

1 **Systematic Review**

2

3 **Title: Determinants of Healthy Aging: A Systematic Review of Contemporary**

4 **Literature**

5 **Short title: Healthy Aging Determinants: Systematic Review**

6

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25

26 **Abstract**

27

28 **Background:** Healthy ageing frameworks have been highly explored. Our objective
29 was to assess existing frameworks for healthy ageing and to identify commonly
30 described factors that can potentially act as determinants of healthy ageing.

31 **Methods:** We carried out a systematic review by searching five electronic databases-
32 EMBASE, MEDLINE, Cochrane, PsychINFO, and CINAHL from January 2010 to 20
33 November 2020 to capture contemporary evidence. Eligible studies needed to report
34 a clear framework of healthy ageing in humans, within one or more of three domains
35 (physical, mental/cognitive, social), in English. No restriction was placed on
36 geographical location. Retrospective studies, studies that did not report a framework
37 of healthy ageing, and studies with a focus on diagnostic measures were excluded.

38 **Results:** Of 3329 identified records, nine studies met eligibility criteria and were
39 included. Most of the studies were qualitative or cross-sectional, and the majority were
40 carried out in Asia, followed by North America, Australia, and Africa. Most studies are
41 Using Critical Appraisal Skills Programme checklist for qualitative studies and the
42 Newcastle-Ottawa Scale for cross-sectional studies, we found majority of studies were
43 of high quality. The ten determinants identified for healthy ageing include physical
44 activity; diet; self-awareness; outlook/attitude; lifelong-learning; faith; social support;
45 financial security; community engagement, and independence.

46 **Conclusions:** We identified ten determinants of healthy ageing proposed by the
47 contemporary evidence base. There appears to be increasing acknowledgement the
48 instrumental role social and mental/cognitive well-being as determinants of healthy
49 ageing. The extent to which each determinant contributes to healthy ageing requires
50 further evaluation.

51 **Keywords:** healthy ageing, determinants, framework

52

53 **Introduction**

54

55 Worldwide, the population aged over 65 is increasing at a faster pace than all other
56 age groups [1]. As a result of this demographic shift, it is important to look at ways to
57 improve the quality of life of older adults and support independent living. The COVID-
58 19 pandemic has disproportionately affected people over 65 years of age, who had
59 previously been in good health [2]. Given the global impact of COVID-19, it is more
60 crucial than ever to identify determinants of healthy ageing that can be applicable
61 across different communities and countries to build their path to better health.

62

63 Ageing as a concept has been vastly explored, a particularly important aspect being
64 how to define what it means to age well. Key leaders in the field of ageing such as
65 Rowe and Kahn defined successful ageing as the absence of physical impairment and
66 chronic diseases, as well as optimal social participation and mental well-being [3].
67 Rowe and Kahn brought the field forward with their inclusion of mental and social
68 wellbeing. The idea that to age healthily one must be free of disease or impairment is
69 something that has carried throughout the years, but in more contemporary times this
70 has been disputed and modified.

71

72 Previous reviews in this field have provided valuable information on internal and
73 external factors that promote healthy ageing in older age, as well as better
74 engagement in healthier and active lifestyles [4,5]. In 2013 Lara et al. developed five
75 fundamental domains of healthy ageing: physiological and metabolic health; physical

76 capability; cognitive function; social well-being and psychological well-being [6].
77 Comparatively in 2017 Hornby-Turner et al. categorised four domains: personal,
78 social, economic, and environmental [4]. This shows the lack of consensus of what
79 ageing well entails due to the variability between studies.

