



Alzheimer's Public Health News

March 2022 Special Edition

2022 Alzheimer's Facts and Figures Released

The Alzheimer's Association's [2022 Alzheimer's Facts and Figures](#) report was released last week, providing a detailed examination of the latest national and state statistics on Alzheimer's disease prevalence, mortality, caregiving, and costs of care. The 2022 report also includes a new section on the dementia workforce and a special report on attitudes and barriers surrounding the detection and diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Accompanying the report are [individual state fact sheets](#) for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. They include state-specific data on Alzheimer's prevalence; the number of dementia family caregivers and total value of that unpaid care; the total cost of Alzheimer's disease to the state Medicaid program; and the future need for geriatricians and home health/personal care aides.

Highlights of the report include:

Prevalence and Mortality

- More than 6 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's.
- This number is expected to nearly double by mid-century.
- Total deaths from Alzheimer's disease increased 145% between 2000 and 2019.

Costs of Care

- The cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias in 2022 will total an estimated \$321 billion.
- By 2050, these costs are expected to reach nearly \$1 trillion.
- Between 2020 and 2025, the total annual Medicaid payments for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias is expected to rise more than 20%.

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.

Caregiving

- Last year, more than 11 million family and friends provided unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- These 11 million Americans provided over 16 billion hours of unpaid care, valued at more than \$271 billion.
- Caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's disease (59%) report high or very high emotional stress due to caregiving.

Workforce

- Twenty U.S. states are "neurology deserts," meaning they are projected to have fewer than 10 neurologists per 10,000 people with dementia in 2025.
- In 48 states, double-digit percentage increases in the number of home health and personal care aides will be needed by 2028 to meet demand; nearly half of states will need at least a 30% increase.

Special Report: Understanding MCI

As treatments become available that target the MCI stage of Alzheimer's disease, early detection and diagnosis become even more critical. But, barriers exist.

- More than 80% of Americans know little or are not familiar at all with MCI, and after it's described, more than half think it sounds like "normal aging."
- Once they are told what MCI is, 54% of Americans say they would want to know they had Alzheimer's in the MCI stage and another 31% would want to know in the mild dementia stage of Alzheimer's.
- Yet, 60% say they would wait to talk to a doctor about MCI symptoms – or not talk to a doctor about it at all.
- More than 75% of primary care physicians say MCI due to Alzheimer's disease is difficult to diagnose.
- Half of primary care physicians do not feel comfortable diagnosing MCI due to Alzheimer's disease.

Download the full report, infographics, and state-specific fact sheets at alz.org/facts

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 [Ben Denno](#) or check out alz.org/publichealth.

April 4-10 is National Public Health Week

National Public Health Week, sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA), will take place beginning Monday, April 4, 2022. The week is marked by daily themes of importance to public health, including Tuesday's theme of "Public Health Workforce" and Friday's theme of "Closing the Health Equity Gap."

This is an opportunity for the public health community to address the Alzheimer's public health crisis, including by addressing workforce issues. The APHA previously adopted a policy that identifies three overarching [recommendations](#) pertaining to the dementia care workforce: strengthening the hiring, training, and retention of dementia care workers; retooling the financing of long-term care to support the provision and expansion of community-based services; and matching quality assessment metrics to the priority needs of local populations.

In addition, state, local, and territorial public health and aging officials can use the [Needs Assessment Toolkit for Dementia, Cognitive Health, and Caregiving](#) to identify unmet needs of older adults, scale up existing community strengths, and promote healthy aging. The toolkit was jointly developed by the Alzheimer's Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). To learn more about using this toolkit – during National Public Health Week or any time throughout the year – you can join a short webinar on **Tuesday, March 29 from 1:30-2:00 p.m. ET**. Please [register](#) in advance.

Upcoming Events and Recordings

A recording of the Feb. 23, 2022 BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Caregiving Webinar, [Public Health Programs for Dementia Caregivers: Finding, Selecting and Implementing EBIs](#), is available online.

Join the Alzheimer's Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) for a webinar reviewing the new toolkit, [Needs Assessment Toolkit for Dementia, Cognitive Health, and Caregiving](#) on Tuesday, **March 29 from 1:30-2:00 p.m. ET**. Please [register](#) in advance.

On Thursday, **March 31 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET**, the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will host the webinar, *Beyond "One Size Fits All": Addressing the Needs of People Living with Dementia and Caregivers in Asian American and Persian American Communities*. Please [register](#) in advance.

The passage of the [Building Our Largest Dementia \(BOLD\) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act](#) marked a significant moment in the history of dementia public health and policy nationwide. On Tuesday, **April 26 from 1:30 – 2:00pm ET.**, join the Alzheimer's Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Alzheimer's Disease Program for the webinar, *Public Health and Dementia: The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act* to learn more about the importance of this legislation and the ways it is changing the landscape of public health. Additional information is available on the [registration](#) page.

The BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving will host The Public Health Opportunities and Challenges of Dementia Caregiving National Conference on **June 14-15, 2022**, in Minneapolis. The keynote session will highlight why dementia caregiving is and should remain a public health priority. Virtual sessions will be available. Attendance is free; [register](#) in advance.

This edition of Alzheimer's Public Health News is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2,795,933 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

For subscription services, please visit alz.org/publichealth