

ONGOING ELDER ABUSE RESEARCH AT NTNU

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FIVE STUDIES ON ELDER ABUSE

1. Elder abuse in Norwegian nursing homes,- a cross-sectional exploratory study
2. The role of leadership in promoting patient safety in nursing homes
3. Relatives' perceptions of abuse and neglect of nursing home patients
4. A qualitative study of neglect in nursing homes, -staff's perspective
5. Stretched to the limit? - The role caregiver burden has on the extent of elder abuse among home-dwelling persons with dementia

RELATIVES' PERCEPTIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS (STUDY 3)

- Astrid Sandmoe, PhD, NKVTS (Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies)
- Lene Elisabeth Blekken, PhD, NTNU
- Susan Saga, PhD, NTNU
- Sigrid Nakrem, Professor, NTNU
- Amanda Phelan, Professor, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What do relatives perceive as abuse?
- How are incidents of suspected abuse experienced?
- How are incidents of suspected abuse communicated with the staff?
- What role do relatives have as contributors to promoting a care-culture free from abuse and neglect?

METHODS AND DESIGN

- Qualitative
- 5 focus group interviews with relatives
- 5 different regions in Norway
- Relatives - spouses/partners, children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews... (>18 years old)

A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF NEGLECT IN NORWEGIAN NURSING HOMES - STAFF'S PERSPECTIVE (STUDY 4)

- Phd- candidate: Stine Borgen Lund
- Main-supervisor: Associate professor Wenche Malmedal
- Co-supervisor: Professor John-Arne Skolbekken
- Co-supervisor: Professor Laura Mosqueda



AIM

The overall aim is to generate new knowledge on the processes leading to and maintaining neglect in Norwegian nursing homes, as described by nursing home staff in order to develop and implement preventive measures



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do nursing homes staff perceive and reflect on neglect?
- How is neglect communicated and reported among nursing home staff?
- What norms regulate nurses' handling of neglect, and how are deviations from these norms sanctioned?

METHOD

- Qualitative study, Grounded Theory approach
- Data collection (so far):
 - 6 individual interviews
 - 5 focus-group discussions (20 participants)
 - Semi-structured interview guide

STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT? (STUDY 5)

- The role caregiver burden has on the extent of elder abuse among home-dwelling persons with dementia

Overall purpose:

To enable the municipal health services to prevent elder abuse of home-dwelling persons with dementia

Aim:

To investigate how the caregiver's experience of caregiver burden affects the ability to master the caregiving task, as well as what factors can lead to elder abuse

DESIGN AND METHOD

- Cross-sectional study of relatives of persons with dementia
- Anonymous self-reported questionnaire in the mail
- In addition to questions about elder abuse, there will also be questions related to:
 - Individual context
 - Relational context
 - Community context
 - Societal context

Roberto KA & Teaster PB (2017). Theorizing elder abuse. In Dong XQ (Ed.). Elder Abuse: Research, Practice and Policy (pp 21-41). Cham, Switzerland, Springer.

STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT?

Collaboration and financing



Gunn Steinsheim, NTNU
Ph.d. Fellow



Wenche Malmedal, NTNU
Supervisor



Susan Saga, NTNU
Co-supervisor



Bonnie Olsen, Keck
School of Medicine of
USC
Co-supervisor



Norwegian Health Association



Pårørendealliansen
Carers Alliance



Pensjonistforbundet
The Norwegian Pensioners' Association



ST. OLAVS HOSPITAL
TRONDHEIM UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



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ELDER ABUSE IN NORWEGIAN NURSING HOMES: A CROSS- SECTIONAL EXPLORATORY STUDY (STUDY 1)

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²Department of Health Research, SINTEF Digital

³Keck School of Medicine of USC



Picture: Pixabay

AIM OF STUDY

To estimate the prevalence of ...

