

Living Alone with Dementia

Identification, Unmet Needs and Safety Concerns

Elizabeth Gould, MSW
RTI International

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#DementiaCareSummit

Prevalence and Characteristics

Studies indicate
28%-34%
of people with dementia
live alone



Diagnosis/Treatment

- Much less likely to be diagnosed
- Do not receive the same level of care

Characteristics

- Predominantly female and older
- Very little known about minority status
- Lower income
- Less cognitively impaired
- More likely to have nonrelative caregivers

Unmet Needs

- Personal care needs and daily activities
- Health conditions and medications
- Nutrition and hydration
- Social isolation and loneliness



Safety Concerns

- Safety in the home
- Unattended wandering
- Ability to respond in an emergency
- Financial exploitation



Research Recommendations

- Conduct epidemiological studies that describe the conditions and circumstances of people living alone with dementia to inform public health, policy and evidence-based practice
- Develop effective approaches for identifying dementia in people living alone
- Identify the determinants (including racial and ethnic status) of people living alone with dementia
- Evaluate interventions that meet the needs and mitigate safety concerns of people with dementia living alone such as the “gatekeeper model”
- Determine effective strategies for expanding a person’s support system
- Establish whether and which assistive technologies can meet the needs and mitigate safety concerns of people living alone with dementia

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Contact Information



Elizabeth Gould, MSW
RTI International
230 W. Monroe St. Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60606
egould@rti.org

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