

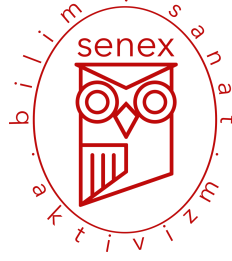
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**MONITORING VIOLENCE
AND VIOLATION OF RIGHTS
AGAINST OLDER PEOPLE**

ASSOCIATION FOR AGING STUDIES PUBLICATION



Senex Monitoring: Monitoring Violence and Violation of Rights Against Older People

November Report

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ABOUT

SENEX MONITORING

Senex: Association for Aging Studies started Senex Monitoring to monitor violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people throughout the year and to present them to the public, starting from January 2021.

Senex Monitoring aims to raise awareness among central and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and all concerned constituents to prevent violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people. Thus, it aims to contribute to the development of evidence-based policies.

Within the scope of Senex Monitoring, violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people will be reported throughout 2021. This eleventh report covers the analyses of the cases in November 2021.

Method

Senex Monitoring is based on data collected by monitoring the printed media news. All violations against older people, especially violence, neglect, and discrimination are classified. The unit of analysis consists of cases, not news. Senex Monitoring's November 2021 report includes analyses of cases between November 1-30.

PREFACE

The research that I have conducted on ageism indicates that discriminatory attitudes against older people in Turkey are prevalent. We have observed that discriminatory attitudes against older people spread very quickly in public spaces when the Covid-19 pandemic started. Many people thought that hatred toward older people was a new thing. However, age discrimination is increasingly becoming widespread in Turkey. Antalya Aging Study waves in 2013, 2016, and 2020 showed that ageism rose from 3.5% to 7% and finally to 10% respectively. Indeed, ageism has reached 8% in Turkey during the Covid-19 pandemic as can be seen in the research conducted with Raoul Wallenberg Institute's support.

During my research, I realized that instances of violence, neglect, and abuse against older people in Turkey were not isolated cases. Rather, cases of violence, neglect, and abuse, often regarded as exceptions, were widespread. In fact, it was happening in a cyclical pattern. These observations were the main reasons that motivated us to carry out the Senex Monitoring.

Thus, we began to monitor violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people, beginning in January 2021. The number of cases with a monthly average of 163 in the last 10 months was 191 in November. Deaths attributed to unnatural causes were most widespread, followed by suspicious deaths, and cases of fraud. The number of reported fraud cases faced by older women living alone was comparatively higher.

The findings that we obtained are shared in this report. Our aim is to raise awareness of the widespread extent of discriminatory attitudes, violence, neglect, and abuse experienced by older people. Most of the cases can be prevented, thereby decreasing harmful effects. Senex Monitoring aims to provide local governments and civil society, as well as academia and policymakers, with the factual support and incentive to address the problem in order to overcome the violence and violations. I hope we can raise awareness and use this evidence to bring about improvements.

Özgür Arun

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When examining the violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination in Turkey in November 2021, 191 cases were detected. Most of the cases (23) took place in Istanbul, with the remaining cases in Aydın (15), Kocaeli (12), Adana (9), Zonguldak (8), and Denizli and Şanlıurfa (7 cases each) respectively.

