



## Background

- ❑ Legally, self-neglect is defined as an adult's inability to perform essential self-care tasks due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity. Such tasks include obtaining food, clothing, shelter, and medical care; obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain health; or managing one's own finances
- ❑ No standardized medical definition for self-neglect
- ❑ Five behaviors are encountered in self-neglect:

- Squalor
- Social withdrawal
- Apathy
- Hoarding
- Lack of shame



Diogenes is the first known case of self-neglect

## Significance

- ❑ A serious, under-recognized, growing problem
- ❑ Commonly under-reported
- ❑ Most common problem investigated by Adult Protective Services
- ❑ Symptoms are often treatable
- ❑ Families and friends of individuals with self-neglect may not intervene due to lack of guidance and a desire to avoid the consequences of reporting

## Problem

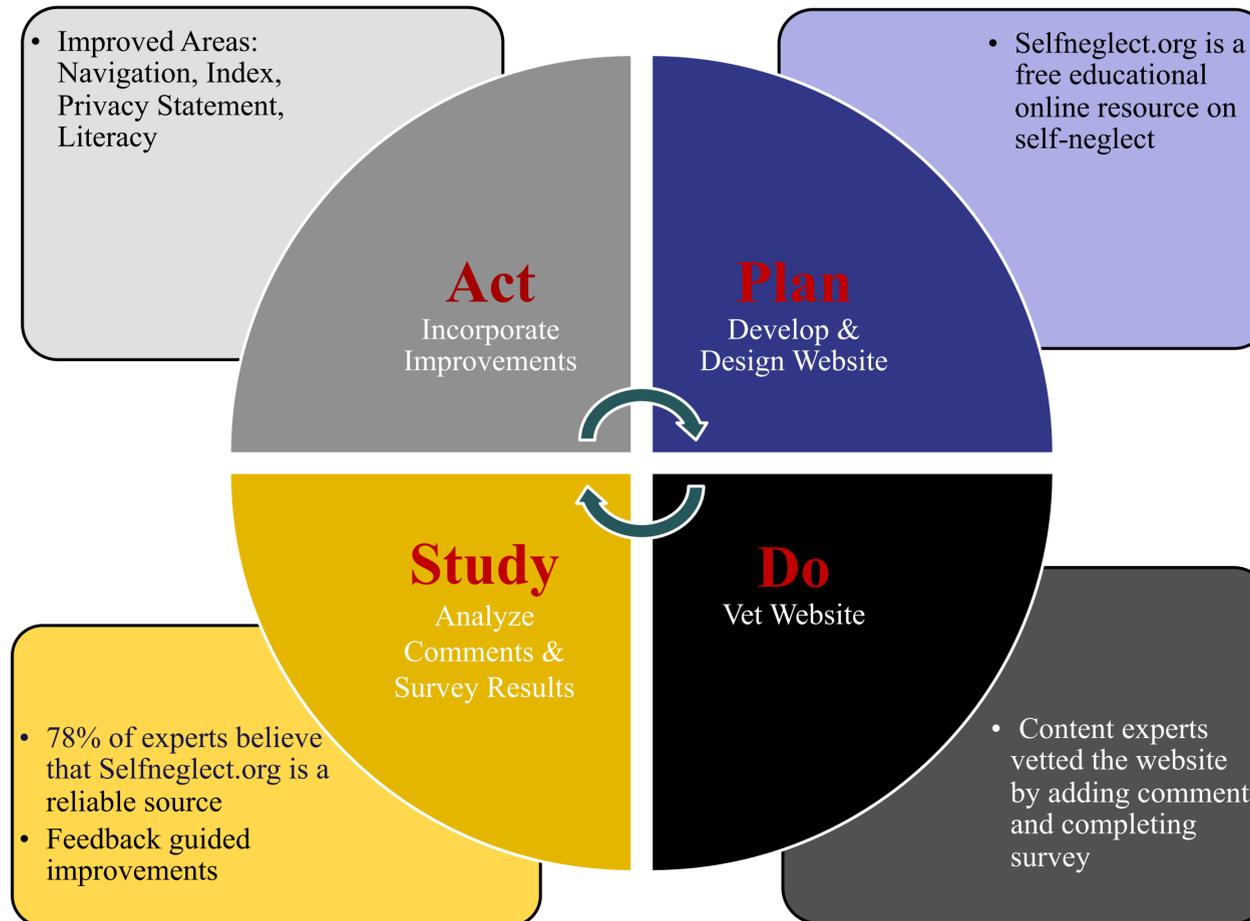
- ❑ No comprehensive websites dedicated exclusively to self-neglect
- ❑ Existing websites list self-neglect under elder abuse
- ❑ Self-neglect data is confidential, impeding epidemiology efforts

## Aim

- ❑ To create an educational website - *Selfneglect.org* - for the families/friends of individuals with self-neglect using a Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle
- ❑ Selfneglect.org provides easy to understand information about self-neglect

## Methods

- ❑ The content and style of Selfneglect.org was developed according to 2 health information website standards:
  - Lida instrument
  - Health on the Net Code
- ❑ Fifteen criteria from the standards were used to evaluate the website



## Results



## Discussion

- ❑ Content experts evaluated Selfneglect.org favorably
- ❑ The website is compatible with various platforms such as computers, tablets, and smartphones
- ❑ Selfneglect.org is written at the Flesch-Kincaid 10<sup>th</sup> grade level
- ❑ The website was released to the public on 2/27/2017
- ❑ The website will be linked to various professional organizations to increase visibility and usage