

# What do we know about research collaboration with people living in care homes?

## Background

Giving the public a say in research is crucial to make sure research is relevant and addresses the needs of its target population. However, care home residents, a potentially vulnerable group, are often excluded from research that could directly benefit them. We carried out a **systematic review**, to find all the literature on public involvement approaches in research involving older adults residing in long-term care homes.

## Methods

We searched 3 collections of research articles systematically. We used all the different word that can mean 'public involvement' and 'long-term care'.

## Results

This search found **15,809** citations, of which **4000** were possibly relevant. We read the summaries of these and found **six** articles were relevant.

These showed that very few research studies genuinely collaborate with older people living in care homes.

People with advanced cognitive decline or dementia were not represented.

Lots of different words were used to describe public involvement, highlighting a lack of clarity in defining and reporting activities.



## Conclusions

Our conclusions are that there needs to be **more attention paid to public involvement in care home research**, particularly for residents with **cognitive impairments**.

Future research should:

- **Report** public involvement processes clearly,
- **Involve** residents as active partners from the outset,
- Make sure research findings are **effectively communicated** for all stakeholders, including residents.



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