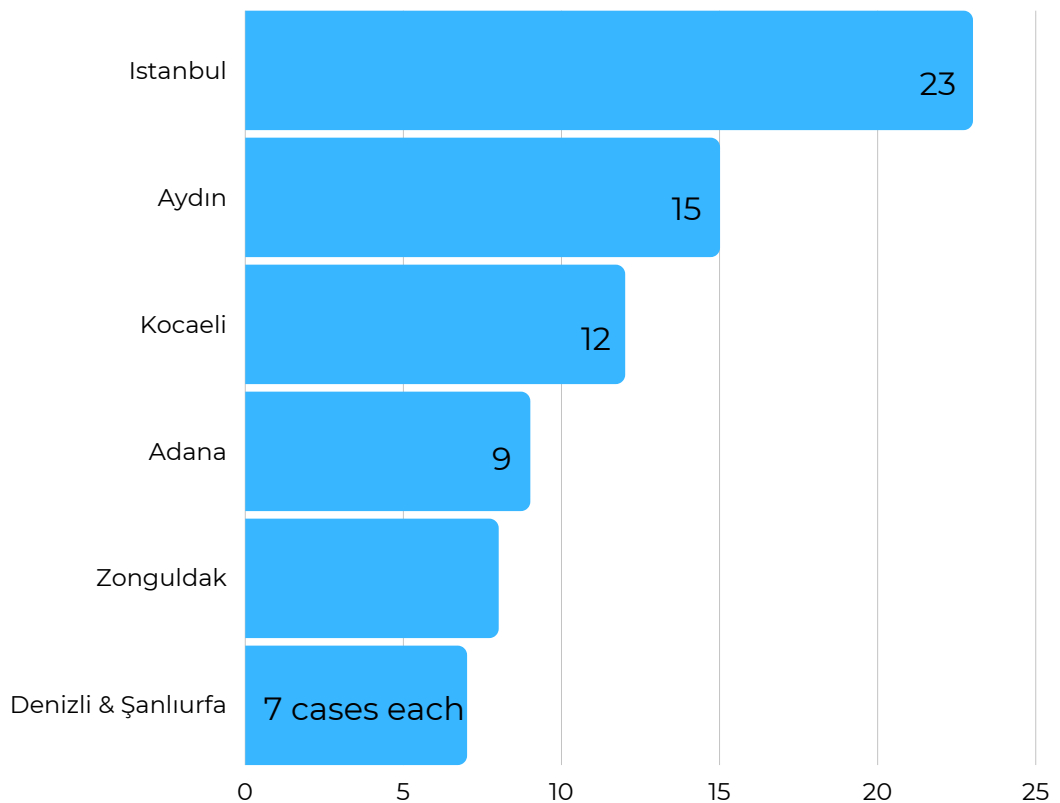


Figure 1. The cities where violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people are most frequently seen (n)

191

cases were detected
in Turkey

46%

Of all cases, 46% resulted in
death.



In November 2021, of all cases detected in Turkey, 43 cases consisted of fatalities caused by unnatural events and neglect such as natural disasters, falls, neglect, work accidents, accidents, fire, sexual assaults, and carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, 33 cases are classified as suspicious deaths. It has been reported that forensic investigations of suspicious deaths are ongoing. On the other hand, we detected 2 suicide cases and 9 murders. As a result, it is understood that of all violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination cases against older people in November, 46% resulted in death.

The third most common type of violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people in November 2021 consisted of cases of fraud. We detected 19 cases of fraud which increased compared to the previous month. In November sixteen cases of accidents occurred. The number of accidents experienced by older people while using pedestrian crossings was notably high. We detected 14 cases of disappearance in November. Among cases of disappearance, 13 older people have been found, while the search for the remaining continues. In addition, in November, 13 cases of fire were reported.

