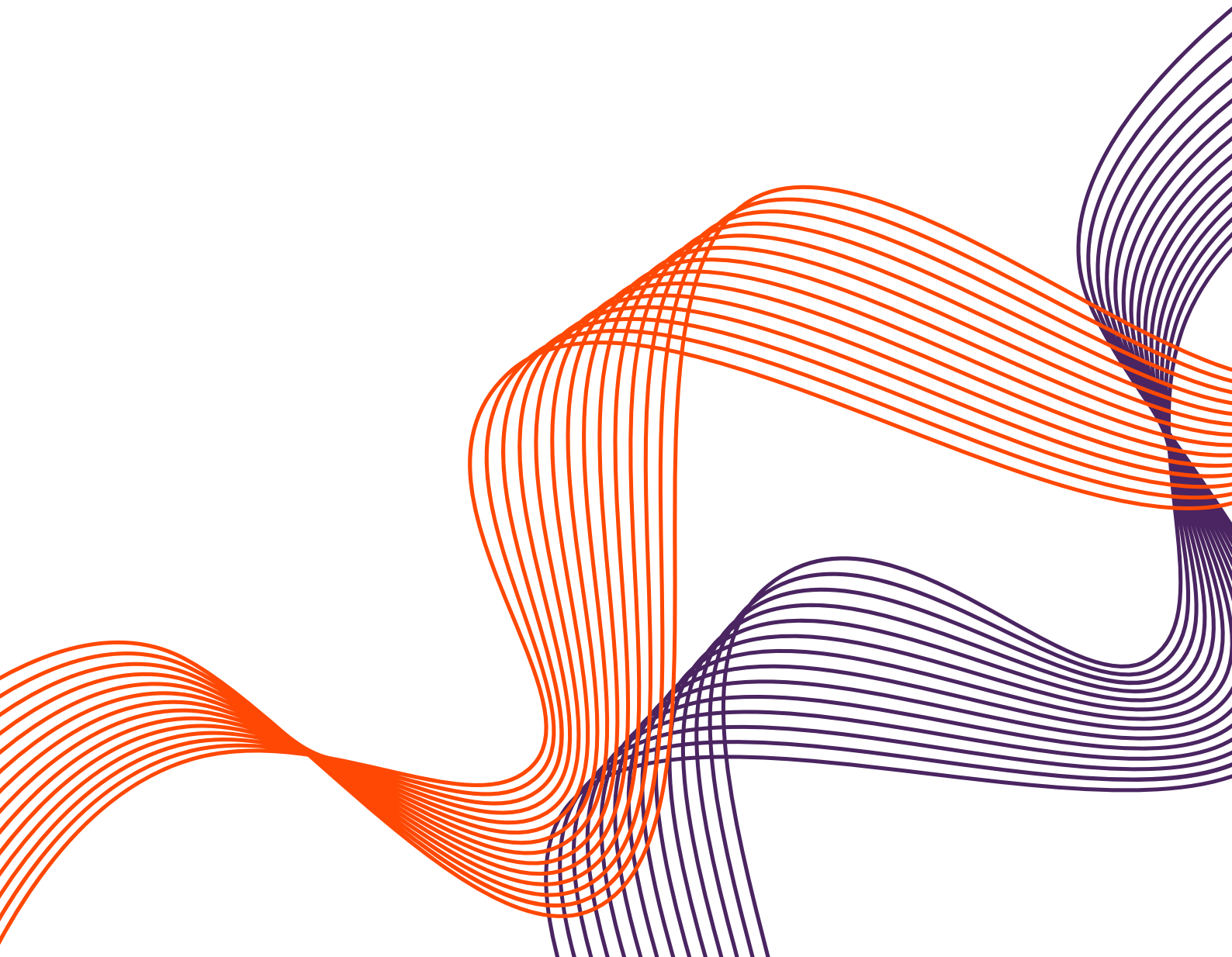




The Harry and Jeanette
Weinberg Center for Elder Justice
AT THE HEBREW HOME AT RIVERDALE

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

2021





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REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

*We are pioneers of safe
shelter for people who
experience elder abuse.*

*It is our mission to
champion justice and
dignity for older adults.*

This has been a seminal year for the Weinberg Center and the shelter movement at large.

