

# *A Vision for Healthy Aging:*

*Increasing Competency for Older Adult Primary  
Care, in the Clinic and in the Community*

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- No financial disclosures

Our Mission: To provide high-quality, affordable, patient-centered healthcare in the medically underserved communities of Central and Western Maine



HealthReach  
Community Health Centers

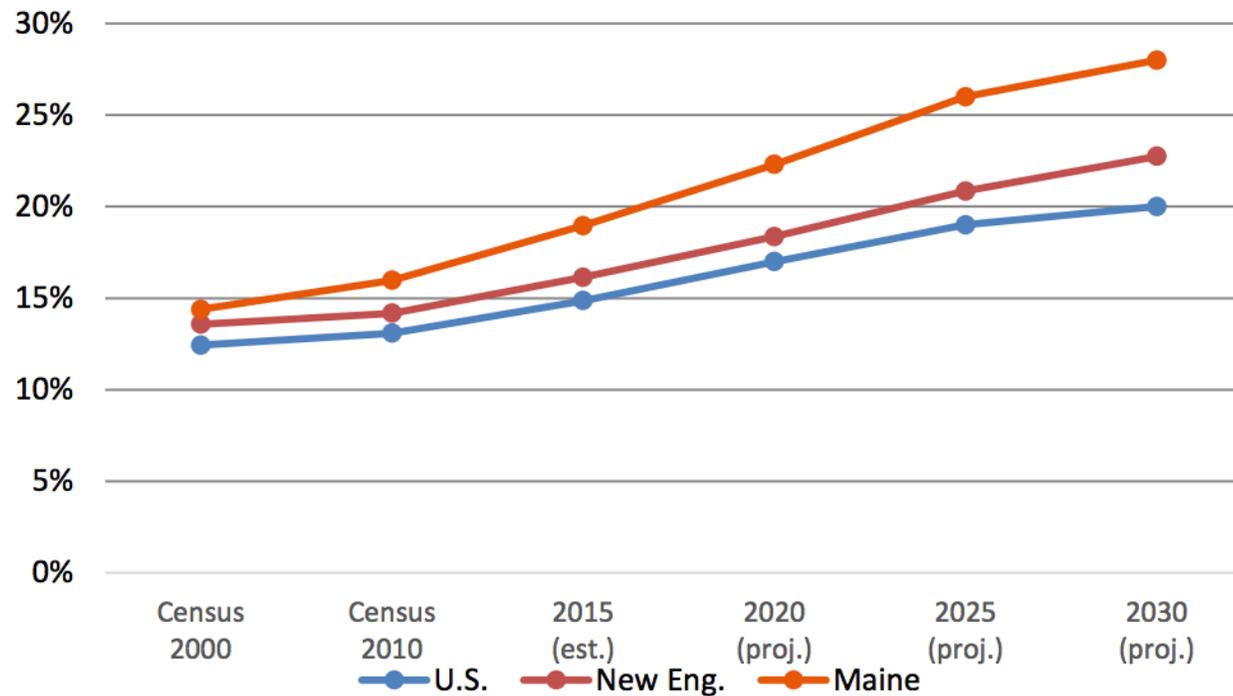
# Objectives

- Discuss aging in Maine and the implications this has for healthcare systems
- Review an initiative to improve primary care of older adults in one Maine health center network
- Discuss the importance of community partnerships to address the needs of older adults

