

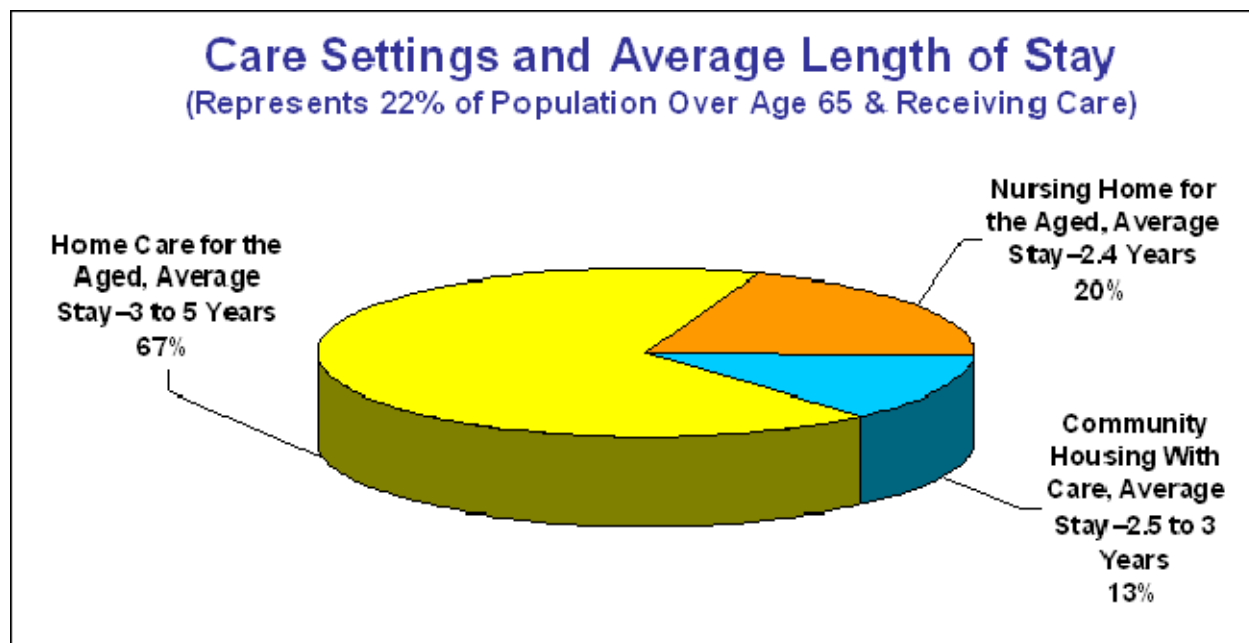
## Understanding Long Term Care Settings

The care setting often goes hand-in-hand with the progression of care commitment. As more help is required or as specialized caregivers are needed, the setting may progress from a home to a community housing arrangement such as assisted living or to a nursing home.

On the other hand, given enough money to cover the cost of bringing specialists into the home, a care recipient need never leave the home and need never go into another care setting. Such a fortunate individual can experience the serenity and peace of dying at home with loved ones nearby.

Planning for long-term care, however, should anticipate all three settings. All too often families are thrown into a caregiving situation with little prior warning and must make decisions based on little knowledge of what care settings and services are available. One major objective of the long-term care planning process is to accumulate enough information about specialists and care settings so that the family can make informed decisions when the need arises.

Some interesting points to note from the graph below are that about 22% of the entire population over age 65 is receiving some form of long term care. A recent corroborating survey commissioned by a national non-medical home care franchise estimates the percent of aged receiving long-term care is even higher at about 25% of that population. It should also be noted from the graph that 80% of all long-term care recipients are in the home or a community setting. Also note the average length of stay for each care setting.



Source: Long Term Care Link.net