


 alzheimer's association®

alzheimer public health news

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National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) Signed into Law

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) - which requires the creation of a national plan to deal with the Alzheimer's crisis - was signed into law on January 4, 2011. The law received unanimous, bipartisan approval in Congress. By requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a national Alzheimer's plan, NAPA provides new hope to the estimated 5.3 million Americans living with the disease, their nearly 11 million caregivers and the 10 million baby boomers who are expected to develop it. NAPA also establishes an inter-agency advisory council to work with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give a full assessment of what needs to be done to address the threat of Alzheimer's on multiple fronts. That must include, in the opinion of the Alzheimer's Association, public health. Alzheimer's disease is not just an aging issue; it is a public health crisis, and the national plan must reflect that.

Surveillance: Cognitive Impairment Module Included in 20 States in 2011

In 20 states across the country, the [cognitive impairment module](#) is being used as part of their Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey in 2011. The annual BRFSS survey is used to identify trends, estimate burden, and track patterns of disease. Surveillance is a core function of public health and essential to creating appropriate policy and programming responses. For Alzheimer's disease and cognitive health, it is an essential tool in understanding the disease at the state and national levels. Data from the 2011 surveys will be available in the spring of 2012.

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. Read more

about [the agenda here](#).

Upcoming Events & Presentations:

BRFSS Coordinators Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, March 19-23, 2011. The Alzheimer's Association will have two posters at the conference, focused on the first cognitive impairment data from the 2009 BRFSS in five states, and a second on caregiving data collected in three states and the District of Columbia in the same year.



Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 1-4, 2011. During

Early Detection: Medicare Annual Wellness Visit Includes Cognitive Impairment

As of January 2011, Medicare now covers an annual wellness visit for all seniors. As part of the visit - which was included in the Affordable Care Act - physicians must assess whether the individual may be cognitively impaired. This new Medicare preventive service benefit is significant for the growing number of baby boomers who will soon be reaching the age of Medicare eligibility and increased risk for Alzheimer's disease. It will also increase the likelihood of early detection of cognitive impairment, thereby increasing the rate of diagnosis and allowing people with Alzheimer's and their families to plan their care at an earlier stage. For more information, please view our [fact sheet here](#). For the latest report on the impact of Alzheimer's on the baby boomers, please contact Catherine Morrison at catherine.morrison@alz.org.

the meeting, the Alzheimer's Association will present two sessions, one on the connection between Alzheimer's and diabetes, and a second on the public health components of State Alzheimer's Disease Plans.



Contact

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