



Alzheimer's Public Health News

June 2021

Aducanumab Approved for Treatment of Alzheimer's The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had approved aducanumab, marketed as Aduhelm, the first FDA-approved therapy to address the underlying biology of Alzheimer's disease. This first-of-its-kind treatment has important implications for public health efforts to promote early detection and diagnosis. More information on Aduhelm's approval can be found [here](#).

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

Funding is available for local health departments to be a national leader in advancing 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 mlfadel@alz.org for additional questions.

New Online Module Available for Alzheimer's Curriculum

A new curriculum module, [Dementia Capable Systems and Dementia Friendly Communities](#), is available for sharing in classrooms. The module discusses systems and infrastructure needed to accommodate the needs of a population with memory loss, and a variety of related physical, cognitive and behavioral systems, as well as other comorbidities. It is the latest installment in [A Public Health Approach to Alzheimer's and Other Dementias](#), a free, introductory set of curricular resources developed for use in programs of public health and related disciplines.

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

Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

While Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month officially ends on June 30, there are activities public health practitioners can undertake to promote cognitive health throughout the year. Various tools and resources are available to assist in these efforts.

A new [blog post](#) by John Shean, Associate Director of the Healthy Brain Initiative for the Alzheimer's Association outlines steps public health professionals can take to reduce risk factors for Alzheimer's and dementia, advance early detection, and support caregivers. It also provides information on how public health agencies, organizations, and partners can implement actions from the [State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map](#).

[Early detection and diagnosis](#) is an essential public health strategy. Many people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia are undiagnosed or unaware of their diagnosis. Public health professionals can support early detection by raising awareness of the importance of cognitive health, emphasizing the advantages of receiving a formal diagnosis, and normalizing discussions about brain health and cognitive decline. The issue map, [Advancing Early Detection](#) outlines ways professionals can take action, as well as examples of how public health departments in Washington State and Utah are advancing early detection.

Evidence shows that adopting many healthy behaviors that are known to [reduce the risk](#) for cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, can also reduce the risk for cognitive decline and possibly dementia. Public health leaders can promote dementia risk reduction by incorporating dementia and cognitive decline risk messages into other health promotion activities, such as obesity prevention and diabetes management. Hypertension is one of the most promising fronts on dementia risk reduction, and an [action brief](#) outlines what public health can do. Also, the [Accelerating Risk Reduction and Promoting Brain Health](#) issue map provides additional examples of how public health agencies can advance risk reduction.



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.



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.

Upcoming Webinars and Recordings

The Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving is hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, June 30 at 12:30 p.m. ET.** Speakers will discuss the unique role of culture in dementia caregiving and how to tailor efforts to meet the needs of diverse older adults. [Register in advance.](#)

Trust for America's Health will host a training on caregiving as a public health issue on **Thursday, July 15 at 3:00 p.m. ET.** July's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems training will focus on how public health agencies can support caregivers in their important roles. [Register in advance.](#)

A [webinar recording](#) from the Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving is now available. Officials from North Dakota and New Jersey discussed how their states used data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Caregiving Module to advance efforts to address dementia caregiving.

A webinar hosted by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is [available for viewing](#). The webinar featured innovative approaches two local health departments (LHDs) employed to address Alzheimer's and dementia by using the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map. Speakers also discussed tips and best practices, including NACCHO's [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships](#) framework.

Trust for America's Health Age-Friendly Public Health Systems June training is [available for sharing](#). The training discussed the evolution of the [Healthy Brain Initiative](#), the development of the federal BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, and how to align strategies for age-friendly public health.

Dementia Capability in Indian Country

A [funding opportunity](#) to develop and expand the dementia capability of tribal home and community-based service systems is available from the Administration for Community Living. This project will target the delivery of dementia-capable services, supports, and education in native communities. Through this program, tribal entities will work to improve the understanding of Alzheimer's in Indian Country by developing and implementing culturally competent resources.

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