**COMPATIBILITY OF ROOMMATES ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM: A SCOPING REVIEW**

**Amanda Bailey1, Dr. Laura Mullins1, Marco Kilada2**

**1Brock University, 2Niagara College**

**Objective:** Many adults on the autism spectrum live in group-based settings. While the person should be central to the decision regarding placements, there are limited resources to aid in determining potential roommate compatibility. Challenging behaviours and placement breakdowns can often occur when social and environmental factors are not considered. This scoping review explores the current research on the factors that influence the compatibility of roommates on the autism spectrum.

**Method:** Following the PRISMA-ScR guidelines, 41 resources were reviewed to identify areas that influenced roommate compatibility and living arrangements. A deductive content analysis was used to identify areas within six domains consistent with a behavioural perspective using a bio-psycho-social approach to challenging behaviour, including general house details, health needs, sensory, lifestyle, social interaction, and behavioural profile.

**Results:** Each domain was supported by the literature as influencing compatibility of roommates, behavioural profile was discussed in 20 articles, general house details in 16 articles, health in 7 articles, lifestyle in 12 articles, sensory in 7 articles, and social interaction in 17 articles. While every domain was supported, they had varying levels of occurrence across their relevant articles, behavioural profile (e.g., adaptive, aggression, disruptive, self-injurious; *n*= 66), general house details (e.g., layout, location; *n*= 28), health (e.g., mental health, physical health, sleep; *n*= 6), lifestyle (e.g., pets, roommate preference; *n*= 18), sensory (e.g., sound, visual; *n*= 46), and social interaction (e.g., conflict resolution, privacy, sociability; *n*= 33). The highest supported domains were behavioural profile, sensory, and social interaction, while the least represented domains were lifestyle and health needs. Additional areas related to roommate compatibility include safety, choice, cultural preferences, disruptive behaviours, and helpfulness.

**Discussion:** Results from this scoping review will guide the development of the Group Home Living Compatibility Assessment in partnership with Kerry’s Place Autism Services. The assessment aims to identify environmental modifications and opportunities for skill development that could improve the compatibility of prospective housemates and the transition process. As a population with limited input regarding their living options, including adults on the spectrum in the details of their living arrangements and potential roommates is essential. In addition to providing more preferences to adults with disabilities, the GCATs development can assist transition planning. Understanding an individual’s preferences can allow for strategic planning regarding their living accommodations and transition.

**Correspondence:**

Amanda Bailey

Brock University

1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way

St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1

Ab19aq@brocku.ca