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A Longitudinal Study of the Caregiving Situations for the Frail Elderly in Davao City, Philippines

  This study aims 1) to identify changes in caregiving status after two years, 2) to determine the baseline study (T1) variables that predicted changes in caregiving status, and 3) to know the T1 variables that predicted burden perception in the follow-up study (T2). The T1 and T2 data were collected by face-to-face interview in October 2003 to November 2005 in Davao City, Philippines. Of the 436 pairs of family caregivers and their frail elderly, there were 239 caregivers continued caregiving and 41 discontinued. We excluded from the analysis the following respondents: one caregiver whom we were unable to contact, the 22 friend-caregivers so we could analyze a more homogeneous sample, and the 133 death cases. The regression analysis showed that the main predictors for continuing care were the relationship factor (a spouse or an adult child caregiver) and provision of care to a female. Furthermore, although a female caregiver predicted low burden at T2, caregivers with longer caregiving hours and those with higher burden scores at T1 predicted high burden at T2. Programs that will relieve stress, to educate to caregivers, and create financial investment for older adults will support maintenance of familial and filial care of elderly people.