

iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary

Journal Club Details

Date of submission	May 2011
Journal Club location	Lyell McEwin Hospital
JC Facilitator	Kathy L
JC Discipline	OT

Clinical Scenario

How does hoarding impact on the safety of people over the age of 65 living in the community?

Review Question/PICO/PACO

- P** People over the age of 65
- I** Hoarding behaviours
- C** -
- O** Safety at home

Article/Paper

Chapin R, Sergeant J, Landry S, Koenig T, Leiste M & Reynolds K (2010) Hoarding cases involving older adults: The transition from a private matter to the public sector. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 53: 8; 723-742.

Please note: due to copyright regulations CAHE is unable to supply a copy of the critically appraised paper/article. If you are an employee of the South Australian government you can obtain a copy of articles from the [DOHSA librarian](#).

Article Methodology:	Mixed-Methods
Returned JC on:	2011
By CAHE staff member:	Khushnum Pastakia



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Ques No.	Review Area	Questions
1	Study Evaluation	<p>What are the aims of this paper? The aim of this paper is to understand the progression of hoarding cases through the public sector. This is to assist multiagency hoarding teams (MAHT) deliver the most efficient service.</p> <p>If the paper is part of a wider study, what are its aims? N/A</p> <p>What are the key findings? This study identified individual and environmental characteristics in hoarding cases that progressed from being a private matter to being a public concern. Implications for social workers involved in local service coordination, training, and policy were identified and explored in the article.</p>
2	The Study	<p>What type of study is this? The study used a mixed methods design.</p> <p>What is the relationship of the study to the area of the topic review? To date, little research is available to guide the work of MAHTs that form to improve services for older adults with hoarding behaviours. This study lays a conceptual foundation for future research and sheds light on the progression of hoarding cases through the public sector.</p>
3	The Context: Setting	<p>Within what geographical and care setting is the study carried out? The study is conducted across seven counties in six states in the Midwest region of the United States of America. The rationale for choosing this setting is not given.</p> <p>The authors have included an urban and rural area to get a more holistic view of hoarding behaviours however the rationale for why this region was selected or details of the region has not been provided.</p> <p>The files were reviewed on a monthly basis over nine months, reasons for this time frame have not been explained.</p>

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The Context:
 Sample

What was the source population?

Adults over 60 y/o

What were the inclusion criteria?

Not reported

What were the exclusion criteria?

Not reported

How was the sample selected?

The sample was selected by using public sector agencies to participate in the study, this included Area Agencies on Aging, Adult Protective Services, state-level animal health department, public housing, animal control, and other aging services. These agencies were located in one rural and two urban settings in the same Midwest state.

Both urban areas had newly-created multiagency hoarding teams (MAHT); the rural area did not have a formalized MAHT, but when the need for a multidisciplinary approach arose, key players communicated with each other.

One member from each of seven county-level MAHTs in 6 different states participated in a telephone interview. MAHTs were identified through local contacts and the Children of Hoarders Web site, a recognized source of information on hoarding.

The total sample size was 52. This did not provide enough power for analysis by individual disciplines.

The key characteristics of the sample were:

- Age ranged from 60 to 95 years ($M = 74.4$)
- Larger proportion of women (73%), compared to men
- 75% of the older adults involved in these hoarding cases were White, and 18% were African American
- Income level was not available for all 52 hoarding cases, however, from the 31 (60%) hoarding cases in which income level was reported, household income ranged from zero to a maximum of nearly \$80,000 per year.
- Sixty-nine percent of the older adults were single (e.g., widowed, divorced and never married)
- Even though 19% of the older adults were married or with a partner, acting agencies reported that 50% lived in a hoarding situation with a spouse, partner, or relative; and that 60% were socially isolated or reclusive.

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5	The Context: Outcome Measurement	<p>The results focus on the characteristics of the older adult and their environment. The other aspect reported is the progression of the hoarding case through the public sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial complaints: usually from social services followed by a family member or regulatory agencies. • Acting agencies: Either regulatory agencies or social services (same agencies that provided the data for this study) • Action taken: Public sector agencies reported that they made referrals, conducted home visits and clean-up activities, initiated legal penalties, and assisted with the removal of the older adult from their home. • Outcomes: Refusal of services, moving out to nursing facilities, government seizure of property and continued living in the same home with cleanup services in place. <p>Whose perspectives are addressed (professional, service, user, carer)?</p> <p>The hoarder, acting agencies and professionals perspectives are addressed in this paper. The main focus is on the reasons for hoarding and the cases for failure of corrective strategies put into place.</p> <p>Is there sufficient breadth (e.g. contrast of two or more perspective) and depth (e.g. insight into a single perspective)?</p> <p>Yes. As they explore the reasons behind why services are refused by the hoarder as well as the issues that lead to hoarding in the first place.</p>
6	Ethics	<p>The authors do not specify whether ethical committee approval was attained for the purpose of the phone interviews or otherwise. No details of informed consent are provided either.</p>
7	Comparable Groups	<p>Not applicable</p>

8	Data Collection	<p>What data collection methods were used in the study? Phone interviews and file reviews were the two ways data was collected for the study.</p> <p>Is the process of fieldwork adequately described? The process of fieldwork could be described in more depth especially with respect to the questions asked in the phone interviews.</p>
9	Data Analysis	<p>How were the data analysed? No specifics, details or justification of how the data collected were analysed is given.</p> <p>How adequate is the description of the data analysis? Not reported</p> <p>Is adequate evidence provided to support the analysis? Not reported</p> <p>Are the findings interpreted within the context of other studies and theory? Yes</p>
10	Potential Bias	<p>What was the researcher's role? The researcher's role was to collect data from the case note and conduct phone interviews and then collate the data.</p> <p>Are the researcher's own position, assumptions and possible biases outlined? Not reported</p>

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<p>11</p>	<p>Implications</p>	<p>To what setting are the study findings generalisable? The findings could be applied to hoarding situations where individuals are in their own home.</p> <p>To what population are the study’s findings generalisable? Older age population (60+) was targeted in this study therefore the findings can be applied to this age group only.</p> <p>What are the implications for policy? Research on MAHT approaches involving both social and regulatory service systems serve to inform dynamics across ecologic levels from the perspectives of varied disciplines, and comprehensive evaluation of the MAHT work will link effective approaches to positive hoarding outcomes.</p> <p>What are the implications for service practice? This study lays a conceptual foundation for future research and sheds light on the progression of hoarding cases through the public sector.</p>
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