80

81 Lu et al, a review comparing methods used to assess healthy ageing, evaluated the
82 common terms used in ageing studies (e.g., successful ageing, active ageing), and
83 established that the term healthy ageing was most appropriate for their study [7]. The
84 main reason as to why healthy was preferred was because of the World Health
85 Organization's (WHO) definition. The WHO defines health as "a state of complete
86 physical, mental/cognitive, and social well-being, rather than merely the absence of
87 disease or infirmity" [8]. The WHO established their definition of health in their
88 constitution in 1948 and still stand by the initial definition. It highlights that being
89 healthy is not solely determined by the absence of disease, even though may be a
90 contributor. The WHO's definition also highlights the three main domains of health:
91 physical, mental, and social well-being [8]. Separating healthy ageing into these three
92 domains can facilitate the development of a framework to assess and guide an
93 individual towards healthy ageing.

94 The aim of this systematic review was to synthesise the evidence on healthy ageing
95 frameworks by critically evaluating existing frameworks, identifying the methods used
96 in frameworks to evaluate health ageing, and if appropriate to propose a revised,
97 contemporary framework for healthy ageing. In doing so also identifying factors that
98 can act as determinants of healthy ageing within the domains of physical,
99 mental/cognitive, and social well-being in line with the WHO definition of health [8].

100

101 **Methods**

102

103 We carried out a systematic literature review by searching five databases [EMBASE
104 (Ovid), MEDLINE (Ovid), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Ovid),
105 PsychINFO (Ovid), CINAHL (EBSCO)] in November 2020, in accordance with the
106 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA)
107 statement.⁹ The PRISMA checklist was included in the supplementary material, as
108 table 1. A PRISMA protocol was not registered.

109

110 **Search Strategy**

111

112 The following search terms were used in OVID (EMBASE, MEDLINE, Cochrane,
113 PsychINFO): healthy ageing.mh. or (healthy ageing or healthy aging).tx,tw,ab,hw,kw.)
114 and (measurement tool or scale or instrument or questionnaire).mp. and EBSCOhost
115 (CINAHL): MH(healthy ageing) OR TX(healthy ageing OR healthy aging) AND
116 (measurement tool OR scale OR instrument OR questionnaire)

117

118 **Eligibility**

119

120 To be eligible for this systematic review, studies were required to meet the following
121 criteria: 1) Studies published in English, 2) Articles published between January 2010
122 and November 2020 (to capture contemporary evidence) 3) Studies that were
123 conducted in humans. There were no restrictions for inclusion based on geographical
124 location. The following exclusion criteria were applied: 1) Retrospective studies, 2)

125 Studies that did not report a framework of healthy ageing, 3) Studies with a focus on
126 clinical diagnostic measures (e.g., Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)).

127

128 **Study Identification**

129

130 All identified studies were transferred to Covidence (Melbourne, Australia) systematic
131 review software where they were deduplicated [10]. The titles and abstracts were
132 screened by two independent reviewers (GK, TA) with conflicts resolved by discussion
133 or a third reviewer (PKM). Following that, full-text screening was conducted on all
134 retrieved studies by two independent reviewers, with conflicts similarly resolved by
135 discussion or a third reviewer (PKM). Reasons for exclusion at full-text screening stage
136 are reported in the PRISMA flow chart (Figure 1).

137 **Outcomes and Data Extraction**

138

139 The main outcome was a framework for successful healthy ageing. For this systematic
140 review, outcomes also included identification of determinants that fall within the three
141 domains of physical, mental/cognitive, and social well-being. Data were independently
142 extracted from included studies by two reviewers (TA, GK). Disagreement was
143 resolved by discussion and/or by a senior author (PKM). The following data were
144 extracted: country, study design, age, number of participants, gender, specific
145 population studied, main framework, and healthy ageing domains.

146

147 **Derived Frameworks and Categorisation into Domains**

148

149 Following full-text screening and data extraction, due to the nature of studies, meta-
150 analysis was not feasible, therefore we conducted a narrative synthesis. A framework
151 for healthy ageing was identified as a primary outcome in all included studies
152 (Supplementary material).

153

154 **Quality Assessment**

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156 Included studies were critically appraised independently by two researchers (TA, GK),
157 using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) Checklist for qualitative studies
158 and the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (NOS) adapted for cross-
159 sectional studies [11,12].

