

Table 1
Characteristics of 32 empirical reports on psychotropic drug use among
community-dwelling older persons, 1990-2001

Authors, Publication year	Country, Study year(s)	Design ¹	Sample selection, Sample size ²	Mental health measures	Data collection method, Drug use period	Prevalence of psychotropic drug use
⁶⁵ Allard et al., 1995	Canada 1991	C	P 500	Philadelphia Geriatric Center Morale Scale	Home interviews, past 3 months	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 31.8% Minor tranquilizers: 20.8% Hypnotics: 12.3% Antidepressants: 4.0% Antipsychotics: 2.0%
⁶⁶ Antonijoo et al., 1990	Spain 1988	C	NP 126	Symptom Distress Checklist (SCL-90)	Agency interview, past week	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 16% Benzodiazepines: 13.7% Antidepressants: 2.2%
¹⁹ Berg & Dellasega, 1996	Sweden ~ 1979-88	L	P 743	-	Home and outpatient clinic interviews	<u>Any psychotropic at 70, 75, & 79 yrs</u> : 29%, 39%, & 36% - <i>Anxiolytics & hypnotics</i> : 90%
⁶ Blazer et al., 2000 ³	USA 1986-96	L	P 4,000	Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)	Home interview with containers, past 2 weeks	<u>Any psychotropic 1986-96</u> : 13.3 — 11.8% Benzodiazepines: 12.0 — 10.2% Non-BZD sedatives & hypnotics: 1.6 — 0.7%
⁶⁷ Blazer et al., 2000b ³	USA 1986-96	L	P 4,162		Home interview with containers, past 2 weeks	Antidepressants 1986-96: 3.8 - 11%
⁶⁰ Brown et al., 1995	USA 1981-83	C	P 13,074	CES-D	Home interview with containers, past 2 weeks	Antidepressants in 4 states: 2.4 — 4.1%
¹¹⁹ Cans & Rotily, 1991	France 1990	C	P 257	-	Telephone interview, past 3 months	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 37% Benzodiazepines: 24.4% Antidepressants: 4.1%
⁶⁸ Dealberto et al., 1997	USA 1982-88	L	P 2,812	CES-D	Home interview, past 2 days	<u>Any psychotropic 1982-88</u> : 12.3 — 15.1% Benzodiazepines: 6.25 — 6.0 % Antidepressants: 2.0 — 4.3% Anticonvulsants: 2.0 — 2.6% Neuroleptics: 1.5 — 2.6%
⁴⁸ Egberts et al., 1997	Netherlands 1991-95	L	Population 7,812 ≥ 55 yrs	-	Gov't prescription dispensing database	1-, 2-, & 3-year cumulative incidence of starting antidepressants: 1.3%, 2.7%, & 4%
⁶³ Gleason et al., 1998	USA 1989-90	C	N-P 5,181	"self-reported physician-diagnosed nervous or emotional disorder"	Home interview with containers, past 2 weeks	Benzodiazepines: 9.9%
⁴² Graham et al., 1998	Canada 1990	C	P 826	-	Home interview with containers, past 4 weeks	Tranquilizers and/or sleeping pills: 20.6% women, 14.3% men
⁶⁹ Gustafsson et al., 1996	Sweden 1986	C	P 421 ≥75 yrs	Self-reports of "insomnia, melancholy, or anxiety"	Gov't prescription dispensing database	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 37% Hypnotics/sedatives/anxiolytics: 33% Neuroleptics: 6% Antidepressants: 4%

