

FACTSHEET

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alzimpact.org

BOLD Reauthorization Act

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

- More than 6 million Americans have Alzheimer's.
- It is one of the most expensive diseases in America, with a total cost of \$345 billion in 2023.
- And the burden is growing larger. The number of people living with Alzheimer's is projected to double to 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 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 also authorize \$33 million in annual funding through the CDC.