

# ALZHEIMER'S: A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE



Public health works on a  
**POPULATION LEVEL**  
to protect and improve  
the health and well-being  
of entire communities



**BY CENTERING  
HEALTH EQUITY**  
  
PUBLIC HEALTH CAN  
REACH ALL PEOPLE  
TO ADDRESS  
HEALTH PROBLEMS

## WHAT MAKES A HEALTH PROBLEM A POPULATION HEALTH ISSUE?

THE PREVALENCE & COSTS ARE  
**SUBSTANTIAL**



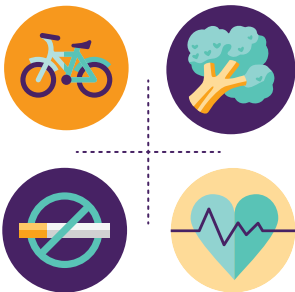
THE IMPACTS ARE  
**SERIOUS**



THERE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH  
**SOLUTIONS**



## • PUBLIC HEALTH ADDRESSES ALZHEIMER'S BY •



PROMOTING  
BRAIN HEALTH



INCREASING ACCESS  
TO EARLY DETECTION  
AND DIAGNOSIS



SUPPORTING PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH DEMENTIA  
AND THEIR CAREGIVERS



## THE PREVALENCE AND COSTS OF ALZHEIMER'S ARE **SUBSTANTIAL**:



Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million.



Ten percent of adults aged 45 and older report subjective cognitive decline, one of the earliest warning signs of Alzheimer's disease.



Annual costs exceed a quarter of a trillion dollars and costs are expected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion in 2050.



## THE IMPACTS OF ALZHEIMER'S ARE **SERIOUS**:



More than 95% of people living with dementia also have at least one other chronic condition.



More than 11 million caregivers provide over 18 billion hours of care valued at over \$346.6 billion.



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



## THERE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH **SOLUTIONS**:

### PROMOTE BRAIN HEALTH

Two-thirds of adults have one or more of the five major risk factors for dementia (physical inactivity, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and/or smoking).

Using public health approaches can help communities find ways to increase healthy behaviors.

### INCREASE ACCESS TO EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS

Over half of adults reporting subjective cognitive decline have not consulted a health care professional.

As disease modifying treatments and new diagnostic tests become available, public health approaches can increase health care access and improve patient-physician communication to address this gap.

### SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

An estimated 65% of older adults facing dementia live at home or in the community, and more than a third of dementia caregivers report worsening health as a result of their caregiving duties.

Increasing community-clinical linkages through public health approaches can ensure caregivers are identified and have access to supports and services to care for themselves and their care partner.

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®



For more information:  
[alz.org/publichealth](https://alz.org/publichealth)