

# ALZHEIMER'S: A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE



Public health works on a  
**POPULATION LEVEL**  
to protect and improve  
the health and well-being  
of entire communities



**BY CENTERING  
HEALTH EQUITY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH CAN  
REACH ALL PEOPLE  
TO ADDRESS  
HEALTH PROBLEMS**

## WHAT MAKES A HEALTH PROBLEM A POPULATION HEALTH ISSUE?

THE PREVALENCE & COSTS ARE  
**SUBSTANTIAL**



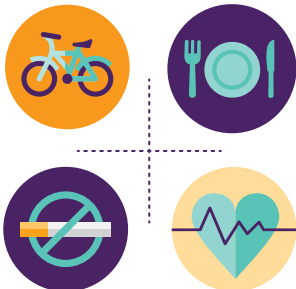
THE IMPACTS ARE  
**SERIOUS**



THERE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH  
**SOLUTIONS**



## • PUBLIC HEALTH ADDRESSES ALZHEIMER'S BY •



**PROMOTING  
BRAIN HEALTH**



**INCREASING ACCESS  
TO EARLY DETECTION  
AND DIAGNOSIS**



**SUPPORTING PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH DEMENTIA  
AND THEIR CAREGIVERS**



## THE PREVALENCE AND COSTS OF ALZHEIMER'S ARE **SUBSTANTIAL**:



## THE IMPACTS OF ALZHEIMER'S ARE **SERIOUS**:

- ! Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million.
- ! Ten percent of adults aged 45 and older report subjective cognitive decline, one of the earliest warning signs of Alzheimer's disease.
- ! Annual costs exceed a quarter of a trillion dollars and costs are expected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion in 2050.
- ! More than 95% of people living with dementia also have at least one other chronic condition.
- ! More than 11 million caregivers provide over 18 billion hours of care valued at over \$346.6 billion.
- ! Medicare and Medicaid bear two-thirds of the health and long term care costs of those living with Alzheimer's.



## THERE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH **SOLUTIONS**:

### PROMOTE BRAIN HEALTH

Two-thirds of adults have one or more of the five major risk factors for dementia (physical inactivity, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and/or smoking).

Using public health approaches can help communities find ways to increase healthy behaviors.

### INCREASE ACCESS TO EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS

Over half of adults reporting subjective cognitive decline have not consulted a health care professional.

As disease modifying treatments and new diagnostic tests become available, public health approaches can increase health care access and improve patient-physician communication to address this gap.

### SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

An estimated 65% of older adults facing dementia live at home or in the community, and more than a third of dementia caregivers report worsening health as a result of their caregiving duties.

Increasing community-clinical linkages through public health approaches can ensure caregivers are identified and have access to supports and services to care for themselves and their care partner.

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®



For more information:  
[alz.org/publichealth](https://alz.org/publichealth)