In 2021, we experienced yet another significant COVID-19 surge, creating new barriers to meeting the needs of older adults experiencing abuse. Despite these persistent hurdles, the Weinberg Center team has continued to show up every day, approaching this period of unprecedented adversity as one of correspondingly significant opportunity.

Due to the persistence and passion of the Weinberg Center team and all of you, the transformative power of shelter is gaining traction and national recognition.

On the heels of the promising RAND evaluation of the Weinberg Center shelter model, we were awarded the prestigious Elder Justice Innovation Grant by the United States Administration on Community Living. Through this grant, in partnership with New York City and Westchester County Adult Protective Services and SPRiNG Alliance™ shelter partners across the country, we will conduct a pilot program evaluation of the long-term impact of shelter intervention for APS-involved older adults experiencing abuse.

We are eager to continue our work to advance the elder justice movement, provide holistic trauma-informed care to older adults experiencing abuse, and increase the accessibility and proliferation of shelter programs across the country.

Our continued partnerships with all of you allow us to persist in this important work. Thank you.

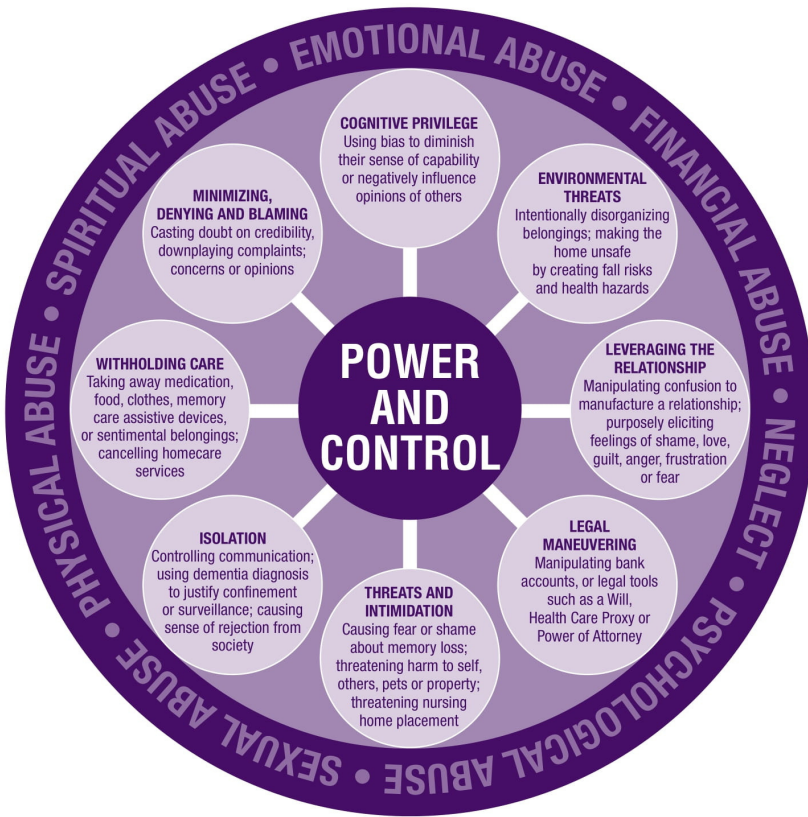
With warmest regards,

Joy Solomon, Esq.

Director and Managing Attorney, The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice

Vice President, Elder Justice and Spiritual Engagement, RiverSpring Living

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA



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© 2021 The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale with support from the Sy Syms Foundation

The Power and Control Wheel is a central symbol and training resource in the field of domestic violence services. Using this well-known framework, the Weinberg Center has adapted this valuable tool to detail the unique tactics employed when the person experiencing harm has dementia.