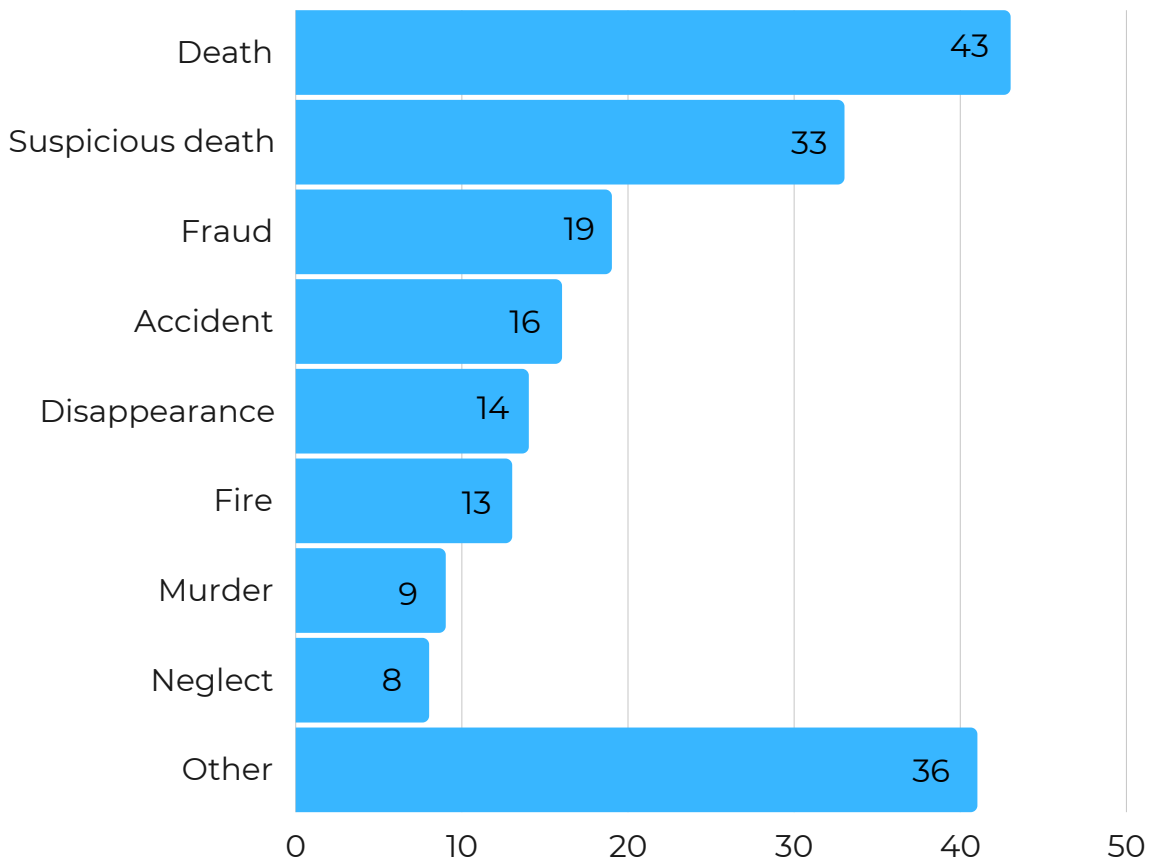


Figure 2. The most common types of violence, neglect, violation of rights and discrimination against older people in Turkey (n)

Nine cases of murder were detected in November. Thus, case of physical violence have increased compared to the previous months. Additionally, 8 cases of neglect occurred in Turkey in November as some physical environments are not age-friendly. Finally, cases with 7 occurrences or less were collected in the "other" category. These are classified as neglect of care, natural disaster, falls, economic and physical violence, extortion, violation of rights, theft, suicide, arson, shootings, poisoning, and ageism.

191

cases were detected
in Turkey

38%

Of all cases, 38% consisted of violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older women.



Of all cases in November, 38% consisted of violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older women. Older men experienced violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination in 54% of all cases. Older couples were victims in 6% of all cases. Additionally, 2% of cases involved more than one older person.

Violence, neglect, violation of rights and discrimination were experienced by people in Turkey between the ages of 50 and 96 during November. Age of victims is unknown in 39 cases. Those whose ages are not specified are reported as “elderly”, “elderly man”, “elderly woman”, “elderly citizen”, and “elderly individual”. The average age of those who experienced violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination was 73.

