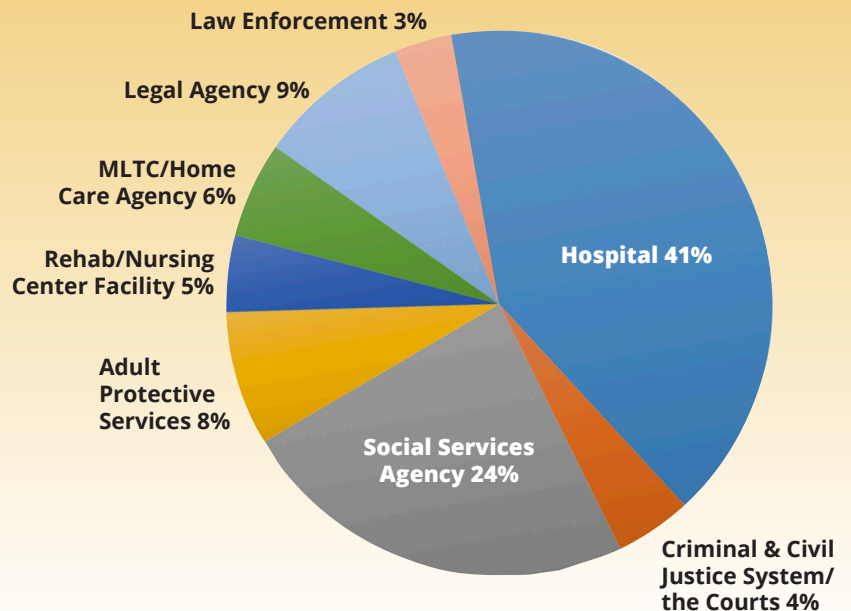
Referral Sources

Professional referrals provide prompt access to the Weinberg Center team for assessment to determine shelter eligibility.

In 2017, **88 clients were referred to the shelter program**, with more than half coming from hospitals and social service agencies.

85 consultations were provided by the Weinberg team to professionals and community members on elder abuse cases or shelter inquiries.

Professionals can make referrals at 800-56-SENIOR (800-567-3646).



Program Highlights

LEGAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS:

- Article 81 Guardianship Proceedings
- Orders of Protection
- Trauma-informed Advance Directives
- Court room advocacy
- Advocacy on behalf of clients to law enforcement, hospitals, and financial institutions
- Safety assessments
- Eviction proceedings
- Partnerships with the Judiciary
- Development of Guardian-Ad-Litem Elder Abuse Specialist Program

SOCIAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS:

- Case management
- Biopsychosocialspiritual and legal evaluations
- Court accompaniment and professional testimony
- Client advocacy
- Successful benefits application
- Court room advocacy
- Individual counseling
- Advocacy on behalf of clients to hospitals, law enforcement, and financial institutions
- Elder Justice Support groups

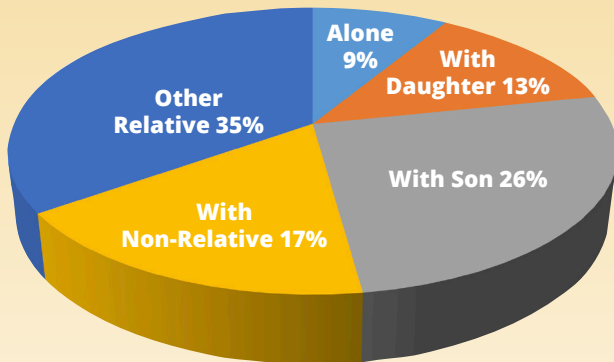
Admissions

Once admitted, each client receives **individualized and comprehensive coordinated care** provided by the Hebrew Home's medical and professional staff. The Weinberg Center's multidisciplinary team develops a **holistic and trauma-informed action plan** based on each client's particular circumstances and goals. **Civil legal services** are a cornerstone of our work, and can include obtaining Orders of Protection, representing clients in Housing Court, or advocating in a guardianship proceeding.

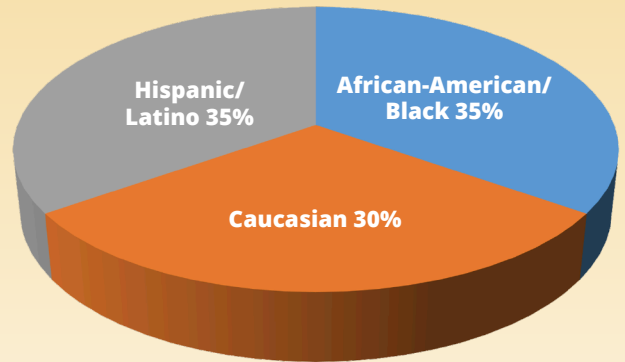
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In 2017, 23 clients were admitted into the Weinberg Center's elder abuse shelter program.

Age range: 61-94 Sex: 83% Female

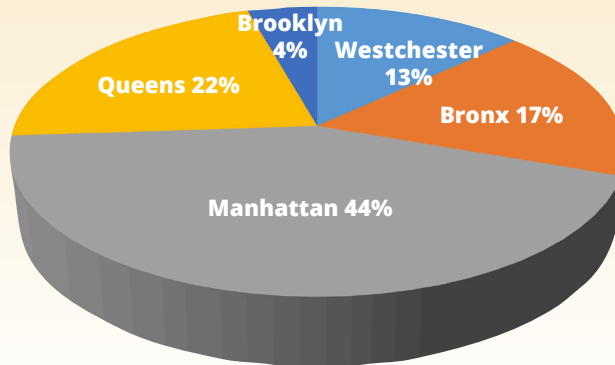
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS



