



# An Introduction to the Adult Maltreatment Screening and Assessment Tools Inventory

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# Disclaimer

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# About the APS TARC

The mission of the APS TARC is to enhance the effectiveness of state APS programs by:

- Supporting federal, state, and local partners' use of data and analytics,
- Applying research and evaluation to practice, and
- Encouraging the use of innovative practices and strategies.

# Peer to Peer Calls

Have you ever wished that you could tap into the expertise of other APS workers, supervisors or state administrators who are struggling with the same issues and concerns that you deal with daily? The APS TARC provides Peer to Peer calls for workers, supervisors and managers/state administrators.

- **Workers' Call:** The 2nd Wednesday of each month
- **Supervisors' Call:** The 3rd Wednesday of each month
- **Administrators'/Managers' Call:** The 4th Wednesday of each month

Register via the link sent out at the end of each month by the APS TARC or email us in order to receive the registration link!

# APS & COVID-19

<https://apstarc.acl.gov/COVID>

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- Please use your computer speakers to access audio for this webinar. Please make sure the speaker volume is adjusted to your desired volume.
- If you experience audio problems, we recommend exiting the webinar and re-entering.

# Housekeeping

- You may ask questions of our presenter at any time by typing them in the "Questions" box. We will relay as many as we can to the speaker when we pause for questions.
- This webinar is being recorded and all registrants will receive an email when the recording is made available on the APS TARC website.
- All attendees will receive an automatically generated email approximately 24 hours after the webinar ends with a link to a certificate of attendance.

# Quick Attendee Poll

Which of the following do you identify the most with?

- Adult Protective Services Professional
- Other Social Services Professional
- Medical Professional
- Legal Professional
- Other



# Presenters



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Office of Elder Justice and Adult Protective Services, ACL



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Deputy Director for Research and Analytic Support  
New Editions Consulting, Inc.



**Mary Twomey, MSW**

Consultant on elder justice and adult protective services



# Learning Objectives

The webinar will orient participants to the Adult Maltreatment Screening and Assessment Tools Inventory. It will:

- review the process for developing the Tools Inventory, including how tools were rated for their evidence base,
- describe how it is organized and what information it contains, and
- explore which tools are included and how to use it to find a tool.

# Polling Question 1

Do you use any adult maltreatment screening tools in your practice? (select one)

- All the time
- Most of the time
- From time to time
- Hardly ever
- Never

## Polling Question 2

Do you use a screening tool for a specific type of adult maltreatment (e.g. neglect) or for all types at once? (select all that apply)

- All types
- Financial Exploitation
- Self-Neglect
- Abuse
- Neglect

# ACL's Vision for Elder Justice

A comprehensive, multidisciplinary system that effectively supports older adults and adults with disabilities so they can exercise their right to live where they choose, with the people they choose, and fully participate in their communities without threat of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.



# ACL's Vision for the Tools Inventory

- ACL is committed to stopping adult maltreatment from happening or intervening as early as possible;
- Adult maltreatment is underreported. It is crucial to implement effective methods to screen maltreatment in adults;
- ACL supports the goal of using tools that have been tested for effectiveness and accuracy;
- In 2018, the Administration for Community Living contracted with New Editions Consulting, Inc. to create an inventory of screening and assessment tools for adult maltreatment.

# Overview of the Tools Inventory

- Final version of the Tools Inventory includes 46 screening and assessment tools
- The tools screen for various kinds of adult maltreatment. Some screen for just one kind. Others screen broadly for multiple kinds.
- All tools have an evidence rating; no tools were rated “unsupported.”



