Abstract

**Problem:** The purpose of this project was to examine the public health nursing concerns of the aging population in Maastricht, Netherlands. The aging population is defined as adults who are sixty-five and older, as it is encouraged by the Netherlands to retire by that age (International Longevity Center Global Alliance, 2011). In 2011 there were 15.6 per 1,000 people 65 and older living in the Netherlands and it is estimated that this number will increase to 24.8 per 1,000 people by 2060 (“Population Forecasts,” n.d.) These population trends indicate an increase in the percentage of adults older than 65.

**Methods:** A community assessment based on Stanhope and Lancaster (2014) was conducted examining issues such as increasing healthcare and housing needs for people over age 65. The data on aging and the associated public health concerns was collected through: observations, perceptions, community member interviews, and research.

**Results:** It was determined that the combination of the recommended retirement age of sixty-five, chronic diseases, and a potential lack of senior housing are all public health concerns that pertain to this population. Care of this population will continue to require greater amounts of age-specific care and resources. One intervention that was identified to address the public health concerns of the aging population is increasing the awareness of government policy makers about the health concerns of the aging population, thus preparing for an increase in funding and resources for this population. Another intervention identified is to incorporate gerontology courses into nursing school curriculums so that future nurses will be prepared to meet the growing needs of the aging population. **Conclusion:** It was concluded that Maastricht, Netherlands is in need of
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professional nursing guidance to implement public health strategies to make resources, particularly housing, more accessible for the aging population.
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References

