Assessment of the abbreviated Duke Social Support Index in a cohort of older Australian women

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Reference:

Key Words:
social support, reliability of measures, Duke Social Support Index, women

Research aim:
To assess the acceptability, reliability and validity of the 11-item Duke Social Support Index (DSSI) in community-dwelling older Australian women, and to describe its relationship with the women's sociodemographic and health characteristics.

Results/Conclusion:
Internal reliability was reasonable for most items. Higher social support was associated with better physical and mental health, being Australian born, more educated and better able to manage on income.

Implications:
Ten of the 11 DSSI items provided an acceptable, brief and valid measure of social support for use in mailed surveys to community-dwelling older women.

Cultural Group(s):
Not specific to CALD

Location of study:
Australia (national)

Age group:
70-75

Number included in study:
12,939

Type of participants:
women aged 70-75 selected through Medicare database

Research approach:
Quantitative

Type of data:
Primary

Secondary data sources used:
Medicare database

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:
Duke Social Support Index, SF-36

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:
Not specific to CALD, mainly about using the methodology and reliability of measures