



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec: summaries of scientific articles



Long Term Care Institutional Intervention Program: Violence Against Older Adults.

REFERENCE

Couture, M. et Beauvais, D. (1987). Long term Care Institutional Intervention Program: Violence Against Older Adults. *Nursing Québec*, 7(2), 32-36.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Developing a tool

DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, extent of the phenomenon, forms of mistreatment in nursing homes, risk factors, vulnerabilities, profile of the mistreatment person, profile of the abusive caregiver, consequences, intervention, helping relationship, awareness.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The program aims at raising awareness among practitioners working in institutions in order to prevent, minimize and even eliminate the problem of violence against older adults.

PROBLEM

The magnitude of the phenomenon is yet to be determined in Quebec. However, It is estimated that annually one million cases of seniors victims of violence are reported in the United States. In Quebec, 35.5 percent of situations of violence towards seniors take place within institutions.

METHODOLOGY

No section of methodology is presented in this article.

RESULTS

Violence is causing considerable prejudice to seniors, whether it be socially, physically or psychologically. It is a destructive act, which may occur intentionally or unintentionally. The typical profile of the victim is a woman in her 70s who may be psychologically dependent, may also be depending on others for performing her activities of daily living (ADL) (e.g. assistance with meals, help with hygiene, etc.), as well as to ensure the protection of herself. The stress and frustration related to the practitioners' work are factors that can lead to situations of violence in institutions. In addition, the fact of seeing people aging, dealing with death on a daily basis and the impossibility for staff to live a normal mourning process may have a dehumanizing effect on the practitioners' attitudes. But the worst thing that can happen is when caregivers are not properly prepared or when they are forced to deal with an older adult. Finally, it is important not to fall into the trap of protectionism, which may increase the feeling of dependency.

The program is divided into four units each comprising two parts. The first part relates to the factors contributing to violence and the second one presents concrete situations involving various forms of violence.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is included with the results presented above.

CONCLUSION

This program has been used on two occasions at the *Centre d'hébergement Fernand Laroque* (residential and long-term care centre) in Laval in order to make staff aware of institutional violence among older residents. This awareness program received a positive reaction, leading to believe that it is a valuable working tool within health care teams.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Interventions in situations of violence require the following: 1) developing awareness; and 2) educating practitioners to develop a critical attitude. Thus, caregivers must be able to stay true to themselves, to recognize their own fears, to be aware that they themselves can become perpetrators of abuse and that it is possible to act prior to the problem.

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