- Staff-to-resident abuse
- Relative-to-resident abuse
- Resident-to-resident aggression

... in Norwegian nursing homes.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Elder abuse in Norwegian nursing homes: a cross-sectional exploratory study



Anja Botngård^{1*}, Arne Henning Eide^{1,2}, Laura Mosqueda³ and Wenche Malmedal¹

Abstract

Background: Elder abuse is a global public health and human rights problem that is predicted to increase as many countries experience a rapid growth in their population of older adults. Elder abuse undermines an older person's well-being and is associated with a range of serious health consequences. In institutional care settings, older residents are particularly vulnerable and hence at higher risk of being abused, but few countries have explored the extent and nature of this phenomenon in national studies. The aim of this study is to estimate the prevalence of observed and perpetrated staff-to-resident abuse in Norwegian nursing homes.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional exploratory study of nursing staff in 100 randomly drawn Norwegian nursing homes. Nursing staff completed a pen and paper survey measuring how often during the past year they had observed staff commit acts of neglect and psychological, physical, financial/material, and sexual abuse towards residents. They also reported how often they had perpetrated acts of abuse themselves, and these rates were disaggregated by nursing staff's gender, age and education.

Results: Of 3693 nursing staff (response rate 60.1%), 76% had observed one or more incidents of elder abuse during the past year, and 60.3% reported they had perpetrated one or more incidents of abuse in the same period. Psychological abuse and neglect were most commonly reported. Male staff reported more acts of physical abuse, while female staff reported more acts of neglect. Higher education of staff was associated with higher rates of self-reported psychological abuse, physical abuse and neglect.

Conclusions: This first national survey of staff in Norwegian nursing homes is one of the largest studies globally estimating the prevalence of elder abuse in institutional settings. Overall, we found staff-to-resident abuse to be relatively common, and our findings propose a need for preventive strategies to improve the quality of life and safety of residents in Norwegian nursing homes.

Keywords: Elder abuse, Elder mistreatment, Nursing homes, Primary care, Nursing staff, Perpetrated abuse, Observed abuse

METHODS



DESIGN

Cross-sectional
exploratory study
(pen and paper)



SETTING

Nursing homes (n=100)
randomly drawn from
the Norwegian Central
Register of
Establishments and
Enterprises



PARTICIPANTS

Nursing staff
(n=3693), response
rate 60.1%

ABUSE MEASUREMENT



«How often in the past 12 months have you observed/perpetrated...?»

Psychological abuse → 8 items

Physical abuse → 10 items

Financial/material abuse → 4 items

Sexual abuse → 5 items

Neglect → 8 items

Scoring values

Never, once, 3-5 times, 6-10 times, more than 10 times

PERPETRATED STAFF-TO-RESIDENT ABUSE

	¹ Yon et al. (2019)	Botngård et al. (2020)
Overall prevalence	64.2%	60.3%
Psychological	32.5%	40.5%
Physical	9.3%	9.6%
Financial/material	Insufficient data	1.1%
Neglect	12.0%	46.9%
Sexual	0.7%	0.4%

¹Yon Y, Ramiro-Gonzalez M, Mikton CR, Huber M, Sethi D. The prevalence of elder abuse in institutional settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur J Pub Health. 2019;29(1):58–67.

