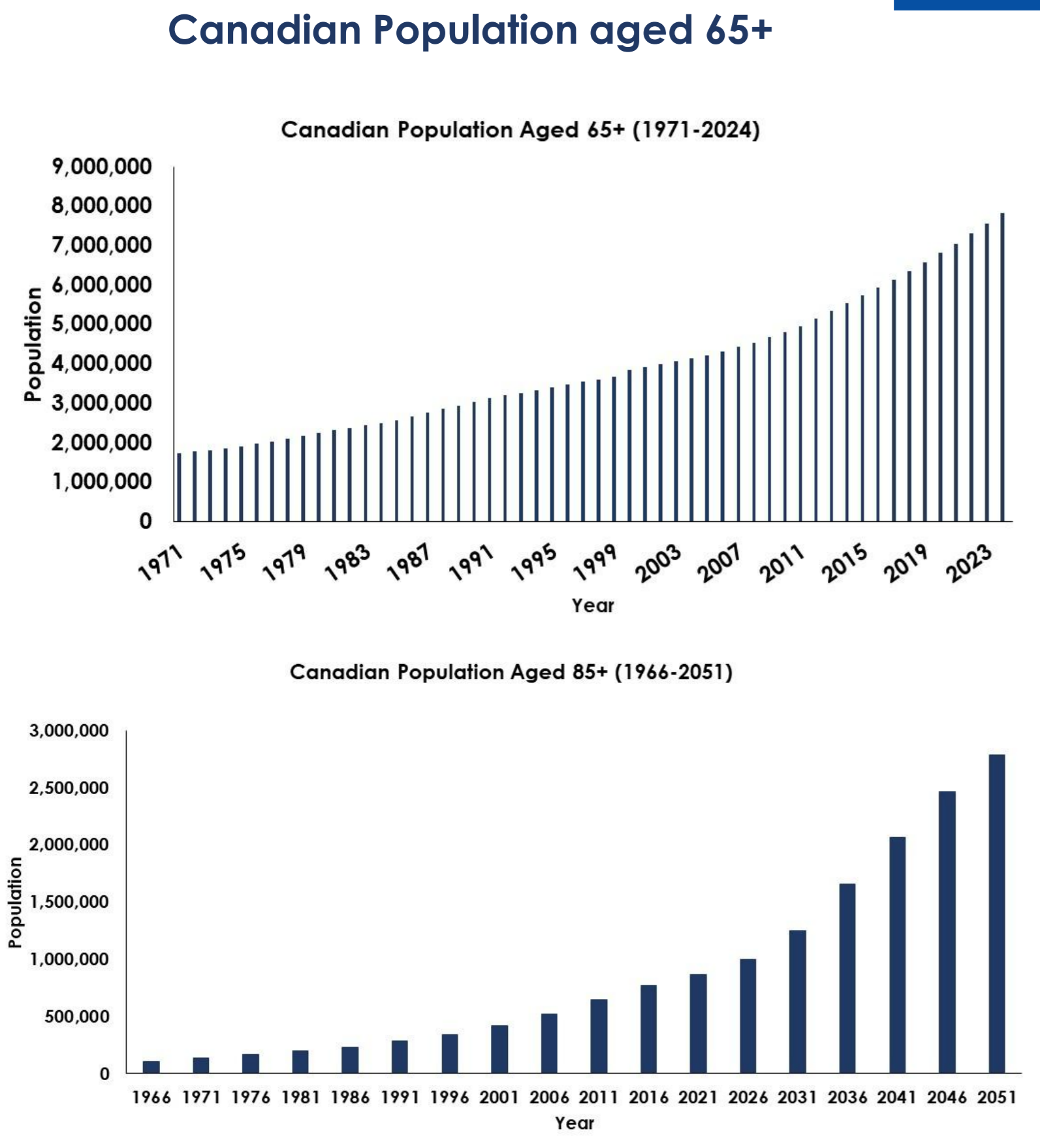


OLDER ADULTS AND THE DILEMMA OF ALTERNATE LEVEL OF CARE (ALC)

