

Impact of Housing Location on Older Persons' Perceptions of Safety, Privacy and Psychosocial Wellbeing in Alexander, North of Johannesburg

Mziwandile Sobantu* and Ndangwa Noyoo

**University of Johannesburg, Department of Social Work and Community Development, Johannesburg, South Africa*

ORCID: 0000-0002-8516-4623, E-mail: sobantu.mzwandile@gmail.com

University of Cape Town, Department of Social Development, Cape Town, South Africa

ORCID: 0000-0002-4549-4863, E-mail: ndangwa.noyoo@uct.ac.za

KEYWORDS Housing. Older Persons. Social Exclusion. Wellbeing, South Africa

ABSTRACT In their old age, senior citizens require adequate housing that promotes their wellbeing, and this study seeks to examine the impact of housing location on older adults' safety, security and psychosocial wellbeing. This qualitative study utilised semi-structured interviews to collect data from nine older persons residing in Alexander, North of Johannesburg in South Africa. Data were transcribed and analysed based on emergent themes. Among other factors, the study found out that housing quality and the level of crime in their neighbourhood determine the wellbeing of older persons. While participants who lived with their grandchildren felt safer, some expressed a lower sense of privacy due to overcrowding. One participant who lived alone but in formal housing expressed a higher sense of safety and security. As most older persons were direct victims of colonial and apartheid exclusion, thoughtful integrated social policies are imperative in leveraging their housing needs and overall wellbeing.