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A "Sense of Home"
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A "sense of home": perceptions and expectations of elderly people about residential care facilities

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Abstract

Background *The rise in life expectancy over the past twenty years has led to an increase of number of older people in high-income countries (WHO, 2016). Age brings changes in lifestyle, social relationships, and health. Older people has specific social, relational and health complex needs. The elderly and their families often realize that their homes and competences are no longer sufficient to support the high complexity of their needs. Thus, an increasing number of older people have to move to residential care facilities to face their changed needs. When they move away from their home they still have the need to feel at home. But what makes a house into a home? Feeling at home is a multidimensional experience strictly connected with people's emotion and with the architecture of home environment (Bland, 2005; Van Steenwikeld et al. 2012). No study was conducted to describe Italian elderly people' perception of their sense of home and their housing needs.*

The aim of this study was to explore what contribute to the feeling of "sense of home" and which are the housing needs of elderly people.

Methods *A qualitative, descriptive design will be adopted. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews on a convenience sample of Italian elderly people and their caregivers from June to September 2017. The inclusion criteria are: people aged >65 years, either inpatients of an university hospital or attending a day care centre for elderly, with no cognitive impairments and sufficient knowledge of Italian language. During the interview participants were asked to think at the main characteristics of a future possible residential care facility and to describe which motivations would guide their choice; in particular, which environment they would like to find there and which facilitators and barriers would makes it easier/ hinder their feeling at home during their stay.*

The interviews will be tape recorded and transcribed verbatim. Thematic analysis will be used to interpret the data through R-based Qualitative Data Analysis

(RQDA) software. Before start the study has received the approval of the Ethics Committee of the university involved.

Results *Investigating about older people' experience of "sense of home" will enable to better know their environmental needs and will offer an innovative contribution to the organization of residential care facilities. Preliminary results will be achieved by October 2017.*

Full Paper

See Book: "People, Care and Work in the Home"

<https://homerenaissancefoundation.org/resource/people-care-and-work-in-the-home/>