160

161 **Results**

162

163 **Study Selection**

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165 Of 3329 studies initially identified, after removing duplicates, 2970 studies underwent
166 title/abstract screening during which 2818 studies were excluded for the following
167 reasons: did not focus on healthy ageing and/or had a focus on diagnostic measures
168 (e.g., MRI). Thus, a total of 152 studies were retrieved in full and screened against the
169 inclusion and exclusion criteria by two reviewers independently (GK, TA) to determine
170 their eligibility. 143 studies were excluded, as they did not report a framework for
171 healthy ageing. Nine studies that reported frameworks of healthy ageing were included
172 in the review (Figure 1) [13 - 21].

173

174 **Quality Assessment**

175

176 All studies were found to be of high quality according to the CASP Checklist for
177 qualitative studies and the NOS for cross-sectional studies (Supplementary Table 2,
178 Supplementary Table 3). Five qualitative studies did not adequately report the
179 relationship between the researcher and the participants [14 – 21]. Meaning whether
180 the researcher assessed their role and bias and its potential influence on the study
181 [11]. Two cross-sectional studies did not report the comparability between
182 respondents and non-respondents [13,18].

183

184 **Study Characteristics**

185

186 The total number of participants in this review was of 2407, ranging from 11 to 683
187 participants in individual studies (Table 1). Most studies had a sample size greater
188 than 100, and were predominantly conducted in Asia [13 -16]. Eight studies were
189 carried out on both genders and one was solely on females. The majority of
190 participants were above sixty years of age: study mean ages ranged from 64 to 85.2.
191 Most of the studies were qualitative in nature and employed either semi-structured
192 interviews or focus groups. Three studies used cross-sectional design (e.g., surveys)
193 [13,17,18]. There were four studies that were conducted in people with specific
194 conditions or circumstances. Two focused on Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients [17,19],
195 one on incarcerated women [15] and one on immigrants [20].

196

197 **Determinants of Healthy Ageing**

198

199 **Overview**

200

201 Six out of the nine studies included determinants of successful ageing within the three
202 healthy ageing domains of physical, mental/cognitive, and social well-being (Table 2,
203 Figure 2) [14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21]. Three studies only addressed the mental/cognitive
204 and social domains. Of the nine studies, there were five that had determinants that
205 covered more than a single domain, meaning the determinant could not be solely
206 classified into one domain [14,15,17,18,20]. Ten overall determinants were identified,
207 with independence being present in all three domains. Figure 2 shows the combination
208 of determinants found in each study by the overlapping of the shapes, each of which
209 represents a study.

210

211 **Physical Well-being**

212

213 Seven studies included determinants within the physical domain [14-18,20-21]. These
214 studies emphasized the need to maintain a good level of physical capability to
215 enhance successful healthy ageing. Wallack et al. focused on MS participants,
216 therefore physical activity was addressed as a subtype of “lifestyle choices and habits”
217 specifically in the body category [27]. This included exercise but also alternative
218 therapies and medication management due to their potential effects on the body.
219 Conversely, the other studies focused more on the aspect of exercise and keeping
220 active as physical activity. Three studies used diet as a determinant for physical health,
221 yet the specifics of the kind of diet or nutritional elements were not reported [14,15,17].
222 Lucas et al. included diet as part of the sustaining phase of healthy ageing due to its
223 role in maintaining and supporting physical health [15].

224

225 **Mental/Cognitive Well-being**

226

227 All studies included mental/cognitive determinants of successful healthy ageing. Four
228 main determinants emerged in relation to the mental/cognitive well-being domain,
229 namely: self-awareness, outlook/attitude, life-long learning, and faith.