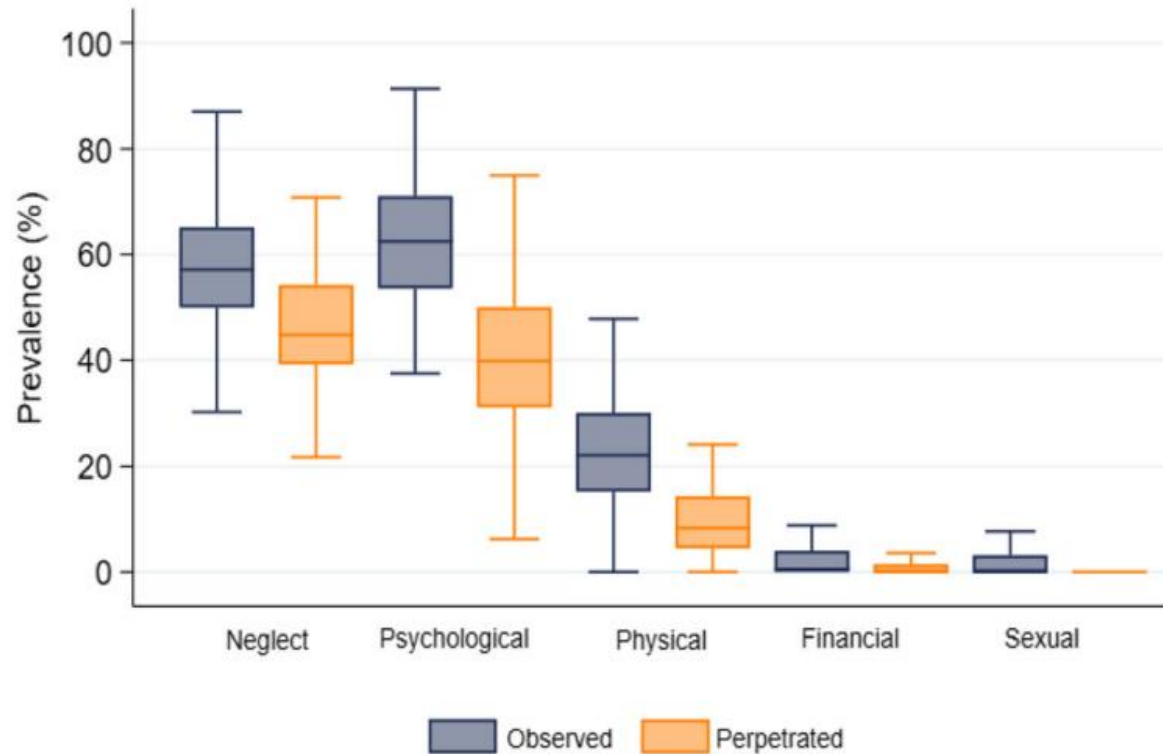


Fig. 2 Nursing home ($N = 100$) prevalence rates according to observed/perpetrated elder abuse type



CONCLUSION

- Staff-to-resident abuse in Norwegian nursing homes is relatively common
- The findings indicate a need for preventive strategies to improve the quality of life and safety of residents

Picture: Pixabay

2. februar 2020

God søndag!

kommentar:
Den hvide nasjonalismens
siste krampetrekning

**Det beste
med Oslo
er bytrikken**

Film: Zola er en av årets største
anekdoter på Sundance-festivalen

Café-suksess: Det begynnte med en
kopp kaffe. Nå gjør Einar Kløpper
Holthe strømmesjorut suksess.

Aftenposten

Sending
i 2. etasje
2020
Søndag 2. februar
10.000
10.000

**8 av 10
pleiere har
sett kolleger
utsette eldre
for overgrep og
forsømmelse**

Stor undersøkelse. Hårdhendt behandling og
hastilte kjøting. Dette er noen av funnene i en
studie av ansattes oppførsel på sykehjem.

**Politikere
krever vakter
på Grønland**

Det er en utfordring å sikre sikkerheten på Grønland, mener opplysningsministeren.

Nye rekorder!



**Boris Johnson
kritiseres for
å være usynlig**

Det britiske statsministeren Boris Johnson er kritisk utvalgt. Hans ledelse er under et stort press.

- BREAK NEWS -

Picture: Pixabay



The role of leadership in promoting patient safety in nursing home (Study 2)

- **PhD candidate Janne Myhre¹**
- Main supervisor: Professor Sigrid Nakrem¹
- Co supervisor: Associate Professor Susan Saga¹
- Co supervisor: Associate Professor Wenche Karin Malmedal¹
- Co supervisor: Associate Professor Joan Ostaszekiwicz^{2,3}

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²Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Research- Barrow Health Partnership, Deakin University, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Geelong Australia.

