



Alzheimer's Public Health News

April 2020

COVID-19 and Dementia

As more and more public health professionals are pulled into the rapidly-evolving COVID-19 pandemic, people living with dementia and their caregivers require special consideration. For example, people living with dementia may forget to wash their hands or take recommended precautions to prevent the spread of illness. Public health practitioners can ensure information, services, and supports are available and accessible to their most vulnerable communities, including those with cognitive impairment.

Stay up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 developments:

- Alzheimer's Association
 - [Tips for dementia caregivers](#) (available in Spanish)
 - [Tips for professionals in community-based and long-term care settings](#)
- CDC
 - [Coronavirus information](#)
 - [Guidance for older adults](#)

Other related resources are available.

- [Closing the Gaps: Advancing Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Older Adults](#) — a new report from the American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council and the American Academy of Nursing — may help guide emergency response and preparedness. While not COVID-19-specific, this report helps illuminate special considerations that better meet older adults' needs during times of disaster.
- To help families affected by dementia better plan for the future, CDC has released guidance on [developing a care plan](#). Public health can ensure people living with dementia, their caregivers, and their family members know about the benefits of care planning and ways to access support in developing a plan. Since 2017, Medicare has provided reimbursement to providers for [care planning services](#) for cognitively-impaired individuals.

Alzheimer's Public Health Curriculum



A free, flexible curricular resource introduces Alzheimer's as a public health issue.

The HBI Road Map



Designed for state and local public health practitioners, the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map encourages 25 actions that help promote brain health, address cognitive impairment, and support the needs of caregivers.

Road Map for Indian Country



Designed for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities, the Healthy Brain Initiative *Road Map for Indian Country* is a guide for AI/AN leaders to learn about Alzheimer's and begin planning their response to dementia.

Funding Announcement

The CDC's Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program released two notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs) to support implementation of the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Maps: [State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map](#) and the [Road Map for Indian Country](#).

These NOFOs stem from the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406). For more detail, read the [public health programs NOFO](#) and [nationwide centers of excellence NOFO](#). All applications are due May 26, 2020.

HBI Resources

- A new online learning module on Alzheimer's and other dementias is now available. [Alzheimer's and Other Dementias – The Basics](#) is the second online module in [A Public Health Approach to Alzheimer's and Other Dementias](#) introductory curriculum. Online Module 2 begins with a brief introductory video that covers the learning objectives for the following five-part series. Each part is a short, focused lesson on dementia basics. The set covers five topics:
 - [Cognitive health](#)
 - [Defining dementia and Alzheimer's](#)
 - [Signs and stages of Alzheimer's](#)
 - [Risk factors for dementia](#)
 - [Clinical and public health response](#)

Learn more about our free, flexible and ready-to-use introductory curriculum at [alz.org/public-health-curriculum](#).

- CDC has released new [subjective cognitive decline \(SCD\) infographics](#) using 2015–2018 [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#) data. The infographics feature the first-ever national dataset on SCD with data from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.
- CDC has also released updated or new SCD infographics for specific racial and ethnic groups, including [African American](#); [American Indian/Alaska Native](#); [Asian, Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander](#); and [Hispanic](#) adults. Additional infographics feature SCD data about [women](#), [men](#) and [veterans](#).

Public Health Officials

[alz.org/publichealth](#)

Learn about the public health approach to Alzheimer's with topic-specific primers, examples, and resources at [alz.org/publichealth](#)

Contact

For more information on the Healthy Brain Initiative, public health priorities, or Alzheimer's disease in general, contact [Molly French](#) or check out [alz.org/publichealth](#).

- ICYMI: If you missed this month's webinar — *Supporting the Front Line: A Public Health Approach to Dementia Caregiving* — view the [recording](#) and [download](#) a copy of the slidedeck.

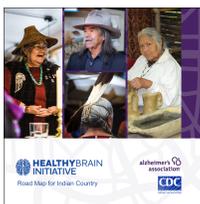
Emerging Evidence

- The number of Americans aged 30 to 64 years who were diagnosed with early-onset dementia or Alzheimer's disease rose 200% from 2013 to 2017, from 4.2 to 12.6 per 10,000, according to a [report](#) from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. The report examined BCBS medical claims and extrapolated to the commercially insured population — Americans aged 30-64 who receive health insurance through their employer or the individual market.
- Alzheimer's and all dementia are just two of many aspects of "brain health" addressed in *Brain Health Across the Life Span: Proceedings of a Workshop*, a new summary report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report features the latest research on a wide range of conditions including dementia, depression, traumatic brain injury, autism, bipolar disorders, and seizures. The report also addresses both brain development and aging and discusses some of the complex biological, behavioral, and environmental interactions on brain health.

Healthy Brain Initiative



The Healthy Brain Initiative's (HBI) *State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map* is designed to mobilize the public health community in mitigating the future impacts of Alzheimer's and other dementias, especially among vulnerable populations. Read the [full Road Map](#), [executive summary](#) or get started with the [planning guide](#).



The Healthy Brain Initiative's *Road Map for Indian Country* is a guide for American Indian and Alaska Native leaders to learn about dementia, educate their communities, and start taking action against Alzheimer's. Read the [full Road Map](#), [executive summary](#), or the [dissemination guide](#) to get started.

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