WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health works on a population level to protect and improve the health and safety of an entire community or group of people. Public health promotes healthy lifestyles, prevents illnesses and injuries, and detects and controls diseases. By working with diverse communities, public health expands the reach and impact of health care efforts.

THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH WE CAN:

- ☑ Promote and encourage healthy behaviors
- ☑ Reduce the risk of developing chronic health conditions
- ☑ Prevent injuries
- ☑ Reduce the spread of infectious diseases
- ☑ Protect against environmental hazards

PUBLIC HEALTH AT WORK:

Vaccinations to prevent disease

Quit smoking campaigns

Emergency preparedness

Safe drinking water

What makes a HEALTH PROBLEM a PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

The burden is **LARGE**

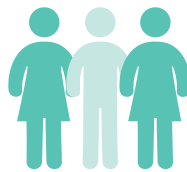The impact is **MAJOR**

INTERVENTIONS can make a difference

WHY ALZHEIMER'S IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

While Alzheimer's has traditionally been seen only as an aging issue, **ALZHEIMER'S** is a **PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE** because:

The **BURDEN** is **LARGE** and growing larger

6 million

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million.

$321 billion

Annual costs exceed a quarter of a trillion dollars ($321 billion in 2022), and costs are expected to rise to nearly $1 trillion in 2050.

1 in every 4 people living with dementia has at least one preventable hospitalization.

11+ million

More than 11 million caregivers provide over 16 billion hours of care valued at over $270 billion.

2/3 Medicare and Medicaid bear two-thirds of the health and long term care costs of those with Alzheimer's.

The **IMPACT** is **MAJOR**

INTERVENTIONS
can make a difference

Promoting prevention – regular physical activity and attention to heart health can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and may reduce risk of dementia.

Promoting early detection and diagnosis – as many as half of people with Alzheimer's are not diagnosed, and more than 40% of the diagnosed are not aware of the diagnosis.

Promoting health of caregivers – more than a third of dementia caregivers have worsening health as a result of their caregiving duties, and as many as 4 in 10 suffer from depression.