55Jorm et al., 2000	Australia 1991-95	L	P 337	CES-D, "nerves or an emotional condition for which you are receiving treatment"	Home interview with containers, regular use	Benzodiazepines: 16.6% using continuously 1991-95
53Kirby et al., 1999	Ireland 1993-97	C	P 1,701	Psychiatric syndromes: Geriatric Mental State (GMS-AGECAT)	Home interview with containers, current use	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 21.9% Benzodiazepines: 17.3% Antidepressants: 5% Neuroleptics: 1.3%
70Larose, 1996	Canada 1994	C	P 549	Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)	Home interview with containers, current use	Minor tranquilizers (64.3 %) Major tranquilizers (1 %) Hypnotics (23.4 %) Antidepressants (12.3 %)
49Mamdani et al., 1999	Canada, 1993-97	L	Population 1.4 million	-	Gov't prescription claims database	Antidepressants: low of 5.6% in 65-69 yr-old men in 1993 to high of 17.2% in 85-89 yr-old women in 1997
61Mayer-Oakes et al., 1993	USA ~ 1989	C	N-P 1,752	CES-D, Functional Status Questionnaire (FSQ)	Mailed survey, at least twice in past 12 months	Benzodiazepines: 20%
64McNutt et al., 1994	USA 1989	L, 1 yr	N-P 20,944	-	Gov't benzodiazepine prescription database	<u>1st quarter 1988 — 3rd quarter 1989</u> : Benzodiazepines: 29% — 15% Antidepressants: 16.8% — 19.9% Barbiturates: 2.5% — 3.2% Neuroleptics: 4.9% — 5.8% Others: 5.5% — 11.3%
71Newman & Hassan, 1999	Canada 1991-92	C	P 1,659	Dementia & Depression: DSM-III- R Cognition: Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)	Clinical assessment, current use	Antidepressants: 3.1 %
100Ohayon et al., 1996	France 1993	C	P 1,014	DSM-III-R, DSM-IV, ICD-10 diagnoses for subjects with sleep problems	Telephone interview, current and past consumption	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 65-74 yrs: 24.3%; ≥75 yrs: 32.8% Anxiolytics: 65-74 yrs: 14.2%; ≥75 yrs: 16.2% Hypnotics: 65-74 yrs: 5.7 %; ≥75 yrs: 11.6% Antidepressants: 65-74 yrs: 2 %; ≥75 yrs: 2.7%
94Paterniti et al., 1998 ⁴	France 1991-93	C	NP 1,389 (60-70 yrs)	CES-D, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI)	Agency interview with prescriptions & containers, regular use past month	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 21.4% Anxiolytics/hypnotics: 17.5% Antidepressants: 1.2% Neuroleptics: 0.43%
72Paterniti et al., 1999 ⁴	France 1991-93	C	NP 1,116 59-71 yrs	CES-D, STAI, MMSE	Agency interview with prescriptions, regular use past month	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 22.1% Benzodiazepines: 14.9%
50Pérodeau et al., 1992	Canada ~ 1989	C	NP 99 users only	CES-D, Hopkins Symptoms Checklist (HSCL)	Medical records, home interview, past 3 months	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 100% Minor tranquilizers: 79% Antidepressants: 15.6% Antipsychotics: 3% Barbiturates: 3%
79Pérodeau & Galbaud du Fort, 2000	Canada ~ 1997	C	NP 199	CES-D, HSCL, Life events: 2 scales	Home interview with containers, past 3 months	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 54.7% - Users: 75% on anxiolytics 11% on antidepressants 5% on antipsychotics 3% on barbiturates

⁷³ Ried et al., 1998	USA 1990	C	P 4,192	—	HMO prescription claims database	Benzodiazepines: 9%
¹¹⁷ Santé Québec, 1995	Canada 1992	C	P 3,400	Psychiatric Symptoms Index (PSI-14)	Home interview, past 2 days	Minor tranquilizers among ≥65 yrs: 21.7% men, 14.7% women
³⁰ Skood et al., 1993	Sweden 1986-87	C	P 494 (85 yr-olds only)	DSM-III-R	Home and outpatient clinic interviews	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 42.5% Anxiolytic-sedatives: 34.2% Antidepressants: 14.0% Neuroleptics: 5.7%
³² Stewart, 1994	USA 1979-92	L	NP 2,303	—	Outpatient clinic interview, past 12 months	Benzodiazepines: 13.0% in 1979, 11.7% in 1992
⁶² Swartz et al., 1991	USA 1982-83	C	P 1,839 ≥ 55 yrs	DSM-III-R Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS), SCL-90, Life events scale	Home interview, past 12 months	Benzodiazepines: 14.4%
¹¹⁸ Tamblyn, 1999	Canada 1993-1997	L	Population 93,950	—	Gov't prescription claims database	-
⁷⁴ Taylor et al., 1998	United Kingdom 1983-91	L	P 5,222	Psychiatric syndromes: GMS- AGECAT	Home interview, past month	Benzodiazepines: 12.8% in 1983, 10.8% in 1991
⁵ Wancata et al., 1997	Austria 1991-92	L, 6 months	N-P 185 ≥ 60 yrs	Mental disorders: Clinical Interview Schedule (CIS) & ICD-9	Medical records, current use 3 months before admission to nursing home	<u>Any psychotropic</u> : 45.4% Neuroleptics: 13.0% Antidepressants: 9.2% Anxiolytics: 15.7% Hypnotics: 20.0% Anticonvulsivants: 2.7% Others: 4.9%

Notes to Table 2:

1. C = cross-sectional, L = longitudinal
2. P = probability sample, NP = non-probability sample. Unless otherwise noted, all samples include users and non-users of psychotropic drugs. Unless otherwise noted, all participants are ≥ 65 years old.
3. The two reports by Blazer et al. come from the same study.
4. The two reports by Paterniti et al. come from the same study.