



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### To Better Recognise and Understand the Problem of Mistreatment of Older Adults.

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#### REFERENCE

Montminy, L. (1998). To Better Recognise and Understand the Problem of Mistreatment of Older Adults. *Intervention*, (106), 8-19.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article

**Content:** Literature review

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, extent of the phenomenon forms of abuse at home, risk factors, vulnerability factors, concept of gender, profile of the abused person, abusers, explanatory theories, burden and stress.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article presents a literature review on the issue of elder abuse occurring while living in a family environment.

#### PROBLEM

The last two decades have allowed a collective awareness concerning the issue of violence and neglect affecting seniors. The amount of research on this topic has also been steadily increasing in recent years, in Canada as well as in the United States. In 1989, with the report «Vieillir... en toute liberté» (Aging... in complete freedom), Quebec has officially recognized abuse, violence and neglect of elders as a social problem.

#### METHODOLOGY

No Methodology section is presented in this article.

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## RESULTS

Definition of this issue includes two components: the committed act (whether deliberately or unintentionally) or the uncommitted act (active or passive negligence). Approximately 4% of people over 65 living at home have been abused. Abuse can take many forms: physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, material or financial abuse, human rights violations, social and collective abuse and abuse among beneficiaries. Those most at risk are elderly people over 75 who are dependent on a caregiver, who have challenging behaviors and who suffer from incontinence. Women are also more at risk than men. Due to similarities between the issues of violence against children, women and seniors, the following theories, elaborated as part of models of domestic violence, may contribute to the explanation of situations of elder abuse: the situational model, the social interaction theory, the symbolic interaction approach of and the social learning theory.

## DISCUSSION

The discussion is integrated with the Results section presented above.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the phenomenon of abuse, violence and neglect affecting seniors is an undeniable problem. A theoretical framework alone cannot explain such behavior since it results from a multitude of factors.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

In terms of research, the author suggests that further studies be carried out on the subject of explanatory theories, in order to improve understanding of the phenomenon as well as intervention for abused seniors and their abusers. In terms of practice, she recommends vigilance by practitioners with regard to the presence of factors predisposing to violence and neglect against seniors, in order to better prevent, detect and intervene in such situations.

## DRAFTING DATE

June 09, 2014

