



THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ON INCOME AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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Background

- Developmental disabilities are conditions that cause physical, cognitive, intellectual and/or mental impairments
- One of the greatest challenges that this population face is being able to access and secure affordable, safe and appropriate housing
 - *Limited flexibility and availability in housing*
- In the past, institutional home settings were the primary recourse for providing residential support
 - *There is now a slow movement away from institutions towards community living practices*
- Community living faces many challenges in Canada such as funding, staffing issues, and zoning by-laws which exclude group homes from residential neighborhoods

Objective, Rationale and Aims

- **Objective:** to determine how a developmental disabilities diagnosis impacts one's ability to earn an income and obtain appropriate and affordable housing
- **Rationale:** there have been limited studies examining the association between having a developmental disabilities and income and housing opportunities
- **Aims:** to identify the challenges persons with developmental disabilities face in:
 - *Earning income*
 - *Accessing housing resources and;*
 - *The intersection of social factors between such as education, community support and employment*

Medline OVID Search Strategy

- 1 economic status/ or income/ or low socioeconomic status/
- 2 employment/ or employment, supported/ or unemployment/ or poverty/
- 3 housing/ or housing for the elderly/ or public housing/
- 4 ill-housed persons/ or homeless youth/
- 5 Housing policy.mp.
- 6 poverty areas/
- 7 housing instability/
- 8 autism spectrum disorder/ or exp communication disorders/ or exp developmental disabilities/ or intellectual disability/ or learning disabilities/
- 9 Down Syndrome/
- 10 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders/
- 11 1 or 2
- 12 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
- 13 8 or 9 or 10
- 14 11 and 12
- 15 13 and 14

SOCIndex and Sociological Abstracts

Search Strategy

SOCIndex	(economic status or poverty or low income or employment or unemployment) AND (housing or housing insecurity or homelessness or instability or public housing) AND (developmental disorders or autism or asd or intellectual disability or mental retardation or Down syndrome or fetal alcohol syndrome or communication disorder or intellectual disability)
Sociological Abstracts	title("developmental disabilit*" OR autism OR Down syndrome OR fetal alcohol syndrome) AND (income OR poverty OR unemployment) AND (housing OR homelessness OR "housing insecurity")