The Weinberg Center is eager to partner with domestic violence service providers and works to increase recognition of elder abuse in a field traditionally focused on younger people.

This adapted power and control wheel will be used to increase understanding of the ways in which ageism, discrimination, and other social structures create the conditions that can put people with dementia at risk of experiencing abuse. Our team is in the beginning stages of developing trainings for various branches of the court system centered around the tool. A professional educational series will also be launching this year in coordination with the tool.

Access the *Power and Control Wheel for People with Dementia* [here](#).

OUR TEAM

From left to right: Meredith Levine, LMSW, APHSW-C, Senior Elder Justice Specialist; Deirdre Lok, Esq., Assistant Director and General Counsel; Malya Levin, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney; Joy Solomon, Esq., Director and Managing Attorney; Tristan Sullivan-Wilson, Esq., Staff Attorney; Sarah Wilkinson, LCSW-R, Elder Abuse Screen Specialist

Not pictured: Wendy Cheong, Public Health Analyst





Professionals can make a referral at

800-56-SENIOR
(800-567-3646)

191,406

days of shelter have been provided to older adults who have experienced abuse since 2005.

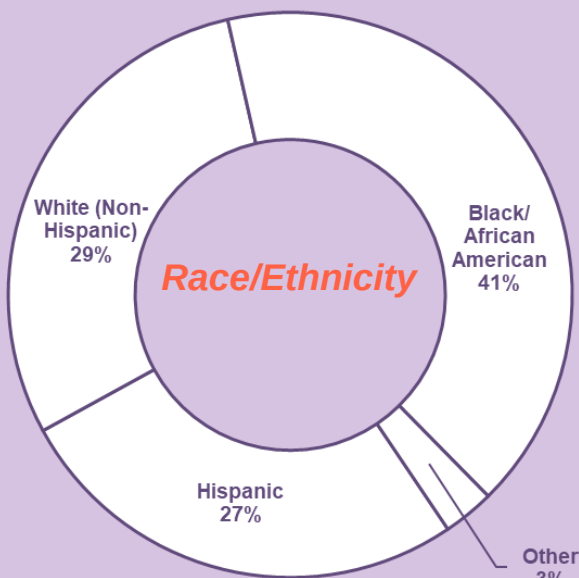
WHO WE SERVE



Ms. Slavova finds community at the Weinberg Center through art while staying connected to her home in Bulgaria by reading her hometown newspaper.

At the Weinberg Center, our community fuels our work. As one of our long-term residents, the Weinberg Team has the gift of continuing our relationship with Ms. Slavova throughout her journey of healing and reconnection. See Ms. Slavova speak about her experience at the Weinberg Center [here](#).

