Background

- Legally, self-neglect is defined as an adult’s inability to perform essential self-care tasks due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity. Such tasks include obtaining food, clothing, shelter, and medical care; obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain health; or managing one’s own finances.
- No standardized medical definition for self-neglect
- Five behaviors are encountered in self-neglect:
  - Squalor
  - Social withdrawal
  - Apathy
  - Hoarding
  - Lack of shame

Diogenes is the first known case of self-neglect

Significance

- A serious, under-recognized, growing problem
- Commonly under-reported
- Most common problem investigated by Adult Protective Services
- Symptoms are often treatable
- Families and friends of individuals with self-neglect may not intervene due to lack of guidance and a desire to avoid the consequences of reporting

Problem

- No comprehensive websites dedicated exclusively to self-neglect
- Existing websites list self-neglect under elder abuse
- Self-neglect data is confidential, impeding epidemiology efforts

Aim

- To create an educational website - Selfneglect.org - for the families/friends of individuals with self-neglect using a Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle
- Selfneglect.org provides easy to understand information about self-neglect

Methods

- The content and style of Selfneglect.org was developed according to 2 health information website standards:
  - Lida instrument
  - Health on the Net Code
- Fifteen criteria from the standards were used to evaluate the website

- Improved Areas: Navigation, Index, Privacy Statement, Literacy
- Selfneglect.org is a free educational online resource on self-neglect

Results

- Survey Results
  - 1. Navigation
  - 2. Literacy
  - 3. Index
  - 4. Authority
  - 5. Contact
  - 6. Sponsorship
  - 7. Currency
  - 8. Credibility
  - 9. Objectivity
  - 10. Coverage
  - 11. Disclaimer
  - 12. Purpose
  - 13. Privacy
  - 14. Audience
  - 15. Reliability

- 78% of experts believe that Selfneglect.org is a reliable source
- Feedback guided improvements
- Selfneglect.org is a free educational online resource on self-neglect

Discussion

- Content experts evaluated Selfneglect.org favorably
- The website is compatible with various platforms such as computers, tablets, and smartphones
- Selfneglect.org is written at the Flesch-Kincaid 10th grade level
- The website was released to the public on 2/27/2017
- The website will be linked to various professional organizations to increase visibility and usage