



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles

Violence Against Older Adults.

REFERENCE

Bélangier, L. (1985). Violence Against Older Adults. *Nursing Québec*, 5(6), 18-20.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Literature review

DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, extent of the phenomenon, forms of mistreatment at home and in nursing homes, risk factors, vulnerabilities, profile of the mistreatment person, profile of the abusive caregiver, consequences, intervention.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article discusses the problem of violence against seniors and proposes intervention guidelines in order to increase awareness.

PROBLEM

The phenomenon of violence against seniors is a matter of concern to a growing number of health and social services practitioners, but its magnitude is rather unknown in North America. It is estimated that annually one million seniors are victims of violence in the United States. This is noticeable in several environments, particularly in institutions (35.5 percent of cases) and in the older adult's home (21.6 percent of cases).

METHODOLOGY

No section of methodology is presented in this article.

RESULTS

Violence against seniors may take several forms: psychological material or physical mistreatment, as well as poor social and environmental conditions and the violation of human rights. The typical profile of the victim is the following: a 75-year old woman, requiring assistance for health care and protection of herself. The staff working in institutions would be the main perpetrators of mistreatment towards older adults.

Several avenues of intervention are proposed in the article, notably raising awareness among practitioners with regard to the phenomenon of violence, reactions and attitudes of victims and perpetrators, the possibility that older adults may face violence outside institutional settings, but also with respect to their own stress and frustrations that may cause situations of violence. Practitioners should also be concerned about the consequences of interventions that they advocate in order to avoid falling into the trap of protectionism; an aid that increases the feeling of dependency.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is included in the results presented above.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, practitioners working in institutional environments have several roles to play regarding prevention and intervention related to violence against older adults.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Aside from the avenues of intervention specifically intended to practitioners and as mentioned above, the intervention model in a crisis situation is put forward in situations of mistreatment on older adults since they often result from a situation of emotional imbalance among individuals involved. Moreover, the establishment of a central registry to document all cases of mistreatment is suggested as a way of raising awareness, but also to facilitate the development of programs and services.

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June 23, 2014

