

POS1-02 | Relationship between built environment and Dementia during COVID-19 pandemic

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01. Background

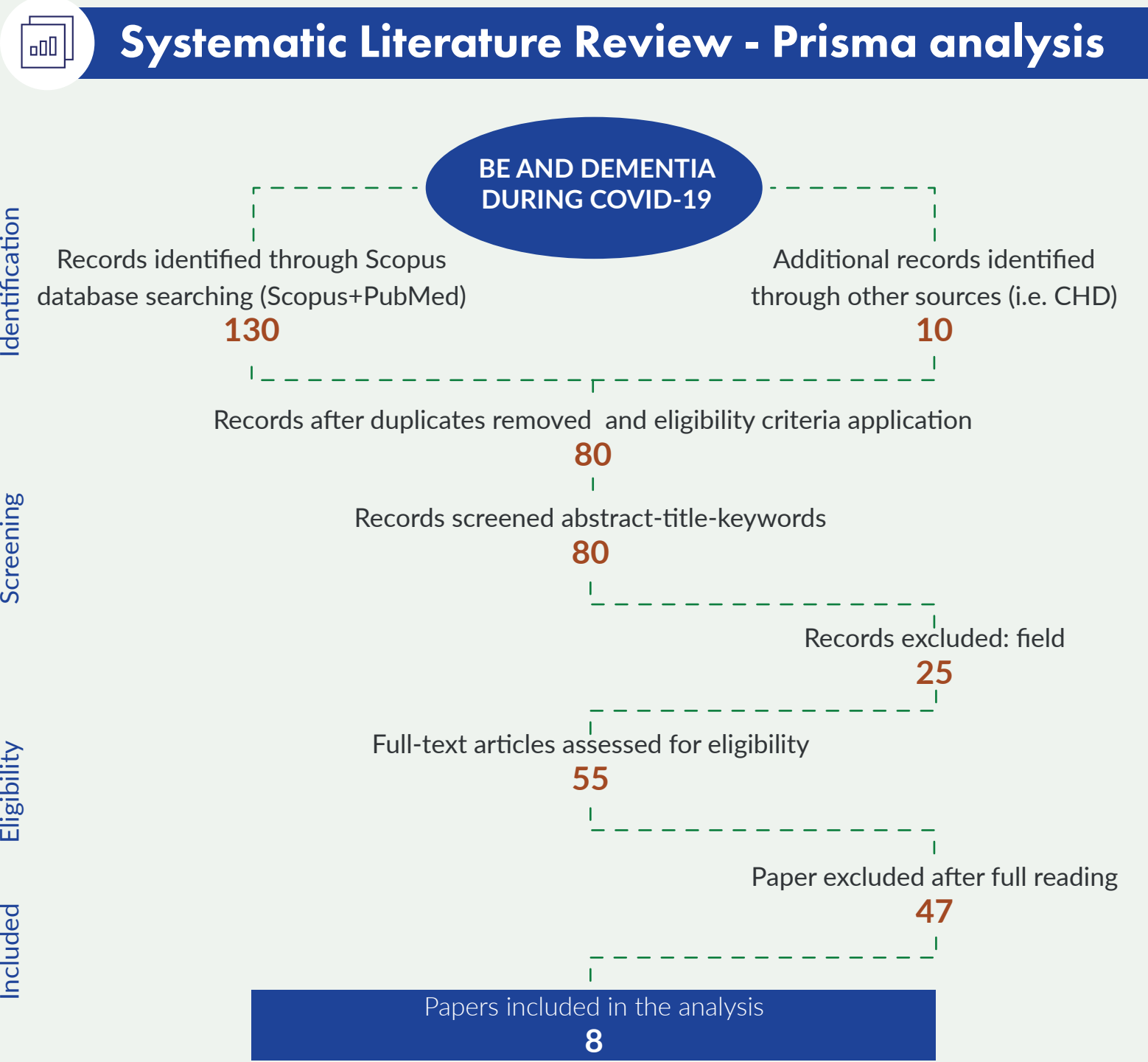
The increase of the elderly population (17.4% of the total population over 65 years old in Europe in 2009, and 20.3% in 2019) is related to the progressive growth of age-related diseases. Patients with cognitive impairment often move into nursing homes (50% of the residents suffer from dementia). **Built environment has a strong impact on people with dementia and this relationship was stressed during the pandemic**, as patients with dementia were forced to social distancing and segregation within facilities where the spread of the virus was exponential.

02. Objectives

The purpose of the study is to investigate the relationship between the built environment and patients with dementia during the covid-19 pandemic, in order to **identify the most critical environmental characteristics**.

