

Adaptation of the NIH tool for cohort, observational, and cross-sectional studies (National Institute of Health, 2016)

1. Was the research question or objective in this paper clearly stated?
2. Was the study population clearly specified and defined?
3. Was the participation rate of eligible persons at least 50%?
4. Were all the subjects selected or recruited from the same or similar populations (including the same time period)? Were inclusion and exclusion criteria for being in the study prespecified and applied uniformly to all participants?
5. Was a sample size justification, power description, or variance and effect estimates provided?
6. For exposures that can vary in amount or level, did the study examine different levels of the exposure as related to the outcome (e.g., categories of exposure, or exposure measured as continuous variable)?
In this question, exposures were understood as “elder abuse victimization” and its measurement, and, in those studies where it was applicable, other independent variables in relation to help-seeking (dependent variable).
7. Were the exposure measures (independent variables) clearly defined, valid, reliable, and implemented consistently across all study participants?
8. Were the outcome measures (dependent variables) clearly defined, valid, reliable, and implemented consistently across all study participants?
Because most studies use self-report to measure this question, the answer to this question was “yes” if there was a consistent way of assessing help-seeking behavior, i.e., same question asked to all participants or same conceptualization applied to all cases if looking at data already gathered.
9. Were key potential confounding variables measured and adjusted statistically for their impact on the relationship between exposure(s) and outcome(s)?