



# Alzheimer's Public Health News

## Opportunity for Local Health Departments: Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map Strategists

Funding is now available for local health departments to advance public health action on Alzheimer's disease. Under the new Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Road Map Strategists initiative, up to six (6) local health departments, or partnering nonprofit hospitals/health systems, will receive direct funding, training and technical assistance to establish a part-time HBI Road Map Strategist. This public health professional will serve as a system change agent on cognitive health and dementia, and will translate guidance from the *State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map* into local action. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), this 15-month initiative runs from September 2021 through November 2022.

Applications are due on **Monday, August 2**. Local health departments or partnering nonprofit hospitals/health systems are encouraged to apply. Click [here](#) to learn more and submit an application. Please contact Meghan Fadel at [mfadel@alz.org](mailto:mfadel@alz.org) for additional questions.

## 2019 Cognitive Decline Data Fact Sheets

State-specific fact sheets on the cognitive decline data from the 2019 BRFSS surveys are now available for the [District of Columbia](#) and the following states:

[Alabama](#), [Connecticut](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York](#), [North Dakota](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Rhode Island](#), [South Carolina](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wisconsin](#).

For assistance on how to use this data in your state to address cognitive decline and dementia, please contact John Shean at [jshean@alz.org](mailto:jshean@alz.org).

## Cognitive Decline and Risk Reduction

A new [article](#) highlights the similarities in modifiable risk factors between dementia and cardiovascular disease. Similar to heart disease, dementia takes years to develop, presenting an opportunity for public health to focus on risk reduction while research continues on improved treatments. The authors suggest that public health professionals should use successful heart health programs to also support brain health.

## 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.

## National Indian Health Board Funding Opportunity

The National Indian Health Board has announced a [funding opportunity](#) to support Tribal health programs that address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Eligible applicants must partner with another Tribal or Indian Health Service program, such as a diabetes or mental health program, that also serves this population. Applicants must also propose to address one or more strategies from [The Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map for Indian Country](#). The application deadline is **Friday, August 13**. Please submit all questions and applications to Sara Zdunek at [szdunek@nihb.org](mailto:szdunek@nihb.org).



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

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## Emerging Evidence

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Subjective Cognitive Decline

Black and Hispanic adults in the United States are more likely to report subjective cognitive decline (SCD) at a younger age than White adults, according to a recent [study](#). Researchers used data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to identify disparities in the prevalence of SCD among White, Black, and Hispanic adults aged 45 and older. Results showed that 10.8 percent reported SCD. Among racial and ethnic groups, the figures were 10.7 percent of Whites, 12.3 percent of Blacks, and 9.9 percent of Hispanics. But, Blacks and Hispanics with SCD were more likely to be younger (45-54 years old), without access to health care, live alone and have functional limitations. More than half of individuals across all racial/ethnic groups did not discuss SCD with a health care professional. In addition, the prevalence of chronic conditions that are suspected risk factors for dementia was significantly higher in those with SCD compared with those without SCD.

### Dementia-Related Diagnosis Underestimated Among Older Americans

Over 90 percent of people with cognitive impairment consistent with dementia did not report a formal medical diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementia, according to a new analysis of data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). Individuals who identified as Black had a higher undiagnosed rate compared with Whites – and men were more likely than women to be undiagnosed. The study supports the need for public health to implement actions outlined in the State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map to educate the public and health care professionals about the importance of an early detection and diagnosis of dementia. It also underscores the importance of the Healthy People 2030 objective to increase disclosure of a dementia diagnosis.

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## Upcoming Events

The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will host a [webinar](#) on **Tuesday, August 24 at 1:00 p.m. ET**. Presenters will discuss the importance of emotional and social support for care partners of people living with dementia. Attendees will learn about the facets of isolation that occurs with dementia and cognitive impairment, as well as actionable items to recommend for care partners of people living with dementia.

Trust for America's Health and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are hosting the [virtual 2021 Healthy Aging Symposium](#) on **Wednesday, September 8** and **Thursday, September 9** in observance of Healthy Aging Month. National researchers, state and local health officials, and policymakers will discuss their work and insights. Attendees will learn about the latest science, best practices, and innovative interventions to improve the health of older Americans.

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