



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



A Community Response to Financial Abuse of Older Adults.

REFERENCE

Nahmiash, D., & Schwartz, R. (2008). A Community Response to Financial Abuse of Older Adults. *Indian Journal of Gerontology*, 22(3-4), 265-290.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Project development

THEMES COVERED

Definition, extent of the phenomenon, forms of mistreatment at home and in institutions, vulnerabilities, consequences, barriers to reporting, law, prevention of financial and material abuse, intervention, burden and stress, cultural aspects, ageism, empowerment (power to act).

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The purpose of this study is to develop and evaluate a project aimed at preventing material and financial abuse among seniors through an educational approach.

PROBLEM

The financial abuse is a common form of abuse inflicted on seniors. Despite the existence of programs and interventions addressing this problem in Canada, very few of them have been subjected to evaluation.

METHODOLOGY

Thanks to this project, three educational presentations on banking issues, safety in the street and at home were held within five low-cost housing units (HLM) of Notre-Dame-de-Grace in Montreal. For each meeting, the participants were asked to fill out questionnaires before and after the presentation. These questionnaires included questions on the demographic characteristics of the respondents, on the content and on the evaluation of the meeting. More than 176 participants have at least responded to a questionnaire.

RESULTS

Results show that the majority of the participants enjoyed their experience. More than 75 percent of them feel they have learned a lot from these sessions and more than 90 percent would recommend these presentations to their relatives. From 22 to 24 percent of participants knew someone who once has experienced financial abuse. Although some issues have contributed to growing awareness among the participants, some elements of the content could have been presented with greater clarity.

DISCUSSION

Despite some limits regarding the participation and the completion of the questionnaire, the sessions have had a positive impact on the participants who had no prior knowledge on how they should react in situations where a risk of financial abuse might occur. Feedbacks from participants were also positive. Thus, although it is difficult to see the effects of the prevention of crime, several seniors have stated that they were going to change their behaviours and their habits in order to avoid being victims of financial abuse.

CONCLUSION

The prevention of violence does not only concern specialized organizations but also the whole community. This study has demonstrated that older people, despite their vulnerabilities, can bring new knowledge with the aim at increasing their safety. In fact, as a result of this project, the participants presented their living conditions and propose ways to improve them to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

PRACTICE OR RESEARCH AVENUE

The concepts related to empowerment and techniques of community development remain essential for the prevention of violence against seniors.

DRAFTING DATE

July 24, 2014