230

231 The determinant of self-awareness included self-esteem, self-achievement [13],
232 resilience [19], body awareness and sense of purpose [17]. Ploughman et al. defined
233 resilience as “the participants ability to adapt to changes” specifically being conscious
234 of the new circumstances they are presented with and choosing to modify their choices
235 to support the new conditions [19]. This definition of resilience closely relates to
236 Wallack et al. definition of body awareness, specifically relating to one’s lifestyle
237 choices [17]. Additionally, body awareness differs in the Wallack et al. study due to the
238 specific circumstance of MS being studied [17].

239

240 The determinant of outlook/attitude, found in seven studies, ties into self-awareness
241 [15-21]. Amosun et al. divided their findings into two overarching themes, one focused
242 on participants found to have future-oriented behaviour and the second for participants
243 without a future oriented behaviour [21]. The final themes for successful ageing were
244 specified within those that had a future oriented behaviour, which included the theme
245 of preparing for the afterlife. It was noted that having a good outlook and attitude
246 towards the future impacted ageing in a positive way, rather than “awaiting death” [21].

247

248 Life-long learning (e.g. reading, taking up a new hobby, or learning a new language),
249 found in three studies, is intricately connected with outlook/attitude [14,18,20].
250 Thanakwang et al. specifies that “engaging in active learning” is very important in
251 successful healthy ageing particularly in the field of technology [14]. Additionally,
252 continuous learning has a good cognitive impact aiding in maintaining one's cognitive
253 function as they age.

254

255 Lastly, faith was found in five studies, which included the aspects of beliefs, religion,
256 and spirituality [14,15,17,18,21]. Lucas et al. focused on incarcerated women as
257 participants and created a framework that had the five stages of successful ageing
258 [15]. Within the third phase (“reforming phase”) and the fifth phase (“sustaining
259 phase”), faith was significant [15]. Being in isolation has a large impact on mental
260 health and immersing in faith was shown to support stability as well as increase
261 motivation. Both of which support a good outlook towards life as the participants age
262 and began to develop illnesses. Additionally, Robleda et al. found that participants
263 reported that as you age it becomes more difficult to look forward to the future and
264 immersing oneself in faith gave their life a higher sense of purpose [18].

265

266 **Social Well-being**

267

268 All studies included social determinants of successful healthy ageing [13-21]. Three
269 main determinants (Social Support, Financial Security, Community Engagement) were
270 identified for the social domain.

271

272 Social support was reported across seven out of the nine studies [13-15,17-20]. Social
273 support was defined as establishing relationships and building rapport not only with
274 family members but also with acquaintances. Additionally, Wallack et al. focused on
275 MS patients, and brought up the factor of effective and accessible healthcare, which
276 was classified as social support because participants' relationships with their care
277 providers were valued [17].

278 Community engagement (identified in seven studies), ranged from volunteering, to
279 religious gatherings, such as going to church, and feeling acquainted with the
280 community [14-18,20-21]. According to Amosun et al. engaging in community activities
281 gave the participants a sense of purpose [21]. This was particularly explored by Hui
282 Chian Teh et al. who focused on Chinese immigrants living in Australia [20].

283 The last determinant, which was identified across seven studies, was financial security
284 [14,16-21]. Robleda et al. defined financial security as being able to maintain a good
285 quality of life [18], whereas Hui Chian Teh et al. focused on the aspect of not having
286 to be a financial burden to family [20]. What both studies have in common was the
287 emphasis on being able to maintain a good lifestyle; Hui Chian Teh et al. specified that
288 having access and the ability to afford proper care as you age was highly important
289 [20], which Wallack et al. agreed with for their MS participants [17]. The key aspect
290 found across all studies that included financial security was the ability to continue to
291 live a comfortable life and for many it included not having to rely on others.

