Study shows financial abuse can be fatal for the elderly

NATION

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PETALING JAYA: Financial abuse can lead to earlier death among the elderly, according to a study.

Preliminary findings from a Universiti Malaya study on mortality among elderly victims of abuse, mainly financial, revealed that they had a shorter life span.

The study covered 1,927 seniors, mostly aged between 60 and 69. Of this, 8% (154) experienced some form of abuse, with financial abuse being the most prevalent (13%).

The death rate in this group was 9.6%, compared to 6.8% among the group comprising those not abused.

“From these preliminary findings, we see that the mortality rate is higher among elders who were abused.

“Recorded deaths were highest among financial and psychological abuse victims (23.8%). We need to investigate further to be able to conclusively prove the link, but our results coincide with long-term studies worldwide,” said Dr Raudah Yunus, one of the researchers involved in the Prevent Elder Abuse and Neglect (Peace) study conducted in Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan.

Today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2017. According to the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development Ageing, almost all countries are expected to see substantial growth in the number of older persons...