

Understanding Stigma of Dementia during COVID-19: Implications and Mitigation Strategies

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INTRODUCTION

- Stigma is one of the greatest barriers for people living with dementia.
- However, little discussion examines stigma of dementia during COVID-19.
- This presentation aims to: 1) identify the implications of dementia-related stigma in the COVID-19 pandemic; and 2) describe mitigation strategies to reduce stigma of dementia during the pandemic.

METHODS

- Guided by Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) scoping review framework, a review was conducted to examine literature from Jan. 2020 to Jun. 2023.
- Electronic databases searched included: CINAHL, EMBASE, Google Scholar, Medline, PsycINFO, and Web of Science.
- From the 278 records, fifteen articles met our inclusion criteria.

RESULTS Implications of dementia-related stigma consisted of 4 themes

Ethics and human rights issues
(confinement, elder abuse, isolation, understaffing, and overmedication)

Cultural inequities and racism
(institutional discrimination and racism)

Inequitable access to health services
(acute care, and life-saving resources)

COVID-19 stereotypes
(highly vulnerable, suffering, and near death)

DISCUSSION

- Although articles described implications of dementia-related stigma, only a few articles identified strategies to reduce stigma.
- Further research is needed to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to address stigma of dementia during the pandemic and beyond.

References: Arksey, H. & O'Malley, L. (2005). Scoping studies: Towards a methodological framework, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8, 19-32.

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