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Promoting Caregiving Across the Full Community
Dementia caregiving is highly prevalent and affects increasing numbers of individuals and families across all races, ethnicities and cultures. A new action brief from the Alzheimer’s Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — Promoting Caregiving Across the Full Community: The Role for Public Health Strategists — outlines the challenges of dementia caregiving and offers six strategies to advance equity by deploying evidence-based support through health care systems, workplaces, and communities.

Strong public health leadership is essential to engage community partners and caregivers in driving structural changes that support effective, sustained caregiving for all people living with dementia. When caregivers are not sufficiently supported, the unpaid caregiving is replaced by paid caregiving — at a high cost to society. When people living with dementia need prolonged and intensive assistance, caregiving can take a toll on caregivers’ health, well-being, and ability to work. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges both for the caregivers and their communities.

Promoting Caregiving Across the Full Community describes the difficulties that dementia caregiving poses to communities, including service gaps and fragmentation. Governmental public health agencies can advance proven strategies to support and maintain the health, well-being, and productivity of caregivers. As "chief health strategists," public health would convene key partners and caregivers in using data and science to recognize and diagnose problems. The brief provides six strategies for these partners to consider as ways to reduce fragmentation, improve equitable access, and close gaps.

Read the full action brief to learn how public health strategists can provide equitable access to support resources to diverse caregivers throughout their communities — no matter their age, race or ethnicity, geography, employment status, or language. Additional resources about and for dementia caregiving can be found on the Promote Caregiving public health page.

COVID-19 and Dementia
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues nationwide, public health agencies are addressing the special considerations that people living with dementia and their caregivers require. At alz.org/publichealth-covid19, public health practitioners can find tip sheets, resources, and guidance to help meet these unique needs. Practitioners can also stay up to date with the latest information about and for older adults and COVID-19 from CDC at cdc.gov/aging/covid19. Find the full CDC library on COVID-19 at cdc.gov/covid19.

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