



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### Intervention in a Shelter for Older Women Victims of Conjugal Violence.

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#### REFERENCE

Montminy, L. & Drouin, C. (2004).  
Intervention in a Shelter for Older  
Women Victims of Conjugal Violence.  
*Intervention*, 121, 90-99.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article

**Content:** Reflection

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Vulnerabilities, concept of gender,  
profile of the person being mistreated,  
perpetrator of mistreatment,  
consequences, barriers to reporting,  
intervention, organization of services,  
burden and stress, nursing homes,  
support groups.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The study referred to in this article explores different interventions used in nursing homes with older women who are victims of intimate partner violence. It aims at identifying different strategies and approaches put forward in these interventions.

#### PROBLEM

Interventions regarding intimate partner violence among older women have been little investigated to date. Moreover, it is difficult to identify the prevalence of the phenomenon because of the lack of consensus on the definition and methods of data collection. The group intervention has been the most commonly used model in nursing homes so far. However, few nursing homes seemed to have developed intervention strategies specifically tailored to the reality of older women.

#### METHODOLOGY

In-depth interviews were conducted with two workers with more than 15 years of experience in nursing homes and with older women who were victims of intimate partner violence. They have recounted two situations of violence concerning women aged 60 years and over in which they had to deal with. They have also discussed about the intervention strategies they used with these two women. The purpose of this interview was to understand the situation experienced by the woman, the intervention and the reasons that have preceded this choice. It is therefore a study based on an approach centered on the knowledge of action.

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## RESULTS

Intimate partner violence, self-assertion, feelings of guilt and social networks are at the core of the intervention with older women who turn to nursing homes. These interventions may be both planned and have specific objectives (formal) or then must fall within the nursing home's activities (informal). Regardless of their form, interventions are all focused on respecting the residents' pace and strengths. Finally, respecting the process that will lead to change and opening remains very important elements in nursing homes.

## DISCUSSION

It is sometimes difficult for these older women to disclose their situation regarding intimate partner violence, because several of them believe that it is inappropriate to talk about it with friends or strangers. Several authors mention that socialization of women has led them to forget themselves because they focused on responding to the needs of others throughout their lives, which explains their need to strengthen their capacity to manage their lives. Nursing homes allow women to consolidate and expand their social network. The relevance of addressing the theme of guilt is also reflected in the literature, as well as intervention requires time. Moreover, very few elderly women will leave the spouse after the first request for assistance, which may explain why openness is also essential in nursing homes.

## CONCLUSION

Despite the small number of elderly women who decide to turn to nursing homes, they are well received by practitioners who care about their lives and try to help them the best they can. Thanks to the practices presented by practitioners, the study pointed out a few guidelines for reflection regarding intervention with these older women experiencing violence from their spouse.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

For the authors, it is of paramount importance to continue documenting and promoting the experience of practitioners, because their interventions are constantly evolving in order to meet the needs of these older women as adequately as possible.

## DRAFTING DATE

May 14, 2014

