



# AGING IN PLACE AND TECHNOLOGY

## How technology can influence aging in place?

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### INTRODUCTION

The study examines the concept of aging in place and how emerging technologies can aid seniors to age independently in their preferred residence. The paper further addresses some of the circumstances of the aged in developing countries (Ghana) that prevents their successful aging in place with the aid of these same technologies. Finally, the research explores the usage of advanced technologies that help older adults, aging in place, to transition smoothly into end life.

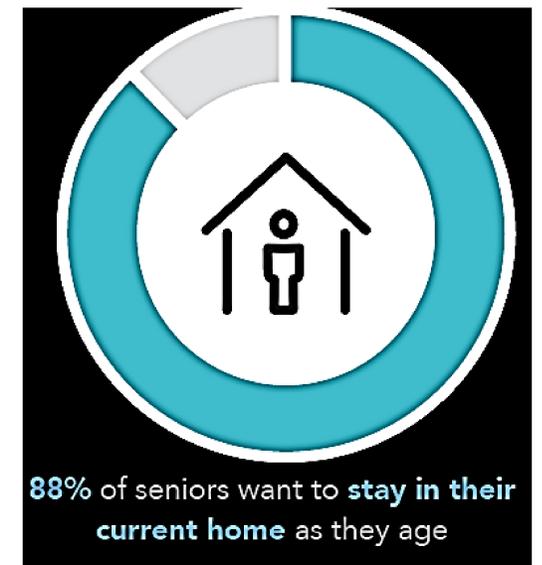
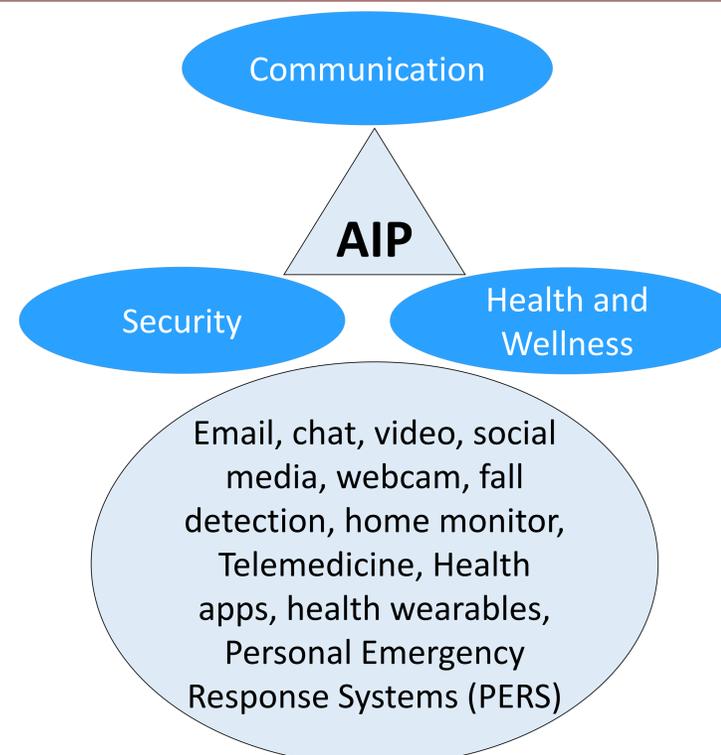
- 61% of Older adults aged 65 want to age in their own homes.
- Assistive technology for aging in place is expected to grow from \$2 billion dollars to \$20 billion in 2020.

Source: Pew research Center (2014)

### BENEFITS OF AGING IN PLACE

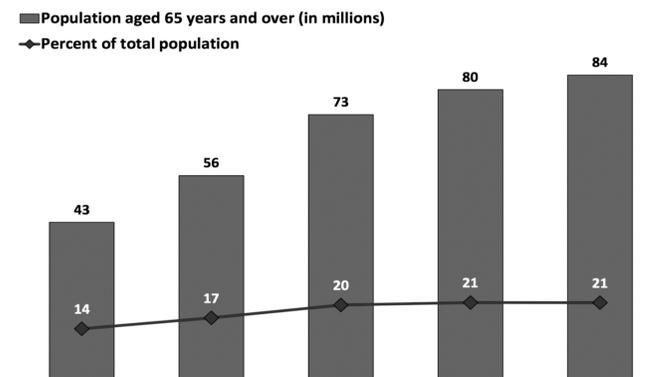
- Accessibility – Existing assisted living structures will not be able to absorb increasing number of seniors.
- Affordable - Assisted living facilities are expensive compared to aging in one's home
- Accepted – 4 out of 5 seniors want to independently stay in their own homes and communities as they age.

### IMPACT AREAS OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR AGING IN PLACE



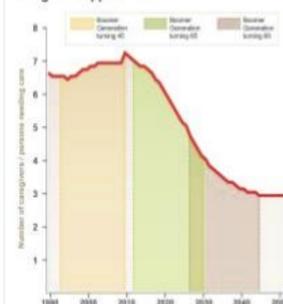
### BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Population Aged 65 and Over: 2012 to 2050



WITHIN THE NEXT 15 YEARS, THE US WILL FACE A SIGNIFICANT LACK OF CAREGIVERS FOR ITS ELDERLY POPULATION

Caregiver Support Ratio



Americans rely a lot on family caregivers.

In 2015, around 43.5 million families provided care for an older relative, and 14.9 million for a relative with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Given the future population changes, the caregiver support ratio will decline from its 2010 level of 7 potential caregivers for each person aged 80+ down to a ratio of 4:1 in 2030 and 3:1 in 2050

Caregiver support ratio (CSR) – "the number of potential family caregivers aged 45-64 for each person aged 80+"

Source: AARP, 2013

The number of people 65 and older in the United States is expected to increase to 55 million in 2020; to 88.5 million — or 20 percent of the population — in 2050.

U.S. Census Bureau (2010)

### CHALLENGES OF TECHNOLOGY FOR AGING IN PLACE IN GHANA

- Lack of social support and receptiveness
- Low level of interest on technology usage
- High cost of acquisition
- Low literacy level on technology

### RECOMMENDATION

- Promote education on social awareness and receptiveness to technology usage.
- Increase the support to community based programs.
- Tax cuts on aging related devices
- Implementation of housing policies that supports visitability to cut cost on acquisition of high end technology.