# Maine vs NE vs US Aging Projections

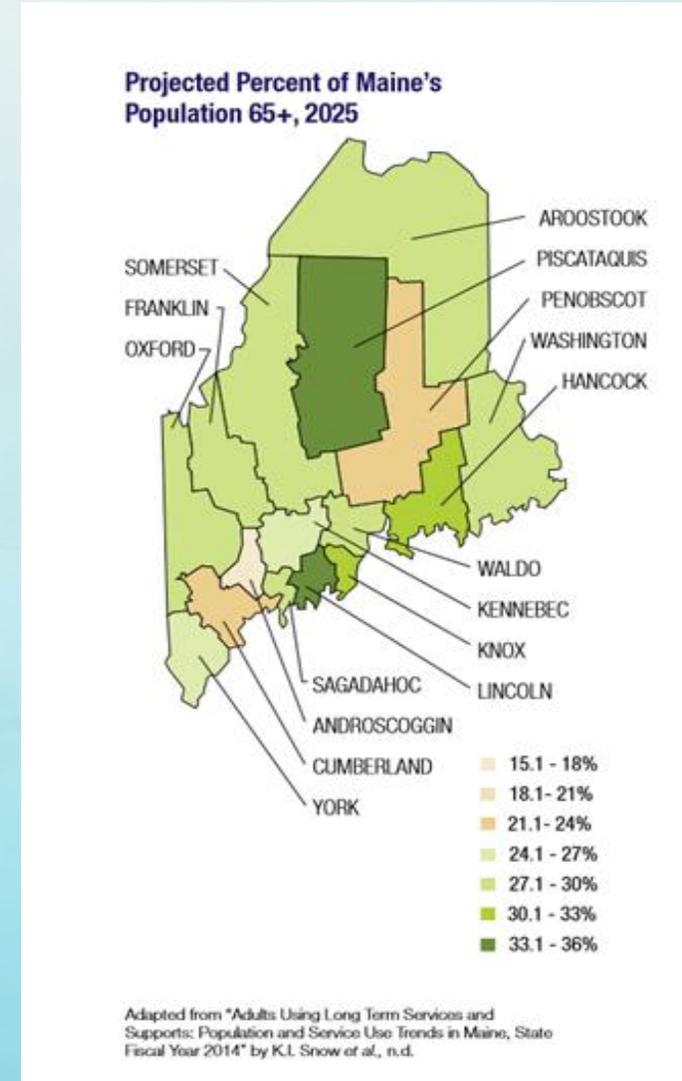
(Maine's State Plan on Aging 2016-2020)

**Historical and Projected Trends in the Percentage of Populations 65 and Older, Maine, New England, and the United States, 2000-2030<sup>18</sup>**



# Maine's demographics

- We have the highest median age in the country at 44.6 (2017)
- Our death rate exceeds our birth rate (along with West VA)
- Healthreach's overall Medicare population is about 22%, with the highest percentage being at Rangeley (32%) and Mt. Abram (25%)



From: Griffin and Gattine, 2017. Charting a Pathway Forward: Redesigning and Realigning Supports and Services for Maine's Older Adults

## Maine projected to have more old than young people by 2020



Bangor Daily News, 2018

With its 65-and-older population expected to grow by 55 percent by 2026, Maine needs more nurses, more home-care workers and more physicians than ever to keep pace with demand for long-term-care services.

