

HEALTHY BRAIN INITIATIVE / BUILDING OUR LARGEST DEMENTIA (BOLD) INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S STATE OF CONNECTICUT



The Connecticut Department of Public Health has been selected as a grantee from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote a strong public health approach to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). We are focused on changing systems, environments, and policies to promote risk reduction, to improve early diagnosis, to prevent and manage comorbidities, and to avoid hospitalizations. To accomplish this public health approach to Alzheimer's disease, we are using data to set priorities, to develop public health actions, to address social determinants of health, and to provide support for caregivers who take care of people with dementias.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE IN CONNECTICUT

Dementia is a general term used to describe symptoms characterized by the loss of cognitive function. Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60–80% of dementia cases. Other types include vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, and frontotemporal dementia. Alzheimer's disease is a chronic condition that progressively damages and eventually destroys brain cells.

[ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND HEALTHY AGING, CDC.GOV/AGING](https://www.cdc.gov/aging/alzheimers-disease-and-healthy-aging)



There are an estimated 80,000 people aged 65+ living with Alzheimer's in CT

2,380

PEOPLE IN HOSPICE WITH A PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA



142,000 caregivers, in which 47% have chronic health conditions

\$1.022 Billion

MEDICAID COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S

2021 CT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES REPORT AT ALZ.ORG/FACTS

OUR STRATEGIES

Support increased communication across state/local/tribal jurisdiction related to dementia help.

Promote education about the importance of including risk reduction, early diagnosis of ADRD, prevention and management of comorbidities and avoidable hospitalizations, and the role of caregiving for persons with dementia.

Create or update ADRD state/tribal/local strategic plan using Road Map series actions and public health approach.

Analyze and use available data, including Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, to set jurisdiction-wide Priorities.