



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Paths to Understanding and Accompanying Older Adults Who Are Experiencing Conjugal Violence.

REFERENCE

Montminy, L. & Drouin, C. (2006). *Paths to Understanding and Accompanying Older Adults Who Are Experiencing Conjugal Violence*. *Vie et vieillissement Journal*, 5 (2), 49-51.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Reflection

DISCUSSED THEMES

Vulnerabilities, consequences, barriers to reporting, intervention, nursing homes.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article is based on the testimony of two practitioners to start reflecting on interventions with older women who are victims of intimate partner violence.

PROBLEM

Intimate partner violence among senior couples is a reality not yet extensively studied. However, the fact that this issue has recently been recognized as a social problem demonstrates the urgent need to develop an understanding and more in-depth knowledge in order to put in place interventions that will meet the needs of older women who are victims of this situation.

METHODOLOGY

No methodology section is presented in this article.

RESULTS

Initially, practitioners must encourage women to disclose their situation. Then, they must also encourage them to express their feelings related to the experience of violence, and strengthen their capacities to regain control of their lives. The group concept seems to be an effective way of developing self-assertion and breaking the isolation. Practitioners must ensure that women do not let go of their needs to the benefit of others' needs. They must also address the issue of guilt, because it is present in many women of this age. In addition to giving a great deal of importance to respecting the pace of each woman, practitioners are working with the strengths of each, so that they feel valued and become aware of their ability to regain control of their lives. The financial situation of the residents also appears as an important aspect that influences not only the decisions of women, but also the way interventions are conducted, sometimes leaving place to concrete and ad hoc interventions. Finally, practitioners agree on the need for keeping the door open, because few women will leave an abusive partner after the first request for assistance.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is included with the results presented above.

CONCLUSION

In short, even if they constitute a minority of the clientele of nursing homes, older women are listened to and valued as individuals by practitioners who are receiving them.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

It is important to disseminate information and to promote nursing homes as resources also available to older women. In addition, research on the practitioners' experience must be encouraged, because these practitioners are the ones who must adapt their interventions according to the specific needs of older women in a situation of intimate partner violence.

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November 11, 2013

