Aging-in-place in rural and urban communities

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Statement of the Problem

• Older adults want to « age in place » (Dupuis-Blanchard, 2007; Rantz et al., 2011)

• Economic and social issues advocates in favor for aging in place
  ▫ $66/day for home care
  ▫ $120/day in nursing home/LTC facility
  ▫ $500 ++ in a hospital

• The silence of the Canada Health Act on home care creates a wide gap in access to services and long wait lists (Canadian Home Care Association, 2008).

• Few studies on aging-in-place – from seniors standpoint and services
Study Objectives

1- Determine the needs and the level of satisfaction of French speaking seniors living in a rural and urban communities;

2- Make a list of regional services offered for aging-in-place;

3- Determine the level of accessibility of services;

4- Identify current trends in seniors behaviors towards aging-in-place;

5- Recommend strategies and futur orientations that should be put in place to assure aging-in-place as a long-term care option.
Methodology

- Case study – qualitative

- Semi-structured individual interviews
  - Community agencies offering services (n=20)

- Semi-structured group interviews
  - Older adults (n=24) (7 men; 17 women)

- Data analysis – constant comparison and identification of themes
Results - Community Agencies

- Different conceptions of « aging-in-place »
  - Autonomy and quality of life
  - Isolation and solitude

- Services have not changed in the last years
  - Do not favor aging-in-place as a long term care option

- Too many demands for the number of employees

- No plans for the future
Results - Older Adults

- Present services only partially answer the needs of seniors
- Lack of certain services (transportation, accompaniment at night)
- Living in an senior designated apartment buildings facilitates aging-in-place
Proposed Solutions - Seniors

- New role for « social clubs »
  - Have part-time staff and use space as a resource centre for seniors

- Long-term care facilities
  - Day programs
  - Meals on wheels programs

- Leadership
  - Cities, community groups, ...

- Need a « vision » for the future
Discussion

- Need to develop a home care strategy
- Education for home care workers
- Public policy on aging
- Transition services from hospital to home
- Facilitate access to information (9-1-1 type)
References


Questions / Comments

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