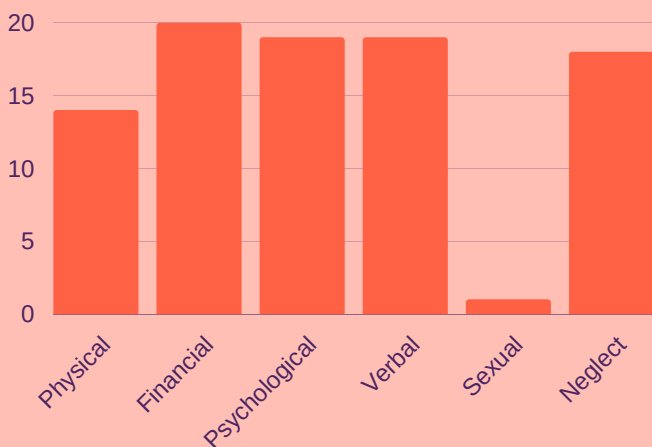
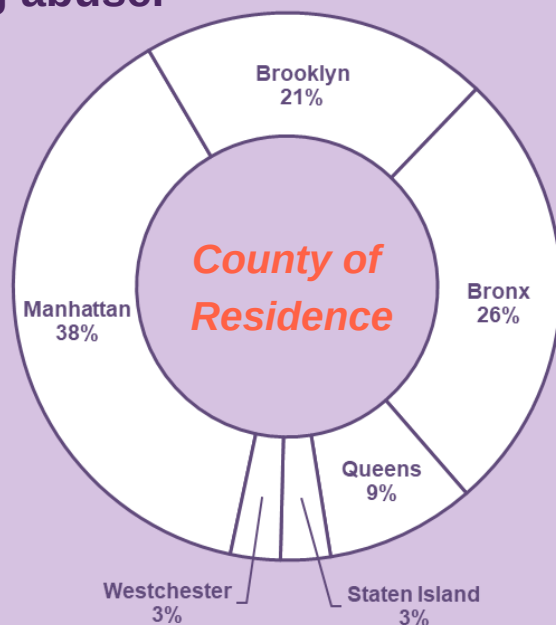
In 2021, The Weinberg Center provided shelter for **34** older adults experiencing abuse.



91% of admitted older adults were living with their alleged abusers when referred to the Weinberg Center.

79% of our clients are female

Age range: **53 - 91**



POLYVICTIMIZATION

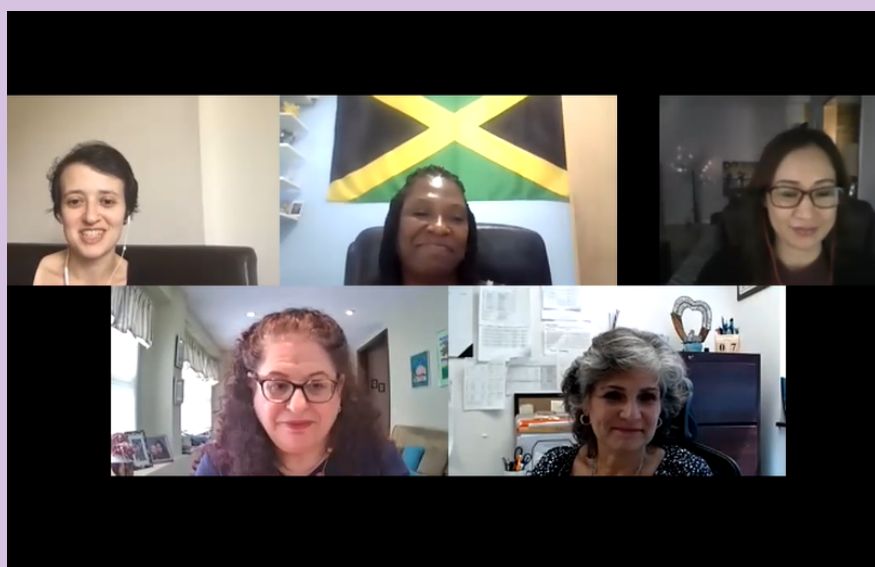
It is common for older adults to experience multiple, co-occurring, or sequential types of abuse by one or more abusers. In fact, **91%** of our clients admitted in 2021 report experiencing more than one type of abuse.

Screening for Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is grossly underreported; research suggests that only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse are reported. The Weinberg Center aims to strengthen screening for and detection of elder abuse through our Screening Program. Thanks to the support of the KBT Charitable Foundation, we are proud to introduce our new Elder Abuse Screening Specialist, Sarah Wilkinson, LCSW-R.



Post-acute rehabilitation provides a unique opportunity for elder abuse screening because every resident is in a safe environment away from home—ideal conditions for disclosure. The Weinberg Center seizes this opportunity. If abuse has occurred, or there appears to be a high risk for abuse, the subacute rehab stay affords an opportunity to address the abuse while the older adult is safely sheltered. **In 2021, we screened 1197 older adults for abuse.**



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & TRAININGS

♦ **Elder Abuse in the LGBTQ Aging Community, presented with SAGE and JASA on LawLine**, presented the latest clinical understanding and legal tools for working with older adults in the LGBTQ community experiencing abuse.

