

Social networks, ethnicity and public home-care utilisation

Author/s: Litwin, H. | **Year:** 2004 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** Yes | **Topic area/s:** Community Care, General Wellbeing, General CALD

Reference: Litwin, H. (2004) "Social networks, ethnicity and public home-care utilisation" *Ageing and Society* 24(6): 921-939

Key Words:

CALD Older People, Community Care, Israel

Research aim:

This article examines the relationships between support networks, ethnicity and the utilisation of formal care services, taking into account background characteristics and functional health status among 3,403 older people in Israel. Data were drawn from a national survey in 1997 of people aged 60 or more years.

Results/Conclusion:

No association was found between home-care utilisation and a respondent's ethnicity (Arab, Jew, and new Russian immigrant), income or education. The results show that publicly-financed formal care services were utilised more frequently by older-old persons, women, functionally impaired individuals and people embedded in the neighbour-focused and restricted networks (and to a lesser degree, in the diverse and friend-focused networks). Neighbour-focused and restricted network types were characterised by fewer informal support resources at their disposal than the other types. Thus, formal home care was sought more often in cases in which the informal sources of support had less capacity to provide ongoing informal care.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Arab, Jewish and Russian Immigrants in Israel

Location of study:

Israel

Age group:

60+ years

Number included in study:

3,403 aged 60+

Type of participants:

Older Israelis who took part in a national survey in 1997, a sub set of (1) Arab citizens of the State of Israel, (2) post-1990 immigrants from the former Soviet Union, and (3) the majority veteran Jewish population that was born in the area or immigrated before 1990.

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary

Secondary data sources used:

National survey of Israelis aged 60 or more years carried out by the Central Bureau of Statistics in 1997

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Binary logistic regression

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: