



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Older Adults and Insecurity: The Turn of the 1990s.

REFERENCE

Cousineau, M.-M. (1993). Older Adults and Insecurity: The Turn of the 1990s. *Revue internationale d'action communautaire*, 30, 101-106.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Theoretical

DISCUSSED THEMES

Forms of abuse in home and institutional settings, risk factors, vulnerability factors, profile of the abused person, authors of the abuse, consequences, brakes to reporting, prevention, intervention, burden and stress, fear of crime, ageism.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The objective of this article is to compare two periods by showing the change that has taken place in terms of insecurity among the elderly. The article also looks at the various issues surrounding this topic in Quebec.

PROBLEM

Since 1968, in the United States, the feeling of personal safety is deemed to be a basic condition for quality of life. Furthermore, crime has a great influence on that feeling. Fear of crime particularly affects women and seniors.

METHODOLOGY

No Methodology section is presented in this article.

RESULTS

From 1975 to 1985, fear of crime is at the forefront of the work being done on the issue of the sense of insecurity. Two types of fear are observed: concrete fear of crime (fear of being oneself a victim of crime) and the abstract fear of crime (concern linked to the phenomenon of crime). Prevention of crime has grown significantly during this period. However, fear of crime still appears to be a concern among others in seniors. However, since 1988, the fear of crime has gradually diminished. Some authors believe that it is attention to the phenomenon that has contributed to an increased sense of personal safety of seniors. Research on the fear of crime among seniors also appears to be declining. Since 1990, researchers are more interested in the issue of abuse and neglect of seniors, whether it occurs in family or institutional settings. The issue of the fear of crime is criticized more often by practitioners than by seniors themselves, who keep silent for fear of negative consequences.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is integrated with the Results section presented above.

CONCLUSION

Given the low rate of reporting of acts of abuse and neglect against seniors, the author questions the relevance of the intervention of the criminal justice system in this regard. Protection of seniors is a very sensitive issue. Indeed, although the implementation of protection measures could undermine their autonomy, inaction is a form of complicity with the crime that is being committed.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

The author proposes to focus on the solutions aimed at eliminating violence against seniors, while keeping in mind the many political and social issues surrounding this topic.

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