♦ **Cultural Perspectives on Elder Abuse: An Insider's Look, presented at the 2021 NYC Elder Justice Conference**, explored the role of cultural humility and competency when working with older adults experiencing abuse. *Watch the full presentation [here](#).*

Pictured above, from left to right: Malya Levin, Sr Staff Attorney at the Weinberg Center; Dianne Woodburn, Legal Services Supervisor, JASA LEAP; Miyoung Kim, Later in Life Advocate, Womankind; Alice Shooman, Staff Attorney, Sarah's Voice; Josephine Catalano, Director of Volunteer Services and Intergenerational Programming, Hebrew Home

Helping Elders through Law and Policy ("HELP") Clinic at Brooklyn Law School

The HELP Clinic, taught by Assistant Director and General Counsel, Deirdre Lok, continues to serve as an important vehicle for educating the next generation of attorneys around issues of elder justice. In 2021, the Clinic expanded its partnership with Article 81 guardianship judges in Manhattan, giving students the opportunity to serve as court evaluators in guardianship proceedings, developing extensive court reports and ultimately testifying at guardianship hearings.

OUTREACH & LEADERSHIP

3

Publications

13

Awards & Leadership

32

Training, Outreach & Education Events

1,477

People Trained

What we're excited about:



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CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

The Weinberg Center is thrilled to have been approved as an **Accredited CLE provider** at the end of 2021. The Weinberg Center is now the only exclusively elder justice focused accredited CLE provider in New York State, an outgrowth of our pioneering work advancing the issue of elder justice within the legal field. We are confident this status will significantly build our capacity to design and produce excellent, cutting-edge programming for attorneys statewide. *Read more about our CLE programming [here](#).*

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the estate of Antoinette Lotito, whose bequest supports our 2022 education and training programs.

Elder Justice Innovation Grant

The Weinberg Center was awarded a prestigious Elder Justice Innovation Grant by the United States Administration on Community Living. Over the two-year grant period, the Weinberg Center, along with our Adult Protective Services partners, five other SPRiNG Alliance™ shelter sites, and external evaluators at the New York Academy of Medicine, will follow each of its APS-connected clients through their shelter stay and following their discharge, tracking their safety and risk of abuse, general health and wellbeing and connectedness to community-based services. We believe this evaluation will shed significant light on the long-term impact of shelter for older adults experiencing abuse.

2021 Advocate of New York

Congratulations to our Senior Elder Justice Specialist Meredith Levine, LMSW, APHSW-C on being named "2021 Advocate of New York" by the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence!

For more information, visit theweinbergcenter.org.



The SPRiNG Alliance™ continues to grow as more communities join the nationwide shelter movement. The Weinberg Center continues to coordinate monthly community calls with professionals who openly share their experiences with addressing complex cases and organizational-level struggles in a time when health care organizations are facing unprecedented contractions on services. Together, members of the SPRiNG Alliance™ participate in substantive educational opportunities relevant to our network of shelters and similar service models with close working relationships.

If you know of communities interested in creating shelter, please [contact us](#).



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THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thank you to the generous donation and support from the Bloomberg Foundation, the David Berg Foundation, the Derfner Foundation, the Eugene and Estelle Ferkauf Foundation, the Field Hall Foundation, the Foundation of Philanthropic Funds (FJC), the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the John Hartford Foundation, the KBT Charitable Foundation, the Sephardic Foundation on Aging, the Spingold Foundation, the Starr Foundation, the Sy Syms Foundation, the New York City Council DoVE (Domestic Violence Empowerment) Program, LifeSpan of Rochester, the New York State Office Of Victims Services, the New York City Council Speaker Initiative, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL), and the Westchester County Office for Women.