



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



A Portrait of the Vulnerability and Risks of the Older Adult Population Living in Low-Rent Housing (HLM).

REFERENCE

Plamondon, L. & Nahmiash, D. (2006). A Portrait of the Vulnerability and Risks of the Older Adult Population Living in Low-Rent Housing (HLM). *Vie et Vieillesse*, 5(1), 27-36.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Empirical

DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, magnitude of the phenomenon, forms of mistreatment in community and residential settings, factors of vulnerability, profile of the abused person, consequences, prevention, detection, intervention, organization of services, training.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The study aims to highlight the characteristics of the older population that lives in low-income housing (HLM) in Montreal and to describe the type of assistance offered as well as the frequency at which services are received.

PROBLEM

In Canada, 4% of seniors have been victims of violence since they have reached the age of 65. The most common forms are financial abuse, and physical and psychological violence. There is no study on the vulnerability of elderly people who are living independently in low-income housing or other public lodging facilities.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was performed in 25 HLMs, among 880 people, totaling 550 interviews. In each of six areas, four HLMs were randomly selected by the cluster method, two of which were comprised of 60 units or less and two of 61 or more units. Individual interviews were conducted with elderly volunteers. These interviews were of a maximum duration of one hour and were held either at the individual's home, or in the community room of the HLM.

RESULTS

The results show that the lack of services, the absence of someone to confide in and the presence of a problematic caregiver are, in that order, the main factors associated with a high level of vulnerability among older adults living in low-income housing. It is noteworthy that among the respondents who did not receive services, many do not request or refuse services. It also appears that the number of HLMs for seniors is clearly insufficient to meet the demand, which penalizes mostly single elderly women. Indeed, widowed, separated or divorced older women, living alone in the city and whose income is below \$ 15,000 per year, appear to be more fragile than those who live in HLMs.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is integrated with the results presented above.

CONCLUSION

Following the recommendations presented in this article, the Office municipal d'habitation de Montreal (OMHM) and the Forum of Senior Citizens have developed various projects in 2006 to improve the quality of life of older adults living in low-income housing. In addition, researchers and partner organizations continue to disseminate these results among the agencies responsible for the management of services for collective lodging for seniors, whether they be HLMs or other types of housing, in order to increase the understanding of the risks encountered by these populations, but also measures to be taken and available resources to help seniors in need.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Many proposals for action are listed in the article. The main objective is to ensure that OMH can identify the most fragile and vulnerable residents and implement measures to ensure their safety.

DRAFTING DATE

May 23, 2014

