

powerful model to study aging in people because they share our environment and experience similar age-related diseases. To date, the effect of aging on postural control in dogs has not yet been evaluated. The aim of this study was to determine the correlation between age and the displacement of the COP in dogs during quiet standing. Due to the diversity of life expectancy in dogs according to their body size, age was normalized as a fraction of the predicted life expectancy. Dogs older than 75% of their life expectancy (n=18) were asked to stand on a pressure mat for 8 seconds per trial during at least five trials. Only the frames where the dogs were standing still and facing forward were analyzed. Age as a fraction of life expectancy was significantly correlated ($p < 0.05$) with the Medio-lateral Range, Root-Mean-Square Distance, 95% Confidence Ellipse, and Total Sway Area of the COP. These results show that, as in humans, aging in dogs is associated with postural control deficits and therefore reinforce the dog as a suitable model for translational studies of aging and postural steadiness.

AGING SERVICES WORKERS IN THE PANDEMIC: VOICED EXPERIENCE OF SENIOR CENTER STAFF & CASE WORKERS

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The pandemic necessitated immediate shutdown of senior centers, requiring a rapid pivot in the delivery of services to older adults by direct care workers. We provided psychosocial support to older adult service personnel-including Aging and Adult Services case workers and Senior Center Staff, and conducted focus groups with staff at intervals to capture the mid-point of the pandemic (peak of older adult deaths), onset of vaccine availability and the re-entry phase as programs re-opened. We evaluated coping and self-efficacy of workers and discerned sustained high levels of coping and perceived job performance. Using a phenomenological lens, we analyzed transcribed recordings, generated codes, and created categories of experiences. Several themes emerged: personal and professional resilience, passion for serving older adults, motivation to perform their job well, stress of not having face-to-face contact with clients, insufficient resources-especially in rural areas, lack of essential training, feeling disjointed as a team, and work-life balance. Over the course of the pandemic, workers expressed increasing resiliency and skills to navigate the pandemic, oscillations in their fears for their clients' well-being, and gratitude that they kept their jobs and gained additional State resources. As the vaccine was available and utilized, and as senior centers were reopening, senior center staff were enthusiastic, yet case workers remained apprehensive about long-term consequences of the pandemic. This study affirms the role of direct care workers as essential and valuable. Yet, their expressed need for more education, psychosocial support, and community awareness of their service remains to be addressed.

AN ONLINE COMMUNITY INTERVENTION FOR OLDER PERSONS WITH PRE-FRAILTY AND FRAILITY: PILOT STUDIES

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Online community interventions can support self-management in older populations but have rarely targeted symptomology of pre-frailty and frailty. To support older adults' pre-frailty/frailty symptom management, we iteratively refined an approach entitled Virtual Online Community for Aging Life Experience (VOCALE) in three consecutive pilot studies (2018-2020). These studies employed asynchronous online discussions in which participants were asked to respond to weekly prompts. A study facilitator moderated the discussion, encouraging participants to respond to both the prompts and comments of other participants. In the first pilot (n=8), participants engaged in a collective exploration of different symptoms of pre-frailty and frailty. The second (n=10) and third (n=10) pilots employed a hybrid approach including collaborative exploration and learning of different problem-solving therapy skills over eight weeks. The mean age of participants of the three pilots combined was 80.6 (SD = 7.0). Most participants were female (71%). Participant attrition ranged from 20-25%. Many participants who completed the study noted that they enjoyed the discussions. The participants also found the moderators' follow-up questions and support timely and engaging. Additionally, we observed small but positive changes in self-efficacy measures. These pilot studies have confirmed that older adults with pre-frailty and frailty are interested, and can successfully engage in online community interventions, with the technical support and moderation provided, even during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when lockdown policies were rolled out. Participation in the intervention was also associated with increased awareness of the need to be proactive in self-management concerning frailty-related symptoms.

ASSESSING CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH RISK IN CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENT PRIMARY CAREGIVERS: INTERIM ANALYSIS

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Minimal research has been conducted on the effect that grandparents as primary caregivers have on the cardiometabolic health of children who live with them, even though a number of studies have examined the influence of parent caregivers. As a first step towards filling that gap, we examined physiological and behavioral indicators of cardiometabolic health risk among children (aged 7 to 12 years) living with grandparent primary caregivers in Oregon and Washington. We measured body mass index and total cholesterol/glycohemoglobin (HbA1c), as well as