



## International Journal of Architecture and Urban Development (IJAUD): Guide for Authors

# A Systematic Review of Research in the Mental Health of the Elderly in the Neighborhood Spaces: A Co-occurrence Study

<sup>1</sup> Mona Masoudi, <sup>2\*</sup> Mohammadreza Poorjafar, <sup>3</sup> Saeed Piri

<sup>1\*</sup> Ph.D. in Architecture, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Islamic Azad University, North Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>2</sup> Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Urban Design, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Art & Architecture, Islamic Azad University, North Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran.

Received: 15/11/2024

Accept: 23/12/2024

**ABSTRACT:** Examining the issue of population aging has put the elderly in urban and residential environments at risk due to reduced movement, space perception and mental capacity. Therefore, the present study aims to evaluate mental health research of the elderly in the neighborhood space, using the qualitative approach, descriptive method, systematic review and co-occurrence keywords technique, the resources of the Scopus database were examined by using the VOSviewer software. The findings showed that the words "greenness", "cross-sectional survey", "physical activity", "objective built environment", "perceived built environment" and "Covid-19" have been used more in recent years. The most studies were conducted in China (37 cases), America (21) and England (16). Scientific productions in the 1982 to 2019 went through an upward trend and in 2020, it had a rapid downward trend. From 2021 onwards, these productions have followed an upward growth again. Correlation, survey and descriptive methods were the most used methods with a frequency of 71, 60 and 58. The most used tools were questionnaire, interview and mapping with frequency of 78, 48 and 31. "Green space" was the most used variable with 66 repetitions. After that, the variables of walkability, accessibility and safety were ranked second to fourth with repetition times of 37, 31 and 27. The results of this research, in the form of network map, help mental health researchers to take steps to speed up meeting the needs of the elderly by knowing as much as possible about the research gaps.

**KEYWORDS:** Mental health, Elderly, Co-occurrence, Neighborhood, House, Systematic review

Corresponding author's email: pourja\_m@modares.ac.ir

## INTRODUCTION

Since the ever-increasing progress of science increases the volume of information and new scientific fields, authors need to use different methods to review the previous researches and identify the scientific status of the subject under study so that they can find a correct understanding of the status of that field, influential authors and important fields raised in that field in different time periods. Actually, the technique of scientometrics and the use of scientific maps provides clear visual information about the way of connection between different fields, authors, countries and organizations and helps the researcher to identify the weaknesses, strengths, and limitations to identify the gaps and deficiencies in the target area (Ebrahimzadeh et al., 2022). Today, the problem of the aging of the world's population due to important reasons including; The decrease in mortality due to advances in medical science, health, and education and as a result the increase in life expectancy and life expectancy at the global level is a relatively new phenomenon (Nawabinejad et al., 2013). With aging, individuals suffer from thinning of bones, muscle disorders, exhaustion, balance and strength problems, as well as sight and hearing disorders. All of these factors put the elderly under some risk in city environments because of decrease in their movement capabilities, space perception, and mental capacity. Considering all these health problems, according to Burby and Rohe, the elderly's expectations of housing and environment are very different from those of other age groups (Sobouti & Alavi, 2017). Today, One of the major problems of the elderly is the mental health. The changes of the aging period have a great impact on the mental health of this group, if the person does not have the necessary preparations for the transition from this period of life, with many problems (Nawabi-Nejad et al., 2013) such as the occurrence and strengthening of mental and physical diseases of the period. It will face many problems (Masoudi et al., 2024) such as the emergence and strengthening of mental and physical diseases in old age (Tian, 2016). The course of the elderly population and the special needs of this era make it necessary to carry out studies to find solutions to provide