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BRFSS Update: 24 States Commit to Conducting Cognitive Impairment Surveillance in 2012

The Alzheimer's Association has been successful in convincing states to conduct cognitive impairment and caregiver surveillance in 2012. Specifically, 24 states have committed to using the Cognitive Impairment module in 2012 with another 10 using the Caregiver Module. The annual [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#) survey is used to identify trends, estimate burden, and track patterns of disease. For Alzheimer's disease and cognitive health, surveillance is an essential tool in understanding the disease at the state and national levels.

This year's work will build on the 22 states that conducted the [Cognitive Impairment Module](#) in 2011, taking the cumulative total of states using the module to 38. No other module has been adopted so widely or so quickly in the history of the BRFSS outside a core program of the CDC.

Public Health Agenda



The Alzheimer's Association has identified three key elements of an Alzheimer's public health agenda: surveillance, early detection, and promotion of brain health.

The Road Map



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the

Since the introduction of the [Caregiver Module](#) in 2005, a total of 24 states have used the module.

The Association has worked with state BRFSS Coordinators, its chapter network, and aging and public health officials to secure the use of the modules. We will continue to pursue the use of the modules for 2013. For more information on surveillance efforts, contact [Catherine Morrison](#).

Alzheimer's Association formed a partnership to examine how best to bring a public health perspective to the promotion of cognitive health. The resulting publication, *The Healthy Brain Initiative: A National Public Health Road Map to Maintaining Cognitive Health* outlines 44 priority actions to guide the public health community in surveillance, prevention research, communication, and policy.

The 10 Warning Signs



The Know the 10 Signs campaign is a national education effort to increase awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and the benefits of early detection and diagnosis.

Contact

For more information on the Healthy Brain Initiative, the public health agenda, or Alzheimer's disease in general, contact [Catherine Morrison](#).

For additional information or questions, please contact catherine.morrison@alz.org.
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National Headquarters

Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601
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Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's

Formed in 1980, the Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research.