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ELDERLY PEOPLE'S DEATH ANXIETY AND DYING ANXIETY IN ISRAEL: A COMPARISON BETWEEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE SECOND LEBANON WAR

P. Pon

School of Social Work, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

Background: Due to our fear of extinction or annihilation, there is a great deal of preoccupation with the subject of death, through which we attempt to learn to feel more at ease with the concept, and allowing us to cope with our fear of death.

Method: The study assumptions seek to emphasize the correlations between:

- A. Demographic characteristics and anxiety of death and dying;
- B. Inner - personality characteristics and death and dying anxiety variable; and
- C. Intrapersonal characteristics and death and dying anxiety.

The connections between all of those variables were examined before and after the second Lebanon war. The study sample comprised 217 participants as the "before" group and, 151 participants as the "after" group. The study's data was collected via face-to-face interviews. All of the "after" group participant were at the "before" group.

Results: Findings indicate that the war increased the death and dying anxieties especially among those elderly women and those who live within nursing homes. In general elderly people with a high level of self-evaluation and sense of mastery will experience lower levels of death and dying anxieties.

Conclusion: In spite of age, experience and knowledge, war has a powerful influence on elderly people. The phenomena in which innocent citizens became more and more involved in politics violence must be in front of policy makers.