# **DEVELOPING THE TOOLS INVENTORY**



## Step 1: Convening a Technical Expert Panel

- Comprised of tool developers and subject matter experts from various fields (APS, financial exploitation, justice system)
- Also included tool users and those who have tested tools in partnership with users
- Represented the “voice of the field”
- Guided the development of the Tools Inventory

## Step 2: Deciding What the Inventory Should Include

- Screening or assessment tools
- Related directly to elder abuse or abuse of adults with disabilities
- Designed for use by field staff in select audiences
- Do not require any credential or license to administer

# Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Tools Inventory is to identify and describe tested screening and assessment tools related directly to adult maltreatment for use by professionals in the field who interact directly with clients.



## Step 3: What Information about the tools is included?

- Types of maltreatment screened
- Intended Audience/Users
- Number of items
- Format
- How administered
- Training required
- Copyright status
- Overall evidence rating
- Contact information for tool developer



# Creating an Evidence Review Framework

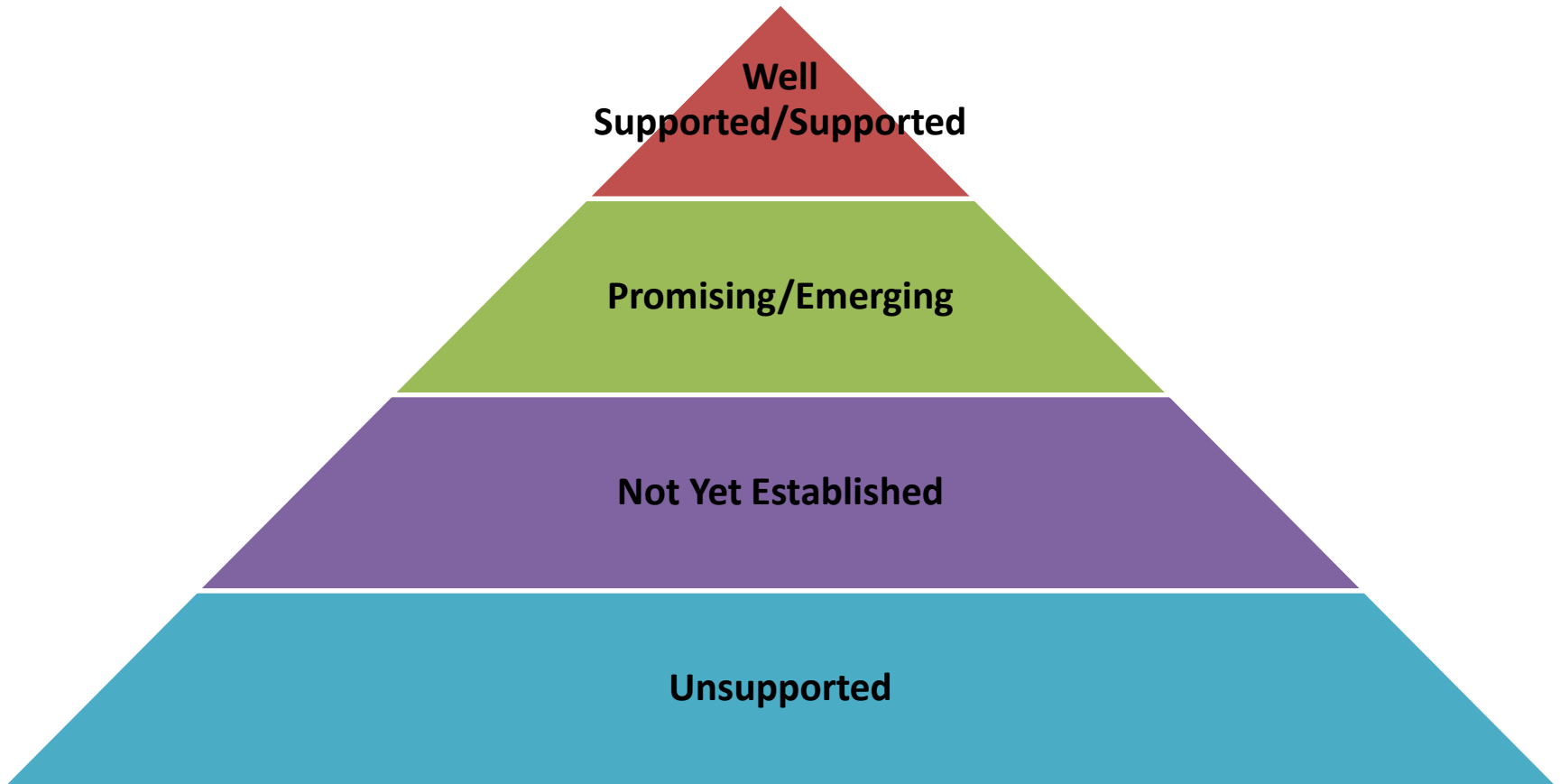
# Why Is Level of Evidence Important?