292

293 **Independence as an Overlap Determinant**

294

295 Independence as a determinant was explored in six studies and is present across all
296 three domains [13-14, 17-20]. It includes aspects such as one's physical or

297 mental/cognitive ability to live without support as well as being financially independent
298 from family or friends. It was clearly shown in different studies that how independence
299 is perceived changes according to the individual's circumstances. For Ploughman et
300 al. and Wallack et al. both of whom focused on participants with MS, physical
301 independence played a significant role in terms of how far their physical capability
302 spanned [17,19]. The studies that did not research participants with MS, also found
303 independence to affect the physical domain as well as the social and mental/cognitive
304 well-being domains. Due to the lack of a chronic disease, when independence was
305 mentioned in these studies it was not solely focused on the individual's physical
306 independence. For Thanakwang et al. being self-reliant was a very important factor in
307 the active ageing scale used [14].

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333 **Discussion**

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335 On 14th December 2020, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2021-2030
336 as the Decade of Healthy Ageing [22]. Healthy ageing replaced the WHO previous
337 focus on active ageing. Although the concept of active healthy ageing has been widely
338 researched and discussed in academic, political, and popular media arenas,
339 systematic reviews that assess existing healthy ageing frameworks are lacking. To the
340 best of our knowledge, this review illustrates the first attempt to systematically identify
341 key determinants related to healthy ageing. The novelty of this research lies in the
342 comparison of contemporary healthy ageing frameworks that have already been
343 proposed. We identified ten determinants for healthy ageing, namely: physical activity;
344 diet; self-awareness; outlook/attitude; lifelong-learning; faith; social support; financial
345 security; community engagement; independence.

346

347 The determinants of healthy ageing can vary depending on many factors including
348 culture, age, and gender. Therefore, it is important to consider that the studies were
349 from varied geographical locations. This may have a large effect on what is considered
350 important for achieving healthy ageing due to the difference in culture/customs [23].
351 Additionally, including a study with the premise of being an immigrant made it clear
352 how integral community immersion and engagement is for an immigrant as they age,
353 further emphasizing cultural differences. However, the geographical diversity arguably
354 provided more depth and spread to this review, because it enabled the identification
355 of commonalities such as social support, independence, and financial security. This in
356 turn will increase opportunities for local and global initiatives to optimise healthy ageing
357 across different communities and countries.

358

359 Often, studies investigating healthy ageing focus on the biological factors (e.g.,
360 genetics and illnesses) that play a role in ageing [24]. We sought to identify modifiable
361 factors to provide a better insight into healthy ageing. By doing this, non-biological
362 factors, such as social, mental/cognitive, and physical well-being, were shown to play
363 a substantial role [24]. For example, Wallack et al. who studied MS patients, focused
364 on the participants' acceptance and awareness of their body and its capability and
365 how that largely impacted their mental health [17].

366

367 Our results illustrated that many of the determinants of physical, mental/cognitive, and
368 social well-being are interrelated. For example, in the physical domain both
369 determinants, physical activity and diet, can affect the mental/cognitive determinant of
370 attitude/outlook. Increasing physical activity and eating a balanced diet has been
371 shown to boost the mood and energy levels of individuals which consequently
372 improves their attitude/outlook towards life [25,26]. There was a contrast in terms of
373 physical activity depending on the targeted group of participants, e.g. those with MS
374 differed from those without. The inter-relation of determinants establishes the idea that
375 healthy ageing cannot be segmented into isolated factors but is an inter-dependent
376 measure. An example is how faith is linked to outlook/attitude, as it can be part of goal
377 setting and gives individuals something to work on and improve as they age.
378 Additionally, often, having a strong sense of faith aids an individual to find a greater
379 sense of purpose. These inter-relations could be because different people place a
380 higher value on different determinants, depending on their subjective views or life
381 experiences [27]. Additionally, the inter-dependence between determinants supports
382 the idea that healthy ageing is not a single stable measure, but that it is a balance that

383 is constantly adjusted between all the determinants [28,29]. Therefore, to successfully
384 evaluate healthy ageing there is a need to assess all the identified determinants and
385 understand the value and hierarchy the individual ascribes to each determinant at the
386 individual level. Independence could not be classified in only one domain since it has
387 been found to be “highly significant for life satisfaction” and its loss to be a highly feared
388 occurrence in ageing [30]. Thus, it was more appropriate to categorize it into an
389 overlapping determinant included across all three domains.