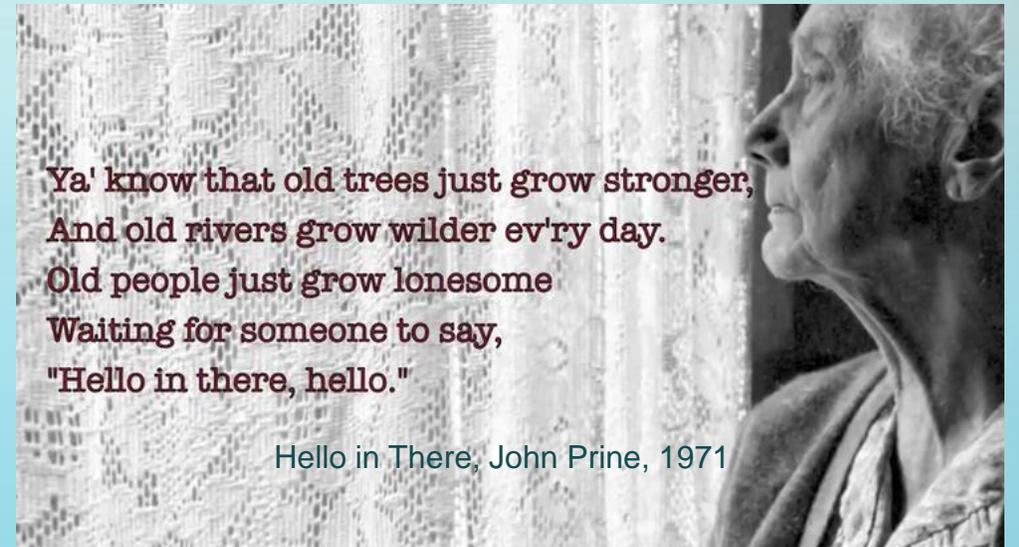
Business

# 'This will be catastrophic': Maine families face elder boom, worker shortage in preview of nation's future

Washington Post 8/19

# Not Just Aging...

- About 9% of Mainers age 65+live in poverty, a much higher percentage is considered “low income”
- Transportation
- Access to services
- “The Golden Years” myth
- Loneliness: The Un-befriended Older Adult
- Cultural views on aging





# HealthReach's Geriatric Collaborative

## The 4Ms of an Age-Friendly Health System

### ✓ What Matters:

Understanding what each patient's health goals and care preferences are across settings to know and align care, including (but not limited to) end-of-life

### ✓ Medication:

If medications are necessary, using age-friendly medications that do not interfere with What Matters, Mentation, or Mobility

### ✓ Mentation:

Preventing, identifying, treating, and managing dementia, depression, and delirium across care settings

### ✓ Mobility:

Ensuring that older adults move safely every day to maintain function and do What Matters to them

# Overview

- June 2018: introduction, Annual Wellness Visits
- July '18-Sept '18: Falls prevention, evaluation, management (**Mobility**)
  - CDC STEADI initiative
- Oct '18-Dec '18: Advance Care Planning (**what Matters**)
  - Aging in place, Advance Directives, living wills, POAs, POLST
- Jan '19-Mar '19: Polypharmacy/appropriate prescribing (**Medication**)
- April '19-June '19: Cognitive impairment detection, evaluation, management (**Mentation**)

# HealthReach's Geriatric Collaborative

- Key factors:
  - Multidisciplinary
  - Team-based
  - Partnerships
  - Metrics
- Included:
  - Education at leadership and regional meetings and in clinical newsletter
  - Development of data sets for assessing older adult health
  - Centralized, online clinical resources
  - Patient education resources

