of abuse, and will be discussed in detail. Results demonstrate the importance to consider vulnerable adult's age and the etiology of abuse before implementing the services needed to effectively address ANE harm.

BALANCING PRACTICALITY AND VALIDITY OF ELDER ABUSE MEASURES: DATA FROM ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATIONS
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Research in Adult Protective Services suffers from the problems of small sample size, low completion rates, and poor data quality. To address the “small sample size” issue, data were generated on 1,472 elder abuse cases over six months in California using the Identification, Services and Outcomes (ISO) Matrix. The problem of poor data quality was addressed by testing psychometric properties of Short-Forms on each type of abuse. Good reliability and predictive validity were found for all measures except those that were very rare. Finally, even shorter Mini-Forms were developed and tested in order to contribute to improved completion rates. Mini-Form results were mixed, and some will require further research on their reliability and validity, as well as examination of their ability to improve completion rates. Ongoing adoption by two California counties and the State of Montana demonstrate sustainability and increasing sample sizes using the ISO Matrix for research and practice.

ALLEGATION ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOME DIFFERENCES ACROSS RACIAL GROUPS FROM STANDARDIZED ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES DATA
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Objective assessment is an important tool for Adult Protective Services (APS) in supporting a diverse population. Out of the 1,472 APS clients, aged 65 and over, assisted during the study period, 39% identified as a non-white race and 30% did not speak English. Providing services to this vulnerable population is made even more difficult by the need to provide culturally appropriate services. In this work, we present on differences in types of abuse alleged, abuse severity assessment, services provided, and preliminary outcomes across racial and language groups. For example, for this population, clients identifying as black race had the highest allegation rates of neglect (16%) and financial abuse (27%), Asians of physical (15%) and emotional abuse (24%), and other races of self-neglect (56%) and isolation (9%). Standardized data collection permits tracking such patterns and objective assessment tools help to avoid systemic bias in aiding this vulnerable population.

UNDERSTANDING PRACTICE THROUGH RESEARCH
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Substantiation of abuse, neglect, and exploitation (ANE) data collected during the Identification, Services, and Outcomes (ISO) Matrix pilot included some outlier scores warranting further investigation. To examine outliers and other unexpected findings in greater detail, we completed case reviews and caseworker interviews to explore why outlier cases did not follow the expected patterns of substantiation decisions. Cases were selected on a random basis from those with self-neglect outlier scores. Several factors were found to have contributed to the extreme scores in all three categories of confirmed, inconclusive, and unfounded abuse. In this study, no valid ISO Matrix scores were found that contradicted the substantiation decision. Instead, analysis revealed that most of the errors occurred: 1) in application of the intended procedures showing need for further training, and 2) some needed changes to the procedures of the ISO Matrix based on feedback from caseworkers.

SESSION 6020 (SYMPOSIUM)

AGE ALSO MATTERS FOR GERONTOLOGISTS: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON GROWING OLDER
Chair: Phillip Clark
Discussant: Margaret Perkinson

Gerontology is a unique field of scientific inquiry, because it embodies both professional and personal dimensions of experience and poses questions for its researchers. How does our work help us understand our own personal experience of aging? How does the reality of growing older change our teaching and research? As gerontologists, we embody two narratives of the aging experience, one academic and professional (with its dependence on theory and scientific research), the other intimately personal (with its own lived experience and practical insight acquired over the life course). How this dynamic unfolds is as personal as each of us as individuals, and embodies our own disciplinary backgrounds; yet collectively it has implications for how we approach an understanding of what it means to grow old. This symposium explores different facets of this dynamic from four perspectives of different individuals and differing disciplines. The first paper assesses the limitations of both quantitative and qualitative research paradigms in revealing the deeply idiosyncratic nature of personal aging. The second develops the metaphor of “double agent of aging” to characterize the two narratives of professional and personal aging. The third uses Erikson’s theory of psychosocial development to weave together the professional, practical, and personal dimensions of gerontology. Finally, the last develops the metaphor of arcs and stages in conceptualizing a gerontological career. The symposium concludes with recommendations for the integration of theoretical, practical, and personal insights into