Introduction: Community integration (CI) has been known in the literature to promote physical and mental health and well-being within the growing population of older adult immigrants in North America. However, the components of CI that promote this positive impact is unclear.

Objectives: This study aimed to (a) explore the components of CI for older adult immigrants, (b) evaluate the literature for CI, and (c) identify the components of CI for older adult immigrants.

Methods: Relevant articles for this scoping review were found using a multidisciplinary search strategy. Twenty-six articles were found using PubMed, Medline, PsychInfo, Sociological Abstracts, & CINHAL.

Results: Findings reveal that CI is defined by six components: (1) Employment; (2) Social Integration; (3) Healthcare Access/Availability; (4) Religious/Spiritual Participation and Cultural Practice; (5) Availability and Access to Services/Community/Lesure Services; (6) Feeling at Home/Being Related to Family. The barriers and facilitators were explored for each component.

Conclusions: This research evidence reveals the significance of CI for older adult immigrants and addressing the service gaps should be a priority for North America’s healthcare system.

WHY DO WE CARE?

≥ 28% EXPECTED INCREASE

Of Older adults by 2050 in North America

Population Trends in the Literature:

≥ In Canada, older adult immigrants make up approximately 30% of individuals aged 65 and older.
≥ This population also experiences the “healthy immigrant effect”, described as deteriorating health over time in a new country.
≥ Any form of migration can have a negative impact on one’s occupations and challenge their identity, roles and sense of competence.

Alternative Definitions of CI

≥ CI has been described as “the assumption or resumption of culturally and religiously appropriate social roles following disability”.
≥ CI has also been defined as a transition from different roles and locations of migrating individuals to their novel environment in order to increase self-confidence and self-competence.
≥ CI has been defined as “a transition from different roles and locations of migrating individuals to their novel environment in order to increase self-confidence and self-competence. It is important to mention that each factor is not independent of the other.”

≥ Enabling community participation can benefit its members by establishing a sense of social, cultural, and psychological identity for its population.
≥ It leads to a positive experience for older adult immigrants within a new country, thus facilitating their integration.
≥ Challenges for integration within one’s community highlight the need to identify the components of CI for older adult immigrants.

≥ Community Integration for Older Adult Immigrants: A Scoping Review

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Methods: A scoping review was conducted using a multidisciplinary search strategy. Twenty-six articles were found using PubMed, Medline, Psychinfo, Sociological Abstracts, & CINHAL.

Results: Findings reveal the following components of CI: Employment, Social Integration, Healthcare Access/Availability, Religious/Spiritual Participation and Cultural Practice, Availability and Access to Services/Community/Lesure Services, Feeling at Home/Being Related to Family.

Conclusions: This research evidence reveals the significance of CI for older adult immigrants and addressing the service gaps should be a priority for North America’s healthcare system.

≥ Through our findings, six components have been identified as being important aspects of CI as expressed by older adult immigrants.
≥ These components explored in the literature were interwoven within the different studies, and it is important to mention that each factor is not independent of the other.
≥ These components emphasize the need for this population to build positive relationships between the person and their novel environment in order to increase self-confidence and self-competence.

≥ The idea of “feeling at home” encompasses the freedom, comfort, and support one feels to continue to carry-out their day-to-day occupations within a community

≥ Community Integration is described through six prevalent components that promote integration and meaningful activity for older adult immigrants. Analyzing the phenomenological underpinnings of CI for this group is the first step to discovering barriers to successful integration. Clarifying the barriers and facilitators to CI would increase awareness among healthcare providers, policy makers, and community partners in the hope to develop and implement community interventions and supports for this population.

≥ Future research must examine the socioeconomic environment in which older adults live. Based on the findings of this scoping review, there is a need to promote culturally sensitive community-based programs to increase the confidence and opportunities for older adults to share experiences.

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