

### Abstract

The purpose of this research is to explore older adults' perceived housing needs, and connect these issues with the profession of occupational therapy (OT). Community-dwelling older adults have expressed a desire to age in place in their preferred residences (AARP Foundation, 2014); previous research has identified this as a more affordable and health-promoting approach. Without appropriate housing, older adults face concerns related to health, finances, engagement in occupations, and wellness. Researchers conducted a mixed methods study using previously-collected housing information from older adults in Northern Ottawa County, MI and led focus groups with members of the Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging in Grand Haven, MI. Questions were focused on the meaning of home, accessibility to services, and barriers which impede successful aging in place. Findings indicate that older adults want to stay in their homes and do not have a desire to relocate. Other themes included the value of social participation while aging in place, and the need for community and home accessibility. Quantitative crosstab analyses found that self-perceived challenges with accessibility and/or mobility in the home or community is impacted by income, modes of transportation, and housing type. Findings indicate a potential role for occupational therapy when addressing older adults' perspectives of housing and their ability to safely and successfully age in place.

*Key Words:* Housing, Older Adults, Aging in Place, Occupational Therapy