- Helps you determine whether or not a tool (or programs, practice, or policy) is actually achieving the outcomes it aims to and in the way it intends.
- The more rigorous a study's research design, the more compelling the research evidence.
- We examined validity, reliability, and usefulness.
- Goal is to present information in an objective, fair, and non-biased manner, and
- To encourage further testing of tools by the research community

# Key Elements of Data Quality

- **Validity:** The validity of a tool refers to the degree to which it actually measures what it is designed to measure.
- **Reliability:** Reproducibility, repeatability, reliability all refer to the degree to which a tool yields results that are consistent each time it is used or, in other words, that the results can be replicated.
- **Usefulness:** Usefulness refers to the ability of a tool or test to identify a meaningful distinction between people who have a disease or condition and those who do not.

# Final Evidence Framework





# Findings

- Most tools were found to have “Promising/Emerging” or “Not Yet Established” overall levels of evidence.
- “Not Yet Established” or “Unsupported” rankings don’t necessarily mean the tool is of poor quality. Typically it means that further evaluation/validation is recommended.
- No tools received overall ratings of Unsupported.



# Using the Tools Inventory

# Open Inventory File from NCEA website



NCEA & COVID-19

Search...



Tools  
Inventory

<https://ncea.acl.gov/Resources/Tools-Inventory.aspx>

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## Adult Maltreatment Screening and Assessment Tools Inventory

### Background

The best way to intervene in the problem of elder abuse is to prevent it from happening in the first place or to intervene as early as possible so as to mitigate its consequences. Despite the known negative impacts of adult maltreatment on older adults and adults with disabilities, adult maltreatment appears to be quite underreported.<sup>[1]</sup> Thus, it is crucial to implement effective methods to detect maltreatment and to identify risk factors for maltreatment in adults. Screening and assessments for maltreatment should occur on the broadest level possible to facilitate early detection and intervention. Additionally, when screening and assessing for adult maltreatment, one should use tools tested for effectiveness and demonstrated to yield accurate results in the population being screened.

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## Accessing the Inventory from NCEA website

<https://ncea.acl.gov/Resources/Tools-Inventory.aspx>

- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Link to the Tools Inventory”
- A ZIP file will download on to your computer. Open it and click on the ReadMe file. This will instruct you on what to do next.

# How To Use The Tools Inventory

- Step One: Open Inventory file -This Excel document is the primary file for the inventory. The Inventory file contains all the descriptive information for included screening and assessment tools. Each header has a filter function that allows you to filter the inventory data, as desired.
- Step Two: If you are interested in seeing the information presented in one page, click on the name of the tool which is hyperlinked. Selecting a hyperlink will take you to an “output” page for a tool.
- Step Three: Open Documents folder: This folder contains all the inventory output pages and supplemental information.



# Demonstration

## Next Steps

- Continued dissemination of the Inventory to the adult maltreatment field
- Updating of the Inventory will occur on an ongoing basis
- Possible expansion of the Inventory to include other kinds of tools in the future
- Question for the field: *WHAT OTHER KINDS OF TOOLS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED IN FUTURE TOOL INVENTORIES?*



**Questions?**





Thank You!



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# Contact Information

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