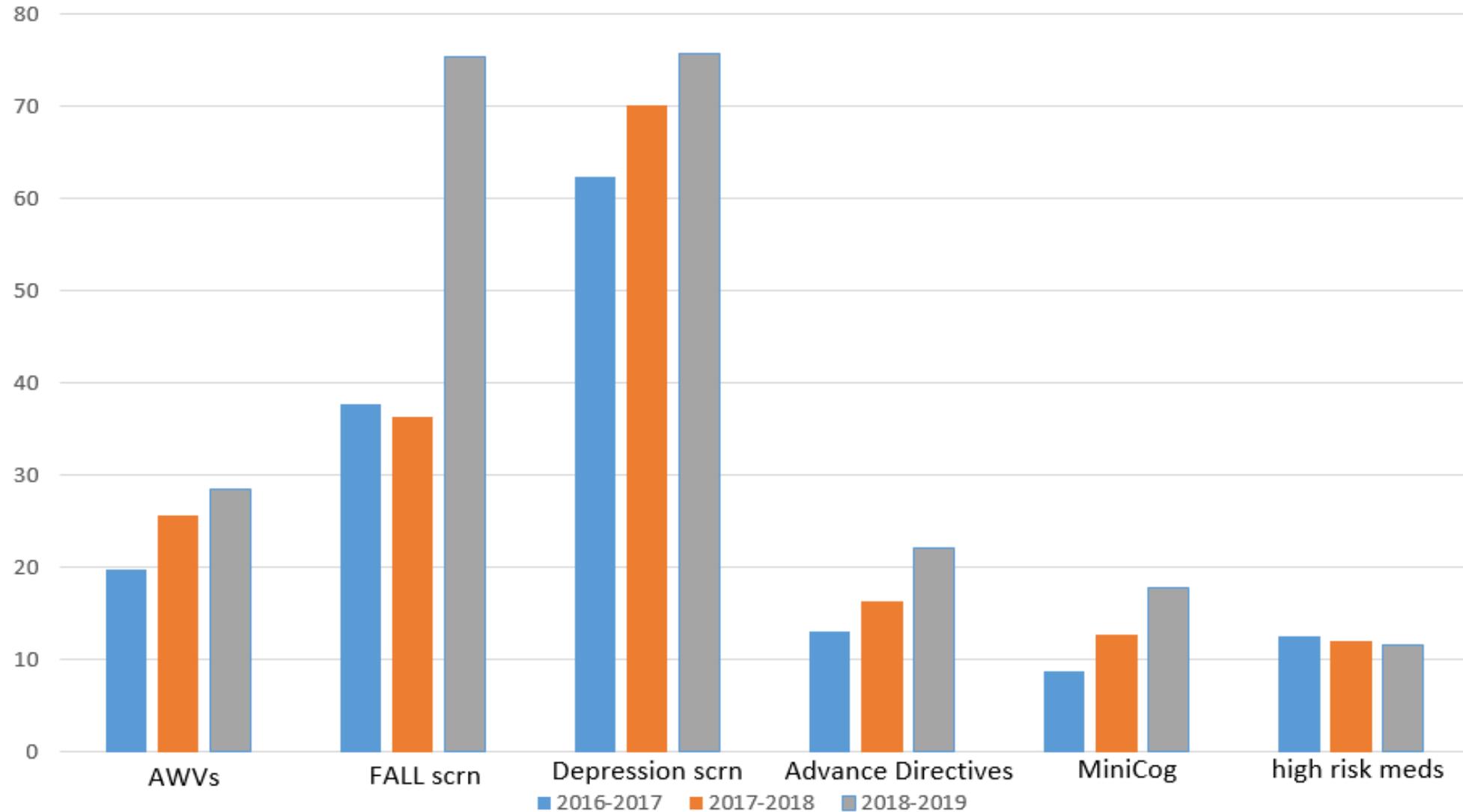
# Polypharmacy

- Medication reconciliation procedures: clinical staff, care managers, clinicians
- Developed a data set to look at use of high risk medications
- Contracted with a clinical pharmacist to offer case review and medication management recommendations
- Geriatrician-led clinician education at regional meetings on polypharmacy reduction
- Education resources: Clinical newsletter articles and tools, ie reducing benzodiazepine use in older adults
- Patient education on waiting room closed circuit TV
- Information for drug disposal specific to each site



