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## Elder Abuse: A multinational prevalence survey

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Elder Abuse: A multinational prevalence survey

JA2015 - GPSD [705038]

| **START DATE:** | 01/04/2008 |
| **END DATE:**   | 01/07/2010 |
| **DURATION:**   | 27 month(s) |
| **CURRENT STATUS:** | Finalised |
| **PROGRAMME TITLE:** | First Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) |
| **PROGRAMME PRIORITY:** | - |
| **CALL:** | Health Information (Hi 2007) |
| **TOPIC:** | Actions to improve health information and knowledge for the development of public health |
| **EC CONTRIBUTION:** | 599997 EUR |
| **KEYWORDS:** | Elderly, Questionnaire |
| **PORTFOLIO:** | Ageing, Mental health, Population groups |
General objectives

The aim of the project is to collect empirical, reliable and representative data on the magnitude, characteristics and determinants of abuse of elders, and its health and well-being outcomes. The project will also contribute to the development of evidence-based policies, research and practice strategies aimed at early detecting and preventing abuse, but also at intervening to support/care of the abused elder individuals.

Strategic relevance and contribution to the public health programme

Abuse of the elder its health and well-being outcomes are increasingly a source of great concern worldwide, but there is relatively little concrete information about these subjects. Europe is growing older and population trends show that share of people over 65 years old will increase from 15.7% in 2000 to over 24.7% in 2030. As older age is often associated with chronic, largely incurable and disabling diseases (e.g. dementia) it makes the elderly vulnerable to a range of problems, including abuse or neglect and financial as well as psychosocial difficulties. Project ABUEL, by collecting reliable data about abuse or neglect, its predictors and effects on health and wellbeing, will contribute among others to the development of evidence-based policies, and research and practice strategies aimed at early detecting and preventing abuse or neglect of the elderly.

Methods and means

The project will survey a representative sample of women and men aged 60-84 years living in urban centres. They will be assessed with scales on various areas such as violence and mental health applied by interviewers. The instruments will be translated to local languages and translated back to original language for validation. The project will emphasize validity, reliability and culture significance. The design will be cross-sectional and the data will be collected during six consecutive months. Strong emphasis will be put on voluntary character and confidentiality of participation.

Expected outcomes period

Project ABUEL will provide (a) cross-national data on the prevalence of elder abuse or neglect, on mental or physical health factors and quality of life and social support reported by abused vs. non-abused older people; (b) factors independently associated with abuse, mental and physical health, and quality of life; (c) a cross-culturally validated, sensitive methodology and tool to assess elder abuse and neglect as well
as its determinants and consequences on health and well-being; (d) the possible identification of further research gaps in this field, of both conceptual and methodological nature, to be tackled by future, more in-depth and sophisticated studies (e.g. particularly vulnerable sub-groups or specific typologies of abuse); (e) internationally comparable quantitative database offering Europe-wide knowledge both on risk and protective factors relating to elder abuse or neglect, increasing awareness both in terms of policy and practice.
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<th>Country</th>
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