



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Mistreatment Between Older Spouses: The State of Knowledge.

REFERENCE

Montminy, L. (2000). Mistreatment Between Older Spouses: The State of Knowledge. *Gérontophile*, 22 (4), 15-20.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Literature review

DISCUSSED THEMES

Forms of abuse in domestic settings, risk factors, vulnerability factors, concept of gender, profile of the abused person, authors of the abuse, consequences, barriers to reporting, explanatory theories, intervention, burden and stress, shelters, support groups.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article aims to give an overview of the literature on spousal violence among seniors. Several themes are developed: forms of violence, the profile of the abuser, causes, explanatory statements from older women with violent spouses, and models of intervention for older women who are victims of violence.

PROBLEM

Since the 1970s, domestic violence is recognized as a social problem. Although few studies have examined the subject of violence in older couples, it is also an issue of concern.

METHODOLOGY

No Methodology section is presented in this article.

RESULTS

Family members are often involved in situations of violence against the elderly. Moreover, the spouse is either at the first rank in terms of the most frequent abusers, or at second rank, after the children. The spouse is often associated with physical or psychological abuse but rarely with financial abuse. These situations of violence in older couples can be explained by factors specific to the spouse who abuses, to the dynamics of the relationship between the spouses or to their living conditions. Older women may remain under the yoke of an abusive partner because of their level of socialization, of low family support and/or of the lack of judicial interventions. The main approach currently recommended for intervention with these elderly women is one based on support groups. Shelters also appear as a favorable place for intervention with this clientele.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is integrated to the Results section above.

CONCLUSION

In light of the various studies on the subject, it is important to recognize that violence in older couples is an issue that can no longer be ignored. Apart from support groups, few approaches are being used with older abused women. Ideally, interventions should target the development of the social skills of these women and the regain of control over their lives.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

According to the author, further studies must be undertaken in order to develop a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of domestic violence among elderly spouses. Thus, interventions best suited to the needs of those affected could be developed.

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