



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Violence in the Context of the Family Intimacy of the Elderly.

REFERENCE

Plamondon, L. (2007). Violence in the Context of the Family Intimacy of the Elderly. *Gérontologie et Société*, (122), 163-179.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Tool development

DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, extent of the phenomenon forms of abuse at home and in residential facilities, risk factors, vulnerability factors, profile of the abused persons, profile of abusers, screening, burden and stress.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The purpose of the first part of the ODIVA study (*Outil de Dépistage et d'Intervention des Victimes Aînées: Screening and Intervention Tool for Senior Victims*) is to validate the relevance of the criteria selected on the basis of a literature review with regard to the characteristics of victims and abusers. The study also aims to establish correlations between the various characteristics.

PROBLEM

Over 600,000 French seniors, 60,000 Swiss seniors and 500,000 Quebec seniors are victims of abuse. Although not the first study with this intention, the ODIVA is an action research project which aims to develop a tool to assess the level of danger and the urgency of intervention in situations involving abuse of an older person.

METHODOLOGY

This study is set in three subregions of home care services in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland, between 2000 and 2005. A total of 360 case histories of abuse and neglect reported by various home support professionals were identified and analyzed. For each case history, professionals were asked to record information on the characteristics of the abuser and of the victim, as defined in the ODIVA test. The results were analyzed on the basis of four categories: the profile of the victims, the profile of the abuser, the behavior of victims and the behavior of abusers.

RESULTS

According to the results, the first four characteristics related to the profile or the behavior of victims and abusers are present in over 40% of cases of abuse against seniors. Furthermore, both in terms of profiles and behaviors, each of the characteristics can be found in over 12% of cases, which confirms the relevance of the selected variables. In addition, in over 60% of cases, profiles or behaviors of victims or abusers show a minimum of four characteristics. Thus, the presence of four variables in each category may indicate a danger threshold.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is integrated with the Results section presented above.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the ODIVA study identifies the characteristics that are most often related to the profile and behaviors of the victims and of the abusers.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

In order to validate the ODIVA tool, it would be interesting to conduct a survey of a population receiving home care services. Such a study would allow the identification of criteria that are significantly more prevalent among people who suffer from abuse than in the general population receiving home care services.

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