**Supplemental File 5: Table S5:** Methodological aspects and main themes from studies containing qualitative analyses (n=21)

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| **Study** | **Study Aim** | **Population** | **Sampling** | **Data Collection** | **Data Analysis** | **Main Themes**1 |
| McCaffrey *et al.* (2015) | Determine what features of consumer-directed, home-based support services are important to users and their informal caregivers to inform the design of a DCE survey | Receivers of home-based support aged ≥65 years (n=17), caregivers aged ≥18 years providing informal home-based support (n=10) in southern Australia | Convenience sampling recruited from aged care service providers | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=27) | Qualitative content (thematic) analysis, constant comparative analyses | Service provider & support worker, flexibility in care activities, contact with service co-ordinator, budget management |
| Guo, Konetzka and Dale (2014) | Explore the feasibility of TTO methods for utility elicitation in QOL and quantify preferences for different LTC services: home care, NH care | Individuals aged ≥50 years (at short-term risk of needing LTC) from a large urban area in the Midwest, USA (n=18) | n.i. (purposive) | 2 FG (n=18) | n.i. | Care location (homecare vs. NH care), impact of health state (care need) |
| Rittirong, Prasartkul and Rindfuss (2014) | Explore rural elders’ preferences for support (LTC caregiver) across five different domains | Older people aged 60-85 years from geographically dispersed villages in the Nang Rong region, Thailand (n=102) | Convenience sampling recruited through public health officers | 14 FG with 6 to 9 participants each (n=102) | Qualitative content analysis | Caregiver by domain (personal care, meal preparation, transport, financial- and emotional support), caregiver burden |
| Schroder-Butterfill and Fithry (2014) | To explore who provides care to frail older people in Indonesia, and to what extent actual care arrangements align with older people's preferences | Adults aged ≥60 years from two rural Indonesian villages in West Sumatra (n=101) and East Java (n=206) | Total population survey of all adults aged ≥60 years from two rural villages | Ethnography: day-to-day conversations, semi-structured F2F interviews (1999-2000, 2004-2005) | n.i. | Care location, caregiver, norms/values |
| Sudha (2014) | Examine the desires and intentions for elder care among Asian Indian seniors and their families, in light of changing intergenerational relations | Asian Indian seniors aged ≥60 years (n=5) and their younger (mostly middle-aged) relatives (n=19) in North Carolina, USA | Recruitment via personal introduction and snowball techniques (convenience) | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=24) | Qualitative content (thematic) analysis | Care location, caregiver, caregiver burden, norms/values |
| Denson, Winefield and Beilby (2013) | Compare preferences and values of frail elders living at home, their younger relatives, and health professional about discharge plans for LTC | Adults in an Australian city: older persons aged 77-83 years (n=10), relatives aged 45-69 years (n=8), health professionals aged 45-69 years (n=18) | Snowball sampling through medical facilities, personal contacts (convenience) | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=36) | Qualitative content (thematic) analysis | Care location (homecare vs. residential care), caregiver burden, stakeholder differences, norms/values |
| Halperin (2013) | Examine future care preferences and examine their associations in independent older Jews and Arabs | Jews and Arabs aged ≥60 years in Israel (n=20) | Purposive sampling | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=20) | Qualitative content analysis (analytic induction) | Caregiver, caregiver burden, norms/values |
| Pope and Riley (2013) | Address preferences for receipt of LTC among women in late midlife who are providing care for a frail parent(-in-law) | Women in aged 50-65 years providing ≥7 hours of care per week for a parent(-in-law) in a southern state, USA (n=15) | Nonrandom, purposive sampling (via gatekeepers, flyers, etc.) | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=15) | Grounded theory, constant comparative analyses | Care location, caregiver & caregiver attributes, caregiver burden, impact of health state (care need) |
| Walsh and Callan (2011) | Explore preferences for three community care programs, and thereby investigate the preferences for information and communication technology in LTC | Recipients of social care aged 65-93 years in four community-care settings in rural and urban Ireland (n=15) | n.i. (setting = purposive, individuals = convenience) | FG (n=15) | n.i. | homecare (content), information technology, underlying reasons, norms/values |
| Young, middle-aged, and older adults aged 18-84 years from the general population, Ireland (n=21) | Recruitment through regional advertising and community organizations | FG (n=21) | n.i. | homecare (content), information technology, impact of health state (care need) |
