Elderly and addiction: A state of the art study [Ouderen en verslaving: een overzichtsstudie]

Funding country: Netherlands
Project starting year: 2010
Project ending year: 2010
Area(s) of research:
- Prevalence, incidence and patterns of drug use
- Determinants of drug use
- Consequences of drug use
- Methodology issues

Objectives:
The project comprised of three interrelated research projects. The first was a literature review on predictors and outcomes of substance use and abuse by older adults. The second was a survey among health care professionals about their experiences with treatment programs for older people who have been referred to the clinic. The third was a research proposal for the estimation of the total, but hidden population of community dwelling Dutch older adults who are addicted, including those who have not (yet) been referred to a clinic.

Scientific discipline(s) involved:
- Sociology
- Other medical sciences
- Other discipline

Initial identified needs:
Substance abuse, defined here as the abuse of alcohol, cannabis, cocaine and heroin, is a serious public health issue as it not only affects physical and mental health of the abusers, it also leads to increased costs for society. However, substance abuse in older adults is often neglected, yet numbers indicate that the amount of people who are in treatment has doubled over the last 10 year (IVZ). To reduce the negative trend in substance abuse effective prevention is required and for that knowledge about prevalence, causes and adverse consequences of risk-full use, recognition of addiction and knowledge about appropriate treatments, and insight into factors that influence the course of the disease is inadmissible.

Performed by:
- VU University, Faculty of Social Sciences
- GGz inGeest, mental health care institute and partner of VU medical centre
- Knowledge Center Elderly Psychiatry

Funded by:
- ZonMW, VU-University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Summary references:
http://www.zonmw.nl/nl/projecten/project-detail/ouderen-en-verslaving-een-overzichtsstudie/voortgang/

Published reference(s):