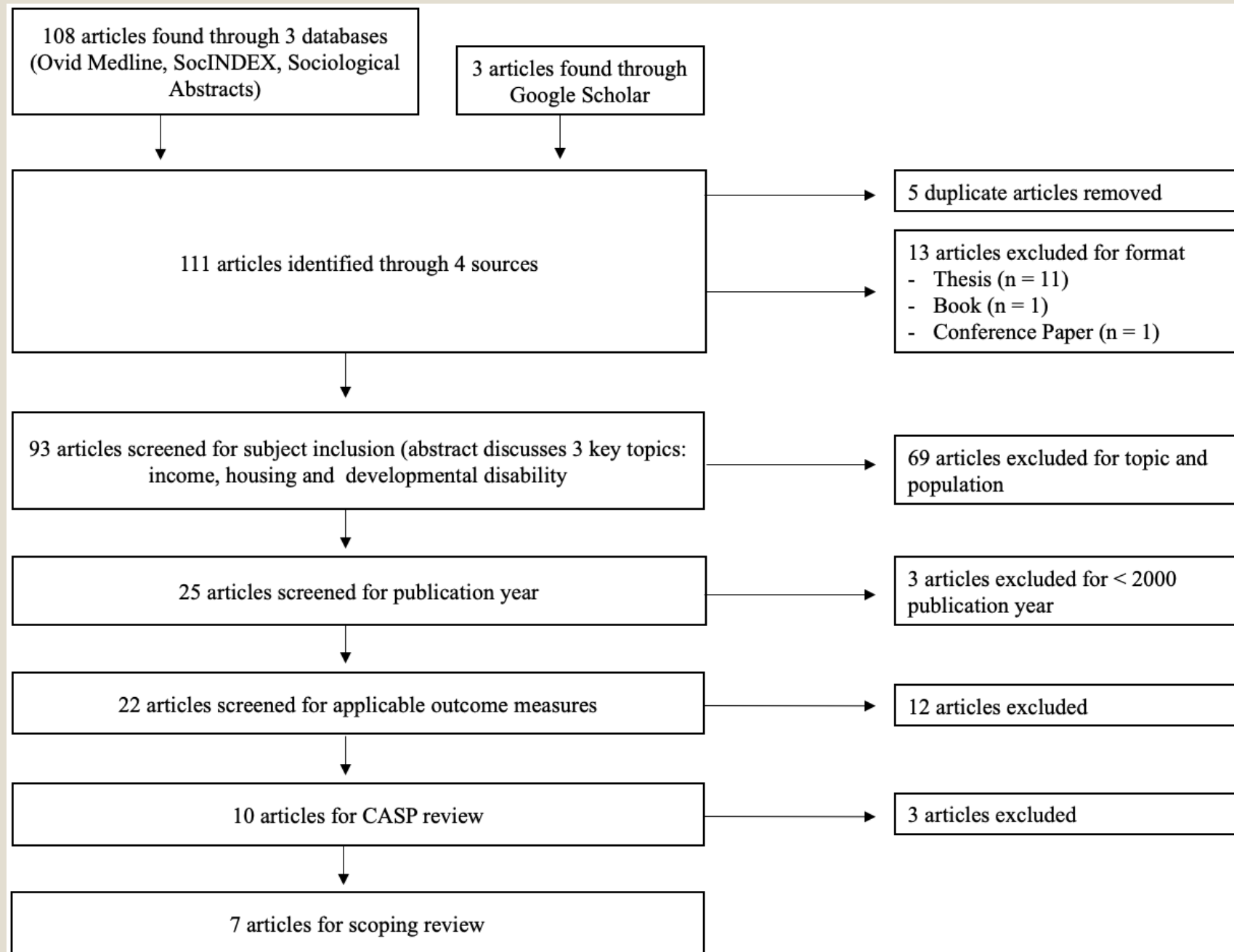
Methodology

■ Study Inclusion:

- *Inclusion of developmental disabilities as a topic*
- *Publication year in or after the year 2000 and written in English*
- *Data focused on individual's income or housing, social and economic status, social assistance, housing policy, homelessness and housing insecurity*

■ CASP Appraisal

- *Series of checklists used to critically evaluate articles for:*
 - Are the results valid?
 - What are the results?
 - Will the results help locally



Theme 1: Lack of Affordable and Accessible Housing

- Articles emphasized the importance of having affordable, accessible and well-located housing options
- Papers highlighted the value of being close to restaurants, grocery stores and community centres
 - *Facilitated social interaction and integration within the neighbourhood*
- Many individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities live with parents or family members due to a lack of accessible housing support and options
- Very few options in neighbourhoods which facilitate access to jobs, transportation and support networks

Theme 2: Lack of support perpetuates income and housing disadvantage

- Adolescents and adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder living in family placements versus system or independent housing were associated with lower rates of legal problems, alcohol misuse and substance misuse
- Housing problems was associated with individuals that had high numbers of impaired neurodevelopmental function
- Many service providers in the homelessness sector are not educated and equipped with the skills to diagnose disability
- Systemic barriers for homeless intellectual and/or developmental disabilities youth were identified as difficulty accessing and having their disability recognized by the Disability Services of Ontario

Theme 3: Disadvantaged employment and income opportunities

- Individuals diagnosed with an intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are disadvantaged for employment opportunities
 - *This can directly impact their ability to find appropriate housing due to a loss or lack of income*
- Opportunity for post-secondary education is strongly associated with improved independent living due to higher rates of employment and income
 - *Increased possibilities for finding appropriate housing*

Future Directions

- **Establish affordable and accessible community-based housing**
 - *Housing for individuals with DD needs to be affordable and located in communities that encourages access to employment and transportation*
- **Establish high-quality income and employment opportunities**
 - *Essential that targeted resources and employment policies are created to be accessible and maintained to protect the employment rights of individuals with disabilities*
- **Ensure adequate socioeconomic resources are provided**
 - *There needs to be cooperation between the disability and housing sectors in government to address the systemic barriers that limit access to resources for those with developmental disabilities*