Extension of ENABLE-AGE Research Questions and Methodology to a Younger Cohort in Sweden

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Knowledge about the physical environment aspects in the home for people in the third age is scarce. Thus, the aim is to present the most common environmental barriers and investigate the nature of accessibility problems among Swedish people, age 67-71. A sub-sample (n=371) of the population based longitudinal SNAC-GÅS study (N=2,931) is used. Following the ENABLE-AGE methodology, data related to home and health were collected through structured interviews and observations. Out of 161 assessed environmental barriers, the results show that environmental barriers were common (m=69), more prevalent in one-family than in multi-dwelling households and more often present indoors than outdoors/entrances. The 20 most common environmental barriers (e.g. different types of controls) were found in 46% of all dwellings investigated. After juxtaposing the prevalence of barriers with the functional profiles of the participants, accessibility problems were more prevalent in multi-dwelling households than in one-family houses.

(144 words)

Objective 1: After attending this activity, participants will be aware of the most common environmental barriers and accessibility problems existing among young old people living in ordinary housing.