



CLSA Approved Project

Applicant

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Project Title

Health service use and unmet care needs among lonely and/or socially isolated older adults

Project Summary

Loneliness and isolation are increasingly recognized as affecting older adults' health, including the risk for death. Some research has shown that loneliness and social isolation increase the risk of hospital readmission and prolonged stays. The purpose of this project is to examine the association between loneliness and social isolation on health service use and unmet needs. Our project will also specifically examine if there are sex and gender-related differences in these associations. We will use Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) telephone survey data to identify if poor social connection affects health service use and unmet needs. This work is critical to help determine if social disconnection is a barrier to accessing health services.

Keywords

Loneliness, Social isolation, Health care use