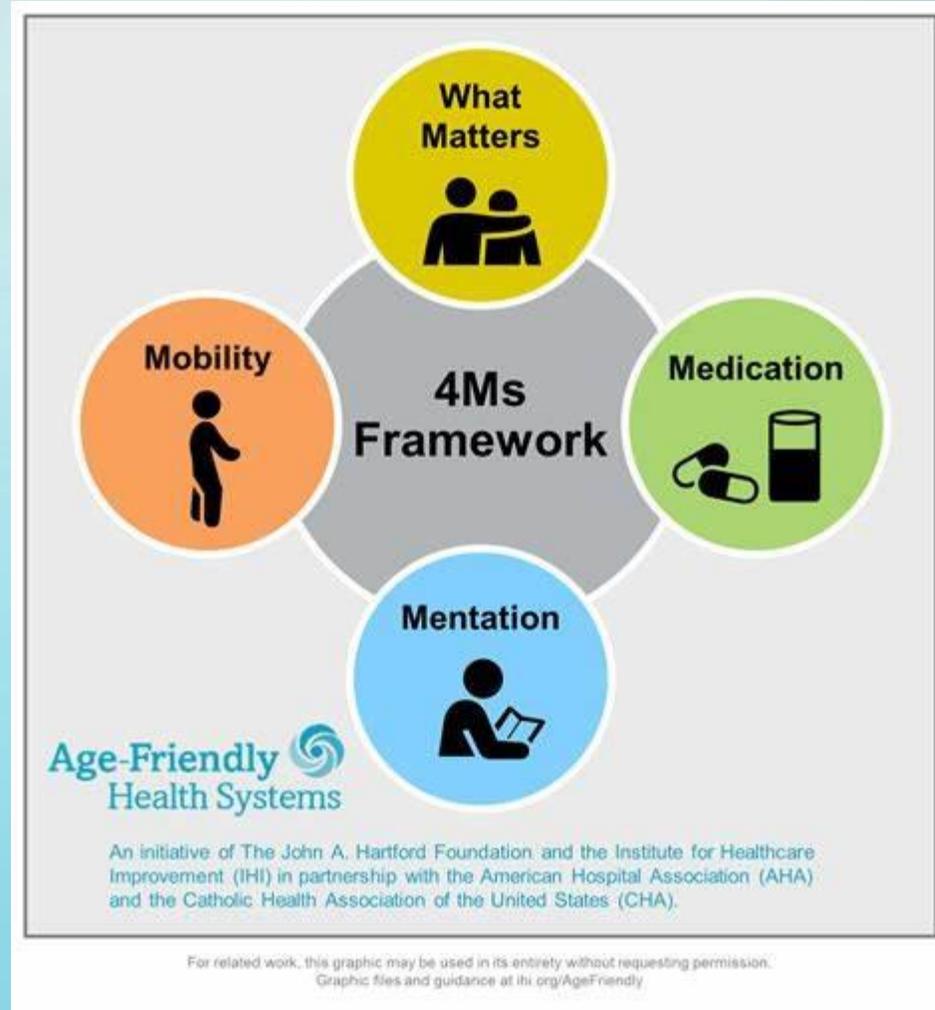


## Geriatric Initiative Data



# Partnerships

- Clinical Pharmacist
- Community Paramedics
- Area Agency on Aging



# Clinical Pharmacist

- Contracted with clinical pharmacist to do pharmacy case review
- Clinicians drove selection of cases
- Received report of medications to stop or decrease along with rationale and alternative options
- Ongoing relationship



# Community Paramedics

- Delta Ambulance covers most of our service area
- What do they offer?
  - Highly trained pre-hospital medical clinicians
  - Fill “gaps” of when person may need care at home but doesn’t qualify for home-based services
- Services:
  - Home safety assessment
  - Medication Reconciliation
  - Lab draws/specimen collection
  - Basic assessment (vitals, weight, exam)
  - Etc.



# Community Paramedic Workflow



- CP order can be initiated in the PCP's office (most common), hospital, ED, etc.

