

FACTSHEET

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BOLD Reauthorization Act

Alzheimer's and other dementias are an urgent public health issue.

- Nearly 7 million seniors in America are currently living with Alzheimer's. The total cost of their care is projected to total \$360 billion in 2024 — making it one of the most expensive diseases in America.
- The burden is only growing larger. The number of people living with Alzheimer's is projected to reach 12.7 million in 2050, and the costs are expected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion.

There are several ways the public health community can address the crisis.

- **Primary Prevention:** Healthy living can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and may reduce the risk of dementia. Public health can integrate brain health messages into existing, relevant public health campaigns.
- **Early Detection and Diagnosis:** Public health can undertake public awareness campaigns to promote early detection and diagnosis and can educate medical professionals about assessment tools.
- **Data Collection:** States can collect data on cognitive decline and Alzheimer's caregiving using tools such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
- **Access to Care and Services:** Public health can encourage health professionals to follow evidence-based clinical care guidelines, create tools to aid in care delivery, and report on quality care practices.

Congress passed the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406) to create a nationwide public health infrastructure to address dementia.

- In 2018, the bipartisan BOLD Act was unanimously approved by the Senate and passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 361-3.
- Since its enactment, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has:
 - Funded three Alzheimer's Public Health Centers of Excellence to expand and promote innovative and effective Alzheimer's interventions.
 - Provided 66 awards to 45 state, local, and tribal public health departments to implement interventions, including those in the *Public Health Road Map*.
 - Increased the analysis and reporting of data on cognitive decline and caregiving to inform future public health actions.

The BOLD Reauthorization Act (S. 3775 / H.R. 7218) is needed to continue to expand the public health work on Alzheimer's.

- The BOLD Reauthorization Act would extend the law through 2029.
- It would authorize \$33 million in annual funding through the CDC.