

Abstract Details

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Title * : The Prevalence of Elderly Abuse; a Community Survey in Japan

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250 Words Abstract * : Purpose: (1) To investigate the prevalence of older people with disabilities who have been neglected or interfered with, or suffered physical, emotional, or financial abuse. (2) To distinguish the characteristics of abuse according to type.

Methods: We conducted a community survey in ten municipalities as a part of the “AGES” project (Aichi Gerontological Evaluation Study) in Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Subjects were community-dwelling older people who used personal social services under public long-term care insurance (n= 7271). Care managers assessed the care-giving status, including neglect, interference, or abuse.

Results: 5918 questionnaires were collected, i.e., the response rate was 81.3%. 314 respondents (5.3%) stated that they had suffered neglect, interference or abuse, while 871 (14.7%) stated that they were “unable to deny” the possibility of the risk of such abuse. The most common family offender was the daughter-in-law (32.9%). Reviewing by type, it was clear that the situation had worsened as compared with one year before. The breakdown was 3.4% no problems; 12.3% neglect or interference; 16.6% abuse; and 19.2% complicated cases.

Conclusion: The prevalence of abuse among community-dwelling older people with disabilities was 5.3% (95% CI 0.7%, 5.7%), and if suspected cases are also included, it was no less than 20% (95% CI 12.2%, 27.8%). Based on the results of this study, as of September 2003, there were approx. 195,000 abused elderly people in the

whole of Japan, at a conservative estimate. Also, one year later, regarding cases suspected of being at risk of neglect, interference, or abuse, the quality of care deteriorated by between 3 and 6 times in comparison with no risk cases.

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