390 This review gains its strengths from the combination of rigorous search and extraction
391 methods and the underlying theoretical framework which guided the synthesis.
392 Another strength of our work is that one of the exclusion criteria was studies that used
393 clinical measurements for their results. This makes our proposed determinants more
394 widely applicable to groups that do not have access to clinical diagnostic measures
395 (e.g., blood tests, MRI). Additionally, by limiting the years of inclusion from 2010 to
396 2020, it was possible to focus on the most contemporary research available which
397 builds on early established research in healthy ageing [28].

398

399 One of the limitations stems from the point of the original studies’ definitions and
400 categorisation. Most studies included in this review defined determinants differently,
401 which made direct cross-cultural comparisons challenging. Only studies written in the
402 English language were included, which might affect the ability to generalise results to
403 non-English-speaking countries and may have resulted in us excluding relevant
404 studies. Moreover, the studies included were cross-sectional in nature, and therefore
405 did not allow for investigation of causality between determinants and reports of healthy
406 ageing. There was a larger proportion of female participants in the included studies,
407 which might under-represent what males consider to be healthy ageing. The concept

408 of healthy ageing is likely to be a dynamic process meaning important determinants
409 may even vary within an individual depending on their age, further evaluation of
410 relative contribution these determinants is warranted, albeit this is beyond the scope
411 of the current study.

412 The application of the results from this review to pre-existing longitudinal cohort data
413 could provide direct comparison of these determinants in their contribution to healthy
414 ageing at population level. Through our review we have created a more specialised
415 understanding of healthy ageing by finding commonalities and differences among the
416 nine identified frameworks. Future research would be to conduct a sense-checking
417 exercise via focus group work with older adults to propose the new framework and
418 whether this framework fits with their concept of healthy ageing. This is particularly
419 important to evaluate whether all determinants have the same weighting towards
420 defining healthy aging and how it may vary with age, gender, race/ethnicity, and
421 socioeconomic factors. Another alternative would be to cross reference this framework
422 with large self-reported health studies to see how reliable and applicable this data is.
423 Moreover, future studies should have an agreed terminology on how to better define
424 determinants, which will be crucial for cross-cultural comparisons. Our results support
425 the use of the term healthy ageing rather than successful or active ageing, in
426 accordance with Lu et al. as it more holistically encompasses the domains of health
427 as defined by the WHO [7,8]. Additionally, going forward we suggest using the terms
428 determinants rather than factors as it encompasses the direct effect that the
429 determinants have on healthy ageing.

430 In summary, we have systematically reviewed the contemporary literature on
431 frameworks of healthy ageing and identified ten determinants of successful healthy
432 ageing. These are: social support, financial security, community engagement,

433 independence, self-awareness, outlook/attitude, life-long learning, faith, physical
434 activity, and diet. Healthy ageing appears to be the result of all these determinants
435 being optimised. By creating a clear framework of the factors that influence healthy
436 ageing at an individual level, public service providers and policy makers can be guided
437 to identify and give incentives to work towards improvement in health focusing on
438 specific determinants that are relevant to an individual's circumstances.

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442 **Statement of Ethics:** An ethics statement was not required for this study type, no
443 human or animal subjects or materials were used.

444 **Conflict of Interest Statement:** Authors declare no competing interests to declare.

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449

450 **Author Contributions:** TA and GK are joint first authors.

451 Conceptualization: KRM, KC, MW and PKM, Data curation: TA and GK, Formal

452 Analysis: TA and GK, Funding acquisition: KRM, KC, MW and PKM, Investigation:

453 TA and GK, Methodology: TA and GK, Visualization: TA and GK, Supervision: KRM,

454 KC, MW and PKM, Writing – original draft: TA and GK, Writing – review & editing: All

455 authors

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457 **Data Availability Statement:** All data generated or analysed during this study are
458 included in this article and its supplementary material files. Further enquiries can be
459 directed to the corresponding author.

