

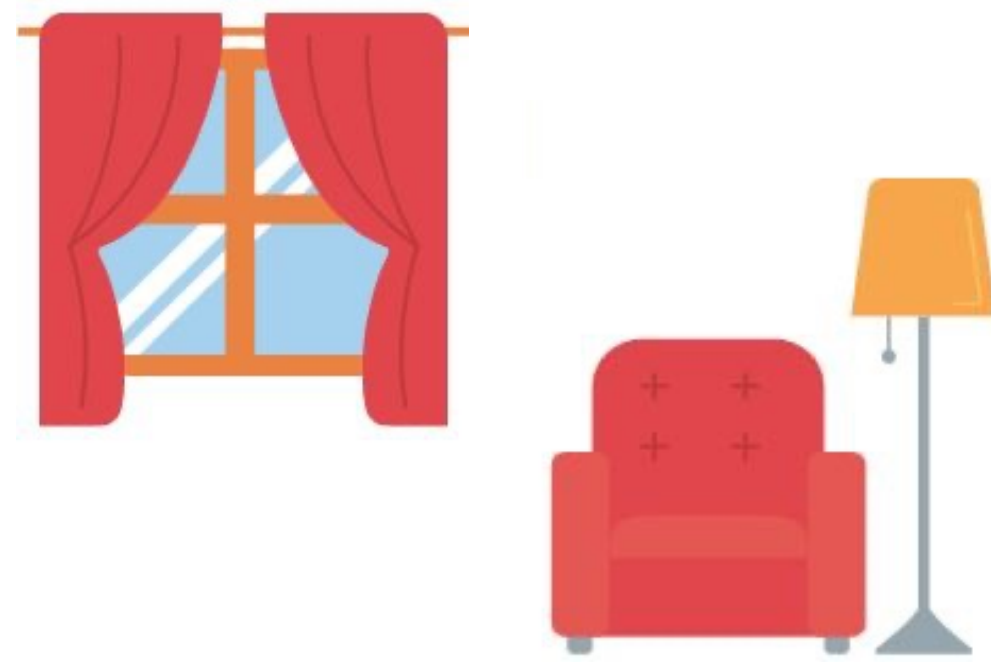
# Housing Design Interventions and their Impacts on Quality of Life for Youth and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Scoping Review

Qureshi, S.,<sup>1</sup> Buliung, E.,<sup>1</sup> Christopoulos, T.,<sup>1</sup> Walker, M.,<sup>1</sup> Ross, T.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bloorview Research Institute,<sup>2</sup> Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

## Background

Housing design affects the quality of life (QoL) of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD).<sup>1</sup>



However, little is known about how youth and adults with DD experience different housing design interventions and how it impacts their QoL.



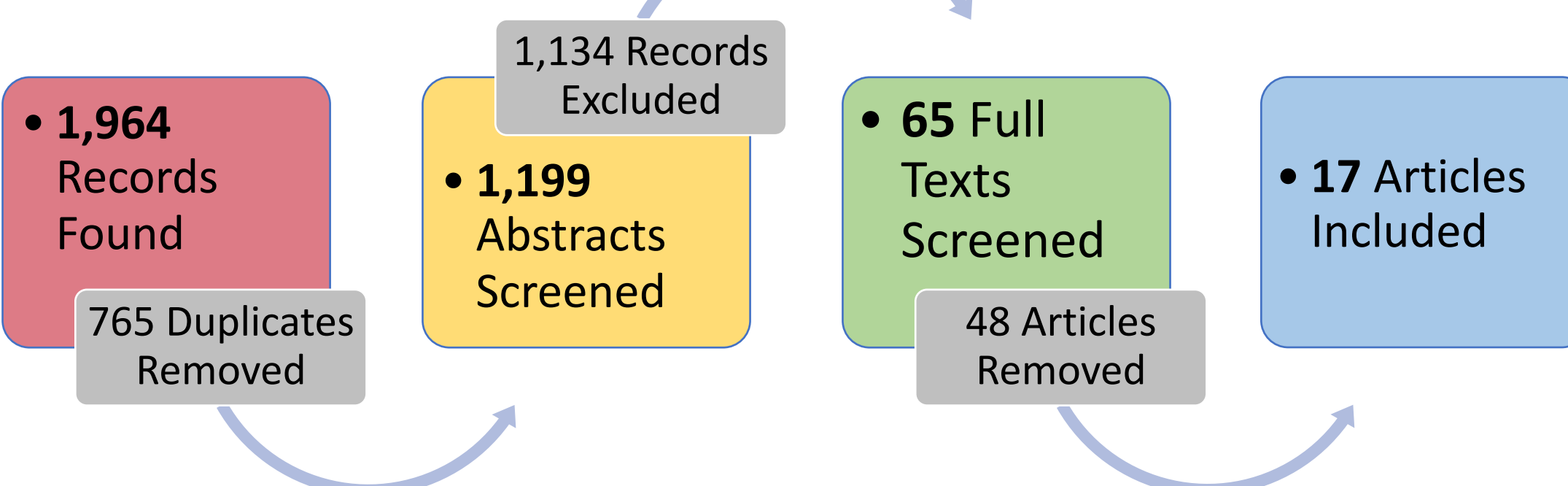
## Objective



To explore the impacts of housing design interventions on youth and adults with DD who are not living with their families

## Methods

Using a scoping review approach<sup>2</sup>, 5 databases were searched using key words related to 'housing', 'design', and 'disability'



# Homelike architectural and interior design features increase the quality of life for youth and adults with developmental disabilities



## Preliminary Results

1. Architectural and interior design features perceived to be more homelike increase QoL
2. Residential homelikeness affects residents' social participation and engagement
3. Various factors (e.g., size of spaces, furniture types, light exposure, presence of stairs) affect QoL
4. The physical environment of residence settings is often shaped by staff preferences/attitudes, and not residents with DD
5. There is a lack of studies looking at housing experiences and DD in Canada

## Conclusion and Next Steps

Best practices for designing housing for individuals with DD should account for homelikeness and design elements. Engagement with individuals with DD in housing design and development processes is needed.

## Relevance to Clients and Families

This work may help to:

- Inform and advance more accessible and inclusive housing policy and design
- Enhance the social inclusion and overall QoL for individuals with DD, both at home and in their communities



## Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Ward family for supporting this research. Thank you also to Iveta Lewis for her support with developing the search strategy.

## References

1. German, M., Kurdi, T., Libera, S., MacNeil, F., Singer, N. (N/A). *Socially inclusive design: Housing designed for everyone*. Socially Inclusive Design Working Group.
2. Arksey, H., & O'Malley, L. (2005). *Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework*. *International journal of social research methodology*, 8(1), 19-32.