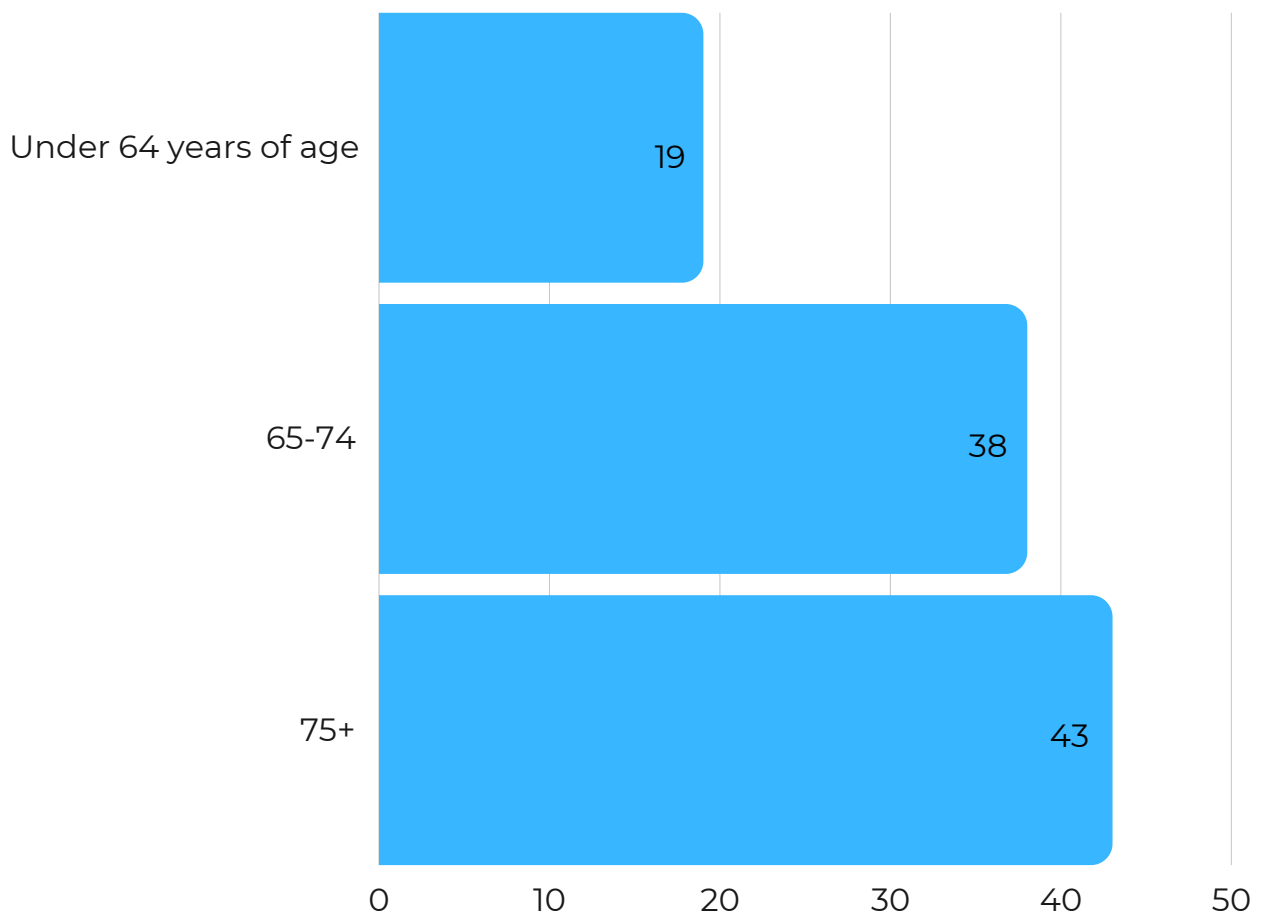


Figure 3. Distribution of older people who experienced violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination by age groups (%)

Of all violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination cases in November, 19% were against people who are under 64 years of age. The rate of those in the 65-74 age group was found to be 38%. The rate of older people aged 75+ who experienced violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination was 43%.

EVALUATION

In November, there were 191 cases of violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination against older people detected by Senex Monitoring in Turkey. The number of violations faced by older people that resulted in death is quite striking.

The deaths that occurred due to unnatural events such as falls from heights, being struck, accidents, and neglect of care are prevalent. We detected that 2 older couples, 16 older women, and 25 older men lost their lives because of such events in November. Secondly, it is notable that suspicious deaths are all too common as well. Forensic units are still investigating cases of suspicious deaths of 26 older men, 6 older women, and 1 older couple.

In November, the number of cases of fraud was notably high. Nine older women, 6 older men, and 4 older couples were targeted. 10 older women and 6 older men were affected by the accidents. We detected that 7 older women and 7 older men, mostly those with Alzheimer's disease, were affected in cases of disappearance. In November, we saw that 7 older men, 3 older women, and 3 older couples were

affected in cases of fire. Six older men, 2 older women, and 1 older couple were killed in November. We saw that 2 older groups, 2 older men and 4 older women were affected by cases of neglect.

It is notable that in November, as in the previous ten months, nearly all of the most affected population in all cases of violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination were poor older adults. Indeed, deaths that occurred due to violence and neglect are very common among poor older adults. It is possible to prevent most such deaths by taking preventative action. With the provision of age-friendly environments and services, it is seen that falls from heights, being struck, fire, work accidents, and similar incidents are preventable.

All the violence, neglect, violation of rights, and discrimination faced by poor older people, especially widowed, and disabled older women, may be attributed to structural factors. The services to be developed by local governments regarding age-friendly environments and the preventative actions to be taken by public institutions can lead to a reduction in deaths.

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