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BACKGROUND



In Canada,

2,076
LTC Homes

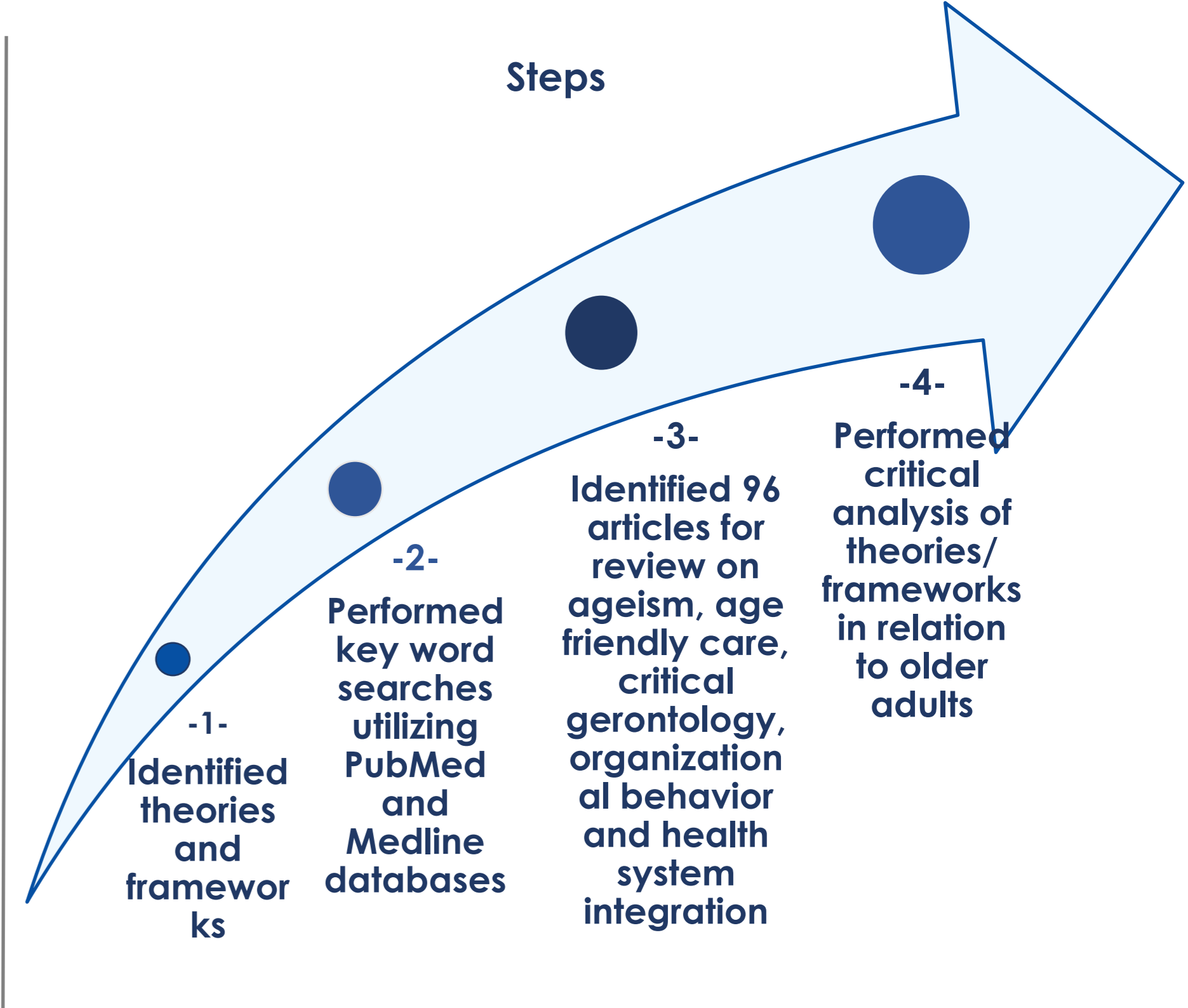
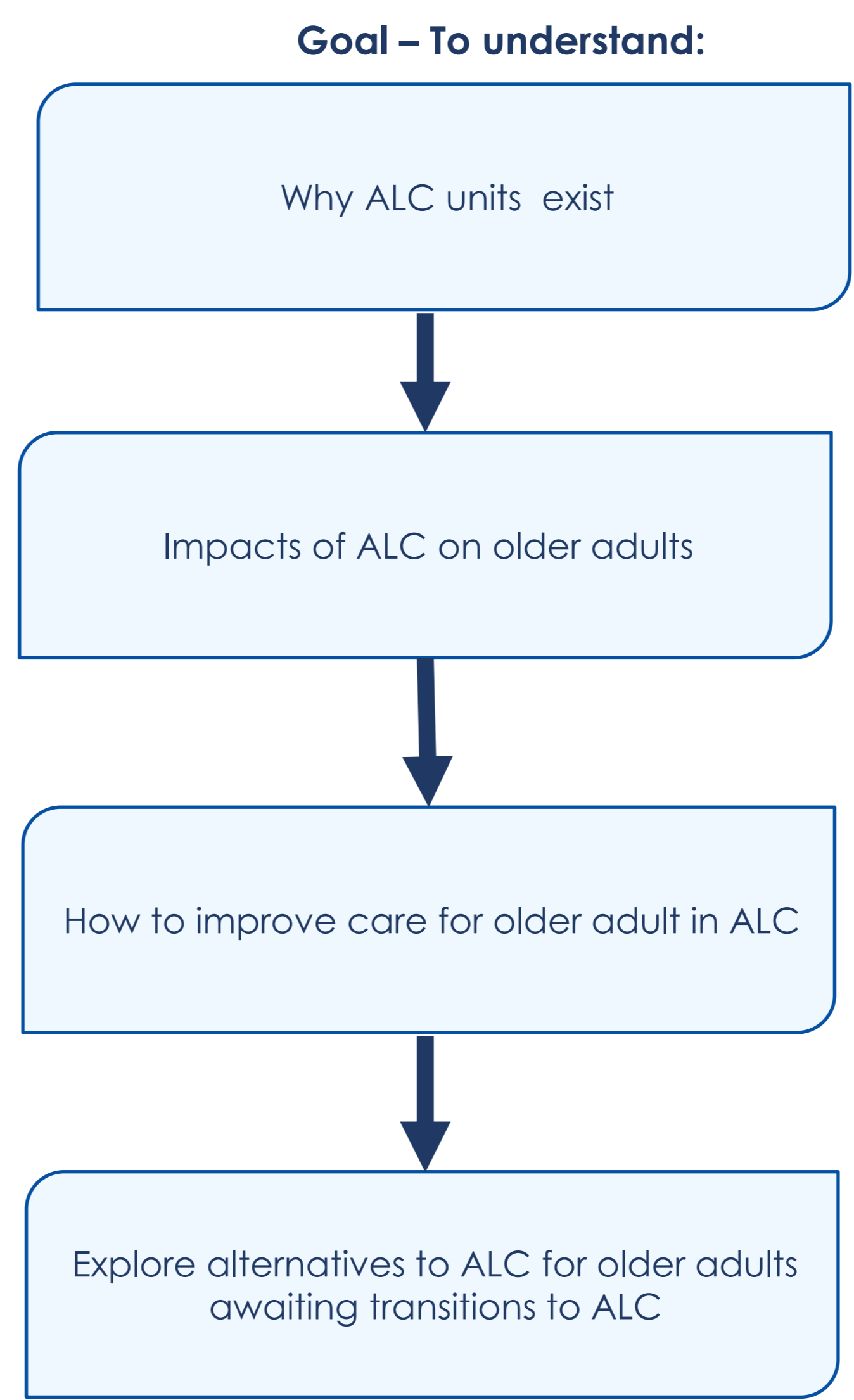
198,220
LTC Beds

