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What needs must be met for older people to be able to stay at home longer? – A scoping review by multi-professional collaborators

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Background

In Sweden and in many other countries, the proportion of older people will increase dramatically over the next ten years. Resources such as residential care will not be sufficient for the needs within the target group to the same extent as today. Organizations responsible for care needs to initiate new solutions to promote older people's independence, active participation to extend the age of onset for elderly care interventions. This societal challenge was investigated through a scoping review with an overarching research question: *What needs must be met for older people to be able to stay at home longer?*

Review

Sub-questions were designed informed by Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Which conditions make it possible for older people to stay at home longer regarding: 1) the person her/himself?, 2) the housing?, 3) the social relations?, 4) the surroundings? Several databases and search engines were used to search for a range of literature published 2000-2021, in English and Scandinavian languages. The search resulted in approx. 2500 abstracts of which 386 publications were selected.

Results

A preliminary assessment indicates that:

- the research area is heterogeneous (many different disciplines, target groups, questions, designs and theories).
- the publications include person-related factors (73%), environment-related factors (19%) and housing factors (8%).
- person-related factors include physical conditions (35%), psychological conditions (24%) and social relationships (13%).

We will present a compilation of preconditions that enable older people to stay at home longer, as well as demonstrate a model of how these preconditions are interrelated.