³National Ageing Research Institute, Parkville VIC 3052, Australia

THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING PATIENT SAFETY IN NURSING HOMES

The aim of this study is to explore how reports and information can be used by the managers to promote patient safety related to abuse and neglect in nursing homes

- *How do nursing home leaders perceive/experience elder abuse and neglect?*
- *What do nursing home leaders perceive/experience as barriers and enablers to reporting elder abuse and neglect?*
- *How do nursing home leaders follow up on elder abuse and neglect?*

METHOD

- Six focus group interviews with 28 ward leaders
- 15 Individual interviews with nursing home directors
- Participants from:
 - 6 municipalities
 - 21 nursing homes
- The constant comparative method was used to analyse the data



BMC Health Services Research

Elder abuse and neglect: an overlooked patient safety issue. A focus group study of nursing home leaders' perceptions of elder abuse and neglect

--Manuscript Draft--

Janne Myhre¹, Susan Saga¹, Wenche Malmedal¹, Joan Ostaszkievicz², and Sigrid Nakrem¹

- **Resident-to-resident aggression:** *'There is a predictable risk, when living in nursing homes, [of] such incidents; there is a foreseeable risk that this will happen'* (Group 5).
- **Relative-to-resident abuse:** *'But it is not always that the resident wants us to do something either. It may have been this way for a long time, and then, maybe it's okay then'* (Group 3)
- **Staff-to-resident abuse:** *'I think that no one who works in nursing home started there just to be able to hurt someone, and that is perhaps why this is such a sensitive and difficult topic'* (Group 2)

TIME FOR ACTION



PROJECT IDEA 1

- We are in an early stage of planning a complex intervention study within the field of elder abuse in nursing homes
- The overall aim is to reduce elder abuse events by introducing the nursing home staff to person-centred care and comprehensive geriatric assessment etc.
- Co-design/action research approach with nursing homes (collaboration in development, implementation and evaluation)

PROJECT IDEA 1

(CONTINUED)

- The research design will be both quantitative and qualitative
- We will apply to the Norwegian Research Council for funding of 2 PhD positions
- International collaboration:
 - Karl Pillemer, USA
 - Brendan McCormack, UK

PROJECT IDEA 2

Background:

- Elder abuse and neglect in nursing homes is considered a patient safety issue, where learning from incidents and preventing reoccurrence demands a systematic approach¹
- Nursing home residents with cognitive impairment and dementia with agitation and aggression are at higher risk of being abused and neglected²
- Adverse events in nursing homes are underreported, and are poorly followed up and learned from³

¹ Phelan A. Protecting care home residents from mistreatment and abuse: on the need for policy. Risk management and healthcare policy. 2015;8:215-23.

² Ostaszkiwicz J. A conceptual model of the risk of elder abuse posed by incontinence and care dependence. Int J Older People Nurs. 2017;1-11.

³ Wagner LM, Castle NG, Reid KC, Stone R. U.S. Department of Health adverse event reporting policies for nursing homes. J Healthc Qual. 2013;35(3):9-14.

PROJECT IDEA 2

(CONTINUED)

Main research questions:

- 1) What are the frequency and content of deficiency reports on elder abuse and neglect in Norwegian nursing homes?
- 2) How can nursing homes improve reporting and follow-up on patient safety issues related to elder abuse?

PROJECT IDEA 2

(CONTINUED)

Proposed methods:

- A cross sectional study of deficiency reports from nursing homes using WHO's classification system Model for Disclosure of Medical Error Framework (4 factors).
- A quasi-experimental study with pre-/post-design to measure effects of an intervention aiming at improved reporting of patient safety issues related to elder abuse. Outcomes measured by Communicating About Nursing Errors Survey (CANE), and evaluation in focus group interviews
- International collaboration: Laura Wagner, UCSF



Thanks for your attention