RACE/ETHNICITY

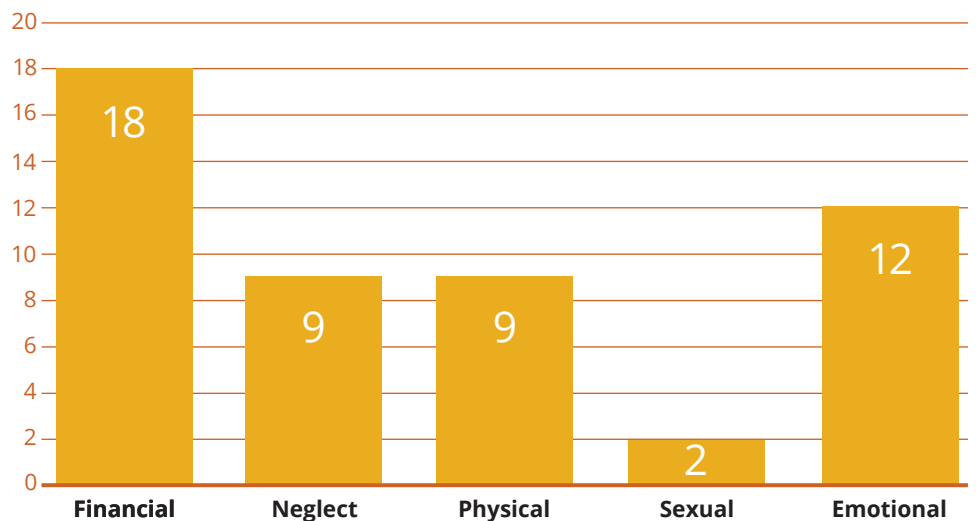


COUNTY



Types of Abuse

It is common for older adults to experience multiple co-occurring or sequential types of abuse by one or more perpetrators. The majority (78%) of our clients experience more than one type of abuse, with financial and emotional abuse being the most frequent types.



Serving Our Community

IT'S YOUR CALL

It's Your Call is the Hebrew Home at Riverdale's comprehensive employee domestic violence prevention and intervention program, the first program of its kind in a long-term care facility. Every staff member at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale is provided with domestic violence training, a domestic violence resource list, and support network within the Home, including access to campus security. 1 in 4 women in the US is or has been a victim of domestic violence, so it's a fact that domestic violence is a part of the lives of our employees as 75% of the over 1,000 staff members are women.

34 employees are currently trained as "lighthouses", meaning they are available to all staff for private discussions about domestic violence related incidents, serve as a source of support, and as a way to access Hebrew Home's resources.

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL HELP CLINIC: "Helping Elders through Litigation and Policy"

Under the leadership of the Weinberg legal team, the **HELP Clinic** combines students' elder law practice in Family Court, Criminal Court, Housing Court, and guardianship proceedings in Supreme Court with a seminar that addresses the broad spectrum of legal areas in which elder abuse can play a critical role. Students are placed at a legal organization, such as Brooklyn Legal Services, JASA's Legal/Social Work Elder Abuse (LEAP) Program, Vera Institute of Justice, and the NYLAG Evelyn Frank Legal Resource Program. Since it began in 2013, **the HELP Clinic has provided a legal foundation for issues affecting older adults to 35 students.**

THE SPRiNG ALLIANCE

The Weinberg Center continues to foster replications of the shelter model around the country. **The SPRiNG Alliance** (Shelter Partners: Regional, National, Global) is a network of elder abuse shelters with close working relationships, shared expertise, and a vibrant community of support. Since 2005, **there have been 13 shelter replications across 12 states.**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Education, training, and consciousness-raising are a core part of the Weinberg Center's mission. We train medical professionals, social workers, law enforcement, judges, attorneys, case workers, and aging service professionals. We are particularly focused on nontraditional audiences, such as building service workers and Meals on Wheels volunteers, who are often well-positioned as first responders to the red flags and patterns of abuse. This is critical to bringing elder abuse out of the shadows.

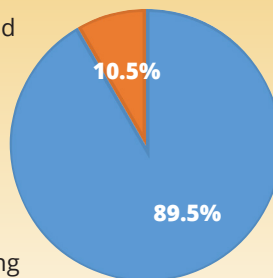
In 2017, we provided:

- 58 trainings and outreach events reaching 2,200 people
- 5 Continuing Legal Education sessions/webinars
- 3 publications
- 11 presentations at regional, national, & international conferences

Safety Screening

A safety screen tool to assess for elder abuse is performed with every older adult in RiverSpring Health, including patients on sub-acute rehab, newly admitted long-term care residents, and clients in our managed long-term care plan. The Weinberg team conducted immediate follow-up for 50 sub-acute rehab patients who screened positive for the risk of elder abuse. Follow-up services include safety planning with the client or family member, providing legal advice, making an APS referral, and offering the possibility of entering our shelter program.

10.5% of the 474 screens performed on sub-acute rehab screened positive for elder abuse.



2017 Awards

The Weinberg Center is the proud recipient of the **U.S Department of Justice Office of Crime Victims' 2017 National Crime Victims Service Award!**

Congratulations to **Deirdre Lok, Esq., for being selected as New York Law Journal's 2017 General Counsel Impact Honoree!**

The Weinberg Center is honored to be the recipient of the **2017 Westchester Women's Bar Association Family Friendly Award!**

Thank you to the generous contribution and support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Bloomberg L.P., the Brookdale Foundation, the David Berg Foundation, FJC-A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds, Gemiluth Chessed of Greater New York, the New York Bar Foundation, the NYC Council, the NYC Speaker Initiative, the Spingold Foundation, Safe Horizon/DOVE, the Westchester County Office for Women, and the Starr Foundation.