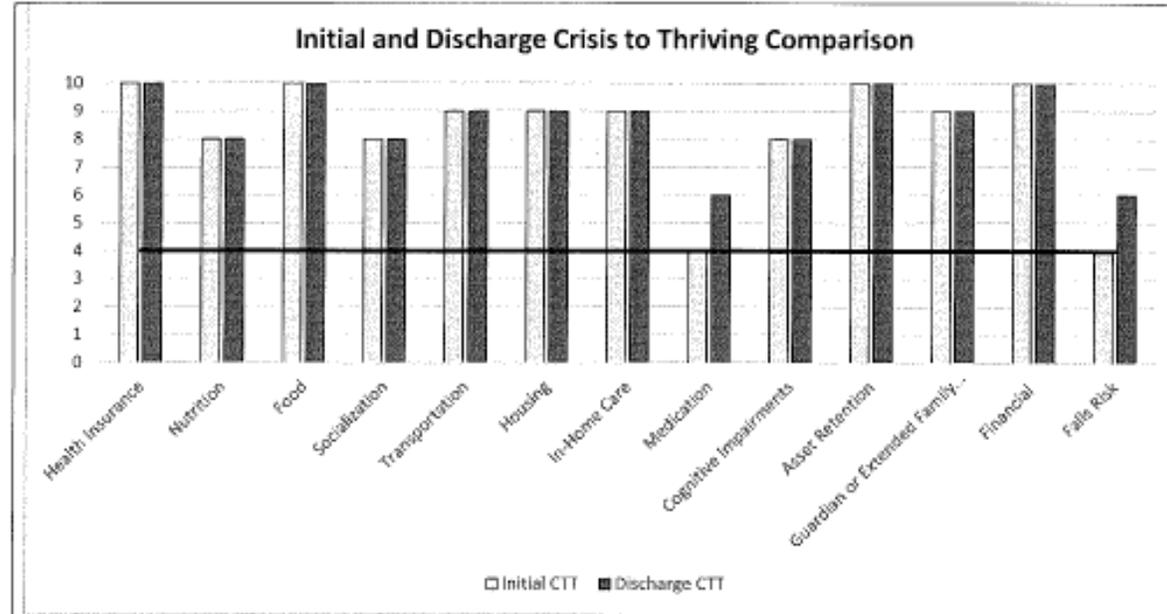
# Area Agency on Aging



- Spectrum Generations covers most of our service area
- Collaborative relationship on Living Well series
- Contracted on new project:
  - Community Resource Specialist outreach
  - HealthReach patients >65 yo
  - Crisis to Thriving assessment with feedback to clinical team
  - Connection to community resources
  - 45 day intervention period
  - Belgrade, Madison, Bingham, Lovejoy, Sheepscot

# Crisis to Thriving Assessment

The following a bar graph displaying a comparison of where your client scored when they were first referred to us, and where they scored when they were discharged at the end of our contract with them.

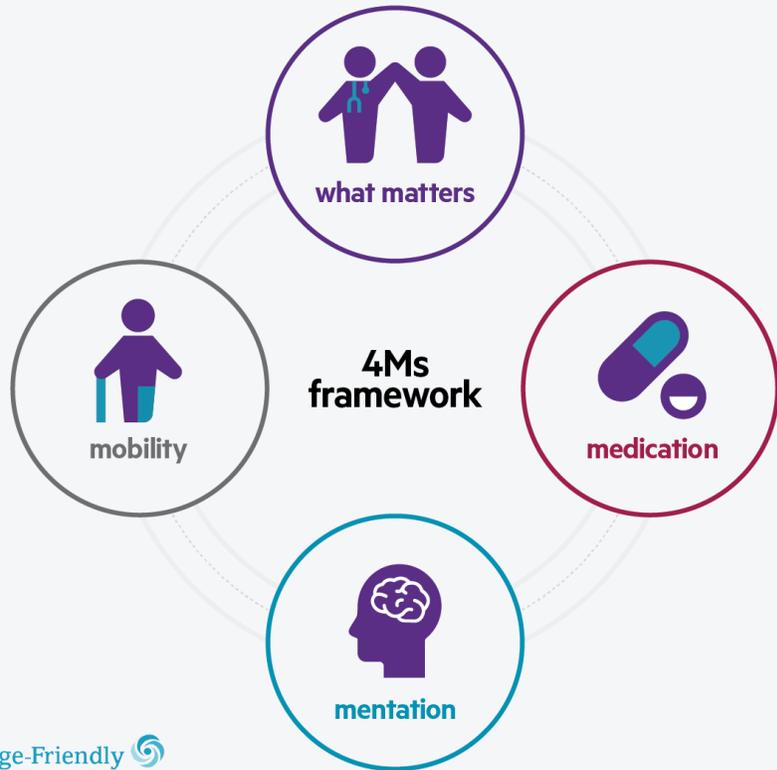


**Note:** Areas the consumer scores less than a 4 in are vulnerable, or in crisis.

**Explanation of Range:**

- 9-10 Thriving
- 7-8 Stable
- 5-6 Safe
- 3-4 Vulnerable
- 1-2 Crisis

# To enable our population to age well, we need:



- Age-friendly health systems
- Partnerships with expert community agencies and others
- Engaged local, state, and federal leadership



Questions?

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