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New Report Shows Toll of Alzheimer's Caregiving

According to a [new report](#), caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia – compared to caring for someone with another condition – takes longer, lasts longer, is more personal and intrusive, and takes a heavy toll on the health of the caregivers themselves. The report, written by Erin DeFries Bouldin and Elena Andresen of the Florida Office on Disability and Health at the University of Florida and funded by the Alzheimer's Association, is based on data from the Caregiver Module used in the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in three states (Illinois, Louisiana, and Ohio) and the District of Columbia.

With 14.9 million Americans now providing unpaid care to someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia – at a economic value of over \$202 billion – this new report highlights the importance of caregiving as a public health issue and demonstrates that "caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia may need interventions to reduce stress and prevent health problems related to caregiving more than other caregivers."

The report is part of the Alzheimer's Association's ongoing commitment to expanding surveillance of Alzheimer's disease and caregiving, as well as the dissemination of BRFSS data. As part of that effort, the Illinois chapters of the Association held a panel discussion on April 7 in the state capital to discuss the report. The Deputy Director for Policy, Planning & Statistics at the Illinois Department of Public Health, David Carvalho, opened the event. Panelists included Bruce Steiner, the Illinois BRFSS Coordinator; Erin

Public Health Agenda



The Alzheimer's Association has identified three key elements of an Alzheimer's public health agenda: surveillance, early detection, and promotion of brain health.

Upcoming Events and Presentations:

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 1-4, 2011. During the meeting, the Alzheimer's Association will be making two presentations: one on the connection between Alzheimer's and diabetes, and a second on the public health components of State Alzheimer's Disease Plans.



Ohio Public Health Association Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, May 9, 2011. The Alzheimer's

DeFries Bouldin, who conducted the data analysis; and State Representative Patricia Bellock. [Read an article](#) about the event.

Alzheimer's BRFSS Data Presented at National BRFSS Conference

In late March, the Alzheimer's Association made two presentations at the national conference of state Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) coordinators – an annual conference for state public health officials. The first presentation focused on Alzheimer's caregivers, highlighting the data contained in the new report mentioned above. The second presentation featured data from the five pilot states that used the 10-question Cognitive Impairment Module in 2009, which found that the percentage of adults aged 50 or older with perceived cognitive impairment ranged from approximately 9 percent in Iowa and Louisiana to 15 percent in Michigan.

Association will present the findings from the 2009 Caregiver Module of the BRFSS that was used in three states and the District of Columbia.

Contact

For more information on the Healthy Brain Initiative, the public health agenda, or Alzheimer's disease in general, contact [Catherine Morrison](#).