| Anderson and Turner (2010) | Explore why a subset African-American caregivers prefers out-of-home LTC placement over in-home family, if they are no longer able to take care of themselves | African-American caregivers aged 36-79 years from New York, Georgia, North Carolina, Minnesota, and Illinois, USA (n=24) | Purposive sampling with recruitment via churches and community contacts | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=24) | Qualitative content analysis | Care location (formal care), norms/values, caregiver burden |
| Harrefors, Savenstedt and Axelsson (2009) | Describe older people’s perceptions of how they want to receive LTC | Community-dwelling couples (n=12) aged 70-83 years from rural northern Sweden (not receiving paid LTC) | Convenience sampling (via two organizations for pensioners) | Open, individual F2F interviews (n=23) | Qualitative content analysis | Care location (homecare), caregiver burden, impact of health state (care need), norms/values |
| King and Farmer (2009) | Explore the views persons living in remote communities about current and future health and social services provision for older people | Adults aged ≥55 years from two rural communities in Scotland (UK) with Highland Community Care Forum (HCCF) workers (n=23) | Purposive sampling with recruitment via HCCF workers | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=23), 4 FG (n=4, n=5, n=8, n=18; respectively) | Framework analysis | Care location, caregiver, care processes, technology, impact of health state (care needs), norms/values, caregiver burden |
| Shin (2008) | Explore residential and caregiver preferences of older Korean Americans if they were to become bedridden | Older Korean Americans aged ≥ 65 years in the Chicago metropolitan area, USA (n=12) | Convenience sampling (via Korean church, senior housing, Korean NH) | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=12) | Descriptive content analysis | Care location, caregiver, caregiver burden, impact of health state (care need), norm/values |
| Boisaubin, Chu and Catalano (2007) | Explore residents, family members, and health care professionals perceptions on various aspects of LTC | Adults in Houston (USA): LTC receivers (n=4), family members (n=10), health care professionals (n=9) | Convenience sampling | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=23) | Qualitative content analysis | Care location, decision-making, caregiver burden, underlying values/reasons, stakeholder differences |
| Chan and Pang (2007) | Explore residents, family members, and health care professionals perceptions on various aspects of LTC | Adults in Hong-Kong (China): LTC receivers (n=6), family members (n=10), health care professionals (n=13) | Convenience sampling | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=29) | Qualitative content analysis | Care location, decision-making, caregiver burden, underlying values/reasons, stakeholder differences |
| Tse (2007) | Explore the NH related beliefs of Hong-Kong Chinese elders and to identify strategies to make NH a better place to live | Older clients aged 60-89 years from a community day center in Hong-Kong, China (n=118) | Convenience sampling (via a community day center for older people) | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=118) | Qualitative content analysis | Care location, norms/values |
| Zhai and Qiu (2007) | Explore residents, family members, and health care professionals perceptions on various aspects of LTC | Adults in the Beijing area (China): LTC receivers (n=6), family members (n=10), health care professionals (n=10) | n.i. (convenience) | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=26) | n.i. | Care location, decision-making, caregiver burden, underlying values/reasons, stakeholder differences |
| Heikkila and Ekman (2003) | Explore older Finnish immigrant’s wishes and expectations of elder care in Sweden | Finnish immigrants aged 75-89 years in Stockholm, Sweden (n=31) | Random sample of older Finnish immigrants in Stockholm | Semi-structured F2F interviews (n=31), response rate: 22% | Qualitative content analysis | Care location, norms/values |
| Zsembik and Bonilla (2000) | Reveal Puerto Ricans’ perceptions of viable LTC options, as well as the demographic and cultural underpinnings of their attitudes, preferences, and expectations for particular LTC options | Community-dwelling adults aged 50-92 years from the Cayey area, Puerto Rico (n=17) | Convenience sampling | FG (n=17) | Line by line analysis by Straus & Corbin (1998), analytic techniques by Miles & Huberman (1994) | Care location, caregiver, caregiver burden |

Note: 1 Main themes refer to findings/themes related to LTC preferences and are based on the authors summary of the findings from qualitative analyses, which may not always coincide with the “themes” generated in the respective studies. Further information on each study/reference can be found the manuscript. DCE = discrete choice experiment, F2F = face to face, FG = focus groups, GT = grounded theory, LTC(P) = long-term care (preferences), n.i. = not indicated, NH = nursing home, QOL = quality of life, SP = sampling procedure, TA = thematic analysis, TTO = time trade-off, UK = United Kingdom, USA = United States of America.