



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Quality of Care in Unlicensed Homes for the Aged in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

REFERENCE

Bravo, G. et al. (1999) Quality of Care in Unlicensed Homes for the Aged in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 160 (10), 1441-1445.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Empirical

DISCUSSED THEMES

Magnitude of the phenomenon forms of mistreatment in nursing homes, risk factors, vulnerability factors, law, organization of services, burden and stress, training.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

In this article, the purpose of the study is to compare the quality of care in seniors' homes that are holding a license and those that operate without one.

PROBLEM

The number of seniors' homes without license has been increasing dramatically over the past few years. A previous study has demonstrated that the staff working there does not always have the qualifications and experience required and must deal with seniors with significant functional or cognitive disabilities. It is therefore necessary to examine the quality of care provided in such facilities.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted with 301 people with disabilities aged 65 years and over who were randomly chosen from 88 nursing homes (including 52 without license and 36 with license) in the Eastern Townships, Quebec. The residents were assessed through two visits of two hours each and the QUALCARE scale was used to assess the quality of care provided to residents. Then, the Student's t-test was conducted to compare the results of the facilities with and without a license. The analyzes first allowed us to focus on the quality of care depending on the type of facility, and then allowed an overview of the quality of care according to the size of the facilities.

RESULTS

The overall QUALCARE score was similar for facilities with or without license. However, nursing homes without license obtained lower results in terms of physical care and medical management. The aspect of psychosocial care appears as often being left out in the two types of facilities. According to the results of this study, 25% of the facilities gave inadequate care to at least one resident. Indeed, within small size nursing homes, up to 20% of the residents received inadequate care.

DISCUSSION

According to the results of this study, the majority of nursing homes for seniors without license that were surveyed, provided relatively good quality care. The fact that only a small number of facilities provided inadequate care to their residents suggested that the intervention will not be necessary in all of the nursing homes. The results of this study also indicate that the provincial regulations do not guarantee high-quality care.

CONCLUSION

Although most of the facilities for seniors without license provide enough good quality care, some nursing homes provide inadequate care to their residents.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Future studies could be considered in order to facilitate the identification of seniors' facilities providing inadequate care to their residents, including through the development of a brief screening test. In addition, the underlying causes for inadequate care should be further studied in order to find appropriate solutions.

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