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541

542 **Figure Legends**

543

544 **Fig. 1.** PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram

545

546 **Fig. 2.** Pictorial representation of determinants of healthy ageing. 0: no shared
547 studies, 1: one shared study, 2: two shared studies. There are ten shapes, each
548 representing a determinant. The border of the label of each shape is colour-coded
549 according to the domain they correspond to. The numbers within each shape overlap
550 represents how many studies included that combination of determinants. Venn
551 diagram created using Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Genomics
552 (http://bioinformatics.psb.ugent.be/cgi-bin/liste/Venn/calculate_venn.html).

553

Supplementary Material

Supplementary Table 1. PRISMA 2020 Checklist Outcomes

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Page 4
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Page 2
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Page 4
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Page 4
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Page 5
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Page 5
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Page 5
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 5-6
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 6
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Page 6
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Page 6-7
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 7
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	N/A
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Page 6-7
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	N/A

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	N/A
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Page 6
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	N/A
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Page 7
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Pages 6-7
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Pages 6-7
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Page 7 Figure 1
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Page 7
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Page 9 Table 1 Figure 2
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Page 7-8
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Table 1
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	N/A
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	N/A
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	N/A
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	N/A
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Page 8
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Page 7-8
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Page 15
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Page 17

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Page 17
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Page 18
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	N/A
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	N/A
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	N/A
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Page 19
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Page 19
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	N/A

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

For more information, visit: <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

Supplementary Table 2 (S1). CASP Checklist

Section A: Are the results valid?	Ploughman et al. (2012)¹⁹	Thanakwang et al. (2014)¹⁴	Amosun et al. (2018)²¹	Lucas et al. (2018)¹⁵	Chen et al. (2019)¹⁶	Hui Chian Teh et al. (2019)²⁰
Was there a clear statement of the aims of the research?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Is a qualitative methodology appropriate?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Was the research design appropriate to address the aims of the research?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Was the recruitment strategy appropriate to the aims of the research?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Was the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Has the relationship between researcher and participants been adequately considered?	?	?	?	?	?	(+)
Section B: What are the results?						
Have ethical issues been taken into consideration?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Was the data analysis sufficiently rigorous?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Is there a clear statement of findings?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Section C: Will the results help locally?						
How valuable is the research?	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)

Supplementary Table 3 (S2). Critical Appraisal using Newcastle-Ottawa Score (NOS) adapted for cross-sectional studies.

	Selection				Comparability	Outcome		Max of 10
Study	Representativeness of the sample	Sample size	Non-respondents	Ascertainment of the exposure		Assessment of outcome	Statistical test	
Hyun Cha et al. (2012) ¹³	*	*		**	**	*	*	8
Wallack et al. (2016) ¹⁷	*	*	*	**	**	*	*	9
Robleda et al. (2017) ¹⁸	*	*		**	**	*	*	8

Derived Frameworks and Categorisation into Domains

We collated all the determinants of each framework into an excel table. We subsequently grouped the determinants into three domains (physical, mental, social) based on the commonalities and how they were described. Due to the variability of terms used in each study to define the healthy ageing determinants, two researchers (TA, GK) independently assessed the studies and agreed on which determinants could be categorised under each of the three domains. The classification was dependent on which domain each determinant best represented. For example, faith was deemed to be a mental well-being determinant because when used in the studies it was predominantly related to how it impacted the individual's mental state, rather than as a method to aid their social interaction. It is worth noting that previous studies have used different terminologies to define determinants (e.g., assets, factors, predictors, themes). For the purpose of this study the term determinants was used consistently. By exploring applicable ways to identify healthy ageing, we mapped existing healthy ageing frameworks and established their determinants.