

# INPLASY

## Violence against older women: A scoping review

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### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support** - "NextGenerationEU" program.

**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Completed but not published.

**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY2023110036

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 08 November 2023 and was last updated on 08 November 2023.

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective** The main objective of this scoping review was to recognize and explore the issue of violence among elderly females residing in rural and isolated regions. This involved examining reported occurrence rates, potential contributing factors, and the perceived resulting outcomes.

**Background** Violence against elderly women represent a substantial public health concern and a clear infringement on women's rights on a global scale. Despite the recognized significance of this social problem, there is a notable lack of information regarding its implications in rural settings. As a response to this knowledge gap, this study aims to investigate the issue of violence against older women in rural and remote areas, with a focus on analyzing its prevalence, identifying risk factors, understanding the resulting consequences, and exploring the associated

perspectives. This research endeavors to shed light on a critical aspect of women's well-being, particularly in rural communities, where the understanding of these issues is limited.

**Rationale** In this way, although we acknowledge the prior research on elder women abuse in rural settings and the effort put into it, we contend that, broadening the scope of literature review to exclusively concentrate on older rural women, and incorporating subsequent qualitative and mixed-methods research findings, can enhance the existing body of evidence. This approach could lead to a more nuanced and comprehensive comprehension of the phenomenon under investigation.

### METHODS

**Strategy of data synthesis** The search was performed in Web of Science (WOS), Scopus, PubMed Medline, and APA PsycINFO. The primary

search terms utilized encompassed older women, 'rural areas,' and 'abuse'.

**Eligibility criteria** -Patient, problem or population: older women / violence / rural areas; -Investigated condition: prevalence abuse; -Comparison condition: rural areas; -Outcome(s): types, prevalences, risk factors, and consequences of abuse.

#### **Source of evidence screening and selection**

The process of article selection for this review was conducted independently by two author. In cases where uncertainties or reasonable disagreements regarding a study's relevance arose, these issues were resolved through consultation with a third author, who had the final authority in determining its inclusion. Notably, all three authors possess expertise in gender studies, aging, abuse, and social exclusion, and one of them is a specialist in systematic review methodologies. To enhance the efficiency of this review, the Covidence online software was employed as a supportive tool during the screening and eligibility phases.

**Data management** With the predefined research questions as a guide, two authors, overseen by a third author, conducted the extraction of results from the chosen studies. This extraction process was carried out using a standardized data collection template created specifically for this review within Microsoft Excel. The data obtained from the selected studies encompassed various aspects, including authorship and publication date, primary objectives, sample characteristics, study locations, research designs, assessment tools employed, the total number of rural elderly women included, the total count of abused rural elderly women, overall prevalence figures, prevalence by specific abuse types, and significant risk factors. Furthermore, for qualitative and mixed-methods studies, pivotal findings were also extracted, as detailed in Supplementary Table S5.

#### **Reporting results / Analysis of the evidence**

Statistical analysis was performed to ascertain the prevalence of abuse in older women residing in rural and/or remote areas. Additional prevalence measures, which exhibited heterogeneity and couldn't be grouped, along with the findings from qualitative and mixed-methods studies, were presented in a narrative-descriptive format, in accordance with the guidelines outlined by Arksey and O'Malley (2005).

**Presentation of the results** The results of this study are presented through a comprehensive statistical analysis that quantifies the prevalence of

abuse in older women living in rural and/or remote areas. Additionally, other prevalence measures, characterized by their heterogeneity, are reported in a narrative-descriptive format, while findings from qualitative and mixed-methods studies are presented in a qualitative manner, adhering to the guidelines established by Arksey and O'Malley (2005). This multifaceted approach allows for a holistic understanding of the phenomenon, combining quantitative insights with the richness of qualitative data to provide a well-rounded depiction of abuse in this specific demographic.

**Language restriction** No language restrictions were imposed.

**Country(ies) involved** No language restrictions were imposed.

**Keywords** Violence; Abuse, Neglect; Older women.

#### **Contributions of each author**

Author 1 - Adrián Jesús Ricoy-Cano - The Development of the Research Process and Article Writing.

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Author 2 - Carlos Vladimir Zambrano-Rodríguez - Process Supervision.

Author 3 - Yolanda María de la Fuente-Robles - Process Supervision.

Author 4 - Gabriela Estefanía Vásquez-Peña - Collaboration in the Screening Process.

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