



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Violence, Abuse or Neglect Among Older Adults: CLSC Intervention in the Community-Dwelling.

REFERENCE

Lebeau, A., Gendreau, C. and Dumont-Lemasson, M. (1992). Violence, Abuse or Neglect Among Older Adults: CLSC Intervention in the Community-Dwelling. *Gérontophile*, 14(2), 23-25.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Empirical

DISCUSSED THEMES

Forms of mistreatment at home, risk factors, vulnerabilities, prevention, intervention, organization of services, strategies for action.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article outlines the results of the consultation carried out with practitioners working in home support services in local community service centres (CLSCs). This consultation was a preparatory stage for the content made public at the symposium *Vieillir sans violence* (Aging without violence) held in October 1990.

PROBLEM

Several macroscopic factors (socio-economic conditions, poverty, weakness of the social network, loss of social roles, etc.) and microscopic (life history, level of dependency, exhaustion of the caregiver and decreasing autonomy) predispose to violence against seniors. In addition, the increase of the home support clientele, as well as the many transformations in the organization may increase the risk of organizational violence.

METHODOLOGY

No methodology section is presented in this article. However, it is mentioned that the consultation was carried out among 125 home support practitioners.

RESULTS

The conditions which generate a risk of mistreatment may vary depending on the type of mistreatment. The steps for self-solution from the community, analysis, individual empowerment and the use of social protection measures are common among practitioners. However, few interventions are focused on the community or on the perpetrator of abuse and several resistances surrounding legal and administrative procedures. The practitioners' values, their practice and the organization in which they work for may guide their professional action.

On the preventive side, practitioners have expectations with regard to the roles that the organization should play (support and recognition to the caregiver, support to the victim, resource broker, informant, rights defender, sponsor and sponsorship). For its part, the organization of services aims to improve the quality of services by introducing a common philosophy among practitioners, improving work organization as well as implementing evaluation mechanisms for services provided.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is included with the results presented above.

CONCLUSION

Several implicit practices are part of the daily lives of home support practitioners who must respond to situations of violence, mistreatment or neglect. This article also highlights the influence of organizational factors on interventions.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

The implicit practices must be shared between practitioners to identify the best ways of performing their work and to develop decision support tools. In addition, in order to have an idea of the assessment of the intervention, it is necessary to involve managers, service providers, as well as the clientele and the community in the evaluation process.

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