7,820,121
Aged 65+

- ### Older Adult Population
- Older adults (aged 65+) account for 18.9% of population
 - 85+ population is fastest growing age group in Canada and a quarter live in nursing home, long term care (LTC) or seniors' residence
 - 47% of residents in long term care are 85+

- ### ALC refers to:
- Patients in hospitals with care needs (after completion of acute care) that cannot be met at home
 - Patient population awaiting transition to LTC, assisted living, complex continuing care or rehab
 - 80% of ALC population attributed to older adults.

OBJECTIVE & METHODS



NEXT STEPS

Analysis of administrative data to inform regression analysis and qualitative interviews to explore alternatives to ALC

Sampling
(target: 5-10 hospitals in Ontario and analyze ALC bed use by older adults)

Sampling of patient population by age, sex, ALC designation, hospital length of stay and institutions transferred to

Data collection – step 1

Utilize data on inpatient activity for ALC patients in small, medium and large acute care hospitals in Ontario

Data collection – step 2

Perform qualitative interviews with health care personnel and researchers in Nordic and Asian countries to explore alternatives to ALC and supplementary services

Data Analysis

Data analysis, transcription, summaries and presentations to participants; revisions made based on feedback and utilized for doctoral dissertation

KEY FINDINGS

- ALC considered quicker way to make transitions to long term care
- Older adults experience deconditioning, functional losses and health declines during ALC stays
- Lack of resources to meet care needs of older adult population in ALC units
- Communication barriers resulting in severe consequences for older adults (falls, poor quality of life)
- Fragmentation in care between multiple care settings and professions

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ageism and Impacts on healthcare

20% of population expected to be 65 years + by 2026 but currently have ~300 geriatricians in Canada. Prioritize healthcare needs of older adults and provide ongoing functional supports during ALC stays

Age Friendly Care

85% of older adult injury related hospitalizations are as a result of falls which continue during ALC stays. Application of age friendly design and care principles of what matters, mobility, medication and mentation

Organizational Behaviour and Health System Integration

Elimination of communication and inter/intra organizational barriers. Offer professional development opportunities that enhance care provided to older adults

Care worker/Caregiver Roles

Acknowledge and address gendered, class and racial impacts of caregiving and explore opportunities for providing care to older adults within communities versus acute care settings

CONTACT

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