



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### Forms, Manifestations and Consequences of Conjugal Violence Experienced by Older Adults.

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#### REFERENCE

Montminy, L. (2011). Forms, Manifestations and Consequences of Domestic Violence Experienced by Older Adults. *Journal International de Victimologie*, 9(1), 281-293.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article  
**Content:** Empirical

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, extent of the phenomenon, forms of mistreatment at home, risk factors, vulnerabilities, concept of gender, perpetrator of mistreatment, consequences, barriers to reporting, detection, intervention.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This study aims at deepening the knowledge and understanding of the consequences of long-term domestic violence among older women.

#### PROBLEM

The problem of domestic violence among older adults receives little attention, especially from the gender perspective. Studies on domestic violence are focusing for the most part on the situation of younger women. At this time, the prevalence rate of domestic violence against older women cannot be identified because of the many methodologies and definitions used in research. However, several authors have managed to identify the different forms of violence experienced by these women and their most important manifestations. However, the consequences of living a situation of domestic violence for an extended period of time have not been studied much until now.

#### METHODOLOGY

It is a qualitative study which the sample consists of 35 senior women aged 60 years and over who have been victims of domestic violence. The semi-structured individual interviews were carried out following a pattern of interview built according to types, manifestations and consequences of violence within the couple. The story of each of the participants was then subjected to a thematic analysis and has been classified according to a «hybrid» model which provides a dedicated space to specific elements of situations encountered.

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## RESULTS

Participants mentioned mainly four types of violence: psychological violence was reported by all the participants, physical violence by more than three quarters of these women, sexual violence by fifteen participants and financial exploitation by more than half of these older women. Domestic violence experienced by seniors may result in various consequences on the psychological, social, physical and economic levels and can persist beyond separation.

## DISCUSSION

Psychological violence plays a major role in domestic violence. It is exercised particularly by control, but may also take the form of denigration, contempt, threats, deprivation of affection or sexual relations. Physical violence is the second most common form of violence among seniors. It can be combined with other forms of violence and becomes stricter with time. As to financial abuse, it rather takes the form of spending inequity for younger women and financial control for older women. Sexual violence is reflected mainly by contempt or lack of respect of the spouse to the woman's decision to abstain from sexual relations.

## CONCLUSION

Domestic violence experienced by women has permanent consequences on their physical and psychological health, in addition to generating an extremely precarious financial position and the weakening of their social network. This study highlights the situation of these older women who have experienced domestic violence over a long period of time and which must overcome several obstacles before getting out of the situation.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

It is important to continue carrying out research on the situation of older women who have experienced domestic violence for several years. Researchers and practitioners must team up in order to carry out the research that will really meet the needs of seniors and which will take account of their particular set of experiences and therefore the need to suggest different interventions.

## DRAFTING DATE

November 28, 2013