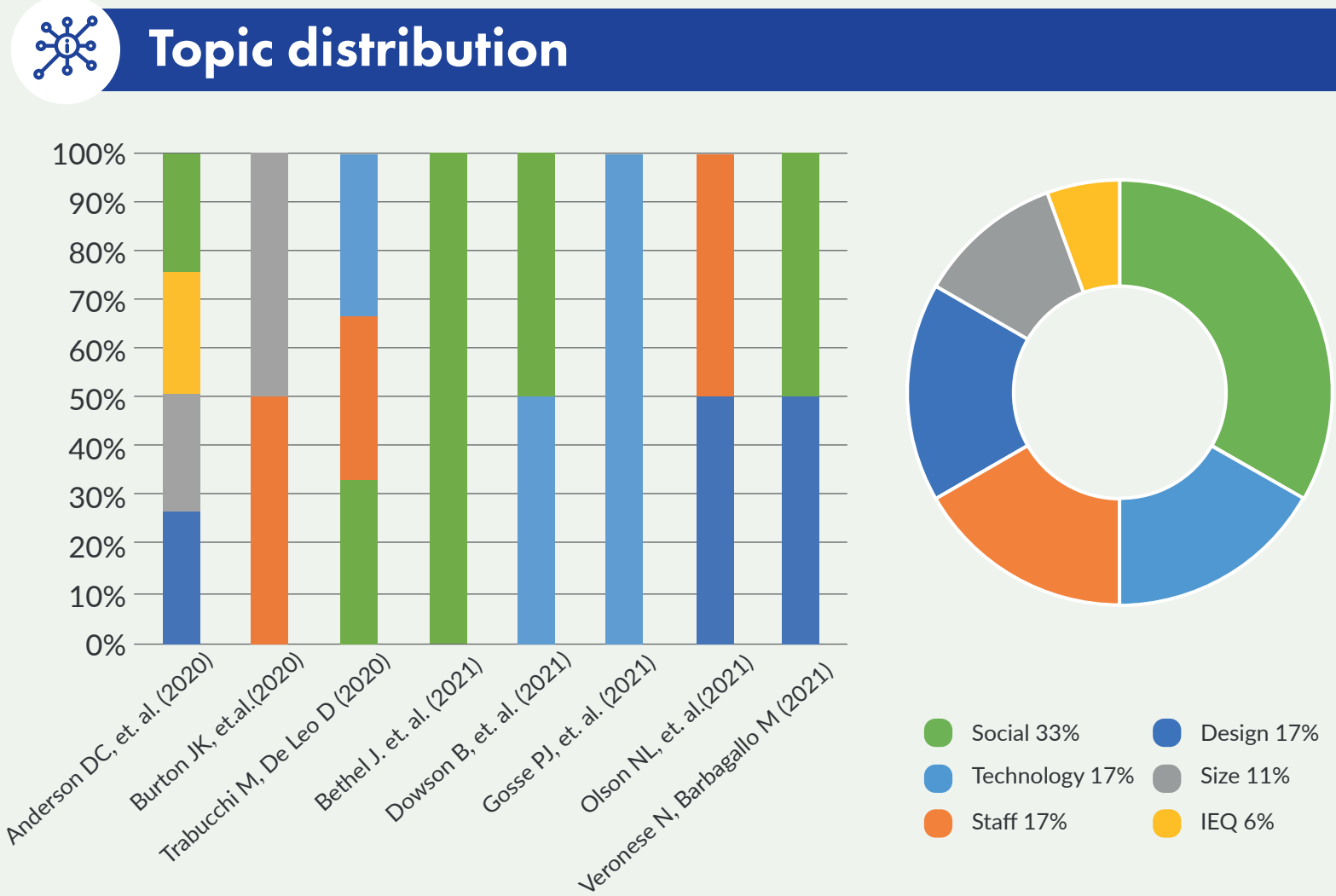
03. Methods

A **systematic literature review** has been conducted within relevant scientific databases, combining selected keywords through Boolean operators, on May 2021. After full text analysis, **8 articles were selected**.



04. Results

From the analysis, **5 main factors** emerged as crucial for safety and well-being of people with dementia that live in facilities: **facility design, ward size, indoor air quality, use of technology, and social aspects**.



05. Discussion & Conclusions

These findings show the **importance of rethinking spaces for patients with dementia focusing on resilience, flexibility, and security of facilities**, ensuring the well-being and engaging patients in physical, social, and occupational activities that are necessary to slow down the psychophysical decline. The role of technology is strongly inserted, both as a support to social activities and as a telemedicine to ensure treatment during pandemic. The importance of the staff is confirmed as necessary for the well-being of the patient.